

March

2018



The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

Website orchidguild.org

NEXT MEETING, MARCH 11

Keith Nelson will demonstrate some repotting techniques. Your needy orchids can be repotted for a donation to OGG. OGG will have some pots for purchase. Bring your blooming orchids at 1 PM for ribbon judging.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

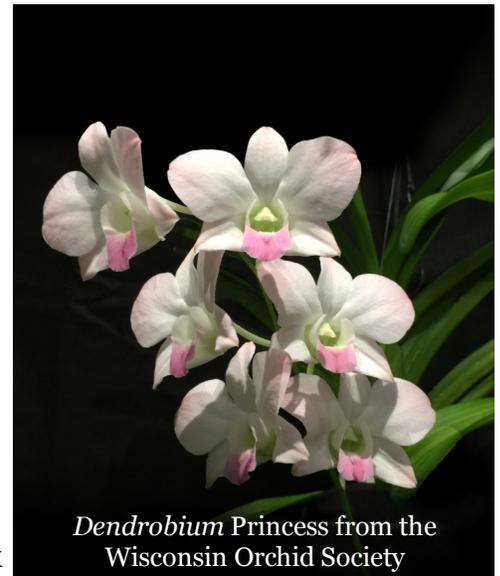
Hello Orchid lovers,

February was a good month for Orchid Quest. We had a great event at Olbrich Gardens thanks to all of you who helped make it a great success. I thank you for your energy, work and wonderfully creative ideas and suggestions that make our show the best in the midwest. We have received many, many complements from many sources and the credit goes to you. Thank you to all who generously donated their time, money, and delicious food for hospitality, breakfast and the judges' luncheon. Special thanks to Terri Jozwiak, show chair and Cynthia Wadsworth for their hard work and efforts to keep us organized.

February also means a special thank you to Jeff Baylis for his excellent talk on 'Sex and the Singular orchid'. It was very informative, fun and yes, orchids are sexy, for plants, that is.

We are fortunate to have several new members and new faces interested in our Guild. Please welcome them and visit with them at our March meeting.

If you are interested in learning how to assist with any shows, please talk with or email Nancy Thomas, our Away Show Chair. See you Sunday, March 11th at Olbrich at 1:30 p.m. with ribbon judging at 1:00 p.m.



Dendrobium Princess from the Wisconsin Orchid Society

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Meeting Dates

- 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

- **March 3-4** -- NEWOS Show
- **March 10-11** - Illinois Orchid Society
- **March 24-25** -- Illowa Show
- **April 7** -- Spring Sale

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MAOC: Keith Nelson
Orchid Digest: Open

Batavia Orchid Show

BATAVIA ORCHID SHOW 2018 FEBRUARY 17-18

Set-up Sue Reed & Denise Baylis, Take down Lisa Linde & Brent McCoy

OGG Exhibit, First Place

First Place

Jeff Baylis
Terri Jozwiak

Brassocattleya Maikai 'Mayumi' HCC/AOS
Dendrobium Spring Dream 'Apollon'

Second Place

Sue Reed
Terri Jozwiak

Lycaste lasioglossa
Oncidioda Chaculatum 'Golden Pacific' (Charlesworthii x maculatum)

Third Place

Sue Reed

Phal unnamed hybrid



OGG Exhibit: "We had 13 plants and got a first on the exhibit. Since I set up the boxes Thursday night, the Friday set up was easy," Sue Reed. At right: *Lycaste* for sale at Natt's



REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE!

2018 dues are over-due. Most members have renewed but I am waiting for a few. Dues are \$20 for single membership and \$25 for duo. I accept cash but prefer checks.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **March 3-4** -- Northeast WI Orchid Society Show, Neenah
- **March 10-11** -- Illinois Orchid Society show at the Chicago Botanic Garden
- **March 24-25** - Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show

ORCHID QUEST 2018 UP-DATE

Not all the results from Orchid Quest 2018 are in but the good news is that we had excellent participation from the members of OGG. I am so proud of all those who worked hard at this huge event to make it another success. One comment I received was: "Your members were great. They did a great job. They should be recognized for their efforts." I am proud of our members giving that impression. The vendors seemed happy, the judges seemed happy and the visitors seemed happy.

