

October

2017

The Orchid Grower



Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

Website orchidguild.org

From the President, Next Meeting October 15th

Hello all orchid fans,

We thank Joe Meisl, Director, Ceiba Foundation, for his interesting update on orchid conservation in Peru, Colombia and earthquakes in America. We were heartened to see the Ceiba staff and volunteers to pitch in needed help and supplies. September 28th we were interested to learn all about *Lycaste* by Associate AOS judge, Carol Buele, originally from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and Emmy award winning costume designer. We saw interesting slides of *Neofinetia* in Japan and her beautiful hand made pots for them. I am sure we will be on the look out for *Lycaste* and *Neofinetia* at Orchid Quest.

October brings Prof. Ken Cameron, University of Wisconsin Department of Botany. He will update us on orchid research right here in Madison. We congratulate Ken on his appointment as Botany Department Chair.

Thinking ahead to Orchid Quest, please think of any businesses or corporations you feel might sponsor us, or provide a raffle prize or gift certificate. Please let Carrie Wiesmann know if you receive any items, or would like an OGG board members follow up with a business. We have a brochure and thank you letters for the contributors available.

Preparations for Orchid Quest are continuing and checks already have been received from vendors to reserve their tables, and posters and bookmarks have been printed.

We hope to see you Sunday October 18, 1:30 P.M. at Olbrich Gardens 1:00 P.M for ribbon judging.

Lorraine Snyder

Meeting Dates

- October 15
- November 19
- December 17
- January 21, 2018
- February 18, Atrium
- March 11
- April 15
- May 20
- June, Picnic TBA
- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16

Meetings start at 1:30 pm at Olbrich Gardens unless otherwise noted

Up-Coming Events

- **October 21-23** - Fall MAOC, Cincinnati, OH
- **November 8-12** -- World Orchid Conference
- **January 27-28, 2018** -- MN Orchid Show
- **February 3-4** -- Orchid Quest
- **February 17-18** -- Batavia Orchid Society Show
- **February 24-25, 2018** -- WOS Spring Show
- **March 3-4** -- NEWOS Show
- **March 24-25, 2018** -- Illowa Show
- **April 7** -- Spring Sale
- **April TBA** - Illinois Orchid Society

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September 2017 OGG Ribbon Judging

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Liaisons:

AOS: Nancy Thomas
 MAOC: Keith Nelson
 Orchid Digest: Open

First Place

Steven Thimling
 Gary Lensmeyer

Brassia (unknown hybrid)
Phrag Waunakee Sunset x *dalessandroi*

Second Place

Gary Lensmeyer
 Shirl Roberts
 Steven Thimling
 Gary Lensmeyer

Phalaenopsis equestris
Phalaenopsis (unknown hybrid)
Epidendrum nocturnum alba
Phrag besseae (Sandking x Colossal)

Third Place

Nancy Thomas

 Steven Thimling

Lc Bowri-Albida 'Pink Lady' (*C bowringiana*
 x *Laelia albida*)
 Bc Binosa 'Wabash Valley'

OGG Results, Wisconsin Orchid Society Show

Set-up and take-down by Sue Reed and Keith Nelson

First Place, Best of Class & pulled for AOS

Susan Reed *Paph micranthum*

First Place & Best of Class

Keith Nelson *Psychopsis* Mendenhall

Second Place

Susan Reed *Paph. liemianum*

Susan Reed Paph (Paph Hsinying Rubyweb x *Paph fairrieanum*)

Susan Reed Epi Joseph Beckenbach alba

Terri Jozwiak *Masd. floribunda*

Nancy Thomas Phrag Sorcerer's Apprentice (*sargentianum* x *longifolium*)



Photographs by Susan Reed
 From left to right: First Place & Best of Class entries: *Psychopsis* Mendenhall by Keith Nelson and *Paph micranthum* by Sue Reed



Joe Meisel

Up-date on Ceiba Foundation

The mission of Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation is to preserve and rehabilitate tropical habitats, and the conservation of their plants and animals; and to sponsor scientific research, promote public education, and support community-

based actions that promote the conservation of ecosystem integrity and biodiversity by emphasizing projects which promote the empowerment of local landowners and communities, and encourage them to actively participate in the sustainable management of their land.

