

October
2025

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org



Meeting Dates

- October 19
- November 16
- December 21, venue TBA

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

Up-Coming Events

- November 1-2, Eastern Iowa' Orchid Society's Show, "Orchids Are a Scream 2025", Radisson Hotel Conference Center, 1200 Collins Rd, Cedar Rapids IA
- February 7-8, 2026, Orchid Quest, Monona Terrace
- March 7-8, Illinois Orchid Society Show
- March 21-22, Batavia Orchid Show
- June 11-15, Native Orchid Conference, Green Bay

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NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 19th

Our speaker will be Dr. Kristen Uthus from New World Orchids.

New World Orchids is a family-owned orchid business in Manchester, Michigan. NOW is owned and operated by Dr. Kristen Uthus with help from her husband, Dr. Kevin Wehrly, and her two sons, Henry and Gus. They specialize in miniature orchids, particularly species, from around the world. They also have one of the widest selections of *Neofinetia falcate* (a.k.a. Samurai Orchids) and other Japanese orchids in the US. Kristen travels to orchid societies all over the country to talk about orchids and appears at shows in the Midwest and on the East Coast throughout the year.



President's Message

Wow! Our Kickoff meeting was the start of a great year! We had a record attendance of 72 members! There were four tables full of orchids which could have been a show all by itself. I'm sure it was a record turnout of plants for a September meeting! Dr. Brandon Corder's presentation on current research into myco-heterotrophs and the symbiotic relationships between organisms got a lot of us thinking about the interconnectedness within an ecosystem. (Kind of like our Society). Let's keep the momentum going for the rest of the year!

Here on the homefront, I'm starting to bring my plants indoors but these warm days and cool nights are just what the doctor ordered for initiating spikes in some orchids. I'm excited to see what I might be sending to the upcoming away shows. Sending blooming orchids to another society's show is way to connect not only with our own members but also other members in other societies. Please consider sending a plant to our next show at Eastern Iowa Orchid Society on November 1-2. It's how we make the ecosystem of our Guild even stronger.

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Our October speaker will be Kristen Ulthus of New World Orchids in Manchester, Michigan. Kristen specializes in miniature orchids and is offering a 10% discount for pre-orders from her [website newworldorchids.com](http://newworldorchids.com). She will also be bringing some plants for sale. I'm sure we ALL have room for just one more orchid- especially if it's miniature!

Lastly, don't forget to bring your *Prosthechea mariae* from last year's Challenge to our October meeting on the 19th. Mine is a little crispy but in the words of Monte Python "it's not dead yet."

— Meg Graham

September Meeting Summary

Record breaking attendance at the first meeting of the 2025-2026 season! The meeting was attended by 72 members. So many attendees that I am going to have to add a third page to the sign-in sheets so that everyone can sign in and be eligible for the door prizes! At this meeting or just after, 14 new members joined the Orchid Growers Guild of Madison. According to my count there are 142 active members. Given these attendance numbers, meetings for the year can no longer be accommodated in the upstairs meeting room in Olbrich. We have requested to have the monthly meetings in the education rooms. However, Olbrich may change the location as needed so check the meeting location at their information desk when you arrive.

There also seemed to be record numbers of plants brought in for ribbon judging. I thought I had plenty of ribbons on hand and would have run out, but fortunately additional ribbons were ordered for the meeting. With so many plants and limited time for plant discussion, Chuck Acker is piloting small group discussions at his home. Sign-up was required for the first meeting. If there is a lot of interest, additional meetings might be arranged.

Our speaker was Dr. Brandon Corder, Ph.D. orchidologist from the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who gave a talk on "The Secret Lives of Wisconsin's Native Orchids." His novel research focused on the biology of orchids and their fungal partners from across Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region. During the QA, a member asked about the relationship between orchids, fungi, and pollinators. Well

stay tuned because the speaker in February 2026 will discuss the remaining vertex of the triangle. Dr. Corder posts his observations on iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/brandoncorder/>). Dr. Corder mentioned that the 2026 North American Native Orchid Conference will be held this year in Green Bay / Door County, Wisconsin. Save the date June 11-15, 2026 and watch for more information about registration.

— Lynn West

PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

Schedule is Approximate as Follows:

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

Chuck's Orchid Challenge Update!

Wow, what a turnout for our September season kick-off meeting! At least 72 members. The interest in obtaining a *Psychopsis* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS for the orchid challenge was tremendous. We sold out in record time! Thank you to our treasurer Ken Cameron for his dedication as cashier while feeling under the weather that day.

