

# The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

June 2004

## President's Message

I want to thank everyone that attended the Mid-America Speakers Forum and Sale in Atlanta May 21-23. Even though the attendance was not what we had hoped, everyone had a great time.

Those of you that did not attend missed some really excellent talks by Clark Riley, Linda Wilhelm, Mark Rose and Francisco Miranda. The Renaissance Waverly Hotel provided us with outstanding facilities, some of the best food to be found in Atlanta and unsurpassed service. All the attendees expressed a desire to come back some time in the future.

Our next Mid-America will be held in Nashville, TN in September. I certainly hope I'll see all of our member societies represented at this meeting.

Pat Cleveland  
President



## Future Mid-American Orchid Congress Dates

The following dates have been set:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Host(s)</u>
Fall 2004	Nashville, TN	Sept 17-19	OS of Middle TN
Spg 2005	Minneapolis, MN	April 20-25	OS of Minnesota
Fall 2005	Cincinnati, OH	Oct. 21-23	Greater Cincinnati OS and Miami Valley OS
Spg 2006	Omaha, NE	March 24-26	Greater Omaha OS
Fall 2006 - Spring 2009		Available	

## Information about the MAOC in Nashville:

Sponsor: Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee

Dates: September 17-19, 2004, with judging September 18, 2004

Place: Hilton Suites Hotel, 121 4th Avenue South, Nashville, TN

Show Chair: John Cranshaw, 3520 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN 37215,  
phone (615) 292-7886, email: [ajartist@comcast.net](mailto:ajartist@comcast.net).

Judging Chair: Tom Harper, 9373 Clovercroft Road, Franklin, TN  
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# MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS, 5/21-23/2004, ATLANTA, GA

## REPORT TO MID-AMERICA AFFILIATED ORCHID SOCIETIES

Kudos to Mid-America President Pat Cleveland and her "crew" for putting together an excellent Speakers' Forum and Orchid Sales Weekend at the beautiful Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta during the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of May. Everything was done first class – the hotel, meeting accommodations, speaker lineup, and superb food! Atlanta was lovely, if hot (88 degrees), when the approximately 30 registrants arrived on Friday afternoon.

Activities got under way on Friday evening with the Orchid Sales Pavilion Gala, which featured a delicious, light supper and the opportunity to shop from the vendors: Purple Clay Imports, Chicago; Mountain View Orchids, Greenville, SC; Breckenridge Orchids, Brown Summit, NC; Ecuagenera, Cuenca, Ecuador; and Miranda Orchids, Haines City, FL. The schedule provided time for the thirteen MAOC committees to hold their meetings.

Saturday opened with Doris Asher, Chairperson of the Affiliated Societies Committee, leading a discussion at breakfast, which was served at three tables set up in the lovely, large central atrium in the Hotel lobby. The breakfast buffet featured an interesting breakfast sandwich of scrambled eggs on croissants – plus cereals, muffins, sliced fruit, yogurt. The discussion topic was "How can orchid societies help each other/work together". Representatives shared numerous innovative, practical cooperative projects and ventures including: orchid show exhibits mounted by more than one society; orchid shows put on by more than one society; shared speakers; joint picnics; fundraisers participated in by more than one society. One proposal that came up was that the Affiliated Societies Committee provide a listing of when our societies meet to facilitate sharing.

American Orchid Society judging immediately followed breakfast with 13 orchids submitted for consideration, and the four judging teams of approximately 14 judges and students awarded two of them: *Dracula inequalis* 'Atrice Hughey' CCM 81 points belonging to Mountain View Orchids, Greenville, SC, and *Phragmipedium Ashley Wilkes* (Eric Young x *warscewiczianum*) 'Charleston' AM 84 points belonging to H P Norton, Moncks Corner, SC. Lowell Jacks chaired the judging.

The speakers' forum portion of the weekend opened at 10:00 a.m. with Linda Wilhelm, Training Coordinator of the Carolinas Judging Center and proprietor along with her husband Rolf of Woodland Orchids. Linda gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the "Oncidium Intergenerics", which featured a helpful segment on pronunciation of orchid names. Francisco Miranda, owner of Miranda Orchids in Haines City, FL, followed with a fascinating presentation on "Orchids of the Brazilian Amazon". Francisco helped us understand the geographic and climatic peculiarities of the Amazon region, which is self contained and basically creates its own climate.

