

# Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

May 2006

## AAOS Mystery – Please Help!

After a wonderful and successful show, imagine our horror to find that an antique hat rack, belonging to Chuck Zill, had disappeared from our display! If you know anything about the whereabouts of the hat rack, please let a board member (or Chuck) know immediately!

## Treasurer's Report

April 23, 2006

Balance in Treasury 7,139.28

Festival Preliminary accounting:

Income 1,984.00

Expenses 1,252.73

Net: 731.27

Supplies, Books, Apparel

Income 739.00

Cost 949.45

Net: <210.45>

The cost reflects the merchandise purchased exclusively for sale

The net excludes remaining inventory

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## *A message from Connie Bailie:*

*Please forward to all of the members who initiated and approved my receiving a life membership award. I am so very touched by this. Especially since I've been missing in action for so long. I am very proud of your award and I'm sharing it with everyone!*

*Thank you for keeping me in the Society!*

## THE GROWING ROOM HAS A WHITE CARPET



Imagine caring for your orchids without spilling a drop of water or fertilizer or dirt on the white carpet below. Dee Stowell grows over 200 orchids of a wide variety in the den of her Pinckney home. She also has a growing area in her finished basement that has about 100 Miltoniopsis. Dee has had wonderful success with her plants, bringing several to shows and meetings. Everyone has noticed how perfectly cared for each plant is; no bugs, no leaf damage, no broken spikes or leaves, and all with perfectly green growths and outstanding blooms. She has been growing

orchids for about three years, ever since she saw an orchid at a garden store while shopping for her outdoor garden needs. After seeing the orchid, she went home and started searching the internet for information. That search led her to Porters Orchids and Summerfield Orchids and the Ann Arbor Orchid Society. She said she talked with Dot and Donna so much about what orchids need and learned so very much from them.

Dee has two areas for growing orchids. The largest area is in a room at the front of her house where she grows mostly paphiopedilums, phalaenopsis and cattleyas. It faces south, with big windows covered with lace curtains. These filter the strong light. She has many trays with egg crates to elevate the plants. There are several fluorescent lights, including a large 2-tiered light cart and stands she and her husband, Wendell, have built. Their custom stands have height adjustments for the lights. When her plants aren't in bloom, she lowers the lights very close to the leaves. Above the central area of plants, there is a 500 watt HID lamp with both sodium and halide lights. Both the blue and red spectrums of light are provided. An oscillating fan gives plenty of air movement. She is also able to close the door to the room so she can maintain high humidity with a large humidifier. If the room gets too





warm, she can open the door as needed. The vents for heating or cooling are kept closed; sunshine and the overhead light are the heat sources for the room and with no furnace heat going in the room, temps at night are in the low 60's F.

The most amazing effort has to be watering the plants without hurting the carpet. Her cattleyas get watered about every 6 days and the miltonias, paphs and phals are watered about every 3 days depending on how much sun and heat they have gotten. Dee keeps a very accurate calendar of watering and fertilizing.

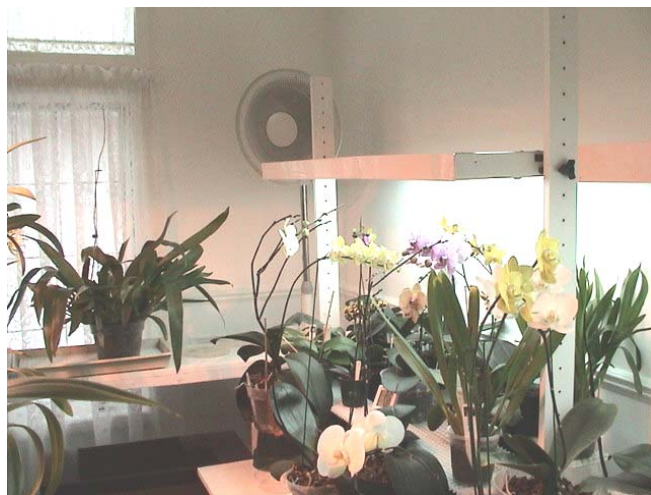
To do the watering she uses a small cart, just the right size to fit between the rows of plants. A bucket sits on top of the cart. Egg crate is across the top of the bucket. Then, she gets her RO water from a 40 gallon storage tank in her laundry room. One plant at a time is set on the egg crate and watered until water flows through the plants thoroughly. The bucket is emptied back in the laundry room. This way each plant is picked up, checked, and cared for. With such amazing attention, it is no wonder her plants are so perfect. Watering takes 3-4 hours a couple times per week.

