

DECEMBER
2020

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org



Meeting Dates Meetings on Zoom

- December 20
- January 17, 2021
- February 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 16
- June TBA

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

Up-Coming Events

TBA

Officers and Committees

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NEXT MEETING December 20th Fred Clarke "Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower"

Learn about the fundamentals of growing orchids and explore some advanced techniques. Orchid plant culture is explained and techniques on how to maximize growth and flowering are reviewed. Learn how to become an 80 percentile grower. This is a PowerPoint presentation.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 40 years and has been hybridizing for 35 of those years. With over 31 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new *Bulbophyllum* and *Paphiopedilum* hybrids. His pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, *Fred-clarckeara After Dark*, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed" and received over 90 awards worldwide.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi OGG members and friends,

I hope you all had a happy and safe **Thanksgiving Day!** It was the two of us with too much food, but now sending leftovers to my son!

Now we are heading into winter and shorter days, and one might think that your orchids would not need as much water. But I am finding that mine dry out faster now with the heat on! Lower humidity in the house dries out the plants and humidity trays much much faster than during the summer! But remember to water early in the day on these short days!

We have continued to have our show and tell sessions on the **second Tuesday** of the month. Do you still want to continue with them? If so please attend them and let me know if you

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Liaisons:

AOS: Nancy Thomas
MAOC: Keith Nelson

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don't receive a Zoom invitation. For December, photos need to be sent to Denise and myself by **December 5th** for the December 8th Zoom meeting.

I was wondering if you would prefer to have a show and tell after our monthly meeting presentation or at 1 PM before the meeting starts? Some societies are doing this and have question and answer sessions with more experienced growers. Please let the board know where your interests are for our meetings.

The **December 20th** meeting will have Fred Clarke presenting on how to become better orchid growers. Fred presents his material in a very interesting manner, so you don't want to miss this presentation. Remember that you can order from him with a discount using ZOOM as the code <http://sunsetvalleyorchids.com> Your project Catasetinaes and Paphs came from Fred's nursery.

We had a great presentation last month and due to the nature of the information presented, we are not listing the link for the public. But if you want to watch it again or missed the Kelsey's great presentation, please contact me and I will send you a link. Please do not take any screen shots of the slides. This material belongs to Kelsey and is unpublished material.

The board is trying to keep members engaged with their orchids and the organization, so please send us suggestions of what would be helpful to you during this stay at home period.

Happy growing!
Sue



Biological Insect Control



Pitcher plant, *Sarracenia* full of insects

Susan Reed demonstrated that her sundew *Drosera binata var dichotoma*, does an excellent job capturing fungus gnats.

Jeff Baylis has *Sarracenia* (North American pitcher plants) that are Asian ladybug magnets. The only problem is that some are so effective they fill up to the top of the pitcher, and can't catch any more.

Any of the North American pitcher plants and their hybrids will do. Two tropical sundews that grow well indoors and are great at catching gnats and fruitflies are *Drosera binata* (Australian) and *Drosera capensis* (South African). All these plants like acidic and wet soils; they do well in peat moss. They need high light levels, and need to be standing in rainwater or RO water at all times; they do not tolerate drying out. NEVER fertilize.



Cynthia Wadsworth has seasonal Ladybug beetles on her *Guaricattonia Renate*

American Orchid Society Virtual Business Meeting – 10/24/2020

I sat in on the AOS webex Business meeting held October 24, 2020. I was pleased that they held it online, so I could attend without traveling, so in my evaluation remarks I recommended that they set this up for future, non-pandemic times so that more members can attend on a regular basis.

The meeting began with a few announcements described below, followed by committee reports summarizing the business that the society has been attending to over the past year.

Announcements:

The AOS Centennial Celebration is scheduled for October 30, 2021, at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables FL. (The AOS office and library are located in Coral Gables.)

The name of *Cymbidium* Little Black Sambo was recently changed to *Cym.* Helen Bannerman, to eliminate the potentially offensive name. Apparently an unsuccessful attempt was made to change it 10 years ago, but social sensitivity has evolved enough to finally accomplish it now. (Helen Bannerman was the author of the children's book "Little Black Sambo".)

The AOS Awards of Quality, (often referred to as "the best of the best"), were decided that morning and shown to us in a PowerPoint presentation. I was pleased to see that the *Miltonia* award went to New Vision Orchids (Russ Vernon). As always the winners will be in an upcoming issue of *Orchids*. They also awarded the AOS Outstanding Hybridizer Award to Graham Wood of Lehua Orchids (Big Island of HI), hybridizer of 568 registered hybrids and holder of 12 Awards of Quality and 384 AOS awards including 205 Paph awards, some of which have more than 10 awards.

