

The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

Fall 2002

Paper or Electronic?

The last couple of issues of the *Mid-American* were not published in paper format. From what the Congress is hearing, not everyone or every society likes that idea. But from other societies we have been told “it’s about time we got away from printing thousands of *Mid-Americans* and paying for their mailing for them to only end up in the trash without anyone ever getting a chance of seeing them.”

This topic came to a head this past summer. Members of the Executive Committee, Publications Committee, Editorial and Web Page personnel, as well as general membership got involved in the topic. As a result of these conversations and our Frankfort meeting, the following information is being asked of each Mid-America society.

- (1) Would your society like the *Mid-American* in paper format so you may disseminate it to all your local members?
- (2) Would your society like to download an electronic version of the *Mid-American* from the Congress web site for inclusion with your local society newsletter?

The cost of printing and mailing the *Mid-American* has skyrocketed over the years. The Congress feels that some of this money would be better spent on education and conservation projects. We encourage any society that is able or would like to go to the electronic format to do so. At the same time any society that is unable to go to the electronic format or just likes receiving the paper copy of the *Mid-American* will be accommodated. What we are asking is that the Congress be notified of how your local society would like to handle future issues of the *Mid-American*. Please discuss this during one of your monthly meetings or in an issue of your local newsletter. Remember, The Mid-America Orchid Congress is an organization formed by over 50 local and regional orchid societies and their members. Every orchid society has different goals and ideas. The Congress is an

organization of those various ideas and we would like for the *Mid-American* and how it is disseminated to reflect each society’s desires.

Again, I ask that each society decide on how you would like future issues of the *Mid-American* handled in regard to paper or electronic. Please inform *Mid-American* Editor, Glenn Evans of your decision. Following our meeting in Toronto, future issues of the *Mid-American* will be disseminated in a manner desired by your society.

More articles on culture and conservation projects will be offered in future issues of the *Mid-American* as well as highlights from newsletters of local societies. Remember, this is OUR newsletter. We all need to offer ideas or articles. The editorial personnel will then put these articles or ideas in the format we know of as the *Mid-American*. Without articles, we have a *Mid-American* with little information other than what happened at a meeting or where we might be meeting next. Lets all pitch in and help.

If you have any questions or comments on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be glad to discuss this issue with you or forward your comments to the appropriate person.



resident

Orchid Conservation Notes

By William A. Rhodehamel

There are many constructive activities every orchids grower can undertake to help with orchid conservation. Conservation issues are complex and interconnected, and no single answer can be offered. A few suggestions for helpful activities:

Be educated. Be willing to research issues that effect conservation of orchids and other organisms. Be open to information from a number of sources.

Support organizations that support your goals. Orchid conservation in tropical range states is difficult, and must be done mostly by people in the country. This means that the average orchid grower needs to work through proxies. Support, both financially and with your time, organizations (both at home and in range states) that do good work.

Be vocal on issues that you care about. Be willing to be vocal locally, nationally and internationally when issues arise that you care about. Stand up and be counted.

Live your convictions. Minimize your impact on the planet. Reduce, reuse, recycle.

Grow your plants well. Growing your plants well will help to preserve them in cultivation. Share divisions of important plants (both species and hybrids) and consider seed propagation of rare species. It is up to every orchid grower to insure that species now in cultivation are propagated to insure their survival in cultivation. Make provisions for your collection should you become unable to care for them.

Don't buy wild-collected plants. With very few exceptions, most species are now available as artificially propagated plants.



Mid America Orchid Congress Future Dates and Locations	
Spring 2003 2003	Southern Ontario Orchid Society Toronto Ontario Canada April 4-6,
Fall 2003	OPEN
Spring 2004	OPEN
Fall 2004	Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis October 29-31, 2004 St Louis MO
Spring 2005	OPEN
Fall 2005	Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and Miami Valley Orchid Society
Spring 2006	OPEN

Mary Lou Dundon Essay Contest -- 2002

Enter *The Mid-American* Essay Contest. Here is all you do: Write an essay of 750 words or less on the subject "How Orchids have affected my life". The contest ends January 31, 2003. Mail unpublished submissions to:

Carolyn Butcher
2822 Dorchester
Birmingham MI 48009

Or
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 Toronto, April 4-6, 2003—at the Sunday morning Business meeting.

