

# Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

Volume 50. Issue 8



AUGUST 2002

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## President's Message

By Joe Dixler

My first meeting as president was truly wonderful and my sincere thanks go to all of you who really extended yourselves--not only by being there but for your excellent spirit of cooperation, participation and help. We had the largest July meeting that I can remember in all the years I have been a member. Usually, on a beautiful summer day we have lots of competition for your time. The reasons for our large attendance was due to the help from the board members in reaching most of you by phone, from the e-mails sent to those who had them, and mostly to our outstanding new newsletter. Thanks to all of you who brought your delicious sweets and to my wife **Rosalie** for setting up the hospitality table this month. Thanks also go to **Sherry Maloney** for manning the cart for this meeting. Be sure to bring your plants for judging and sales each month to the back door, and there will be someone there to assist you. Just get the number that opens the gate from the guard at the front booth and you can enter, but after unloading you must return to the front lot to park your car. We all owe Leo a thank you for suggesting Tom Nasser as a speaker, and for helping out when Wendy wasn't able to attend. And the biggest thanks go to all of you who attended.

Last but not least, I want to thank Wendy for arranging the two great speakers at our June and July meetings. **Marilyn LeDoux** of Windy Hill Gardens gave an excellent lecture on phragmidpediums and the list she handed out on hybrids and their pod and pollen parents is an invaluable reference. **Tom Nasser** treated us with his most interesting lecture on bulbophyllums. This species is guaranteed to challenge and enchant any one who grows them. They are one of my favorites and it was a pleasure to learn more about them.

During the summer, we understand that many of our members prefer to be outdoors, therefore one of our most popular events of the year is our

summer picnic at Oak Hill Gardens. This is the time when we all relax at with Hermann and Dorothy Pigors, Liese Pigors-Butler, and Greg Butler at their lovely nursery and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. So bring a picnic lunch and partake in the hospitality they always so generously provide. I hope you will all attend.

We are now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the IOS plans to communicate via e-mail (to those who have it) with the newsletter and for announcements. Please give your current e-mail address and phone numbers to Allen Morr, our membership chairman. We now have an e-mail list for sending out special bulletins. In reviewing the Membership Directory

some of you have no phone numbers listed, and many of the e-mails listed are not accurate. If you want to be notified about orchid activities that may occur between bulletins, please give us up-to-date information. Thanks.



## Future IOS Meetings

<b>August 11</b>	● Picnic: Oak Hill Gardens
<b>September 15</b>	Chicago Botanic Garden
<b>October 13</b>	Chicago Botanic Garden
November 17	Chicago Botanic Garden
<b>December 8</b>	● Party Buffet/Hausermanns.

**2002-2003 IOS Officers -- Terms of office are from July 1 until June 30**

President	Joe Dixler	847-432-7708	(jmd@dixler.com)
1st Vice President (Meetings/speakers)	Wendy Holtzman	773-395-1771	(wendyholtzman@netzero.net)
2nd Vice (Home show chair)	Anne Kotowski	630-833-8042	(phrag207@aol.com)
3rd Vice President (Away show chair)	Martin Taylor	630-682-0464	(dmtatcenco@aol.com)
Secretary (Recorder)	Linda Schubert	847-835-0799	(lshoobert@juno.com)
Asst. Sec'y (Newsletter editor)	Barb Bennett	847-948-8163	(bbennett.mmc@attbi.com)
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Diana Nielsen	630-894-9486	(dnielsen3@msn.com)
Asst. Treas (Membership/ Dues)	Allen Morr	847-501-2532-	(ozone03@ameritech.net)
Immediate Past President	John Stubbings	847-480-1532	(jstubbings@peoplepc.com)

**Board Members -- Terms of office expire June 30 of the year shown.**

Steve Lipson	2003	847-328-1837	(stevenlipson@attbi.com)
Nancy Jean Schoo	2003	630-837-3153	(nancyjean@earthlink.net)
Joel Edwards	2004	847-394-9251	
Bob Feliszak.	2004	847-827-0255	(yachtmaster@attbi.com)
Bob Morrison	2005	847-577-9639	(Morrisonbn@prodigy.net)
Barry Lubin	2005	847-432-5698	(BRLNo1@aol.com)
Jim Spatzek	2006	847-498-4638	(jamcam@avenew.com)
Rich Unger	2006	773-685-2677	(ungerCFC@msn.com)

**From the Editor**

With this month's newsletter, I am ready to begin the testing process of sending out the newsletter via email. If you would like to see the newsletter in an electronic version, **send me an email so I have the correct email address for you.** Each month when I have finished the newsletter, I will send an email to you and it will have a link that you can click to take you to a special site where the email will be. You will have to be connected to the Internet to view the newsletter. It will be available in a pdf file. To open this file you will need Adobe Acrobat reader, which is available **free** for either PCs or Macs at Adobe.com. (You may already have this on your computer.) You only have to download this file once and it will stay on your computer so you can view each newsletter.

