

December  
2017

# The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

Website [orchidguild.org](http://orchidguild.org)



## Meeting Dates

- December 17
- January 21, 2018
- February 18, Atrium
- March 11
- April 15
- May 20
- June, Picnic TBA
- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16

Meetings start at 1:30 pm at Olbrich Gardens unless otherwise noted

## Up-Coming Events

- **January 27-28, 2018** -- MN Orchid Show
- **February 3-4** -- Orchid Quest
- **February 17-18** -- Batavia Orchid Society Show
- **February 24-25, 2018** -- WOS Spring Show
- **March 3-4** -- NEWOS Show
- **March 10-11** - Illinois Orchid Society
- **March 24-25, 2018** -- Illowa Show
- **April 7** -- Spring Sale

## Officers and Committees

### President:

Lorraine Snyder (2018)  
[lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com)

### Vice President:

Cynthia Wadsworth (2019)  
[cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com](mailto:cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com)

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December is here and so it's almost time for our annual holiday celebration at Olbrich Gardens with good food, good fellowship, and of course, orchids.. Santa Liz will be there with a nice selection of orchids for your gift, if you choose.

Please bring your orchids for ribbon judging at 1 pm. Bring a dish to pass and any holiday spirits you prefer. OGG will supply tableware. It is helpful if you use Sign-Up Genius as it gives us an idea of how many members will be attending. If you prefer not to use Sign-Up Genius, just RSVP to Denise at [jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net).

2017 OGG award winners will be named at the holiday party.

Please let Denise know in advance if you would like to reserve your holiday plant at \$10.00 each. It is also time to renew your membership at \$20/\$25. You can also mail your membership form [it's on our website] to OGG PO Box 5432 Madison, WI. 53705. Please let Denise know this week if you would like a holiday orchid.

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Open

**Web Master:**  
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**Liaisons:**  
**AOS:** Nancy Thomas  
**MAOC:** Keith Nelson  
**Orchid Digest:** Open

## OGG RIBBON JUDGING 2017 NOVEMBER

### First Place

Doug Dowling

*Ascocentrum miniatum* x *Ampullaceum* Mona Church (*miniatum* x *ampullaceum*)

Gary Lensmeyer

*Monnierara* Millennium Magic

### Second Place

Doug Dowling

*Neostylis* Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'



*Ascocentrum miniatum* x *Ampullaceum* Mona Church (*miniatum* x *ampullaceum*)



*Monnierara* Millennium Magic



Doug Dowling brought in this *Dendrobium cucumerinum* x sib 'Pickle' orchid so that members could look at this unusual orchid

# World Orchid Congress 2017, Guayaquil

Photographs by Ken Cameron

Madison was fairly well represented at the WOC. I gave a talk in the special symposium dedicated to Vanilla. Two UW Madison PhD students came along . . . Grant Morton and Kelsey Huisman. I also ran into our former club member Judith Rapacz! Too bad I didn't take a photo of us together!

The next WOC #23 will be in Taichung, Taiwan (2020). Their website is [www.woc23.com](http://www.woc23.com)

Ken Cameron



Assortment of Cattleya hybrids



Ken with two of his graduate students standing in front of a 'wall' of *Phragmipedium caudatum*



GRAND CHAMPION - the smallest plant ever chosen  
*Dendrobium parvulum* 'Violet Blue' (=delicatulum)  
'Gigi' AOS/CHM 85



Masdevallias

# A San Diego Orchid Show

By Sandy Delamater

While planning my first trip ever to San Diego (and of course California and the Pacific Ocean) in April, my initial thought was to look up local orchid societies. My hope was that a society would have a show the week I was there. Checking Orchid Mall, I located the San Diego County Orchid Society which has a wonderful website, with lots of information, pictures, etc. They have four shows a year, spring, summer, fall and winter. I contacted one of the show organizers and found out I had hit the jackpot, yes there was a show the day after my arrival. I was so excited!

Not wanting to rent a car, my next hurdle was transportation. I contacted a very knowledgeable woman at the transit center who gave me all the information I needed. While chatting I discovered that she has family in Madison and has visited, what a small world!!

