

September
2018

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison



Meeting Dates

- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16

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

Up-Coming Events

- **September 15 - 16**, Wisconsin Orchid Society Show
- **October 26-28**, MAOC Fall Meeting
- **October 27 - 28**, Eastern Iowa Orchid Show

Officers and Committees

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NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 16th

Round table Discussion and Water Quality Determinations

Hello and welcome to the fall season of Orchid Growers Guild (OGG) meetings. Our first meeting is Sunday, September 16th at 1:30 pm, up-stairs at Olbrich Gardens.

This month we plan on a round table discussion of orchid growing. We also plan to have water testing materials. So please bring your water samples, with and without fertilizer!

We are also interested to know what types of orchids you either love to grow or would like to know more about.

Cynthia Wadsworth, Programs

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back everyone to early fall with cooler growing conditions coming soon! I certainly hope that all have stayed dry and avoided flooding!

We had a great June picnic at Keith's lovely home. Keith has a number of different growing areas in his house and outside. It was very interesting to see how he grows his award winning orchids!

Several members have been busy this summer with orchid-viewing trips. You will learn more about these trips in the newsletter. Cynthia, our Vice President, has been at work to create an interesting and informative program schedule for the up-coming year. We will bring in outside speakers and growers to share their expertise.

The board has also been busy this summer. We have approved our 2018-2019 budget. We do a fiscal year budget timeline. We are starting the Orchid Quest meetings which all are encouraged to attend. The first one will be next Tuesday, September 4th at Panera Bread at 3416 University Avenue, Madison. Orchid Quest proceeds balance our budget and keeps the Guild solvent! So please volunteer to help and to brain storm more ideas to make the show successful at the Orchid Quest meetings!

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Liaisons:

AOS: Nancy Thomas
MAOC: Keith Nelson
Orchid Digest: Open

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Guild wants to offer orchids to the members below orchid show prices. To test member interest, the Guild bought an orchid box special from Hawaii. You should have received an email about this sale. Pickup will be at Nancy Samuels' house or at Panera Bread 3416 University Avenue on September 4. Any orchids left over will be bought to the September 16 meeting.

I find that summer presents challenges with inside and outside growing conditions. My cool growers are severely challenged! Which brings me to our first meeting on September 16. We will

be having input on growing orchids from members. Discussions are guaranteed! Several of us have TDS meters (Total Dissolved Solids) and pH indicator solutions. So please bring a sample of water that you use on your orchids, one straight water and the other with the concentration of fertilizer that you use. We will test your water to see if it is within a range suitable for the orchids you are growing.

We would love members to consider doing presentations, or writing short articles for our newsletter.

Photos of your favorite orchid, with some information on how you grow it, would be interesting to other members. You have more knowledge about growing orchids than you realize! The sharing of your knowledge and experience makes us all much better growers and you may discover someone else in the Guild has found a solution for the same problem as you have.

Another way to help our the Guild would be to donate a nice plant for either an auction or one that we could use as a door prize. Our local source for inexpensive and nice orchid plants for door prizes no longer exists.

Volunteering for one or more of our activities will help you feel part of the Guild and become better acquainted with your fellow members. One way would be to volunteer in an activity of interest. We always need volunteers for setting up or taking down orchid show displays (an experienced person will be matched with a learner), helping with Orchid Quest, show days and planning, selling orchids at the April sale are a few ways.

Our monthly meetings are the third Sunday of the month, and the Board meetings are the first Tuesday of the month. You are also welcome to attend the Orchid Quest meetings which are now starting. You will be sent an email about the OQ meetings location and time. Let me know if you want to attend a board meeting and you will be included in the emails giving time and location.

If you have any thoughts on how the Guild can better meet your needs, please let us know.

I hope to see you at our first fall meeting, September 16!

---Sue Reed

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **September 15 - 16**, Wisconsin Orchid Society Show: "Fall in Love with Orchids, 2018", Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, "The Domes", 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53215
- **October 26-28**, MAOC Fall Meeting, hosted by Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City, Independence, MO
- **October 27 - 28**, Eastern Iowa Orchid Show & Sale: "Orchids Are A Scream", Cedar Rapids Elks Lodge #251, 801 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA

ANNUAL JUNE PICNIC

The OGG picnic was hosted by Keith Nelson and his wife Kim. The day was sunny and warm but there was a lovely breeze so guests were able to sit on their patio under umbrellas and enjoy the view while listening to the tinkle of water from their ornamental fish pond. Keith has a formidable collection of orchids which he rotates to determine the best environment for them. He also has a shade house in his yard that houses his cattleyas. The food and the company were great and we look back with a smile at another successful picnic.



