

November

2019

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowers.org



Orchid Growers' Guild NEXT MEETING, November 17th

Scott Weber will speak about "Advances and Obstacles to Propagation and Marketing of Native Orchids".



Meeting Dates

- November 17
- December 15

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

Up-Coming Events

- **January 25 - 26, 2020** - Orchid Society of Minnesota Show, St. Paul MN
- **February 1-2** - Orchid Quest
- **February 15-16** - Batavia Orchid Society Show, Wheaton, IL
- **March 7-8** - Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Appleton
- **March 14-15** - Illinois Orchid Society Show, Glencoe, IL.

Officers and Committees

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Board:

Barbara Soderling (2020)
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello OGG members,

Our September membership meeting was great with a very interesting history by Hermann Pigors of his orchid grower odyssey over 50 years. This odyssey was a mix of people he had the opportunity to interact with over the years from Europe, England and the United States and more.

The food that members brought for the potluck was also great! Thank you all. We also had two new members attend, Dave and Connie. Gary passed out the Catasetums for our growing learning experience and he gave us an introduction to our new orchids. Thank you so much Gary, for organizing this interesting project and for helping us all through the process. Watch the newsletter for updates.

We have another interesting meeting coming up in November with Scott Weber speaking on native orchids.

We really appreciate Rich Jozwiak's hard work on our website. Rich is currently in the process of redoing the entire site. If you have any suggestions, contact him.

We have had our last away show of the calendar year with a good membership participation at the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show.

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Liaisons:
AOS: Nancy Thomas
MAOC: Keith Nelson



Some of the AOS photographer's photos taken on judging day which was the only day the flowers were prime. The day after they were turning pink and starting to dry up. *Diplocaulobium nitidissimum*, 82 points!

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(Check out the show results in the newsletter.) We attend shows to support the Orchid Societies that reciprocate by attending our show. OQ is more than a chance for orchid vendors to sell orchids. Our display as well as displays by other societies, give the public the opportunity to view orchids grown by people just like them in their homes. Our show meets several functions by means of sharing our knowledge about orchids and as a source of income while being a fun event for the OGG members to work together.

OGG is an organization for its members so please share your feedback and constructive thoughts with the board. The board is working on updating the Guild information on our website and if others would like to help or have suggestions, please let us know.

The Guild also has a library that needs some attention, so if someone is interested in books and has some time to help with the library, we would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you all for being a part of this group of orchid enthusiasts!

-- Sue Reed

Notes: Last month, door prize winners were Denise B and Judy W. each went home with a new mini orchid!

Shirl is bringing treats for November, and if others would like to bring a little something that would be appreciated.



Nancy Thomas sent in this photo of one of her summer bloomers, *Oncostele Catatante* 'Orange Delight'. It has at least 50 flowers. She'll have to split it, so interested parties can watch for it to show up at an auction!

Catasetum Project Update

All participants in the Catasetum Project should have received their plant by now.

Here are some initial guidelines for the care of your plant.

1. Your catasetum plant is in its trailing edge of active growth and should continue to be watered as described below. **Do not repot the plant.** It is supposed to be under-potted. Repotting now will damage roots. Repotting will take place in spring after a winter dormancy. Instructions will be given at that time
2. Give the plant plenty of light! These puppies grow rapidly and consume a lot of energy in the process.
3. Keep the moss potting material moist at all times during the active growth period. Do not allow moss to dry out. Water with a mixture of 1/2 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water. The frequency of watering will depend on the environment in which you are growing the plant. Use a fertilizer that does not contain urea. I use Dyna Grow 'Grow' or Michigan State fertilizer for use with RO water. Flush the pot with clean water with no fertilizer every three weeks.

4. Fill out the form given to you when you received your plant. List your growing conditions, fertilizers supplies etc. This information is an important tool when you need to trouble-shoot problems. It will add to the knowledge base of growing catasetums in a variety of environments.
5. As the plant goes into dormancy, the leaves will yellow and may fall off. It is important that watering be decreased significantly at this time. The moss should be barely moist. Stop all watering as plant loses most of its leaves. The plant will survive with moisture stored in the pseudobulb which will shrivel a bit during dormancy. **Watering the plant during this period will cause rot and kill the plant.** Here, restraint is a virtue.