Advantages of receiving the newsletter via email: 1) You receive it as soon as it is done--no waiting for the printer and the post office; 2) You can enjoy color pictures when we have them; 3) It saves the society money; 4) You can decide if you want to print it or not.

***This is totally voluntary.*** You do not have to go to an email version. We will be testing the system for a couple of months, during which time you would receive both the email version and the mailed paper version. Once we know it works, we will make the switch for those who wish to do so. If you have any questions, drop me an email. I want this to be an added benefit, not a pain in the neck, so let me know your thoughts. **Barb Bennett**, Newsletter Editor

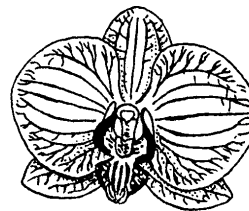
**Deadline for September newsletter  
August 25**

**IOS Board Meetings**

The next meeting of the IOS Board will be held on August 13, 2002 at the home of Joe Dixler. Dates and locations of future board meetings will be published in the newsletter in advance. Board meetings take place bimonthly and all IOS members are welcome to attend. Please call Joe Dixler in advance.

**Upcoming Orchid Shows**

The orchid show season actually kicks off one week earlier than stated in the last newsletter at the Indianapolis Show, **September 14-15, 2002.** So drop off plants if you have them Wednesday or Thursday, September 11-12.



Or if your plants if your plants are a week later in blooming, plan on the Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, **September 21-22, 2002**, The Domes, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Drop off is Wednesday and Thursday (September 18-19). This show is only an hour away and is a good one to begin learning the ropes of exhibiting. Contact **Martin Taylor**, our away show chair to let him know you can help him out. You don't have to know anything special, just be a helping hand.

If you can't help set-up or contribute plants, make the short 1-hour trip to Milwaukee for what is always a great show. (In fact, if you really want to see any show from the best vantage point, volunteer to clerk at judging. Judging is at 7 AM on Saturday, September 21.)

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## Did You Know?

Since the Illinois Orchid Society web site [iosoc.com](http://iosoc.com) was created a little over 3 years ago, there have been 7686 different (AKA "Unique") visitors to the web site. Other statistics include:

- Highest Day-April 12, 2002
- Visitors referred from other websites: 4805
- Average per week: 44
- Highest week: 354-April 7-13, 2002

Thanks to **Tom Franczak** the most public face of the Illinois Orchid Society is the best orchid society site on the Internet. Since Tom took over this job, he has spent thousands of hours on our website. We don't thank him often enough for all his hard work. This is not a stagnant website. Tom is continually working on it and enriching it. While Tom now lives in Ohio, his orchid home is the Illinois Orchid Society. Take a look at what he has done for us and drop him a note at [terpsichore@dataflo.net](mailto:terpsichore@dataflo.net).

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## THE AOS HAS A DEAL FOR YOU!

Orchid fanciers buy plants. Now, being a member of the American Orchid Society can save you money on plant purchases made from some of the finest commercial growers in the United States. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of a few select commercial growers, the AOS will send you a coupon worth \$30 on a retail plant purchase of \$100 or more from a participating grower of your choice. To receive the coupon, you need to renew your current AOS membership for two years—and receive 24 issues of Orchids magazine—instead of one year. If your membership has lapsed, the same promotion has just been extended to our society but your check must be sent to the attention of Terri Riviera. Then a \$30 coupon will be yours. It is valid for 6 months from the date the AOS acknowledges your renewal. The value does not apply to any advertised specials, taxes or shipping and handling charges. Since a one year membership is \$40 and the two year renewal is \$72, a two year renewal becomes only \$42 when you deduct the \$30 coupon!

