

The photographs on display were taken by amateur photographers who are members of the Orchid Grower's Guild of Madison. This exhibit is presented as part of its educational mission to promote the conservation and appreciation of orchids.

The Orchidaceae [orchids] are a diverse family and have the largest variety of blooms of flowering plants. Orchids are one of the two largest families of flowering plants with more than 28,000 known species. They may be tiny as a penny or very large, weighing a couple of hundred pounds. They occur on every continent except Antarctica, and orchids have adapted to live in diverse environments — mountains, bogs, grasslands, deserts and rainforests although none are aquatic. They can live on the ground (terrestrial forms), attached to woody plants or rocks (epiphytic types) or completely under the ground. Certain species are parasitic, unable to produce

nutrients using sunlight and carbon dioxide, they obtain food from fungi that live inside their roots or on roots of host plants.



Orchid pollination is often highly specialized. Orchids may attract pollinators for reproduction by providing nectar, scent, mimicry or stealth. In addition to insects —small mammals, birds, bats and the wind may be pollinators.

Historically, orchids have been a symbol of love, luxury and beauty. To the early Greeks, the orchid represented virility, and the name 'orchis' means 'testicle' in ancient Greek; and the Chinese called it "the plant of the king's fragrance." During the Middle Ages, the orchid was considered an aphrodisiac and was used in love potions.

The Orchid Growers' Guild (OGG) is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, affiliated with the American Orchid Society. It is dedicated to the education of both OGG members and the public about orchids and their culture. We hope you enjoy this show. To see hundreds of orchids in bloom, join us at Orchid Quest 2018 on February 3rd and 4th at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. This is a free family-friendly event. See our website at orchidguild.org for more information.



Revenue from the sales of photographs will benefit the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library and the Orchid Growers' Guild.