She follows the same procedure with each plant in the basement area. This area is new. The 100 + plants were in the bathroom. There, she had a sheet of plywood over the bathtub plus drip trays. It was easier to water there with the shower and plenty of humidity. Because the Stowells are planning to move to North Carolina, their house has to be ready to be sold. Lots of plants in the bathroom might not have been a selling point, except to orchid growers! We understand the need to use all possible growing areas!

Dee uses RO water. She dissolves MSU fertilizer in the water ( $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. per gal.) and then takes a pH reading. ProTek is added to keep the pH reading at 6.5. This requires about  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp per gallon.

Dee repots each plant every year. In both the spring and fall each plant goes outside where she uses Orthonex plus fungicide or Bayer Rose and Garden spray. "There are no bugs in my plants." Each light is also changed every six months.

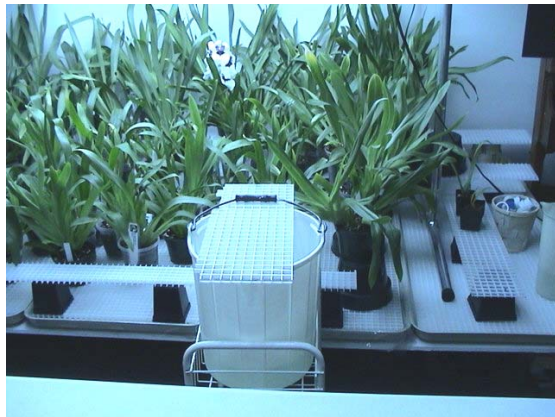
The artist in Dee is very obvious. Each blooming plant is photographed and a color print is kept in a notebook. All information about when and where it was bought is also kept. There is a different notebook for each genus. Dee has a display board with the photos of her most recent blooming plants along with the ribbons they earned. At the top is her photo of Paphiopedilum Black Curt 'Dee Stowell' AM/AOS, which earned 83 pts





for an AOS award at the Greater Lansing Orchid Show in February. What an honor! Dee also paints and is a very accomplished artist.

Dee has been a member of AAOS for just a few years, but we've really enjoyed her and her plants. She has been very helpful with displays at Lansing, Ann Arbor and the MOS shows. She brings her art knowledge to each display. We are so lucky to have her participation and Wendell's company too. Remember, he built us a cart for hauling display supplies. Maybe their house just won't sell and we'll have her company and help for many more months. But if she does move, we wish her the best location where she can pick a perfect house with enough land for an attached greenhouse and perfect weather for growing orchids and playing golf.



Dee's Watering System



Dee's Award-Winning Plants



Paph Black Curt 'Dee Stowell' And Friend

## A Trip Down the Amazon with Francisco Miranda

Our guest for the April 23 meeting was Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids. Francisco is an orchid taxonomist with a specialty in Brazilian Orchids, based in the Orlando, Florida area. His presentation was about the orchids found in the Amazon Region in Brazil.

15,000 orchid species are found in South America. There are many different climates in South America. The colder weather comes from the South, and is tempered by the Oceans, while the warmer weather comes from the North.

