

Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

Volume 50. 🍰 Issue 11 November / December 2002



In This Issue!

Away Shows	2
IOS Board Meetings	2
Monthly Judging Report	3
November Meeting	3
Inflorescence Structure	3
Expensive Orchids	4
Humidity	5
Cymbidium Culture	7
How Do You Pronounce That?	4,6,8
2003 IOS Meetings	8

President's Message

By Joe Dixler

In last month's newsletter you all read the article about the change of policies at the Chicago Botanic Garden and how it will impact our organization. At the Workshop during our October meeting, the idea of relocating our shows and monthly meetings from the Chicago Botanic Garden to Oakton Community College (OCC) was discussed. It was important to the Board to listen to the opinions and concerns as well as the questions that our members voiced. Since Article IV Section 1 of the by-laws of the Illinois Orchid Society gives the duty of establishing the location of the meetings to the Board, they met afterwards to make this decision.

We have had a mutually beneficial relationship with the Chicago Botanic Garden for many years. Our organization has grown and prospered from this relationship. But due to the additional cost and other difficulties for our members that will result from our continued affiliation with the Garden, the Board has voted to move our location to Oakton Community College at their Des Plaines campus.

I have visited the campus and am very impressed with the facilities and the cooperation of their staff. It is located only a block from the Interstate 294 on Golf Road in Des Plaines. We will be using a large room with an attached kitchen for our meetings. There is no problem getting the dates we wanted—you can mark your calendars for the dates noted on page 8 of this newsletter. The shows will be in one very large space, bigger than the one at the Garden, which can accommodate the exhibition,

plant sales, meeting space, judging and all other aspects of the show. With free parking, we can charge an admission fee that will now result in our own profits for the enormous effort we put forth. We will not have the restrictions in the sales area that many of our vendors complained about. There are also large, enclosed loading docks for use during our shows. This is an improvement that we know our vendors will appreciate and should result in more profitable and better shows. Our location at Oakton Community College will serve one of our objectives: to have an educational function in providing the general public with botanical and horticultural orchid information. We hope to reach an even larger segment of the public, as well as students, to spread the knowledge and enjoyment of growing orchids.

It is sad to realize that our November meeting will be the last time that we meet at the Garden. At the same time it is exciting to look forward to a new home with a large educational organization that enthusiastically supports our being there. Changing one's habits, especially after so many years, will be a challenge for us all. There will be differences that may bother some, but I believe the many benefits will far outweigh them. We must have a positive attitude and try to work together to make the adjustment as easy as possible. I believe that you will be pleased with their facilities for our meetings and shows and that this change will eventually result in the growth of our membership and a stronger society.

We all owe our thanks to the Emergency Committee which consisted of Nancy Shoo, Diana Nielsen, Martin Taylor, Barbara Bennett, Allen Moore, Rich Unger, Anne Kotowski and myself. They have done an outstanding job of scouting new places, taking time off their jobs to visit them, and working with the staff of the various locations to negotiate policies and prices. Special thanks go to Nancy and Diana who were so tireless in their efforts.

Future IOS Meetings

November 17	Chicago Botanic Garden
December 8	🍷 Party Buffet/Hausermanns.
January 12, 2003	Oakton Community College
	See Page 8 for full list of meetings.

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	(dmtatcenca@aol.com)
Secretary (Recorder)	Linda Schubert	847-835-0799	(lshoobert@juno.com)
Asst. Sec'y (Newsletter editor)			
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)

From the Editor

For health reasons, I have had to give up editing the newsletter and the IOS board. At the writing of this November/December issue, a replacement has not yet been named. Good luck to all and Good Growing!!

Barb Bennett

2002 IOS Board Meetings

- November 19, Home of Diana Nielsen
- All meetings are held at 7:30PM. IOS members are welcome to attend. Please call Joe Dixler in advance.



Away Shows 2003

To be announced in January.

