

Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

May 2008

Volume 2, Number 5

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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 2008

Mitzi Williams, President & News Letter Editor

Jerry Steerman, Treasurer

Nancy Steerman, Secretary

Tim Bowers, AOS rep.

Any time now:

It is almost time to send orchids outside, but the night temperatures are still too low for most of the plants, except for Cymbidiums. It is best to wait until the night temperature is 60° F or higher. By allowing the plants to spend summers outside, you may be rewarded by extra show of flowers. One of my dendrobiums bloomed in August last year, and grew two flower spikes since then. Its last flowers dropped just a few weeks ago.

Don't forget to first set them out in a shaded area which is protected from wind and rain. After a week of adjusting to outside conditions, some of the plants that tolerate bright sun can be moved out to get the morning sun.

If you have large trees in your yard that provide constant dappled shade, you can hang the orchids from their branches. Double hanging wires (for 6-9" pots), or wooden baskets work well for this purpose. Wooden hanging baskets are found in local plant stores. Double hanging wires, if not available locally, are available from orchid nurseries such as Hausermann's (<http://www.orchidsbyhausermann.com/>).

A frequent question asked about after flowering is what to do with the flower stem. The stems of Paphiopedilum and Phragmipidium (slipper orchids) should be cut as low as possible without damaging the leaves. The stems of Phalaenopsis can be cut back to just above the lowest node (notch). Another school of thought advises that it be cut at about the middle, also just above the node. The node can grow into another flower stem during the summer or next fall, in addition to the new flower spike that will appear in late fall.

The decision seems to be of personal preference—I prefer cutting down to the lowest node, and allow the plant to fully rest during the summer because I found the secondary flower spikes are often weak and not as floriferous as those that initiate in the fall.

Lastly, if you make divisions, please consider donating them to our October Auction to raise funds for our Society.

Mitzi Williams

Next meeting:

- The next CIOS meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 20, 2008, first at Jim Sternburg's residence and at the Urbana Free Library Auditorium*. Jim's address is 107 E. Florida, Urbana. There is no parking on Florida Avenue, but you can park on Pleasant St. just one house West of Jim's house. Jim says the wild orchids should be at their best by then. After seeing the wild orchids, we'll go to the Library to continue our regular meeting. Bring your show and tell plants (whether doing well or need help). *This month only.
- The June meeting is a pot luck picnic at Mitzi and Mark's house. It will be held on June 22 at 4pm. If this date is absolutely not good for you, please let Mitzi know. Details will be sent by e-mail by mid-June.

Orchid of the month:



Sedirea (pronounced: se-DEER-ee-ah)

Sedirea japonica—this is a compact plant which resembles a miniature *Phalaenopsis* when not in bloom. This species was first found in Nago City, Okinawa, Japan. Okinawa is a series of southern most islands of Japan. Located at about the same latitude as Key West, FL, the climate of Okinawa is that of tropical islands. This plant, however, grows well in medium light conditions with temperatures ranging from the upper 50°F's during winter nights to upper 80°F's during summer days. It has a slight lemon like scent and is well suited for windowsill growing.

Janet Jackson and Mitzi Williams each acquired this plant in October 2006 from Hoosier Orchids, and both of our plants flowered this spring.

There are other varieties of this plant such as the dwarf round form, a yellow flower form, rough leaf and variegated varieties.

Notes and tips:

- Ralph Elliott of Tilton, IL (ph. (ph. 446-9057) has plastic rain barrels for sale. 55 gallon drums with lids are sold for \$7. Apparently, he also has 55 gal metal drums and smaller (25 or 30 gal.) drums in plastic. Tilton is located just south of I-74 by Danville.

Growing orchids in your garden:

This month's program is about growing native orchids, and we will get the first hand look of a successful habitat in Jim Sternberg's back yard. As the gardening interest increases on growing native plants, gardeners seem to turn to wild orchids. The following introduction is taken from the website created by The Wild Orchid Company (www.wildorchidcompany.com)

"...there is a whole class of orchids known as "hardy terrestrial orchids." These perennials actually survive and thrive in soil and in temperate to more frigid climates. Some of them actually require temperatures at or below freezing for several months each year to maintain proper growth, much like tulips or daffodils. This is not to say that terrestrial orchids can be planted anywhere and expected to grow! To be successful, it is absolutely necessary to plan ahead and prepare a site to meet the specific requirements for the species to flourish."

The American Orchid society regularly publishes articles about wild orchids and their conservation. An article published in the October 2005 issue of Orchids suggests that Cypripediums (slipper orchids) native to North America are best planted in USDA hardiness zones 2-4, but they can be planted in zones 4-5 if the soil is kept cool, given a 3-4 months of frozen dormancy and a pH of 6.5 – 7.5, and 4-5 hours of direct sunlight, preferable morning sun.

Be sure to obtain your plants from legal sources such as a) plants grown from seed in flask, or b) plants rescued from the wild that have been legally collected with permission such as Wildflower Rescue of MN (www.wildflowerrescue.com/).

Spring sale at OrchidBoard (WWW.OrchidBoard.com):

The following message was received by Tim Bowers. Even if you are not interested in buying or selling, this site provides useful information such as pronunciation of scientific names.

During the entire month of May, we're having a Spring Orchid Sale. This will be a flea market type of an event created by members for members!

There are no restrictions! Whether you're a private grower or an orchid entrepreneur, feel free to put up anything orchid or orchid related for sale. Extra plants, divisions, books, pots, media, supplies, etc, etc.

This month we're going to hit a record of 200,000 unique visitors! Next month will be even better, so be sure to place your ads, because we're hoping for a great turn out and great exposure for your ads! Check the OrchidBoard classifieds for some great 'members only' deals.

For more information regarding the Spring Orchid Sale see this thread:

<http://www.orchidboard.com/community/news-updates-feedback/10898-spring-orchid-sale.html>

Corrections:

The orchid featured under Orchid of the Month 2 in the April issue, Blc. Liese Pigores, was named after Herman Pigores' daughter, not his wife.