



ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 51 Number 12



December 2003

Jerry L. Garner, Editor

**NEXT MEETING – HOLIDAY PARTY AT HAUSERMANN'S
DECEMBER 14th.**

Bring a hot or cold dish sufficient to feed 5 or 6 or maybe more. For directions check out the Hausermann web page or call them. Better still – carpool with a designated driver so you can enjoy the holiday punch!

2004 Meeting and Speaker Schedule

Keep this schedule handy for reference throughout the year. All meetings are at Oakton Community College, Des Plaines Campus, unless noted otherwise.

January 11 – Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn will speak on Parvi and Brachy breeding – a Paph rat's dream!

February 8 – Bill Rogerson will share his secrets to growing meat eating *Cattleyas*.

March 14 – *Zygopetalums* will be Leo Kusber's (Lion's Den Orchids) topic this month.

April 3-4 - Spring Show time!!!!!!

May 16 – Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids will visit and share his thoughts on that ever popular topic, TBA.

June 13 – Field Trip! Off to Madison, Wisconsin and Orchids by the Ackers and the Oberlich Botanical Gardens. More info as the date approaches.

July 11 – Meeting at Triton College, Room TBA, speaker TBA. Hopefully, more details later.

August 14 (Saturday) – Annual picnic at Oak Hill Gardens, hosted by the Pigers. Hermann's topic TBA.

September 12 – This is one for the Phrag wavers! Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids will be our speaker. Glen has traveled to Peru to photograph

Phragmipedium kovachii. Don't miss these fabulous slides!

October 2 – 3 Fall Show!!!!!!!!!!!!

November 14 – William Goldner of Woodstream Orchids will join us to discuss – you guessed it – TBA!

December 12 - Back to Hausermann's and the annual holiday party.

As you can see, Wendy has planned exciting and educational programs for 2004. We'll still have the monthly judging, the workshops, the newcomers meeting, the sales, and all those wonderful treats. So plan on being at the meetings and supporting your IOS.

IOS Board Meetings

The IOS Board meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the odd months of the year at the home of a Board member or officer. Any IOS member may attend. Look for the location of future meetings in the January newsletter or contact Joe Dixler.

AOS Chicago Judging Center

AOS judging takes place the second Saturday of each month at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Judging begins at 1:00 p.m. and plants should arrive one hour prior to the beginning of judging.

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

President	Joe Dixler	847-432-7708	jmd@dixler.com
1 st Vice President (Meetings/Speakers)	Wendy Holtzman	773-395-1771	wendyholtzman@netzero.net
2 nd Vice (Home show chair)	Lois Cinert	630-739-1068	geolocin@earthlink.net
3 rd Vice President (Away show chair)	Diana Nielsen	630-894-9486	dnielsen3@msn.com
Secretary (Recorder)	Jim Spatzak	847-498-4638	jamcam@avenew.com
Asst. Sec’y (Newsletter editor)	Jerry Garner	847-864-8417	garnerjl@comcast.net
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Steve Lipson	847-328-1837	steve@wifunds.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.

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

**Cattleya maxima – Rick’s Orchids****Editor’s Notes****Jerry Garner, Newsletter Editor**

You may have already noticed the new format for the newsletter – meeting info on page 1, more readable margins (hopefully), photos from the meetings, and more. I hope you find these changes helpful and the newsletter a bit more accessible. Feel free to express your opinions – positive and negative – about anything you see in the newsletter. I’m open to changes and new ideas. Just let me know.

In January, we will begin using the official orchid symbol of the IOS in the header of the newsletter. This graphic is used on our stationary, awards, etc. This will automatically identify the newsletter with the IOS and give some continuity to the appearance of our official publication. Again, let me know how you feel about the change once you see it in January.

One member did respond to my query about putting the newsletter on a secure IOS web page. She was very supportive of the idea because the large newsletter document loads very slowly on to her computer and slows everything down after it downloads. Interestingly, she is a member who currently receives the newsletter via snail mail now. Obviously she is willing to operate in the 21st century; it’s just that her computer hasn’t gotten there yet. Thanks for the input. I wonder sometimes if anyone really reads the newsletter but your feedback, positive and negative, lets me know that I’m not doing this just because I enjoy the stress.

