



NEWSLETTER

VOL. 52 No. 5 MAY 2004

Jerry Garner, Editor

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.

May 16 – Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids will speak on mini-Cattleyas

June 13 – Field Trip! Off to Madison, Wisconsin and Orchids by the Ackers and the Oberlich Botanical Gardens. There is still time to sign up – 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 - Our annual holiday party at Hausermanns!

Other Dates To Remember

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.

May 16th, Last day to sign up for the June field trip to Madison. Talk to Rosalie Dixler on or before this date if you plan to go.

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.

And Keep In Mind

Pay your IOS dues, if you haven't already. Members who aren't paid up to date will be dropped from the directory and mailing lists when the new officers and Board members take office after the May meeting. Talk to Allen Morr right away with that payment in hand.

May 31st is the last day the AOS can renew your national membership at the current rate. Any renewals or new memberships received after that date must be at the new and higher membership rate. Renew now and save yourself a few dollars.

Check out the article in the April, May, June issue of *Orchid Digest* by Eric Christenson titled "Conservation in Action: Ecuagenera." Ecuagenera is owned by the Portilla brothers and has been a wonderful resource for many unusual plants at our shows and by mail order.

Be sure not to miss the last inside page of that same issue and "The Ten Warning Signs of Orchid Addiction" by Carol Siegel. How many additional signs that you're an orchid addict can you think of?



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	(jestubbings@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)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**Joe Dixler, IOS President****The Greater World of Orchids**

Thanks to all our volunteers for a very successful show. I hope you are all using our IOS bark mixture and Michigan State fertilizer to help you grow even better orchids for our next show. While our Newcomer Meetings that take place at 11:30am before our regular sessions at OCC can help answer your growing questions, you can get more specific information from various other orchid organizations. Many of you know that the Illinois Orchid Society is one of 56 Midwest societies that are members of the Mid-American orchid region, as well as one of the 450 societies that belong to the American Orchid Society. Other Regional societies in the U.S. include the Eastern Orchid Congress, Florida-Caribbean Orchid Association, Orchid Digest Corporation, Southland Orchid Show, and the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association. Our Mid-American region has societies only as members, but both societies and individuals can join the AOS. There are presently 26,400 individual members from all over the world in the AOS. Of the 450 affiliated societies, 160 are located outside the U.S. representing 104 different countries. So the American Orchid Society is a misnomer, as it is really a world orchid society. “Orchids” magazine is published by the AOS, and the Orchid Forum Discussion on the AOS web site at www.orchidweb.org can be very helpful. As you know, my wife, Rosalie, is the current AOS representative from our society, as well as the Mid-West liaison for 15 regional orchid societies as a member of The Affiliated Societies Committee of the AOS. There are other orchid specialty societies and alliances, many of which are also members of the

AOS. They can offer help to individuals who specialize in growing a specific type of orchid. Most have meetings or conferences each year and publish newsletters or magazines. For more information about orchid publications go to <http://www.orchidmall.com/general/periodic.htm> Our own Board member Rich Unger is active in the Encyclia Enthusiasts, founded in May 2002. Its mission is to serve an educational function by providing the general public with botanical and horticultural information on the genus Encyclia and other orchidaceae that once were classified as Encyclia. Its purpose is to promote the cultivation, propagation, conservation, hybridization and exhibition of these orchids both *in situ* (in the wild) and *ex situ* (in cultivation). They currently have 60+ members and maintain a website at www.encyclias.org.

**Cattleya Pretty Lass ‘Pink Sensations’**

The Slipper Orchid Alliance (SOA) is dedicated to the preservation of and education about all slipper orchids (those with a pouch as a lip) including Cypripedium, Mexipedium, Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium, and Selenipedium. This international organization, begun in the fall of 1999, presently has about 250 members.

Their purpose is to foster understanding of all lady-slipper orchids and their cultivation; encourage their conservation in natural habitats; discourage collection of wild specimens by encouraging the artificial propagation of endangered species ex situ; promote scientific and horticultural studies of slipper orchid species and hybrids; exchanges information at regional, national, and international forums and meetings; and to serve as a data and information center. Their website is www.slipperorchid.org

and www.sonic.net The Paphiopedilum Guild is another paph organization that the AOS sponsors.

