

DECEMBER
2023

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org



Meeting Dates

- December 17
- January 21
- February 18

All in-person and Zoom Meetings start at 1:00pm in the Meeting Room at Olbrich Gardens unless otherwise noted

Up-Coming Events

- 2024, January 27 - 28, —Orchid Society of Minnesota's "Winter Carnival Orchid Show", Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive, St. Paul, MN 55122
- February 3-4 — Orchid Growers Guild of Madison, Orchid Quest, Madison WI
- February 17 - 18 —Batavia Orchid Society's "Winter Wonders", Cantigny Park, 1S 151 Winfield Rd, Wheaton, IL 60189
- March 1-4 - 23rd World Orchid Congress, Tainan, Taiwan
- March 2 - 3 —Wisconsin Orchid Society's "Orchids for Everyone", Milaeger's Garden Center, 4838 Douglas Ave, Racine, WI 53402
- April 5 - 7 - Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival - AOS Member's Meeting, Krull-Smith, 2800 W Ponkan Rd, Apopka, FL 32712.

Officers and Committees

President:

Susan Reed (2024)
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Vice President:

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DECEMBER PROGRAMMING NOTES

Noon: Doors unlocked

12:30 - 1:00 pm: **NO RIBBON JUDGING THIS MONTH**

1:00 pm: In-Person and Hybrid Zoom Meeting Starts

1:00 - 2 pm:

- Announcements
- Zoom Speaker: Erica Hannickel and "Of Empresses and Orchids"
- bio-break and leg stretch

2:00 - 3:30: Santa Chuck's Orchid Trader Game

3:45 pm: Programs end

4:00 pm: Olbrich closes



NEXT MEETING, December 17th Erica Hannickel, Of Empresses and Orchids

"Of Empresses and Orchids" tells a tale of two 19th century empresses who loved orchids. Empress Cixi of China (1835-1908) utilized the beauty and fragrance of cymbidiums and other Chinese orchids in her meteoric rise to power from concubine to China's head of state. Empress Eugenie of France (1826-1920) used orchids to gain fame as a royal and as the 19th century's foremost fashion maven--coelogyne, dendrobiums, and

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays all!

Thank you all that attended our last meeting. It was an interesting Q&A with some really different ideas on how Alan Mathews grows orchids!

When I was in New Zealand, my husband used a fraction of the amount of water that I would have used on my orchids! They all did fine and some did bloom! So over-watering is much more fatal to orchids than under watering them! I don't know about lengthening the

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MAOC: Lynn West

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

blooming but I know that I sometimes water more when the orchids are blooming. I am paying more attention to the blooming ones and sometimes then over watering them!

Since Alan leaves his lights on 24/7, I can only think that his plants are not under really bright light. This might be a good experiment for someone to try with a few plants. From Alan's talk, you may realize that each orchid grower has their way of growing orchids which may or may not work for you. His conditions work for him in his environment and they might be disastrous for you! So think about any changes you are considering to your growing procedure and conditions and be cautious about making changes. Minor slow changes are the safest!

The November meeting was really busy, but not compared to our upcoming December meeting! We will NOT be having ribbon judging due to the lack of time to devote to judging and discussion, lack of space to accommodate them combined with the number of holiday plants, and to the cold weather that stresses your plants in transport. Please take photos and mail them to Denise (newsletter editor) for you to share in the January Newsletter. (Email to Denise right after Christmas to make the newsletter deadline.)

December 17, the room will be open at 12 noon when Olbrich Library is also open for you to check out OGG Orchid books. (Olbrich Holiday Train is set up in the Atrium to view.) About 12:30-1PM you may pick up your pre-ordered/paid "Orchid Muse book. We will be having a Zoom meeting starting at 1PM with announcements and the presentation by Erica Hanneckel on "Of Empresses & Orchids". This will be followed with a short break. Then the fun really starts at 2 and goes until about 3:30PM with the Santa Chuck Orchid distribution. Chuck has rules for the orderly distribution and theft of orchids!

