

February
2019

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison



Meeting Dates

- February 17
- March 17
- April 14
- May 19
- June TBA
- September 15
- November 17
- December 15

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

Up-Coming Events

- **February 2-3, 2019**, Orchid Quest
- **February 16-17**, Batavia Orchid Society
- **March 2-3**, NEWOS
- **March 9-10**, Illinois Orchid Society
- **March 16-17**, ILLOWA
- **March 23-24**, Wisconsin Orchid Society-Milaeger
- **April 6**, Spring Orchid Sale

Officers and Committees

President:

Susan Reed (2020)
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Vice President:

Cynthia Wadsworth (2019)
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Secretary:

Keith Nelson (2019)
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Treasurer:

Denise Baylis (2020)
jrbaylis@tds.net

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MESSAGE FROM OQ CO-CHAIR

Orchid Quest is imminent and we are looking forward to an exciting weekend of gorgeous beauty!!!

A few last requests:

CLERKS - We are in desperate need of clerks. We NEED nearly 20 more volunteers (!!!) for Saturday morning. There are clerking jobs that do not require extensive knowledge of orchids so tap friends and relatives. Email Denise (jrbaylis@tds.net) to add your name. We NEED the names ahead of time to assign teams. Show up on Saturday at 7 AM (Olbrich will open at 7), come to the upstairs meeting room (our usual room) for coffee and breakfast snacks, judging will begin at 7:45 AM and be done by 10 AM.

Bring some of your other Orchid plants to DONATE and sell at the OGG table.

Encourage your friends & family to come visit Orchid Quest on Saturday 9-4 and Sunday 9-3!

Terri Jozwiak

NEXT MEETING, February 17th

Keith Nelson and Jeff Baylis will each give a short presentation. Keith on how to grow orchids: "How to care for your new orchids, will it be a successful re-blooming or a slow route to the compost bin?" Jeff on raising humidity: "The evolution of a misting system for home orchid growing: From plebian Mr. Mister to regal MistKing."

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello OGG,

I hope you are all staying warm and safe with our current, hopefully short-lived polar system! Right now it looks like nice weather for Orchid Quest!

Thank you to all who attended our January meeting. Thanks to Gary L. and to Lynn W. and any others who brought the tasty treats!

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Nancy Thomas (2019)
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Volunteer

Librarian:

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Liaisons:

AOS: Nancy Thomas
MAOC: Keith Nelson

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We are in good shape for our biggest endeavor of the year, Orchid Quest! Thanks so much to Terri J and Cynthia W and the committee for their hard work on the organization for the show and all of the hiccups that have occurred.

Our February meeting will be a good time to relax and learn more about how to get humidity to our orchids and how to grow them better with help from Jeff B. and Keith N.

We are now starting a busy away show season, so please think about helping to either set-up or take-down the OGG display at an away show. It is interesting to see other shows, what vendors attend and the really neat orchids others have blooming! Please contact Nancy T. with any questions or offers of help.

We are a very friendly group and we are expecting to be welcoming several new members at our February meeting, so your attendance is very welcome to help greet our new members.

See you at Orchid Quest.

Sue Reed

What's in my Orchidarium...

Photographs by Susan Reed



Macradenia multiflora



Dracula Jester 'Sherwood'
(platycrater x lotax)

OGG RIBBON JUDGING JANUARY

First Place

Keith Nelson *Ancistrochilus rothschildianus*
Keith Nelson Paph Innadale 'Spring Green' (Divisadero x Mariano Martin)
Kathy Johnson Bc Daffodil (*Brassavola glauca* x *C. aurantiaca*)

Second Place

Keith Nelson *Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite* (*Calanthe Rozel* x *Phaius tankervilleae*)

ERRATA: In December the first place Dendrochilum belonged to Terri Jozwiak

Thanks are due to Bruce Luebke who will compile award points for 2019



Bc Daffodil
(*Brassavola glauca* x
C. aurantiaca)



Ancistrochilus rothschildianus



Paph Innadale 'Spring Green'
(Divisadero x Mariano Martin)

Spring Show Season: Volunteers and Plants Needed for Away Shows February and March 2019!