The Global Paphiopedilum Alliance and the Virginia Paphiopedilum Society are two additional groups.

The objective of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) is to bring phal growers together for the purpose of addressing problems of their immediate concern, and to share and disseminate cultural information for the advancement and conservation of the phalaenopsis family of orchids. There are 18 different regions including the Caribbean and the U.K. that participate in this organization. Bill Nelson, a member of our society who lives in Wisconsin, is the Regional representative. They sponsor an interactive Bulletin Board on their website at www.phal.org for discussing orchid care, and also have a Digest and a Journal. Their Tenth Phalaenopsis Symposium will be held from July 23 to 25, 2004 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Union Station in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Pleurothallid Alliance encourages the cultivation, conservation and appreciation of all orchids of the subtribe Pleurothallidinae. That consists of a group of 32 genera of New World orchids that include Masdevallias, Draculas, and Lepanthes. The Alliance assists in disseminating knowledge about Pleurothallids, gathering information about habitats and supporting horticultural and scientific studies.

Some of you know Lynn O'Shaughnessy who is very active in this group. Their outstanding website is at www.pleurothallids.com

There is also a Pleurothallid Alliance in the U.K at website

<http://www.pleuro.co.uk> A website for the Werkgroep Masdevallia is at <http://www.botorch>.

with 85 members in the Netherlands and Belgium. Another special-interest group is called The Maxillaria Tribe has a website at <http://www.geocities.com/rainforest/5278/>

The Odontoglossum Alliance is an international organization devoted to the exchange of information about the orchid plants in the Odontoglossum Alliance, as Oncidium, Odontoglossum, Miltoniopsis, and Tolumnia.

For a small additional fee you may also subscribe to the New Zealand Odontoglossum Alliance as well.

Their website is www.odontoglossumalliance.org The International Oncidiinae Alliance is another group.

The CSA (Cymbidium Society of America) was established over 40 years ago in California to stimulate and extend the appreciation of Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilums and other cool-growing orchids. Now consisting of ten individual branches, the Cymbidium Society strives to develop, acquire and disseminate information by publishing a bimonthly "CSA Journal" and through a discussion forum on their website at www.cymbidium.org/. There are meetings throughout the State of California, in Japan, New Zealand and Australia. They train and certify their own judges for Cymbidiums and Paphiopedilums only. California is the largest branch with eight judging centers that meet in different locations each month. The judging procedure is similar to that in England, based upon "Perfection" in form and color, and they do not check awarded plants or discuss type and breeding as in the AOS system. The Californians and the Japanese give out Bronze, Silver and Gold medals based on point counts, instead of an HCC, CBR, etc. that

the AOS awards. It takes six years to become a certified CSA judge (7 years in the AOS system) and there are presently approximately 47 people in their judging system versus about 500 AOS judges. Other judging systems that include training and education are the AOC (Australian) the OCNZ (Orchid Council of New Zealand), the OSGB (Orchid Society of Great Britain), and JOGA (Japan Orchid Growers' Association). England, as represented by the RHS Orchid Committee, has no formal training--members are simply invited to join, and their award include FCC, AM, and a PC (Preliminary Commendation) plus Cultural and lesser awards.

The Catasetum/Stanhopea Alliance was formed at the 16th World Orchid Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. An e-mail contact is gtingley@interchange.ube.ca A Brazilian Catasetinae Growers Association (ABRACC) with international overtones has been in existence for several years.

