

**REPORT TO MID-AMERICA AFFILIATED SOCIETIES
MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS
CHICAGO, IL, APRIL 27-29, 2007**

Congratulations and a big Thank You go to the Illinois Orchid Society for hosting the Spring Meeting of the MAOC in conjunction with their 55th Anniversary Spring Show and Sale. Members gathered April 27—29 at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel in Northbrook, Illinois just outside of Chicago. The three days were packed full of things to do, see and hear. Hospitality was superb as in the past, and we once again had the opportunity to sample Illinois Society members' great home-cooking. Besides having a beautiful show site at the Chicago Botanical Gardens, there were 25 vendors to feast the eyes and four lectures to satisfy any orchidist's curiosity and fill the knowledge bank. The lectures included two by Dr. Eric Christenson on Orchids of Peru and The New Maxillaria, a lecture by Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids entitled The Adventure Begins: The Latest in Complex Paphiopedilum Hybridizing, a lecture by Patricia Harding entitled The Huntleya Clad and finally on Sunday afternoon a lecture by Alfredo Manrique of Centro de Jardeneria Manrique, Lima, Peru entitled Phragmipedium kovachii: Habitat, Culture and Conservation. I had the opportunity to hear the lectures on The New Maxillaria, Orchids of Peru, and The Huntleya Clade and found all of them to be quite elucidating and enlightening. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the lecture scheduled late on Sunday afternoon (as I am afraid happened to many attendees due to travel constraints!) on Phragmipedium kovachii. Perhaps we will have the opportunity to hear Alfredo again at another conclave.

The transportation provided by the Illinois Orchid Society between the hotel and Botanical Garden ran smoothly and reliably. This can be a big issue when the host hotel and show site are separated by some distance; however, this time there were no problems. The numerous exhibits were systematically placed inside the buildings of the gardens, with plenty of available daylight for viewing and judging. There were many beautifully executed displays with outstanding examples of various orchid genera.

Suki Nax chaired the eleven ribbon teams of some 60 judges Saturday morning as they evaluated the approximately 1000 plants and 49 exhibits. The AOS Show Trophy went to the exhibit put in by the Wisconsin Orchid Society.

Eight judging teams selected fifty-eight orchids for AOS award consideration; the following nine AOS awards were granted:

1. Dendrobium trantuanhii 'Silas' CHM/AOS 81 points owned by Walter Crawford, Milwaukee, WI.
2. Sarcophilus (Hartlight x Fitzhart) 'Hot Ice' HCC/AOS 78 points owned by Randy Highfield, Indianapolis, IN (provisional).
3. Paphiopedilum Fumi's Gold (Fumi's Gold x sib) 'Solar Flare' AM/AOS 86 points owned by Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids, Kernersville, NC.
4. Paphiopedilum (Red Czar x charlesworthii) 'Perfect Circle' AM/AOS 86 points owned by Orchid Inn, Bloomington, IL (provisional)
5. Paphiopedilum lowii 'Gigantic Wing' CCM/AOS 82 points owned by Orchid Inn, Bloomington, IL
6. Promenea Meadow Gold 'Amore Mother Aery's' (Limelight x xanthina) CCM/AOS 83 points owned by Jane and Charles High, Gurnee, IL.
7. Phalaenopsis Hilltop's Jewel 'Dazzling' (Golden Peoker x John Ewing) AM/AOS 81 points owned by Hilltop Orchids, Cloverdale, IN
8. Porroglossum sergioi 'Silas' CCM/AOS 85 points owned by Walter Crawford, Milwaukee, WI.
9. Display of Cattleya alliance, JC, William Rogerson, Winnetka, IL

Winners of special Mid-America trophies included:

1. Myron Banta Award for the best specimen plant – Dendrobium thrysiflorum, Roy and Lauren Lenz, Wisconsin Orchid Society
2. Henry C. Holmes Award for the best oncidium alliance plant -- Odontocidium Meave, Larry Sanford, Cincinnati Orchid Society
3. FL Stevenson Pleurothallid Alliance Award for the best pleurothallid alliance plant – Pleurothallid teaguei, Claire Rojohn, Wisconsin Orchid Society
4. Fox Valley Cypripedium Alliance Award for the best cypripedium alliance plant – Cypripedium parviflorum var. parviflorum, Orchids Ltd.

On Sunday morning 44 registrants attended the Affiliated Societies Breakfast hosted by Chair Mary Beth Mansour and Committee members Doris Asher, Roberta Ginavan and Doug Hartong. The topic for this breakfast was "Challenges Facing Local Societies". Issues focused on getting new members and keeping the ones you have. One of the biggest problems facing most societies is the loss of older members who for various reasons just stop attending monthly meetings. One society devised a method of retrieving members by sending out (Email or snail mail) friendly reminders to welcome them back, notices of dues in arrears, etc. Pro-active is the key.