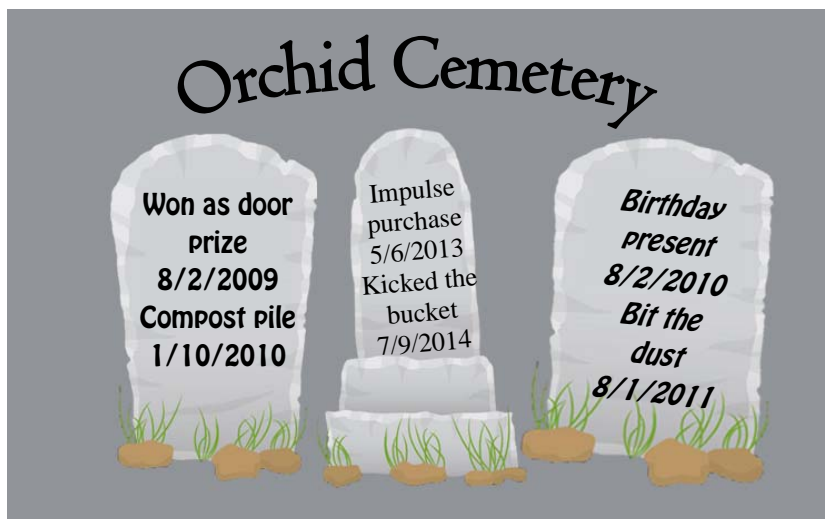
Orchid Quest is just the beginning of the Spring Orchid Show season! Several of our fellow orchid societies will be holding their shows over the next two months and we'd like to reciprocate for the wonderful displays they've brought to Orchid Quest 2019. We're in immediate need of your help, enthusiasm and orchids to set up and take down the OGG exhibits at:

- Batavia Orchid Society Show, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL, February 16-17, 2019
- Northeast WI Orchid Society Show, Doubletree by Hilton in Neenah, March 2-3, 2019
- Illinois Orchid Society Show at the Chicago Botanic Garden, March 9-10, 2019
- ILLOWA Orchid Society Show at the Quad City Botanical Center, Rock Island IL, March 16-17, 2019

For each show we need at least one experienced member along with first-timers who'd like to learn the art of orchid displaying. Away shows are a great opportunity to get to other orchid shows, meet new orchid lovers, learn from knowledgeable speakers, and see what other orchid societies are doing. Sue Reed wrote an excellent article "**Why Do We Go To Orchid Shows?**" in the OGG November 2016 newsletter so check our website archives for insights

into the experience. If you can't get away on a Friday to help with set up, how about taking a trip to a show on Sunday to help take our display down? It's a perfect excuse to spend some time browsing the displays and vendors before packing up our plants and supplies. OGG will reimburse travel expenses (see the guidelines in the Away Show Reimbursement Policy posted on the OGG website under the Membership section). If you're interested or just want more information, please contact Away Show Chair Nancy Thomas (mikeandnancy@tds.net; 608-523-3607) and/or sign up on the sign-up sheet circulated at our monthly meetings. We will also soon post an Away Show Checklist on our website Membership section, to give you an idea of all that is entailed in setting up and taking down a display.

If you're unable to go to a show, how about sending your blooming plants to one of our upcoming away shows? It's a great way to support OGG functions, get feedback on your plants, and maybe get a surprising reward by way of ribbon, trophy or even an AOS award! If you haven't considered it before, be assured we'll do our best to make it easy and rewarding for you. We'll help any way we can to get it registered in the proper class, display it to show off its best attributes, and treat it with TLC.



Dracuphilia **A Gothic Romance**

Gary Meyer, PhD
Columbia Orchid Imports, San Francisco, CA

Gary is a USDA/APHIS licensed importer of CITES protected material. Gary lives in San Francisco where he cultivates mostly Draculas and Masdevallias. He spends several months per year in Columbia and Ecuador studying Draculas in situ. Gary studied the taxonomy of Draculas for two years with Ken Cameron at the University of Wisconsin. Gary states his ambition is to someday have a finca (country estate) of his own in Columbia.

Draculas are New World orchids. They are mainly centered in the top half of Peru and in Ecuador. Some grow hydroponically. In the dry forests Draculas bloom all at once.