Tom Franczak, our IOS website editor and cattleya grower, said there was no U.S. society for that species, but in Brazil he came up with the [Associação da Cattleya walkeriana – ACW](http://www.acw.org.br). (e-mail: acw@arvore.com.br) at Rua Delegado Álvaro Loureiro, 80, Palmares, CEP 31160-650, Belo Horizonte – MG, Brazil, Tel.: (011 31) 3426 3630/3486 7730 with a website at <http://arvore.com.br/acw/index.html>. In Japan he found the Association of Cattleya walkeriana with their website at <http://www.orchid.or.jp/orchid/society/acw/>. K.T.S. has a Japanese website at <http://www.ne.jp/asahi/j/kts/>; and Wide Hill Cattleya Club at <http://www1.kcn.ne.jp/~widehill/>. The only website I found that mentioned the North American Native Orchid Alliance is <http://www.naorchid.org>. In our State you can contact the Illinois Native Plant Society at the Forest Glen Preserve, 20301 E. 900 North Road, Westville, IL 61883 on the website www.il-inps.org. INPS is concerned with conservation of our native orchid population, such as the Prairie Fringed Orchid. Go to <http://www.newnorth.net/~mruh/links.html> for links to other native American orchid websites. The Orchid Specialist Group (OSG) of the IUCN (World Conservation Union) is concerned with conservation of orchids worldwide. Established in 1984, they have about 200 members from 44 countries that consist of scientists, educators, nursery people, amateur growers and ecologists. Nearly 80 organizations and societies with conservation interests are represented, including botanic gardens, herbaria, universities, nurseries, government departments and orchid societies. Their mission is "To assist in international efforts to conserve plant diversity, by providing technical support and encouragement of the development and execution of programs to study, document, save, restore and manage wisely orchids and their habitats." Their website is at <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/> and they have published a red list of endangered and rare orchids. I often see some of our IOS members' names on the lists of these other organizations. We are an active group! Personally I am a member of the IOS, AOS, OSG (Ex Situ Group) of the IUCN, SOA and the Pleurothallid Alliance. This hobby can become addictive!

Submit news and other information for the June newsletter no later than May 20th.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Allen Morr, Membership Chairman

Please extend a warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the IOS. This is an all-time record for new members during a single month, with 41 joining at our Spring show.

Dolores & Bill Lienesch ~ Grayslake
 Bob & Donna Kobetsky ~ Chicago
 Laurie Pellegrine ~ Deerfield
 Lee Eddy ~ Deerfield
 John Wagner ~ Naperville
 Loretta Webster ~ Park Ridge
 Pat Rheel ~ Des Plaines
 Ed & Joan Meikel ~ Schaumburg
 Nicole Wilson ~ Des Plaines
 Carolyn Kitty ~ Chicago
 Susan Moser ~ Niles
 Jane Whitehead ~ Chicago
 Lucille Herman ~ Evanston
 Ronald Lichter ~ Chicago
 Armando Ticzon ~ Chicago
 Lucille & Arlene Ticzon ~ Chicago
 Ray & Kathy Cunningham ~ Arlington Heights
 Gayle Brankin ~ Highland Park
 Dan Herting ~ Highland Park
 Gayle & Bob Risch ~ Mt. Prospect
 Helen Pates ~ Chicago
 Virginia Dainauskas ~ Woodridge
 Toby Green ~ Buffalo Grove
 Bev & Jeff Hayes ~ Vernon Hills
 Millie & Gary Hirsch ~ Highland Park
 Larry Fanscalzici ~ Mt. Prospect
 Anne Zankovick ~ Chicago
 Barbara Woody ~ Glenview
 Debbie & Bruce Reed ~ Belvidere
 Sonja Utter ~ Niles
 Judy Ryan ~ Wilmette
 Donna Marchand ~ Northbrook
 Donna Siemro ~ Arlington Heights
 Mark Walter ~ Rockford
 Robert & Kathleen Sierecki ~ Deerfield
 Eva Tarini ~ Chicago
 Thomas Barnard ~ Chicago
 Stacy Keglovitz ~ Chicago
 Jody Cardinal ~ Prospect Heights
 Kathe Biondi ~ Evanston
 Albert & Leta Smith ~ Park Ridge
 Marilyn Kuper ~ Arlington Heights
 John Lee ~ Clarendon Hills

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.

May Meeting Notes

Wendy Wesley, 1st Vice President, Program Chairman

Our May meeting will be May 16th at OCC beginning with the newcomers session at 11:30.

It is our last meeting of the IOS year, so don't miss this one!