Brazil has dry vegetation in the center, with tropical rain forest around the north, which is the Amazon region. The Amazon region is equatorial, with no seasonal variation in day length. There are three climates within this region, from the dry land forest area where there is little to no flooding, to the area nearer the coast where flooding is extensive. The Amazon Region covers 5 or 6 states, and 2 - 3 million people are inhabitants. This land area covers approximately half the size of the United States.

In the Dry Land Forest, very little sunlight hits the ground. The canopy is 150 feet up. Here, the orchids grow up high in the sun, or low, in shade. The soil in this area is clay, and it is very shallow. The rainforest maintains itself - but once the trees are cut down, they are gone forever and can never replenish themselves because the thin topsoil is easily used up, leaving hard clay behind. Roads in this area wash away and don't last more than a few years.

Inside the forest, in the lower canopy, *Maxillaria* and *Paphinia*, among others, are growing. In the upper canopy, *Trichocentrum* and *Cattleya luteola* grow.

In the Central Amazon, there is sandy forest with micro habitats. Here *Catasetum discolor* is found, along with reed stem *Epidendrum*s and *Encyclias*. Jaguars roam this area, it is very wet and inhospitable with horse flies, alligators and deadly Pirana fish. The orchids in this area flower based upon the amount of rainfall, not the length of the day and night. Among the orchids found here are *Encyclia fragrans*, *Encyclia tarumana*, *Cattleya eldorado*, *Rodriguezia lanceolata*, and *Scuticaria steelei*. Also found are species of *Stelis*, *Pleurothallis*, and *Octomeria*.

Flooded River Margins is a different orchid climate in the Amazon region. There are various light levels in this area, with seasonally and permanently flooded habitats. *Habenaria repens* grows on floating grass in this area. *Galeandras* can be under water for up to 6 months! Once Francisco found a *Schomburgkia crispera* and his guide climbed a tree to cut it down - only to disturb a killer bee nest! He and his friends spent the next 20 minutes under water, coming up only briefly to breathe while the bees swarmed over their heads.

Caularthron bicornutum, Galeandra ssp., oncidium lanceanum, oncidium nanum, acacallis cyanea (which grows under water!), Cattleya violacea, Gongora ssp, Zygosepalum ssp., and Coryanthes ssp., all grow in this region along with species of Catasetums, Mormodes and Clowesia.

On Dry Rock outcrops, Sobralias, Encyclias, Mormodes densiflora, Catasetum bicallosum, saccatum, and albovirens, Vanilla, Spathoglottis, Macradenia, Maxillaria, and Lycaste grow. At the end of the Amazon is a dam two miles long. In this area, Encyclia and Stanhopea are found.

Many, many thanks to Francisco for a wonderful, enlightening journey down the Amazon!

### April Plant Table Report Hybrids

Name of Plant	Growing Conditions	Exhibitor
Bl Morning Glory	L, O	Griffin
Blc Beautiful Morning	L, O	Griffin
Blira Tahoma Glacier	G, O	Duman
Brsdm Shooting Star		
'Maui Meteor'	G, O	Duman
Den Flower Baby		
'Big Boy' x		
Den miyakei	L	Button
Den Himezakura		
'Sanakku'	G	Nash
Milt Hajime Ono X	W, L	Griffin
Milt Hybrid	G, O	Duman
Onc Pacific Space		
Lustre	L,W,O	Griffin
Paph Delophyllum	L,W,O	Griffin
Paph Hybrid	W	Lobato
Phal. Brighteyes		
Peacock	L,W,O	Skinner
Vanda cristata x		
Vanda dennisoniana		
v hebraica	G	Meyer