As a result of selling out, quite a few members were left out of this challenge. That prompted me to search for more of these *Psychopsis* from other sources that I know. I was extremely happy to secure another 24 plants from a grower in Hawaii who also raises many of my *Phragmipedium* hybrids. We now have 24 more

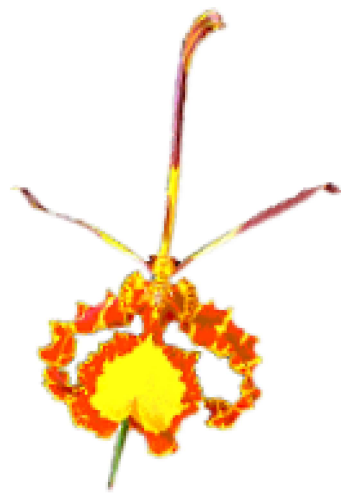


plants up for grabs in this challenge!

For you members not able to obtain a plant at the September meeting, this is another chance! You may sign up and pay for your plant at the October 19th meeting or, go to the OGG web site and click the Membership tab, select Join/Renew/Donate and remit payment under the 'Donate' tab. Please leave a note in the 'Notes' box that your payment is for the challenge plant so Ken and I can keep track.

The October 19th meeting will be an exciting one as I look forward to judging and awarding the *Prosthechea mariae* plant for the 'Most Robust Grown Plant' as well as presenting the winners of 'First to Bloom.' I am also excited to distribute the next challenge plants of *Psychopsis* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS! See you all there!

Happy Growing!



— Chuck Acker



**Save the Dates for the
2026 Symposium
June 11-15, 2026**

**DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN
"CAPE COD of the MIDWEST"**

The 2026 NOC Symposium will visit Door County and nearby Green Bay, WI. The event begins with an evening reception at the Green Bay Botanical Garden on Thursday June 11 followed by two days of lectures at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and two days of guided field trips including a visit to the well-known Ridges Sanctuary.

Participants will arrange their own lodging, local transportation and pre/post-symposium activities. Additional details will be forwarded as they become available; registration will open soon.

WISCONSIN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW RESULTS

Set-up: Lorraine Snyder, Denise Baylis, Jim Wasser and Jeff Metcalf. Take-down: Denise Baylis, Jim Wasser, Chuck Acker, Meg Graham and Jeff Metcalf which made for a timely departure.



First Place and Best of Class

Gerald King *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Equalacea
(Equalacea × Mituo Purple Dragon
'Blue Whale' AM/AOS)

First Place

Lynn West *Phragmipedium pearcei*
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium* Blood Mary 'Chuck's Happy Hour' FCC/AOS (Andean
Fire × China Dragon
Kenneth Cameron *Paphiopedilum* Chiu Hua Dance (*sanderianum* × *gigantifolium*)
Kenneth Cameron *Paphiopedilum* Julius (*rothschildianum* 'Wide Baron' × *lowii* 'Exotic
Dancer' FCC/AOS)
Kenneth Cameron *Mexipedium xerophyticum*
Kenneth Cameron *Stelis argentata*
Terri Jozwiak *Cattleya* (Cosmic Delite 'Cosmic Sparks' × Memoria Trudi Marsh 'Sun
Flair')

Second Place

OGG Exhibit <50
Lynn West *Oncostele Succubus* 'Night Shift' (*Onc. fuscatum* × *Ons. Blackata*)
Gerald King *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Red Smurfs (Mituo Red Tiger × Mituo Blue Smurfs)
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium* Acker's Meredyth 'Chuck's Muse' AM/AOS (Priscilla's
Pirouette × *kovachii*)
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium* QF Red Wings (Eric Young × Red Rocket)
Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* Kenneth Schubert (*pulcherrima* × *violacea*)
Meredyth Graham *Phragmipedium* Magestic Tresses (*caudatum* × *humboldtii*)
Meredyth Graham *Rhynchonia* Pacific Paranoia 'Other Side of Cool' (*Rst. Bictoniensis* × *Milt.*
Honolulu)
Terri Jozwiak *Vanda* (Paramate Star × Bitz's Heartthrob No. 2)
Terri Jozwiak *Paphiopedilum* Yang-Ji Hawk (*sanderianum* × *adductum* var. *anatum*
'Ace' AM/AOS)
Lorraine Snyder *Phragmipedium besseae* 'Fox Valley Flame'
Kenneth Cameron *Vanda falcata* 'Wonhwa'
Kenneth Cameron *Bulbophyllum* Jersey (*lobbii* × *echinolabium*)

