



SPRING SHOW AND SALE – APRIL 3 & 4
OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BE THERE – BRING A FRIEND – BUY ORCHIDS – SHOW ORCHIDS
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.

April 3-4 - Spring Show time! More info inside.

May 16 – Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids.

June 13 – **Field Trip!** Off to Madison, Wisconsin and Orchids by the Ackers and the Oberlich Botanical Gardens. **Sign up now – space is limited!**

July 11 – Meeting at Triton College and a speaker from Hoosier Orchids.

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

September 12 – 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! Details later.

November 14 – William Goldner of Woodstream Orchids.

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

Keep these dates handy for future reference.



***Bulbophyllum* Lion King**

Other Dates To Remember

March 31st is the deadline for renewing your IOS dues and to get your name in the 2004 Directory!

Deadline for newsletter submissions for May will be April 15th – yes, tax day!

AOS members meeting and Kansas Orchid Society Show, April 21st – 25th in Wichita, KS. Contact Max Thompson, 620/221-1856 or maxt@cox.net

IOS Board meeting May 4th, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Sue Golan. All members are welcome but please notify Sue or Joe Dixler if you plan to attend.

May 6th – 9th, Chicago Park District's First Annual Orchid Show at Lincoln Park Conservatory.

Admission is free. If you want to avoid the crowds, there will be a preview party the evening of May 5th; admission is \$25.00/person.

International Orchid Conservation Congress II, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL, May 16th – 21st. Contact Dr. Wesley Higgins, 941/955-7553, ext.311 or whiggins@selby.org for information.

International Phalaenopsis Alliance Tenth Symposium, July 23rd – 25th in Indianapolis. Check the website - www.phal.org for more information.

Monthly judging at the Chicago Judging Center, Chicago Botanic Gardens, April 10th at 1:00 p.m.

IOS Shirts Are Back!

Allison Tribble, Ways and Means

Sweatshirts and short sleeve polo shirts with the official IOS logo will be available at the spring show. The shirts are purple with the logo embroidered in white and they are available in small through extra large sizes. Sweatshirts are \$22.00 and polos are \$20.00. Be sure to purchase at least one while you're at the show.



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	(sjfuller62@comcast.net)
Sue Golan	2007	847-234-6311	(sgolan@aol.com)

Thanks to Tom Franczek, the IOS website is one of the best local Society websites you’re going to see. It’s colorful, it’s informative, and it’s easy to navigate. Be sure to check out www.iosoc.com regularly for updates on Society news, meeting dates for links to other orchid sites, or to get a copy of that old newsletter you’ve misplaced. And if you see Tom, thank him for all his hard work.

Get Ready For An Orchid Adventure**Lois Cinert, Home Show Chairman**

It’s here! It’s time to welcome our sister orchid societies, vendors, and guests to Oakton Community College for our annual spring show, Orchid Adventure. It’s time for the judges to pick out the best, and place ribbons on the beautifully bloomed orchid plants. It’s time to be a part of the wonderful fellowship among orchid growers.

The show is open on April 3 & 4 from 10am to 5pm. But the real fun starts on Friday, with setup and plant registration. You still have time to sign up to help. We need you to volunteer to help our guests unload their displays and sale plants. We still need help, especially on Sunday, to sell our members’ plants, our sweatshirts, books, fertilizer, and pins. And we need your help to tell people about the Illinois Orchid Society, and ask them to become members. We will have a repotting service for your plants; we will have a corsage-making demonstration and sale, and we will have a raffle unlike any we have ever had before. You will have your choice of which item you will try to win, and we will have lots of great plants, books, and some surprises for you to take a chance on. The best part of the show is having you there to enjoy the wonderful

orchids that the societies and vendors will bring for us to see. The next best part is being able to talk to all of the knowledgeable orchid growers all there in one place and at one time. The very best part is being able to bring home a plant from the great selection of blooming plants, species, and special plants that our vendors will bring for us to buy.

