

June 2010 The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

Website orchidguild.org



NEXT MEETING June 13th

Rich and Pat Narf are hosting the annual OGG picnic this year. Come at 12 and we'll dine at 1 p.m. Ribbon judging as usual. They will be providing chicken, brats and soft drinks. Please bring a dish to pass and your beverage of choice and chairs.

Meeting Dates

June 13 —Picnic
 September 26-Meeting Room
 October 17-Meeting Room
 November TBA
 December 19-Meeting Room

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

Officers and Committees

President:

Rich Narf (2012)
znarf@dishmail.net

Vice President:

Jill Hynum (2011)
jhynum@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Annette Minter/Lorraine Snyder

Treasurer:

Audrey Lucier
audl@aol.com

Board:

Judy Williamson (2011)
jwilliamson@usgs.gov

Gary Brendemuehl (2013)
gbrendemuehl@verizon.net

Irene Mackie (2012)
Irenepeacemaker2004@yahoo.com

Away Shows:
 Open

Hospitality:
 Pat Narf

Librarian:
 Liz Wood
ewood@biochem.wisc.edu

Pot Culture of the Small Yellow Lady Slipper, *Cypripedium parviflorum var pubesens*

By Sue Reed

I have been growing yellow lady slippers for about five years in pot culture. I pot them up in the spring from their winter retreat in the crisper in my basement refrigerator. They over-winter there in a freezer bag with 1-2 tablespoons of hydrated aquarium charcoal, bare root. The plants usually have shoots up to several inches before I get around to potting them up. If I wait too late, the weather is too hot and they don't flower. The ideal time is when the native yellows



Cypripedium parviflorum
 Plate 911, by Sydenham Edwards for Curtis' Botanical Magazine 1806

are just coming up around the end of April.

I have potted up using a coir mix that I bought from Scott Weber or in a mix I make up using a loose potting soil-less mix

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Membership:
Board of Directors

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Programs:
Judy Stevenson

Ribbon Judging:
Nicole Amass
Jody Thistle

Web Master:
Gary Brendemuehl
gbrendemuehl@verizon.net

Liaisons:

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A quorum gathered at the May meeting for the annual election and auction. Rich Narf was reelected as President for another two year term. Audrey Lucier was elected as Treasurer. Gary Brendemuehl was elected to a three year term to the Board.

MESSAGE FROM THE VALLARTA ORCHID SOCIETY

Thanks to a few generous donations, ground has been broken on the Orchid Conservatory to house the National Collection of Mexican Orchids. Mexico has over 1,200 native orchids and this will be the only conservatory in the entire country dedicated to Mexican orchids. You can watch the progress of the construction efforts at <http://www.pvorchids.com/VBG%20Fundraiser.html>

The Vallarta Botanical Gardens still needs donations to complete the project. Any donation that your organization or any of your members can make will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

T. J. Hartung, President
Vallarta Orchid Society
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

AUCTION RESULTS

In addition to the election of officers, the meeting last month featured an auction of orchids and orchid related items. This included about two dozen orchid plants donated by OGG members as well as coco bark, clips, stakes, and a small green house. Because many of the orchids had just been divided, bidders had the opportunity to inquire about growing conditions of the donor. Audrey Lucier commented, "I enjoyed the auction because of casual nature of meeting, because so many members shared so much of their experience, and we got some bargains!"



A selection of the items auctioned at the May meeting

OGG Ribbon Results for May 2010

First Place

Sandy Delamater	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Frank Smith
Sandy Delamater	<i>Psychopsis</i> Mendenhall 'Hildos'
Sandy Delamater	<i>Dendrobium aggregatum</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Vanda denisoniana</i>
Sue Reed	<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> var <i>pubesens</i>
Richard Miller	Howeara Lava Burst

Second Place

Sandy Delamater	<i>Paphiopedilum moquettianum</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum</i>
Richard Miller	<i>Paphiopedilum niveum</i>
Richard Miller	<i>Dendrobium</i> Sikka Fairy x <i>Dendrobium</i> Classic Red
Richard Miller	<i>Dendrobium</i> Himezakura

Third Place

Richard Miller	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Ho Chi Minh
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Photographs by Denise Baylis



Howeara Lava Burst grown by Richard Miller



Paphiopedilum moquettianum grown by Sandy Delamater



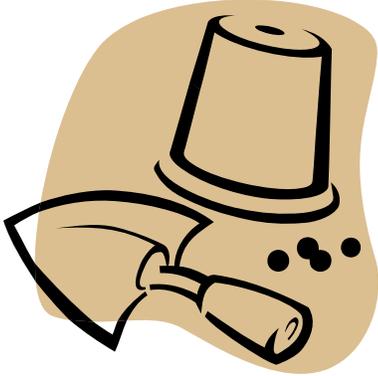
Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum grown by Sandy Delamater



Paphiopedilum Frank Smith grown by Sandy Delamater

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with some things added to increase the drainage of the mix. I pot the roots about an inch under the mix.



