

APRIL  
2026

# The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowersguild.org



### Meeting Dates

- April 19th
- May 17th
- June Picnic TBA

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

### Up-Coming Events

- May 9, Spring Orchid Sale, Olbrich
- June 11-15, Native Orchid Conference, Green Bay
- September 12-13, Wisconsin Orchid Society Show

### Officers and Committees

**President:**  
Meredyth Graham (2026)  
[megmcl6@gmail.com](mailto:megmcl6@gmail.com)

**Vice President:**  
Chuck Acker (2027)  
[cacker@tds.net](mailto:cacker@tds.net)

**Secretary:**  
Lynn West (2027)  
[LynneWest15@yahoo.com](mailto:LynneWest15@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:**  
Ken Cameron (2026)  
[oggtreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:oggtreasurer@yahoo.com)

**Past President (non-voting)**  
Susan Reed  
[greed@tds.net](mailto:greed@tds.net)

**Board:**  
Lisa Linde (2026)  
[CrazyCatPlantLady@gmail.com](mailto:CrazyCatPlantLady@gmail.com)

## NEXT MEETING APRIL 19th April is Auction Time!

Our annual April auction is held during our regular meeting and will once again feature some interesting orchid plants for your bidding pleasure. This is not only one of our major fund-raising events but a chance for members to obtain some rare and usual orchid plants sourced from some of my favorite Hawaiian growers. Even if you do not plan to bid you can learn about the plants as I present a short PowerPoint overview of each plant before the bidding begins. This exciting and informative auction!

To prevent some members from frequently being out-bid, I have decided to tweak the process to allow more members a better chance for a winning bid! I will cover the details at the April meeting prior to the start of the auction. I hope to see you all there!  
Happy growing!



— Chuck Acker

## President's Message

Amazing! Who knew there would be so many intrepid orchid growers willing to brave the March Madness for our meeting last month! I don't know how many people were planning on coming or if the announcement of

“free orchids” was all they needed to make the drive through rain, sleet, snow, ice and wind. I would like to thank Olbrich Botanical Gardens for donating the orchids leftover from the sale following their “Orchid Escape” exhibit. Hopefully, you were able to venture into the Conservatory in February to see the creative display with the theme “Big Bugs, Big Questions.” You may have noticed the new display in the entry with more interesting insects displayed artistically. Gotta love the pollinators!

March is for Members and member Ted Ceplina’s talk was truly an educational presentation on how he builds his Ikea orchidariums. So much great

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Are You Feeling Groovy?	5
Badgers In Paradise	9
Batavia Results For OGG	6
Constructing An Orchidarium	3
Import Permit?	10
IOS Attendance Cancelled	5
March OGG Ribbon Judging Results	4
Next Meeting	1
Nominations For Board Open	10
Orchid Quest: Financial Summary	8
Orchids From Olbrich “Orchid Escape”	3
President’s Message	1

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Nancy Thomas (2027)  
[mikeandnancy@tds.net](mailto:mikeandnancy@tds.net)

Theodore Ceplina (2028)  
[theodoreceplina@gmail.com](mailto:theodoreceplina@gmail.com)

**Travel Team:**  
Open

**Hospitality:**  
Travis Wilson

**Membership:**  
Lynn West  
[LynneWest15@yahoo.com](mailto:LynneWest15@yahoo.com)  
Cynthia Wadsworth  
[cynthia727672@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia727672@gmail.com)  
Sandra Gray  
[sandragray445@comcast.net](mailto:sandragray445@comcast.net)  
Jan McGee  
[janmccgee@gmail.com](mailto:janmccgee@gmail.com)

**Newsletter:**  
Denise Baylis  
[jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net)  
Gina LaLiberte  
[gina.laliberte@gmail.com](mailto:gina.laliberte@gmail.com)

