



# Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

February 2009

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## In This Issue

- Spring is in the air
- About the show
- Next meeting
- Paul and Carla
- Events in the area
- Orchid of the month 1
- Notes and tips
- Orchid of the month 2

## Contact Us

[http://ci\\_orchid\\_society.tripod.com](http://ci_orchid_society.tripod.com)

Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter is published irregularly. Subscription is through membership in the Society.

Membership is \$10/person with \$5 for each additional family member. Checks payable to CIOS should be sent to Jerry Steerman, 507 N. Coler, Urbana, IL 61801.

## CIOS Officers for 2009

Mitzi Williams, President & News Letter Editor

Jerry Steerman, Treasurer

Nancy Steerman, Secretary

Tim Bowers, AOS rep.

## Spring is in the air & the pests in your plants:

The warm sun of late and temperatures in the 40's assure that we are heading for Spring. On sunny cloudless days, the sun shining on your plants can be very hot and drying. Under such conditions, the flowers do not last as long as they used to, and pest population can double practically under your gaze. Tender leaves can also get sunburn. Moving the plants away from the window by a foot or so, increasing the humidity around the plants, or shading the window when the sunlight is most intense can prevent damage to your plants.

As for insect pests, watch out for scales under the brown dry outer layer of Cattleya type plants. They often attack the eyes hidden inside the thin layer at the base of the pseudobulb. Carefully peel back the brown layer to see if there are white to sand colored powder-like cluster of scales. Spray the area with insecticidal soap for several weeks. The healthy eye is teardrop shaped, light green, and forms at the base of the pseudobulb. The healthy eye becomes a new growth which eventually will develop inflorescence. Just below the health eye, or on another pseudobulb, you may find eyes which turned black. These will most likely not become new growth, but it is important to keep them pest free so as not to attract pathogens. Scale infestation can be found inside leaf folds of Oncidium type orchids, while Cymbidium leaves are often attacked by spider mites. Swipe the leaves between your thumb and index finger, and if dusty-sooty residue is felt, wipe both sides of the leaf with a clean cloth. Increasing the humidity around the plant should discourage further infestation.

Mitzi Williams

## About the Show:

We need everyone to bring the blooming plants and **help staff the event**. Show Chair, Paul Brady, will contact you soon.

Since we will be there throughout the day, we also need someone to bring refreshments (something that is not too messy to eat and some drinks). Please let Mitzi know if you can help with the refreshments.

## Next meeting:

- The next meeting is on February 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Urbana Free Library. Please bring your membership dues to this meeting. Paid members will be entered in a raffle. (see Yambert below)
- We will be holding a small show and sale on March 14 (Sat.) -15 (Sun). There will be no regular meeting on Tuesday March 17. If your plants are not yet in bloom for the February 28<sup>th</sup> show, you have another chance to show off your plants at this event.

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## Paul and Carla Yambert:

Orchids give us much pleasure, but caring for them can become burdensome at times. Since the set back in their health last year, Paul and Carla Yambert decided to cut back in their activities and plant collection. As a result, they donated a number of plants (mostly Phalaenopsis) and pots to the Society. Some of these plants will be raffled off to members during the next several meetings. Pots, mostly clear plastic of various sizes, will be sold to members below market price. Members will receive a list of pots and their sizes later this month. Non-members interested in pots should contact Mitzi Williams (mwillms1@illinois.edu)

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## Events in the area

- February 21 (Sat.) 10 AM – 5 PM; and Feb. 22 (Sun.) 11 AM to 4PM.  
Batavia Orchid Society Show  
Dupage County Fairgrounds Cafeteria Building #3  
2015 W. Manchester Road  
Wheaton, IL
- Orchids by Hausermann is hosting an open house on the following weekends:  
February 27 (Fri) – March 1 (Sun);  
March 6 (Fri.) – March 8 (Sun.)  
Housermann's is located at: 2 N 134 Addison Rd., Villa Park, IL 60181. It is 2 blocks north of North Ave. (Rt. 64). PH: 630-543-6855.
- Oakhill Gardens offers classes as follows. Classes run from 45 – 75 minutes. Call or e-mail to register. Registration fee is \$5.00, and will include a gift orchid for attending. Oak Hill Gardens is located at 37W550 Binnie Road Dundee, IL 60118-0025. Ph: 847-428-8500