Bring your plants for the IOS display to Oakton by 3pm on Friday. We need time to set up a large display. Make sure they are free of pests, marked with the name of the plant and your name. Make a list of your plants for us. Register your plants – its easy, and we’ll help you with it. We want every IOS member to participate in the show. This is a great way. Bring your plants for sale on the members’ tables. Wally Zielinski and his able crew will make sure your plant is shown to its best advantage. Call to get information from Wally so he will know how many plants you are bringing. **Volunteer.** It is a great way to spend time with other orchid growers, and other society members. You will be able to expand your knowledge of orchid growing, and get to see and compare all the different types and colors of flowers. It is good fun, and not much work. Call or e-mail, and we’ll see what we can find for you to do!

Thank you. Enjoy the show! It’s your show.

If you haven’t already, be sure to volunteer at least an hour while you are at the show. It’s a great way to meet other orchid fanatics & help the Society make this show a big success.

ORCHID ADVENTURE: Some Facts and Figures:

32 displays, 20 vendors, 7 orchid societies. Raffle, door prize, IOS sweatshirts & polos, books, pins, corsage demo & sale, cut flowers, members plant sales, repotting service, bark, fertilizer, culture sheets, lots of good orchid friends and beautiful plants.



Restrepia cloesii

Total Judging Points End of March

Sandy Fuller, Judging Chairman

Greenhouse	
Dixler, Joe and Rosalie	978
Gamson, Ed	178
Golan, Sue	307
Hoel, Bob	20
Lipson, Steve and Judy	117
Lubin, Barry	20
Mestdagh, J&V *	21
Morr, Allen	35
Passine, Paul	286
Rogerson, Bill	110
Sahagian, Laima	155
Stubblings, John	124
Thompson, Carole	57
Zielinski, Wally	21

* New members

Lights / Windows	Points
Bennett, Barb	35
Bestman, Jim and Gerry	5
Buckles, Betsy	45
Burns, Joe *	10
Cinert, Lois	255

Dandekar, Rebecca	21
Davis, Joan	47
Delvecchio, Pat	10
Edwards, Joel	395
Emmerich, Joan	15
Fuller, Sandy	291
Garner, Jerry	11
Gemeinhart, Ernie	33
Hall, Julie *	35
Kotowski, Anne	14
Losert, Wilfred	580
Maloney, Sherry	829
Manuel, Alex	143
Millman, Morris	22
Minnis, Ralph	15
Nelson, Bil	15
Nielsen, Diana	264
Papiewski, Claire	76
Samuelson, Helen and David *	63
Schmitz, Barbara	280
Schordje, Leo	236
Seidel, Gerhard *	41
Spitz, Nancy	20
Stam, Leo & Gale (L)	18
Taylor, Martin	60
Tirzmalis, Sue *	3
Tribble, Allison	134
Unger, Rich	154
Vrabel, Ken	149
Wesley, Wendy	51

March Plant of the Month – Greenhouse



Dracavallia Blue Boy

Congratulations to Joe & Rosalie Dixler for this unusual and beautiful plant!

Plant of the Month –Lights/Windowsill



Cymbidium (Showgirl X Kassem's Glow)
Congratulations to Rich Unger for this impressive specimen!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Allen Morr, Membership Chairman

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

Ann Galezio ~ Glen Ellyn
Fran Kallenberger ~ Naperville
David Brillhart ~ Naperville
Corey Zak ~ Elgin
Annette White ~ Elk Grove Village
Brian Leckie ~ Palatine
Tom Usalis ~ Palatine
Corey Zak ~ Elgin
Kikue Kawanaka ~ Palatine
Marylyn Wouda ~ Park Ridge
Dave Liss ~ Highland Park
Sheryl Bury-Michals ~ Chicago
Deborah & Michael Litt ~ Channahon
Stephen & Sue McKenna ~ Long Grove
Lauren McVey Rush ~ Glen Ellyn
Julia Lamken ~ Oak Park
Kathy Serikaku ~ Westmont
Nicol Sheaffer ~ Valparaiso, IN
Carol Toda ~ Barrington
JoAnne Pysz ~ Midlothian
Felicia Cochran ~ Lombard
Sam Rowell ~ Downers Grove
Larry Miller ~ Westmont
Lillian Chu ~ Libertyville
Flor Rosal ~ Mundelein
Marie Cammenga ~ Palatine
William Sturm ~ Naperville
Andrea Worrell ~ Downers Grove
Gayle Booth ~ Cary
David & Helen Samuelson ~ Tinley Park
Frank Feliciano ~ Elk Grove Village

As you can see, this is a lot of new people! I would encourage our "old" members to introduce themselves and personally welcome these newcomers to our Society. Remember, wear your name tag. It will make it a lot easier for the new members to get to know everyone.