We are busy with Orchid Quest preparations, so don't be bashful about speaking to Meg (in charge of volunteers), or Terri (OQ lead) about what you like to do and when! There are chances for everyone to participate from Friday through Sunday, February 2-4, 2024! Sitting jobs, moving jobs, creative jobs, organizational jobs all fun tasks!! Some early morning but no late night jobs!

Best wishes for a happy and a safe holiday season to all of you!

— Sue Reed



EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY, October 28-29, 2023



We did great! The exhibit got a first, everyone got a ribbon, and we got 2 BOC, an HCC/AOS, and a special award for Best Species. Thanks so much for sending your fabulous plants! Orchid Quest is our next chance to show more...

— Nancy Thomas

Setup and take-down by Nancy Thomas, Jim Wasser, Jeff Metcalf and Sue Reed

Special Award, Ghoul's Greatest, Award for Best Species in Show

Chuck Acker *Phrag. besseae* 'Paute'

HCC/AOS

Chuck Acker *Phrag.* Margo's Pinky (Cahaba Morning Mist x *schlimii*)

Best of Class

Sue Reed *Phrag.* Acker's Meredyth (*kovachii* x Pricilla's Pirouette)

Nancy Thomas *Paph. lowii*

First Place

OGG Exhibit

Chuck Acker *Phrag. besseae* 'Paute'

Gerald King *Phal.* Younghome Sunkist (Lih Jianq Girl x Kuntrarti Rarashati)

Lorraine Snyder *Paph.* Neptune 'Mars' AM/AOS (Io x *rothschildianum*)

Sue Reed *Phrag.* Acker's Meredyth (*kovachii* x Pricillas Pirouette), classes 52 & 112

Sue Reed *Phal.* King Car Dalmatian (Yuhsan Caro x Yushan Mongo)

Meg McLaughlin *Phal.* Star Green Beauty (Ming Hsing Moonlight x Golden Apollon)

Nancy Thomas *Paph. lowii*

Jeff Metcalf *Cymbidium* unknown hybrid

Chuck Acker *Phrag.* Don Wimber (Eric Young x *besseae*)

Chuck Acker *Phal.* Acker's Light (Magdalene Rose x Margit Moses)

Second Place

Lorraine Snyder *Phrag. schlimii*

Christina Keeley *Vanda* M.V. Tannins x Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset

Meg McLaughlin *Cattleya* Acker's Angel (Lodgens x Little Angel)

Chuck Acker *Phrag.* Acker's Ballerina (Icho Tower x *fischeri*)

Third Place

Jeff Baylis *Paph.* (*concolor* 'Yellow Bird' x *thaianum* 'Perfecto')

Lorraine Snyder *Phrag. besseae* 'Fox Valley Flame' AM/AOS

Sue Reed *Paph. villosum*

Chuck Acker *Phrag.* Josephine Bonaparte (Cardinale x *kovachii*)



... MORE PHOTOS FROM EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

Photographs by Nancy Thomas



The Theme for the EIOS was “Orchids Are a Scream”, so these gentlemen’s decorative centerpiece was a cornucopia spilling dried orchid blossoms! The display was put together by two Minnesota members.

Photographs by Nancy Thomas



Nancy Thomas’ *Paph lowii* won first place and Best of Class



Photograph by Jeff Metcalf
 Chuck Acker’s *Phrag. Margo’s Pinky* (Cahaba Morning Mist x *schlimii*) earned an HCC/AOS

NEXT MEETING (Continued from page 1)

dozens of other genera grown in her greenhouses festooned her hair, clothes, parties, and palaces. The talk highlights powerful women, the political connection between the two, and previously unknown moments in orchid history.

Erica Hannickel is a nonfiction author, and has been growing orchids since 2005. It started like most orchid stories do: She was given a phalaenopsis, she stumbled into making it rebloom, and was off to the races. Biography: I grew up in northern California, received my BA in Ethnic Studies at UC San Diego, and after living in New York City and a few other places, earned a PhD in American Studies at the University of Iowa. Now a professor of environmental history at Northland College in Wisconsin, I've lived on the shores of Lake Superior since 2008. I've been hard at work on a book about the odd corners of orchid history (with some fun how-to). Orchid Muse: The History of an Obsession in Fifteen Flowers is out from W.W. Norton & Company as of 2022.”

