



Photo courtesy of Aloha Orchids

# ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 51 Number 11  November 2003

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## President's Message

By Joe Dixler

*In lieu of the President's Message this month, Home Show Chairman, Lois Cinert's musings on the Fall Show are printed below. Joe Dixler's regular column will be back next month.*

## Thoughts on the 2003 Fall Show

By Lois Cinert, Fall Show Chairman

It always seems like the show goes by so quickly. It takes planning, work, and a little luck, and the cooperation of a lot of people to put on a show; then, in three days it is past. Our first fall show at Oakton College was very different from our spring shows. In addition to the normal displays of blooming plants, we welcomed the Ikenobo Ikebana Society to provide several cut flower arrangements for our pleasure. They were joined by several students of Triton College, who also brought in more modern variations on the use of orchids as cut flowers. Both were interesting, and beautiful. Our thanks go out to all of those who took their time and effort to add to the visual excitement of the show. We also had displays of stamps, collectable pins and brochures, photographs, and sculptures - all orchid related. You don't have to be an excellent grower to enjoy the orchid hobby.

Judging went smoothly and quickly under the supervision of Jim Spatzek, and his team of judges. Clerks helped out

and hung ribbons. Anne Kotowski, Andrea Harzcz, Rebecca Dahnker, Alex Manuel, Ed Gamson, Laima Sahagian, Diana Nielsen, Joel Edwards, Chuck and Jane High, and Joe Dixler all scurried around the room, spotting plants and trying not to give opinions on just which flower was best.

Saturday we felt the effects of the flu, with several of our regular, faithful volunteers unable to help this time. We all pitched in, and Claire Papiewski, Joan and John Emmerich gave us their best efforts. Diana Nielsen, Sandy Fuller, and Sherry Reddick went from place to place, helping where necessary; Rosalie Dixler held station at the admission table, and if you were looking for Joe Dixler, he was at the repotting table all day long, with help from Allen Morr when needed.

Thank you to all of you who donated items for our silent auction. It was a fun way to involve people in a different way. Some of you divested of excess items, and some took home new treasures at bargain prices.

We also want to send a hearty thanks to the donors to our rare plant auction. We had an opportunity to bring home some unusual and some spectacular plant material. The bidding ranged from ho-hum to heated, and our auctioneer, Jim Spatzek, kept the contest lively. Many thanks go to him, also. Our bidders took home excellent rare books, and wonderful plants.

None of this would have happened without our volunteers. Friday setup was seamless, with help from Paul Passine, Maurice Hardy, Anne Kotowski, and Nancy Lindquist, led by Ed Gamson. Extra help from Reme Tesch, and Joan Davis came in time to help unload the exhibitors and folks with sale plants. Sherry Malone almost single-handedly manned the registration table.

In the afternoon, Barry Lubin and Jerry Garner saw to the success of the rare plant auction. We hope all the buyers enjoy their purchases, and thank them for their generosity. Sunday morning, very early, we met Linda Tuberg waiting for the show to start. She got a chance to see the show in the solitude of the morning. Trish Rice arrived and took over the raffle and cut-flower sales, and stayed all day. We had the pleasure of Susan Crawford's company, and hard

work, and Wendy Wesley came to help out all afternoon. Rosalie kept the people moving in, and Joe stayed at the repotting table, helped by Brian Costello, giving out his good advice with the new media.

Plant sales would not be possible without Wally Zielinski and his troop of regular helpers. Ralph and Mary Minnis volunteered for Saturday, and came back again Sunday to help out some more. Ken Vrabel and Morrie Millman are always there, and help came in the form of Sue Golan, Wendy, Diana, Reme, and many more.

Teardown is always the fastest and easiest thanks to Ed Gamson, Paul Passine, Anne Kotowski, and helped by Trish Rice and Reme Tesch. Everyone got out in good time. Cleanup was a breeze.