The Judging Committee announced 10 new accredited judges, 12 trainees graduated to associates, and 7 new students. There were some young faces among the trainees giving me hope that not all orchid devotees are retirees!

Committee Highlights:

Development Committee: Their fundraising has been challenging this year (just like it's been for all of us), but their recent online auction took in \$13,058. The most expensive item was a *Cattleya maxima* plant sold for \$1550).

Education Committee: They'll be coming out with a *Habenaria* culture sheet soon. They're adding QR codes that will link to culture sheets on their website for quick reference.

Editorial Committee: The magazine is now in the digital archives back to 1932 available on the AOS website with a search feature available. The Q&A column will be coming back as a regular feature and will include culture questions from the webinars.

Finance Committee: Their biggest accomplishment was completing the AOS Data Management System (membership information data system), which members will notice is more user-friendly in our interactions such as annual membership renewals.

Governance Committee: They revised by-laws to allow the annual meeting and elections to take place virtually in the catastrophic circumstances (such as pandemics!).

IT Committee: Finished indexing the magazine archives back to 1932.

Library & Archives Committee: They've recently opened the new library which is housed at the Fairchild Botanical Gardens near the AOS office in Coral Gables FL. They developed a strategic plan but have immediate needs to improve search and retrieval so members can readily access the collection, and install environmental controls to protect rare books and art in the archives.

Membership Committee: Membership rose by 10% in the last year = 1000 members. They're reviewing the AOS website to improve its usability.

Nancy Thomas
AOS Liaison

Catasetum Project December 2020

OGG member, Lorraine Snyder, recently submitted the following photos of her project catasetum. The blooms are nicely arranged on the plant and the three flowers appear to be relatively uniform. Kudos to you, Lorraine!



Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids routinely sends out newsletters through email to interested growers. His most recent communication fits well with our project, so with his permission, I have reproduced it for you. Future newsletters can be received by signing up at Fred's website.

November 2020

Sunset Valley Orchids Catasetinae Growing Tips

What a great year! Feedback from Catasetinae growers across the country has confirmed that this was a spectacular growing and flowering season.

Now that winter has clearly arrived, your Catasetums should have matured growths and be mostly done flowering, Cycnoches will be finishing their blooming, Mormodes should be flowering now, and Clowesiashould be starting soon.

Those of you in Florida and southern states already have dormant plants. Those in other areas like here in California should be seeing good signals indicating the start of dormancy,

with the lower leaves starting to turn yellow and brown before they drop off.



These four plants demonstrate the first stages of dormancy, from left to right: 1) no signs, 2) slight leaf tip yellowing, 3) obvious yellowing and beginning of leaf tip die back, 4) several yellow leaves and tip die back clearly evident.

Leaf yellowing and drop signal the beginning of dormancy. This is when you stop fertilizing and cut back on watering frequency, simulating the end of the wet season in nature. This change in culture will cause the pseudobulbs to harden off in preparation for the upcoming months of dormancy. When most leaves are yellow/brown and have fallen off, cease watering altogether. This marks the start of the dormant period.

Interestingly, not all plants enter dormancy on the same schedule, and it is not uncommon to have plants in several stages of dormancy at the same time. As plants progress toward their dormant period, I segregate some of my most important Catasetinae into groups at similar stages of leaf loss. Grouping plants this way makes watering easier and assures proper transition into dormancy. Also, not all plants lose all of their green leaves when dormant, and it's not uncommon for some to hold a few leaves well past the point when irrigation has stopped.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors: the maturity of the pseudobulb, shortening day length, cooler day/night temperatures and a reduction of root zone moisture.

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Generally, this process occurs naturally; however, when the plants are cultivated in warm growing areas such as in the home or under lights, dormancy sometimes needs to be encouraged. I have found that managing irrigation is one of the best tools to trigger dormancy. Decrease watering frequency in November and stop watering in mid-December, regardless of the number of green leaves. This will trigger dormancy in plants that are resisting the transition.



Have you had challenges overwintering your *Catasetinae* plants? If you are losing plants due to excessive dehydration, this may be caused by long periods of low humidity. Here is a solution that is being used successfully by some ingenious growers.

Set the pot in a jar with water, making a loose-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water

should not touch the bottom of the pot. The reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, even while the plant remains dry during dormancy. This innovative technique produces great results! We have had lots of positive feedback from growers who are using this method.