**Orchid Quest 2026:**  
Terri Jozwiak  
[lodijoz@charter.net](mailto:lodijoz@charter.net)

**Photographer:**  
Amy Holt

**Programs:**  
Theodore Ceplina  
[theodoreceplina@gmail.com](mailto:theodoreceplina@gmail.com)  
Cynthia Wadsworth  
[cynthia727672@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia727672@gmail.com)

**Ribbon Judging:**  
Ken Cameron  
[kmcameron@wisc.edu](mailto:kmcameron@wisc.edu)  
Chuck Acker  
[cacker@tds.net](mailto:cacker@tds.net)

**Social Media:**  
Ken Cameron  
[kmcameron@wisc.edu](mailto:kmcameron@wisc.edu)

**Web Master:**  
[kmcameron@wisc.edu](mailto:kmcameron@wisc.edu)

**Liaisons:**  
AOS: Nancy Thomas  
MAOC: Lynn West

information on how to deal with all the challenges of light, humidity, watering and especially air movement. The QR code with a link to all the supplies was very well thought out.

Next month, we turn our attention to Chuck's Curated April Auction. He spends time scouring the earth to bring us unique orchids for this auction. I know that he's got something different up his sleeve regarding this particular auction.

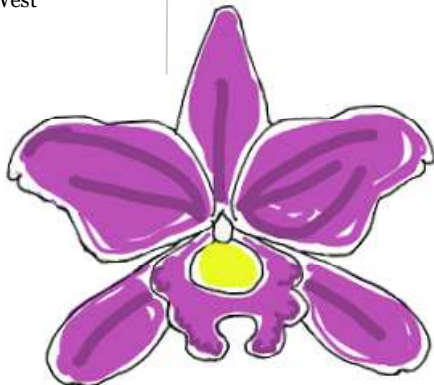
In addition to the April Auction, other upcoming events include our annual Mother's Day Orchid Sale on Saturday, May 9th. Please contact Lorraine Snyder ([lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.snyder127@gmail.com)) or Emily Sneed for more information or to help. Set up starts about 8:30 AM, sale starts at 10 and the orchids are usually gone by 12:00. We are going to double the usual amount of orchids this year so maybe they will last until 12:30.

At the May meeting, the Guild will hold elections for President, Treasurer and one three-year At-Large Board position. Anyone interested in running for any of these positions should contact the Nomination Committee consisting of Ted Ceplina, Nancy Thomas and one other Guild member. The nominee should include a brief biography to be included in the May Newsletter and then elections will be held at the May meeting.

I'd like to once again thank all the members that make our organization and our meetings so much fun and educational. We have so many people with much to offer in terms of knowledge, expertise and energy. I look forward to the third Sunday of every month at Olbrich Botanical Gardens!

See you in a few weeks!

Meg Graham



**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

- 12:00 pm Doors Open
- 12:30 Socializing & Plant Browsing
- 1:00 Meeting Begins; Announcements
- 1:15 pm Orchid Quest Debriefing
- 1:45 Break
- 2:00 pm Chuck's Curated Orchid Auction
- 3:15 pm Door Prizes
- 3:30 pm Meeting Ends



# Constructing an Orchidarium

At the March meeting of the **Orchid Growers Guild (OGG)**, member Ted Ceplina presented an informative program on how to build an orchidarium at home. Using detailed photographs from his own projects, Ted demonstrated how hobbyists can create a functional growing space that is also attractive enough to display in a living room rather than hide away.

A key point of the presentation was that there is no single design. Ted outlined several cabinet options that growers can choose from depending on their space, budget, and the types of orchids they grow. He also discussed the practical

considerations behind lighting and ventilation, explaining the advantages of different types of lights and fans based on his own experiments with a variety of systems.

Ted has offered to prepare a more detailed article for a future newsletter that will expand on the information shared during his presentation.



