

February
2020

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org



Meeting Dates

- February 16
- March 15
- April 19
- May 17
- June TBA
- September 20
- October 18
- November 15
- December 20

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

Up-Coming Events

- **February 1-2** - Orchid Quest
- **February 15-16** - Batavia Orchid Society Show, Wheaton, IL
- **March 7-8** - Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Appleton, WI
- **March 14-15** - Illinois Orchid Society Show, Glencoe, IL
- **March 21-22**, Illowa
- **March 21-22** - Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Milaeger's Greenhouse, Racine, WI
- **April 4** - Spring Orchid Sale

Officers and Committees

President:

Susan Reed (2020)
Greed@chorus.net

Vice President:

Cynthia Wadsworth (2021)
cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com

Secretary:

Keith Nelson (2021)
nelsonridge@tds.net

Treasurer:

(Continued on page 2)

NEXT MEETING, FEBRUARY 16th

Keith will speak about growing and repotting orchids. There will also be a discussion on Orchid Quest 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello OGG members,

We are at the eve of Orchid Quest and all through the homes of OGG members are many scurrying around trying to pack up their orchids and supplies for the busy set-up on Friday!

I hope you all can come and help out in anyway that you are able! Many hands make short work and more fun for all! There is something for everyone and this year we have three speakers on each day! So besides the buying (helping out on Friday means first chance to buy!) and the exhibits there are speakers! This is our best opportunity to educate the public about orchids!

Our first meeting in February will be about growing and repotting orchids by Keith, so bring your questions! We have been having many learning opportunities at all of our meetings. Gary will be around to help out with questions with our Catasetum project. Bryce has offered to bring some snacks, so if others would like to also chip in that would be great.



Paphiopedilum liemianum
'Birchwood'

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| January Ribbon Judging | 3 |
| Mister Mister: Meeting Re-cap | 6 |
| Next Meeting | 1 |
| Orchids and Coffee | 2 |
| Postage Stamps | 4 |
| President's Message | 1 |
| Up-coming Events | 7 |
| Volunteers Needed | 7 |
| What are those yellow spots? | 5 |
| What's New at Bolz | 8 |

We have away shows in February through March with chances for you

(Continued on page 2)

Denise Baylis (2020)
jrbaylis@tds.net

Board:
Barbara Soderling (2020)
bhsoderling@yahoo.com

Nancy Thomas (2022)
mikeandnancy@tds.net

Carrie Weisman (2021)
cleocatz@msn.com

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
lodjjoz@charter.net

Programs:
Cynthia Wadsworth
cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com

Ribbon Judging:
Open

Web Master:
Richard Jozwiak
OGGweb@charter.net

Liaisons:
AOS: Nancy Thomas

REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE!

2020 dues are due. Dues are \$10 for students, \$20 for single memberships and \$25 for duos. Cash is accepted but checks are preferred.
Denise Baylis,
Treasurer

to volunteer with set up or take down.

We have many interesting meetings coming up plus the April 4th orchid sale. Another chance to educate the public about orchids, make some money for OGG and increase your own collection!

May is our election and members' auction, a chance to thin out your collection and make room to try some different orchids!

We are going to start planning our 35th anniversary party. Any volunteers to help with this undertaking are more than welcome! Presently we have the Olbrich meeting room reserved for the last Sunday in May as an option of location. Otherwise if a member would like to open their house in June for our picnic and anniversary celebration that would be great!

We are working on updating information on our great new website, so be patient with us. If you have suggestions for the website, please let us know!

Enjoy Orchid Quest and spring is around the corner.

--- Sue Reed

Orchids and Coffee: Grounds for Alarm

A Review by Keith Nelson of Carol Siegel's article "Orchids and Coffee: Grounds for Alarm," Published Orchid Digest, January, 2020.

Have you ever considered how your morning coffee affects orchids? This is an article about the transition from shade-grown coffee to sun grown coffee and the devastating effect it has had on orchids. Forty years ago almost all coffee was grown under the shade of the rain forest. The coffee plantations were close to mimicking the natural forest. They provided a last refuge for some native plants including many orchids, preserving up to 61% of the orchids in some area.

A worldwide transition to growing coffee in the sun has led to disastrous consequences for orchids. This transition means clearing the land. The author describes areas around the world, with accompanying statistics, where coffee growers have completely cleared shade-grown plantations to plant sun grown coffee. The new high-yield strains also use massive amounts of agrochemicals.