April President's Message

Joe Dixler, President

Our Spring Show and Sale, "**Orchid Adventures**" is almost here, and the excitement that builds as we get closer is apparent. Lois Cinert, our Show Chairman, has been requesting your assistance with the many behind the scenes tasks that are necessary for a smooth operation. Hopefully many of you will find time to volunteer to help with staffing and exhibiting your orchids. Ribbons and AOS awards for excellence (which give you points toward our friendly annual competition) will be awarded by AOS judges. We are fortunate to have a number of accredited AOS judges that are members of our Society. They are Jim Spatzek, (Vice Chairman), Bill Rogerson (Student Trainer), Sue Golan, Tom Kalina, Hermann Pigors, John Stubbings, Ron Setiawan, and Wisconsin members Bil Nelson and Pete Peterson (Chairman). Steve Troc was elevated to probationary judge status. Student judges are Alexander Manuel and Ernie Gemeinhart. It takes a minimum of seven years training to become a fully accredited judge; there are presently 16 people in our Chicago Judging Center that have been elevated to that level. It is a time consuming but rewarding activity where you never stop learning about orchids. If anyone wants more information about the AOS judging program, speak to Bill Rogerson at 847-441-8160. Other IOS members also participate in the show; Rhonda Peters is our photographer, and Sherry Maloney and Linda Schubert are the Secretaries of our Chicago Judging Center. We are very grateful that our Outreach Chairman, Claire Papiewski, has represented the IOS so diligently. Through her efforts we have had an IOS table at Hausermann's Open House, Geimers and Pasquesi's Plant Nurseries, the Flower Show at Navy Pier, and we will have a table at the Lincoln Park Conservatory Orchid Show during Mothers Day weekend on May 8th and 9th. By distributing our bookmarks at these events we hope to reach many of our former visitors to our shows at the

Chicago Botanic Gardens and alert them to our new venue, as well as inform them about our society. It works! At Hausermann's we signed up 21 new members this February. I want to personally thank our volunteers for these events: Sherry Maloney, Jim and Gerry Bestman, Sandy Fuller, Fay Denning, Ed Gamson, Allison and Dave Tribble, Steve Lipson, Anne Kotowski, Jerry Garner, Sue Golan, Joel Edwards, and Claire's always supportive husband Alfred. Special thanks to Sandy Fuller, Sue Golan and Faye Denning who volunteered at both Geimers and Hausermann's! More thanks to Ken Vrabell for speaking to orchid enthusiasts at a lecture Ralph and Mary Minis helped to set up at the Des Plaines Library in February. Claire and Alfred, Mary and Ralph and my wife, Rosalie, arranged a lovely IOS orchid informational display in the glass case in the library lobby during the month of February. You may have seen photos of the display on our IOS website at www.iosoc.com or at the March meeting.

Most of you have helped distribute bookmarks and posters; we hope this will result in increased attendance at our upcoming show. Bring your relatives, friends and neighbors. As members, you do not pay the \$5 admission fee, so be sure to come and enjoy our efforts.

We are very happy to have about 25 vendors presently signed up to be at the show, in spite of the fact that this same weekend there are two other orchid shows nearby in Livonia, Michigan (suburb of Detroit) and Indianapolis, Indiana. While a few vendors cannot be in more than one show the same weekend, others will be coming to our show and to one of the others. One vendor, Ecuagenera, is coming all the way from Ecuador! Pepe Portilla, who spoke to our society last year, should be bringing some very interesting and unusual orchids.

