

January, 2004

The Orchid Grower

Upcoming Events:

- Jan 5: 7:00 PM Board of Directors at Perkins on the Beltline.
- Jan 16: Deadline for February issue of *The Orchid Grower*.
- Jan 25: 1:30 PM Guild Meeting at Olbrich. **No Ribbon Judging due to Orchid Quest.**
- Jan 30: 11:00 a.m. Plants for Guild display due at Orchid Quest
- Jan 30-Feb 1: Orchid Quest in Exposition Hall at Alliant Energy Center
- May 15: Bus trip to Natt's Orchids in Naperville

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Orchid Growers' Guild

“Secrets” of Judging Is Topic for January Meeting

Our program for the January Guild meeting will be the “Secrets” of Judging. The meeting will be Sunday, January 25, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. There will be no ribbon judging since Orchid Quest is the following Friday and we don't want to over stress the flowers. We will also take care of any last minute announcements and needs for the show.

At this meeting you'll learn some of the basics that are important in awarding ribbons to orchids. Flower shape, size, quantity and distribution are all important in judging the award potential of a plant. Some of these attributes may be dependent on the age of the plant being judged. Of

much less importance is how well the plant is grown. Plants that are diseased or infected are naturally excluded from judging.

What is the “secret” of judging? It has to be that there is no secret other than judging is very subjective. This is why we encourage you to send your plants to a variety of shows. In the past, some of our growers have had their long-blooming plants at one or two shows without winning an award and then the next show (same blooms) its awarded. Its also possible that the same plant will not be considered for an AOS award at one show, but will receive one at a subsequent show.

Complete Policies Now Available

A copy of the current policies of the Orchid Growers' Guild is now available on the membership page of our web site and is included with this newsletter for those without internet access. Each policy states the most recent revision date for that policy. At its December meeting the Board made the following modifications to policies:

Ribbon Judging Policy: Number of points for tearing-down the guild exhibit increased to 6. Clarifica-

tion added that all points are equally divided by up to three participants.

Awards Policy: Classes modified by Ribbon Judging Policy. Most Improved Grower Award eliminated due to difficulty in determining winner.

Membership Dues Policy: Sentence relating to paying dues after June 30 was eliminated as it didn't make sense to the Board.

President's Message – Doug Dowling

The time has come once again for our mid-winter show and sale Orchid Quest. This has become one of the premiere shows and sales in the upper Mid-west. It is also the earliest show of brilliant plants in Madison, preceding the garden show by a week. It's a great way to beat the winter blahs and be encouraged to think Spring with the return of life and color to the landscape.

While the original goal was for Orchid Quest to stand on its own, it has become a very important part of the fund raising of the Guild. Not only is Orchid Quest self-sustaining, but it provides funds for our participation in the shows of other societies. It does this through the wonderful volunteer efforts of many of our members. While the Orchid Quest chair is the most visible, there are several others who work behind the scenes with advertising, arrangements with the Alliant Energy Center, judging, programs, awards, food, etc. During the show everyone's help is needed in setting up from 9:00 a.m. until about 10:00 p.m. on Friday, with the actual judging at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday and with the actual public show from 10:00-5:00 on both Saturday and Sunday. During the show workers are needed for ticket and raffle sales; for the plant check area; for the Guild table and hospitality room; to fill-in so vendors can have breaks and to do many other tasks that make our vendors, other societies and guests feel welcome.

Plan now to be a part of the fun at Orchid Quest 2004. Let Liz Barlow know what you'd like to do, and we'll see you at Orchid Quest 2004!

2004 Guild Meetings

The following dates have been set for Guild meetings for 2004.

Feb. 15

Mar. 28

Apr. 18

May 15 Bus Trip to Natt's

June Summer Picnic

Sept. 19

Oct. 17

Nov. 21

Dec. 12

Leadership Positions Available

The Guild is in need of a couple of dedicated volunteers. We need a person to work with Liz Barlow on Orchid Quest 2004 and then be in charge in 2005. We also need one or more people to head-up the Spring Sale. Guidelines on what needs doing are available.

Time to Renew Your Membership

Its time renew your membership in the Orchid Growers' Guild for another year. Our membership year follows the calendar year (Jan-Dec). You will find a renewal form/application included in this newsletter. We ask that you complete the entire application and submit it with your 2004 membership dues.

In the past, a number of members have renewed by simply giving the Guild a check or cash. At times, this renewal is not appropriately credited. To help prevent this we will not accept renewals without a completed application.

Your dues pays for most of the cost of printing and mailing information to members as well as the cost of our web site. The rest of these costs, program expenses, away show expenses and other Guild expenses are paid for with the proceeds from Orchid Quest, the Spring Sale and any other sales we hold.

