



ILLINOIS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 52 No. 6 June 2004

Jerry Garner, Editor

2004 Meeting and Speaker Schedule

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 Important Dates To Remember

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

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.

September 10-11-12 - 8:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m. Twelfth Annual Chicagoland Orchidfest, See www.orchidfestival.com Map on website. Hosted by Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association. Guest growers to give presentations and offer plants for sale. Visit six orchid nurseries all within a 40 minute drive. Oak Hill Gardens, Klehm Growers, Windsong Orchids, William J. Shaban (Phal. breeder), EFG Orchids, Orchids by Hausermann, Fox Valley Orchids Ltd., Natt's Orchids. Drawings for gift certificates. \$600.00 grand prize. Contact any grower for details.

Lincoln Park Conservatory News

Claire Papiewski, Outreach Chairman

The Lincoln Park Conservatory devotes an entire room to display orchid plants in bloom every day of the year. The Conservatory had its first Annual Orchid Show May 5-9. Volunteers from the IOS who helped with the project were: Carolyn Johnson, Alfred Papiewski, Allen Morr, Barbara Schmitz, Allison & David Tribble, Sheryl Bury-Michals, Rosalie and Joe Dixler, Julie Hall, and Barry Lubin. Special thanks to Rosalie Dixler for setting up a beautiful information table for the IOS. Yes, she had to dig into our cabinets at the OCC for supplies, run to the store for more, then journey into Chicago to set up the display before the show, but the results were fantastic! If anyone is interested in the Docent Program at the Conservatory to care for orchids legally left in their care, please contact Steven Meyer, Horticulturist: phone (312) 742-7739, e-mail: steven.meyer@chicagoparkdistrict.com. Carolyn Johnson has already offered to help.



Photos by Al Papiewski, Lincoln Park Show

2004 –2005 Election Results

The entire slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee for officers and Board members for the 2004-2005 year was approved unanimously by the membership at the May 2004 meeting. **New** officers include: Wendy Wesley, President; Barry Lubin, 1st Vice President (Program Chairman); Sandy Fuller, 3rd Vice President (Away Show Chairman); Allison Tribble, Asst. Treasurer (Membership Chairman). Joe Dixler is the current Past-President. Other officers – Lois Cinert, Jim Spatzek, Jerry Garner, and Steve Lipson, continue in the office they held 2003-2004. Members retiring from the Board were Joel Edwards, Allison Tribble, Barry Lubin, and Sandy Fuller. They were replaced by Allen Morr, Jim Bestman, Claire Papiewski, and Barbara Schmitz. Other Board members will serve through their term expiration date. A complete list of the new officers and Board of Directors can be found on page 4 of this newsletter. New officers and Board members take office effective July 1, 2004.

President's Message

Joe Dixler, President

Since I will be part of IOS history after July 1st when Wendy takes over the office of President, I decided to give you all an IOS history lesson. Jim Spatzek, who I learned is probably the fourth longest (not oldest or tallest) enduring member of the society since 1975 or 76, and Tom Franczak who joined in 1989, and is our IOS website master now living in Ohio, helped me with this history.

The IOS was organized with ten original members in early 1952, and a charter was adopted that fall. In March of 1953, we became affiliated with the American Orchid Society. We were incorporated in Illinois in September 1957. The first meetings of the IOS were held in the Pure Oil Building in Chicago in the office of the first president, C. Edward Chapman. A series of moves followed: first to the Gold Dome in Garfield Park; then a more lengthy stay at the Lincoln Park Conservatory potting shed; and finally a few meetings at the Kilbourne Park Field House. Finally in 1958 we found a more permanent home at the Field Museum of Natural History. In 1971 we relocated to the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, meeting regularly on the 3rd Sunday of the month, where the membership grew to about 150. When the Chicago Botanic Garden opened in the 70's, we moved there and stayed until 2003 when we moved again to OCC!

Dorathy Kuper and her husband were founders of the IOS and we think she is the oldest living member. Tom thinks that Hermann Pigors of Oak Hill Nursery is next in the number of years as a member of the IOS, as he remembers meetings at the Lincoln Park Conservatory! Jim believes Bill Shaban may be third in line. Tom said that Dorathy and Rebecca Northern are honorary members of the society.

The first IOS Display was held in March 1958 at the Home and Garden Show at Navy Pier. The IOS hosted the second Mid-America Orchid Congress in Chicago, in October 1960, and was important in the founding of that organization. Another Mid America Congress was held here in Fall of 1992 (that was the year I joined the society); and again in Spring 1997; our last Mid America held in 2002 at the Chicago Botanic Garden, also hosted the American Orchid Society Trustees Meeting which we had also previously sponsored in 1986. Take a moment to look at our scrapbook with this history that our historian, Norine Ortega, will bring to meetings.