Do you wonder why some plants are difficult to rebloom? Some of you new members may not know that when the medium breaks down, orchids must be repotted with a new mix. We will offer our repotting service again. I'm sure you remember what a big success it was at our Expo last fall. Bring your plants to the show and, for a reasonable fee, we will repot them with our specially formulated IOS orchid mix. This potting mix includes fir bark which is longer lasting than the pine bark used in commercially sold orchid mixes. Pine bark breaks down faster than fir and must be replaced in only six months. Our mix is formulated with the highest quality ingredients, including the more expensive sterilized fir bark and it lasts considerably longer than other bark

mixes. The mix has no insects, insect eggs, or mold that you might find in non-sterilized bark. The mix will be sold separately while the supply lasts. It sold out in one day at the Fall Expo, but we will try to have enough this time! We will also be selling Michigan State's new orchid fertilizer that Jan Szyren spoke about at November's meeting. There are 3 types that were made only for us—one for users of Lake Michigan water, another using RO (reverse osmosis) water and the third for users of well water. Many of our members, including myself, have had outstanding results using the one made for our own growing conditions. Reme Tesch will be making orchid corsages a little too early for Mothers Day but they'll be appreciated by that special person you give them to. Again, there will be educational videos that may give you some new growing tips.

Our Orchid Adventure should be another beautiful and memorable experience that I hope you will all participate in and enjoy.



Dracula vampira x Dracula Jester

Flower & Garden Show Update

Sue Golan, Board Member

I would like to thank all those who allowed me to hijack their plants after the Green Bay show so that we could have a good showing at Navy Pier: Sandy Fuller, Joel Edwards, Leo Schordje, Lois Cinert, Anne Kotowski. Ed Gamson and John Stubbings let us have whatever we wanted - gorgeous stuff ! Sherry Maloney picked up plants, drove them to Navy Pier, and registered orchids for most of the day. We had 38 orchid plants. Thanks, guys, for making the IOS look so good at Navy Pier.



Outreach Activities

Claire Papiewski, Outreach Chairman

The Chicago Park District is holding its first annual Orchid Show at Lincoln Park Conservatory. Preview of the show is the evening of May 5th, \$25.00 admission but no crowds. Other dates are free admission. The show runs through May 9th and admission on those days is free. The IOS will have an info booth there May 6th - 8th. A few major orchid vendors will be selling plants, and we will be there to help inform the public about cultural information and the IOS.

Below are two photos of members' plants shown at Navy Pier.



Sign-Up for June Excursion

Rosalie Dixler, Communications Coordinator

We have planned a bus excursion to Madison, Wisconsin for Sunday, June 13th, in lieu of a June members meeting. We will be departing from OCC at 7:45 a.m. from parking lot C, and we should return by 6:00 p.m. Our first stop will be Orchids by the Ackers in Middleton, a suburb of Madison. The Ackers have a large variety of beautiful orchids including new Besseae

crosses. Look at their website at www.orchidsbytheackers.com. After Orchid by the Ackers we've planned for lunch at J.T. Whitney's Pub & Brewery, a legendary Wisconsin eatery. You can read about the many awards their beer has won at www.jtwhitneys.com. After lunch, we'll visit Olbrich Gardens in Madison. The Gardens are opening up their private orchid house especially for our Society. The lovely Conservatory always features beautiful orchids from this greenhouse. We will also see the magnificent new Thai Pavilion. This Pavilion is one of only three of its kind outside of Thailand, and the only one to be located in the continental United States. Go to www.olbrich.org for more information.

The price for the excursion will be \$45.00 per person including lunch. We anticipate a full bus so send your checks ASAP made out to the Illinois Orchid Society to Rosalie Dixler, 811 Stone Gate Dr., Highland Park, IL 60035 for a reservation. We have to confirm the bus a month prior to the trip and if enough people don't sign up by then, we'll have to cancel this wonderful trip. Get those reservations in right away!

AOS NEWS

Rosalie Dixler, AOS Representative

As your AOS rep on the Affiliated Societies Committee, I try to keep you informed about important AOS activities and news, and I would like to hear from you with any of your questions about the AOS.