After lunch on our own, we enjoyed Clark Riley from Baltimore, whose topic was "Cinderella's Slippers Found! The *Cypripedium* and *Selenipediums*". Clark surveyed the members of both genera. Mark Rose, owner of Breckenridge Orchids in North Carolina, was next with his lecture entitled "Culture and Hybridizing of *Phalaenopsis*". Mark showed us slides of his greenhouse spectacularly filled with *phalaenopsis* in flower; he discussed growing in Promix, keeping humidity above 55% to curtail pests like mites, scales, and mealy bugs (among numerous other topics).

Doug Martin and Karen McBride took turns auctioning off orchids and orchid-related items at the Saturday night auction. Although much smaller than more typical Mid-America auctions, the event still raised \$674 for the Congress.

Dinner was wonderful, set up at tables for four in a small restaurant in the Hotel atrium. We were afforded our choice of three entrees: grilled salmon filet with a lobster succotash, chicken stuffed with mushroom duxelle or grilled filet mignon on a bed of wild mushrooms. Compliments to the Hotel's chef!

Sunday opened with another delicious breakfast buffet, this one served in yet another of the Hotel's numerous restaurants. Following breakfast, the first item on the day's agenda was the Mid-America Business Meeting, during which we learned that the next Mid-America Orchid Congress will be hosted September 17-19, 2004, by the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee, where the theme will be "Orchid wonders of the world". (For more information on this Congress/Show, you may contact

Show Chairman John Cranshaw at 615-292-7886 or [ajartist@comcast.net](mailto:ajartist@comcast.net).)

Francisco Miranda opened the Sunday morning lecture program at 10:00 a.m. with his talk entitled "The Genus Laelia in Brazil", in which he surveyed the four sections of the genus Laelia which are native to Brazil. Mark Rose wrapped up the weekend's events with "Culture and Hybridizing of Paphiopedilums". Mark specializes in both phalaenopsis and paphiopedilum.

Although sparsely attended, this outstanding Speakers' Forum was a top-notch event from start to finish.

If the Affiliated Societies Committee specifically or the Mid-America Orchid Congress in general can help your society in any way, I hope you'll contact us. Remember, too, to access the Congress's website often to stay abreast of Congress activities ([www.midamericanorchids.org](http://www.midamericanorchids.org)). If we can't solve your problem directly, we'll refer it to someone who can!

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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.

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What DOES Mid-America provides its affiliated societies? ... one society's testimonial:

### **MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS: WHY IS GREATER LANSING ORCHID SOCIETY (GLOS ) A MEMBER?**

Established in 1959 and affiliated with the American Orchid Society in 1961, the Mid-America Orchid Congress is an association of some 50 central North American orchid societies ranging from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. The Congress's original function was and continues to be to provide a forum for its member societies to exchange information and ideas through its spring and fall meetings.

**EDUCATION:** Sponsor two meetings per year with nationally known speakers  
Publish The Mid-American, a quarterly newsletter, available to all GLOS members  
Sponsor educational seminars and workshops

**JUDGING:** Maintain "Show Schedule", both rules and classification of entries  
Provide financial support to Judging Centers in the Region  
Provide entry tags for shows

**CONSERVATION:** Fund conservation projects (examples: species collections, re-establish native cyrtipediums, purchase of orchid habitat land, propagate species, etc.)

**RESEARCH:** Fund research projects (fragrance in orchids, for example)

GLOS's investment of \$.50 per member per year enables our Society to join forces with 50 other orchid societies to participate in these very important projects.



## Culture and Hybridizing of Phalaenopsis by Mark Rose

(Summary by Inge Poot of talk given at the Speaker's Forum in Atlanta, GA on May 22, 2004)

Mark Rose showed slides of the results of the latest **breeding** efforts at Breckenridge Orchids, Florida, USA. Their aim is to produce colourful pot plants that appeal to the orchid grower as well as to the general public. Therefore, good form is sought as well as good colour, excellent presentation of lots of long-lasting flowers on a compact plant.

When a good plant is produced it is often multiplied by stem propagations.

To get red or coral flowers, a white flower heavily overlaid with dark lavender is crossed onto a copper coloured flower. The attempt to get a purple with a white lip by crossing *P. Hilo Lip* with *D. pulcherrima* produced nothing but purples with red lips, even in back crosses onto *Hilo Lip* and sibbing! However the *pulcherrima* parent made the plants very floriferous, with the best carrying up to 85 flowers on a branched inflorescence.