Drop off is on Wednesday/Thursday before show 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.

PLEASE NOTE!!

This newsletter will be for NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. There will NOT be another newsletter mailed in December.

AOS Judging—Chicago Center <i>cjc.iosoc.com</i>		
November 9	1 PM	Classroom #3, CBG
December 14	1 PM	Classroom #3, CBG

PORTER'S ORCHIDS

Royston Rd. at St. Joe Hwy., Grand Ledge, MI
Open Tues-Sat, 10 am - 4 pm
<http://portersorchids.com> 517-622-4188



Quality Orchids for the Home Environment

WHAT? Our annual **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**
WHEN? Saturday, December 7, 2002
HOURS? 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
REFRESHMENTS? Of course! And lots of orchids.

Websites: IOS osoc.com
Chicago Judging Center: cjc.iosoc.com

📍 November 17 Meeting

Our November meeting Nov. 17th will be our last meeting at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. We will not be having our workshop this month. Our meeting will start at Noon and we will discuss our new meeting location. Please attend this meeting it will be very informative. We will be having a very interesting speaker this month. Jose Portilla from Ecuador. He is the owner of Ecuagenera Orchids in Cuenca (Ecuador). He will be giving us a talk on the importance of knowing how orchids grow in their natural habitats and how this correlates on successful growing in home environments. His talk will also discuss the concepts of conservation from a stand point of species conservation. Please check out his web site www.cuencanet.com.

December 8 Meeting

Dana Harrison will be our speaker on Sunday, December 8th (topic to be determined). Our host, Orchids By Hausermann, will supply the liquid refreshment, and if our membership comes through with their usual outstanding culinary delights, we will definitely be 'merry!' Bring a salad, casserole, dessert, or any other holiday specialty that can feed 12-15 people. Your dish is your entry ticket to this party.

The festivities are in their greenhouses on Addison Road in Villa Park (North Avenue or Rte. 64 & Addison Road, about a mile west of Rte. 83 and North Avenue (phone 630-543-6855). Their doors will be open at 11:00am (to allow for shopping and camaraderie) and the party begins at noon. There will be no member plant sales, but Hausermann's certainly has enough orchids to fill anyone's shopping list. Please have your plants arranged by 12:30pm for judging. Lunch will begin about 1:00pm with the lecture following the festivities.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

Leo Stam, Evanston, IL 60201;
Helen and David Samuelson

Monthly Judging Report

The monthly Judging Report will be updated in January.

Public Transportation to Oakton

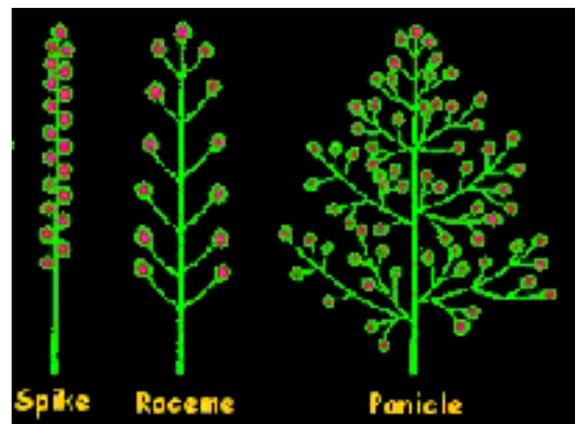
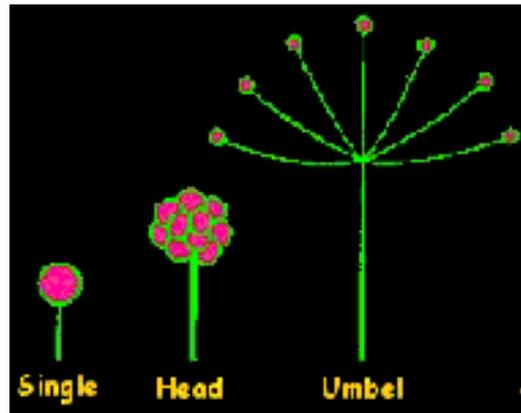
There is public transportation both to Golf Mill Shopping Center and the Desplaines Metro center with connections to the Jefferson Park (blue line el). I'm not sure about Sunday schedules, but they certainly can be checked. It's about the same walking distance from Holy Family Hospital (or a bit farther.) Maybe car pools could be arranged from either the Golf Mill Shopping center or Des Plaines Metro. Golf Mill connects to the Evanston el and Metro via 208 bus, and there might be other connections from the city. ...

