



VOL. 52 No. 8 August 2004

NEWSLETTER

Jerry Garner, Editor

2004 Meeting and Speaker Schedule

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

September 12 – Return to OCC where Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids update us on *Phrag. kovachii*.

October 2 – Fall Show! An exciting new format! Read more inside.

November 14 – William Goldner of Woodstream Orchids.

December 12 - Our annual holiday party at Hausermanns.

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 will 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. There will be drawings for gift certificates and a \$600.00 grand prize. Contact any grower for details.



***Dendrobium* Lime Frost**

Outreach Committee

Claire Papiewski, Chairman

We hope to be giving out our IOS bookmarks advertising our fall show on October 2nd during Chicagoland Orchidfest September 10th–11th–12th. Volunteer a few hours of your time to help at one of the participating nurseries. Call Claire Papiewski at 847-622-8664 or email her at dreflap@wowway.com and tell her when you can be available. These outreach activities helped us sign up many new members in the past and they can be a lot of fun too.

Membership News

Allison Tribble, Chairman

We welcome two new members this month. Be sure to introduce yourselves to them and make them feel welcome to our Society.

Joyce Carpenter - Park Ridge

Jan Potter - Kankakee

Unfortunately several members were inadvertently omitted from the 2004-2005 Membership Directory. Please write these in your directory or copy this info and insert it in the "m" section of your directory. We apologize to these members for the omission.

Sherrie Maloney

1504 Elm

Northbrook, IL 60062

847-498-249

smmaloney@earthlink.net

Alex Manuel

4923 N. Winthrop Ave 2N

Chicago, IL 60640

773-218-4529

vandaalex@aol.com

James McMillan

12 N. Waterford Dr.

Schaumburg, IL 60194

jmac1@megsinet.net

Barbara Mecca

3785 Bordeaux Dr.

Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

barbaraaz@aol.com

2004-2005 IOS Officers – Terms of office are from July 1 until June 30

President	Wendy Wesley	773-227-6064	(wswesley1@aol.com)
1 st VicePresident (Meetings/speakers)	Barry Lubin	847-432-5698	(BRLNo1@aol.com)
2 nd Vice (Home Show Chair)	Lois Cinert	630-739-1068	(geolocin@earthlink.net)
3 rd Vice President (Away show chair)	Sandy Fuller	847-991-5434	(sjfuller62@comcast.net)
Secretary (Recorder)	Jim Spatzek	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)	Allison Tribble	773-728-4874	(allisont@rcn.com)
Immediate Past President	Joe Dixler	847-432-7708	(jmd@dixler.net)

Board Members – Terms of office expire June 30 of the year shown.

Ed Gamson	2005	847-432-7825	(epgamson@welshkatz.com)
Jim Bestman	2005	630-543-7899	(jbostman@core.com)
Rich Unger	2006	773-685-2677	(aroma_imp@hotmail.com)
Anne Kotowski	2006	630-833-8042	(phrag207@aol.com)
Sue Golan	2007	847-234-6311	(sgolan@aol.com)
Allen Morr	2007	847-501-2532	(ozone03@ameritech.net)
Claire Papiewski	2008	847-622-8664	(dreflap@aol.com)
Barbara Schmitz	2008	773-275-3061	(somalijane@aol.com)

August Meeting Notes**Barry Lubin, Program Chairman**

Our next meeting will be a picnic at Oak Hill Gardens on **Saturday, August 14th**. This annual event, hosted by Dorothy and Hermann Pigors, Liese Pigors-Butler and Greg Butler, is always a highlight in our meeting schedule.

Festivities begin at 11:00 a.m. Bring your own picnic basket – our gracious hosts will provide beverages and snacks. Have plants ready for judging no than 12:30. At 12:30, Herman will present several topics suggested by our members at the July meeting. You may want to check the online catalog before the meeting (www.oakhillgardens.com) to get a quick start on plant selections and for a map. There will be no members' plant sales at this meeting.

To reach Oak Hill from Chicago, take the Kennedy Expressway (I-94/90) to the Northwest Toll Way (I-90), traveling northwest toward Rockford. Exit at Randall Road and go north about 2½ miles to Binnie Road. Go west on Binnie Road ½ mile to the greenhouses, located on the north (right) side of the road.