Photograph by Wes Roberts

Support OGG by using Amazon Smile!

Support OGG and it won't cost you a penny! Do you shop on Amazon? You can enter the Amazon site through their charitable portal AmazonSmile and 0.5% of your purchase price will be donated to OGG. It doesn't cost you a thing, the entire Amazon shopping site and its prices are available to you, and you use your usual password, account and lists. Anything you enter in your cart or lists on the usual Amazon site are there when you log in to AmazonSmile. The first time you log in to the site (using your regular Amazon email/phone number and password) at the following link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

it will prompt you to select a charity, so just select Orchid Growers Guild from the list and start buying. It's an absolutely free and effortless way to help support our society while you do your usual shopping, so check it out and get started giving today!!! We do,

Jeff and Denise Baylis

JUNE OGG RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

Shirl Roberts	<i>Colmanara Wildcat 'Rainbow'</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Nageliella purpurea</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Vanda Sansai Blue</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Bulbophyllum orthosepalum</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Psychopsis Mendenhall</i>
Jeff Baylis	<i>Dendrobium faciferum</i>

Second Place

Shirl Roberts	<i>Ansellia gigantea [Africana nilotica]</i>
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. . . more at Bolz Conservatory



Bulbophyllum dearei



Polystachia bella



Bulbophyllum carunculatum



Phragmipedium longifolium



Podangis dactyloceps



Phragmipedium caudatum



One of multiple spikes on a *Encyclia prismatocarpa*

A Quick Introduction to Dendrobiums

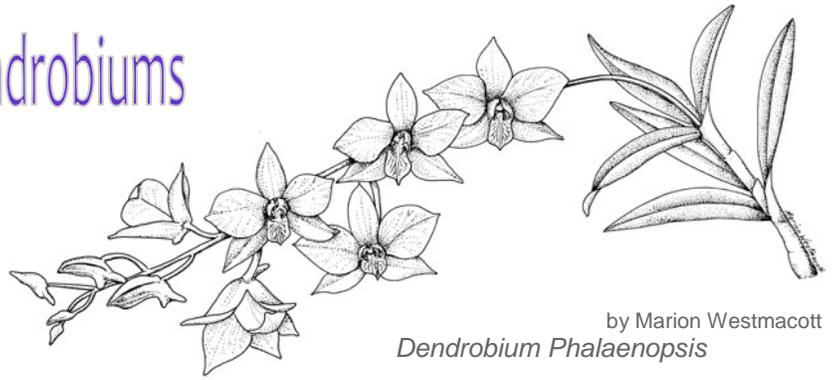
By Keith Nelson

SUBFAMILY: Epidendroideae

TRIBE: Epidendreae

SUBTRIBE: Dendrobiinae

GENUS: Dendrobium



Dendrobium Phalaenopsis

Dendrobiums are a very widespread group of orchids. They are the second largest genus. Only *Bulbophyllum* has more species. They are found in India, Tahiti, Japan, New Zealand and China. They exist from coastal New Guinea which is wet and hot to altitudes of 10,000 to 12,000 feet in the Himalayas.

In General

Keep dendrobiums in the smallest pot possible. I have seen 5 foot plants growing in 4 inch pots. Most plants from commercial vendors are over-potted.

Most plants do best with no fertilizer from Halloween to Easter. For some, as the *Dendrobium pierardii*, no fertilizer is essential.

Water and fertilize generously during the growth period.

Use well-drained, strong media that will last a long time. Most dendrobiums do not like root disturbance. Some that I have re-potted have pouted for 9 to 12 months before they started to grow again. There are always exceptions. I recently adopted and re-potted two that were rescued from a dumpster at an orchid show. These were blooming when rescued and continued to bloom for 3 months. Unfortunately they do not have a label so I don't know what they are.

For bacteria and fungus problems do not use copper fungicides.

ALWAYS re-pot only when roots start to grow so

re-establishment is fast. This usually occurs in the spring. Re-potted plants usually do not start new growth until the roots are well established so be patient.

