



The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

January 2010

<http://www.midamericanorchids.org/>

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear fellow orchid lovers,

I'd like to encourage you all to attend the 2010 spring Mid-America meeting in Omaha, March 19-21, 2010. The meeting, which Mid-America is hosting, is shaping up to be an outstanding one. It is being held in conjunction with the Greater Omaha Orchid Society's Twenty-third Annual Orchid Show and Sale, which is a show that Beth and I look forward to each year.

I'm especially excited about the speakers we'll be hearing. Carson Whitlow will begin our afternoon lecture series with his talk on "Cypripediums of the World". Besides running the Orchid Mall website, Carson is the owner of Cyp Haven, and he registered the first artificial Cypripedium hybrid in 1987. He's well known around the Midwest as an excellent speaker.

The second lecture, "Orchid Conservation for the 22nd Century" by Scott Stewart should be something special. Scott is well qualified to discuss this topic. He has a Ph.D. in Environmental

Horticulture, is an Assistant Professor at Kankakee Community College in Illinois and is a member of several national and international orchid conservation organizations. Scott spoke at our Society about a year ago and gave a talk that was interesting, informative and enjoyed by all. He's promised me that his talk in Omaha will be thought provoking.

The last afternoon lecture will be "Growing Orchids the EnLightened Way: Gardening Under Fluorescent Lights" by Ernie Gemeinhart, the owner of EnLightened Orchids. Ernie does something I didn't think possible; he grows orchids commercially under fluorescent lights. I heard him give this talk last year and it's jam-packed with information. Even the greenhouse growers were asking questions!

Can you remember the speaker at your first orchid society meeting? Even though it was almost twenty years ago, I can still remember the great talk that Doug Watson gave back then. So I'm really pleased that he will be our dinner speaker in Omaha. Many of you know Doug as a past President of Mid-America, the former owner of Gemstone Orchids, and an AOS judge previously in the Chicago Judging Center. Currently, he's the general manager of Worldwide Orchids, Inc. in Florida. His topic will be "People I've Met & Orchids I've Killed or....". He tells me it'll be mostly light-hearted but with some serious moments. Sounds like perfect after-dinner fare to me!

We'll also enjoy the Mid-America auction (the FUN-raiser!) and pick up lots of ideas and information at the Affiliated Societies Breakfast and the Mid-America business meeting. I really think this will be one of the more memorable Mid-Americans. Please try to join us.

Doug Martin

SPECIAL AUCTION ITEM IN OMAHA

What is OrchidWiz Encyclopedia and Journal?

OrchidWiz is an easy-to-use software application for orchid research, discovery and to help growers keep track of their orchids. The program contains extensive information on approximately 138,000 hybrids and 29,000 species. It was designed with three primary goals in mind: (1) Ease-of-use; (2) Accuracy; and (3) Completeness.

OrchidWiz users do not need to know how a database works. The program is so intuitive that anyone who knows how to use a computer mouse can benefit from it. Currently there are thousands of OrchidWiz aficionados in six continents and 45 countries. Many world-class institutions use OrchidWiz for their basic research needs, including Selby Gardens, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Botanic Garden, the Smithsonian Greenhouse and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. More than 200 orchid nurseries and 330 American Orchid Society judges have licensed OrchidWiz, another testimony to its breadth and accuracy.

OrchidWiz relies on public sources of data such as hybrid registrations and award listings. In addition, over 100 volunteers contribute to OrchidWiz by providing photos and various types of information on orchids such as published photo references; pronunciation tips; etc. To date, volunteers have contributed about 45,000 digital photos.

Founded a little over two years ago, OrchidWiz is already in its 6th version. A new version comes out every year and volunteers have a big say over what features go in. The program has become the primary reference work for all orchid aficionados, from orchid experts to hobbyists.

Have you seen the computer software OrchidWiz in use? If you have, you know how powerful and useful it is! Roberta Ginavan, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, announces that a copy of the software with accompanying license will be one of the items auctioned off Saturday night in

Omaha. This wonderful program is provided to Mid-America by the program's creators free of charge.

If you don't already own OrchidWiz, here is an opportunity to get it – and to help the Congress simultaneously.

REGISTER FOR SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The MAOC Affiliated Societies Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at the Omaha Marriott, 10220 Regency Circle in Omaha Nebraska. The topic will be "Conservation Efforts by Local Orchid Societies."