I am happy to have played a small role in the history of the Illinois Orchid Society, even experiencing one of our many moves! When I accepted the position I did not know we would be looking for a new home and leaving the Chicago Botanic Garden within 6 months! These two years serving in this capacity were exciting and challenging. When policies at the CBG became more restrictive than we could live with, voting to move was not an easy decision after over 20 years there. Moving our location involved much searching and planning. Finding a suitable new location with the needed facilities, laying out the space for the general meetings and shows, and changing our policy about paying for space and charging admission required a new attitude. Our new location at OCC has many positives—free parking with easy access to our meeting room, a permanent room for our meeting that regularly occurs the same weekend, enough storage space near our meeting room for our cabinets, our choice of dates for our shows, one show room where all vendors have the same opportunity to be seen, an indoor area and easily accessible outdoor one for the unloading of plants for the shows, and an extremely cooperative staff to work with. Fortunately I had a flexible and hard working Board that was up for the task of handling the details of this move. I am happy to report that the society has made much progress during my term. Our membership

has never been greater and the numbers of people attending our meetings and bringing plants for ribbon judging keeps increasing. Since my term began we have initiated many new programs, such as the Mentors and Newcomers Meetings; new chairman positions to handle Communications, Show Publicity, Plant Movers, Sunshine, and Outreach; e-mail for member newsletters and announcements; an email and mailing list for sending messages and post cards to publicize our shows; and printed invitation cards to a meeting for those who attend our shows. We now have professionally designed IOS show posters and bookmarks and have placed ads on the radio and in newspapers as well. Our IOS shirts not only have identified our members at shows and made us look very professional. We had a very successful rare plant and silent auction and tried out other new ideas at our recent shows, like the repotting booth, selling our own bark mix and the Michigan State fertilizer. For the first time we invited outside organizations, such as the Ikebana Club, Triton College, and Massey's Vanilla Company, to exhibit at last fall's Expo. We have had a presence in the community at nursery open houses, other shows and conservatories for almost all their orchid related events. My hope is that we can continue to attract more new members and soon have even more people than those who formerly attended our shows at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

I appreciate the opportunity to lead this group. By speaking with many of you, I was able to respond to your concerns. This organization does not run by itself nor is it run by its president alone. A lot of effort by the Board as well as volunteers is required for our meetings, shows and events to be successful. I want to give a special thank you to my wife, Rosalie, who has been there to help wherever needed. While growing orchids is still my priority, it is also fulfilling to believe I have made a beneficial difference to the organization. I encourage you all to get involved with the society and make your preferences known. Thank you for helping and making my job easier during the past two years. Please give your support to Wendy so we can continue our successes.

REMINDER – There will be NO June membership meeting. In its place, a bus trip has been planned to visit an orchid grower and the Olbrich Botanical Garden near Madison, WI.

Member Morsels

Barbara Schmitz, Welcome Wagon

The October 2004 Chicago Marathon is going to have one of our old time members among the runners. Barry Lubin will be running his 13th (yes, thirteenth) marathon and he is well into the exhausting training regimen it takes to finish one of races. Amazing! It would be fun to have the IOS cheering team meet him at the finish line with bouquets of orchids! If any other IOS members are running in the Marathon, let us know. I'm sure Barry would appreciate a "rabbit" and the company during this long and challenging race. Good Luck, Barry!

Deadline for submitting news or other information for the July newsletter is June 19th. Send to Jerry Garner garnerjl@comcast.net

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Allison Tribble, Membership Chairman

Please extend a warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the IOS. With the addition of these 15 new members, our active membership has risen to 319. We all welcome these newcomers to our forum to exchange information and share friendship in the context of orchid growing.

Dan Benninghoven ~ Chicago
 Shelley Gordon ~ Chicago
 Betsy Grenzeback ~ Chicago
 Merle Gross ~ Old Mill Creek
 Theresa Hush ~ Chicago
 Marilyn Katz ~ Chicago,
 Marilyn Kessler ~ Chicago
 John & Tory Maloy ~ Berwyn
 Steven Meyer ~ Chicago
 Isabel Montoya ~ Glenview
 John Schneider ~ Chicago
 Judith Seeger ~ Chicago
 Patty Smith ~ Chicago
 Magnes Welsh ~ Chicago
 Ruth Zenker ~ Chicago

Remember the IOS has a Mentor Program for all members, plus a Newcomers Program on the day of the membership meetings at 11:30 a.m. Talk to Allison Tribble for more info.

