

JUNE  
2020

# The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org



**Orchid  
Growers'  
Guild**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

HI OGG members,

I hope that all of you are well and safe with your families. This will be a long haul with the COVID 19 and until there is a viable vaccine many of us will need to stay out of group meetings. Social distancing and masks are the new norm for everyone!

We don't know when we will be able to have meetings at Olbrich this fall and what this fall will bring. A second wave of illness of COVID 19 is predicted for this fall and might come sooner because of the lack of social distancing I have recently seen in the media.

The Board will continue to be meeting virtually this summer, the first Tuesday of the month by Webex. If you would like to attend or to add suggestions for the Guild to meet the members needs, please don't hesitate to let me or any member of the board know. All are welcome to attend the Board meetings. Just let me know so I can send you the meeting invitation with the password for the meeting.

Presently the board is working on how to maintain an active OGG that fulfills the members needs.

In addition to the Board meeting we have been having another monthly virtual meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. This has been for orchid judging. We welcome all to attend whether or not they have submitted plants. We talk about and discuss the plants akin to how the judging is done for ribbon judging at an orchid show. We also discuss growing conditions and how the grower grows the plant.

Last month we had 39 plants sub-



*Arpophyllum giganteum*  
Not very gigantic!

### Meeting Dates

- June - **Cancelled**
- September 20
- October 18
- November 15
- December 20

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

### Up-Coming Events

TBA

### Officers and Committees

#### President:

Susan Reed (2022)\*  
[Greed@chorus.net](mailto:Greed@chorus.net)

#### Vice President:

Cynthia Wadsworth (2021)  
[cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com](mailto:cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com)

#### Secretary:

Keith Nelson (2021)  
[nelsonridge@tds.net](mailto:nelsonridge@tds.net)

#### Treasurer:

Denise Baylis (2022)\*  
[jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net)

#### Board:

Lisa Linde (2023)\*  
[CrazyCatPlantLady@gmail.com](mailto:CrazyCatPlantLady@gmail.com)

Nancy Thomas (2022)

[mikeandnancy@tds.net](mailto:mikeandnancy@tds.net)

Carrie Weisman (2021)

[cleoKatz@msn.com](mailto:cleoKatz@msn.com)

#### Away Shows:

Nancy Thomas

[mikeandnancy@tds.net](mailto:mikeandnancy@tds.net)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Catasetum Project	3
Comments by Sue	10
Fertilizer: Feed Me	9
Frog Orchid	2
Habenaria Article Up-Date	8
May Virtual Ribbon Judging	5
Member's Orchid Photos	6
Orchid Quest 2021 Up-date	8
Orchid Quest ABCD Awards	8
Phalaenopsis Gallery	7
President's Message	1

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 2)

**Hospitality:**  
Volunteer

**Librarian:**  
Open

**Membership:**  
Carrie Weisman  
[carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov](mailto:carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov)

**Newsletter:**  
Denise Baylis  
[jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net)

**Orchid Quest 2019:**  
Terri Jozwiak  
[lodijoz@charter.net](mailto:lodijoz@charter.net)

**Programs:**  
Cynthia Wadsworth  
[cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com](mailto:cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com)

**Ribbon Judging:**  
Open

**Web Master:**  
Richard Jozwiak  
[OGGweb@charter.net](mailto:OGGweb@charter.net)

**Liaisons:**  
AOS: Nancy Thomas  
MAOC: Keith Nelson

*(Continued from page 1)*

mitted by 15 growers! It does take just about three hours to discuss the plants! We would like more participation so we are going to have more orchid culture discussions at these sessions. They are mini OGG meetings which is all we can safely do for the time being.

Even if a plant is in active growth and is struggling due to the need to be repotted, there is still time to do it. Some cooler growing orchids will be stressed if repotted now, for the heat stresses them. So it is not a good time to repot many of the little pleurothallids, draculas, etc. Watch the sunlight on your orchids if putting them outside. Their foliage will easily burn and those leaves will be

there a long time to remind you of your misdeed!

Happy Growing and please attend our Monthly orchid plant discussion group, the third Wednesday evening at 7 PM!

Stay safe! Sue



**This one has problems! The flowers are beautiful but the leaves!! I have a feeling that after 10 years this one is heading to the compost. If anybody can tell me if and how to rescue this one I'd appreciate it.**

--- Meg McLaughlin



I found this frog orchid (Coeloglossum) blooming today near Leland, not far from Natural Bridge State Park (left and center). We also have Galearis, or showy orchis, blooming not far from our house (right). Plus yellow lady slippers are starting to bloom.