To reach Oak Hill from the West, you may now also exit at Randall Road from the east bound lanes of I-90. Go north about 2½ miles to Binnie Road. Head west ½ mile and you are there!

Recap of July Speakers' Presentations

Our July meeting, held at Triton College, started with the Mentors session led by Allan Morr. Leo Schordje followed with a workshop about hybridizing. William Rhodehamel, president of Hoosier Orchids, presented "Orchid Species for Under Lights." Content of the workshop and presentation are summarized below.

Workshop

Leo advised that hybridizing begins by defining the objectives for the offspring of the cross. The progeny will usually be intermediate in characteristics between

the two parents, but there can be surprises. Leo recommended studying the published crosses to learn what earlier results have been. Strengths can be passed on, while reducing the weaknesses of either parent. Leo then demonstrated the process for actually making the cross. Good resources to understand how orchids are pollinated can be found on the web at Antec's site (www.ladyslipper.com) or in Rebecca Northern's books.

Leo recommended sending ripe (dry seed) or almost ripe (green seed) pods to a qualified lab for flasking. The first ("mother") flasks contain the new seeds.

Once the seeds have sprouted and reached an appropriate size, they can be "replated" into several flasks with 25 or so plants each. Some crosses can produce an enormous amount of seed, so be careful in specifying how many flasks you want.

When the replanted flasks are showing good root growth, the plants can be deflasked. Leo recommended removing the seedlings with the agar (gelatinous medium contained in the flask) intact, and placing the whole clump in a community pot ("compot"). Plants should remain in the compot as long as possible; they are likely to grow better than if potted individually.

Leo cautioned that hybridizing isn't cheap – it takes time, effort, and a commitment to raising the product of the cross. So be selective when choosing parents, and discard undesirable progeny.

July Speaker

William Rhodehamel discussed the advantages and challenges of growing orchids under lights. William explained that some species can be grown better under lights than anywhere other than their natural habitat.

The important elements of the growing environment include:

- Growing space
- Temperature
- Light
- Humidity and air movement
- Potting practices and water
- Nutrient supply
- Hygiene and problem control

An important ingredient for success in growing under lights is consistency –manage the elements of the growing environment to stay consistent over time. And stick with whatever works for you.

William reviewed more than 70 species that he personally has grown successfully under lights. Just a few of the species William discussed include:

- *Angraecum leonis*
- *Oncidium fimbriatum*
- *Cattleya aclandiae*
- *Dendrobium unicum*
- *Paphiopedilum venustum*
- *Phalaenopsis violacea*
- *Coelogyne rufescens*
- *Pleurothallis phalangifera*

Many more species can be grown successfully. Hoosier Orchid's catalog (see website at www.hoosierorchid.com) has information about the light and other cultural requirements of a large number of species.

President's Message

Wendy Wesley, IOS President

This is my first message as president of the IOS. My goal is to keep the IOS on its current path.

I believe that one part of our mission is to continue to learn all we can about

orchids and to improve how we grow them. An equally important part of our mission is to educate the public about our favorite flower

– **the orchid**. This is a journey that I have enjoyed for the last ten years. Yes, I have been a member of the IOS since 1994. I have found growing orchids

to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.



Every meeting or show I have attended I have learned something new about orchids.

I hope you will assist me in continuing the growth and improvement of the IOS. As a group we need to be flexible and open to changes that can help our Society grow. Please give me your ideas and feedback so we can continue our journey as a group. I hope to see you all at the Oak Hill picnic for our August meeting.
Happy Growing!

(Photo of Wendy courtesy of Al Papiewski)

New Mid-America Representative

As one of her first official acts as newly elected leader of the IOS, President Wendy Wesley appointed Jim Spatzek IOS Mid-America Representative. Jim is an AOS judge and long-time member of the IOS. Also, Wendy is anxious to involve more members in the Society's committees. Anyone interested in becoming more active in the IOS can find a list of the Committees in the current Membership Directory in the By-Laws. Contact Wendy directly to find out how you can lend your talent and expertise to your orchid society.

Plant Judging and Annual Awards **Sandy Fuller, Awards Chairman**

Cumulative judging points awards for 2003-2004 were announced at the July meeting.

