

Attachments to Houston Minutes Spring 2009:

World Orchid Conference Trust Report

The Proceedings of the 19th World Orchid Conference (WOC) held in Miami during January 2008, is in the final stage of publication. I will have a hand-bound copy in Houston that I would be happy to show to anyone who is interested. The others should be available within the next month and will be shipped out shortly thereafter. The organizers hope to be able to complete whatever tasks are still pending and close the corporation this summer.

Details for the 20th WOC change with some regularity due to the world's economic climate. Kiat Tan is the head of the Organizing Committee for the Conference in Singapore and he is working closely with the government, which is underwriting the main part of the Conference.

Currently the 20th WOC is scheduled for November 2011, with the Show and Conference to be held in the Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort. The Sands is currently under construction but should be complete and open by late 2010. It is adjacent to the new Gardens by the Bay which is also under construction. Hopefully some of the facilities of the Gardens will be available during the WOC.

Work on the 21st WOC in Pretoria, South Africa, continues. There is a show scheduled for March 2010, which the Organizers intend to use as a rehearsal for the WOC.

If anyone has any questions, please see me in Houston or e-mail me at sweetbayfarm@charter.net.

Respectfully submitted.

PETER R. FURNISS

Research Committee Reports

American Orchid Society Grants

The American Orchid Society awards grants for non-commercial conservation projects, as well as experimental projects of fundamental and applied research on orchids. Conservation projects supported have been in areas as diverse as CITES publication funding, a conservation program for an orchid reserve, establishment of a secretariat for the IUCN/OSG, and other informational resources. Research support has been given in a wide range of areas of biological research such as taxonomy, genetics, anatomy, physiology, development, tissue culture and ecology.

Purpose

The purpose is to advance the conservation and preservation of orchids in every aspect, and/or advance the scientific study of orchids in every respect, as well as to assist in the publication of scholarly and popular scientific literature on orchids.

Eligibility

Qualified personnel associated with accredited institutions or appropriate institutes or organizations may apply for grants. Support is not restricted to individuals or institutions within the United States. The salary of established scientists is not supported. Qualified graduate students with appropriate interests may apply for grants in support of their research. If justified, their salary may be supported. In general, travel to collect orchids is not supported. Other types of travel may be supported on a case-by-case basis. Projects that involve commercial sales of plant are generally not supported.

Amounts Awarded

Grants vary in amount, depending upon the needs and nature of the project and the potential for securing additional funds from other sources. At present, grants range from \$500 to \$12,000.

Duration

The duration of each grant depends upon the particular project. Funds for multi-year grants are paid in annual installments. The maximum duration of support awarded at any one time is three years.

Identity of Awardee

All grants are awarded to the institution or organization sponsoring the applicant. No grants are made to individuals. Institutional indirect costs are not allowed. No portion of an award may be deducted for this purpose.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposal instructions are attached. If there is any doubt as to the appropriateness of the proposed project, the applicant is encouraged to put such concerns in writing, outlining the project and requesting an opinion.

Requirements of Awardee

After a grant has been awarded, semiannual progress reports are due January 1 and July 1 of each year. After completion of the project, research results should be published in the peer-reviewed, scientific journal section, Lindleyana of Orchids, the award-winning magazine of the American Orchid Society.

Deadlines

Deadline for receipt of proposals is January 1, 2009 for review at the annual members meeting scheduled April 2009. An original application should be submitted to the address below as well as an electronic copy to the email address listed below.

American Orchid Society
16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351
Telephone: 561-404-2000 / Fax: 561-404-2045
email: TheAOS@aos.org / www.aos.org

Grant Proposal Guidelines

The application should be typed, single spaced, cannot exceed 15 pages equivalent to Courier 10pt font with 1-inch margins on 8½" x 11" paper and must contain all of the following information arranged in this order. Incomplete applications will be returned without review.

Cover Page on Institution Stationary

- A) Title
- B) Principal Investigator Name and Signature
- C) Institutional Signatures
- D) Total Amount Requested
- E) Duration of Project

Grant Proposal Summary Form (attached)

Project Summary

Not to exceed 250 words. Summary to be in clear, lay language.

Likelihood and sources of additional or continuing support.

For Resubmissions: initial submission date and modifications from original.

Project Description

Specific Aims of Proposal: a concise statement of the goals of the project, not to exceed one page.

Rationale and Significance: should provide a clear and cogent presentation of the problem or scientific question to be addressed and the significance to the orchid and/or scientific community.

Preliminary results: a short summary of any preliminary results or research performed by the Principal Investigator. Not required for consideration of application and can state "none".

Experimental Plan (essential for Research Proposals): an orderly outline of the project or proposed experiments with careful descriptions of experimental methods. If methods have been previously used by the Principal Investigator, a citation of a previously published peer reviewed study will be sufficient. Experimental plan should also include a description of the statistical methods for data analysis. Appropriate tables and figures can also be included.

Literature Cited

Time Schedule: should be a realistic estimate of the duration of the proposed project.

Facilities Available: list all applicable, including laboratory space and equipment available computer equipment and software.

Curriculum Vitae of Applicant and Co-Investigators

No more than three pages for Principal Investigator and two pages for co-investigators. Should include education and no more than 10 relevant publications.

All current and pending (submitted) support for Principal Investigator and Co-investigator. Investigator should explain any potential overlap between the proposed project and any other funded studies.

Letters of collaboration and support (if applicable).

Budget Sheet: included yearly and total budget (use form attached). Provide justifications for expenditures following the budget sheet.

Grant Proposal Summary Form

Primary Investigator:

Title of Proposal:

Amount Requested: _____ Period: _____

Primary emphasis of Investigation:

Conservation: _____ Research: _____

Both: _____

Status of Proposal:

Original Proposal: _____ First Resubmission: _____ Second

Resubmission: _____

If Resubmission, original submission date:

Primary areas of Investigation (check all that apply):

Biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cladistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Embryology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Genetic diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Habitat Biology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harvest Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hybridization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Micorrhiza	<input type="checkbox"/>	Molecular Systematics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morphology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orchid Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orchid Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orchid Pests	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phylogeny	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pollination	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population Biology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Propagation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Use	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taxonomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tissue Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please explain	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET SHEET

Items (add lines to table as needed)	Costs year 1	Costs year 2	Costs year 3	Total costs
A. Salaries and Wages (list all salaries separately by individual)				
Post doctorate				
Graduate Student				
Technical				
Other				
B. Nonexpendable Equipment (attach supporting data; list items separately)				
C. Supplies and Materials				
D. Travel (attach supporting data)				
E. Publication Costs				
F. Other Direct Costs (attach supporting data)				
NOTE: Indirect costs are not allowed				
G. TOTAL				

Conservation Committee Reports - April 2009

Since the October, 2008 meetings in Wilmington/Longwood Gardens the activities of the Conservation Committee can best be described as transitional. Leon Glicenstein passed on the reins of Committee Chair to me after several years of his productive and dedicated service. On behalf of the Committee and the AOS I want to thank him for this dedication and his efforts to advance the Society's conservation goals and efforts. As I step into this position I personally want to thank him for his confidence in my abilities, long time support and advice; at least provisionally. I am also grateful that he will continue to be an active and valued member of the Committee.

Despite the stated goals for conservation in the Strategic Plan (as they are reflected in the minutes of the Wilmington meeting) the dramatic uncertainty of our financial situation does influence our efforts, timetable and the route we might best take to achieve these-and others which I will be introducing. As a result, I have asked the committee and existing taskforces to take a "wait until after Houston" point of view with some of their pursuits and activities. Both the Interface and Caretaker Taskforces have been active but have projects on temporary hold until after the Houston meeting. Broad expansion of a variety of conservation content is expected/hoped for pending specific discussions on our website and other capabilities.

There is one notable exception. Consistent with the goal of the Strategic Plan to (re-) create a position of Director of Conservation (and Research), the Committee has overwhelmingly agreed that this remains the highest conservation priority for the organization, funding issues notwithstanding. In support of this, a small specific taskforce was assembled to outline a Job Description for such a position as quickly as possible focused on a conservation agenda. This description has been submitted to the Committee members for review and comment with nearly unanimous support. See DOC Job Description Taskforce attachment: Dircons job desc final

In mid-November, as a continuation of the momentum of the Taskforce on Institutional Collections, Ron McHatton and I met with Pam Allenstein of the APGA and with individuals representing a few other botanic garden orchid collections to discuss shared issues, needs, goals and areas of potential cooperation. The meeting was exceedingly fruitful and has resulted in plans for further organizational conversation. See the Taskforce on Institutional Collections attachment: Report of the TIC 4.09

Attached or by separate file, is an editorial conservation article I prepared for the new membership directory. This opportunity was provided and assisted by Jim Watson.

Considerable conversation and planning have been going on within the Committee and the expectation is that clarity of the AOS situation will allow post-Houston activities to move significantly forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Horak, Chair
Conservation Committee

Conservation Committee Report of the Taskforce on Institutional Collections

Since the AOS meetings in Wilmington there have been some developments with the Taskforce. For at least the time being I have continued to function as taskforce leader.

Immediately after the Cons Com meeting in October, I met with Pam Allenstein, Manager of the North American Plant Collection Consortium (NAPCC) of the American Public Garden Association (APGA). At that time we were able to briefly touch on a variety of possible ideas that might be of advantage to the AOS and APGA with regard to institutional orchid collections. The NAPCC has had an interest in creating vetting criteria for the possibility of an orchid collection component of what are effectively national plant collections. Discussion of the obvious crossover possibilities of the AOS American Heritage Collection initiative as well as ways in which the AOS's broad based expertise might serve to assist both their and our shared goals was clearly apparent. It was quite obvious that our knowledge and information base might

dramatically help increase the efficacy of institutional stewardship and their role in ex situ conservation while literally opening doors to their resources and the larger audiences they attract, for other facets of the AOS: education, affiliated societies, research, etc.

After a chance hasty introduction to Ron McHatton we discovered a serendipitous opportunity to meet later in mid-November back in Wilmington for a little more organized brain-storming session. This meeting was subsequently expanded to also include some other regional interested orchid collection managers/curators: Lee Alyanakian and Kristina Aguilar from Longwood Gardens, Tom Miranda of the Smithsonian and (by phone) Ray Mims of the National Botanic Garden. We collectively explored a range of ideas, problems, hopes and needs in the bigger context of how public gardens might be more effective in the breadth of orchid collection stewardship, education and ex situ conservation: national collection criteria, shared database of orchids in cultivation, etc. There were several different agendas that clearly overlapped but with significant possibilities for collaboration.

It was agreed for the institutions to begin the process of creating an organizational structure and establish some basic goals, recommend and invite perhaps a dozen more of the largest/more prominent public gardens to join us, in an alpha phase, to try to assemble a shared listing of what is in our collections as an initial project. In my role for the AOS and as the curator of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's orchid collection, I was representing two different parallel agendas. Ron provided a more clearly defined AOS presence. At the time it was understood that the AOS's role would at least be advisory, informative and enabling. In the context of the American Heritage Collection and its need for institutional cooperation as well as broadening the AOS's footprint with ex situ efforts, the profundity of a collaborative partnership on this front would be hugely advantageous with no inherent financial costs, commitments or expectations.

