

October

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison

orchidgrowersguild.org



Meeting Dates

- October 18th
- November 15th
- December 20 Party Rex's Inn-keeper

Meetings start at 1:00 pm at Olbrich Gardens unless otherwise noted

Up-Coming Events

- October 24-25, Eastern Iowa Orchid Society Show, Cedar Rapids IA
- February 6-7, Orchid Quest in conjunction with Mid-American Orchid Congress, Monona Terrace, Madison WI
- March 13-14, Batavia Orchid Society Show, Wheaton IL
- April 3-4, Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Menasha WI
- April 17-18 Illinois Orchid Society Show in conjunction with Annual American Orchid Society Meeting, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe IL

Officers and Committees

President:

Meredyth Graham (2028)
megmcl6@gmail.com

Vice President:

Chuck Acker (2027)
chuckacker1@gmail.com

Secretary:

Lynn West (2027)
LynneWest15@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Ken Cameron (2028)
oggtreasurer@yahoo.com

Past President (non-voting)

Susan Reed
Sbreed310@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 18

Our in-person speaker will be Dave Sorokowsky, owner of Paph Paradise, discussing tropical Asian slipper orchids.

Dave and his wife Stacey have over 20 years of experience growing and breeding top quality orchids, with over to 100 AOS and CSA awards. Slipper orchids are their main focus. Dave is accepting pre-orders for orchids. **Preorders are due October 14, 2026.** Visit paphparadise.com to view current inventory.

To place an order, email Dave at dave@paphparadise.com.

Pre-orders over \$100 will receive a 10% discount.

Orders will be available for pickup when Dave visits our club on October 18.

Read more about Dave Sorokowsky and Paph Paradise on Page 2.



President's Message October 2026

Hello fellow Orchid Growers Guild members!

This message is coming to you from the Big Island of Hawaii. Chuck and I are currently on a well-deserved vacation visiting the many orchid growers here that Chuck gets plants from for the Holiday Party, April Auction, May Sale and the challenge plants. We are also doing a lot of touring of the volcano and many beaches and parks.

There were at least 64 members including two new members at September's kickoff meeting. It is so exciting to see new members at every meet-

ing. Chuck passed out the next challenge plant *Brassidium* Kenneth Biven 'Santa Barbara' AM/AOS. Many members picked up an orphan *Phalaenopsis* donated by an avid Phal collector, who just didn't have room for them all. I'm looking forward to seeing all those "Phal NOIDS" next year when they bloom just in time for Orchid Quest. As with all new orchids, it's always wise to quarantine your new acquisitions for at least two weeks.

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page
Away Show Apprentices Needed	7
Chuck's Challenge Plant Care	4
Eastern Iowa Show	7
Orchid Quest Update	5-6
Paph Paradise	2
President's Message	1-2
September Meeting Recap	3
September Ribbon Judging	10-11
Timeless Elegance of Chinese Cymbidium	12-13
Upcoming Events	14
Upcoming Webinars	15
Wisconsin Orchid Society Results	8-9

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Board:

Nancy Thomas (2027)
mikeandnancy@tds.net

Theodore Ceplina (2028)
theodoreceplina@gmail.com

Steven Liu (2029)
stevenliu9@gmail.com

Away Show Coordinator:

Nancy Thomas
mikeandnancy@tds.net

Hospitality:

Travis Wilson
wilsotal93@gmail.com

Membership:

Lynn West
LynneWest15@yahoo.com
Sandra Gray
sandragray445@comcast.net
Jan McGee
janmmcghee@gmail.com
Cynthia Wadsworth
cynthia727672@gmail.com

Newsletter:

Gina LaLiberte
gina.laliberte@gmail.com
Denise Baylis
denise.baylis221@gmail.com

Orchid Quest 2027:

Terri Jozwiak
lodijoz@charter.net
Evan Bane
egbane@gmail.com

Photographer:

Amy Holt
amyholt313@gmail.com

Graphics:

Tyler Manzano
tymanz6387@gmail.com
Lydia Pusinelli
pulsinelli@wisc.edu

Programs:

Theodore Ceplina
theodoreceplina@gmail.com

Ribbon Judging:

Ken Cameron
kmcameron@wisc.edu
Chuck Acker
cacker@tds.net

Social Media:

Ken Cameron
kmcameron@wisc.edu

Web Master:

kmcameron@wisc.edu

Liaisons:

AOS: Nancy Thomas
MAOC: Lynn West

For our October meeting, we will be hosting Dave Sorokowsky from Paph Paradise, speaking of course on *Paphiopedilums*. He is taking pre-orders and will bring them to the meeting on the 18th.