The show was at Balboa Park, home to more than 17 museums, multiple performing arts venues, lovely gardens, trails, and many other attractions, including the San Diego Zoo, within 1,200 beautiful and lushly planted acres. The show was scheduled from noon to five, Saturday and Sunday. I arrived at the park --- OMG!!! I walked up an incline to get to the walkway over of the boulevard, arrived at the top and what a sight! Looking straight ahead there was a big valley with mountains in the background. Look to the right and there was a huge rose garden with hundreds of roses, roses of every type, size and color, all planted in large stepped, circular gardens (2,400 rose bushes in 180 varieties). They were so beautiful. Turn back to the left and there was cactus, huge cactus, I have never seen so many types of cacti ever. Entering Balboa Park there was a huge circular fountain at least 40 feet wide with all colors of hibiscus shrubs in the background.

I finally arrived at the venue of the orchid show. There was no admission and free parking which is a big plus in San Diego. I walked in and I was off to shop for orchids! After a successful round of shopping I started speaking with members. One of the show chairs explained that



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this show had free admission because it was small and part of a large community festival celebrating Halloween and Día de los Muertos. The society pays for the venue space at their other three shows and charges \$10 per person, but parking is free.



The show was in one room slightly larger than the vendor room at Olbrich but it was very well-organized. There were twelve vendors, one side of the room was devoted to show plants and there was a space in the corner for seminars. The plant displays were simple and on table tops. A medium green-colored cloth was used for all tables although a member said she thought they may go to black as we do. One very interesting difference of this show was how you paid for your goodies. The society had a check-out table where all the transactions were made, the vendors handled no money. I didn't get a chance to ask about this or why they chose this system, but it went very smoothly. The society gave a ballot to all attendees for a 'People's Choice Award.' At the end of the show, the orchid that got the most votes received an award.

In general members grow the types of orchids we do, as determined by where they live: on the sides of mountains, in the mountains, in the valleys, near the ocean, etc. The climate there is beautiful but usually dry, with less humidity in most areas.

There are many orchids growers in the San Diego area and in all of California. A few names I am sure most of you will recognize:

- Andy's: Andy was a vendor at Orchid Quest some years ago. He was also a vendor at Oak Hill Gardens and Natt's for the Chicagoland Orchid Fest.
- Sunset Valley - Fred Clarke was the guest speaker and a vendor at Orchid Quest twice.
- Hatfield orchids - George Hatfield grows, sells and shows mainly cymbidiums. He is very well known in the orchid family.

I wanted to visit these growers' green houses but I only had one week which was totally booked. When you take a vacation, no matter where, consider checking the Orchid Mall and see if there is an orchid society near by. See what is going on if you have time, you won't regret it. They are as interested in you as we are of them.

Happy Holidays! Sandy D

# Where Orchids Grow

By Jeff Baylis

While orchids exist on all continents save Antarctica, the areas where species densities are high are limited to certain places. Of the six Floristic Kingdoms recognized by biogeographers, the Neotropical region has by far the highest total orchid species count even though it is smaller in area than the Paletropical regions. Within the neotropics, although the Amazon basin is vast and its tree diversity is very high, its orchid diversity is relatively small compared to parts of the adjacent Andes. The public perception is that lowland tropical rainforests harbor a huge number of fabulous plants, especially orchids, but in reality orchids are relatively scarce in the rainforest of the Amazon, with fewer species than the countries of the Andes.

COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST ORCHID SPECIES			
Country	Orchids	Area/sq mile	Density sq species/mi
Ecuador	3787	109K	035.
Columbia	2723	440K	006.
New Guinea*	2717	303K	.009 *
Brazil	2590	3287K	0008.
*Paleotropical			

The Andes are a unique mountain range

The Pacific tectonic plates spread from deep under the ocean; on their eastern border, they collide with and move under the continental plates of South

## Diversity of species occurs with diversity of Environment

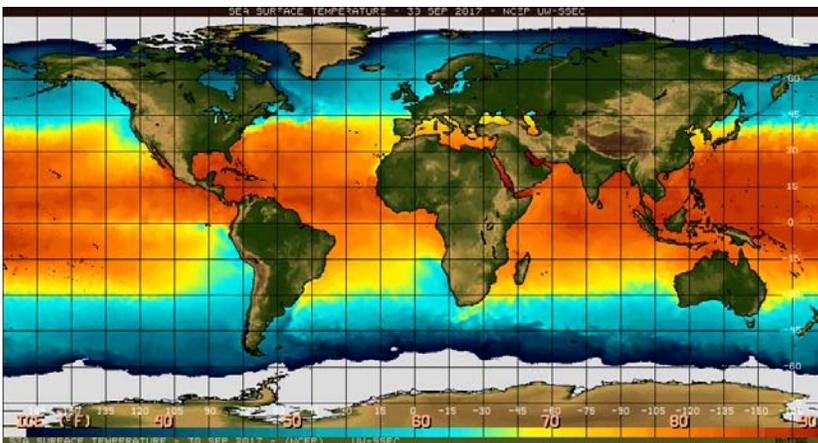
Climatology defines the tropics as that area of the Earth situated between the Tropic of Cancer (23 degrees N Lat.) and the Tropic of Capricorn (23 degrees S Lat.). This region is home to the highest sea surface temperatures on earth. This region also is home to the trade winds of tropics which flow east to west within this zone. Similarly, due to tidal effects the warm equatorial currents of the world's oceans flow east to west. But the main thing is that

the currents all go from east to west due to the rotation of the earth so all that warm water winds-up jammed against the east side of the continents. Evaporation over thousands of miles of ocean produces a lot of moisture in the air. The prevailing wind patterns result in moist ocean air being swept inland when it strikes land, where it rises because of a warmer land mass and elevation. As it rises, it produces clouds and rain due to adiabatic cooling, and this in turn provides the moisture fueling the Amazon rainforest.

America and Central America. Along the entire coast of South and Central America is a subduction zone -- meaning the Pacific plates are being shoved under the continental plates. This process has resulted in a geologically active, continuous mountain range bordering the west coast. acting as a barrier against the warm moist winds blowing along the equator from the east and between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

As a result of his observations made during his expedition to South America from 1799 to 1804, Alexander von Humboldt became the first scientist to propose and document the pattern of Life Zones on mountains that varied with elevation, and hence temperature. He noted the same vegetation changes in the Andes that he had observed in the Alps, although the plant species involved were quite different. It is now well known in plant ecology that as you go up in elevation the temperature gets colder and the characteristic plants at that altitude change to match.

When the warm moist air coming from the Atlantic coast crosses the lowlands of Brazil and strikes the Andes, the warm moist air flows upwards into higher elevation along the walls of the mountain range. It also accelerates



Sea Surface Temperatures

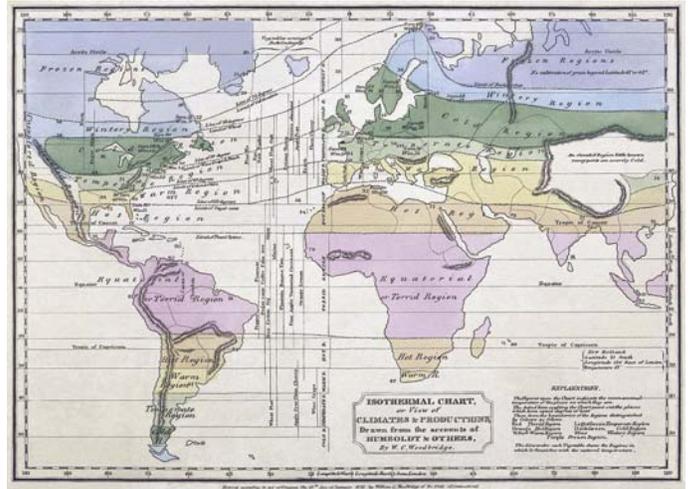
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as it goes up to, similar to wind over the curved wing of an airplane. As the air expands it cools. This is adiabatic cooling and the thin, cold air can hold less moisture. As a result clouds and rain form so you create an atmosphere of higher rainfall. As the wind continues over the top of the mountains there is an area of turbulence. This wind is drier and as it continues down the western side of the mountain it becomes drier still due to adiabatic heating as the thin air compresses, forming some of the driest deserts in the world along the Pacific coast of South America.

