

MAY
2025

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org



Meeting Dates

- May 18
- June 29, Picnic

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

Up-Coming Events

- May 11, Spring Orchid Sale, Evjue Commons
- August 6-10, Orchid display, Wisconsin State Fair

Officers and Committees

President:

Susan Reed (2026)
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Vice President:

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Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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Nancy Thomas (2027)
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Carrie Wiesman (2025)
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Away Shows:

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NEXT MEETING MAY 18th

“Lab Propagation: From Seed Pod, Flask, Compot & Beyond”

The birds and the bees have spring fever and so do the orchids! This month we will have a program focused on orchid reproduction, flasking, and beyond by Dr. Robert-Jan Quené. This is our last formal meeting before the annual picnic and summer break.

Dr. Robert-Jan Quené is the owner of Clearwater Orchid Laboratory in Superior, WI. He will present “Lab Propagation: From Seed Pod, Flask, Compot & Beyond.” Originally from the Netherlands he is a Former orchid breeder/ lab coordinator at Orchids Limited. He is an avid gardener, and has been gardening since he was 6 years old.

President's Message

HI OGG members,

This will be my last “Note from President” message to you. I have had a good six years leading this organization through COVID, new technologies, increased growth and increased member participation! Never before have we had so many members step forward to take on active roles during the meetings and in many activities. Our growth is largely due to Cynthia’s out-reach to publicity, zoom speakers from across the US and Canada, daring to spend more on Public radio advertising, enthusiasm, and setting up an active membership committee, etc. Her enthusiasm at Orchid Quest I am sure led to many new members! But it just isn’t one person, Chuck, Ken and Meg have set up a welcoming addition to the meeting agenda with support from Lynn. From Jeff and Jim in their great hospitality, to people welcoming all new attendees, each and every member has contributed to the growth



Cattleya purpurata v. atropurpurea

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of OGG!! Thank you!

The Board takes the lead in the Budget and keeps a close eye on the financials to make sure we have enough money to maintain our organization with the basics such as technology, computer, printer, projector, Zoom, insurance and paid invited speakers, etc. The Board's biggest responsibilities are to make financial decisions in the best interest of the organization, retention of the current members, with the goal of education, conservation and having fun with growing orchids in mind.

The new board will have challenges to wisely watch the finances to the benefit of the organization and not just a small group or agenda. Wouldn't it be great to fly in more speakers with plants for us to buy? Wouldn't it be great for the Guild to subsidize a bus rental for day trips for example to Chicagoland Orchid festival in September, or to the Chicago Orchid show in the spring?

I wish the new board much success for this will be a major new board with four positions up for election: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Board member.

OGG is not just about orchids, but the individuals growing the orchids and their many talents that make OGG so strong. Even the newest grower can teach a seasoned grower new tricks and ideas! No one is an orchid expert for we are all learning! Some have been growing longer so have more experience but everyone is still learning!

The candidates for the board positions will be in this newsletter with the election at the May 18 meeting, in the meeting room at Olbrich. (Please use the elevator for the privacy of the rental in the Atrium). There will be secret paper ballots and people may be nominated from the floor with the nominee's permission.

There will also be an in-person speaker, Dr. Robert-Jan Quené who will present "Lab Propagation: From Seed Pod, Flask, Compot and Beyond"!

Due to circumstances I will not be able to attend this meeting which will be lead by Cynthia and Ken.

Happy Growing and Repotting!

— Sue Reed

PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

(Possibly No Show & Tell This Month as we may be crowded upstairs; TBD)

- 12:00 pm Doors Open
- 12:30 Socializing
- 1:00 Meeting Begins; Announcements & Officer Elections
- 2:00 pm Speaker Presentation
- 3:15 pm Door Prizes
- 3:30 pm Meeting Ends



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Liaisons:
AOS: Nancy Thomas
MAOC: Lynn West

Cymbidium, “Gentleman of Noble Virtue”

— Text and photography by Ken Cameron

Many of us recall the days when our mothers and grandmothers wore a *Cymbidium* corsage at Easter. This genus represents spring more than any other orchid. But did you know that the tradition of celebrating the season with cymbidiums goes back thousands of years? Indeed, it is often said that the first orchids to be grown in pots were Chinese *Cymbidium* species, collected from the wild and brought into people’s homes and gardens to mark the change in season. Literature references to orchid cultivation in China date back to before the time of Confucius (551-479 BC). In



