

# October 2010 **The Orchid Grower**

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison  
Website [orchidguild.org](http://orchidguild.org)



## NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 17th

### **Mexipedium xerophyticum—Tips for Growing this Beautiful and Bizarre Lady Slipper**

Heidi Whetmore is one of the newer members to the OGG, but she has quickly cultivated an intense interest in orchids. Within two years of bringing home her first orchid, she has accumulated over 30 more and will soon be receiving her first set of flasks from her successful pollination of Mexipediums. Living in Madison with her fiancé and two cats, Heidi's affinity for collecting orchids is tempered by the practical constraints imposed by living in a small apartment. She keeps her collection happy with artificial lighting, a reverse osmosis water filter, and a database to track watering schedules and growth. Heidi's talk will feature her experience growing and pollinating Mexipediums, as well as her strategies for learning to care for a plant that relatively few people have grown.

#### Meeting Dates

October 17-Meeting Room  
November 14, Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery  
December 19-Meeting Room  
January 16, 2011-Meeting Room  
February 20-Meeting Room  
March 20-Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery  
April 17-Meeting Room  
April 23-Spring Orchid Sale at Olbrich  
May 15-Olbrich  
June Picnic-TBA  
July Field Trip-TBA

**Meetings start at 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted**

#### Up-Coming Events:

- October 9 –10, Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show
- October 23-24, Blackhawk Orchid Society Show
- February 5 -6, 2011 , Orchid Quest
- February 19-20, 2011 Batavia
- March 5-6, 2011, Northeast Orchid Show
- March 26-27, 2011, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show,
- October 8-9, 2011 Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show

#### Officers and Committees

##### President:

Rich Narf (2012)  
[znarf@dishmail.net](mailto:znarf@dishmail.net)

##### Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2011)  
[jhynum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhynum@sbcglobal.net)

##### Secretary:

Lorraine Snyder

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*The board met twice during the summer. There were two primary issues of concern. The first was looking at the rules pertaining to away shows. The goal was to make the rules more clear and to provide better accountability to the OGG treasurer. Some wording in the manual was clarified but essentially there was very little change.*

*The exception is that members are permitted to rent a van.*

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*Currently the rules prohibit Ribbon Judging the same weekend as an away show. The Board decided to rescind the rule. The rationale: we have many new members who may be reluctant to take their plants to a show; or members may live too far away from drop off/pickup point.*

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**Treasurer:**  
Audrey Lucier  
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**Away Shows:**  
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**Hospitality:**  
Pat Narf

**Librarian:**  
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Judy Stevenson

**Ribbon Judging:**  
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Jody Thistle

**Web Master:**  
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**Liaisons:**

**Alliant:** Judy Stevenson  
**AOS:** Jill Hynum  
**MAOC:** Wayne King, Judith Rapacz  
**Orchid Digest:** Jill Hynum

## Congratulations Heidi!

With a photo submitted as proof, Heidi Whetmore is the first member to flower the *Oncidioda Chaculatum* 'Golden Pacific' and is crowned the proud winner of "Chuck's Orchid Challenge" for 2009! I will present her with the prize of a \$50 gift certificate from Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery at the **November meeting**. At that time I will ask her to provide the members with a brief explanation of the cultural expertise that helped her win this challenge.

On a side note, for those members that are not familiar, Heidi is a relatively new grower and has excelled in many aspects of orchid growing, orchid breeding and contributing her time to the Orchid Growers Guild.

A big "Thank You" everyone for your excellence in orchids!

Happy growing,

Chuck Acker  
Orchids Garden Centre  
& Nursery

Photographs by Heidi Whetmore  
*Oncidioda Chaculatum*  
'Golden Pacific'



*(Continued from page 1)*

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*We are hoping to get an Away Show Chairman. The chairman coordinates volunteers for set up and take down. Currently Judith Rapacz is serving as the temporary coordinator.*

## SEPTEMBER MEETING ReCap

Andrew Berna, of Paradigm Gardens was the speaker at our September meeting which was held at their warehouse. He presented different high-tech lighting options relevant to growing plants indoors, especially orchids. The T-5 is a relatively new fluorescent light available in full spectrum, which is smaller, more efficient and offers more light output per unit space than standard fluorescent lights. At 24 watts and 2000 lumens, it is three times more efficient. It can be mounted in variety of ways and there are kits available. Fixtures come in 2' and 4' versions and replacement bulbs are available. He recommends changing bulbs yearly for maximum performance.

