

# Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

Volume 51. Issue 1



JANUARY 2003

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## President's Message

*By Joe Dixler*

This New Year should be a happy one for the Illinois Orchid Society. We have a new home and some innovative ideas to try out. We hope that you will all attend this first meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> at **Oakton Community College**. There will be representatives from the college there who were instrumental in getting approval from the Oakton Board to open on Sundays and to hire staff at the College's expense to accommodate our meetings. No matter what the weather, we hope you will put forth the extra effort to make this meeting special to show them our appreciation. We would like you to bring lots of plants for judging and make this a particularly large turn out.

The IOS Board has been working overtime to make our society better. We welcome any ideas that you, the members, want to contribute. You are always welcome to attend a board meeting. Just let me or the host know ahead of time. On occasion, board members do resign and a position becomes available. That has been the case several times since our last election. As announced in the last bulletin, Barbara Bennett is not able to continue as newsletter editor due to health concerns. I am pleased that Jerry Garner has agreed to become the new Assistant Secretary in charge of the newsletter. This is his first edition.

The map of **Oakton Community College** was given out at the November meeting at the Botanic Garden and again in December at the Hausermann's Christmas party. We are meeting in the Business Conference Center on the lower level. If you are bringing plants, drop them off at the front of the building where two members will assist getting them to the elevator down to the Center near exit 19. Then park in Lot D on the right (east) side of the building near the Lake and walk past the ORCHID sculpture, through the double glass doors at Exit 20. Continue down the hall past the Computer Lab on your left, and after a short distance, turn right into the hall to the Business

Conference Center (Room 0700). Take the elevator down to G and you will be there!

Our new ideas for 2003 include a Student Membership at a reduced rate for students enrolled in a credit program at Oakton or Triton. They can attend all meetings, help at shows, enter exhibits, and provide a lot of energy! Our Spring Show will be April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and will be called "Oakton Orchid Odyssey." We will need help from every member to spread the word of our new location.

Flyers will be printed for all to distribute throughout the Chicagoland area, and anyone who has publicity connections to offer will be appreciated. Since there is no longer a parking fee, the entry charge for non-members of the Society will be \$5.00 for anyone over the age of 14.

We have purchased a new storage cabinet for our supplies at OCC. Now our hospitality workers will have an easier time assisting with the set up of our "sweets" table that we hope you will continue to fill. The Mentor Program will begin in January for new members to our Society. We have many experienced society volunteers for the program, but we welcome more. If any current members want to be a part of this program either as mentor or mentored, let Allen Morr know your interest. We will begin with a commitment of three month periods. Another new program being discussed is an auction at our second show in October. Because our summer meetings (June, July, August) are not at OCC, we are considering offering a bus excursion and we welcome suggestions of places to visit. A trip to members' growing facilities is also being considered. If you have any other ideas, let me or Wendy know.

We have big plans for next year and all of you are an important part of those plans. Share with me your thoughts and ideas any time. We hope to grow bigger orchids and a bigger membership in 2003.

**REMEMBER!!! January and Future Meetings of the IOS will be at Oakton Community College.**

**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)	Jerry Garner	847-864-8417	(garnerjl@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 enjoying the experience of being the new IOS Newsletter editor. Although I've edited other newsletters in the past, I am now beginning to learn all the new and time saving methods of producing a newsletter on the computer. Each month I hope things will improve for us all as I become more accomplished and more comfortable with this ominous task. Everyone has been a tremendous help, especially Barbara Bennett and Joe Dixler. Their patience and expertise has made life a bit simpler for me this past month. Each month you will see improvements as I learn more and more about my new job and the finer points of electronic publishing. Please let me know your ideas for future newsletters. All comments and criticisms are welcome. I plan to resume my book review column in the February newsletter, with a review of *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean. Currently out as the movie *Adaptation* with a blockbuster cast, I've heard the storyline has been changed but that the movie is definitely worth seeing!

**Jerry Garner**, Newsletter Editor

Deadline for February newsletter  
January 25

**Carpool to Oakton?**

Consider carpooling to IOS meetings at Oakton Community College. It saves you money, it helps the environment, and it gives you time to share orchid information with other members. Check your membership directory for a carpooler near you!

**IOS Board Meetings**

The next meeting of the IOS Board will be held on January 14, 2003. 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 for information.

**Away Orchid Shows 2003**

[More information at the January meeting and in the February newsletter.](#)

Drop off remains 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 our growers in the South. Call them for the best times to drop off your plants.