Cymbidium goeringii
‘Jin Ji Huang’

fact, the Chinese have used plants to symbolize the seasons for centuries: bamboo represents summer, chrysanthemum represents autumn, plum blossom is winter, and *Cymbidium* is their chosen symbol of spring. I suppose we do the same in our own culture, but with different nursery plants. It’s too bad that we have abandoned cymbidiums in this way, now favoring daffodils, tulips, and pansies to celebrate spring instead. But, these classic orchids are easy to grow in our climate because they need a cold (albeit not freezing) dry winter rest and abundant water in summer. Orchid growers in Florida, Texas, and Hawaii envy us - imagine that!

For the past few years Ken, who has a passion for bonsai and other Asian ornamental plants (he was an exchange student to Japan in 1984 and now regularly travels to Korea and China), has been growing the so-called “Asian cymbi-



This ink painting *Spring Orchid Scroll*, was by Zhao Mengjian (1199-1264)

diums”. He keeps them in partial shade outside during the summer where they get watered with the garden hose and rain frequently. They are grown in a mostly inorganic medium that drains immediately. In the winter he keeps them in a cold sunporch that hovers just above freezing with the aid of a space heater on a thermostat. He does not water them at all from late October to early May. The flower buds are formed in autumn and the change in day length eventually triggers them to start flowering in March and April.

Most of these cymbidiums are small in stature and not grown for an exuberance of gaudy flowers, but for their graceful refinement. So much has been written about these classic orchids, but the most famous text is by the renowned Chinese philosopher Confucius (551-479 BC), who referred to cymbidiums (called “Lan” in Chinese) as a “Gentleman of Noble Virtue”. In ancient China, *Lan* symbolizes refinement, elegance, integrity, modesty, nobility, and purity. Why not add a few to your own collection and reflect on those virtues throughout the year? They are regularly imported from Asia and offered by a number of specialty nurseries, including sources on Ebay, Etsy, and through New World Orchids in Michigan. An edited excerpt from their online catalog offers advice on cultivation:

"Asian Cymbidiums include three primary species: *C. sinense*, *C. goeringii*, and *C. ensifolium*. All three are considered miniatures and

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are often collected as much for the foliage as for the flowers. Some are notable for their beautiful variegation. These are temperate plants, so grow warm to cold — some can tolerate temperatures below freezing, but you don't need to be so mean. Beware the myth that these are strictly cool growers; that is patently untrue. In the summer they can take major heat and love it! As it cools off in fall, cut back slightly on water and completely cut off fertilizer until spring. The president of the Japanese Cymbidium Society told me [Kristen] personally that they only fertilize for three months a year,



Cymbidium tortisepalum
'Long Chang Su'

but you should feel free to fertilize more liberally. Keep plants in moderate to low light and never in direct sun. Plant Chinese cymbidiums in deep pots. *Cymbidium* pots are taller than most pots to accommodate the long fat roots these guys produce. Although Asian cymbidiums like to be frequently watered, they do not want to have soggy feet, so use a well drained medium such as medium grade bark mixed with something inert. The Japanese use only stone! If you go with something completely inert like rock, top the pot with a collar of moss to increase humidity around the roots."

The common, classic Chinese orchids are terrestrial species, including *Cypripedium goeingii* (Spring Orchid), *C. faberi* (Summer Orchid), *C. ensifolium* (Four-Season Orchid), *C. kankan* (Cold Orchid) and *C. sinense* (Orchid Heralding the Spring Festival). The delicate fragrance has long been valued as the very essence of the Chinese orchid, thus it is variously referred to as the 'National Fragrance', the 'King of All Fragrances', and the 'Number One Fragrance Under Heaven'.

Potting Media



As a benefit of OGG membership, we are once again taking pre-orders for a large group order of high quality

Orchidata bark as well as long fiber New Zealand *Sphagnum* moss and tree fern products this year. Our supplier (Acadian) offers deep discounts over retail pricing. The cost of shipping will be prorated and shared among all of us who order. Last year shipping was \$8 per 35L bag of bark. I expect it will be less this year since we are likely to order more, but that is TBD.