In addition to lighting, Paradigm Gardens had a variety of in-door grow set-ups on display.

# WISCONSIN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW



Photograph by Sandy Delamater

Orchid Growers' Guild exhibit



Photograph by Sandy Delamater

*Aeranthes henricii*



Photograph by Audrey Lucier

*Gongora galeata* (sp) grown by Sandy Delamater

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Paph Hsinying Agogo (armeniacum 'Nugget' x Hsinying Con-con 'Ching Hua') grown by Audrey Lucier earned first place, Best of Class and was pulled for AOS consideration

Photograph by Sandy Delamater

## WISCONSIN ORCHID SHOW

**Set-up/take down** Sandy Delamater

### Exhibit First Place

**First Place and Best of Class**

Judith Rapacz Miltassia Dark Star 'The OrchidWorks' (Mtssa.Olmec x Milt. Anne Warne)

**First Place and Best of Class, Pulled for AOS award consideration**

Audrey Lucier Paph Hsinying Agogo (armeniicum 'Nugget' x Hsinying Concon 'Ching Hua')

**First Place**

Gary Brendemuehl Bellatulum 'Red Moon'  
Sue Reed Masdevallia Angel Heart (M ignea x M infracta)

**Second Place**

Wayne King *Brassavola nodosa* (sp)  
Wayne King Phrag. Fedora Brocha  
Audrey Lucier Sc Crystelle Smith 'BK Orchids' (Sc Beaufort x C. loddigesii)  
Jerry King Phrag. Appalachian Sunset (Eric Young x caricinum)  
Sue Reed Paph. Jade Dragon (malipoense x fairrieanum) first blooming seedling  
Sandy Delamater *Coelogyne usitana* (sp)

**Third Place**

Audrey Lucier Paph. henryanum x henryanum  
Jerry King Dtps. Sogo Passat 'Stars' (Phal. Sogo Champion x Dtps. Leopard Prince)  
  
Sue Reed Paph. Hsinying Majakun (Paph. ((Makuli x superbiens v. curtisii) x Maudiae) x (Paph. Maudiae 'Napa Valley' HCC/AOS x Sibling))  
  
Sandy Delamater Paph. Henrietta Fujiwara (primullnum alba x hynaldinaum alba)  
Sandy Delamater *Gongora galeata* (sp)  
Judith Rapacz Psychopsis Butterfly (papilio x sanderae)



Photograph by Sandy Delamater

This *Lycaste schilleriana* earned first place, Best of Class and an AOS award



Photograph by Audrey Lucier

Judith & Jan Rapacz's Miltassia Dark Star 'The OrchidWorks' (Mtssa.Olmec x Milt. Anne Warne) earned first place and Best of Class with its eight inflorescences

## OGG Members Explain.....



Top Cochleanthes (River's Edge x amazonica); above Cattleya (Lc Acker's Madison x C Acker's Angel); both grown by Gary Lensmeyer

Returning OGG member Gary Lensmeyer told us about two of his orchids. The first, a Cochleanthes (River's Edge x amazonica) was purchased last year at Chicagoland. [top left] "I don't like to fuss a lot with my orchids. I keep them in white plastic trays in front of large windows in the basement. I buy my fertilizer from Chuck Acker and use 20-20-20 almost exclusively. The Cochleanthes likes to be on the wet side although I let the plant go completely dry at times. When I water it I let it sit in water which eventually evaporates....this process takes about 2-3 weeks." The second orchid, a Cattleya (Lc Acker's Madison x C Acker's Angel) [at left] was purchased at Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery last year. Since its initial purchase, the plant has re-bloomed three more times. He keeps it in a south window during the winter and during the summer it was outside under a pergola. A couple of weeks ago it started to bloom.



