

April 2015 The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org



Meeting Dates

April 19, Meeting Room
May 17, Meeting Room
June TBA, Annual Picnic
September 20, Meeting Room
October 18, Meeting Room
November 15, TBA
December 13, Meeting Room

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

Up-Coming Events

- **April 4**, Spring Orchid Sale
- **Spring 2016**- MAOC, Cincinnati/Dayton Area

Officers and Committees

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Nancy Thomas (2016)
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Next Meeting April 19th at Olbrich

To all OGG members and Guests,

I invite you to our Sunday April 19th 1:30 pm meeting at Olbrich Gardens. We will have John Wirth, Olbrich Conservatory Curator, as our guest speaker. He will talk about and show us the Olbrich orchid collection and hopefully let us in on his secrets to growing great orchids.

Our May meeting will be a member auction, so divide those plants, dust off those excess supplies and bring them to Olbrich. May is also the month for our annual elections: Offices open are: Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and one general board member.

We also need a new MAOC representative. Please contact Lorraine Snyder if you are interested in serving or to suggest someone for nomination.

June is our picnic for members which will be at Terri Jozwiak's home, date TBA.

My special thanks to all who helped at a successful Spring Sale at Olbrich. This means All of you orchid experts, Denise Baylis, Liz Barlow, Sue Reed, Keith Nelson, Steve and Kathy Thimling, Judy Williamson and Liz Wood and me, too. We had an interesting mix of orchids including unique species, mounted plants in bloom or spike, Miltoniopsis and of course Phals. More details at the next meeting.



Dendrobium Little Atro, a cross of *Den atraviolacium* and *Den normandy*, in the Gold Country display, earned a 90 point CCE at Spring MAOC

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Thoughts on Orchid Quest 2016

Are we thinking about Orchid Quest already for 2016? Yes. After working very hard on OQ 2015, we are always thinking ahead to make the next year better, run more easily and smoothly.

The last couple of meetings before OQ 2015 were with 8-12 participating members. Putting all those people together made the most marvelous ideas flow. That is what we need! We will be approaching OQ 2016 with a TEAM approach. All meetings for OQ 2016 will be open to all. Come to see what we are up to, come to give an idea or two, come to make sure we are slacking off, come to make a suggestion, come to one meeting or come to many, whatever you want.

Let us share ideas for OQ 2016 and thus share the workload. The next meeting for OQ 2016 probably won't be until August but you will get a notice. And you are WELCOME to attend!!!

--Terri Jozwiak

A Note from Our AOS Liaison

Hi all,

I've been looking through the AOS website and just stumbled across an online application that you can use to catalog your collection. They have a short video that shows how it works. It's on www.aos.org, then go to Become a Member. On the right-hand side there's a paragraph that says:

"Here is a video showing how to use the social component of www.aos.org. Choose your choice of media player.

- [Adobe Flash](#)
- [Windows Media Player](#)
- [Apple QuickTime "](#)

I picked Adobe Flash. You can store images too. Apparently they are continuing to work on it to add features. I didn't see anything about a size limit.

Anyway, I think I'll give it a shot. Before I go to heavily into it, I'll want to know about back-ups. So, check it out!

---Jill Hynum

NEWOS Show

The Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid society show was held in Neenah March 7 – 8. The theme was “All That Jazz”. OGG entered an exhibit featuring Terri Jozwiak’s *Phaius tankervilleae*. Standing 6’ tall in its pot with long broad pleated leaves and more than a dozen stalks, each with numerous flowers; it won a Special Award as Best species in Show. Parents enjoyed taking photos of their children standing in its shade.

OGG took 20 plants, 14 of which earned ribbons. Best of Class Awards went to Terri’s *Phaius* and Wayne King’s *Phrag Calurum* with 5 or more perfect flowers. Wayne also received a Special President’s Award for his *Paph haynaldianum* with its 10 floating flowers on 2 inflorescences. All well deserved.



OGG’s first place exhibit with creators Nancy Thomas and Audrey Lucier



Photographs by Audrey Lucier

Terri Jozwiak’s *Phaius tankervilleae*. 6’ tall in its pot and more than a dozen stalks, each with numerous flowers; it won a Special Award as Best species in Show.