In the absence of any other clear point person to cultivate this movement I offered to shepherd the initial steps, contacts and organization; which was accepted. Unfortunately it took my employer more than three months to formally approve my participation. This was based on resolving the concept of institutional "ownership" of orchid holdings as a collection that would be supported in the long-term. This concept will be a crucial part of any progress with the AHC for the AOS and any participating institutions. The additional responsibility to me might seem to be a point of conflict or distraction, much of the work that will be required parallels that of my Committee and BBG responsibilities and provides the opportunity to share the load of our efforts with other interested parties. There is a decided advantage for me to bridge this effort due to my position within the botanic garden community.

As the AHC could likely be an important cornerstone of this bigger project, as well as both the AOS specifically and to a lesser degree the AOS Botanical Garden, I have advised this group that further discussions will begin after our Houston meetings. Collectively we will be working to reach the point of a MOU amongst the institutions, the APGA; as well as the AOS if continued pursuit of this relationship is deemed advantageous.

Without the Conservation Committee's input or endorsement my personal recommendation and hope is that we will choose to continue an active, if not leadership, role in this process and toward a possible formal partnering. The advantages and opportunities for the AOS are tremendous. The APGA is an organization presently in excess of 500 member institutions throughout the US, Canada and 7 other countries. This relationship can only solidify the credibility of the AOS with this desirable but often challenging group.

Regardless of the AOS's formal presence (or lack of) in the process my expectation is that we should arrive at a broad organizational agreement and hopefully an initial working list of orchid species, grexes and cultivars currently in major US collections within the next year including recommendations and concepts for national orchid collection(s) vetting criteria. These may prove to be broad in scope or genera specific. Long range goals and potential benefits will be assessed as we move forward.

I strongly suggest that additional input from Ron McHatton be sought as well to assess this report and the viability of this endeavor.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Horak, Chair
Conservation Committee

American Orchid Society
Director of Conservation Job Description

The mission of the American Orchid Society (AOS) Director of Conservation (DoC) is to serve as the primary AOS contact point for all conservation-related matters pertaining to orchids, their habitats and their trade. The AOS DoC shall represent the interests of the AOS in bringing orchids into focus in national and international orchid conservation matters. The DoC position will necessitate a clear and consistent communicator, one who puts aside personal agenda in favor of that approved by the Society Leadership.

This includes:

- Regular and informed interaction with appropriate federal agencies such as US Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior.
- Membership and attendance at IUCN, CITES, etc.
- Attendance and participation in such national and international conservation conferences as may seem necessary and appropriate by AOS Leadership in consultation with the DoC.
- Regular and informed interaction with appropriate outside conservation organizations (such as Rain Forest Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund, etc.).
- Development of interactive partnerships with ~~such~~ appropriate outside conservation organizations.
- Dissemination of orchid-related information to appropriate outside conservation organizations.
- Serving as AOS' public spokesperson in conservation-related matters.

This includes within the AOS:

- Communication of Conservation Committee-initiated matters to AOS Leadership.
- Communication of Leadership-initiated matters to the members of the Conservation Committee.
- Coordination of conservation-related matters between the Conservation Committee and other AOS standing committees.
- Preparation of regular reports to the Conservation Committee, the Trustees and the Membership in the form of Orchids Magazine articles, the AOS website and other media as directed by the Leadership.
- Communication of all Society-generated, conservation-related matters to the Membership.

The AOS DoC shall be responsible for the formulation, enunciation and elucidation of the AOS Conservation Policy.

To accomplish this, the DOC shall:

- Serve as focus for all conservation-related communications for the Society.
- Understand and digest for the Membership, Leadership and Conservation Committee all conservation-related activities and policies worldwide (i.e. IUCN, CITES, etc.).
- Assist and advise the Conservation Committee and the Leadership in identifying conservation goals.
- Assist the Conservation Committee in clearly putting forth its goals – both self-initiated and as directed by Leadership – to the Membership. This includes understanding AOS policies, procedure and history so that any committee actions are presented to Leadership for approval and action in a clear, coherent and timely fashion.
- Keep abreast and use knowledge of national and international conservation trends and activities to suggest initiatives to Conservation Committee for their action on behalf of the Society.
- Be available to affiliated societies and appropriate outside organizations as a resource toward the understanding of world orchid conservation in general and the AOS' place in world orchid conservation in specific.

Affiliated Societies Committee Reports - April 2009

Attendance: Carol Holdren (chair); Melba Butler, Jim Clarkson, Dennis Dayan, Rosalie Dixler, Maureen Ferrara, Gail Freeman, Betty Kurka, Marilyn Lee and Susan Taylor. Tim Brooks has been changed to Membership, Joe Bryson, Bob Henley, Lucille Maffei, Gladys Roudel, Dot Henley and Peggy Shaw were excused. We did not hear from Pat Dunn. Minutes of the Longwood Garden meeting were read and approved.

Future Meetings:

Fall 2009 Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino, CA

Spring 2010 Oklahoma Orchid Society, OKC, OK

Fall 2010:

The Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium in concert with the Peninsula Orchid Society, the Richmond Orchid Alliance, the Tidewater Orchid Society and the Virginia Orchid Society have invited the American Orchid Society Trustees to hold their Fall 2010 Trustees meeting. The dates are October 26 through November 1. The ASC approved the invitation which will be presented to the AOS Trustees.

Hosts for Spring and Fall 2011 and Spring and Fall 2012 are needed.

New Society Affiliates:

Two societies applied for affiliation and were approved by the ASC

Tampico Orchid Society, Tampico, Mexico

Puerto Rico Orchid Association

Fundraising Efforts:

The ASC will be raising funds for the AOS general fund by promoting the sale of an AOS pin. The cost of the pin is \$20 and will be advertised in orchid society newsletters and through AOS reps. They will purchase the pin through the AOS web site or by telephoning the AOS.

AOS Rep/Liaison:

There was a suggestion that AOS Reps be a member of their society board. Upon further discussion it was determined that the AOS cannot make such a requirement of societies. The committee did approve of the suggestion that AOS Reps be referred to as the AOS Liaison. It was felt that this title change would be more representative of the role of these volunteers.

Dennis Dayan is going to write an article describing how to increase a Societies membership. Dennis will also be doing an article on the importance of making your society a 501c3 corporation.

ASC members will attempt to obtain the President, AOS Liaison and the Newsletter Editor's contact information. It is hoped that by disseminating the AOS information to all of these people that it would make it to society members.

The committee decided that all members should be sent any communications generated in reference to this Committee, regardless of member status to that particular Task Force.

Communicators were asked to obtain webpage addresses from their assigned societies.

Maureen Ferrara will write a guideline paper for AOS liaisons. This is to include requirements of Liaisons and encourage them to disseminate AOS news to their society.

Web Sites;

Could AOS host society web pages? Carol Holdren will discuss this with the Technology committee and report back to ASC.

The AOS Forum is back up and working well. The Forum has an area for societies to post their newsletters as well as an area for newsletter editors. Susan Taylor will write an article for newsletter editors explaining these areas on the web site.

Other Business:

Carol Holdren will distribute the roster to all committee members.

Susan Taylor will send committee members her list of "lost" societies.

Carol Holdren will send committee members the AOS logo so they can use it for their business cards.

Society Affiliation Project:

Susan Taylor advised that all Affiliated Societies are listed on the AOS web site. Unfortunately, they are dropped from the site the month after their membership is not paid. This committee will be surveying societies as to how changing the manner of affiliation might benefit both the society and the AOS. A position paper will be developed with the information obtained. The committee did not believe the current policy of rebating societies \$5.00 for obtaining new AOS was worth continuing and that question will be in the survey also.

ASC Breakfast:

The DASSA will be presented to Tampa Orchid Society at the Friday morning ASC Breakfast with Jim Clarkson and Bill Thoms receiving it for the society. The South Florida Leadership Council will also give a presentation in an effort to encourage collaboration between societies.

The Society Page:

It was suggested we do articles on individual societies and their members. Any ASC member who wants to write such an article or knows of someone who wants to write one please let Carol Holdren know about them.

AOS Slide Program Project;

Carol Holdren reported for Bob and Dot Henley that AOS has two new PowerPoint programs: "Potting Workshop" and "Judging Around the World." It was not known if these programs could be downloaded. Carol Holdren will find out and report back to the committee.

Computer Generated Judging Program:

Jim Clarkson reported that with all of the different versions of operating systems there have been a few issues but they have been resolved. Jim Clarkson will write an article on judging software for orchid societies.

Affiliated Societies Committee — Working Task Force Report April 05, 2009

Following is the report of the Affiliated Societies Committee's activities since the last report provided at the Meeting at Wilmington, DE. All task forces on this Committee are ongoing projects without foreseeable end points.

Task Force: Future Members Meetings Hosts — Tim Brooks, Task Force Project Manager

Charge: To encourage societies with hosting an AOS meeting, to assist them in the application process, to make recommendations to the Trustees, and then to act as a liaison once their meeting is approved.

Activities: Tim has been working with the Huntington Botanical Gardens and the Southland Orchid Show Committee on the Fall 2009 meeting. Recently, we received an application from the Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium in concert with the Peninsula Orchid Society, the Richmond Orchid alliance, the Tidewater Orchid Society and the Virginia Orchid society to host the AOS Fall 2010 Member's Meeting. This will be presented to the AOS Board at the Houston meeting.

October 16-18, 2009 - The Huntington Library & Botanical Garden in conjunction with the Southland Orchid Show Committee

April 14-18, 2010 – Oklahoma Orchid Society, Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

October 27-31, 2010 - Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium – pending trustee approval.

Spring 2011 – Open

Task Force: Communication — Dennis Dayan, Task Force Project Manager

Charge: To improve communication with AOS Affiliated Society Representatives.

Activities: The task force has 11 communicators with established group emailing lists, sharing informative bulletins on a timely basis to the 400+ affiliated society representatives.

Task Force: Distinguished Affiliated Society Service Award (DASSA) — Carol Holdren, Task Force Project Manager

Charge: To recognize outstanding affiliated societies for excellent service.

Activities: The task force has received no nominations for the DASSA.

Task Force: The Society Page — , Task Force Project Manager

Charge: To prepare and/or solicit quarterly articles relevant to affiliated societies, from various society sources, for *Orchids* magazine.

Activities: We need someone to head up this task force.

Task Force: Newsletter — Susan Taylor, Task Force Project Manager

Charge: To assist newsletter editors by improving communication among them and holding workshops to help with technological improvements.

Activities: Compiled a database of affiliated society newsletter editor email addresses for message distribution promoting the AOS and the AOS forum on the AOS Web site.