NOVEMBER OGG RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

- Ken Cameron *Hawkinsara Sadie Rainn* (*Lc. Acker's Madison* x *Hawkinsara Donovan Bennett*)
Dan Schmidt *Blc Hausermann's Holiday 'Christmas'* AM/AOS (*James Hausermann* x *Lisa Irene*)
Brook Johnson *Paphiopedilum henryanum*
Meg McLaughlin *Paphiopedilum barbigerum fma aureum* ('Y12' x 'Deerwood Triple Play' AM/AOS)
Jeff Baylis *Cattleya aclandiae* x *sib*
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium Acker's Magic* (*Acker's Classic* x *kovachii*)
Steven Thimling *Ascocenda* (*Fuchs Gold* x *Yip Sum Wah*)
Ken Cameron *Phalaenopsis MS Pretty Juicy 'MBL 475'*
Ken Cameron *Phalaenopsis I-Hsin Sesame 'OX 1178'* (*Ching Her Buddha* x *Leopard Prince*)
Meg McLaughlin *Darwinara Charm 'Blue Star'* x *Neofinetia falcata 'Tamakongo'*
Meg McLaughlin *Phalaenopsis MS White Apple*
Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis Star's Handlebar Mustache* (*Yushan Graceful* x *Yushan Mongo*)
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium Twilight* (*Eric Young* x *Living Fire*)
Ken Cameron *Zygopetalum Jumpin Jack* (*Skippy Ku* x *Artur Elle*)
Meg McLaughlin *Dendrochilum glumaceum*

Second Place

- Lynn West *Potinara Melinda Rose Funke 'Ernie'* (*Rhyncattleanthe Afternoon Delight* x *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Salmon Splendor*)
Jeff Baylis *Guarianthe bowringiana*
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium Mantini* (*Conchiferum* x *longifolium*)
Lynn West *Phragmipedium schlimii*
Meg McLaughlin *Phragmipedium St. Ouen (flavum)* (*Hanne Popow 4N* x *besseae v flavum*)
Ken Cameron *Paphiopedilum spicerianum*
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium Acker's Rose River* (*Inca Rose* x *Fall River*)
Jim Wasser *Dendrobium Enobi Purple 'Splash'* (*Enobi Komachi* x *Laguna Princess*)
Ken Cameron *Cynodes Wine Delight 'JEM' FCC/AOS (variegated)* (*Cyc. lehmannii* x *Morm. sinuata*)
Jeff Baylis *Miltassia Shelob 'Okika'* (*Bratonia Olmec* x *Brassia Edvah Loo*)
Sue Reed *Zygopetalum Advance Australia 'HOF'* AM/AOS (*Titanic* x *Helen-Ku*)

Third Place

- Jeff Baylis
'Thainy' *Paphiopedilum concolor 'Yellow Bird'* x *thaianum*



Ken Cameron's *Phalaenopsis I-Hsin Sesame 'OX 1178'* (*Ching Her Buddha* x *Leopard Prince*)

From NOVEMBER OGG RIBBON JUDGING



Steven Thimling's *Ascocenda* (Fuchs Gold x Yip Sum Wah)



Chuck Acker's *Phalaenopsis* Star's Handlebar Mustache (Yushan Graceful x Yushan Mongo)



Meg McLaughlin's *Darwinara* Charm 'Blue Star' x *Neofinetia falcata* 'Tamakongo'



Ken Cameron's *Phalaenopsis* MS Pretty Juicy 'MBL 475'



Jeff Baylis' *Miltassia* Shelob 'Okika' (*Bratonia* Olmec x *Brassia* Edvah Loo)



Meg McLaughlin's *Dendrochilum* *glumaceum*

ORCHID QUEST UP-DATE

Orchid Quest is coming closer! **Saturday** and **Sunday** February 3-4 with set-up on **Friday**, February 2 at Olbrich.

It takes a village to pull all the parts of Orchid Quest together to make a great weekend.

Volunteers are still needed: Contact the Volunteer Coordinator Meg McLaughlin megmcl6@gmail.com.

