

NEXT MEETING – March 14th AT OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BE THERE – BRING A FRIEND – BRING AN ORCHID – PAY YOUR DUES

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.

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

April 3-4 - Spring Show time! Details inside.

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. **Sign up now – limited seating!**

July 11 – Meeting at Triton College, Room TBA, speaker TBA. Details later.

August 14 (Saturday) – Annual picnic at Oak Hill Gardens, hosted by the Pigors. 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.

Add these dates to your schedule now for future reference. We'll update it as Wendy signs up more exciting speakers.

March Newsletter Deadline

March 17th

Because of the Show April 3rd and 4th, the April newsletter must be mailed out earlier than usual. Therefore, any news, columns, announcements, etc. for the April newsletter **MUST** be received no later than March 17th. I usually allow plenty of leeway – I know people are busy and can't always get things to me on time. But this month I have to hold your feet to the fire – If I don't have it by end of day on the 17th, it doesn't get into the April newsletter. Send everything to me by snail mail or e-mail, addresses on page 2.

If you haven't already, pay your 2004 IOS dues today. We need to print the membership directory and update our records ASAP.

Check out the IOS website, www.iosoc.com, or mail your \$25.00 to Allen Morr, 253 Summerfield Road, Northbrook, IL 60062-5426. After March 31st, current members who have not renewed will be dropped from the membership list.



B.C. Naples Night – Stewart's Orchids

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

President	Joe Dixler	847-432-7708	(jmd@dixler.net)
1 st VicePresident (Meetings/speakers)	Wendy Holtzman	773-395-1771	(wswesley1@aol.com)
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@lightfirst.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	630-941-1084	
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	847-991-5434	(sifuller62@comcast.net)
Sue Golan	2007	847-234-6311	(sgolan@aol.com)

March Meeting Notes**Wendy Wesley, 1st V.P.**

Our March meeting will be on the 14th in the Business Center at Oakton Community College. The “new” members’ meeting will begin at 11:30 and all members are welcome. If you are bringing in any plants for judging, be sure to have them set up on the judging tables before the regular membership meeting begins at 12:30.

Our workshop this month will help us prepare for the April show. If you have any questions about the show, how to prepare plants for judging, or how to set up displays, this will be the time to get those questions answered. We have many veteran orchid show members who are eager and happy to share their experience and knowledge with you.

Our speaker for the March meeting will be Leo Kusber, owner of Lion's Den Orchids. He will be sharing information about one of his favorite orchid groups - *Zygopetalum*. Leo will discuss some of the history and culture of *Zygopetalums* as well as their numerous species and hybrids.

You may remember Leo's article published in *Orchids* magazine on *zygos* in March 1998. Leo and his wife have two greenhouses, a seedling

Recap of February Meeting

Bill Rogerson gave a wonderful second presentation on Cattleyas. Hats off to you, Bill. You did another great job. Thanks again.

Here are some of the great growing tips Bill shared at the February meeting for success growing these flamboyant plants.

1. Make sure you give the plant a brief dry period between waterings.
2. Give the plants enough (meaning plenty of) light.

3. Know when to re-pot. Cattleyas should be repotted when the plant's newest rhizome growth is developing roots. According to Bill, Catts usually fall into one of two growth categories: new rhizome growth, root initiation (repot now) and then flowering or new rhizome growth, flowering, then root initiation (repot now). Approximately 80% of the bifoliate fall into this category. Knowing your plants' growth habit and repotting at the correct time are critical to keeping your plants healthy and vigorously growing.
4. Cattleya roots will not grow roots in decayed media.
5. Catts like to dry out quickly and be watered often; shallow clay pots with additional drainage holes are best for these conditions.
6. Bifoliate Catts tend to be more emanding than the unifoliate and the bifoliate hate to have their roots disturbed.
7. In general, most Catts are difficult to rebloom after repotting – you may have to wait 2-3 years after seeing that “corsage” orchid again, but it's definitely worth the wait!



Photo courtesy of Stewart's Orchids

Orchid Travel – President’s Message

By Joe Dixler, President

At the January workshop Rosalie mentioned that we would be going to Bolivia and Peru on our way to the Latin American Orchid Show & Conference in Quito, Ecuador. Here’s an update on our experience.

On arrival in Santa Cruz, Bolivia we met Roberto Vasquez, a botanist, taxonomist and director of FAN or Fundacion Amigos de la Naturaleza, an important conservation organization. He spent the day with us first visiting Oscar Suarez’s private arboretum on his estate, where orchids are growing in his trees throughout the grounds. Later we traveled to Oscar’s brother-in-law’s large orchid collection in Santa Cruz.