### April Plant Table Report Species

Name of Plant	Growing Conditions	Exhibitor
Ang sesquipedale	G, O	Lehr
Den crepidiferum	G	Nash
Den		
hemimelanoglossom	G, O	Lehr
Dryadella edwardii	L	Button
Max tenuifolia	W	Lobato
Neo falcata Asahiden	G, O	Lehr
Neo falcata Fugaku	G, O	Lehr
Neo falcata		
Hakuou-Fukurin	G, O	Lehr
Neo falcata Kibana	G, O	Lehr
Neo falcata		
Momohime 'New World		
Princess' CBR/AOS	G, O	Lehr
Neo. falcata		
Sy unkyuden	G, O	Lehr
Paph argus	W	Lobato
Paph delenatii	W, L	Griffin
Paph lowii	G	Nash
Pleuro ruscifolia	L	Button
Rhycolaelia digbyana	G, O	Lehr

## President's Message

Now that it is warm it is time to consider placing some of your orchids outside. For years I have had problems with squirrels destroying my potted plants. That is until I discovered a way to hang them out of reach of these pesky rodents. I now attach them on the western side of my house, about eight feet off the ground, in the partial shade of a huge maple tree. I only bother to water them if the temperatures are excessively hot or there has been little rain. Since I have an elevated back porch I can easily reach the plants with a spray bottle or water them from the ground with a hose (great fun). Passer-buyers sometimes comment on how much they enjoy seeing them growing on the side of the house. Since they are epiphytes, their suspended elevation seems almost natural. For the most part they are on their own until I bring them in the fall. They seem to benefit from this exposure to the elements and when the time comes, bloom robustly. For those of you who might ask, I keep my mounted plants in the house away from the heat and sun.

I hope that you and your plants have pleasant summer and that you will join us at the annual picnic in July. I would like to thank the board for their commitment and all their hard work and all of you who have volunteered for a variety of tasks over the past year for your generous help and encourage you and others to do so in the fall. The success of our society depends on your participation.

-Gregory Button

## *Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2005-6 Officers*

**President** - Greg Button 663-5576,  
gv.button@earthlink.net  
**Vice President** - Kevin Griffin 248-761-1272,  
kahless66@yahoo.com  
**Treasurer** - Harry Winter 761-5859,  
harwin@umich.edu  
**Secretary** - Denise Nash 248-349-5482,  
djnash@comcast.net  
**Director** - Alex Challis 971-6186,  
IcePengwyn@aol.com  
**Director** - Ann Bommarito 487-9573,  
EvilAnn929@aol.com  
**Past President** - Paige Hartman 426-2704,  
gehartman@msn.com  
**Hospitality** - Don Meyer 665-6427,  
mlmeyer@worldnet.att.net, Jenny  
Bodensteiner jbstitcher@ameritech.net  
**Library** - Duane Duman, George Parks.  
duman2@aol.com  
**Membership** - Kevin Griffin  
**New sletter Editor** - Denise Nash  
djnash@comcast.net  
**Orchid Festival** - Ann Bommarito & Kevin Griffin  
**Orchid Shows** - Dottie Winter, Paige Hartman,  
Denise Nash  
**Programs** - Alex Challis, Paige Hartman  
**Publicity** - Neal Foster  
**Reception** - Dottie Winter

## *Newsletter of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society*

The AAOS meets monthly from September through May (excluding December) at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

The AAOS Newsletter is published 8-9 times throughout the year, and is sent to all AAOS members.

AAOS members and others are invited to submit articles or other information relating to orchids. The Ann Arbor Orchid Society is a 501(C)(3) educational and scientific organization, affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and with the Orchid Digest Corporation.

# Great Lakes Judging Center Training Seminar - 2006

May 20-21

Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
1800 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Featured Speakers:

## **Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids and Paul Phillips of Ratcliffe Orchids**

### **Saturday:**

11:00 am ---Sales area open

12:00 pm--- AOS judging begins

Presentations to follow after judging:

**“Phrag Review and Update”** - Glen Decker

**“Identification History of the Long-Tailed Phrags”** - Sandy Ohlund

**Award Slides – “Selected Long Tailed Phrags”** - Diane Burton

**“Phrag besseae – Past, Present, & Future”** - Rob Halgren

5:00 - 5:30 - Dinner buffet set up

5:30 - 6:30 - Dinner

6:30 - 6:45 - Buffet tear-down

6:45 - 7:30 - **“In Search of Phrag. kovachii”** - Glen Decker

7:30 - Dessert Auction---Glenda; Dessert; Silent Auction; Live Auction

10:00 - Adjournment

### **Sunday:**

8:00 - 8:30 - Continental breakfast

**“Phrag Breeding Trends”** - Greg Filter

**“Standard Paphs – An Update”** - Paul Phillips

**“Bulldog Backcrosses”** - Jim Heilig

**“Fatal Flaws ???”** - Caroline Spoerl-Carpenter

11:30 - **Q & A – Don Garling**

12:00 - Silent auction ends - Lynn O'Shaughnessy

12:30 - Final remarks and adjournment



## General Information:

**Contact person:** Dick Wagner [marcoisle@aol.com](mailto:marcoisle@aol.com) > 248-661-2009

**Fees:** \$15.00 per person to cover buffet dinner and continental breakfast, tax/tip, in cash or check payable to Great Lakes Judging Center.

Please make food reservations by the 12<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Auctions:** Please bring all items for the General Auction to the center and give them to Lynn. For the Dessert Auction – Bring your most decadent confection Saturday night--- you may just win a surprise for the ‘best’ dessert! To keep Glenda smilin’ please attach an orchidaceous name to your creation.... You may take your purchase home (if you dare) or contribute it to the dessert feast.

**Plant sales:** Featured speakers will be selling plants. You may pre-order by contacting the speakers through their web addresses.

For Paul Phillips – <http://www.justwebit.com/members/32695/> :

For Glen Decker – <http://www.pipingrockorchids.com> email: pipingrock@aol.com

The status of the *kovachii* flasks and crosses remains hopeful. Good news – there will be the following seedlings available:

1. P. kovachii x Saint Ouen
2. P. kovachii x Living Fire 4N
3. P. kovachii x Cape Sunset
4. P. kovachii x Walter Schomburg

It also look like we will have flasks of kovachii.

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### *Calendar of Events*

May 20-21 Great Lakes Judging Center Seminar, Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums

May 21 AAOS Meeting - Paul Phillips, Radcliffe Orchids – COMPLEX PAPHS

Picnic – Announcement at AAOS Meeting

Summer Break!

September 10

October 15

November 19

December 10 (tentative holiday party)

January 14, 2007

February 11, 2007

March 16-18, 2007 AAOS Festival

April 15, 2007

May 20, 2007

## **AAOS Board Election Announcement--Cast your vote Sunday!**

This is the proposed slate for the AAOS Board election, scheduled for the next meeting.

President:	Gregory Button
Vice President:	Kevin Griffin
Secretary:	Denise Nash
Treasurer:	Harry Winter

### **Membership Update**

I would like to open by welcoming the new members who have joined since the beginning of the year. I would also like to welcome back those who have renewed. Please note that the names and contact information of the new and renewed members is below. Please include this information in your roster.

Along those lines, summer is approaching. It is the time when I send out the renewal notices. I will be sending these out via postal mail either late June or early July. Keep an eye out for it. As usual, if you renew by August 31, 2006, you will be eligible to win a gift certificate to one of the local commercial orchid growers.

See you all at the meeting and happy growing!

