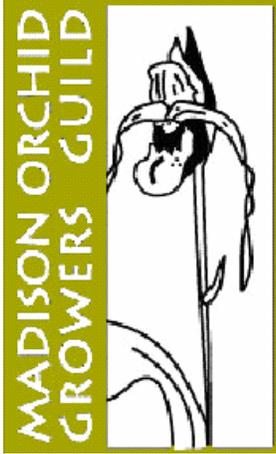


Summer 2013 **The Orchid Grower**

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison
Website orchidguild.org



NEXT MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15th

Hello Everyone!

Thanks for making the trip to Lodi and for making the June picnic so much fun! I was already for an indoor picnic but I'm grateful the weather cooperated. I very much appreciated everybody's flexibility in helping move chairs, tables, food and flowers outside where we could enjoy the perfect temperature, light breeze, and phenomenal food. There aren't any edible leftovers but I do seem to have a 9 x 13 pan I don't remember having. Let me know if it's yours and I'll bring it to September meeting (maybe even with brownies!).

Have a safe, restful, glorious summer
—MEG

Meeting Dates

September 15—Meeting Room
October 20—Meeting Room
November 17—Orchids
December 15— Meeting Room

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

Up-Coming Events

September 14, 15 – Wisconsin Orchid Society Show

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Terri Jozwiak (2014)
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Judy Williamson (2014)
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Nancy Thomas (2016)

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Annual Picnic Redux

We thank you Meg, for your wonderful hospitality and the opportunity to spend time together on a gorgeous day.

Everyone, enjoy your summer and we will see you in September!

Lorraine Snyder
OGG President

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Sue Reed touting an orchid plant at the Annual OGG Picnic

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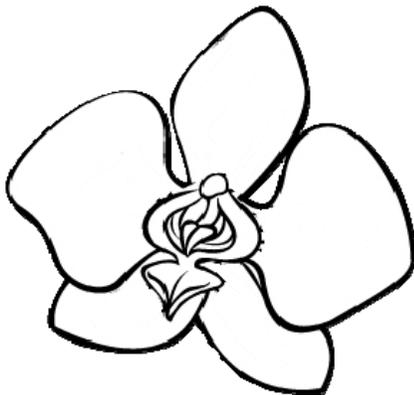
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AOS: Jill Hynum
MAOC: Audrey Lucier
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum



Orchiata! Orchiata! Bark! Bark! Bark! by Cleo Kiergaard ¹

Nope, not a silly Junior High cheer. It's my orchids asking for Orchiata™ to keep their 'feet' happy.

Orchiata™ is a sustainable orchid growing substrate produced from 100% New Zealand *Pinus radiata* bark. *Pinus radiata* is 'farmed' so it will continue to be available without destroying native forests. Farming only takes 25-30 years before it can be harvested instead of traditional 85-95 years.

New Zealand *Pinus radiata* is a hard and stable bark compared to other pine species. However, it needs to be processed from its raw state. The bark is wind rowed with Dolomite (calcium magnesium) added in the final stages of production. Natural heat is developed as the bark has water added and is slightly composted just enough to burn off the chaff and dust leaving only hard, clean, nitrified bark. Pathogens do not survive this process, but beneficial microorganisms do. This process creates a high quality, stable, long lasting, toxin free, consistent growing substrate. It holds water and nutrients on the outside layer of each chip, as well as creating a slightly rough surface for roots to anchor on.

Adding Dolomite to the substrates is very beneficial, increasing the pH to within a range of 5.5 to 6.5 and providing the minerals calcium and magnesium, essential for plant growth. The dolomite in Orchiata™ provides the plant with an initial start-up supply of these two minerals, and should not be washed out, so don't soak it. You don't need to flush it either. *As Pinus radiata* bark is not soft and spongy it does not absorb additional salts. It only holds enough nutrients on the outside layer of the chip for the plant.

Orchiata™ comes in at least six different sizes, but four are about all that is probably useful for orchids. They are: Classic 1/4"-3/8"; Power 3/8"-1/2"; Power Plus 1/2"-3/4"; Super 3/4"-1".

Pinus radiata has been lasting a minimum of three years and growers in Japan claim 10 years. Once you get it 'broken in', it rewets quickly. That attribute doesn't come instantly. It takes 3-4 weeks (or more) depending on your growing conditions. When you first start to use it, you DO need to water more frequently or your orchids will become desiccated—which you don't want.

