



Laelia tenebrosa,
grown by Joe Dixler

Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

Volume 50.  Issue 10 **October 2002**

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President's Message

By Joe Dixler

I have given much thought to the idea of how to have a more successful society.

In the May 2002 issue of "Orchids" Magazine published by the American Orchid Society, there was an interesting article by Art Moore titled "How To Have A Better Society." I have added an extra "I" to the four "I" approach that he proposed. There were some good ideas mentioned in this article that I have adapted for our needs.

"I"nvite people to the meeting that are interested in orchids. You may have a friend that knows someone who grows orchids. They may have even asked to visit your home to see your collection. Call them and ask them if they would like to attend a meeting. I was at my watch repair store last week. They knew I grew orchids since I had met their technician at the last IOS show. She asked me about my orchids and wanted to know more about the IOS. I have invited her to our next meeting and will call to remind her closer to the date. I encourage you all to do the same.

"I"nformation about growing orchids should be discussed at each meeting. Many members may not be as knowledgeable as you are. How about sharing your special hints with others. Wendy asked you for ideas at the September workshop, but we know there is more help that can be offered. If members aren't learning something, they won't be coming back. So take time to talk to people you don't know as well as to your friends. We will

continue to provide workshops to help, but personal discussions are even better.

"I"nclude helpful articles in the newsletter. Our new format that Barbara Bennett has initiated certainly fulfills this objective. If you have something to add, write it up and send it to her for publication. I hope you are all reading the newsletter from cover to cover as I do, and enjoying the helpful suggestions.

"I"nteract with new members so they feel part of the organization. Our newly proposed Mentor program should begin next year, and we believe that it will make a difference. I hope that many older and more experienced members will volunteer to assist newly joined members to help get them started in the right direction. When the society has a show, invite them to participate.

"I"deas are always welcome. If you are in another society or any other organization and you know what works there that might help our society, please suggest it. By incorporating these ideas yet changing them to fit our own needs, we may hope to add new programs. Benchmarking is the way to go.

We don't want our organization to become static. We want new ideas, more participation, and added stimulation. If you have a request for a topic for a workshop or speaker, tell Wendy. If there is something that can be improved please call or e-mail me. I want to know. I was happy that one new member e-mailed me after the last meeting to mention his concerns. I have shared the information with the Board and we will try to act on his suggestions. We are concerned and will give you our sincere attention. The Board and I are very concerned with doing what is best for the society.



Future IOS Meetings

October 13	Chicago Botanic Garden
November 17	Chicago Botanic Garden
December 8	● 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)
Ed Gamson	2005	847-432-7825	(epgamson@welshkatz.com)
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)

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Deadline for November newsletter
October 28



This phalaenopsis has not been repotted for 18 months. Notice the root growing off the left edge of the pot and a new leaf is growing but the stalk of the plant is exposed and some dried roots indicate all is not well inside the pot. (See page 4.)

2002 IOS Board Meetings

- October 8, Home of Allen Morr
- December 10, Home of Diana Nielsen

All meetings are held at 7:30PM. IOS members are welcome to attend. Please call Joe Dixler in advance.

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Away Shows 2002

October 25-27

Blackhawk Orchid Society Show
 Klehm Arboretum,
 2601 Clifton Avenue, Rockford, IL

Directions (from MapQuest): I-90/Northwest Tollway to I-90 W. Take I-39 S towards Rockford. Merge onto US-20 W. Take the IL-2 N/Main St exit. Stay straight to go onto IL-2 to 1701 Clifton Rd.

November 9-10

Michiana Orchid Society

These are the dates of the remaining 2002 away shows to which you can contribute your blooming plants for the IOS exhibit. 2003 away shows will be listed later in the year.

Drop off is on Wednesday/Thursday before these dates at **Sue Golan's** (847-234-6311) for our North suburban members and at **Martin Taylor's** (630-682-0464) for those growers in the South. Call them for the best time to drop off your plants.