This is a limited time offer. Even if your AOS membership is not due to be renewed for some time, consider extending it now so you can receive \$30 worth of plants—free—from one of these select, participating orchid firms: Carmela Orchids, Carter and Holmes Orchids, Everglade, Orchids, Gold Country Orchids, Hoosier Orchid Company, Kensington Orchids, Oak Hill Gardens, Piping Rock Orchids, R.F. Orchids, Soroa Orchids, Stewart Orchids, Woodland Orchids, Zuma Canyon Orchids.

For more information or to renew contact: Membership Services Department, American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446, phone 561-404-2000; fax 561-404-2100; e-mail is [trivera@aos.org](mailto:trivera@aos.org) or [www.orchidweb.org](http://www.orchidweb.org).

**Rosalie Dixler**, AOS Representative



## August Meeting

Time for the Illinois Orchid Society Picnic!!!! **August 11th at Oak Hill Gardens** in Dundee, Illinois. One of my favorite things to look forward to every summer is making a trip out to Oak Hill Gardens for our yearly picnic. It's a time for us as a society to just get out together and share a nice lunch and some country air. Starting at **12:00 Noon** society members will be invited to come out to Oak Hill Gardens. Please bring your picnic baskets as there are plenty of picnic tables for you to enjoy your lunch. Hermann Pigors and family will kindly supply beverages and desserts. At 1:00 PM we will have our usual plant judging followed by a short meeting. Then at about 1:45 - 2:00. Hermann will give us a talk on **using Pesticides** on our plants. This will make a nice follow up to our June work shop on Plant Pests. If you have never made it out to Oak Hill before, I highly recommend making the trip. Hermann's Green Houses have some of the nicest selections of plants you will see anywhere. (Check out their web site at [www.oakhillgardens.com](http://www.oakhillgardens.com))

### Directions...Directions...Directions...Directions

Oak Hill Gardens is located off I-90 exiting at Randall Rd, going North past Route 72, turning left at Binnie Rd going West for about a quarter of a mile, Oak Hill Gardens will be on your right side. Please feel free to call Oak Hill for more specific directions at 847-428-8500. If you would like to go to the Picnic but are a little apprehensive about making the trip alone, please call me and I can help direct you to some fellow orchid members in your area with whom you might be able to car pool. My number is 773-395-1771. Hope to see you all there.

**Wendy Holtzman**, First Vice-President



© Greg Allikas (www.orchidworks.com)

## LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT POTTING MIX?

We all have at one time or another, but there is no one universal mix for each and every one of us. The following is taken from a recent OrchidGuide Digest (<http://www.orchidguide.com>).

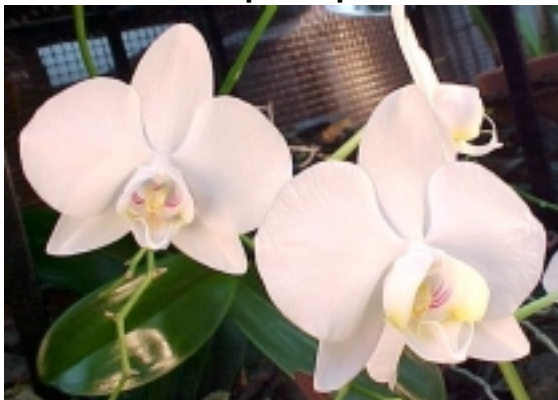
Subject: Phal Mix

I consider myself an expert in what not to do. I tried bark - in all the different sizes depending on the phal size -didn't water often enough and they didn't do real well. I watered too much and rotted the mix, killing the roots. I tried "mud", (some said it was absolutely the way to go - and they get superb plants and root growth). I watered too much and this mix also rotted. I tried other things with some success (or NOT). I am now growing nearly everything with various sizes of coconut chunks (with various amount of large perlite - depending on the species) in various kinds of pots. Dens are in clay for example. My phals are in coconut chunk (with lots of perlite) in plastic pots with lots of holes drilled in the sides and they seem to be doing better than any other mix I have tried.

Recommendation: Don't blindly follow recommendations from anyone when they say what they grow their orchids in. Everyone has a different mix and different growing conditions. Each growing situation "under lights" or greenhouse is different from others. I grew phals poorly under lights, because I didn't know how my watering, the environment and the mix affected the roots. I read the books - I can quote Bob Gordon with the best of them - I am a member of the IPA (International Phalaenopsis Alliance) and have gone to a couple of their conferences. My suggestion is to try various mixes and see what works for you.

