

My Wonderful Adventure at the Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show

By Terri Jozwiak

The Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society (NEWOS) was March 3-4 and I had volunteered to set up this show. My husband, Rich, and I brought my 5' tall *Phaius tankervilleae*. It weighs a ton and transporting it to the show was quite an endeavor. We wrapped it in bubble wrap till it looked like a Christmas tree in a pot. Rich strapped it to a dolly, angled it into the U-Haul truck and tied it to the side wall of the truck. Yes there were more plants than just this one, 24 plants, but with all the thought that went into how to transport this ONE plant, the rest seemed a breeze.

We set up the exhibit with the *Phaius* in the center and everything else layered on the sides and in front of it. We only put black cloth down around the plants as it didn't seem to need either props or moss.

When I helped clerk the next morning, my group was judging the exhibits. Our 25' exhibit got a first! Then after looking at the 50' and 100' society displays and awarding those, they had to pick the Best of Class. One judge picked the WOS exhibit and one picked OUR exhibit. They finally came to a consensus. OURS PLACED Best of Class! WOW! That made all the work feel GREAT.

After our group finished our judging, I checked on my *Phaius*. It had nothing on it. I felt hurt



Terri Jozwiak and her 5' tall *Phaius tankervilleae*, now *Phaius tankervilleae* 'Joz's Beauty'

and empty. Then I realized two groups were still judging. Maybe they just hadn't gotten to it yet. I stalled around, checked out the vendors and kept going back to check on the *Phaius*. Finally they put three ribbons on it. It was entered in class 98 and as a specimen plant, class 102. It got a second in class 98, a first in class 102 and a Best of Class in class 102. Gosh did the relief feel wonderful. Since I was standing around (a lot) I answered a lot of questions about it. It was grown in a greenhouse in the winter and outside in the summer, it is one plant, that I bought it six years ago in a 1 gallon pot. It is planted in sphagnum moss and YES it was hard to transport. Then as I hung around some more and they came out to measure it. . . . that could only mean one thing. . . . an AOS award! I got a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) and got to name my plant!!!! Whow!!! My plant is now *Phaius tankervilleae* 'Joz's Beauty'! I was so proud, I was giggling, smiling and hugging everyone!

The Phaius was not the only star of our exhibit. Nancy Thomas' plant Den. Green Flash 'Nancy's Fancy' AM/AOS was also given a Best of Class (BOC). Besides the three BOC, we got nine firsts, two seconds and four thirds. What a successful show! Terri Jozwiak