Dr. Joe Meisel from Ceiba last spoke to the Guild five years ago. This time he provided an update of what has been accomplished during the intervening years at their two sites in Ecuador.

The Lima family continues to own and operate the El Puhuma Orchid Reserve which boasts over 200 species of orchids and over 150 species of birds. Its proximity to Quito continues to make it a popular tourist destination. Members of the nearby community of Nanegalito have directly benefited from the reserve through employment during the construction of reserve facilities and their participation as guides, managers, park guards, and gardeners. This local involvement helps to spread conservation awareness in the community, and encourage people to value the biological resources that surround them. El Pahuma provides the owners of the reserve with a sustainable income without damaging their forests. In 2000 this site was the first conservation easement in Ecuador between an NGO and a private landowner. It has been so successful that the owners are looking towards extending it. In addition to tourism, the site is used for research and education in partnership with UW.

The other Ecuador site is near Tabuga which in April 2016 suffered a catastrophic earthquake. A class was just arriving and were in Quito when it happened.

They were able to assist with recovery efforts by

bringing in supplies and coordinating logistics for other NGOs. The new school replacing the one destroyed in the earthquake was recently completed with the assistance of a grant to fund construction from the Rioja Spanish government.

A conservation minded dairy farmer was turning his farm into a golf course and donated the steep, forested part of his land to the town through a conservation easement which is overseen by Ceiba. The Lalo Loor research station is located here in a semi-deciduous forest which lies in a transition zone between the very wet forests to the north and the very dry forests to the south. As such, the Lalo Loor Dry Forest is incredibly diverse, having representative species from both kinds of habitat.

Meisel is just wrapping up a Fulbright fellowship which he had in collaboration with Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogota, and National Herbarium of Colombia, for "the spatial analysis of Colombian orchid diversity for prioritization of orchid conservation sites, in Colombia". For 40 years Colombia was avoided by most international scientists and tourists, but now that a fragile peace is emerging, scientists are finally coming and finding that the Colombians had spent this time working hard on their natural resources. Meisel's job was to coordinate a team scouring the records of several Colombian herbariums and identify the location of collecting sites. One herbarium in particular had 150 years of collection records. Needless to say old records were not quite up to modern standards but the team was able to identify around 38,000 sites between the three herbariums. These sites were entered in Bio-Modelos which is a "web application for the consultation, improvement and publication of species distribution models." These are plotted on a map providing "accurate and validated information on the distribution of species in Colombia, which serves as a reference for studies and decision-making on biodiversity." Not surprisingly, the preponderance of sites were along the three mountain ranges. The objective now is to focus resources at the top 25 sites of biodiversity identified using a variety of parameters.

Orchid Growers' Guild is proud to offer financial support to Ceiba Foundation.



Photo by Andrew H Kim
 Carole Beule with her third
 place Junihitoe

ABOUT CAROL BEULE

Our speaker Carol Beule is an EMMY award winning Costume Designer with a Master of Fine Arts in both Costume and Lighting Design from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has been a professional Costume Designer since 1974, and has designed for film, commercials, theatre productions and TV shows. She lived in NYC the first 15 years of her career and has just recently retired after working and growing orchids in Southern Cali-

fornia for the past 25 years.

Growing orchids in NYC was not considered a possibility, so she has grown orchids only since moving to Southern California in 1992. With temperatures ranging from 28 to 111 Fahrenheit, and humidity as low as 7% at times, growing outside with no greenhouse in Studio City at the edge of the San Fernando Valley is sometimes problematic. It has been her quest to find out what will and will not bloom and prosper under

these circumstances.

In her search to find the perfect plant for her growing area, Carol discovered the Japanese orchid called *Neofinetia* (*Vanda*) *falcata* and various other species that thrive outside in Southern California. *Lycaste* is one of those species. Carol grows various forms of *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Dendrobium*, *Sarcocochilus*, Asian *Cymbidiums* and *Rossioglossum*.

Lycaste is a species that is native to the New World and is found from the Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn. While they are often thought to be a greenhouse orchid, they can be grown along side *Cattleyas* and any other outdoor growing temperate climate range orchid when their specific needs are met. They also can easily become very large specimen plants.