I am very excited to announce that our workshop this month will be given by our past president, John Stubbings. He will be talking to us about bringing our orchids outside for the summer. I can speak from personal experience how beneficial this can be to your orchids. We all will be able to learn something from this talk.

Our speaker this month is an expert that we had at my very first IOS meeting. He is the reason I was hooked on coming to IOS meetings! Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids in California will talk to us about mini-Cattleyas. Please see his website especially if you would like to preorder plants (www.goldcountryorchids.com). Alan's plants are of the highest quality. As a side note I noticed that he does have some of the Cattleya species that Bill mentioned in his talk on Cattleyas earlier in the year, so check it out.

Just a quick re-cap on our March meeting. Leo Kusber gave an informative talk on Zygopetalums. One thing that I thought was very interesting was that most Zygo hybrids come from breeding only 3 types of Zygo species.

Leo also talked about growing conditions to make the plants grow and bloom at their best: good air movement; lots of water; and the plants prefer to be pot bound.



Cattleya species (Photo from Stewart Orchids)

Mid-America Orchid Congress

Contact Pat Cleveland

(medgas@mindspring.com) for specific information regarding date – May 22nd & 23rd or just May 22nd – and the program content. “Orchid” lists the event as a show but elsewhere it was referred to as a speakers day. The meeting will be held in Marietta, Georgia (near Atlanta) at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel, convenient to the airport and to the Interstate Highways. Pat Cleveland should be able to give you information on the speakers and their topics.

Spring Show Update

Lois Cinert, Home Show Chairman

Thank you all for working so hard to help make our spring show a success. It seems like we spend all our time waiting for the show, working and planning and asking for your help. When show time arrives, it is so good to see all of you there, lending a hand. The vendors and societies who exhibit at our show appreciated your help in unloading their prized plants, and seeing that they get located correctly. We all appreciate the smiles and welcoming words to our guests. We put most of our volunteers into a ‘nest’ in the center of the room, and kept them all busy with the raffle, cut flower sales, membership, and plant information. We sold sweatshirts and polos, books and pins. With the generous gift of cut blossoms from Orchids by Hausermann, Reme Tesch was able to beautifully demonstrate the art of corsage making.

Joe has thanked all the volunteers in his message, but I want to especially thank Pat Kralik and Sherry Maloney for their usual professional handling of plant registration, and Pat for donating our show schedules. Barry Lubin adopts a job, and runs with it, needing no prodding. This time it was our raffle, and he did his usual excellent job. Mr. Ed Gamson has always seen to the smooth unloading of all the cars and vans and trucks that come to our show filled with plants for sale, and plants for exhibit; he added his best effort again. Joe Dixler and his cohort of potters sent home lots of newly happy plants, in our own special bark mix. And I don't know how we could have a show without Wally Zielinski at the plant sales table, and his excellent co-workers, the Minnises. There were several people who were at the show, almost for the whole two days: Felicia Cochran, Sherry Reddick, Anne Kotowski, and Jerry Garner.

Thank you to the folks who helped tape the plastic, unload the cars, cart the plants, help with registration, count and file, tape the tags, sort the folders, double check everything twice. Thanks to the judges and clerks, for recognizing the best of all the exquisite flowers that graced our show. Thank you to everyone who patiently answered questions from all the people who came to the show. Thank you for selling shirts, pins, books, raffle tickets, cut flowers, corsages, memberships, and giving of all your knowledge and experience.

We hope you all took advantage of this excellent opportunity to look at all of the gorgeous flowers on display. It is a great opportunity to see new orchids, to find out how to grow them, to talk to the professional growers and learn their 'secrets' of successful growing. And we hope you had fun, whether you were just visiting the show to see and shop, or if you were one of our hard-working volunteers. This can be a fun, exhausting, rewarding weekend. We hope you were a part of it; if not, we will give you another opportunity next year! See you at the show!

May IOS Board Meeting

The IOS Board will meet Tuesday May 4th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Sue Golan, 599 West Old Mill Road, Lake Forest. Any member may attend the Board meeting but you should notify Sue or Joe Dixler for them to plan for your attendance.



Spring 2004 Show - The IOS Display Was Outstanding!



