

MOS

Official Newsletter of the Michiana Orchid Society

May, 2005

Editor Shirley Keim sak12000@aol.com

MAY MOS MEETING AT FERNWOOD!

The May 14, 2005, meeting of the Michiana Orchid Society will be held at Fernwood Botanic Gardens in Niles, Michigan, at 1:30 Michigan time. (For you Indiana folks, that's 12:30, now that Daylight Savings Time has taken effect.) Our meeting will be held in conjunction with our educational exhibit and orchid display, and there will be a video---"An Introduction to Orchids". The public is invited to stop by to watch the video, enjoy our orchid display and ask questions of Michiana Orchid Society members.

We're planning to set up the educational exhibit and orchid display on Friday, May 13, around 1:00 in the afternoon. Please plan to bring your orchids and a few foliage plants to Fernwood to set up a lovely display to lure the public into sharing our orchid addiction. We have planned to keep the exhibit up through Sunday. We'll need to have people around on Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

We're looking forward to seeing you all at Fernwood and enjoying the beauty of spring in this wonderful location! Fernwood will also have their spring plant sale this same weekend. See you there!

IN THE AIR AND ON THE ROAD FOR ORCHIDS!

Several Michiana Orchid Society members have logged some miles lately in their quest for more information on orchids. The Mid-America Orchid Congress and Spring American Orchid Society members' meetings were held recently in Minneapolis, hosted by the Orchid Society of Minnesota. Deb and Sandy flew to Minneapolis to enjoy the lovely orchid displays and sign in at the Mid-America for the Michiana Orchid Society. The meetings and speakers of the Slipper Orchid Alliance, the Orchid Digest Corporation, the Pleurothallid Alliance and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance were also

held. Michiana members Rob Halgren and Marilyn Lee were also there to take in the meetings and conferences. Everyone enjoyed speakers Alex Hirtz on "Orchid Evolution in the Neotropics", Jason Fischer on "Orchids of Japan", Francisco Miranda on "Brazilian Orchids", Jerry Fischer on "New Developments in Phragmipediums", Karen Muir on "Brachypetalums", Will Rodehamel on "Easily Grown Pleurothallids", Bob Fuchs on "Trends in Vandaceous Intergeneric Breeding", Alan Koch on "Brazilian Laelias in Minicatts", Norman Fang on "Harlequin Phalaenopsis", and Russ Vernon on "How Not to Grow Phalaenopsis". Of particular interest to Sandy was Jerry Fischer's talk on new phrags, where the new Phrag popowii was discussed. Additionally, a lovely Phrag popowii specimen shown by Orchids Limited was awarded an AM/AOS of 85 points by the American Orchid Society judges.

After being in attendance at all of the conferences, Rob suggested a field trip to Orchids Limited....so Deb, Sandy, Marilyn and Rob piled into Rob's car and explored their wonderful greenhouses, making a few purchases along the way. Wonderful phrags such as Scarlet O'Hara and Jason Fischer and paphs including the vietnamense hybrid Ho Chi Minh were in bloom. A few must-have plants were purchased by our orchid-frenzied travelers.

Other plants were gathered in the sales areas of the show. Rob had a car, so he had no trouble taking his plants home, but he forgot one big paph... Marilyn hand-carried it home on the plane for him. Deb and Sandy had to flatten out their purchases and pack them in their suitcases. That flask of sanderianum had a very cushioned spot in Sandy's carry-on bag. After four days of orchids, Deb and Sandy flew home to a snow-covered Indiana.

Apparently all of these orchid adventures were not enough. Seeing an opportunity to go to the Three Rivers show, Deb and Sandy drove to Ft. Wayne to judge and clerk in the Three Rivers show the following weekend. MOS member and student judge Greg Filter was there for judging, also. It was a small show with about ten displays, collectibles and wonderful orchid photographs, and five orchid vendors. Michiana was unable to send an exhibit this year, but hopefully we will be able to fit this nice show into our spring schedule next year.