The Island is calling!
Meredyth Graham

**October 18 MEETING SCHEDULE
Time is Approximate as Follows:**

- 12:00 pm Doors Open for Setup
- 12:30 Socializing During Plant Judging
- 1:00 Meeting Begins; Announcements
- 1:15 Show & Tell Table
- 1:45 pm Break
- 2:00 Guest Speaker, In-Person
- 3:00 pm Plant Sales and Chuck's Orchid Challenge
- 3:15 pm Closing Thoughts & Door Prizes
- 3:30 pm Meeting Ends

Paph Paradise

Dave Sorokowsky and his wife Stacey have over 20 years of experience growing and breeding top quality orchids, with over 100 AOS and CSA awards. It all started with a few orchid seedlings from a 'big box' store...

Soon all the windows were full. Then the grow lights went into the spare bedroom, and then the inevitable greenhouse was built. As our collection grew we experimented with different genera, but found that slipper orchids were the most intriguing. After a few years they became our main focus.

Having been a major customer of the Orchid Zone, they were able to acquire some of the finest plants in the world from them, and now are using these exceptional orchids to produce their own new and unique breeding lines. After dabbling with hybridizing for a few years, they started setting significant numbers of seed pods in 2013/2014. These seedlings have started blooming in 2017 and they are looking forward to seeing more and more in the coming years. Dave is also an AOS accredited judge and noted orchid speaker.

Visit paphparadise.com to view current inventory.



September 2026 Meeting Recap

This year the first orchid show of the season was before our first monthly members' meeting. The year has gotten off to a fabulous start by winning the AOS Show Trophy at the Wisconsin Orchid Society show and sale. Eleven members entered 65 plants which were awarded 11 first place ribbons, 13 second place ribbons, 7 third place ribbons and two plants received a Best of Class (one plant received 2 BOC in 2 different classes). *Brassocattleya* Walter August, entered by Meg Graham received an AM/AOS and Jeff Metcalf's *Brassia* Rex received a CCM/AOS. Monthly meetings will have the same format as last year however, this year the ribbon judging will be done by Ted, Roy, and Steven Liu who are all working to become AOS judges. They will provide insight into what judges are looking for at shows and offer some tips which can improve your chances of being awarded a ribbon. There were many announcements about various volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, and



Around 65 members attended the September meeting.
Photo - Denise Baylis

Orchid Quest 2027. Details will be provided by the team leaders so watch for email announcements and other articles in this edition of the newsletter.

— Lynn West



Left— The 2006 Challenge plants, *Brassidium* Kenneth Biven 'Santa Barbara' AM/AOS, await their new homes. Above—Lorraine and Terri take payment for the Challenge Plants.

Photos - Denise Baylis

**Welcome to new members
Rebecca and Beth!**

2026 Chuck's Challenge Plant - *Brassidium* Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara' AM/AOS



Brassidium Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara' AM/AOS, a spider orchid, is the OGG Chuck's Challenge Plant for 2026. Chuck Acker presented background information and growing recommendations for this plant at the September meeting.

Brassidium Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara' is a primary hybrid of *Oncidium cariniferum* and *Brassia arcuigera*. It was first awarded a Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) in 1981, and was upgraded to an Award of Merit (AM) in 1998. There is still room for your plant to earn a First Class Certificate (FCC)!

These plants prefer intermediate temperatures. Summers outdoors are beneficial, but be careful with direct sun as the thin leaves may heat up and burn. Indoors, they prefer medium to bright light such as in a south-facing window. Water them thoroughly when the potting media approaches dryness, and feed regularly to

promote vigor and large pseudobulbs. Repot *Brassidium* yearly into your preferred growing media of choice. Plants may be divided when they have 6 mature pseudobulbs. For other care tips, see the [OGG *Oncidium* Culture Sheet](#).

Flower spikes will grow toward the light, so don't turn the pot as it will twist the spike. Let it grow out as far as you can, then stake it. There is an art to this – if you let the spikes develop until the buds start to show, that usually indicates that the spike is robust enough for staking. Flowers are fragrant and can reach 10-12 inches across, with stems carrying up to 15 flowers. Lower flowers open first, then blooming proceeds up the spike in sequence. Blooms can last up to 12 weeks.