- Don't ask for volunteers with a general announcement, but personally ask people for a specific task
- Support other orchid societies in the immediate area by sharing speaker expenses and paying mileage

- Publicize society get involved with local garden centers and Big Box stores that sell orchids; offer to host teaching sessions/workshops on orchid culture and potting on site and hand out brochures advertising your society's meeting time and place; volunteer at your local botanical garden as an "orchid expert" and inform people of your local orchid society and when/where it meets
- Offer coupons to new members from various orchid vendors; provide a "goodie bag" for new members that might include a small plant or other pertinent orchid info (culture sheets from the AOS for example)
- Provide a teaching session to schools on orchid culture, even genetics; a great way to get young members to your society
- Follow up phone calls to find out why a regular member has stopped attending; this goes along with the member retrieval idea
- Plan extra society activities: Beginners Group (Greengrowers Group) for your society; more advanced group for others (hybridizing); organize "field trips" to local orchid nurseries or members' greenhouses
- Welcome new members: phone to invite to next meeting, personally welcome at meeting, introduce at business meeting.

Based on conversation at the Breakfast there are some societies that have had real success with any or all of the above. All it takes is initiative.

Highlights of the Business Meeting held shortly after the Affiliated Breakfast included:

ACTION TAKEN BY MAOC:

- The Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented a complete revision of that document
- The entertaining MAOC auction, held prior to the banquet, generated \$3,196 to fund MAOC projects.
- MAOC will continue to support in the amount of \$400 the following conservation efforts: the Cleveland Conservatory, Marjorie McNeely Conservatory of the University of Minnesota, the Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society, the Muncie Species Bank, and a new program at the Atlanta Botanical Garden to preserve *Cypripedium kentuckiense*.
- The Congress approved a Conservation Committee request for a new grant of \$400 to propagate *Calopogon tuberosus* and *Calopogon oklahomensis* and reintroduce the seedlings into protected habitats
- MAOC will apply to re-incorporate in the State of Ohio & apply for IRS 501(c)(3) status

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL MAOC ORCHID SOCIETIES

- As a follow-up to the distribution of the CD Pronunciation Guide, the president of each member society received a letter from the Affiliated Societies Committee emphasizing the importance of selecting a MAOC Representative. A document specifying guidelines for "Selecting a MAOC Representative" was included. These guidelines appear on the MAOC web site.
- Show Registration tags can be obtained (\$25/1000) from Tom Ott; 22 Algonquin Lane; St. Louis, MO 63119; (314) 961-3088, email-maryott@swbell.net
- Electronic delivery of The Mid-American cuts costs for MAOC. Mid-America Rep, if you have email, please send Jeanne Sanders Rhinehart (rhinehart_j@summitcds.org) your email address. Jeanne could send The Mid-American to you by email & you can distribute it by email.
- In an effort to keep the MAOC Show Schedule reflective of current trends, the Show Schedule Committee requests all local societies send a list of the number of entries in each class following every local show. Send (PREFERABLY by mail) to Barbara Nuernberger, 27 Colony Dr., Oberlin, OH or by email to bnuernberger@oberlin.net
- The Affiliated Societies Breakfast addressed "Challenges Facing Local Orchid Societies". Issues discussed included finding volunteers, attracting new members, particularly young members and retaining members.

Plan to attend in Kansas City: the fall MAOC meeting is scheduled for November 16-18 -- information available on www.kcorchidshow.org or email kcorchidshow@kc.rr.com; co-chairs Beth and Doug Martin email bethdoug@kc.rr.com. Rooms are available at the Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO 64057 at the Mid-America Orchid Congress group rate of \$84 + tax, king or double (800-445-8667 or 816-350-3000 for reservations); this rate available until October 26, 2007. Speakers include Dr Richard Warren, Equatorial Plant Co., Durham, UK "Lost orchids of the Organ Mountains, Brazil" and James Rose, Cal-Orchid, Inc., Santa Barbara, CA "Culture and hybridization of reedstem epidendrums". Vendors so far include: Bird's Botanicals, Kansas City, MO; Natt's Orchids, Naperville, IL; Gypsy Glen Orchids, Beaver, PA; Cal-Orchid, Inc., Santa Barbara, CA; Ecuagenera, Cuenca, Ecuador; Oak Hill Gardens, Dundee, IL; Hoosier Orchids, Indianapolis, In; New Vision Orchids, Yorktown, IN; Roberts Mfg. Jeweler, Inc., Natchitoches, LA.

Please register for the breakfast hosted by the Affiliated Societies Committee to be held on Sunday morning, November 18, 2007. The topic for discussion will be "Keeping Orchid Society Membership Relevant in Today's Society."

If the Affiliated Societies Committee or the Mid-America Orchid Congress can help your society, contact us.

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Please share this communication with your society: send copies to your newsletter editor & your board; forward this report by email to members of your society or give an oral report at your next meeting. Help MAOC help your society!