Bulbophyllum pulchellum

📣 ORCHID SALE 📣

Sale -- Saturday May 15th at Clown Alley Orchids from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM. A lot of Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, and Oncidiums. Also, overgrown compots with all the supplies to pot up. 2825 Weller Lane, Northbrook. Call John Stubbings 847-767-0948.

Still Some Room On the Bus: Just A Few More People Needed To Make June Excursion A Success

Don't delay any longer! If you are planning to go on the bus tour to Madison in June, get your check to Rosalie Dixler (made out to IOS) right away. We only need a few more people to make this exciting trip happen.

The date is Sunday June 13th and the \$45.00 cost covers the bus trip plus lunch at J. T. Whitney's. Stops will be at Orchids by the Ackers in the morning and Olbrich Botanical Gardens after lunch. Here we will view the unique Thai Pavilion and the Gardens' orchid collection. The bus will leave from and return to OCC.

This is an exciting trip arranged specifically for orchid lovers. Your last chance to submit checks or giving Rosalie a verbal commitment is May 16th.

Check out the IOS website at www.iosoc.com
A lot of good information, great photos, and up to the minute news!

Volunteers Needed for Lincoln Park Show
Claire Papiewski, Outreach Chairman

Volunteers are needed to represent the IOS at the Lincoln Park Conservatory Orchid Show over Mother's Day weekend. People are needed to staff a membership information table May 6th, 7th, and 8th in shifts between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If you can spend some time this weekend in this beautiful orchid environment, call Allen Morr (847-501-2532) or Barbara Schmitz (773-275-3061), co-chairs of this event for the IOS.

2004/2005 Officers & Board Nominations
Submitted by Barry Lubin for the Nominating Committee

Below is a table listing current IOS officers and Board members and a slate of members nominated for 2004/2005. Please review this slate prior to voting at the May 16th 2004 membership meeting. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at that meeting.

OFFICERS	In Office 2003	Proposed 2004
President	Joe Dixler	Wendy Wesley
1 st Vice President	Wendy Wesley	Barry Lubin
2 nd Vice President	Lois Cinert	Lois Cinert
3 rd Vice President	Diana Nielsen	Sandy Fuller
Secretary	Jim Spatzek	Jim Spatzek
Asst. Secretary	Jerry Garner	Jerry Garner
Treasurer	Steve Lipson	Steve Lipson
Asst. Treasurer	Allen Morr	Allison Tribble
Immediate Past President	John Stubbings	Joe Dixler
DIRECTORS		
Joel Edwards	2004	Term Expires
Allison Tribble	2004	Term Expires
Ed Gamson	2005	Term Continues
Barry Lubin	2005	Jim Bestman
Anne Kotowski	2006	Term Continues
Rich Unger	2006	Term Continues
Sandy Fuller	2007	Allen Morr
Sue Golan	2007	Term Continues
	2008	Claire Papiewski
	2008	Barbara Schmitz

Plant Judging Points
Sandy Fuller, Awards Chairman

Awards Update

We have one more opportunity to earn points at our monthly meeting in May as the June meeting will be a road trip to Madison, Wisconsin. The winners will be awarded at the July meeting at Triton College. Thanks to everyone who has brought plants this year. It has been fun to see our tables bursting with beautiful plants! I have been able to capture all the points awarded at our meetings. And Lois and Diana have given me the records from our shows and away shows. If you feel there are any discrepancies between your records and mine, now is the time to let me know so we can clear them up. By the way, if you have received an AOS award this year, congratulations! Please let me know if you have not already done so.