Challenge Plant judging will be for two criteria: first plant to bloom, and most robust plant. For the First Bloom criterion, submit a photo of yourself with the plant. Judging will take place in October 2027 and may include other criteria to be announced at a later date.

—Gina LaLiberte

Autumn is coming—are your outdoor orchids ready to come back inside?

Chuck Acker shared additional seasonal orchid care tips at the September meeting, focusing on when to bring plants back indoors. *Cymbidium* can stay outside in cool weather until November or early December, which will help them to set spikes (but don't let them freeze). Inside, they should be in the coolest part of a cold room. In front of a window in an unheated garage is an ideal spot. Once flower spikes are set, they can handle warmer temperatures.

Phalaenopsis benefit from three weeks of cooler temperatures (around 58F) overnight in order to promote spikes. Drafty old windows work well for this.

For other seasonal care tips, see the [OGG Wisconsin Culture Sheets](#) and [AOS's monthly Checklist for September and October](#).

—Gina LaLiberte

Orchid Quest 2027 Update



Orchid Quest 2027

Set-up: Friday, Feb. 5, 2027

Show dates: Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 6–7, 2027

Orchid Quest is Saturday - Sunday February 6 & 7 with set-up on Friday, February 5 at Monona Terrace.

Remember, we are expanding Orchid Quest this year a bit because we are inviting additional judges and participants from the MAOC. So, another item we are adding is a dinner Saturday night at Monona Terrace. If you come on Saturday evening you will have access to a cash bar, a seated dinner, and a live auction. The auction is courtesy of MAOC. Over 30 plants will be auctioned off plus a few extra secret fun items. Participate in the camaraderie of like-minded orchid people, vendors and other society people at a lovely, relaxed dinner. OGG members get a special discount on the dinner. More details will be announced at the next OGG meeting on October 18.

We are still looking for a computer person familiar with spreadsheets to help with OQ registration. Most of the registration is done during the week leading up to Orchid Quest and on the Friday & Saturday of Orchid Quest. Please contact Terri Jozwiak at lodijoz@charter.net if you are interested.

--Terri Jozwiak, Orchid Quest Chair

Ever wonder about who fills all of those OGG bags of potting supplies?

Several OGG members got together for a lovely afternoon of stuffing bags full of sphagnum moss to sell at Orchid Quest. Soon after they arrived, 4 bales of sphagnum turned into 100 individual bags. After all that work, they worked on repotting.

—Terri Jozwiak



Dominic and Jan.



L to R, Sylvie, Stephanie, Terri, and Gerry.

Seeking Sponsors for Orchid Quest 2027



Orchid Growers Guild of Madison relies on the wonderful financial support from local businesses to sponsor Orchid Quest. The financial donations help defray some of the costs associated with putting on such an incredible event. For OQ 2027, we are expanding our list of potential sponsors by encouraging non-traditional local and state businesses to consider becoming a sponsor. With over 2,000 people attending the event, it's a great opportunity for businesses to show their support of growing orchids, education and conservation efforts. Plus, who doesn't love orchids!

To help expand our list of supporters, OGG members are encouraged to ask local businesses they frequent – to see if they would be interested in becoming a sponsor for Orchid Quest 2027. The minimum donation is \$300. Supporters receive complimentary tickets to Orchid Quest along with their business name and logo on the Orchid Quest website and on a large banner that will be inside the Monona Terrace.

As an extra incentive, businesses that donate over \$1,000 will also receive tickets to the Friday night early market and will receive a beautiful orchid.

Some businesses to consider include restaurants and bars, spas and salons, home décor, construction and repair, auto sales and repair, local insurance agencies, account and law offices, grocery and clothing stores. This is just to name a few. If your family has a business – come join the fun and become a supporter!

If you have a business that is interested in becoming a sponsor of Orchid Quest, please send information to Lori Getter at baileygetter@icloud.com. Provide the business name, owner or manager's name and phone number or email. Please do not send names of businesses that have not been approached to become a sponsor.

We are also looking for OGG volunteers to help this fall with the project. If you are interested, please contact Lori Getter at 608-240-1039 or baileygetter@icloud.com.