The winners will receive: _____ 1st Prize-\$100.00
2nd Prize--\$ 50.00
3rd Prize--\$ 25.00

Orchidist of the Year

Russ Vernon

President's Message

I would like to thank the Kentucky, Central Kentucky and Blue Grass Orchid Societies for hosting an outstanding Mid-America. I especially want to thank these societies for stepping up and inviting the Congress to Kentucky for what was billed as a Good Ole Mid-America Weekend. Nothing further from the truth can be said about our weekend in Frankfort. The weekend was not set up as a regular show for any of the societies, but as a show to host the Mid-America exclusively. And host us they did! To use an old term my grandmother use to say, "there was more food than you could shake a stick at" for Congress attendees that weekend. From Friday at the opening of the Hospitality Room to the Affiliated Societies Breakfast on Sunday, good food was always available. For those able to attend the Mid-America Banquet on Saturday evening, the trip through the Kentucky Blue Grass Horse Country to Labrot & Graham was one not to be forgotten. Once at Labrot & Graham, Chef David Larson provided not only great weather and an ideal setting for the evening, but some of the best food I have ever eaten. I have received dozens of e-mails and notes from individual expressing their enjoyment of that evening. If you would like to read more on the activities of the entire weekend, be sure to read the Affiliated Societies report provided by Doris Asher, Co-Chair of the Affiliated Societies Committee. Doris did a great job in providing a synopsis of the events from our Frankfort meeting.

What more can I say about the Mid-America Auction? Calling the auction in Frankfort fun seems to be an injustice for the evening. I sat in the back of the room so I could take in the event. I can't remember the last time I saw

so many grown people have so much fun. Best of all is that the proceeds from the auction go to benefit education and conservation projects sponsored by the Congress. A simple thank you does not seem to be enough to say to those who donated items to the auction. So, I would like to give a **BIG THANK YOU** from the whole of the Mid-America for each greatly appreciated donation. Everyone truly does appreciate your support of the Mid-America.

As a result of auction proceeds, the Congress will be able to increase funding to our Education & Research Committee as well as Conservation Committee for next year. I heard some very exciting proposals from these committees in Frankfort and look forward to what 2003 will bring forth.

Again, my thanks to the Kentucky, Central Kentucky and Blue Grass Orchid Societies as well as all societies who host a Mid-America. All Mid-America attendees realize that hosting the Congress takes more effort than a normal show you would plan for your society. We appreciate your efforts and hope you feel you have benefited from the experience. The Mid-America knows they have benefited by being invited to come to your community.

Speaking of Mid-America weekends, mark your calendar for April 4-6, 2003 when we will have the pleasure of venturing back to Canada for our 79th meeting. The Southern Ontario Orchid Society will be our host for the weekend. Also, joining us this weekend will be the Canadian Orchid Congress (COC). This should be an exciting weekend and I encourage all attending to take this opportunity meet and exchange ideas with COC members. For full details on our upcoming 79th meeting, I refer you to the Mid-America web site at: www.midamericanorchids.org.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Toronto in April.

Tim

Special News

The AOS Botanical Award (formerly the Nax award) was given this year to *Bulbophyllum plumatum* exhibited by Christine Chowning ofKentucky. The plant received an HCC of 79 points at Cincinnati in July of 2001. This award will become the Ann & Phil Jessup award in 2003 and will be an endowed award.

MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS, 9/27-29/2002, FRANKFORT, KY

REPORT TO MID-AMERICA AFFILIATED ORCHID SOCIETIES

We blew into town on the winds and rains left over from Hurricane Isidore, braved hazardous-to-drive-in fog on Saturday morning, and left on a glorious, warm, sunny Sunday.

Never mind what the weather was doing, the three host societies (Kentucky Orchid Society, Central Kentucky Orchid Society, and Blue Grass Orchid Society) provided the 160 registrants one of the most pleasant Mid-America Orchid Congresses in recent memory. The members who manned the Hospitality Suite did a wonderful job in supplying mounds of delicious food and offering a most pleasant respite from the work of setting up exhibits, etc.

The Affiliated Societies Breakfast on Sunday morning featured a productive discussion of recruiting AND keeping new members. Numerous participants in the 50-plus attendees weighed in with effective programs and strategies they had employed in their home societies. Moderator Doris Asher was pleased to note that six to twelve of those present were attending their first Affiliated Societies Breakfast. Numerous Mid-America societies' representatives attended as well. Doris distributed an article by Art Moore entitled "How to have a better society" (Orchids, May 2002, p.436.) in which he detailed his Four "I" approach to getting new members and keeping old ones – Invite, Inform, Include, and Interact. In that article, Art references a list of suggestions put together by Gail Furniss, of Newnan, GA, and Jack Webster, of Southern Pines, NC. With Art's permission, Doris distributed copies of both items to everyone at the Breakfast. We came up with numerous suggestions different from the page full Gail and Jack had developed. Had we wanted to, we could probably have turned the one-page document into a two-pager!

Russ Vernon from Albany, IN, was honored at the Sunday morning Business Meeting by being named Mid-America Orchidist of the Year. Congratulations to Russ! An honor well deserved!

Officers for next year will be Tim Brooks (President), Pat Cleveland (1st Vice President), Dick Wells (2d Vice President), Beth Martin (Secretary) and Karen McBride (Treasurer).