I will take orders via email (kmcameron@wisc.edu), or online **now through May 6**. You should be able to pick up your products at my house starting in mid-May. I will also try to deliver some orders at our May 18 Guild meeting and at our June 29 picnic. *Payment is due at the time of pick up.*

The order form is pasted below and is also available online via this Google doc for you to enter your order: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mHEL-n9OKgDx1Lv6qOIqcxS3YSTgexxa/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114632476718288105990&rtopf=true&sd=true>

If you have any questions, please let me know.

— Ken Cameron

Growing Odontoglossum Hybrids in the Midwest

Photos and text by Dave Watson

Our journey growing Odontoglossum hybrids is in big part thanks to Sue Reed. Six years ago, Sue put us in contact with Paul Parks who had acquired a collection of plants from a California grower going out of business. He was looking for a place to house the rescued orchids. At the time, we had extra room in the greenhouse my son was using for his ornamental fish breeding operation and we agreed to take the plants.

While I had some experience growing ornamentals working in a commercial greenhouse when I was in college, raising orchids was a new endeavor that required a steep learning curve. We made several mistakes along the way, but eventually gathered enough knowledge to not only get our Odontoglossum hybrids to thrive, but to make crosses of our own.

Odontoglossum hybrids (now classified under the broader Oncidium genus) are notorious for being difficult to grow in the Midwest because of their requirement for cool growing temperatures. We found this to be true, even with the evaporative cooling system in our greenhouse. Several of the hybrids failed to thrive. However, thanks to the renowned breeders Andy Easton of Columbia and Bob Hamilton of San Francisco, new hybrids are being developed that have warm-tolerance and are more suitable for growing in the Midwest.

We are fortunate to have connected with Bob and have been working with him to grow-out and test some of his warm-tolerant crosses. The results are promising with several of Bob's new hybrids starting to bloom in our greenhouse. A couple of Bob's crosses that we cultivated were recently featured in the Fall/Winter 2024 edition of *The International Odontoglossum Alliance Journal*. You can read it for free here: <https://www.odontalliance.org/>

We have found that some hybrids, while not specially bred for warm tolerance, do seem to handle the warm weather better than expected. For example, the famous cross Oda. Florence Stirling and the beautiful white, Oda. Petulant Prince are both thriving and currently in bloom.



From left to right: Oda. Florence Stirling, Oda. Petulant Prince, the warm-tolerant hybrid Oda. Swizzle.

It seems, at least for some hybrids, getting close to optimal odontoglossum growing conditions is good enough to have a plant thrive and bloom.

For those of you interested in trying to grow Odontoglossum hybrids, I've included some basic cultivation techniques that have given us the most success.

Light and Temperature

Our greenhouse has about 70 percent shade coverage in the summer months and 50 percent in the winter. They seem to thrive best in bright, but shaded sunlight. We use 6000k led lights on our seedlings in the winter months to improve growth. We aim for a temperature range of low 60s F to high 70s F in both summer and winter months, with occasional peaks reaching upper 80s F in the summers and lows in mid 50s F during the winter months. Humidity is naturally high in our greenhouse and the grower should aim for 60 percent or higher. Humidity trays should work well along with a morning misting of the plant.

Potting

We use a mix of 1 part #3 Perlite, 1 part Orchiaata Power, 1 part Orchiaata Classic and 1 part Fernwood tree fiber. For younger plants we use solid sided orchid pots and for older plants we've had the best success with 4-6-inch net pots.

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Odm. Holiday Gold x Odcdm. Tiger Point

Fertilizer

Using reverse osmosis and or rainwater is one of the keys to growing these orchids. For fertilizer we have a rotation of one watering with MSU orchid fertilizer designed for RO water, followed by one watering with a Cal/Mag formula then a flush with straight RO water. The fertilizer is diluted to have a final TDS measurement between 4-500us.

Author's Note: I just received the latest IOA journal and found several of our orchids made it into the latest edition. I wasn't even aware they were considering using my photos. Kind of cool!!

<https://www.odontalliance.org/ewExternalFiles/IOA%20Journal%20English%20Fall%20Winter%202024%20Final%20%281%29.pdf>

We Need a New Away Show Chair! How About You? No Experience Needed!