After last month’s meeting I wondered why we never published notes from the monthly speakers and workshops so those of you who couldn’t get the meeting would know a little about what you’d missed. Well, this month I have the assignment (see page 4 for synopsis of November’s talks), but Wendy promised she would take up this banner for future newsletters beginning in January. Another way your IOS wants to keep you informed and involved! Remember the holiday party at Hausermann’s December 14th and then back to Oakton in the New Year.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Deadline for January Newsletter
December 17th

Send all news, notices, announcements, and photos to Jerry Garner,
garnerjl@comcast.net

Welcome New Members

Allen Morr, Membership Chairman

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

Liela Halperin ~ Chicago

Karen Czerwin ~ Lombard

Gregory and Debbie Van Hooser ~ Palos Hills

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

Because of the unusual format of the December meeting at Hausermann's, there will be no Newcomers' Meeting in December. This popular pre-meeting meeting will continue with the January meeting.

Member Has Light Fixtures For Sale

My name is Mark Anstett and I have been a member of the IOS for many years. My orchid growing has scaled back over the last few years. At one time I grew over 100 plants under lights in my basement. Different things have taken my time from this, I do still keep my IOS membership, try to attend the spring show, and grow a few plants now in my breakfast room. It's all I have time for now.

I have several four-foot 4-bulb regular and 2-bulb VHO light fixtures that I want to sell. They still work and I would let them go for \$20.00 each as long as the buyer came to my home in Lake Forest to take them away. Thank you for your time

My e-mail address is anstettmark@yahoo.com and my cell phone # is 708-878-1994.

Thank you,

Mark Anstett

Winter Travel Tips for Orchids

Anonymous Expert

This is a really difficult time of year to transport your orchids to meetings and to shows. Even buying a new orchid at a local supplier's can present a challenge getting the plant to your pre-warmed car and then into your house or greenhouse.

If you have smaller plants, use a plastic tote with a cover to transport the plants. Use crumpled

newspaper to keep the pots separate and to fill in empty spots – cheap and available.

Now is the time to buy a bag of that fluffy artificial snow. Puffs of it make great padding for your blossoms, so they don't get bumped on the ride to the meeting/show. It is softer on the flowers than tissue, and still provides excellent protection.

Leave some space in your box for a small Rubbermaid® or Tupperware® covered container full of hot water. This will keep your plants warm until your car warms up enough, and for that walk to and from the buildings.

If you are using a cardboard box, use a 30-gallon heavy-duty trash bag to hold your box. The bag is heavy enough to keep the cold out, and the warm in. Try these easy and inexpensive ideas – it could mean the difference between a beautiful specimen and dead mushy orchid!

Promote Orchids At Navy Pier Flower Show Sue Golan, IOS Board

We have been invited by the prestigious Garden Clubs of America to show our orchids at their extravaganza at Navy Pier March 13 - 21st. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to promote orchids and a chance to show off the ones that just had to bloom a month before our own show in April.

We are limited to three orchids per person and they will be shown and judged as plants standing alone, not in a display. Some of you have a few wonderful plants at every meeting and I'm hoping to collect these and bring them to Navy Pier where I will register them. At Navy Pier the whole world will see them and we can promote our club and our show at the same time.

I need to know if you might have a plant or plants by the beginning of February so I can register them for you. We can always change the registration later. Who knows in February what you'll have in March? We can make a guess - there's no commitment. Call me at 847-234-6311.



December Meeting and Holiday Party **Wendy Holtzman, Program Chairman**

This Sunday, December 14th, is our annual holiday party at Hausermann's Greenhouses in Villa Park, Illinois. We hope that the majority of our members will attend the party. It's not a meeting you want to miss. The Hausermanns really roll out the red carpet and give us a wonderful place to celebrate the holiday season with our friends and many beautiful orchids!

This is a pot luck party, so please bring a dish or dessert to the party. We do have the ability to plug in crock pots and warming trays. Your dish should feed approximately 8-10 people. You can bring serving implements for your dish but please put your name on them as well as your containers. The meeting/eating will start around 12:30. Lunch will be followed by a orchid talk from Dana of Hausermann's. This year Dana will be giving us a talk on current hybridizing of *Phalaenopsis* and *Cattleyas*. He will explain the direction Hausermann's is taking in new hybrids as well informing us on older hybrids Hausermann's feels will stand the test of time. I think this is going to be a really great informative talk I'm sure you're looking forward to it as much as I am.