Lights / Windows	Points
Ault, Michael	17
Bennett, Barb	35
Bestman, Jim and Gerry	5
Buckles, Betsy	45
Burns, Joe *	10
Cinert, Lois	304
Dandekar, Rebecca *	21
Davis, Joan	49
Delvecchio, Pat	10
Denning, Faye *	4
Edwards, Joel	540
Ejercito, Kurt *	12
Emmerich, Joan	15
Fuller, Sandy	308
Garner, Jerry	11
Gemeinhart, Ernie	33
Hall, Julie *	35
High, Chuck & Jane	31
Kotowski, Anne	18
Losert, Wilfred	683
Maloney, Sherry	1028
Manuel, Alex	175
Millman, Morris	22
Minnis, Ralph	15
Nelson, Bil	33
Nielsen, Diana	322

Papiewski, Claire	86
Samuelson, Helen and David *	63
Schmitz, Barbara	297
Schordje, Leo	284
Seidel, Gerhard *	50
Spitz, Nancy	20
Stam, Leo & Gale (L)	18
Taylor, Martin	60
Tirzmalis, Sue *	3
Titterton, George *	8
Tribble, Allison *	144
Unger, Rich	221
Vrabel, Ken	161
Wesley, Wendy	51

Greenhouse	
Dixler, Joe and Rosalie	1278
Gamson, Ed	270
Golan, Sue	472
Hoel, Bob	20
Lipson, Steve and Judy	144
Lubin, Barry	139
Mestdagh, J&V *	21
Morr, Allen	35
Passine, Paul	318
Rogerson, Bill	110
Sahagian, Laima	204
Stubbings, John	199
Thompson, Carole	109
Zielinski, Wally	32

* New members

REMINDER 👤👤👤👤👤👤👤

No membership meeting in June. In lieu of the meeting, a great field trip to enjoy and purchase orchids has been arranged for June 13th. Sign up deadline is May 16th. See notice on page 6 in this newsletter.

MEMBER MORSELS

Barbara Schmitz, Welcome Wagon

Nancy Jean Schoo hit the cover of National Nursing Magazine this month with it's featured article on Bariatric surgery. Probably why some of us have walked by her and did a double take. She's lost almost 100 pounds in the past several months, and looks terrific!

We haven't seen many of her beautiful orchids on the member's table recently because she's been busy writing a book about her personal life change. She is training for an amazing triathlon this summer as well. Good luck and best wishes with both, Nancy Jean!



Cattleya sp. at the 2004 IOS Spring Show (Photo by Al Papiewski)

ORCHID POPULARITY STILL "GROWING" IN U.S.

Lee Cooke, AOS

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Floriculture Crops Survey for the year 2002, compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Survey, orchids are growing in popularity in the United States. Currently second in potted flowering plant sales at \$106 million in reported wholesale sales, orchid sales increased by four percent this past year. This is the highest percentage increase of all the potted flowering plants in the category. Orchids are second behind poinsettias, which experienced a three percent decrease with \$247 million in sales, and they are significantly ahead of third-ranked chrysanthemums, which increased two percent to \$77 million in sales.

There were more than 12.7 million orchids sold in the United States last year, reflecting the growth of the flower's popularity. "People are learning that orchids are not the delicate plants that they were once perceived to be, but are hearty, easy-to-maintain plants that have the ability to bloom all year long," said Lee Cooke, executive director of the American Orchid Society (AOS). Long known as a flower of distinction, and featured in countless advertisements for everything from clothing and furniture to architecture and design, orchids have a distinct and undeniable mystique. Exceptional plants are

produced at low cost by nurseries throughout the United States, but the huge volume of quality plants grown and marketed by large commercial growers in Florida, California and Hawaii contributed to most of the sales boom.

"Orchids are the largest group of flowering plants in nature. There are more than 25,000 identified species, with the total number probably reaching 30,000, and new species are being discovered each year," said Dr. Rob Griesbach, genetic researcher of floral plants for the U.S. National Arboretum, and president of the AOS. "With so many choices, there's an orchid for every person's taste."

Orchids have been included as a separate entry in the annual USDA Floriculture Crops Summary Report since 1995 when they were first submitted by the nonprofit AOS. Floriculture refers to plants in the categories of bedding, cut cultivated greens, cut flowers, flowering potted plants and foliage plants. California leads the nation in orchid production, accounting for 34 percent of the country's orchids; however, Florida and Hawaii are close behind with a value of 31 and 26 percent, respectively. Together, these three states account for more than 90 percent of the country's orchids.

