



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2009

Volume 3, Number 1

In This Issue

- Happy New Year
- Next meeting
- Orchid of the month
- Events in the area
- Notes and tips

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 2009

Mitzi Williams, President & News Letter Editor

Jerry Steerman, Treasurer

Nancy Steerman, Secretary

Tim Bowers, AOS rep.

Happy New Year:

2009 is the year of the ox in the Chinese zodiac calendar which is also shared by other Asian countries. "The Ox is the sign of prosperity through fortitude and hard work. This powerful sign is a born leader, being quite dependable and possessing an innate ability to achieve great things. As one might guess, such people are dependable, calm, and modest. Like their animal namesake, the ox is unswervingly patient, tireless in their work, and capable of enduring any amount of hardship without complaint."* Don't some of these attributes, especially dependability and ability to achieve while enduring hardship, sound like orchids?

Even though we lost several long term members, we have gained many enthusiastic members in 2008, and hope to attract more new members in 2009. We had a fun Holiday dinner outing in December, with eleven members and five guests in attendance. Thanks to Jerry for the timely ordering of present plants, members had fun picking the plants of their choice. It was great to meet members' spouses & significant others, too, because they are the ones who often help with orchid chores. A brief business meeting took place and it was confirmed that the same officers (see blue box at left) will continue to serve in 2009.

By the way, the 2009 membership payment is due now. Please bring your check to the January meeting, or mail it to Jerry Steerman (amount and address at left) as soon as possible.

Lastly, a note about Hoosier Orchid Company's (HOC) closing and what it might mean for orchid growers in the future. HOC carried many unusual orchid species, some of which are no longer exportable from its native habitat due to regulations by CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Unfortunately, CITES does not prevent the orchids' native habitat from development and destruction, so the threatened species may still become extinct. See Notes and Tips for more about CITES.

* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ox_\(zodiac\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ox_(zodiac))

Mitzi Williams

Next meeting:

- The next meeting will be on Tuesday January 20, 2009, at our regular meeting place, Urbana Free Library. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.
- Please mark your February calendar for two important dates as well as different locations and times as follows:

Tuesday February 17th: regular meeting at the Urbana Free Library starting at 6:30 p.m. This is the touch-base meeting before our show.

Saturday February 28th: our 3rd Annual Orchid Show at the Champaign Public Library. The show begins at 10:00 a.m., but the members are asked to be there by 9:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter. If the weather is bad, getting there early will also guarantee good parking spots. This year's show is chaired by Paul Brady with assistance from Janet Jackson. THANK YOU, PAUL and JANET!

Orchid of the month:



Totally decimated orchid

The plant at left, Lc. Galaxy 'Cluster King', blooms in early fall. The medium size, lavender & dark purple flowers are very fragrant, but it has not bloomed for the last two seasons. The pseudobulbs are pencil thin and deeply ridged due to dehydration. Being outdoors during the past summer kept the last two leaves from dropping, but they will eventually drop off

Some may say "GIVE UP", but hold on! See the small bulge at the base of the latest growth (see arrow)? This is the eye of a new growth, which, if allowed to grow, not only produces roots that will help the older growths to recover some, but also grow leaves and, most likely flowers.

Heavy watering will not help this plant, but ample humidity will. To provide humidity, the plant is wrapped in a tube made of heavy clear plastic and is occasionally watered. The eye is still green, so there is hope. Stay tuned for an update in the future issue of this newsletter.

Events in the "area"

- January 24-25, 2009 Grand Valley Orchid Society Show. Contact: Mei Ling Clemens, 5694 W. McMillan Rd., N. Muskegon, MI 49445; (231) 766-0136; clemensmei@aol.com. More information at www.meijergardens.org/calendar/ and www.grandvalleyos.org
- January 31 – March 15, 2009. Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show. "Henry's Garden" celebrates the Garden's 150th anniversary and will feature over 800 orchids from the Garden's world-renowned collection displayed in a formal Victorian setting.
- February 14th – 15th, 2009. Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale. Washington Park Botanic Gardens, West Fayette & Chatham Road, Springfield, IL (217) 753-6228.
- For other shows see, show schedule under EVENTS section of the AOS home page (www.aos.org)

Notes and tips:

- CITES is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival (www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.shtml).
"Recent changes in CITES requirements have made it difficult for nurseries, and hobbyists alike to import orchid plants from foreign countries. Many artificially propagated species and even hybrids are now becoming more difficult to find or are simply unavailable in many countries as nurseries that once were able to export have found the process too overwhelming in terms of paperwork and time".
(www.orchidweb.com/announcements.aspx).

Smuggling can be costly. In 2004, an orchid grower in England was caught at London Heathrow Airport with a suitcase full of orchids from South East Asia. Out of 130 plants, 126 were found to be extremely rare slipper orchids, already or nearly extinct in their native habitat. They are listed on Cites Appendix 1, and their trade from the wild is completely banned. He was charged in 2006 with 13 counts of smuggling, and was jailed for four months. Though he denied the plants were for commercial purposes, he was fined £110,331 (\$160,000) including £15,000 (\$22,000) for the care of the plants by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew until their fate is determined. (The Garden, Oct. 2007 p.648; www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article789425.ece)

- Bud blast

If your Phalaenopsis's flower spike has shown some buds, but some of the buds seem droopy and darker than the rest of them, they are probably suffering from bud blast. These buds will eventually drop. This happens when the temperature drops suddenly, or the air becomes too dry. Bud blast can occur in other orchids such as Cattleya types, and it is more difficult to tell when the buds are hidden within a protective sheath. If you only see a stick-like growth with no buds on your Phalaenopsis, don't worry. The buds will emerge as the spike becomes taller and thicker.

- Visit the U of I 's Plant Biology Conservatory and greenhouse:

If snow and ice tend to keep you homebound, a visit to the U of I's Plant Biology Conservatory and greenhouse can give you a much needed uplifting of your spirits and temporary relief of dry skin. Located at 1201 S. Dorner Drive in Urbana, the Conservatory is home to a variety of tropical plants including banana, coffee, and a Phalaenopsis orchid which seems to be always in bloom. Down the hall from the Conservatory are growing rooms, one of which is dedicated to orchids. The facility is open from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday (closed on UI holidays, or earlier if bad weather).



Above in the Conservatory: Phaius tankervillei in the foreground, and in bud. The Phalaenopsis has multiple spikes and flowers, and a Dendrobium planted in the artificial tree is in bud also.



Above: By the pond is a Brassavola hybrid growing on a rock (lithophyte).

In a separate area in the greenhouse, a room dedicated to orchids and similar plants holds a number of plants in bud or in bloom, such as . Vanilla (bottom left) and a huge Dendrobium grown in a basket (below).