AOS Judging—Chicago Center

October 12	1 PM	Classroom #3, CBG
October 25	6 PM	Klehm Arboretum
November 9	1 PM	Classroom #3, CBG
December 14	1 PM	Classroom #3, CBG

IOS Website
IOSOC.com

🌱 October 13th Meeting

Our workshop this month will be an open session for all the members who would like to hear about/discuss our current situation with the Botanic Gardens and the possibility of changing our meeting location. This discussion will begin at 12:00 and will run approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour. If you would like to voice your views on this topic (See page 5.), and/or find out more information. I strongly encourage you to attend this discussion session.

The speaker for this month is **Francisco Miranda** of Miranda Orchids. Mr. Miranda is an orchid taxonomist that specializes growing Brazilian species. He will be talking to us about the genus *Laelia*, about which he is writing a book (illustrated by his wife, Maria Cristina). He is an exceptional speaker and we are very fortunate to have him come and give a talk to our society. Please check out his web site www.mirandaorchids.com. You may want to pre-order orchids from him.

Monthly Judging Report

How time flies! We have already had 3 great meetings and three AOS judging sessions to kick off the 2002-2003 Monthly Judging competitions. IOS members have fared well with a number of AOS awards to report.

First, from July, **Joe & Rosalie Dixler** garnered 6 awards: *Laelia tenebrosa* 'Love Lips - HCC/79; CBR's to *Cirrhaea longiracemosa* 'Yellow Teardrop', *Kefersteinia nesseneii* 'Lemon Drops' & *Kefersteinia jemma* 'Tsipy'; *Promenanthus xanthina* 'Elda' - CCM 81; and *Platyrrhiza quadricolor* 'Sparkler' - CCM 83. (Joe, would you mind bringing something simple to spell next time!) Your humble scribe also received a HCC/76 for *Dtps.* Purple Gem 'Trayce'. At the August judging, **John Stubbings** received a HCC/75 for *Miltassia* Radermaker 'Haiku Leopard' and the Dixlers struck again with a CBR to *Chondrorhyncha amabilis* 'Elda' and a CHM/85 to *Epidendrum pfavii* 'Purple Gum Drop'. October again brought kudos for the Dixlers with CBR's granted to *Malaxis oculata* 'Skyward', *Malaxis purpleiflora* 'Purple Punch' & *Den Roseipes* 'Pokey Pink'. **Bill Rogerson** received an HCC 76 for *Laelia pumila* var. Alba 'Kathleen' & **Bil Nelson** received a CBR for *Sobralia stevensonii*. Congratulations to all.

Now to the monthly totals → For the first time in quite a few months we had a Plant-of-the-Month in both Greenhouse and Lights categories. **Chuck & Jane High** got the award for Lights with an unnamed *Pleurothallis* from Paraguay (Please, get it identified, quickly!). In the Greenhouse category there were two awards - one for Culture to **Carole Thompson** for *Ornithocephalus dolobratus* and Plant of the Month to **Laima Sahagian** for *Chtra* Angela Olivera X *Rhyn. Coelestis*.

We're off to a good start, and some new names are beginning to appear. Remember, we are not having a mini-show this year so plan to either bring your plants to monthly meetings or better yet, garner double points by sending them to one or more of the many away shows that are coming up. These standings reflect points earned through the September meeting, but do not reflect any away show points.

Sherry Maloney - Monthly Judging Chair

Lights/Windowsill

Bennett, Barbara	132
Buckles, Betsy	36
Cinert, Lois	21
Delvecchio, Pat	10
Fuller*, Sandy	1
Gemeinhart, Ernie	30
High, Chuck & Jane	71
Jaich-Westine*, Anna	1
Jehangir, Rusty	16
Johnson, Carolyn	11
Losert, Wilfred	101
Maloney, Sherry	147
Nielsen, Diana	69
Papiewski, Claire	33
Pollock*, Loren	10
Schmitz, Barbara	58
Schordje, Leo	30
Taylor, Martin	46
Tirzmall*, Susan	1
Tribble*, Allison	21
Unger, Rich	56
Vrabel, Ken	60
Wallace, Dottie	21

Greenhouse

Dixler, Joe & Rosalie	688
Golan, Sue	110
Nelson, Bil	50
Rogerson, Bill	75
Sahagian, Laima	90
Stubbings, John	75
Thompson, Carole	40

*Indicates new member status

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please extend a warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the IOS:

Alexander Manuel - Chicago
Clifford Grill - Bloomington, IL
Wilhelmine Kardes - Munster, IN

Roots

This short article adapted with permission from First Rays Orchids http://www.firstrays.com/free_info.htm) gives some good basic information about healthy roots, no matter what medium you chose for your orchids.--BB

“Good roots means a good plant and good blooms.”

