

March
2022

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org



www.OrchidGuild.org

Meeting Dates

Meetings on Zoom at 1 PM

- March 20
- April 24
- May 15
- June Picnic TBA
- September 18
- October 16
- November 20
- December 18

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

Up-Coming Events

- March 5 - 6, WOS Spring 2022 Orchid Festival, Milaeger's, Racine
- May 7, Spring Orchid Sale
- August 26-28, 2022, Fall MAOC with Ohio Valley Orchid Fest, in Dayton

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NEXT MEETING **HYBRID**, March 20th Kelly McCracken will talk about LED Lighting

The next OGG meeting will be a hybrid meeting, returning to the meeting room at Olbrich. For those who cannot attend in person, the meeting will be available on Zoom. Our speaker will talk to us from New Mexico via Zoom.

Kelly McCracken, owner of High Desert Orchids will talk about lighting. Many growers have discovered the opportunities that the recent drop in price and increase in availability of LED lights has provided. But there is relatively little information about how much artificial light orchids need and what kinds of lights are best. This talk will go over the unique HDO grow space, which is entirely under LED lights, how we set it up, the lights we use, and some tips we have discovered while growing a commercial sized grow space all under artificial light. The talk will answer ques-



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

I hope that everyone is staying well!

We will be trying a hybrid meeting for our **Sunday**, March 20 afternoon meeting which will be back in the meeting room at Olbrich. The speaker is off-site and using Zoom to speak to us. We have found using Zoom for the speakers to be very cost effective for we can get speakers from across the country and we could

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Jeff Baylis' *Angraecum sesquipedale*

(NEXT MEETING Continued from page 1)

tions such as

- How much light?
- What kind of light?
- What spectrum of light?

Kelly McCracken started as an avid hobbyist, and like many of you, couldn't stop buying plants. Quickly one greenhouse became two, and now she grows plants in a unique 3,000 sq ft high-bay industrial warehouse space all under artificial lights. Kelly specializes in miniature plants, with a particular affection for miniature Cattleyas, Angraecoids, Jewel Orchids, and Dendrobiums.

(PRESIDENT' MESSAGE Continued from page 1)

try from around the world with just the speaker's fee! No transportation or housing costs. So for a fraction of the cost we are having top notch speakers!

I request that attendees continue to keep a respectful distance and respect others that are more comfortable wearing masks. We are not out of the woods yet. And as with any inside gathering, if you have any symptoms of flu, please attend with the Zoom platform. We will not be serving food, and please bring your own beverages for this meeting.

Also at the March meeting we will be having plant judging, so please make sure your plants are on the table and ready for judging by 1 PM. Because our presenter is off-site we need to keep to a schedule so the meeting can start on time at 1:30 PM.

We have been given a number of American Orchid Society magazines and some of the AOS Awards Quarterly. These will be on a back table for members to take. There are enough for everyone attending to take at least one magazine. So browse through them to find ones that interest you!

We have raised more than we had spent for a number of years with very successful Orchid Quests, so we are presently OK financially. However, we need to think about ways to support the organization to provide more services for the members. We are planning an orchid plant sale in May at Olbrich (10% goes to Olbrich), and we have our member auction also in May which 100% goes to OGG. We are a 501(c) nonprofit so donations to OGG are tax deductible.

It will be good to meet in person!

Stay safe!

Catasetum Projects March 2022

This is the time of the year when some dormant catasetinae orchids decide to develop flower spikes on leafless plants. Within this class, Clowesia, Mormodia and their hybrids are more likely to exhibit this behavior. The question arises as to how one should handle culture during this time. Essentially, DO NOTHING! Because the plant is in its dormancy, water is not required, otherwise one risks rot of the pseudobulbs. Fortunately, the mother bulb sustains the needs of the developing blooms. A supply of bright light is always good during all stages of growth for catasetinae.

Recently, my *Cynodes Jumbo Puff* (*Cyc. warscewiczii* x *Morm. badia*) developed spikes on leafless bulbs.



