

October
2019

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowers.org



**Orchid
Growers'
Guild**

NEXT MEETING, OCTOBER 20th



Herrmann Pigors, the founder of Oak Hill Orchids, AOS judge, and orchid grower and teacher will speak on "Fifty Years of Growing Orchids". There will be an informal potluck luncheon for Hermann and his wife Dorothy at 12 noon. Please come whether or not you bring something to pass.

Meeting Dates

- October 20
- November 17
- December 15

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

Up-Coming Events

- **October 12 - 13** - Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show, Glen-coe, IL.
- **October 26-27** - Eastern Iowa Orchid Show, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- **February 1-2, 2020** - Orchid Quest
- **March 7-8, 2020** - North-eastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Appleton, WI

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello OGG members,

Welcome to so far a beautiful fall!

All orchids except cold-loving cymbidiums should be in the house now after a thorough bug check. I only put out my native orchids, which now need to be unpotted and put back into the refrigerator crisper!

September was a busy month, with the Milwaukee MAOC show and our general meeting on the same weekend. Our display was small but mighty with all but two plants receiving ribbons! The details will be in this newsletter.

Under the direction of Cynthia, a different format was used at our September meeting. The format was a series of short presentations by members on topics related to their home orchid growing.

- Jeff B. gave a teaser presentation about his new-found indoor misting system by Mist-King Misting systems made in Canada. These systems were developed for raising tropical frogs, reptiles, etc. Jeff will be making a longer presentation later in the year.
- Cynthia W. presented a short power point about the science of lighting and orchid growing. Do you know the Inverse Square Law? If you measured the amount of light your plant receives at 1 foot from the

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The Scoop on Olbrich Gardens' Expansion

Olbrich is about to get even more incredible with an expansion—its first since 1991. It includes a new production greenhouse and its first-ever dedicated education building the Frautschi Family Learning Center. The \$12 million project broke ground last September. It is a joint effort between the city's Parks Division and Olbrich Botanical Society. The city is chipping in \$6 million for the expansion, while Olbrich Botanical Society is currently raising the other half.

Jane Nicholson, Olbrich's director of education says the new space will include children's furniture, adjustable adult tables and sinks in its three indoor classrooms. The classrooms will have a view of the gardens and an abundance of natural light. There's also an outdoor classroom, a patio, offices and storage space. The new building boasts great views and more space for the community to learn and grow, it also builds on Olbrich's sustainability practices with its 60,000 gallon cistern, solar panels and window frames. The cistern will store rainwater from the roof, which will be filtered and used to water plants. The building's window frames were constructed using ash trees destroyed by the Emerald Ash Borer around Madison. Olbrich received a grant specifically for that work from the Madison Community Foundation. It also received a grant from the foundation for the general building project.

A new greenhouse will replace Olbrich's outdated one. "What we're most excited about for the greenhouse is the new efficiencies...not only more energy efficient just because technology has come a long way, but also

space efficiencies," says Katy Plantenberg, public relations and marketing manager. "In our previous greenhouse the benches were all stationary. They were on cinder blocks and you couldn't move them," she says. The new greenhouse will have removable benches so staff can rearrange the space when needed. It'll also have four separate rooms which can be monitored individually for temperature and humidity. Olbrich staff produces plants for the gardens, its shows, educational programs and plant sales. The new greenhouse will allow them to produce about 30% more pansies, spring annuals and more. And with a legacy gift from Vera Lee, who died in 2016, Olbrich can produce more orchids. Lee loved orchids and designated part of her gift for the plants. "Just for people to be able to walk in and see all the orchids together and just see what a plant collection looks like I think will be really cool," says Roberta Sladky. Another portion of Lee's gift will be used for additional staffing for tours and more orchid programming.

The expansion is expected to be completed this fall. Olbrich is planning a grand opening celebration.

—Condensed from an article by Hywania Thompson

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light and measured the amount of light at 2 feet from the light, the amount of light would 1/4 of what the plant receives at 1 foot. (2 feet squared = 4 and it is the inverse so 1/4 amount of light). That is just one of the interesting and useful facts Cynthia presented. Perhaps we can get Cynthia to repeat and add to her presentation at another time!