---

## Olbrich Gardens "Orchid Escape" Plant Sale

On Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, Olbrich Gardens held their annual orchid plant sale which was open to the public from 10 am to 4 pm. This annual event marks the end of their month-long orchid exhibit in the conservatory called "Orchid Escape". The opportunity allows the public to purchase these orchid plants at a substantially reduced cost. Many of these orchid plants were still in their blooming glory and others had completed their flowering.

Several weeks prior to the event, Olbrich staff reached out to our president Meredyth Graham asking if an OGG member would be interested in attending to assist their customers with cultural advice. Meredyth reached out to me and we both agreed this would be a great opportunity to use our OGG powers to educate the orchid growing community.

I wrote up a short 'cheat sheet' to guide customers to the OGG web site page for Wisconsin-based culture sheets for the particular orchid(s) they were buying. There was also information to guide them to the very easy application to join the OGG in which we were also verbally promoting with each customer. This was an incredibly well attended event and we both got the chance to educate a LOT of orchid growing enthusiasts!

As a thank you to the OGG, the staff at Olbrich set aside over 65 of those orchid plants for a donation to our members at our Sunday meeting which was the following day. There were standard Cymbidium with flowers still very much

intact, many Miltoniopsis, Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis. Wow, did we ever enjoy that! Despite the pending storm we had a great turnout that day and our members cleaned off the three tables full of plants in record time. Thank you, Olbrich Gardens, for your very generous donation!



Photograph by Meg Graham  
Emily Sneed with her orchids

— Chuck Acker

# March OGG Ribbon Judging Results

## First place

Alfonso Doucette	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> (Mituo Sunrise x Mituo Purple Dragon)
Alec C Lopez	<i>Schunkeara</i> Big Shot 'Pink Leopard' ( <i>Aliceara</i> Tahoma Glacier x <i>Miltoniopsis</i> Maui Titan)
Alfonso Doucette	<i>Masdevallia lucernula</i>
Mary Kraft-Lee	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Meg Graham	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
Meredyth Graham	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Meredyth Graham	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Eric Young ( <i>longifolium</i> x <i>besseae</i> )
Rachel Miller	<i>Sophrolaeliocattleya</i> Aloha Apricot (Little Bit x Psyche)
Rachel Miller	<i>Tolumnia</i> Jairak Firm 'Spotty' (Rainbow x Plush)
Chris Neumann	<i>Phalaenopsis japonica</i> [= <i>Sedirea japonica</i> ]

## Second place

Alfonso Doucette	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Mituo Sunrise 'Mituo#1'
Richard Kandiko	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> (Stardust Tree x Winston Churchill)
Unknown	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Gina LaLiberte	<i>Brassavola subulifolia</i>
Lori Getter	<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> Variegated
Mary Kraft-Lee	<i>Dendrobium</i> Roy Tokunaga ( <i>johnsoniae</i> x <i>atroviolaceum</i> )
Mary Kraft-Lee	<i>Aliceara</i> Stellar 'Hoku' ( <i>Oncidium</i> Memoria Dale Lawless x <i>Aliceara</i> Memoria Jay Yamada)
Rachel Miller	<i>Dendrobium lindleyi</i>

## Miscellaneous

Unknown	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
---------	--------------------------



Alfonso Doucette's *Phalaenopsis*  
(Mituo Sunrise x Mituo Purple Dragon)



Rachel Miller's  
*Dendrobium lindleyi*



Alfonso Doucette's  
*Masdevallia lucernula*

# Are You... Feelin' Groovy?



Remember lava lamps?

Starting the first week of February and into the middle of March, the Chicago Botanic Gardens hosts their annual themed orchid event. This year's theme was "Feelin' Groovy" which took us back to the 60's and 70's with themed music playing throughout the facility. There were many retro display sites including a ten-foot Lava Lamp and an old VW Bug with blooming Phalaenopsis spilling from its windows. Hundreds and hundreds of blooming orchid plants from many different genera were artistically displayed throughout the entire indoor area of the facility including the lobby, hallways and the area connecting the several glass conservatory greenhouses. The artistic design is always something to marvel upon and along with the hundreds of



VW Bug with Phalaenopsis spilling from it

blooming orchid plants this is truly an orchid lover's paradise. It was my fourth consecutive year attending this amazing artistic display. The event brings in thousands of visitors during the six-week period and is a highly recommended destination for anyone who loves artistic designing with blooming orchids. Put it on your calendar for next year starting the first week in February!