--- Scott Weber



# Catasetum Project June 2020

During the past month, several guild members who are participating in the catasetum project, sent pictures of their plant and asked if it is ready to be repotted/watered/fertilized. A few of these questions, with accompanying answers, are highlighted here.

First of all, your project plant should have been repotted or, at least, be ready to be repotted soon. Here is an example of two member's plants that have been repotted within the past few weeks. It is amazing how quickly the new shoot grows with proper light, water and fertilizer. (Pic #1)



*The following inquiries were submitted by members seeking advice related to their plants:*

**Question: The catasetum that I purchased is in bark. Is it okay to repot it in moss?**

Reply: There should be no problem going from bark to moss since the new shoot will have its own roots and doesn't depend highly on the old

roots of the mother bulb to establish itself. The plant will acclimate to and, most likely, be happier in moss. Allow the roots on the new shoot to grow 2-3 inches, then cut off old dry roots of the mother bulb. If you find viable roots on the mother bulb, do not cut them off. Also, you can discard some of the small older back bulbs such that the plant will consist of the shoot and a few solid leafless bulbs. The manicured plant can then be potted in moist sphagnum moss. At this point, watering/fertilizing can begin.

**Question: The roots on the new shoot of my plant are developing very slowly and not elongating very fast. When will it be ready to repot?**

Reply: Your plant is doing fine. Give it time. I would wait 3-4 weeks and then proceed to repot. For now, return the plant to its original pot and leave it alone in a bright area. If you wish, occasionally spritz with water to up the humidity around the plant. Some of my catasetum shoots are slow at putting out roots.....very normal for some in this genera. Once repotted, the roots and shoot will grow relatively fast.

**Question: Is it necessary to repot my catasetum every year?**

Reply: You don't necessarily have to repot after every growing season, however, I have observed that my catasetums grow more robustly when put into fresh moss every year. I have one catasetum that is nearly ten years old, is still doing well and produces the greatest number of quality blooms when not allowed to grow on in the same media for another year.

**Question: In several past articles, you emphasized that catasetums must not be watered during dormancy. Why is this culture technique so important?**

Reply: This is a great question and very timely for me. A few months ago, I noticed that a new

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

shoot (Kei Kei) was developing on the upper portion of a mother bulb rather than at the base. After scraping away moss, I discovered that rot had occurred at the base of the mother bulb. The rot was not wet but had dried and sealed off the tissue of the bulb from its roots. The dry old back bulb to the right was not viable and was discarded. (Pic #2).



I appreciate receiving your questions; keep them coming. Next month, I would like to feature pictures of your project plants to demonstrate the diversity in growth rate, and in overall appearance that is common with hybrids from a single cross. Please email me pictures of your plant and include questions you may have. Your name will remain anonymous. Send pictures to. [glmsnwi@gmail.com](mailto:glmsnwi@gmail.com)

Since the plant was not watered during dormancy, the most likely cause was over-potting and possibly was over-watered during either the blooming stage or after the leaves turn yellow as the plant went into dormancy. Rot is usually seen on leafless pseudo bulbs and is the bane of longevity for catasetums. Over-potting results in a soggy environment in which moisture does not dissipate fast enough. Nasty bacterial and fungal activity can get a foothold in this environment. To address the rot problem, I dusted the rotted, dry end of the mother bulb with cinnamon. This end was positioned down into the bottom of a smaller size pot containing styrofoam peanuts added to improve drainage. The mother bulb was arranged such that the roots of the shoot were buried in the moss when it was added. (Pic#3).

Happy growing!  
Gary Lensmeyer



*Sedirea japonica*. "What I like the most about this flower is its beautiful fragrance, citrusy to me and very strong in daytime." Nancy Thomas