Lights/Windowsill

- #1 Sherrie Maloney
- #2 Wilfred Losert
- #3 Joel Edwards
- #4 Lois Cinert
- #5 Barbara Schmitz
- #6 Diana Nielsen

Greenhouse

- #1 Joe and Rosalie Dixler
- #2 Sue Golan
- #3 Paul Passine

Newcomer

Allison Tribble

Congratulations to all the award winners and thanks to all members who brought in their plants for the monthly judging table, who sent plants to the away shows, and who participated in the AOS judging. Remember – you only get points if you bring plants to the meetings. Let's make sure every member has

at least one or two plants on the judging table every month. Next year your name might be on the awards list!

July Plant of the Month

Congratulations to Wilfred Losert on this beautiful *Phal. equestris alba*.



Advice From Our Phantom Orchid Grower

An Unknown Expert

If you are like me, you are wondering where the summer went, or why it didn't get here yet. If you put your plants outside, you are finding it to be a very different summer this year than last. While there has been lots of sun, the temperatures have been lower. That is a good thing because it reduces the risk of sunburn. But it also will decrease the amount of energy (degree days) that your plants will absorb during their summer vacation. When and if it gets warmer, you will have to increase the shading on the leaves. Sunburn is caused by heat, not light directly. If you can keep the leaves cool, they will not have the cell damage caused by the heat.

The good rains we have been getting are great for the plants. A little lightning adds to the nutrients the plants get naturally. Unfortunately, this also adds to the critter problem. We have lots of slugs this year, and earwigs. The earwigs are ugly and hide in the crevices between leaves on plants such as the Odont. Alliance. Slugs cause those annoying holes in the leaves, and if they get into the pots, they will single-mindedly munch on roots, and cause permanent damage to your plants'

ability to absorb nutrients. There are a lot of home remedies for slugs – coarse sand, commercial baits, and good old stale beer. Earwigs don't like hot pepper wax, and can be killed with your favorite chemical insecticide. If you keep your growing area clean of bark debris and fallen tree leaves, this will help keep the "crawlies" away. Observation is your best friend. Keep an eye on your plants!

MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS, 5/21-23/2004, ATLANTA, GA

REPORT TO MID-AMERICA AFFILIATED ORCHID SOCIETIES

Edited by Jerry Garner, IOS Newsletter Editor

Kudoes to Mid-America President Pat Cleveland and her crew for putting together an excellent Speakers' Forum and Orchid Sales Weekend at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, May 21 – 23, 2004.

Activities for the 30 registrants got under way Friday evening with the Orchid Sales Pavilion Gala, which featured a light supper and the opportunity to shop from the vendors: Purple Clay Imports, Chicago; Mountain View Orchids, Greenville, SC; Breckenridge Orchids, Brown Summit, NC; Ecuagenera, Cuenca, Ecuador; and Miranda Orchids, Haines City, FL. The schedule provided time for the thirteen MAOC committees to hold their meetings.

Saturday opened with Doris Asher, Chairperson of the Affiliated Societies Committee, leading a discussion at breakfast, "How Can Orchid Societies Help Each Other Work Together?"

Representatives shared numerous innovative, practical cooperative projects and ventures including: orchid show exhibits mounted by more than one society; orchid shows put on by more than one society; shared speakers; joint picnics; fundraisers participated in by more than one society. One proposal that came up was that the Affiliated Societies Committee provide a listing of when our societies meet in order to facilitate sharing.

American Orchid Society judging immediately followed breakfast with 13 orchids submitted for consideration, and the four judging teams of approximately 14 judges and students awarded two of them: *Dracula inequalis* 'Atrice Hughey' CCM 81 points belonging to Mountain View Orchids,

Greenville, SC, and *Phragmipedium* Ashley Wilkes (Eric Young x *warscewiczianum*) 'Charleston' AM 84 points belonging to H P Norton, Moncks Corner, SC. Lowell Jacks chaired the judging.