PHRAG POPOWII AT MINNESOTA

Braem, Ohlund (our Sandy) and Quene recently described in print the five long-tailed Phragmipedium species originating in Central and South America. They went back to the original publications describing these species and found that what had first been described and what we call these plants nowadays are different. They then corrected the nomenclature of the species to what had originally been intended by those such as

Reichenbach who first described the plants. *Phragmipedium popowii* became the new name for the species which had incorrectly been named *Phrag. warszewiczianum*. This information had not been published before in North America. At the joint semiannual meetings of the Mid-America Orchid Congress and the American Orchid Society in Minneapolis April 20-24, two things happened. Jerry Fischer of Orchids Limited exhibited the long-tailed phrags with their newly corrected names, winning an award on *Phrag. popowii*. On Friday, Jerry Fischer gave a talk called "New Developments in Phragmipediums" (wait until you see Scarlett O'Hara) during which he introduced Quene. Quene then went on to tell the audience about the work that he, Guido Braem and **Sandy Ohlund** had done regarding the long-tailed phrags. We heard it for the first time that weekend and two of the authors were present. Coincidentally, the *Orchid Digest* came out that weekend with an article by Robert Dressler which both agreed and disagreed with the work done by Braem, Ohlund and Quene.

Minutes from April Meeting

The April 9 MOS meeting was called to order at 1:35 by Vice-president Howard Heines. Twenty members and one guest were present. Under "Old Business" there were no reports from the By-Laws and Program committees. Concerning publicity, the Elkhart area is being handled by Jean Moskowitz who has placed a notice in the Thursday edition of The Elkhart Truth about the MOS meetings. Katie Payeur suggested fliers be posted in Lowe's, Home Depot, and flower shops telling about MOS. Sandy mentioned AOS will advertise the MOS show this Fall for three months before the show date.

Plans for our educational display at Fernwood on May 13-15 were outlined by Sylvia Groat. Set-up will be Friday, May 13 at 2:00 Indiana time. We'll need blooming plants. If you can't come to Fernwood, take your plants to Sandy at the college before that Friday. On Saturday, May 14 our regular MOS meeting will be held at Fernwood at our usual time of 1:30 Indiana time. Both Saturday and Sunday we need help from MOS members to talk with visitors about MOS, discuss orchid culture, answer questions, help with potting demonstrations, and set up videos Sandy will supply. Sandy will also bring books to sell concerning orchid pests and diseases. Most persons who attend this weekend are interested in plants, and we have signed up many new members from this Fernwood event.

Holy Cross Continuing Educations Department offers a course in Orchid Culture in both Spring and Fall semesters.

It's two evenings, 6-8:30, costs \$35-40, and is taught by Sandy Ohlund (of course!) Area libraries have a Holy Cross schedule, or you can call the college to learn the schedule. Jean and Harry Moskowitz visited AOS at DelRay Beach FL this winter and saw former MOS member Steve Royer who now works at the AOS headquarters. He gave them a personally conducted tour of the greenhouses. Their photos showed a very large natural appearing tree in one greenhouse. It was actually made of PVC pipe, covered with bark, and had orchids growing on it.

Under "New Business" - On April 30 at Holy Cross College, 8:00 - 4:00 Indiana time, Fernwood will present a workshop on perennials titled "A Garden for All Seasons." The cost is \$65.00 (\$55.00 for Fernwood members) and includes continental breakfast, lunch, and four speakers who are authors of books about perennials. Sylvia recommends "The

Well Designed Mixed Garden" by Tracy DiSabato-Aust one of the featured speakers that day.

The Journal of Columbian Orchid Society, "Orquideologia" for December 2004 cover photo is a lovely new Phrag. that Sandy helped name. It's official name is Phrag Popowii Braem, Ohlund, and Quene.' The article inside is in both English and Spanish.

On May 21 the garden Plant Swap at Sherry Burtchett's will be in full swing. If you didn't get directions at this meeting contact Sherry.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 to enjoy the slide show "Orchids of Northeastern U.S." presented by Sandy Ohlund. Many of the orchids pictured also grow in the midwest and southern states. Cliff Berger discussed some ideas for growing wild orchids.

Bring and Brag featured orchids grown by Rick Hendrickson, Howard Heines, Harry Moskowitz, Sally Gaishin, and Sylvia Groat.

The drawing for the door prize of a lovely golden Pot. Burana Beauty "Burana#4" supplied by Sylvia was won by Barbara Wich.

Upcoming shows:

April 15-17 Ann Arber - at the Botanical Garden

April 30- May 1 Ft. Wayne

Memorial Day weekend - Traverse City, the Western Michigan Orchid Society

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wich co-secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 28, 2005

Income

Dues--\$10.00

Expenses

None

Ending Balance--\$2,019.73

Amount in Savings--\$2,936.93

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Longworth, treasurer

LAST CALL FOR DUES

Deb will send a reminder to everyone who hasn't yet paid before the next meeting. The cost is \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. Thanks to everyone who has paid.

Refreshments

May Deb

June Cliff's House

July John's House

August Dennis' House

September Sally

October Vicky & Rick

November Ann

December Sherry's House

January 2006