Third Place

Lynn West *Catasetum* Marilu Camps (*fimbriatum* 'Golden Horizon' × *osculatum*
'SVO')
Lynn West *Phragmipedium pearcei* (as SPECIMEN)
Gerald King *Sophrocattleya* Lana Coryell (*Cattleya dolosa* × *Cattleya Beaufort*)
Terri Jozwiak *Cattleya* (Angel Eyes 'SVO' AM/AOS × Virginia Dickey 'Diamond Orchids'
AM/AOS)
Chuck Acker *Phragmipedium* Acker's Berry (Waunakee Sunset × *kovachii*)

SEPTEMBER OGG RIBBON JUDGING

Our ribbon judges Chuck Acker and Ken Cameron got a work-out with 59 orchids to evaluate!

First Place

Jeff Metcalf	<i>Aliceara Memoria</i> Donald Yamada 'FJ-72' (<i>Alcra. Memoria</i> Jay Yamada × <i>Onc. Fort Point</i>)
Benjamin Miranda	<i>Brassocattleya Rustic Spots</i> (<i>Brassocattleya</i> Richard Mueller × <i>Cattleya Landate</i>)
Meg Graham	<i>Brassocattleya Walter August</i> (Summer Spot 'Carmela' HCC/AOS × <i>Brassavola nodosa</i>)
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Bulbophyllum gracillimum</i>
Ken Cameron	<i>Bulbophyllum Jersey</i> (<i>lobbii</i> × <i>echinolabium</i>)
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Catasetum expansum</i> (<i>expansum</i> 'Myra' HCC/AOS × <i>expansum</i> 'SVO Midori' AM/AOS)
Dan Schmidt	<i>Catasetum Marilu Camps</i> (<i>fimbriatum</i> 'Golden Horizon' × <i>osculatum</i> 'SVO')
Lori Getter	<i>Catasetum pileatum</i> (<i>pileatum</i> 'SVO Independence' × <i>pileatum</i> 'Dinner Plate')
Lynn West	<i>Cattleya Barbara Tague</i> (<i>alaorii</i> 'SVO II' × <i>praestans</i> 'Brandi' AM/AOS)
Sandra Gray	<i>Cattleya intermedia</i>
Rachel Miller	<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i> 'bicolor'
Rachel Miller	<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i> 'bicolor'
Ken Cameron	<i>Dendrobium cuthbertsonii</i> x 8
Steven Thimling	<i>Epidendrum</i> (Comet Valley × Rose Valley)
Ken Cameron	<i>Erycina pusilla</i>
Wanda Buckingham	<i>Lc Mini Purple</i> 'SVO' HCC/AOS × <i>Slc Angel Eyes</i> 'SVO' HCC/AOS
Chuck Acker	<i>Mexipedium xerophyticum</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Oncidium</i> 'Little Panda' (Moon Shadow × <i>varicosum</i>)
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Oncidium Sweet Sugar</i> 'Lemon Drop' HCC/AOS (Aloha Iwanaga × <i>varicosum</i>)
Ken Cameron	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> NOID
Lori Getter	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Chuck Acker	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Kenneth Schubert (<i>pulcherrima</i> × <i>violacea</i>)
Steven Thimling	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Lorraine Snyder	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Ivan Portilla (Grouville × <i>kovachii</i>)
Chuck Acker	<i>Phragmipedium</i> QF Red Wings (Eric Young × Red Rocket)
Keeley & Berry	<i>Podochilus lucescens</i>
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Chief Sweet Orange 'Sweet Orange' (<i>Cattlianthe</i> Tutankamen × <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Chyong Guu Chaffinch)
Gerald King	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Free Spirit (<i>Pot</i> Twentyfour Carat AM/AOS × <i>Sc. Beaufort</i> 'Hartford's Elmwood 4N' AM/AOS)
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Spotted Magic (<i>Cattleya</i> Interglossa × <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Sun Spots)
Meg Graham	<i>Rhynchosia</i> Pacific Paranoia 'Other Side of Cool' (<i>Rst. Bictoniensis</i> × <i>Milt. Honolulu</i>)
Ken Cameron	<i>Stelis argentata</i>
Jeff Metcalf	<i>Vuylstekeara</i> Melissa Brianne 'Dark' (<i>Miltonia</i> Anne Warne × <i>Oncidium</i> Mrs. Rudolf Pabst)

Jeff Metcalf
Second Place

Steven Liu
 Lynn West

Lynn West
 Jeff Metcalf
 Terri Jozwiak
 Steven Thimling
 Sandra Gray
 Unknown
 Jeff Baylis
 Terri Jozwiak
 Jeff Baylis
 Lynn West
 Lisa Linde
 Unknown
 Ken Cameron

