

# November 2007 **The Orchid Grower**

## *Orchid Growers' Guild*



### **MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT Next Meeting November 18<sup>th</sup> At Ackers'**

OGG's November meeting is once again at the Orchids by the Ackers Greenhouse. I always take pleasure in this meeting because it is enjoyable to be around blooming plants after the frost has killed the outside plants. It is also a good time to start thinking about gifts to give during the holidays.



#### **Meeting Dates**

November 18 – Ackers  
 December 16 - Meeting Room  
 January 20, 2008 - Meeting Room  
 February 17 - Atrium  
 March 9 - Meeting Room  
 March 22 - Orchid Sale with Pansy Sale at Olbrich  
 April 20 - Meeting Room  
 May 18 - Meeting Room  
 June TBA  
 September 7 - Atrium  
 October 19 - Atrium  
 December 14 - Meeting Room

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

November 17-18, 2007, Fall 2007 Mid-America Orchid Congress  
 January 23-27, 2008, 19th World Orchid Congress  
 February 2-3, 2008, Orchid Quest  
 March 27-29, 2008, Spring Mid-America Orchid Congress  
 March 28-30, 2008, 33<sup>rd</sup> Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Davenport, IA

#### **Officers and Committees**

**President:**  
 Judy Stevenson (2008)  
[judy\\_stevenson@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:judy_stevenson@SBCGlobal.net)

As many of you probably already know, Nancy and Stan Skolaski have sold their business. As of October first, Kent Franz is the new owner. Stan and Nancy have agreed to remain until June to ease him in to this new endeavor. We will have a chance to meet Kent at the November meeting. We are grateful that he has bought the business so we can still pursue our orchid addictions.

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I wish to thank both the Skolaski's and Chuck Acker for their tremendous support of OGG when the charter became official 22 years ago. How fortunate we have been to have had their support and expertise "in our backyard." I have appreciated the advice and recommendations they have given me since I started growing orchids. Members have found it very helpful to drop off and pick up the orchids they wish to send to the Orchid Shows, at the greenhouse. Stan, Nancy and Chuck please accept our "thanks" for all you have done. We wish both Stan and Nancy the best in their retirement.

Be sure to bring the Paphiopedilum seedling that you received from Ackers last year. Nancy reminded me about the contest where the grower of the best looking seedling will receive a handsome gift certificate. This year we will receive a Phalaenopsis seedling to nurture until next November for a similar contest. See you November 18<sup>th</sup>.

— Judy Stevenson

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**AOS:** Jill Hynum (2007)  
**MAOC:** Wayne King  
**Orchid Digest:** Jill Hynum (2007)

**Submit your photos to be included in the newsletter. Every month we want to include a gallery of photos to enjoy. Email your photos**

## OCTOBER TALK Allis Challis on “Miniature Orchid Gems”

Alex Challis, an AOS judge since 1993, started growing orchids in the early 1980's. He earned BS and MS degrees in Botany at the University of Michigan. He worked for Great Lakes Orchids in Michigan from 1985 to 1988 before moving to Hoosier Orchids. He has been with New World Orchids since 1995. They started out selling mostly Ecuadorian and Costa Rican species and then changed over to Japanese orchids, *Neofinetias* and such. He also grows a number of species and miniature orchids on his own with Rob Halgren at Littlefrog Farm.



Guest speaker Alex Challis with two of his miniature gems  
Photograph by Gwen Padden-Lechten

Alex distributed a copy of the names of the orchids he was going to feature in his presentation. He showed a series of beautiful slides of miniature orchids from around the world and told us a little about each one. He also brought in a few miniatures that were currently in bloom. He covered them in box to fool them into thinking it was night to induce their wonderful fragrance.

### “The Role of Classification in Judging Orchid Quality”

Wayne King, member and guest speaker spoke at our September general meeting on “The Role of Classification in Judging Orchid Quality.” He explained the MAOC 2006 classification catalog that is used for judging. He briefly touched on the steps necessary to name a new orchid (an article addressing this will be forth-coming).

Wayne explained how to read a plant label. The genus name of the orchid is its first name. It is always capitalized and in Latin. The second name is the species and it's always in lower case, italicized and in Latin. Hybrid orchids combine the names of two different genera, for example a hybrid of *Brassavola* and *Cattleya* becomes a new name, *Brassocattleya*, which is capitalized, in Latin, italicized, and frequently abbreviated Bc. This example has no species name as it is a hybrid of two different species however when a hybrid comes from just one species, the species name will also be listed, lowercase, in italics and in Latin. The nomenclature continues and will be addressed in a future article. And to add to the confusion, taxonomists have changed the names of several genera and species, sometimes as the result of DNA analysis. Thus plants with a long history under one name have been reclassified leading to some confusion.