[Editor's note: Coconut husks are being tried by some growers in the IOS and elsewhere. Some report great success. However, as this grower has illustrated, be aware that your growing situation and habits may or may not align with others who recommend a certain medium or method. It is always best to give a medium or method an initial trial before you convert your whole collection to it.-BB]

### Phalaenopsis aphrodite



(<http://www.oakhillgardens.com/photopge.htm>)

## Welcome New Members

Please extend a warm welcome to Linda Loye who has recently joined the IOS:

I would encourage our "old" members to introduce themselves and personally welcome Linda and all newcomers to our Society.

--Allen Morr, Membership

### Phragmipedium Sedenii

(longifolium X schlimii)

<http://www.oakhillgardens.com/images>



## Memos to the Members!

- Please remember to wear your Illinois Orchid Society **membership badge** to the meetings. We want to get to know you!
- Encourage **your friends** to join the Illinois Orchid Society. Bring them along to a meeting so they can see what the IOS is all about!

## American Orchid Society Judging

The August AOS judging of the Chicago Center will be held August 10, 2002 at the Chicago Botanic Garden at 1 PM.

## Chicagoland Orchid Festival

We are very fortunate to be so close to so many excellent orchid nurseries. The Chicagoland Orchid Festival is a perfect time to visit them, when they will host orchid growers from other parts of the country, as well. For more details, see: <http://www.orchidfestival.com/>

Fri-Sun Sept. 28-29-30, 2002.

Oak Hill Gardens -- EFG Orchids - Windsong Orchids  
Natt's Orchids - Orchids by Hausermann  
Klehm Growers

# Taking Plants to Away Shows

**Q.** How do I know if a plant is worth taking to an away show?

**A.** A lot of people make the mistake of pre-judging their orchids and feeling that they must be almost the most spectacular plant they have ever seen to qualify for exhibiting in a show. If the plant has been blooming for a long time, and the flowers are obviously fading and drying out, you should not send it. But otherwise, you should enter it! You may have a plant in bloom when other people don't, so the chances of your plant garnering a ribbon are all the greater – provided you enter it, of course! No one can guess which plants will be entered in any given show, so that is why we say, "If you have an orchid in bloom, bring it to a show! – even if it's just one plant!" – you never know!

**Q.** How do I send (or take) my plant to a show?

**A. 1) Prepare your plant.** Be sure all inflorescences are supported by a plant stake. Remove any dead foliage. Unsightly water spots on leaves can be cleaned with a cotton ball dipped in lemon juice. Do not use any leaf shine sprays on orchid leaves. Make sure the plant is watered just before sending it, as it will be at the show the entire week-end. It will be fine without water for the duration of the show, provided it does not start in a parched state – that could lead to the plant becoming stressed. Finally, make sure your plant is free of bugs or diseases. Do not send a "buggy" or diseased plant to a show.

**2) Make a plant list.** Write your name and the date on a piece of paper, and list the plants you are taking to the show. Be sure to write the plant names as they appear on the plant tag, including correct capitalization. Do not use all upper case letters. If the plant is a hybrid, the plant tag may list the parents. If so, then add these to the plant list; it helps the judges to assess the plant if the parents are named. You may be able to find the parents in an orchid database if they aren't given on the plant tag (more on this in a later issue.) If you can't find the parents, don't worry – just copy what is on the plant tag. A sample list could look like this:

Rob Smith—September 21, 2002

Paph Avalon Mist (*primulinum* X Paph Pinnochio)

Paph *philippinense* [Not PAPH. PHILIPPINENSE]

Dtps Sogo Manager (Phal Brother Lawrence X Phal Autumn Sun)

**3) Classify your plants.** During ribbon judging, plants are always compared and judged to other plants (entered in the show) within their same classification. We use the Mid-America Classification (see next column for an explanation). If you have a copy, look up the class(es) into which your plants should be entered, and write the class number(s) on your plant list. If you have access to the Internet, you

can look up the Mid-America Classification on the IOS website ([www.iosoc.com](http://www.iosoc.com)).

4) Pack your plants. Put your plants in a suitable box and secure the pots with newspaper so they don't tip during transportation. Please use as small a box as possible, consistent with protecting your plants, of course. This will make fitting all the plants into the car easier. If you would like your own box back after the show, please write your initials on it.

5) Drop off your plants at the plant drop-off house on the dates posted in the Newsletter, usually the Wednesday/Thursday before the show. Or, if you want to bring your plants to the show yourself and help Martin Taylor, Away Show Chairman, during the setup (and/or pick them up yourself and help during teardown) then give him a call at (630) 682-0464. Your help is always welcome, and it's a fun activity!