If by chance you do get some desiccation after you've repotted,

(Continued from page 2)

individually take them to the sink and run water through the pot to thoroughly wet the OrchiaTM. Do this every other day or so until they have recovered. I had to do this because I didn't really believe you did need to water more frequently when I made the switch. Now I'm a believer.

So water frequently at first, and a couple of months down the road you'll look at your orchids and they will have changed. They'll look healthier! Give them six months and you won't know they are the same orchids. No kidding, this stuff really makes them 'shine' in many ways. An example: in Sep-



Dendrobium rigidum and *Pleurothallis grobyi*

tember I repotted a *Pleurothallis grobyi* and *Dendrobium rigidum* into OrchiaTM. Both orchids were about an inch in diameter at that time. They were not fertilized. Now the grobyi is 5" and rigidum 3". They have both flowered. To me, that's outstanding.

Now we know what it is, so, how and what have I used it for and why? The 'why' is easy. When it was time to bring my orchids back inside last September, I realized that every one of them had to be repotted because I had neglected them. Did not think I would be able to do the lifting and mixing of all the 'stuff' I normally had been using. The idea of not having to mix anything in was the clincher. OrchiaTM is best used as a stand-

alone product, meaning there is no need to mix other components with it! So I bought a car load of OrchiaTM, came home and started repotting everything from *Pleurothallis* to *Vandaceous*². First thing I noticed was how light and clean the OrchiaTM was. No slivers in my hands, no coughing from all the dust, and no assorted 'gunk' all over my work area. Just a little pretty brown dust and four bags to choose from as I worked. In the winter you can easily pot on a tray in your house without having to get the shopvac out to clean up. The first time you water, you will notice a little 'dust' does rinses off but not enough to clog your plumbing like some of the other stuff I've used over the years.

One of the other things I like about it is that it is a very pretty shade of brown. Looks like a good piece of chocolate. So, while you're watering, you can get your chocolate fix at the same time just by looking at it. I've been using it for over six months now and it's still that same pretty color. My hard water has not affected it, which is great. Ya, I know.

I grow in clay pots and plastic web baskets. When I want better than average drainage, I put an inch of large, chunky OrchiaTM in the bottom of the pot or basket and then added the size OrchiaTM that is correct for the particular plant and pot on. You could also use stones in the bottom, but that adds extra weight without the benefits of the OrchiaTM. Don't pack the OrchiaTM too tightly in the pot. Just drop it in as it falls and you'll have better drainage and air circulation. You may see some settling after a few months, and if you do, simply top it off with more OrchiaTM.

I use baskets primarily for Vandaceous orchids. Depending on the size of the lattice work on the basket, the OrchiaTM may fall out. If this happens, line the inside of the

(Continued from page 3)

basket lightly with coconut husk (hanging basket liners). It pulls apart easily so you can get a nice thin lining if you prefer that to the heavier one. It works well for me. I like to top it all off with some live Spanish Moss. It looks pretty hanging down around the plants in my windows. Some baskets I just set in a saucer like I do with clay pots. They do just as well as the hanging ones if they get as much light. In fact, I potted a *Neofinetia*



Neofinetia falcata 'Fugaku'

falcata 'Fugaku' that way last September. I've had it for five years and it's not done much of anything. It's now in full flower. This stuff really does work!

Tom Clevon is experimenting with mounted orchids as he wants to get the benefits of Orchidata™ for them. He's holding the Orchidata™ on with coconut liner. The liner should last for several years and the roots will grow through it. He made a slatted mount and stapled liner to the back so the Orchidata™ does not fall through. Then he placed the Orchidata™ around the roots and stapled another piece of liner over the top to hold the Orchidata™ in place. Sounds to me like it should

work beautifully.

The thing that has excited me the most about Orchidata™ is growing a *Dracula*. I've killed many of them over the years because I couldn't meet their needs no matter how hard I tried, even with advice from a friend that grows them like weeds in his basement. First week of December I'm lugging home two *Dracula*. One, a vampira, was in spike. They were both in web baskets with old 'stuff' around them. It did flower. Then it did like all the others in the past have—slowly deteriorated. In March I decided to repot it but to use Orchidata™ this time. Knew plain Orchidata™ would stay too dry so settled on a mix of Orchidata™, sphagnum moss and perlite that I mixed together. Put it back in the web basket (after I thoroughly cleaned it) on the small obelisk I keep them both on. Now, mid-April, it has two flower spikes and the leaves are full and shiny! I can hardly believe it. The other one is just as healthy.

I have two *Habenaria medusa* in Orchidata™.



Habenaria medusa

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Since Orchidata™ works with Paphs and Phrags, I'm sure it will work for them too. Like Tom's project, time will tell.

