

# Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter

## President's Message

One of the best ways to learn how to grow your orchids is to see them growing in the wild. You get a very good feeling for their light, temperature and water requirements. In nature orchids are not growing alone. They live in communities of other plants and animals, with varying amounts of sunlight & rainfall. Even a small branch can be home to many small orchids as well as ferns, mosses, bromeliads and other plants, and various pests including insects and perhaps a grazing cow. Of course not everyone is able to go to tropical places. What is the next best thing? Talking to folks who have been there. We'll have 4 of our members show pictures or movies of trips they have taken to several locations around the world. Not all of it will be about orchids - there may be a few "other" stories thrown in as well!

We have our annual orchid show coming up in April. Please contact Vivian or Paige for helping out - it makes their job much easier. (Some positions don't require any standing). Even if you can only help for one hour that would be great!

Our condolences to our Secretary Robin Johnson whose brother passed away recently. She'll be away in New York for a few months caring for his children. She'll be back in our area in June.

## March Speakers

Note the plural. We have a very interesting meeting planned for Sunday March 8 at 1:30 (set up time). Four of our AAOS members have agreed to share their travel experiences with us. These travels are to areas in the world where orchids grow naturally in the wild. Following is a sample:

### Duane Duman: The Panama Canal & the Darien Jungle

The Panama Canal is not actually a canal. It is a big lake which goes from the Caribbean to the Pacific Ocean. To do this the builders had to raise the water level of the lake 85 feet above the ocean level, and cut down the rocks which made up the continental divide. A river runs into the lake and provides the water pressure to run both sets of the locks which lift and lower the ships. It is the only place on earth where one river empties into two different oceans. What fascinated

*Please join us for lunch before the meeting. We will meet at Applebees on Green Road at Noon on Sunday, March 8.*

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me was the organization and precision of the operation. There were men running everywhere, machines moving, great gates moving, and great ships passing closely by one another. Even though the ships pass through the locks under their own power, the lock gates seem to survive.

Our nation's aircraft carriers pass through the locks with only one foot of clearance on each side. If they bump the side, the cement would be crushed. It hasn't happened yet.

Everyone can use the canal, even four guys in a stretched kayak. Richard Halliburton paid his fee and swam through.

The Darien Jungle trip was to see an experiment. It is located near Panama's border with Columbia. Many large family groups of nomads roam through this swamp which goes all across Panama. The continental divide here is about 20 feet above sea level. On the coasts slash and burn farmers are working their way inland. We rented our dugouts and guides from these farmers. In order to stop their inland progress, the Panama government has convinced some nomad groups to settle in permanent villages a couple miles inland. The government built the villages, provides medical care and education, and brings them tourists to buy their baskets and wood carvings. They in their turn will dig in and halt the slash and burn farmers. It was obvious that there was no love lost between these two groups. When we were there the program had just started. We were the sixth group of tourists to be taken to the first village. It was a mentally overwhelming experience.

#### **Susan Haddock: Costa Rica**

My presentation is of my trip to Costa Rica. I visited four main areas: Manuel Antonio on the western coast, Monteverde Cloud Forest Area, Arenal Volcano Area, and Rincon de la Vieja. I will show the flora, fauna and terrain of these areas as well as a narrative of my trip.

#### **Judy Lobato: Thomas Trips**

My husband Duane Thomas plans all of our vacations using books from the library and the Internet. In September 2007 we headed east for the Dark Continent. We began our journey in Nairobi, capital of Kenya.

Jambo. Habari? Mzuri sana.

Many people speak English, so it is easy to get around. Nairobi is a typical large city with something extra—a wildlife park. There, baboons and warthogs are in the wild plus it contains a zoo housing ostrich, topi and up close and personal, a Nile croc. Elephants were moved out

years ago because they liked to wander into the city.

Nature Expeditions took us on safari with another couple, Maj. Bryce Silver USAF and his wife Stacey. The 4 of us hit it off immediately and a pleasant week was spent searching for the Big 5: Simba (lion), Nyati (Cape buffalo), Chui (leopard), Tembo (elephant) and Kifaro (rhinoceros). Come to the March meeting to find out if we found all of them.

If you go to Kenya, I can guarantee you will see zebra, twiga (giraffe), wildebeest, duma (cheetah), elephants, ostrich, bushbucks, Duane's favorite: the Thompson gazelle and more. Everyone wants to find seldom seen animals and we were lucky to find a serval, a type of wild cat, hiding in the grass. Servals have been used to create the domestic Savannah ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savannah\\_\(cat\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savannah_(cat))). ALL babies are adorable, including the ones we saw: elephant, hippo, rhinoceros, cheetah, ostrich and hyena. The entire safari was done in a Land Cruiser, that way when the animals came right up to us, we were able to close the windows and roof to stay safe. It was a thrill when the female elephant told us to move and the 2nd time she told us, she made sure we knew she meant it!