Breckenridge is working on producing non-fading yellows, by using *P. Hausermann's Goldcup* as a parent. However if you get a fading yellow that is excellent in every other respect, Mark advises that you let all the flowers mature before presenting it to a judging -that way it won't be obvious that the flowers were darker on opening!

Some of the plants we saw were *P. Salu Leopard* (a round yellow with red-brown spots and a solid wash of red-brown in the centre), *P.(?) Rosara 'Peachy King'* ( a perky non-fading yellow with an orange lip), *P. Herb's Desandra* (1.5 " flowers that last 6 to 7 months and are yellow with red-brown bars, purple in centre and on lip), *P. (?) Tricky Woo*, (a *P. Mini Mark* cross with 20 -25 colourful white flowers per inflorescence, with a rose flush and big red lips with a yellow centre), *P. Carmela's Pixie* (a dark purple *P. Cassandra* cross with a narrow white edge and white and yellow lip markings), the gorgeous *P. Fairy Tales 'Pixie Blush'*(*P. Be Glad* x *P. Elise de Valec* has white flowers with a central blush and big red lips that hang straight down), *P. Little Mary* ( has flat, purple flowers even though it is a *P. Cassandra* cross), *P. Hilltop Ridge* (yellow with brown blotches), *P. Brecko Venosa* (heavy 2.5" yellow flowers with a reddish centre), *P. Brecko Spirit House* (red flowers with a white column and a bit of lavender on the lip) and lastly the lovely *P. John Ewing* (*P. George Vasquez* X *venosa*, whose flowers last 4 to 5 months and shade from yellow to rust to red to lavender and have a white centre!)

### Culture

Mark feels that any plant can be grown in anything as long as you figure out how to water and fertilize it in the chosen medium! He has seen a cattleya grown happily in red clay soil, but the owner watered it only once a month.

He prefers one of the soil-less mixes for phalaenopsis. He likes Pro-Mix HP. It is 60% Canadian Peat moss, with added perlite for aeration, plus a wetting agent and some slow-release fertilizer. He does not recommend this mix for mottled leaved phalaenopsis such as *P. schilleriana* and *P. stuartiana*, because these species must dry out between waterings and are highly intolerant of decayed mix. If the mix goes a bit stale, they lose their roots in a heartbeat! They also tend to flower themselves to death in this mix. They would have to be repotted too often -at least once a year. Also, the mix is very hard to re-wet once it dries out and these plants have to dry out between waterings. Pot them in a bark mix or if you water frequently, mount them.