Our thanks also goes to the staff at Oakton College. The setup was perfect, and they responded quickly to attend to all our needs. If you get a chance to thank Henrietta Nigliazzo, please do. She is the nice lady in the office just off our meeting room. She deserves a thank you from all of us for making our show so painless and easy to do.

Thank you all. We can't do it without you.

### October/November Meeting News

**By Wendy Wesley**

At our next regular membership meeting is November 9th, at Oakton Community College. The workshop will be on orchid fertilizer. Jan Szyren from Michigan State University will talk about the development of the Michigan State orchid fertilizer.

Dick Wells owner of Hilltop Orchids will be our guest speaker. His topic will be on growing *Phalaenopsis* sp. I'm sure all of us are growing or have grown this ever popular orchid. If you have never heard Dick Wells speak, this is a meeting that you will not want to miss. See you there!

(Additional meeting and speaker information on page 3)



*Phalaenopsis* sp.

### Newsletter News

**By Jerry Garner, Editor**

Most of the e-mail issues for newsletter delivery have been resolved, thanks to members' cooperation. We are down to approximately 5-6 addresses that are problematic. If you are not receiving your newsletter by e-mail and you want to do so, please contact me with your name and e-mail address as soon as possible.

You may have noticed that the September newsletter was very long (14 pages) but the October newsletter was back to the normal 8 pages. In September, many members answered my plea for news and articles but by October we were back to relying on the usual suspects for news and information. Come on, everyone! Send me some of those fascinating articles you are reading on orchids; let me know what you've been up to with that orchid collection; and share with other members some of your triumphs (and failures) growing the most beautiful and unusual plant in the world.

Working with our IOS website web-master, Tom Franzek, we are considering loading the newsletter onto a secure website at the beginning of each month. Then each member could leisurely access and download the newsletter without getting that pesky e-mail from me. Of course, members receiving the snail-mail newsletter will continue to do so. What are your thoughts on this? I don't want to make too many changes too quickly, but getting you your newsletter this way would eliminate the problem of maintaining e-mail address files on a monthly basis and you could get your newsletter without getting that huge file attachment. Currently I spend as much time with the e-mail issues as I spend putting together the newsletter. Before we embark on another journey into cyberspace, we would like to know how you feel about this.

FYI – the Chicago Botanical Garden recently obtained a large collection of antique and rare books from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Several of these books are personal journals on orchids and some very early books describing orchid species. These rare books contain some beautiful chromolithographic prints of orchid species (some in color). The Library is planning on offering some limited edition digital reproductions of these prints at a reasonable price in the future. Be on the lookout in the garden gift shop for these prints within the next year. If you are interested in seeing any of these rare and antique books, just visit the Garden Library and ask the head librarian to show them to you. The Library staff is very accommodating.

**2003-2004 IOS Officers – Terms of office are from July 1 until June 30**

President	Joe Dixler	847-432-7708	<a href="mailto:jimd@dixler.com">jimd@dixler.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (Meetings/speakers)	Wendy Holtzman	773-395-1771	<a href="mailto:wendyholtzman@netzero.net">wendyholtzman@netzero.net</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice (Home show chair)	Lois Cinert	630-739-1068	<a href="mailto:geolocin@earthlink.net">geolocin@earthlink.net</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Away show chair)	Diana Nielsen	630-894-9486	<a href="mailto:dnielsen3@msn.com">dnielsen3@msn.com</a>
Secretary (Recorder)	Jim Spatzak	847-498-4638	<a href="mailto:jamcam@avenew.com">jamcam@avenew.com</a>
Asst. Sec'y (Newsletter editor)	Jerry Garner	847-864-8417	<a href="mailto:garnerjl@comcast.net">garnerjl@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Steve Lipson	847-328-1837	<a href="mailto:steve@wifunds.com">steve@wifunds.com</a>
Asst. Treas (Membership/ Dues)	Allen Morr	847-501-2532-	<a href="mailto:ozone03@ameritech.net">ozone03@ameritech.net</a>
Immediate Past President	John Stubbings	847-480-1532	<a href="mailto:jstubbings@peoplepc.com">jstubbings@peoplepc.com</a>