Feelin' Groovy,  
– Chuck Acker



## OGG Cancels Attendance at IOS

As team leader for the Illinois Orchid Society Show at the Chicago Botanic Garden, I prioritize the safety of our members. The National Weather Service had issued advance warnings of a severe winter storm expected to impact the Midwest that weekend. Thursday forecasts for Friday included 60 mph winds expected during travel to Chicago, and rain, freezing rain, and snow on Sunday during the return trip.

Given these conditions, I determined it would be unsafe to drive—particularly an unfamiliar vehicle such as a van—and inappropriate to ask others to do so. After consulting with our president Meredyth Graham, we made the decision to cancel our participation out of an abundance of caution.

-- Denise Baylis



Set-up Rachel Miller, Ted Ceplina, Steven Liu and Jim Wasser. Take-down team Meredith Graham, Chuck Acker and Jim Wasser. Members entered 65 plants, of which 7 were entered in two classes for a total of 75 entries plus the exhibit. Members earned 7 Best of Class, 23 First Place, 20 second place and 10 third place.

## OGG Results Batavia Orchid Society Show

### Best of Class

29	Meg Graham	<i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>
105	Rachel Miller	<i>Maxillaria pumila</i> (syn. <i>minuta</i> ) 'Grace'
88	Jeff Metcalf	<i>Cymbidium</i> Geno's Gem 'Emerald Fire' FCC/AOS (Mad Hatter x Kalimpong)
86	Jeff Metcalf	<i>Gomesa</i> Jiaho Queen 'Jia Ho' FCC/AOS (Mulatta's Dancing x Varicosa)
53	Chuck Acker	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Acker's Light (Magdalene Acker x Margit Moses)
45 & 113	Jeff Metcalf	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Acker's Marvel 'Memoria Hazel Metcalf' HCC/AOS CCM/AOS (Waunakee Wonder x <i>kovachii</i> )

### First Place

Lori Getter	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID #2
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Phaius tankervilleae</i>
Mary Kraft-Lee	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Meg Graham	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i> ('Remar' x 'Mas Mejor')
Meg Graham	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Meg Graham	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Delight 'Meg's Shock' HCC/AOS ( <i>spicerianum</i> x Stone Lovely)
Wanda Buckingham	<i>Lycaste</i> Buttercup (Corrimal 'Malcom' AOS/AMOS x Suave 'Perfect Pixie')
Chuck Acker	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Chuck Acker	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Chuck Acker	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID
Chuck Acker	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Charming Pink Fantasy (Taida New Luchia x Charming Angelina)
Chuck Acker	<i>Phragmipedium besseae</i> 'Aztec Flame'
Chuck Acker	<i>Cymbidium</i> NOID
Jeff Baylis	<i>Tolumnia</i> Jairak Flyer 'Coco Drop' (Jairak Firm x Jairak Rainbow)
Ted Ceplina	<i>Cattleya</i> Mareeba Tiger ( <i>tigrina</i> x Schilleriana)
Ted Ceplina	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Zheng Min Anaconda (Sunrise Red Peoker x Fusheng's Super Man)
Ted Ceplina	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Yaphon Perfume (Tying Shin Cupid x Tziu Chang Balm)
Meg Graham	<i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>

Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* Acker's Light (Magdalene Acker x Margit Moses)  
 Jeff Metcalf *Gomesa* Jiaho Queen 'Jia Ho' FCC/AOS (Mulatta's Dancing x Varicosa)  
 Jeff Metcalf [Classes 45 & 113] *Phragmipedium* Acker's Marvel 'Memoria Hazel Metcalf' HCC/AOS CCM/AOS (Waunakee Wonder x *kovachii*)  
 Rachel Miller *Maxillaria pumila* (syn. *minuta*) 'Grace'

## Second Place

OGG Exhibit  
 Lori Getter *Dendrobium* Jiaho Delight (Hsinying Frostymaree x Tobaense)  
 Gerald King *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Red Smurfs (Mituo Red Tiger x Mituo Blue Smurfs)  
 Meg Graham *Jackfowliera* Appleblossom (*Caulaelia* Snowflake x *Rhyncattleanthe* Orange Nugget)  
 Wanda Buckingham *Phalaenopsis* NOID  
 Wanda Buckingham *Paphiopedulum* Upcheri (*argus* x *mastersianum*)  
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* Ming-Hsing Red Rose (Ming-Hsing Eagle x Ming-Hsing Red Ruby)  
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* KV Beauty (Salu Peoker x Chih Shang's Stripes)  
 Chuck Acker *Phalaenopsis* Beijing Red Lip (I-Hsin Red Lip x City Girl)  
 Jeff Metcalf *Epidendrum* Rosedale Rosalea (Comet Valley x Rose Valley)  
 Jeff Metcalf *Oncidium* John Miller (Tribbles x Burning Bed)  
 Steven Liu *Mormodia* Lana's Baby (*Cl.* Rebecca Northen 'Grapefruit Pink' x *Morm. morenoi* 'Red')  
 Steven Liu *Cattleya* Lana Coryell (*walkeriana* x Beaufort)  
 Ted Ceplina *Cattlianthe* Rojo 'Valentine's Day' (*Gur. Aurantiaca* x *C. milleri*)  
 Sue Reed *Phalaenopsis* NOID  
 Sue Reed [classes 83 and 112] *Oncidium* Hybrid (*Odm.* Tribbles x *Oda.* Clever) x (*Odm.* Holiday Gold x *Oda.* Eric's Parade)  
 Rachel Miller *Cattleya coccinea* 'Tulla' AM/AOS  
 Rachel Miller *Zygopetalum* Advance Australia 'HOF' AM/AOS (Titanic x Helen-Ku)  
 Jeff Metcalf *Cymbidium* Geno's Gem 'Emerald Fire' FCC/AOS (Mad Hatter x Kalimpong)

## Third Place

Mary Kraft-Lee *Dendrobium* Roy Tokunaga (*johnsoniae* x *atroviolaceum*)  
 Meg Graham *Phragmipedium* Eric Young (*besseae* f. *flavum* x *longifolium*)  
 Wanda Buckingham *Paphiopedilum* Anthony P Curtis (Wilson's MAWR '208-13' x Nulight 'Hampshire' HCC/AOS)  
 Wanda Buckingham *Phragmipedium* Sedenii (*longifolium* x *schlimii*)  
 Jeff Metcalf *Encyclia cordigera*  
 Jeff Baylis *Psychopsis* Mariposa (*papilio* x Kalihi)  
 Jeff Baylis *Brassavola subulifolia* (syn. *cordata*)  
 Steven Liu [class 112] *Dendrobium striolatum*  
 Steven Liu [class 112] *Brassocatanthe* Taiwan Mermaid (*Bns.* Maikai x *C.* Thospol Spot)  
 Rachel Miller *Tolumnia* Jairak Firm 'Spotty' (Rainbow x Plush)



Mary Kraft-Lee's *Dendrobium* Roy Tokunaga (*johnsoniae* x *atroviolaceum*)

## These Caught my Eye at Batavia



*Dendrobium Hawaii Stripes (Mini Snowflake x Nida 'Stripes')*



*Schoenorchis secundiflora*

Photos by Denise Baylis



*Paphiopedilum Fumi's Delight (micranthum eburneum x armeniacum)*

## Orchid Quest 2026: Financial Summary

by Ken Cameron, Treasurer

The Orchid Growers Guild of Madison is fortunate to have a strong and healthy financial portfolio (currently valued at more than \$50,000) thanks to the success of our major fundraising efforts, which include the annual Mother's Day sale in May, Chuck's curated auction in April, and Orchid Quest in February. Membership dues and silent auctions throughout the year also help to support the Guild's mission.