Rachel Miller
 Ken Cameron
 Jeff Baylis
 Keeley & Berry
 Gerald King
 Chuck Acker

Lorraine Snyder
 Lynn West

Third Place

Keeley & Berry
 Lorraine Snyder
 Meg Graham

Zygopetalum (Artur Elle × Blue Blazes)

Brassavola nodosa × *C. Lulu*
Catasetum Marilu Camps (*fimbriatum* 'Golden Horizon' × *osculatum* 'SVO')
Cattleya Blue Buttons (Floralia's Azul × *lundii*)
Cattleya warneri
Clowesia (*russelliana* 'SVO' × *russelliana* 'David N')
Epidendrum nocturnum
Gomesa Jiaho Queen 'Jia Ho' (Mulatta's Dancing × *varicosa*) FCC/AOS
Grammatophyllum scriptum
Miltassia (*Bratonia*) Shelob 'Okika' (*Bratonia* Olmec × *Brassia* Edvah Loo)
Miltonia Kismet 'Kind Kai' (Bluntii × *candida*)
Oncidesa (*Oncidium*) Gower Ramsey (Goldiana × Guinea Gold)
Paphinia Majestic (*herrerai* × *cristata*)
Paphiopedilum delanatii 'Pink Sky' × *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*
Paphiopedilum Jacobs Green (Oriental Green × Jacob's Dream)
Paphiopedilum Julius (*rothschildianum* 'Wide Baron' × *lowii* 'Exotic Dancer' FCC/AOS)
Paphiopedilum Vanda M Pearman (*bellatulum* × *delenatii*)
Phalaenopsis Kenneth Schubert (*pulcherrima* × *violacea*)
Phalaenopsis Kenneth Schubert (*pulcherrima* × *violacea*)
Phalaenopsis NOID
Phalaenopsis (Lucien Green Candy × Yaphon Yellow Story)
Phragmipedium Bloody Mary 'Chuck's Happy Hour' FCC/AOS (Andean fire × China Dragon)
Phragmipedium La Vingtaine (Memoria Dick Clemens × *kovachii*)
Phragmipedium pearcei

Phragmipedium Acker's Angel (Acker's Lovely × *besseae*)
Phragmipedium Acker's Berry (Waunakee Sunset × *kovachii*)
Phragmipedium Majestic Tresses (*humboldtii* × *caudatum*)



Steven Thimling's *Epidendrum*
 (Comet Valley × Rose Valley)



Rachel Miller's two *Dendrobium*
cuthbertsonii 'bicolor' do not look the same



Chuck Acker with Benjamin Miranda's
Brassocattleya Rustic Spots



Chuck Acker's *Phragmipedium*
 Bloody Mary 'Chuck's Happy
 Hour' FCC/AOS

. . . September Ribbon Judging



Photographs by Amy Holt



The inflorescences of the two plants (above) are both *Catasetum* Marilu Camps (*fimbriatum* 'Golden Horizon' × *osculatum* 'SVO'). The one on the left is the female (Lynn West) and the one on the right is the male (Dan Schmidt).

Terri Jozwiak's "perfect flowers", *Clowesia* (*russelliana* 'SVO' × *russelliana* 'David N')

Only 6 to 7% of all the plants in the world have flowers that are distinctly either male or female, and *Catasetum* orchids fit in this category. The inflorescence consists of flowers that are unisexual, which is very unusual for orchids. The male flower is large, colorful, expansive, and expressive while the female looks like a mourning widow dressed in green. These flowers are typically situated on different plants. Initially, taxonomists thought they were dealing with different species, a puzzle which Charles Darwin resolved when writing *Fertilisation of Orchids*. Which type of flower a plant produces is determined by the conditions under which it grows. There are rare cases in which a single plant in intermediate conditions will produce both male and female flowers.

there are around 10 *Catasetum* orchids that do not show signs of sexual or floral dimorphism. They also don't have either all male or all female flowers. These rare and unique orchids are sometimes referred to as the perfect flowers, showing signs of bisexuality. One of these is *Catasetum russellianum* now *Clowesia*.

At the September meeting we had examples of both the male and female flowers of *Catasetum* Marilu Camps (*fimbriatum* 'Golden Horizon' × *osculatum* 'SVO') as well as one of the "perfect

flowers" *Clowesia*.

