

The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

June 2003

President's Message

Those that were not able to attend the Spring 2003 Mid-America in Toronto missed one heck of a show, orchids, Mid-America attendees and did I say weather. With a late spring blizzard and ice storm hitting on show weekend, what was to be a 3 hour plane trip turned into 18 hours for me. I was one of the lucky ones, I made it to Toronto. Many, including Tom Harper, one of the speakers, was stuck somewhere else. And many MAOC Committee Meetings on Friday evening were held in airports such as Chicago and Detroit. The Southern Ontario Orchid Society once again put on an outstanding show with nearly 800 entries. As for exhibits, the exhibitors on the north side of the border can be my teacher any day. The creativity of the exhibits was fantastic.

I did say something about Mid-America attendees! Well, a word from the wise, don't outbid Mario Ferrusi on a pair of orchid embroidered boxer shorts, you might have to wear them, at the auction that is! The boxers did give Vivian Walters a chance to make another donation to the Mid-America, one dollar at a time. Speaking of Vivian, she graciously donated numerous items and mementos of Cliff's to the Mid-America auction in Toronto. Cliff and Vivian have been enthusiastic supporters of the Mid-America for years, Cliff will be dearly missed, but it is good to have Vivian carrying on the torch of support.

As many of you have heard by now, the next Mid-America will have a somewhat different format. On August 22-24, 2003, The Mid-America Speaker's Forum and Orchid Sales Weekend will be held in Louisville, Kentucky. And as the title says this will be a weekend of presentations and sales. There will be AOS judging, but there will not be any exhibits. We have 5 outstanding individuals lined up for the weekend's presentations: Leonid Averyanov, St. Petersburg, Russia, will speak on the new and exciting Vietnamese orchid flora; Roy Takunaga, H&R Orchids, Hawaii, will speak on Mini-Catts and Dendrobiums; Robert Fuchs, RF Orchids, Florida, will speak on Ascocendas; Wilford Neptune, Boston Massachusetts, will speak on Native Orchids of North America; and Nina Rach, Houston, Texas, will speak on Stanhopeas and Sobralias. With this lineup of speakers, an orchid sales venue that you will not want to miss, the notorious Mid-America Auction and a Saturday evening cruise up the Ohio River on the Spirit of Jefferson, start making plans for August in Louisville. For more detailed information on this exciting weekend see addition articles in the *Mid-American*.

In a previous President's Message, I urged those societies that were able to reach out to students at local educational institutions in their area to foster our passion for orchids. The Blue Grass Orchid Society, at their May meeting, established a scholarship to award an honors student attending the University of Kentucky working on their Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture or Botany. In establishing the scholarship, the society honored a benefactor, member, and most importantly, friend, in naming the award the John Hutchinson Educational Scholarship. The Blue Grass society will award the scholarship annually in the amount of \$500.

I appreciate hearing from societies that have reached out to local educational institutions. If your society is currently working with universities or vocational institutions in your area, let the Mid-America know so we can pass on your success.

See you in Louisville!

Tim Brooks

CONSERVATION NEWS

First MAOC Conservation Lecture Presented in Toronto

Christie Borkowsky presented the first Mid-America Orchid Congress Conservation Lecture supported by the Mid-America Orchid Congress Conservation Speakers Fund at the Spring 2003 Mid-America Orchid Congress in Toronto. Ms. Borkowsky described her work monitoring flora and fauna at the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. Among the plants she monitors are three orchid species declared endangered by the Province of Manitoba - *Cypripedium candidum*, *Platanthera praeclara* and *Spiranthes magnicamporum*. Ms. Borkowsky described how she identified the moth species that pollinates *P. praeclara*, and how she uses lights to attract additional moths to the plants and thereby increase pollination. Her program was interesting and informative.

The Mid-America Orchid Congress Conservation Speakers Fund was established in 2000 to provide up to \$300 to pay expenses for a speaker on orchid conservation at the spring meetings of the Congress. It is particularly appropriate that the first lecture sponsored by the Conservation Speakers Fund took place at this Mid-America, hosted by the Southern Ontario Orchid Society and chaired by Peter Poot. SOOS has been one of our most generous societies in supporting the Conservation Speakers Fund, and Peter served as Mid-America President when the Conservation Speakers Fund was established. Without Peter's efforts it is unlikely that the Conservation Speakers Fund would be in existence today to support programs like the one presented by Ms. Borkowsky.