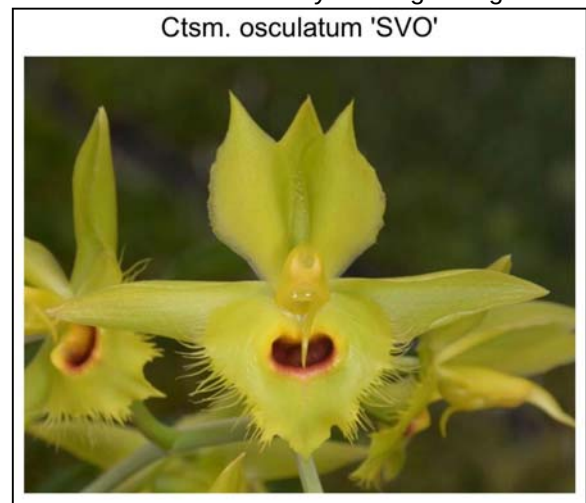
We are partners in this project. Suggestions are always welcomed. Feel free to contact me at anytime with questions. My email is glmsnwi@gmail.com or phone 244-2123. When making contact, please take a picture of your plant and send it along with your inquiry. There will be time at our monthly meetings to discuss the progress of your plants. Our newsletter will also have pertinent information to guide you in the process.

Happy growing!

Gary



Below are pictures of the parents used in the cross of catasetum that you are growing.



OCTOBER OGG RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

Susan Reed	<i>Diplocaulobium nitidissimum</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Dendrobium Pegasus white</i>
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Phal Purple Princess 'LHP05'</i> (Brother Tai x Red Devil)
Lynn West	<i>Laelia anceps</i>
Shirl Roberts	<i>Ansellia gigantea</i>

Second Second

Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Cyc (Cycnoches) warscewiczii</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Habenaria rhodocheila</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Dendrodium</i> unknown hybrid
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Phrag</i> Fox Valley Fireball (Barbara LeAnn x Rosalie Dixler)
Wayne King	<i>Blc</i> Empress Worsley 'Roman Holiday'

Third Place

Lorraine Snyder	<i>Fdk (Fredclarkeara)</i> After Dark
Doug Dowling	<i>Vandachostylis (Darwinara)</i> 'Blue Charm'
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Bulb</i> Elizabeth Ann (<i>Bulb longissimum</i> x <i>Bulb rothschildianum</i>)



Clockwise From left: *Dendrobium Pegasus white*, *Bulb Elizabeth Ann* (*Bulb longissimum* x *Bulb rothschildianum*), *Ansellia gigantea* and *Phal Purple Princess 'LHP05'* (Brother Tai x Red Devil)



EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY OGG JUDGING RESULTS

Set up: Sue Reed, Nancy Thomas, Bruce Luebke; Take down: Sue Reed, Nancy Thomas
OGG Exhibit First

Best Species CHM/AOS 82 points to Sue Reed for *Diplocaulobium nitidissimum*

First Place

Sue Reed	<i>Neostylis</i> Lou Sneary 'Bluebird' (<i>Neofineta falcata</i> x <i>Rhychostylis coelestris</i>)
Sue Reed	<i>Paph Rolfei</i> (<i>Paph bellatulum</i> 'Round Face' x <i>rothschildianum</i> 'New Generation')
Keith Nelson	<i>Dendrobium</i> Pegasus White
Keith Nelson	<i>Brassavola nodosa grandiflora</i> 'Pacheco'
Lynn West	<i>Laelia anceps</i>
Nancy Thomas	<i>Dendrobium convolutum</i>

Second Place

Sue Reed	<i>Macradenia multiflora</i>
Sue Reed	<i>Paph Callo-Rothschildianum</i> 'Maybrook' (<i>Paph callosum</i> x <i>rothschildianum</i>)
Doug Dowling	<i>Darwinara</i> Charm 'Blue Star' (<i>Neof. falcata</i> x <i>Vasco</i> . Tham Yuen Hae)
Nancy Thomas	<i>Paph henryanum</i>
Sue Reed	<i>Cycnodes</i> Wine Delight JEM FCC/AOS (<i>Cyc. lehmannii</i> x <i>Morm. sinuata</i>)
Sue Reed	<i>Diplocaulobium nitidissimum</i>

Third Place

Jeff Baylis	<i>Guarianthe bowringiana</i>
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Phal</i> Purple Princess 'LHP05" (Brother Tai x Red Devil)