So, get some Orchidata™, pot some plants with it and watch them change. Then do a bit of experimenting of your own. I know you'll enjoy.

¹ Photographs by Cleo Kiergaard

² To be more specific: *Aerangis*, *Angraecum*,

Calanthe, *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Dendrobium moniliforme*, *Disa*, *Encyclia*, *Epidendrum*, *Habenaria*, *Laelia*, *Lycaste*, *Masdevallia*, *Mediocar*, *Neofinetia falcata*, *Oncidium*, *Ornithophora*, *Papheopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Phragmepedium*, *Pleurothallid* (various), *Polystachya*, *Psychopsis*, *Sigmatostalix*, *Sophronitis*, *Spathoglottis*, *Stanhope*, *Zygopetalum*, *Vandae* and its various members. So you can see it works with just about, if not, everything.

APRIL MEETING RECAP

Photographs by Jill Hynum

The May meeting the members elected Jill Hynum to another term as vice-president, Lynn West to continue as Secretary and Nancy Thomas to the Board. Audrey Lucier will be our new representative to MAOC.

The members' auction provided a variety for attendees to choose from. There were lights, filters, humidity trays, baskets, hangers, books, and of course lots of plants. Auctioneer Rich Narf earned his pay

There was also ribbon judging. The first of two plants of note was Sue Reed's *Paph* (Gray's 'Sandstone' x Mystic Isle 'Hysinying'

BM/TPS), now named *Paph*. Island Mist. She purchased it at Orchids and it has really done well for her. She keeps it at an eastern window but on a second shelf. Although it blooms well, the flowers are 'too cupped' to likely win an AOS award. Each year the plant has bloomed with one more spike than the



OGG members considering their next purchase during the very successful April members' auction



Paph (Gray's 'Sandstone' x Mystic Isle 'Hysinying' BM/TPS)

previous year and often with two blooms per spike. According a discussion on slippertalk (web slipper forum), the parents are Greyi 'Sandstone' x Mystic Isle 'Hsinying' BM/TPS making it 62.5% niveum and 37.5% godefroyae and which explains the cupping. So maybe the AOS judges would take that into consideration.

The second plant was a *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum* with a fabulous inflorescence [see

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

June Newsletter for photo]. Dennis Pfarrer keeps the plant wet however he eases up on watering when it loses its leaves. He bought it about 5 or 6 years ago from Oak Hill. He has been growing it in a south facing window, in his basement, so in winter it will get direct sun, while in summer it gets indirect bright light. Coolest temperature in winter is about 55°, while in summer it may reach 80°. He waters it twice a week while in growth, but after leaf loss he waters it lightly once a week. It has in the past held leaves for several years, but the last couple years it has become deciduous. The magnificent chandelier shaped inflorescence can be either on the newest growth, or will sometimes come from an old growth. Several times he has had flower spikes come off of old growths. It is lightly fragrant. He said that he was lucky this time to have it in bloom for the OGG meeting, as the inflorescence only stays fresh for about 14 days.



Auctioneer Rich Narf with item to benefit Susan B. Kommen Foundation

Jill Hynum brought the refreshments which featured homemade shortbread tarts, filled with homemade lemon curd topped with fresh berries. After numerous requests, Jill has graciously agreed to share her recipe [see next page]

AUCTION REPORT

Terri Jozwiak, Treasurer

The member auction was as terrific success. Many members brought plenty of plants, hangers, lights, books and other related materials, so much so that the auction went for a long time. It started before and continued straight through an afternoon thunderstorm and continued until it had stopped raining!

Ninety-eight items were sold. The total income from those items was \$857.25, less the amount that members wanted back (50% of the purchase price if requested) which was \$211.00 leaving a net income for OGG of \$646.25.

Thanks to the bookkeepers, Terri Jozwiak and Audrey Lucier, and others that helped with the auction, Lorraine Snyder and Sue Reed, the auctioneer Rich Narf and especially the members who were so generous with the plants and plant paraphernalia that went up for auction.

ERRATA

Sue Reed was the previously unidentified grower of the *Lycaste* Pixie that earned a blue ribbon at the May OGG Ribbon Judging.

The photograph at the top of page two of the June 2013 newsletter is a *Lycaste* Trevor Edwards x Autumn Sun grown by Lynn West.