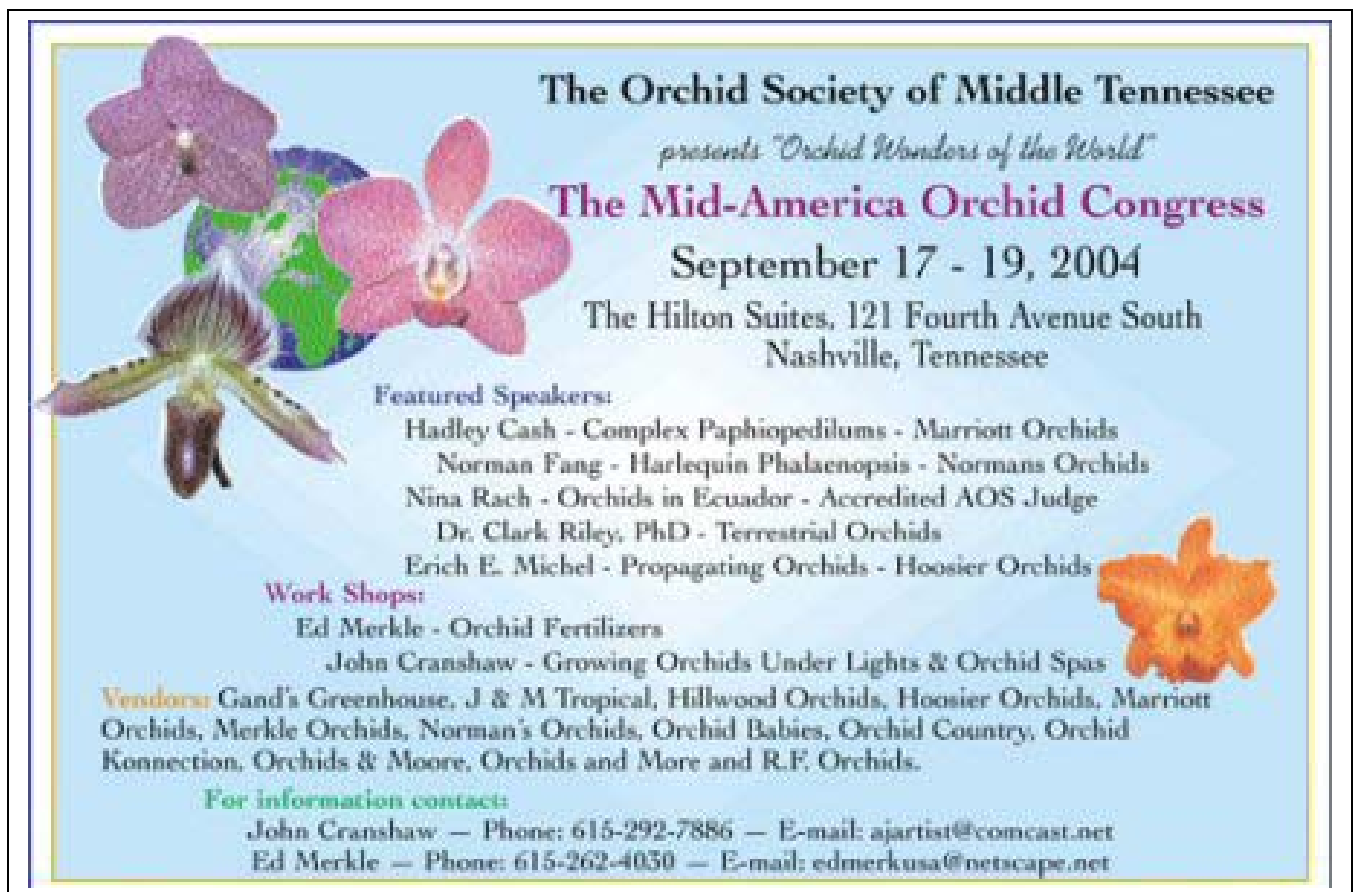
Plain-leaved phalaenopsis love Pro-Mix HP and should be potted by pouring the mix into the pot around the orchid. Fill it to the top, do not tamp down, but water thoroughly and allow to drain. The water will settle the mix a bit so that a watering well stays behind. Water again when the top of the mix turns brown.

Repot every 2 years, but some can go as long as 4 or even 12 years! If they are potted in a bark mix, they will probably have to be watered at least once every 3 days.

Water with a conductivity of 90 -which translates to 45 ppm of solute in the water is ideal. Breckenridge has the great luck to have a well with this conductivity. Most well-water is far too high in solutes to use for phalaenopsis. Collecting rain water is an option in areas with not too much pollution. City water has usually been chlorinated and fluoridated for human health reasons, but plants do not like these chemicals. Storing the water for 24 hours in an open drum usually allows the chlorine to escape.

Fertilizing in Pro-Mix HP, can be done with any complete fertilizer such as Peter's 20-20-20, but Breckenridge has been experimenting with the Michigan State Fertilizer (available from Michigan State and Porter's Orchids) and the plants seem to do a bit better with it. Fertilize as recommended on the package with every second watering. If your plants are crowded, fertilize a bit less since the plants won't be able to utilize it. Make sure to continue fertilizing while the plant is flowering. If you stop, the flowers that open later will get progressively smaller! Time release fertilizers do not work well in a temperate climate because the temperature fluctuations stop the release of nutrients.

Temperatures for Phalaenopsis should be minimum of 65F and 85F maximum. To get the plants to bloom, cool them in the fall to 55F at night for 3 to 4 weeks, to mimic what the trade winds do to the temperature in their native habitat - however, most will respond to even one week of cooling. Mark has found that any drastic cultural change will shock them into blooming. For instance, drying them out for 3-4 weeks will do it, or shading them for a month and then re-exposing them to sun will do it too.