— Lori Getter



Wanda Buckingham's fragrant *Zygopetalum* Advance Australia 'HOF' AM/AOS (Titanic x Helen-Ku)



Chris Neumann's *Slc* Love Fresh 'Select' x *Slc* Angel's Fantasy 'Solar Flair' FCC/AOS

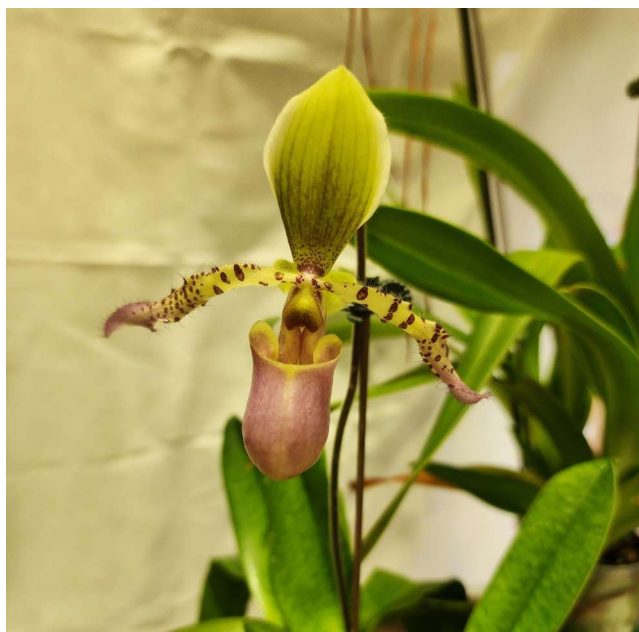
Next Away Show: Eastern Iowa, October 24 - 25

The Orchid Growers Guild of Madison will participate in the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society's annual show, "Orchids Are a Scream!" to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. They expect the Central Iowa Orchid Society, Illinois Orchid Society, Batavia Orchid Society, and Wisconsin Orchid Society to be present as well. As in previous years this will be a Halloween themed show, with two special awards to be given: the "Spooktacular Award" for the best thematic exhibit in the show (we won that last year) and the "People's Choice Award for Favorite Exhibit" as voted upon by the attendees.

Ken Cameron (kmcameron@wisc.edu) and his husband, Brian, will be driving a rental van to Cedar Rapids on Friday morning, where they will be met by Jeff Metcalf and Jim Wasser to set up the Guild's display. They will return on Sunday night after takedown. You are welcome to join them, but will need to drive separately. Watch your email for detailed instructions about sending your plants to this fun and phantasmic show. It will be your last opportunity of 2026 to be part of an AOS-judged exhibit (next on our schedule will Orchid Quest in February). We need a big turnout! For more information about the Eastern Iowa Show visit: <https://easterniowaorchidsociety.org/our-orchid-show>.



— Ken Cameron



Meg Graham's *Paphiopedilum* Song of Love
(*liemianum* x *lowii*)

HELP WANTED!

OGG needs Away Show Coordinator Apprentices!

There are no primary responsibilities! This is a "desk job" unless you want to go to the show. Duties include communication between host societies, travel teams, tracking deadlines, and maintaining reports. If you have an interest in learning what is necessary to get orchids from the growers to an AOS show, and how to do it, this job could be for you.

Nancy Thomas will train you!

Contact Nancy Thomas
(mikeandnancy@tds.net) if you are interested.

OGG RIBBON JUDGING WISCONSIN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

Setup: Lorraine Snyder, Denise Baylis and Jeff Metcalf; takedown Chuck Acker, Diane Hoefer, and Jeff Metcalf

10 members entered 57 individual plants, several in multiple classes. OGG and members also earned three AOS awards.

AOS Show Trophy

Orchid Growers Guild

AOS Award of Merit

Meg Graham *Brassocattleya* Walter August 'Jeanenne' (C. Summer Spot 'Carmela' HCC/AOS x *B. nodosa*)

AOS Certificate of Cultural Merit 82 Points

Jeff Metcalf *Brassia* Rex (*Brs. verrucosa* x *Brs. gireoudiana*)

Best of Class

Jeff Metcalf *Brassia* Rex (*Brs. verrucosa* x *Brs. gireoudiana*) [79]
Jeff Metcalf *Brassia* Rex (*Brs. verrucosa* x *Brs. gireoudiana*) [113]
Meg Graham *Brassocattleya* Walter August (C. Summer Spot 'Carmela' HCC/AOS x *B. nodosa*) [21]