Volunteers are needed for just a couple of hours on whatever day you have available OR come and spend the weekend with us. Some positions do not require standing! We are a fun bunch!

OR sign up with Meg at the December OGG meeting!

Anyway you do it, WE NEED YOU!!!!

— Terri Jozwiak

P.S. From Nancy Thomas,

We're still looking for a few members (up to three) who might be interested in helping to select the winning plant for our OGG Favorite Overlooked Orchid Award at Orchid Quest 2024. Contact me if you are interested.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewals made this Fall will be active until
January 1, 2025

- Students \$15
- Individuals \$25
- Household \$30
- Business \$30

ORCHID QUEST

Silent Auction Needs Your Help

Orchid Quest 2024 is fast approaching and Carrie and I are busy pulling together materials for the Silent Auction. If you have items such as art pieces, pictures, clothing, jewelry, or anything else that you think would be desirable, and would like to contribute them to this major fundraiser for the Orchid Guild, please consider donating your items to the silent auction. Carrie Wiesman and I will be accepting donations at the December and January OGG meetings. If you cannot attend the meetings, we can also make arrangements to meet up to accept your donations. A donation form providing information on the name of the item, special information describing the item, and how much the minimum bid should be will need to be filled out for each item and will also be available at the club meetings. If you have any questions about filling out the forms or possible donation items, please feel free to ask Carrie or myself.

We also need volunteers to help set-up and run the silent auctions on Saturday and Sunday. Jobs that we need help with include setting up the auction tables on Friday, running the auction on Saturday and/or Sunday, and tear-down on Sunday. One thing we did discover last year is that we will need A LOT of help to close down each auction on Saturday and Sunday. This will require people who can help identify winning bids, wrap items, organize items according to the highest bidder, and help collect money from the winners. The more people willing to help make this event a success will make the work lighter, the event more fun, and enable everyone to enjoy the show.

— Judy Williamson

“Orchid Muse: A History of Obsession”

In conjunction with our upcoming December meeting we will offering the book, “Orchid Muse: A History of Obsession in Fifteen Flowers”, by Erica Hannickel. If we order 15 copies, this is in lieu of a speakers fee. New copies range from \$20.00 - \$38.00 on-line. Copies will be available to members for \$10.00 per copy. To make sure that you get a copy, please preorder by e-mailing Cynthia at cynthia727672@gmail.com with Orchid Muse in the subject line and list the number of copies that you would like. Orders must be received by **December 6th**. Checks can be made to out Orchid Growers Guild and will be collected at upcoming meetings.

— Cynthia Wadsworth

What's Blooming at Home . . .



Sue Reed's Burrageara Mayor Billy
(*Oncostele Warm Memories*
× *Oncidopsis Francine*)



Meg McLaughlin's *Paphiopedilum*
barbigerum fma. aurum



Meg McLaughlin's *Wilsonara* Space
Mine 'Red Rendezvous'



Sue Reed's *Dryadella hirtzii*



Sue Reed's *Phragmipedium* Peruflora's Spirit



Sue Reed's *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii*



It is always interesting to hear other perspectives on growing various orchids under a variety of conditions and, what might work for one person for a limited time may not be sustainable over time. Growing an orchid for the long haul as most of us are doing is quite different than that of buying an in spike orchid to resell, as Alan is doing for his livelihood. Please consider his techniques are used for his way of selling rather than growing.

Re-Cap Presentation by Alan Mathews, of Seattle Orchids

Alan Mathews, owner of Seattle Orchids, spoke to our members via Zoom at the November meeting. He focused on the orchids provided by Seattle Orchids for purchase by members in conjunction with the presentation as well as our latest project plant and general Q&A. The orchids available to members from Seattle Orchids were *Dendrobium ceraula* 'Ricardo', *Dendrobium unicum* 'Big Horn', and *Cattleya aurantiaca* 'Orange Spots'. Alan has experience with the project plant, *Oncidium Jiaho Queen* 'Jiaho' and described his growing method and took questions from the members about its culture.

