

January
2019

The Orchid Grower



Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison



NEXT MEETING JANUARY 20th

Our meeting is Sunday, January 20th at 1:30 P.M at Olbrich Gardens with ribbon judging at 1 p.m. We will be discussing final plans for Orchid Quest, our display and how to classify and enter your orchid for judging, the Show Book and remaining volunteer needs.

Meeting Dates

- December 16
- January 20, 2019
- 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 16-17**, ILLOWA
- **April 6**, Spring Orchid Sale

Officers and Committees

President:

Susan Reed (2020)
Greed@chorus.net

Vice President:

Cynthia Wadsworth (2019)
cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com

Secretary:

Keith Nelson (2019)
nelsonridge@tds.net

Treasurer:

Denise Baylis (2020)
jrbaylis@tds.net

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope all have had a nice holiday season and your orchids are doing just fine despite the lack of sunshine!

The December Holiday party was success despite not having orchid plants for the members to purchase. (Buying orchids in the winter and at any time, for the reasonable prices that we were used to, does not exist any longer.) Thanks to Carrie W. for her unusual and challenging Saran Wrap game and to Keith N. for the unique listing of Christmas songs which kept us busy and laughing. The neat table decorations that Nancy T. put together from Denise B.'s finds were a unique source of entertainment. It was so good to see everyone, many who haven't attended recently and our new members as well as the great group of consistent attendees.

The OGG website is being updated as well as the OGG handbook. Both of which do need updating. We do not have complete records of everything and I misspoke at the party saying that Nancy had received

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Board:

Barbara Soderling (2020)
bhsoderling@yahoo.com

Nancy Thomas (2019)
mikeandnancy@tds.net

Carrie Weisman (2021)
carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov

Away Shows:

Nancy Thomas
mikeandnancy@tds.net

Hospitality:

Volunteer

Librarian:

Open

Membership:

Carrie Weisman
carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov

Newsletter:

Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net

Orchid Quest 2019:

Terri Jozwiak
lodijoz@charter.net

Programs:

Cynthia Wadsworth
cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com

Ribbon Judging:

Open

Web Master:

Richard Jozwiak
OGGweb@charter.net

Liaisons:

AOS: Nancy Thomas
MAOC: Keith Nelson

REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE!

2019 dues are due. Dues are \$10 for students, \$20 for single memberships and \$25 for duos. Cash is accepted but checks are preferred.

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the highest number of points for the Milo Gilbertson Award. From our incomplete records the honor of the highest ever award points got to Wayne King at 351 points in 2004. And I believe this was before AOS awards were given points in our system! Nancy and Gary L. both had two AOS awards on their plants in 2018. One AOS for the flower quality and one for the culture of the plant. Congratulations to both of them and to all of the members who send plants to AOS awarded shows and bring plants to our meetings.

I am looking forward for another great year with Orchid Quest just around the corner (February 1 set up, and show February 2-3), interesting meetings on growing orchids, and with Brain Hudelson in March on orchid disease as well as others. If there is a speaker or topic you would like, please contact Cynthia W. who is doing a terrific job getting our speakers.

Our next meeting on January 20 is really important for tying up the loose strings for Orchid Quest! Orchid Quest is out chance to educate the public about orchids, growing tropicals, conservation of the tropics and of all natural areas. Orchid Quest is also a fundraiser for the Guild. So please help out in any way that you can. It is a fun way to meet people and to share your hobby with them.

If you can only come for a little while at the meeting to sign up for food, volunteering, learning how to display and register your plants, please try!

See you at our next meeting January 20!

Sue



Dendrochilum formosanum

Photograph by Sue Reed

OGG DECEMBER RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

Unknown
Sandy Delamater
Sandy Delamater
Lynn West
Lynn West

Dendrochilum formosanum
Neolauchea pulchella
Sophronitis cernua
Paphiopedilum insigne
Colmanara Wildcat [now *Oncostele Wildcat*]

Orchid Quest 2019 Up-date

Orchid Quest is only 30 days away! Set up is Friday, February 1 and the show is Saturday and Sunday, February 2-3.