# May Virtual Ribbon Judging

## First Place

Keith Nelson	<i>Catyclia</i> Middleburg x <i>Encyclia bractescens</i>
Bryce Devenecia	<i>Encyclia cochleata</i>
Shirl Roberts	<i>Ansellia gigantea</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Arpophyllum giganteum</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
Scott Weber	<i>Cymbidium</i> unknown hybrid yellow
Steven Thimling	<i>Dendrobium</i> Yukidaruma 'King' AM/JOS, AM/AOS (Shiranami x Pinocchio)
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Oncidium</i> Sharry Baby
Bryce Devenecia	<i>Ornithocephalus</i> sp.
Connie Muscavitch	<i>Paphiopedilum delenatii</i> 'Sunset Valley Orchids VII' HCC/AOS x self
Lynn West	<i>Paphiopedilum liemianum</i> Birchwood
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Song Of Love ( <i>liemianum</i> x <i>lowii</i> )
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> St Swithin ( <i>rothschildianum</i> x <i>philippinense</i> )
Carrie Weisman	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Vini Color New Unknown hybrid
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> (Rose Tris x Brother Passat)
Cynthia Wadsworth	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Lianher Cranberry 'Bravo' (Lioulin Dora x Sogo Vivien)
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Malibu Bistro 'Floricultura' (Prince Puck x Kathleen Ai)
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> mini unknown hybrid II
Jeffrey Baylis	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown hybrid white
Lori O'Neil	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown hybrid #24 Light Pink
Lori O'Neil	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown hybrid Yellow
Steven Thimling	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Eric Young ( <i>besseae</i> x <i>longifolium</i> )
Nancy Thomas	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Grande ( <i>longifolium</i> x <i>caudatum</i> )
Keith Nelson	<i>Phragmipedium kovachii</i> x Waunakee Sunset 'Cherry'
Sue Reed	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Paul Eugene Conroy ( <i>warszewiczianum</i> x <i>longifolium</i> )
Sue Reed	<i>Restrepia brachypus</i>
Nancy Thomas	<i>Sedirea japonica</i> (Darum type)
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Don Wimber ( <i>besseae</i> x Eric Young)

## Second Place

Scott Weber	<i>Cymbidium</i> Ian Stewart 'Santa Cruz' (Claudona x Alexanderi)
Sue Reed	<i>Dracula inaequalis</i>
Sue Reed	<i>Paphiopedilum Faire- Maud</i> ( <i>Maudiae</i> 'Los Osos' x <i>fairrieanum</i> )
Sue Reed	<i>Phragmipedium Dominicanum</i> ( <i>caricinum</i> x <i>caudatum</i> )
Keith Nelson	<i>Oncidium sphacelatum</i>
Steven Thimling	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> (Jolix x Lovely Land) 'Showtime' x <i>helenae</i> 'In-Charm
Meg McLaughlin	<i>Paphiopedilum liemianum</i> 'Compact' x <i>Paphiopedilum liemianum</i>
Lori O'Neil	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> #3 Purple
Cynthia Wadsworth	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> mini unknown hybrid I
Lori O'Neil	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown hybrid #9 Purple
Lori O'Neil	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown hybrid #J3 Pink



# Members' Orchid Photos



*Paphiopedilum St Swithin* grown by Meg Mclaughlin



*Paphiopedilum delenatii* 'Sunset Valley Orchids VII' HCC/AOS x self grown by Connie Muscavitch



*Paphiopedilum liemianum* Birchwood  
"It is a sequential bloomer, but previous flowers stay on for a long time."  
Lynn West



*Oncidium Sharry Baby* grown by Gary Lensmeyer



*Ansellia gigantea* , "This Orchid has made a number of trips to Florida. This is getting to be a challenge to fit in my small SUV. We have been stuck in Florida with the travel restrictions." Shirl Roberts

*Ornithocephalus* sp. "I got it last year in a terrarium that I purchased. It lost a couple of leaves at first but now it's putting out new leaves, roots, and flowers",  
Bryce DeVenecia





# Phalaenopsis Gallery



*Phalaenopsis* unknown hybrid #24  
Light Pink, Lori O'Neil



*Phalaenopsis* Lianher Cranberry  
'Bravo', Cynthia Wadsworth



*Phalaenopsis* unknown hybrid #9  
Purple, Lori O'Neil



*Phalaenopsis* Malibu Bistro  
'Floricultura', Meg McLaughlin



*Phalaenopsis* unknown hybrid  
white, Jeffrey Baylis



*Phalaenopsis* unknown hybrid  
Purple J3, Lori O'Neil



*Phalaenopsis* unknown hybrid Yellow,  
Lori O'Neil



*Phalaenopsis* unknown hybrid Purple  
#3, Lori O'Neil



*Phalaenopsis* mini unknown I,  
Cynthia Wadsworth



*Phalaenopsis* (Rose Tris x Brother  
Passat), Meg McLaughlin



*Phalaenopsis* mini unknown hybrid,  
Meg McLaughlin

# Orchid Quest ABCD Awards.

At the February meeting Cynthia gave out the newly named awards: Orchid Quest ABCD Awards. There were so many members and members' families that helped make Orchid Quest 2020 a really grand success. We would like to recognize some of you for ALL that you do. Some people do a little and some do a lot and we are grateful to every single hour that each of you devote to the promotion, planning and the weekend of Orchid Quest. It is so true that many hands make the work-load lighter and you came through again like champions. We (the co-chairs) would like to recognize some of the best of the best of the volunteers in 2020 with the new ABCD award:

Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty in preparation & fruition of Orchid Quest 2020

Terri Jozwiak and Cynthia Wadsworth, OQ 2020 Co-Chairs

Keith Nelson was an eager volunteer for many things at Orchid Quest 2020 both prior and during the event. Prior to the event he did a multitude of networking to promote Orchid Quest including seminars and contacting numerous community calendars. He made plenty of trips to the OGG locker (even digging out the snow and torching the frozen lock) to check on needed items. At Orchid Quest he organized the food and drinks between the donation of the members and purchasing what was missing. He was a speaker at Orchid Quest to promote orchid growing to a selection of our many visitors. He was welcoming and encouraging to members, visitors and guest at Orchid Quest. He was always around to lend a helping hand and did so without complaint. Thank You Keith for going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty in preparation and fruition of Orchid Quest 2020.

Bryce De Venecia was present at Orchid Quest both Saturday and Sunday. He was a true ambassador representing the Orchid Guild and Olbrich Gardens in an educated and sophisticated manner. He primarily assisted at the Orchid information table outside of the exhibits room. He was friendly, knowledgeable, encouraging and cordial to every person that came to his table. He gave directions to other areas, told visitors about the seminars and promoted both Orchid Growers Guild and Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Thank You Bryce for going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty in the fruition of Orchid Quest 2020.

P.S . Congratulations to Bryce on his May graduation from Medical School. We will be sorry to see him leave for his residency in Emergency Medicine in Indiana.

## Orchid Quest 2021 Up-date

Orchid Quest 2021 is scheduled for February 6-7<sup>th</sup> with set up on Friday, February 5. We have reserved our location at Olbrich Botanical Gardens again and the AOS (American Orchid Society) judges were notified about the dates. Both the location and the AOS judges need to be reserved one year in advance. Even with the spread of Covid-19, I am feeling satisfied that we have that much in place. Now whether or not we will host Orchid Quest 2021... That decision will be made in the fall. We will use the advice that is available as well as the City of Madison (Olbrich) to make this decision keeping in mind the health and safety of all.

Hope everyone is staying healthy.

Terri Jozwiak  
Orchid Quest chairperson

## Up-dating my article "For an Interesting Orchid, try *Habenaria*"

I early March I re-potted several *Habenaria*. Before the end of March the *medusa* and the *rhodocheila* had emerged and are now growing well. There was no sign of the *erichmichaelii*. As the other two continued to grow I occasionally watered the *erichmichaelii* pot. As May progressed towards June I kept meaning to empty the *erichmichaelii* pot and clean it, but didn't quite find the time. A few days ago I picked it up to throw out the contents and noticed a little sprig of green, it had finally sprouted two months after expected. It is now barely a 1/4 inch high but now I have to keep it to see what happens. Sometimes you just have to be patient!

--- Keith Nelson



## *From the American Orchid Society:* **F E E D M E !**

If their other requirements are met, orchids will grow and flower for fairly long periods without fertilizer. Witness the many people in tropical areas such as South Florida who grow them mounted on trees and let nature do the rest. Indeed, that is how epiphytic orchids grow in nature! But orchid hobbyists generally try to give their orchids more than bare minimum so that the plants flower at or above their potential.

There are many different points of view on how to fertilize orchids and what fertilizer to use. Everyone has a favorite fertilizer or supplement. There are so many variables that how and when you fertilize depends on what kinds of orchids you grow and how and where you grow them. This newsletter will offer a brief explanation and general guidelines on fertilizing orchids. For more specific application, join your local orchid society and ask someone there who grows the same kind of orchids as you. It is unlikely that you will kill any orchids with orchid fertilizer so following the recommendations here will provide your plants needed nutrition.

If you are a gardener you are probably familiar with the N-P-K listings on fertilizer bags. Orchid fertilizers have them too! Let's go over these three elements and see how they affect plant growth. "N" stands for nitrogen. Nitrogen helps make plants green, and helps them grow faster. It is the element responsible for vegetative growth – the leafy parts. "P" stands for phosphorus which is good for root growth, disease resistance, seed and fruit growth, and especially for blooming and flowering. "K" is for potassium which helps with increasing root growth, drought resistance, and disease resistance.