We spent another week visiting other cities in Bolivia at an altitude ranging from 7000-14000 feet! Altitude pills along with coco tea kept us breathing, but our appetite was almost gone--what a great way to lose weight. We saw enough Inca and pre-Inca ruins, Indian markets, churches, and archeological museums to last for several trips! While the colorful native dress was magnificent, the poverty was upsetting.

After crossing Lake Titicaca, we spent a few days in Peru before flying to Quito for the Conference. The speakers were outstanding with lectures by Cal Dodson, Stig Dalstrom, Robert Dressler, Phil Cribb, Alex Hirtz, Mosies Behar, Eric Hagsater, Harold Koopowitz, and Wesley Higgins. You are probably familiar with some of these people already. The experience was a very and we saw slides of many new species. There were lovely exhibits featuring new world orchids and very enjoyable social events. Of the 200 registrants, we saw many old friends and met others from Seattle, Sacramento, Milwaukee, and Sarasota as well as the Canary Islands, Panama, Guatemala, Colombia, France, Australia, Kenya, England and Germany. While at the show I bought a few plants that were being sold bare root, carefully used alcohol and q-tips to clean every mark, arranged the Cites and Phyto-Sanitary permits with the local inspectors at the show, then wrapped them in newspaper in a small box and carried them with me on the plane. I also needed my U.S. Agriculture Import Permit with me to include the number on the export permits as well as to bring the plants into the U.S. Before leaving Ecuador I contacted a broker in Miami to meet me at customs. He took the plants and permits and walked them through the U.S. Agricultural

inspection, then forwarded them the next day to me in Chicago. A time consuming and expensive process!

You don’t have to travel abroad to buy unusual orchids from international vendors. The Santa Barbara (California) Orchid Fair at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate on July 9th-11th and the Redlands Orchid Festival at Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead, Florida on May 14th-16th are great places to find unusual orchids. When you buy these plants in the U.S. you won’t need to be concerned about permits, agricultural inspections, and brokers! Don’t forget our own show on April 3rd-4th at OCC. There should be special plants here as well.

I urge you to include orchid nurseries and shows in your itinerary when planning a trip. During these visits you meet professional orchid growers as well as collectors. You see a vast variety of orchids in exhibits on a grand scale, learn a lot, and purchase some unusual orchids! My favorite orchid events include the Greater New York Orchid Show (formerly at the World Trade Center but now at Rockefeller Center) on April 15th - 18th; the San Francisco Show on Feb. 19th - 22nd (you’ll have to wait for new dates next year) at the Fort Mason Festival Pavilion; and the Miami International Orchid Show March 5th – 7th at the Coconut Grove Convention Center. The New York Joint president’s Council sponsors a Speakers Day of lectures a Speakers Day with internationally acclaimed orchid professionals at the Holiday Inn in Newark, New Jersey. This year it will be on October 30th. Rita Cohen, from Orchid Art (516-374-6426 or orchart@optonline.net) can give you the details for this outstanding program. The Mid-America Orchid Congress is having another Speakers Day of lectures instead of the usual show and meeting because the very successful Speakers Day last fall. More details are available from President Pat Cleveland (medgas@mindspring.com). It will be near Atlanta, in Marietta, GA on May 22nd-23rd at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel. There will be orchid vendors at all of these events.

Combining orchid visits with a trip even closer to home is easy. Last summer Rosalie arranged an orchid/sightseeing trip to Wisconsin for a 4 day weekend. We visited our IOS Madison member, Cleo Kiergaard, to see her collection, and also included Orchids by the Ackers in Middleton, the Olbrich Botanic Gardens in Madison and Blue Stem Orchids in Baraboo. It was so enjoyable that we are arranging some of these stops for our IOS excursion on June 13th. **Be sure to send in your \$45 check to the IOS, ASAP to reserve your place!** Our trip included Ten Chimneys, the home of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne in Genesee Depot, west of

Milwaukee; the Mustard Museum in Mt. Horeb; and Evermor Sculpture Park in Prairie du Sac. We toured the International Crane Foundation and conservationist Aldo Leopold's shack, a national landmark in Baraboo. These 4 days were just as interesting as travel anywhere! Travel is as addictive as orchid collecting! Rosalie and I have combined our passions by including orchid stops on almost every trip for a more enriching travel and learning experience.