First Place

Jeff Metcalf *Brassia* Rex (*Brs. verrucosa* x *Brs. gireoudiana*) [79]
Jeff Metcalf *Brassia* Rex (*Brs. verrucosa* x *Brs. gireoudiana*) [113]
Meg Graham *Brassocattleya* Walter August (C. Summer Spot 'Carmela' HCC/AOS x *B. nodosa*)
Susan Reed *Oncidium crocidipterm*
Meg Graham *Phragmipedium* Cape Sunset (Eric Young 'Rocket Fire' [4N] x *schlimii*)
Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* Star Green Beauty (Ming Hsing Moonlight x Golden Apollon)
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium* Acker's Elegant Rose (Magdalene Rose x *kovachii*)
Ken Cameron *Psychopsis* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS (Butterfly x *papilio*)
Ken Cameron *Ludisia discolor*
Jeff Metcalf *Paphiopedilum* Michael Koopowitz (*philippinense* x *sanderianum*)
Jeff Metcalf *Dendrobium* Chocolate Chip (Micro Chip x *normanbyense*)

Second Place

Orchid Growers Guild Exhibit
Gerald King *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Red Smurfs (Mituo Red Tiger x Mituo Blue Smurfs)
Gerald King *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Equalacea (Equalacea x Mituo Purple Dragon)
Gerald King *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Solar Blaze (Mituo Sunrise x Mituo Speciosa Dragon)
Susan Reed *Paphiopedilum* Hybrid (Joseiti 'Z' x *delenatii alba* 'Germany')
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium* Acker's Superstar 'MVP' AM/AOS (Eric Young x Jason Fischer)
Steven Liu *Cattleya* Gaudii (*tigrina* f. *coerulea* 'Cristina' x *loddigesii* f. *coerulea* 'Darkest Blue')
Steven Liu *Cattleya maxima* var. *alba*
Steven Liu *Rhyncattleanthe* Hawaii Island Mint (*Rth.* Hsinying Catherine x *Rlc.* Pratum Green)
Ken Cameron *Paphiopedilum henryanum*
Ken Cameron *Schunkeara* Big Shot 'Pink Panther' (*Alcra.* Tahoma Glacier x *Mps.* Maui Titan)
Jeff Metcalf *Paphiopedilum* Michael Koopowitz (*philippinense* x *sanderianum*) [112]
Susan Reed *Bratonia* (Miltassia) Dark Star 'Dark Vader' AM/AOS (*Brat.* Olmec x *Milt.* Anne Warne)

OGG RIBBON JUDGING WISCONSIN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

(Continued from page #)

Third Place

Gerald King	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Hybrid (Mituo Sun 'Mituo #1' x Mituo Speciosa Dragon)
Susan Reed	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> QF Lorrafairrie (Lorraine's Pride x <i>fairreanum</i>)
Susan Reed	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Feng Chun (<i>purpuratum</i> 'Windy Hill' HCC/AOS x <i>henryanum</i> 'Superspots')
Susan Reed	<i>Pectabenaria</i> Phoenix Wing (<i>Hab.</i> Rhodochelia x <i>Pe.</i> Maxdusa)
Chuck Acker	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Acker's Angel (Acker's Lovely x <i>besseae</i>)
Lori Getter	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Ken Cameron	<i>Coelogyne imbricata</i>



Jeff Metcalf's *Brassia* Rex 'Memorium Helen Chesterman' earned a Certificate of Cultural Merit with 82pts, as well as Best of Class AND First Place ribbons in classes 79 (*Brassia* species, hybrids and intergenerics) and 113 (Specimen plants)



Meredyth Graham's *Brassocattleya* Walter August 'Jeanenne' earned an Award of Merit as well as Best of Class and First Place



The etched glass *Lycaste* and the stained glass panel were entered in non-plant classes

SEPTEMBER OGG RIBBON JUDGING

Judging by Chuck Acker, Roy Jaroch and Ted Ceplina

First place

Jeff Metcalf
Alex Lopez
Meg Graham

Miltonia QF Hokulea (*spectabilis* × *binotii*)
Phragmipedium Devil Fire (Grande × *humboldtii* (aka *popowii*))
Brassocattleya Walter August 'Jeanenne' AM/AOS (C. Summer Spot
'Carmela' HCC/AOS × *B. nodosa*)
Coelogyne abbreviata
Dendrobium elliottianum
Lycaste tricolor

Second Place

Meg Graham
Meg Graham
Meg Graham
Lorraine Snyder
Wanda Buckingham
Alex Lopez
Meg Graham
Jeff Baylis