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

Joel Edwards	2004	847-564-9537	
Allison Tribble	2004	773-728-4874	<a href="mailto:allisont@rcn.com">allisont@rcn.com</a>
Ed Gamson	2005	847-432-7825	<a href="mailto:epgamson@welshkatz.com">epgamson@welshkatz.com</a>
Barry Lubin	2005	847-432-5698	<a href="mailto:BRLNo1@aol.com">BRLNo1@aol.com</a>
Rich Unger	2006	773-685-2677	<a href="mailto:aroma_imp@hotmail.com">aroma_imp@hotmail.com</a>
Anne Kotowski	2006	630-833-8042	<a href="mailto:phrag207@aol.com">phrag207@aol.com</a>
Sandy Fuller	2007	847-234-6311	<a href="mailto:sjfuller62@comcast.net">sjfuller62@comcast.net</a>
Sue Golan	2007	847-234-6311	<a href="mailto:sgolan@aol.com">sgolan@aol.com</a>

**2003 / 2004 Meeting Schedule**

(Thanks to Wendy Wesley and Tom Franzek for this article)

**November 9, 2003 ...** A couple of heavy hitters are in town this month so the November meeting will co-star **Dick Wells of Hilltop Orchids** and **Jan Szyren from Michigan State**. Their topics are *Phalaenopsis* and the Michigan fertilizer respectively.

**December 14, 2003 ...** And again, our annual holiday extravaganza, held at [Hausermann's](#). Your admission ticket is a hot or cold dish sufficient to feed five or six or a dozen. Bring a designated driver so you can enjoy the punch!

**January 11, 2004 ...** Paph Rats better mark this date because **Sam Tsui** of [Orchid Inn](#) is dropping by to speak about Parvi and Brachy breeding.

**February 8, 2004 ...** Our own **Bill Rogerson** will reprise and extend his remarks on the genus *Cattleya*. Bill grows his Catt's in plastic laundry baskets full of coarse bark, that much we know. But what about those rumors that he feeds them red meat??

**March 14, 2004 ...** **Leo Kusber** of [Lion's Den Orchids](#) will be our speaker. Leo's topic is *Zygopetalums*, among the most pleasingly fragrant of all the orchids. Don't miss this!

**Apr 3-4, 2004 ... Spring Show**

**May 16, 2004 ...** **Alan Koch** of [Gold Country Orchids](#) visits us and will speak on a topic TBA.

**June 13, 2004 ...** Field trip to Madison, Wisconsin!  
Destinations: [Orchids by the Ackers](#) and the Oberlich

Botanical Gardens. Particulars TBA as the date approaches.

**July 11, 2004 ...** We're meeting at [Triton College](#) this month. Meeting room TBA. Speaker TBA.

**(Saturday) August 14, 2004 ...** Our annual picnic at [Oak Hill Gardens](#) hosted, as always, by Dorothy and Hermann Pigors, Liese Pigors-Butler and Greg Butler. Hermann's topic is TBA

**September 12, 2004 ...** **Glen Decker** of [Piping Rock Orchids](#) is our guest speaker. Phrag Wavers, this one's for you. Glen has been to Peru to see and photograph *Phragmipedium kovachii*. You won't want to miss his slides!

**October 2-3, 2004 ... Fall Show**

**November 14, 2004 ...** **William Goldner** of [Woodstream Orchids](#) will be in town to address us on a topic TBA.

**December 12, 2004 ...** Once again, our annual holiday extravaganza, held at [Hausermann's](#). Your admission ticket is a hot or cold dish sufficient to feed five or six or a dozen. Bring a designated driver so you can enjoy the punch!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**By Allen Morr**

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

**Jennie Kaiser ~ Oak Brook**  
**Andrea Haracz ~ Mundelein**  
**Richard Warner ~ Waukegan**  
**Catherine & Edward Wormser ~ Northbrook**  
(cont. next page)

I would encourage our "old" members to introduce themselves and personally welcome these newcomers to our Society. Remember to wear your name tag. It will make it a lot easier for new members to get to know everyone.