The speakers' forum portion of the weekend opened at 10:00 a.m. with Linda Wilhelm, Training Coordinator of the Carolinas Judging Center and proprietor, along with her husband Rolf, of Woodland Orchids. Linda gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the "Oncidium Intergenerics", featuring a helpful segment on pronunciation of orchid names. Francisco Miranda, owner of Miranda Orchids in Haines City, FL, followed with a fascinating presentation on "Orchids of the Brazilian Amazon". Francisco helped the audience understand the geographic and climatic peculiarities of the Amazon region, which is self contained and basically creates its own climate. After lunch Clark Riley from Baltimore, spoke on "Cinderella's Slippers Found! The Cypripedium and Selenipediums." Clark surveyed the members of both genera. Mark Rose, owner of Breckenridge Orchids in North Carolina, was next with his lecture entitled "Culture and Hybridizing of Phalaenopsis". Mark showed us slides of his greenhouse spectacularly filled with phalaenopsis in flower; he discussed growing in ProMix, keeping humidity above 55% to curtail pests like mites, scale, and mealy bugs and a variety of other topics. The Saturday night auction, although much smaller than more typical Mid-America auctions, raised \$674 for the Congress.

The first item on Sunday's agenda was the Mid-America Business Meeting, during which it was announced that the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee would host the next Mid-America Orchid Congress September 17-19, 2004, where the theme will be "Orchid Wonders of the World". For more information on this Congress/Show, contact Show Chairman John Cranshaw at 615-292-7886 or ajartist@comcast.net.

Francisco Miranda opened the Sunday morning lecture program at 10:00 a.m. with his talk entitled "The Genus Laelia in Brazil", in which he surveyed the four sections of the genus Laelia native to Brazil. Mark Rose wrapped up the weekend events with "Culture and Hybridizing of Paphiopedilums". Mark specializes in both phalaenopsis and paphiopedilum.

The schedule for future Mid-America Orchid Congress meetings is:

Fall 2004 Nashville, TN 9/17-19/2004 Host: Orchid Society of Middle TN

Spring 2005 Bloomington, MN 4/20-25/2005
Host: Orchid Society of MN

Fall 2005 Cincinnati, OH 10/21-23/2005
Hosts: Greater Cincinnati O.S./Miami Valley O.S.

Spring 2006 Omaha, NE Date TBA
Host: Greater Omaha O.S.

If the Affiliated Societies Committee or the Mid-America Orchid Congress can help your society in any way, please contact us. Access the Congress's website often to stay abreast of Congress activities (www.midamericanorchids.org).

Doris Asher, Chair, Affiliated Societies Committee
517-332-0004 or asherdoris@juno.com



Paph. Rothchildianum from Hoosier Orchids.
Photo by Al Papiewski

Submit News/Articles/Announcements for the September Newsletter to Jerry Garner garnerjl@comcast.net by August 18th.

New Format For IOS Fall Show

Lois Cinert, Show Chairman

Our annual fall show will be held at Oakton Community College on October 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are changing the format of the show to a one-day show with members' plant sale. We will have some of our usual and more popular features: repotting service, bags of bark mix for sale, sale of plants brought by members and member vendors. We are adding three speakers (to be confirmed) for the late morning and afternoon, for your viewing and listening pleasure.

You will be able to sign up for display space at the August meeting at Oak Hill Gardens. Remember, this is OUR show, for our members to show off how well they grow and bloom their orchids. We want you to be proud of what you are doing, and bring in your blooming orchids for all of us to share. You only need four or five plants for a half-table display. If you don't have enough, find a friend to share the space with. The displays don't have to be fancy; your orchids will make any display elegant.

We will also need your help with some of the chores for the show. Friday chores include unloading plants and display equipment, and registration. Early Saturday morning we will need clerks to help our judges find the best of the beautiful flowers for ribbon judging and AOS judging. Saturday during show hours, we will need people for the admissions desk, and folks to man the membership table, and sell our books, pins and shirts/sweatshirts. We are looking for repotters to help out with that chore. You will get to meet lots of people who want to learn to grow their orchids well. The plant sale table will need lots of help. We will be concentrating all of our business into the one day. Hopefully, we will be really busy!! Teardown is at 5:00 p.m., and we will need a few folks to help with getting everyone out safely, and cleaning up our space.

We hope you will take this opportunity to help your society and have LOTS of fun.

This is a great way to meet other orchid growers, and learn more about growing your plants well.

For more details and to volunteer contact Lois at 630-739-1068 or geolocin@earthlink.net

September IOS Board Meeting

The IOS Board will meet September 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Allison and Dave Tribble, 6007 N. Sheridan Rd., #12A, Chicago, IL 60660. Any IOS member can attend the Board meetings. Please notify Allison or Wendy Wesley if you plan to attend.