This is a good time to say "Thank You" to all the societies and individuals, listed below, who have contributed to the Conservation Speakers Fund. Through their generosity and concern for the future, we are able to inform ourselves and others about efforts to preserve the plants we love for future generations of orchid growers.

Thanks to all.

The Mid-America Orchid Congress Conservation Committee
Doug Martin, Chair

Ann Arbor Orchid Society	Blue Grass Orchid Society
Tim Brooks	Central Ohio Orchid Society
Greater Toledo Orchid Society	Kentucky Orchid Society
London Orchid Society	Beth and Doug Martin
Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
Orchid Society of the Ozarks	Southern Ontario Orchid Society
Peoria Orchid Society	Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
Springfield Orchid Society	Nancy and Bob Stwalley
West Shore Orchid Society	

Future Mid-American Orchid congress Dates

Fall 2003, Mid-America Speaker's Forum and Orchid Sales Weekend, Louisville, Kentucky

Spring 2004, OPEN

Fall 2004, Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee

Spring 2005, Orchid Society of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Fall 2005, Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and Miami Valley Orchid Society, Cincinnati, Ohio

Spring 2006, Greater Omaha Orchid Society, Omaha, Nebraska

Fall 2006, OPEN

Spring 2007, OPEN

Fall 2007, OPEN

Spring 2008, OPEN

Sources for North American Native Orchids

Bluestem Farm

Lab propagated Cypripediums, Calopogons and some others.
Scott Weber
Baraboo, WI
608-356-0179
bluestem_farm@juno.com

Cyp Haven

Specializing primarily in Cypripedium and Calopogon species and hybrids.
Carson Whitlow
2291 - 280th Street
Adel, IA 50003
Phone: 515-993-4841 Fax: 515-993-3623
<http://www.cyphaven.com>

Fraser's Thimble Farms

Large selection of hardy orchids
175 Arbutus Rd.,
Salt Spring Island.
V8K 1A3 B.C. Canada
250-537-5788
<http://www.thimblefarms.com/>

Planteck Biotechnologies

Large selection of micropropagated and rescued hardy orchids
801, route 344
P.O. 3158
L'Assomption QC J5W 4M9 Canada
Phone: 450-589-6162 Fax: 450-589-1440
<http://www.planteck.com>

Raising Rarities

Cypripedium species and hybrids
PO Box 405
Jacksonville, VT 05342
941-697-5792; or 802-368-7273
www.raisingrarities.com

Rocky Mountain Orchids

Lab Propagated Cypripediums
Rodd J. May, PhD
P.O. Box 105
Bigfork, Montana 59911
Fax: 406-837-6441
<http://www.rmorchids.com/>

Spangle Creek Labs

Cypripedium species seedlings
Bill and Carol Steele
21950 County Road 445
Bovey, MN 55709
218-247-0245
<http://www.uslink.net/~scl/>

Vermont Ladyslipper Company

Flowering sized Cypripediums species
Elizabeth and Scott Durkee
56 Leduc Road
New Haven, Vermont 05472-1000
<http://www.vtladyslipper.com/>

NON-MEMBER SOCIETIES WITHIN MID-AMERICA

At the fall Mid-America Orchid Congress in Frankfort, KY, the Affiliated Societies Committee, in collaboration with Treasurer Karen McBride, began working on increasing membership in the Mid-America. In a pilot experiment, Mary Beth Mansour, a member of the Affiliated Societies Committee, sent a letter of invitation along with the dues/membership form to five societies in Michigan and Ohio of which the Committee was aware and which were not members of the MAOC. After an interval of time, Mary Beth telephoned key officers or members of the five societies. By the time of the Toronto meetings, Mary Lou Dundon 2003 Essay Contest. Two of the five had sent in their membership dues!!

