

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 2007

Mitzi Williams, President & News Letter Editor

Jerry Steerman, Treasurer

Nancy Steerman, Secretary

Tim Bowers, AOS Rep.

Fall care of orchids:

How have your orchids done during the summer months? Several of my orchids bloomed in July and August, even though they are known to be fall bloomers and bloomed in late September to October. Was it due to several cool nights in July, or diligent fertilizing? Whatever the reason, I was surprised to see them blooming outside, withstanding occasional down pours and strong winds.

If you sent your orchids outside, they probably need to be treated with insecticides now before coming inside. A small pressure sprayer that allows you to spray under the leaves is useful. Treat your plants several times over a few weeks so that both the adults and larvae will have perished, and to keep new bugs from crawling into the pot. In preparing to bring the plants indoors, take care not to let the plant get any direct mid-day sun. Even for half an hour, direct sun will scorch the delicate leaves. All of my orchids are now indoors except for cymbidiums—they will be left outside until the night temperature falls to lower 40° F. I will continue to water them, but change the fertilizer to one that boosts flower production.

The Sept. 2006 issue of Orchids (p.646) offers some additional tips as summarized below:

September offers optimum growing temperatures for many plants, but be watchful for sudden drops in temperatures (particularly at night) for warm growing orchids such as Vandas, Phalaenopsis, jewel orchids, catasetums and some cattleyas such as Cattleya violacea).

May orchids, particularly Cymbidiums, nobile-type dendrobiums, masdevallias and some Phalaenopsis will continue to grow leaves, pseudobulbs and keikis, but they will not flower unless the care regimen is altered. Apparently, some growers stop fertilizing completely to slow down the growth and promote flowering. Others switch fertilizer to the one high in phosphorus, and continue to fertilize at ¼ strength. Change in fertilization practice, along with temperature and day length, all contribute to the likelihood of flower initiation.

Lastly, I hope you were able to make many divisions to donate for the Auction next month (see next meeting on page 2).

Orchid of the month: 1

How lucky Janet Jackson is to have flowered this orchid, *Neofinetia falcata*!

This small species of orchid of Japanese origin is extremely fragrant, and is called Fu Ran (or Fu Lan) which means wind orchid in Japanese. The pure white flower is about ½ inch around and has a long delicate



spur.

Janet obtained it in Fall 2006, kept it on the eastern windowsill during winter, and then moved it to the basement for growing under fluorescent lighting (4 x 40w tubes). She gave it no special care!

Apparently, this orchid was grown widely by the samurais, a warrior class at the top of the social hierarchy during the feudal period in Japan (mainly 14-16th centuries). Various accounts indicate that the Emperor and other imperial aristocrats favored *Cymbidium ensifolium* and *Dendrobium moniliforme* for their fragrance.

(Sources: A history of the orchid by Merle A. Reinikka. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1995. The orchid in lore and legend, by Luigi Berliocchi, translated by Lenore Rosenberg and Anita Weston, ed. By Mark Griffiths. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2000.)

Next meeting:

- The September CIOS meeting will be held on Sept. 18, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Urbana Free Library Conference Room. The program will focus on problem plants, so bring your sickly, or otherwise not very happy plants for problem diagnosis and treatment suggestions by the members. As usual, show and tell of your flowering plants are welcome. Also at this meeting, we will be talking about the plans for the 2008 orchid show to be held January 26 – 27, 2008. Your ideas and suggestions will be most appreciated.
- The October CIOS meeting will be the annual Orchid Auction, jointly held with the Illini Orchid Club. It will be at 6:30 pm on October 16, 2007 at the Univ. of Illinois Plant Sciences Bldg, 1201 S. Dornier Dr., Urbana. Excluding the membership fees, the Auction is the only source of income for our Society, so **please be generous and donate your extra or unwanted plants and supplies for this event.**

If you plan to attend, please be at the north-east entrance of the building by 6:30pm because the door will be locked. If you are coming late that day, please call Mitzi Williams (217-840-7437) to arrange someone to meet you at the door. If you can donate plants or other items, but cannot come to the Auction, please contact Mitzi to arrange pick ups.

Orchid of the month: 2



Looking for a new type of orchid to grow? If you have an unused windowsill or a bit of space on the sun porch, how about trying this one? It's the Tiger or Sugar Cane Orchid, *Grammatophyllum speciosum*. The largest type of orchid in the world, it begins life as an epiphyte in the lowland rainforests of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. (continue at right)

As it grows, it becomes so heavy it breaks the tree branches and continues to grow on the ground.

The largest one on record weighs 2 tons. This plant, grown by Hoosier Orchids, was on display at the Garfield Park Conservatory in Indianapolis. It is probably 10 ft across and at least that tall. The bloom spikes are shoulder high with about twenty 4" flowers on each. There are several tagged seed pods developing, so in a couple of years Hoosiers' maybe offering seedlings. Something to look forward to; just in case you want one of your own.

(Photo and text submitted by Mark Pennington and Shelley Kelsheimer). Note: August 2007 issue of Orchids has a feature article about this plant by Erich Michel of Hoosier Orchids.

Events in the area:

- Sept. 21-23, 2007. The Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association presents the 15th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest. Five nurseries including Oak Hill Gardens and Orchids by Hausermann/Fox Valley Orchids are participating. For more information, see www.chicagolandorchidfestival.com/html/schedule.html.
- Oct. 6, 2007, 10 A.M. – 1 P.M. The 4th Annual Fall Orchid Event will be held at GreenView, 2616 N. Mattis, C. The topics covered are: Orchid Growing for the Timid; Orchid Care Clinic: Re-blooming, Re-potting, Diseases & Pests; Re-potting Demonstration; and Orchid Basket Demonstration. Tim Bowers and Mitzi Williams will be participating in this event.
- Oct. 13-14, 2007
Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL. Contact: Sandy Fuller, 352 Cheryl Lane, Palatine, IL 60067; (847) 977-5842; sjfuller62@comcast.net.

Special report:

How to dry or make pressed orchids using microwave was reported in the April 2007 (v.1 no.4) issue of this newsletter. At that time, I did not know if the color would remain vibrant or fade away. I am happy to report that the flowers kept their colors, and were made into note cards. Mitzi Williams