### **FALL SHOW MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING A HUGE SUCCESS!**

During the course of the Show, 14 new members joined the IOS, bringing our total to 291 members. This is an all-time record for new membership from a show. Based on the number of applications picked up by attendees, it's likely the record will be topped.

**The IOS extends its welcome to our newcomers and looks forward working with you in your pursuit of orchid growing.**

**Susan Rifken ~ Hoffman Estates  
Albert Ohlsen ~ South Holland  
Dip Moy ~ Wheeling  
James Van Hoy ~ Chicago  
Mark Kiezel ~ Chicago  
Jerry Dabrowski ~ Lincolnshire  
Richard & Jill Rupprecht ~ Mt. Prospect**

**Sharon Andrews ~ River Forest  
Rose Ramos ~ Winnetka  
Ronald & Mary Losew ~ Willow Springs  
Phyllis Dangoia ~ Chicago  
Jeannine Duggan ~ Chicago**

### **IOS Board Meetings**

The IOS Board meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of odd months of the year at the home of a board member or officer. The November meeting will be held at the home of Diana Nielsen, 57 Salt Creek Road, Roselle, IL. Any IOS member may attend the board meetings. Please notify the host or Joe Dixler ahead of time out of courtesy to the host.

### **Mentor Program**

To help new members and beginner orchidists, the Illinois Orchid Society has a mentor corps comprised of knowledgeable growers who have volunteered to answer questions about orchids and their culture. We hope you find this resource beneficial towards improving your success in this rewarding hobby, and that you will soon be showing off your "successes" with plants brought to our monthly meetings for judging and awards.

The following list provides e-mail and telephone contact information, locale, growing environment, and (where noted) specialty of the mentor. If possible, use e-mail, but

be sure to include your telephone number and best time to call. The mentor will likely choose to contact you personally.

Joe Dixler: [jmd@dixler.com](mailto:jmd@dixler.com); 847-432-7708; Highland Park; greenhouse; *Paphiopedilum*, *Phragmipedium*, and other genera

Sue Golan: [sgolan@aol.com](mailto:sgolan@aol.com); 847-234-6311; Lake Forest; greenhouse

Sherry Maloney: [smmaloney@earthlink.net](mailto:smmaloney@earthlink.net); 847-498-0249; Northbrook; under lights (HID)

Barry Lubin: [BRLNo1@aol.com](mailto:BRLNo1@aol.com); 847-432-6005; Highland Park; greenhouse with supplemental lighting; *Phragmipedium*

Barbara Bennett: [bbennett.mmc@comcast.net](mailto:bbennett.mmc@comcast.net); 847-883-0069; Lincolnshire; under lights (HID); *Masdevallia*

Diana Nielsen: [dnielsen3@msn.com](mailto:dnielsen3@msn.com); 630-894-9486; Roselle; under lights (fluorescent) and on windowsills

Lois Cinert: [geolocin@earthlink.net](mailto:geolocin@earthlink.net); 630-739-1068; Bolingbrook; under lights (HID)

Joel Edwards: 847-564-9537; Northbrook; greenhouse; *Phalaenopsis*

Rich Unger: [aroma-imp@hotmail.com](mailto:aroma-imp@hotmail.com); 773-685-2677; Chicago; greenhouse

Steve Lipson: [steve@wifunds.com](mailto:steve@wifunds.com); 847-328-1837; Evanston; greenhouse

Martin Taylor: [dmtatcenco@aol.com](mailto:dmtatcenco@aol.com); 630-682-0464; Wheaton; under lights

Tom Heller: [stochr@sls.lib.il.us](mailto:stochr@sls.lib.il.us); 708-456-6474; Norridge; greenhouse and under lights; *Bulbophyllum* and *Brassavola*