Carol is an AOS Associate Judge, the 1st VP of the Orchid Society of Southern California, serves on the Board of Orchid Digest and is on the committee that creates the Society's display for the Huntington's annual October Orchid Show. She has just started a new business venture: "Nichi Bachi (decorative pots) by Beule" to make *Neofinetia* (*Vanda*) and *Cymbidium* presentation pots. Carol will bring some of these pots along with her for members to see examples of her work.

CAROL BEULE ON *LYCASTE*

Carol Beule graciously gave her AOS judge final training presentation to OGG on September 28 at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. The topic was *Lycaste* which included: culture, future and current hybridizing, judging criteria, and an introduction to Australian growers and their thoughts on growing. This will be a synopsis of this interesting presentation.

Lycastes are New World orchids found within the belt between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. They are deciduous in varying degrees. The multifloral species (*aromatica*, *cruenta*, *deppei*, *lasioglossa*, *macrobulbon*, etc.) are strongly deciduous and are warmer growers while the more evergreen species (*dowiana*, *macrophylla*, *skinneri*, etc.)

cool growers. The evergreen species tend to have fewer flowers or even single flowers. Hybrids may behave somewhere between the two species depending upon their parentage.

Presently the "Mainline" *Lycaste* hybrids



Lycaste cruenta, after A. Goossens, from Cogniaux, A., Goossens, A., Dictionnaire iconographique des orchidees, *Lycaste*, vol. 9: fascicle *Lycaste*, t. 9 (1896-1907)

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with large flowers are mostly based upon *skinneri* parentage and are grown in cool and damp conditions. Many species of multiflorals have yellow flowers but there are also brown, white, with a few with pink in the flower. The evergreen species (1-6 flowers per bulb) can be white or with some brown sepals as well the pink *skinneri* varieties and with some very variable colorations. Crosses are made between the multifloral and deciduous species as well with other genera that are closely related such as *Anguloa*, *Ida*, *Zygopetalum*, *Bifrenaria*, and *Maxillaria*. There even have been crosses involving *Stanhopea*.

Judging is based upon the flower: size, shape or form, flatness, proportion, color patterning and roundness. The differences in flower count is linked to the genetic background and the age of the plant. Hybridization has increased the size of the flower over the years from 6 inches to over 8 inches. One key area of concern in judging is that the sepals are of the same size and shape, and not twisted, pinched, reflexed, cupped, tapered and curled. If the plant is very floriferous some of these traits are over-looked in judging. If the temperature is too high when the flower is developing, tearing of the petals can occur. Temperature also can affect the coloration of the flower especially for spotting on the lip and other petals.

Hybridization with *skinneri* has led to Shoalhaven (91% *skinneri*, 6% *macrophylla*, and 3% *cruenta*) which has the largest role in present hybrids. *Skinneri* dominates the shape; with *macrophylla* and *cruenta* giving floriferousness, ease of blooming and tolerance to temperature. Two Australian hybridizers that play a large role in the *Lycaste* hybridization are

Paul Sloan and Barry Taylor. They work with flasks from Japan where cutting edge hybridization is taking place. Some observations made by Paul Sloan over 25 years of growing *Lycastes* are: earlier (cool season) flowers are fewer in number but larger, later flowering in the same season produces more flowers that are smaller, and larger bulbs produce larger flowers. In the US the best blooms are in February, March and April.

Growing *Lycastes* requires bright light, 2000-4000 foot candles for the deciduous ones and slightly lower levels for the evergreen species. Carol has not found much difference in the light levels required but her major areas of concern are temperature and humidity. The evergreen do best with temperatures not over 80 degrees. Generally *Lycastes* love water and you should never let them dry out, but do not allow them to sit in water. Water heavily when in growth and spike, and water less when temperatures are cooler. Humidity is best as high as you can but not over 80%.

Any balanced fertilizer works. Carol uses media that consists of a mix of organic potting soil, perlite and medium bark. She has also used coir that has been soaked and rinsed at least 2-3 times (to extract any salts), with perlite, medium bark and aliflor (expanded clay pellets). Any mixture that retains moisture, drains well and does not get too soggy, works well.

Carol has been using tall pots but is starting to experiment with shallower pots. She gets fantastic root growth. Her mix with coir did not break down in three years and the roots filled the pot. There is no one fast rule on the mix to use.

