

April
2017

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org

FROM THE BOARD, NEXT MEETING APRIL 23, AT PARADIGM



Meeting Dates

- April 23, Paradigm
- May 21
- June Picnic TBA
- September 17
- October 15
- November 19
- December 17

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

Officers and Committees

President:

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Away Shows:

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Spring is finally coming to Wisconsin! Spring means the end of the orchid show season and the time to start repotting! That is if new growths are showing on the orchid and it is not in bud or blooming! Spring means time for voting for board members and time for getting ready for the annual OGG orchid auction. Spring also means the annual Orchid sale at Olbrich which was held April 1 (No Foolin'). Most of the orchids sold by 11:15a.m. The tables looked bare and Sue Reed made a special trip to get more orchids. Many thanks to our excellent sales staff Lisa Linde, Brent McCoy, Sue Reed, Denise Baylis, Nancy McMillen, Cynthia Wadsworth, Liz Wood, Carrie Wiesman, and Liz Barlow. They sent a lot of happy customers home with an orchid or several. Some are going to be displayed at Firefly coffee house in downtown Oregon and some as far as Indianapolis. And special thanks to Lorraine Snyder and Keith Nelson for organizing and transporting the orchids.

Thanks to Nancy Thomas and everyone who volunteered to go to away shows to set up our display. Kudos to all the members who sent plants and came home with ribbons.

Special thanks to Scott Weber for his excellent talk on native orchids [more on page 4]. We hope June will bring a pop-up field trip to Lake Mills to see cypripedium orchids blooming.

Our April 23 meeting is at Paradigm Gardens (4501 Helgesen Dr. Madison WI 53718, 608-241-3800). Bring your orchids for judging and questions for better orchid growing. Paradigm has lights, fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, pots and orchid growing medium.

Our May 21 meeting will be the election of Vice-President, Secretary and Board Member at large.

Keith Nelson is chairing the nominating committee. At the May meeting we will also have our annual Orchid auction. Please get your plants ready for the auction now with making sure they are clean and repotted if necessary. Nice plants encourage interested bidding and an enjoyable auction.

June will be our annual picnic at Liz Wood's

house. More details will be coming later. Happy Spring and see you at the April 23 meeting (1 PM orchid judging, 1:30 meeting)!



Cynthia Wadsworth & Keith Nelson



Liz Wood, Denise Baylis & Liz Barlow

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MY WONDERFUL ADVENTURE AT THE NORTH-EASTERN WISCONSIN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

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

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 tankervillae*. 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 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 tankervillae* '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 and her 5' tall *Phaius tankervillae*. now *Phaius tankervillae* 'Joz's Beauty'

NEWOS RIBBON RESULTS

Set-up and Take-down, Terri Jozwiak

First Place and Best of Class

Terri Jozwiak	<i>Phaius tankervillae</i> (Best Specimen)
Nancy Thomas	<i>Den. Green Flash 'Nancy's Fancy'</i> AM/AOS (Best Dendrobium Alliance)
OGG Display	Best Society Display

First Place

Terri Jozwiak	<i>Paph. Pinocchio 'Color Delight'</i> x <i>Paph lowii 'Compact'</i>
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Lc. Irene Finney 'Springs Best'</i> AM/AOS
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Phal. unknown</i>
Nancy Thomas	<i>Bcd. Gildend Tower 'Mystic Maze'</i>
Nancy Thomas	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i> x <i>sanguinea</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Oncidium splendidum</i> x sib

Second Place

Terri Jozwiak	<i>Phaius tankervillae</i>
Terri Jozwiak	<i>Onc. Chaculatum 'Golden Pacific'</i>
Jeff Baylis	<i>Cat. intermedia</i>

Third Place

Terri Jozwiak	<i>Iwanagara Appleblossom 'NN'</i>
Nancy Thomas	<i>Paph. dianthum</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Vanda amesianum</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Paphiopedilum fairrieianum alba</i>



UP-COMING EVENTS

- **November 8-12, 2017** -- 22nd World Orchid Conference, Guayaquil, Ecuador

NAME TAGS

Need a new name tag for Orchid Quest? Carrie Weisman would be happy to make you a new one if you have lost yours. You can contact her at carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov

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

Summary of March Talk: “The Good, the Invasive and the Nearly Invisible”, by Scott Weber

Wisconsin and Minnesota are home to about 50 species of orchids. The exact number depends on changes in taxonomy and whether or not you include subspecies and hybrids. Also, new species are moving into the area while others may be on their way out. The oval ladies' tresses orchid (*Spiranthes ovalis*) is expanding its range northward into southern Wisconsin as our climate warms, whereas the dragon's mouth orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*) is probably gone from its last site in southern Wisconsin and is now restricted to northern counties and the Upper Peninsula since it requires cool temperatures during its bloom period in May. Orchids of wet prairie are among our most endangered orchids because 98% of their habitat has been destroyed since European settlement. These include the prairie white fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), the small white lady slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*), and the western prairie white fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*), a Minnesota species. The helleborine orchid (*Epipactis helleborine*) is a recent invader from Europe and is spreading across Wisconsin from east to west. Many ecologists worry that this species, like most invaders from Eurasia, will spread unchecked and compete against our native orchids.

We do have some very showy orchids. Both Wisconsin and Minnesota are home to the showy lady slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*), the state flower of Minnesota, whose lip petal can be over 5 centimeters long. The white fringed and purple fringed orchids (*Platanthera psycodes*) can grow up to a meter tall with dozens of florets on a 20 centimeter inflorescence. For many of our natives, however, flower size is measured in millimeters. Most of our native orchids fall into the miniature species category, but like tropical miniatures, they make up for a lack of size with truly remarkable shapes, unusual colors, and a great diversity of habits. With a hand lens or macro photography, we can really appreciate their beauty provided we don't step on them first. Minnesota takes the prize for the smallest, most inconspicuous orchid, the bog adder's mouth (*Malaxis paludosa*), the ultimate “little green job”. It is not

recorded in Wisconsin, but given its size and color, maybe we just haven't discovered it here yet.

Although we associate orchids with sphagnum



Photo taken north of Lake Itasca, MN. Bog adder's mouth, *Malaxis paludosa*. With flower petals only 2 to 3 millimeters long, this northern Minnesota species gets the prize for the most inconspicuous orchid in our region, not only for its size but color. Plants themselves are only about four inches tall. Novices will need a guide to find this one.

bogs and other special, relatively undisturbed habitats, many orchids are generalists and could be as close as your neighborhood park. Orchids show up in lawns, road ditches, old pastures, and other atypical habitats beyond the bog, fen, and virgin prairie where we might expect them. We assume that all orchids have special requirements, when in fact many are short lived, opportunistic species that pop up in unexpected places following fire, mowing, utility work and other disturbances. For example, we have ten species of native orchids on our farm in Baraboo Township. They grow in subsoil along our driveway, in our woods, wetlands, former pasture, our asparagus patch, along a gas pipe line, and even in our greenhouse where a few species perpetuate themselves in the pots of other perennials. Many



The smallest orchid growing wild on our land, the autumn coral root (*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*). This species lacks chlorophyll and lives off decaying wood and fungi. The flower lips are only a few millimeters long. They rarely look this conspicuous. Sauk County.



The very cryptic three birds orchid, *Triphora trianthophora*. Another native of the Baraboo Hills, this species blooms for only a day at a time in late summer. The landowner adjacent to this population found one blooming with a house plant in a pot inside his front door, yet another contradiction to the widely held belief that all native orchids need special soil. Flower about 3/4 inch wide. Sauk County.



The ladies' tresses orchids (7 total species in Wisconsin) are small orchids with tiny, iridescent flowers. This species, photographed in Door County in late August, is the smallest, *Spiranthes lacera*, the slender ladies' tresses orchid.

(Continued from page 4)

have dynamic populations that expand and contract with variations in precipitation, competition, land management, deer or rabbit populations, and for reasons we are completely clueless about. Except for some lady slipper species, most of our orchids rarely stay in one place for long.