Task Force: AOS Slide Program Update — Bob Henley, Task Force Project Manager

Charge: Continuing the update of existing AOS slide programs and solicit new programs for use by requesting AOS affiliated societies

Louise Maffei has requested an excused absence.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Holdren, Chair

AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

Library/Archives Committee Meeting Report,

Lois Holmes

AOS Members Meeting, Houston, Texas, April 23, 2009

Present: Doris Asher, Christine Chowning, Gail Furness, Lois Holmes, John Ingram, Chris Rehmann, Ben Singer

Absent: Lloyd DeGarno, Diana Dunn, Al Guegler, Norito Hasegawa, Ernest Hetherington, Carlos Ossenbach, Francis Plimpton, Tom Sheehan, Marilyn Stark, and Casimir Zawadecki.

Lois announced that this meeting was her last as Chair; John Ingram will be incoming chair.

The AOS held a one-month exhibit in February, 2009, at headquarters, curated by John Ingram and Tom Sheehan, and managed by AOS staff member, Valarie Smith. Drawn from the book collections of the AOS and the holdings in the archives, the show offered both original *Reichenbachia* paintings as well as the published work by Frederick Sanders; additionally, both porcelain plates and other books and artwork were on display. Gate counts were reported very good for the month.

Chris Rehmann explained the loan of \$235,000 from the Mary N. McQuerry estate funds to maintain AOS operating expenses in the black. The loan is to be repaid in three years.

Updates on the AOS gardens initiative were presented, including several differing approaches to maintain funding of these gardens.

Discussion also proceeded on relative values of a paper-based library of research materials versus creating and maintaining a virtual library of resources for the study of orchids. No recommendations were made in support of either approach, other than a realization that both had merit and provided collateral benefits to members and to orchid researchers.

Discussions also centered on fund-raising, with specific mention of the McKnight Foundation and support for educational programs that targeted children.

The committee also discussed briefly the status and future of the orchid stamps collections at the AOS without recommendations for action. Additional study and advice on the role of these materials in the AOS future is recommended.

The sets of the *Reichenbachia* that Tom Sheehan and John Ingram reviewed for sale should be held at AOS until the economic condition and economy improve.

The committee would like a final accounting of the sales of the excess library books that took place at the fall 2007 members meeting and the 2008 WOC.

The committee would also like an update on the sale of the AOS bookplates, including sales at the WOC.

The dates of the summer work week were left unsettled, pending additional review of possible dates in July or August by committee members via email.

Committee adjourned at 11:30.

Dutifully submitted

John Ingram, Incoming Chair

Report from the Publications Committee

Houston, April 23, 2009

The Publications Committee had a productive and satisfying meeting. The AOS is fortunate to have the hardworking and dedicated individuals who have agreed to serve on this committee and I personally thank each of them for their contributions.

The Publications Committee is dedicated to the goal of providing AOS members the finest orchid publication in the world and believe that in doing so, we can best serve the organization by giving orchid hobbyists a reason to join and existing members a reason to stay. We have exciting content planned for future issues of *ORCHIDS*!

Our biggest item of concern is the potential for further cuts to the magazine either in size or in number of issues, as presented in the draft Strategic Plan. We feel that publicly hedging on the number of issues we are committed to publishing (6-12) as presented in the draft Strategic Plan is a mistake and will only send a further signal of non-confidence in our future resulting in further membership loss. Without the magazine, there is no AOS. *ORCHIDS* is our face to the membership and for many, it is what they get for their dues. To decrease the value by delivering less magazine is a mistake that we feel will be catastrophic for the AOS. The Publications Committee requests that in the event that the Trustees should ever consider such a drastic decision, that they give the committee TEN days to present alternatives.

The Publications Committee requests that after four years of publishing *Lindleyana* as an insert in *ORCHIDS*, the Trustees create a task force to once again publish *Lindleyana* as a stand-alone publication with the December 2009 *Lindleyana* insert being the last to appear in *ORCHIDS* magazine. There has been much talk lately about listening to the membership and responding to their needs. Although it was a convenient, no-cost solution to insert *Lindleyana* in *ORCHIDS*, based on member comments over the years, we feel that it does not represent what the membership wants in their magazine. We recognize the need for the AOS to maintain credibility in the scientific community and that is why we urge the Trustees to take decisive action to publish *Lindleyana* as its own publication.

In light of savings recognized by page count and binding cuts made in January, the Publications Committee plans to produce the postponed 96-page special collectors' issue on awards next April. This issue as proposed will feature both our endowed awards and our FCC's. It will contain articles on grooming orchids for exhibition, a "day at judging" (done), an explanation of AOS awards, republication of select "judges forum" articles from AQ magazine and other material relating to the judging process. The goal is to provide the AOS membership a complete overview of AOS judging. Additional advertising revenues will be sought.

- The Committee discussed incentives for increasing advertising revenues in the magazine and recommended the Director of Publications create a program to offer print advertisers two free month's website ad for signing of six month minimum size print ad. To date web advertising is minimal to nonexistent and we feel that this program will also serve as an introduction to our web advertising.
- The Committee revisited the possibility of offering comp ads to commercial advertisers who contribute feature articles for the magazine. After much discussion the concept was abandoned in favor of offering website banner ad or newsletter sponsorship. To be reviewed with the Website Committee.

- The Committee resolved to continue the Orchids in Art series at a rate of four times per year but limit articles about artists to once per year.
- The Committee resolved to publish periodic articles on Living Legends and continue the Bradley historical articles. One of each is already in the works.
- The Committee discussed creating a periodic column; “25 Years Ago Today” (or 50, 100) to recognize significant or mundane orchid events such as the discovery of *Phrag. besseae*, tissue culture, ads from old magazines, etc. We will coordinate with the Library Archive Committee to provide content access.
- The Committee discussed creating an award gallery centerfold with a full-page select award photo, award description and grower comments.
- The 2010 calendar will be in production early with summer delivery expected.
- The Committee resolved to re-purpose the back page of the magazine as a “Parting Shots” page that can accommodate a wide range of content including reader submissions such as poetry or photography.
- Committee member assignments were reviewed for our core mission of procuring magazine articles. See attached content schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Allikas

Content Schedule - Summer 2009

MAY

Genus of the Month; *Rossioglossum* – Tom Mirenda
 Back to Basics; Multiflora orchids, More Bang for the Buck – Ken Slump
 Well Worth the Space; *Dendrochilum cootsii* – Marni Turkel
 Orchids in the Big Easy; Culture Challenges of the Gulf Coast – Patricia Sander
 Cypripediums in China – Holger Perner
 Packing and Shipping Orchids – Tom Purviance & John Salventi

JUNE

Favorite Epidendrums – Ken Slump
Dendrobium longicornu – Tom Mirenda
 2008 FCC Awards
 Growing Orchids for Awards – Ryan Kowalczyk
 Lindleyana insert

JULY

Brassavola – Ken Slump
 Trichocentrum pulchrum – Tom Mirenda
 The Ethereal Ghost Orchid: Two Views – Keith Davis (FCC) & Dave McAdoo (habitat)
 Culture article TBA

AUGUST

Aeranthes
Dendrobium jenkinsii
 Vanda Trifecta: How to Score with Vandas in Any Climate – Marion Allen, Kent Peterson, Patrece Remmel
 Hunting Orchids in Southwestern Nova Scotia III: *Platanthera psycodes*, *P. lacera* & hybrids

Technology Committee Report

April 10, 2009

1. At the November AOS meeting the technology committee visited several other committees to listen for how technology might be used to assist the committee's work. In summary, these visits showed:
 - a. Most committees do not have an understanding of how technology might help them in their work and help serve the AOS membership. Most committee members do not have experience in technology intensive settings and are not aware of how technology, orchids, and AOS might best be linked.
 - b. Most frequently expressed desires were for web or email projects, e.g. targeted newsletters, for creating a greater sense of community. For example, many groups suggested email letters targeted to a specific audience, judges, new members, affiliated societies, etc. within AOS. Yet, few were able to identify the ways the content for these newsletters would be generated. A similar statement could be made for interactive web features desired by the committees.
 - c. A desire to move more of our AOS processes online. From the Center program for reporting awards, to knowing the status of one's membership only a portion of AOS work is done on line. Often we use technology as a vehicle to carry information. (With iMIS, work flows to reduce paper processing, are being developed.)
 - d. Committees tend not to make use of on-line resources for doing their work and conducting online meetings. Greater use of online meeting resources could change the 'meeting at the semi-annual meeting' cycle committees now follow.
 - e. What may be of interest is what wasn't said. The library committee had few ideas for putting collection material online; no one indicated how the social networking sites might be used by AOS; there was no demand for a 'mobile; version of AQ Plus, etc. AOS needs an environment where these, or similar ideas, can emerge, be developed, tested and evaluated.
2. Revisions to the award system data. Frank Slaughter, Howard Bronstein, Ted Kellogg and Brian Swanson have met in planning meetings on redesign of the Awards System data. A new server has been installed at headquarters and the image data has been moved to this server. The server is also being used as a development platform for work on the awards databases. Recent work by Frank Slaughter and Brian Swanson has begun the integration of information from iMIS and the award data system. Linking award data and membership data will allow more effective management of the awards system.

3. Developing resources - extended web presence, blogs, etc. Substantial work toward using the web more effectively with members has occurred at AOS. The web page is no longer static. The front page content is updated regularly, there are new features [AOS Judges Forum](#), [NEW VIDEOS!!!](#), [Beginners' FAQ](#), [NEW! AOS Forum](#) that can be reached directly from the home page. Other features, including a webinar have been tried.
4. The Bulletin on a Disk status. AOS has settled with Kirtas and we have the ability to use the material they have scanned. Discussions continue with possible vendors regarding completing the project and consideration of both disk and on-line versions.
5. Photographic image issues and needs. Substantial progress has been made on missing issues, and now attention is focusing on current awards. An analysis done on 4-8-09 of the 2008 award images showed that about 20% of the awards did not have images and that more than 200 images had been submitted to AOS with no award information to AOS at this time. The matter of assuring award images are submitted in a timely fashion has been referred to the JC.
6. Frank Slaughter will be presenting the judging tools he has developed during the judges forum at the Houston Trustees meeting. Frank is also contributing to AQ Plus and will continue to develop the national awards program he worked on last year.
7. Bill Bannon continues to maintain Fisher Bishop. He has requested that AOS provide members an option to purchase a paper copy of this document.

**Technology Committee Agenda
Houston Semi Annual meeting
April 23, 2009. 9am - noon.**

1. Summaries/questions of items in the pre meeting report to trustees.
 - a. Fisher Bishop status. Action on the request that AOS offer printed copies of FB on demand.
2. Technology needs at AOS.
 - a. What is necessary from the technology committee for AOS to become a technology based service to its members? How do we Identify and/or develop technology resource individuals serving on other committees?
 - b. What improvements to AOS current technology products should be made?
 - c. What technology based products or services that should be developed to enhance AOS financial standing and services to members?
 - d. How can the committee help in developing a technology plan for AOS?
3. Other

Report of the AOS Membership Committee

April 24, 2009

As of April 1, 2009 we had approximately 16,282 Members which represented a decline from April 1, 2008 of 1,126 Members. During the last twelve months, we saw application remain fairly good with 2526 new Members joining the Society. The challenge we still need to come to grips with is the fact that we had over 3652 orchidists that chose not to renew.

