

The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

Spring 2002

President's Message

First and foremost I would like to take this opportunity to thank past President Peter Poot for his leadership over that past two years. Peter has guided us through challenging times and has raised some issues that we, society representatives to the Mid-America Orchid Congress, will need to address at upcoming meetings of the Congress.

I would like to also thank the members of the Alabama Orchid Society for hosting an outstanding Fall 2001 Mid-America. If any attendees went hungry it is because they did not venture upstairs at the Birmingham Botanical Garden and enjoy the feast of food offered. My hat goes off to Margaret Holder for chairing the event and to the Alabama society members that seemed to keep bringing out fresh baked and cooked items constantly for us to enjoy.

While on the topic of Mid-America meetings, remember to mark your calendar for April 10-14, 2002. This will be the date of the Spring 2002 Mid-America to be held at the Chicago Botanical Garden, Glencoe, IL and the North Shore Sheraton Hotel, Northbrook, IL. The AOS Trustees meeting will be held during this weekend so make your plans now to be in Chicago in April. After Chicago where will we be going? During the Fall 2001 meeting in Birmingham, the Congress accepted the joint invitation from the Blue Grass, Kentucky and Central Kentucky Orchid Societies to meet in Frankfort, Kentucky September 27-29, 2002. We would like to thank these societies for assisting with filling our calendar's available dates. I would like to thank all those that donated and purchased items at the Mid-America auction in Birmingham. Without your generosity the Congress would not be able to support the Conservation and Education & Research projects we fund. Since the Chicago meeting will be in conjunction with the AOS, there will not be a Mid-America auction. Our next auction will be held in Frankfort in September. Many of you will be personally hearing from me in regard to not only the auction issue but, fundraising in general. The auction and individual donations are currently the only means of fundraising by the Congress. There are so many projects that the Congress would like to fund but we don't have the financial means at this time to do so. I would like to challenge each and every one of you to assist the Congress in our fundraising efforts. If you have any ideas for

fundraising, please pass them along to any Executive Board member or Committee Chair. It is going to take all of us if the Mid-America Orchid Congress is to achieve its future goals of enhanced education and conservation project funding.

Speaking of education, many Mid-America member societies are in areas with university and college agriculture and/or horticulture programs. If you are not already doing so, I urge you to reach out to these program instructors and students. Try to get them involved with your society. Provide them with education on orchid related issues and see where the relationship goes. If your society has information on this issue, please pass it along to Glenn Evans, Mid-American editor, he would be glad to include it in the newsletter and have it added to our web site.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mary Weiss for her many years as chair of the Ways and Means Committee. Mary has stepped down as chair but says she will still be around at the auctions but in a chair with a numbered plate in her hand. Mark Van der Woerd has agreed to be the new chair the Ways and Means Committee. Please provide Mark with any assistance he may need in regard to Mid-America fundraising. I would like to thank Mary for her years of service to the Congress and to Mark for volunteering his time to this very important effort. Mark will be looking for assistance with the Ways and Means Committee. Please get in contact with him and offer your assistance.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Chicago in April!

Tim Brooks



Tim Brooks

**Mid America Orchid Congress
Future Dates and Locations**

Spring 2002	Illinois Orchid Society Chicago, IL April 10-14, 2002 With the AOS Trustees
Fall 2002	Kentucky Orchid Society, Bluegrass OS and Central Kentucky OS September 27-29, 2002 Frankfort KY
Spring 2003	Southern Ontario Orchid Society Toronto Ontario Canada April 4-6, 2003
Fall 2003	OPEN
Spring 2004	OPEN
Fall 2004	Missouri Orchid Society October 29-31,2004 St Louis MO
Spring 2005	OPEN
Fall 2005	OPEN
Spring 2006	OPEN



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

Auction Notes

A good time was had by all, and some great new headpieces debuted for the enjoyment of the Mid-American crowd. The Auction at Birmingham was a successful event with \$112 being raised, including \$112 from the grab bags and \$556 from the hats.