Does removal of shade increase yield? Statistics and discussion are provided to show this is not certain.

What To Buy?

There is no official definition for shade-grown coffee so farms with only a minimum of shade can claim to be "shade grown". [This is probably

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

the same as the issue for “free range” chickens. As long as the chicken barn has a small door the farm can claim “free range” even if the chickens never use it.]

The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/bird-friendly-coffee> has developed the only authentic shade-grown certification. Only this certified coffee can be called Bird Friendly and is now the gold standard for shade-grown coffee. Additionally the coffee must be certified organic.

The Rainforest Alliance certification is not exclu-

sively environmental but includes fair trade treatment of workers. Its standards for shade-grown coffee are not as strict as those of the Bird-Friendly certification but it is undoubtedly a step in the right direction.

An extensive bibliography is included.

In Madison Smithsonian Bird-Friendly Coffee can be found at:

- Steep and Brew – Market Square
- Marketplace Café – MATC
- Crossroads Café – Bascomb Hall

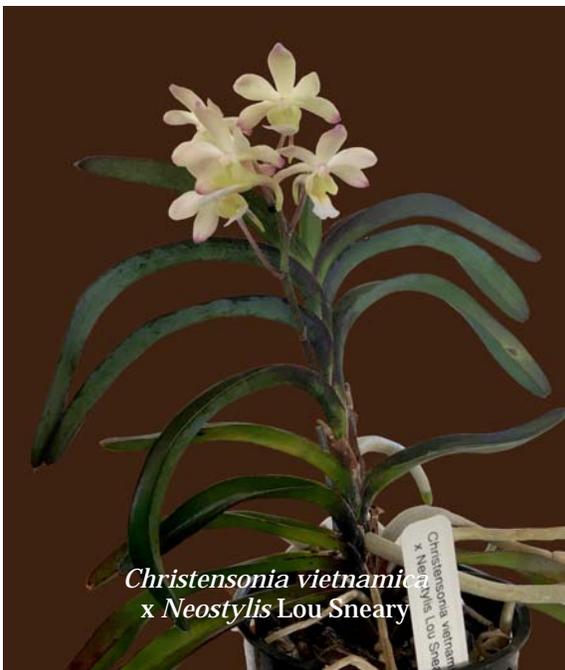
JANUARY OGG RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Lynn West | <i>Paphiopedilum liemianum</i> 'Birchwood' |
| Keith Nelson | <i>Phragmipedium</i> Evening Blaze x <i>Kovachii</i> 'Walter' |
| Doug Dowling | <i>Neostylis</i> Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird' (<i>Neofinetia falcata</i> x <i>Rhynchostylis coelestis</i>) |
| Keith Nelson | <i>Dendrobium</i> Pegasus |
| Bryce De Venecia | <i>Bulbophyllum lasiochilum</i> |
| Doug Dowling | <i>Dendrobium moniliforme</i> Benhibotan |
| Gary Lensmeyer | <i>Cynoches</i> Jumbo Puff (<i>Cynoches warszewiczii</i> x <i>Mormodes badia</i>) |
| Gary Lensmeyer | <i>Ceologyne</i> Jannine Banks 'Snow White' (<i>Coel. mooreana</i> x <i>flaccida</i>) |

Second Place

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Doug Dowling | <i>Christensonia vietnamica</i> x <i>Neostylis</i> Lou Sneary |
|--------------|---|



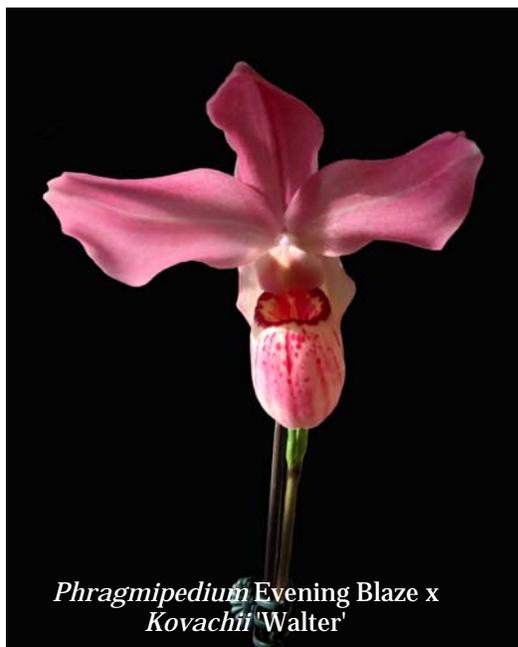
Christensonia vietnamica
x *Neostylis* Lou Sneary



Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'



Dendrobium Pegasus



Phragmipedium Evening Blaze x Kovachii 'Walter'



Dendrobium moniliforme
Benhibotan



Bulbophyllum lasiochilum

Orchid Postage Stamps

The US postal service will be coming out with new stamps with US native orchids on February 21, 2020

The Postal Service celebrates the exotic beauty of orchids with 10 new stamps in booklets of 20 and coils of 3,000 and 10,000. Each stamp features a photograph of one of nine species that grow wild in the United States: *Cypripedium californicum*, *Hexalectris spicata*, *Cypripedium reginae*, *Spiranthes odorata*, *Triphora trianthophoros*, *Platanthera grandiflora*, *Cyrtopodium polyphyllum*, *Calopogon tuberosus*



and *Platanthera leucophaea*. Orchids also have common names, with some plants having several different names in popular use. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps with existing photographs by Jim Fowler!

US Postal Service

What are those yellow Spots?

By Lynn West

Recently I experienced some setbacks with my orchids' growth from what I thought were bad cultural practices. Some of the orchids had large sections of leaf tissue collapse and necrosis and round yellow spots. My first suspicion was the water temperature (the RO supply in my basement was cool) and the pH of the watering solution. After ensuring that the water was always at least 72 degrees and the pH was about 6.5-6.7 after adding fertilizer, I saw no appreciable change. Next I questioned the possibility of a viral attack. After purchasing some Agdia ImmunoStrips for Cymbidium mosaic virus and Odontoglossum ringspot virus, I tested a large portion of my collection and surprisingly although several tested positive for virus, the plants that looked the worst were negative for these two common viruses. My quest to identify the cause of the unsightly leaf problems continued.

After watching several YouTube videos, I was convinced I had a fungal problem; possibly fusarium wilt. The leaves on my Phalaenopsis looked suspiciously similar to images found on the web. I rotated through every fungal fighting technique I could find for several months; Physan 20, dilute clove oil solution, dilute cinnamon oil solution, Orchid ImunoBooster powder. I also treated my entire orchid collection with Safari, a super-systemic insecticide, at least once per year. None of the affected orchids ever demonstrated the tell-tale purple ring of fusarium wilt when cutting through a stem or leaf. Over time most of my remaining orchids improved. New leaves looked great as they emerged, but the leaf problems did not go away completely. One problem that I had not considered was insect infestation. My watering routine includes taking each plant to the sink to be watered along with a thorough examination, which sometimes includes using a strong flashlight to look into all of the nooks and crannies.

However, my search never showed any evidence of insects, sticky sap, evidence of webs, or sil-



very streaks on the underside of leaves. While the plants were looking better, many of the plants continued to develop light green circular spots that later turned dark especially on the thin leaf types. I have read on several websites that dark spots on oncidium type leaf

tips is a response to strong light so I had been ignoring them. Still not convinced that I had my leaf problems beat, I decided to take a look at them under a binocular microscope. What I saw under the scope was a total shock. On the underside of the leaves I saw what was easily identifiable as the two-spotted mite. The little buggers were chewing away several layers of tissue in a nearly circular shape. From the front of the leaf, it was a light green circle. The older circles, turning dark brown or black.

Unfortunately, none of the treatments I had previously employed would have been effective against the mites. The diluted oil solutions may have slowed them down since the oil may have been able to smother a few or knocked them off the plant with the strong spray. After discovering the mites, I took to YouTube videos to research mite eradication. One YouTube channel that I frequent is the Miss Orchid Girl channel. She has had on going problems mites and has tried many treatment options. Her recent video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XKBzEGy_sc) on this topic recommends using a diluted solution of paraffin oil and a few drops of dish detergent. The maximum recommended concentration is a 2% solution applied with a fine mist sprayer. I decided to give this eradica-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

tion technique a try. So I bought a medical grade bottle on Amazon and proceeded to treat my entire collection including any near by house plants. The treatment works by smothering the mites and possibly by preventing them from molting. Since this is a mechanical prevention treatment, the mites do not develop any resistance to the treatment and it is relatively non-toxic. Miss Orchid Girl notes that mites can even be blown in through window screens onto plants near open windows or brought in on your clothes from the garden. So it will be necessary to repeat treatment if another outbreak happens. It was recommended that plants be treated no more than once every six months. There were a few plants in my collection that protested the treatment by dropping some leaves. The vandas were affected more than others. It might be prudent to start with a 1% solution or test one leaf before spraying the whole plant.

