

# Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

Oct. 2007

Volume 1, Number 7

## In This Issue

- Month of excitements
- Orchid of the month 1
- Future meeting
- 2008 show
- Events in the area
- Notes and tips
- Orchid of the month 2

## 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 2007

Mitzi Williams, President & News Letter Editor

Jerry Steerman, Treasurer

Nancy Steerman, Secretary

Tim Bowers, AOS Rep.

## Month of excitements and challenges:

You many not be as obsessed about the orchids as some hobbyists, but this is the season even the most relaxed growers cannot stay away from checking the plants for signs of inflorescences. The excitement of seeing a little bulge inside the base of an oncidium leaf, or a faint shadow at the bottom of a Cattleya sheath is enough to make even an experienced grower holds his/her breath with excitement. This is particularly true for the plants which we received as presents at our Christmas Party, or those we acquired at the auction without knowing what the flowers look like.

Unlike last year, however, I see no signs of flower spikes on the Phalaenopsis in my collection yet. Applying bloom-boosting fertilizer should induce spiking but I am cautious because of the high temperatures of late. Susan Jones says "Many growers also recommend application of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to Phalaenopsis at this time of year to prevent yellowing and loss of lower leaves and to enhance blooming (Orchids, Oct. 2003 p. 739).

In the same article, Susan quotes the recommendation of a Florida grower for vandaceous orchids as follows: Feed bloom-booster fertilizer exclusively, once a week for 4-6 weeks at 1-teasp./gallon of water with normal watering between. In November, begin fertilizing every other week, using a balanced fertilizer at 1-teasp./gallon, substituting bloom booster every 4-th feeding. For vandaceous plants in a northern greenhouse or a window sill, it may be prudent to apply the fertilizer at ½ teaspoon strength per gallon instead of 1-teaspoon.

Cymbidiums, on the other hand, are enjoying the warm sunny days and fattening up their pseudobulbs. They can remain outdoors until the night temperature drops to just below 40°F. They should continue to be watered, and given bloom boosting fertilizer.

Altogether, the drastically changing weather in the fall in the Midwest is a challenge to growing orchids. If you lost an orchid or two this year, the upcoming auction will be a great opportunity for you to add new ones.

We will be meeting on campus this month and the next—please see Future Meetings on page 3.

---

## Orchid of the month: 1



The show and tell at our September meeting included Howeara lava burst grown by Don McClure. For its small size, Don calls this a “compact” plant as opposed to a “mini”

Howeara is a hybrid of three genera—Oncidium, Leochilus, and Rodriguezia. Hwra. lava burst is a cross between Hwra. Mini Primi and Rodr. Secunda.

This plant is easy to grow, requiring interim level of light and withstanding somewhat cool temperatures. It usually blooms in the fall, and Don does not think it requires any variation in the day/night temperatures. Some growers report that flowering occurs in a 6-8 months interval, often with branched spikes. With its bright colors, compact size suitable for window-sill, and light requirements, this plant appears to be a good addition to any hobbyist’s collection.

---

## Future CIOS meeting:

Please note changes in location and date!!

- Our meeting this month is on October 16, 2007, held jointly with the Illini Orchid Club. This is our Annual Auction event, and so far, is our only fundraising opportunity, so your donations of plants and growing supplies are most welcome. The auction takes place at the Univ. of Illinois Plant Sciences Bldg, 1201 S. Dorner Dr., Urbana. The building is locked after 5 p.m., but someone will be at the north-east entrance between 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., so please arrive there on time. If you can donate plants or other items for the auction, but cannot attend, please contact Mitzi (344-5762) to arrange a pick up.
- Our November meeting will be on Tuesday Nov. 6, at the same place as the Auction mentioned above. This meeting will feature Mr. Leo Schordje, and is co-sponsored by the Illini Orchid Club. The title of the talk is "Building an Ever Blooming Collection". Mr. Schordje is a hobbyist/grower and will bring some plants for sale. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. but we hope to start our meeting at the usual time of 6:30 p.m. to cover some business matters. The Illini Orchid Club will take care of the speaker fee, while CIOS members are asked to provide refreshments.

---

## 2008 CIOS show:

Our 2008 show will be a two-day show, to be held on January 26 (Sat.) – Jan. 27 (Sun.) in the Auditorium in the Urbana Free Library. The show hours are 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. We have extended an invitation to show to the members of the Illini Orchid Club.

Janet Jackson and Carla Yambert agreed to co-chair the show organizing committee. Your suggestions and ideas for improvements over last year's show will be most appreciated.

---

## Events in the area:

- October 13-14, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Illinois Orchid Society presents its Fall Mini-Show and Orchid Sale under the theme "Orchid Aloha!" at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. A special hour reserved for photographers will begin at 9:00 a.m. Sunday. Admission to the show is free but regular CBG parking fees apply.

- October 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m. The Prairie State Orchid Society will hold its Annual Shoehorn Sale at SPARC building, 232 Bruns Lane, Springfield, IL.

---

## Notes and tips:

- The showy lady slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*), also known as the pink-and-white lady slipper or the queen's lady slipper, is a rare orchid found in eastern North America. The plant became the state flower of Minnesota in 1902, and became protected by Minnesota state law in 1925, making it illegal to pick or uproot any showy lady slipper orchids. Minnesota is the only state that has an orchid as a state flower. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Showy\\_lady\\_slipper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Showy_lady_slipper))

---

## Orchid of the month: 2



This *Angraecum leonis* (lion's moustache orchid) finally bloomed for Mitzi Williams after 2 years since acquiring it, and what a beauty it is! There is a second flower spike at the opposite leaf axis, promising more flowers to come.

The spikes appeared once in April 2007, but they shriveled away, perhaps due to being moved to a sunnier location and kept too dry. Otherwise, this plant is a good candidate for a window sill orchid garden.

Like other *Angraecoids*, it has a sweet night fragrance, too. Its petals are somewhat waxy, but thinner and softer than those of *Angraecum sesquipedale*, and the long nectary is very curved and fragile looking. Apparently, two forms of this species are found in very different areas--the smaller form is found at the northern tip of Malagasy (Madagascar) growing near sea level. The second and larger form is found in the Comoro Islands growing at about 3000 ft.

([www.orchids.mu/Species/Angraecum/Angraecum\\_leonis.htm](http://www.orchids.mu/Species/Angraecum/Angraecum_leonis.htm))