

### **American Orchid Society Awards to Guild Members**

**Premise:** Each year a handful of plants shown by members of the Madison Orchid Growers Guild receive prestigious awards from judges affiliated with the American Orchid Society. These include AM, CCM, HCC awards, and others. The minimum cost to register these awards is \$40 for AOS members. For this fee the member receives a digital certificate with a color photo of the awarded plant and has the plant featured in a future issue of *Orchids* magazine. This is a great honor.

The Guild wants to encourage more members to show their plants, hopes to promote ourselves on the national stage, wishes to minimize financial burdens on our members, and especially strives to celebrate the highest achievements of our members. As such we have adopted the following policy:

During each fiscal year starting September 1, 2024 the Guild will reimburse up to \$40 per AOS award to paid members for plants that are shown within the formal OGG exhibit at Orchid Quest or in the OGG exhibit at an away show. The same plant may receive more than one award. The Guild will not reimburse awarded exhibits, nor will we reimburse awards presented at a judging center, or awards to plants featured within an exhibit of another orchid society. Each Guild member is eligible for a maximum of four AOS award reimbursements (i.e., \$160) per fiscal year show cycle (September 1 to August 31). A copy of the award and proof of payment must be submitted to the Treasurer in order to receive reimbursement. At the present time we anticipate this member benefit will cost the Guild ca. \$240 per year. Should it greatly exceed this amount the policy will be reviewed by the Board and adjusted accordingly for the next year.