Many opportunities exist for local orchid societies to promote conservation of orchids locally and to join other societies to address the issue on a global scale. How do societies participate in an active role? Individual members of societies have developed collections of orchids, species and hybrids threatening to be extinct. What plans can be made to protect these orchids at the end of your ability to care for orchids? These are the questions to be discussed at the Breakfast.

The Breakfast offers a forum to share ideas and challenges facing orchid growers and societies. Plan to attend the Affiliated Societies Breakfast to share your ideas and to learn from the experiences of others.

Mary Beth Mansour, Chair
Affiliated Societies Committee
mbmansour1@cox.net

Mid-America Orchid Congress

Spring Meeting
March 19-21, 2010

Hosted by the Mid-America Orchid Congress and held in conjunction with

Greater Omaha Orchid Society's Twenty-third Annual Orchid Show and Sale

Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting Location

Omaha Marriott
10220 Regency Circle
Omaha, NE 68114
402-399-9000

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Orchid Show Location

Lauritzen Gardens
Omaha's Botanical Center
100 Bancroft Street
Omaha, NE 68108

Mid-America Orchid Congress Events

Saturday Afternoon Orchid Programs

The World of Cypripediums

Carson Whitlow

Carson is the owner of Cyp Haven and webmaster of the Orchid Mall. He has grown Cypripediums since 1973 and produced the first registered artificial hybrids of Cypripedium in 1987.

Orchid Conservation for the 22nd Century

Scott Stewart, Ph.D.

Scott is a member of the North American Regional Orchid Specialist Group, a part of the ICUN Species Survival Commission, as well as the Native Orchid Conference, Inc. Conservation Committee. He is the Associate Editor of the North American Native Orchid Journal.

Growing Orchids the EnLightened Way: Gardening Under Fluorescent Lights

Ernie Gemeinhart

Ernie is the owner of EnLightened Orchids. He has been growing orchids under fluorescent lights since 1997. He grows primarily Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, Phalaenopsis and mini and compact Cattleyas.

Saturday Night Orchid Delights!

The Mid-America FUN-raiser

Enjoy some laughs and place your bids at this popular auction

Dinner and a Speaker

People I've Met & Orchids I've Killed or

Doug Watson

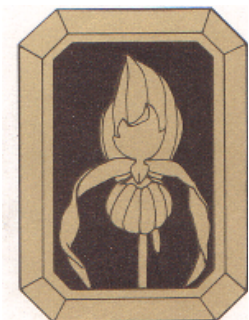
Doug is a Past President of Mid-America Orchid Congress. He has been the General Manager, Worldwide Orchids, Inc. since 2001. Before that Doug was the owner of Gemstone Orchids and a Phalaenopsis hybridizer.

Hotel Reservations

MAOC room rate \$99 + tax
visit the Mid-America Orchid Congress website or call
Marriott Reservations at 888-236-2427 toll-free

For more details and registration forms

visit the Mid-America Orchid Congress website
www.midamericanorchids.org



Mid-America Orchid Congress 92nd Meeting

Held in conjunction with the

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Twenty-third Annual Orchid Show and Sale

March 19-21, 2010 Omaha, Nebraska

2010 Spring Mid-America Orchid Congress Registration (Please type or print)

| | First Registrant | Second Registrant |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Name (for your badge) | | |
| Society Affiliation | | |
| Address | | |
| City, State, Province, Zip | | |
| Telephone | | |
| E-Mail | | |
| Will you be judging? | Yes No Status _____ | Yes No Status _____ |
| Do you wish to clerk? | Yes No | Yes No |
| Will you be exhibiting or assisting with show set-up? | Yes No | Yes No |

| | Before March 1 | After March 1 | First Registrant | Second Registrant | Total |
|--|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Full Registration (includes unlimited access to the orchid show and seminars, van transportation between hotel and show, and registration bag) | \$60 | \$75 | | | |
| Saturday Registration (afternoon lectures only) | \$40 | \$45 | | | |
| Dinner and Speaker (Saturday) | \$40 | \$40 | | | |
| Affiliated Societies Breakfast (Sunday) | \$17 | \$17 | | | |
| | | | | Total | |

Dinner Choice (Please choose one each and mark for first or second registrant):

- _____ 1st _____ 2nd Beef (10oz flat iron steak with sautéed mushrooms and onions)
 _____ 1st _____ 2nd Chicken (Sautéed chicken breast with au poivre sauce)
 _____ 1st _____ 2nd Vegetarian lasagna

Hotel Reservations (Omaha Marriott):

MAOC Room Rate is \$99 + tax
 (888) 236-2427 or (402) 399-9000
 or visit our web site:
www.midamericanorchids.org/meetings/

****Return this form with payment
 (check made to MAOC) to:**

Doris Asher, 277 N. Hagadorn Road
 East Lansing, MI 48823

COME TO THE AOS MEMBERS MEETING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Carolyn and Lowell McCabe from Lexington, OK, invite you to attend the Spring 2010 AOS Members Meeting and Show to be hosted by the Oklahoma Orchid Society April 28 through May 2, 2010. They plan to have the best show ever with a fantastic preview party and terrific registration bags. For more information, please visit the OOS website at www.2010aosshow.oosorchids.org.