The discussion started with a general overview of the *Dendrobium* genus with its many subtypes and numerous species. Australian *Dendrobiums* are generally found in harsh conditions. They prefer strong light, high temperatures, and dry conditions. According to Alan they do well when abused. Examples of this type are *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Den. kinglyanum*. *Latouria Dendrobiums*, represented by *Den. spectabile*, also take abuse and grow in conditions similar to the Aussies. A highly desirable trait of this section is that they can stay in bloom for four to five months. Alan noted that providing minimal water for many types of orchids (orchids with pseudobulbs only) prolongs bloom life. He said that when abundant water is provided, plants put energy into new foliage growth. When on the dry side, the plant puts energy into reproduction as a survival strategy. Section *Phalaenantha*, typified by *Dendrobium phalaenopsis*, requires light as bright as possible without burning the leaves. Direct sun is Ok during late fall and winter when the sun's intensity is reduced. A reddish tone on the leaves is the first sign of sunburn. These plants are not deciduous and can bloom for up to 6 months.

Alan grows *Den. unicum* and *Den. cerulia* differently than what is suggested by internet refer-

ences. Both species are semi-deciduous with the older canes devoid of leaves. The old canes can still produce flowers. He grows them under moderate light and temperature levels. Plants respond to seasonal changes in temperature by initiating blooms after the summer heat. He reduces water with the cooler temps. These two species like to be slightly damp unlike the Aussies and *Latouria* types.

These are Alan's recommendations for growing our challenge plant. Provide moderate to lower light with temperatures around 65-75 degrees F. Keep them somewhat damp continually. The plants spike in response to temperature changes not to day length. The medium can be selected based on whatever will keep the majority of your plants on the same watering cycle. Be aware that the number 1 cause of orchid death is over-watering.

Cattleya aurantiaca requires bright light. If the plant fails to bloom or has dark green leaves, increase light intensity. This species is a consistent bloomer and produces blooms quicker than other standard *cattleyas* making it a good beginner's plant.

Q&A

1. What are recommendations for repotting? Less often is better. Plant in as small of pot as possible. When the plant has less room for foliage growth, it will put energy into blooming. A little stress helps to promote blooms.
2. How are appropriate conditions determined for a specific orchid? Mainly by observation and evaluating how plants are responding to current conditions.
3. What about fertilizers? Alan does not fertilize. This is mainly because he has a

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- high turnaround of the plants for sale.
4. What trends are happening in the orchid mail order business and are you able to predict them? There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason for online sales. For example, when people ask to be notified when an out-of-stock orchid becomes available, they rarely order it
 5. How have climatic changes affected his growing? Seattle Orchids is an indoor facility which is well insulated, and plants are grown under lights. The temperature and humidity are therefore easier to regulate, and watering is moderated based on conditions. Lights are on 24/7.

Since most orchids are tropical, flowering is not triggered by changes in day length.

6. When is it a problem if leaves are falling? Plants that are deciduous will eventually lose leaves. In this case the leaves will develop spots before turning yellow and falling off. If leaves are turning yellow from the bottom up and falling off it could be an indication that the conditions are too cool and damp.

Thank you to Alan for providing a 20% discount available for one day after the meeting for online orders.

— Lynn West

REMEMBERING Richard W. Miller (1940-2023)

Richard Miller, an early member of the Orchid Grower's Guild, has recently passed away. Richard was a Charter Member and Lifetime Member of the Wisconsin Orchid Society, according to those who knew him the longest. Richard's family owned a small greenhouse business in Ft. Atkinson, which is likely how he became interested in horticulture. Chuck Acker remembers meeting Richard when Chuck was a teenager, and Richard was a regular visitor to his parents' orchid business, where he would ask questions to learn growing techniques.

Richard grew orchids with boundless enthusiasm, and was a constant presence at our monthly Orchid Growers meetings

for many years, until recent health issues intervened. Richard was a fountain of new ideas on orchid growing, and was a very early advocate for growing under LED lights. He was constantly seeking new techniques, trying out new growing media and grilling other members to expand his knowledge. His interests extended to plants in general, not just orchids. His greenhouse was full of all sorts of things from tomatoes to house plants. His willingness to experiment with new techniques and eagerness to share what he had learned were defining characteristics of him. His energy and enthusiasm was evident to all. He will certainly be missed.