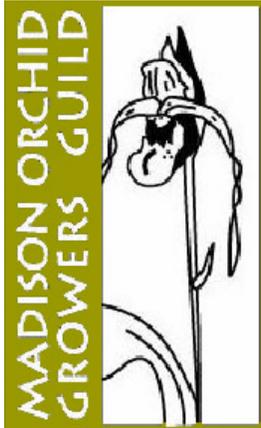


April 2010 The Orchid Grower



Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

Website orchidguild.org

NEXT MEETING April 18th

Scott Weber speaks on the native orchid, *Cypridedium parviflorum*.

SPRING ORCHID SALE, SATURDAY APRIL 3rd

OGG will be selling blooming orchids from Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery at Olbrich Gardens in conjunction with their annual pansy sale 10 am to 2 pm.

Meeting Dates

April 3—Orchid Sale
April 18—Meeting Room
May 16—Meeting Room
June—Picnic TBA
September 26—Meeting Room
October 17—Meeting Room
November TBA
December 19—Meeting Room

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

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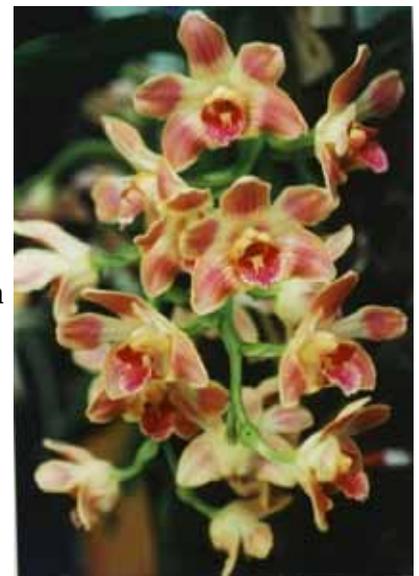
Away Shows:
Open

Hospitality:
Pat Narf

Chysis Chelsonii

Wayne King

The genus *Chysis* consists of about ten New World species distributed from Mexico south into South America. Only a handful of hybrids have been made and both species and hybrids are uncommon in cultivation. The genus is now in its own subtribe *Chysinae* and continues to pose problems in determining its taxonomic position. Reports of intergeneric crosses have proven to be controversial. A check of *Wildcatt* shows that *Chysis* is grouped with the genera *Calanthe* and *Phaius*.



Photograph by Wayne King

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Chysis Chelsonii is a primary hybrid between the species *bractescens* and *laeviis* and was registered by Veitch in 1874. Milo Gilbertson grew this hybrid to perfection and shared a division of it with me in 1985. It bloomed for me in

(Continued on page 7)

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AOS: Jill Hynum
MAOC: Wayne King, Judith Rapacz
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum

Cat ate my orchid!

Cats will sometimes develop a taste for orchids. Bitter Apple, a spray readily available at pet stores may be sprayed on the orchids without hurting the orchids. The spray must be periodically re-applied, however. Other orchid-growing cat lovers swear by providing kitty with a pot of grass for their own so they leave the orchids alone.

OGG Ribbon Judging at Illinois Orchid Society Show

Award for Exhibit : First Place

SET-UP: Denise Baylis, Lorraine Snyder and Judy Stevenson

TAKE-DOWN: Judy Stevenson

First Place

Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery	Phal. amabilis var. formosa 'Taida
Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery Sue Reed	Dtps. Laurel Lea Baldan Paph. Lebaudymanum (Paph haynaldianum 'Cynosure' HCC/ AOS x Paph. philippinense 'Long Beach')
Sue Reed	Paph (Greensleeves x Acker's Peak) x Acker's Peak [Best of Class] <i>Paph moquettianum</i>

Meg McLaughlin

Second Place

Sandy Delamater	Brassavola David Sander
Sandy Delamater	Paph Deception II
Sandy Delamater	<i>Lycaste cruenta</i>
Sandy Delamater	Paph Pink Poodle 'Rosey'
Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery	Cym. Evening Star 'Pinkie'
Lorraine Snyder	Phal Mericolone (Fortune Buddah x Brother Pumpkin)
	<i>Angraecum sesquipedale</i> <i>Vanda coerulea</i>

Jeff Baylis
Jeff Baylis

Third Place

Sandy Delamater	Cym Devon Gala 'New Horizon'
Lynn West	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>
Lorraine Snyder	Phal Momento
Jeff Baylis	<i>Baptistonia echinata</i>
Jeff Baylis	<i>Brassavola grandiflora</i>



Lycaste cruenta grown by Sandy Delamater, photograph by Judy Stevenson



Phal. amabilis var. formosa "Taida" grown by Orchids Garden Centre & Nursery

OGG SPRING ELECTIONS

With the approach of spring it is time to nominate members for positions on the OGG Board.