Paul Passine: [platep@aol.com](mailto:platep@aol.com); 219-663-5255; Crown Point, IN; greenhouse; *Vanda* and *Ascocenda*

Allison Tribble: [allisont@aol.com](mailto:allisont@aol.com); 773-728-4874; Chicago; windowsills; *Phalaenopsis*

**NEXT MEMBER MEETING AT OAKTON  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>. BRING IN  
YOUR PLANTS FOR JUDGING.**

### **New IOS Logo Shirts Big Success By Allison Tribble**

During the Fall Expo, October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the first-ever official Illinois Orchid Society shirts went on sale to members. Short sleeved polo shirts and long sleeved crew neck sweatshirts in a regal purple, thick cotton/poly blend were snatched up quickly by and worn proudly by members throughout the show. The embroidered IOS logo really

stands out against the deep purple (or is that orchid?) background.

The short-sleeved polo shirt is \$20.00 and the long-sleeved crew sweatshirt is \$22.00 and shirts can be ordered in the usual variety of sizes (XXL is priced slightly higher than the others). Sorry, but no special orders and **sales are cash only**. Many of these shirts have been bought up already, but extras were ordered anticipating their fast sale and popularity. More orders can be placed later, but every member needs at least one now!

To get your shirt contact Allison Tribble at [allisont@rcn.com](mailto:allisont@rcn.com) or 773-728-4874 to reserve a shirt or two now or to place your order for the future.

These are high quality reasonably priced shirts. Show your support for and pride in the IOS! **Buy and wear your new shirt to member meetings, away shows and other orchid related events.**

## **IOS FALL SHOW REPORT TO THE BOARD**

**By Lois Cinert, Home Show Chairman**

The fall tabletop show was held at Oakton Community College. There were **39 exhibits** on 29 tables, and one photo frame. One **sister orchid society** joined us, and four **member commercial growers** exhibited. Four floral arrangement displays were provided by the **Ikenobo Ikebana Society**, and nine were brought by Triton College students. Also, the Ikenobo Ikebana Society demonstrated Ikebana-style flower arranging using orchids on Sunday. Twenty-one members brought exhibits, with a total of 151 plants. There were four displays of photos, memorabilia, and stamps. The total **number of tables** occupied by IOS members was 14, which is average for a fall show, and did not show an increase in participation.

Invitations were extended to six **local orchid societies**, and to four judging centers. All events planned at the show were promoted in the invitations. Six **local vendors** were also invited, with the stipulation that any plants sold were to be sold as members' plants. Four vendors had exhibits, and three brought sale plants.

**The facility** was set up according to the map, with no problems encountered. Minor changes were made after our arrival, but this posed no problem. **Oakton staff** helped with some flickering light bulbs, and adjusted the sound system to our specifications at first asking, and checked throughout the weekend to make sure everything went well.

**Rental** for the four rooms was \$2400.00. The fee for skirt rental, including delivery, was \$1035.00.

**Unloading and setup** went well under the guidance of Ed Gamson and his volunteer staff. The side door was the main entry; I do not believe anyone used the loading dock for this show. The carts available were adequate for this size show. Many exhibitors brought their own carts, which eased the unloading. There were no problems with the display area, or with location of the display tables.

Wisconsin Orchid Society brought too many plants for a single display and was allocated a second display space.

**A total of 283 units (plants, exhibits, photographs) were judged.** The judging went quickly, and **AOS judging** proceeded after **ribbon judging**. **Rental** for the room was \$396.00. **Ribbons** were mostly leftover from the last show, with a small number purchased to make up for the few missing. Trophies were adequate for the size and scope of the show, and cost \$194.00.

Saturday breakfast was adequate, with food for 35 ordered. Cost for the breakfast was \$129.50 (\$3.70/person), which was absorbed by the Society. Lunch for 45 was served on time, and was sufficient for the judges and the volunteers on hand. Cost for the food was \$326.25 (\$7.25). plus a \$38.74 tax added to the food expense.