Nancy Thomas is “retiring” from her position as our Away Show Chair in order to attend to more things at home, so someone is needed to take over this important OGG function. If you’re not familiar with them, away shows are our neighboring societies’ orchid shows where we set up a display and show our members’ plants. This is our way of reciprocating for other societies’ generous participation in Orchid Quest, as well as an intriguing activity for many of our members, and a major focus of the AOS.

The Away Show Chair coordinates the Guild’s away show activities by registering our displays for nearby shows, and finding volunteers interested in setting up and taking them down. In addition, you liaise with the Board to plan the budget per show, and you approve reimbursements for expenses. We currently participate in four shows per year—two in the fall and two in spring. You don’t have to do the shows yourself (unless you want to) and **you don’t need show experience to get started** (I didn’t have any when I got started).

If you have an interest in orchid shows (do you enjoy the “backstage” of Orchid Quest?), this is a great way to learn about them and the process! If you’d like to become more familiar with our

neighboring societies and make some good contacts with them, this is a great way to do that! And if you’d like to perform an important service for the OGG, this is your chance! You won’t be on your own—I’ll help you learn the ropes over the next year as much as needed. Plus we have a number of experienced members who pitch in on ad hoc away-show committees as needed. If you have any questions or just want to chat about what the job entails, feel free to contact me (Nancy Thomas, mikeand-nancy@tds.net, 608-523-3607). If you’d like to volunteer (thank you!), just let Sue Reed (greed@chorus.net) and me (mikeandnancy@tds.net) know.

—Nancy Thomas



Cattleya purpurata

OGG RIBBON JUDGING BATAVIA ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

SET-UP & Take-Down: Ken Cameron, Jeff Metcalf, Jim Wasser

AOS Show Trophy

OGG Exhibit

Best of Class

OGG Exhibit
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* NOID (1)
 Meredyth Graham *Sarcoglottis sceptrodes*
 Ken Cameron *Phragmipedium* Jason Fisher (Memoria Dick Clements x *besseae*)

First Place

OGG Exhibit
 Lori Getter *Phalaenopsis* NOID (white with spots)
 Jeff Metcalf *Epidendrum* (Comet Valley x Rose Valley)
 Jeff Metcalf *Cattleya mossiae* ('Blanca' x 'Aurora')
 Jeff Metcalf *Calanthe* Kryptonite 'Parkside' (Rozel x *tankervilleae*)
 Jeff Baylis *Tolumnia* Jairak Flyer 'Coco Drop' (Jairak Firm x Jairak Rainbow)
 Terry Jozwiak *Robiquetia cerina*
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* Acker's Light (Magdalene Acker x Margit Moses)
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* Sogo Yukidian (Yukimai x Taisuco Kochdian)
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* Fuller's Sunset 'Yellow Moon' (Taisuco Date x Chian Xen Queen)
 Meredyth Graham *Paphiopedilum* Meredyth Ellen (*hainanense* x *wolterianum*)
 Ken Cameron *Brassidium* Nittany Gold 'Dr. John' AM/AOS (*Brs. Verrucosa* x *Onc. Ghiesbreghtianum*)
 Ken Cameron *Stenorrhynchus speciosum*
 Ken Cameron *Vanda falcata* 'Tenkei Fukurin'
 Ken Cameron *Dendrobium kingianum* [class 113]
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* NOID (1)
 Meredyth Graham *Sarcoglottis sceptrodes*
 Ken Cameron *Phragmipedium* Jason Fisher (Memoria Dick Clements x *besseae*)

Second Place

Lorraine Snyder *Phragmipedium* Les Varines (*sargentianum* x *kovachii*) [class 45]
 Ken Cameron *Dendrobium kingianum* [class 94]
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* NOID (2)
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* NOID (3)
 Ken Cameron *Cattleya pygmaea*
 Ken Cameron *Paphiopedilum* Strawberry Roan (Lauren Klehm 'Johnny' x Inca '1-17')
 Ken Cameron *Miltonidium* Melissa Brianne 'Dark' (*Milt.* Anne Warne x *Onc. Mrs. Rudolf*)
 Ken Cameron *Cymbidium goeringii* 'Da Tuan Yuan'
 Ken Cameron *Cymbidium tortisepalum* 'Long Chang Su'
 Ken Cameron *Porroglossum mordax*
 Ken Cameron *Ludisia discolor*
 Lorraine Snyder *Phragmipedium* Charlie Hanson (*Richterii* x *fischeri*) [class 112]
 Meredyth Graham *Phragmipedium* Acker's Meredyth (Priscilla's Pirouette x *kovachii*) [class 112]

