

April  
2019

# The Orchid Grower

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

[www.Orchidgrowers.org](http://www.Orchidgrowers.org)

**NOTE THE DATE CHANGE: April 14th**

## NEXT MEETING, "Easy *Vanda falcata* Culture"

Doug Dowling will explain how he uses a new watering system for growing his *Vanda falcata*. See the article on page 3.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Orchid Growers!

Spring is finally here! New growths are starting on the orchids and some spring bulbs are blooming!

Time to think about our April 6 orchid sale at Olbrich from 10AM until 2PM or sold out! Thank you all who have signed up to help and others are welcome to come by and buy and to bring friends! We are getting our plants from Orchids by Hausermann. If there are some you might be especially interested in buying let Lorraine know for she will be making the orchid purchase run! No guarantees that she will be able to pick up what you want though!

We have an interesting program for the April 14 meeting with Doug educating us on his new growing system.

Now is the time to start thinking of repotting your plants and to decide which ones you will take to our May orchid auction! All proceeds go to the Guild, so it is a good time to help out the Guild and have fun picking up something new for yourself. Orchid plants and supplies are welcome as items for the auction.

May is also the time for elections.



One of three 'teacup' Cymbidiums brought to the March meeting by Doug Dowling

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#### Meeting Dates

- April 14
- May 19
- June TBA
- September 15
- November 17
- December 15

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

#### Up-Coming Events

- April 6, Spring Orchid Sale

#### Officers and Committees

##### President:

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##### Vice President:

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##### Treasurer:

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##### Board:

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**Liaisons:**  
**AOS:** Nancy Thomas  
**MAOC:** Keith Nelson



*Ascda Fuchs Gold x Ascda Yip*  
Sum Wah



*Lc Sakura Sky x C Horace*



*Meiracyllium trinasutum*



*Phrag Jason Fischer*



*Vandachostyllis Tan Geat Leng*  
(*Rhy. coelestis x V. coerulescens*)



*Dendrobium Hibiki*  
*x bracteosum*

## OGG RIBBON JUDGING MARCH

### First Place

Gary Lensmeyer  
Gary Lensmeyer  
Gary Lensmeyer  
Steven Thimling  
Doug Dowling

*Phrag Jason Fischer*  
*Calanthe Grouville 'Living Fire'* (Diana Broughton x Bryan)  
*Coelogyne Jannine Banks* (*Coel. mooreana x flaccida*)  
*Meiracyllium trinasutum*  
*Dendrobium Hibiki x bracteosum*

Steven Thimling

*Vandachostyllis Tan Geat Leng* (*Rhy. coelestis x V. coerulescens*)

### Second Place

Doug Dowling  
Steven Thimling  
Steven Thimling

*Dendrobium moniliforme* Nuresagi  
*Lc Sakura Sky x C Horace*  
*Ascda Fuchs Gold x Ascda Yip Sum Wah*

# Easy *Vanda falcata* Culture

Doug Dowling, D.Min., B.C.C.

I started raising *Vanda falcata* (formerly *Neofinetia falcata*) and closely related orchids in earnest about two years ago, buying my first plants from Natt's and New World Orchids at the September, Chicagoland event. I have now become intrigued by the Japanese varieties (*Fukiran*) which are often grown for their leaf/fan structure (*tsuke*) as much as for their flowers. At the time I began growing *Vanda falcatas*, my set-up was simple: pots placed on humidity trays in a 24" wide shelving unit using grow lights. I quickly changed the lights out to T5 grow lights, but still wasn't satisfied with the results and the amount of work to keep them watered and to keep the humidity up.

I decided that I wanted to move the plants to the basement and purchased a Homebox 120 from Paradigm Gardens, which is about 39" x 39" x 72" and added a second 4-bulb T5 unit. I also swapped out the standard "grow" bulbs for Eye Hortilux Power Veg bulbs. Each light now has two FS-UV bulbs, one red 660 bulb, and one blue 420 bulb. The plants sat on a home-constructed cedar shelf. While it was easier to keep the humidity up, I still wasn't happy with the time needed for watering or with the quality of plant growth. By now it was early 2018 and the number of plants had increased to over 30. Funny how that happens!

After consulting with Dennis at Paradigm Gardens, I decided to try an ebb and flow, hydroponic system. The 36" x 36" two-shelf stand was constructed out of 1" x 4" cedar, topped with a heavy duty cedar lattice. The lower shelf holds the 20 gallon water supply and the upper shelf holds the 36" x 36" plant tray. To allow for maximum drainage, the plants sit at various heights on pieces of egg crate fluorescent light diffusers. I have also repotted all of my plants into mesh pots using Orchidata Power+ Bark. I have two 6" duct fans, one at the bottom of the



*Vanda falcata* [as *Limodorum falcatum*]

From Curtis's Botanical Magazine, t. 2023-2104, vol. 46: t. 2097 (1819) [J. Curtis]

Homebox blowing air in and one at the top sucking air out. This helps to cool the plants as the light fixtures add significant heat. There are also two small fans that blow directly onto the plants to provide air movement and drying. A digital timer provides for watering on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday for 21 minutes which allows for thorough soaking of the plants. An analog timer controls the lighting, which is currently on for about 14 hours a day. All fans and the aerator in the water tank run 24/7.