Sherrie Reddick

Inflorescence Structures

From: http://www.firstrays.com/free_info.htm

Those of you who frequent the rec.gardens.orchids newsgroup, or subscribe to the Orchids List Digest have probably run across discussions relating to the proper terminology for the inflorescences our plants display. Most of us simply refer to them as "spikes," but that's not really accurate. The diagrams below ought to help us all.



THE MOST EXPENSIVE ORCHIDS IN THE WORLD.....

By John Beckner

From Selby vignettes:

<http://www.selby.org/research/vignettes.htm>

Flowering white Phalaenopsis are wholesaling in southern California at \$3.50 each. Markup to retail is not large. MiniDenPhals in Florida retail at \$3 and up. Good Oncidiums can retail as low as \$8 to \$10 locally. A lot of people become interested in orchids, buying a plant or two of these low priced ones, then being drawn in, ever deeper, and deeper, and deeper...

At the other extreme, what are the most expensive orchids? We might look at some auction sales of a century or so ago, correct for inflation, and so forth. But right now seems more interesting. Tiny plants, one stem with half a dozen leaves, of *Neofinetiafalcata* 'Higuma', are selling at 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 yen! What's that in "real" money? Call it about \$65,000 to \$85,000. Not bad for a miniature Japanese native orchid species. Especially since this is a mutant variegated leaf form that is hard to keep alive. Another clone, 'Hakobotan', is going for 2 million yen, while 'Kotonishiki' is only 1.5 million. Ho hum. Let the common people have them. All this data is from the *Orchid Review*, Vol. 109, May-June 2001. In the same article we can read of other clones, with flowers cream, amber, yellow, rose pink, or magenta, besides the typical pure whites. There are a number of variegated leaf forms and some with odd leaf shapes. Altogether, there are 175 selected and named clones of this one species. *Neofinetia falcata* has been used in several attractive intergeneric hybrids. It is fragrant, beautiful, cold hardy (native north to around Tokyo), easy to grow (in the normal wild forms), and has much historical interest. The Japanese apparently accept only one species. It extends to extreme southern Korea according to some botanists and it certainly is native to a wide area of China. Plants with the spurs much shorter, flowers possibly nonfragrant, and with stiff purplish leaves have been named *Neofinetia richardsoniana* by Eric Christenson. These probably come from Sichuan (Szechuan) in far western China. There are also

reports of it in Korea. Are both species there? Christenson states "northern Korea", attributing the report to Ken Roberts [*Ed. an FWCO.s member*]. Ken tells me that they grow only at the southernmost end of the peninsula. A Czech report on the epiphytic plants of North Korea, many years ago, did not mention any *Neofinetias*. There are also populations of *Neofinetias* on small islands that are more or less between Korea and Japan, while others occur on Okinawa and its satellite islands. Then there are related species in Taiwan, mainland China, etc. These are currently listed in such genera as *Ascolabium*, *Ascocentrum*, *Holcoglossum*, and *Papilionanthe*. All are worth growing, all are worth propagating, all are worth hybridizing. None of the commercially available ones sell for more than \$10 to \$50 per flowering size plant.

How Do Your Pronounce That?