Third place

Lori Getter *Phalaenopsis* NOID (white with spots)
 Gerald King *Cattleya* Lana Coryell 'Doppelganger' (Beaufort 'Big Circle' x *walkeriana* 'Suprema')
 Gerald King *Phalaenopsis* Yen Shau Sweet Girl 'Shiny Girl' (Little Gem Stripes x Tzu Chiang Prince)
 Gerald King *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Reflex DD 'Black Tiger' (Diamond Beauty x Mituo Reflex Dragon)
 Jeff Baylis *Maxillaria variabilis*
 Terry Jozwiak *Phragmipedium* Eumelia Arias (*kovachii* x *schlimii*)

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Terry Jozwiak	<i>Oncidium Sharry Baby</i> (Jamie Sutton × Honolulu)
Meredyth Graham	<i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>
Lynn West	<i>Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Lion'</i> (Rainbow × Plush)
Ken Cameron	<i>Brassocattleya Yuan Nan Star War</i> (C. Memoria Robert Strait × Bc. Wonder Star)
Ken Cameron	<i>Cattlianthe Jewel Box 'Scheherazade'</i> AM/AOS (<i>Gur. Aurantiaca</i> × C. Anzac)
Ken Cameron	<i>Cymbidium goeringii</i> 'Lu Ying'
Ken Cameron	<i>Vanda falcata</i> 'Utage'

It's not often that the Guild's display receives a prestigious Best of Show Trophy at an away show, but that is precisely what happened last month at the Western Chicago Suburb's Orchid Show, sponsored by the Batavia Orchid Society. Cheryl Erins, President of the American Orchid Society, served as show host and head judge. The display contained nearly 80 different orchids sent by 13 Guild members - thank you!

Ken and his husband, Brian, drove the plants down on Friday and were assisted by Jeff and Jim to create the large display. We were assigned a spot in front of a large window, which created challenges, but the team decided to create a multilevel display with an assortment of large *Phalaenopsis* plants interwoven across the top row, rather than drawing focus on a single plant. This worked well, and the judges referred to the effect as a



Ken Cameron, Jim Wasser and Jeff Metcalf with the OGG Award-winning exhibit at Batavia

“crown” (see below).

Chuck and Meg drove down on Sunday to help with take down and brought the plants back to Madison. Lorraine, once again, offered up her home as a staging area, and Nancy put in several hours of time making plant tags. The achievement highlights just how well our Guild members work together. This is our *collective* award and because it comes in 2025 (our 40 year anniversary year) we decided to officially name the exhibit 'Madison Orchid Growers Guild, 1985-2025' which is how you can find it when you search the AOS OrchidPro database.

American Orchid Society Show Trophy
'Madison Orchid Growers Guild, 1985-2025'
ST/AOS (85 points)

“Slightly larger than fifty square foot V-shaped multi-tiered table display, draped in black cloth consisting of approximately 80 orchids from 16 genera, crowned by a plethora of *Phalaenopsis* sprays cascading over a specimen size *Dendrobium kingianum*; display flows diagonally downward; orchids well-arranged by color; exhibit includes two best of class awards including a *Sarcoglottis sceptrodes*, *Phragmipedium Jason Fisher* and another 15 blue ribbons; diverse genera including *Robiquetia* and *Ionopsis*. Also received a silver certificate, 20252605.”



In Memoriam: Lorraine Heyden (August 15, 1947-April 19, 2025)

I write to you today to celebrate the remarkable life of my mother, Lorraine Heyden. I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey she embarked upon, one that was filled with passion, knowledge and unwavering dedication. Mom was woman of no nonsense; she approached life with a straight-forwardness that was both refreshing and inspiring. Her vast knowledge of orchids was nothing short of extraordinary. I can still remember the early days of her obsession, when she first started growing orchids in the early 80s, when I was just a child.

