



# Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

March 2009

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## 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.

## 2009 shows and sale a huge success:

The Annual Show was held at the Champaign Public Library on February 28, 2009. The number of visitors exceeded those in previous years, perhaps due to good weather, but also possibly due to good publicity and the elevated visibility of our Society. The show date of late February rather than late January also turned out to be better because a larger number of plants came into bloom for the members. The most notable thing from this years' show was that we gained 4 new and one returning members.

Thanks go to Paul Brady, show chair, and Janet Jackson who assisted Paul. They did an excellent job in directing the set-up as well as adding more display items that represent a wide variety of orchids. Thanks also go to those who helped staff the show: Mary Ellen Dorner, Julia Brady, Don McClure, Jerry and Nancy Steerman, Nancy and Ray Urban, and Mark Williams.

The second, much smaller show and our first sale was held on March 14-15, 2009 in conjunction with the UI Plant Biology Greenhouse Open House. This event was a part of the College of ACES Open House, so our publicity effort was minimal. We had only about 19 plants for sale, and they were quickly snapped up. The Phaius tankerville divisions put up for sale by the Greenhouse manager, Debbie Black, did not take long to find a home either. We spent most of Saturday and Sunday afternoons apologizing for the lack of sale plants. Nevertheless, this was a great opportunity to increase the visibility of our Society, and talk to orchid enthusiasts in the area. Thanks go to the following members for helping with this event: Paul Brady, Don McClure, Jerry Steerman, Nancy Urban, Cindy Westlake, and Mark Williams.

Mitzi Williams

## Meeting day change:

Beginning April, our regular meeting day will move up one day to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. This is due to an increased number of members who are unable to attend on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, and luckily, the Urbana Free Library Conference Room seems to be open for standing reservation.

## Next meeting:

- The next meeting is on April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Urbana Free Library Conference Room. The program topic is: repotting cool growing orchids. Bring your blooming orchids for show and tell. Also, feel free to bring your plant in question for repotting or for growing consultation. Two plants will be available to members as raffle prizes.
  - Please mark your calendar for May 18 (regular meeting) and June 14 (Sunday) for the annual picnic. The picnic date is tentative and may move to July 19.
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## Supplies available:

We have dragon fly clips for sale @ 25 cents/piece. We also have plastic saucers for pots free to the members. They fit 4-5 inch pots and come in colors of brown, dark green, and taupe. Thanks go to Carla and Paul Yambert for donating the saucers. Please contact Mitzi for these items.

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## Websites to bookmark:

- The American Orchid Society's website, [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org), is always full of great pictures and information. In the most recent message from AOS, we learned that tight budget forced AOS to cut some of the programs including the Gift Shop. In order to continue the orchid related activities including the valuable publications, each local group is asked to send donations to AOS.
  - Prairie State Orchid Society is a very active group located in the Springfield area. Their meeting is open to anyone including the annual seminar in August. They have raffles at every meeting, and hold a division sale in October. Check also what 'yours truly' has done in this group.  
<http://www.prairienet.org/prairiestateorchidsociety/>
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## Events in the area

- Oakhill Gardens offer 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, 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).

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## Orchid of the month 1:

Cindy Westfall received the plant photographed below at our 2008 Holiday Dinner and it is still blooming. This is *Phalaenopsis equestris*. Though very small in size, the flowers are every bit beautiful. If you are limited in space, this is an excellent plant to grow.



Above is *Phalaenopsis stuartiana*, another Holiday present plant. Though not visible in this photo, it's long, delicate flower spike holds many blooms, up to 100 according to some sources. Oak Hill Gardens grows this species from seed.

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## Scenes from the annual show:

The 2009 Show was a great success and a lot of fun for the members. At occasions like this, the members realize how much they already know about orchids, and discover that sharing their knowledge with others is very rewarding. We also learn from our visitors some interesting growing practices that work well.

Beyond Jerry and Mark are two stands of flower posters made by Paul Brady.





#1



#4



#2



#5

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#1: Jerry Steerman and Paul Yambert (left).

#2: Nice arch of pink Phalaenopsis

#3: Visitor studying the map of orchid habitat region map and growing materials;

#4: Slc. Jewel Box 'dark waters', one of the few truly red Cattleya hybrid; Nancy Steerman's favorite.

#5: Visitors reading the lighting information;



#3