Caladenia	kal-a-DEE-nee-a
Caleana	kal-ee-AN-a
Colax	KOH-laks
Comparettia	kom-pa-RET-ee-a
Corallorrhiza	kor-al-lo-RYE-za
Coryanthes	ko-ree-AN-theez
Cycnoches	SIK-no-keez
Cymbidium	sim-BID-ee-em
Cypripedium	sip-ree-PEE-dee-um
Cyrtorchis	SIR-tor-kiss
Dendrobium	den-DROH-bee-um
Dendrochilum	den-droh-KYE-lum
Dichaea	dye-KEE-a
Dilochia	dye-LOH-kee-a
Dipodium	dye-POH-dee-um
Disa	DYE-sa
Diuris	Dye-YEWR-is
Domingoa	do-ming-GOH-a
Doritis	doh-RYE-tis

Humidity

From: http://www.firststrays.com/free_info.htm

We often hear of the importance of humidity in the culture of orchids, but that has often raised the questions as to which is more important, relative- or absolute humidity, how do we determine what humidity level we have, and how do we control it?

Absolute and Relative Humidity

Absolute humidity is defined as the mass of water held in a certain mass of air.

Relative humidity is defined as the ratio (usually expressed as a percentage) of the mass of water in a given mass of air divided by the maximum mass of water that can be held by that same mass of air at a given temperature. That maximum increases with increasing temperature, which is why for example, we see the RH drop as lights heat a growing area.

One of the functions of the plant's cells is to regulate the flow of moisture into and out of the plant, and they do so in response to the gradient between the inside and outside of the plant. If we take that at face value, one might be inclined to think that the absolute humidity is what's important, as the same number of molecules of water are present no matter what the temperature.

However, as gases such as moist air expand upon heating, warmer air will have fewer water molecules **per volume** than cooler air will, and as our plants do not similarly change volume with temperature, the gradient is shifted to one favoring the loss of moisture from the plant, rather than an uptake of moisture. It is for that reason the the relative humidity is the factor of interest in orchid growing. (Before folks take issue with that, let's consider that we tend to grow our orchids in a fairly narrow temperature range, so controlling the relative humidity also constrains the absolute.)

As an aside, it's that physical expansion upon heating that makes warmer air capable of holding more moisture, as there is physically *more room* to fit more molecules in

the mix. Upon cooling, the molecules get closer together and have a greater chance of bumping into each other, and when they do, they ultimately condense into droplets, which we see as fog, dew, or rain.

Determination of Humidity

There are several ways to determine the humidity level in your growing area. The simplest is a *reactive* method, in which we simply observe the aerial roots of our plants; if the roots are plump and their tips are green, the humidity is just fine.

Going to the other extreme is the use of a sling psychrometer, in which two thermometers - one dry, the other maintained wet by a wick and reservoir of water - are whirled through the air for a period of time so that the cooling effect of evaporation from the "wet bulb" can be compared to the absolute temperature of the "dry bulb" thermometer. By finding the intersection of those two temperatures on a **psychrometric chart**, one may determine the absolute and relative humidity levels of the air.

For the hobby grower, resorting to such means to measure the humidity seems a bit extreme, and there are a number of devices available that do an adequate job. Just remember that the accuracy may be questionable in less-expensive devices, and if you select a stationary wet-, dry bulb thermometer, you're going to need a breeze from your circulation fans to get an accurate reading.

Controlling Humidity

For the orchid grower, we can usually equate "control" with "supplement," as many of our plants come from regions more tropical than our individual geographies.

If you are an outdoor grower, you're pretty much at the whim of nature, but if you do need to add moisture to the air, misting is a good method.

In the greenhouse, there are a number of techniques available, such as misting, fogging, or evaporative cooling, and there

are a multitude of devices available for that purpose. I use a combination of overhead misting, fogging with an atomizer device, and evaporation from a wet gravel floor after watering to maintain humidity levels around my collection.

For those who grow their orchids indoors, in a controlled environment under lights, many of those same options are available. For the *in-home* grower whose plants are grown in the main living area of the house, the challenge is a bit greater.