First, you should be aware that the AOS is increasing dues as of June 1st. This was just announced in the March "Orchids" magazine, buried in the back. There is still time to renew at the old rates. The annual dues are currently \$40.00/year or \$72.00 for a two-year new membership or renewal – a real bargain. This two year special rate includes a \$30.00 coupon redeemable on a retail plant purchase of \$100.00 or more from participating growers. After June 1st, the new rates in the U.S. will be \$46.50 for a single membership for one year and \$84.00 for two years. A joint membership for two people will be \$58.50 for one year and \$107.00 for 2 years. So renew or join now at the current rates and you'll save money. Go to the AOS website, shown in the next paragraph, for membership information, or call (561/404-2060) or e-mail (trivera@aos.org) Terri Rivera for info. Next there is a useful and fun web site I learned about from the Heart Of Dixie Society newsletter. There is a pronunciation guide to

orchid names on the AOS Orchidweb site www.orchidweb.org You'll need a sound card on your computer but most fairly new computers can handle it. Once you're on the homepage click on "About Orchids" and then on "Orchids A - Z". Next, open a genus and click on the spelling of the name, and you'll hear the correct pronunciation! This is a great learning tool for new as well as "old" growers.

The DASSA Award was created by the AOS Affiliated Societies Committee to recognize the many contributions made to the AOS by the affiliated societies. There were several nominations the first year of the award, but there have been none lately.

We have a great society that might win this award. Would someone like to nominate our society? As AOS society rep and as a member of the AOS Affiliated Societies Committee, it would be a conflict of interest for me to nominate our society or vote for the IOS if it is nominated! But just contact me and I'll send the form, with the criteria for the award, to you. After the Affiliated Societies Committee receives the nominations, members of the Committee review them and make recommendations to the AOS Trustees. It would be a great honor for the IOS to receive this award and one we deserve based on our growth in membership, outstanding newsletter, new programs (like Newcomers Meetings), commitment of our officers and Board members, and excellent meetings, shows and activities. The closing date for this year's nominations will be August 31st. The winner will be announced at the fall AOS members' meeting.

2003 Joseph W. Koss Memorial Award
Jim Spatzek, Board Member

This award was established and funded by a vote of the Illinois Orchid Society Board of Directors in 1992 to honor the memory of Joe Koss, past president of the IOS, ardent advocate for the creation of the Chicago Judging Center, and its first chairman. The award, an engraved crystal bowl, is presented to the owner of the orchid with the highest points awarded at the Chicago Judging Center or at either of the two annual IOS shows in any given year. We are pleased to announce that the 2003 winner is Mr. Jerry Fischer of Orchids Unltd., Plymouth, Minnesota. This is Mr. Fischer's third Joe Koss Award (see the following list).

His winning plant is *Nanodes medusae* 'Fernbrook', CCE/AOS, 93 points. The plant was described as follows: "31 flowers and 19 buds on 24 inflorescences on a massive 47 cm. x 35 cm. plant with numerous growths displayed symmetrically around the entire plant; flowers pale green overlaid with burgundy; lip fringed burgundy becoming dark burgundy centrally; texture matte; substance – extraordinarily heavy." Congratulations to Jerry Fischer on his award and magnificent achievement!

Previous award winners are:

1992

Neolauchia pulchella 'ETC', CCM/AOS
 Tony Grenis, Cyps, Etc.

1993

Phrag. besseae 'Fox Valley', FCC/AOS
 Tom Kalina, Fox Valley Orchids

1994

Masd. ophioglossa 'Megan', CCM/AOS
 Will Rhodhamel, Hoosier Orchids

1995

Dend. anosmum 'Doll's Delight', CCM/AOS
 Darlene Carlson

1996

Cat. schilleriana v. ceorulea 'Orchidglade'
 CCM/AOS
 Bill Rogerson

1997

Vanda sanderiana alba 'Kathleen'
 CCM/AOS
 Bill Rogerson

1998

Phrag. Jason Fischer 'Velvet Fire',
 FCC/AOS
 Jerry Fischer, Orchids, Unltd.