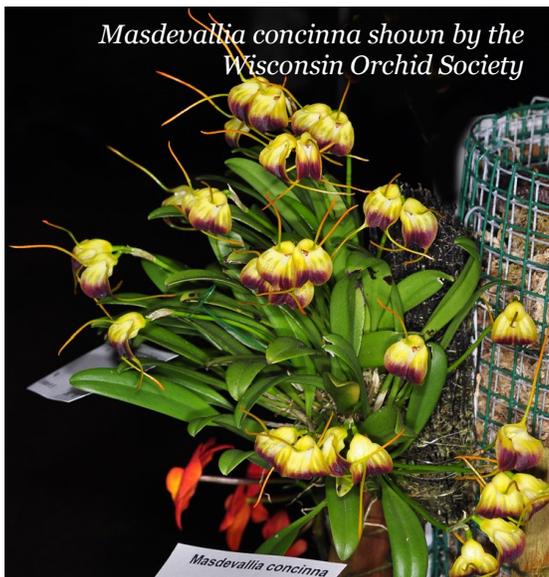
I admired those at the OGG table who tirelessly gave advice to the novice grower who didn't even know what kind of orchid they had just purchased. The Display Room was gorgeous and many awards were given. The behind-the-scenes volunteers were quiet but very efficient in getting all the little details done. Orchid Quest 2018 is finished. 2019 Orchid Quest is

planned for February 2 & 3 with set-up on Friday, February 1. That means mark it in your calendar now and then rest and relax and enjoy your growing.'

Terri Jozwiak



Cymbidium sinense 'Ri Xiang' shown by Illinois Orchid Society



Masdevallia concinna shown by the Wisconsin Orchid Society



Lc Gold Digger (Fuch's Mandarin x Lc. War Paint) shown by Batavia Orchid Society



Den ceraula shown by the Wisconsin Orchid Society



Cynodes Spotted Hornet (*Cyc. warscewiczii* x *Morm. Exotic Treat*) shown by Illinois Orchid Society

OGG OQ Awards 2018

Set-up Susan Reed, Bruce Luebke, and Irene Mackie; take-down by Susan Reed, Bruce Luebke, George Reed, and Liz Wood

OGG Exhibit Third Place

AOS Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM)

Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Dag 'Dorothy'

AOS Highly Commended Certificate (HCC)

Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Dag 'Dorothy'

Patricia Narf Memorial Award

Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Dag 'Dorothy'

Best of Class

Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Dag 'Dorothy'
Nancy Thomas *Colmanara Masai Red (Rhynchostele bictoniensis x Oncidium cariniferum)*

First Place Ribbon

Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Dag 'Dorothy'
Nancy Thomas *Colmanara Masai Red (Rhynchostele bictoniensis x Oncidium cariniferum)*
Nancy Thomas *Dendrobium* Green Mist (*convolutum x johnsoniae*)
Jeff Baylis *Coelogyne* Jannine Banks 'Snow White' HCC/OSNSW (*mooreana x flaccida*)
Terri Jozwiak *Dendrobium* Impact Red
Terri Jozwiak *Dendrobium* *discolor*
Susan Reed *Paph. liemianum*
Gary Lensmeyer *Oncidium ornithorhynchum*

Second Place Ribbon

Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Dag 'Dorothy'
Gary Lensmeyer *Oncidium croesus*
Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Pipeta (*pumilum x Spartan Queen*)
Liz Wood *Vanda amesianum*
Liz Wood *Phal.* Sogo Vivien 'M-P0398'
Liz Wood *Cochleanthes amazonia*
Nancy Thomas *Phragmipedium Besseae*
Susan Reed *Phragmipedium* Hsinying Rubyweb x *fairrieanum*
Sandy River *Dcd. Tenellum*