The water tank is filled with RO water. To this I add cal-mag and General Hydroponics Rapid Start rooting enhancer which is a 1-0.5-1 organic fertilizer. I then balance the pH to about 7.5. The water is changed out monthly. Now all I have to do is spray the plants daily with fertilizer mixture which keeps the aerial roots from desiccating.

Within a week of going to this system I was able to see a noticeable change in the plants. The roots were proliferating and the plants appeared much healthier. They have been continuing to perform very well adding new leaves and new fans, as is their habit. The next step: adjusting lighting to encourage blooming during the show season.

# ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY OGG RIBBON JUDGING, March 9 - 10

Set-up by Keith Nelson, Erin Thornberg and Bruce Leubke  
 Take-down by Jeff and Denise Baylis

## Best of Class

Terri Jozwiak *Phalaenopsis* Hinamatsuri Rainbow Star 'MO3'

## First Place

Meg McLaughlin *Paph. (hainanense x wollerianum)*  
 Meg McLaughlin *Dendrobium* Microchip (*aberrans x normanbyense*)  
 Keith Nelson *Phrag. Sendenii*  
 Terri Jozwiak *Phalaenopsis* Hinamatsuri Rainbow Star 'MO3'  
 Lorraine Snyder *Phalaenopsis* unknown hybrid

## Second Place

Meg McLaughlin *Paph. rothschildianum*  
 Meg McLaughlin *Phrag. (wallisii x hirtzii)*  
 Keith Nelson *Cyclopogon lindleyanum*

## Third Place

Terry Hodge *Paph. Wössner* Malihay (*haynaldianum x malipoense*)  
 Jeff Baylis *Brassavola nodosa grandiflora*



## NEWOS, March 2 - 3

Set up: Keith Nelson and Bruce Luebke. Tear down: Nancy Thomas, Lisa Linde and Brent McCoy.

## First Place

Terri Jozwiak *Phalaenopsis* Hinamatsuri Rainbow Star 'MO3'  
 Terri Jozwiak *Dendrobium aberrans x sib*  
 Nancy Thomas *Paphiopedilum primulinum flavum 'Kamakai' x Paph. sanderianum*  
 Meg McLaughlin *Paphiopedilum hainanense x wollerianum*

## Second Place

Keith Nelson *Phalaenopsis* unknown hybrid, white, no markings  
 Nancy Thomas Seedling flowering for the first time: *Paphiopedilum delenatii* #2  
 Nancy Thomas *Aerangis luteoalba var rhodosticta*  
 Nancy Thomas *Dendrobium convolutum*  
 Meg McLaughlin *Phrag.* Don Wimber (*besseae x Eric Young*)

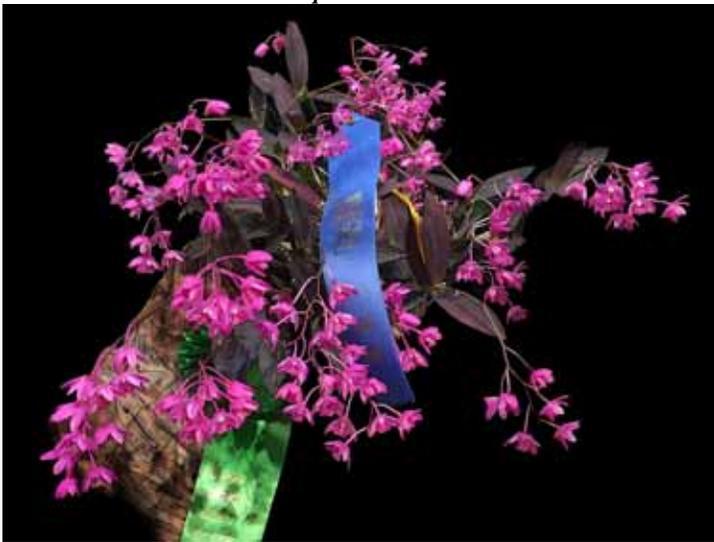
## Third Place

Meg McLaughlin *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* '2' x Stone Lovely 'C.H.#4'  
 Exhibit

# Examples from the Illinois Orchid Society Show



*Trichopilia suavis*



*Dendrobium kingianum*



*Masdevallia* Golden Monarch (M. Golden Angel x M. Monarch)



*Paph* Hampshire Creek 'Hampshire' HCC/AOS



*Cattleya* Wildfire (*coccinea* x *wittigiana*)

We found an abundance of riches when we returned to take down the OGG display at ILLOWA. Our entries did great! There were blue ribbons galore, Bruce got a 1st on the first plant he sent to an away show; Keith and Meg each got Best of Class; and Olbrich made out like a bandit with BOC in their genus for each of their two plants, plus BOC for specimen plants for their phrag, which was also awarded the Best Plant in Show and a CCM/AOS with 82 points!!!! That phrag drew admirers the whole time we were there. Congratulations everyone! A great way to end the spring show season.