Thus buoyed by our initial success, the Affiliated Societies Committee would like to continue this project and solicits your help. If you are aware of orchid societies in Mid-America's territory which are not currently members, kindly send the names, addresses, phone numbers, and/or e-mail addresses of officers or other key members of these societies to Doris Asher, Chair, Affiliated Societies Committee, 277 N Hagadorn Road, E Lansing MI 48823 (asherdoris@juno.com). The Affiliated Societies Committee will endeavor to recruit these societies. If you know more than one influential member of the society, send us all that you have. It is may be helpful to contact more than just one person.

Mary Lou Dundon 2002 Essay Contest

Mid-America Orchid Congress Essay contest First place winner:
Anita Martin Vernon, Hoosier Orchid Society, Indiana

HOW ORCHIDS HAVE AFFECTED MY LIFE

This Valentine's Day I will be spending the evening setting up an orchid show display with my husband; our first Valentine's Day as a married couple. Doesn't sound very romantic to you? I say buy an orchid and put a little romance in your life! I met my husband because of orchids. I've always enjoyed growing plants, houseplants and outdoor gardening. I had no idea how growing or attempting to grow an orchid would alter my life when I saw the white cattleya. The flowers were gorgeous and the scent intoxicating as I walked by the orchids in the local Lowe's in Zanesville, Ohio, where I had just moved for a new job. The more I breathed in the scent, the more reasonable the price became. Soon the orchid was ensconced in my living room. I had tried to grow orchid seedling plants before, unwilling to pay the cost of a blooming plant. Each time the plants lived for a few months or a year and despite faithful watering, shriveled and died. I wasn't going to waste any more windowsill space on orchids! Having spent a lot on the white cattleya I desperately wanted to keep it alive. But how? A week later an article appeared in the Columbus, Ohio Sunday newspaper about an orchid workshop at Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus. Members of Central Ohio Orchid Society (COOS) showed pictures of beautiful orchids, many I'd never heard of before. I learned about lights for orchids, watering, fertilizing, and repotting. I learned that I had purchased the wrong kind of orchid for my north facing apartment windows! Undeterred I purchased plant lights. I joined COOS and went to a few meetings. I had found a group of people where I belonged- people who exclaimed over pretty flowers and walked around discussing the merits of this fertilizer over that. I began to return monthly just to see the awesome orchids on the show table, but was too embarrassed to bring in my few scraggly orchids to show. A year later an orchid show was announced and help would be needed to "clerk" for the orchid judges. It was supposed to be a good way to learn about orchids. I'd only been to one orchid show before, but I signed up to clerk. They say all good marriages are made in heaven, but I know mine is because Janet Cardwell, COOS Head Clerk for the show, assigned me to clerk on a judging team with Judge Russ Vernon. His face looked familiar and it turned out he was the interesting guy from Indiana who had shown pictures at a COOS meeting a few months before of the greenhouse he built in the woods. I enjoyed clerking despite my incompetence and I asked impertinent questions, not knowing that clerks should be seen and not heard! At the end Russ asked me if I wouldn't like to learn to be a judge! I thought it would help if I could remember the names of the different orchids first! I was very interested in the judge himself so I schemed to visit his greenhouse on my next few trips to Indiana where my parents lived, and came up with an excuse to email orchid flower pictures to Russ. My emails were slowly reciprocated, but I received warm if wary invitations to visit the greenhouse anytime. Another job opened up in Indianapolis not that far from THE greenhouse! After I moved I begged Russ to let me help repot the Phalaenopsis, for an excuse to visit. Russ complained the potting shed was really "too small for two people", but relented. Apparently I passed the potting test because two years later we are married. Yes the potting shed is still too small, but now I have bench space in a greenhouse. A red Phalaenopsis grown by Russ is now named "Anita's Love". Is there any better valentine?

The first place prize is \$100. The Publications committee also congratulates the second place winner (\$50) Anne Brunke of the Michigan Orchid Society. Her essay on "How Orchids have affected my life" will appear on the MAOC web site.

We also congratulate third place winner (\$25) whose essay will also appear on the website, and all the other entrants in this year's essay contest.

The Mary Lou Dundon **2003** Essay Contest will be essays on the topic "**Friends or places that I have visited because of Orchids**"

Enter *The Mid-American* Essay Contest!!! Here is all you do: Write an essay of 750 words or less on the subject "Friends or places that I have visited because of orchids". The contest ends February 1, 2004, and the winners will be announced at the Nashville meeting. Mail unpublished submissions to:

Carolyn Butcher
2822 Dorchester
Birmingham MI 48009
Or email to cjbutcher1@aol.com

Manuscripts should be typewritten and double spaced, if possible. Entering the contest constitutes Permission to publish each submission in *The Mid-American* at the discretion of the Editors.