Attention Phal Growers

Lois Cinert, 2nd V.P. and Home Show Chairman

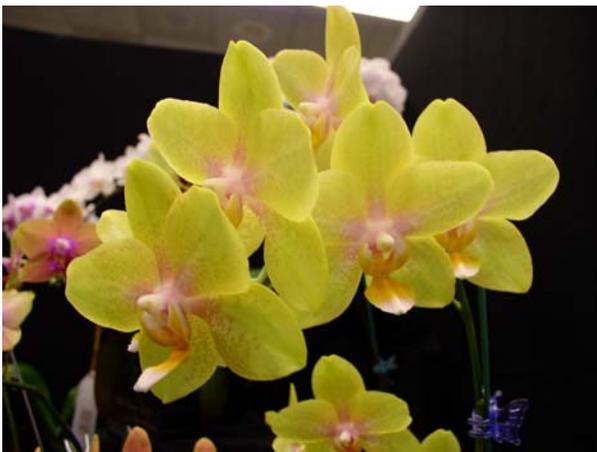
OK, phal growers. It's time to repot. If you missed the opportunity to bring your babies to the show, you'll just have to do it yourself. Spring is the time that phals start their new growth. Over the summer they will start new leaves and new roots to gain the strength to send out those wonderful flowers in the late fall and winter.

Now is the time to get them ready by refreshing the medium. It's a good time to check out the roots and make sure there are no problems with critters or bad roots. Your plants will grow best if they are repotted now.

If you have a large plant, with leaf-span larger than 12", your plant is probably mature and strong. You will have to decide if you want to cut the flower spike, or wait to enjoy the flowers a little longer. If your plant is smaller, it might be best to cut the spike and let the plant rest, recover, and grow stronger.

Our own IOS potting mix is an excellent choice for your phal, but there are many excellent choices for what to put into your pot. We have successful growers in our society who grow in sphagnum moss, Promix, or any variety of bark mixes. Many are available commercially, or you can mix your own with bark, charcoal, perlite, chopped moss, and many other ingredients. Find what works in your growing area. Although they are available in bloom all year-round, phals will tend to get seasonal when they are away from the greenhouse environment, and will follow their own growing pattern. In our area, most will grow over the summer, and start their spikes in the fall and winter. Now is the time to get them on their way with repotting and spring cleanup.

Happy growing!



A gorgeous yellow Phal from the IOS Spring Show. Photo courtesy of Al Papiewski.

Orchid Hike 5-8-04:

Your Occasional Report From The Ohio Chapter.

Tom Franczak, IOS Webmaster and Orchid Guru

Ken and Dawn Mettler sent invitations out in April and Leo Schordje and I gladly accepted. Leo drove through the night and arrived at my place around 4 in the morning. After a power nap in the 3-star guest room, (a cocked mousetrap next to the snooze button on the alarm clock is such a useful accessory), Leo bounced up, and we were on the road to Hocking Hills by 10.

Hocking Hills is aptly named. There's barely enough level land on the Mettlers' 19 or 20 wooded acres for their house to stand on. Of course, the most enviable aspect is that there's no lawn to mow!

We arrived just in time to miss the group that had departed for the alpine climb to where a *Cyp. parviflorum* was in bloom (aw, shucks); but when the main group returned, we were pretty relaxed and ready for the bunny trail part of the hike.



Unlike last year when a hailstorm had damaged many of the plants, the conditions were perfect this time. We soon came upon several clumps of *Galearis spectabilis* in flower.

We sampled some sassafras leaves and briar shoots as we slowly moved along. We encountered a number of species not in flower and stepped carefully around them. Then all of a sudden, we were in the midst of perhaps the largest stand of *Cyp. acaule* in all of Ohio. Hundreds of plants in flower ... on a ridge ... along the path we were walking, (an old logging trail) ... in the middle of the path we were walking ... everywhere.



We just had to stop and check for fragrance. What's your guess?



The answer is: YES! Deliciously fragrant!

The highlight of the hike was finding *Isotria verticillata* in flower. Fabulously rare and beautiful.



So what do you want to see? A picture of the *Isotria* or a picture of a few of the hikers with yours truly in front? Hey, always glad to oblige.

Heheheheh. You can find the *Isotria* pictures on the website (www.iosoc.com). Get to them through the thumbnail page <http://www.iosoc.com/Natives/alternatives.shtml>. While you're there, check out the double-flowered *Cyp. candidum* photo that Cathy Bloome sent me from her census work this year.

Back at base camp, Ken got the grill fired up. No Bambi-burgers like last year, but Dawn brought out four bottles of her home made wines so we had every reason to linger and talk. I don't recall exactly what we talked about, but her Niagara wine became my new favorite white. Its finish brought back memories of Catawba grapes from ages ago.

The next day, Judy and I took Leo to Salt Fork State Park to see Hosak's Cave and other sights. I'm not crazy about hiking dangerous trails, blazed or not, but it was fun to find so many pink trilliums in flower.

We'll all get together next for the annual pilgrimage to see the sand hill cranes at the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area in mid-November ... a two or three hour drive for you, five for me. You don't need a ticket for that. Just check with Lois or Leo or Anne or Joel or Cathy or ... sometime next October to find out the date and what you should bring to the picnic (yes, you read that right).