Recipe

SUZIE FEEST'S SHORTBREAD CRUST: SWEET TARTS

(enough for two 9"crusts or 4 dozen minis)

1/2 pounds salted butter
1/2 cup sugar
2 1/4 cups flour

- Beat sugar and butter until incorporated. Add flour and mix in, just until combined. (mixture will be crumbly)
- Take one cup of mixture and put into tart pan. Press into bottom and slightly up sides. (use more if more side crust is desired)
- Bake for 12-15 minutes at 375 degrees until golden brown. Cool. Add filling of choice and chill or bake according to recipe.

Ideas for unbaked fillings:

Chocolate ganache, fresh berries, pastry cream, caramel and nuts.

Also makes a great base for pies, cheesecakes. Pre-bake shells, fill and bake

according to recipe. Baking them a second time does not affect the end result.

This dough can also be used to press into tart shells or mini muffin cups. Bake before filling.

Method

Scoop dough with tablespoon or cookie scoop into mini cupcake tins or tart pans. Press into cups and bake at 375 degrees for 10-15 minutes. Cool. Freeze for later use or fill and bake.

Great shortbread cookies too!

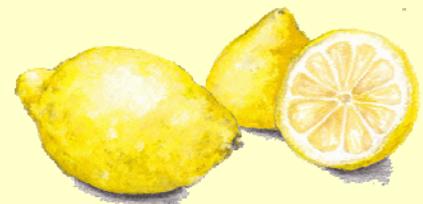


Notes from Jill...

Above is the recipe for the shortbread crust. The recipe doesn't mention it, but the butter needs to be cold and should be cut up into pieces before using. The recipe also says "beat" so I used a Mixer. When I think about it, I believe Suzie used a food processor (with the regular cutting blade). I looked at another recipe for shortbread and it says "To make the pastry first process the dry ingredients together, and then add the butter. Pulse the ingredients just until the pastry starts to clump together, but is not a solid ball. Then transfer the pastry to your prepared tart pan and spread it evenly over the bottom and up the sides of the pan. This can be done with your fingers or the back of a spoon." This recipe made 24 cupcake size tarts. Also, to make the smaller tarts, it helps to use something with a rounded end to help shape it. I used a pestle from a mortar and pestle set.

LEMON FILLING FOR TARTS from COOKS.COM

3/4 cup sugar
2 tbsp. cornstarch
3/4 cup water
1 slightly beaten egg yolk
3 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. grated lemon peel
1 tbsp. butter



In a saucepan, mix sugar, cornstarch, and dash of salt. Add water, egg yolk, and lemon juice. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thick. Remove from heat; add lemon peel and butter. Makes 1 1/2 cups.

For the filling, I just pulled a recipe off of the internet. I used the Cook's recipe. (I don't think I've seen butter before in lemon filling.) A double recipe filled about 30 tarts. Bon appetite!

The Ridges Sanctuary Orchid Restoration Project

The Ridges Sanctuary is partnering with the WI DNR, Stantec Consulting and Scott Weber of Blue Stem Farm to launch the first phase of an important conservation initiative: the propagation and reintroduction of key orchid species, including showy and yellow lady's slippers, to the restored ridges and swales behind the future site of its new interpretive center. Reintroduction of these key species in their natural habitat will create a living exhibit for the new center while providing an opportunity to study orchid ecology and promoting preservation of the species. The project will act as an educational tool, promoting protection of biodiversity on private property throughout the greater

community, as well as at the Sanctuary.

The orchid restoration project will take place over a three-year period, beginning this year with the cross-pollination of key species and collection of seed pods. In 2014, orchids will be germinated and the plugs relocated to greenhouses. In 2015, we will undertake the third and final phase of the project – educating landowners about supporting orchid survival.

Funding for the project is being sought from the American Orchid Society grant with other support from public donations.

Summer Orchid Events with Scott Weber

Sunday, July 7 **Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area, Waukesha County**

We will conduct a survey of Prairie White fringed orchids, but we may also see Poweshiek skipperlings and other plants and animals of the Scuppernong Prairie. If time and interest allow, we may visit a few other prairies nearby. Pack a lunch. We will eat at Paradise Springs (Park stickers required). Be prepared for hot weather and bring plenty of water. Field trip will be rain or shine unless severe weather is forecasted. Bring binoculars and GPS unit if you have one.

- * **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate hiking over some uneven terrain.
- * **Time:** 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- * **Trip Leader:** Scott Weber (608-356-0179)
- * **Directions:** Meet at the Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area parking lot on County N south of the intersection of County N and Wilton Road.

Thursday, August 8th **Ridges Sanctuary's speaker series**

As part of The Ridges Sanctuary's speaker series, Lake Lessons, Scott Weber will present "Native Orchids & Orchid Propagation." The program will be held at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall on Thursday, August 8 at 7 PM.