Kevin Griffin,  
Membership Chair,  
Ann Arbor Orchid Society

## New and renewed AAOS Members

Last Name	First Name	Second Person	Home Phone	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip	e-mail
Hill	Yoshiko		(734) 358-4148	1265 S. Maple	#307	Ann Arbor	MI	48103	yhcairn@yahoo.com
Hoversten	Mary		(734) 995-0471	2539 Bunker Hill		Ann Arbor	MI	48105	hoversmt@umich.edu
Torres	Alidia		(734) 741-8230	460 Hillspur Rd		Ann Arbor	Michigan	48105	atorres@rosebudsolutions.com
Hayes	John and Oksana		(734) 355-2005	916 Hutchins Ave		Ann Arbor	Michigan	48103	jposa@patlaw.com
Luczak	Rachel A.		(734) 369-2795	1405 N. Silo Ridg Dr.		Ann Arbor	MI	48108	RALuczak@comcast.net
Gibney	Susan and Jim		(734) 662-5315	4410 Walden Dr		Ann Arbor	Michigan	48105	gibneycentral@earthlink.net
Hepola	Elizabeth		(734) 255-4978	245 Brookside		Ann Arbor	Mi	48105	elihepola@yahoo.com
Clark	Sandra		(517) 546-1593	603 S. Michigan Ave		Howell	Michigan	48843	sandrac@tm.net
Ingram	Ann and Bruce		(734) 930-0301	4720 Mullberry Woods		Ann Arbor	Michigan	48105	aingram@umich.edu
Mies	Gene & Betty		(734) 485-0573	5611 South Eagle Court		Ypsilanti	MI	48197	osprey2@aol.com
Puvalowski	Anne	MaryAnn Zonca	(734) 844-0506	1458 Tradition Dr		Canton	Michigan	48187	anne.puvalowski@sbcglobal.net
Long	Randy		(734) 449-7156	119210 E. Shore Dr.		Whitmore Lake	Michigan	48189	boomerjd@aol.com

## Festival Results

As the festival accounts stand now, we've had the most successful festival, financially speaking, ever. We had income of \$2,009, against expenses (so far) of \$1,253, for a net income of \$756. I'm sure all of the income is in, but I'm not yet certain that all the expenses are in.

However, I don't expect any more major expenses, so it looks like we'll be several hundred \$\$ in the black in any case. If anyone has any bills still outstanding, please get them to me by our next meeting, so we can close the books by the end of our fiscal year.

Two important items contributed significantly to the success: we had record raffle sales of 507 tickets, for \$459 (since they were 6 for \$5.00), and, we achieved 100% success in signing up trophy sponsors (Ann's a good arm twister). The festival accounting does not include sales of the B's - books, bark, and baubles (apparel, too, but I can't make that start with a B), nor cost thereof. We're actually slightly in the red (about \$200) on that, but of course we have the unsold inventory, which will continue to sell at meetings, so for the year we should wind up making a little money on that, too.

Attendance was up from the previous years also, although not a record. Count of tickets given out was 668 for Saturday (12-4:30), 22 for Sunday 9-10 am, and 721 for Sunday 10-4. That doesn't count people in the vendor area Saturday morning, or any time who didn't go in the display area, or just missed getting a ticket. So we estimate a total attendance of about 1,500, which isn't quite the 2,000+ we had our first couple of festivals, but is up from the last several years.

Thanks, guys.

Harry Winter,  
Treasurer

## Festival Thanks

Our Orchid Festival in March was a great success, thanks to the efforts of so many dedicated volunteers. We would thank each and every person, but there are too many to name individually. Additionally, we do not want to forget any one person. However, there are a few people who we must mention.

A big thanks to Linda Battison for all the energy and effort that she put in as Volunteer Coordinator. We would also like to thank Jane and Jim Cather for their tireless efforts throughout the show. Additionally, we would like to thank Yoshiko Hill for her dogged persistence at selling raffle tickets. Many thanks to Diane Willis, the teardown queen! Lastly, thanks to Judy Lobato, Denise Nash, Paige Hartman, Vivian Lin, and Susan Haddock for the time they spent in the kitchen cooking, coordinating, and cleaning.

On that note, we would like to encourage anyone interested in the position of food coordinator for next year's Festival to contact Kevin or Ann. Also, we are sorely in need of a person (Neal? Are you reading this?) to be in charge of publicity for our show. Extending this, if you are interested in volunteering for any part of next year's show, again, contact Kevin or Ann.

Respectfully,  
Ann Bommarito and Kevin Griffin,  
Orchid Festival Chairs