Photos from OGG Exhibit at IOS



Photograph by Denise Baylis
OGG display at the Illinois Orchid Society Show



Photograph by Denise Baylis
Chicago Botanic Gardens had three huge displays of orchids hanging in their atrium



Phal Mericolone (Fortune Buddah x Brother Pumpkin) grown by Lorraine Snyder



Photographs by Judy Stevenson
Paph (Greensleeves x Acker's Peak) x Acker's Peak grown by Sue Reed

WHAT DO THOSE LETTERS MEAN?

Have you wondered what the initials AM/AOS or HCC/AOS that we often see on plant tags mean? Or what the awards mean that are given out by the AOS judges at Orchid Quest (let alone how a decision is made)? In addition, one of our own OGG members, Sue Reed, has been the recent recipient of **TWO** AOS awards (see accompanying story).

These initials are telling us something about the plant. The initials indicate that the plant has received a specific award and the second set of initials indicates the awarding authority, in the examples above, the American Orchid Society. Other awarding Societies might be **RHS** - Royal Horticultural Society, **AOC** - Australian Orchid Council, **TOS** Thailand Orchid Society, and **JOS** Japan Orchid Society.

The most common awards you will see on mericlone plants are HCC, AM and FCC and are specific to flower quality on a point rating based on 100 possible points:

- **HCC - Highly Commended Certificate**
A flower from this plant has scored 75-79 points on a scale of 100. This means that the flower is good, but there is room for improvement.
- **AM - Award of Merit**
This means that a flower from this plant has scored from 80-89 points on a scale of 100.
- **FCC - First Class Certificate**
A flower awarded a FCC has scored over 90 points on a scale of 100 points. It is the highest flower-quality award.

In addition, at an orchid show you will probably see many of these additional awards. The first two are given for the full plant, denoting the grower's skill in growing and flowering a plant to large size in pristine condition:

- **CCM - Certificate of Cultural Merit**
This is a prize for the grower of a plant robust health, recognizing excellence in horticulture.
- **CCE - Certificate of Cultural Excellence**
This is a certificate which is given only to those plants whose grower has shown an outstanding degree of horticultural care. Plants receiving this award represent the highest level of orchid culture. It is given to a plant that receives more than 90 points on a 100 point scale for Cultural Merit.
- **CBR - Certificate of Botanical Recognition**
This certificate is generally awarded the first time a specific species is shown at a show hosted by the awarding board such as the AOS. Certificate of Botanical Recognition Awarded to cultivars of species or natural hybrids deemed worthy of recognition for their rarity, novelty or educational value.
- **CHM - Certificate of Horticultural Merit**
This certificate is given for well-grown and well-flowered species or natural hybrids with obvious horticultural value such as aesthetic appeal.
- **JC - Judges' Commendation**
This is an award that can be given at the Judge's discretion for an exceptional plant which

(Continued from page 4)

does not fit into any other award category. It requires a unanimous decision by all judges at the exhibit to be awarded.

- **AD - Award of Distinction**

Awarded once to a cross representing a worthy new direction in Breeding. The award is granted unanimously without scoring by the judging team assigned.

- **AQ - Award of Quality**

Awarded once to a cross exhibited by a single individual as a group of not less than 12 plants or inflorescences of different clones of a hybrid or cultivated species. At least one of the inflorescences must receive a flower quality award and the overall quality of the group must be an improvement over the former type.

- **ACC Award of Cultural Commendation**

Awarded for a plant that "exhibits excellence of culture"

SUE REED SENDS ORCHID TO THE DOG HOUSE

I must have a lucky (or ideal) window area in the north-east corner of my sun porch down wind from the fan. The reason for this observation is that within slightly more than a year I have been lucky and fortunate to receive two AOS awards on plants sitting within two feet of each other! This February my *Oberonia croftiana* received a Certificate of Botanical Recognition with 260 flowers and three buds. It surprised me by flowering this winter. All of a sudden when it was getting closer to Orchid Quest, I noticed a spike forming! Naturally it didn't open in time for Orchid Quest.