For more information on this topic, Gary Lensmeyer recommends <https://orchideria.com/male-and-female-catasetum/>



NEWOS Orchid Auction

Perfect opportunity to grow or begin
your Orchid Collection.

Hosted and Sponsored by



Cash, Visa, and Master Card Accepted

Visit the Website or event page for more information

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1296499518706181/>

www.newisos.org

When and Where:

Saturday October 4th
Event starts at Noon
Vande Hey Company
2093 CR-N
Appleton, WI 54913

Amenities:

Hot Chocolate, Coffee,
and hors d'oeuvres free
to attendees courtesy of
Vande Hey Company

Auction:

Free Attendance
Open to Public
Large Selection of
Orchids, most grown by
Orchid Society members
Preview plants at noon
Auctions starts at 12.30

Access:

Pose your orchid related
questions to one of our
many experienced
growers

ORCHID QUEST UP-DATE

February 7-8, set-up Friday, February 6

Planning for OQ 2026 is well underway. There are several meetings coming up:

Calling All Crafters

- Sunday, October 5 from 1 till about 5 pm at Terri Jozwiak's house in Lodi.
- This is for crafters to create items for sale at OQ. I have all the ingredients for about three projects. Come with your ideas and have a relaxing afternoon.

OQ Planning Meeting

- Tuesday, October 14, 6 pm at Lorraine Snyder's house in Madison and on Zoom.
- This is for planning and we entertain all ideas, and we want yours. Come to voice your opinion or just for the snacks.

Volunteers Needed

Silent Auction

We need a committee of volunteers to work on the auction. This involves maintaining a spreadsheet listing items for auction, their donors, estimated value and to take pictures of the items, and finally displaying them at OQ. Our NEW program will keep track of bidders and bids and present the final results in a timely manner. I will handle the payments. You can determine how you would like to handle the auction within the above parameters and you can obtain mentoring from previous volunteers if you wish.

Judges Gifts

Do you like to shop? I need someone to buy

Mark Your Calendars!

Orchid Quest 2026

Save the Date - February 7 & 8



Set-up Friday, February 6

gifts for the judges. There is a budget for these items. Are you interested in doing this? Contact me.

There is a new group of those who sew coordinated by Lisa Bane. (see her article below)

A new lighting system has been tested and approved by our official AOS photographer. Love to improve something that already works!

The poster is in the works.

— Terri Jozwiak
608-592-7906
lodijoz@charter.net



We Have Orchid Fabric!

Are there any other stitchers out there? Beginners welcome! Here's the deal...Terri has a bunch of orchid fabric that we can use to make some simple and useful items to sell at OQ 2026. Some of my thoughts include coasters, hot pads, cross body phone cases (for when you don't have pockets) and totes. I am open to your ideas. In the meantime, I'll be gathering simple instructions for these items. I am thinking to make a lot of a few items rather than a few of many different items. Text or call me if you are interested in joining the Sewing Orchid Fabric Team.

— Lisa Bane
Lisabane@gmail.com
414-416-6578

Creative Orchid Stuff

I do not grow orchids myself but I love looking at them which is one of the advantages of setting up away shows. Here I have the opportunity wander around, see all of the exhibits and to speak with the exhibitors as they set up.

The Milwaukee show featured displays from their local ikebana club. At the Chicago show there were photographs, paintings, displays of LEGOs made into orchids as well as a display of orchids from an ORIGAMI club. Others create orchids from clay or crochet them. Paint them on porcelain or paper. However unless you are in a club (or obsessed) you would not have enough items be able to create such a display at an orchid show.

BUT, if you have some artistic needs to express in one of these ways you could sell your creation(s) at Orchid Quest.

— Denise Baylis



One of the displays by the Ikebana International Milwaukee Chapter #22 at the Wisconsin Orchid Show



Mosaic "Flower" pot



Quilt kit



Setting up at the Chicago Orchid Society Show 2025, ChiLUG (Chicago Area LEGO Users Group) is a diverse group of creative LEGO builders that display at events around the Chicago area



Part of the award winning display by the Chicago Area Origami Society at the Chicago Orchid Society Show 2025



Crochet orchid pattern for purchase



Paphiopedilum Micran Magic (Shun-Fa Golden \times *micranthum*) and *Phragmipedium* *besseae* var. *flavum* at WOS



Best of Class

Chat With Chuck Update

The first installment of 'Chat with Chuck' is in the books! Tuesday September 23rd at 6 PM Jeri Nelson, Wayne Plant, Wanda Buckingham, Lori Getter and Jan McGee arrived at my house in Waunakee for an intimate evening of orchid education and conversation.