1. **Be sure you have the time off of work** to spend some time at Olbrich. Or if you cannot get off, stop by afterwork. There will be plenty to do late afternoon. Tell your neighbors, family, friends about OQ!
2. **Check your plants**, we need about 100 plants to complete OGG's exhibit, with 30 members that means everyone needs to bring 2-3 blooming plants to the show. At the next OGG meeting we will discuss how to label and categorize them. Have questions? Bring the name of your potential bloomer with you! Sue will send you an email in the middle of January to obtain your entries.
3. **Sign up to clerk for the judges.** Saturday morning we need 20+ people to assist the judges at 7 am at Olbrich. It is actually an easy job AND you get breakfast, but we need many helpers. Sign up on SignUpGenius or email Liz Barlow eabarlow@wisc.edu
4. **Plan** to bring some food to share (there will be pot-luck for breakfast and lunch for each day at Olbrich) email Keith nelsonridge@tds.net
5. **Plan to donate:** the sponsorship of awards was \$50 each and now is only \$25! When the "Best of class" is awarded, your generosity will be remembered. Email Denise jrbaylis@tds.net
6. **Donate surplus orchids.** We will be selling members' plants as a fund raiser. This is your opportunity to pass along those plants that just won't bloom for you, or you don't have room for. Non-blooming are great for we don't want to compete with the vendors. Other orchid items can be donated to Terri and Denise, for the silent auction or for the raffle. If you are requesting a donation from a business, please let Carrie W. know (carriewiesman@dwd.wi.gov)



Photograph by Susan Reed

Macradenia multiflora

so we don't duplicate our efforts. OGG is a 501(c) nonprofit organization, donations can be deducted for tax purposes.

7. **Sign up to help PLEASE.** The 10 people on the planning committee cannot do it without YOU. Sign up for a short or several short shifts. There are plenty of jobs available for those who need to sit. Sign up on SignUpGenius or email Denise jrbaylis@tds.net
8. **If you have any suggestions**, additions or changes for Orchid Quest, email Terri Jozwiak lodijoz@charter.net We always weigh every suggestion in an effort to enhance OQ.

Next OQ planning meeting is on Tuesday, January 15, 6:30 PM at Panera on University Ave.

Orchid Quest NEW LAYOUT for 2019

Layout will be the same as in previous years except that we only get half the lobby space because of construction. That will cut into plant-check. OGG members are asked to keep their purchases upstairs in the meeting room behind the screen. We will have a section marked off for them.

ORCHID GROWERS GUILD EXHIBIT

The Guild exhibit gets about 70 -100 plants from members to display!!! Ya!!! Great job OGG!

This means 70 to 100 plants that need to be properly registered (by their owners with set-up to do some double checking, see accompanying article), labeled and positioned in the display to the best advantage for both the plant and the exhibit. This is too much for one person! Helpers are needed all day on Friday to put our display together.

All plants should be at Olbrich by 11 AM on Friday (pick up after the show is after 3 PM on Sunday). Members should unpack their plants and have them labeled with the plant name and owner's name. Take the box and packing materials with you as we have limited storage space.

Jobs are:

Late Morning early after noon:

- Someone to assist with marking off the plants that have arrived and to make sure the plants are properly labeled.
- Someone to assist with set up of the staging, covering staging
- Someone to put the registration tags on all of the plants, checking labeling and registrations

Early afternoon to late afternoon:

- Continue to put on registration tags if they arrived late, checking for corrections on registrations
- Staging the plants and covering the pots
- Final arranging and clean-up after set-up

This is a great opportunity to learn the names of orchids that other members are growing and how to set up a display. This is our latest display and the most complicated, so once you know how to do this set up, the away shows are a piece of cake!

So please come and help me set up!!! PLEASE!!
(There will be food!)

Sue Reed

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OGG DISPLAY PLANTS

All plant lists need to be sent to Susan Reed (greed@chorus.net) by Tuesday, January 29, all changes must be sent to Susan by Thursday, January 31. The name of the plant, and if an hybrid, the parents' names, and the judging class. (The Show Book will be on the OGG website (<http://www.orchidguild.org/>)).

- Please clean and stake the inflorescence for show and for travel (when you unpack, take the packing material with you including the travel stakes)
- Plant list with judging class sent to Susan Reed by Tuesday, January 29
- Please make sure you do not have any bugs on your plants. We cannot exhibit plants with bugs and the AOS will not judge plants with bugs.
- Send all plant cancellations to Susan by Thursday, January 31.
- Label your pots with your name. Make sure there is a plant name stake in your plant. We can't guess your plant ID.
- Plants should be at Olbrich by 11 AM on Friday February 1.
- Make sure you notify Susan if you DO NOT bring a plant on Friday. This is very important for we can't get our registration tags printed until our plant list is complete.
- If your plant needs to be hung and/or is large, consider bringing a means to display it. We do not have a way to hang plants, especially large ones.