**Q.** What is the Mid-America Classification?

**A.** This is a **classification scheme** that divides orchids into **groups of similar plants** for comparison during show judging. The Illinois Orchid Society has joined with several sister societies to make up the Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC). Among other things, the member societies have agreed on a common list of plant classes for judging shows. During ribbon judging at shows, the judging teams look at all the plants entered in a class (whether its 5 or 25 plants), and then they decide on the ribbons for that class from among those plants. As a rule, plants are **not** compared to similar plants seen in other shows, only the plants entered in the show being presently judged. Examples of classes are:

71. Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis, Yellow, no markings.
72. Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis, Yellow with Markings.
73. Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis, Multifloral, Yellow with or without markings.

Multifloral - Referring to 3" maximum wide (also called *natural spread*) flowers and multibranched inflorescences.

The judging teams work in numerical order; In the above example, Class 71 is judged before Class 72. Therefore, if you cannot decide between 2 similar classes, choose the lowest class number that fits your plant. If the judges disagree with the class you have entered, they can move it to a higher-numbered class and judge it later. If they find that it should have been in a lower-numbered class, it will not be considered, because that class would have already been judged. (Note: I have a copy of the 2002 MAOC classification, and can e-mail it to anyone. Just ask. – BB)

Phragmipediums are New World lady's slipper orchids that grow from Mexico through central South America. Most are terrestrial (grow in the ground) or lithophytic (grow on rocks), but a few species can sometimes be epiphytic (grow on trees). The tree dwellers are primarily the long-petaled caudatum types. Some species prefer to grow in the splash zone of waterfalls and on stream banks and can often be submerged during periods of heavy rain. These stream and waterfall dwellers include the species: lindleyanum, sargentianum, kaieteurum, klotzschianum, caricinum, pearcei, and longifolium. Phrags flower at various times but most heavily in the late winter and spring. Mature plants of many sequential-blooming species can be in bloom for 6 months or more at a time.

**Light.** Light needs for phrags range from bright (cattleya-like. 3000-4000 footcandles) for the long-petaled caudatum types and xerophyticum, to medium-low (phal-like or mottled-leaf paph-like, 1500-2000 footcandles) for besseae and schlimii. Growing these lower light phrags on a lower bench in a greenhouse usually provides both the reduced light levels and somewhat cooler temperatures they prefer.

**Temperature.** Most phrags prefer intermediate temperatures with nights in the upper 50's to mid 60's and days in the 70's and 80's. However, Besseae and schlimii can tolerate and even prefer somewhat cooler temperatures. If kept much cooler in the winter, keep them somewhat drier as well, not soggy wet. Phrag xerophyticum prefers temperatures on the warmer ends of the ranges given above.

**Humidity and Air Circulation.** Grow in humidity above 50% if at all possible. Placing plant groupings on pebble-trays with water between the pebbles is very helpful when growing in the home. Caudatum types are most tolerant of less humidity, as long as the roots remain moist. Constant air circulation, especially in a greenhouse or grow room, is very important. In higher humidity growing areas, growths that do not dry out by evening can develop a bacterial rot. Constant air circulation can help prevent this problem. If a problem does occur, pull off the infected leaves and use a bactericide. This problem can occur on any phrag but is most prevalent on caudatum types and their hybrids.

**Water.** Good quality water is very important for growing phragmipediums. Tap water with low dissolved solids is OK, but rain water or reverse osmosis (R.O.) water is usually even better. Flush the media and roots well each time you water. Most phrags should be kept moist at all times. However the caudatum types and xerophyticum can become somewhat drier between waterings.

Some people have great success growing their moisture-loving phrags sitting in saucers of water. To help prevent bacterial rot problems do not water over the tops of the plants on cool, cloudy days if the growths will not dry out by evening.

**Fertilizer.** In general, phrags can take more fertilizer than paphs, but feeding too heavily can cause leaf tip burn. When using rain or R.O. water be sure to use a fertilizer with essential micronutrients such as Dyna-Gro. I prefer using water-soluble or liquid fertilizers at 1/4 to 1/2 the recommended strength for 3 or 4 waterings then flushing thoroughly with clear water every 4th or 5th watering. Less fertilizer and/or a blossom booster (higher phosphorous) fertilizer should be used in the fall and winter.