Recap January Meeting: Mister Mister

At our January meeting, Jeff Baylis gave a brief account of recent changes he has made to his windowsill orchid growing setup. To counter the dry air in his house in winter, he has for years used 'home brew' misting systems that were unreliable and produced a spray rather than a fine mist. 18 months ago he instead purchased a misting system from a Canadian supplier that is designed for zoos and herpetologists who keep tropical frogs. This system uses a high pressure, 24 volt DC pump that largely eliminates the risk of electrical shock. He has used it for the last year and a half with no problems. It operates on a repeat-cycle timer that mists for 15 sec. every 30 minutes with a very fine, almost fog-like mist that quickly evaporates. The pump is high pressure, which is necessary to get the fine mist from very small high pressure nozzles. It is sold by an outfit called Mist King online, but also may be available from local pet shops. The Mist King website has very good manual which can be downloaded from their website (<https://www.mistking.com/instructions.html>). On their

It's been a few weeks since I used this treatment and I think there has been an improvement. One thing is certain; no matter what disease you Google while trying to research a problem, you'll find an image that looks like your problem for any number of diagnoses. The leaf damage on my Phals looked like fusarium wilt, yet they recovered quickly and none had any purple coloration in leaves that I removed. Some of the leaves on other orchids looked like pictures of orchids with a virus, but tested negative. Orchids that tested positive for virus looked the healthiest and were discarded (um??).

The moral of this story is that it is really hard to identify a disease/problem from the symptoms on the leaves. But, if the leaves look bad, there is definitely something going on and it may be necessary to go through a process of elimination before hitting on the cause and best treatment.



website you can order whole systems, or on their agriculture website EZMister you can order components and assemble your own system which is what he did (<https://www.ezmister.com/Standard-Diaphragm-misting-pump-with-zip-drip-valve.html>).

The second major change he made was to phase out his fluorescent tube grow lights that he uses for supplemental lighting and replace them with LED fixtures that emit light in the red and blue parts of the spectrum only to match the absorption spectrum of chlorophyll. Besides being more energy efficient, these LED fixtures brought about an instant improvement in vegetable seedlings, carnivorous plants, and the orchids he grows. Many systems are available online from Amazon or Ebay. The best have red and blue LEDs as separate leds, rather than fused into a single emitter. He has been very happy with both changes!

Spring Show Season Approaches:

Volunteers & Plants needed for Away Shows February and March 2020!

Our Spring Orchid Show season is starting in mid-February just after Orchid Quest! Our fellow orchid societies will be holding their shows over the next 2 months so we have the opportunity to reciprocate for the wonderful displays they've brought to Orchid Quest again this year. 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 "Make an Orchid Your Valentine", DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL, Feb. 15-16, 2020
- Northeast WI Orchid Society Show "Orchid Magic", DoubleTree by Hilton Appleton, Appleton WI, March 7-8, 2020
- Illinois Orchid Society Show "Living Gems", Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe IL, March 14-15, 2020
- ILLOWA Orchid Society Show at the Quad City Botanical Center, Rock Island IL, Mar. 20-21, 2020

For each show we need at least one experienced member to take the lead along with a team of others –no experience needed! 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 experi-

ence. 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 "More" tab, "Away Show misc.")). 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 also have an Away Show Checklist (also under the "More" tab, "Away Show misc." on our website), 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 rewarded with a 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 your plant registered in the proper class, display it to show off its best attributes, and treat it with TLC.

Up-coming events

- **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 21-22**, Illowa
- **March 21-22** - Wisconsin Orchid Society Spring Show, Milaeger's Greenhouse, 4838 Douglas Ave, Racine, WI 53402

What's new at Bolz?



Angraecum magdalenae x self



Pleurothallis sp.



Vanda tricolor var *suavis*



Dendrobium amethystoglossum