For information concerning membership, orchid-related topics such as orchid education, research and conservation, orchid shows and events, plant-care suggestions and more, visit the American Orchid Society's Web site at www.orchidweb.org or call the AOS Visitors Center and Botanical Garden in Delray Beach, Florida, at 561-404-2000.

How Are Orchids Judged? What Do Those Letters Mean?

The American Orchid Society (and other national groups) has established a series of criteria of excellence by which orchid plants are evaluated. Individual orchid plants ("cultivars" or "clones") may receive flower quality awards such as the First Class Certificate (FCC/AOS, 90+ points), Award of Merit (AM/AOS, 80 - 89 points), or Highly Commended Certificate (HCC/AOS, 75 - 79 points). Other awards may be given for achievement in culture, Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM/AOS), or for botanical novelty, the Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR/AOS) and the Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM/AOS). While there are other flower awards that may be encountered, these will be the most commonly seen. Such awards are the

purchaser's assurance of a high level of flower quality, whether in the plant itself or of its parents. Plants are judged at monthly judgments held at Centers around the country, or at AOS-sanctioned orchid shows, of which there are over 250 annually around the world.

Phalaenopsis Culture / Growing Tips for Moth Orchids

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"Phals" are among the easiest orchids to grow in the home or greenhouse. This is the orchid most people relate to when they see orchids. Today, we find phals in the background of motion pictures, TV shows and interviews, and even advertisements.

BLOOMING: Sprays of flowers can be open for 3 months or more. Large plants with multiple spikes can have blooms up to 8 months a year. Flowers and buds may drop if exposed to excessive heat or cold, or if they have their pollen removed. Once the flowers wilt on a spike, the spike can be cut above the second node from the bottom. This will often result in a second spray of flowers. Although the second spray may not have as many flowers or have them as large as the first spray, this is a great way to extend the blooming of your healthy plant. Remember that phals need to build strength for their next blooming, so sometimes it is best to cut a spike off instead of re-blooming it each year.

LIGHT: Phals prefer bright indirect light from an east window or a curtained south or west window in the home, or moderately shaded in the greenhouse. Phals also do wonderful under lights positioned 1' above the leaves for 12 hours per day.

WATERING: Since phals can only store water in their leaves, they need to be watered when their media is just about to dry out. In the home, this could be every 2-3 days in the warm seasons to every 10 days in cooler seasons. A good tip is to pull the pot label and feel if it is dry for most of its length yet moist near the bottom. It is always best to water in the morning so the foliage can be dry by evening.

HUMIDITY: The humidity for phals should be between 50% and 80%, which can be maintained in the home by setting the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water. The plants must never sit in water. Also, you can mist the plants in the morning every once in a while to keep them happy.

TEMPERATURE: Night temperatures should normally stay above 60 degrees, and a day

temperature of 75-85 degrees is preferred. Night temperatures down to 55 degrees should be provided for a couple weeks in the fall to initiate the flowering spikes. Once buds start to form on the spike, the temperatures should be increased 65 degrees at night.

FERTILIZER: We recommend a high nitrogen fertilizer like 30-10-10 if potted in a bark media. Use the fertilizer at half strength every other watering, and flush the plant with plain water on the watering in between. In the fall, use a bloom booster formula like 15-30-15 to help initiate flowering.

REPOTTING: Phals are usually repotted every 1-3 years, and it is essential to repot if your media breaks down (soggy, mushy). Use an open media like a bark mixture to get air to the roots. Repotting is best done after flowering.

BRING IN YOUR PLANTS FOR THE MAY JUDGING TABLE – LAST CHANCE TO ADD TO THE 2003/2004 TOTALS

Both photographs on the right were taken by Al Papiewski at the IOS 2004 Spring Show. Thank you, Al, for these great photos and to the folks who grew these beautiful plants!



Phal. sp.



Masd. sp.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

Postmaster: Dated Material

Voting for 2004/2005 Officers & Board Members @ May 16th Meeting – Slate of Nominees on Page 7 of Newsletter

Last Notice – 2004 Dues Need To Be Paid

Membership Meeting May 16th at OCC

Last Date To Register for June Bus Trip: May 16th

Deadline for Submitting Material for June Newsletter - May 20th