

MAY
2019

The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

www.Orchidgrowers.org



Orchid Growers' Guild

Calanthe rosea
grown by Gary Lensmeyer

NEXT MEETING, MAY 19th Election, Member Auction

If you are interested in running for an open position (Secretary, vice-president or Board), contact Sue Reed.

Auction: Every item to be auctioned requires an auction slip. Donors should complete the auction slip form in advance. Please fill out the form as completely as possible, particularly orchid names.

Donor's name is useful so that the winner can request follow-up grow-

Meeting Dates

- May 19
- June 9
- September 15
- November 17
- December 15

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

Officers and Committees

President:

Susan Reed (2020)
Greed@chorus.net

Vice President:

Cynthia Wadsworth (2019)
cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com

Secretary:

Keith Nelson (2019)
nelsonridge@tds.net

Treasurer:

Denise Baylis (2020)
jrbaylis@tds.net

Board:

Barbara Soderling (2020)
bhsoderling@yahoo.com

Nancy Thomas (2019)
mikeandnancy@tds.net

Carrie Weisman (2021)
carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov

Away Shows:

Nancy Thomas
mikeandnancy@tds.net

Hospitality:

Volunteer

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued on page 7)

Hello Orchid Growers,

Spring is here, at least inside with my orchids! I am lucky to have several blooming now, even though it is too late for a show! Outside the spring bulbs are blooming despite the snow. I hope we have seen the last of the snow until November!

Spring is an excellent time to thin out your orchid collection. Make room for new ones! Let some of those stubborn bloomers go to someone else to have a try at blooming them. Perhaps they will thrive in a new environment! Please bring some nice, bug-free orchids and any other orchid related items for the May auction. You may bring other plants too, but priority will be for orchids. Many members have some unusual plants that will make interesting purchases! Remember all of the proceeds go to OGG which helps to pay for speakers, MAOC membership fee,

(Continued on page 2)



Dracula cordobae in
Bolz Conservatory, April

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

April OGG Ribbon Judging	5
April Orchid Sale	7
Japanese Wind Orchid	3
Next Meeting	1
One Percent for Conservation	6
President's Message	1

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Librarian:

Open

Membership:

Carrie Weisman
carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov

Newsletter:

Denise Baylis
jrbaylis@tds.net

Orchid Quest 2019:

Terri Jozwiak
lodijoz@charter.net

Programs:

Cynthia Wadsworth
cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com

Ribbon Judging:

Open

Web Master:

Richard Jozwiak
OGGweb@charter.net

Liaisons:

AOS: Nancy Thomas
MAOC: Keith Nelson

and OGG operating expenses such as the website, etc.

May is also the month for our annual election. We are lucky to have Keith Nelson running again for Secretary, Cynthia Wadsworth running as Vice-President, and Nancy Thomas running as Board member. Other candidates may be offered from the floor at the meeting.

Besides these offices we are also looking for someone to be our librarian. Liz Wood has successfully handled this position for a number of years and now it is time to pass this on to someone else. The duties are to help the board organize what materials we have and to aid in the decision-making process on how to best effectively down size the library to what is the most useful for the Guild membership.

In preparation for up-coming budget discussions, we will also be asking for suggestions from the membership on how to prioritize the Guild's expenditures. For example, presently we pay an honorarium of \$100 to speakers who are not members. We are lucky to have great resources locally with the University of Wisconsin, but some speakers require a fee plus mileage/travel expenses. Would members be interested in renting a vehicle to travel to the Chicagoland Orchid sale in September and/or

to take a bus down to the Chicago Orchid Show for the day in March 2020? (Bus rental is expensive, so about 20 members would need to commit to make this worthwhile.) Other field trips? Or other ideas are greatly appreciated.

The board will be working on the budget for next fiscal year and have this finalized by this summer.

A big thank you to Doug for his great presentation on growing the Japanese Wind Orchid using a flow through system at the April meeting. And thanks to everyone that brought the great treats!

May 19 meeting: There will be plant judging promptly at 1PM, plants need to be placed by 1 PM. Meeting to start at 1:30 with elections and the auction starting shortly thereafter!

Our annual picnic is June 9 at Bob and Lucy Laseter's residence in Madison. The Guild will provide the paper products for the pot luck luncheon. More details will follow.

The May auction is such a great way to increase your orchid collection! I hope everyone can take advantage of this great opportunity!

See you on May 19!

Sue Reed

Dendrobium moniliforme, *Neofinetia falcata* and *Sedirea japonica*, were popular orchids grown by Japanese years ago.

Bottom image is from Kusa Bana Hyakushu (One Hundred Varieties of Flowers) 1901, by Kono Bairi, showing *Neofinetia* and *Sedirea japonica*. Right is a photograph of *Sedirea japonica* from the April OGG meeting.



