



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

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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.

Waiting for the rewards of blooms or bracing for the difficult season:

As we still enjoy the last few days of glorious autumn days, we almost forget what lays ahead—cloudy days and cold nights. But this is also the season many orchids in our collection would be blooming, so it is not all gloom and doom. However, flowering may be the last ditch effort for that plant to survive, so don't let your guard down. Last week, I said good bye to one of my plants after it flowered because the plant was desiccated despite all the care I gave through the summer.

Here are a few things that you can do to help them maintain their healthfulness during winter.

1. Cluster the plants together to maximize the humidity level around them.
2. Make sure the plants are not in a drafty spot, tight against freezing window, or getting dry air blown directly on them.
3. Water less often, especially if cloudy cold days last for several days. See Notes and Tips section for specifics and exceptions.
4. Keep leaves free of dust so they get the maximum amount of light.
5. Make sure water drops do not stay inside the new growth.
6. Provide extra moisture by covering the plant with a clear plastic bottle with the bottom cut off, a zip-lock bag with the zip partially open, or a hurricane lampshade. Such an enclosure works particularly well for small plants as they dry out quickly.
7. Consider using artificial lighting.
8. Fertilizer should be kept at a minimum or withheld until early spring.
9. Don't put them aside after blooming, but continue to give it good care so as to encourage new growths.

Mitzi Williams

Next meeting:

- We will have a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Urbana Free Library. We will be electing new officers and do some planning of next year's activities, but there will be plenty of time for a show and tell. Bring your problem plants or questions also.
- Our December meeting is a holiday dinner meeting to be held on Sunday Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Silver Creek Restaurant, 402 N. Race, Urbana. Spouses/significant others are welcome. Members will receive orchids as presents. Some of the present plants I received in the past turned out to be my best plants. Please let Mitzi know by Nov. 30 how many of you will be able to attend.

Orchid of the month 1:



Phalaenopsis:

Nothing is more spectacular than a spray of white Phalaenopsis. This plant, which received a 2nd place award at the Prairie State Orchid Society 2008 Show, is well over 10 years old and has 3 flower spikes. The symmetrically arranged flowers indicate good growing technique, i.e., vigorous growth, free of diseases and pests, good flower spike support and consistent light and temperature.

Even though Phals with spotted, blended, or mottled colored flowers seem to be gaining popularity among growers, the white Phals like this can still make you hold your breath.

Events in the area

- Orchids by Hausermann is having a Fall Sale now through Sunday, Nov. 16. Mon-Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Cash/credit card and carry only. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the sale is probably over, but in the past I found many sale plants still available.
- Many societies hold shows and sales during winter, so if you travel, be sure to look for shows and sales where you are visiting. Also, as in the case of our meeting, most if not all local society meetings are open to non-members, so be sure to check them out before you go. A good place to find societies is <http://www.orchidmall.com/society.htm>, even though I found some omissions, including our own CIOS which I've asked to be added.

Orchid of the month 2:



Above: Laelyocattleya (Lc.)
Below: Hawkinsara (Hknsa.)
Right: Sophrocattleya (Sc.)
Bottom Right: Laeliocattleytonia

Cattleya hybrids:

Cattleyas have been used for making many hybrids, and produced many different plants, large and small and all different colors. Some Cattleyas and its cousin Laelias can be very large. If you are limited in space, those with Cattleya in its background may be the best choice. Common Cattleya hybrids are: Laelyocattleya (Lc.); Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc.); Cattleytonia (Ctna); Laelyocattleytonia (Lctna). Sometimes the hybrid names do not always show the Cattleya background as in the case of Hawkinsara (Hknsa); Potinara (Pot.).



Notes and tips:

- The American Orchid Society's website has been revised, and it is much more user friendly than before. The site is full of valuable information for successful orchid growing, but a particularly useful section for

beginners is **Orchid Information / Orchid Basics**

(http://www.aos.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Orchid_Basics).

- The American Orchid Society 2009 Calendar is available for \$12.95 + shipping and handling. \$2.00 from each sale goes towards orchid conservation. The 2009 theme is Excellence in Culture, and shows 12 superbly grown orchids that received the Certificate of Cultural Excellence, the highest cultural award granted by the AOS. Display this calendar in your growing area to entice your plants to show what they can become!

- Need more items for your wish list to send to Santa? How about some really nice orchid pots? Tinamou Pottery, located in Wisconsin, is a great place to find one of a kind orchid pots. Check out their products at Tinamoupottery.com. Shown below right are all miniature pots.



- Using milk jugs or other containers to store pre-mixed fertilizer or rain water saves time, but be sure to use it quickly. Translucent containers allow algae growth over time and the water can become contaminated.

- **Paphiopedilums in winter:**

Watch out for water accumulation in the center of the growths (leaf axis). Once the flower spike emerges, keep the plant oriented to the same direction so the flowers will not twist or become misshapen. Drastically reduce fertilizer.

- **Phalaenopsis in winter:**

When the flower spike reaches about 4-5 inches, place a stake to prevent breakage and help guide it. Switch fertilizer from nitrogen rich formula to bloom booster formula. Watch out for brown scales under the leaves. Keep the pot oriented to the same light source so that the flowers will develop and bloom evenly on each side of the flower stem and with their lips down. See also October 2008 issue of CIO Newsletter for additional information.