Robiquitia cernua



One of themed exhibits

Report to OGG on Nashville MAOC March 21-22, 2015

The spring MAOC meeting was held in conjunction with the Tennessee Capital Orchid Show, entitled "Orchids in Rhythm." Hosted by the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee, it was held at Marriott Hotel Cold Springs in Franklin, TN, a southern suburb of Nashville. A beautiful venue, the show was quite small by Orchid Quest standards but beautiful, quality orchids were on display. I will submit a newsletter article about the show and its AOS winners.

The show was set up on Friday and judging started 8ish on Saturday morning. There were many judges, probably because of location and because it was MAOC. They judged 327 plants and the 21 exhibits, one of which was a 4 x 4 table with 3 very tiny blooming *Iwa Chidori* (what Japanese call *Amitostigma keiskei*) plants as described in March 2015 Orchids Magazine. I clerked with a group of 5 judges and 2 other clerks. There were more ribbons and trophies than exhibits. The gift given with trophies was a frameable print which recipient could select. The show opened to the very sparse public at noon Saturday.

There were 3 speakers Saturday afternoon. The first was Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids in California. He was also 1 of maybe 6 vendors at show. His subject was "Unusual species for the Cattleya Grower." He showed slides of some of some of his 5,000 species that all grow under Cattleya conditions. As various *Dendrobium*, *Ascocentrum*, *Aerangis*, *Cattleya*, *Brassia*, *Leptoides*, etc. crossed the screen, he would give a culture hint about them. Many photos, many hints.

Second speaker was Olaf Gruss, speaking on "News of *Phalaenopsis*." He was interested in species *Phalaenopsis* and that it is hard to find true species as there has been so much selective breeding. There is high variability in what people call a species like *Phal cornu-cervi* or *Phal tetrapis* or *Phal speciosa*. The *Phalaenopsis* genus is to include *Doritis*, *Kingidium*, *Sedirea*, *Ornithochilus* and *Eclecticus*.

Third speaker was Rick Lockwood, speaking on "What orchids eat"? I did not attend this but understand using wine corks as media was encouraged as they add potassium that orchids need.

The auction had a large amount of items and the 2 Mandala tiles OGG donated were auctioned for \$20 each. The dinner followed and after obligate recognitions of trophies and local persons instrumental in putting together the show; Cowboy Dan, the Singing Cowboy and his fiddling, singing sidekick entertained us with song.

On Sunday morning I attended The Affiliated Societies Breakfast. Mary Beth Mansour led a discussion asking "What is a strength of your society?" Although the question was answered randomly, answers centered around a few topics.

1. **Holding Beginners' or New Members meetings**
 - a. A Cincinnati society has 2 moderators of a beginner's culture group to teach and answer questions and encourage new leaders.
 - b. Beginner's group arrives first and has own interaction before general meeting.
 - c. Can be used to teach about AOS, MAOC, IPA, other Alliances and the larger orchid community.
 - d. Cincinnati also has a Power Point presentation about periodicals, dues etc. for beginners. Alexa Noel will send this to MAOC Education Committee.
2. **Making meetings convenient**
 - a. During week, often need to be shorter as members' time limited.
 - b. Kansas Society finds Sunday afternoons are most convenient for speakers to be available.
 - c. A show of hands had weekend meetings more popular than weekdays.
3. **Involving new members in activities**
 - a. Registration at show a good introduction.
 - b. Co-chairs of show move up to president of society.
 - c. Use sign-up sheets and rely on work ethic and laughter. Use Sign-Up-Genius for online sign-up and reminders. Emphasize there is a job for everyone. Some will enjoy doing hospitality. Others