The Andes are much higher in elevation than the Alps, with a mean elevation of 13,000 feet, and is 4,300 miles long, the longest mountain range in the world. The Andes run north to south in an uninterrupted line from Columbia to Argentina, and straddle almost the entire New World tropics. This means that if you are at 8000 feet in the Andes in Argentina and travel north at 8000 feet to northern Ecuador you are basically in the same climate the entire time. There is a stacked series of continuous corridors of constant climates, but these are stacked vertically in the Andes in addition to arrayed latitudinally.

By contrast, the lowland Amazon rainforest of Brazil is remarkably uniform. One can stand in the Zocolo in Iquitos, Peru in the upper reaches of the Amazon and you are at an elevation of 300 feet. You can draw a straight line due east from there to the Atlantic coast of Brazil, a linear distance of about 1000 miles, and there is no point on that line that is higher than where you are standing.

Orchids, like all plants, need light, water and air to engage in photosynthesis and grow. Situated on or near the equator, the sun is directly overhead for at least part of the year, and sunlight has its shortest path to the earth's surface and is at its most intense. In addition, it is richer in the blue end of the spectrum than the sunlight at higher latitudes. At higher elevations, these qualities of sunlight are enhanced even further. Water in the equatorial Andes is in abundance at higher elevations on the eastern slopes, often in the very air itself in cloud forests. Air in the mountains is in constant motion, bringing carbon dioxide for photo-



synthesis.

In Ecuador, all of these factors come together, where the equatorial trade winds slam into the wall of the Andes. Lowland tropical rainforest yields to montane tropical rainforest which transitions to cloud forest and then páramo and at the top, glaciers. The diversity of habitats and climates over a very short distance is stunning. Alexander von Humboldt observed this array of habitats while exploring the Cordilleras along the border between Ecuador and Columbia. He wrote of this region:

*"This portion of the surface of the globe affords in the smallest space the greatest possible variety of impressions from the contemplation of nature.... There, the different climates are ranged the one above the other, stage by stage, like the vegetable zones, whose succession they limit; and there the observer may readily trace the laws that regulate the diminution of heat, as they stand indelibly inscribed on the rocky walls and abrupt declivities of the Cordilleras."*

---Alexander von Humboldt



In recent attempts to identify the earth's biodiversity hotspots, this section of the Andes von Humboldt was describing rises to the top most every list. Orchids grow here because of global patterns of air and water circulation, sunlight, and plate tectonics.

Growing orchids is not a matter of life or death, it's much more important than that.



### ORCHID QUEST UP-DATE

Orchid Quest is just two months away. February 3-4, 2018 at Olbrich, with set-up on Friday, February 2.

We will have another OQ planning meeting Monday, December 4 at 6:30 pm at Panera Bread, 601 Junction Road, Madison just off the Beltline at Old Sauk Road. We need to be sure all publicity is in place, talk about the table arrangements, work on assignments and other volunteered ventures. Love to have your advice and opinions.

Thanks for all your time and talents in planning Orchid Quest 2018.

Terri Jozwiak & Cynthia Wadsworth  
Co-Chairs

### EXHIBIT

Looking for new and inexpensive way to create interest in Orchid Quest 2018, Denise Baylis came up with a photo exhibit featuring pictures of orchids of taken by OGG members. Thus the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library in Cross Plains is hosting this show from November 27 through February 26. Jeff Baylis will give a presentation sometime in January. As the date of Orchid Quest nears, our informational bookmarks will be on hand there.



### OGG Orchid Pot Sales

- Small green square (2x2" h), 5 @\$1.00
- Small Clear square (2x3" h), \$.50 / pot
- Medium Clear square (3½x4" h), \$.75/ pot
- Medium Clear Round (4x4" h), \$1.00/pot
- Large Clear Round (6½x5" h), \$1.25/pot
- 3" Clay pot \$.50/pot

To order pots for delivery at the next OGG meeting, contact Sue Reed [greed@chorus.net](mailto:greed@chorus.net)

### UP-COMING EVENTS

- **January 27-28, 2018** -- MN Winter Carnival Orchid Show
- **February 3-4**- Orchid Quest 2018
- **February 17-18** - Batavia Orchid Society Show
- **February 24-25, 2018** -- WI Orchid Society Spring Show
- **March 3-4** - Northeast WI Orchid Society Show, Neenah
- **March 10-11** - Illinois Orchid Society show at the Chicago Botanic Garden
- **March 24-25, 2018** -- Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show