--- Sue Reed



CAROL BEULE on Fūkiran [*Neofinetia*]

Our speaker Carol Beule, in addition to being an orchid grower and Associate AOS judge, is also an extremely talented artist. She has just started a new business venture: “Nichi Bachi (decorative pots) by Beule” to create *Neofinetia* (*Vanda*) and *Cymbidium* presentation pots. She showed us five examples of her handmade and hand painted pots. Some of her pots are from molds made from her original pots and then decorated to please her individual customers.

Carol recently traveled to Japan where she presented some of her unique pots. In Japan, the presentation of Fūkiran is extremely important. Although the plants may be grown in plastic or clay pots, when exhibited they are transferred to elegant handmade and hand painted clay pots. These traditionally have three feet, a large diameter drainage hole, and come in various sizes. These pots are made by artisans, and are often signed by the artist. Each pot can be expensive, sometimes more than the cost of the plant, and some may be antiques.

'Furan' or 'wind orchid', is the Japanese name for the native *Neofinetia falcata*. It has a long history of cultivation, originating in Japan's Edo era, about 400 years ago. Specimens were first collected from the wild by feudal lords and their servants to be gifted to the Shogun to gain political favor. Eventually



Examples of 'Nichi Bachi' created by Beule as presentation pots for Fūkiran

Neofinetia falcata began to be called 'Fūkiran', which means the orchid of the rich and noble people. These plants were often covered by a gold or silver net in order to protect them, and people had to cover their mouths with Kaishi (a thin paper usually used for calligraphy) in order not to breathe on the plants while they appreciated them. After the Meiji restoration in 1868, under the influence of Western culture, people became fascinated with more exotic orchids. Consequently, interest in Fūkiran declined until the early 1900's. It is one of the world's highest priced orchid (depending on the rarity of the vari-

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ety), with a history of individual plants selling for \$100,000+.

Considered the 'perfect orchid' by the Japanese, *Neofinetia* is appreciated and enjoyed not only for its delicately shaped flowers and citrus-coconut fragrance but also for the foliage which can be variegated or shaped differently from the typical plant. Even the roots are considered worthy of enjoyment. Many of these cultivars are what amounts to mutants or 'sports' by current nomenclature, as they have small stunted growth, or unusual, often random, variegated foliage. *Neofinetias* are enjoyed in the same manner as bonsai, for the foliage and the overall presentation of the plant. In Japan, it is said that the key to growing them is to enjoy the plant everyday of the year, not just for the flowers.

When judging, the Japanese look at *Neofi-*



Grand Champion, Variegated Tamakongo. This plant is about 15 years old, in a pot from the Edo era [between 1603 and 1868]

netia falcata and break it down into individual characteristics to judge its merit. The orchid is judged and valued for the following: flowers, the flower color, the form of the flower, the foliage forms, the leaf shape, the connection between the leaf and the stem, the root tip color, and the pot that the orchid is potted in. For the particular event Carol attended, the plants were not blooming consequently they were judged on the foliage form and roots, the size and shape of the mound of long fibered sphagnum moss it is planted in, and the pot. Ideally the size and shape of each of these elements would complement the others to create a pleasing whole. She

showed us a photograph of the grand prize winner at the show she attended [see photo above].

No doubt there will be vendors at Orchid Quest selling *Neofinetia*.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **October 21-23** - Fall MAOC, Cincinnati, OH
- **November 8-12** -- 22nd World Orchid Conference, Guayaquil, Ecuador
- **January 27-28, 2018** -- MN Winter Carnival Orchid Show
- **February 3-4**- Orchid Quest 2018
- **February 17-18** - Batavia Orchid Society Show
- **February 24-25, 2018** -- WI Orchid Society Spring Show
- **March 3-4** - Northeast WI Orchid Society Show, Neenah
- **March 24-25, 2018** -- Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show
- **April TBA** - Illinois Orchid Society show at the Chicago Botanic Garden

OGG Orchid Pot Sales

- Small green square (2x2" h), 5 @ \$1.00
- Small Clear square (2x3" h), \$.50 / pot
- Medium Clear square (3½x4" h), \$.75/ pot
- Medium Clear Round (4x4" h), \$1.00/pot
- Large Clear Round (6½x5" h), \$1.25/pot
- 3" Clay pot \$.50/pot

To order pots for delivery at the next OGG meeting, contact Sue Reed greed@chorus.net