



The Calypso

Volume 41 Issue 5 Sept 2018

The Newsletter of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society

GLOS BOARD

President

Dawn Kittle 517-546-8016
dykittle@att.net

Vice President

Pete Ostlund 517-449-5248
p.ostlund@yahoo.com

Past President

Jerrie Nichols 517-223-8965
nicholsjerrie@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rob Halgren 517-256-5693
rob@littlefrogfarm.com

Secretary

Ioana Sonea 517-349-3792
isandcmb@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor

Dot Potter Barnett 517-626-7295
dotbarnett@mac.com

Directors

Carol Ann Stuht 517-651-6494
castuht@gmail.com
 Becky Thayer 517-281-1810
reba48910@gmail.com

INDEX

- 2 President's Message/
Treasurer's Report/GLOS
Calendar/
- 3 Primer on Judging
- 4 GLOS August Meeting
Minutes
- 5 GLOS Board Meeting
Minutes
- 6 GLOS Show Updates
- 7 GLOS May and July Meet
ing Minutes
- 8 AOS Corner
- 9 Mid-America OC News/
GLOS Membership Report
10. Ray's Newsletter Culture
- 11 Vendor Ads/Oct. All-State
OS Meeting
- 12 Chicagoland Orchid Fest
Info

CALYPSO DEADLINE:

October 27 for the Nov. issue

The purposes for which the Society is organized are to create an awareness of orchid culture; to foster the preservation of native species of orchids; to support research and development of orchid culture; and to hold meetings, lectures, and exhibitions.

SEPTEMBER 15 MEETING:

Presbyterian Church, Okemos

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for:

- Plant shopping
- Experienced Society members will be available to answer questions and help problem solve orchid growing issues
- Please have refreshments in place prior to start of meeting.

Meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm

This month, we are doing something quite different from our usual meetings.

Have you ever wondered what judging orchids is like? How do judges decide what is worthy of an award? Are all those ribbons we see at orchid shows awarded orchids? What is the difference between ribbon judging and AOS (American Orchid Society) judging?

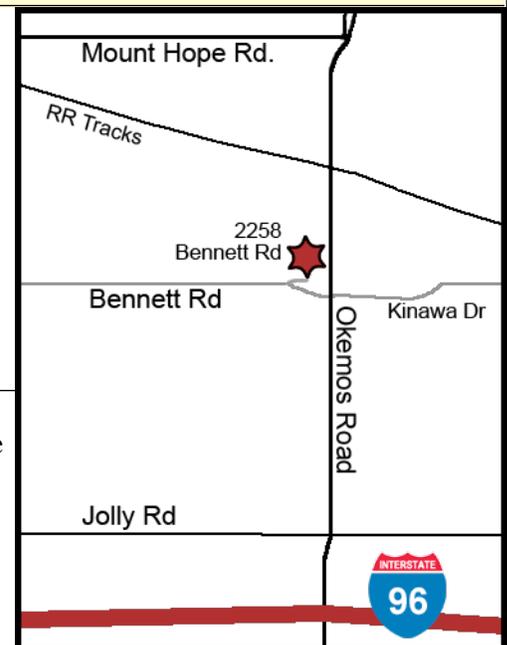
Our judging center, i.e., the center that includes our society, is located at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor and normally meets on the third weekend each month.

Matthaei Gardens, as one might expect, is the home of many different kinds of plants, orchids being only one. They are having their annual Exotic Plant Show and Sale: Cactus, Succulents, and Bromeliads, on September 15 & 16, the same weekend as our meeting. That means the Gardens are unable to host the Judging Center that weekend.

This is where GLOS has stepped in to offer our meeting time for the judges to do their thing.

This is a great opportunity for GLOS members to not only watch the judging process, but to offer plants for this activity.

Doris Asher has prepared a very informative article for the Calypso on Judging. Please read it beginning on p. 3.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- Dawn Kittle

Well, we finally managed to get Russ Vernon here, but not without some trepidation. Dot's husband, Lee, saved the day by bringing her computer so Russ could run his Power Point program. If not then Russ was going to "tap dance" for us with a phalaenopsis in his mouth. Just kidding. He would have come up with something; he is that good. All joking aside, wasn't the presentation terrific?

Unfortunately the raffle table left much to be desired. Possibly this was due to the picnic and all the orchids sold there – no one had anything left they wanted to sell or donate. But thanks to Doris, Russ and Jerrie, we had a few orchids for sale. And a special thank you to whomever donated the flower books.

Don't forget our September 15th meeting is our hosting of the Great Lakes Judging. Please bring in your orchids to judge; but remember if you are awarded a prize it will cost you \$40 if you are an AOS member or \$60 if not a member. Don't let that scare you, though, as the judging process is very interesting and informative. As usual, we will have our business meeting, show and tell table, raffle table, and silent auction.

October 13th will be the All State Orchid Society Meeting at 1:30 with Andrea Niessen presenting the Orchids of Colombia. Note the change of date and time from our usual venue.

November brings our featured speaker, Allen Black, talking about Brassovola nodosa and its hybrids.