This continues to be one of the biggest areas of concern. We desperately need to find how we can add more value to all of our Members. The statistics show that if we can keep a Member for 2.3 years that we will have them for a long time. Unfortunately, the biggest drop-off in membership is at the end of the first year. There has been much speculation as to why. For example, many say that the most obvious benefit, *Orchids*, is too advanced for the beginning hobbyist. Others lose interest in the hobby and drop out. Still others cite the cost of membership as a deterrent in staying a Member. We believe a lot of these “reasons” are masking a much bigger problem. We do not do a very good job of communicating on an ongoing basis with our membership. The introduction of Ron McHatton’s newsletter has had a positive effect on the way that we communicate and the Membership Committee would urge the Board to keep that effort ongoing.

Additionally, we need to take a look at how we attracted new Members in the past. Here is a brief synopsis of what we have done and the results:

December 2001 Holiday Incentive – Greg Allikas donated a free poster of one of his photos to every new member who joined the AOS in Dec.01 We received 343 memberships from this incentive.

2002 – At Donna Craig's suggestion, and per her article in *Orchids*, a membership campaign was started for the year 2002 to give bonuses to individuals or societies that referred new members. The incentive for individuals was to extend their AOS membership one month for each member recruited (up to four members allowed) during the year. If five members or more were recruited during the year, a \$25 certificate from the Emporium was earned. If 10 members or more, a \$125 Emporium certificate was earned. For Affiliates, the incentive was to recruit up to 6 new members and the society's membership was extended another year. Recruit 11 new members, and the affiliated society membership was extended two years and also, a one-year AQ subscription was given. Individual members referred 52 new members and Affiliates referred 130 new members.

2003 - A special mailing of the August 2003 issue was sent to all AOS lapsed members in the database at that time for prior years 2000-2001-2002, a total of 12,440 magazines were mailed to lapsed members with a letter encouraging them to re-join and receive 13 issues for the price of 12. A total of 478 members accepted the offer (3.84% of lapsed members).

2005 – Frank Smith offered a free cattleya for every new member who joined. There was no expiration. 557 members joined.

2006 - Member-Get-A-Member campaign by Art Moore – FREE 4-INCH ORCHID PLANT FOR EVERY NEW MEMBER OBTAINED. This incentive was very difficult to handle and coordinate since we had no control over the shipments of free plants. The number of new members who joined from this incentive between Jan 06 and May07 was 1,356.

2007 – Incentive mailing sent to USA members who lapsed in 2005-2006 to encourage them to re-join by offering a free tote bag. Approximate mailing was 1,800 and 94 members renewed.

2008- WOC Special. This was a three month promotion that offered membership at \$49.95. The result of this promotion saw over 550 new Members sign up and over 2500 renewals

All of these were tactical approaches that did not address the needs or levels of expertise that new and existing members represent. In discussions with management, the Membership Committee agrees that we need to develop a comprehensive plan that provides a clear path for people to develop the passion for the hobby in a stair-step approach. We would like to partner with the affiliated societies to provide a win-win for the local societies and the AOS. We would also urge the Board to consider multiple levels of membership such as the web-based suggestion, garden memberships, and other stakeholder levels that make economic sense.

**AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN
DRAFT**

MISSION: *The American Orchid Society's mission is to promote and support the passion for orchids through education, conservation, and research.*

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: *The vision of AOS establishes the organization's strategic direction to be the leader of the orchid community in orchid education, conservation and research.*

COMMUNITY

EDUCATION

CONSERVATION

RESEARCH

Mission: The mission of the Membership Committee is to increase the participation of the orchid community in the organization and to increase the financial support of the AOS.

Working collaboratively within the AOS committee structure, Board, Staff and community organization, the committee will deliver the following programs to promote, expand and diversify the levels of membership available within the organization:

1. Develop an all-encompassing marketing program to promote AOS membership in all areas of AOS communications, i.e., magazine, website, affiliated orchid societies, visitors, related horticultural societies.
2. Develop and implement additional membership classifications which will provide varying levels of benefits for both the orchid and non-orchid communities.
3. Develop and define membership benefits as they relate to varying levels of membership classifications.
4. Develop and implement incentive and recognition programs to increase membership retention.

Year One Goals

1. Develop, define the benefits, implement and promote the AOS Tropical Garden Membership Program in collaboration with the AOS Public Garden Committee, Board, Staff and Volunteers. (Basically done—except for the promotion)
2. Develop, define the benefits, implement and promote an On-line Membership Program in conjunction with the Technology Committee, Board and Staff. (Conceptionally in the works)
3. Develop, define the benefits, implement and promote a Family Membership Program in collaboration with the Education Committee, Affiliated Societies Committee, Public Garden Committee, Board, Staff and Volunteers.
4. Develop a Membership Recognition Program in collaboration with the

AOS Website Report

April 2009

The AOS website is evolving and growing at a steady rate. We continue to add to sections with an emphasis on Orchid Information. This part of aos.org is becoming a valuable resource for beginners and advanced growers alike and has had much content added since the Wilmington meetings.

I have begun creating “photo grids” for the orchid lists that coordinate with the new monthly newsletters. These grid pages make a nifty presentation of a dozen select orchids and provide brief descriptions and/or culture.

When Ron plans an extended visit to AOS we make arrangements for him to stay an overnight here. I borrow a HD Video camera from a friend and we spend a half-day shooting how-to videos in my studio.

The website how-to video library now contains ten videos and will continue to grow. Many thanks to Sandy Stubbings for editing and adding my opening and closing titles. I am also looking at creating audio podcasts to add to the Orchid Information section. These would be monographic overviews of a genus, species, or section within a genus and the download page would have links to existing or new collateral web content.

The About section of the site is home to the History page and AOS business and affairs information. Included on the landing page are links to the bylaws, List of officers & trustees with links to bios, Wilmington meeting minutes posted in a timely manner and committee contact e-mails. The original architecture of the site was created to also include Education, Conservation, Research, Affiliated Societies and Judging under “About”. We feel that they do not belong here but making major structural changes to a live website within the parameters of iMis and its website content tool, eCm, can be risky. For the time being we are adding content to these latter sections as it becomes available while we develop a strategy for implementing a new architecture to better accommodate our core mission sections.

In February, before the new AOS forum was up, I installed a judge’s blog at Ron’s request. This serves as a venue where judges can discuss judging issues, naming and taxonomy topics, and post recent notable or questionable award photos. Although this discussion area does not see a lot of activity, I believe this to be more a function of judges’ activity habits rather than the location of the blog. Most of the activity is from younger or student judges. Only judges who request author privileges can post new topics here but anyone can read or comment. Much like AOS Judging itself, maintaining the judges’ blog separate from the general forum identifies it as an activity exclusively for judges, yet the public can watch or ask questions.

Ron has also supplied me with a PDF of unpublished awards as of 1-31-09. I experimented with linking to photos of those awards that I had shot and have corresponded with a west coast judge about doing same. We are still evaluating this as to whether the document gets enough views to warrant time spent adding photo links.

Homepage datelines are updated at least weekly and usually, twice or more weekly. We are alternating news content and AOS messages with collector’s items featuring a portrait of a specific orchid. Kathy and I have been going through back issues of the Bulletin and selecting tasty short items for republication on the website. The recent collector’s item, *Dendrobium fytchianum*, Kathy retyped from a 1965 Bulletin. Photos were graciously loaned to us by Nik Fahmi of [Vortex’s Orchids](#) website. We have reached enough critical mass with collector’s items to give them their own navigation entry and page. This will only grow to be an excellent collection or “orchid portraits”. Previously, we published a light article from Mary Noble on crippling which turned into a lead on an author for a magazine article.

The coordination between the magazine and website, and Ron's monthly newsletter and website, is strengthening to provide users with a more seamless experience. I make continuous "tweaks" to the usability and navigation of the website, such as the "What You Will Find Here" box and quick ref links on the homepage.

There are certainly some idiosyncrasies and frustrations inherent in the iMis implementation of a website, but then, there are limitations in any web language. I think that any past discussion of creating yet another website should be forgotten. If we continue adding information and refining the usability, I believe we will eventually have the website that we all want. We do need some help though. Committee chairs should consider their respective website section as their own soapbox; a source for providing information to the orchid community and AOS members. Other than a few pieces of content from Education and Affiliated Societies, most of the committee pages are cobbled together from what was on the previous two websites. I invite the Executive Committee and Trustees to reference the links provided below and please, visit aos.org regularly!

Greg Allikas, content provider
April 15, 2009

- [Video Library](#)
- [Orchid Resources](#)
 - [Green-flowered Orchids](#)
 - [Orchids that Flower in March](#)
 - [White-flowered orchids](#)
- [Collector's Items](#)
- [Pests & Diseases](#)
- [About](#) (with links to meeting minutes, officers & bios, bylaws etc.)
- [Judge's Blog](#)

Public Garden Committee Reports – April 2009

Purpose

To recognize the home of the American Orchid Society in Delray Beach as its National Orchid Education Center and to more effectively utilize the facility, including the gardens and greenhouse, to further the mission of the organization and contribute to its fiscal viability.

Current Situation

In an effort to stem the flow of “red ink,” the Board of Trustees decided to close the garden and gift shop. It was the feeling of both the Public Garden Committee and the Southern Florida Leadership Council (SFLC) that aspects of the facility serving the South Florida constituency of AOS members, others interested in orchids, and the general public should be self supporting, and that the local AOS orchid community has a particular responsibility to help with serving the local constituency.

The AOS Public Garden Committee in cooperation with the South Florida Leadership Council asked permission to conduct, with the approval of the AOS Executive Committee, a pledge campaign to gauge the level of support in the community for the AOS garden.

Potential donors were told that should the AOS Trustees reconsider closing the garden this spring due to the results of the campaign, all pledges turned into actual cash contributions would be used for helping to keep the garden open and active, i.e., helping to cover those costs directly related to garden operational expenses beyond the costs to the AOS of maintaining the closed garden at a minimum level so as to prevent loss of value to the AOS Delray Beach property.

If after reviewing updated financial information, the AOS Trustees decide that the gardens are to be kept open, the AOS Public Garden Committee, the South Florida Leadership Council, the pledge donors, and volunteers will continue fundraising and volunteer efforts to realize the potential which they believe the gardens has for the AOS both locally and nationally.

This will include not only public visitation, but also local and national programs and activities, like those conducted at other public gardens across the nation, to generate support and to fulfill the educational mission as outlined by the Public Garden Committee’s strategic plan that was accepted by the Trustees in Summer 2008.

The national mission of the American Orchid Society’s public facility is to house and display, as appropriate, the AOS orchid collections assembled for education, research and conservation, having specialized programs in these areas, facilitating the educational aspects of the judging system, housing a nationally accessible library, and overall engaging the orchid and non-orchid communities in the passion for orchids.

The AOS National Orchid Education Center should be the locus for the production and dissemination by electronic and other means of an array of orchid-related information in the fields of orchid horticulture, conservation, science, and research.