- Steve T. brought many of his mini orchids and explained the difference between a mini orchid and a young orchid plant! Mini orchids are judged separately in some classes and they currently have their own class. (But I understand this will be changing later in 2020!)
- I gave a quick talk about Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) measured in parts per million (ppm). According to the EPA, total dissolved solids do not pose a health risk so there is no allowable upper limit. But it is considered that 500 ppm for drinking water is the upper limit. The best level for most orchids is around 250 ppm but this greatly depends upon the genera of orchid. Some do not like more than 60-100 ppm. City of Madison well water is over 300 ppm and my home well water is about 350 ppm. I collect rain water since I have a large number of orchids, but if you have a smaller number, the Brita filter takes my well water TDS down to about 130 ppm and the Zero water takes it down to 0 ppm! So one of these portable containers might work well for the home orchid grower. The Zero Water container comes with its own TDS meter!
- Gary L. used live plants in an interesting presentation on growing Catasetums. Gary also introduced our members' Catesetum growing project subsidized by the Guild. Gary will provide monthly growing tips on managing this interesting genera throughout the challenging fall, winter, spring and summer. Plants will be available at the October meeting.

Gary has many exciting ideas for the Guild be-

sides the Catasetum project. Gary had tried to organize a bus trip to Chicagoland the end of September, but not enough people signed up. Put ChicagoLand on your 2020 September calendar and be on the lookout for the date of the OGG bus trip!

The Board would like OGG members to let them know what you expect from the Guild and tell us what we can do better.

The October meeting will feature a presentation by Hermann Pigors, the founder of Oak Hill Orchids, AOS judge, and greatly experienced orchid grower and teacher. We will have an informal potluck luncheon for Hermann and his wife Dorothy. The luncheon will start about 12 noon and please show up whether or not you bring something to pass. (Some members have signed up for an item: Barb S. casserole, Lynn W. veggies, Kathy J pasta salad) The usual drinks and dishes will be provided by the Guild. I hope many can come and join the informal orchid group gathering.

Sue Reed



Phal Unknown Hybrid grown by Shiryl Roberts



Grombrasiltonia Hilo Ablaze 'Hilo Gold' and
Bulbophyllum orthosepalum from the WOS
Show



MAOC Executive Summary, Fall

Business Meetings

- The MAOC is an association of societies, not individual members. What the MAOC does for member societies was reviewed.
- Treasurer's report, the MAOC is solvent with \$17,789 in assets. The auction earned \$1,702. The host club earned \$851.
- The winter meeting will be hosted by the Miami Valley Orchid Club in Dayton Ohio, the third weekend in February.
- Cheryl Erins has done a lot of work on the web site. Webinars have been added. A very good one on the ghost orchid has been added.
- There will be some major classification

changes in the Show Schedule. This will not be implemented until July 2020.

- The MAOC will be changing to one annual meeting instead of two.

Lectures

- "Chinese Cypripediums and Culture", Wenqing Perner
- "Catasetums", Fred Clark
- "Australian Dendrobiums", Fred Clark
- "The Rare, the New and the Unusual", Wenqing Perner
- "Chinese Paphiopedilums and Culture", Wenqing Perner

RIBBON JUDGING WISCONSIN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW, SEPTEMBER 14-15 2019

Set-up: Sue Reed, Keith Nelson, Take-down: Keith Nelson, Denise Baylis
OGG Exhibit earned first place, Societies 25 Sq feet or less

Best of Class

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Angraecum comorense

First Place

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Angraecum comorense

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Phalaenopsis equestris

Keith Nelson

Dendrobium Pegasus White

Keith Nelson

Brassavola nodosa

Jeff Baylis

Blc. Empress Worsley 'Roman Holiday' HCC/AOS

Second Place

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Dyakia hendersoniana

Third Place

Susan Reed

Dtps. Sogo Yenlin (Sogo Vivien x Sogo Berry)

Jeff Baylis

Phalaenopsis Unknown species or cross

***Angraecum comorense* also earned a special award, the Christine M. Chowing Angraecoid Award for the Best Angraecoid Species**



Looking to Grow an Interesting Orchid? Try Habenaria

by Keith Nelson

Habenaria orchids are terrestrial orchids which go completely dormant during the winter. There are 7,750 species in worldwide temperate areas. I have *Habenaria radiata* from Japan, *Habenaria medusa* from Southeast Asia, and *Habenaria rhodocheila* from Southeast Asia.

The *H. radiata* is the famous “Flying Egret” flower from Japan. Seeing one in person shows the similarity to a flying white egret. The long stems allows the flower to bounce with the slightest breeze enhancing the flying impression. They could be staked but I let mine wave in the breeze. Unfortunately the blooms are short lived lasting little more than a week. A stem with three flowers lasts about a month from start to finish. My two are just finishing.