Hi All:

Congratulations and thanks to all of you for sending your plants for the OGG exhibit. EIOS2019 provided entertainment via their Halloween theme, and education as always when we have a chance to talk with colleagues, judges and vendors. Our exhibit got a first, and members did very well, in particular Sue Reed, congratulations to her on her AOS award (CHM/AOS) for her *Diplocaulobium nitidissimum*, a tribute to Sue's ability as a grower. This show had particularly high competition among the unusual numbers of bulbophyllums and catasetum groups. The best plant in show was a gorgeous vanda (see at right) and the second best plant a huge *Habenaria medusae* that was more than 3 feet tall.

Thanks again, and happy growing!

Nancy

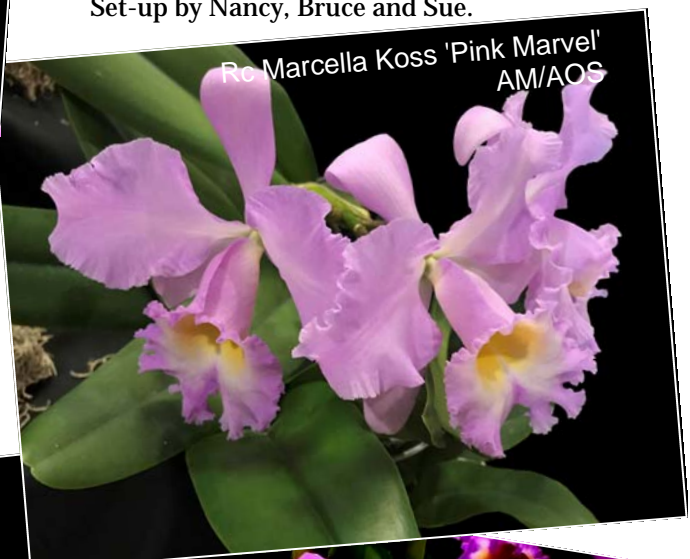


Photograph by Nancy Thomas

Cattleyas Abound at Northeast Iowa Orchid Show



OGG display at the Northeast Iowa Orchid Show.
Set-up by Nancy, Bruce and Sue.



Cattleya labiata, also known as the crimson cattleya or ruby-lipped cattleya, is the type species of *Cattleya*, discovered in 1818 in Bra-

Photographs by Susan Reed

CULTURE CONNECTION

transitive verb: CULTIVATE, to grow in a prepared medium

For The Novice

Why Orchids Need a Drop in Nighttime Temperature

By Sue Bottom

Have you ever wondered why all the books say that many orchids need a 10 to 20 F (about 5.5–11 C) drop in temperature from day to night? Lower nighttime temperatures are critical for good growth and flowering because there must be a proper balance between photosynthesis and respiration for a plant to grow and bloom well.

ORCHIDS BY DAY During the day, your plants are busy

- **Making Food.** Your plants are busy using solar energy in a process called photosynthesis. Light is absorbed by the chlorophyll in the chloroplasts and the carbon dioxide absorbed by the plant is converted into chemical energy in the form of sugars and starches.
- **Using Food.** Your plants consume their energy reserves in a process known as respiration. The food reserves of sugars and starches are used to maintain existing tissue as well as produce new growths, flowers and seeds.

ORCHIDS BY NIGHT At night, photosynthesis stops but growth and respiration continue drawing on the energy reserves created during the day. Respiration occurs more quickly at higher temperatures than at lower temperatures. At lower temperatures, it is possible for the energy consumption to be less than energy production, allowing the plant to store energy for future use, including flowering. If night temperatures are too high, food is used faster than it can be made so growth is poor and orchids do not flower or they flower poorly.

PROVIDING LOWER NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURES Providing cooler nighttime temperatures can be problematic if you are growing indoors in a climate-controlled environment.

Perhaps the best alternative is a programmable thermostat or manually turning the thermostat down at night. Orchids growing by a bright window will be a few degrees warmer during the day from solar gain and orchids growing by an open window may be a few degrees cooler at night in winter. Where possible, you can provide lower nighttime temperatures if you grow your orchids outdoors or on a screened porch during the warm season.

