

March
2007

The Orchid Grower



Madison Orchid Growers' Guild

NEXT MEETING MARCH 25TH: JOHN CLAUSEN WILL SPEAK ON CATTLEYAS

John Clausen has been a hobby grower for thirty years, the last ten of those in a greenhouse. Hailing from Milwaukee he is an active member in the Wisconsin Orchid Society, currently serving as judging chair. His collection includes oncidiums, angraecums, dendrobiums, a few vandas and a couple of paphs, but primarily cattleya alliance hybrids and species with a special interest in the latter. His awards include many ribbons and "Best of Classes" at area shows; he is a 3-time winner of the Acker's Best Cattleya award at OGG Orchid Quests, and has 14 AOS awards including 4 CCMs and a CCE. He will talk about his cultural practices in general and cattleya species in particular.



Photograph by John Clausen
Cattleya jemanii 'Robert Clausen'
AM/AOS

Meeting Dates

- March 25 – Atrium
- April 22 – Meeting Room
- May 20 – Atrium
- June Picnic – TBA

Up-coming Events

- March 23-25, 2007 32nd Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show
- April 27-29, 2007, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show in conjunction with Spring Mid-America Orchid Congress
- February 2 – March 2, 2008, 19th World Orchid Congress, Miami, FL

Officers and Committees

President:

Judy Stevenson (2008)
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Secretary:

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Orchid Quest 2007 has come and gone. How fortunate OGG was not to

Inside this Issue

Culture Sheets	2
IOS and MAOC	2
Lycaste: The Beautiful Sister of Helen of Troy	6
Nominations	2
Ribbon Judging Batavia	5
Ribbon Judging Orchid Quest	4
Up-coming Events	10

have encountered the snow emergency of the recent weekend in Dane County and the Madison area February 3rd-4th.

I want to let you know what a privilege it was to have worked with you that first weekend in February. I did not

know what to expect because I was abroad the past two years of Orchid Quest. It was very gratifying to see the guild working as a TEAM to

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Alliant: Elaine Malter (2007)

AOS: Jill Hynum (2007)

MAOC: Don Fago (2007)

Orchid Digest: Jill Hynum
(2007)

Submit your photos to be included in the newsletter. Every month we want to include a gallery of photos to enjoy. Email your photos to Svetlana (grigkot@gmail.com) and Denise (jrbaylis@tds.net)

make this enormous event a success. Many people spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday working at the Exhibition Hall at various stations. Many of those same persons went to their paid jobs on Monday morning. I give all of you a pat on your back for your dedication and hard work. Attendance at Orchid Quest was down approximately 600 people compared to last year because it was so cold. Nonetheless, I consider that it was a successful show. The vendors were generally satisfied with their sales. Treasurer Don Fago tells us that we will be close to \$1,000 in the black after all the bills are paid.

This is the last month to renew your membership to OGG. This application can be down loaded from our website and mailed to Box 5432, Madison, WI. 53705. I look forward to seeing you at Olbrich as we learn the secrets of growing cattleya orchids in March. – Judy Stevenson

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

A nominating committee has been selected. It is comprised of Judy Stevenson, Lorraine Snyder and Sarah Lundey. Positions that will be open are vice-president, secretary, and one board member.

CULTURE SHEETS FOR MARCH AND APRIL AVAILABLE FROM AOS

The coming change of seasons cannot arrive too soon. With this change, our orchids need our attention. The AOS website contains a monthly checklist for selected genera including cymbidiums, pleuro, Milton, paph, lycaste, dendrobium, phal and cattleyas. See <http://orchidweb.org/aos/orchids/page22.aspx>

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY AND MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

This April there is a rare opportunity to attend the IOS and MAOC at their Spring joint meeting at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The OGG is offering to charter a bus on Saturday, April 28 if there is enough interest. Consider the convenience of avoiding a long drive by riding with fellow members in comfort and with room to transport back your finds! There will be at least 30 vendors and perhaps two from Peru and Ecuador that have tentatively agreed to attend as well. Those of you who prefer to attend on your own check out their website at www.iosoc.com. **Registration is required to attend events, including lectures, scheduled at the Renaissance Hotel.**