1999

Masd. Confetti 'Sara Michelle', CCM/AOS
 Barb Bennett

2000

Coelogyne lawrenceana 'PeteRRR',
 CCM/AOS
 Leroy Peterson

2001

Epidendrum porpax 'Porpax Mountain'
 CCE/AOS
 Jerry Fischer, Orchids, Unltd.

2002

Barbosella porschii 'Little Fingers'
 CCE/AOS
 Joe & Rosalie Dixler

Orchid Importer Arrested

By Larry Lebowitz (llebowitz@herald.com)
March 6, 2004

A well-known Peruvian orchid grower has been charged with illegally importing a high-priced new type of the flower.

On the eve of a major South Florida orchid show, a prominent Peruvian grower was arrested in Miami and charged with smuggling prized "tropical lady slippers" that were pulled from the wild but disguised as more common, nursery-raised varieties.

Agents with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service picked up Manuel Arias-Silver as he was arriving for the Miami International Orchid Show at the Coconut Grove Expo Center.

News of Arias' arrest quickly swept through the close-knit community of growers, collectors and aficionados at the convention hall.

"Somebody called the [South Florida Orchid] Society and let them know that he wasn't going to be there, that he'd been arrested," said José Exposito, a Homestead nursery owner and orchid-show judge.

Arias did not try to bring any of the rare orchids at the heart of the criminal investigation to the Miami show. But prosecutors allege the illegal shipments passed through Miami in 2002 and 2003 en route to husband-and-wife collectors in suburban Houston who were reselling them to high-end hobbyists willing to pay black-market prices.

According to letters and e-mails seized by investigators, George and Kathy Norris of Spring, Texas, specifically instructed Arias to ship the rare species through South Florida because U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors at Miami International Airport were markedly more lax than their counterparts in Houston.

The Norrises, who have been importing orchids for more than 25 years, have not been charged. They did not return messages left at Spring Orchids Specialties.

The lady slipper is one of the *Phragmipedium* species of orchids. Several "Phrags," as they are known in collecting circles, are considered seriously endangered in the wild and are protected under international treaties. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota pleaded guilty last year to illegally accepting a Peruvian *Phragmipedium kovachii*, which experts have called the most prized orchid discovery in the past 100 years.

Exposito said Arias is well known in South American orchid growing circles, one of three Peruvian growers given permission to cultivate endangered and newly discovered orchids from recently deforested areas. Arias is accused of disguising "Phrags" cultivated in the wild as ones grown from seeds or divisions of plants grown in greenhouses. The latter can be exported with extensive governmental regulation and permits. Records show the investigation started in April 2002 when an unidentified private citizen contacted Fish & Wildlife investigators about the husband-and-wife team who were selling endangered species via the Internet. The agents encouraged the citizen to maintain an e-mail correspondence and make several purchases from the Norrises. The cooperator purchased four orchids in May 2002.



Phrag. Hanne Popow

At the agent's urging, the buyer repeatedly asked George Norris to include a copy of the endangered species import permit from Peru with the shipment. Each time Norris promised, but failed to deliver copies of the permits. Agents later discovered that Peru issued Arias a permit to export some orchids in May 2002, but the permit was canceled by USDA officials. The Peruvian permit did not include any of the species shipped to the cooperating buyer or advertised by Norris on the e-mail shopping list. The buyer ordered 10 more species from Norris in August. Norris promised his e-mail shoppers that Arias had a special Peruvian permit "so they are perfectly legal." The feds raided the Norris home in October and unearthed years of letters and e-mail correspondence with Arias that allegedly show the conspiracy dates back to at least 1995. One letter, dated July 1998, from Norris to Arias, boldly laid out the lax inspections in Miami.

"This shipment was great. It went through inspection in 1½ hours. They did not open very many bags. They know that you can have really clean plants and just do not look. But this is only Miami . . . Houston would be much tougher. Please make a note to not ship except to Miami. I do not think there will be any problem with the phrags, as they have passed so many through as other genus (sic)."

Norris encouraged Arias to keep the phrags coming.

"I don't see any problems with shipping phrags, as Miami is so overloaded with plant shipments that they rarely open boxes and do not look at many plants. Make sure they are wrapped with moss and paper and in plastic and marked Maxillarias as before."

