

February, 2004

The Orchid Grower

Upcoming Events:

- Jan 31-: 7:00 PM Orchid Quest 2004
- Feb 9: 7:00 PM Board of Directors, Perkins on the Beltline at Fish Hatchery
- Feb 12: Deadline for March Newsletter
- Feb 15: 1:00 Ribbon Judging of Flowers at Olbrich
- Feb. 15: 1:30 Membership Meeting at Olbrich
- Feb 20-22: Batavia Orchid Society Show in St. Charles, IL

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Orchid Growers' Guild

February Program is Reliving Orchid Quest 2004

The February meeting of the Guild will be at Olbrich Botanical Gardens on Sunday, the 15th. If you have flowers you want judged they need to be at Olbrich no later than 1:00 PM. The meeting will begin at 1:30.

February's program will be a review of Orchid Quest 2004 in slides. It will also be a time to share your thoughts on possible ways to continue improving Orchid Quest for the future.

Additionally, the Board is asking you to think about additional ways that may make our library collection more accessible to our membership (please see the article on page 4). There will be time to share these as well as your feelings on donating part of the collection to the public library **if and only if** we cannot find other ways to make the collection more accessible to our members.

Second Annual Members' Orchid Auction Set

The Second Annual Members' Orchid Auction is all set for our March 28th Membership Meeting. This is a great way for you to eliminate some of your extra orchids and those you simply can't make bloom. In the process you help the Guild and make money for yourself for buying more orchids. You may also be able to find that special orchid you've always been looking for at a very reasonable price.

We ask that all orchids you want to auction be free of disease and pests. Please make sure each plant is labeled with the plant and your name and any minimum price below which you don't want the plant sold. Per Guild policy, you will receive 50% of the price that each orchid sells at and the Guild will also receive 50 %.

Please remember that this is not a public auction, it is for Guild members only. However, if someone wishes to join the Guild the day of the auction, they may do so and then be a participant in the fun and excitement.

Guild Presidents

Stanley I. Grand (10/85-12/87)
Wayne King (1/88-12/89)
Charles A Peckham (1/90-12/91)
Arlene King (1/92-12/93)
John Diehl (1/94-12/95)
Kathleen Johnson (1/96-5/98)
Wayne King (6/98-5/00)
Dennis Pfarrer (5/00-5/02)
Doug Dowling (5/02-5/04)

President's Message – Doug Dowling

As I write this, Orchid Quest isn't even one week away! This should be a very special year for us. We have a new mix of vendors who will be spread over more space. This year we'll use the "lobby" area more fully. Our vendors include many who primarily sell orchids, plus vendors who don't sell orchids at all. Paradigm Gardens will be back with their potting media, hydroponics supplies, lights, etc. We've also added two pot vendors. By working together, we'll all have a great time, get some fantastic new purchases, and make Orchid Quest 2004 a great success.

I have learned one thing this past year about growing orchids outside. That is they get very robust and bloom their little hearts out. Unfortunately, they bloom very early in the fall and early winter. So nothing is in bloom or even spike now. That's a real bummer since this is the time of year when a blooming orchid would be great to have!

Next year, I plan on leaving more of my plants inside so that I have some in flower for Orchid Quest and Guild meetings. Part of what I most enjoy about growing orchids is the "learning curve."

I hope that as we move through the rest of winter and into spring that you'll regularly attend our Guild meetings. In March we'll once again hold a member's auction and in May we'll travel by bus to Natt's. Our February Guild meeting is described on page 1 of this newsletter and we'll have something special for April as well. And finally, there will be the June picnic.

See you at our Guild meetings!

2004 Guild Meetings

The following dates have been set for Guild meetings for 2004.

Feb. 15	June Summer Picnic
Mar. 28	Sept. 19
Apr. 18	Oct. 17
May 15 Bus Trip to Natt's	Nov. 21
	Dec. 12

Spring Away Shows – Cleo Kiergaard

The Spring away show season has started. Our first one is in St. Charles, IL, February 20-22. This is the Batavia Orchid Society's show. I will be picking up your lovelies at Ackers at 11:00 on February 18th. Be sure you have them packaged well for cold weather transport. Include a list of your plants and be sure you have your entry tags in an envelope attached to the box. Please e-mail me your list of possible plants before pick-up day so I can get a start on the paperwork. Your orchids will be returned to Ackers by noon on Monday, February 23rd.

The second show is NEWOS in Green Bay, March 5-7. Orchid pick-up is March 3 and return is March 8. Again, pack well, include your list and tags, and e-mail me your list.

The third show is Illowa in Davenport, IA, March 19-21. Orchid pick-up is March 17th and return is April 5th.

The fourth and final show is the Illinois Orchid Society Show, April 2-4. Orchid pick-up is March 31st and return is April 5th.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

2003 Grower's Awards

The following awards were given at our Winter Party for the December, 2002 through November, 2003 growing year.

Beginner: Meg McLaughlin

Intermediate: Steven Thimling

Advanced Grower: Sue Reed

Milo Gilbertson Award: Sue Reed

Guild Exhibitors: Sue Reed & Joan Smalley

Individual Exhibitor: Sue Reed

Congratulations to these members and good luck to everyone in the 2004 growing year.