--- Nancy Thomas

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## ILLOWA ORCHID SOCIETY/OGG RESULTS March 16 - 17

Set-up: Nancy Thomas, Sue Reed and Erin Thornburg. Tear down: Nancy Thomas and Sue Reed

### AOS Award: CCM/AOS

Olbrich Botanical Gardens *Phrag. Wossner Supergrande (longifolium HCC x warscewiczianum)*

### Best of Show

Olbrich Botanical Gardens *Phrag. Wossner Supergrande (longifolium HCC x warscewiczianum)*

### Best of Class

Meg McLaughlin *Paph. (hainanense x wollerianum)*

Keith Nelson *Dendrobium aphyllum*

Olbrich Botanical Gardens *Prosthechea panthera 'Michael Olbrich'*

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Phragmedium class: *Phrag. Wossner Supergrande (longifolium HCC x warscewiczianum)*

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Specimen Plant class: *Phrag. Wossner Supergrande (longifolium HCC x warscewiczianum)*

### First Place

Terri Jozwiak *Phalaenopsis Hinamatsuri Rainbow Star 'MO3'*

Orchid Growers Guild Exhibit

Keith Nelson *Cyclopogon lindleyanum*

Keith Nelson *Paph. moquettianum*

Bruce Luebke *Ctt. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' (Guarianthe aurantiaca x Cattleya Anzac)*

Meg McLaughlin *Paph. (hainanense x wollerianum)*

Keith Nelson *Dendrobium aphyllum*

Olbrich Botanical Gardens *Prosthechea panthera 'Michael Olbrich'*

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Phragmedium class: *Phrag. Wossner Supergrande (longifolium HCC x warscewiczianum)*

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Specimen Plant class: *Phrag. Wossner Supergrande (longifolium HCC x warscewiczianum)*

### Second Place

Nancy Thomas *Paph. (primulinum flavum 'Kamakai' x sanderianum)*

Nancy Thomas *Aerangis luteoalba var rhodosticta*

Terri Jozwiak *Bulbophyllum falcatum 'Standing Tall' AM/AOS*

### Third Place

Keith Nelson *Phrag. Sedenii (longifolium 'pink' x schlimii)*

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Specimen Plant class: *Prosthechea panthera 'Michael Olbrich'*

# Illowa Orchid Society Show

Photographs by Nancy Thomas



*Paph. (hainanense x wollerianum)* earned first place and Best of Class for Meg McLaughlin



*Phrag. Wossner Supergrande (longifolium HCC x warscewiczianum)* earned BOC as a specimen plant, the Best Plant in Show and a CCM/AOS with 82 points for Olbrich Gardens



OGG Exhibit



*Dendrobium aphyllum* earned Best of Class and first place for Keith Nelson

*(Continued from page 1)*

We have three positions up, the secretary position, the vice president position, and a board member at large. Presently these positions are held respectively by Keith, Cynthia and Nancy. All three have agreed to continue in these roles. If others would like to be put on the ballot, please let the board know. Nominations will be open from the floor at the May meeting too.

June is coming up fast and that means our annual picnic at a member's home. Whomever volunteers to host the meeting gets to pick the date in

June for the picnic! It is a pot luck affair and a chance to show off your growing area and to learn how someone else grows their orchids.

Finally, Orchid Quest was a great success this year! We were so lucky with great weather on our show weekend. Again an enormous thank you to all who worked so hard to make it another winner!

Thank you!  
Sue

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## Special Announcement from AOS



**American Orchid Society**  
*Education. Conservation. Research.*

We are pleased to announce the completion of the Greenhouse Chat index project. The idea is simple enough. When you click on LEARN MORE on any recorded greenhouse chat webinar, you will now see a time stamped table of contents that you can browse for topics that interest you. So, if you missed a chat, or could not remember the chat where a specific topic of interest to you was discussed, you can quickly zero in on what you want to see, and skip directly to that section when you view the recording. These webinars are such a great asset to our membership and we encourage you to take advantage of them.

Also, of note is that the indexes are integrated into the search capabilities of [aos.org](http://aos.org), so you can expect to see Greenhouse Chats in the list of search results. For example, if you search on MSU (because you are interested in MSU fertilizer) you will notice that is discussed in 2 chats; June 2018 and February 2015.

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## MARCH MEETING RE-CAP: Orchid DISEASES

Brian Hudelson [also known as 'Dr. Death'] made a return appearance for our March meeting. He is with the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin -Madison/ Extension. He talked about common fungal and viral infections in orchids.

Black rot, Leaf spots/blight, and Botrytis blight/gray mold like excessive moisture and cool temperatures. Thus your first line of defense is to control your environment. DO NOT overwater and do provide good air circulation for your plants. If you find a problem, isolate new plants from established plants, decontaminate pots, tools and work surfaces with 70% alcohol,

disinfectants or a solution of 10% bleach. Control it by removing diseased plant material and debris and use fungicides to prevent infections.

Virus infections are caused by a variety of common pathogens and can be transmitted by touch, tools, aphids and thrips.

For more information on specific pathogens and controls see <https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/39/2019/02/Orchid-Diseases-Rebranded.pdf>