By late December, it's important to get your *Catasetinae* into the dormant stage and provide them with an adequate rest period so that they will "wake up" early in the spring to a long growing season.

As my *Catasetinae* go to "sleep" for the winter I am reminded of an old proverb (with apologies to Ben Franklin) "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a plant healthy, happy and floriferous."

Your support as customers and friends is truly appreciated!

I am always available to take your calls and E-mails, so please feel free to contact me. I love to talk orchids!

**And as always, Good Growing!
Please join our Facebook page:
Fred Clarke and Carlos Lopez
Sunset Valley Orchids Inc.**

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Happy growing and Happy Holidays!

Stay safe.

Gary Lensmeyer

glmsnwi@gmail.com

The Next Paph Project Up-date will be in the January 2021 Newsletter

REMINDER

OGG annual membership renewals are coming due December 31. The cost remains the same: \$10 for a student, \$20 for a single membership and \$25 for a household.

SOMETIMES AN ORCHID JUST DOES WHAT IT WANTS

Some general rules I have learned as a hobbyist are:

1. It is best to re-pot orchids in March or April before the summer growth spurt.
2. Do not re-pot when orchids are in spike or bloom.
3. In the winter months in Wisconsin growth slowed down.
HOWEVER sometimes an orchid breaks all these rules.

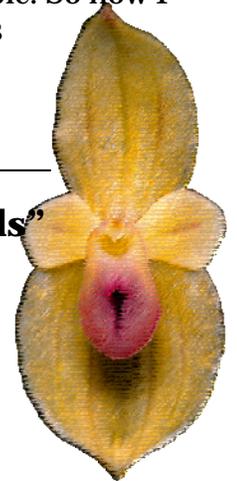
I have a *Liparis viridiflora* I was watching because it has 3 small bloom spikes starting. It usually blooms February to March and has been to several shows. I wasn't paying too close attention and all of a sudden I noticed SIX new buds sprouting coming out of the existing bulbs. It shouldn't be doing this now!

It was very cramped in the existing pot and the new bulbs were not going to develop properly, so I decided I had to give it a new pot. I decided to slip pot it disturbing the existing roots as little as possible. It was potted 2 years ago and when I took it out the Orchidata looked almost new so I didn't have to remove any media, an advantage of Orchidata.



The photo shows a few pieces of the 2 year old Orchidata, good roots, and some of the new growths. I put it in a new clear pot and added Power Orchidata as gently as possible. So now I will see how it accepts the changes

More later.
Keith Nelson



Recap of November Presentation "In pursuit of *Teagueia* orchids"

At our most recent meeting, U.W. Botany graduate student Kelsey L. Huisman spoke about her research in Ecuador on *Teagueia*, a genus of orchids found at high altitudes in the Andes in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. Kelsey graduated from Northern Michigan University where she had a double major in Biology with an emphasis in plant ecology and Spanish. During a field trip to Ecuador with her Spanish class she met orchid enthusiast Lou Jost and was introduced to Andean orchids.

Kelsey described the unique geography and climate conditions that caused *Teagueia* to be in isolated populations. The cloud forests of the eastern Andes benefit from warm wet winds blowing from the Amazon basin which release moisture as they cool and rise up the steep slopes. The area is covered with a virtually per-

manent thick fog. Between the wind and the humidity, hypothermia is a real risk for humans. The species she is looking at on four neighboring mountains near Banos appear to have evolved locally from a recent common ancestor. Although the populations are separated by only 10-18 km there seems to be little overlap.

These tiny orchids [1 cm] grow at elevations above 3000 meters. Thus, they inhabit mountain peaks surrounded by deep valleys. their habitat on these peaks means that population live on what are virtual 'sky islands', isolated by lower elevation they cannot inhabit. She often finds them next to the steep trails she follows up the mountains and then in abundance with several species together. Little is known yet about their life history. Currently she is working on their genetics.