Of particular interest to MAOC societies: the AOS Affiliated Society Committee Breakfast on April 30th will have a discussion on "Are You an Innovative Society".

You may contact Show Coordinator Carolyn McCabe directly at orchids@mbo.net or at 405-899-4228.

Doris Asher, Editor
asherdoris@juno.com

AOS REQUESTS HELP FROM SHOWS

The Membership Committee of the American Orchid Society is soliciting the help of societies sponsoring orchid shows this spring in recruiting members for the AOS. They can supply an attractive poster and/or membership brochures for use at your Information Table.

For more information, please contact Barbara Noe, Chair of the Committee;
celebrateorchids@aol.com

REGISTRATION PROCESS FEEDBACK REQUESTED

I enjoyed serving as plant registrar at the recent MAOC Show in Franklin, TN and visiting with everyone! I would like to ask that if you were involved in the judging process as an exhibitor, judge, or clerk, please provide me your comments or suggestions to improve the registration system used at the Show. I am always looking to improve it and have already received some comments from individuals attending the Show. Please send any comments to: jeff@delmasfamily.net.

Jeff Delmas
Heart of Dixie Orchid Society

THE REST OF THE STORY: THE MID-AMERICA AUCTION IN FRANKLIN, TN

The 50th anniversary Mid-America Orchid Congress and Show in Franklin, TN October 30 to November 1 definitely was a class act in many respects. One of those was the fun-filled auction with the excitement, generosity, and unsurpassed dedication of the team of auctioneers, organizers, clerks, donors and audience-bidders. While most donated items were orchid related, a small box of Nashville chocolates was not, except for the fond memories it brought back of bygone days when it was donated to Mickey Nax after a high price was paid. Mickey loved chocolates.

A gentleman sitting next to me was puzzled at the buzz and fun about the box of chocolates which was bought by Atlanta's Peter Furniss for \$500.00. He donated it back to the auctioneers and Lowell Jacks of Atlanta bid another \$500.00 making it another fine tribute to Mickey Nax.

Mickey, who made her home with husband David in St. Louis where the first Mid-America Orchid Congress was held in 1959, left us about 15 years ago. Their heart and soul were in Mid-America with the Orchid Congress family. Mickey was a lovely lady, liked by everyone, and respected especially for her artistic and technical talents in the creation of orchid jewelry. The jewelry was created by the wax, burn and gold casting method, using an actual orchid flower. Her creations numbered in the hundreds, and a majority of them are on display at the Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens in southern California. Many more are worn by their owners around the country. Mickey's talents did not end with her main and dominant work with the gold orchids; it also includes the Mid-America logo in use today, orchid engraving on gold or silver, and cloisonné featuring orchid motifs. Cloisonné is the art of creating beautiful metal plates with the design crafted by the use of silver wire, ceramic colors and glaze. Dorothy and I were able to purchase some of the items from her and treasure them due to their beauty and the memory of their creator. They are precious orchid treasures to us and a reminder of a glorious time gone by in Mid-America. Mickey was one of those special people of the Mid-America Orchid Congress which included Bob and Peggy Nagel, Fran Gay, Armin Spies of St. Louis, the Walterses and Everett Johnson of Kansas City, F.L. Stevenson and Gus Bartenfeld of Atlanta, Charlie Plaxico of Nashville, to name the most memorable.

Drs. David and Barbara Brown of St. Louis are still with us, and along with Lois Holmes of Minneapolis, were and are superb examples of dedication to the orchid cause and organizations. We can be grateful to all named above, or not, for their many years of volunteer dedication to make attendance at the Congresses productive, enjoyable and fun. Pete and Gail Furniss and Lowell Jacks deserve a special thanks for their generosity to help bring the auction proceeds to almost \$ 4,000. Half of that amount was donated to the AOS headquarters in Florida for the maintenance of the AOS's orchid collection.

I hope the gentleman sitting next to me at the Auction can read these lines since I could not go into all the details at the time, and cannot in this update. It is, however, if not all the rest of the story, most of the rest.