Thirty-six people volunteered to work in various capacities at the show during the three days. **Volunteers** included many board members. There were several people who were new to show work, and many of the same familiar faces. Some of the people who had volunteered to work were unable to participate because of illness. Many of the volunteers stayed for long periods of time to help cover vacancies.



**Maxillaria elatior – Rick's Tropica**

**Plant sales** were vigorous on the first day, and adequate on the second day. 340 members' plants were listed, 231 sold. This does not include the pottery. The 200 plants purchased by the IOS sold well. Eight were pulled as raffle plants, and about 6 were given to Oakton staff. At the end of the afternoon on Sunday, about 60 plants were offered at a reduced price, and the 14 plants remaining at closing were sold to a vendor at cost (\$8.75). Wally Zielinski estimates that about 75% of the vendors' plants were sold. Mr. Hausermann suggested that we purchase bulk plants from local vendors in the future.

The **repotting service** was well utilized. Fertilizer and bark were also sold at the repotting table. This was a good chance to interact with the public, and enhance their interest in orchids. All of the **bark mix** was sold at full price. The **fertilizer** was also a popular item. The Treasurer's report will have a breakdown on the units sold.

**Massey Vanilla** had two days of free advertising, but on Saturday forgot to bring the promised samples. On Sunday, Massey Vanilla forgot to bring the promised samples again.

The **silent auction** was a success, in that some income was generated (\$444.00). Several items were not sold, and the prices for the sold items were generally low.

Thirty-eight items were logged for the **rare-plant auction**, and thirty-four were sold. Prices for items ranged from \$20.00 to \$475.00. Fifty chairs were set up for the auction, and all were filled; several people were standing. Mr. Spatzek managed the sale well. The four items not sold were all books. Gross income from the sale was \$3377.00.

**Raffle ticket sales** and **cut flower sales** were low.

**Publicity** for the show included articles in several North suburban newspapers; mention the preceding week in the Chicago Tribune events calendar; distribution of 2000 posters and 6000 bookmarks at local growers during the Chicagoland Orchid Festival, at the Kentucky MAOC meeting, and by members at many business locations throughout the Chicago area. Postcards were sent to about 1300 local orchid growers.

Over the course of both days, **paid attendance** was 957 people.



**Dendrobium secundum – Rick’s Tropica**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NEWS AND ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 12, 2003**

**Don’t forget the Holiday potluck festivities at Hausermann’s Greenhouses December 14<sup>th</sup> in lieu of a December membership meeting. Check the Hausermann website for a map. More information in the December newsletter!**

## **Library Exhibits**

by Rosalie Dixler

Does your local library offer exhibit space to organizations? The Highland Park library allowed me to put up an exhibit this past June to highlight the hobby of growing orchids as well as publicize the IOS, and the Des Plaines library has given us cabinet space this coming January. Perhaps your library offers the same opportunity. Ask them.

I filled out an application requesting the month of March or September before our shows, if possible. It’s a great idea for free publicity. The form they gave me asked for a brief

description of the proposed exhibit; I listed what I had around the house—it could be collectibles like orchid postcards, greeting cards, stamps, engravings, jewelry, clothing, society pins, photographs, magazines and newsletters, books, ceramics, etc. or an exhibit about how to grow orchids, different species or hybrids, or anything else you find interesting. If the library is full for the month you prefer but available another month, it is still worth booking it.