Root Basics

1. Root cells regulate the flow of water and nutrients (as water-soluble ions) into the plant, and gas exchange (carbon dioxide out and oxygen in).
2. The rates at which these events occur is determined by physical characteristics of the root cells and by the relative concentrations of the components on either side of the cell wall.
3. A root cell, once grown, is apparently "locked into" the configuration that was appropriate at the time it grew, and cannot change to accommodate a new potting environment, new cells must grow that are attuned to the new environment.
4. The functionality of cells in a particular environment is not "all-or-nothing," but is a matter of degree.

Based upon those "tenets," it becomes clear that some of the long-established "rules" are quite well-founded:

1. When repotting, for example, always make sure that new growths (hence new roots) are forming. Doing so gives the plant the opportunity to grow cells that are appropriate for the environment created by the new medium.
2. Likewise, it is important to keep the plant in a low-stress environment (less light, cooler temperatures—or at least not hot temperatures, which is why we do not recommend repotting in the hot days of summer) for 4 - 6 weeks after repotting so the plant can get established. If the new roots have not yet grown enough to fully support the plant, and the old roots are not able to function at 100%, this makes a lot of sense. This is an especially important issue when making a drastic change in media, such as bark-based to mounted, into inert media, or into water. Interestingly enough, aerial roots do quite well when submerged in water, as they can apparently regulate water flow better than those that were submerged in the medium.

One further thing that relates to media choice is decomposition and gas exchange. We know that decomposing medium can take down a plant quite quickly, but an aspect of that which is not often considered is its effect on gas exchange.

As organic media decompose, they tend to compact and stay quite wet, and it is quite plausible that the

compacting of the medium - and not the wetness or decomposition themselves - is the culprit in the rapid loss of roots and the plant.



Figure 1. Out of the pot, we see the darkish brown roots are rotted, but some healthy roots prevail. Healthy roots are firm when the outer velamen is squeezed. Rotted roots collapse because the velamen has rotted leaving only the root, which may or may not regrow a healthy root branch.

As plant respiration occurs, carbon dioxide exits the roots so it can be swept away into the air. If the medium is compacted and wet, the carbon dioxide will not dissipate, but can react with the water to form carbonic acid, which kills plant tissue quickly. The localized high concentration of carbon dioxide near the roots also limits the plant's ability to release more, essentially "choking" the gas exchange process.

It seems likely that the open, airy structure of the ceramic PrimeAgra medium - permitting lots of gas exchange - is why constantly-wet roots don't rot in semi-hydroponic culture.

(Photos courtesy of Barb Bennett)



Figure 2. After rinsing all debris and pulling dead velamen from roots, the plant is ready to be repotted into a slightly smaller pot (because of the root loss).

Changes

—A Communication from the IOS Board

This communication is going out to all Illinois Orchid Society (IOS) members at the request of the IOS Board of Directors to inform them of several issues and concerns of prime importance to all members.

In the past several years there have been many changes in the policies of the Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG) toward plant societies, the most recent being in July of this year. Among other issues, the CBG policy changes have the net effect of significantly increasing the cost of membership and decreasing the ease of access to meetings and shows by the members. After reflecting on the effect of all these changes on the ability of the IOS to conduct monthly meetings and orchid shows, the IOS Board of Directors has felt compelled to consider changing the location of our monthly meetings and shows. This communication will summarize the most recent policy changes of the CBG and the current status of the search for an alternative site.

New Policies Between the CBG and Plant Societies

In July of this year, the CBG sent a notice of new policies to the presidents of all the plant societies that currently hold monthly meetings or hold shows at the CBG. The following are just the most significant CBG policy changes that will affect the quality of the meetings and shows the IOS is able to conduct:

- “Beginning August 1, 2002, complimentary parking for meetings will be extended to Chicago Botanic Garden Members only. A discounted CBG membership is available to all members of a society with an organizational membership.”