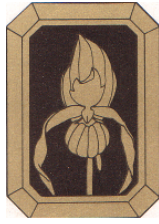
Hermann Pigors



Mickey Nax's cloisonné plates



A couple of Hermann's tie clips fashioned by Mickey Nax



CONTINUE TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF MAOC

Remind your Society to pay its dues. As a member of the Mid-America Orchid Congress, your Society joins orchid societies in 17 states, as well as in Ontario, Canada, to fund education, research and conservation. The amount of dues is based on the number of members in your Society: \$0.50/member, \$15.00 minimum.

Dues forms are available from our Treasurer Jan Yates ([jyates11@earthlink.net](mailto: jyates11@earthlink.net))

A completed form, listing the contact persons in your Society, enables MAOC to send the Congress's newsletter, The Mid-American, to members of your Society. The Mid-American informs your Society of issues related to the operation of a successful society, including changes in show schedule rules and classification.

Mary Beth Mansour, Chair
Affiliated Societies Committee

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Thank you, Hermann Pigors, Ed Cott, Doug Martin, Roberta Ginavan, Jeff Delmas, and Mary Beth Mansour, for your articles in this issue and to Dot Potter Barnett for technical assistance. I welcome input – suggestions, corrections, and articles to be published are all welcome. Keep those e-mail messages coming!

Doris Asher, Editor
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E Lansing MI 48823
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[asherdoris@juno.com](mailto: asherdoris@juno.com)

FEATURING AN AFFILIATED SOCIETY: THE WINDSOR ORCHID SOCIETY – IN ITS 25TH YEAR!

The September 27, 2009, General Meeting of the Windsor Orchid Society/La Société des Orchidophiles de Windsor (WOS) marked the beginning of its 25th year. The WOS is affiliated with the Canadian Orchid Congress (COC), the American Orchid Society (AOS) and the Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC).

The Society was initiated in September of 1985 when the founding members, Dr. John Doherty, Peter Smith, Ed Cott, Chuck Lefaive and Bernie Butts formed the initial Executive. In May of 1986, the WOS organized its first local orchid show as part of the Gardening and Landscape Show at St. Clair College. In the course of the years that followed, the WOS has been host to a number of noted guest speakers including Ray McCullough, former President of the AOS and of Mid-America, Gerda Ferrington, former President of the MAOC, and local orchid growers Ron Ciesinski (Taylor Orchids), Ted and Alexis Linder (Great Lakes Orchids) and Dick and Mary Kock (Huronview Nurseries). In recent years we have had the pleasure of welcoming Mario Ferrusi, Lynn O'Shaughnessy, Rob Halgren and Terry and Doug Kennedy, all accredited AOS judges and award winning orchid growers, to speak to our membership on topics associated with the culture of orchids of many genera.

The WOS meets on the last Sunday of the month (Sept-Nov, Jan-May) at 1:30 pm at St. Clair College in Windsor, Ontario – Room 192A next to the greenhouse. Meetings are relaxed, informative and friendly. Visit our website at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/ecott/index.htm>.



Executive members (L-R)
Committee members (L-R)
Louise Holt, Ed Cott and Eunice Bragg
Bernie Butts, Ruth Neily and Chuck Lefave

HELPFUL INFORMATION FROM MAOC

Show Schedule Committee News

The Committee met on Friday, October 30, 2009, at 6:00PM in Franklin, TN and reviewed the items on the agenda. The Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee had adjusted the MAOC Show Schedule for the Show to reflect its priorities. This is an option for any society to expand or contract the number of classes to meet their needs. The Committee plans to gather as much input as possible for the next revision of the Mid-America Schedule, currently planned for the year 2014. We welcome any input regarding the Schedule, but really need show plant entry data from all areas of Mid-America in order for us to make informed decisions for the 2014 revision.

Please send the number of entries in each class to:

Lois Cinert, Co-Chair
595 Sharon Way
Bolingbrook IL 60440-1350
(630) 739-1068
george.cinert@att.net

Send any other Show Schedule comments, suggestions, concerns to:

Hermann Pigors, Co-Chair
37W.793 Binnie Road
Dundee, IL. 60118
(847)836-0456
pigors@juno.com

* * *

Need Mid-America entry tags for registration of plants and exhibits at your Show?

Order from Tom Ott
22 Algonquin Lane
St. Louis MO 63119
(314) 961-3088
maryott@swbell.net

Send check made payable to MAOC in the amount of \$30.00 for 1000 tags; remember to enclose address to which to send them.