Only manuscripts accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope will be returned.

The decision of the judges will be final, and the winners will be announced at The Mid-America Orchid Congress meeting in Nashville TN, Fall, 2004—at the Sunday morning Business meeting.

The winners will receive:

1st Prize-	\$100.00
2 nd Prize--	\$ 50.00
3 rd Prize--	\$ 25.00

Committee Chair Changes

Dr. Diana Plahn and Pete Peterson have stepped down as chairs of the Education and Research and Audit Committees respectfully. I want to thank them for all their service to the Mid-America. I know these two outstanding individuals will always be available to assist endeavors of the Congress. With both now serving as AOS Judging Center Chairs, you know they are not sitting back on their laurels.

With that, I would like to announce two new appointments. Ron DePrez has accepted Chair of the Audit Committee; and Dr. Jim Harper has accepted Chair of the Education and Research Committee. I would like to welcome Ron and Jim in their new positions and for their continued support of the Congress.

Paper or Electronic?

In our continuing effort to put every Mid-American Orchid Congress dollar to best use and to best serve you with faster delivery of your Mid-American, we thank the societies that have responded to our request to move in the direction of electronic distribution of the newsletter. About a third of the societies have responded, and we have arrangements to deliver only a limited number of hard copies as needed to many societies. If your society has not yet designated an email contact with the Mid-American, please do so at your earliest convenience. Send an email to editor Glenn Evans: evans_glenn_f@yahoo.com or Publications chairperson Carolyn Butcher: cjbutcher1@aol.com

We will honor all requests to continue service with hard copies, but hope you will consider saving the congress some green by signing on to receive your Mid-American electronically. Anyone wishing to view previous issues may do so at our website: **midamericanorchids.org**

Report of the Spring 2003 Mid-American Orchid Congress Meeting in Toronto

From: The Affiliated Society Committee

Every Mid-American Orchid Congress and Show can be a memorable occasion, However, the spring 2003 meeting held in conjunction with the Canadian Orchid congress and sponsored by the Southern Ontario Orchid Society was a very special one and could be entitled “Prevailing over the elements”, “Graciousness under Ice” or “The Unflappable Five” (namely Peter and Inge Poot, Doug and Terry Kennedy, and Mario Ferrusi). Not to be forgotten are the numerous volunteers who pitched in to keep things moving smoothly while the front men manned his/her constantly ringing telephones. An ice storm had moved into Toronto at 2PM on Thursday April 3rd, snarling traffic and persisting through Saturday. The airport was closed for hours on Friday after the supply of de-icing fluid was exhausted. Be sure to check the minutes of the Sunday Business Meeting to learn where the various Committees Chairmen were stranded at 7PM Friday evening when the committees should have been meeting. All lost luggage (except that of the treasurer) reached the Inn on the Park by Sunday and the first sunshine was seen. Fortunately, although the first order of business is the roll call of member societies (more were absent than present) the MAOC constitution specifies that a quorum consists of a majority of the registered delegates present. All committee reports were approved by the delegates.

The exhibitors had ignored the elements and had staged a lovely show which attracted a large number of visitors from the public who began lining up before ribbon judging was completed. The 770 entries gave the twelve teams of judges a workout. Indicative of the quality of the plants, a number were pulled for AOS awards.

Tom Harper had been scheduled to lecture on red phalaenopsis but was one of the “stranded”. His place was filled by Howard Ginsberg who spoke about orchid culture in Taiwan, focusing on the importance of color and red phalaenopsis in particular. Howard Liebman introduced the audience to the genus *Cyrtorchilum*, reminding them of the hidden jewels to be found among the less familiar orchid species. Andy Easton rounded out the Saturday afternoon program noting the changes that have occurred in who now grows orchids and of orchid culture worldwide. The first MAOC Conservation lecture was scheduled for Sunday morning and was given by Christine Borkowsky who is responsible for monitoring the flora and fauna found in the Manitoba Tall grass Prairie Preserve. Three endangered orchid species are found in the preserve. Those who missed the talk missed an interesting lecture.