Thank you all for your great orchid plants. Also please bring your nice green foliate plants (labeled with owner's name please) for the display. They are great fillers and really add a great touch to a finished exhibit! Again a garden theme, which is the easiest at Olbrich!

Mealy Bugs: The Eternal Plague

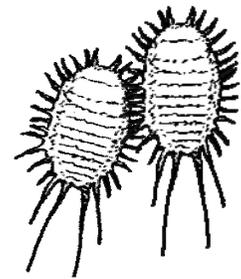
Question from Keith Nelson to Ron McHatton at AOS:

Occasionally I have a mealy bug show up on a promising spike or bud (imagine that!) usually a Paph or Phrag. I do pick off the bugs I see but for treatment, can soap or imidacloprid be safely applied to buds? Any other suggestions?

Reply from Ron McHatton:

Keith, if you really see only an occasional bug, you might be better off just continuing to remove them rather than trying to spray something that might damage buds. If you do treat them, I would avoid using anything on the buds themselves because you will always run the risk of physical damage. Imidacloprid (as well as 99% of the other systemics) is actually taken up far more efficiently by the root system than it is the foliage so drenches are much more efficient and have the added advantage of getting to the source of many of these "recurring" problems - scale and mealybugs on the roots. The only exception to this is Orthene® and in that case, foliage uptake is about as efficient as is root uptake. If you chose to treat with imidacloprid, water the plants thoroughly the day before and

let them drain. Then apply the pesticide solution to the leaves only as a spray and into the potting mix to the point that it drips out of the drainage holes. This will give you some foliar uptake and get the pesticide to the roots. Because the plants are thoroughly watered the day before, the pesticide remains in the liquid state far longer in the potting medium, improving root uptake. You can treat a second time about a week to 10 days later.



What some growers do is to wrap a bit of cotton batting (like a cotton ball, not material - you want that fuzzy surface) around the inflorescence below the first bud. This helps prevent crawling insects from crawling up the spike and onto the buds because of the texture of the cotton surface. It also works for slugs and snails as long as the cotton barrier is wide enough that the creature can't bridge it. If it's too narrow, the slug or snail will arch over it grasping the stem above it and tolerate the annoyance long enough to pull itself over.



Understanding the OGG Point System for Annual Awards

The end of 2018 heralded the annual OGG awards for the Guild's best growers and best exhibiter of the year. The Milo Gilbertson Best Grower Award goes to the

member earning the most points for showing orchids at Orchid Quest and Away Shows. Milo Gilbertson was a founding member of OGG and highly accomplished orchid grower, so the Guild honors him with this award's name. A second grower award is given to the grower with the most points in the experience category (beginner or experienced) that didn't receive the Milo Gilbertson Award. This year's recipient of the Milo Gilbertson Award was Nancy Thomas,

who's *Dendrobium* Green Mist 'Josephine' garnered both AM/AOS and CCM/AOS awards. The winner of the 2018 Grower of the Year in the beginner category was Erin Thornburgh, who earned a blue ribbon for the first plant she showed, *Dendrobium* Red Emperor. "Honorable mention" must go to Terri Jozwiak for showing plants at OQ and all away shows this year, a tribute to her sustained year-round success as a grower.

The OGG Exhibiter of the Year Award is given to the member who earns the most points for setting up and taking down OGG displays at Orchid Quest and Away Shows, and for ribbons and awards given to those displays. The 2018

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OGG Exhibitor of the Year was Sue Reed, who was responsible for the OGG Orchid Quest exhibit and 3 away show displays, earning 2 firsts and a third place ribbon. Kudos to Sue for all she does to represent OGG so well. It's also notable that Erin Thornburgh, a new member and beginning grower, did a great service to OGG by helping to set up displays at 3 away shows this year.

The adjacent tables contain the breakdown of points that OGG awards for the different ribbons, awards, and activities involved in showing orchids, and the summary of the 2018 points totals for all OGG members. In comparison with 2017, we had 6 more members earning points in 2018—congratulations to all of you and let's outdo ourselves again in 2019!