FLOWER INDUCTION BY NIGHTTIME CHILLING Many orchids require a significant day–night temperature difference to induce flowering. Winter-blooming phalaenopsis require a 15 F (8.3 C) drop in nighttime temperature for two or three weeks to initiate their flower spikes. Cymbidiums and dendrobiums can require an even larger temperature difference. *Dendrobium crumenatum* is an interesting species that opens all its blooms simultaneously eight or nine days after a thunderstorm; some believe this is a result of the cooling effect of the evaporation of rainwater.

ZYGOPETALUMS CRAVE COOLER NIGHTS I have long loved zygopetalums with their bluish purple, green and bronze flowers and incredible fragrance, although they have tended to be very short-lived in my care. I have tried growing them in a wide variety of light conditions and potting mixes. Knowing that they like cooler conditions than we have in St. Augustine, I tried the old grower's trick of growing them in sphagnum moss in a clay pot dropped in a second clay pot to keep them a little cooler from the water evaporating from the porous clay. They grew better, but still struggled. I was telling Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids my tale of woe

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and he told me to get them out of the greenhouse and under the shade of a tree. That provided a few extra degrees of nighttime cooling and the growth rate exploded over the summer. I was treated to more zygo blooms than ever before.

Understanding your plant's metabolism gives insight into how best to grow it. Cooler nighttime temperatures allow your orchid to store, rather than consume the food it manufactured during the day. This stored energy can then be used by the plant to produce flowers. Next to insufficient light, insufficient day to night temperature change is the most likely cause of your orchid failing to bloom. If your plants are growing well and you are sure they are getting enough of the right kind of light, try dropping your night temperatures by a few degrees. You may be pleasantly surprised by the increase in flowers your plants produce.

(November AOS Corner; from November 2014, ORCHIDS, page 654).

REMINDER: 2020 DUES ARE DUE!

Dues are \$10 for students, \$20 for single memberships and \$25 for duos. Cash is accepted but checks are preferred. I am unable to attend the November meeting, so give your dues with any contact information changes to Lorraine Snyder.

Denise Baylis

A NOTE FROM NANCY THOMAS

I got this interesting *Phragmipedium lindenii* after Tom Kalina's lecture in which he explained that it self-pollinates in bud, hence the lack of a pronounced lip. It bloomed last fall and I kept the flower stalk on the plant to see what would unfold. My patience ran out this summer when it just remained green so I cut it off. To my surprise when I cut the flower stems open, they were full of powdery dry seeds. Chuck Acker tells me these are not

usually viable, but he has mastered a method to get viable seed using pollen from another plant of the same species.



This year the Wisconsin Orchid Society had an exhibit of Ikebana from the local chapter of Ikebana International.

WHAT IS IKEBANA?

In ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, blossoms, branches, leaves, and stems find new life as materials for artmaking. In contrast to the western habits of casually placing flowers in a vase, ikebana aims to bring out the inner qualities of flowers and other live materials and express emotion.

Ikebana arrangements are not unlike sculpture. Considerations of color, line, form, and function guide the construction of a work. The resulting forms are varied and unexpected, and can range widely in terms of size and composition, from a piece made from a single flower to one that incorporates several different flowers, branches, and other natural objects.

In Japanese culture, most native flowers, plants, and trees are embedded with symbolic meaning and are associated with certain seasons, so in traditional ikebana, both symbolism and seasonality have always been prioritized in developing arrangements. Modern ikebana practices call for the same sensitivity to seasons, as well as



to the environment in which an arrangement is being made.

Sometimes, practitioners of ikebana, or *ikebanaists*, trim flowers and branches into unrecognizable shapes, or they may even paint the leaves of an element. Plant limbs may be arranged to sprout into space in various directions, but in the end, the whole work must be balanced and contained. At times, arrangements are mounted in a vase, though this is not always the case.

In ikebana, it is not enough to have beautiful materials if the materials are not artfully employed to create something even more beautiful. Given a skilled maker, one carefully placed flower can be just as powerful as an elaborate arrangement.

Natalie Cenci, [Artsy.net](https://www.artsy.net)

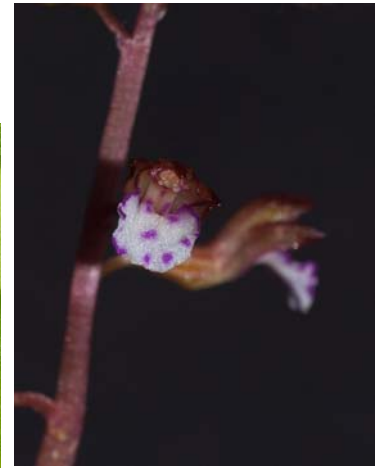


Bluestem Farm revisited . . .