**2003 IOS Meetings**

January 12	Oakton Community College OCC
February 9	OCC
March 9	Spring Show
April 5-6	Our Very First At OCC!
June, July, & August	TBA - NOT AT OCC

## The AOS Needs You (And Why You Should Join)

By Heidi Kirkpatrick, Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

Eighty-one years ago, a small group of people met in space rented from Harvard University. They were orchid enthusiasts, and they were the founders of a society that has grown to be the largest special interest horticultural organization in the world.

At this point, you are probably expecting little more than a press release for the AOS. That would be easy to write. The AOS publishes three acclaimed magazines: *Orchids*, the monthly magazine for members; *Awards Quarterly*, a pictorial review of awards from the AOS judging system; and *Lindleyana*, a venue for scientific reports on orchids. The new International Orchid Center in Florida sounds magnificent, housing AOS offices library collections and archives, and boasting three and half acres of gardens and 8000 square feet of greenhouses.

But you can read about the AOS at its informative website, [www.orchidweb.org](http://www.orchidweb.org).

Instead, I want to talk opinion – or why you should give the AOS your support in the form of membership.

You might ask, “What do I get for plonking down my money?” Most tangibly, you will receive *Orchids*, a publication of orchid articles, photos, and advertisements. Admittedly, some months it bores me silly; I skim the ads, look at the photos, and put it away. The same goes for the *Smithsonian* or the *Natural History* magazines, to which I subscribe. Any publication aimed at a broad readership is bound to miss my interests every now and again. But some months, I steal any moment I can to read it, compulsively, comprehensively, letting my toddler sit in the high chair after breakfast and please just wait another moment while Mommy finishes this page.

But the AOS is more than a magazine. It is also a judging system that enlivens our shows, drives breeders to excel, and gives hobby growers cultural goals to which they can aspire. Certainly, there are flaws. Something that looks fabulous in the cold snows of the Midwest might not get a second look in tropical Florida or coastal California. Judges are human. I would postulate that the orchid world is more interesting because of AOS judging. And judging battles make good gossip for the rest of us.

Beyond judging, beyond the publications, the AOS is an advocate for all of us who grow orchids. It strives to educate the public, which, by the way, is a stated goal of many local orchid societies. The AOS supports orchid research;

while you may claim you don't care about the latest taxonomical revision of *Phalaenopsis*, I would remind you that plenty of people last century thought it was stupid when a certain class of *Cypripedium* got the new name *Paphiopedilum*. Much orchid research will affect you, even if only indirectly via breeders and nurseries.

And now I come to one of two sticky topics which seem to rouse the most controversy: conservation. The AOS plays a prominent role in orchid conservation. For example, when the USDA revised its orchid importation regulations, its representatives met with the AOS as the premier orchid organization in the country; then it sent representatives to the AOS general meeting to report on revised rules.

Okay, maybe you don't agree with the importation regulations. Without AOS intervention, perhaps those regulations would have been worse. Maybe you don't agree with AOS conservation policies. Tell your AOS representative! It is your AOS representative's duty (Rosalie Dixler) to convey your opinion to the AOS and the AOS conservation committee. Your voice will be heard by the AOS, where it might be ignored as insignificant by the US government.

Of course, like any governmental bureaucracy, the AOS spends money, your money. And here is the second topic about which I have heard complaints: the International Orchid Center. It's in Florida; they're ignoring the West Coast. It's a waste of money.

It's too extravagant; the AOS doesn't need a special facility with over three acres of gardens. I say it is about time that the AOS is open to members and to the public. It is about time that the extensive AOS library and archives are accessible. It is about time that the AOS has a showcase for orchids. The American Rose Society is affiliated with test gardens all over the country; the AOS should have a venue for showing the public these plants we love so well. Because the AOS is the largest horticultural organization (and because it received generous monetary and plant donations), it should have a facility that reflects this status in the horticultural world.

Of course, I would love to have the IOC within driving distance. But I have to acknowledge that many large donations came from Florida, not the least of which was the Vaughn estate. As a West Coast inhabitant, I am reassured to see prominent West-Coast names listed on committees and as trustees; growers on the West Coast do have a voice.

Having touted the virtues of the AOS, I would like to finish with a few words about the responsibilities we all

have as orchid growers. Just as it is a civic duty of US citizens to vote or serve on a jury, you might consider supporting the AOS and other orchid organizations as a civic duty of an orchid grower. After all, without orchid societies, large and small, orchid growing could be a very lonely hobby indeed.