Our two away shows for the Fall are Michiana October 27-28 and Saginaw Valley on Thanksgiving weekend, November 24-25. Watch for more information in the Calypso about these shows.

Looking forward to the rest of this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT - submitted by Rob Halgren Aug. 6

Period since 5/19/2018 (May meeting)

CD Update: 9 CDs

Income:	Expenses:	\$1465.25 (Matures 6/25/22)
Dues:	Speaker expenses (Heilig)	\$1127.62 (Matures 7/31/19)
\$284.00	\$293.50 (Travel)	\$1373.01 (Matures 7/30/22)
\$104.54	\$150.00 Speaker fee	\$1215.67 (Matures 8/28/22)
\$72.00	(donation to AOS)	\$1479.28 (Matures 10/03/18)
Auction (Picnic)	2018 Show	\$1160.16 (Matures 7/31/21)
\$680.00	210.00 (Trophies)	\$1470.82 (Matures 8/30/20)
Raffle (May)	2019 Show	\$1536.01 (Matures 11/30/20)
\$73.00	655.00 (Ribbons, etc)	\$1466.66 (Matures 10/29/19)
Total Income: \$1210.54	Total Expenses: \$1308.50	
		\$12,294.48

→ NOTE -

Greg Filter, the Chair of the Great Lakes Judging Center, has approved our Show dates for 2020, 2021, and 2022. Next February -- 2019 -- was approved long ago, and our application for AOS judging has been approved!

→ Thank you to Tammy, Jim, Dottie and Dot for providing the great refreshments in August. Julie Bishop, Dea Bishop, and Doris Asher volunteered to bring refreshments for the September meeting.

GLOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **September 15** - GLOS General Meeting - Great Lakes Judging Center judging
- **September 21-23** - Chicagoland Orchid Festival - see End Page for information
- **October 13** - All State Meeting - hosted by GLOS - 1:30 pm - speaker Andrea Niessen "Orchids of Colombia"
- **October 27-28** - Michiana Orchid Society Show
- **November 17** - GLOS General Meeting - Speaker Alan Black "Novelty Brassavola/Cattleya Alliance Breeding - Spiders And Stars"
- **November 24 - 25** - Saginaw Valley Orchid Society Show
- **January 19, 2019** - GLOS General Meeting - Presentation on flower arranging by Jenny Bond and Sue Wittick
- **February 23 - 24** - **Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show and Sale**

A PRIMER ON ORCHID JUDGING, A SERVICE OF THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY - Doris Asher**Show “Ribbon” Judging**

Judging for American Orchid Society awards is quite different from what we refer to as show judging or ribbon judging. Ribbon judging can be done by certified AOS judges, student judges, or knowledgeable and experienced orchidists. In fact, in some orchid shows, there are no AOS judges involved in placing the ribbons at all. Ribbon judging is to recognize the most outstanding orchids entered in a particular class. 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbons may be awarded depending on the “quality” of the plants displayed.

AOS Judging

As contrasted to show or ribbon judging, AOS judging compares the orchid in question to others of the same species or cross on a system-wide basis, not just the plants in a particular show. Its purpose is to provide a service to members of the AOS, the Affiliated Societies, and to orchid growers in general by evaluating plants for AOS awards and to encourage and to recognize meritorious achievement in all fields of orchid endeavor. Awards are granted to individual persons, individual orchid plants, groups of orchid plants, cut-flowers, and orchid arrangements in accordance with established rules.

AOS AWARDS*Granted to Individuals*

Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) - awarded to the exhibitor of a specimen plant in robust health and appearance with an unusually large number of flowers. The plant must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 12 months. It must score 80-89 points on a 100-point scale.

Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE) – awarded to the exhibitor of a specimen plant in robust health and exceptional appearance with an unusually large number of flowers. The plant must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 12 months. It must score 90 – 100 points.

Granted to Plants: Quality Awards

First Class Certificate (FCC) - Awarded to a species or hybrid which scores at least 90 points on a 100-point scale.

Award of Merit (AM) - Awarded to a species or hybrid which scores between 80 and 89 points.

Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) - Awarded to a species or hybrid which scores between 75 and 79 points.

Judges’ Commendation (JC) - Awarded to an individual or group of plants for a distinctive characteristic or historical or other factor that the judges deem worth of recognition (no score, 3/4 vote of team).

Granted to Plants: Awarded Once to a Cross

(no score, unanimous vote of team, award presented to the exhibitor and hybridizer, if different)

Award of Distinction (AD) - for a cross exhibited individually or as a group, representing a worthy new direction in breeding.

Award of Quality (AQ) - for a species or hybrid cross exhibited as a group of 12 or more different clones which result in significant improvement over the former type. At least one cultivar exhibited must have or be awarded a flower quality award.

