

Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

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Contact Us

http://ci_orchid_society.tripod.com

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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.

Summer plans for you and your orchids:

Send your plants outside so they can enjoy the perfect light spectrum, breeze, and all the nutrients of rain water. For most orchids, the safe time to send the plants outside is when the night temperature is at least 60°F. Let the plants get used to the outside light by first keeping them in shade, and gradually allowing them more light (particularly early morning). Vandas, Angreacums, Cattleyas, and Cymbidiums enjoy bright light throughout the day, but even those sun-tolerant orchids should not be exposed to direct mid-day sun.

If you are interested in constructing a shade house, a good example is found in the February 2007 issue of Orchids magazine. Many orchids do well under a canopy of large trees where they receive dappled sun light throughout the day.

Some people advise against sending Phalaenopsis outside because they are easily damaged by the elements, including too much sun. Others found that, if kept protected, Phalaenopsis do well outside, especially if they receive very early morning sun, perhaps not beyond 9-10 a.m., and water does not accumulate in the center of the plant.

Summer months may be a good time to visit orchid nurseries nearby, too. Below is a select list of nurseries in the region. Since hours vary, it is best to check their website or call before you go.

► Fox Valley Orchids, Ltd. (www.foxvalleyorchids.com)
2N 134 Addison Rd., Villa Park, IL 6018. Ph: (630) 458-0636

This is a small nursery specializing in tropical Lady's Slipper orchids, and is one of the premier breeders of Phragmipedium besseae and its hybrids. The nursery is located in one of the greenhouses belonging to Housermann's (see entry below).

► Hilltop Orchids (www.hilltoporchids.com)
765-795-6016
1151 E. County Rd, 800 S.
Cloverdale, IN 46120

If you enjoy a nice country drive, Hilltop is the place to visit. Began as a retail-only greenhouse in 1991, the nursery now offers a range of services. Its special emphasis is on Phalaenopsis breeding, but they also have other popular genera for sale.

► Hoosier Orchid Company (www.hoosierorchid.com)
8440 West 82nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46278 Phone: (317) 291-6269

Founded on February 14, 1989, this nursery has acquired several nursery collections to quickly become an impressive provider of unusual orchids. Their emphasis is on species orchids, as well as select hybrids. Online Monthly Newsletter is available free of charge, and lists monthly specials. Their stock is divided among three greenhouses based on growing temperatures--cool, intermediate, and warm—so it is easy to find what is most suitable for your home environment.

► Natt's Orchids (www.nattsorchids.com)
24645 W 103rd Street, Naperville, Illinois 60564. Ph.630-904-0947

Open only on weekends by appointments only, this nursery seems to have a large collection of Vandas, Ascocendas, and Rhyncostylis, among other species and hybrid orchids. This nursery is open only on weekends, and by appointment only.

► Oak Hill Gardens Inc. (www.oakhillgardens.com)
37W550 Binnie Road, Dundee, IL. 60118-0025. Ph: (847) 428-8500

This 34-year old family run nursery is known widely for its high number of species grown from seed.

► Orchids by Hausermann (www.orchidsbyhausermnn.com)
2N 134 Addison Road, Villa Park, IL 60181-1191. Ph: 630.543.6855

When it first began in the 1920's, Hausermann's was a grower of cut flowers. Starting in the mid 1930's, orchids began replacing the cut flowers, and a full-fledged sales operation began in 1959. Hausermann's feature a wide selection of Cattleya and Phalaenopsis mericlone Orchids, and it is by far the largest nursery in the area.

Events in the area:

- May 27 – June 2, 2007. Illinois appreciation day at Missouri Botanical Garden. Illinois residents will receive two for one admission for MBG. (www.mbg.org).
- July 7, 2007. An organized tour, similar to the one mentioned under “Orchid of the Month 2” in this issue will take place at the Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve. Featured plant is eastern prairie fringed orchid, *Platanthera leucophaea*, even though other native flora and fauna will be discussed along the way. Contact information will be passed on to the CIOS members as soon as it is available.
- Sept. 21-23, 2007. The Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association presents the 15th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest. Participating nurseries are: Oak Hill Gardens, Windsong Orchids, Orchids by Hausermann/Fox Valley Orchids, and Natt's Orchids. The nurseries are within 40 miles from each other. Extensive educational sessions are planned by each nursery. Special sale items and refreshments will be available at each location as well. For details, see www.chicagolandorchidfestival.com/htm/schedule.html.