Phragmipedium Bonsall (*manzurii* × *fisheri*)
Paphiopedilum Song of Love (*liemianum* × *lowii*)
Phragmipedium Cape Sunset (Eric Young × *schlimii*)
Phragmipedium Cardinale (*schlimii* × *Sedenii*)
Zygopetalum Advance Australia 'HOF' AM/AOS (Titanic × Helen-Ku)
Phalaenopsis Star's Chanel 'M278' (Sogo Yukidian × Ming-Hsing Pink)
Habenaria Hampson (*rhodocheila* × *roebelenii*)
Epidendrum nocturnum

Third Place

Wanda Buckingham

Chris Neumann
Alex Lopez
Diane Hoefer
Chris Neumann
RayEtta Jones
Kathy Johnson

Phragmipedium Apple Pie (Magdalene Rose 'Mother' × *besseae* 'Cow Hollow II')
Tolumnia Jairak Rainbow (Tsiku Vanessa × Catherine Wilson)
Phalaenopsis Tzu Chiang Sapphire (Tzu Chiang Lilac × *pulcherrima*)
Cattleya NOID
Slc Love Fresh 'Select' × *Slc* Angel's Fantasy 'Solar Flair' FCC/AOS
Phalaenopsis bellina var. pink 'Fire' × sib
Psychopsis



Diane Hoefer's *Cattleya* NOID



Chris Neumann's miniature
Dendrobium elliottianum



Sue Reed's *Lycaste tricolor* waited
until WOS was over to bloom

September Show and Tell



Gary Lensmeyer's *Coeloglyne abbreviata*



Alex Lopez's *Phalaenopsis* Tzu Chiang Sapphire (Tzu Chiang Lilac x *pulcherrima*)



Wanda Buckingham's *Phragmipedium* Apple Pie (Magdalene Rose 'Mother' x *besseae* 'Cow Hollow II')



Chris Neumann's *Tolumnia* Jairak Rainbow (Tsiku Vanessa x Catherine Wilson)



Ken Cameron's 2025 Challenge Plant, *Psychopsis* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS (from the 'B' group) has flowered almost exactly one year after we received them.



Jeff Metcalfe's *Miltonia* QF Hokulea (*spectabilis* x *binotii*)



RayEtta Jones' *Phalaenopsis bellina* var. pink 'Fire' x sib

The Timeless Elegance of Chinese Cymbidiums

Last month Professor Ken Cameron travelled to China as the Immediate Past-President of the Botanical Society of America to participate in a joint scientific conference between the BSA and the Botanical Society of China. The meeting was held in the city of Tai'an within the northeastern Province of Shandong in a luxury hotel at the base of Mt. Tai (Taishan; 泰山), the most important of China's five sacred mountains. This area has a history going back thousands of years and is said to be the birthplace of the unified nation of China. It is also the home of Confucius (born 550 BC). After the conference, Ken was fortunate to travel both to the top of Mt. Tai to visit its many sacred sites, and also to the city of Qufu to tour the Confucian Temple (second only to the Forbidden City in size and cultural importance), as well as the Kong Family mansion and cemetery where Confucius and his descendants are buried.



Ken Cameron at Mount Taishan.



Japanese-style garden in Hangzhou.

The week before the conference, however, Ken was in southeast China staying at the home of his longtime collaborator, Dr. Chengxin Fu, who lives in a western style home in a gated community outside of Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province. One morning he was invited by the next door neighbor, who speaks a bit of English, to tour her exquisite Japanese style garden. The moss covered stones and koi pond were beautiful, but it was the potted *Cymbidium* orchids in her garden that caught his eye. Recall from a previous Newsletter article ([May 2025](#)) that these plants hold a very special place in Chinese culture.



Cymbidium in Hangzhou garden.

The next day Ken took the high speed train to the city of Suzhou in Jiangsu Province for a day-trip to meet one of his former students. Su-

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

zhou is famous for silk, classical music, a series of canals (sometimes called the Venice of China), and especially for its traditional gardens of which at least 50 are open to the public. The largest and most famous is the Humble Administrator's Garden. Ken had been there once before in 1998 before China became the modern economic superpower that it is today. So much about this classical garden is just as he remembered, but so much also has changed. There are many more Chinese tourists today, some temples are now gift shops, and it has become fashionable for young people to dress up in ancient Song Dynasty costume and wander these beautiful cultural sites. As Ken admired the people, the stunning scenery and architecture, he was impressed by the use of potted *Cymbidium* orchids throughout the garden – usually on a wooden stand in a tea house or temple. Even without spring flowers, these orchids add a touch of elegance and serenity. Confucius called them “gentlemen of noble virtue” and in ancient China, *Cymbidiums* symbolized refinement, elegance, integrity, modesty, nobility, and purity. During the great proletarian cultural revolution of the late 1960 and early 1970s Mao Zedong tried to purge China of its ancient traditions and religions, and so it was inspiring to see a newly emerging appreciation of the old ways, symbols, and customs in modern China.