February Plant of the Month
Dendrobium alexandrae x andriche millar
grown by Barbara Schmitz

Congratulations, Barbara!

FINAL NOTICE – YOUR 2004 MEMBERSHIP NEEDS TO BE RENEWED IMMEDIATELY. MAIL YOUR \$25.00 TO ALLEN MORR, 253 SUMMERFIELD RD, NORTHBROOK, IL 60062



Away Show News
By Diana Nielsen, Away Show Chairman

At the Batavia show the IOS took a Best of Class award – best of all society displays at the show! Check out the IOS web sight at www.iosoc.com for a photo of the display. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Upcoming away shows include:

Davenport, IA Illowa Orchid Society March 20-21

Fort Wayne, IN Three Rivers Orchid Society March 27 – 28

Contact Diana for drop off and pick up points and other information about these shows if you have plants for Davenport or Fort Wayne.

IOS Board Meetings

The IOS Board meets the first Tuesday of odd months of the year at 7:30 p.m. at a Board member's home. All IOS members are welcome to attend but please notify the meeting host or Joe Dixler prior to the meeting. The next meeting will be May 4th at the home of Sue Golan, 599 W. Old Mill Rd, Lake Forest, IL. (847/234-6311)

Outreach Report

By Claire Papiewski, Outreach Chairman

On Sunday February 22nd, Ken Vrabel represented the IOS by showing a video and giving a lecture about orchids at the Des Plaines Public Library.

Ken discussed the history of orchid plant collection, how to get started raising orchids, potting, cultural conditions, and pests and diseases.

His lecture was well received by the 35 attendees who asked many questions about orchid culture. The public had a chance to see about 15 blooming plants that Ken, Mary & Ralph Minnis, and Claire Papiewski brought from their collections. Ralph also brought a vanilla plant plus a genuine vanilla bean.

Cultural information sheets, a recipe for home made pepper spray (see next page), IOS membership information and book marks announcing the April 3rd & 4th IOS Spring Show and Sale were distributed.

The Librarian, Christine Posinger, who helped set up the event, remarked "Let's do this again!"

The IOS has been invited to set up an information table at Geimer's Greenhouse March 20th and 21st. IOS presence at similar events has resulted in great p.r. and many new members. Please contact Claire Papiewski at 847/622-8664 or talk to her at the March meeting for more information and to volunteer your help, even if you can work only an hour or two.

Conservation Workshops

Workshops offering conservation principles that apply to many fields are just one part the International Orchid Conservation Congress (IOCC) at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, May 15-23, 2004. Don't miss this opportunity to hear presenters from the global conservation community. For those unable to attend the entire conference, a special one-day registration of \$95 allows students to pick and choose a particular day of lecture topics. Full conference registration is \$350. Registration for workshops is independent from the conference and fees vary. For specific conference and workshop information and to register online go to www.selby.org/iocc

February Workshop Update

Diana,

I attended your workshop on fluorescent lights today. After checking out www.1000bulbs.com, I did a search for F40T12/TRITEN50 and came across the following web page:

<http://www.bubbabulbs.com/f40t12triten50.html>

It seems to me that these are the same bulbs advertised on the 1000bulbs.com website, but they are quite a bit cheaper: \$4.78 versus \$7.22. Shipping - slightly higher.

Best,

Leo Stam



Photo courtesy of Stewart Orchids

Ralph Minnis' Pepper Spray for Orchid Pests

(Ralph swears by this environmentally safe pesticide.)

1 cup isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol)
½ teaspoon liquid soap
1 teaspoon Tabasco sauce
1 quart water

Mix all ingredients thoroughly. Apply to top and bottom of orchid leaves with a spray bottle.

Remember to wear your name badge to meetings. We have many new members and the badges help people feel more at ease and welcome. If you have paid your 2004 dues you will have a new name badge. If you haven't, pay now and Allen will get you your 2004 IOS name badge right away.



If you have plants for the Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier beginning March 13th, it's not too late to enter those plants in the Show. Contact Sue Golan immediately at 847/234-6311 to arrange a drop off or pick up. It's cutting things pretty close, so don't waste time – call Sue now!



June Meeting – An Orchid Excursion

Sign up NOW for the June Orchid Excursion to Madison, Wisconsin on June 13th! The bus is reserved for departure at 7:45 a.m. from OCC to take us to Orchids by the Ackers (www.orchidsbytheackers.com), then on to a prepaid lunch at Whitney's Pub and Brewery (www.jtwhitneys.com). After lunch we will visit Olbrich Gardens (www.olbrich.org) where the private orchid house will be opened for our Society and we will tour the Thai Pavilion, a \$1.5 - \$2.0 million structure built by Thai artisans and set in gardens designed to replicate gardens in Thailand. The bus will then return us to OCC by approximately 6:00 p.m.