A general rule is that most native orchids do not like competition and will find habitats that restrict it, whether by unusual soil pH or by temporary disturbances which allow seedlings to flourish if only for a few years or so. They do not like annual cultivation, frequent mowing (more than once annually), most farm and lawn chemicals, and poaching. Short life, high seedling mortality, unusual soil pH for some, unpredictable seed germination, unusual water requirements, and high cost of laboratory work make commercial propagation of many species unprofitable and challenging, to say the least, so they are best enjoyed in the wild where they have the best chance for survival.



The largest orchid on our farm, the purple fringed orchid (*Platanthera psycodes*). This species blooms in mid to late July. Like many of our orchids, individuals are short-lived (one to four years as a blooming plant, we don't know how long from germination to blooming size.) Plants can be from one to four feet tall. Each floret is only about a half inch wide. Sauk County.

OGG Ribbon Judging March 2017

First Place

- Nancy Thomas Blc. Ollie's Horizon x Bl. Richard Mueller
- Bruce Luebke Phal. unknown hybrid
- Keith Nelson *Dendrobium pierardii*
- Nancy Thomas *Paph sukhalukii* 'Windsong's Buzz'
- Gary Lensmeyer *Oncidium Sprite*

Second Place

- Keith Nelson *D. anosmum*

** This may be a partial list. If your plant earned a ribbon and is not listed here, please contact the Newsletter editor*

Photograph by Scott Weber



Phal. unknown hybrid, grown by Bruce Luebke



Photograph by Sue Reed

Dendrobium pierardii grown by Keith Nelson; below *Dendrobium anosmum*



Photograph by Scott Weber

Oncidium Sprite



Photograph by Scott Weber

COOL WEATHER MINIATURES

Photographs by Scott Weber

John Struckert of the Wisconsin Orchid Society brought a number of his mini's to the March meeting, some which require cold nights (*Masd. hymenantha*, which he grows in his flower cooler) or cool growing conditions (*Cat. luteola*) and some of his other masdevallias and (*Lepanthes tsubotea*)



Masdevallia parvula



Masdevallia hortensis



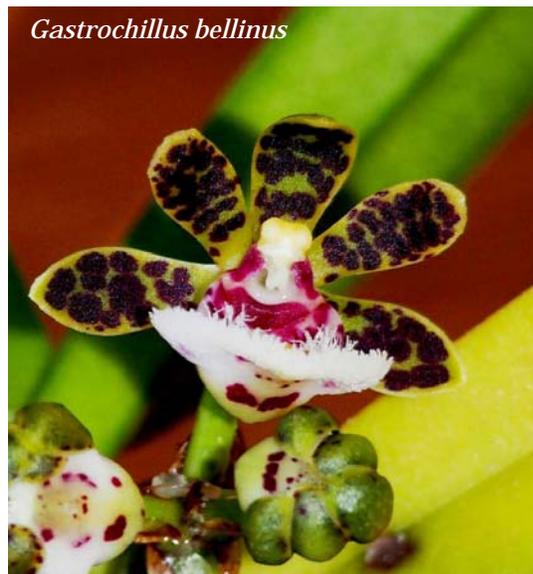
Masdevallia deformis



Bulbophyllum sp.



Masdevallia notosibirica



Gastrochillus bellinus

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY RESULTS

Set-up Denise Baylis & Lorraine Snyder, Take-down Lorraine Snyder and Keith Nelson

First place

Nancy Thomas *Den. Green Flash 'Nancy's Fancy' AM/AOS (Andre Millar x *convolutum*)*
Terri Jozwiak *Lc Irene Finney 'Springs Best' AM/AOS (Laelia x Cattleya hybrid)*
Nancy Thomas *Bcd. Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze' (Brassostele Summit x Brassidium Gilded Urchin)*

Second Place

Keith Nelson *Oncidium splendidum x sib. species*
Nancy Thomas *Maxillaria tenuifolia x Tenuifolia sanguinea*

Third Place

Jeff Baylis *Cattleya intermedia species*
Lorraine Snyder *Phal. Unregistered hybrid*
Lorraine Snyder *Phrag. Don Wimber (yellow) [(Eric Young 4N x Mont. Millais AM/AOS) x Besseae (yellow)]*
Terri Jozwiak *Cattl. Iwanagara Apple Blossom*



OGG Exhibit



Above and right: some of the Chicago Botanical Garden orchid displays in public areas in celebration of their annual Orchid Show fundraiser