Alternative Considerations

1. To adopt the National Orchid Education Center strategy, keeping the gardens/greenhouse open with reduced operating costs and restricted gift shop activity, while enhancing the programs and activities of the Center.
2. To close the gardens to the public. The AOS will have to eschew the revenue while still absorbing the expense required to maintain the value of the property and plant collections.

Recommendation

The Public Garden Committee strongly recommends that given the positive financial impact to the American Orchid Society, the gardens/greenhouse should remain open to the public and be utilized as an important facet of the AOS National Orchid Education Center.

If the Board accepts this recommendation, the trustees authorize the collection of the spring pledge drive in support of the gardens/greenhouse.

In addition, the Public Garden Committee recommends to the Board that the National Orchid Education Center’s steering committee be comprised of the chairs or their designees from appropriate AOS committees as well as any additional members to help further the development of the Center.

Financial Impact

From the current budget process for the upcoming fiscal year, the gardens/greenhouse and limited orchid sales activity is projected to have close to a \$300,000 contribution margin for the AOS (Attachment A). This figure does not include additional funds anticipated to be raised through the efforts of the Public Garden Committee, the South Florida Leadership Council, pledge campaigns, or other donations designated for the garden.

A volunteer-initiated special event schedule with additional projected positive financial impact is attached (Attachment B). This volunteer-initiated special event schedule is dependent on utilizing the facility.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan

This is directly consistent with the board-approved AOS and gardens direction that was developed during the summer 2008 strategic planning process.



AOS Public Garden Committee Position Paper April 2009

Purpose

To recognize the home of the American Orchid Society as its **National Orchid Education Center** and more effectively utilize the facility, including the gardens and greenhouses, to further the mission of the organization and contribute to its fiscal viability.

Current Situation

In an effort to stem the flow of 'red ink,' the Board of Trustees decided to close the garden and gift shop. It was the feeling of both the Public Garden Committee and the SFLC that aspects of the facility serving the South Florida constituency of AOS members, others interested in orchids, and the general public should be self supporting, and that the local community has a particular responsibility to help with that.

The AOS Public Garden Committee in cooperation with the South Florida Leadership Council asked permission to conduct, with the approval of the AOS Executive Committee, a pledge campaign to gauge the level of support in the community for the AOS garden.

Potential donors were told that should the AOS Trustees reconsider closing the garden this spring due to the results of the campaign, all pledges turned into actual cash contributions would be used for helping to keep the garden open and active, i.e., helping to cover those costs directly related to garden operational expenses *beyond* the costs to the AOS of maintaining the closed garden at a minimum level so as to prevent loss of value to the AOS Delray Beach property.

If after reviewing updated financial information, the AOS Trustees decide that the gardens are to be kept open, the AOS Public Garden Committee, the South Florida Leadership Council, the pledge donors, and volunteers will continue fundraising and volunteer efforts to realize the potential which they believe the gardens has for the AOS.

This will include not only public visitation, but also local and national programs and activities, like those conducted at other public gardens across the nation, to generate support and to fulfill the educational mission as outlined by the Public Garden Committee's strategic plan that was approved by the Trustees in Summer 2008.

The national mission of the American Orchid Society's public garden is to house and display, as appropriate, the AOS orchid collections assembled for education, research and conservation through specialized programs, to facilitate the judging system, to house a nationally accessible library, and to engage the orchid and non-orchid community in the passion for orchids.

The AOS National Orchid Education Center should be the locus for the production and dissemination by electronic and other means of an array of orchid-related information in the fields of orchid horticulture, conservation, science and research.

American Orchid Society
Public Garden Committee

Alternative Considerations

1. To adopt the National Orchid Education Center strategy, keeping gardens open with reduced operating costs and restricted gift shop activity, while enhancing the programs and activities of the Center.
2. To close the gardens to the public. The AOS will have to eschew the revenue while still absorbing the expense required to maintain the value of the property and plant collections.

Recommendation

The Public Garden Committee strongly recommends that given the positive financial impact to the American Orchid Society, the garden/greenhouses should remain open to the public and be utilized as an important facet of the AOS National Orchid Education Center.

If the Board accepts this recommendation, the trustees authorize the collection of the spring pledge drive in support of the garden/greenhouses.

In addition, the Public Garden Committee recommends to the Board that the National Orchid Education Center's steering committee be comprised of the chairs or their designees from appropriate AOS committees as well as any additional members to help further the development of the Center.

Financial Impact

From the current budget process for the upcoming fiscal year, the garden/greenhouse and restricted gift shop activity is projected to have a \$300,000 contribution margin (Attachment A). This figure does not include additional funds raised through the efforts of the Public Garden Committee, the South Florida Leadership Council, pledge campaigns, or other donations designated for the garden.

A volunteer-initiated special event schedule with the projected positive financial impact is attached (Attachment B). This volunteer-initiated special event schedule is dependent on utilizing the facility.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan

This is directly consistent with the board-approved direction that took place during the summer 2008 strategic planning process.

Respectfully submitted April 22, 2009

JUDGING COMMITTEE REPORT TO TRUSTEES

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009

I. Personnel Recommendations Require JC Recommendation to Board of Trustees

(a) Elevation of Certified Judges, Probationary to Certified Judge, Accredited:

Burton, Diane	Great Lakes
Hachadourian, Marc	Northeast
Jeanne Kaeding	Toronto
Lemieux, Joy	Carolina
Oliveras, Ben	Hawaii
Shepherd, Eric	Alamo
Watts, Jim	Florida Caribbean

(b) Elevation of Students to Certified Judge, Probationary:

Buchanan, Jeanne	Alamo
Medcalf, Joyce	Toronto
Schwarz, Gail	Toronto
Zoltowski, Carol	Pacific Central

(c) Request for change in status to Senior Judge:

Collins, Nancy	Pacific Central
Collins, Scott	Pacific Central
Jenkins, Larry	Pacific Central
Kalina, Thomas	Chicago
Mauer, David	Pacific South
Phillips, C. Robert	Mid-Atlantic
Riley, Will	West Palm Beach
Sanford, Larry	Cincinnati

(d) Request for change in status to Retired Judge:

Boyett, AnnaLee (A)	Atlanta
Hayward, C.W. (Sr)	Rocky Mountain
McKinley's, B. J. (Sr)	Great Plains
Nax, Suki (A)	Chicago

(e) Request for change in status to Retired Emeritus Judge:

Burns, Lloyd	Shreveport
Tharp, A.G.	Pacific South

(f) Request for change in status from Senior to Accredited Judge: None

(g) Recommendation for change in status to Judge Emeritus: None

**II. Notifications received by the Judging Committee
Do Not Require JC Recommendation to Board of Trustees**

(a) Accepted as Students in these Centers:

Batz, Paul	Toronto
Brown, Howard	Great Plains
Bullard, Cecil	California Sierra Nevada
Cadman, Bill	Great Lakes
Charlton, Liz	California Sierra Nevada
Chen, Huei-Mei	California Sierra Nevada
Couture, Andre	Toronto
de Maire, Patti	Great Lakes
Ingalls, Leonard	Dallas
Lurton, James C,	Cincinnati
Mayfield, Greg	California Sierra Nevada
Ramsey, Bryan	National Capital
Taylor, David	Mid-America
Triplett, Ty	Mid-Atlantic
Wade, Dennis	California Sierra Nevada

(b) Granted leave of absence in these Centers:

Colbert, Mary Jane (A)	California Sierra Nevada	One Year
Hill, Cindy (A)	Pacific South	One Year
Lee, Marlyn (A)	Pacific South	One Year
Lyon, Danny (P)	Great Plains	One Year
Terry, Rob (A)	California Sierra Nevada	One Year
Wilson, Ramona (A)	Pacific South	One Year
Wong, Calvin (S)	Toronto	Six Months

(c) Returned from leave of absence in these Centers:

Levin, Mike (A)	Pacific South
Bergstrom, William (A)	Hawaii

(d) Resigned in these Centers:

Chevalier, Rene (S)	Toronto
Latter, David (S)	Toronto
Lima, Luiz Hamilton (S)	Florida Caribbean
Mulyk, Dean (A)	Toronto
Ostenstat, Christine (S)	Pacific Northwest
Rivet, Marie-Pascal (A)	Toronto
Wood, Tina (S)	National Capital

(f) Termination for Cause in these Centers:

Reyes, Ramon (S)	Florida Caribbean
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(g) Automatic Termination in these Centers:

Plewinska, Madgalena (A)	Florida Caribbean
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(h) Transferred in these Centers:

Erickson, Larry (A)	Pacific Northwest to Mid-America
Miller, Rita (A)	Pacific Northwest to Mid-America
Slump, Ken (A)	Rocky Mountain to West Palm Beach

(i) With regret, the deaths of the following judges are noted:

Gallagher, Michael (A)	Pacific Central
Turner, Robert (R)	Toronto

III. (a) Task Force Reports:

(1) Handbook Task Force – Kenneth Roberts

An extensive number of changes to the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Board. This involved the following paragraphs: 1.1; 1.5; 2.3 (5) & (9); 3.2.1 (9) & (16-20); 3.2.6; 3.2.8; 3.2.9; 3.3; 3.5.2; 3.7 (1-3); 4.2.1.2 (9); 4.2.4 (2); 4.6 (16 & 18); 4.9.3; 4.9.4.2 (1-5) & (7); 5.5.3 (1&5); 5.5.3.1 (1-6); 5.4 (1) & 6 (b); 6.2 (11); 7.1.1-7.1.10; 7.3.2; 7.5; 7.5.1-3 and numerous grammatical and spelling corrections throughout the Handbook. The specific changes are described in Appendix 3 of the JC agenda. The major changes involved the responsibilities of the center chair, the process for placing a judging center on probation, the process for removal of a center chair, the definition of an award which has been cleared and is ready for publication, and update both changes in the Style Book.

Description of the major genera updated and changes in award descriptions with similar changes in the Style Book.

All recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

(2) Ethics Task Force – Gary Kraus for Ned Nash

4.9.4.3 of the Handbook concerning lesser disciplinary sanctions was changed to allow the JC chair also to initiate such sanctions.

A proposal to change the attendance requirements for judges' training seminars was returned to the ETF for further review.

4.6 (3) of the Handbook concerning attendance at business meetings was changed to:

Attend each biannual business meeting and any duly called business meeting of the judging center committee unless excused by the judging center chair.

Disciplinary action will be invoked if a judge has two or more consecutive unexcused absences. Excused absences shall be limited to no more than two in a row; further consecutive absences would be unexcused.

Recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

The WTF will be asked to review the definition of a quorum.

(3) Working Task Force – Gary Kraus

4.2 of the Handbook related to the appointment of judges was changed to include student judges: *All judges, including student judges, are appointed, elevated or terminated by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the JC. The JC in turn acts upon recommendations of the judging center committees, upon provisions within this Handbook, or as it deems necessary for the proper and ethical administration of the judging system as described in Paragraphs 2.3(3) and 4.8.*

A judge must be permitted to participate in any AOS-sanctioned judging activity (wherever held) beyond the mere signing of the judging summary sheet for that event.

Recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

Recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

4.6 Responsibilities

To retain status as a judge, a ~~certified~~ judge must:.....

Recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

4.9.1 Leave of Absence

A ~~certified~~ judge in good standing, who, The leave of absence of a **student judge or** probationary judge does not extend the five-year termination rule.

Recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

4.9.2 Resignation of a Judge:

A judge who wishes to resign shall submit a written notice to the judging center committee, which shall in turn notify the JC of the resignation. A certified judge who has resigned may apply to any judging center to reenter the judging system after a minimum waiting period of one year from the time the resignation was accepted. If a two-thirds majority of the accredited judges at the next scheduled business meeting of the judging center committee of the center to which the resigned judge applied, recommends approval of the reentry request, it must be forwarded to the JC for its recommendation and then to the Board of Trustees for its decision.

If approved, reentry must be made at the probationary judge level for a period to be determined by the judging center committee, but not to be less than one period between biannual Trustees Meetings. If the request for reentry is denied, the resigned judge may apply for reentry to another judging center or may re-apply as a student judge.

A student judge who has resigned may re-apply to any judging center as a student judge after a minimum waiting period of one year.

Recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

4.9.3 Retirement of a Judge:

Retirement is a special status, which may be conferred upon an accredited judge who has served satisfactorily for a minimum of five years as a certified judge but for reasons acceptable to the JC is unable to continue to serve. The judge must submit a written request for retirement to the judging center committee. If the request is rejected, the judge may submit the request directly to the JC. This procedure is not to be confused with termination, suspension or resignation. A retired judge shall no longer participate in AOS judging or judging center meetings but his/her name shall be retained on the permanent list of retired judges. A retired judge may apply to any judging center to reenter the judging system after a minimum waiting period of one year from the time the retirement was approved by the Board of Trustees. If a two-thirds majority of the accredited judges at the next scheduled business meeting of the judging center committee of the center to which the retired judge applied, recommends approval of the reentry request, it must be forwarded to the JC for its recommendation and then to the Board of Trustees for its decision. If approved and the total duration of retirement did not exceed two years, reentry may be made at the same level as when the judge retired. Otherwise reentry must be made at the probationary judge level for a period to be determined by the judging center committee, but not to be less than

one period between biannual Trustees Meetings. If the request for reentry is denied, the retired judge may apply for reentry to another judging center. Recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

4.2.4 (2) Senior Judge voting rights

No Change

5.3 (5) Clarification of before judging

*At any time before judging **the plant in question** has started, the chair of judging may advise an exhibitor that the flowers he proposes to submit are not in proper condition to warrant judging at this time. The inflorescence may be withdrawn and will not be considered to have been judged and may be submitted for consideration at a subsequent judging session or show.*

Recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

4.6 (2) Responsibilities:

*To retain status as a judge, a certified judge must: Fulfill his/her judging requirements by participating in at least eight judgments in his/her assigned judging area each year, at least four of which must be at the monthly judging sessions in his/her assigned judging center. **A maximum of 4 out of center judgments may be attended to reduce the center's number requirement by 2 (½ credit per judging).** Any judge, who has not attended the minimum number of judgments during the preceding calendar year, shall be denied voting privileges on any matter at the center's business meeting in the current calendar year. A judge should judge annually at one or more AOS-sanctioned judging activities outside the area served by his/her judging center.*

Recommended for approval by Board of Trustees.

4.2.4 (2) Senior Judged

A proposal to allow a senior judge full voting rights all attendance requirements for certified judges were fulfilled was not recommended.

(4) Species Identification Task Force – Ron McHatton for Patricia Harding

The following Handbook changes were recommended:

Moved unchanged from 5.5.2.1 (5) & (6)

(1) Taxonomic verification of all previously unawarded species is required, no matter what award is granted. Although taxonomic verification need not be presented prior to an award's being granted, if it was previously obtained, it should be accepted when the plant is judged. Awards will be held in a provisional status until identification is complete.

(2) If any certified judge on the judging floor questions the identity of a species being considered for any award, then the award will be held in a provisional status until identification is complete.

INSERT NEW

(3) Taxonomic Verification Options

a) Taxonomic verification which had been previously obtained as noted above;

b) Submission of a flower to an AOS recognized taxonomic authority

c) Referring the necessary plant measurements and images to the Species Identification Task Force (SITF), as obtained by the judges and photographer at the judging session;

d) Referring the necessary plant measurements and images to the SITF as obtained by the exhibitor or designee.

(4) The exhibitor must designate on the plant entry form the desired identification option as listed above. If no designation is made or if the judging chair does not believe that the judges or photographer in attendance have the capability of implementing the SITF protocol, option b) will be implemented.

5.5.2.3 Species Identification Task Force

The SITF, under the responsibility of the JC, is a team of volunteers with an interest in species and taxonomy committed to getting the correct names on species awarded by the AOS judging system in a timely manner. The SITF is on the list of AOS taxonomic authorities. The team consists of a chair and selected members who as a group research and reach a consensus on the correct names of specimens submitted. They will use their own resources but if necessary will contact others in the orchid community who can assist with correct identification. The hope of the SITF is to do the identifications based on photographs and information obtained from the specimen, eliminating the need to ship plant material. Doing identifications this way requires more information than provided by one award slide and one short description. The SITF asks that whoever submits a specimen to the SITF for identification provide extra photographs and measurements, using the forms and guidelines the SITF provides, and using the Descriptive Terminology Section of AQ Plus if the terms are unfamiliar.

7.5.2 (7) Additional measurements may be necessary for species identification if the flower is submitted to the SITF. These should be recorded on the SITF information form.

A revised measurement form, photographers' instructions and appropriate botanic sketches were presented. The favorable experience using SITF at the Toronto and Pacific Northwest Judging Centers was presented by their respective chairs, Peter Poot and William Zimmermann.

Implementation of SITF was recommended by the JC.

(5) Contested Awards Task Force – Ron McHatton

Aerangis brachycarpa 'Joanna' CHM/AOS appears to be *Aerangis distincta*. Recommend changing name to such and allow award to stand.

Dendrobium hainanense – All awards to the taxon – challenge stands. Change all to *Den. hancockii* and allow awards to stand.

Tolumnia prionochoila 'Seagrove's Doodlebugs' CBR/AOS – challenge stands. As it is unclear what this is, recommend nullification of award and return award fee. Exhibitor could send flowers and detailed photos to Ken Wilson to determine whether it is indeed the natural changing name hybrid *Tolu. x floride-phillipsae*.

Paphiopedilum spicerianum ‘Marshall’ AM/AOS – challenge stands. This appears to be *Paph. Leeannum*. Recommend changing name to such and allow award to stand.

C. intermedia var. *alba* ‘Stephen’s Pride’ FCC/AOS – challenge stands. This appears to be *C. intermediette*. Recommend changing name to such and allow award to stand.

C. walkeriana ‘Kenny’ – All awards – challenge stands. This clone appears to be *C. Snow Blind* (*C. Angelwalker* x *C. walkeriana* var. *alba* ‘Pendentive’). Recommend changing name to reflect this and allowing awards to stand. Also recommend a thorough study of all awards to this section of *Cattleya* to clean up inconsistencies.

Phal. Memoria Herman Sweet – challenge stands. Change all 4 awards to *Phal. Equiwilson* to reflect correct parentage.

The above five reports require approval by the Board

(6) Center Program/AQ Plus – Howard Bronstein

Updates to these programs were discussed and questions were answered.

The JC approved allowing all subscribers to AQ Plus to have access to the awards images for educational purposes.

(7) Training Coordinator – Bill Thoms

Recent extensive changes to the Training Aids Manual were discussed. The Manual will be a work in progress. The JC approved publishing it in AQ Plus and on the AOS web site so that it would be readily available. An overview of the short and long term plans for judges’ training was presented.

(b) Other Reports

(1) Membership, AQ Plus and award fees delinquency

Membership: Twenty judges were identified as being delinquent in not paying the membership fee in 2008 (or earlier). With the assistance of the affected center chairs the judges were contacted and given 90 days to pay. Seven judges paid; two centers paid for the judges; one judged paid and the retired; three judges retired (one emeritus); One judge was terminated by the center; one died; and five will be automatically terminated if their fee is not paid by 5/1/09.

AQ Plus subscriptions: A list of 665 judges was received earlier this week. 224 of the judges were delinquent in not having paid for their AQ Plus subscriptions in 2008 (or earlier). Cross checking this list with the judges list in AQ Plus and input from the center chairs at the JC meeting, has reduced the delinquency list to 142. I suspect this number will be cut in half when Pam checks it against her data base. Once its validity is confirmed, the same process that was followed with membership delinquency will be implemented and any judge not paying the fee within 90 days will be terminated as a judge.

Award fees delinquency: This data will be requested shortly.

To facilitate monitoring payment of fees, the JC strongly recommended creation of a Judging Membership which would include both the membership fee and AQ Plus subscription fee at the same rate as they are separately. They also recommended a common billing date for all judges. This would require an initial adjustment to correct for prior payments as well as an initial partial payment for all new judges. Joint membership and multiple year memberships should continue to be available.

(2) Responsibilities of center of record for off shore shows

(3) Slide destruction

IV. Center Business

(a) 2008 Award Statistics

There were 1050 awards at center judgments and 1080 awards at shows.

(b) Center Chair Change

Helmut Rohrl — Chair, Long Beach

Pacific South

Requires approval by the Board

V. Unfinished Business

(a) Centers on probation:

The Pacific South, Hawaii and Cincinnati Judging Centers submitted all of their delinquent summaries and have remained current to the present time. Each of the three centers was removed from probation.

(b) HJC request concerning award images on award certificates— Ron McHatton

This cannot be implemented yet and will be reviewed at the next JC meeting.

VI. New Business

(a) The draft of the JC Strategic Plan was presented. Center chairs were asked to send the JC chair suggestions for changes within the next month so that the Plan can be submitted.

(b) Brainstorming on ways of reducing judging related costs without decreasing awards revenue

The financial report of the judging program was reviewed. The JC was pleased to learn that revenue from AQ plus for the year beginning July 1, 2008 was \$73,100 and from the awards system was \$82,200.

Expenses include Pam's salary and benefits and general and administrative expenses (\$110,800). This includes the judging program's percentage of total AOS operating costs (\$29,300).

The JC will recommend the following cost reductions to the Finance Committee:

- Elimination of the printed AQ **\$17,400** (Printing, editorial, postage)
- Elimination of show kits with replacement by bundled annual shipping to the center chairs of all show trophies, score sheets and triplicate summary forms **\$3000**.

This \$20,400 would be a 65% reduction of the judging program's operating expenses of \$31,300; exclusive of Pam's salary and benefits and our percentage of the AOS operating costs. Other internal cost reduction tactics also were discussed.