The earliest Orchid Digest I found in her collection was dated March-April 1982, a testament to her early commitment to this beautiful hobby. From that moment on, she was unstoppable. Lorraine didn't just grow orchids; she nurtured a community. She organized and promoted the very first orchid show for the Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society, a monumental achievement that paved the way for many shows to come. Her passion for orchids transcended mere cultivation; it became a mission to share her love and knowledge with others. Her dedication didn't go unnoticed, as she received her first two AOS awards in 1990, a well-deserved recognition for her hard work and expertise. Lorraine didn't stop there and received 24 more AOS awards, until her final award was given June 10, 2023.

In 1993 Lorraine became a student judge at the American Orchid Society. After six years of hard work and dedication she became an accredited orchid judge in 1999. Soon after she was a mentor and worked with various student judges. She taught countless individuals the intricacies of orchid growing and judging, always encouraging them to pursue their own passions. But beyond the accolades, what I will cherish most is how she brought people together through her love for these beautiful flowers.

Mom was also an artist at heart, and her skills in gem cutting and jewelry making were a reflection of her creative spirit. She saw beauty in the smallest details, whether it was in the delicate petals of an orchid or the facets of a gemstone. She taught me to appreciate the world around us and to find joy in creation. I am filled with gratitude for the lessons she imparted and the love she shared. Lorraine Heyden was not just my mother; she was a mentor, a teacher, and a friend. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of everyone she touched, and I find solace in knowing that her spirit will continue to bloom in our lives like the orchids she cherished so much.

Thank you, Mom, for everything. You will be deeply missed.

— Leslie Heyden-Geurts

Another Opportunity to Show Your Blooming Orchids! The Wisconsin State Fair

Although the AOS spring show season has ended, and our OGG meetings will take a summer break in June and July, we still have another opportunity to share our gorgeous summer-blooming orchids. The Wisconsin State Fair takes place July 31-August 10 this year. Our friends in the Wisconsin Orchid Society enter blooming orchids each summer to compete for ribbons at the Fair, and any Wisconsin resident can do so. Although AOS judging is not done, the plants are evaluated by AOS standards by an AOS judge, so we have the potential for feedback on the quality of our blossoms, plus the possibility of taking home lovely and unique ribbons. Importantly, your entries share the beauty and charm of orchids with the wide audience of fair-goers, and may entice some budding orchid enthusiasts! Your plants will need to be in place August 6th, and can be taken home after August 10th. So, if you're a Wisconsin resident, keep the Fair in mind as you watch your plants inch toward budding this summer. We'll have more information in the next couple of months about logistics and how we can coordinate getting plants to and from the Fair for all of you who want to join in!

April OGG Ribbon Judging results will be in the June newsletter

April Meeting Summary

This month was another well attended event. In addition to Guild members, we welcomed a group from the Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society (NEWOS). This orchid society serves the Green Bay, Appleton, and Fox Valley area. Two new members joined at the April meeting: Terry Bucheger and Dennis Sornson.

With the dust finally settling from Orchid Quest 2025 Ken and Terri were able to put together the show data. Ken focused on the financial aspects of the show and tabulated data from a survey sent to OGG members. A separate survey was provided to the vendors for comments. Lorraine reported that the vendors' comments were extremely positive. Terri focused on what has already been put in place for OQ26, implementing ideas from the surveys, and what committees need to be organized and positions to be filled with volunteers for next year.

The attendance at OQ26 was 1735. Given that

this was the first year at a new venue the attendance was better than hoped for and a substantial profit was made. The deposit for OQ26 has been paid to Monona Terrace and includes reserving additional space. With additional space it should be possible to solve many of the issues mentioned in the survey results.

The main event was the auction of a curated collection of blooming size and near blooming size unique and rare orchids by Chuck Acker. This year Chuck prepared a power point presentation with cultural requirements and photos of each plant being auctioned. The highest bid on one plant was \$150. There was a lot of interest in rare Cattleyas and the Phrags and Paphs. Thank you, Chuck, for organizing the auction. Thanks to Meg for running the plants. And a giant thanks to the members for making the auction a success through their generosity.