Wayne suggested that each exhibitor to make out their own orchid label

to Svetlana ([grigkot@gmail.com](mailto:grigkot@gmail.com)) and Denise ([rbaylis@tds.net](mailto:rbaylis@tds.net))

The Orchid Growers' Guild, Inc. (OGG) is a non-profit organization, affiliated with the American Orchid Society. Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. See our website at [orchidguild.org](http://orchidguild.org) for more information.

before entering it in competition rather than depending on the set-up crew to do it. Since classes are judged in numerical order from low to high number, he recommended if you are not sure which category your orchid fits into that you pick the lower number. If you inadvertently place it in a higher category than the one it belongs in your plant will not be judged as judging in that class will already have been completed. Wayne mentioned the difficulty in anticipating whether or not your plant is a worthy entry. Different judges may have different criteria that they use for evaluating a plant. He gave an example of where one of the judges placed emphasis on the foliage.

Several orchids were brought to the front of the room and there was a discussion as to which category they would best fit into as each had qualities that could place it in more than one. For an example, a miniature cymbidium hybrid could be placed in category 92 or in 112 which covers miniatures in general. — Annette Minter



## OPEN POSITIONS STARTING IN 2008

Away Show Chair and Hospitality

### ORCHIDS IN SWITZERLAND 50 YEARS OF ORCHID PASSION!

Lausanne was the venue for the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Orchid Society. The regional Orchid Society "Groupe de Romandie" hosted the event at the Palais de Beaulieu from September 14-23, 2007. Participants were from eight regional Swiss Orchid Societies, Neuchatel Botanical Gardens, Museum of Lausanne Botanical Garden, City of Zurich and Botanical garden of Porrentruy, as well as from Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Taiwan, The Netherlands and Venezuela.



One of the exhibits at the Swiss Orchid Society Show and an unidentified orchid; photographs by Jean Phillippe Mueller

Photograph by Judith Rapacz

## NEW ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES FOUND IN VIETNAM

*Discoveries highlight importance of conservation in threatened tropical forest, says WWF*

World Wildlife Fund scientists recently reported that the discovery of 11 new animal and plant species in a remote area in central Vietnam underscores the importance of conservation efforts in the ancient tropical forests of the region.

Within the ancient tropical forests of a region known as Vietnam's "Green Corridor," scientists found a snake, five orchids, and two butterflies as well as three other plants new to science and exclusive to the Annamites Mountain Range. Ten other plant species, including four orchids, are still under examination but also appear to be new species.

"Discoveries of so many new species are rare and occur only in very special places like the Green Corridor," said Dr. Chris Dickson, WWF's chief conservation scientist in the Green Corridor. "Several large mammal species were discovered in the 1990s in the same forests so these latest discoveries may be just the tip of the iceberg."

The rainforests of the Central Annamites likely existed as continuous undisturbed forest cover for thousands of years, and, as a result, offer unique habitats for many species, said WWF experts.

Three of the new orchid species are entirely leafless, a rarity even among orchids. Containing none of the chlorophyll or green pigment commonly found in plants, these orchids live on decaying matter like many fungal species.

Stretching from the mountainous forests of the Annamites to one of the last remaining lowland



*Anoechilus annamensis*  
(close-up)



*Gastrodia theana*



*Oberonia huensis*



*Oberonia huensis* (close-up)

Photographs © Leonid Averyanov / WWF



Photographs © Leonid Averyanov / WWF



*Saccolabiopsis viridiflora*

*Saccolabiopsis viridiflora* (close-up)

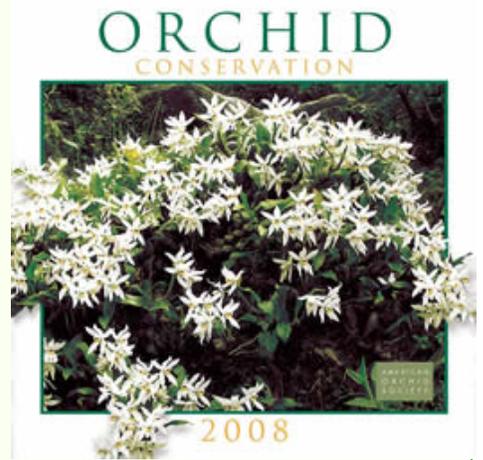
*Lecanorchis vietnamica*

wet evergreen forests, the Green Corridor supports significant populations of threatened species and includes some of the longest remaining stretches of lowland river with intact forest habitat in Vietnam feeding into the Perfume River.