Respectively submitted,

Gary Kraus
Chair JC

Challenge Award Report – April 2009-03-30

I. Unfinished Business

- a. At the Fall 08 meeting *Aerangis brachycarpa* ‘Joanna’, CHM/AOS was returned to the Northeast center for resolution. At present this award remains unresolved.
- b. Name of *Ernestara* Fire Storm has officially been changed to *Renanopsis* Fire Storm in the RHS database.
- c. Challenge to *V. furva* awards remain unresolved

II. Resolved Challenges

a. All awards to *Dendrobium hainanense*

There is no such name as *Dendrobium hainanense*. The closest published name is *Dendrobium hainanensis*, however this taxon is NOT what we have awarded under this introduced horticultural name. *Dendrobium hainanensis* is a synonym for *D. sphenochilum* (left photo); a member of the section Aporum and clearly not the same as the awarded plants illustrated in the right hand photo below.



Recommendation:

It is clear that the plants we are awarding are *D. hancockii* and not *D. hainanensis*. With input from Howard Wood, all prior awards to *D. hainanense* should be changed to *D. hancockii*.

Note: The CBR to *D. hancockii* is probably another species although at this point it is not clear what this taxon really is.

b. *Tolumnia prionochoila* ‘Seagrove’s Doodlebugs’, CHM/AOS

This award has been challenged by Anita Aldrich. The taxon was identified by Selby. *Tolumnia prionochoila* has a characteristically long, thin, inflorescence but carries few flowers; typically two or three, rarely up to 5. The lip of *T. prionochoila* has serrate margins and a wide isthmus

and the flowers are, as illustrated in the right-hand image. The callus and anther cap are always yellow while those of the awarded plant are described as red.

Based on input from Ken Wilson and Anita Aldrich, the awarded plant is clearly not *T. prionocheila* and is of hybrid origin. From the material provided, it will be very difficult to determine with certainty its identity.

Recommend nullification of the award to this plant and refund of award fee.



***c. Paphiopedilum spicerianum* ‘Marshall’, AM/AOS**

This award was challenged by Alan Koch with the suggestion that the plant is, in reality a *Paph. Leeatum*. In *Paphiopedilum* the shape and color of the staminode is a key diagnostic factor in determining identity of species. This species, *Paph. spicerianum*, is one of several *Paphiopedilum* species whose staminode varies little and is exceptionally diagnostic. In all but the lightest color forms, the staminode is a bright violet or brown color, obovate or transversely elliptic-obcordate and is dramatically folded to create an “earlike” fold on either side. This is illustrated in the image of *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* ‘Dark Gremlin’, HCC/AOS illustrated in this image.



The staminode of *Paph. spicerianum* 'Marshall', AM/AOS, while roughly obovate, is pink-tan and completely devoid of the characteristic earlike folds. This can be seen in the image of the awarded plant below.



Paphiopedilum spicerianum flowers from July to April however flowering is not distributed evenly over those 6 months. Based on 221 examples of the species the following observation can be made: July (1), August (6), September (15), October (55), November (83), December (41), January (11), February (6), March (2), April (1) making *Paph. spicerianum* as sharply fall-bloomer. The awarded clones of *P. spicerianum* follow this pattern as well with 2 in the latter half of September, 8 in October, 14 in November, 5 in December and 5 in the first two weeks of January.

Paphiopedilum spicerianum 'Marshall' stands alone one month later in the latter half of February. *Paphiopedilum insigne*, on the other hand, has a much more drawn out blooming season with flowering recorded in every month (based on 1400 samples) but beginning in earnest in October and ending in March. Awarded clones of *Paph. Leeatum* have flowered fairly evening distributed between December and April with the peak month being February.

Recommendation:

With input from Harold Koopowitz and Phil Cribb, based on the staminodal differences between *P. spicerianum* 'Marshall' and other clones of *P. spicerianum*, the dominance of *P. spicerianum* in primary hybrids and the February flowering date (distinctly separated from *P. spicerianum* but coinciding well with the peak flowering of *P. Leeatum*), it appears that *P. Leeatum* (*spicerianum* x *insigne*) is a better match for this flower than *P. spicerianum* and the name should be changed and allow the award to stand as *P. Leeatum* 'Marshall', AM/AOS.

d. *Cattleya intermedia* var. *alba* 'Stephen's Pride', FCC/AOS



normally seen (non-peloric examples) and the petals are “stalked” while those of *C. intermedia* are lanceolate without stalks. The petal width to length ratio of this particular example falls within those seen in “aquinii” types and almost double that ratio in normal-flowered examples.

This has been challenged based on several different characteristics, by a fair number of people independently. First and foremost are characteristics of the lip that do not fit those of *C. intermedia*.

1. The lip of this flower is entire without the characteristic deep cleft separating the midlobe from the side lobes.
2. This lip is distinctly hooked downward from the horizontal while those of *C. intermedia* are either only ever so slightly pitched downward or held horizontally.
3. The petals of this flower are much wider than



Georgianna ‘Texas’, HCC/AOS. Note the petals and entire lip margin. However it illustrate the lip profile of ‘Stephen’s Pride’.

Note the deep lip clefts on either side of this example of the species and the nearly horizontal aspect of the lip in the side-on flower. Also note the more narrow, lanceolate petals typical of the species.



This is *C. Louise*

stalked does not

Recommendation:

Based on the input of Ken Roberts, Francisco Miranda, Michael Sinn and Cassio Van den Berg this clone is clearly not properly labeled as *C. intermedia*. It is not at all clear what this is. The first suggestion was *C. Louise* Georgianna but the hooked aspect of the lip profile isn’t consistent with this grex. The hooked aspect of the lip is strongly suggestive of *C. (warscewiczii x intermedia)* but there is no material to verify this. Unfortunately recommend nullification of the award or removal from the database without nullification until a determination can be made.

***e. C. walkeriana* ‘Kenny’ (3 Awards)**
 Challenged by Alan Koch originally



There are several issues with this flower that are apparent from these two photos; the CCE photo and the FCC given at the same judging. These include the elongated pseudobulb, near vertically held leaf, widely spread lip side lobes exposing the column and the horizontally held column visible in the uppermost flower.



In *C. walkeriana* the side lobes of the lip are small and carried close to the column exposing the majority of the column. This image of *C. walkeriana* ‘Palmetto Star’ illustrates the correct presentation of the lip side lobes and the angle of the column to the remainder of the flower in *C. walkeriana*. It also illustrates well the triangular aspect of the lip midlobe.

In *C. nobilior* the most noticeable difference from *C. walkeriana* are the lip side lobes which, while closely appressed to the column, extend to nearly the tip virtually concealing the column in a side view of the flowers. In addition, the column in *C. nobilior* is nearly straight rather than hooked downward as in *C. walkeriana*. These traits are illustrated here with *C. nobilior* ‘Palmetto Gem’.

We also know from a detailed genetic analysis done recently in Japan that *C. walkeriana* var. *alba* ‘Pendentive’ is indeed a *C. walkeriana* and not a *C. nobilior* or *C. x dolosa* as suggested by some. This is important because this particular clone is one of the parents of *C. walkeriana* ‘Kenny’. This then leaves us with understanding the source of the wide spread, prominent lip side lobes, cream-color central splash and the horizontally held column.



The other parent could not have been *C. x dolosa* as illustrated here because the lip side lobes would not have been opened up but merely shortened.



The other parent could have been however, *C. Angelwalker*. This would open up the lip and bring the column much closer to a horizontal aspect. In addition, it explains the color of the lip midlobe and note the length of the pseudobulb visible to the right of the facing flower. The resulting grex is *C. Snow Blind*. The image on the left below is *C. Snow Blind Winter Dream*' and that on the right is *C. walkeriana* 'Kenny'.



Recommendation:

The plant receiving awards as *C. walkeriana* 'Kenny' is not properly labeled and is in all likelihood a *C. Snow Blind*. Recommend changing the name to *C. Snow Blind* and allowing the awards to stand.

This group of “species” is clearly very confused and, based on the images available, a collection of *C. walkeriana*, *C. nobilior*, *C. x dolosa* and one or more hybrids. A task force of knowledgeable people like Ken Roberts, Alan Koch, Francisco Miranda and perhaps Michael Sinn should go systematically through the awards to *C. walkeriana* and propose appropriate changes to the task force.

f. *Phalaenopsis Memoria Herman Sweet* – all 4 awards



When originally challenged, there were two awards to this grex, illustrated here by *Phal. Memoria Herman Sweet* ‘Tejas’, AM/AOS. There are now 4. The basis of the challenge was that *Phal. stobartiana*, one of the parents of the grex was not in cultivation in the US at the time the grex was made and that the parent used was actually *Phal. wilsonii* making the grex name *Phal. Equiwilson* (*equestris* x *wilsonii*). This challenge does appear to be valid and these 4 awards should be changed to *Phal. Equiwilson*.

The image on the left below is an authentic *Phal. stobartiana* (‘Popeye’s Sweetheart’, HCC/AOS). The image on the right is *Phal. wilsonii* ‘ORCHIDBabies’, AM/AOS. At the time the grex in question was made, *Phal. wilsonii* was in cultivation in the US under three names; *honghenensis*, *stobartiana* and *wilsonii*. The early crosses registered with the former two taxa appear to have been made with *Phal. wilsonii*.



Recommendation:

The award challenge appears to be valid and these 4 awards should be changed to *Phal. Equiwilson*. A knowledgeable group should carefully examine the awards to *Phal. wilsonii*, *stobartiana* and *honghenensis* to clarify this group of awards.

Summary:

Dendrobium hainanense – All awards to the taxon – challenge stands. Change all to *Den. hancockii* and allow awards to stand.

Tolumnia prionochila 'Seagrove's Doodlebugs', CBR/AOS – challenge stands. As it is unclear what this is, recommend nullification of award and return award fee. Exhibitor could send flowers and detailed photos to Ken Wilson to determine whether it is indeed the natural hybrid *Tolu. x floride-phillipsae*.

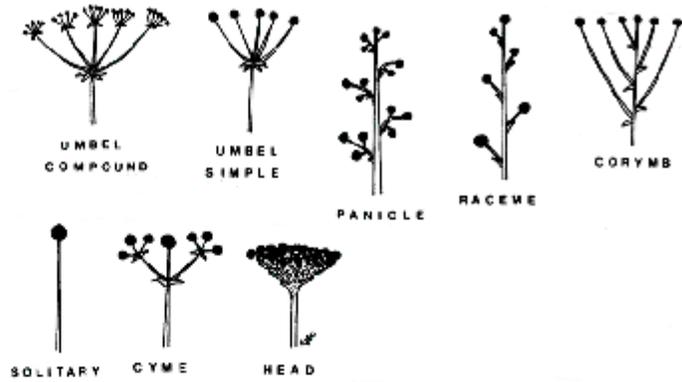
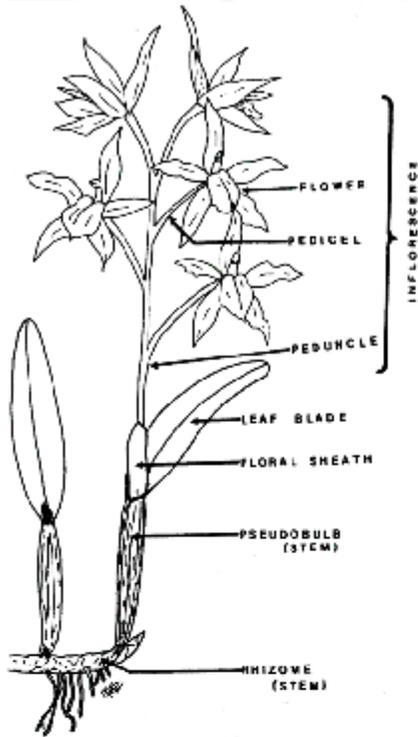
Paphiopedilum spicerianum 'Marshall', AM/AOS – challenge stands. This appears to be *Paph. Leanum*. Recommend change name to such and allow award to stand.