Everyone brought something they wanted to learn more about from fertilizers and supplements to water samples and potting materials. And of course, plants from their collection that needed some attention. The questions, comments and conversations were flowing and

Chatting With Chuck . . .

I was excited to sign up for the first Chat with Chuck event. I'll admit, I was a little nervous. I started collecting and sadly killing orchids about 15 years ago. I learned how to care for my orchids from watching YouTube videos that often left me more confused, talking with a friend who said orchids needed vitamins every time they were watered, and of course the ice cube method.

I brought my current three problem children. The first, a beautiful Paphiopedilum that I bought at an orchid show three years ago. The vendor told me they were easy to take care of and will bloom multiple times a year. The delicate flower lasted less than a week, and nothing has bloomed since. I've tried bright light, less light, different fertilizers and repotting. Chuck quickly diagnosed the problem – it was sitting in water in the outside pot and it needed to have more orchid mix to cover the roots and the plant.

The second orchid was my mystery Cymbidium. A mystery because I found it at the curb a few weeks ago with a bunch of cattleya orchids that didn't look good. I took them home because I'm a plant rescuer and sent Chuck an email to see if the catts were just sunburned? They weren't! I threw the fungal infected plants away and gave this plant a haircut and a good spray of Neem oil and insecticide spray. I planted it in new orchid mix and left it outside. Chuck said I did a good

shared between each of us for the next two hours.

I enjoyed this meeting very much! I am looking forward to setting up another 'Chat with Chuck' event on Tuesday October 21st for five members to partake in sharing knowledge and learning all things orchids. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October meeting for this event. See you all then!

Happy growing!
— Chuck Acker



job – I just need to remove some of the bark next to the plant. Hopefully in the next few years – it will bloom, I'll know the color of the orchid flowers and the mystery will be solved!

The third orchid is a mess. Picture a beautiful Dendrobium with lovely green leaves that produces lavender flowers twice a year. Now picture an orchid that outgrew its original pot years ago, the roots are barely growing in the medium, there are brown spots starting on some of the leaves and the plant has cat bite marks everywhere. Chuck said the obvious - it needed to be repotted in a bigger pot, the brown spots weren't anything to worry about, and to give my cats treats so they quit chewing on the orchid (just kidding – he didn't say that)! Even though this plant still fearlessly produces lovely purple flowers twice a year – it will never be orchid show worthy because it's an unofficial cat snack!

Seriously, it was a great time, and I learned a lot. It was also fun getting to spend time with other members! We are really lucky to have Chuck offering these educational opportunities. I encourage everyone to sign up and bring some of your problem orchids!

— Lori Getter

... More Chatting With Chuck

The first 'Chat with Chuck' session was priceless for this orchid rookie. I'm super pleased I didn't hesitate to sign up for the opportunity to ask questions in an informal setting. Listening to the other attendees ask questions about their 'problem orchids' helped me to just blend in with the group. I had a blast while learning a lot more about what you OGGs are talking about.

It's shocking what a nice guy Chuck is. His moti-

vation is to help everyone (especially in the Guild) become a more proficient and successful orchid grower.

Where do you find that kind of generosity? Waunakee!

(Side note) Chuck has a beautiful home and a magnificent front garden.

-- Jan McGee

"The Kiss of Death": My Experience

I bought a lovely little *Latouria dendrobium*, *Dendrobium* Green Flash (Andree Millar x *convolutum*), from Russ Vernon (New Vision Orchids) at Orchid Quest 2012. My notes on its blooming for the next few years say it was almost constantly in bloom. At Orchid Quest 2015 it won an AM/AOS award with 51 flowers on 19 inflorescences. It was my first ever AOS award, and in an embarrassing moment of pride I named it "Nancy's Fancy" (you'd almost think it would've died of shame at that point). Anyway, it waited until the summer of 2018 to do that, when its new shoots started dying off, followed by its mature stems.

I didn't know how to save it so I consulted Chuck, who explained (in my re-creation of our dialogue), "Oh, you don't know about the 'Kiss of Death'? An AOS award, it's the kiss of death." He kindly gave me some tips I might try to save it, and I tried, but its life was slipping away as each stem slowly turned brown. However (lucky



Richard Narf's AOS photo of *Dendrobium* Green Flash 'Nancy's Fancy' in 2012

me), with its last gasp in January 2019 it formed a little keiki on its last green stem, and after nurturing it in a cocoon of sphagnum moss for several months, I finally potted up my new baby Green Flash in June 2019. Fast forward, to last June's picnic (well six years later so maybe not so fast), I was able to show off this lovely progeny and its two flowers. It has bloomed for the past two years including twice in the past year,

and holds its flowers for an incredibly long time, so I have hopes for it to someday achieve its former glory.