Certainly, hand misting of the plants several times a day is good, but just don't leave them wet as night draws closer. Some growers move their plants closer together, so that the localized humidity of the moisture evaporating from the plants and growing medium benefits the entire cluster.

Another good alternative is the use of an evaporator of the type used to ease folks with congestion. A word of warning about those: if you select a "cool mist" evaporator - the kind that atomizes the water using a rotating disc - you may experience the formation of a white film on your plants, furniture, and floor from the minerals in your water. Wipe your plants down periodically with a dilute lemon juice/water solution, and they'll be fine. The console-type humidifiers that utilize a sponge or moving wick belt to enhance evaporation of the water achieve the same effect without the fear of mineral buildup on your plants and furniture, but it will, instead, build up in the evaporator, requiring periodic cleaning or replacement of the sponge or wick.

The use of "humidity trays" is another common recommendation. With those, waterproof trays containing pebbles are half-filled with water and placed under the plants. As the water evaporates, it raises the localized humidity. Be sure that the pots don't sit directly on the wet pebbles, as you might keep your medium too wet and suffer root-rot problems as a result.

A general *caveat* about all of the humidity-enhancing methods described for in-home

growing: remember that unless your growing area is sealed off from the rest of your home, any effort to raise the humidity level around your plants is actually trying to raise the humidity of your entire house! Because of that, especially if there is air circulation due to fans or forced air heating, the less active methods like the humidity trays appear to be of very limited value. If you really want to do this right, consider a means to humidify your entire home, and remember that for many plants it is not necessary to have tropical humidity, but that we are shooting for a sufficient humidity to keep the plants from desiccating.

Maintaining a reasonable humidity in your home has several non-orchid benefits, as well: it keeps your wood furniture from drying and splitting, reduces "nail pops" in drywall, and keeps your skin from drying out. One more thing - and this may be the biggest benefit of all - if you maintain the relative humidity in your home around 50% to 60% during the winter, you will be able to lower your thermostat a bit, as the evaporation of moisture from your skin is reduced, and you *feel* warmer at lower temperature.

How Do Your Pronounce That?

Acacallis	a-ka-KALL-iss
Acampe	a-Kam-pe
Acineta	a-sin-EE-ta
Ada	AY-da
Aerangis	ay-er-RANG-giss
Aeranthus	ay-er-AN-theez
Aerides	AIR-i-deez

Cymbidium

sym-BID-ee-um



Single backbulbs need not even be placed in mix until new growth and roots are noted. Keep shaded and warm until new growth sprouts, and pot as above.

The American Orchid Society is the world's leading provider of information about and related to orchids. We invite you to join us and learn about the world's most fascinating flowers and plants. Your membership entitles you to our monthly award-winning magazine *Orchids*, a free copy of our cultural guide *Your First Orchid* and the AOS Orchid Source Directory, a 10 percent discount on items purchased through The AOS BookShop and Orchid Emporium, and free admission to the International Orchid Center in Delray Beach, Florida.

American Orchid Society
16700 AOS Lane
Delray Beach, Florida 33446-4351
Tel 561-404-2000 Fax 561-404-2100
E-mail TheAOS@aos.org
Web site orchidweb.org

These orchids are prized for their long-lasting sprays of flowers, used especially as cut flowers or for corsages in the spring. There are two main types of cymbidiums — standards and miniatures. Where summer nights are warm (above 70 F), only miniatures can be recommended, because many are more tolerant of heat and able to flower in warmer weather.

LIGHT is important for growing cymbidiums. Coming from cool and bright areas in Asia, they need high light but cool temperatures. In many southern climates, high summer temperatures, especially at night, may prevent the plants from blooming. The maximum amount of light possible, short of burning, should be given to the plants. This means only light shade during the middle of the day, or about 20 percent shade. In cool areas (such as coastal California), full sun is tolerated. Leaves should be a medium to golden green in color, not dark green.

