



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 2009

Mitzi Williams, President & News Letter Editor

Jerry Steerman, Treasurer

Nancy Steerman, Secretary

Tim Bowers, AOS rep.

October—the month of anticipation:

After covering the orchids outdoors several nights when the temperature dipped into the low 50's, I decided it is time for them to come inside. All that's left outside are several pots of Cymbidiums. They seem to require at least 6 weeks of cold temperatures to produce flower spikes. They also benefit from fertilizer high in Phosphate (the middle number in the fertilizer analysis).

All the rest are now inside waiting for the weekly watering regimen. While it takes several hours to water all the plants, it gives me an opportunity to look at each pot closely. As an experiment this summer, I left the spent flower stems on several Phalaenopsis plants. The stems on most of the plants remained green and alive, and are now showing buds again, as well as growing new flower spikes at the base! Also I was glad to discover a tiny green new leaf poking out of the Phal that was reduced to only one leaf and remained so since last winter. Orchids are truly amazing.

If your indoor growing area is limited, or if you are tempted by growing orchids outdoors, the September 2009 issue of the AOS magazine, Orchids, featured an article on growing orchids in your garden. Not in Florida, not in Hawaii, but right here in central Illinois!

The article is by Tim Brooks who lives in Lexington, KY, and is entitled "Cypripediums in the Garden: Cultivating Lady's-Slipper Orchids in the Home Landscape". According to the author, *Cypripedium reginae*, *Cypripedium kentuckiense*, and *Cypripedium parviflorum* are all suitable for growing in USDA Zone 5-8. That includes ILLINOIS, folks! The time to act is now as it is important to prepare the soil for spring planting. The article will be available for copying at our meeting on Oct. 19.

This month, we welcome Leo Schodje as guest speaker. His talk will focus on growing orchids on windowsills and under lights. Detailed Information about the speaker and his talk is found below. Leo is not only an experienced grower but a great speaker, so I hope everyone will be able to attend.

Mitzi Williams

Orchid sale and Next Meeting :

- October 19th 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm. Our guest speaker Leo Schordje will bring some orchids for sale. Please note the sale is held before our meeting. The sale will take place at 3208 S. First St., Champaign (1/2 mile south of Windsor Rd on S. First Street.) If you need directions, please call Mitzi at 217-840-7437.

He expects to bring: a few smaller seedlings, some near blooming size seedlings, and a few divisions of select plants from my collection. Some Paphs, a few Phrags, maybe some Onc papilio hybrids and possibly a few Masdevallia as well as Lycaste species or two.

- **Regular** meeting begins at **6:30 pm** at the Urbana Free Library Conference Room. Leo Schordje, will give a talk entitled: **Ever Blooming Orchids for Under Lights and the Windowsill**. In this talk, Leo will focus on a few strategies **for building an orchid collection that always has something in bloom, with a minimal number of plants.**

Leo started raising orchids and bonsai back in the early 1970's. Over time his collection has grown to over 1300 plants. Almost all are grown under lights. When he realized this hobby of his was out of control, and that he needed to make some space, he began selling a few plants. In 1992 Leo began giving talks with a presentation at the National Arboretum in Washington DC, hosted by the NCOS Paph Forum. He has continued giving a few talks every year since. His talks are informal, light hearted and are intended at helping with practical tips for better culture in raising orchids.

Future meetings:

- November 16th, 6:30 pm. Be sure to mark your calendar for this meeting also. We will have another expert grower, Sam Tsui as speaker . Details will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.
- December 6 – Our holiday dinner meeting. (date tentative)

Thank you:

The Society received a number of orchid books from the past members. One of them is Don Charleton. We are very sorry to learn about Don's passing in mid-September this year. I saw him several times this summer, and each time, he was very eager to hear about our Society and how everyone is doing. I visited Judy Charleton last week, and learned that she is coping well.

Another group of books have been donated to the Society by Carla and Paul Yambert. They are also very interested in the welfare of our Society, but are unable to join us due to difficulty driving at night.

Lastly, many thanks go to those who donated plants for the auction (Don McClure, Janet Jackson, Nancy Urban, Jerry Steerman, and Mitzi Williams) and bought plants at the auction. Between the plants and the books, our society took in about \$100 from this event.