LIGHT: Most dendrobiums grow well in bright morning or afternoon light. They like light brighter than Cattleyas. I give them as much sun as they can take without damaging the leaves. Some species can grow in full sun so check individual requirements. Most do not grow well under lights. Plants under lights may produce good foliage but not bloom.

TEMPERATURES: The group is so large that it is impossible to generalize about temperature so check individual requirements. For some a cold dry winter rest is essential.

WATER: Evergreen dendrobiums can be watered all year long as with other orchids. The deciduous and hard-cane species ones usually require a dry winter rest period.

FERTILIZER: Dendrobiums require a high amount of fertilizer compared to other orchids. I water and fertilize heavily during the obvious growth season, especially the deciduous ones like *Dendrobium pierardii* and *Dendrobium anosum*. I adopted several deciduous ones last fall that I thought were dead except for a little green on the shriveled bulbs. With heavy watering and fertilizing this spring they are showing new growth. Once again, a well drained medium is required.

Some Summer Blooms . . .

. . . from OGG Members



"I think it is a "Pale Green Orchid" or *Platanthera flava*. Our three guides were very pleased to spot maybe a dozen of them in Greene's Prairie at the Arboretum. It is not very big."

From Martha M. Vestling



Keith Nelson purchased this *Phragmepedium* Stairway to Heaven (*wallisii* x *popwoii*) as a seedling from Jason Fisher of Orchids Limited. **It bloomed for the first time this summer!**



This housefly in on the wrong continent!

Bulbophyllum graveolens (syn.: *Cirrhopetalum robustum*) grown by Keith Nelson



Unknown *Miltonia* hybrid grown by Susan Reed

Ridges Sanctuary in Door County

By Keith Nelson

On June 21 Nancy Thomas, Mike Thomas, Karen McKim and Keith Nelson participated in a field trip sponsored by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. The mission of the NRFW is to provide sustainable funding for Wisconsin's most imperiled species and public lands, while helping citizens connect with our state's unique natural places. In 2018 the Foundation sponsored 210 field trips. Since 1986 the Founda-



tion has contributed nearly \$7 million to conservation efforts.

The Ridges Sanctuary contains 26 of the 40 native Wisconsin orchids. Research at the Ridges include:

1. A survey of the orchids present to assess their status.
2. A seed bank collection to preserve the genetic integrity of the 26 species.
3. Research about the mycorrhizal fungi needed for germination.
4. Pollinators.
5. Propagation.
6. Orchid restoration measuring the success of out plantings. Monitoring protocols measure success rates of out plantings,

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canopy cover, soil moisture and pH, mycorrhizal fungi, air quality and many other factors.

We met at the headquarters and enjoyed an excellent presentation of the orchid conservation efforts at the Ridges. We then walked along the boardwalk adjacent to the headquarters building to enjoy the Yellow lady's-slipper, the Showy lady's-slipper, and the Spotted coral-root. Alas we did not see the elusive Ram's Head Lady's Slipper. The guides pointed out different habitats where the orchid seedlings had been planted to assess their success rate under different conditions.

We learned the researchers don't like to say a planting is unsuccessful, but that the orchids may just be dormant until conditions are right for their re-emergence. I think I will use that concept on some of my orchids that drop all their leaves and wither away, maybe they are not dead just "dormant".



Fair Meadows State Natural Area by Nancy Thomas

In July the Natural Resources Foundation offered a field trip to Fair Meadows State Natural Area. Eastern white prairie fringed orchids were blooming and numerous enough that they were easy to find along the mowed trails. The property is 380 acres owned by Gary and Penny Shackelford since 1985. It originally had an apple orchard, forest and farm fields, which they have converted to mesic prairie and wetlands

that are prime habitat for the orchids, as well as many beautiful prairie and wetland plants. They not only support the management financially but do much of the work themselves. The property is in a conservation easement and they have started an endowment fund with the Natural Resources Foundation hoping to build it up sufficiently to support the land's management in perpetuity.



Note the extremely long spur on the E prairie fringed orchid [*Platanthera leucophaea*]. It extends well beyond the flower's stalk (twice the length or more). I learned they're pollinated by sphinx moths that feed at night.

On the left is a photograph from our property of the Ragged Fringed orchid [*Platanthera lacera*], the E prairie fringed orchid's poorer cousin. You can see the lip is narrower, longer than wide, in comparison with the E prairie fringed, and that the spurs on the Ragged Fringed are quite a bit shorter, only about as long as the flower's stalk.