Orchidist of the Year

With **great** lengths taken by the committee to keep the identity of the 2001 winner a secret, the announcement of Christine Chowning as Orchidist of the Year was made at Birmingham. Christine was uncharacteristically speechless with surprise as she accepted the award. Congratulations Christine!



Mid-America Conservation Committee

The Mid-America Orchid Congress has established a Conservation Speakers Fund, the purpose of which is to encourage societies that host Mid-America Orchid Congresses to include, on the congress program, a speaker on a topic related to orchid conservation.

This Fund was created to help our members, and the general public, learn about the problems of orchid conservation, possible solutions, and what individuals and groups can do to help. We want to encourage the society hosting each Spring Congress to have one of the lectures be about orchid conservation by reimbursing them for the speaker's expenses, up to three hundred dollars.

The endowment fund to support this Education project is now at almost 50% of the goal of \$15,000. A great thanks goes to those who have contributed so far:

Blue Grass Orchid Society
Central Ohio Orchid Society
Greater Toledo Orchid Society
Kentucky Orchid Society
Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society
Orchid Society of the Ozarks (in lieu of speakers fee for Beth and Doug Martin)
Orchid Society of Southern Ontario
Orchid Society of greater Kansas City
Peoria Orchid Society
West Shore Orchid Society

Individuals:

Tim Brooks
Beth and Doug Martin
Nancy and Bob Stwalley

New MAOC President, New Hat

As our new president Tim Brooks was formally introduced into office, there was of course a new ceremonial hat to go with the job. A nice straw number with black and orange decoration and some spirits in the form of several 1 oz bottles of Kentucky Bourbon. Good Luck Tim.



From the Archives, but still as pertinent as ever...

Guidelines for Naming a Society Representative to the Mid-America Orchid Congress

The Affiliated Societies Committee of the Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC) wishes to strengthen the Society Representative program and the interaction between societies, the Committee and the Mid-America Orchid Congress. It has come to our attention that only 40% of the member societies have named official Mid-America Representatives. We propose the following guidelines for Representatives:

- A. Be a member in good standing of the Society represented and a frequent attendee of Society meetings.
- B. Be willing to serve as a representative on a term basis greater than the term of the Society President to maintain continuity of contact of the MAOC with the Society, but also be willing to be replaced when no longer interested or effective.
- C. Act as the primary liaison between your society and the MAOC assuming duties such as:
 - 1. Notification of the Mid-America Orchid Congress of your appointment as Representative providing your name, address and phone number [and email address] plus the name of your Society and its regular meeting place and time.
 - 2. Share materials sent to you through the MAOC rep program with the appropriate Society Officer, i.e., the speakers list with the Program Chair. Know what is available from the MAOC.
 - 3. Check to see that the Mid-American is distributed expeditiously to your society members and encourage contribution of articles to the Mid-American.
 - 4. Notify the Society of the dates and places of future semi-annual Mid-American Orchid Congresses and shows and encourage participation.
 - 5. Personally attend most Mid-America Orchid congresses. (The MAOC has 501-c status making the expenses of official representatives tax deductible in many cases.) Share the happenings and actions of the MAOC with your Society. Take notes of the reports of the Committee chairs for up-to-date news to be passed on to your Society via a column for your Society newsletter or verbally at the next meeting. Be sure that the minutes of the MAOC meetings are made available to your Society and discussed. Be an ambassador, an educator, and an informant keeping your society abreast fo all that is happening in the MAOC.
- D. Respont to each request for information or assistance sent through the MAOC Rep channels. Especially important are the surveys sent by the Affiliated Societies Committee to ascertain where changes might be in order.
- E. Arrange for an orderly turnover to a successor, including all materials and the lessons you have learned. Send the name and address of the new MAOC rep to the MAOC Treasurer and Secretary.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara I. Brown, Chairperson
(MAOC Affiliated Society's Committee, August '95)