Plan Now to Go to Natt's in May

Since Olbrich Botanical Gardens cannot provide meeting space for us any time in May, the Board has authorized a special field trip. On Saturday, May 15, we'll gather together for a bus trip to Natt's Orchids in Naperville, Illinois. The day will include fellowship, orchid shopping, lunch, and of course bus transportation for about \$25 per person depending on the number attending. Please let Gary Lensmeyer know of your interest so we can plan for the size of the bus.

Call for Orchids and Foliage Plants for Orchid Quest 2004 – Sue Reed

We want to thank all of the members for their support of the Guild's exhibit at previous orchid shows. We are really going to need *your* continued support for Orchid Quest 2004!

We are the sponsoring organization, so the pressure is on us to have a great exhibit! We will be having 100 sq. feet to fill with *your* blooming orchids, *your* nice foliage orchid plants and *your* green leafed foliage plants. From what we've been reading, we should have 100 blooming orchid plants to make a nice exhibit. So let's set a record of blooming orchid plants in the Guild's exhibit! We are thinking of a garden theme, therefore some nice foliage plants will be needed for fillers. Some well-grown orchid plants that have nice foliage like vanilla and any other individual orchid plant that looks good whether or not it is blooming, would be a welcomed addition!

Please stake your plants for travel and for showing the blooms to their best advantage. Please clean up the leaves with some use diluted milk. When cleaning you might notice some "groupies," so spray with a soap solution to clean the plant and to kill the intruders. It would be best to do the cleaning a week or so in advance of the show so that the plants can get a second treatment to make sure that they are not contagious! The leaves help set-off the flowers for a nice presentation so clean leaves are important!

Label your plants on the pots, low on the sides or bottom. Whatever you bring to add to the exhibit, please label with your name. Have them at Exposition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center by 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 30.

If you could please email or mail Sue Reed a list of your plants before the show, it would be a great help! The list should also include the classification for the plants for judging. Members can get judging registration slips at the January meeting, or at Orchids by the Ackers. The registration slips should accompany your plants to the show.

The plants should be at the show set up by noon on the Friday before the show. If you have problems getting your plants to the display set up on time, please contact one of the exhibit members for assistance in getting your plants. Do not forget that your plants will need to be taken home after 5 PM on February 1.

Thank you again for your great orchids!

The exhibit committee: Sue Reed, Joan Smalley, Sandy Delamater, Elaine Malter, & Janet Moore.

May 2004 bring you many award winning orchids. Of course you must bring them to meetings & shows first.

Membership Directory

Some members of the Guild have asked about an updated membership directory. An updated directory will be available in March after the deadline for 2004 membership renewals.

If you have misplaced your copy of the current directory, a copy will be e-mailed to you if you e-mail dougandgary@sbcglobal.net. Please specify if you would like it in MS-Word, .pdf, or .rtf format.

The Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society, Native Orchid Conservation Committee has thanked the Orchid Growers' Guild for our generosity and interest in native orchids. Our Guild donated \$155 to the Native Orchid Conservation Committee.

Orchid Growers' Guild

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902 Twin Pines Dr.
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The Orchid Grower

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Madison, Wisconsin 53705

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.orchidguild.org

Officers and Committees

President: Doug Dowling (2004)
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Vice Pres.: Elaine Malter (2005)
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Secretary: Meg McLaughlin (2005)
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Treasurer: Steven Thimling (2004)
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Ribbon Judging: Mark Nofsinger (2005)
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608-838-3120

Liaisons:
Alliant: Cleo Kiergaard (2004)
AOS: Jill Hynum (2005)
MAOC: Don Lamb (2005)
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum (2004)

Orchid Growers' Guild, Inc. Calendar Year 2004 Membership Application

Please complete all sections and submit with your membership dues payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail*: _____

*To maintain low membership dues, e-mail is used whenever possible.
Your e-mail address will only be available to Guild members.

Is this a change of address: Yes No

Please indicate your type of membership:

- Individual \$18
- Student (full time students)..... \$9
- Household (two voting memberships) ... \$24
- Business \$24
(New members pay 1/2 of above after June 30th)

Experience Growing Orchids:

Number of years _____

or

Year you started _____

I am interested in helping with the following:

- Plant sales and auctions
- Orchid Quest
- Program planning
- Assist with "away" plant show set-up and take-down
- Ribbon judging at monthly meetings
- Committee work: _____
- Serve on the Board of Directors
- Other: _____

Skills, knowledge and expertise I would be willing to share with the Guild: _____

Please mail this form with your payment to:

ORCHID GROWERS' GUILD
PO BOX 5432
MADISON WI 53705