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## December/January Meetings

by Wendy Holtzman

I wanted to thank everyone who participated in our December Holiday Pot Luck at Hausermanns. It was a lot of fun. We enjoyed all the beautiful plants and great food. As I announced at the meeting, if you would like to share your pot luck recipes with your fellow IOS members., please send me a copy of them via e-mail or bring them to the next meeting. I will make sure that a few of them land in our newsletter each month. On a personal note I am hoping that the person who made the meatballs with sauerkraut will share their recipe with us. It was one of my personal favorites. Our January meeting will be at our new residence - Oakton Community College. We are hoping for a nice turnout to show support for the society in our new home. Bill Rogerson will be giving the lecture this month. He is a member of the Illinois Orchid Society and an AOS judge. He will be speaking to us about one of his favorite orchids - *Cattleya*. Bill is considered by many people to be one of the best *Cattleya* growers in the world. He has won approximately 40-50 AOS awards for his plants. Wow!! I know that this is a person that we can learn many new things from to become better growers ourselves. On that note, I would like to mention that our workshop for this month will be "Ask the Experts." We will have an open panel discussion with some of our more seasoned growers leading the way. Please bring your questions and plants in. This is one of the few opportunities that we have to pick the brains of some of the stronger growers in the society. Our meetings will go pretty much the same as they did at the Botanic Garden. The workshop will begin at approximately 12:30 followed by a short business meeting and then our speaker. We will have plant judging as usual, so don't forget to bring your plants and we also will have plants brought in for sale.

Hope to see you there!!!! Remember – Oakton Community College!

## Question of the Month

Where do I cut the flower spike when it is finished?

The simple answer: When most orchids are finished blooming, the spike should be cut off with a sharp,

sterile blade as close to the base of the spike as possible. Of all of the more commonly available orchids, *Phalaenopsis* will rebloom from an old spike if given just a little extra care. The spike should be cut between the scar left by the first flower and the last node. One of the lower nodes will then initiate a new spike that may produce flowers within 8 to 12 weeks. Young or weak plants may not rebloom. Also, it is a good idea to cut the spike off entirely by midsummer to allow the plant to grow vigorously to produce next year's bloom.

Adapted from FAQs, by permission of the AOS.

If you have specific questions about your orchids or orchid culture in general, please submit them to Newsletter Editor ([gamerjl@attbi.com](mailto:gamerjl@attbi.com)) and one of our expert members will answer you in the newsletter. We are all learning – no question is too simple .



© Greg Allikas (www.orchidworks.com)

## Monthly Judging Results

The results listed here reflect the points accumulated through the December meeting, including all the Away Shows. Congratulations to all who brought plants to share. It's exciting to see so many "\*" next to the new members' names. Hopefully, at our new location at **Oakton Community College**, with easy drop off and pick up, even more members will decide to bring plants as well. If you feel there is an error in your point count, please contact me by e-mail ([smmaloney@earthlink.net](mailto:smmaloney@earthlink.net)) or phone (847/498-0249). Keep growing and Showing!  
Sherry Maloney

Lipson, Steve & Judy	90
Morr, Allen	10
Nelson, Bill	50
Rogerson, Bill	76
Sahagian, Laima	130
Stubbings, John	75
Thompson, Carole	40
Wolf, Bob	4

## Lights/Windowsill

Bennett, Barbara	166
Buckles, Betsy	36
Cinert, Lois	80
Davis, Joan	12
Delvecchio, Pat	10
Fuller*, Sandy	47
Gemeinhart, Ernie	70
Hall*, Julie	71
High, Chuck & Jane	5
Jaich-Westine*, Anna	6
Jehangir, Rusty	18
Johnson, Carolyn	11
Kotowski, Anne	4
Labahn*, Louise	10
Losert, Wilfred	188
Maloney, Sherry	383
Nielson, Diana	149
Papiewski, Claire	70
Pollock*, Loren	10
Schmitz, Barbara	112
Schordje, Leo	30
Spillers*, Kelly	20
Taylor, Martin	354
Tirzmall*, Susan	1
Titterton*, George	5
Tribble*, Allison	26
Unger, Rich	56
Vrabel, Ken	60
Wallace, Dottie	22
Winfield*, Arlene	10

## Greenhouse

Cohen*, Edward	25
Dixler, Joe & Rosalie	728
Gamson, Ed	104
Golan, Sue	217

## WANTED! ORCHID STAMP COLLECTORS

Anyone currently or interested in collecting orchid related postage stamps and postal stationary, please contact Jerry Garner (847/864-8417) or [garnerjl@attbi.com](mailto:garnerjl@attbi.com). The IOS already has some stamps and covers from the International Orchid Shows that will be a part of the next auction. You might be interested in exchanging duplicates or sharing collection information with other members. This would not be anything formal. What a great way to combine two hobbies or have a hobby related to your profession!