The rough recipe:

approximately 3 parts potting soil-less mix
1-2 parts perlite
1 part sand

Dr. Clark Riley suggested:

1/3 Miracle Grow® potting mix
1/3 perlite
1/3 Turface® (a calcined clay product used on baseball diamonds)

This year I used the Miracle Grow® with perlite, sand, and a clay-like product I found at Bruce Company. Drainage is crucial, for the orchids do not like wet feet.

I have used plastic and clay pots and plastic pots inside clay pots for the orchids. As the plants have gotten larger (each year one new growth), I've used more clay pots. This year I've potted one of the plants in a hyperturfa trough that I had made a few years ago. This is a thoroughly aged pot which has been outside for a number of years.

The orchids get some direct sunlight during the day. They are on shelves under my deck that faces east, but they are on the south side so they get some direct sun in the afternoon. It is slightly protected from the wind and the rain, with a large tree adding some shade. I don't let them get really dry during the summer, but water carefully when it is really hot. The foliage dies down in the fall. Any foliage still connected, I carefully break off before storing. I knock off the soil and place the roots into new freezer gallon bags with the charcoal. Sometimes I thought the plants were dead because they had gone dormant earlier than others. But upon knocking them out of the pots, I realized that they were still healthy and alive! So check out the roots before tossing!

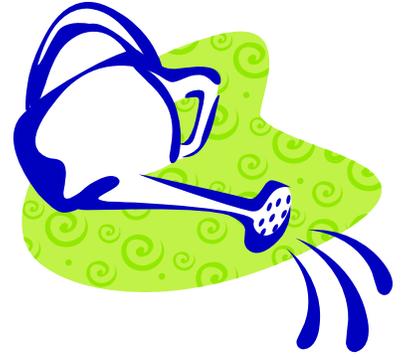
I've listed several sites where the recipes are found for making the troughs. I made my first one with a friend and my second at a meeting of the Illinois-Wisconsin Rock Garden Society. Remember to wear a mask when mixing until the ingredients are all wet. Wear gloves. We used film canisters to make the holes in the bottom and used plastic bags to make unmolding easier. Keep them wet for several days as part of the early aging of the pots.



Cypripedium parviflorum var *pubesens*
grown by Sue Reed in a hypertufa pot

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Addendum: Scott includes some time release fertilizer pellets in his mix. I just use my usual fertilizer, Michigan State, but not every week. I think the native orchids might require even less fertilizer than the tropical orchids. I water the orchids whenever they are dry which could be several times a week when we have don't have much rain. But care must be taken in really hot weather, for I think they might go slightly dormant in the heat.



Below are some listings of information about how to make the hypertufa pots or troughs. I used cement, perlite, sand, and the fibers without any coloring. My pot aged over a winter before I first used it.

Hypertufa Trough:

1. Fine gardening Article: <http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/make-hypertufa-trough.aspx>
2. Garden Web: <http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/make-hypertufa-trough.aspx>
3. Chicago Botanical Garden: http://www.chicagobotanic.org/grow/adult_education/how-to-make-a-cement-trough-container/

THE GOLDEN TOUCH

By Judy Stevenson



Photograph by Denise Baylis
Cypripedium parviflorum from
Blue stem Farm

OGG is fortunate to have a member like Scott Weber who is knowledgeable about propagating and growing native orchids that are endemic to Wisconsin. In April Scott talked with us about the Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*). In the May OGG newsletter, he invited guild members to come to his Bluestem Farm to see blooming yellow lady's slipper orchids.

Lorraine Snyder, Denise Baylis and I met Scott at the designated time. We were richly rewarded when we saw first hand his nursery with multiple groupings of this delicate orchid that is hardy despite Wisconsin winters. The yellow flowers topped by reddish-brown to light brown - golden hoods prefer dappled shade. He said that he prepared the ground where the orchids are planted with lots of organic

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matter and composted leaves. Scott protects his orchids with a 60 % shade cloth stretched over the wildflower nursery. He waters the orchids in the nursery bed only if there is a drought. We also saw a few of the small White Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*). The Showy Lady's Slipper and grass pink orchids bloom about mid-June so we did not see those.



Photographs by Judy Stevenson of some of the Lady's Slippers growing at Bluestem Farm

Up-Coming Events

- **July 31st, 2010.** Picnic at Oak Hill Gardens
- **August 11-15,** Wisconsin State Fair, Milwaukee WI.
- **September 18-19,** Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Milwaukee
- **September 24-26,** Eighteenth Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest
- **September 24-26,** Fall MAOC meeting in conjunction with the Kentucky Orchid Society's 2010 Fall Orchid Show, Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center, Louisville, KY
- **October 9-10,** Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Chicago IL
- **November 14-23, 2011.** 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore

You know you are addicted to orchids when ...

..... you are more concerned about the chemicals that you use on your orchids than those in the food you eat.

..... you won't touch the roach you saw in the bathroom but would move heaven and earth to find and annihilate every one of his buddies in the vicinity of your orchids.

