

September

2019

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowers.org



**Orchid
Growers'
Guild**

NEXT MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15th

The first meeting of the new season is September 15 at Olbrich. The meeting will begin with ribbon judging but it is hoped that most of you would have had something to send to Milwaukee this weekend. There will be a "Round-robin" discussion featuring some of our members. There will be a short presentation of about 10 minutes followed by about 5 minutes for discussion. Steven Thimling will discuss his miniature orchids, Gary Lensmeyer will talk about Catesetisms, Jeff Baylis will talk about weird and whacky orchids, and Cynthia Wadsworth will talk about her lighting.



Photograph by Susan Reed
Bob Lasseter's *Cypripedium parviflorum*

Meeting Dates

- September 15
- November 17
- December 15

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

Up-Coming Events

- **September 14-15** - Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Show and Mid-America Orchid Congress Fall Meeting
- **September 20-22** - Chicagoland Orchid Fest
- **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** - Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Appleton, WI

Officers and Committees

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Vice President:

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Treasurer:

Denise Baylis (2020)
jrbaylis@tds.net

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi OGG Members,

Our June picnic was a great success at Lucy and Bob Lasseter's beautiful home. We were able to eat outside and enjoy the Lasseter's lovely gardens. Thank you so much Bob and Lucy for sharing your home with us.

Fall seems to be right around the corner. Welcome to a busy September with the Mid America Orchid Congress in Milwaukee, September 14 & 15, OGG meeting

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Liaisons:

AOS: Nancy Thomas
MAOC: Keith Nelson

September 15, and Chicagoland Orchid Festival September 20-22.

The board has been working on this year's fiscal budget over the summer. Our largest money maker is Orchid Quest! Thank all of you who work so very hard to make OQ a success. We really need everyone doing whatever they can to help out. Our other fundraisers are the Spring orchid sale and our May members auction.

To meet interests that have been expressed, the Guild sponsored a trip to Scott and Muffy Weber's Bluestem Farm for a tour of their acreage and to see wild Wisconsin native orchids. The Guild is also trying to sponsor a bus trip to Chicagoland in September. The bus trip is a first for the Guild since previous attempts languished for lack of interest in the activity. [See accompanying article]

The board would like to make sure that the interests of members are met and would appreciate information from you to make the Guild organization responsive. The board meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Noodles restaurant on University Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend some or all of the meeting. We finish around 9 PM.

See you in September!

Sue Reed



JUNE OGG RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

- Keith Nelson *Catyclia Middleburg* x *Encyclia bractescens*
- Keith Nelson *Coelogyne ovalis*
- Keith Nelson *Brassavola nodosa*
- Bruce Leubke *Encyclia cochleata*
- Susan Reed *Paphiopedilum philippinense* album
- Susan Reed *Miltonia* unknown hybrid
- Bob Lasseter *Cypripedium parviflorum*

Second Place

- Jeff Baylis *Encyclia lancifolia*
- Keith Nelson *Paphiopedilum superbiens*



Brassavola nodosa grown by Keith Nelson



Coelogyne ovalis grown by Keith Nelson



Photograph by Susan Reed

Denise Baylis, Carrie Weisman and Liz Wood at judging table



Paphiopedilum superbiens grown by Keith Nelson

Fall Orchid Shows – Volunteers Needed!

Amazingly, Summer is already ending, but the good news is that Fall brings a plethora of orchid events, including two shows in which OGG will enter exhibits:

September 14-15, 2019 - Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Show 'Fall In Love With Orchids', in conjunction with the Mid-America Orchid Congress Fall Meeting, Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53215.

October 26-27, 2019 - The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society Show, 'Orchids Are A Scream 2', The Elks Lodge Hall, 801 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Here are your first opportunities of the season to enter your beautiful blooms for AOS judging, as well as try your hand at arranging a display! All volunteers are welcome, no experience required (if you're new at this, we'll be sure to match you up with one or more seasoned "old hands"). Display set-ups take place on Fridays

before the show. But if you're unable to get away on a week-day, we'd love to have you join us to take down our displays on Sunday at the end of the show. You can get more information about what's involved by looking at the Away Show Check List (downloaded from our OGG website using the Membership tab, 'Away Show How To' link). Volunteering affords you the opportunity to not only exercise your artistic and organizational skills, but meet fellow orchid-lovers from OGG and other societies, visit the exhibits and vendors at away show, and help OGG maintain good relationships with the societies that help make Orchid Quest a great success. OGG will help defray your expenses for the show as detailed in our Away Show Reimbursement Policy (on our OGG website under the Membership tab). And if you can't volunteer to help with a display, please try to send at least one plant to an away show this season—you may be very pleasantly surprised, as many of our members have been in the past. Please help us make this show year a great success!