November Show and Tell Participants

Cynthia Wadsworth	<i>Tolumnia</i> Jairak Rainbow 'Big Red' (Tsiku Vanessa x Catherine Wilson)
Cynthia Wadsworth	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> mini unknown hybrid
Cynthia Wadsworth	<i>Laeliocaton</i> ia Renate now <i>Guaricattonia</i> Renate (C. Frenchy's Cheek-La x Grt. Why Not)
Jeff Baylis	<i>Guarianthe</i> bowringiana
Jeff Baylis	<i>Psychopsis</i> Mendenhall
Keith Nelson	Catasetum (fimbriatum 'Golden Horizon x osculatum 'SVO')
Keith Nelson	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Memoria Glenn Gardner (Shun-Fa Golden x <i>rothschildianum</i>)
Keith Nelson	<i>Dendrobium</i> equitans
Keith Nelson	Pot. Orange Tower 'Orange Glow' x Blc. Carolina Orange d'or 'Lenette' #2'
Lori O'Neil	<i>Phragmipedium</i> 'Belle Hogue Point' (Eric Young 'Rocket Fire' 4N x <i>caudatum</i> v. <i>sanderæ</i>)
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Sunset Magic. (Memoria Dick Clements x Waunakee Sunset)
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unregistered Mini
Lorraine Snyder	Catasetum (fimbriatum 'Golden Horizon x osculatum 'SVO')
Nancy Thomas	Catasetum Corinne's Frilly Spots (Frilly Doris 'SVO II' x <i>tigrinum</i> 'SVO')
Nancy Thomas	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Rosalie Dixler (<i>besseae</i> x <i>kaieteurum</i>)
Sandy Delamater	<i>Ceratostylis</i> rubra
Sandy Delamater	<i>Oncidium</i> (<i>Oncidesa</i>) Sweet Sugar 'Lemon Drop' (<i>Oncidesa</i> Aloha Iwanaga x <i>Gomesa</i> <i>varicosa</i>) HCC/AOS
Steven Thimling	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> micropetalum
Steven Thimling	<i>Cattleytonia</i> Why Not (<i>Cattleya</i> <i>aurantiaca</i> x <i>Broughtonia</i> <i>sanguinea</i>)
Steven Thimling	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> medusae
Susan Reed	Slc Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' (<i>Guarianthe</i> <i>aurantiaca</i> x <i>Cattleya</i> Anzac)
Susan Reed	<i>Rossioglossum</i> Rawdon Jester 'HOF' (<i>grande</i> x <i>williamsianum</i>)
Susan Reed	<i>Oncidium</i> (<i>Gomesa</i>) Peacock
Wes Roberts	<i>Phalaneopsis</i> mini green unknown hybrid
Wes Roberts	<i>Phalaneopsis</i> purple unknown hybrid

Steven Thimling's *Bulbophyllum micropetalum*. "The plant had five spikes with longest 14 inches. The two longest had 53 flowers each, total flowers about 158. Flower width: 1/4 inch."



Flower width about 1/4 inch





Sandy Delamater's *Ceratostylis rubra*. "I have had this orchid for about six months, bought from Andy's Orchids, CA. Flowers about 1 inch, bright orange color."

Susan Reed's *Slc Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'* (*Guarianthe aurantiaca* x *Cattleya Anzac*). "Jewel Box is one of the first orchids I became familiar with at the Philadelphia Flower show in the 1970's. It took me a number of years to finally buy this plant. I have had the plant for a number of years and about two years ago Keith repotted it for me. Now I have two that are blooming and in bud! The cross 'Dark Waters' was made in 1980 and is said to be easy to grow, which it is, but it is a Cattleya that needs more light. It is blooming because I now have it under an LED light fixture and in the fall/winter gets some indirect sunlight from a window. I grow it in the basement with about constant intermediate temperature with no change in artificial light timing. It is considered a compact cattleya."



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Steven Thimling's *Bulbophyllum medusae*. "The flowers are about 6 inches long and are in clusters. I separated 36 individual flowers from a previous cluster."



Steven Thimling's *Cattleytonia Why Not* (*Cattleya aurantiaca* x *Broughtonia sanguinea*). "Six flowers, 1-1/2 inch width, Height: 10.5 inches"



Keith Nelson's *Pot. Orange Tower* 'Orange Glow' x Blc. Carolina Orange d'or 'Lenette' #2'. "Here is one from SVO, Milwaukee 2019. Bloomed 9/10 and 10/20. It has 2 flowers. With the first one the dorsal sepal is completely missing but this second one looks good. Grows outside under a shade cloth in summer. Lots of RO water and fertilizer. Hanging pot with a few moth balls to keep out the chipmunks. I put moth balls around the shade house and a few in each pot and have NEVER had a chipmunk or squirrel bother an outside orchid pot."

Wes Roberts' *Phalaneopsis* mini green unknown hybrid. "Small, dainty plant and flower. 11 inches tall with 15 flowers that are 2 inches in diameter. Thrives in bright filtered light in east window and cool temperature at night."