Sedirea japonica



Japanese Wind Orchid, *Neofinetia falcata*

At the April meeting, member Doug Dowling gave a presentation on *neo falcata* and the ebb and flow system that he uses to maintain it. See the April Newsletter for his article on this system.

Cultivation of *Neofinetia falcata* was recorded as early as 1665, which makes it one of the oldest known orchids in cultivation. This plant has been cultivated in Japan for centuries with selected varieties held closely by the most enthusiastic collectors. Some can cost into the thousands of dollars even today. Many of these cultivars are what amounts to mutants by today's nomenclature. Plants come in all shapes and sizes, from tiny Kuroshinju, whose dwarf-sized growths measure only about an inch (2cm) across, to Kyokushou, whose "tiger" leaves spread over 7 inches (17.5 cm). Though accepted as high priced commodities in Japan, they are just now becoming popular here in America.

In the 18th century, Japan's Edo period, Shogun Tokugawa Ienari (1787 to 1837) became

smitten with the *Neofinetia falcata*, thus becoming known as the 'Orchid of the Shoguns'. This delicate orchid was celebrated for its citrus-coconut fragrance, activated at dusk. When found in the wild, these flowers were called "furan," meaning "wind orchid." Ienari's obsession quickly became a symbol of cultural cachet. Feudal lords seeking to impress the shogun would gift him the plant. As a result, the wild *furan* became the upscale "fūkiran" meaning "orchid of wealth and nobility." For a time, samurai were the only people permitted to grow the *Neofinetia falcata* (which spurred the nickname "samurai orchid").

Some plants were as valuable as a house with a garden. But over time with the vicissitudes of economics, politics and the introduction of western ideas on gardening, interest and the value of Fūkiran diminished though they were inherited and maintained by a handful of enthusiasts. Even if the public's opinion changed, Fūkiran never changed. But as the Showa Era began (1926), so began the second boom of Fūkiran collecting. By 1939 the price of Fūkiran was so expensive that an announcement party was held when someone purchased a good Fūkiran, thus again, due to the cost, collecting was limited to the wealthy. The high cost of Fūkiran combined with the expansion of World War II gradually made Fūkiran collecting nearly impossible. Today the popularity of Fūkiran has expanded around the world as many new kinds have been found and prices have come down dramatically because of reproduction from seedlings.

What is Fūkiran?

Fūkiran means in general, a mutated or variegated *Neofinetia falcata* collected from the wild. While there are over 2,200 varieties of *Neof. falcata*, only about 200 are registered on the Meikan¹. To be judged worthy of addition to the



Doug Dowling



(Continued from page 3)

Meikan is a grand achievement. A committee from the Society judges submitted plants each year based on their intrinsic characteristics, uniqueness and presentation. Submission involves a large fee and the presentation of three plants of the variety to be judged mounted in suitably beautiful pots lest the judge refuse to look at the plants at all. Mounting a *Neofinetia* is an art unto itself as it involves draping strands of moss around the orchid's root ball to create a smooth, hollow mound that elevates the plant above the pot, showing it off to best effect. In addition, the pot chosen for display must be judged to be suitably matched to the plant to be evaluated. Even *Neofinetia* pots are extraordinary. Traditionally, they are fired-clay pots with three feet and a large drainage hole in the bottom. The finest pots are hand painted with intricate illustrations of landscapes, dragons, fish or birds, and these are individually signed by the artist. A mature Neo mounted in a traditional pot is nothing less than a work of art.

To be designated a new Fūkiran:

1. The same variation must continue consistently for years. Variation includes differences in flower color, size, and shape; leaf size, shape, color, patterning, texture, and the attachment of them to the stem; flowering season; the color of the growing root tips.
2. The number of plants must increase to some extent, and,
3. the physical characteristics should be clearly different from other recognized varieties.

The American orchid hobbyist tends to view their orchids has having aesthetic value only when in bloom. Traditional Japanese aesthetics is centered on the acceptance of transience and

imperfection. The aesthetic is sometimes described as one of beauty that is "imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete". It then follows that an object, in this case a *Neofinetia*, may always be an object of beauty. American Orchid Society judging criteria tends to focus on the flowers. Conversely the Japanese consider leaf form, color and number of leaf fans; junction of leaf blade and stem/axis of plant: flower color and shape; and, pot design and moss wrapping. Perhaps now we can appreciate this statement, "Hi, I'm Doug and I'm addicted to Japanese *Vanda falcata*."

References: American Orchid Society, Botany Boy Plant Encyclopedia, Fukiran Society of America, OrchidBoard, Wikipedia

¹ The Fukiran Meikan is a ranking chart for the varieties of *Neofinetia* registered by the Nihon Fukiran Kai (Japan Fukiran Association).



Plate 27 from Ehon No Yamagusa, Tachibana Yasukuni, 1755

“An orchid in a deep forest sends out its fragrance even if no one is around to appreciate it. Likewise, men of noble character hold firm to their high principles, undeterred by poverty.”