Our most recent Orchid Quest show brought in a total of ca. \$34,500. Significant income was generated from admission (\$15,000), vendor table fees (\$7,800), OGG table sales, especially moss and bark mixes (\$6,300), silent auction (\$2,200), and raffle baskets (\$1,000). We were also fortunate to have the support of three corporate sponsors, Morgan Stanley, Klein's Floral, and Jung's Garden Center (\$1,300). Please be sure to thank them for their generosity when you patronize them.

Orchid Quest also required a large financial investment by the Guild and this year we expanded our footprint at the Convention Center, bringing our total out of pocket costs to approximately \$28,500. Major expenses included advertising on radio, internet, television, and with

street banners (\$4,800), printing of signs and handouts (\$1,000), the AOS show trophy, Best of Class awards, ribbons, gifts for judges, and swag bags for volunteers (\$2,500), parking and security (\$1,250), and catering (\$4,500). Our largest expense was rental of the beautiful facilities at the Monona Terrace (\$8,900).

In total Orchid Quest 2026 was a huge success and generated ca. \$6,000 in net revenue for our club. This income is used to subsidize the cost of fall challenge plants, Santa Chuck plants, the annual holiday party and summer picnic, travel to away shows, as well as to pay for outside speakers and general operating expenses such as software subscriptions, our post office box and storage locker. We routinely donate more than \$1,000 annually to the American Orchid Society, Olbrich Botanical Garden, and several orchid conservation organizations including The Ridges Sanctuary in Door County, the Orchid Conservation Alliance, and the North American Orchid Conservation Center. If you have suggestions for new activities or other ways that the Guild can invest in its members, please reach out to a Board member. We would love to hear your ideas!

# Badgers in Paradise

by Ken Cameron

Last month Ken traveled to Hawaii at the invitation of the Hilo Orchid Society and the Kona Orchid Society, both located on the Big Island of Hawaii. He presented them a list of his most popular lectures, and by a poll of their members they asked him to speak about his research on *Porroglossum* orchids (the ones with snap trap flowers) and his worldwide travels (“Around the World in 80 Orchids”). He was really looking forward to a late winter getaway while Wisconsin was getting pounded by a record breaking blizzard, as well as a chance to visit local orchid nurseries and to explore Volcanoes National Park, but Mother Nature and the volcano goddess Pele were in a bad mood during the week of his visit.

Just 24 hours before Ken’s visit, Mount Kīlauea erupted violently spewing ash, tephra, and “Pele’s hair” (threadlike volcanic glass) high into the air. Normally this would not be a problem, but the eruption coincided with a rare and unusual weather pattern bringing a strong “Kona wind” from the south that dumped the volcanic debris across roads and inhabited area. Kona winds are opposite to the normal northeast trade winds that make Hawaii such a tropical paradise. Occurring mostly in winter, Kona winds are associated with local cyclones, bringing heavy rain, fog, and severe weather to the typically sheltered leeward sides of the islands. As a result, both orchid societies made a last minute decision to cancel their in-person meet-



Unusual severe weather collapsed this backyard orchid shade house

ings. Ken, instead, gave his lectures via Zoom from the home of the Kona Orchid Society’s President, Matt Sylva, who graciously allowed him to use his personal computer even while dealing with a collapsed orchid shade house in his backyard. Hurricane force winds and flooding are not to be taken lightly in the tropics!