All this plus the camaraderie of fellow IOS orchid enthusiasts for the more than reasonable cost of \$45.00 per person. That's transportation, lunch, a

chance to buy quality orchids, and a tour of a private orchid collection with a visit to truly unique garden – a bargain to be sure. So sit down now and send that check (made out to the IOS) to reserve your spot on the tour to Rosalie Dixler, 811 Stone Gate Drive, Highland Park, IL 60035. Don't wait until the last minute. Mark your calendar now for this special orchid event.



Lc. Beachview – Courtesy of Stewart's Orchids

Orchid Adventure – The IOS Spring Show - April 3rd and 4th

Lois Cinert, Home Show Chairman

Now is the time to make plans for our spring show Orchid Adventure. Plan to attend to see the excellent displays brought by our vendors and sister orchid societies. Plan to visit the vendors and ask those culture questions that have always bothered you. Plan to visit the vendors and buy one or two of the wonderful, beautiful orchid plants that they will bring.

Bring your blooming plants for the IOS display. We had a magnificent array of flowers last year, and we want to equal or exceed that display this year.

Have your plants at Oakton by 3:00 Friday, or drop them off Thursday at our away-show drop-off points. Label your plants with your name and the name of the plant. Make sure your plant is free of critters. Stake the inflorescence to show off your flowers. Remove any dead leaves, and wipe the leaves with a damp cloth to remove dust and water spots. If you grow in plastic, make sure your plant will stand on its own with out tipping over.

The best way to see the show and help out our society is to volunteer. A full-length volunteer sheet is attached here somewhere. I will also have sign up sheets at the March meeting, and they are also on the web page. Any way you want to, whatever is easiest for you, we want you to join us at the

show. Volunteer jobs are not hard. All they require is you smile and your willingness to help.

Come to Oakton Community College April 3 and 4 for the show itself, or come on Friday afternoon to help with setup and registration. You will be able to meet and greet the exhibitors and vendors, and have first choice of their blooming orchid plants. The show will be open from 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and Sunday. Setup on Friday starts at 12:00, with exhibitors and vendors welcome after 2:00. For you early birds, judging on Saturday will start at 7:00. That is an opportunity to listen to the judges as they go about their work. It's a great way to learn more about all the different kinds of flowers, and improve your selection process of quality blooms.

We will have lunch available at cost both Saturday and Sunday for our volunteers and vendors. You must reserve your lunch by March 15. Information is on the Space Request form in the newsletter or on the web.

We will have our repotting service available again, along with a new and improved raffle, and our cut flower sales. AOS books, IOS pins, our very own sweatshirts and polo shirts and membership in the IOS and AOS will be available also.

The most important thing is to come to the show, and participate as a member of the IOS. We need your help and enthusiasm. Join your orchid friends, old and new, at this major event.

Volunteers Need to Sign Up Now For The Spring Show April 3rd and 4th

Volunteers are needed April 2nd, 3rd and 4th for the Spring Show. Help is needed for a variety of tasks including **Set Up and Unloading on Friday from noon to 9:00 p.m. and Registration from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.** On **Saturday April 3rd judging clerks (no experience required) are needed from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. and many, many, many people are needed for Plant Sales, Traffic Control, Raffle, Cut Flower Sales, Admissions, Membership Information from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Repotting Services from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 4th, more volunteers will be needed from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for Plant Sales, Traffic Control, Raffle, Cut Flower Sales, Admissions, Membership Information, and Repotting Services.** **Volunteers for teardown and clean up are needed from 5:00 p.m. until approximately 8:00 p.m. (earlier if there are enough volunteers).** **Contact Lois Cinert, Home Show Chairman, at 630/739-1068 or geolocin@earthlink.net and sign up now for a few hours while you are at the show or fill in the volunteer sign up sheets at the March**

meeting. If everyone chips in an hour or two, no one will have to work all day or each day. And don't expect just a few people to take care of things. All members need to make an effort here and make this the best Spring Show ever!

History Repeats Itself

Allen Morr, Membership Chairman

Why is it that our members procrastinate over sending in their dues on time? As has been the case in years gone by, members have failed to respond to our notices about renewing during January and February. True, we eliminated the printing and mailing of return envelopes this year to save money, but none-the-less, renewal forms have been included with monthly newsletters and are available at our web site.