Confucius (551–479 BC)

APRIL 2019 OGG RIBBON JUDGING

First Place

Erin Thornberg	<i>Coelogyne mayeriana</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Pragmipedium</i> Acker's Superstar 4N x <i>wallisii</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Calanthe rosea</i>
Jeff Baylis	<i>Dendrobium chrysotoxum</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Sopholaeliocattleya</i> ('Jewel Box' x 'Dark Waters')
Keith Nelson	<i>Leptotes bicolor</i> alba
Keith Nelson	<i>Phal</i> unknown hybrid
Lynne West	<i>Mexipedium xerophyticum</i>
Lynne West	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Chuck Acker
Nancy Thomas	<i>Paphiopedilum appletonianum</i>
Nancy Thomas	<i>Sedirea japonica</i>
Susan Reed	<i>Phragmipedium dominianum</i>

Second Place

Jeff Baylis	<i>Dendrobium aggregatum</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Dendrobium anosmum</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Cyclopogon lindleyanum</i>
Lynne West	<i>Phragmipedium besseae</i> 'Big Wings'
Lynne West	<i>Phragmipedium pearcei</i>
Susan Reed	<i>Holcoglossum amesianum</i>



Mexipedium xerophyticum



Coelogyne mayeriana



Phragmipedium Chuck Acker

1% FOR CONSERVATION

Annually the Orchid Growers' Guild donates \$250 to orchid conservation projects worldwide. In the past we have supported efforts in Costa Rica and Ecuador among others. Lately the Board has focused on supporting efforts in our own state of Wisconsin. Last year we chose the Ridges in Door county which has an ongoing Orchid Restoration Project and has identified 24 of the 40 Wisconsin orchid species on their property. This year the membership voted to support Fair Meadows State Natural Area near Milton, WI.

"Fair Meadows encompasses a variety of habitats including oak woodland and savanna, wet prairie, and sedge meadow. It is home to the federally threatened and Wisconsin endangered eastern prairie white-fringed orchid. A privately owned natural area, Fair Meadows is generally only open to the public on field trips through conservation organizations and that

is how I was fortunate enough to be able to visit this wonderful site.



In July 2009, about 16 OGG members were given a tour of this preserve before it was a preserve. The white prairie fringe orchid was just finishing its blooming.

I will never get tired of finding an orchid, from the not-very-showy *Apletctrum hyemale* to the fancier flowers such as lady-slippers or in this case, the eastern prairie white-fringed orchid. What a beautiful (and imperiled) flower! We were on this field trip, perhaps a week past peak bloom for this wonderful plants, but it was still a great joy to see my first one. Since that time, I have been fortunate to see them in several locations. Orchids are often the subject of poaching despite the fact that they don't transplant very well. Generally, I am wary of giving out specific location information on many of these species and this site is literally in someone's backyard. I would like to visit this site again to see more of the natural communities, but have yet to see this field trip offered again. Perhaps someday soon."

By Joshua Mayer, June 7, 2016



Photographs by Susan Reed

Left to right: Walt Stevenson, Liz Barlow, Ken Cameron, Liz Wood, Judy Stevenson, Lucy and Bob Lasseter, Judith Rapaz, Rich Narf, Scott Weber and Jan Rapacz.

Make an impact this Mother's Day

Find the perfect gift at
smile.amazon.com and
Amazon donates.

You shop. Amazon donates.
amazonsmile



(Continued from page 1)

ing tips. Suggested opening bids are helpful in establishing the value of a rare plant, for example.

There is an additional attachment to the email with the newsletter. This is an interactive form that donor's can fill out on their home computer and print prior to the meeting. This will speed up the organization process so that we can use our time efficiently. At the meeting there will be tables set up. Plants and items should be grouped on them with like plants/items. Please come early for set up and to review the items before the auction starts! The Treasurer will except cash but prefers checks.



Dendrobium anosmum



Orchid checkout was fast and furious, staffed by Lynn West, Lorraine Snyder, Sue Reed and Carrie Weisman.

APRIL ORCHID SALE

The April sale this year was a great success even though we were not teamed with the Pansy Sale this year. But Olbrich did a fabulous job advertising this event so there was a line waiting for the doors to open at 10 AM. Alas, we were sold out by 10:30 AM! So much for worrying about what to do with leftover plants.

This year Lorraine and Erin drove to Hausermann's near Chicago in a CRV to purchase the orchids, returning with a stuffed vehicle. Next year, depending on the weather forecast, TWO cars.

To further our mission of orchid education, several tables were set up to provide information about growing orchids staffed by Keith, Gary and Cynthia. This new addition was very well received.

Also volunteering this year were Sue Reed, Carrie Weisman, Lynn West, Lorraine Snyder, Steven Thimling, Mary Kinsley, Irene Mackie, McMillen and Denise Baylis.