**Repotting and Potting Media.** Repot every 1-2 years in fresh mix. The best time is usually right after flowering, but phrags are very tolerant of repotting anytime. I prefer the following basic potting mix for my phrags:

- 9 quarts fine bark (sequoia)
- 3 quarts perlite or sponge rock
- 3 quarts fine to extra fine charcoal (#3 or #4)
- 3 quarts fluffed Canadian peat or Pro-Mix HP (or similar peat-based mix)
- 1/2 cup bone meal

For phrags (excluding xerophyticum) potted in 5-inch and larger pot sizes, I like to add in 1/4 to 1/3 medium sequoia bark. I also often add in 1/4 fluffed rockwool, especially for the more moisture-loving types of phrags. I never use rockwool in my xerophyticum mix.

For Phrag (Mexipedium) xerophyticum I add to the above formula:

- 1/4 cup dolomitic lime
- 1/4 more charcoal for good drainage to any size part of this mix separated out.

For example, for 2 cups of the above mix, I add 1/2 cup more of extra fine charcoal.

I also use the above mix, minus the extra charcoal but with the dolomitic lime, for my paphiopedilums. I also like to use styrofoam peanuts in the bottoms of my pots for good drainage.

<http://www.orchidmall.com/windy.hill/>



**WOW!!**

*Phragmidpedium kovachii*, the recently identified phrag species can be viewed at: <http://www.selby.org/press/kovachiiorchid.htm>. Take a look, it is as large as a man's hand!

With this issue of the IOS Newsletter, I am introducing what I hope will be the first in a regular series of columns reviewing books, periodicals and other literature about orchids. Books and other resources recommended by IOS members were discussed at the May workshop and reported in the June Newsletter. After the workshop and later after reading the June report, I realized this could be the perfect opportunity for me to become more actively involved in the IOS, utilize my education and professional experience as a writer and a horticulturist, and indulge in my second favorite hobby – reading. (My favorite is, of course, orchids!)

The May workshop resulted in a good basic list of books and other resources for the orchid lover's library, beginner and expert alike. Many of these books are classics, such as Rebecca Northern's "Home Orchid Growing" and Alec Pridgen's "Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids." Others are must-have quick references like the Taylor, Ortho, and Sunset Guides. And never forget the many reliable publications from AOS, helpful to beginners and experts alike. My goal in this column is to go beyond the basic and more obvious books, to broaden our resources, to explore the almost endless amount of information available to us about those mysterious plants that have lured us the way they have lured their pollinators for thousands of years.

When I reviewed the report on the May workshop, I noticed a concentration on books about cultivation and identification, obviously essential for all orchid enthusiasts. But this month I want to introduce a small and extraordinary book on the history, folklore, botany, and cultivation of the orchid: "The Orchid in Lore and Legend" by Luigi Berliocchi, a translation from the original Italian. *'Il Fiore Degli Dei.'* In this very readable and concise book, the author surveys the myth, history, artistry and the botany of the plant he considers the most sensuous and mysterious of all flora, truly the "flower of the gods."

Easily readable in one or two sittings, the book begins with the many fascinating myths and legends associated with orchids throughout the world, from pre-history to modern times. One of the many legends related by the author is the myth of Orchis, the passionate but foolhardy son of a nymph and satyr. Could any parentage better suit the orchid? Orchis eventually is metamorphosed into a slim tuberous plant, the progenitor of the genus of tuberous terrestrial orchids bearing his name. And as a botanical term *Orchis* is the root of the word orchid and the family name Orchidaceae.

Berliocchi then discusses the introduction of orchids into cultivation and the many plant hunters, botanists and hobbyists caught up in the mystery and beauty of orchids. The author relates how some of these early European orchid enthusiasts in the 18<sup>th</sup>

and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were so captivated by the exotic mysteries of their prey that they lost their lives pursuing new and unknown species from the Malay Archipelago to India, China, and Africa. Berliocchi explains the place of orchids in the literary and visual arts, in fine cuisine, and in medicine. He tells us how orchids first made their entry into the delicate art of Chinese ink painting or *sumi-e* and he discusses their rare appearance in Medieval unicorn tapestries. Berliocchi provides many fascinating details about the ancient and modern medicinal and culinary usages of orchids. Do you know that the *Orchis* species mentioned earlier is the source of *saleb*, a type of flour made from ground orchid tubers and an essential ingredient in orchid ice cream? (See *Orchid*, Vol.70, No.10, October 2001.)