Third Place Ribbon

Liz Wood *Phal.* Unknown Hybrid
Terri Jowziak *Dialaelia* Snowflake 'Northland' CCM/AOS
Nancy Thomas Lc. Fire Island 'Fiery'
Nancy Thomas *Phragmipedium* Rosalie Dixler
Keith Nelson *Angraecum sesquipedale*
Keith Nelson Bc. Maikai 'Mayumi'
Susan Reed *Masd. strobilii*



Bruce Luebke, Susand Reed and Irene Mackie with the OGG Exhibit

OGG at Orchid Quest

Photographs by Richard Narf



*Coelogyne Jannine Banks 'Snow White' HCC/OSNSW
(mooreana x flaccida)*



Angraecum sesquipedale



Cymbidium Dag 'Dorothy'



Dendrobium Impact Red

Recap: Sex and the Singular Orchid

February speaker Jeff Baylis has been “killing orchids since he was 14.” He is a retired Zoology professor and his training in animal behaviour serves him to love orchids not only for their beauty but for their diverse strategies of manipulating insects for reproduction.

Orchids have long been associated with sex. The genus name comes from the ancient Greek word for "testicle" (orchis), because of the shape of the twin tubers in some species. The physical appearance of certain plants was believed to be associated with their curative properties for humans. The European terrestrial *Orchis* had two tubers and because of this characteristic, they were associated with testicles. Therefore it was assumed that these tuber had beneficial results for human fertility virility, etc. This talk was discuss the close reproductive association orchids have with 'animals'.

What are Orchids?

Orchids are Monocots and occur on all continents except Antarctica. They are found in most environments including deserts and they rarely if ever dominate habitat. They are species rich and by some accounts, the largest family of flowering plants with between 25,000 to 30,000 species. They are defined by three-part symmetry of flowers with three sepals and three petals. The stigma and stamens are fused into a single column. The middle petal, which is always opposite the column is called the lip or labellum. It is usually quite different from the others and comes in a variety of shapes. To discourage self-pollination, the male pollinia typically are separated from the stigma (female part of the flower that receives the pollen) by a flap of tissue called the rostellum. The rostellum also aids in the transfer of the pollinia from the pollinator to the stigma. The evolutionary rise of flowering plants and the rise of insects have occurred together in evolutionary time, and some botanists have described insects as 'a benign venereal disease' of plants because of their role in plant



Orchis italica

Woodcut from John Parkinson, *Theatrum Botanicum*. (London: 1640). The individual flowers of this Mediterranean orchid have an extraordinary resemblance to miniature well-endowed satyrs. Together with the two testis-like tubers this feature must have led early physicians to believe that plants of this kind could be used as love potions [see next page]

reproduction.

While almost all 'flowering plants' require insect pollinators, orchids have an unusually specific relationship with their pollinators. Unlike other flowering plants, pollen is often in a discrete mass or 'packaged' in pollinia carried locally by animals. Fertilization is often 'monogamous' - all seeds in a pod produced from a single male parent. Seeds are very tiny and broadcast by wind. Seeds require a fungal host to germinate and grow as they have no independent food source. Their pollinaria are formed to 'out-cross' and avoid self-fertilization. Pollination always requires an animal intermediary, except in cases of selfing species.

Most orchids require a specific insect species to pollinate them and despite the thousands of

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species of orchids, little is known about what the insect is. Orchids typically have exclusive relationships with their pollinators. The origin of orchids may be linked to the evolution of the Hymenoptera (bees, ants, wasps), especially the social Hymenoptera. Many orchids may utilize flies, moths, butterflies, fungus gnats, or birds to cross-pollinate their flowers. Evidence suggests that orchids and insects evolved together. A fungus gnat with a pollinaria affixed to its leg entombed in amber has been dated from 45 – 55 million years ago. Another example was of a wasp with pollinaria on its back 20 to 30 million years ago. Although neither the wasp or orchid are in existence today, they have modern descendants.