— Ken Cameron



All photographs by Ken Cameron.

Confucian Temple, Qufu.

Upcoming Events



Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale, “Orchid Therapy”

October 10-11, Burnstein Hall, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe IL

See hundreds of rare and unique orchids from the private collections of the top growers in four states compete in 130 competition classes in the longest-running amateur orchid exhibition in the Chicago area. For 74 years, the Illinois Orchid Society has brought the allure and mystery of the orchid world out from the glasshouse and into plain view for the public.

The Illinois Orchid Society Show is free, and does not require a ticket beyond your Chicago Botanic Garden admission and parking. Reserve your timed entry for the Chicago Botanic Garden in advance.

**** The Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show & Sale is one weekend only, so be sure to select October 10th or 11th. ****

Northeast Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Orchid Auction

Saturday October 17, Vande Hey Company, Inc.,

N2093 County Rd N, Appleton, WI

10AM—plant drop-off and setup; 11AM—live auction starts



Our annual live orchid auction and silent auction fundraiser is open to the public. No admission charge. Sponsored by Vande Hey Company, Inc. Hot chocolate, coffee, and hors d'oeuvres provided for attendees. Payment: Cash preferred, with check, Visa, MasterCard and tap payments (Apple Pay, Google Pay, etc.) accepted. Credit card purchases will include a 3% transaction fee.

The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society Presents:

ORCHIDS ARE A SCREAM 2026

An American Orchid Society Competition Halloween Themed Orchid Show & Sale

October 24-25, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Our 13th annual American Orchid Society Competition is a Halloween themed show. It features displays of hundreds of beautiful orchids exhibited by regional orchid societies, amateur hobbyists, and professional orchid growers from around the Midwest. Orchid related crafts and collectibles will also be displayed. Orchids and exhibits will be judged by American Orchid Society judges. A wide variety of orchids and collectibles will be for sale by regional vendors. Volunteers will be present to answer your questions about orchids, the displays and the AOS competition. The show is family friendly and offers an up-close look at some of nature's most exotic flowers – plus a little Halloween fun.



Upcoming Orchid Webinars

Florida's Ghost Orchid, presented by Michael Kane, Ph.D

(Professor Emeritus, University of Florida)

Tuesday October 27, 2026 7:30 PM via Zoom – hosted by the Native Orchid Conference.

The Native Orchid Conference's monthly Virtual Lecture Series brings a host of distinguished scientists, talented students and enthusiastic hobbyists to offices and living rooms around the world. Anyone interested can enjoy these presentations about various aspects of North American native orchids and orchid conservation in real time, or [view the recorded version at a later date](#). Members and guests are invited to log in starting at 7:30 PM Central time. Each presentation will last 40-50 minutes, followed by a brief Q & A period. A reminder notice with speaker bio and Zoom link will be distributed prior to each presentation.



Dendrophylax lindenii, R.J. Wiley, Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Look for lecture information on [the Native Orchid Conference's Facebook Events page](#), or [become a member](#) to receive updates.



Orchid Diseases

The University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic's monthly online Disease Talk is on Orchid Diseases in October. It takes place on **Wednesday October 28 via Zoom from 6:30 to 8:30 PM**. [Register for this free online talk at the PDDC's website](#).

Cymbidium mosaic virus (CymMV) on an orchid. <https://pddc.wisc.edu/>



Did you know that the American Orchid Society offers free webinars to AOS members AND nonmembers?

Upcoming webinars in October are:

- **October 7—Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton.** Orchid Q&A. Find answers to questions you did not even know you had. 7:30PM
- **October 13—How to Take Orchid Photographs by Award Winning Photographer Wes Newton.** Wes Newton shares orchid photography tips, phone techniques, and insights from his collection of over 2,400 AOS photographs. 7:30PM

Register for these webinars or check out past webinar recordings at <https://www.aos.org/webinars>.