Duane and I try to learn about the native flora, fauna and culture whenever we travel. The visit to a Masai village showed us people embracing modern day things such as wrist watches and commercially made material for clothing yet keeping their culture alive with scarring of their face, living in huts made of walls of mud mixed with dung and tending cattle in the open grassland.

After Kenya, Duane and I flew over Lake Victoria to Rwanda where it helps to know French. Though it had been 13 years since the genocide, it is something everyone remembers and there are memorials throughout the country.

Once again we learned how lucky we are. People work long hours 6 days a week (in Kenya too) and may work a month before they get a few days off to go home to visit their family. Rwanda is the land of a Thousand Hills and everyone walks, all of it uphill. If you've ever carried a filled 5 gallon bucket you can appreciate how hard it is for people to carry Gerry cans of water collected from a public faucet.

Our purpose to visit Rwanda was to see the endangered mountain gorillas. There are less than 700 left in the wild. By bringing tourism dollars to the local people, hopefully both the government and the local people will want to keep the animals alive and thriving. No words can describe what it is like to be 15 feet from

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## AAOS Calendar



**March 8:** Orchid Travels with AAOS Members

**April 17-19:** AAOS FESTIVAL!

**May 17:** Tentative: Judging Seminar--Oncidiums

with speaker

Eduardo Sanchez, from Cuenca, Ecuador

**July AAOS Picnic:** Date TBA

**September 13:** Ernie Gemeinhart: Cochlopetalum Paphs (sequential bloomers)

**October:** TBA

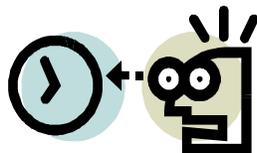
**November:** Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids - Subject to be announced

**December:** Holiday Party TBA

**January 10, 2010:** Russ Vernon, Ly-castes

### Announcement: Houston!

Marilyn Lee is looking for a roommate for April 22 and 23 at the Hilton Houston North for the AOS meetings. Northwest Airlines has rates as low as \$247 roundtrip. If anyone is interested in sharing a room with Marilyn, please contact her at [lee@msu.edu](mailto:lee@msu.edu)



### Newsletter Deadline

Please contribute to the AAOS Newsletter! The next deadline for contributions is April 11, 2009!

## Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2007-08 Officers

**President** - Alex Challis 734-971-6186, [IcePenguin@aol.com](mailto:IcePenguin@aol.com)

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**Orchid Festival** - Ann Bommarito & Kevin Griffin

**Orchid Shows** - Alex Challis, Paige Hartman

**Programs** - Paige Hartman, Alex Challis

**Publicity** - Neal Foster

**Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter** - The AAOS meets monthly from September through May (excluding December) at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI. at 2:00 p.m., set up at 1:30. The AAOS Newsletter is published 8-9 times throughout the year, and is sent to all AAOS members. AAOS members and others are invited to submit articles or other information relating to orchids. The Ann Arbor Orchid Society is a 501(C)(3) educational and scientific organization, affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and with the Orchid Digest Corporation.

## Plant Table, February 15, 2009

The February meeting had our largest turnout in a long time. A huge plant table took almost an hour to discuss; 43 plants from 13 members appeared on the plant table, listed below.

<i>Cattleya mossieae</i>	L-O	Linda Battison
Cymbidium Leodogran 'Villa Park'	W-O	
Phalaenopsis Yu Pin Pearl 'Rachel'		
Trichocentrum (Oncidium) Totosauri		
Ascocenda Blue Tahourdin 'Bronze Grape'		Alex Challis
Ludochilus Friar Tuck		
<i>Neofinetia falcata</i>		
<i>Rhynchostylis gigantea</i>		
<i>Trichosalpinx sp.</i> (Ecuador)		
Paphiopedilum hybrid	W-O	Laura & Duane Duman
Paph [Hsinying Quatal 'Round' x Hsinying Inspiration '#1']	RP	
Paph [Olive Paradise x Maiden Pradise]	RP	
Paph Saint Swithin	RP	
Paph Sue Franz	W-O	
Phalaenopsis Jiaho's Pink Girl	RP	
Phalaenopsis Sogo Grape 'Fireball'		
Phragmipedium Don Wimber	G-O	
Slc Mem. Dorothy Worden x Brassavola nodosa]	G-O	
Cattlianthe (Lc) Trick or Treat	L-O	Emma Edge
<i>Coelogyne alata (carinata)</i>	L-O	
Paphiopedilum Angela	W-O	
Blc Pamela Hetherington 'Coronation' FCC/AOS	G-O	Neal & Merideth Foster
[Sc (Slc) Pink Doll x Rsc (Blc) Reisa]	G-O	
<i>Anoectochilus chapaensis</i>	W-L-G	Marilyn Lee
Dossinodes Indra's Net	W-L-G	
<i>Pescatoria coronaria</i>	G	
Rodricidium Orchidom Good Nature	L-O	Vivian Lin
Paphiopedilum Gege Hughes	W	Judy Lobato
Cattleya Chocolate Drop x <i>Laelia milleri</i>	W	Riki Marquis
Paphiopedilum Ho Chi Minh	L-O	
Phalaenopsis Intermedia	W-O	
Phragmipedium Jason Fischer	W-O	
<i>Restrepiella ophiocephala</i>	W	
Guarisophleya (Lc) Gold Digger	G	Lee & Don Meyer