Saturday, March 7, 2009 10:00 am Orchids: Beyond the Basic 1 Repotting  
Saturday, April 11, 2009 10:00 am Orchids: Beyond the Basics 2 – Fertilizing & Pesticizing  
Saturday, May 9, 2009 10:00 am Growing Mounted Orchids

- March 27 – 29, 2009. Mid-America Orchid Congress Spring 2009 Show, hosted by the Central Ohio Orchid Society. Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel, 1375 N. Cassady Av., Columbus Ohio. The show features lectures on various topics and sales of plants by domestic and international vendors. Admission to the exhibit area is free. Congress rates available for the venue. For more information, see [www.maoc.coosinfo.info](http://www.maoc.coosinfo.info) or email: [springmaoc2009@earthlink.net](mailto:springmaoc2009@earthlink.net).

## Orchid of the month 1:



Jim Sternberg obtained above plant from Bobby Fults, PO box 24, Viola TN 37394.

Info. Sources: 1. Missouri orchids by Bill Summers. Missouri Dept. of Conservation. Natural History Series, No. 1. Conservation Commission of the State of MO. 1987. 2. An illustrated flora of the Northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions, by Nathaniel L. Britton and Hon. Addison Brown. V. 1. N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913.

### *Aplectrum hyemale*

This orchid species is commonly known as Adam-and-Eve orchid. It is native to the low woodlands and in swamps of North America from Ontario through Missouri and as far south as Georgia. The single evergreen leaf emerges in the fall from an underground corm. The leaf dies off by early May and is followed by a single flowering stem by mid May. The flower stem holds about 8-20 brownish purple flowers about ½ - 1 inch long.



## Notes and tips:

### ● How to get your plants show-ready:

Laurie Hart recommends removing all old and yellow leaves from the pseudobulbs, then clean them with a soft toothbrush and warm soapy water. Next get out the **cotton balls and a small saucer of milk and polish your leaves.** (excerpted from an article by Laurie S. Hart in an issue of Port St. Lucie Orchid Society newsletter.) Some growers rub the Phalaenopsis leaves with a little bit of **orange juice** to make them shiny, while others claim **lemon juice** works well for the same purpose.

- **Growing hardy orchids**

Thanks to hybridizing, hardy orchids such as Lady's slipper orchids (*Cypripedium* species) are becoming available through various nurseries. Although high prices and the lack of widespread experience still prevent orchid enthusiasts from growing them, an article in The Garden, magazine published by the Royal Horticultural Society (Sept. 2007, p. 622-623), tells a very encouraging story. According to the author Michael Weinert, *Cypripedium* hybrids grow best in areas with temperatures 30C (86F) in summer and below 5C (41F) for 2-3 months in winter. These hybrids are hardy below -20C (-4F) with some snow cover. Many *Cypripediums* grow in woodlands, so the best site for home growing is in semi-shade without direct sun at midday. They prefer cool, well-aerated soil that is not too dry or hot. Low growing ferns and small hostas make good companion plants for *Cypripediums*, but avoid planting them close to trees or big shrubs. An update of this article is available at <http://www.rhs.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8E180CB0-EC84-486E-B92C-60E40DF104DE/0/LadysSlippers0908.pdf>

The U.S. is home to over 200 species of native orchids and their various forms, natural hybrids, and varieties. The 2009 Native Orchid Conference, to be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, focuses on these species found in the U.S. Details of the conference is not yet out, but the summary of the 2008 conference held in West Virginia is found at: [www.nativeorchidconference.org/NOCEvents.html](http://www.nativeorchidconference.org/NOCEvents.html)  
The number of attendance is limited. Contact [contact@nativeorchidconference.org](mailto:contact@nativeorchidconference.org)

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## Orchid of the month 2:

Some of the 2008 Christmas present orchids received by members of the Society. Hope they are in bloom now and can be brought to the Show!



*Phalaenopsis leucorrhoda* has dainty flowers, and the mottled leaves are very attractive.



Lc drumbeat. Paul Brady, who received this plant, said the flowers opened in mid December, were beautiful, and lasted about 3 weeks.