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<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/local/8118304.htm>



Cattleytonia Once Again

Member News

By Barbara Schmitz

New member **JoAnne Pyrz** just moved into a newly purchased home and she very busy renovating. Also she is well on her way recovering from an unexpected surgery! Because of these events, she wasn't been able to attend the March meeting, but she's looking forward to future meetings so she can fill her new home with orchids. Welcome JoAnne! Best wishes in your renovating and continue your recovery from that surgery!

Lauren McVey Rush, a former member, is returning to the IOS. Looking forward to seeing you at future meetings!

Flor Rosal, a new member who lives in Mundelein, would enjoy coming to meetings, but he needs transportation. If anyone in the Mundelein area would like to have some

company on the ride to and from meetings, call Barbara Schmitz for more info (773/275-3061).

George Cinert has been fighting "mono" and inner ear (vertigo) problems. We're all pulling for you, George! Get well very soon.

To all new members, a sincere welcome and we'd love to see your orchids at the monthly meeting or at home and away shows. If you have a single or many blossoms on a single or more plants, let's see them on that monthly judging table.

Websites of Interest

You might find the following two websites interesting. Check them out.

www.users.bigpond.com/gmcorbin/bos/Equitant.html

www.notsogreenthumb.org

April Beginner's Growing Tip

Jerry Garner, Newsletter Editor

Water quality: Orchids, especially those from high-elevations, are easily damaged by mineral salts (which are almost non-existent in their natural habitat). Always use good quality, clean water. Rainwater is best, followed by "good" tap water (i.e., water that is low in dissolved minerals and salts). Other options include water purified by reverse osmosis, de-ionization, or distillation. If you must use "hard water" (water high in dissolved minerals), drench the plant thoroughly to break down mineral buildups. Every time you water or mist with hard water, a residue of dissolved salts is left behind and it will become a white, chalky deposit on the pot, mount, or surface of the mix. In time, this can kill growing root tips and burn leaves. Never use softened water to water orchids. It's high in sodium and will kill plants.

April Meeting Notes

Wendy Wesley, 1st VP/Program Chairman

Because of the Spring Show April 3rd and 4th, there will be no membership meeting in April. The next membership meeting will be May 16th at OCC. The "newcomers" meeting will begin at 11:30, followed by the workshop at 12:15. A brief business meeting will follow. Then Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids will be our guest speaker. There will be plenty of time for socializing and plant purchases after Alan's talk. Hope to see everyone there.

Recap of March Meeting

Leo Kusper from Lion's Den Orchids gave an informative talk on Zygopetalums. Unfortunately, the plants he had planned to sell at the meeting were routed by the airline to Colorado. In fact, the airline tried to send Leo there too!

Fortunately, Leo did make it to Chicago and he took orders for plants to be shipped to members later.

Some of the key points of Leo's presentation are outlined below.

- ❖ Zygopetalums bloom only on new growth and they must have a drop in night temperature in the fall in order to produce flowers in the spring.
- ❖ Zygos are native to South America in an area with high light, semi-cool temperature, high humidity. Typically, their environment is windy. Now, compare this to your growing conditions and you can determine if you will be successful with these beautiful orchids.

- ❖ Zygo flowers bruise easily.
- ❖ Over fertilizing can be a problem with Zygos. Watch for decaying roots and black spotting on the leaves. Flush plants thoroughly and regularly to avoid problems.
- ❖ There are two major pests of Zygos: scale (and occasional mealy bug) and ants (which damage the roots of the plant).
- ❖ Zygo flowers range from mildly fragrant to heavily scented.

Leo also suggested a few hybrids suitable for the warm and intermediate temperatures most common in our area.

Watching Leo's slides, you were able to appreciate the variety in size and color found in Zygopetalums, from the "true" blues to the dark lavenders to the almost black. There are even some yellow and peach intergeneric hybrids. In conclusion, Leo Hopefully, Leo and his plants were reunited when he returned to California!

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Postmaster: Dated Material

Spring Show and Sale: April 3rd & 4th

Deadline for May Newsletter: April 15th

Next Membership Meeting: May 16th @ OCC