If you have never been out to Hausermann's or are not sure how to get there, please call Hausermann's at 630-543-6855. They will be happy to supply you with directions. You can get a map from the Hausermann web site too, but the map could be confusing if you're not familiar with the area.

See you at the party!

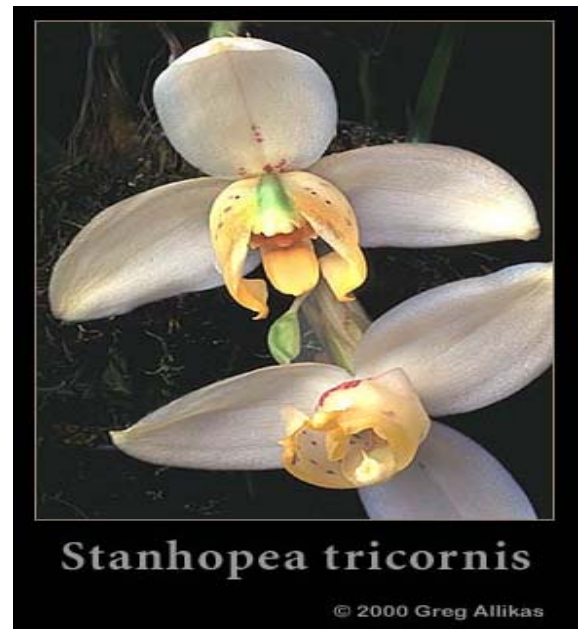


Courtesy of the Virginia Orchid Society Website

Check out the IOS website at www.iosoc.com for more information about your orchid society. Be sure to let Tom Franczak know what you think of his hard work on this very professional site.

A Unique Holiday Gift Idea

Do you know anyone with just a few orchids or who has expressed some interest in your orchids but isn't a member of the IOS? How about considering giving that person a membership in the IOS as a holiday gift! What a great way to ease that shopping stress and to help a fellow orchid grower and to increase our active membership. Contact Allen Morr for membership forms. Remember, we begin our new membership year in January.



Courtesy of New Hampshire Orchid Society

Notes From November Meeting **Jerry Garner, Newsletter Editor**

November's meeting was like being back in a college classroom – informative and challenging! Jan Szyren from Michigan State University brought us up to date on a fertilizer formulation developed by MSU for use with crops other than orchids but has proven to be a boon to orchid growers, pros and amateurs alike. Jan discussed the biochemistry and physiology of plant fertilization, emphasizing that a "balanced" fertilizer isn't really all that balanced with all the nutrients that plants need for optimum growth and flowering. What it all boiled down to was that most commercial fertilizers don't supply the "minor" nutrients most plants need in the correct ratios.

It was only by chance that Jan discovered the effect of the MSU formula on orchids when she

was assigned the University's collection several years ago. Jan showed numerous slides of the incredible effect the MSU fertilizer had on the plants. But she did give one word of caution. Remember, all the plants shown were being grown with all cultural conditions (light, temp, watering, pest control) optimum.

Jan did recommend fertilizing with each watering, flushing the pots monthly with plain water.

Jan was followed by Dick Wells from Hilltop Orchids. Dick is an avid fan of the MSU fertilizer and he reiterated many of Jan's points from a commercial grower's point of view. Under greenhouse conditions, he was fertilizing weakly, for 3-4 weeks in Spring, Summer and Fall, with the fifth week for flushing pots with clear water. With his Phals. he was fertilizing in winter every 2-3 weeks. A few other expert tips from Dick –

- ✓ Water only in the morning, especially when overcast, cool.
- ✓ Water most orchids every 5-7 days, but let the plant indicate when it needs water. Water small pots, mounts, slabs, etc. daily.
- ✓ Check plant roots regularly. Roots should be cream-colored with green tips.
- ✓ Don't use sphagnum moss as a potting medium longer than one year. After a year sphagnum breaks down producing pathogens harmful to orchid roots.
- ✓ Keep growing areas clean. Wipe off fan blades, light bulbs, and keep floor and windows clean.
- ✓ Cinnamon is a natural fungicide and can be used to treat cuts on orchids to prevent spread of fungi.