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- computer work.
- d. Encourage entries in essay contests. Deadline Sept 1, 2015 for "My Most Exciting Orchid Related Experience".
- e. Work together at small tables before meeting to prepare for Show.
- f. Important for older members to share experiences with new members as a way to give back. Actually assign Big Brothers or list in directory those willing to mentor and answer questions.
- g. Because members are nature lovers, spend several minutes each meeting discussing native orchids and arrange trips to bogs, fens, and out into fresh air.
- 4. **Handling plants at meetings**
 - a. Plants judged at meetings for points but not ribbons and end of year cash prizes or a small scholarship for categories including New Acquisitions, No Name Orchids, etc.
 - b. Alternately a society actually helps to register plants at meeting to familiarize members with way they are registered for judged shows.
 - c. Or with a table of species plants and one for hybrid plants can have members vote for best plant.
 - d. Can have a table for members under certain age, as 25 years.
 - e. After Show and Tell, discuss the top 3 in each group.
 - f. Everyone brings problem plants twice a year.
- 5. **Handout information at Garden Walks**
- 6. **Greater Lansing Society uses art and floral arrangements in their show.** All media is accepted and artists can sell for 10% commission to society. Popular with artists and the public, they have limit of 2 pieces exhibited. The artwork is judged by 2 teams of non-AOS judges, one for art, 1 for photography.
- 7. **Benefit of social functions and/or educational functions**
 - a. Heart of Dixie has daytime social luncheons at various homes or restaurants to encourage a sense of community and belonging.
 - b. Louisville always had dinner meetings, discontinued them, but has gone back to that.

- c. Orchid Society of Minnesota has both dinner and lectures.
- d. Northland society is more casual with lunch in a greenhouse.
- e. Kansas Society has Growers Tour of 2 or 3 members' homes, which has social and educational benefit.
- 8. AOS is now providing a beautiful vertical banner and a horizontal one for judges to bring to AOS judged shows. Societies can point out webinars, reciprocal gardens program and digital \$40 memberships available.
- 9. Neighboring societies combine to publish flyer of all speakers for the year. Then share. Next meeting's subject will be "mentoring members in new roles in your society."

After that, I attended the Business meeting. There were reports from all MAOC committees. Some highlights:

The Fall MAOC will be held in conjunction with Chicagoland Fair, Sept 25-27, 2015. There will be no show and judging but there will be MAOC meetings and a bus tour of the Chicago growers and their guest vendors which will include Ecuagenera, Ten Shen Gardens, and Andy's Orchids. The auction, banquet and hopefully one of those vendors as speaker will be at yet to be determined hotel.

The Spring MAOC will be March 19-20, 2016 in the historic Netherland Hilton Hotel in downtown Cincinnati. The hotel even has a restaurant named 'Orchids'.

Next AOS meeting will be in Portland, OR from April 29-May 3. Webinars are scheduled for April 14 by Greg Alikas and April 21 by Ron McHatton. The AOS website will be rebuilt this summer so it can include more content.

There is discussion concerning judging centers coming to society meetings to judge vs at full orchid shows—an Outreach project at their discretion.

SPRING MAOC MEETING

Report and Photographs by MAOC Liaison Audrey Lucier

The spring Mid-America Meeting was held just south of Nashville with a music theme. It was a smaller show than Orchid Quest with fewer exhibitors, vendors, or guests. It did have beautiful, high-quality orchids and exhibits, with many considered for AOS Awards. If plants were pulled, they were marked with small colored stickers for the remainder of the show. There was a table for Overflow Plants and judging lists were computerized with computer printed labels on plants.

There were sizeable exhibits by amateur growers and one of Phalaenopsis and wrapped musical instruments by Tom Harper's Stones River Orchids of Franklin, TN. Tom and wife Laura were the organizers of the show.

Beside clerking at judging, Audrey Lucier attended and reported to our board on the Affiliated Societies and the MAOC business meetings and learned the next MAOC meetings will be in conjunction with Chicagoland Orchid Festival, September 25-27.



Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee's (the host) earned Best Exhibit in Show.



A *Rhyncattleanthe* Orange Nugget x C Jalapa hybrid earned an AM with 80 pts. It was in an exhibit with a saxophone by Jewel Orchids of Atlanta, GA.



Paph Love Song 'Edna', a primary hybrid of *Paph acniodontum* x *Paph sukhakulii* received an AM with 82 points. It received Fox Valley's Best Cypripedium Award.