Russ Vernon served as auctioneer, encouraging active bidding that raised \$2700 amongst much laughter. One individual who rose to the occasion may have second thoughts as to what he is willing to do for orchids and the MAOC. While missing Clif Walters, it was grand to see Vivian continuing as an active participant in the auction as they had functioned for so many years. After the delicious, well-served banquet we were entertained by a magician whose act called for audience participation and was enjoyed by all.

The beginning of daylight savings time did not keep any of the pre-registrants from attending the early Sunday morning Affiliated Societies Breakfast where the topic for discussion was “Fund raising for your local society”, led by Mario Ferrusi. In introducing Mario, Doris Asher mentioned that she had been surprised to discover that a similar subject had been a topic at the spring AOS members meeting in Hilo. Several MAOC reps present in Toronto reported that they had found that auctions open to the public had often increased their society treasuries—particularly if such auctions were held at regular intervals and known places and were well publicized in advance. Other societies have offered repotting sessions and culture courses to the public. The affiliated societies Committee is always open to suggestions for topics to be discussed at these breakfasts.

Since no society had volunteered to host the Fall 2003 MAOC, prior to the Toronto meeting President Tim Brooks circulated a draft proposal describing plans for a MAOC Judges and Speakers Forum, accompanied by orchid sales but no show. After the suggestion was discussed in Toronto, Tim was authorized to proceed with plans for such an event to be held in Louisville, KY on August 22-24, 2003. full details will be circulated once the details are finalized.

In closing this report may I remind everyone that the MAOC welcomes input from the members—both individuals and societies, that each society may have four voting delegates at each business meeting, and that

the purpose of the MAOC is to advance the knowledge and appreciation of orchids. It is YOUR organization. It is dependant on the volunteers to function as committee members. The more one becomes involved, the more one can share his/her interest in orchids with other committed orchidists. It is also the duty of the reps to bring all MAOC communications to the attention of their society.

Sincerely yours, Barbara I. Brown

AOS Awards given at Toronto:

- Bulbophyllum arfakianum 'Jardin Botanique de Montreal' AM 80
- Catasetum gardneri 'Cloud's Green Acres' CBR, Cloud's Orchids
- Miltonia Michael David Lawless 'Mark' AM 81, Robert Wyman
- Phalaenopsis Brother Sarah Gold 'Wilson's Choice' HCC 76, Wilson Ng
- Pleurothallis viduata 'Fox Den' CCM 81, J & L Orchids





The Mid-America Orchid Congress

Mid-America Speaker's Forum and Orchid Sales Weekend Louisville, Kentucky, August 22-24, 2003

Dear Fellow Orchid Enthusiasts:

As many of you are aware, the 2003 Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress will meet in Louisville, Kentucky, August 22-24 at the Galt House Hotel. This 80th meeting of the Congress will be held in conjunction with the **Mid-America Speaker's Forum and Orchid Sales Weekend**. The weekend will be full of outstanding lectures, a phenomenal orchid sales venue and lots of food and Mid-America fellowship.

The Speaker's Forum will be one of the premier orchid educational events in North America during 2003. An outstanding lineup of speakers will provide programs on both Saturday and Sunday:

Leonid Averyanov , St. Petersburg, Russia	Vietnamese Paphiopedilums and Eurasian Cypripediums
Roy Tokunaga , H&R Orchids, Hawaii	Mini-Catts and Dendrobiums
Robert Fuchs , RF Orchids, Florida	Trends in Ascocenda Breeding
Wilford Neptune , Boston Massachusetts	Pot Culture of Native Orchids of North America
Nina Rach , Houston, Texas	Stanhopeas and Sobralias

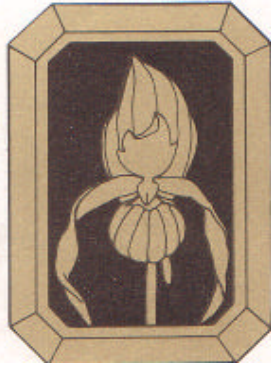
The orchid sales area will feature **H&R Orchids** from Hawaii, **RF Orchids** from Florida, **Autre Vie Orchids** from Texas, and **Ecuagenera** from Cuenca, Ecuador. We expect to add six additional vendors to this esteemed list of quality growers. The Orchid Sales Pavilion will be open free to the public on Saturday and Sunday. On Friday it will be open only to Congress registrants for the Orchid Sales Pavilion Party. This event will include a wide assortment of complementary food, cash bar and, of course, first pick of the orchids for sale.

Saturday morning will begin with a breakfast, including a discussion topic, hosted by the Affiliated Societies Committee, followed by AOS Judging. Everyone is welcome to bring plants for the judges to consider. Four lectures will be provided on Saturday, with an on-your-own lunch break. Evening festivities will begin with the traditional Mid-America auction, after which attendees will put on their sailor caps and venture down to the Ohio River. We'll board the paddle wheeler, Spirit of Jefferson, for a relaxing evening of food, sightseeing and friendship as we cruise on the river. Sunday morning will begin with breakfast and the Mid-America Business Meeting, followed by four additional lectures. The **Mid-America Speaker's Forum and Orchid Sales Weekend** will conclude at approximately 2 PM.

Registration for the entire weekend's activities will be \$125 US funds. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer partial registration for any seminar. Each registration includes the Friday evening Orchid Sales Pavilion Party, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, dinner and cruise on Saturday evening, and admission to all seminars. Non-orchid family or friends accompanying you may register to attend the dinner and cruise on Saturday evening for \$40 US funds on a first come basis. The accompanying registration form provides additional registration and hotel information. The **Mid-American** newsletter also contains a registration form as does the Mid-America web site: www.midamericanorchids.org. Questions or comments can be addressed to any Mid-America Executive Committee member or by contacting, MAOCLouisville@AOL.com

The Mid-America Orchid Congress is excited to be sponsoring this event and we look forward to seeing everyone in Louisville this August.

Tim Brooks
President



Mid-America Orchid Congress

80th Meeting

August 22-24, 2003

Galt House Hotel

Louisville, Kentucky

Mid-America Speaker's Forum

And

Orchid Sales Weekend

Vietnamese Paphiopedilums and Eurasian Cypripediums	Leonid Averyanov	St. Petersburg, Russia
Mini-Catts and Dendrobiums	Roy Tokunaga	H&R Orchids, Hawaii
Trends In Ascocenda Breeding	Robert Fuchs	RF Orchids, Florida
Pot Culture of Native Orchids of North America	Wilford Neptune	Boston, Massachusetts
Stanhopeas and Sobralias	Nina Rach	Houston, Texas

Registration

(Please type or print legibly)

	Yours	Significant Other/Guest
Name (As you want it to appear on your badge)		
Society Affiliation		
Address		
City, State, Province, Zip		
Telephone		
E-Mail		

2003 Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress Registration

(Congress registration includes all food events and unlimited access to the sales pavilion and seminars)

\$125 US Funds if postmarked by July 31, 2003.

\$160 US Funds if postmarked on or after August 1, 2003 or at the door

Congress Events			
	Quantity	US Funds Each	US Funds Total
Registration (All Inclusive)		\$125 (\$160late)	
<i>Saturday Cruise & Dinner only</i>		\$40	
Total of Payment			**

****Make checks payable to 2003 MAOC**

Hotel Reservations:

Galt House Hotel

(800) 626-1814 or (502) 589-5200

Room rate \$79 + tax, single, \$89 + tax double

When requesting your reservation, mention you will be attending the Mid-America Orchid Congress. A limited number of rooms are available, so book as early as possible. The rate on this block of rooms is effective until July 23, 2003. Reservations after this date are on a space and rate availability basis.

**Return this form with payment (check made to 2003 MAOC) to:

Joe Dietz

867 Edgewater Drive

Lexington, Kentucky 40502

For more information e-mail: MAOCLouisville@AOL.com or call (859) 268-4567

**Registration confirmations will be issued within a week of registration receipt. Remember to make your hotel reservations or record the hotel information prior to submitting this form.

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Do you wish to judge? You - Yes ? No ? Status _____
 Significant other/guest - Yes ? No ? Status _____

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