The *H. medusa* has one of the most interesting flowers. They tend to bloom in the fall to winter. Steve Thimling has a nice big specimen which he has brought to some club meetings. It blooms a month or two earlier than mine does and is quite a bit larger. I give mine as much sun as possible in a south facing window. It just sent up a spike today, August 24th. At the Wisconsin Orchid Society show in September you can see

some huge specimens.

My third one is *H. rhodocheila*. I didn’t “need” any more Habenarias but once while walking around Orchids Ltd. it just called “Take me home”. It has a compact, bright yellow flower. It came in sphagnum moss and rested there successfully all winter. I plan to leave it in the moss this winter and then re-pot it next spring.



Habenaria rhodocheila Hance
Curtis's Botanical Magazine, t. 7512-7571, vol. 123 [ser. 3, vol. 53]: t. 7571 (1897) [M. Smith]

In the fall or early winter all go completely dormant. Minimal watering and patience is required during this rest period. The first time I had two *Habenaria radiata* a few years ago I couldn’t resist giving them some water over the winter and only one came back. The other one rotted. Now I mist the top of the pot once a month during the rest period just so I feel they don’t get too dry.

The AOS has a webinar dedicated to Habenaria. It suggests re-potting each year when the first green shoot is seen in the spring. The tubers usually grow straight down so tall and narrow pots are best. The media recommended is 50% long strand sphagnum moss chopped, 25% Orchid Power, and 25% charcoal or perlite.

I have seen Habenaria for sale at Orchids Limited, Turkel Mostly Species, Andy’s Orchids, and Kusamono Gardens.



Habenaria radiata ‘Ginga’ on left and ‘Hisyo’

Habenaria medusa

Update on *Catasetum* Orchids

Photographs and text by Gary Lensmeyer



At a recent Guild meeting, a brief presentation focused on growth of *Catasetum* orchids. The benefit of repotting these deciduous orchids in sphagnum moss instead of bark was emphasized. Growths

were larger and more robust with plants in moss than in bark. Water/fertilization was the same for plants in either moss or bark. With both materials, plants require constant moisture supplied by copious amounts of water applied during the period of active growth. Fertilizer is incorporated with every watering at the rate of 1 teaspoon Michigan State RO fertilizer per gallon of RO (reverse osmosis) or one teaspoon of Dyna Grow "GROW" liquid fertilizer per gallon RO water. Three drops of Rapid Start growth stimulator are added to the gallon of water. Fertilizer was reduced to 1/2 teaspoon starting in September until dormancy occurs at which time watering stops completely. Plants are routinely

grown in the basement, under lights, next to a large southwest facing window with highly-filtered light. Here is a picture of the area.

In an experiment to determine the effects of light and temperature on growth, a large *Catasetum* "Frisly Doris" was divided into two pieces, each having a growing lead, and were potted in moss. One plant was grown under lights; the other on a three-season porch with southern exposure and direct sunlight for part of the day. The pictures below show growth differences influenced by the two growing environments. The orchid grown under lights displayed average green growth and produced a flower spike. The plant grown in direct sunlight, on the porch, showed increased green growth but no spike at this time. Interesting!! Temperature was relatively the same in the basement (68-72 deg F) while the porch reached up to 90 deg F at times and was the most variable (60-90 deg F) of the two environments. If the plant does not spike before porch temps reach 45 deg C, it will be moved to basement under lights to see if a spike will appear. The quantity and quality of spike(s)

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Ctsm. "Frisly Doris" Grown on Porch in Direct Sunlight:



Ctsm. "Frisly Doris" Grown in Basement Under Lights.

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and flowers will be compared to the partner plant in the experiment.

The catasetum family is comprised of many species/hybrids and nomenclature is evolving as hybridizers extent their work to produce new diverse crosses. One of the more common, easy to flower, members of the family is *Cynoches Wine Delight* pictured below. [Fig 1] It was grown under lights in the basement. Notice the rather large growth and the start of flower spikes [Fig. 2].



Fig. 1 *Cynoches Wine Delight*



Fig. 2

I am heading up an educational project for Guild members to learn the culture of catasetum



Another easy to grow, very fragrant orchid is *Cynodes warscewicz* [

orchids through guided, hands-on experience with actual plants over a period of one or more.