I had put it outside on the dog kennel last summer hoping to save it from what I thought was a down hill slide to dying. It must have liked being outside even though this was one of the coldest summers we have had lately. It was outside until late September getting dappled sunlight and some early evening sunlight from the setting sun.

This *Oberonia* is a larger species and, according to Oak Hill, more difficult to get to bloom than the smaller species (That have even much smaller flowers!) This is the second flowering for me. I remember the first flowering because I was disappointed that the flowers were not a red color! I am no longer disappointed in this plant!

— Sue Reed



The entire plant is about 11 inches to the tip of the longest leaf. The flower spike is about 4 inches long



Close-up of the flowers that are about 2 mm long

AOS Awards from OQ 2010



Certificate of Horticultural Merit

Sievekingia reichenbachiana



Highly Commended Certificate
C. Rolf Altenburg x C. Bonanza Queen



Highly Commended Certificate
Paph (wardii x Red Glory)
Rick Brink



Certificate of Botanical Recognition

Coelogyne exaltata

Marcia Whitmore



Highly Commended Certificate
P. Sogo Grape 'Fireball'
(P Super Stupid x P Princess Kaiulani)

Photographs for
AOS by Scott Weber





Photograph by Wayne King

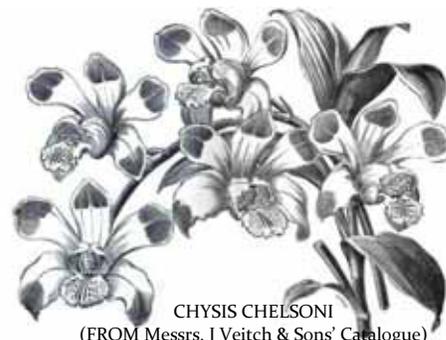
(Continued from page 1)

22 of the subsequent 24 years, reaching its maximum flowering in 1997 and again in 2007 with 42 flowers on five spikes. Fortunately, I took a division from this original plant in 1997 and another in 2005. In the winter of 2008, a family of mice had moved into the greenhouse and seemed to relish the pseudobulbs. They destroyed the original plant and one of the two divisions. The division remaining has eleven leafless pseudobulbs and an early new growth just beginning.

This cross has been awarded six times -- in Florida, California, and New York — never in the Midwest. The clone 'Mahlke' was the most floriferous being awarded with 39 flowers on three spikes. Milo's plant was never AOS judged.

There appears to be no specific flowering season as it has flowered in different months in different years — sometimes it had two flowering cycles in a year. A major drawback is that it has a climbing habit. Since

it does not like repotting, I postponed repotting by using a deep pot and adding additional potting mix as new growth appears. Milo and other growers I have talked to tend to grow the chysis hanging. One grower I visited in Knoxville, Tennessee grew *Chysis bractescens* to perfection growing it on a mount. This was a huge plant with large white flowers.



CHYSIS CHELSONI
(FROM Messrs. J Veitch & Sons' Catalogue)

For more information, I recommend an internet site:

<http://culturesheet.org/orchidaceae:chysis>.

From: The Orchid- Grower's Manual, Containing Descriptions of the Best Species and Varieties of Orchidaceous Plants in Cultivation, by Benjamin Samuel Williams, 1894

C. CHELSONI. *liffb. f.* — A very fine hybrid raised from *C. Limminglei* probably crossed with *C. laevis*, which it very much resembles. The flowers arc in bold drooping racemes, the sepals and petals nankin-yellow with a blotch of purplish-brown in the upper half, and the lip whitish with the numerous violetpurplish blotches of *C. Limmingliei*; the column is whitish, with many small purplish dots. This form was raised in Messrs. Veitch's Royal Exotic Nursery, Chelsea. — *Garden hybrid.*

Up-Coming Events

- **April 28—May 2**, AOS Members Meeting and Show, Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center, 737 S. Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 73108
- **July 31st, 2010**. Picnic at Oak Hill Gardens
- **September 24-26**, Eighteenth Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest
- **November 14-23, 2011**. 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore