



The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

February 2007

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

CIRCLE APRIL 27-29, 2007, ON YOUR CALENDAR

Illinois Orchid Society's 55th Anniversary Celebration & Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting April 27-29, 2007 Celebrating 55 Years and Growing Strong

The Illinois Orchid Society is pleased to announce its 55th anniversary show and sale, and to invite you to celebrate with us. The Mid-America Orchid Congress will join us, with their spring meetings.

Our show will be at the Chicago Botanic Garden, in the newly renovated Regenstein Education Center. Meetings and lectures will be held at the renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel. Each venue is chosen to make our celebration a memorable one for you as a guest, vendor, or meeting participant.

Chicago is a destination city, which offers world-class architecture and museums, along with Broadway shows, shopping and dining for the orchid lover and the orchid-challenged. Information on available events can be found on our web page (<http://www.iosoc.com/>) and we will help with any arrangements you may wish to make to complete your visit to the Chicago area.

We would like you to share your time and your orchids with us and with the people of Chicago at this anniversary celebration.

We have added an additional speaker to the group who will be featured at our Mid-America Orchid Congress, April 27 - 29.

Our list includes Patricia Harding, co-author with Carl Withner of one of his *Cattleya* series, *The Debatable Epidendrums*. Patricia will speak about *Huntleya*, and related genera. Hadley Cash, from Marriott Orchids, who recently published an overview of his Paph breeding program in *Orchid Digest*, will speak on that topic. And Dr. Eric Christenson, noted author and taxonomist, will have two lectures, one on *Maxillaria*, and the other on his work in Peru with David Bennett, on a modern inventory of orchids in Peru.

Joining them now will be Alfredo Manrique, of Centro de Jardineria Manrique, one of two nurseries in Peru authorized to grow and sell *Phrag. kovachii*. This is quite a timely addition to our list of speakers. Seedlings of *Phrag. kovachii* are now becoming available for sale in the United States, and we will have an opportunity to hear the saga of this new, wonderful flower from one who is deeply involved in its distribution and conservation.

I hope all of you will want to attend this event, and spread the word to all of your orchid-growing friends. Information on registering for the conference is on the IOS web page, www.iosoc.com

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HISTORY OF THE ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

We were founded in 1952. At various times in our past we have made our home at an office building in the Loop, at the Lincoln Park Conservatory, at the Morton Arboretum, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, and at Oakton Community College, and now, back to Chicago Botanic Garden. Our membership of over 200 households is varied – we grow under lights, on windowsills, in sun rooms, and in greenhouses. We love to grow orchids, and socialize with other orchid growers.

We are the host society for the AOS Chicago Judging Center, and fostered its creation. We participate in education through local community colleges, garden clubs, schools and libraries. Our members also mentor new orchid growers who show an interest in our group at shows or special

events. We have sponsored member participation in the Prairie Fringed Orchid recovery program, and continue to work with local organizations to keep habitat for native orchids.

We hold two shows annually; a large show with vendors and all the trappings in the spring, and in the fall, a mini-show, aimed at getting our members involved in displaying their plants and working for our society in shows. We celebrated our [50th Anniversary](#) in 2002 at our Spring Show in conjunction with a MAOC meeting and an AOS Trustees Meeting. Now, we are again celebrating an anniversary, our 55th, with the Mid-America Orchid Congress. We hope you all will join us for this event.

MAOC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear orchid friends,

What's happening with Mid-America? Those of you who have not attended a Mid-America Orchid Congress meeting in the past year or two may not know of the changes taking place within our organization. Our officers and committees are pursuing several initiatives that will strengthen Mid-America as an organization and help it to better serve the needs of our member societies. I'm pleased to report that:

- Our financial condition continues to improve, thanks to several successful auctions as well as our Budget Committee's careful management of our financial resources. Our last auction at the Fall 2006 Mid-America hosted by the Blue Grass Orchid Society in Lexington, Kentucky raised over \$4500 to fund Mid-America projects and services.
- At our Spring 2007 meeting, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee will propose several updates and revisions to the current Mid-America Constitution & Bylaws.
- We will re-incorporate the Mid-America Orchid Congress in the State of Ohio, then seek IRS §501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. This will allow U.S. donors to make tax-deductible donations to Mid-America.

- In 2007, Mid-America will increase its funding for orchid-related conservation projects and research.
- We continue to look for ways that Mid-America can support our member societies. We recently donated to each member society a copy of the audio CD, Orchid Names, A Pronunciation Guide, prepared by our Education and Research Committee.

What's next? Mid-America will continue to explore new ways to provide "value" to our member societies.

I hope the societies in turn will increase their support of Mid-America. Right now, we need more host societies for our semi-annual Mid-America meetings. Mid-America is prepared to help any societies who want to host a meeting. Our Annual Meetings Committee stands ready to assist with planning, budgeting, negotiating with hotels, etc., and Mid-America can loan up to \$2500 for deposits and other up-front costs. I encourage all Mid-America member societies to seriously consider hosting the Mid-America Orchid Congress and helping us to serve the needs of orchid societies throughout the Mid-America region

Beth Martin, MAOC President

REPORT TO MID-AMERICA AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS LEXINGTON, KY, AUGUST 25-27, 2006

The Fall 2006 Mid-America Orchid Congress was held August 25-27, 2006 at the Ramada Conference Center in Lexington, Kentucky. The 140 registrants were hosted by the Blue Grass Orchid Society to a well-planned weekend of gracious hospitality, nationally recognized speakers and interesting exhibits. Sixteen vendors comprised the commercial area.

The speakers included Dr. William Goldner, Harry Phillips & Weyman Bussey. Dr. Goldner's lecture, the Shirley Burr Moore Lecture, highlighted Panama's numerous genera in "Orchids Of Panama." Harry Phillips offered a practical discussion of "Mounted Orchids Facts & Fantasies." An interactive, informative travel-log of "Showy Orchids from Mexico" was led by Weyman Bussey.

Stephen Benjamin chaired the 38 judges Saturday morning as they evaluated the 312 plants and 23 exhibits. The AOS Show Trophy went to the exhibit put in by the Hoosier Orchid Company, and the Mid-America Perpetual Trophy went to the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society's exhibit.

Mid-America Orchid Congress trophy winners were as follows:

Memoria Raymond McCullough Award for the best *Epidendrum* or *Encyclia* plant went to *Encyclia cochleata* owned by Larry Sexton

Clifford & Vivian Walters Award for the best *Oncidium* alliance plant went to *Odontonia* Lorraine's 14th WOC owned by Dixie McCulloch

Christine M. Chowning Award for the best angraecoid species went to Hoosier's *Plectrelminthus caudatus*

The judges selected sixteen orchids for AOS award consideration and the following six AOS awards were granted:

Pot. Frank Gilmore 'Mendenhall' (Caesar's Head x Blc White Water Falls) AM/AOS 86 points owned by Alan Bachrach.

Habenaria medusae 'Erich's Egret' CHM/AOS 85 points owned by Erich Michel.

Macroclinium ramonense 'Hoosier' CCM/AOS 83 points owned by Hoosier Orchid Company.

Cycnoches Jean E. Monnier 'Debbie Yvonne' (*barthiorum* x *cooperi*) AM/AOS 82 points owned by Geoffrey Ivey.

Catasetum pendulum 'Hoosier' CBR/AOS owned by Hoosier Orchid Company.

Cattleya bicolor 'Elmore's Pride' CCM/AOS 85 points owned by Elmore Orchids.

ACTION TAKEN BY MAOC:

- Tim Brooks was named ORCHIDIST OF THE YEAR.
- MAOC will support at the society level the World Orchid Conference to be held in Miami, January 23-27, 2008
- The entertaining MAOC auction, held prior to the banquet, generated \$4534 to fund MAOC projects.
- MAOC will support the Cleveland Botanical Garden (\$400) to assist in purchasing orchid species from Costa Rica. MAOC will support The Native Orchid Conservation Committee of the Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society (\$400) for conservation efforts at Carney Fen, Carney, Michigan.
- MAOC will apply to re-incorporate in the State of Ohio & apply for IRS 501(c)(3) status
- Research Committee reported developments in the MAOC-funded project to use liquid nitrogen for the preservation of orchid seed.

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL MAOC ORCHID SOCIETIES

- MAOC is offering a complimentary copy of "Pronunciation Guide to Orchid Names" to each society. Additional copies can be obtained from Jan Yates, 4110 Rose Hill Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229; phone (513) 475-9771 for \$10 + \$3(Mailing)
- 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 “Trends in Local Orchid Shows.” Issues discussed included show location, charging admission, vendor charges & selection of vendors, as well as publicity.

The Spring MAOC will be held in Chicago April 27-29, 2007. Information can be obtained by email maoc2007chi@earthlink.net. Check the MAOC web

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

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A DIFFERENT LOOK AT A GREENHOUSE

By Stephen Benjamin

A couple of years ago I was approached by a member of the Pleurothallis Alliance to write an article for their newsletter, which I did. Since then I have had many other people ask me about my greenhouse, so I thought I would update that article and share it with you the MAOC members. Why was I, an avid *Vanda*, *Dendrobium*, and *Cattleya* allied grower, approached to write an article for a newsletter that deals mostly with Pleurothallidinea? Well, I grow them too, and within a few feet from blooming Vandas. We all know about microclimates within greenhouses, and that's what I use. My greenhouse is three quarters underground, which assures consistently high humidity, controllable light & temperature, maximizes space, dramatically saves money when it comes to heating, and is almost freeze proof. These attributes are likely to be of particular interest to all growers.

The greenhouse measures 15 ft high in the back and 7.5 ft high in front, outside dimensions are 28 ft long and 23 wide. It is made from ten inch concrete blocks, horizontal rebar every layer, vertical rebar

site for information & registration forms: www.midamericanorchids.org.

Plan to attend in Chicago. Register for the breakfast hosted by the Affiliated Societies Committee to be held on Sunday morning, April 29, 2007. The topic for discussion will be “Challenges Facing Local Societies.”

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!

every third cell. . All vertical cells were filled with concrete after the completion of block work. It is set into a hill so that the front orientation is south and all but the top couple of feet are below the earth. The floor is 18 inches of washed gravel, which drains to the front of the greenhouse, and the roof is 6 mm Lexan. Benches are treated lumber, with 1x2 galvanized fencing as substrate. The north wall has three tiered benches approx 4 ft apart, the south, east and west walls are two tiered benches. In the center I have a square bench accessible from all four sides. I have a vertical wall running north south made of 1x2 fencing that allows me to hang plaqued plants on both sides. This gives my approx. 600 sq ft greenhouse, 600 sq ft of bench space and up to 320 sq ft for plaqued plants. I have recently added an addition to the front, right where the air comes in, to act as my “cool” section, and separate potting area to the front of the greenhouse, which adds to the growing area 47 sq ft of bench and 15 sq ft of plaqued area.

I live in central Kentucky where we enjoy the blessing/curse of the finicky northerly jet stream.

Often we enjoy warmish winter spells 35 degree days, 20 degree nights. However, these warm spells can be followed by arctic blasts with teens during the day, single digits or below at night. For the first five years I heated the greenhouse with one 55 gallon electric hot water heater, with fin type radiators within the greenhouse. This was sufficient enough to keep the house above 48, during a -20F spell in mid-winter under cloudy skies. Under sunny day conditions it should be able, via the thermal heat sink, to keep above 48 even at 20 degrees F nights with **no** heat. I have not tried this, but after a freeze out many years ago, this is why I built this style greenhouse. I now heat the house with an outside oil-burning boiler through the same radiator system. I now can maintain 58 even under the coldest winter nights.

In the summer we enjoy (Ya, right!) high humidity generally at or above 40% and often much higher, with temperatures reaching 95-100 during the day, with night temps in the 70's. Since I grow intermediate and warm growers generally, this is not as much of a problem as it might with other types of orchids. I have no cooling pads (They are very inefficient here anyway) and have relied primarily on my 4 ft exhaust fan, which displaces the volume of my greenhouse about every 45-50 seconds. Because of the nature of my greenhouse being under ground the air exchange is C shaped rather than straight through as most houses. The air comes in from the front west side of the house, is channeled along the west wall, is allowed to turn east near the north wall, then exits the south east corner of the front wall again. This makes a whirlpool flow of air, which pulls air up from the floor, keeping the humidity high.

One aspect of this greenhouse is different than most other types is that I fight too much humidity. Particularly during the winter, I approach 100% every night, with regular condensation on all cooler surfaces and even on the leaves of the plants. I find it very difficult to grow flat leaved plants such as Phals, because of their susceptibility to crown rot. Also during the early winter we regularly get several weeks of overcast skies, and the plants just do not dry out between waterings, so I have to skip my weekly watering schedule for a week or two (tough luck on me I know, but the plants just don't like staying that wet, that long). Also, during the early spring shows I fight spotting on my flowers from botrytis. To help

counter the negative aspects of this problem, I plant most everything in clay pots with a relatively open mix of straight cypress mulch. I also move a lot of air with a pair of internal fans, one 3ft at 1150 rpm and one 40 inch at 600 rpm.

A nice aspect of this humidity however is that plaqued plants do not need a lot of extra care. They get watered once a week with everything else, with an occasional supplement during the hottest weeks in the summer. The Phals that I do grow, mostly species, are grown on plaques with their crowns down. Most Pleurothallids and other small plants, a mix of everything: Dend, Bulbos, Cadetias, Cats, Enc., etc., are plaqued. I have over five hundred plants plaqued at any given time. The plants near the floor regularly grow live moss on them with no supplemental waterings or mistings.

Temperature is another aspect that I have historically managed different than most other greenhouses. My walls are in contact with the earth so they are cool during the summer (no higher than 70 F, no lower than 58 in the winter), so I can grow cool growers up next to the wall and only feet from warm growers such as my Vandas. The greenhouse temperature fluctuations during the day/night swings are mild because of the thermal mass. Since I do not grow many cool growing plants I have never installed an evaporative cooler, but I move so much air that the plants do not seem to suffer even on those regular occasions that the temperature goes over 100 F.

My greenhouse faces south, but because of the solid walls, I have south, southeast and southwest exposures and I tier my benches so that I have shade on the lower benches from the bench above. This gives me more space and growing areas for lower light plants. For instance, the north set of benches (South exposure) has Vandaceous on the top bench, which shade the Cattleyas and multifloral Paphs on the middle bench, which shade the Pleurothallids, *Acanthephippium*, some Bulbos, and Maudiae-type Paphs on the lower bench. The lower east bench will get dappled light during the day and then full afternoon sun. I run 30% shade cloth over the entire house, which is enough for the *Vanda* and *Dendrobium* allied plants, and through the various locations or distance from the roof I can grow the rest.

To grow another mix of genera, i.e. Pleurothallids or Maudiae-type Paphs, would be in some ways very easy. Add shade and the Pleurothallids and Paphs would be easy, I still don't know if the Phals would like the humidity. If I wanted to grow Cool growers the shape of this house might make an evaporative cooling system a bit of a challenge. If I were building again and making it more of a cool house, I would run several hundred feet of four-inch plastic pipe around and through the void outside the greenhouse between the outside wall and the dirt before backfilling with dirt. Pulling the incoming air through these pipes

would act as a low cost geo-thermal cooling unit. Or possibly explore running water down the walls themselves to super cool the walls.

This greenhouse offers many advantages to a standard house and some negatives. Of primary importance to me is the near assurance that I will not have another freeze out. I also enjoy keeping my costs low and having a house with many microclimates, which allows me to grow a nice variety of genera. The humidity is the primary negative. One other area that is a negative, is that if I tried to expand the size of this house it would be a real pain!

TIM BROOKS, ORCHIDIST OF THE YEAR

The fall Mid-America in Lexington was a delight, and was enjoyed thoroughly by those that attended. There were great speakers, a wild auction, a fabulous banquet, --- and orchids and fun at every turn. --- and vendors, did I mention vendors (yes I did spend too much)! If you have not attended one, you are missing out on so much fun. Plan this spring to be in Chicago. Having been on the steering committee for the previous fall's Mid-America in Cincinnati, I know first hand the planning necessary and effort to make it happen. Our thanks go out to the Blue Grass Orchid Society for being such gracious hosts with less than a years notice.

Each fall an individual is selected as "Orchidist Of The Year", an honorary title given to someone that stands out for their contributions to and their many efforts expended in support of the Mid-America Orchid Congress.

This year, with very little discussion, the choice was clear --- TIM BROOKS! Due to the need for a date

and a place for the fall 2006 Mid-America, with short notice he took the challenge (no easy task), and chaired a successful and splendid Mid-America.

Other contributions: He served as president of the MAOC 2002 and 2003. He has chaired and been on numerous committees. He currently chairs the Annual Meetings committee. He hosted an exceptional Speakers Day in Louisville fall of 2003. He chaired the fall Mid-America in Lexington in 1998. He was very involved in the fall Mid-America in Louisville in 1991. He is currently the vice-president of the Blue Grass Orchid Society.

As chairman of the Orchidist Of The Year committee, it was a pleasure to present him with the beautiful plaque that Christine Chowning had made for the event. As a very new chairperson, I deeply thank Doris Asher and Lois Holmes for their help, advice, and support on the committee.

Steve Ryan

FUTURE MID-AMERICAN ORCHID CONGRESS DATES

The following dates have been set:

Meeting	Location	Dates	Host(s)
Spring 2007	Glencoe, IL	Apr 27-29, 2007	Illinois Orchid Society
Fall 2007 Spring & Fall 2008	OPEN		
Spring 2009	Columbus, OH	Mar 27-29, 2009	Central Ohio Orchid Society

Officers of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

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Mid-America Orchid Congress Committee Chairpersons 2005

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. Questions about the newsletter may be directed to Barry Rhinehart 6222 LeRoy Place, Cincinnati, OH 45230 rlyrrab@earthlink.net

Mid-America Orchid Congress

April 27 – 29, 2007

Illinois Orchid Society Show and Sale

Registration Form

First Registrants Name		Name to Appear on Badge					
Address		City	State		Zip		
Telephone	Fax	e-mail					
Home Orchid Society		MAOC Office or Committee Position					
Judge (Circle Status) AOS ___ Non-AOS _____ Emeritus Senior Accredited Probationary Student Clerk		Do you wish to participate in Ribbon Judging				Yes	No
		Do You wish to participate in AOS Judging				Yes	No
Second Registrants Name	Choose	Full registration	Selected events	Name to Appear on Badge			
Address							
Telephone		Fax					
Home Orchid Society		MAOC Office or Committee Position					
Judge (Circle Status) AOS ___ Non-AOS _____ Emeritus Senior Accredited Probationary Student Clerk		Do you wish to participate in Ribbon Judging				Yes	No
		Do You wish to participate in AOS Judging				Yes	No
Code	Description	Day	Before 3/1/07	After 3/1/07	Person #1	Person #2	Total
REG	Full Registration includes Show		\$60	\$75			
JL	Judges Luncheon (judges registered before 4/01/07)	Saturday	Included	Included			
JLN	Judges Luncheon (not registered and/or non judge)	Saturday	\$15	\$15			
ASM	Affiliated Societies Breakfast Mid-America Orchid Congress	Sunday	\$18	\$20			
BMC	Banquet –Chicken Oscar	Saturday	\$50	\$55			
BNS	Banquet –Baked New York Strip Loin	Saturday	\$50	\$55			
BHF	Banquet –Herb Crusted Salmon	Saturday	\$50	\$55			
						Total Due	

Please Note:

All food reservations must be made or cancelled by 4/1/07.

Mail this form and your check made payable to the **Illinois Orchid Society** to:

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1049 David Drive, Apt 1E
Bensenville, IL 60106