Dick closed his talk mentioning that Hilltop orchids was a source of the MSU fertilizer formulation and anyone who has been exposed to orchid growing quickly learns how much fun but how clinically addictive orchids can be. Everyone in the room nodded in agreement.

Be sure to update your e-mail and snail mail addresses, phone numbers, name changes and any other pertinent information with the IOS as needed. Contact Rosalie Dixler with any corrections or changes. She will then make sure the newsletter editor and membership chairman get the corrected information right away.



Epidendrum ilense @ Kew Gardens

President's Message

Joe Dixler, IOS President

The Board of our Society has made a New Year's Resolution. We want to increase the number of members in 2004 from our present total of 377. I don't think we've ever reached 400, but we hope to do it this year and maybe get to 500 in 2005! The hobby of growing orchids has grown dramatically over the years, yet the number of members in our society has stayed fairly constant.

On my recent trip to the 16th Australian Orchid Conference and Show in Adelaide, I learned that society had 400 members in a city of 1.25 million with two other large societies about 50 miles away in each direction. They shared a successful idea with me that has increased their membership numbers.

Some of you may have seen the cards we gave out at the Expo inviting those who had paid for admission to come to our November or January meeting. We asked them to bring that card with them which included the location, time and place of our meetings. A few did come to the November meeting and brought that card—and two joined. I hope others will be attending in January. Allen also signed up 14 new members at the Expo and two later that month.

When new members are introduced at the meetings, take a moment to speak with and welcome them. Please encourage anyone interested in orchids to come to a meeting and join our society. Let's all become "good will ambassadors" and see how we can help Allen Morr, the Membership Chairman, increase our numbers.

At the same time we need to retain all of you, since re-enrollment time will be herein January. We hope some of our new features, like the Newcomers Sessions before the Workshop, e-mailed newsletters, the Expo format for the Fall

Show, etc., will encourage you all to continue with us.

Take time to meet other society members. You will be surprised how much you can learn from each other. Our backgrounds are very different--you probably would not meet our members in your own social circles. This can result in some interesting conversations and friendships.

Where else could a county club waitress, a retired travel agent, and a pharmaceutical financial representative spend hours talking together while working at the entrance table at our past fall Expo? Many members have developed lifelong friendships within the society. Say hi, and learn about the person sitting next to you at our meetings!

We have worked hard during this first year at OCC, making many changes to improve our society. It's been very challenging and I believe we have been successful. Let's keep the momentum going. Happy New Year to you and to our society!

IOS Bi-Monthly Judging Results

Sandy Fuller, IOS Board Member

Lights / Windows	Points
Bennett, Barb	35
Bestman, Jim and Gerry	5
Buckles, Betsy	34
Cinert, Lois	83
Dandekar, Rebecca *	21
Davis, Joan	10
Delvecchio, Pat	10
Edwards, Joel	134
Fuller, Sandy	102
Garner, Jerry	5
Gemeinhart, Ernie	17
Kotowski, Anne	10
Losert, Wilfred	59
Malone, Sherry	598
Manuel, Alex	74
Millman, Morris	22
Nelson, Bil	15
Nielsen, Diana	79
Papiewski, Claire	33
Samuelson, Helen and David *	26
Schmitz, Barbara	105
Schordje, Leo	22
Taylor, Martin	60

Tribble, Allison *	93
Unger, Rich	83
Vrabel, Ken	64
Wesley, Wendy	26
Greenhouse	
Dixler, Joe and Rosalie	783
Gamson, Ed	122
Golan, Sue	114
Hoel, Bob	20
Lipson, Steve and Judy	6
Lubin, Barry	10
Morr, Allen	35
Passine, Paul	236
Rogerson, Bill	110
Sahagian, Laima	119
Thompson, Carole	57
Zielinski, Wally	21

* New members

Be sure to bring in your plants for judging. If it's blooming, if you know what it is, and if it's pest free, bring it in! (See page 3 for hints on protecting your plants during Winter transport.) Just have the plants labeled and in place on the judging tables before the beginning of the meeting.