Granted to Plants : Species or Natural Hybrids

Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM) - awarded to a well-grown and well-flowered orchid with outstanding esthetic appeal that contributes to the horticultural aspects of orchidology. (Score of 80 points)

Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR) - awarded to a cultivar deemed worth of recognition for rarity, novelty, and educational value. No award of any kind may have previously been made to the taxon. (3/4 vote of team)

Awards for Display of Plants, Flowers and Educational Material

Gold Certificate - Awarded to groups, collections, or cut flower exhibits (scoring 90 points or more)

Silver Certificate - Awarded to groups, collections, or cut flower exhibits (scoring between 85-89 points on 100-point scale)

AOS Show Trophy - Awarded to exhibits at orchid shows

Artistic Certificate - Awarded to an outstanding exhibit considered to be exceptionally artistic.

Certificate of Meritorious Arrangement - Awarded to an outstanding flower arrangement at a show. May be awarded by nationally accredited decorative or flower arrangement judges.

continued on p. 4

A PRIMER ON ORCHID JUDGING, concluded from p. 3

Educational Exhibit Certificate - Awarded to an educational exhibit that furthers the knowledge and education of the public regarding orchids. (must score 80 points)

Special AOS Trustees' Awards

Twenty awards given annually to the most outstanding plant/exhibitor/display awarded at a Judging Center or Show; for example, the finest Cattleya throughout the judging system for any given year can earn the Masatoshi Miyamoto Award; or the finest Paphiopedilum/Phragmipedium/Cypripedium can earn the W.W. Wilson Award. These special awards carry a cash prize.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT A PLANT JUDGED FOR AN AOS AWARD?

Three or more weeks before a show or judging session

1. Screen plants that might be blooming
2. Stake inflorescences
3. "Adjust" flower arrangement
4. CHECK FOR CRITTERS

Before Sending the Plant:

1. Groom the plant
 - a. Remove any dead growths, sheaths, spent inflorescences, roots . . .
 - b. Remove any hard water marks with vinegar/water or milk, etc.
 - c. CHECK FOR CRITTERS ONE MORE TIME
2. Pack the plant securely to avoid transport damage

Shows: You may ask an AOS judge to have your plant considered for AOS awards at any AOS-sanctioned show -- the orchid does not have to be entered in the show to be considered for AOS awards.

THERE IS A FEE IF YOUR PLANT RECEIVES AN AOS AWARD

Please be aware that the AOS charges its members \$40 to process an award. If you are not an AOS member, the award fee is \$60. If you are not already a member, you are welcome to join the American Orchid Society – and your award fee drops to the member rate of \$40.

Please do consider entering an orchid or two for judging at our September meeting.

**GLOS AUGUST 18, 2018 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES** - Submitted by Diane Zoellner, Acting Secretary

President Dawn Kittle called the meeting to order at 7:09 and welcomed the 30 people present. Mike and Linda Dull brought the only guest that night: their daughter, Mikayla. Dawn encouraged people to purchase raffle tickets and bid in the silent auction. She thanked those who provided food for the evening. Julie Bishop, Andrea Bishop, and Doris Asher volunteered to bring refreshments for the September meeting.

Dawn explained that our September 15th meeting will be a special opportunity. Instead of a speaker, we will host judges from the Great Lakes Judging Center who will show us how they evaluate orchids. There will be an introduction given by one of the judges and then the judges will assess the orchids we provide. GLOS members are encouraged to bring in orchids to be used for that evening's unique program. If an orchid receives an AOS award, there is a \$40 fee for AOS members and a \$60 fee for nonmembers.

Doris Asher shared the beautiful orchids on the show and tell table.

Russ Vernon, owner of New Vision Orchids, gave an informative presentation, for beginners and advanced growers, about phalaenopsis orchids. Russ spoke of the importance of hybridizing orchids to improve vigor, color, patterns, form, fragrance, and foliage. He has an award winning hybridizing program in several genera. After the presentation, Russ provided a variety of orchids for members to purchase.

The raffle and silent auction were held. The meeting ended at 8:45. Members stayed to clean and return the chairs and tables to their original places.



GLOS BOARD MEETING MINUTES, August 6, 2018 - Submitted by Diane Zollner, Acting Secretary

GLOS members arrived at Pete Ostlund's house and were given the opportunity to see his wonderful greenhouse and beautiful gardens. Those present were Dawn Kittle, Carol Ann Stuht, Becky Thayer, Jerrie Nichols, Rob Halgren, Dot Potter Barnett, Diane Zoellner, and Pete Ostlund. The eight members present enjoyed a pizza and salad supper before beginning the meeting at 7:00.

Treasurer's Report - Rob reported that since May, the total income was \$1,210.54. This included the May raffle (\$73.00), picnic auction (\$680.00), and dues (\$460.54). Total expenses for this time were \$1308.50. This included speaker expenses (\$443.50), trophies for the 2018 show (\$210.00), and materials for the 2019 show (\$655.00). The 9 CDs total was \$12,294.48.

Membership Committee Report - Doris Asher reported that since June fourth, these eleven members renewed: Jim Churn, Georgian Franczyk, Denise Gregg, Bobbi Kilty, Mickey Kress, Mark Roberts, Tammy Scherer, Jack Shumaker, Mary Dee Sist, and Mike and Stephanie Underwood. There are currently 114 members in 98 households. Doris will send out a mailing to the 23 remaining members who have not renewed. Out of the 98 households, 77 receive Calypso electronically. The remaining 21 households receive paper copies. The \$138.60 cost of the paper copies annually is partially offset by donations from some of these members.