Previously members of plant societies were given free parking at the CBG for monthly meetings and shows when they presented their membership badge or newsletter. The cost of CBG membership is currently \$45 and the discount to plant societies is \$10. So this effectively means that with the current minimum dues of \$20, IOS membership would cost members a minimum of \$55 a year. While it does not appear to have been enforced as of the September meeting, the Garden has said that this parking policy will be enforced more stringently in the future. The current parking fee is \$8.75. The Board feels this will cause many IOS members who are not currently members of the CBG to not attend meetings and/or to drop out of the society.

- Only one “meeting space” will be reserved for monthly meetings. A second “meeting space” can be rented for \$75 if available. Specific meeting space reservations are subject to change by the CBG if they are able to rent them to other groups. This essentially means that we are not guaranteed the auditorium and multipurpose

room for our meetings, and that the CBG will decide which rooms we will meet in. This also means if we continue to use two rooms the cost to the society will increase about \$600 per year.

- The July policy document from the CBG indicated that only one show per year would be allowed to each plant society. Since then we have been told verbally that a second show is possible, but we would have to pay rental fees. Joe Dixler believes that the rental fees would amount to at least \$5500, but he is unsure that these would be the rates for 2003.
- May Through October Parking Procedure
 - When attending meetings plant society members are required to enter the Garden through the Dundee Road entrance. Plant drop-off can be made at the West door of the Education Center and then members must drive back to the parking areas off of Dundee Road and take a shuttle back to the Education Center for the meeting. There is one bus to shuttle individuals between the Education Center and the Dundee Road parking area.
- “The Garden Café has exclusive contract to provide ALL food services and catering at the Chicago Botanic Garden.”
 - Previously the IOS members had brought in food (pot luck meals) and refreshments for volunteer workers and exhibitors at our shows. This policy change has eliminated that practice. While the IOS has complied with this food policy for several years, the arrangement is costly--about \$900 per year--and prevents the society from being a gracious host by providing food and refreshments to volunteers and vendors.
- Cars/trucks will no longer be allowed to pull into the Plant Preparation room to unload plants during shows. The South entrance to the Education Center will become the unloading site for all exhibitors.
- Show/sale hours have been changed to the following:
 - Set-Up: 3 pm - 10 pm, one day prior to show/sale. (This would be the Friday before the show.)
 - Show: 10:00 am - 4:30 pm (Saturday & Sunday)*Please note shows with Saturday judging will need to open at noon.

Other Considerations

- As of mid-September, the Garden has not committed to any 2003 meeting dates for the IOS. This makes it impossible to schedule speakers for next year.
- At the present time, the IOS has been given “verbal” confirmation of a 2003 show date of May 15-16, a date that was not our first (or second)

choice. The IOS spring show has traditionally been held in April.

- The IOS has traditionally held two shows, one in the Spring (April) and one in the fall (Sept or Oct) and relies upon both these shows to fund the operation of the society.
- Until some years ago, the IOS had traditionally held its meetings on the same weekend each month, for example, the second weekend of the month. This made it easy for members to remember when the meetings were and plan accordingly. In the past years, the CBG has required us to move the dates of our meetings, sometimes causing meetings to be just 2 weeks apart instead of the preferred 4 weeks. (This year our February meeting was the 17th and the March meeting was the 3rd; the June meeting was the 30th and the July meeting was the 14th.)

The IOS has had a long and mutually beneficial association with the Chicago Botanic Garden and we greatly appreciate their hosting of our meetings and shows. At this time, however, the IOS Board feels that their policies conflict with too many of our society's and members' needs and we feel it is time to investigate other venues for meetings and shows.