From left, Susan Reed, Erin Thornburgh and Nancy Thomas

Table of OGG Award Points		
Growing:		Points
AOS award/equivalent (plant)		50
Best plant in show/AOS		50
Best of class (plant)		25
Special award		25
AOS show ribbons:	1st	8
	2nd	6
	3rd	4
Meeting ribbons:	1st	4
	2nd	3
	3rd	2
Plant shown at OQ/away show		1/plant
Exhibiting:		Points
AOS show set up		12
Away show tear down		6
AOS award/equivalent (exhibit)		50
Special award or Best of class		25
Exhibit ribbons:	1st	4
	2nd	3
	3rd	2

Member 2018	Grower Points	Exhibitor Points
Brent McCoy		6
Bruce Luebke	12	20
Carrie Wiesman	5	
Denise Baylis		22
Doug Dowling	11	
Erin Thornburgh	10	39
Gary Lensmeyer	194	
Irene Mackie		14
Jeff Baylis	72	
Keith Nelson	240	45
Lisa Linde		6
Liz Wood	27	6
Lorraine Snyder	61	30
Nancy Thomas	319	44
Meg McLaughlin	6	
Richard Miller	4	
Sandy Delamater	10	
Sandy River	8	
Shirl Roberts	13	
Steve Thimling	20	
Sue Reed	149	58
Terri Jozwiak	158	21
Scott Weber	3	
Lynn West	4	

TRANSPORTING BLOOMING ORCHIDS

Safe Methods for Moving Flowering Orchids to Keep Them in Prime Shape

By Susan Jones

During this time of the year, unpredictable and often inhospitable winter weather makes transporting flowering orchids a tricky matter. A shock of cold, dry air can quickly damage and even blast an orchid bud or bloom, a particularly heartbreaking event if one is on the way to have the flower judged. When carrying your flowering plant to a show, home from a nursery, to Judging or even to give as a holiday gift, taking a little bit of precaution against potential cold damage can prevent a lot of disappointment later on.

An orchid's flowers and buds, as the most vulnerable parts of the plant, are easily damaged by environmental stress. Some of the more cold-sensitive varieties may even drop leaves if the exposure and shock is of sufficient severity. Phalaenopsis and vanda-ceous orchids (the former neofinetias are a bit harder than most, but their blooms are still sensitive) are among the least tolerant of chills. Other orchids that are most often affected include those with flowers of more delicate substance. The thicker, heavier and waxier an orchid's floral tissues are, the more resistant to cold damage they will be.

Long-time orchid grower, Connecticut Orchid Society member and one of the technical editors of Orchids magazine, Ann Jesup provided the following savvy ideas for ways to minimize disaster enroute to an orchid society meeting, show or Judging at a presentation to the Society.

TIPS FROM A PRO

Start with a good quantity of packing materials, she advises. Have on hand a variety of boxes of different sizes, including some insulated styrofoam boxes to shelter your plants from inclement weather. Padding is also important. She suggests waxed floss paper (also known as "spaghetti"), shredded paper, polyester batting and styrofoam peanuts as useful materials. For protection against brief exposure to the elements, the plastic bags in which newspapers are delivered make an ideal sleeve to slip over a smaller plant. Dry-cleaning bags supported by wire hoops can help protect larger plants or those with tall inflorescences from freezing or drying out in winter weather. Plastic storage containers of various sizes and shapes are useful. They are not effective at insulating plants, but do provide excellent shorter term protection against potentially damaging chills. When

used in conjunction with the packing materials mentioned above, they can be an excellent light weight winter carrying case for bringing blooming orchids safely to and from their destination

Newspaper is an effective, easily available and inexpensive insulation material. If plants must remain in an unheated area for any length of time during inclement weather, a cardboard box lined with newspaper will help retain heat around the plant. Foam packing peanuts may be added to stabilize and protect the plant in the box, but provide little in the way of insulation or heat retention.

INSULATING PLANT

For extreme situations in which prolonged exposure is anticipated, a heat pack can be placed under protective insulation in the bottom of the box. Disposable chemical heat packs are available in different lengths of effectiveness — the most commonly available last six to eight hours, but other durations are available. They can be ordered online (enter "disposable heat packs" into a search engine to find a vendor). Some orchid vendors who use them for shipping may also be persuaded to sell some of their stock.

Another consideration is staking your plant's inflorescences. This cannot only improve the overall appearance of the blooms, but will also help keep the spike and flowers stationary and less susceptible to injury during transportation. The proper time to stake an inflorescence is when the flowers are beginning to develop. This helps ensure that the buds are oriented properly once they open. For the sake of aesthetics, Jesup suggests attempting to keep the stake unobtrusive. Placing the thinnest stake possible as close to the foliage as is practical helps to avoid distracting attention from the blooms themselves.