### **Phalaenopsis aphrodite**



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

## **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!



## Dues Are Due!



Enclosed with this newsletter is a dues renewal envelope. Dues for 2003 are \$25.00 to cover the increased cost of postage and first class mailing of all newsletters. Please take a moment to make out your check and drop it in the mail. It saves us time and money if we do not have to send out a second notice! Also, please indicate if you are an AOS member, and to help us contact you about upcoming events, remember to include your current e-mail address if it is incorrect in the membership directory.

If you have joined the IOS subsequent to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002, your dues are paid through 2003. In that case contact Allen Morr for a 2003 membership card. Questions about your membership status? Contact Allen Morr (847) 501-2532 or [amorr@ozonology.com](mailto:amorr@ozonology.com).

### Welcome New Members

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

- Leona Roen – Glenview
- Elaine Strauss – Evanston
- Murray Kaplan – Evanston
- George Titterton – Chicago
- Christine and Paul Gryszkiewicz – Chicago
- Grace Arbuckle – Elmwood Park

I would encourage our “old” members to introduce themselves and personally welcome these new members and all newcomers to our Society.

--Allen Morr, Membership

### **Phragmipedium Sedenii** (longifolium X schlimii)

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



## CORRECTION!

The summer picnic will take place at Oak Hill

Greenhouses on **Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>**, not Sunday

August 10<sup>th</sup> as previously announced. Please correct your calendars.

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**REMEMBER - ALL FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE IOS WILL BE HELD AT OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE!!!!!!**

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### **E-Mails Returned**

The following members' e-mails are being returned:

Carol Thompson, Maxine Phillipson, Carol Jaacks, Ingrid Koch-Adler, Trudy Bush, Chi Krueger, Bill or Mary Holloway, Barbara or Steven Blaser, Donna Andrzejewski, Bob Hoel, Don Padgett, Dr. Frank Kocka, Carolyn Johnson, Madeline Dugas, Rhonda Peters, Ted Kozlowski, James Fiala, Jim and Susan Gage, Robert or Rosamond Anderson, Cynthia Foster, and Karl Coyner.

**Contact Joe Dixler or Allen Morr to make certain we have your correct e-mail addresses.**

#### NEED PLANTSITTING?

Do you ever find yourself wondering how you're going to keep your plants healthy and alive while you're away on vacation? This past holiday season may have found you asking yourself this question. Remember, IOS members are very helpful people! Check the membership directory for members in your neighborhood. You're sure to find someone willing to look after your plants and then you can return the favor another time.

## January/February Orchid Checklist

- **Cattleya** Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.
- **Cymbidium** We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.
- **Lycaste** The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.
- **Odontoglossums** Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.
- **Paphiopedilum** The standard *Paphiopedilum insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bulldogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.
- **Phalaenopsis** Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.
- **Zygopetalum** For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose

Reprinted from the AOS website

<http://orchidweb.org>

### ORCHID ABBREVIATIONS

Bc. – Brassocattleya  
Bl. – Brassolaelia  
Blc. – Brassolaeliocattleya  
C. – Cattleya  
Den. – Dendrobium  
Dtps. – Doritaenopsis  
Epi. – Epidendrum  
L. – Laelia  
Lc. – Laeliocattleya  
Odm. – Odontoglossum  
Onc. – Oncidium  
Phal. – Phalaenopsis  
(continued next month)

## **Cattleya Culture in a Nutshell**

Temperature – 70-80 day; 60 night

Light – 2000 –3000 fc; be care that plants do not burn in summer if in a Southern exposure; be certain that light does not exceed normal day length; when light is correct leaves will have a light green color.

Water - allow plants to approach dryness; this will vary depending on day length and temperature;  
NEVER let plants stand in water.

Humidity - 65 to 80% is ideal but plants will tolerate lower humidity.

Fertilizing - high N during growth periods full strength every other watering or half strength every watering; in winter fertilize only once a month.

Potting medium – fir bark mixtures are generally best.

Potting frequency - once every two years in Spring when new roots and leaves begin to develop.

Adapted from “Culture Guide for Popular Orchids,” Orchids by Hausermann, Inc.

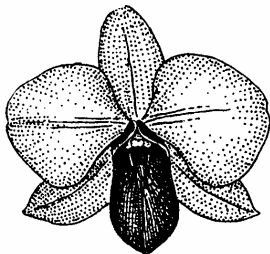
**Remember** January’s speaker will be giving us additional expert information on growing *Cattleyas*, so be sure to be at the January 12 meeting at Oakton Community College.

If you need directions, contact any IOS officer or Board member.

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### **Address Correction Requested**

**Illinois Orchid Society  
Jerry Garner, Editor  
623 Sheridan Road #1  
Evanston, IL 60202**



**January 12 Meeting at Oakton Community College**