The taxonomy of Draculas is in flux so don't change your labels yet. The lips mimic fungus. Draculas are generalists when it comes to pollination. It is easy to create hybrids in a green house setting, sometimes they do so without human help.

Some Draculas to try which are medium growers and not too demanding are *D. vesperililla*, *D. saulii*, *D. cordobae*.

HUMAN IMPACTS

Draculas are often clustered in areas at the top of mountains. An important area is Reserva los Cedros which consists of 17,000 acres of pre-montane wet tropical forest and cloud forest. See reservaloscedros.org. It is 60 kilometers northwest of Quito. An all day trip by bus, truck, and mule is required to reach the preserve. It is part of the Choco Phytogeographical Zone, one of the most biologically diverse and endemic habitats on earth. An extensive trail system has been developed but most of the 17,000 acres remain untracked and rarely visited by humans. Many Draculas grow in only very small places. Some seem to grow only on fallen logs. New species are continually being discovered. It is becoming increasingly difficult



Photograph by Susan Reed
Dracula lotax from Sue Reed's orchidarium

to protect cloud forest areas.

A lot of mining of mining is starting up in this area. Mining companies are buying mining concessions. People may own the surface but others can own the underground resources. Some of the preserve was given away to a Canadian mining company which completely destroyed the area. Mining companies have terrorized and pressured locals to move away. Agricultural uses have destroyed habitat by grazing or by farmers selling out to mining companies. Many orchids are going through the wood chippers.

Can collecting be balanced with deforestation? Local collectors can completely vacuum an area clean of orchids when they learn of demand for the plants. CITES does not prevent local poaching because

CITES is not administered in local areas. CITES also blocks transfer of species for research and for legal production.

There is a lot of orchid fraud on Ebay. People offer to sell 10 *Dracula simia* seeds. There is no such thing as getting 10 individual *Dracula* seeds. Poachers also paint flowers being offered for sale.

Orchid Conservaton Support

Part of OGG mission states that we support 'local and world wide environmental conservation projects'. Every year the Board budgets for funds to support conservation efforts and looks forward to input from the membership.

- OGG has given to the North American Orchid Conservation Center that is in a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Botanic Gardens. This organization is committed to the conservation of our native orchids. The NAOCC is a growing network of botanic gardens, public and private land-owners, researchers, educators and citizens. You can go online to read more about them.
(northamericanorchidcenter.org)
- OGG has also given to the Orchid Conservation Alliance. This organization is interested in conserving orchids world wide with reserves in Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia. They participate in the American Orchid Societies Conservation Committee and The Orchid Digest. This organization does some fund raising by conducting tours throughout the world looking at orchids.
(orchidconservationalliance.org)
- OGG has also given to and taken a trip to The Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor WI. They acquire and maintain land, con-

duct research around their properties and provide education on the importance of protecting our environment. They have a number of native orchids and are trying to increase and preserve the native plants.

(ridgessanctuary.org)

- The Fair Meadows State Natural Area in Rock County, WI, protects the endangered Eastern Prairie White Fringed Orchid as well as numerous other native plants, birds and animals in several natural communities (oak savanna/woodland, wet prairie, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, open marsh, and spring complex). The area is comprised of 300+ acres of private land owned and maintained by Penny and Gary Shackelford. The WI Natural Resources Foundation maintains a permanent endowment fund with the aim of providing care and management support in perpetuity.

The Board would like the OGG membership to be informed about choices to donate the Guild's funds so please read about these organizations, and maybe you know of others that might be worthy of our support that have orchid conservation projects. We will have a discussion on where to donate our money at a general monthly meeting.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **February 2-3, 2019**, Orchid Quest, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI
- **February 16-17, 2019**, Batavia Orchid Society, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton, IL
- **March 2-3, 2019**, Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society, "Orchid Magic", DoubleTree by Hilton, 123 East Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI
- **March 9-10**, Illinois Orchid Society Orchid Show and Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe IL
- **March 16-17**, ILLOWA Orchid Society Spring Show, Quad City Botanical Center, 2525 4th Avenue, Rock Island, IL
- **March 23-24**, Wisconsin Orchid Society-Milaeger's 2019 Spring Orchid Festival, Milaeger's, 4838 Douglas Avenue, Racine, WI