[Check out the IOS website at www.iosoc.com](http://www.iosoc.com)



Orchis purpurea

IOS/AOS Judges in the News

Adapted from the Mid-American, June 2004

Probationary Judges Promoted to Accredited:

Bil Nelson, Tony Nuccio, Larry Sexton

Students Promoted to Probationary:

Kathy Creger, Robert Lewis, Karen McBride, Steve Troc, Milt Wittmann

New Students Accepted:

Ernest Gemeinhart, Alex Manual

Returned From Leave of Absence:

Tom Kalina

Transferred to Chicago Judging Center:

Tom O'Brien, Ron Setiawan

Dropped:

Barb Bennett

A Reader Responds

I enjoyed the article on the roots of orchid names in Latin, and thought you might enjoy reading about my experience in Thailand. While in the small, beautiful resort town of Phuket, we visited the local market where we

spied the orchid section. We wandered up and down the aisles admiring the plants and bumped into a small Thai man attending to the plants. He and I smiled at one another, and I pointed to a plant and said "Phalaenopsis." He beamed back at me and ran to another rack of plants, and pointing to one, said, "Oncidium." We continued on this way, reciting "Cattleya", "Dendrobium", "Cymbidium", smiling ridiculously all the time at our cleverness in finding a way to communicate. He then grasped a pot, uprooted the blooming plant, divided it in half, and presented it to me wrapped in newspaper, with a deep bow. I reciprocated, we backed out, bowing all the time, and boarded our bus for the trip back to our hotel. So, you see, there is a universal language!



Kefersteinia lactea

Mid-America Orchid Congress

The Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee will host the Mid-America Orchid Congress, September 17-19, 2004 at the Hilton Suites, 121 Fourth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee. Featured speakers include Hadley Cash – Complex Paphiopedilums, Norman Fang – Harlequin Phalaenopsis, Nina Rach – Orchids in Ecuador, Dr. Clark Riley – Terrestrial Orchids, Erich E. Michel Propagating Orchids.

In addition, Ed Merkle will conduct a workshop on orchid fertilizers, and John Cranshaw will lead a workshop on growing orchids under lights. Vendors will include Gand's Greenhouse, J & M Tropical, Hillwood Orchids, Hoosier Orchids, Marriott Orchids, Merkle Orchids, Norman's Orchids, Orchid Babies, Orchid Country, Orchid Konnection, Orchids and Moore, Orchids and More, and R.F. Orchids. For more information, contact John Cranshaw at 615-292-7886 or ajartist@comcast.net or Ed Merkle at 615-262-4030 or edmerkusa@netscape.net

ORCHID TIP

Some growers prefer to cultivate their potted orchids in expanded clay aggregates. Such products are easy to use, their weight is useful in anchoring tall or top-heavy plants, they are less likely to provide a home for pest insects, have excellent drainage and they do not decompose. Before purchasing one of these materials, consider lava rock instead. It confers the same benefits of other inorganic media, is less expensive than the man-made products, and will not roll away in all directions if a pot spills. When using inorganic media, always feed with a complete fertilizer containing necessary micronutrients, as these will not be present in the potting material.

"Orchid Tip" provided by the AOS website.

Phalaenopsis Culture / Growing Tips for Moth Orchids

Copyright © 2003 by The Soft Factory. All rights reserved.

"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. A bane to flowers is being exposed to excessive heat or cold, or having their pollen removed. Once the flowers wilt on a spike, the spike can be cut above the second node from the bottom and will often result in a second spray of flowers. Although the second spray usually will not have as many flowers or have them as large, it 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 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 out 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, so the plants never sit in water. Also, you can group plants to increase humidity or run a cool mist humidifier.

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 stay above 65 degrees.

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



Unidentified *Phalaenopsis* Hoosier Orchids
Photo by Al Papiewski

In This Issue!

Meeting Info and Important Dates	1
New Members	1
Directory Corrections	1
August Meeting Notes/July Recap	2
Annual Judging Awards	3
Plant of the Month	4
Mid-America Report	4-5
Fall Show – New Format	6
Orchid Tip	7
Growing Tips for Phalaenopsis	7-8

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

Postmaster: Dated Material

August Membership Meeting & Picnic
Saturday August 14th @ Oak Hill Gardens
See Inside for Details and Directions

Deadline for Submissions for September
Newsletter – August 18th