Programs

July 28, 2018 Picnic - There were about 40 people who attended. The auction, plant purchases and membership renewals brought in \$752.00. Members liked the auctioneers giving added information about the plants that were being auctioned. Georgian submitted some suggestions for next year. Issues were discussed and the consensus was that orchids and other plants should be at the picnic by 12:15. (Theoretically we do not have the pavilion until 12.) After the auctioneers decide what would be auctioned, the remaining plants would be available to be purchased at 12:30. Another point discussed was having a sign up sheet for the food. There will be further discussion before next year's picnic about the food, auction, and sale of plants. Next year's picnic will be the fourth Saturday in July.

August 18, 2018 - Russ Vernon will give a presentation on phalaenopsis orchids. He will also bring orchids to sell. Dot will supply the computer for the presentation.

September 15, 2018 Hosting the Great Lakes Judging This meeting will give members the opportunity to observe how orchids are judged. A judge will give a preview. Members are encouraged to bring in plants to be judged. If an orchid receives an award, there is a fee for an AOS award. Three tables will be set up for members to view as the judging takes place. There will be a silent auction table, a raffle table, and a show and tell table that night, but no vendor orchid sales at this meeting.

GLOS usually makes a \$150.00 donation to the Great Lakes Judging. Donations are their only source of income. Carol Ann made the motion that a donation of \$150.00 be given to the Great Lakes Judging. Jerrie seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Pete made a motion that our annual donation be made to the Michigan Nature Conservancy. Carol Ann seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

October 13, 2018 All-State Meeting NOTE THE TIME CHANGE: 1:30 . The speaker will be Andrea Niessen presenting "The Beauty and Diversity of Columbian Orchids." We need to check with the church to make sure they have been paid and know the time change.

November 17, 2018 Allen Black will speak on Brassavola nodosa and its hybrids, shared with AAOS. Although he has a website (<http://ablackorchid.com>), the only way to buy his plants is through his presentations to orchid societies. We will check to see if there is a list of plants available for pre-order.

January 19, 2019 Flower Arranging with Orchids by Jenny Bond and Sue Wittick.

February 23-24 GLOS ORCHID SHOW

March 16, 2019 Maybe a "round robin"

April We may have trouble scheduling at the church because of Palm Sunday and Easter.

May 18, 2019 TJ Hartung on Orchids of Mexico

AWAY SHOWS Jerrie announced that not much information is available about the shows at this time. Michiana is on November 3-4. Saginaw Valley is November 24-25. Rob will take a basket display to Michiana if needed. There is no information about the other shows.

NEW BUSINESS

Dot received an email about ordering the show postcards. We are not ready to order yet.

Because of conflicts in Monday schedules, future board meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month. The October board meeting will be at Dot's house, 9713 Looking Glass Brook, Grand Ledge. All GLOS members are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02.

GLOS 2019 SHOW UPDATE - Submitted by Pete Ostlund, this year's Show Chair

The dates for our 36th orchid show are February 23 -24, 2019. The planning for the show is already underway. Please mark your calendars. We'll need volunteers for various duties for the show dates and for the 2 days prior (February 21 and 22).

The Show Planning Committee for last year's show included:

AOS Judging - Lynn O'Shaughnessy
 Art Exhibits, Orchid-Related - Carol Ann Stuhrt
 Classes for Public - Mike Underwood
 Flyer/Handouts - Dot Potter Barnett
 GLOS Exhibit - Bill Cadman
 Hospitality - ?
 Information Table/Membership - Christina Gregg/ Mary Henman
 Judging Activities/Registration - Doris Asher
 Kids' Corner - Diane Zoellner/Michael Bukala
 MSU Liaison - Ioana Sonea
 Orchids-in-Use Competition - Jenny Bond
 Parking Permits/Signage - Ioana Sonea
 Publicity (not TV) - Ioana Sonea
 Television Publicity - Pete Porciello
 Vendor and Exhibitor Liaison - Pete Ostlund

I'll be contacting these individuals in the near future to see if they are willing to continue in their role. If you'd like to help out and learn about any of these activities, or perhaps take over one of these roles, please contact me.

More information about the show will be coming out in future months. But we need volunteers to make the show a success. Please mark your calendars for February 21 – 24 so you can avoid other conflicts.

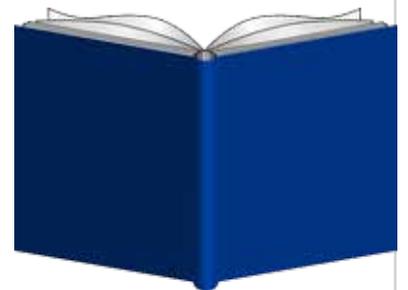
Thanks!