Scott, a frequent lecturer on native orchids, will discuss his research on propagation of several orchid species and the science behind the special conditions required for orchid growth. Weber will also discuss which orchids are difficult to grow from seed and, if offered for sale, are frequently dug out of the ground.

Admission to Lake Lessons programs is free. Donations are welcome.



The Conservatory of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco is one of only four institutions in the U.S. to feature a Highland Tropics display. The cool temperature in the exhibit mimics the misty cloud forests of tropical mountaintops. A primary feature of the Highland Tropics is the Conservatory's large and renowned collection of delicate high-altitude orchids.

Photograph by Pamela Litke



OGG Ribbon Judging, June 2013

First Place

Meg McLaughlin
Sue Reed
Shirl Roberts
Meg McLaughlin
Meg McLaughlin
Steven Thimling
Steven Thimling
Steven Thimling
Nancy Thomas
Nancy Thomas

Paph Saint Swithin (rothschildianum x philippinense)
Phrag (Rosalie Dixler 'FV' AM/AOS x *caudatum* var *sanderæ* 'Select')
Doritaenopsis Leopard Prince (*Phal* Sun Prince x *Phal* Ho's French Fantasia)
Paph moquettianum
Phrag Paul Eugene Conroy (*Phrag wallisii* x *Phrag longifolium*)
Phal Nobby's Amy (*Phal* Be Glad x *Phal* Rothschildiana)
Leptotes bicolor
Ctna Why Not (*Guarianthe aurantiaca* x *Broughtonia sanguinea*)
Phal hybrid
Mtssa Kauai's Choice (*Brassia arcuigera* x *Bratonia Aztec*)

Second Place

Steven Thimling

Brassavola nodosa



Sue Reed's *Phrag* (Rosalie Dixler 'FV' AM/AOS x *caudatum* var *sanderæ* 'Select')



Nancy Thomas' *Mtssa* Kauai's Choice (*Brassia arcuigera* x *Bratonia Aztec*)

MORE CHANGES TO ORCHID CLASSIFICATION

The genera *Doritis* and *Kingidium* are now *Phalaenopsis*

Doritaenopsis, the intergeneric hybrid between *Doritis* and *Phalaenopsis*, is no longer accepted by the Royal Horticultural Society hybrid registration and now are registered as *Phalaenopsis*. Eventually all *Doritaenopsis* will be renamed *Phalaenopsis*.

The systematics of the genus *Phalaenopsis* was examined using DNA sequencing. These studies reveal the evolutionary history of species in the form of a phylogenetic tree. The conclusion of the analysis was that *Doritis* and *Kingidium* fell into the same clade (a single "branch" on the "tree of life" group consisting of an ancestor and all its descendants) and can be treated as part of the same genus as *Phalaenopsis*.

Doritis is now considered to be a synonym for *Phalaenopsis*. If *Doritis* and *Phalaenopsis* are part of the same genus then *Doritaenopsis* hybrids should be considered *Phalaenopsis* hybrids.

What is the significance to hobbyists? *Doritis* and *Kingidium* have always been in the *Phalaenopsis* Alliance but are separated out for judging purposes. Now with the new DNA research, genres are being reevaluated and 'officially' combined as well as renamed. MAOC is working to make these changes and update the MAOC official list as fast as they are approved. Anyone that wants to know where a plant is now located, if changed or not, can look at the Royal Horticultural Society website <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase>. The entire project is ongoing and will take several more years. There will be another MAOC update coming out about July 1.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **August 7-11** — Orchid Show, Wisconsin State Fair Horticulture Building, Sponsored by WOS and the Wisconsin State Fair
- **September 14, 15** — Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, "Fall in Love with Orchids", Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee, WI
- **September 20-22**, Chicagoland Orchid Festival, (Natt's Orchids and Hausermann), see www.chicagolandorchidfest.com
- **October, 19-20** -- Second Annual Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale, Noelridge Park Green House, 4900 Council Street NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- **April 30-May 4, 2014**— Orchid Society of Minnesota is hosting the Spring 2014, Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting, Slipper Orchid Alliance, International Phalaenopsis Alliance and the Pleurothallid Alliance, "Orchids A Growing Obsession", Doubletree by Hilton, 1-494 at Hwy 100 in Bloomington
- **September, 10-14, 2014**— 21st World Orchid Conference, "Orchids: Gold in the Green Age", Johannesburg, South Africa
- **Spring 2015**—MAOC, Nashville TN
- **Spring 2016**—MAOC, Cincinnati/Dayton Area