In those cases, where the relative humidity in the growing area is very low (less 40%) or when significant shriveling of the bulbs is observed, I apply a gentle spritz of the bulbs with pure water to increase the humidity around the plant, however, water is not poured into the pot.



Eventually, the blossoms matured to a very fragrant orchid.



Cynodes Jumbo Puff (*Cyc. warscewiczii* x *Morm. badia*)

Feel free to send questions. glmsnwi@gmail.com

Happy growing!
Gary Lensmeyer

REMINDER

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

OGG Ribbon Judging at Illinois Orchid Society

Set-up Sue Reed/Denise Baylis/Gary Lensmeyer/Doug Dowling. Take-down Denise Baylis/Gary Lensmeyer/Doug Dowling

Special Award: Show Chair's Award

Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Dag 'Dorothy' (Esmeralda x Pumilum)

Best of Class

Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Dag 'Dorothy' (Esmeralda x Pumilum)

Jeff Baylis *Oncidium splendidum* (species)

Meg Mclaughlin *Phragmipedium* Don Wimber (*besseae* x *longifolium*)

First Place

Gary Lensmeyer *Cymbidium* Dag 'Dorothy' (Esmeralda x Pumilum)

Gary Lensmeyer *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Summit' FCC/AOS (species)

Doug Dowling *Dendrobium* Chocolate Chip (Micro Chip x *normanbyense*)

Jeff Baylis *Oncidium splendidum* (species)

Meg Mclaughlin *Phragmipedium* Don Wimber (*besseae* x *longifolium*)

Jeff Baylis *Vanda lamellata* 'Okinawa' (species)

Meg Mclaughlin *Paphiopedilum* (*appletonianum* var *hainanense*) (species)

Meg Mclaughlin *Brassavola nodosa* 'Mas Mejor' (species)

Second Place

Jeff Baylis *Guarianthe aurantiaca* 'Darkest Orange' (species)

Sue Reed *Lycaste lasioglossa* (species)

Meg Mclaughlin *Brassanthe* (*Brassocattleya*) Maikai 'Mayumi' (*brassavola nodosa* x *Guarianthe bowringiana*)

Third Place

Nancy Thomas *Paphiopedilum appletonianum* (species)

Nancy Thomas *Aliceara* (*Beallara*) Ysabella 'Lunar Eclipse' (*Aliceara* Winter Wonderl and x *Oncidium* Forever)

Sue Reed *Oncidium cheirophorum* (species)

Meg Mclaughlin *Dendrobium* Spring Bird 'Kurashiki' (Demitasse x Sweet Love)

Meg Mclaughlin *Phalaenopsis* Unknown (Pink)

Meg Mclaughlin *Paphiopedilum* (condo-bellatulum 'SVO' AM/AOS x *thaiantum* 'Super Cute')



David Sorokowski : "Don't Fear the Slippers"

Gleaned from presentation and the Paph Paradise website

David Sorokowski of Paph Paradise talked about how new growers can keep a Paph happy and healthy.

WATER IS THE KEY

Proper watering of any orchid is essential. Rain-water or R/O water is preferred. He showed a photo of a water breaker. All of those little holes on the front of it break up the water coming out of the hose to offer a soft, *aerated* flow for watering plants. The impact of the water is reduced and at the same time spreading out the area it covers. Their plants are watered from four different directions from an elevated position thus the small droplets pick up oxygen as they fall on the plants. Part of the purpose of the



large amount of watering is to flush the pot and encourage oxygen to the root system. This is difficult to emulate at home but the point is that the most important part of watering is to make sure you flush the pot thoroughly. This means watering the plant for a good 10 seconds. This washes out excess salt build

An example of a plant with roots coiling over the surface to get air with minimal roots below to collect moisture.

up and brings oxygen to the roots.

POTTING MATERIAL

They use 1/3 Classic Orchidata, 1/3 #3 perlite and 1/3 charcoal. If you have good quality water, you won't need the charcoal. The perlite allows more air and improved drainage.

Sphagnum - is a no-no, as it is either too wet or too dry and once it dries out it is difficult to rehydrate.