USED ORCHID BOOKS/PERIODICALS WANTED - submitted by Doris Asher

Do you have some orchid books or orchid periodicals that you no longer want? For several years now at our Orchid Show, we have sold numerous used books donated by various Society members. Visitors to the Show snap them up very quickly and, because the books are donated, the Society makes 100% profit. We use the orchid magazines as free giveaways to Show visitors to encourage their joining our Society.

Because this service is so popular, we would like to offer inexpensive, used orchid books again at this February's Show. Since GLOS is an IRS not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization, you may deduct the value of the books and magazines you give us. The Treasurer will be happy to provide you a receipt for your gift.

Please consider giving such items at this September meeting to Doris Asher or to Mary Henman, one of our Show's Information Table volunteers.

**REMINDER: WEAR YOUR SOCIETY NAME TAG** - submitted by Doris Asher, Membership Chair

Your Society's Membership Committee urges you to wear your name tag, which is very nice for visitors and for those of us with failing memories! Anyone who wears the badge AND purchases even one raffle ticket at \$1.00 per ticket will get a complimentary raffle ticket – just a little incentive to remember to wear the badge.

If your name tag is lost, please let Doris or Dot know so that Dot can make you a new one.

You are receiving the Calypso either as a PDF file, a hard copy, or both, depending on what we have from you in our records. If you would like to change this, please tell either Dot or Doris Asher. *If you are not receiving emails from us, please let Dot or Doris know -- we will need to know if we have your correct email address!*

If you have not received the PDF file by at least one week before the General Meeting, please let Dot know.

We regret the following items were not in the July Calypso:

MINUTES OF GLOS BOARD MEETING JUNE 4TH, 2018 - submitted by Ioana Sonea, Secretary

The meeting was held at Rob Halgren's home. Rob served a wonderful meal that included an excellent chili and homemade hummus, and terrific desserts.

The meeting was called to order by President Dawn Kittle at approximately 7pm.

Attendees: Jerrie Nichols, Dawn Kittle, Dot Barnett, Diana Zoellner, Ioana Sonea, Rob Halgren, Carol Ann Stuht.

Business items

Treasurer's report was unavailable due to a computer issue. Rob will recover files and report at next meeting. Rob will get a federal income report submitted, didn't get done last fall.

Membership: Doris sent in her report. There are 114 members in good standing.

Meetings and programs:

Church has not yet finalized fee schedule for rental of the hall: Ioana will contact to try to resolve.

- Past programs:
 - o April general meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. Everybody (including the speaker) was contacted in time, so we hope there were no inconvenienced people.
 - o May 19th meeting: Jim Heilig gave an excellent talk on Habenaria orchids.
- Future programs:
- June 10th: the meeting has been replaced with Open Houses hosted by Dot, Rob and Pete.
- July 28th is the annual picnic at Granger Meadows. Various tasks were distributed to board members.
- Aug 18th: Russ Vernon will talk about growing Phalaenopsis orchids
- Sept 15th: no speaker identified as yet
- Oct 13th: All State Orchid Society meeting, Andrea Niessen will present "The Beauty and Diversity of Colombian Orchids".
- Nov 17th: Allen Black, talking about Brassavola nodosa and its hybrids.
- Jan 19th 2019: Jenny Bond and Sue Wittick will present making flower arrangements, just in time for our February Show.

Shows

- Away shows:
 - o Michiana OS is usually at the end of October. Rob can take a basket display. Details to be finalized closer to the date.
 - o Saginaw OS is at Thanksgiving: Ioana will set up.
 - o Grand Valley OS in January 2019: Dot, Pete and Carol will set up at Meijer Gardens
 - o Ann Arbor OS?
 - o Michigan OS?
- GLOS show: Pete Ostlund is vice-president and will organize the 2019 GLOS show

Ann Arbor Judging Seminar: the next meeting's topics include Habenarias, Paphinias, Coelogynes, Masdevellias, Restrepias, etc.

Next board meetings will be hosted as follows:

- Aug: Pete Ostlund
- Oct: Dot Barnett
- Dec: Ioana Sonea

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

MINUTES OF GLOS PICNIC MEETING JULY 28TH, 2018 - submitted by Ioana Sonea, Secretary

The annual picnic meeting was held at Granger Meadows. It was well attended, with a wonderful spread of food for all to enjoy. Orchids, perennials and other items including a plastic coyote for the garden were brought to auction and to the fixed price sale. The weather was perfect: sunny and warm without being hot, and everybody had a chance to socialize.

Fixed price plant sales started at 12:15pm, and plants were rapidly purchased by those present.

Lunch started a bit before 1pm, and once attendees had had a chance to settle down and eat, the meeting was called to order by President Dawn Kittle at approximately 1:30pm.

A short business meeting was held, with the auction following.

Rob Halgren and Mike Underwood kept up a spirited banter as they auctioned off plants and other items to the highest bidders. Several items were highly prized and sold for a very good price, including a beautiful Phragmipedium.

The meeting and cleanup ended about 3pm.

CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT

Authored by Thomas Mirenda ~ Originally published in ORCHIDS August 2007

September: The Month of Unicorns - Orchids Often Cast a Spell for a Lifetime

While I don't exactly know precisely when I became addicted to orchids, I do know it has been a really long time: decades certainly. You would think after all the thousands of hours spent repotting, fertilizing and watering, not to mention all the hiking boots and sweat socks ruined slogging down muddy rainforest trails and bogs in search of them, that orchids would have lost some of their magic by now. Certainly some enthusiasts burn out, or get bored or overwhelmed, either by orchids themselves or by life's vicissitudes, and give up. Even so, once bitten by orchids, most of us end up with a life-long fascination and love affair with them. Even larger than the orchidists' hobby, is that of birders. Astonishing numbers of people go out on treks to see birds all over the world and keep extensive life lists, "collections" of sightings, if you will, to the point of obsession. I have often wondered why this is. Even though there are fewer orchidists than birders, some of the same reasoning applies to us. There is the joy of collecting, the beauty and colors of our respective subjects, the excitement of exploration and discovery, the science and mystery of their forms and habits, and the camaraderie of like-minded individuals as well as that bit of friendly competition involved in growing and showing them.

There is one more factor that may make you laugh, but I think is part of the fun and appeal of orchids: the "unicorn effect." Birders talk about this as well. Seeing an orchid for the first time in the wild, or blooming a newly acquired orchid that you have only seen in a book, is a bit similar to seeing a celebrity on the street. Sure, you have seen Brangelina's films and read about their lifestyles and habits, but an actual sighting can be exhilarating. So, it is for me every time a new orchid blooms in my presence. It is as if some mythological creature I recognize from a story book or movie has suddenly appeared on a remote trail or in my greenhouse or on my windowsill and allowed me to hold it and admire it up close and personal. Orchids are definitely the celebrities of the plant world — they bring a little of their magic into our world every day. Their presence in my life thrills me.

SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS A long hot summer has finally ended, and cooler temperatures are starting to prevail. Whether your orchids summered outside or in, the return of cool nights triggers many orchids to initiate flower spikes. The summer heat, particularly hot nights, can be stressful for many intermediate-growing species and hybrids. Often plants that may have stopped growing in July and August will now resume as temperatures begin to replicate those of their montane habitats. Look at plants carefully now for new tender emerging spikes and renewed root growth.

THE CONCESSION STAND No, do not give your orchids hot buttered popcorn and gigantic \$5 sodas. But they do want nutrients this month, so do not forget to fertilize them just because it has gotten cooler. If you have young plants that are not old enough to bloom, you can still fertilize with a higher nitrogen formula and let them continue to grow vegetatively. However, if your plants are blooming size, you may want to get away from high nitrogen formulas at this time or you could inhibit blooming on cymbidiums, dendrobiums and phalaenopsis, which should be forming spikes soon as the long nights increase, and the nighttime temperatures drop.

GOTTA WEAR SHADES Unlike mega celebrities who need their sunglasses, so they will not be easily recognized, orchids continue to need shade as protection from the hot and sunny days that are still likely to occur this month. Do not be lulled into thinking that direct sun will not harm your plants. Even though the effects of high light are lessened when temperatures are cooler, there is still potential for plants to burn. Careful attention must be paid during this transition period. Weather becomes less stable and predictable. It is even possible that some cold or violent weather can appear. So, it is always best to be prepared for this eventuality.

BACK IN THE MANSION Orchids have been summering outside and now is the time to begin prepping the indoor growing area for their return. Whether it is a greenhouse, a windowsill, a lightroom or a terrarium, a little preplanning cleaning, sterilizing and organizing will allow for carefree transitions of the plants as the cold season approaches. It is also advisable to check out the plants for hitchhikers, such as weeds, insects and parasites. You want a "star pad" for your orchids, not for oxalis or mealybugs. Take some time to individually go through those plants outside and find and treat any critters that may be thinking they are part of the entourage. Expel them now before they move in and take over.

PAPARAZZI With the blooming season about to resume, you should make sure cameras are ready for what will likely be an excellent set of blooms on your collection, for your newer plants, the approaching blooms are anticipated as much as long-awaited film premiers and their red-carpet moments. This is also a chance to document your successes and failures. Keep a notebook of your orchids each year. It is fun to see how they progress, especially if you have raised them from baby plants into spectacular or hulking specimens. It is almost like following your favorite stars from early independent films to wildly successful Hollywood blockbusters. Yes, you knew them "when." But you have the added joy of knowing you helped them get where they are today.

— Tom Mirenda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades. He is an AOS accredited judge and is the chairman of the American Orchid Society's Conservation Committee. He recently coauthored *The Book of Orchids: A life-size guide to 600 species from around the world.* (email: biophilialk@gmail.com).