Sandy Delamater, Arlene King, Amy Ripp and Joan Smalley



Joan Smalley and Lorraine Snyder



John King



Russ and Anita Vernon of New Vision Orchids with Wayne King



Steve Thimling, Liz Wood, Jeff Baylis and Sarah Lundey



Scott Weber, our AOS photographer



Cleo; below Vanda Sasai blue from Acker's



Liz Wood, Karen Acker and Liz Barlow; below Den. Silver Bells



Phal bellina; below Masdevallia Geneva Spots





Phrag. St Ouen, Photograph by Svetlana Kot



Photograph by Rich Narf

RESULTS FROM ORCHID QUEST RIBBON JUDGING

Display: Second Place

Special Awards, Best of Class; First Place & OGG Vice-President's Award – Best Cymbidium

Sandy Delamater *Cymb Earli Sue 'Paddy'*

First Place and Best of Class:

Sandy Delamater *Paph Hanes Green Honda*

First Place:

Sandy Delamater *Phrag Sorcerers Apprentice*
 Judy Stevenson *Paph Pinocchio (P. glaucophyllum vas. moquettianum x P. primulinum)*

Second Place:

Joanne Bernardi *Phrag lindleyanum x Grande 4N*
 Gigantea
 Sue Reed *Dendrobium atrovioleaceum* type pygmy
 Meg McLaughlin *Brassavola cordata* x sibling 'HR'
 Wayne King *Brsdm Fly Away 'Miami'*
 Liz Wood *Hawkinsara Kat Golden Eve (Spotglen 'Doodlebug' x Winston Churchill 'Redoubtable')*
 Steve Thimling *Epicattleya Rene Marqueea 'Flame Thrower' HCC/AOS*
 Steve Thimling *Paph Voodoo Magic 'Wide Petals' x Laser 'Red Fire'*
 Elaine Malter *Brassia Spider's Feast 'Highland' (Brs Chieftain x Brs Verrucosa)*
 Elaine Malter *Paph Liemianum*

Third Place:	Sandy Delamater	<i>Phal</i> Chain Xen Queen 'ORCHIS'
	Sandy Delamater	<i>Asconopsis</i> Irene Dobkin
	Svetlana Kot	<i>Phal</i> Cool Breeze (<i>Phal</i> Christian Wichmann x <i>Phal</i> Dutch Frost)
	Len Huebner	<i>Phal</i> Little Emperor
	Elaine Malter	<i>Vandofinetia Blaupunkt</i> (Neo Falcate x <i>Vand</i> <i>coerulescens</i>)

You know you are addicted to orchids when...

... you apologize profusely, out loud, to your orchids when you do anything that is not optimal for them.

... looking through new orchid catalogues is less thrilling than it used to be because you already have most of them.

**Results of 2007 Batavia Orchid Society Show
February 16-18**

Set-up by Sandy Delamater and Judy Stevenson
Take-down by Judy Stevenson and Wayne King

Display:	First Place	
Best in Class:	Orchids by the Ackers	<i>Phal schilleriana</i>
	Orchids by the Ackers	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Laurie Kathleen 'Karen'
First Place:	Orchids by the Ackers	<i>Phal schilleriana</i>
	Orchids by the Ackers	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Laurie Kathleen 'Karen'
	Orchids by the Ackers	<i>Dialaelia</i> Snowflake 'Northland'
	Orchids by the Ackers	<i>Phrag</i> Magdalene Rose x Barbara LeAnn
	Sandy Delamater	<i>Phrag</i> Barbara LeAnn
	Joan Smalley	Wils. Tigersetete 'Wild Court'
Second Place:	Orchids by the Ackers	<i>Calanthe</i> Grouville
	Sandy Delamater	<i>Cymb</i> Earli Sue 'Paddy'
	Sandy Delamater	<i>Paph</i> Constance
	Sandy Delamater	<i>Paph</i> Hanes Green Honda
	Sandy Delamater	<i>Phal</i> Chain Xen Queen 'Orchis'
	Sarah Lundey	<i>Epi stanfordianum</i> x self
Sarah Lundey	<i>Vandofinetia Blaupunkt</i>	
Third Place:	Sandy Delamater	<i>Paph</i> Henrietta Fujiwara
	Sandy Delamater	<i>Phal</i> Everspring King x Musachino
	Wayne King	<i>Cattleya intermedia</i>



OGG Batavia Exhibit on left;
Acker's prize winning *Miltoniopsis*
Laurie Kathleen 'Karen' Milton,
photograph by Steve Thimling