Calanthe Vestita 'Rosalie' had a previous CCM but was upgraded to a 92 point CCE and an 81 point AM. Its 15 inflorescences with 151 flowers and 24 buds were several feet tall and stunning. It received the Delbert Lowell Jacks Best Specimen in Show Award.

THOUGHTS ON LAST MONTH'S REMOUNTING DEMONSTRATION

When I was working at Orchids Garden Centre, one of the things Chuck assigned to me was watering the mounted orchids. There were many small ones for sale, but also quite a few stud plants behind the screen. I also mounted many smaller ones for sale. When I was mounting the smaller ones for sale, they were typically done in an upwards mode. Several times I also re-mounted larger stud plants and some donated plants.

Chuck said, "Those get mounted upside down." "What?" I said. In the wild most orchids hang down from trees or hillsides and the flowers also hang down, so this is something we should keep in mind when keeping mounted orchids at home. How many times do we struggle to keep stems pointed upwards using sticks, rings, when the plant is trying to grow downwards. I have a *Dendrobium anosmum* in spectacular bloom right now that is heavily staked, and which I now realize would be happier mounted and hanging down. The issue with mounting larger plants is space, and how many times one is willing to move mounted plants to the sink or shower. My *anosmum* may remain staked just for convenience, but I have seen some giant specimens so I am not sure what the future holds for this particular one.



At the last meeting we mounted and re-mounted a good number of plants. After the first few examples, the mounting was fast and furious as everyone there wanted to do some mounting. We had an abundance of *Brassivola nodosa* specimens as Judy Williamson brought a large specimen to divide and share.

There was some interest in making this an annual event. What do you think?

-- Keith Nelson



Elleanthus oliganthus grew on steep slopes in Ecuador

MORE MEDICINAL USES FOR ORCHIDS

On our recent trip to Ecuador our guide was Hugo Medina, a research associate at Ec-uagerna with 30+ years experience with orchids. During a visit to an orchid site near Lita in northern Ecuador he commented that at one time there were more *Catase-tums* there. A local farmer has been collecting them as a medicine for his cows. Apparently when his cows were feverish, he would take the fresh bulbs of *Catasetum ex-pansum*, chop them up and mix them with cold water and feed them to his cows. Hugo claimed that it works.

After further inquiry, Hugo related more instances where orchids were being used in Ecuador other than the obvious *Vanilla*:

- Indigenous people near Cuenca dry the flowers of *Epidendrum secundum, radicans*, or *Ibagueense* and make an infusion that is used to control nerves.
- Bulbs of *Lycaste denningiana* and *Lycaste longipetala* are made into juice called "cuchimbo" which is consumed because "it tastes good" [and possibly provides a pick-me-up.]
- The dried flower of another orchid [possibly *Rodriguezia lanceolata*] is made into an infusion for use as a male aphrodisiac.
- Hugo said that Asiatic people place a glass of water under a bloom of a *Bulbophyllum* or *Masdevallia*. Subsequently they drink the

water to evoke confidence.

If you look, it seems every place one goes, somebody is using orchids for something other than decoration.

-- Denise Baylis

ANNUAL NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE, MAY 31 - JUNE 3

The 2015 Annual Native Orchid Conference meeting will be held May 31 - June 3, 2015. The meeting will take place in Gorham, New Hampshire about 10 minutes from Mt. Washington. So save the dates on your calendar. Jean Stefanik has been working on all the details of the meeting which will be announced as they are finalized. There may be some pre- and post-conference activities so set aside the time before and after the meeting if you are able.



UP-COMING EVENTS

- **April 29-May 3** -- Spring 2015 AOS Annual Members Meeting, Doubletree Hotel Lloyd Center, Portland OR
- **May 31 - June 3** -- Annual Native Orchid Conference, Gorham, New Hampshire
- **Sept 25-27** -- The Fall MAOC will be held in conjunction with Chicagoland Orchid Festival
- **March 19-20, 2016** -- The Spring MAOC will be in the historic Netherland Hilton Hotel in downtown Cincinnati, OH
- **November 8-12, 2017** -- 22nd World Orchid Conference, Guayaquil, Ecuador