Nancy Thomas

UP-COMING EVENTS

September 14-15 - Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Show "Fall In Love With Orchids"; In Conjunction With Mid-America Orchid Congress Fall Meeting

September 20-22 - Chicagoland Orchid Fest

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

Bluestem Farm Field Trip

After a week of record temperatures, the weather moderated just in time for the Guild's field trip to Bluestem Farm, Scott and Muffy's home. They have 194 acres, a stream and oddles of wild flowers and native orchids. Of course different species of orchids bloom at different times, just like other wild flowers. Scott selected this date because the showiest of the species there was blooming, except for the showy lady slipper which had already bloomed.

Our group had hats, sunscreen, insect repellent, sturdy shoes, walking sticks and cameras as we set off overland. Our goal was to see the lesser purple fringed orchid [*Platanthera psycodes*] in bloom. We forded a stream, continued up a slope and found it and then several more. Then we decided that we wanted to see the biggest one here currently blooming. This required a walk up a small but steep hill through some trees and down the steep far side into a bog. The effort paid off, not only did we see that orchid, but we got to step on twayblade and just spared a clump of Indian pipe [*Monotropa uniflora*], also known as ghost plant (or ghost pipe), or corpse plant.

With this success under our belts, we decided that rather than quit we would continue on and see what we could see, so up another big hill with the consolation that it would then be downhill all the way back to our vehicles. At the top of the hill we found



Photograph by Jeffrey Baylis
Lesser purple fringed orchid [*Platanthera psycodes*]



From Left, our hostess Muffy Barrett, Lorraine Snyder, Susan Reed, Jeff Baylis, Nancy Thomas, Steven Thimling and Scott Weber our host.



Photograph by Scott Weber
Case's Ladies' Tresses
[*Spiranthes casei*]

downy rattlesnake plantain orchid [Goodyera pubescens], which appeared to like to grow on the side of the trail. this is a relatively common orchid with pretty evergreen leaves, like a jewel orchid. In the vicinity we located tubercled orchid [Platanthera flava], with seed pods, as well as Liparis loeselii and Liparis lilifolia with and without seed pods.

As this newsletters goes out, Scott reports that Case's Ladies' Tresses [Spiranthes casei] is at peak bloom in a pasture near their house, demonstrating what a prescribed fire will do to some orchid species.

Scott has made a study of the orchids on their property. He and others have noted that orchids tend to be opportunistic while others are ephemeral. They will grow where they find suitable available habitat which is often along the edges of mown areas such as trails and the gas line right-of-way. Considering that there are only 10 species of orchids on this property we did pretty well!



Downy rattlesnake plantain orchid [Goodyera pubescens]



THE QUEST OF THE PURPLE-FRINGED
Robert Frost

I felt the chill of the meadow underfoot,
But the sun overhead;
And snatches of verse and song of scenes like this
I sung or said.

I skirted the margin alders for miles and miles
In a sweeping line.
The day was the day by every flower that blooms,
But I saw no sign.

Yet further I went to be before the scythe,
For the grass was high;
Till I saw the path where the slender fox had come
And gone panting by.

Then at last and following him I found –
In the very hour
When the color flushed to the petals it must have been –
The far-sought flower.

There stood the purple spires with no breath of air
Nor headlong bee
To disturb their perfect poise the livelong day
'Neath the alder tree.

I only knelt and putting the boughs aside
Looked, or at most
Counted them all to the buds in the copse's depth
That were pale as a ghost.

Then I arose and silently wandered home,
And I for one
Said that the fall might come and whirl of leaves,
For summer was done.

Orchids or Bust!