--Lynn West

WHAT'S BLOOMING AT HOME . . .



Keith Nelson's *Phragmipedium*
Stairway to Heaven (*wallisii* × *popowii*)



Nancy Thomas' *Phragmipedium*
humboldtii ('Mahogany Red' × 'Fox
Valley'). 27 inches long.



Jeff Baylis' *Phragmipedium wallisii*
28 inches long

NOMINATIONS FOR CANDIDATES TO OGG BOARD

Notice re: OGG By-laws ARTICLE XII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The names of those nominated shall be published in the May Newsletter and formally nominated at the May Meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the May meeting only if duly seconded and written consent of those nominated is presented. The names of those nominated shall be placed on a ballot and read before the Guild at the May Membership meeting. If only one person is nominated for a position, he or she shall be elected by acclamation. However, if more than one person is nominated for a position, each paid-up member present, shall be entitled to vote by secret ballot for the contested position. The person receiving the most votes shall be elected. The new Officers and Director shall take office at the end of meeting during which elections are held.

The following Guild members have been nominated for these open positions:

PRESIDENT

Meg Graham

I would like to nominate myself for the position of President of the Orchid Growers Guild to finish out Sue's one year term. I feel some of my qualifications include being a member of the OGG for over 25 years. I have past experience with being on the board when I served as Secretary and board member from 2003-2007. I am currently on the Members Programming Committee where I help organize the flow of each monthly meeting by arriving early to set up/arrange tables and chairs depending on the focus of that month's meeting. I help organize the flow of members as they enter by greeting members, directing them to sign up for door prizes, set plants for ribbon judging, etc. I have served as the Orchid Quest Volunteer Coordinator for 3-4 years. Prior to that I volunteered to help with unloading and setting up on the Fridays of OQ, I've been part of the early Saturday morning clerking teams as well as all day general help on both days of OQ. In addition, for the past 5 years I have been keeping track of, tallying points for and presenting winners of the Milo Gilbertson and other awards at the end of each year.

Before I retired, I was a High School Biology, Earth Science and Environmental Science



Teacher for 32 years. I have developed the ability to deal with people, information, speak publicly, organize data, and think critically.

In summary, I have always been a person who sees things that need doing and then does it. I will always try to "move the ball forward" and would like to use those skills to continue to keep Madison Orchid Growers Guild the strong organization that it has become under Sue's leadership.

Sean Stake

Sean earned his BS in Biology from Northland College and has used it in various unexpected ways as his career has meandered through many biologic endeavors. Until fairly recently, most of his work was focused more on the animal side of biology. He is an avid aquarist and has bred many fish species both as a hobbyist and at a commercial level. It was through one of these fish jobs that he started to develop a stronger appreciation for plants.

Sean spent nearly 4 years working at Rose Innovations, the home of the Knockout Rose®, as one of their aquatic staff working on breeding a new line of goldfish. Some of the other duties involved maintaining the stream and various ponds on the property along with the aquatic and semi-aquatic plants. One of the unique perks of working there was the ability to take home extra plant divisions or other unwanted

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plants which increased his house plant collection.

Through learning how to propagate and care for many of the new plants he obtained he became fascinated by the different ways plants grow and propagate. He started researching orchids as he and his wife Karin had always liked them but had not had great success. Through a little research and some consultation with co-workers and his boss he ordered a few easy to keep orchids and a new obsession began.

Now Sean has divided a number of orchids and gotten into deflasking, dividing, and selling orchids. Many of his aquaria have been converted to orchidaria to house his growing collection. After being fascinated by a Gongora orchid at the Chicago Botanic Gardens Orchid Show, he has immersed himself in the Stanhopeinae family of orchids and continues to gather more. Also recognizing the space he has and the terraria already at his disposal small orchids are a large part of his collection. He also looks for ways to combine his passion for aquarium fish and orchids and use knowledge from one to inform the other.