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Plant table, cont.

<i>Paphiopedilum hainanenense</i>	(First bloom)	John Olszewski
<i>Paphiopedilum Rosy Dawn</i>	W-L	
<i>Paph Sioux [Winston Churchill xGigi]</i>	W-L	
<i>Stenorrhynchos sp.</i>	W-L	
<i>Paphiopedilum hyb.</i>	W-O	Abby Skinner
<i>Anoectochilos sp.</i>		Dottie & Harry Winter
<i>Epidendrum nitens</i>	L	
<i>Eria amica</i> (in bud)	L-O	
<i>Paphiopedilum Rosy Dawn</i>	L	
<i>Tainia hookeriana</i>	RP	

Conditions: G, greenhouse; L, Lights; W, Windowsill; O, outdoors in summer; RP, recent purchase (in spike or flower). Harry Winter



### Show Update

Our next orchid show is the Michigan Orchid Society Palm Sunday Show, which is held on April 4 and 5 at the MSU Management Education Center (MEC)- 811 W Square Lake Rd. Troy, MI 48098. Set up will be Friday April 3. We usually start set up at 1:00 p.m., although the set up time was not noted on their website. Tear down will be April 5 at 5:00 p.m. Please volunteer for one of these activities! Both helpers \*and\* flowering orchid plants are needed!

I hope to see you there.

*March speakers, Continued.*

220 kilo Gahunda, the largest silverback. His group consists of young males not yet silver, females and babies. Some members of our group had a thrill when Gahunda walked by them-mere inches! Away! And yes, gorillas really do pound their chest. Visiting golden backed monkeys wasn't as scary as being close to gorillas but being highly endanger and there is something sad and scary that the group we observed may soon disappear forever. Rwanda is working hard to bring the different tribes together. In Kenya, people will indicate which tribe they belong to. In Rwanda, they do not mention their personal tribe. One Saturday morning a month, everything stops and everyone works in the community to make things cleaner, nicer and better.

Please visit our photo website: [picasaweb.com/duanejthomas](http://picasaweb.com/duanejthomas). Click on the individual photo (the Africa trip is Sept. 2007 and the pictures are obvious) and it will open the album. Click on slide show (top left) and sit back and enjoy. If you watch on a computer with speakers, there are some videos with a little bit of sound. Asante.

**Alex Challis: Ecuador**

On one of my trips to Ecuador Dr. Eduardo Sanchez asked us if we wanted to see *Phragmipedium besseae* growing in the wild. Duh!!! This was a relatively uneventful trip compared to the first Ecaudorian trip which involved 2 volcanoes and a hurricane.

## GLOS Show, February 28-March 1, 2009

The show season continued with the Greater Lansing OS show at MSU in East Lansing. We again had a 50 sq. ft. display. Our crew for set-up: Dottie Winter was in charge of the arrangement, with help from Harry, Neal Foster, Riki Marquis, Randy Long's friend Frank who brought the van-load of staging and helped set it up (Randy had to work, unfortunately) and Denise Nash, who helped as she could as she also was working for Ron of Taylor Orchids. As Paige was still out of town, Dottie also made the labels, but because everyone was good about getting plant lists to us ahead of time, she was able to do most of them before we got to the set-up. Riki and Neal did a great job of getting the plants staked, bagged and ready to put into the display. As usual, Harry did the registration, only goofing up a few of the tags because of the changes in the registration schedule. We got started about 1, and were finished early in the evening. In all, nine members exhibited 58 plants, all but one of which were registered for judging (one paph didn't open in time).