IOS Tee Shirts and Sweatshirts are still available and more can be ordered. These are high quality shirts and not that expensive! Contact Allison Tribble for details. (allisont@rcn.com or 773-728-4874)



Photo courtesy of Fox Valley Orchids

[Remember the IOS Mentor Program! A complete list of mentors and their specialties was printed in the November newsletter. If you would like a mentor or to volunteer to be a mentor, contact Allen Morr or Joe Dixler. We can all learn from each other.](#)

Member Updates

IOS Member Still Improving Slowly

Longtime IOS member Dorothy Nieter continues to progress very slowly since her stroke two years ago. Dorothy still lives at the Mather Pavilion , 820 Foster, Evanston, and anyone who knows Dorothy is encouraged to contact or visit her there. Thanks to Tom Franczak for relaying this message from Dorothy's daughter.

Sad News About Longtime IOS Member

Mel Schmidt passed away November 4, 2003. Mel was a long-time society member, known by many and fondly remembered. He had a general collection, which he grew under lights and he certainly was unafraid of exotic species. His *Chiloschista useneoides* 'Golden Delicious', AM/AOS was awarded in 1994. Mel played upright bass in a jazz band and if you ever saw him at a meeting in a tux, that meant he was headed straight to a gig afterwards. Our sympathy goes out to Mel's family. His friendship and expertise will be missed by all.



Courtesy of Francisco Miranda
Miranda Orchids

How to Buy An Orchid

Ned Nash, AOS Director of Education & Conservation

Many consumers, both retail and retailer, find themselves in a position today of having to make

purchase-oriented decisions about an entirely new -- to them, at least -- class of plants: orchids. What should they be looking for? How can the purchase dollar be maximized? How can the best shelf life, of vital importance for both the retail and retailing consumer, be obtained?

The Plant -- Should be in proportion to the container, have roots in the media, should be clean and unblemished, turgid and medium green, free of visible pests.

The Flowers -- Should be lustrous and held well above the foliage on a strong, well-supported spike, be unblemished and free of fungal spotting, have some buds yet to open (never, ever accept a plant with flowers open to the tip of the spike, as it is impossible to judge flower life after all flowers have opened), and have a generally appealing aspect that fits with your decor.

The Vendor -- Is the overall aspect one of cleanliness and order? Do the production plants look good? Is the staff attentive and interested in your welfare? Can they answer the most elementary of your questions?

Selecting an orchid plant isn't really that different from any other flowering plant purchase, except for the satisfaction that comes with the proper decision.

Conservation Begins At Home

From the AOS Web Site

Emergencies such as power failures, equipment failure, glazing breakage, etc. often occur when the grower is absent and the collection is in the care of a non-orchidist friend or neighbor. Do these people know whom to contact for assistance in such emergencies?

We owe it to our plants—common or rare—to provide for their care under these circumstances. Posting contact information in a prominent place in the growing area will assure that the caretaker has the necessary information for getting immediate help. The survival of your collection may depend on it! As part of the AOS Conservation Committee's ongoing focus of disseminating practical conservation information, an *emergency care contact card* has been developed and is available for downloading. Simply click on the file link below, print it on bright

paper to attract attention, add your contacts, laminate for protection and post it. You may be glad you did!

[Emergency Care Contact Card](#) (prints on one 8½x11 sheet, fold in half)

Remember...Conservation is Everyone's Responsibility.

Question of the Month

An embarrassed member writes –

I purchased a *Brassavola nodosa* this summer from a reputable local orchid grower. The plant was very healthy and had four beautiful blooms that lasted another four weeks. Just last week, the plant began losing leaves. They just dropped off one by one, and now I have a small wooden plank covered with roots. The plant was growing in a west window with supplemental light. It was watered or misted daily, has no signs of pests, and was fertilized weekly, weakly. Suddenly – something went wrong. I was so happy with this orchid and I thought it was relatively easy to

grow. What did I do wrong? I plan on purchasing another, but not until I find out what I did to this beautiful orchid.

If you can help “embarrassed reader”, please respond through the newsletter (garnerjl@comcast.net) and your comments will be printed in January. Help a fellow member out here!



Photo courtesy of Jewell Orchids

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

**[Holiday Meeting and Party
December 14th @ Hausermann's](#)**

**[January Meeting @Oakton C.C.
January 11th: Speaker –Sam Tsui](#)**

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