Orchids flowers use simple stimulus-response rules of insect behavior to accomplish pollination with out-crossing even at the alleged cost of reduced pollination. [1] Fertilization requires the insect to visit flowers of the same orchid species at least two times, and fertilization is rare and as a result orchid flowers tend to be long lasting. Some orchids lure their pollinators through sexual deception through appearance or the use of a species-specific chemical attractant. Others may produce flowers that look or smell like they offer food, but offer no edible reward. There are many examples of insect 'pseudo-copulation' with orchids flowers; all involve male bees, male wasps, or male ants.

Third sex

In 1922, Louis Knudson discovered that nearly 100 percent germination could be achieved by starting seeds in flasks on sterile media fortified with nutrients. Some years later the process of mericlone was developed, allowing the mass production and marketing of individual cultivars. Thanks to these achievements, — presently more than 100,000 have been registered—today orchids are produced by the millions. They are now among the most widely grown and popular flowering pot plants in the world. Today orchids heavily rely on man for

Salop is the dried and powdered roots of various species of orchids, and was widely regarded as an aphrodisiac

To make Salop

To a Quart of Water, put an Ounce of Salop, stir it 'till it is thick; then add to it Orange-flower-water, or Rose-water, or Canary; you may, if you splease, add a little Juice of Lemon and Sugar.

reproduction.

Florian P. Schiestl [1] and his team observed populations of 31 orchid species with varying pollination strategies in Italy and Western Australia. They measured the amount of pollen that was taken from each orchid, and the amount of pollen that made it to its intended destination -- another orchid of the same species.

They found that populations of sexually deceptive orchids had higher "pollen transport efficiency" than the species with multiple pollinators. In other words, a higher percentage of the pollen that was taken from sexually deceptive orchids actually made it to another orchid of the same species. The orchids with multiple pollinators had more pollen taken from their flowers, but more of that pollen was lost -- dropped to the ground or deposited in flowers of the wrong species. So it appears that specializing with one pollinator -- and appealing to it with sex -- makes for a more direct line from one orchid flower to another, with less precious pollen lost in the transport process. "These results could provide new insights in the understanding of evolutionary shifts between generalized to specialized pollination strategies in flowering plants," says Scopece, "and that sexy orchids do it better!"

[1] Giovanni Scopece, Salvatore Cozzolino, Steven D. Johnson, and Florian P. Schiestl. Pollination Efficiency and the Evolution of Specialized Deceptive Pollination Systems. The American Naturalist, 2010; 175 (1): 98

Bolz Conservatory, What's Blooming



Schoenorchis gemmata [miniature flowers]



Cymbidium species

Some of the orchids on display in February



Dendrochilum species

OGG Orchid Pot Sales

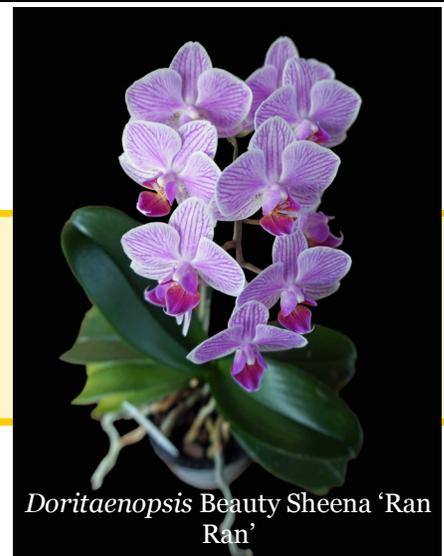
- Small green square (2x2" h), 5 @ \$1.00
- Small Clear square (2x3" h), \$.50 / pot
- Medium Clear square (3½x4" h), \$.75/ pot
- Medium Clear Round (4x4" h), \$1.00/pot
- Large Clear Round (6½x5" h), \$1.25/pot
- 3" Clay pot \$.50/pot

To order pots for delivery at the next OGG meeting, contact Sue Reed
greed@chorus.net

FEBRUARY OGG RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

Bruce Luebke *Doritaenopsis* Beauty Sheena 'Ran Ran'



Doritaenopsis Beauty Sheena 'Ran Ran'