Finally, when the temperature is low, warm up your vehicle in advance of transporting blooming orchids to minimize the length of time your plants will have to endure the chill temperatures. Plan your trips so the plants will spend the shortest possible time in transit, and never leave orchids sitting in a hot or cold car.

Susan Jones was editor of the Awards Quarterly. Originally published in ORCHIDS Magazine, December 2013. Reprinted by permission

A Pot Within a Pot

By Keith Nelson

I recently received a *Cymbidiella falcigera*. This plant is native to Madagascar along the coast and along rivers in forests at elevations of sea level to 400 meters.

The plant arrived fine and looked good. I researched the care and found it needs hot temperatures and high humidity. I like that, no cold rests or temperature changes to have to keep track of. Deep shade, again good, the high light parts of my house are overcrowded. Water and fertilize copiously as they are robust and vigorous growers, great, I am heavy handed with a watering can so that is satisfying.

This orchid requires excellent drainage. This is a requirement that required examination of the growing medium. The medium for my plant looked like a medium for terrestrial orchids. Another species, *Cymbidiella fiabellata*, does not require a well-draining medium and prefers a wet medium like sphagnum moss with a little humus. I wonder if someone got the two mixed up sometime in the past. The medium did not look like a well-draining medium, so after a few days I decided to take it out of the pot and examine the roots.

The medium looked like some type of terrestrial mix with a few Styrofoam peanuts. Fig. 1. Figure 1 also shows a surprise, there was a little



Figure 1

plastic net pot in the middle of the pot. This plastic net pot was surrounded by the other medium in a 6" plastic pot. I know October is not the time to re-pot but as long as I was this far, the thing to do was to push ahead. Sometimes one has no choice but to re-pot when the plant needs it.

I cut the plastic pot apart. Inside the pot was a tight ball of soggy sphagnum moss



Cymbidiella falcigera (Rchb.f.) Garay [as *Cymbidiella humblotii* (Rolfe) Rolfe], *Flore de Madagascar et des Comores, Orchidées*, vol. 49(2): Orchidées, p. 63 (1941) [M.J. Vesque]

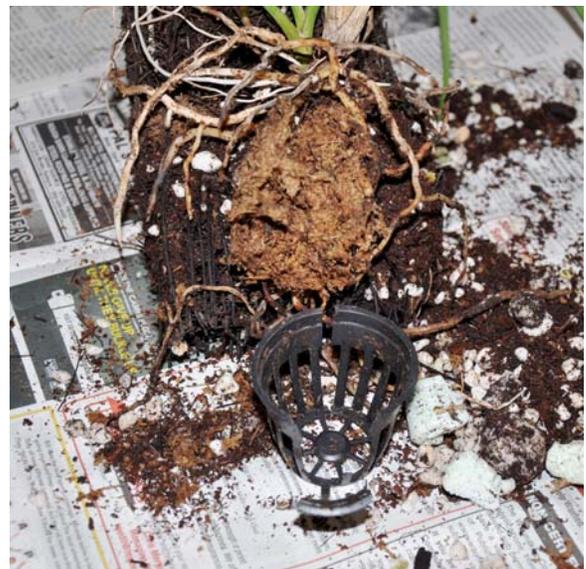


Figure 2

and roots. Most of the roots in the sphagnum moss were bad as were others closely surrounding the net pot, Fig. 2. The best roots were coming out from the plant above the original medium. These little net pots are very common in

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mass produced Phalaenopsis so be aware of this. I was a little surprised to find it on this species orchid.

Figure 3 shows the roots after they have been cleaned and are ready for re-potting. I also found there were two distinct plants but because the new plants were firmly imbedded in the tree fern stake it was impractical to separate them. Figure 4 shows the newly potted plant in a large Aircone pot. I like the plastic Aircone pots so I can see the humidity inside the pot. You can see there is quite a bit of growth up the accompanying stake with roots growing into the stake. There is also a large growth behind the stake.

After I was finished I found another reference



Figure 3



Figure 4

that said Cymbidiellas are extremely intolerant of re-potting and root disturbance, more so than most orchids a grower might ever encounter. All Cymbidiellas have a reputation for refusing to bloom for several years after a re-potting. This plant certainly went through a serious re-potting so I may be in for a long wait.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **January 26-27, 2019**, Orchid Society of Minnesota "Winter Carnival Orchid Show", Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive, St. Paul, MN
- **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 16-17**, ILLOWA Orchid Society Spring Show, Quad City Botanical Center, 2525 4th Avenue, Rock Island, IL
- **March 23-24, 2019**, Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show