December Directors' Notes

Directors Present: Liz Barlow, Doug Dowling, Cleo Kiergaard, Elaine Malter, Meg McLaughlin, Steven Thimling, Liz Wood

Treasurer's Report: Steven T. reported the balance. Members have been renewing memberships as well as paying for holiday party.

Changes to Policy Manual: Discussion of changes and impact. MSC to remove "Most Improved Grower" category.

Exhibit Display Policy: Discussion regarding interpretation of policy and point assignment. Two-way tie for first will result in splitting points. Current policy states no more than three people will be awarded points. Revision involves set-up with total of 12 points possible. Number of members, up to three will divide points evenly. Take down points will be total of 6, divided equally by no more than 2 members.

Orchid Quest: Vendor's still replying and reserving tables. Publicity beginning. Still looking for a member to organize OQ 2005. If no individual member is found, then a Board committee will organize.

Spring Sale: The Guild still needs a member to help organize for the Spring Sale at Olbrich Gardens the Saturday before Easter. List of "duties" will be printed in the newsletter with a call for volunteers.

January Directors' Notes

Directors Present: Liz Barlow, Doug Dowling, Cleo Kiergaard, Elaine Malter, Meg McLaughlin, Steven Thimling, Liz Wood

Member Present: Jill Hynum

Treasurer's Report: Steven T. reported balance of \$15,451.16

Library: Discussed accessibility of library materials. Guild has one shelf at Olbrich Gardens where some of the newer materials are available for check-out by members. Listing of books, etc. coded by location and arranged by plant family will be placed on web site and printed for members without internet access. Part of collection will be brought to meetings. Members may also contact Jill directly. MSC to try above for 3 months (Feb-Apr) to increase accessibility. MSC that February's membership meeting include discussion of other ideas for making the collection more accessible as well as the possibility of donating some materials to the public library.

AOS Funding Request: Tabled until after Orchid Quest.

Orchid Quest: Vendor's signed up and paid. There will be 44 tables. Atrium area will also be used for vendors. Speakers and programs are finalized. Exhibit committee will be using Garden theme.

Leadership Needed for Spring Orchid Sale at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

We need one or two people to serve as chair for the Spring Orchid Sale. The flowers are already ordered and the room reserved. Duties include: provide Olbrich information for its newsletter, coordinate workers, get needed supplies (paper plant cone covers, staplers & staples, pens & pencils; scotch tape, scissors, care sheets, table skirting, double sided tape, change, price lists etc.—some of which is in storage), arrange for some publicity, make signs for the day, pick up orchids, make price tags, supervise sale, return supplies and equipment to storage, relax. If you want more detailed information you may contact Cleo Kiergaard. Cleo has additional information on how to do the sale and would be happy to share it with you. If you're willing to help the Guild by providing leadership for the Spring Sale, please let Doug Dowling know. Thank you.

December Ribbon Judging

Plants Provided for Judging: 14 Doug Dowling (1); Gary Lensmeyer (1); Meg McLaughlin (1); Mark Nofsinger (5); Steven Thimling (5); Jody Thistle (1)

First Place Ribbons:

Gary Lensmeyer: *Cymbidium pipeta* 'York',
Mark Nofsinger: *Paph. spicerianum*, *Bc. binosa* 'Wabash Valley'
Steve Thimling: *Platystele umbalata*
Jody Thistle: *Onc.* Sweet Sugar 'Angel' BM/JOGA

Second Place Ribbons:

Meg McLaughlin: *Lc.* 'Angel Heart'
Mark Nofsinger: *Phrag. Sedenii* 'Blush', *Masd. rex* x *exquisita*

Third Place Ribbons:

Doug Dowling: *Masd.* Copper Angel x Marguerite
Steve Thimling: *Jumellia comorensis* x self, *Zootrophion atropurpureans*, *Phrag.* Grande 'Acker's Vista'
AM/AOS

Update on the Guild's Library and It's Availability to Our Members

The Board of Directors and our Librarian, Jill Hynum have been working to make the Guild's library more accessible to our membership. Several changes have already been made and the Board is asking for the input of our members on several more.

An updated listing of our collection is available on our web site in both MS-Excel and .pdf formats. For those who don't have internet access, a copy is included with this newsletter. The newer books in our collection are located in the library at Olbrich Botanical Gardens and may be checked out by our members. If the book you want isn't on our shelf at Olbrich, you may make arrangements directly with Jill to get it.

Jill will also provide some books and journals for checkout at our Guild meetings.

At the February Guild meeting the Board would like members' input as to other suggestions for improving the accessibility of our collection. The Board also wants to hear from the members on one specific suggestion that was made. This would only be con-

sidered if we find nothing else works. That would be the possibility of donating part of our collection to the public library.



Guild Exhibit at the Public Library

Orchid Growers' Guild

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The Orchid Grower

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.orchidguild.org

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Sunshine: Kleo Kiergaard (2005)
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Liaisons:
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AOS: Jill Hynum (2005)
MAOC: Don Lamb (2005)
Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum (2004)