Vice-President

Chuck Acker

I have been an active member of the OGG since its inception (when I was also the first Vice President). Over the past 40 years, I have continued to be involved with various aspects of the club. During my years at Orchids by the Ackers I hosted the annual November meeting which included a tour of the greenhouse and programs which ranged from pollination workshops, repotting, deflasking, insect control, etc. Furthermore, in depth presentations on the initial breeding influences of *Phragmipedium besseae* and more recently *Phragmipedium kovachii* species. I continue to provide seminars and presentations for OGG monthly meetings and at Orchid Quest. I provide pertinent and informative articles for the OGG Newsletter and have



published articles in Orchids Magazine. I have been and continue to be an orchid plant culture resource in terms of lighting, watering, fertilizing as well as pest management and nomenclature. Over the years I have been the sole provider of specially procured unusual orchids for the various annual sales, auctions, Chuck's Challenge and the holiday Santa Chuck event. I am currently on the Members Programming Committee where I help organize the flow of each monthly meeting.

In summary, having spent my entire adult life working in my family's orchid business as well as growing and breeding an infinite number of orchids has given me this opportunity to share my orchid knowledge and experience with the OGG.

Sandra Gray

I grew up in Milwaukee and was an art teacher for 11 years in South Milwaukee. I moved to Atlanta in 1986 to go to law school, and practiced law in Georgia for 35 years, then moved to Madison in 2021 to be closer to family, and started growing orchids. In 2021 I joined OGG and was awarded New Grower of the Year for 2021-22. Other previous activities include: arranged for food for workers at OGG's Orchid Quest in 2023, 2024, and 2025; served at Orchid Quest on all three days in 2023, 2024, and 2025, and has been part of the advance planning for Orchid Quest 2026; formed the OGG Membership Committee with Cynthia Wadsworth and Lynn West in 2023; authored a Members Guide to help new members get the most from their OGG membership. The Members Guide is posted on the OGG web site and hard copies are made available at OGG meetings. In addition I regularly attend and submit my in bloom orchids for ribbon judging at OGG meetings and regularly serve at OGG fundraising events.

If elected to the office of Vice President, I will continue to serve in all current roles in addition to attending board meetings regularly and contributing time and talents for the benefit of



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the Guild.

Secretary

Lynn West (incumbent)

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from UW La Crosse and a Master of Science degree in a program that was then called Water Chemistry from UW Madison. I worked at the State Lab of Hygiene for 33 years as the supervisor of the Radio-chemistry unit and later as the Business Manager for the Environmental Sciences Divisions. I was the Department Administrator for the Math Department at UW Madison from 2013-2016. Prior to retiring from UW Madison, I was the Assistant Dean of Administration at the Nelson Institute.

While working towards my master's degree, I was paid to take notes by several medical doctors from the Milwaukee area who didn't want to travel to Madison to attend class in person. They received a grade of A in the class without attending any of the classes; just using my notes. I was approached by other students while taking classes at UW Madison who paid me for copies of my notes. At both the Math Department and the Nelson Institute, I attended the faculty meetings and took the meeting minutes and distributed them to faculty.



Member at Large 1 of 3

Ted Ceplina

Since joining the Orchid Growers Guild in April of 2022, it has been a pleasure to make new friends and see the guild grow. Orchids

have become a huge part of my life and my social circle as well. As a board member I would be able to contribute some of my social and creative energy to help give back to an organization that has become near and dear to my heart. I have a great interest in contributing and am able bring a unique perspective in hopes we can continue enrollment and participation. I see a growing interest in exotic house-plants among my generation and I think now is the time to grasp an opportunity to keep the vibrant energy of our club going strong for another generation of orchid lovers.



Carrie Weisman (incumbent)

I have been a member of the Orchid Growers Guild (OGG) for over 20 years first joining OGG at Orchid Quest when it was held at the Alliant Center. My work background includes over 35 years of Applications Development in technology automation improvements with the State of WI. I also am the secretary/treasurer with another non-profit organization for over 30 years where I also coordinated member events for over 1700 members and up to 10 match fund raising events a year. Between my professional work history and my non-profit work history, I can provide some help with possible activities with member involvement in the future.



ORCHIDS LOVERS: SPRING ORCHID SALE MAY 10th

Please join your fellow volunteers for our spring orchid sale Saturday, May 10th at Olbrich Gardens. We will have a variety of orchids from Orchids by Hausermanns' and from Chuck Acker's grower friends. The sale is from 10 AM until 2PM or sold out. Bring your smiles and your money. Mother's Day is May 11th!