Orchid of the month 1:

Paph. Supersuk 'Eureka' X Paph. Raisin Pie 'Hsinying X Sib. Cindy reports she acquired this plant in bloom about a year ago. She set it outside in a shady location for the summer and it bloomed again in August when this picture was taken. The plant was still in bloom in September! Nice work Cindy.

Most of Paphiopedilums are terrestrial plants, preferring forest floor rich in organic matter. They are mainly from the S. E. Asia, including eastern India to southern China and New Zealand.

Paphiopedilums lack pseudobulbs so they require evenly moist growing media. Some Paphs have only one flower on each new growth, while others produce successive flowers on the same stem. They are commonly called slipper orchids, and are related to the genus *Cypripedium*, *Mexipedium*, *Phragmipedium* and *Selenipedium*. Most Paphs are easy to grow as they require medium to low light. The foliage remains attractive throughout the year.



Events in the area:

- Oct. 23-24 Blackhawk Orchid Society Show, Klehm Arboretum, 2715 S. Main St., Rockford, IL. Contact: Brian Lang, 3509 S. Baileyville Rd., Freeport, IL; (815) 297-4723; brian.c.lang@comcast.net.
- Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2009 Tennessee Capital Orchid Show & Mid-American Orchid Congress. This is the 50th anniversary of the Mid-American Orchid Congress. Show and sale will be held on Saturday Oct. 31 and Sunday Nov. 1. For more details, see: www.tnorchid.com/

Notes and tips:

- Name tags: If you obtain an orchid and it comes with a name tag, hold onto it. Unless the tag says simply “orchid”(typical for mass-marketed orchids), the tag gives the plant’s original Genus name. For example, “Bl” stands for Brassolaelia, a hybrid of Genus *Brassavola* and Genus *Laelia*. “Blc” includes a Genus *Cattleya* in the previous mix. *Cattleya*, *Brassavola*, and *Laelia* are all from Central and South America, and require bright light for growing.

Cattleytonia (abbreviated as Ctna.) is another example of an intergeneric hybrid Genus which comes from crossing *Cattleya* and *Broughtonia*. *Broughtonia* comes from the Caribbean, and gives the hybrid plant red flowers and compact stature.

Another example of a hybrid genus is *Hawkinsara* (abbreviated as Hknsa) which includes four genera: *Broughtonia*, *Cattleya*, *Laelia* and *Sophronitis*. Based on molecular phylogeny, botanists studying plant

systematic seem to change plant affiliations often. Recently some South American *Laelia* species have been reclassified as *Sophranitis*. Regardless, understanding the original habitat types are your best guide in caring for your orchids.

- For a great article regarding orchid pollination, check out a National Geographic article entitled *Love & Lies* (NG Sept. 2009 page 100 – 121.) or read the article at the NG site: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/09/orchids/pollan-text/1>
- Another article entitled “Orchid biology: from Linnaeus via Darwin to the 21st century” is free from *Annals of Botany* Vol. 104 issue 3 (August 2009). This article precedes 20 other articles (not free) focusing on many aspects of orchids, such as orchid conservation, Darwin, Linnaeus, mycorrhiza, genetics, evolution, etc. .

Orchid of the month 2

Vanda has a relatively small number of species found in India, SE Asia (the Philippines, Indonesia, and New Guinea), China, and northern Australia. Vanda leaves are either flat lance-like or round terete type, which is well adapted to long dry period. The flowers come in many colors such as pink, yellow, orange, blue, and purple. Below are 3 different vandas grown by the CIOS members, Jerry Steerman (blue and purple) and Mitzi Williams (pink). The photograph does not show the rich purple color of Jerry’s vanda.



Being monopodial, vandas tend to grow tall with long roots hanging out-- often several feet long. In search of a more manageable plant, Vandas were crossed with *Asconcentrums* in the late 1940’s to create a new hybrid genus called *Ascocenda*. Vanda likes bright light and warm temperatures so they can be easily summered outside in Central Illinois.

AOS News:

The 2010 American Orchid Society calendar is available for \$12.95 plus shipping and handling. \$2 from each calendar sold benefits orchid conservation. Order No. CL919M