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Phal. Memoria Herman Sweet – challenge stands. Change all 4 awards to *Phal. Equiwilson* to reflect correct parentage.

TYPES OF INFLORESCENCES

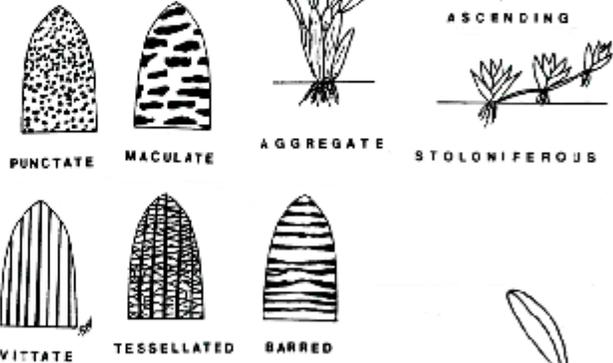


STEM GROWTH HABIT

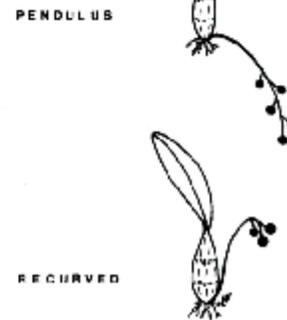
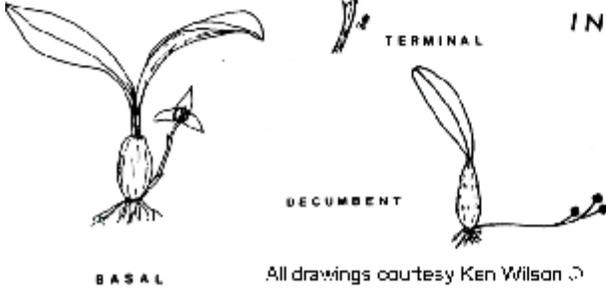


ORIGIN OF INFLORESCENCE

MARKINGS



HABIT OF INFLORESCENCE



All drawings courtesy Ken Wilson ☺

Species Identification Task Force - Information Form

Judging Center:	Award Number:	Date:
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Awarded as:

ALL MEASUREMENTS IN CENTIMETERS OR MILLIMETERS ONLY.

NOTE: LENGTH GIVEN FIRST AS PER STANDARD BOTANICAL PROTOCOL.

PLANT

overall length of cane/growth:			
Leaf	number of leaves per cane or growth:		
length:	width:	margin:	
shape:	petiole length (apex of pseudobulb or stem to leaf base proper):		
Pseudobulb/Growth/Ramical	length:	diameter:	shape:
distance between growths along rhizome:			
root tip color if visible:			

INFLORESCENCE

overall length:		arrangement:	
distance between flowers along inflorescence:			
distance from base of inflorescence to first bud or branch:			
distance from inflorescence to base of sepals (on an individual flower):			
OR if possible, distance from inflorescence to ovary (pedicel):			
Ovary	length:	width:	shape:
color:		texture:	
Floral bracts	length:	width:	
<input type="checkbox"/> if alive, color (ie. green or striped):			<u>or</u> <input type="checkbox"/> dead, dried

Continued over...

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Members of the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with Jim Jordan the current financial situation of AOS. Topics discussed were: the implementation of iMIS and its cost overrun; the decline in memberships; the gift store and its budget; salaries and benefits being over budget; print, office, and postage expenses being over budget; repairs, maintenance, and vehicle expenses being over budget; utility expenses being over budget; advertising and promotion expenses being over budget; the need and means of reducing expenses; the need to increase memberships; the need to upgrade the website and offer banner advertising as a means of increasing revenue; the continuing expenses involved with Rachlin L.L.P.; and the dispute with ASI concerning the cost overrun for the implementation of iMIS.

The Finance Committee met via teleconference on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 to review and discuss the AOS audit with Ron Whitesides of Purvis Gray & Company. The completion of the audit was delayed this year, as the auditors were unable to complete fieldwork at the agreed upon date of August 25, 2008, due to the condition of the accounting records and supporting audit schedules necessary for the audit. This required the auditors to return in November 2008 to complete the audit, which was an additional expense.

During the audit review, Ron Whitesides made comments and/or recommendations concerning the following items:

(1) The auditors found management's estimates of pledges receivable and valuation of property to be reasonable and the recorded liability for the former executive director's retirement plan to be based upon an actuarial valuation and this could have a significant effect in the future upon the recorded liability.

(2) There were no difficulties encountered in performing the audit and no disagreements with management occurred.

(3) There had been no consultations with other accountants except for the routine booking advice and assistance from the firm of Rachlin L.L.P.

(4) During the audit Purvis Gray & Co. found matters that would strengthen internal controls and operating efficiency and recommended that we employ a CPA or someone with an accounting degree who would be able to properly prepare the financial statements required for the audit. This person has now been hired.

(5) Since there was a large over budget expenditure for implementation of iMIS, the auditors recommend that the Society require explicit Board and/or Finance Committee of any disbursement or incurrence of indebtedness above a reasonable threshold. This is currently being taken care of in the development of a Financial Policies and Procedures document, which will eventually come to the Board for approval.

(6) The Society does not have an approved investment policy and is currently operating from a drafted investment policy dated May 2007. It is recommended that the Board formally adopt an investment policy. This item is one of the first year goals of the Finance Committee.

(7) There were some expense reports that did not have adequate business purpose documentation. This item has been taken care of by the Executive Director.

(8) If significant revenue or cost cutting is not achieved in fiscal 2009, the Society will either be faced with using temporarily restricted funds for operations or borrowing funds for operations. In response to this item, cost cutting measures have been implemented and the Board has approved the borrowing of \$250,000 from temporarily restricted funds, to be paid back within three (3) years.

(9) There is no documentation of a secondary review and approval of journal entries prepared and posted to the Society's general ledger. Failure to require a secondary review of journal entries increases the risk that errors or irregularities may go undetected. This situation has been corrected with an in house secondary review and documentation of both internal and external journal entries.

The Finance Committee continues to monitor the financials on a monthly basis and gives input and/or comments to the Executive Director on a regular basis concerning the monthly report. It is hoped that the monthly charges from Rachlin for bookkeeping items/concerns can be totally eliminated and the bookkeeping tasks transferred to our in house bookkeeper in the very near future. The Executive Director has assured us that this will be taking in the very near future.

The Finance Committee is scheduled to receive the proposed 2009-2010 budget the first week in April 2009. After reviewing the proposal, the Finance Committee will meet via teleconference to discuss the proposed budget with Jim Jordan, at which time we will recommend approval of budget line items and/or make recommendations for adjustment to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Lowell Jacks
Chair, Finance Committee

Reports of the Governance Committee

APRIL 24, 2009

Yesterday's lively discussion on the Bylaws will lead to several conceptual changes to the draft of the proposed Bylaws. The Governance Committee will incorporate these changes to the draft and resubmit it to the Trustees. We respectfully request that ALL comments be included in emails to ALL Trustees. Only in open communication and joint effort may we develop a set of Bylaws we can all support and which will guide us in the coming years.

Once we have an agreed-upon draft, we will disseminate the draft of the new Bylaws, with the rationale for the changes, to the membership, mainly via electronic means. There will be a method for the membership to send its comments and suggested changes to the committee and all of these will be carefully reviewed, and, after consultation with the Board, incorporated. Once we have a final, approved version, it will be submitted to the membership for ratification.

At our last meeting, we conducted our first Board Meeting Evaluation and the compiled results were sent to all Trustees prior to this meeting. (Here we will review the results.) We plan to continue these evaluations, and, we hope, use them to improve the processes that create an effective board meeting with all members working together to implement the Strategic Plan and work toward the future of the American Orchid Society.

Prior to our next meeting, the committee hopes to begin work on the Trustees' Handbook, which will contain matters of policy, as well as information for incoming Trustees. The Volunteer Handbook, which will contain much of the same information, should follow quite quickly after that.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Slaughter, Chair

Report of the Governance Committee to the Board of Trustees

April 15, 2009

The Governance Committee has completed its review of the Bylaws and produced a proposed draft for their revision. The committee has also written a draft of a Strategic Plan for itself, following the responsibilities agreed upon at the meeting of the Board of Trustees in October at Longwood. Both of these documents are included with this report to the Trustees.

The committee expects to present these two documents to the Board at the April meetings of the Board for its review after which the documents will again be revised prior to implementation. The committee also presents to the Board for its development the results of the Board meeting evaluation from the meeting in October at Longwood. This report should be discussed in April prior to another evaluation's being completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Slaughter
Governance Committee Chair

Governance Committee Strategic Plan Draft

Consistent with the strategic plan of the American Orchid Society, the mission of its Governance Committee is to provide to the Board of Trustees guidance on best practices in board governance. This should include the following:

1. Review the By-Laws for relevance, authority, structure and processes of the Board, conformity to the mission and vision, and conformity with legal requirements.
2. Evaluate Board activity, including meeting evaluation, conflicts of interest, standards of conduct at meetings, and periodic self-assessment.
3. Provide orientation for all Board members through a Board Handbook.
4. Provide for Board development.
5. Provide Committee Chair orientation.

Year One Goals

- *Review and rewrite the By-Laws. Present them to the Board for discussion and continued revision. Present the By-Laws to the membership for comment and suggestions. Present the final version to the Board for ratification.*
- *Evaluate Board activity through Board self-evaluations at meetings. Present the results of the evaluation to the Board at the next meeting.*
- *Review standards of conduct for meetings and for Board members between meetings.*
- *Begin preparation of the Board Handbook to include the roles and responsibilities of Board members, and an Action Calendar that establishes timing for reviews of various tasks of the Board.*
- *Provide Board development through asking for Board input on the agenda, the inclusion of development on the agenda, and reviewing the duties of Care, Loyalty and Obedience.*
- *Begin the preparation of the Committee Chair Handbook.*

Year Two Goals

- *Finalize the Board Handbook and provide orientation for all Board members.*
- *Continue to provide for Board self-evaluation at meetings.*
- *Begin to provide for Board development.*
- *Finish the Committee Chair Handbook and provide Committee Chair orientation.*

Year Three Goals

- *Review the By-Laws for conformity with mission and vision, relevance, and conformity with legal issues.*
- *Continue to provide Board self-evaluation and orientation.*
- *Continue to provide Committee Chair orientation.*
- *Continue to provide for Board development.*