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## 2008 AOS Calendar

Orchid conservation was an important topic when the American Orchid Society was founded in 1921. And since the AOS Conservation Committee was established on May 6, 1922, it has addressed concerns voiced by the Society's founders: education, scientific research and protection of orchid habitats. Meeting twice yearly, the committee works in concert with the Education and Research Committees, evaluating proposals for scientific grants in the field of conservation. To further its goals, the Conservation Committee has worked with volunteer photographers and authors worldwide to create the 2008 American Orchid Society Conservation Calendar. This gallery of 12 plant portraits reflects the mission of the American Orchid Society, to promote and support the passion for orchids through education, conservation and research. Hailing from Madagascar, the Himalayas, Peru, Florida, Japan, China and elsewhere, the 12 orchid species shown illustrate the amazing diversity found within the orchid family. Embrace a passion for orchid conservation by purchasing this calendar for yourself — and as gifts for friends.



The 2008 calendar is 24 pages with 12 color photographs. It is shrink-wrapped with heavy card stiffener and opens to 11x22 inches.

If you would like to order a copy of this beautiful calendar along with me, please let me know at the November meeting. Only \$12.95 while supplies last. \$2 from each calendar sold benefits the AOS conservation program. — Jill Hynum

## Blackhawk Orchid Society Show Results 2007

<b>Set-up:</b>	Sandy Delamater	
<b>Take-down:</b>	Judy Stevenson, Svetlana Kot	
<b>Exhibit:</b>	Second	
<b>Special</b>	Orchids by the Ackers Orchids by the Ackers Sandy Delamater	Grcym Lovely Melody 'Sweet' Vanda Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride' <i>Aerides lawrenceae</i>
<b>First Place:</b>	Orchids by the Ackers Orchids by the Ackers Orchids by the Ackers Orchids by the Ackers Gary Brendemuehl Sandy Delamater Sandy Delamater	Grcym Lovely Melody 'Sweet' Phrag Rosy Glow Vanda Sansai Blue Blc Greenwich 'Elmhurst' Paph Maude's Blush <i>Aerides lawrenceae</i> Epi. Mabel Kanda x Lc Trick or
Treat	Wayne King Richard Narf Sue Reed	Paph Vanguard Colm. Wildcat 'Green Valley' Den. <i>Johnsoniae x convolutum</i>
<b>Second Place:</b>	Orchids by the Ackers Orchids by the Ackers Orchids by the Ackers Orchids by the Ackers Judith Rapacz Sue Reed Sue Reed	Blc Lois Mc Neil 'Ace' Paph In-Charm x Niveum Phrag Audrey Phrag Twilight x <i>fischeri</i> <i>Laelia perrinii</i> var <i>Coerulea</i> Paph Juno <i>Maxillaria nasuta</i>
<b>Third Place:</b>	Gary Brendemuehl Wayne King Wayne King Svetlana Kot Sarah Lundy	Paph Henrietta Fujiwara Slc Acker's Royal Hue Vanda Sansai Blue Pescorantes Amazon Lady Bc Binosa 'Wabash Valley'



Above, Den. *Johnsoniae x convolutum*; below Coml. Wildcat 'Green Valley'

Photographs by Gwen Padden-Lechten



### You know you are addicted to orchids when ...

... your only "passengers" in the car are none other than orchids.



### IN MEMORIUM

#### Richard Max Shackelford, Geneticist and Orchid Lover

Richard M. Shackelford, an active OGG member since 1991, passed away (in spite of his age – unexpectedly) September 19, 2007 at his home in Verona. For nearly 40 years Dick Shackelford conducted research on the color phases of fur-bearing animals, mainly mink and foxes, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He retired from the University in 1984. His keen interest in color phases in animals carried over to orchids and he was an admirer of true and elegant beauty, whether in orchids, roses, or Homo sapiens (especially ladies).

He attended OGG membership meetings until a couple of years ago and truly enjoyed the interaction with the “old members”. Dick was active in helping out with the Guild's orchid shows and sales until his 90th year. Dick still raised orchids until his death at the age of nearly 93. In the winter he kept the plants in the basement and in spring he carried them upstairs to the balcony for the summer. The flowering orchids he kept in the living room for visitors to enjoy, however, if he did not have an orchid in bloom he purchased one at King's or Acker's.