TEMPERATURES are another critical factor in flowering standard and miniature cymbidiums. During the summer, standard cymbidiums are usually grown outside in semishade, where day temperatures should be 75 to 85 F (or more), but night temperatures in the late summer to autumn (August to October) must be 50 to 60 F to initiate flower spikes. Optimum temperatures in winter are 45 to 55 F at night and 65 to 75 F during the day. When plants are in bud, temperatures must be as constant as possible, between 55 and 75 F. Miniatures can stand temperatures five to 10 degrees higher than standards and still flower. Most cymbidiums can tolerate light frosts and survive, but this is not recommended. Bring them inside when temperatures dip to 40 F. In mild climates, they can be grown outside year round. A bright and cool location inside is best for winter months.

WATER to provide a constant supply of moisture to cymbidiums, which are semi-terrestrial plants. They generally produce all their vegetative growth during the spring and summer and need the most

water during that period. Water heavily during the growth season, keeping the potting material evenly moist. Reduce water when the pseudobulbs complete growing in late summer. Keep barely moist during the winter.

HUMIDITY outdoors is usually sufficient during the summer, except in dry climates, where evaporative cooling in a greenhouse is necessary. Keep humidity at 40 to 60 percent during the winter, especially if plants are in bud. Keep the air moving to prevent fungus (*Botrytis*) from spotting the flowers.

FERTILIZE at the proper time to help cymbidiums flower. During the growth season (spring through late summer), high-nitrogen fertilizer (such as 30-10-10) is used. In late summer, use a high-phosphorus, blossom-booster fertilizer (such as 10-30-20), to help form bloom spikes. Fertilize at full strength every week to two weeks. In winter, fertilize once a month.

POTTING is usually done in the spring after flowering, usually every two years or when the potting medium decomposes. Shake all of the old potting mix off the roots, dividing the plant if desired. Pick a water-retentive potting mix; medium-grade fir bark with peat moss and perlite is a common mix. Select a pot that will allow for at least two to three years of pseudobulb growth before crowding the pot, while planning on placing the active growing pseudobulb(s) of the division farthest from the side of the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of the mix in the bottom of the pot and fill the container with medium, working it among the roots, tamping firmly.

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).

2003 IOS Meetings

January 12, 2003- OCC

February 9, 2003 - OCC

March 9, 2003 - OCC

April 5-6, 2003 ... Spring Show.

Our very first show at OCC!

May 18, 2003 - OCC

June 8, 2003 ... TBA (not at OCC)

July 13, 2003 ...TBA (not at OCC)

August 10, 2003 –Oak Hill Gardens

September 14, 2003- OCC

October 11-12, 2003 . Fall Mini-Show.

November 9, 2003 - OCC

December 14, 2003 –Hausermann's

How Do Your Pronounce That?

Bifrenaria	bye-fren-AIR-i-a
Bletia	BLEE-shia
Bletilla	ble-TILL-a
Brassavola	bra-SAH-vo-la
Brassia	BRASS-ee-ah
Broughtonia	brow-TOH-nee-a
Bulbophyllum	bulb-oh-FILL-um
Caladenia	kal-a-DEE-nee-a
Calanthe	kal-AN-thee
Caleana	kal-ee-AN-a
Calopogon	kal-o-POH-gon
Calypso	ka-LIP-so
Catasetum	kat-a-SEE-tum
Cattleya	KAT-lee-a
Cattleyopsis	kat-lee-op-sis
Caularthron	kawl-ar-thron
Chondrorhyncha	kon-droh-RINK-a
Chysis	KYE-siss
Cochleanthes	kok-lee-AN-theez
Cochlioda	kok-lee-OH-da
Coelia	SEE-li-a
Coelogyne	see-LOJ-in-ee

Address Correction Requested

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

Next IOS Meeting — November 17, 2002
Chicago Botanic Garden