Site Search Status

A Site Search Committee has been appointed by the IOS President and has investigated several potential meeting/show locations. The criteria used to investigate these sites include:

- Meeting room/space to accommodate a minimum of 100 individuals comfortably, with space for "Orchid Show & Tell", hospitality table, member sales tables, and speaker sales tables.
- Audio-visual capabilities for 35 mm slides, video, and overhead projector, with PowerPoint LCD projection capability a plus.
- Lockable cabinet space to contain IOS society materials.
- Free parking
- Easy and reasonably walkable access to the building where the meeting will be held
- Space for Spring and Fall show (with electricity, stanchions, security, hotels in close proximity for out-of-town vendors/exhibitors, volunteer break room, etc)
- Reasonable cost
- Access to major transportation via highway, with accessibility to public transportation a plus
- Mutual appreciation of the beneficial relationship between the hosting entity and the IOS

Several community centers, local colleges, and other possible venues were contacted in search of the above criteria. As of mid-September, Triton College, 2000 Fifth Avenue, River Grove, IL (<http://www.triton.edu/>) is at the top of our list of sites.

The Board of Directors has entered into discussion and negotiations with Triton to ascertain the compatibility of their goals and meeting space with those of the IOS. Potential meeting space may be available to the IOS in the Robert M. Collins Center there and show space is also available. At this time Triton appears to meet all of the above criteria. They have been welcoming of our inquiries and have shown interest and enthusiasm in the potential of having the IOS meet at their site. At this time, no formal commitments have been made by either party, and the details of the potential arrangements and costs remain to be finalized.

Your Feedback is Important

The Board solicits your feedback and inquiries regarding this change. Please submit any comments via email or regular mail to: Barb Bennett (bbennett.mmc@attbi.com), 10 Fairfax Lane, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. (This feedback will be collectively forwarded to the board.) The **October meeting workshop** (Oct 13, 2002 at 12:00 PM at the CBG,) will also be a forum for member feedback. Members of the Board and the Site Search Committee will be there to answer any questions. Additional details regarding the potential of Triton as a meeting site will also be available.

Change is Hard

We all know how difficult change is for people, and the contemplated change of meeting/show location is a major one for the IOS as a society and its members. While we have met at the Chicago Botanic Garden for many years, there have been at least five or six other such moves in the 50-year history of the IOS, so this move is not unprecedented. The foremost motivation for the change in location is the welfare of the society and its members. The Board realizes that a change in meeting/show location will result in new circumstances, some known and some unknown, but we feel that with due diligence and the support of the members, we can meet the challenges ahead.

In conclusion, we must all remember that **change is inevitable**, whether we stay at the CBG or not. By taking these steps at this time, the goal of the Board is to shape the changes that occur to promote the goals of the IOS and improve the accommodation of our members and guests at meetings and shows.

HEY—NICE PLANTS!



Phrag Grande grown by Rich Unger



Carole Thompson with *Ornithocephalus dolobratius*



Seen at AOS judging--*C guttata*, grown by Bill Rogerson



Seen at AOS judging--*C bicolor*, grown by Bill Rogerson

 **September Meeting Notes** .📅
Great Orchid Tips

- Try not to over crowd your orchids. Plants need plenty of good air circulation to grow well.
- Isolate new orchid plants from your collection for a period of time during which you should watch them for signs of pests/disease.
- The correct amount of light is vital to the success of growing orchids. Make sure you wipe off the leaves now and then to get maximum benefits from the sun light. Orchid leaves can be cleaned with water, lemon juice or milk. (if using milk-rinse the leaves with water after you apply the milk).
- If growing under lights or at window sills use a humidity tray to help improve the moisture around the plant..
- Growing some of your orchids in clear pots helps you to know when your plants may need water. This is also a great way to monitor the root systems on a particular plant.
- You can hang some of your plants on hangers to help fit more orchids in a smaller space (e.g. growing in a window sill you can hang some orchids from the top of the sill.)

Work Shop Idea's or Suggestions?

I would love to hear feedback from you on our orchid workshops and any suggestions you might have for future workshops. Please email me your comments at wendyholtzman@netzero.net. Thanks and see you at the meeting!Wendy



IOS Exhibit at the Wisconsin Orchid Show at The Domes in Milwaukee, Sept 21-22, 2002
Martin Taylor, Sherry Maloney and Lois Cinert put the display together.
Thanks, Guys!

Address Correction Requested

**Illinois Orchid Society
Barb Bennett, Editor
253 Summerfield Road
Northbrook, IL 60062-5426**

**See the Special
Communication from the
IOS Board on Page 5.**

IMPORTANT!

**Next IOS Meeting — October 13, 2002
Chicago Botanic Garden**