Key points of the project:

1. Each member wishing to participate will receive a plant. I have contacted Fred Clark, an expert hybridizer of catasetums, to supply plants generated from one of his crosses.
2. The plant should look like this when you receive it and will be mature enough to bloom in next year's cycle.
3. The cost to you is \$5/plant with the Guild subsidizing the remaining amount for a plant that usually goes for \$18.
4. The project should begin sometime in October so members can see the stages of leaf drop, rest period, emergence of new growth in spring, repotting plant and vegetative growth during summer culminating in flowering in Fall-early winter.

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5. The project will not be competitive and no awards will be given within the confines of the Guild. An opportunity to enhance your growing skills with catasiums and carrying the plant to flowering will be the reward. There is the possibility that one of the plants will be outstanding enough to win an AOS award.

6. Time will be set aside at each meeting, for a question/answer/problem-solving, sharing session to address the progress members are experiencing with their plants. Our newsletter will be another resource to communicate information.

If you wish to participate in the project contact Gary as soon as possible.

email is: glmsnwi@gmail.com



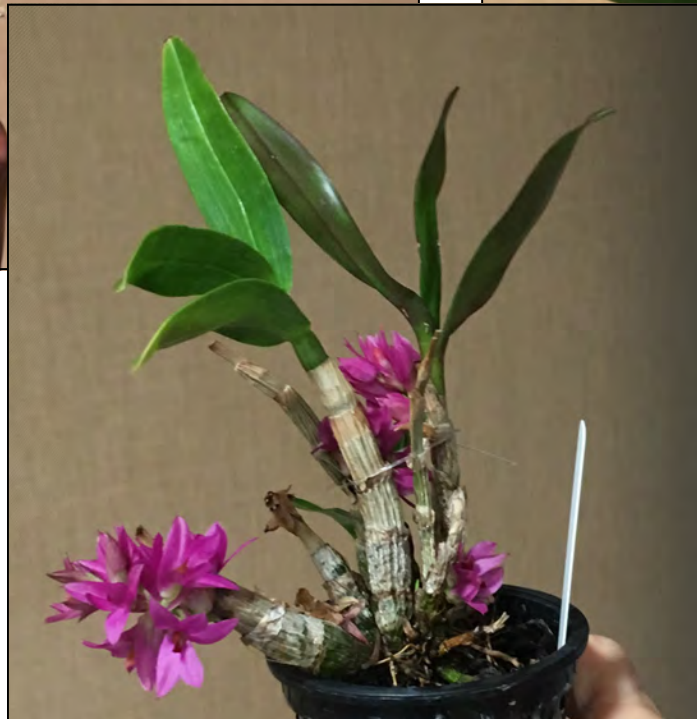
Left to right: Blc Haadyai Delight x Lc Loog Tone and
Onc Sharry Baby from WOS Show



OGG SEPTEMBER RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

- Shiryl Roberts *Phalaneopsis* Unknown hybrid
Doug Dowling *Dendrobium* Hibiki (*bracteosum* x *laevifolium*) x *bracteosum*
Doug Dowling *Christensonia vietnamica* x *Neostylis* Lou Sneary
Gary Lensmeyer *Galeandra* Lauren Michelle Mosey (*Galeandra baueri* x *Galeandra leptoceras*)



Galeandra Lauren Michelle Mosey grown by Gary Lensmeyer; *Christensonia vietnamica* x *neostylis* Lou Sneary grown by Doug Dowling; and *Dendrobium* Hibiki x *bracteosum*, also grown by Doug Dowling



Brassia Spider's Gold 'Prolific'
WOS Show

Photo Contest:

We want to get to know you and what you grow

By the end of November submit your pictures to cynthia727672@gmail.com. Two categories, 1) Orchids you Grow, 2) Orchids that are not yours. Limit three per category. A slide show will put together for the December Party and members will vote. Winners will receive a gift certificate to Orchid Quest - details to be determined.

UP-COMING EVENTS

October 12 - 13 - Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show "Autumn Splendors", Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL.

October 26-27 - The Eastern Iowa Orchid Show, 'Orchids Are A Scream 2', The Elks Lodge Hall, 801 33rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa .

January 25 - 26, 2020 - Orchid Society of Minnesota Show, Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Dr, St Paul, MN 55103, St. Paul MN

February 1-2 - Orchid Quest, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704

February 15-16 - Batavia Orchid Society Show, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187

March 7-8 - Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Doubletree By Hilton, 150 Nicolet Road, Appleton, WI

March 14-15 - Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL.

March 28-29 - Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Milaeger's Greenhouse, 4838 Douglas Ave, Racine, WI 53402