LYCASTE, THE BEAUTIFUL SISTER OF HELEN OF TROY

By Leo Schordje, LSchordje@dataflo.net, www.schordje.com

Lycaste have been a popular orchid since the Victorian era. *Lycaste* (now *Ida*) *ciliata* was the first species discovered in 1798. *Lycaste skinneri* was described in 1843 and remains the most popular species. There are 35 species in five sections. For horticultural purposes, these can be sorted into two groups based on their growing requirements, evergreen and deciduous. Lycaste breeding and cultivation is in a state that parallels the 1970's phase of *Cattleya* hybridization. Hybrids are now into as many as 12 generations, the majority of hybrids are repeated backcrosses of *L. skinneri* back on to the complex hybrid.

General Cultural requirements

- **Light:** Very bright shade to partial sun, about the same light as *Cattleya*, approx. 2000 to 4000 ftc. Growers can compensate for lower light intensities under artificial light by using 18 hour day and 6 hour nights.
- **Air movement:** This is essential, especially if leaves receive direct sun because air movement keeps the thin leaves from sun burn.
- **Temperature:** Most species are intermediate growers and most will tolerate cool temperatures. Although cool is not required, most species will tolerate summer heat with good air movement.
- **Potting mix:** Any water retentive mix with good air voids will work. Fir bark with Perlite is preferred by many. Use a fine seedling mix for pots less than five inches.

- Repot in spring when new growth is one to two inches tall. Repotting out of season can cause problems, but if it is necessary, do repot. Do not allow the mix to get stale.
- Water: Keep moist all year round; do not allow it to dry out between waterings. If you keep the plant moist, water quality is not an issue. Never let the mix become bone dry between waterings. This is the way to keep evergreen species like *L. skinneri* and all Ida species happy. Deciduous species will need a dry rest in LATE winter, usually January and February. Do not



Lycaste, BOC, grown by Natt's Orchids

start the dry rest too early. Deciduous species need time to mature in fall.

- Fertilizer: Lycaste are moderate feeders therefore dilute high nitrogen fertilizer all year round. My personal recommendation is MSU formula at ¼ to ½ teaspoon per gallon, every week.

Lycaste (photograph on left by Steve Thimling) are easy to grow, they develop into wonderful display specimen plants. All have very large thin leaves. As a general rule, the thin leaves do not last much more than one year, even on the evergreen species. If

you have an evergreen species, such as *L. skinneri* or its hybrids, and it loses all its leaves, do not dry it out. Check to see if there are problems you can identify. Insect infestations can cause leaf drop. Drying the plant out during the time of year that it should be actively growing will cause leaf drop. Take care of any obvious problems and then keep the plant moist with good air movement. New growth and new leaves should appear within a few months. Many text books will tell you that Lycaste require cool temperatures. I have personally had several plants of *L. skinneri* survive more than 15 years of Chicago area summers, without air conditioning. I believe if you provide good air movement Lycaste will survive the summers experienced in the Midwest without any problems.

The following is a list of all the evergreen Lycastes. These species and the hybrids from them will appreciate the culture recommendations above.

Evergreen Species:

Lycaste dowiana (Endres & Reichenbach) 1874 - Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, South America

Lycaste leucantha (Klotzsch) 1850 - Costa Rica, Panama

Lycaste skinneri (Lindley) 1843 - Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador

Lycaste skinneri alba

Lycaste skinneri armeniaca

Lycaste skinneri Ipala

Lycaste skinneri rosea

Lycaste powellii (Schlechter) 1922 – Panama

Lycaste schilleriana (Reichb. f.) 1855 – Panama, Peru, Colombia, Surinam

Lycaste virginalis (Scheidweiler) Linden 1888 (correct name is *skinneri*)

Lycaste virginalis alba (Scheidweiler) 1842 (correct name is *skinneri alba*)

Lycaste xytriophora (Linden & Reichenbach) 1872 – Ecuador, Colombia

Lycaste macrophylla represents a “super species”, a single widespread species with many geographic variants or a swarm of closely related species. It is a geographically wide spread species, each of the subspecies listed below

may be found listed in some references as a species in its own right, or by other authors variously sunk back to variety level or simply geographic races. All variants have big wide leaves, many flowers with wonderful fruity fragrances.