LECA - An acronym for Lightweight expanded clay aggregate and growing in this medium is a bit like growing hydroponically.

Oyster shell -

Paphs like calcium, and although some Paphs grow on limestone cliffs, he has never tried growing them in limestone himself. Be aware that dolomite (calcium carbonate + magnesium) doesn't breakdown as well as oyster shells (Calcium phosphate).

Coconut husk - A

definite no-no as the salts build up very quickly.

FERTILIZER

He uses Michigan State University fertilizer, MSU (13-3-15)

Plants require more nitrogen as days get longer. Winter 125 ppm to 250 ppm in longest days but routine flushing is very important. pH about 6 is a good target.

Dave treats with Epsom salts three times a year with pH of 5.

PESTS

Paphs are susceptible to mealie bugs. When he finds mealie bugs on the *Paph venustum* he treats everything for mealie bugs.

Paph don't generally have mites but might be susceptible to them in a dry environment.

Fungal diseases are rare if the plants are healthy.

If you have had problems growing Paph successfully in the past he suggesting starting again with ones that are easier to grow:

PAPH VARIETIES

EASY - mottled leaf, Maudie- type

Often referred to as 'Maudiae' hybrids, these are among the easiest orchids to grow in the home. They require less light than most other orchids. A north or east window will provide ideal light for these plants. They are considered warm growing, which means



Lorraine Snyder's *Paphiopedilum venustum*, an alleged 'mealy bug magnet'

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they appreciate the same temperatures we do. Days in the 70's to low 80's are fine, and night temperatures above 60 F. Use a balanced fertilizer, like 20-20-20, or the MSU. Orchid roots are sensitive to salts, so we recommend fertilizing at about 1/4 to 1/2 the label rate. Use the 1/4 rate if you want to fertilize every time, and the 1/2 rate if you fertilize every other watering.

Maudie- type can bloom several times a year and come in a wide range of colors. HOWEVER, they do not like to dry out and need to be repotted regularly [yearly] with fresh mix.

COMPLEX HYBRIDS

These are the 'bulldog' Paphs known for their huge, colorful, long-lasting flowers. These are larger and more robust than Maudie but they generally have the same growing requirements. They will tolerate cooler temperatures. This is another group that doesn't require as much light as many other orchids. A north or east window will provide enough light for them to grow and flower. A west or south window can work but the plants need to be protected from the hot sun with sheer curtains.

These Paphs appreciate the same temperatures we do. Days in the 70's to low 80's in the summer and nights into the 60's are fine. Keeping them a few degrees cooler when they are blooming will extend the life of their flowers. They easily tolerate temperatures into the 50's during winter nights.

Fertilize the same way as for the Maudie-type.

Repot these plants every year for best root growth

MULTIFLORAL

Multiflorals require more light than most other Paphs. They can grow along side of Cattleyas. They also like warm temperatures, 80's during the day in the summer and nights in the 60's. They will tolerate 50's on winter nights but keep them on the dry side when it's cold to prevent rot.

A balanced fertilizer will work for this group. They are heavy feeders during the growing season so 1/2 strength of a 20-20-20 plant food will work. Multiflorals require more calcium than some others. This is usually supplied by the calcium occurring in municipal tap water. If you have very soft (meaning low TDS value, low mineral content) water or use pure water you may want to add a calcium supplement to your regime. Let these plants dry out a bit between waterings,

Since these plants are rather large, they require a larger grade of bark and with #4 perlite. Larger bark (Orchid power or power +) and drier culture mean that the media will not break down too quickly, so repotting is usually done every other year.

SPECIES

The following species are easier to grow, but generally speaking, species are more challenging to grow. *Paph venustum* - easy although it is a mealy bug magnet.

Paph wardii - grows in clumps and is more resistant to mealy bugs

Paph delenatii - reliable spring bloomer, fragrant

Paph villosum - cold tolerant

Dave also discussed a little about the Parvisepalum group (such as *delenatii*), the Brachypedilum group (such as *bellatulum*) and some of the sequential bloomers (such as *liemianum*).