Keith Nelson's *Paphiopedilum* Memoria Glenn Gardner (Shun-Fa Golden \times *rothschildianum*). "7" across"



Nancy Thomas' *Phragmipedium* Rosalie Dixler (*besseae* \times *kaieteurum*). "It's blooming again. It'll bloom serially for months. I grow it standing in water under fluorescent lights in my basement where temperatures remain in the 60's (lower temperatures produce deeper reds in *besseae*)."



Cynthia Wadsworth's *Phalaenopsis* mini unknown hybrid



Lori O'Neil's *Phragmipedium* 'Belle Hogue Point' (Eric Young 'Rocket Fire' 4N \times *caudatum* v. *sanderæ*). "Orchid purchased at Orchids by the Ackers in 2004. The plant got so large that I separated it in 2010 and it is now two very large plants which live on my deck in the summer. They don't bloom every year but maybe every two to three years with one or two spikes. The flowers are really spectacular."



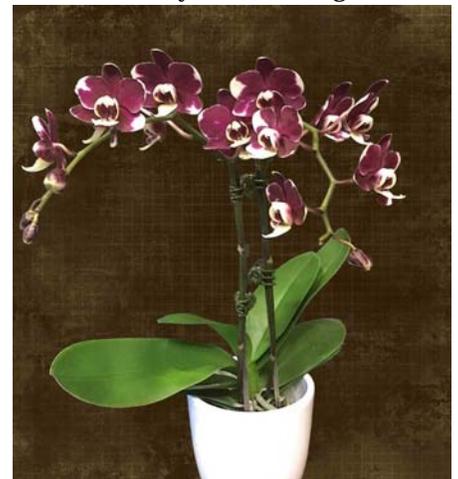
Lorraine Snyder's *Phragmipedium* Sunset Magic (Memoria Dick Clements \times Waunakee Sunset). "From OGC approx 5 years ago. Second year blooming ."



Wes Roberts' *Phalaenopsis* purple unknown hybrid. "Plant and spike are 20 inches tall, flowers 4 inches in diameter. 15 flowers originally. Plant has been blooming for a long time. Very pretty medium purple with subtle white throughout."



Jeff Baylis' *Guarianthe* *bowringiana*



Lorraine Snyder's *Phalaenopsis* Unregistered Mini



Sandy Delamater's *Oncidium* (*Oncidesa*) Sweet Sugar 'Lemon Drop' (*Oncidesa* Aloha Iwanaga x *Gomesa varicosa*) HCC/AOS "I won this Orchid at 2019 Orchid Quest ."



Susan Reed's *Oncidium* (*Gomesa*) Peacock. "This *Oncidium* is really easy to bloom on my east facing windowsill in my sunroom. The temperature can vary in the summer up into the 80's and in the winter to a low in the 50's. The spray is nicely contained and not too over reaching as some *Oncidium*s can be. I have had this plant about a year."



Cynthia Wadsworth's *Tolumnia* Jairak Rainbow 'Big Red' (Tsiku Vanessa x Catherine Wilson)



Susan Reed's *Rossioglossum* Rawdon Jester 'HOF' (*grande* x *williamsianum*). "I bought this unbloomed seedling 2 years ago. I am growing it in the basement where the temperature is pretty constant on the cool side in the summer and slightly warmer in the winter. This is its first blooming and from what I have read it is a lower light growing orchid and usually blooms in the spring. Mine is growing with some southern distant window light and with one LED fixture that is set for optimum plant growing from Happy Leaf. I actually am growing next to cattleyas so they all get the same light. I wonder about the information about only needing low light levels that I found on the internet. Flower spike is shorter than might be expected probably due to the higher light levels than it is usually grown under."



Keith Nelson's *Dendrobium equitans*, "This big guy has not bloomed for a year. I have been spraying it with weak Michigan State fertilizer with Miller's Microplex since October 15. It has added some new growth and green sprouts and now it has 3 flowers so maybe that helped. The flowers are quite small 1/2 inch wide by 1/2 inch deep. It usually just looks like a mass of grey and green sticks. He leaves are small and pointed. I thought for certain some of the sticks were dead but two of them now have the flowers so I am reluctant to cut any. It is not very impressive in any way but I like keeping it around just because it is interesting. It is mounted and on a wire frame in 100% sun all year. It gets sprayed thoroughly or drenched 3 of every 4 days. I sometimes skip a spraying if the days have been heavily overcast and cold."