As if to further emphasize the aesthetic role of orchids in Eastern and Western culture, the book is enhanced throughout with numerous beautiful engravings and paintings on almost every page, some in color. Berliocchi continues his look at orchids with extensive accounts of the most prominent genera and their cultivation in a fluid, enjoyable writing style, not the least bit dry or dull. He presents information in a way that makes us feel as excited as if we were seeing the information for the first time.

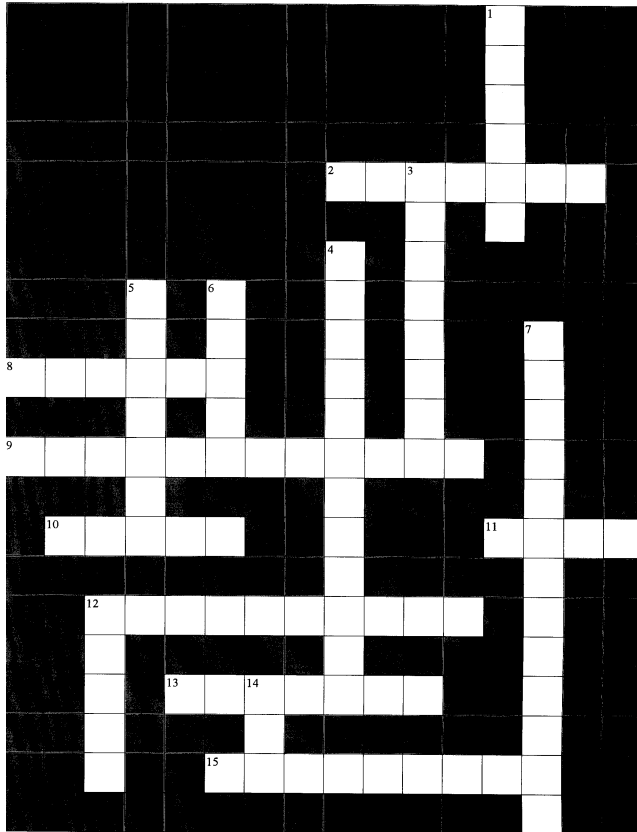
Berliocchi concludes the book with an excellent bibliography for additional reading. Orchid genera are precisely indexed to make locating them in the text quick and easy. That Luigi Berliocchi loved orchids and their history is obvious and infectious. He shares this love and sense of mystery with the reader through his mastery of factual information about one of the youngest but most evolved of all the plant families and through his literate and accessible writing style.

This is a book that every orchidophile, amateur or expert, should own and more importantly read not just as a reference but also to experience the genuine love and fascination Berliocchi had for his subject.

"The Orchid in Lore and Legend". Luigi Berliocchi. Timber Press. Portland, Oregon. 2000. (Translated by Lenore Rosenberg and Anita Weston. Edited by Mark Griffiths. \$29.95. Hardback.)

In closing, be sure to look into the varied resources available in the Chicago Botanic Garden Library. The library has an extensive collection of how-to books, videos, histories, journals, encyclopedias, handbooks, monographs, and much more - all on orchids - just waiting for you. The staff is very helpful and the library recently added Sunday hours.

If you have any comments or suggestions for books, periodicals, journals, videos, or any topic relating to orchids you want to see covered in this column, just call or email me with your suggestions (847/864-8417 or [garnerij@attbi.com](mailto:garnerij@attbi.com)).



**Across**

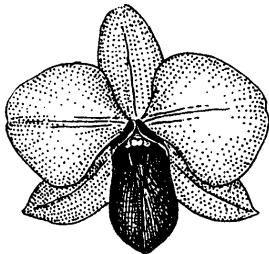
- 2. August meeting place
- 8. new column writer
- 9. the moth orchid
- 10. a bug
- 11. denotes a group of individual plants of an artificial hybrid
- 12. lithophytic
- 13. covers roots
- 15. grows on other plants

**Down**

- 1. person to call for away shows
- 3. name of newly discovered phragmipedium
- 4. the "Southern" orchid per TN
- 5. orchid used to bake a cake
- 6. stages of mealy bug life cycle
- 7. flower spike or stem
- 12. place where mealy bugs can be found
- 14. highly modified petal

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**Next IOS Meeting — August 11, 2002**  
**Oak Hill Gardens**