June Meeting Notes

Jerry Garner, Newsletter Editor

Because of the field trip to Wisconsin in June, there will be no regular membership meeting with the usual workshop, business session, and guest speaker. I'm sure those going on the bus trip June 13th are looking forward to a lot of orchid purchases at Orchids by the Ackers, an excellent lunch at J. T. Whitney's, and the Thai Pavilion and orchid collection at Olbrich Botanical Garden. If you've already signed up but have forgotten or need more details, contact Rosalie Dixler (847-432-7708 or jmd@dixler.net). The next regular membership meeting will be at Triton College. The meeting will begin at 11:30 with the Newcomers Session, followed by a workshop, business meeting, and guest speaker from Hoosier Orchids. Of course there will be the usual members' and vendor's plant sales, the judging table, and the ever so popular refreshments. For directions to Triton, check their website or contact Wendy Wesley (773-395-1771 or wswesley@aol.com).

May Program Recap

Our own John Stubbings presented an informative workshop on summering orchids outdoors. He included a helpful handout covering the basics of when to take them out and bring

them back in plus how to care for our orchids outdoors as well as preparing to bring them back in. Most of his recommendations were logical, even intuitive, but orchid growers aren't always the most logical folks.

Alan Koch of Gold County Orchids in Lincoln, California spoke on mini Cattleyas, his company's specialty. Some of his unusual tips included using fresh hydrogen peroxide (3%) drenches to control rots and to stimulate root growth; mini-Catts (all bifoliate Catts) like to grow with roots outside the pot or basket and they will photosynthesize with these roots; New Zealand sphagnum requires the addition of dolomite (lime, egg shell soup, or oyster shell) to reduce acidity; and minor or trace elements are more important than the macro or major elements in most orchids' nutrition. Mini-Catts respond well to foliar feeding on the undersides of the leaves using seaweed extract at ½ the recommended rate, repotting at the proper time is crucial to good orchid growth. That's a lot to remember plus there was even more information. If you missed the meeting, try to get a copy of Alan's handout from someone who was there.

Members In The News

John Stubbings, past-past president of the IOS, owner of Clown Alley Orchids, and Phal grower and speaker *extraordinaire* was recently elected President of the Phalaenopsis Alliance. Rumor has it, John will be returning to India soon. Governing from such a distance – crazy or pure genius? Seriously, congratulations, John, and our best wishes for a successful term of office.



**A beautiful Dendrobium from the IOS Spring Show.
Photo by Al Papiewski.**

Some Helpful Hints

Jerry Garner, Newsletter Editor

The following were taken from some old copies of the AOS "Orchid Bulletin" from the 80's and early 90's.

- When potting an orchid, use a small, inverted pot (clay preferred) over the center of the drainage hole to provide air to the roots and keep the medium from staying too wet and breaking down. If you use a plastic pot for this, a center drainage hole must be added. A two inch pot is just about perfect for a five or six inch pot.
- If you are using the packing material referred to as "peanuts" for drainage material, make sure you are not using the water soluble kind. Those that resemble tiny binoculars are made from corn starch and will dissolve in water leaving a sludge that supports the development of bacterial and fungal growths and impede drainage.
- To recycle discarded plant tags, scraping with a razor blade is easier than using solvents or an ink eraser.
- A Butane barbecue lighter is a practical tool for sterilizing any cutting tool used on orchids. The lighter is compact, inexpensive, and the flame can be adjusted to low or high. Look for an elongated nozzle and a trigger lock as safety features when purchasing your lighter.

May/June Orchid Checklist

Ned Nash, AOS Website

- **Cattleya** The last of the spring-flowering types, those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb, will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting

behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage.

May still presents some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month (May), they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. Light is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

□ ***Paphiopedilum*** The *Paphiopedilum* Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum* derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but also you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development.

The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

□ ***Phalaenopsis*** Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a

phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on *Doritis* background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season.

Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

Plant of the Month - Greenhouse

***Vanda Jimmy Miller* grown by Paul Passine**



Plant of the Month – Lights/Windowsill

Cypripedium pubescens grown by Leo Schordje



Congratulations to Paul and Leo on these beautiful plants. Thank you to Sandy Fuller for the submitting the information and the photos. 2003-2004 Judging Totals will be published in the July Newsletter.

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Limara Majestic

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JUNE
INSTEAD THERE WILL BE A PRE-REGISTERED
BUS EXCURSION TO WISCONSIN JUNE 13TH

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING JULY 11th @ TRITON
COLLEGE – SAME TIME, SAME AGENDA
BRING YOUR PLANTS FOR JUDGING

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO JULY NEWSLETTER:
JUNE 19TH