In the earlier years he had a big flower and vegetable garden and often brought flowers, including orchids, to the office secretaries. One evening he drove into Madison with a night blooming cereus so we could enjoy the fragrance of this beautiful flower. Dick was very engaging and knowledgeable, especially in subjects related to science and nature. He was also an avid reader of history and nature, bred canaries for many years and watched wild birds in rural Mt. Vernon, where he lived for 45 years. He will be missed.

A celebration of his life for family, friends, and former colleagues will be held Saturday, December 29, 2007 at Verona Legion Hall, 207 Legion St, Verona WI. (608-845-6538). Memorial service will be at 3:00 pm followed by a reception / socializing from 4-6 pm. Memorial gifts in his name may be made to Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI 53704.

## Ribbon Judging October 2007 Membership Meeting

### First Place

Gary Brendemuehl  
Sandy Delamater  
Sandy Delamater  
Sandy Delamater  
Jill Hynum  
Svetlana Kot  
Richard Narf  
Richard Narf  
Sue Reed  
Sue Reed  
Sue Reed  
Steven Thimling

*Paph Duguesclin*  
Blc Benigno's Treasure 'Ruby Heart'  
Epi Mabel Kanda x Lc Trick or Treat  
Vanda Manuvadee  
*Sophranitella violacea*  
*Pescoranthus* 'Amazon Lady'  
*Colmanara* Wildcat 'Green Valley'  
*Den denudans*  
*Den johnsoniae* x *Den convolutum*  
*Maxillaria nasuta*  
Paph Juno  
*Bulbophyllum rothschildianum*



*Pescoranthus* 'Amazon Lady'

### Second Place

Jeffrey Baylis  
Gary Brendemuehl  
Gary Brendemuehl  
Gary Brendemuehl  
Sandy Delamater  
Richard Narf  
  
Sue Reed  
Steven Thimling

*Brassavola nodosa*  
*Ansellia africana* subsp. *africana*  
Paph Maud's Blush  
Paph Henrietta Fujiwara  
Vanda Thananchai x Ascda Tubtim Velvet  
Dgmra Woodland's Tiger (Mtssa Marlene  
Holl 'Woodlands' x *Odm bictoniense* 'Cordoba')  
Paph Ho Chi Minh  
Dendrobium



Paph Juno fairienanum x callosum

### Third Place

Richard Narf  
Gwyn Padden-Lechten

Sc Crystelle Smith 'BK Orchids'  
Mtssa. Charles M Fitch "Izumi"

Photographs by Gwyn Padden-Lechten



*Sophranitella violacea* upper left; *Maxillaria nasuta* above; Judges Elaine Malter, Svetlana Kot and Steve Thiming upper right

### You know you are addicted to orchids when ...

... you drive about 120 miles one-way with a topographic map of the National Forest in one hand and a camera in the other, looking at the lay of the land to see where native orchids might be, hoping they are in bloom.



### UP-COMING EVENTS

- ◆ November 17-18, 2007, Fall 2007 Mid-America Orchid Congress sponsored by Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City, Kansas City Orchid Expo, Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO
- ◆ January 23-27, 2008, 19th World Orchid Congress will be held in Miami FL the theme for the show is "Orchids—Nature's Masterpiece™."
- ◆ February 2-3, 2008, Orchid Quest
- ◆ March 27-29, 2008, Central Ohio Orchid Society Spring Show in conjunction with Spring MAOC, Columbus, OH
- ◆ March 28-30, 2008, 33rd Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, Putnam Museum and IMAX® Theatre, 1717 W. 12th Street, Davenport, IA [palwumla@aol.com](mailto:palwumla@aol.com)

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 6. They will meet at Judy Stevenson's residence. Let Judy Stevenson know if you plan to attend as well as to obtain the agenda and any last minute changes.

### MISSION STATEMENT

**F**orming friendships by working together in harmony as an organization. For guild members and the public, finding pleasure in being with others who share an excitement for the awe and beauty of orchids (native and tropical).

**U**nderstanding more about one of the world's largest flowering families, the orchidaceae. This would include learning their growing cultures, propagation and preservation through formal and informal education that enhances each of our growing abilities.

**N**urturing the plant and the world of orchids by supporting local and worldwide environmental conservation projects. Nourish the human spirit and reflect the ideals of AOS and MAOC. Increase general appreciation of orchids through educational opportunities for all.