Stephen Benjamin, Chair, Mid-America Show Schedule Committee, announced that the new edition of the Mid-America Show Schedule is on the MAOC web site (www.midamericanorchids.org). Each member society will receive a paper copy of the Schedule at no cost. Societies can continue to purchase show entry tags at \$5.00/1000 from Stephen (898 Lutheran Church Road, Bardstown KY 40004). To continue improving the Show Schedule, Stephen urges all societies to send a copy of their local show schedule annotated with the numbers of entries in each class to Committee member Barbara Nurenberger, 27 Colony Dr., Oberlin, OH 44074 E-mail: bnurenberger@oberlin.net.

If you (like me) have been missing your Mid-American newsletters, you can find the Spring and Summer 2002 issues on the MAOC web site (www.midamericanorchids.org). We should begin to see restored distribution of the paper copies very soon; societies will be offered the option of downloading a copy from the web and distributing copies to their members themselves – or continuing to receive paper copies.

The lectures on Saturday featured Mr. Karsten Wodrich from South Africa who delivered the Shirley Burr Moore Lecture on "Indigenous orchids of South Africa". As an added attraction, Karsten spoke on Disas on Sunday morning. Darrin Norton of Mountain Orchids in Vermont spoke on "Miniature species", and Dr Lou Hegedus on "Phragmipedium hybrids, past, present & future". In addition to the Disa talk on Sunday, Dr. Eric Christensen brought us up to date on the developing controversy on *Phragmipedium kovachii*/peruvianum – fascinating to hear from someone actively involved in the legal/ethical issues surrounding this stunning new species finding its way (illegally) into European and American growers' hands.

Late on Sunday morning, AOS orchid judges, led by Ron DePrez, met to discuss ethical issues involved in judging – a most worthwhile exercise.

The orchid show. Judging Chair Fran May ably directed the work of the twelve teams of judges/clerks, who evaluated the 635 plants and exhibits. Hoosier Orchids won the AOS Show Trophy for the best exhibit in the Show. Bill Porter of Porter's Orchids in Grand Ledge, MI, displayed the Best of Show plant: BLC Challenge 'Sweet Royston' AM/AOS (Blanche Okamoto x LC. Edgard Van Belle). In addition to the Best of Show designation, this huge plant with huge yellow-with-red-lip flowers earned an AM of 83 points. Other AOS awards:

Lc. Schilleriana 'Silverado' AM 81, owner: Helmut Meng
Dendrobium rigidum 'Edwin Friedman' CCM 81, owner: Malcolm Siegel
Phalaenopsis minus 'OK' CBR, owner: Stephen Benjamin
Platystele stenostachya 'Mountainside' CCM 81, owner: Mountain Orchids
Phragmipedium Robert Palm 'Coral Wave' HCC 75, owner: Marilyn & Brian LeDoux
Pleurothallis peculiaris 'J&L' CBR, owner: J&L Orchids
Catasetum expansum 'Quiet Pet' JC, owner: Evan Dessasau III
Paphiopedilum Kolosand 'Windy Hill' HCC 77, owner: Marilyn & Brian LeDoux

Dick Wells served as auctioneer at the Mid-America auction on Saturday night, chaired this year for the first time by the new Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Mark Van der Woerd from Huntsville, AL. The auction raised \$4,092, which included \$142 from two small boxes of bourbon balls!

Bill Porter maintained in an e-mail to me about his BLC Challenge that the Frankfort Mid-America set a new standard for MAOC banquets. I would have to concur. After the auction, we took a caravan of three minibuses to the Labrot and Graham Distillery for a sumptuous meal served outdoors on a balmy fall evening.

Plan now to come to Toronto next April and participate in our Sunday morning breakfast discussion – our topic for Toronto will be “fundraising for local orchid societies”. Your Affiliated Societies Committee sincerely hopes and expects that you will go home with some really good ideas on how to supplement your society's income! The registration material for Toronto is out – for a copy, contact Peter Poot at Box 241, Goodwood, ON, Canada L0C 1A0 Phone: 905-640-5643 E-mail: sonja.poot@sympatico.ca

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Ps: Please share this communication with your Society – give a copy to your newsletter editor – send copies to your board – make an oral report at a Society meeting – please help us help you.

Mid-American goes to the Web

**Faster service...less cost...get *your*
Mid-American on the internet! We can save over \$3500.00 per year in distribution and printing costs for
the Mid America Congress **and** your society can receive this newsletter in a more timely fashion.
Go to <http://www.midamericanorchids.org/>**

Glenn Evans, Editor Mid-American
Contact Glenn with any comments or articles for the Mid-American at:
evans_glenn_f@yahoo.com

New Address: Glenn Evans
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**Mid-America Orchid Congress
Trophies at Frankfort Show:**

Myron Banta Award for Best specimen plant in show:
D exhibited by

Henry C. Holmes Award for Best Oncidium Alliance Plant
A exhibited by

FL Stevenson Pleurothallid Alliance Award

Fox Valley Cypripedium Alliance Award
exhibited by