Lycaste macrophylla (Poepp. & Endl.) Lindley 1843 Central/South America, Peru
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *Desboisiana* (Cogniaux) Fowlie 1964 - Costa Rica, Panama
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *desboisiana* f. *alba* (Cogniaux) Fowlie 1964 - NC Costa Rica
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *filomenoi* (Schlechter) Fowlie 1964 - Peru
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *macrophylla* (Lindley) Fowlie 1964 - Peru
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *measuresiana* (Williams) Fowlie 1887 - Amazonas
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *neglecta* (Schlechter) Fowlie - Bolivia
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *orinocoensis* (Fowlie) 1964 - Colombia
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *panamanensis* (Fowlie) 1964 - Panama
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *plana* (Lindley) Fowlie 1964 - Costa Rica, Panama
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *puntarenasensis* (Fowlie) 1964 - Costa Rica, Panama
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *viridescens* (Oakeley) 1991 origin?
Lycaste macrophylla subsp. *xanthocheila* (Fowlie) 1964 - Costa Rica

The Deciduous Lycaste

These species come from areas of Central and South America that experience seasonal wet and dry periods. As a “vague but true” generalization along the Caribbean-Atlantic coast from Florida to Colombia there is a dryer season starting in January, lasting through February, usually ending late March. There is often some rain, but nowhere near as much as there usually is the rest of the year. The Central American Pacific Coast dry season timing is similar. For both areas some local regional exceptions exist that are beyond the scope of this article. The following species are considered deciduous:

Lycaste aromatica (Graham ex Hooker) Lindley 1843 - Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala
Lycaste bradeorum (Schlechter) 1923 - Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua (prefers warmer temperatures)
Lycaste campbellii (C. Schweinf.) 1949 - Panama, Colombia (I-W temps)
Lycaste cochleata (Lindley) 1850-51 - Mexico, Guatemala (I-W temps)
Lycaste consobrina (Reichb. f.) 1852 - Mexico
Lycaste crinita (Lindley) 1844 - Mexico
Lycaste cruenta (Lindley) Lindley 1843 - Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador (really prefers intermediate to cool, not very warm tolerant)
Lycaste deppei (Lodd.) Lindley 1843 - Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala
Lycaste deppei var. *praestans* (L. Linden) 1898
Lycaste deppei var. *punctatissima* (Reichb. f.) 1881 (possible natural hybrid)
Lycaste lasioglossa (Reichb. f.) 1872 - Guatemala
Lycaste luminosa (Oakeley) 1991 - Costa Rica (?)
Lycaste macrobulbon (Hooker) Lindley 1846 - Colombia (I-W temps)
Lycaste brevispatha (Klotzsch) 1851 - Costa Rica, Nicaragua
Lycaste candida (Lindley) 1851 - Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama
Lycaste micheliana (Cogniaux) 1900 = natural hybrid
Lycaste saccata (A. Richard) 1848 - Mexico, Guatemala
Lycaste suaveolens (Summerhayes) 1931 - El Salvador
Lycaste tricolor (Klotzsch) 1852 - Costa Rica, Panama

As a general rule the deciduous *Lycaste* tolerate warm temperatures better than *L. skinneri*. This means that in all but the hottest areas of the country these species should do fine. For ten months of the year grow these *Lycaste* as you would the Evergreen species as described above. For one to two months in the late winter give them a dry rest. The best time to start this rest is when all the leaves start turning brown. Stop watering, the mix will dry and the leaves will

brown and fall off. This normally will happen late December to the beginning of January. Large specimens in pots 4-inch or larger can simply be left bone dry until new growth is up out of the mix 1/2 inch or more in Spring. Small plants with small pseudobulbs might benefit being watered once a month or so to prevent excessive shriveling. Some plants may go dormant as early as late November, but it is important to not force dormancy too soon. I have killed a few *L. aromatica* by forcing dormancy too early, once as early as September. The new pseudobulbs had not matured and the seedlings did not survive.

You may encounter the occasional plant that does not seem to want to go dormant. I have an *L. cochlearis* that still has its leaves in late January and an *L. deppei* that seldom drops its leaves. If they seem to keep growing, keep watering them. Let the plant tell you what it wants to do. If for some reason a deciduous *Lycaste* drops its leaves in mid-summer, likely it got too dry between watering or it has root trouble. Check the plant out, spray for pests if needed and keep the plant moist. It should start another growth right away. Again as above, the best time to repot is when new growth is one to two inches tall.