At the time of writing this message, only 134 renewals from our 312 members have been received. That is less than half our membership - 43% to be exact.

We have to draw a **renewal deadline, which is March 31st**, so we can begin the work of assembling a Membership Directory for 2004. Once this project is underway, just imagine how late renewals frustrate the printer, who has to make last-minute layout changes to accommodate you. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE RENEW NOW. You don't even have to bother with a renewal form. Just drop a \$25 check in the mail to IOS c/o Allen Morr, 253 Summerfield Road, Northbrook, IL 60062.

C. bicolor – Stewart's Orchids



Photo by Jay Pfahl

Welcome New Members

Jerry Garner

The following people have joined the IOS since our last newsletter:

Patrick Roberg	Chicago
David Gloede	Chicago
Amber Mercier	Chicago
Liv Stolarczyk	Park Ridge
Les Kismartoni	Park Ridge

In addition, many new people joined during one of the open houses at Geimer's, Pasquesi's, or Hausermann's but a complete listing was not received in time for this newsletter. Those new members will be listed in the April newsletter. Let's welcome all our new and returning members and make them at home at the meetings and the upcoming show. By the way, for the new members, working an hour or two at the Show April 3rd – 4th is a great way to get to know the IOS and the members!

Bring those blooming plants to the meetings and put them on the judging table. Everyone enjoys seeing what others are growing!

Volunteer NOW to Help Out at the Spring Show

SPACE REQUEST

Illinois Orchid Society
Orchid Adventure
April 3 & 4, 2004
Oakton Community College

Name _____
Company/Society _____
Address _____

Phone/Email _____
Name on Display sign _____

Exhibit request 25 sq ft _____
50 sq ft _____
100sq ft _____
Other _____

There will be a limited number of spaces with access to electricity. These will be filled on a first-come-first filled basis. Please bring your own backdrop. We are unable to attach anything to the wall space. Vendors must have a minimum 25 sq ft space.

Vendor Table Request The fee for one table is \$75.00. Additional tables are \$100.00 each. We are asking that you limit your request to a maximum of four tables. We may have to adjust the number of tables granted according to space available.

Number of Tables _____
Fee enclosed _____

We will be serving a hot lunch both on Saturday and Sunday. The requested fee is the cost of the meal. *Meal reservations must be made by March 15, 2004.*

Saturday \$10.00 _____
Sunday \$12.00 _____
Fee enclosed _____

Make checks payable to:
ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

Total Enclosed

Remit to: Lois Cinert, 595 Sharon Way, Bollingbrook, IL 60440-1350

IOS LOGO SHIRTS ARE BACK BY DEMAND

Allison Tribble, Ways and Means Chairman

The sweatshirts and short-sleeved polo shirts have been reordered and will be on sale at the Spring Show for all IOS members! These shirts are in a comfortable poly/cotton blend with the IOS logo embroidered on the left chest. The shirts are a beautiful purple with the official logo embroidered in white. Both distinctive and affordable: \$22.00 for sweatshirts, \$20.00 for the polo. (If you're want an XXL, there's an extra \$2.00 charge).

Sizes offered are S-XXL on a first come first served basis. So be one of the first volunteers or visitors to the show with cash or check (sorry, no credit cards) and get your IOS shirt while they last.

Members in the News

In the February issue of the British gardening magazine "The Garden" our own **Sam Tsui** at Orchid Inn is listed as one of the world-class orchid growers to exhibit at the International Orchid Show at the RHS Lindley and Lawrence Halls, Westminster, March 13-14. I guess that means Sam won't be at the March meeting at OCC.

John Stubbings has been nominated for the Presidency of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance and the nominating letter was written by our own **Jim Spatzek**.

March/April Orchid Checklist

- **Cymbidium**
Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.
- **Lycaste**
This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an

increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

- **Miltoniopsis**
This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.
- **Paphiopedilum**
March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy. The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Don't be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with *fairieanum* background.
- **Phalaenopsis**
In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to,

so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging - even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require for the best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency of watering.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

- ***Pleurothallids***

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

Adapted from AOS Web Site Article by Ned Nash and James Rose

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

<p>Illinois Orchid Society Jerry Garner, Editor 623 Sheridan Road #1 Evanston, IL 60202</p>
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Postmaster: Dated Material

Next Meeting: March 14th @OCC

**Spring Show and Sale: April 3rd & 4th
Details Inside**

Deadline for April Newsletter: March 17th

Membership Renewal Due By March 31st