NOTES:

To figure out how to calculate the ppm N from:

<https://firstrays.com>

This is a great website for more information than you really wanted to know but you can select what you want to absorb. I found out how to calculate ppm (Dividing 2 by the % N = what part of a teaspoon of that N concentration equals 25ppm N. For example: 8 % N would be 2/8 fraction = 1/4 teaspoon = .25 teaspoon = 25ppm N) <https://firstrays.com/feeding-and-watering/fertilizer-information/fertilizer-basics/>

First Rays also sells the probiotic that Dave talked about as well as the MSU fertilizer and other growing aids.



Water breaker. All of those little holes on the front of it break up the water coming out of the hose to offer a soft, aerated flow for watering plants. Dave uses a yellow colored breaker which has a lower flow rate than the orange.

Check out <https://www.dramm.com/html/main.isx?sub=425> for differences in water Dramm water breakers

Batavia Orchid Society Virtual Show

Batavia Orchid Society held their annual spring show as a virtual event, doing ribbon judging of orchid photos submitted online. You can see all of the judged plants and results at Batavia's website (<http://www.bataviaorchidsociety.org/virtualorchidshow/>).

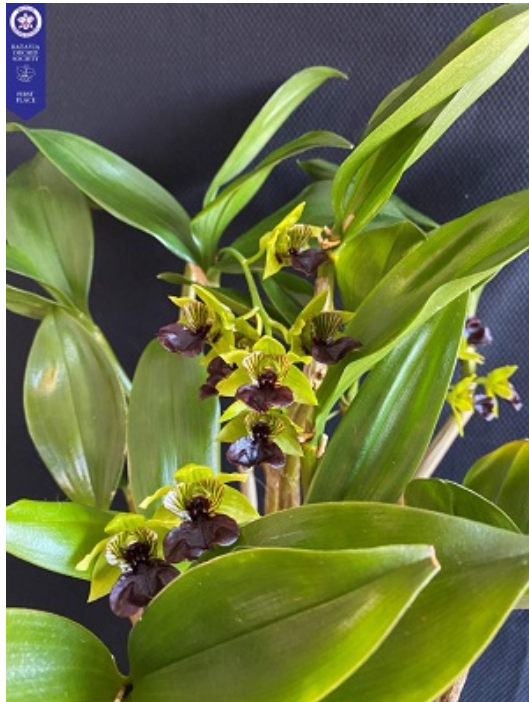
If you sent any photos in for the Batavia virtual orchid show, we'd love to see them in the Newsletter! Please send them to Denise Baylis (jrbaylis@tds.net) for our April edition.



Jeff Metcalf's *Rhynchostylis gigantea*



Nancy Thomas' *Paphiopedilum* Phyllis Prestia
(*Conco-bellatulum* × *thaianum*)



Nancy Thomas' *Dendrobium convolutum*



Jeff Metcalf's *Odontocidium* Wild Willie
(*Odm. reichenheimii* × *Onc.* Wildwood)

... WHAT'S BLOOMING AT HOME:



Cynthia Wadsworth's *Brassocattleya* Mary Dodson (*B. nodosa* x *C. schilleriana*)



Sandy Delamater's *Dendrochilum saccolabium*



Sandy Delamater's *Sophronitis mantiqueirae*



Sandy Delamater's *Paphiopedilum* (Winwine x *fairrianum*)



Sandy Delamater's *Laelia lundii*

... WHAT'S BLOOMING AT OLBRICH, 'ORCHID ESCAPE'

Olbrich Gardens annual fund raiser "Orchid Escape" just ended. Check the Olbrich website for information on the on-sale of their display orchids March 3. (the photos in the row show examples of their display orchids)



Renanthera (Mem Marie Killian x *monachica*)



Dendrobium pendulum 'Michael Olbrich'



... MORE 'ORCHID ESCAPE'



Bulbophyllum sp



Gastrochilus bellinus



Dendrochilum yuccaeifolium



Lc Busy Bev 'Blue Jewel'