The competition among society displays again was tough, as four displays were in the 50' class, and all had a really nice assortment of plants. Nevertheless, we got the second place ribbon, being edged out only by a society's display full of their wonderful specimen plants. And again, at least one plant in the display received a trophy, this time a wonderful Cattleya of Neal's:

### Trophy: Sophrocattleya Orglade's Grand

Neal Foster

#### First

Odontonia Yellow Parade	Duane & Laura Duman
<i>Oncidium ampliatum</i>	Neal Foster
Sophrocattleya Orglade's Grand	Neal Foster
Sarcochilus Sherlock	Paige Hartman
Dtps Chain Xen Diamond 'Celebration' FCC/AOS	Riki Marquis
<i>Eria amica</i>	Harry & Dottie Winter
<i>Paphiopedilum primulinum</i>	Dottie & Harry Winter

#### Second

SLC Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' AM/AOS	Neal Foster
Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AN/AOS	Neal Foster
<i>Bulbophyllum sp. (miniatum?)</i>	Paige Hartman
<i>Paphiopedilum victoria-regina</i>	Paige Hartman
Caulaelia (Dialaelia) Mizoguchi	Riki Marquis
Ascocenda Princess Mikasa	Denise Nash
Paphiopedilum Angela	Denise Nash
Paphiopedilum Hsingying Beltre	Denise Nash
Paphiopedilum Jogjae	Denise Nash

*Continued on page 7.*

*GLOS show results, cont.*

Paphiopedilum MacBeth's Ghost  
Renanthera Tom Thumb  
*Tainia hookeriana*

Denise Nash  
Denise Nash  
Harry & Dottie Winter

**Third**

Trichocentrum (Onc.) Totosauri  
Sophranthe (Lc) Rojo  
Cymbidium Kiwi Baron 'New Horizon'  
Phalaenopsis Sunrise Goldamour 'F.D.'  
Rhynchovola (Brassavola) Jimminey Cricket  
Paphiopedilum Angela (First Bloom Seedling)  
Paphiopedilum Satchel's Legend

Linda Battison  
Neal Foster  
Paige Hartman  
Paige Hartman  
Riki Marquis  
Denise Nash  
Denise Nash



**AAOS Display**  
Greater Lansing Orchid Society show at MSU  
February 28-March 1, 2009

(Check out Neal Foster's trophy plant at the very top of the picture...AWESOME!)

## Festival Volunteers Needed

The annual AAOS orchid festival is fast approaching, and we need EVERYONE to help to make it a success!!! We need the following help, preferably in ~2-hour blocks:

- Friday 10 AM-4:30 PM: help with set up (moving tables, helping the vendors with unloading)
- Saturday and Sunday 10 AM-4:30 PM:
  - Main Lobby Greeter: Greet visitors and direct traffic to show/classes/vendors
  - Auditorium Door Greeter: Greet visitors and hand out tickets for them to vote for their favorite display (this is key for tracking attendance).
  - Auditorium Information Table (2 people per shift): Answer questions from the public about the show/club/orchid growing; sales of books, bark, etc.; raffle table.
  - Auditorium Floater: Answer questions in the display area; remind people not to touch the displays, etc.
  - Vendor Area Information Table (2 people per shift): Answer questions from the public about the show/club/orchid growing.

Sunday 4:30 PM to 6 PM: Help with teardown/cleanup

Please contact Vivian by email ([vhl@umich.edu](mailto:vhl@umich.edu)) or by phone (734-741-1984) about what you can help with and at what times. Thanks so much!!!

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## Mid America 2009 Shows

**Mid America Spring Meeting and Show:** Central Ohio Orchid Society at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel, Columbus, OH. March 27th, 28th and 29th, 2009. See: <http://www.iosoc.com/forward-3/maoc/>

### 50th Anniversary Fall Meeting and Show

Franklin Tennessee, Friday October 30th through Sunday November 1.  
See: [http://www.tnorchid.com/osmt\\_orchid\\_show.html](http://www.tnorchid.com/osmt_orchid_show.html) for details.

## Ann Arbor Orchid Society Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone (Home):

Phone (Work):

E-mail:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$20)

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Individual (\$15)

\_\_\_\_\_ Household (\$25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Household (\$20)    Senior rates apply for those 70 and over.

New Membership

Renewal

New Address

Beginner

Advanced Grower

Commercial Grower

What is your growing environment?

Greenhouse

Artificial lights

Windowsill

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive you newsletter via email only?    Yes    No

Member of the American Orchid Society?    Yes    No

Member of the Orchid Digest Corporation?    Yes    No

Please make checks payable to the Ann Arbor Orchid Society. You may bring this application to any meeting, or mail it to: AAOS Membership, P.O. Box 3006, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3006