

Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2008

Volume 2, Number 1

In This Issue

- Happy New Year
- Next Meeting
- 2008 Show info
- Orchid of the month1
- Orchid of the month2
- Notes, tips, Q & A
- Events in the area
- Editor's Note
- Show announcement

Contact Us

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 2007

Mitzi Williams, President & News Letter Editor

Jerry Steerman, Treasurer

Nancy Steerman, Secretary

Tim Bowers, AOS rep.

Happy New Year! If you stayed home during the holidays, I hope you had many enjoyable hours talking to your orchids. If you went away as I did, I hope your plants survived and even surprised you with new blooms or growths upon your return. One of mine was attacked by our rabbit when the house sitter's back was turned. The plant, *Ludisia discolor*, now has scalloped leaves here and there, but fortunately the flower stalks were not damaged.

Our Holiday dinner meeting was held at Silver Creek restaurant in Urbana on Dec. 2, 2007. Everyone enjoyed hearing Nancy Steerman's talk about the history of our Society. Hearing the footsteps of past members, we come to appreciate that a Society, no matter its size, cannot exist without the dedication and hard work of its members. One such person is Jerry Steerman who served the Society as Treasurer for the last 30 years. Jerry was honored at this meeting with an engraved crystal plate, and framed certificates of appreciation from CIOS and AOS. The certificate from CIOS was actually a poem composed by Paul and Carla Yambert specifically for this occasion. Thank you Paul and Carla. Also, thanks to everyone who contributed towards the purchase of the gift. I received a card from Jerry and Nancy indicating how much they appreciated our gesture. Lastly, thanks to Nancy for the history talk, and keeping the secret from Jerry for so many months!



Above: Nancy (standing) presents the history of CIOS.



Left: Jerry reading the poem honoring his service, while Carla and Paul Yambert (in red), and Don McClure (in yellow) look on. My apologies for not taking the front view picture of Jerry. As customary, members received orchid plants as gifts. The Christmas gift plants are always interesting, and often new to the recipient. This is a great way to expand the collection. Thanks to Jerry for obtaining the plants.

Next meeting:

The next CIOS meeting will be at 6:30 pm on January 15, 2008 at the Urbana Free Library Conference Room. This will be a planning meeting for programs in 2008, with the priority on the upcoming show. As usual, bring your plants for show and tell! Also, please encourage non-members to attend.

2008 Show:

The 2008 CIOS Show announcement is included at the end of this issue. Janet Jackson and Carla Yambert are busily working as co-chairs of the planning committee, but we need everyone's cooperation in order to make this year's show a success and fun for everyone. Since this is a 2-day event, your plants will remain at the Library overnight. The room will be locked to keep the exhibit and plants safe.

Orchid of the month: 1



Zygopetalum Blue blazes x self was in a 3" pot and had no flowers when Mitzi Williams bought it 3 years ago only because the label said "fragrant". What a surprise it was when it flowered a year later.

Not only are the flowers fragrant and beautiful, the flowering occurred several times a year with each new growth. The foliage is attractive as well. This plant loves to spend summers outside in shade, and prefers moist potting medium. So far, it bloomed twice in 2007, and now is getting ready to flower again. This plant is a "must have" on the list of easy-to-grow orchids.

Orchid of the Month: 2

Photo of one of Carla and Paul Yambert's Paphiopedilums which they fondly call Darth Vader.

Paphiopedilum is a genus "native to South China, India, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands." "The genus name Paphiopedilum is derived from the Greek Paphos, a city on the island of Cyprus, and pedilon, slipper. Most species in this genus were previously considered part of the genus Cypripedium, but Paphiopedilum was accepted as the conserved (valid in use) name in 1959. (Source =Wikipedia -- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paphiopedilum>)



Notes, tips, Q & A:

● How to get your plants show-ready:

Remove all old and yellow leaves, take a soft toothbrush and warm soapy water and clean your pseudobulbs. Next get out the **cotton balls and a small saucer of milk and polish your leaves.** By Laurie S. Hart. (Previously excerpted from an article by Laurie S. Hart in an issue of Port St. Lucie Orchid Society newsletter.)

● Classification Change:

Apparently, based on DNA analyses, the Royal Horticultural Society made four major genus name changes in 2007. They are:

- 1) The transfer of Brazilian Laelias to Sophronitis
- 2) Splitting Lhyncholaelia from Brassavola
- 3) Splitting of Guarianthe from Cattleya
- 4) Transfer of all Schomburgkia to either Mermecophila or Laelia.

This information was published in the Oct. 2007 issue of Orchid News (from Deep Cut Orchid Society) by Alex Maximamo, Managing Director of OrchidWiz. According to Maximamo, this change will eventually make their way to the plants you may purchase, or affect the ones you already have. "Laelia purpurata is now Sophronitis purpurata. ... Since Laelia purpurata has ten generations of progeny, the number of hybrids affected is massive."

- Michigan fertilizer mix:

From time to time, the questions submitted to Orchids magazine mention the use of fertilizer called the Michigan formula, which I discovered is fertilizer developed by researchers at Michigan State University. Several companies market the products as “the Michigan formula”, but there are several different types. If you are interested in obtaining the formula for tap water feeding, contact Mitzi Williams.

Events in the area:

- Feb. 2, 2008

Orchid Event, Green View Nursery, 2616 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign

10 a.m. Orchid Artistry: A Beginner's Guide, Wendy Partenheimer
11 a.m. Expanding Your Orchid Palette, Mitzi Williams
12 p.m. Repotting demonstration, Tim Bowers
1 p.m. Photographing orchids, Heather Miller

- Feb.2 - March 16, 2008

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ridgway Center, Missouri Botanical Garden

4344 Shaw Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63110

(314) 577-9400 - 1-800-642-8842

Admission plus \$3 for adults and children. Free for members!

Return this year to childhood wonder of magical plants with “Storybook Classics.” The theme of the 2008 orchid show was inspired by plant-related children’s classics like Jack and the Beanstalk, Johnny Appleseed, Peter Rabbit, and The Secret Garden. Experience the color, beauty, and fragrance of over 800 blooming orchids in the middle of winter.

- Feb. 9 – 10, 2008

Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale

Saturday Feb. 9: Noon – 4pm

Sunday Feb. 10 Noon – 4pm (sale ends at 3pm)

Washington Park Botanical Gardens,

1740 W Fayette Ave

Springfield, IL 62704

Orchids, books, growing supplies available for sale. Repotting service available for a nominal fee.

Raffle prizes drawn on Sunday.

Editor’s note:

Please tell me what topics you would like to have covered in future issues, or send a write up of what you discovered recently. If you don’t want to write, I’ll do the research on your topic. If you find a new orchid book in a local bookstore, please let the members know through the newsletter. Didn’t buy or have no time to review? Just the author and title will do. Please let me know if someone you know might enjoy this newsletter, too. If they have e-mail and can receive an attachment, I can include them in my mailing.

MW □

Central Illinois Orchid Society

Orchid Show



January 26 and 27, 2008

Saturday 2– 5pm & Sunday 1– 4pm

Urbana Free Library Auditorium
201 S. Race Street, Urbana

**Come enjoy the variety of orchids grown by the members
of the Central Illinois Orchid Society**

Free Door Prize drawings each day!
Must be present to win.

For more info, call 217-344-5762