Photographs by Denise Bayliss



Rich Narf bought this miniature *Dendrobium oligophyllum* (above) 10 months ago from Chuck Acker. It is kept in an orchidarium where it nestles into the sediment. It is kept wet and watered from below. The humidity is 80% or better in the orchidarium. It has just started to bloom for him. He fertilizes with Michigan once a

## SEPTEMBER OGG RIBBON JUDGING

### First Place

Gary Lensmeyer Lc Acker's Madison x C Acker's Angel  
Rich Narf *Dendrobium oligophyllum* species  
Judy Stevenson Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos'  
Irene Mackie Paph Hsinying Majukun 'Dennis Choice' x Paph lawrenceanum  
'Tradition'  
Gary Lensmeyer *Paph henryanum*

### Second Place

Bob Lasseter P Luchia Lady  
Lorraine Snyder Phalaenopsis Mini Mark 'Holm'  
Irene Mackie Oncidium 'Sharry Baby'  
Gary Lensmeyer Cochleanthes (River's Edge x amazonica)

### Third Place

Gary Lensmeyer Phalaenopsis hybrid

## Orchid Grower's Guild 25th Anniversary Party

November 14th

Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery

We will have a sit down banquet in the Greenhouse and we will be "Reminiscing the Past and our Future". We will show appreciation to the charter members who started the guild and kept it going.

### Menu

Catered by Bunky's Café  
\$ 15.00 per person

Italian Beef and Grilled Chicken Sharma  
Rosemary herbed potatoes  
Roasted Vegetables

Rolls & Butter

Homemade Carrot Cake  
Homemade Belgium Chocolate Cake  
Café & Water

RSVP Judy Stevenson by October 31st



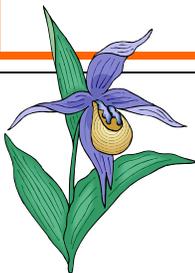
### The Orchid in the Window

Yesterday the orchid on the window sill  
Looked like it would die in hours  
It must have known  
My plan to throw it out...  
Because today it buds and flowers.



## Up-Coming Events

- **October 9-10**, Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL
- **October 23-24**, Blackhawk Orchid Society Show, Rockford, IL
- **February 5-6, 2011**, Orchid Quest, Madison
- **February 19-20, 2011** Batavia, DuPage County Fair Grounds
- **March 5-6, 2011**, Northeast Orchid Show in Neenah, WI
- **March 26-27, 2011**, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe, IL
- **October 8-9, 2011**, Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Glencoe, IL
  - **November 14-23, 2011**, 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore



### Woodland Flowers -- Jewels of the Forest Understanding Lady Slippers

*Saturday, October 23 at 5:45 p.m. at the Microbial Sciences Building at 1550 Linden Drive*

The Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society has invited the Orchid Growers Guild to their October 23rd meeting. The speaker will be William Cullina and one of his talks will be on Lady Slipper Orchids. Before the meeting at 5 PM there will be tours of the Allen Centennial Gardens on Campus right across the street from the Microbial Sciences Building at 1550 Linden Drive. For more information see the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society website as well as in the Wisconsin Illinois North American Rock Garden Society newsletter.

The program will be held at 5:45 p.m. on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus in the Microbial Sciences Building at 1550 Linden Drive. William Cullina is the Director of Horticulture/Plant Curator for the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, Maine, as well as a noted author and recognized authority on North American native plants. We are very excited to be able to bring Bill Cullina to Madison to present to our members. <http://williamcullina.com/>

### Epiphytic Life in the Canopy: Sitting Pretty or High and Dry?

Monday, October 25, 6:30—8 p.m.

Olbrich Gardens

Orchids and bromeliads that live perched high upon or within trees, are called epiphytes. These plants appear to enjoy several advantages, most obviously, not having to grow for years to get tall enough to gain access to sunlight. But life as an epiphyte presents special challenges, including obtaining scarce water and nutrients without soil and being exposed to the wind.

Explore epiphytes with Dr. Don Waller, Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies at the UW-Madison, as he discusses how these plants have become successful plant groups within tropical rainforest canopies. This presentation includes a guided tour of the tropical Bolz Conservatory by Don Waller and John Wirth, Olbrich's Conservatory Curator.

Registration deadline: October 18.

\$15 public/\$12 member