The *Ida*

Ida is the third group of *Lycaste* that are fairly widely grown. They were referred to as the *Fimbriata* section of *Lycaste*. Botanically, these are somewhat different from *L. skinneri*. Eric Christiansen moved the entire *Fimbriata* group into *Ida*, out of *Lycaste* a couple years ago. Most vendors still list them as *Lycaste*. Taxonomy is in flux so names are certain to change in the future.

Ida have a heavier leaf that seems to last four or five years instead of just one or two. They seem to want deeper shade than the others, about the same light level as required for *Phalaenopsis* is adequate to bloom the *Ida* group as well. (Around 900 to 2000 ftc.) The *Ida* generally prefer intermediate temperatures. A few are cool growers and a few are warm growers. All have green and white flowers, many with strong night time fragrances. Some of them have, to be kind, "industrial fragrances," some are pleasant spice fragrances.

Ida (Lycaste) andreettae (Dodson) 1982

Section: Fimbriatae, Ecuador, Colombia

Ida (Lycaste) barbifrons (Lindley) 1845

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) barringtoniae (J.E. Smith) Lindley 1793

Section: Fimbriatae, Jamaica

Ida (Lycaste) barringtoniae var. *grandiflora* (Hooker) 1868

Ida (Lycaste) ciliata (Ruiz & Pavon) Lindley 1798

Section: Fimbriatae, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) ciliata rossyi (Hoehne) Fowlie 1937

Section: Fimbriatae, Brazil

Ida (Lycaste) Cobbiana (Hort. ex Williams/Reichb. f.) 1885

Section: Fimbriatae, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) costata (Hooker) 1868

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru & N. Colombia

Ida (Lycaste) denningiana (Reichb. f.) 1876

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru, Ecuador

Ida (Lycaste) dyeriana (Sander ex Rolfe) 1895

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru

The Orchid Grower, March 2007

Ida (Lycaste) *fimbriata* (Poepp.& Endl.) Cogniaux 1898
Section: Fimbriatae, Ecuador, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) *fimbriata* var. *peruviana* (Rolfe) C.
Schweinf. 1944

= *Ida* (Lycaste) *peruviana*

Ida (Lycaste) *fowliei* (Oakeley) 1994 (*portilliae* may be a
later synonym)

Section: Fimbriatae, Latin America

Ida (Lycaste) *fragrans* (Oakeley) 1994

Section: Fimbriatae, Ecuador

Ida (Lycaste) *fulvescens* (Hooker) 1845

Section: Fimbriatae, Colombia

Ida (Lycaste) *gigantea* (Lindley) 1843

Peru, Ecuador, Colombia

Ida (Lycaste) *grande* (Fowlie ex Oakeley) 1970

Section: Fimbriatae Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru,
Colombia

Ida (Lycaste) *hirtzii* (Dodson) 1982

Section: Fimbriatae, Ecuador, Colombia

Ida (Lycaste) *jarae* (Bennett & Christenson) 1996

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) *lata* (non Rolfe) Dodson & Bennett 1989

Section: Fimbriatae

Ida (Lycaste) *linguella* (Reichb. f.) 1871

Section: Fimbriatae, Ecuador

Ida (Lycaste) *locusta* (Reichb. f.) 1879

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) *longiscapa* (Masters) 1928

Section: Fimbriatae, Ecuador, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) *mathiasae* (Kennedy) 1978

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) *mezae* (Bennett & Oakeley) ?

Section: ? new specie

Ida (Lycaste) *nana* (Oakeley) 1994

Section: Fimbriatae, Latin America

Ida (Lycaste) *peruviana* (Rolfe) 1910

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) *reichenbachia* (Gireoud ex Reichb. f.) 1856

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru

Ida (Lycaste) *trifoliata* (Lehmann ex Masters) 1895

Section: Fimbriatae, Peru



Photograph by Steve Thimling

Paph Shanti Gardens, BOC at OQ 2007



Photograph by Svetlana Kot

Masd. Copper Angel

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UP-COMING EVENTS

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- April 27-29, 2007, Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show in conjunction with Spring Mid-America Orchid Congress, Glencoe IL
- February 2 – March 2, 2008, 19th World Orchid Congress will be held in Miami Beach FL