AOS CORNER

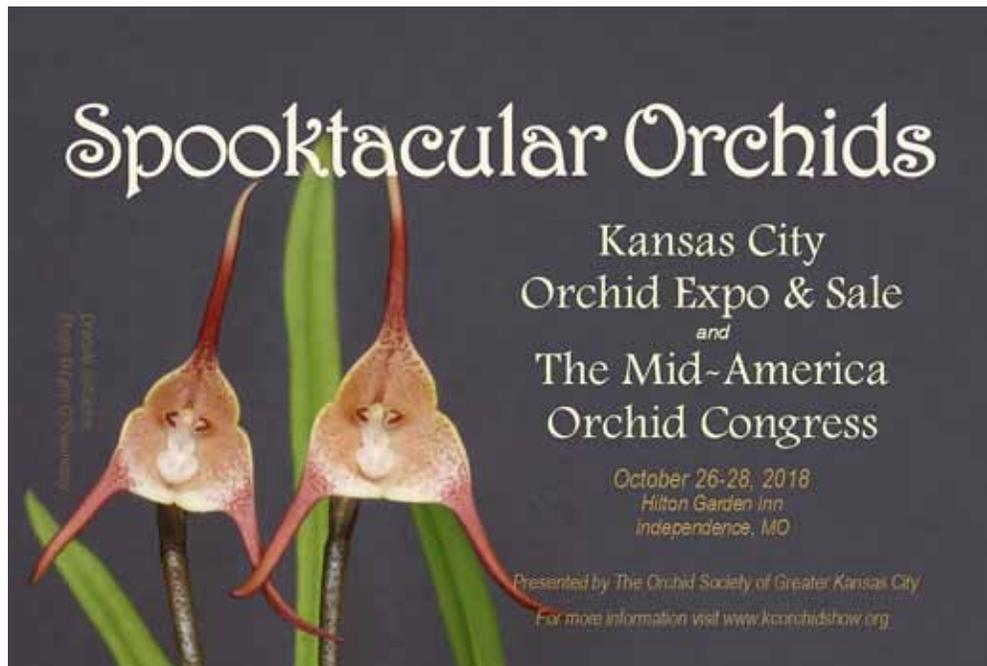
MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS IN INDEPENDENCE, MO

The next Mid-America Orchid Congress will be hosted by the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City in the conference hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, MO, a suburb of Kansas City, MO, October 26-28, 2018. The Society has named their event "Spooktacular Orchids". All of the events, including Friday night's Preview Costume Party, are at the Hilton Garden Inn. Saturday's guest speakers are Roy Tokunaga "Flower Boosters", Gary Meyer "Dracuphilia: A Gothic Romance Gods and Monsters", and Larry Zettler "The Ghost Orchid Demystified". A special attraction are several tours to Bird's Botanicals, a unique orchid firm located in one of the Kansas City-area's numerous, large caves.

Registration forms and more information are available on the Society's website (www.kcorchidshow.org). Feel free to contact GLOS's Mid-America Representative, Doris Asher, too, for more information. She, Dawn Kittle, and Jack Shumaker are all going to the meetings.

The topic to be discussed at the Affiliated Societies Breakfast in Independence will be "The Role of the Beginners Group in Your Society".

THE MID-AMERICA
ORCHID CONGRESS

**GLOS MEMBERSHIP** - Submitted by Doris Asher, Membership Committee

Our GLOS numbers stand now as follows: as of August 20th – 88 households comprising 102 individuals. At this time last year, we had 90 members in 77 households. Our fiscal year has ended (on June 30, 2018). We need to receive renewals from twelve members. Sadly, per our Bylaws, these former members will not receive any more Society newsletters or other mailings. Members in arrears are welcome to renew at any time and will be reinstated immediately!

We have 38 people who are Life Members (37.3% of the membership). These numbers are included in the current membership numbers detailed above. Life Memberships are still available – Life membership dues are \$80 for individuals, \$120 for two living in the same household.

Total Households (including Life Members): 88 (households)

Households getting Calypso electronically: 69 (78.4%)

Households needing paper copies: 19 (21.6%)

Calypso costs us:

Copying: \$.60 each x 6 issues = \$3.60/year

Copying plus postage: + \$.50 stamp = \$1.10 each x 6 issues = \$6.60/household/year

19 households get paper copies: \$125.40 annually. This amount is partially offset by donations that some paper members contribute (requested on dues form).

FROM RAY BARKELOW OF FIRST RAY'S ORCHIDS NEWSLETTER**CULTURAL NOTE****Avoiding Issues**

I get a lot of email and telephone requests, and see a lot of discussions on forums related to "Is this 'X' disease?" and "How do I cure it?", and while identifying and knowing how to cure such issues is important, I really think that folks need to educate themselves more on how to grow their plants properly to avoid them in the first place!

Just like us, a healthy, unstressed plant is less likely to succumb to an infection than one that is struggling due to improper culture, and because orchids are highly-evolved "niche plants", each has its own requirements.

This month I'd like to offer some more general tips that apply fairly broadly, and while these may seem very basic, they are often overlooked.

Avoid potting a plant too deeply. Epiphytic orchids, even some so-called "semi-terrestrials" like paphiopedilums, sit on top of whatever substrate upon which they grow. Yes, the roots penetrate the accumulated detritus around it, but the base of monopodial plants and the rhizome of sympodial plants are at the surface, not under it. If, over time, more leaf litter and whatever else accumulates around them, as they grow, they "climb" out of it. Potting a plant too deeply can allow water to stay in small crevices in the plant structure, becoming great incubators for bacteria and fungi.