Madison Orchid Growers' Guild
invites you on a full-day bus trip to the
27th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest
September 21st

You will have opportunities to see and purchase gorgeous orchids, attend lectures on growing orchids and speak with experts to answer your questions. Ride in comfort with free WiFi, a restroom and a professional driver.

The bus will depart at 8 AM from the overflow parking lot south of Olbrich near the canoe launch, returning at 8 PM.

Our first stop will be a Natt's Orchids in Naperville and then on to Hausermann's Orchids, in Villa Park.

The charge for this event will be \$60 for non-Guild members. Seating will be limited to afford a comfortable trip and a space to store orchids on the bus and will be allotted on a first come first served basis.

Payment is required by September 1. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Gary at gmsnwi@gmail.com or call 608-244-2123

<http://www.chicagolandorchidfest.com/>

27th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest

Sept 20-22, 2019

8:00am – 5:00pm Friday & Saturday
10:00am – 3:00pm Sunday

Special sale items and refreshments
available at both locations!

Chicagoland is highly regarded as one of the top orchid growing regions in the United States. Come walk the greenhouses and find out why!

Guest Growers at each location will be offering plants for sale from all over the world!

Visit two different, interesting and unique orchid nurseries located within a 40 minute drive. (See map on reverse side)

Grand Prize Drawing Nursery Gift Certificates valued at \$600.00 will be awarded at festival conclusion! A total of five (5) winners will be drawn from those participants who have visited both locations during the festival weekend. Winners will be able to choose from which nursery they wish to have their certificate issued. See the festival website or contact a participating grower for an application form!

Look for festival special offers at both
locations by visiting the festival website
at www.chicagolandorchidfest.com

Hosted By:



OGG member Gary Lensmeyer volunteered to set up a bus trip to Chicagoland Orchid Fest, deciding on September 21. He contacted several bus companies and settled on one that had the most favorable conditions for the Guild. He presented his findings to the Board. After discussion the Board voted to subsidize tickets so that Guild members would pay a maximum of \$45.

The Board hopes that members take this opportunity to attend this event with kindred spirits without the hassle of driving. Check out the event website to see who are the visiting vendors, then check their catalogues and preorder plants!

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.

MID AMERICAN ORCHID CONGRESS

Fall Meeting September in Milwaukee

The Madison Orchid Grower's Guild is a member of the Mid American Orchid Congress. This year the fall MAOC Meeting will be held September 14 and 15 in conjunction with the Wisconsin Orchid Society's meeting, 'Fall in Love with Orchids'. For registration information: <https://midamericanorchids.org/registration-fall-2019>.

MAOC will feature educational presentations on Saturday. Fred Clark owner of Sunset Valley Orchids will present "Catasetums" and "Australian Dendrobiums." Ms. Wenqing Perner who with her late husband, operated Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology Nursery and Laboratory in Sichuan, will speak on "Chinese Cypripediums and their Culture".

In addition to sponsoring two yearly meetings, the MAOC manages several important orchid activities. OGG continuing to be a MAOC member supports these important activities.

- Funding research projects at orchid collections in the Midwest.
- Sponsors six North American Judging centers to support AOS judging at regional orchid shows like our Orchid Quest.
- Standardized classes and intergeneric classifications used to register plants for shows. These documents are available on the MAOC website. OGG uses these classifications during Orchid Quest.
- Promotes the conservation of orchids in their native habitat.
- The MAOC meetings sponsor educational presentations by nationally famous orchid growers and researchers that are not available to most clubs.

ORCHIDS FOR BEGINNERS

Do you want to take your first step into the mysterious world of orchids, but don't know where to start? Learn basic orchid biology and ecology, how to repot monopodial and sympodial orchids, and more to get started growing orchids in your home.

Instructors: Terry Hodge, Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Monday, October 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline: September 30

Cost: \$15/\$12 member | **Course Number:** 11-18

Orchid Quest 2020

Orchid Quest will be February 1 & 2 with set-up on Friday, January 31. Organizational meetings still to be scheduled. We will still be at Olbrich but will have to wait till after construction is completed to determine where everything will be going. In the meantime, take care of your plants. Treat them kindly so they will be beautiful in the blooming season.

Terri Jozwiak
Orchid Quest chairperson