I had been saving an article from the Ann Arbor Orchid Society that mentioned items to include in their one day orchid exhibit that they were planning to set up in their local library several years ago. The purpose was to educate lay people about various aspects of the orchid hobby and the study of orchids. Their suggestions included:

- 1. Brief background of history, purpose, and activities of the AAOS: Open Invitation to upcoming meetings and local orchid shows: Clippings, posters and photographs about previous events.**
- 2. General introduction to orchid biology and orchid conservation. This will include several large color orchid photographs.**
- 3. Description of how orchids are being grown in and around Ann Arbor by AAOS members: indoors on windowsills, in greenhouses, under lights, and outdoors in summer; illustrated with large color photographs.**
- 4. Recommended sources of additional information: organizations, books and magazines, Internet resources.**
- 5. Displays of various orchid-related collectibles: pins and jewelry, stamps, porcelain, paintings, and other graphic art, photographs, cross-stitch, clothing, antiquarian orchid books, hand colored engravings, color lithographs, etc.**

If you are fortunate to be told that space is available, take a look at the location to see if the shelving is enclosed by glass or open. That will determine what can be included, as they do not guarantee the security of your exhibit items in either possibility. Both of my libraries had cabinets with glass fronts that were locked, so there was no problem.

Using Velcro, thumbtacks, push pins and tape, I mounted my various collectible items on the cork backing and glass shelving of the wall units. The librarian printed a page with the call numbers for orchid books, and even added a few from their collection to the exhibit.

I received some very nice accolades from the librarians and the public, and even a phone call from someone who wanted to buy my orchid scarf! I included membership information with Allen’s name and phone number as well as our website, however it is difficult to get members to join from an exhibit. But the more the public learns to appreciate orchids, they may buy one, remember our name or website, come to our show, buy a plant or other item, or ask questions. And who knows? Maybe one day they will become a member. Confucius said, every journey starts with the first step.

I would urge you to contact your local libraries or other public places to see whether they would like an orchid

exhibit. I would be happy to offer my moral support, personal items, information, or assistance for your project. If anyone has any items to place in an exhibit, especially those listed above, please contact me at [jmd@dixler.com](mailto:jmd@dixler.com) or at 847-432-7708, and I will keep a list of these options for anyone who wants to set up an exhibit.

## **Members' Meeting November 9<sup>th</sup> at OCC**

### **Carpooling?**

**Need a ride to the meetings? Send me your name, location, and contact information and I'll put your request in the next newsletter. (garnerjl@comcast.net) Sorry, but this isn't an emergency service – I can't find you a ride right before a meeting or show. This service is for members who know at least a month ahead what their carpool needs are.**

### **November/December Orchid Checklist**

**Cattleya** Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of the reduced day length, lower temperatures, and the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening - hardening - in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left

unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

**Cool-Growing Orchids** One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from *Masdevallias* to *Odontoglossums*. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

**Cymbidium** Finally we begin in earnest the main *Cymbidium* season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

**Oncidium crispum Complex** This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

**Paphiopedilum** The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. *Paphiopedilums* are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While *Paphiopedilums* rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Over watering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or *Erwinia* problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With *Paphiopedilums*, especially, "cleanliness is next to

godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

**Phalaenopsis** Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in *Phalaenopsis*. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our *Phalaenopsis* will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

**Vandaceous Genera** Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose. (Copied from the AOS Website)

### Porter's Orchids Invites You To Our Annual Holiday Open House

**When?** Saturday, December 6, 2003  
**Time?** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Where?** Porter's Orchids Greenhouse,  
10868 Royston Road, Grand Ledge MI 48837

Printable map available on our website:  
<http://portersorchids.com> or contact us at  
[orchidsuzi@aol.com](mailto:orchidsuzi@aol.com) or (517) 626-7295.

Refreshments, of course!

Don't miss this opportunity to boost your collection of quality orchids, and think about orchids as gifts for your family and friends.

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#### ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

<p><b>Illinois Orchid Society</b> <b>Jerry Garner, Editor</b> <b>623 Sheridan Road #1</b> <b>Evanston. IL 60202</b></p>
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[The Chicago Judging Center of the American Orchid Society holds a monthly judging on the second Saturday of each month at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Judging begins at 1:00 p.m. and plants need to arrive one hour prior to the beginning of judging.](#)

[Membership Meeting November 9<sup>th</sup> at OCC](#)

[Holiday Party At Hausermanns: Dec. 14th](#)