Water the potting medium, not the plant. It may be difficult to do, but try to avoid wetting the leaves, as any little small pocket of water left standing on the plant can be a "welcome mat" for pathogens, and any water splashing from one plant to another is a great way to spread diseases.

Do not use cold water to irrigate your plants. We're growing tropical plants. Rainfall in the tropics tends to be warmed as it falls through the hot, humid air and flows through the forest canopy. The use of cold water can be a shock to the plant, slowing the growth rate or damaging the leaves by causing mesophyll collapse.

When it comes to light levels, more is not necessarily better. Sure, plants use light, water and carbon dioxide to make glucose, the "fuel" for life, and increasing light levels does produce glucose faster, but it can increase the temperature of the leaves as well, and that can interfere with some of the other chemical processes that go on within the leaf, upsetting the "balance" that makes a plant healthy. Most phalaenopsis, for example, will grow and bloom better in deep shade than they will in bright light.

If you are going to move a plant to a brighter location, do so in a slow transition. Plants adapt to changes in light level through several mechanisms, including the gain or loss of chlorophyll and through the movement of chloroplasts and proteins, which redistribute the light energy within the plant. Some processes are relatively quick, while others take longer, and to complicate matters, they can interfere with each other!

Vandas, for example, are typically considered "high-light" plants but can be successfully grown and bloomed at somewhat reduced light levels, given time to adjust. Conversely, that vanda grown on a window sill will "fry" if moved straight to high light levels outdoors in the spring. Make that change gradual, stretched out over a week or two of small steps, and be very observant of changes in leaf color so you can readjust promptly if you've made too big of a change.

Humidity is good; low- or very high humidity is not. If you've followed these newsletters, you've no doubt heard me say that water is the driving force for plant growth; that is, a plant must absorb and process about 25 gallons of water and only about a teaspoon of fertilizer nutrients to put on one pound of mass. We often think about the roots absorbing that water, but it is the evaporative loss of water from the leaves that creates the "transpirational pull" that moves it upward from the roots throughout the plant. If the relative humidity is too low, the losses can outstrip the ability of the plant to absorb and transfer water adequately, leading to brittleness, stunted growth, or in extreme cases, desiccation and death. Very high humidity, on the other hand, can drastically reduce the loss of water from the leaves. That might be a good thing when you're trying to rescue a rootless plant that has no way to take up water, but it can slow the growth of an otherwise healthy plant. A relative humidity in the neighborhood of 50%-60% is fine for orchids, makes you feel comfortable, and is good for your home and wood furniture.

Air movement should be gentle and tumbling or wafting, and not a gale! It helps transpiration, dries the occasional bit of trapped water from our irrigation efforts, brings fresh air to the plant, and to some degree discourages stuff like mold spores from settling on the plant. Excessive air flow can act like low humidity and dry out plant tissues.

Until next time... Good Growing!



Littlefrog Farm
Rob Halgren, PhD.

<http://littlefrogfarm.com>
rob@littlefrogfarm.com

JUMP IN!

PO Box 27573
Lansing, MI 48909

GLOS Web Site:
<https://greaterlansingorchidsociety.com>
Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/Greater-Lansing-Orchid-Society-202834892618/>

GLOS needs healthy, disease-free plants for our raffle and silent auction. Please share your divisions and no-longer-wanted orchids with your fellow orchidists.

2018 All State Orchid Societies Meeting

Hosted by the following Orchid Societies:

***Ann Arbor, Dunes/Kamalazoo, Grand Valley,
Greater Lansing, Michigan, Northwestern Michigan,
Saginaw Valley***

Oct 13th, 2018 at 1:30 PM

Andrea Niessen

From Cali, Colombia

**“The Beauty and Diversity
of Colombian Orchids”**

(pre-order cut off date is Aug15 via www.orguivalle.com)

Presbyterian Church of Okemos

2258 Bennett Road, Okemos, MI

For more info call or e-mail Jack Shumaker

810-265-8117 or jcobbler58@aol.com

Everyone Welcome





The End Page

Chicagoland Orchid Fest 21-23 September 2018

Festival Info: <http://www.chicagolandorchidfest.com>

The Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association presents the 26th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival

The festival takes place simultaneously at two different orchid greenhouse locations within the suburbs of Chicago. Spanning a three day period, the greenhouses of Orchids by Hausermann and Natt's Orchids will be open to the public during the festival.

For a map of these locations: http://www.chicagolandorchidfest.com/images/2014_map.jpg

Friday, September 21st 8am-5pm
Saturday, September 22nd 8am-5pm
Sunday, September 23rd 10am-3pm

The festival features a vast array of plants for sale by "guest growers," presentations by world-renowned orchid specialists, refreshments, special bargains, and the opportunity to stroll among the most exotic and beautiful plants found in nature.

The festival is sponsored by two well-known growers and certified members of the Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association (COGA). Both sites are within a 40-minute drive of each other and are run by experts in the field of orchid horticulture. To find out more about the flowers and events available at each location, contact the COGA members.