We don't discuss "the Kiss" out loud any more, and I baby it, keeping vigilant with it in constant sight on my dining room table, because you just never know....

— Nancy Thomas



Original keiki in 2019



Keiki today

Orchid Oddities: Coralroot Orchids (*Corallorhiza* sp.)

Last summer when vacationing up north, my family and I discovered a native orchid that is probably the oddest native orchid we have, and definitely fits in the odd orchid category. We found a few stalks of the autumn coralroot (*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*). Coralroots are a leafless orchid that do not produce chlorophyll but survive by using fungi to feed them. Typically they are only visible when putting up flower stalks.

The autumn coralroot we found was only four racemes with closed flowers. Many populations of this plant are cleistogamous (self-pollinating), which means the flowers often don't open or open very little. It was not a large plant and the first time I passed it I saw it but did not recognize it as an orchid. I didn't think I would be that lucky to find a native orchid the first time I really tried looking for them. When my son-in-law came along the next time, he used a picture search on it and coralroot was the most likely result causing me to get very excited and start researching coralroots right there. I was aware of their existence because of research into native orchids I had done but actually finding one was extremely exciting. I took a lot of pictures and since the location is on my wife's family property I felt confident the area would be relatively undisturbed.

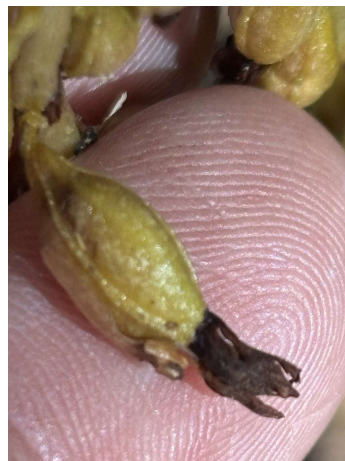
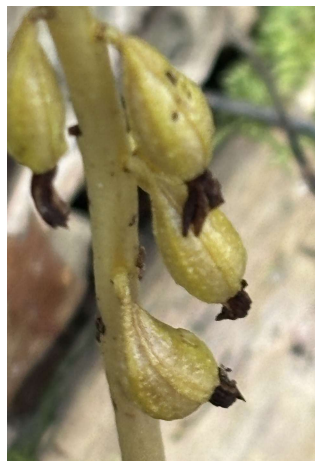
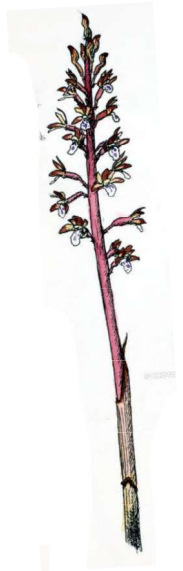
This summer I went back to the location hoping to find more coralroots. I found last year's racemes with mostly empty seed pods so it appears lots of seed was distributed in the area. I

was there about a month earlier this year compared to last year (mid/ late July vs. late August) so its possible I was too early this year. They also may not flower every year. Hopefully it is not because the plant died.

Due to the relationship with fungi needed for coralroot survival they have never been cultivated before. Seeing the seed pods I thought why not try an experiment. I was already planning to meet Dr. Robert-Jan Quené in Superior for a tour of his lab so I grabbed the spent seed pods. Most of the seeds had already been dispersed so I was certain I wouldn't be affecting the natural spread of the plant. I also grabbed a soil sample near the racemes hoping to capture some of the necessary mycorrhizal fungi for the adult plants if we get successful germination. Robert is trying to get germination and we are hoping there isn't contamination. If it doesn't work this time, I'll try collecting a seed pod or two when they are fresh the next time I find them.

Anytime time you are out in nature look carefully, you never know what you might find. Stay tuned for more Orchid Oddities, there are so many orchids out there and a great number of them are quite unusual. I am going to try to bring you more information on some of those odd orchids.

— Sean Stake



On the Road Again

We have our first away show under our belts and it was a great show! I participated as a vendor for my first orchid show so had my own display but our OGG display was fantastic. We had 34 orchids from 8 members. Our display earned a 2nd place ribbon. Gerry King's *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Equalacea earned Best in Class. Eight 1st place, thirteen 2nd place (including the display), and five 3rd place ribbons were earned in the Guild's display. Additional, I earned a third place ribbon for my educational display.