When OGG went to Bluestem Farm on a field trip, they saw many native orchids *in situ*. Of course it was not the blooming season for all species that grow there. Since that time Scott Weber has provided photos of those orchid that bloomed later.



Platanthera flava, or tubercled orchid



Corallorhiza odontorhiza, or Autumn coral root

Orchid Quest Updates:

Orchid Quest will be at Olbrich Botanical Gardens on Saturday and Sunday February 1 and 2 with set-up on Friday, January. 31.

After our first Orchid Quest planning meeting , there are a few things that are underway already.

- Olbrich's renovations are behind schedule but should be finished about December 1. We will take a tour of the finished space at that time and then plan to use the new space to our advantage.
- There will be two new awards for orchids during the OQ show. Names yet to be determined.
- We will continue to offer sponsorship of the OQ awards for \$25.
- The poster is being designed right now.
- The bookmarks are being printed right now.
- Some of the free publicity is being contacted now.
- We talked about only having plants for raffle prizes. Discussion will continue on this subject.

- We may be able to have more speakers this year because the judges might be able to deliberate in another room. Ideas for speakers: Hermann Pigors (beginning orchid growing), Keith Nelson (repotting & beginning orchid growing), Nile Dusdieker (one of his trips)
- We are looking into buying several imprinted tablecloths that will say "Orchid Growers Guild." These can be used at OQ but also other functions where OGG is represented, ie. Spring Plant Sale, away shows and Talks by members to the public.
- There are already three paid vendors. Deadline for vendors is December 1.
- Parking will be handled the same as last year with a shuttle service to the outlining parking lot for members, vendors and judges.

If anyone has any suggestions or comments and ideas for OQ 2020, write to Terri Jozwiak lodi-joz@charter.net.

Hermann Pigors: Fifty Years of Orchids

Hermann Pigors shared his life story which began in war-torn Germany. After a brief interruption in his primary education due to the war, he matriculated from school at 14 and began a three year apprenticeship with nurseries. He quickly learned that if he wanted to be successful he had to have his own business.

In 1957, speaking little English, he immigrated to the United States through the sponsorship of a church in Chicago. They found him a job at Hausermann's. During this time, the orchid industry was focused on cut orchids for corsage. He recalled how after the plants bloomed, they were divided and repotted with no care for cross contamination. As a result when the flowers were cut one year, after being shipped, in about 2 days black spots manifested on the blooms making them worthless. Ultimately tens of thousands of plants had to be destroyed due to this problem which seemingly had no explanation. Collaborative research eventually determined that the spots were due to a virus but how it spread was unknown. A Hausermann grower cut the rhizome on a two-lead cattleya; one lead was infected with virus but the other lead had perfect blooms, proving the virus was spread by cutting. Sterile techniques were developed to prevent the problem.

At about the same time, demand for corsages waned and a new market was needed for orchids. With the discovery of cloning, new, less expensive orchid propagation began to emerge. While at Hausermann, Herman made his own business plans and eventually purchased greenhouses and in 1973 opened Oakhill Gardens in Binnie IL. It had steam heat, collected its own rainwater, and created a humid jungle environment by keeping a large variety of tropical plants in the same greenhouse.



Hermann's philosophy was reasonable prices, customer satisfaction and unique plants. During his long career growing orchids, Hermann has seen many changes to the industry, and currently another is in progress. Businesses such as Oakhill are fading as costs rise and younger people are no longer interested in continuing in the business. The industry is relying more and more on factory farms in Asia to mass produce generic orchids plants for the mantelpiece.

PHOTO CONTEST

If you have photos for the photo contest, please submit your pictures as JPEG files to cynthia727672@gmail.com by the first week in December. There are two categories, 1) Orchids you Grow, 2) Orchids that are not yours. You can submit up to three photos in each category. We will have winners in each category. Prizes will be a gift certificate for Orchid Quest. Our goal is to help members of the club to know what each other is growing. The club will vote for the best pictures at our December party.