

Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2008

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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.

Changes in every direction:

The word “CHANGE” is heard via mass media mostly associated with the upcoming presidential election, but for orchid growers, September brings a lot of change in orchid care. As the outside temperature drops, and the day light lessen in both length and intensity, most orchids summering outside need to be brought indoors. In that process, each pot should be checked for insects and diseases that may flourish without natural controls such as rain, wind, and natural enemies found outdoors.

The exception is Cymbidiums as they need to be left outside to experience cold temperatures to near 40° F in order to form inflorescence (flower spikes). However, if they have been in shade through the hottest months of summer, they can be gradually brought out into a brighter spot now. Once acclimated to brighter light over a week or so, they can remain in full sun and continue receiving water and fertilizer.

You can continue to use balanced fertilizer into the fall, but you can switch to fertilizer with high phosphorus content (such as 10-30-10) for the next 6-8 weeks to encourage flower initiation and for producing larger size and number of blooms. Once flowering occurs, the balanced fertilizer can be used again until the new growths are visible in the spring. Some growers stop fertilizing all together while the plants are dormant.

One unexpected and sad change this month is the closing of Hoosier Orchids of Indianapolis. In the past 19 years, Hoosier Orchids has offered wonderful orchid selection to growers everywhere. “Changing aspects of the orchid industry and societal trends” is given as a reason for closing their business. We will particularly miss Hoosier’s beautiful catalog featuring fine and most unusual plants. For details and on-going sales information, see: <http://www.hoosiorchid.com/>.

In October, we will again be holding a joint Auction with the Illini Orchid Club. This is a great opportunity to increase your collection at a very low cost, obtain plants that you have not tried before, and contribute to your society by donating extra plants or growing supplies. Details of the Auction are described under Next Meeting on page 2. If you are unable to attend the Auction, but have items to donate, please contact me.

Mitzi Williams

Notes and tips:

- Water collected by a dehumidifier is suitable for orchids. (Orchids, August 2000 p.771)
- Oak Hill Gardens sells a hobby bag of various types of planting mix for \$2.50/bag. A hobby bag is about ½ the size of a basketball. Since a minimum shipping charge is \$12.50, it is a good idea to get together with other growers to order. See: <http://www.oakhillgardens.com/>.

Next meeting:

- The next CIOS meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Sept 16, 2008 at the Urbana Free Library Conference Room. Mitzi Williams, with the help of Don McClure, will talk about growing miniatures in a terrarium.
- On October 7, we will join the Illini Orchid Club (UI students' group) for the annual orchid auction, held at 6:30 p.m. in Rm 1125 Plant Science Lab. Please consider donating your extra plants or growing supplies. This event is the only fund raising opportunity for CIOS. A reminder will be sent by e-mail prior to the auction. Our regular October meeting will be on Oct. 21. Additional information, if any, will be sent by newsletter and e-mail.
- We were fortunate to secure the Conference Room at UFL for our regular meetings this year (Library's calendar runs from September to August of each year). However, our 2009 Show date and place is not yet set because the Library's Auditorium cannot be scheduled prior to 5 weeks before the event. This restriction may force us to seek the Show venue elsewhere.

Orchid of the month 1:



The Degarmoara Winter Wonderland 'White Fairy' blooms from late winter to early spring. Though without fragrance, the flowers are very showy and last 6 weeks or more. It has plump oval pseudobulb, thin erect lance-shaped leaves, and short fine roots. The entire plant is about 12-14 inches tall. Except for its need for high light, it is one of the easiest orchids to grow indoors. The genus Degarmoara was created by crossing three genera within the Oncidiinae tribe, i.e., *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* x *Brassia*. The name honors Lloyd DeGarmo, a long time AOS member and judge.

This genus is one of many intergeneric hybrids of Oncidiinae tribe which include *Miltonia*, *Brassia*, *Oncidium*, and *Odontoglossum*. (Continues to Orchid of the month 2).

Events in the area:

- Sept. 20-21, 2008 Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Mitchell Park Domes, 924 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI. Contact: Bil Nelson, PO Box 341606, Milwaukee, WI 53234; (414) 672-6446; qorchids@wi.rr.com.
- Sept. 26-28, 2008 (Friday and Saturday 8:00 A.M. – 5 P.M.; Sunday 10 A.M. – 3 P.M.) Chicagoland Orchid Festival. The Festival takes place simultaneously at four different locations throughout the area. All four growers will feature lectures, refreshments, greenhouse visitation, and visiting US and overseas growers and speakers. Nursery gift certificates valued at a total of \$1,000 to be given away at festival conclusion. A total of seven winners will be drawn. Call any participating grower for details. Windsong Orchids 847-683-2139; Klehm Growers, 847-683-4761; Oak Hill Gardens 847-428-8500; Orchids by Hausermann, 630-543-6855; Natt's Orchids 630-904-0947.
- Oct. 11-12, 2008 - Three River Orchid Society Show , Riverlodge, Shoaff Park, 6401 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. Contact: Kim Weldon, 2020 Forest Downs Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46815; (260) 493-2005; weldonfamily3@verizon.net.
- Oct. 11-12, 2008 - Illinois Orchid Society Show , Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL. Contact: Sandy Fuller, 352 W. Cheryl Ln. Palatine, IL 60067; (847) 977-5842; sjfuller62@sbcglobal.net.
- Oct. 24-26, 2008 Blackhawk Orchid Society Show , Klehm Arboretum, 2715 South Main St., Rockford, IL. Contact: Brian Lang, 3509 S. Baileyville Rd., Freeport, IL 61032; (815) 297-4723.

Orchid of the month 2:



Degarmoara Memorial Jay 'Yamada'

Other Oncidiinae hybrids that are commonly found in orchid nurseries are:

- Odontonia (Odontoglossum x Miltonia), ▪Miltassia (Miltonia x Brassia)
- Odontioda (Odontoglossum x Cochlioda),
- Vuylstekeara (Miltonia x Odontoglossum).
- Colmanara (Miltonia x Odontoglossum x Oncidium)

They come in white, yellow, pink, brown, green, red, and purple. Some Miltassias are known to have a pleasant scent. They prefer bright light, tolerate a wide temperature (45-100° F) and humidity (50-90%) variances, and are ideal for window sill cultivation.

They respond well to high nitrogen fertilizers, especially if planted in bark. These plants should be kept slightly moist at all times, and should never be completely dry.