Orchid Growers Exhibit at WOS

A huge thank you to Denise Baylis and Lorraine Snyder for organizing and executing the setup, Jeff Metcalf and Jim Wasser for setup and take down help, Chuck Acker and Meg Graham for takedown help, and a special thanks to David Nevin for volunteering to help even though signals got crossed.

The WOS "Fall into Orchids" show was a great success for our fellow orchid enthusiasts in the Milwaukee area. They had record attendance for the show on Saturday with over 1400 people touring the Mitchell Domes to look at all the amazing orchids and visit the great vendors. I did not hear numbers for Sunday but there were definitely a lot of people in attendance then as well. WOS was a great host and I know I am looking forward to next year's show. If you have never attended an orchid show other than Orchid Quest, I recommend going to one to get another perspective and meeting more orchid enthusiasts. The WOS show is the closest so is the easiest to get to.

The Illinois Orchid Society has a fall show coming up October 11-12 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. We do not do a display as a club for this show but its an opportunity to see more orchids and buy more orchids. There will be several vendors there and many displays. It runs from 10am to 4 pm both days.

Your next opportunity to help our Travel Team is with the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society's "Orchids Are A Scream!" This show takes place on November 1st and 2nd with setup up being on October 31st and it is appropriately Halloween themed. Setup on the 31st is from 10am to 5pm. The show runs 10am to 5 pm on Saturday

and 10am to 4pm on Sunday with take down after the show closes. Ken Cameron has agreed to lead this mission into creepy confines of Halloween in Iowa, but he will need a full party of adventurers to stave off the forces of darkness and light the Iowan landscape with orchid flowers to combat the hordes of zombies. If you have your holy water and stakes at hand please reach out so we can make sure you are properly outfitted for the expedition. You can also support the expedition by sending your blooming plants to combat the zombie horde and beatify the show (disclaimer: no plants will actually be sacrificed to zombies or be forced to fight the zombie horde). For more detail on what it's like to be a part of the Travel Team read the article Denise wrote on her experiences at the last show and shows from previous years.

Come the new year there will be additional opportunities to join and support the Travel Team as we send plants to shows organized by the Illinois Orchid Society and Batavia Orchid Society both in March. Maybe we will have a hypnotic display of Psychopsis challenge plants by then!

— Sean Stake



Sean setting up as a vendor at WOS and his educational exhibit

Set-up Can be Fun

Away show set-up can be a lot of fun. You have the opportunity to meet other orchid lovers and as well as get a closer look at the orchids to be displayed. Don't be intimidated by the size of our Orchid Quest exhibit, we never have that many plants nor are we expected to create a complex display at these shows. For those of you who may be thinking about doing an away show but do not know what is involved I will try to explain it.

The Away Show Chair sends in the registration on behalf of OGG and requests an exhibit site of suitable size. The Chair forwards show material to the setup team (usually two people) which

includes their Show Book, information about the show logistics, reference materials and the plant registration requirements.

The set-up team arranges for an email request go out to the membership for plant submission, date that info is due, where to drop off and pick up plants. There are copies available of prior requests so there is no

need to reinvent the wheel as they just need to be updated.

Usually Tuesday prior to the event is the deadline for plant lists. This allows time to complete the paperwork, determine what supplies might be needed from the OGG storage shed in Middleton, and what type of vehicle(s) will be need for transportation. Lorraine and I have been setting up the Milwaukee show for several years and we have worked out our areas of responsibility. Normally we take one of our vehicles which are mid-sized SUVs. However one plant was described as "about 5' tall" and others as large hanging varieties. A large plant can be laid on its side but where do you put all the other orchids plus set-up materials? Thus we deter-

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Lorraine and Jim Wasser working on the OGG set-up at WOS

mined that a van would be best.

Members say that the major obstacle to setting up an away show (besides gainful employment) is lack of suitable transportation. NO LONGER! When needful, a cargo van can be rented, in my case from a conveniently located U-Haul. I rented a TALL cargo van to accommodate the tall plant, and for three days because the Milwaukee show is an easy drive to and from in a day and with their allotted daily mileage it was reasonable to keep the van idle at home for a day.

Afraid to drive a great big van? Easy peasy. Power steering and brakes, superior visibility and BACKUP CAMERAS!

OGG needs volunteers to set up the next show which is in Cedar Rapids IA the first weekend in November. If you are interested, might be interested, have any questions, feel free to contact me, Lorraine Snyder or the Away Show Chair, Sean Stake for more information.

— Denise Baylis



Paph Mark Hasegawa 'Forest Park' AM/AOS (concolor x rothschildianum) at WOS