Orchid of the month: 1



This bright little mini orchid is Cattleytonia Why Not 'Round about', AM/AOS. It requires low to intermediate temperatures, and blooms in spring to early summer. The flower stem is about 8" tall and holds a cluster of about 13 flowers.

Cattleytonia is a hybrid of *Cattleya* and *Broughtonia*.

Next meeting:

- The next CIOS meeting will be at 6:30 pm on May 15, 2007 at the Urbana Free Library Conference Room. The featured speaker, Ken Robertson of Illinois Natural History Survey, will give a presentation entitled "'Plants Close-up, with an Emphasis on Orchids". As usual, bring your plants for show and tell. Problem plants are welcome, too.
- The June meeting will be replaced by a picnic held on Saturday, June 23, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at Mark and Mitzi Williams' house, 3208 S. First St., Champaign. Ph: 344-5762. The main dish (something on the grill) and drinks will be provided. If you can bring a dish to share, that'll be great. Paul Yambert will talk about how to take good orchid pictures. You are welcome to bring your camera for practicing. As usual, show and tell orchids are also welcome.
- There will be no meetings in July or August. The first fall meeting will be on September 18, 2007. Please assume the time and the location is the same.

Editor's note:

- Your editor needs article contributions. Any article related to orchids such as visits to orchid nurseries and gardens, growing experiences, books on orchids, new and/or unusual orchid obtained, etc. will be of use to the members. Many thanks to Tim Bowers for the very informative report on the Mid-America show.

Orchid of the month: 2



Orchid Hill Tour

On Sunday May 13, 2007, Bob Szafoni of Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources led a group of about 12 people on a tour of the wooded area near Oakwood, Illinois. The area is restricted to the public because it is within the property of Vermillion Power Station owned by Dynergy. However, the area is designated as Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark and is maintained jointly with the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources as a sanctuary for native plants and animals.

We saw twayblades (*Liparis lilifolia*) shown at left, and yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium pubescens*) shown at left bottom. Additional species present in the area, though not found this time, are nodding lady's tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*), slender lady's tresses (*S. lacera*), fall coral-root orchid (*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*).

Due to warm weather, the yellow lady slippers have been in bloom for some time, and some of the flowers were nearing the end of the season, while many Twayblades were just emerging with only a handful of them with inflorescence.



These two species of orchids were found in a fairly open wooded area (above), but the soil where the *Cypripediums* were found seemed dryer and more clayish with faster water run off than the area where the *Liparis* grew. Bob indicated that planned burn-off of the area seemed directly responsible for the growing population of these orchids in this sanctuary.

Special report:

Report of the Mid-America Orchid Congress/Illinois Orchid society Spring Show

By Tim Bowers

On April 28th I invited my mother, a fellow orchid lover, to join me in the trek up to The Chicago Botanic Garden. And I do mean trek. The Dan Ryan construction project certainly added some adventure to our day! The Mid- America Orchid Congress (MAOC) in conjunction with the Illinois Orchid Society (IOS) held their Spring Show & Sale that weekend.



It was a beautiful weekend for the event. The weather was perfect including clear blue sky. The tulips were in full bloom and a daffodil society was holding a show on the grounds as well.

My mom had never been to one of these shows before. I don't think she was quite prepared for all the activity and colorful displays. There were 58 sister orchid societies joining in the festivities as well as lectures by internationally recognized orchid experts, 40 different displays by societies, and more than 35 orchid growers and vendors from the United States and around the world. Individual orchids in 128 classes

vied for red, white and blue ribbons. They even had a repotting service.

At any orchid event I always need someone along to talk me down from spending every last dime I have. I have to admit my mother is not the best person to take for this purpose. Perhaps it is an inherited trait? However, I managed to make it out with only purchasing three plants; one encyclia hybrid and two blc's. Part of my wallet's good fortune was due to the fact that the trends this year appear to be phrags and paphs, both types of which I have very bad luck in growing. The show also had a decent number of phals, which I'm sure were there in part to please the good number novices in the crowd.



All in all it was a wonderful day – beautiful weather, good company, amazing plants, and quite the driving adventure.

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