**The Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee**  
*presents "Orchid Wonders of the World"*  
**The Mid-America Orchid Congress**  
**September 17 - 19, 2004**  
The Hilton Suites, 121 Fourth Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee

**Featured Speakers:**  
Hadley Cash - Complex Paphiopedilums - Marriott Orchids  
Norman Fang - Harlequin Phalaenopsis - Normans Orchids  
Nina Rach - Orchids in Ecuador - Accredited AOS Judge  
Dr. Clark Riley, PhD - Terrestrial Orchids  
Erich E. Michel - Propagating Orchids - Hoosier Orchids

**Work Shops:**  
Ed Merkle - Orchid Fertilizers  
John Cranshaw - Growing Orchids Under Lights & Orchid Spas

**Vendors:** Gand's Greenhouse, J & M Tropical, Hillwood Orchids, Hoosier Orchids, Marriott Orchids, Merkle Orchids, Norman's Orchids, Orchid Babies, Orchid Country, Orchid Konnection, Orchids & Moore, Orchids and More and R.F. Orchids.

**For information contact:**  
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## MAOC AOS Liaison Report, Atlanta, May 23, 2004

From the AOS meetings in Sacramento, October 22-26, 2003 and Wichita April 21-25, 2004.

### Judging Personnel News:

Elevated to Emeritus status:  
David Brown (Mid-America)  
Gerda Ferrington (Toronto)

Probationary Judges  
Promoted to Accredited:

Timothy Brooks (Cincinnati)  
Barry Jones (Cincinnati)  
Erich Michel (Cincinnati)  
Bil Nelson (Chicago)  
Tony Nuccio (Chicago)  
Larry Sexton (Chicago)  
Randy Young (Atlanta)

Students Promoted to  
Probationary:

Caroline Spoerl Carpenter  
(Great Lakes)  
Kathy Creger (Chicago)  
Rob Halgren (Great Lakes)  
David R. Janvrin (Atlanta)  
Robert Lewis (Chicago)  
Kristen Mason (Cincinnati)  
Karen McBride (Chicago)  
Jay Norris (Toronto)  
Steve Troc (Chicago)  
Milt Wittmann (Chicago)

New Students Accepted:

Gregory Filter (Great Lakes)  
Ernest Gemeinhart (Chicago)  
Cary H. Hales (Atlanta)  
Jordan Hawley (Cincinnati)  
Screll Jones (Cincinnati)  
Alexander Manuel (Chicago)  
Dawn Mettler (Cincinnati)  
Kenneth Mettler (Cincinnati)

Norman Schrott (Great Lakes)  
Kenneth Tyron Wilson  
(Atlanta)  
Patti Jean S. Wilson (Atlanta)

Granted leaves of absence:

John Doherty (Great Lakes)  
Kevin Griffin (Great Lakes)  
Michael Legendre (Toronto)

Returned from leave of  
absence:

Tom Kalina (Chicago)

Resigned:

Cynthia Dyer (Atlanta) Neal  
Foster (Great Lakes) Michel  
Tremblay (Toronto)

Transferred in These Centers:

Tom O'Brien (Mid-Atlantic  
to Chicago)  
Tom Larkin (Mid-America to  
Great Plains)  
Ron Setiawan (Pacific South  
to Chicago)

Change in status to Retired  
Judge:

Robert Turner (Toronto)

Dropped:

Barbara Bennett (Chicago)

The following death is noted:  
Glenn Cowgill (Great Lakes)

### **Some developments in the AOS, which may be of interest to you.**

1. New affiliation rules for  
societies: 1. Maintain an  
AOS membership in the  
society's name, and 2.  
Appoint an AOS Rep, who  
also maintains an AOS  
membership.

2. AOS Orchid Source  
Directory 2004-2006 will be  
mailed to AOS members with  
their July 2004 issue of  
Orchids. This book lists  
every affiliated society and  
AOS Rep's contact  
information as well as the  
society's monthly meeting  
information.

3. The show fee is now \$100  
and \$150 if you want the  
AOS show trophy.

4. AOS membership dues  
will increase effective June  
1<sup>st</sup> – going from \$72 for two  
years to \$84 for two years.

Doris Asher  
AOS Liaison to the MAOC

### **WHEN DOES YOUR SOCIETY MEET?**

At the recent Mid-America Speakers' Forum and Meetings in Atlanta, persons attending the Affiliated Societies Breakfast said it would be very helpful in furthering inter-society cooperation if we could provide a directory of when the various Mid-America affiliated societies meet.

To that end, please help me begin to collect the meeting times for societies by sending me the meeting schedule/times for your society, e.g., the Greater Lansing Orchid Society meets at 7 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of odd-numbered months, i.e., January, March, May, September, and

November. The exception is the month of July when we have our summer picnic.

When does yours meet? You may e-mail me or phone me or drop me a note in the US mail.

Thanks!

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