There are three main types of fertilizers used for orchids: balanced, high nitrogen and bloom booster. Balanced fertilizers have been traditionally recommended for use with orchids potted in inorganic potting media such as lava rock and Aliflor, and tree fern (which has fallen out of favor due to conservation concerns). Plants mounted on cork bark or other substrates also benefit from using a balanced fertilizer. An example of a balanced fertilizer would be represented by the numbers, 20–20–20. High nitrogen fertilizers have long been recommended for use with orchids potted in fir bark or fir bark mixes. The reason for extra nitrogen is that the bacteria which cause the bark to decay use up much of the available nitrogen, thus depleting the orchid. This practice has recently come into question. Nonetheless, using a high nitrogen fertilizer, especially in spring at the beginning of the growing season, can promote strong vegetative growth under ideal growing conditions. An example of high nitrogen fertilizer would be 30–10–10. Bloom, or blossom booster formulas are high in phosphorus. Typically, high phosphorus fertilizers are applied every other week for 4–6 applications the season before expected bloom. For winter-spring blooming orchids bloom booster is usually applied in the

fall. Vandaceous hybrids and other orchids that bloom throughout the year can be given bloom booster every third or fourth feeding. An example of a bloom booster would be 10–30–20. Fertilizers used on orchids should contain little or no urea. This is because soil organisms must first convert the nitrogen in urea to a form useable by plants, and since orchids do not grow in soil, this conversion does not occur efficiently.



How fertilizer is applied varies as much as orchids themselves. Typically, plants are fertilized once a week during spring and summer and every two weeks in the fall and winter. Regardless of the fertilizer that you choose to use, most experienced growers use ½ the label-recommended strength. Remember, in nature epiphytic orchids' roots are exposed and the only nutrients they get are bird and animal droppings, decaying insects and detritus. The old saying fertilizing orchids is: feed them weekly weakly. Fertilizer is best applied in the morning on sunny days. For mounted orchids, or orchids with their roots exposed such as vandas in empty baskets, many growers routinely pre-water the plants and then follow with fertilizer a half hour later. The pre-watering prepares the spongy velamen of the orchid roots to better utilize the fertilizer. Orchids in pots are usually not pre-watered but some growers have their own techniques.

There are requirements specific to certain orchids. For instance, do not fertilize nobile dendrobiums after early autumn. This rule actually applies to all orchids that have decided rest periods and all deciduous orchids. Fertilizing them while in their rest period keeps them in continual growth instead of resting before producing flowers. In other words, you may get a lot of growth and no flowers.

There are also many "secret recipes" growers use that supposedly produce stronger plants or more flowers. Certainly vitamins and micro-nutrients are as essential as the building blocks of plant growth mentioned above. Elements such as magnesium, boron, calcium, carbon etc. are required for strong plant growth, but their discussion is beyond this newsletter. All in all, although there are certain practices that are documented as being helpful, it has not been proven that supplements actually contribute to improved growth in orchids...but it probably doesn't hurt to use them!

*Greg Allikas  
April 2010*

**For more valuable information from AOS checkout this link for important tips**

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care.aspx>

# COMMENTS FROM SUE ON SOME OF HER MAY ENTRIES

*Phragmipedium Dominicanum* (*caricinum* x *caudatum*). This is a primary hybrid meaning that two species were crossed to make it. The species were *Phrag caudatum* (darker in color) with long side petals and *Phrag caricinum* which has shorter side petals. This



Phrag like many of the Phrags likes a lot of water and not high light so my eastern exposure and back from the window works fine for it. This is also one that my cat loves to chew on, hence one flower has much shorter petals than the other one. This cross was first made in 1870.

*Phragmipedium* Paul Eugene Conroy (has shortened petals but has three flowers and two buds on it. This is a primary hybrid with *Phrag. longifolium* x *warsceviczianum* (*wallisii*). *Phrag longifolium* blooms sequentially for a long time with short petals whereas *wallisii* has long petals.



Here is my Monkey faced *Dracula inequalis*. It likes high humidity and cool temperatures but it has been very tolerant of being grown in a hot room, (80s) in the summer. It needs to be repotted and blooms many times during the year. If my conditions were better it would be covered in flowers.



I have found that the *Dracula* plants are more heat tolerant than the flowers. The flowers will completely wilt in a short period of time in a hot and dry environment. I grow mine in an Orchidarium but the humidity isn't as high as is really needed. I grow it in a sunporch with limited heating/cooling, so the plant loves the winter and struggles in the summer. I have had as many as four flowers at a time in cool weather. The nice thing about *Draculas* is that they bloom several times a year. This species is quite tolerant and I have two other species that also can take warmer weather.

A common name for this type of orchid is the Monkey face orchid. I wonder why?



*Restrepia brachypus* blooms whenever it feels like it which is several times a year, but the flowers are not long lasting. I grow it at room temperature without much seasonal variation in temperature or lighting. It grows easily in a small Or-

chidarium which does have a high humidity 70% with constant air movement.