* * *

The 2009 edition of the Mid-America Show Schedule and the July 2009 edition of the supplemental material edited by Lowell Jacks are all available on the Mid-America website (www.midamericanorchids.org)

* * *

For sale: MAOC CD published in 2005 entitled "Orchid names: a pronunciation guide" by Gerda Ferrington. \$10.00 each (\$13.00 each if need to be mailed to you). Send check made payable to MAOC to Jan Yates, Treasurer, 4110 Rose Hill Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45229-1527; remember to enclose address to which to send them.

* * *

Mid-America Constitution & By-laws is available on the Mid-America website (www.midamericanorchids.org)

* * *

For advice or assistance in hosting a future Congress, contact Beth Martin (bethdoug@kc.rr.com; 15523 Johnson Dr., Shawnee KS 66217 (913-248-8669)

* * *

The complete minutes from the March 29, 2009, Business Meeting as approved in Franklin, TN, on November 1, 2009, are available on the Mid-America website – or soon will be (www.midamericanorchids.org)

Show Schedule: Hermann Pigors, Co-Chair
847-428-8500; pigors@juno.com
Lois Cinert, Co-Chair
630-739-1068; george.cinert@att.net
Technology: Jeff Delmas
256-534-3332; jeff@delmasfamily.net

KEY MID-AMERICA CONTACTS

OFFICERS

President: Doug Martin
913-248-8669; bethdoug@kc.rr.com
1st Vice President: Aileen Garrison
770-961-0449; aileeng5@bellsouth.net
2d Vice President: Jordan Hawley
859-225-6051; jordanbird00@insightbb.com
Secretary: Roberta Ginavan
712-487-3085; givanan@verizon.net
Treasurer: Jan Yates
513-475-9771; jyates11@earthlink.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Affiliated Societies: Mary Beth Mansour
440-333-5364; mbmansour1@cox.net
AOS Liaison: Doris Asher
517-332-0004; asherdoris@juno.com
Annual Meeting: Beth Martin
913-248-8669; bethdoug@kc.rr.com
Audit: Judith Rapacz
608-274-3053; jrapacz@facstaff.wisc.edu
Awards: Christine Chowning
859-278-5256
Budget: Jan Yates
513-475-9771; jyates11@earthlink.net
Communications: Doris Asher
517-332-0004; asherdoris@juno.com
Constitution & Bylaws: Lowell Jacks
706-632-9818; ljacks@tds.net
Conservation: Russ Vernon
765-759-5991; newvisionorchids@aol.com
Education & Research: chair open
Historical: Lois Holmes
763-561-6380
Orchidist of the Year: chair open

**MID-AMERICA MEMBER SOCIETIES
2009**

Alabama Orchid Society
Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Atlanta Orchid Society
Batavia Orchid Society
Blackhawk Orchid Society
Blue Grass Orchid Society
Central Indiana Orchid Society*
Central Iowa Orchid Society
Central Kentucky Orchid Society
Central Missouri Orchid Society*
Central Ohio Orchid Society
Central Ontario Orchid Society*
Eastern Iowa Orchid Society+
Grand Valley Orchid Society
Greater Akron Orchid Society
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
Greater Cleveland Orchid Society
Greater Lansing Orchid Society
Greater Omaha Orchid Society
Greater Pensacola Orchid Society*
Greater Toledo Orchid Society*
Gulf Coast Orchid Society
Heart of Dixie Orchid Society*
Illinois Orchid Society
Illowa Orchid Society
Kentucky Orchid Society
Kingwood Orchid Society
Lincoln Orchid Society
London Orchid Society*
Memphis Orchid Society
Miami Valley Orchid Society
Michiana Orchid Society
Michigan Orchid Society
Northeast Alabama Orchid Society
Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society*
Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society
Orchid Growers Guild Inc. of Madison
Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City

Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis
Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee
Orchid Society of Minnesota
Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens*
Paducah Orchid Society
Peoria Orchid Society
Prairie State Orchid Society
Saginaw Valley Orchid Society
Smoky Mountain Orchid Society*
South Metro Orchid Society
South Mississippi Orchid Society*
Three Rivers Orchid Society
West Shore Orchid Society of Northern Ohio
Windsor Orchid Society
Wisconsin Orchid Society

*Not yet renewed for 2009

+Renewed for both 2009 and also for 2010

Note: If your Society is not listed and you believe it is a member, please contact me. Or, if I have your Society listed as not yet having renewed for 2009 and you believe it has, let me know that as well. I will investigate! Doris Asher