Unfortunately, Volcano National Park was forced to close (no electricity for three days), but Ken still managed to do a bit of hiking there in the pouring rain, where he encountered one of Hawaii’s beautiful, but exotic invasive orchids (*Arundina graminifolia*) in fruit. He also got to tour the Vanillerie in Kailua-Kona, the only commercial vanilla orchid farm in the United States.

On his last day, while on route to the Hilo airport, Ken decided to make a stop at Akatsuka Orchids, which had just reopened following the storm. Can you imagine his surprise to bump into another Madison OGG member in the parking lot?! Benji Miranda and his partner just so happened to be on vacation there at the very same time - what are the odds?!!

Despite a less than ideal Hawaiian vacation, Ken still enjoyed meeting fellow orchid enthusiasts and was able to bring home a few botanical souvenirs of his travels, including a gifted division of the deep dark purple *Dendrobium* Sakda Blue. Aloha.



Ken and Vanilla



*Dendrobium* Sakda Blue

# Could a Group Orchid Import Be in Our Future?

One of the most exciting things about orchids is that some of the most unusual and beautiful species and hybrids are grown by small nurseries scattered all over the world. Many of us have probably seen photos of incredible plants from overseas and thought, “I wish I could get one of those!”

The good news is that importing orchids into the United States is absolutely possible—but it does require a little paperwork. The USDA regulates the importation of living plants through a **Plants for Planting import permit (PPQ 587)**. These permits allow orchids to be brought into the country legally and ensure that shipments are inspected for pests and diseases before entering the U.S. The exporting nursery must also provide a phytosanitary certificate and CITES, and the plants are inspected at a designated USDA plant inspection station when they arrive.

Recently, a few of us began talking about a fun idea: **what if the Guild organized a group orchid import?** A society import could give members access to rare species or interesting hybrids from international growers—things that rarely make it into the U.S. market. It could also be a great opportunity for members to learn more about how orchid imports work and to experience the excitement of receiving a shipment of orchids from halfway around the world.

Before exploring this idea further, we have a quick question for the membership. **Does anyone in the Guild currently hold a USDA Plants for Planting import permit (PPQ 587), or have experience importing orchids under one?** If so, we would love to hear from you. Having someone in the group who is already experienced with the process could help make a future society import possible.

— Alfonso Doucette

---

## Nominations for Board Positions are Open

We are asking members to self-nominate, or nominate with permission, candidates for three officers to be on the OGG board. All nominations must be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The nominee should designate which position they are standing for along with a short description introducing themselves and their particular abilities to fill the office. This information will be published in the May newsletter. (Please send your information to Ted Ceplina [Theodoreceplina@gmail.com](mailto:Theodoreceplina@gmail.com), Nancy Thomas [nanat217411@gmail.com](mailto:nanat217411@gmail.com), and a third person to be named soon. Nominating committee

So please volunteer or nominate!

Positions and responsibilities from the OGG bylaws:

**PRESIDENT:** (Two year term) The President shall preside at all meeting of the Guild and Board. He or she may call meetings as needed to conduct the business of the Guild and/or upon the request of the member, officers or director. (**Meredyth Graham, Incumbent**)

**TREASURER:** (Two year term) The Treasurer shall have the custody of all moneys and securities of the Guild. He or she shall keep regular books. All checks over \$500 in excess of amounts in a Board approved budget and/or contract shall be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors. In addition, the Treasurer shall perform all duties usually pertaining to this office, including those assigned by a majority vote of the Board. (**Kenneth Cameron, Incumbent**)

**ONE DIRECTOR:** (Three year term). The Guild shall have three Directors who, along with the four officers, shall constitute the voting members of the Board. (**open**)

NOTE: There is some flexibility in the positions other than the required obligations. All board members must take an active roll in at least one committee as a board liaison and working member. This is necessary for good information exchange between the Board and committees for a smoothly running organization.

—Nomination Committee