



ILLINOIS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 52 No. 9

September 2004

Jerry Garner, Editor

2004 Meeting and Speaker Schedule

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

October 2 – Fall Show! Details inside.

November 14 – William Goldner of Woodstream Orchids.

December 12 - Our annual holiday party at Hausermanns.

Special Events

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.

September 17 – 19. Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee & Mid-America Orchid Congress – Nashville, TN. Contact: John Crenshaw, (615) 292-7886 or ajartist@comcast.net

September 18 – 19. Wisconsin Orchid Society Show – The Domes, Milwaukee, WI. Contact: (414) 672-6446 or gorchids@wi.rr.com

Don't know what your IOS officers and board members look like? Looking for a copy of an old newsletter? This and more information is available on the IOS website. Tom Franczak is the webmaster extraordinaire! Check it out at www.iosoc.com

Contact Corrections and Additions

Remember – if you change or add to any of your contact information, please pass on this information to the newsletter editor at (847) 864-8417 or garnerjl@comcast.net and/or to Allison Tribble or Rosalie Dixler.



Bulbophyllum abductum Bergstrom

Submit News/Articles/Announcements for the September Newsletter to Jerry Garner at garnerjl@comcast.net by September 19th.

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.

Ilse and Peter Tribby ~ Chicago
Pamela Zeller ~ Island Lake

Remember to wear your nametags to make it easier for new (and some long-time) members to get acquainted.

Do you have any suggestions for a speaker or workshop for the monthly meetings? Contact Barry Lubin, Program Chairman with your ideas.

President	Wendy Wesley	773-227-6064	(wswesley1@aol.com)	2
1 st VicePresident (Meetings/speakers)	Barry Lubin	847-432-5968	(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	(jbestman@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)

Fall Show – New One Day Format

Lois Cinert, Show Chairman

GROWING STRONGER

October 2nd and our Fall Show are fast approaching. There is still time to reserve your display space. Remember this is OUR show, so we have to provide the displays. Show off what you grow! If you only have two or three plants in bloom, join with a friend to create a display. It doesn't take much time or work, and we will help you if it is your first time setting up a display. This is also a good time to get your collection in order. The only sales at this show are members' plants – and a few from grower members. If you have divisions of your plants that are extra, this is the place to put them out for sale. If you have a plant that is not blooming for you, why not let someone else try to let it grow in different conditions. If you clear some room now, you will have space for all those new plants that will be available from the upcoming shows at Milwaukee, Rockford, Batavia . . .

Our fine judges will ribbon judge on Saturday morning, and there will be AOS judging to follow. You may be pleasantly surprised to find a ribbon on your plant! But you can't get a ribbon if you don't show your plant.

We also need your help this year. But because we have a one-day show this year, you only have to commit for one day. Sign-up sheets are available

on the IOS web page and at the September meeting. We need help on Friday with setup (noon to 8:00 p.m.), unloading (2:00 – 8:00 p.m.) and registration (2:00 to 6:00 p.m.). Saturday, we need your help with clerking (7:00 to 10:00 a.m.), plant sales, admissions, membership info (all 10:00 to 5:00 p.m.), repotting (10:00 to 4:00 p.m.), and just being there to help our guests. Teardown begins at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and help is always appreciated with this task. The more volunteers for teardown, the faster it goes! Our now becoming famous potting mix will also be available for sale. Help your society with your displays, sale plants, and volunteer time. Remember, sign-up sheets are on the web page (www.iosoc.com) and will be available at the September meeting. And if that isn't convenient, just contact the Show Chairman, Lois Cinert at (630) 739-1068 or geolocin@earthlink.net.



Cattleya Pretty Lass 'Pink Sensation'

Judging Points End Of August

Lights / Windows	Points
Bestman, Jim and Gerry	1
Buckles, Betsy	10
Burns, Joe *	1
Cinert, Lois	25
Cochran, Felicia *	10
Fuller, Sandy	88
Garner, Jerry	10
Hardy, Maurice	5
High, Chuck & Jane	25
Losert, Wilfred	161
Maloney, Sherry	99
Nielsen, Diana	15
Papiewski, Claire	17
Samuelson, Helen and David	12
Schmitz, Barbara	137
Seidel, Gerhard *	10
Spitz, Nancy	15
Tribble, Allison	11
Unger, Rich	22
Vrabel, Ken	60
Wesley, Wendy	10
Wilson, Nicole *	32
Greenhouse	
Lubin, Barry	31
Mestdagh, J&V	30
Morr, Allen	11
Sahagian, Laima	10
Thompson, Carole	40

* New members

If you find any errors or if you have questions regarding these totals, please contact Sandy Fuller.

Away Shows News

Sandy Fuller, Away Show Chairman

This month we will be going to the Wisconsin Orchid Society show at Mitchell Domes in Milwaukee. The show is on September 18th and 19th. Please consider sending your blooming plants with us for the IOS display. For information on the nearest plant drop off, please contact me. The hours for the show on Saturday

and Sunday are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and I highly recommend attending this show. There is always a good mix of vendors and the Domes are a beautiful setting for a show.

August Plant of the Month

There were two Plant of the Month winners in August, both from the greenhouse category. There was no Plant of the Month from the Lights/Windowsill category.



***Renanthera* Brookie Chandler grown by Jerome and Virginia Mestdagh.**

Congratulations to Jerome and Virginia for such a beautiful and well grown plant!

Your orchids could be featured here in the newsletter, but you have to bring them to the monthly judging or enter them in home and away shows. Don't be shy; share your plants with other members!

August Plant of the Month (cont.)



***Macroclinum xyphophora* grown by Carole Thompson.**

Congratulations to Carole on that well deserved blue ribbon!

Bringing Your Orchids Back Indoors The Mystery Expert

Where did the summer go? Was there a summer? No matter, its time to bring the orchids in from their vacation. Phals & Paphs and warm growing Oncidium and Dendrobium should come in first, as the night temperatures get down around 60. Most Cattleyas and their Alliance can take the cooler temperatures, and they might get stimulated into blooming. Zygos and the complex Odonts can take some of the cooler nights, down into the upper 50's, as can mature Phrags.

Seedlings and tender orchids of smaller size are less able to withstand the cooler temps. Last to be brought inside should be the cool Dendrobiums, Miltonias, and Masdevallias. Some of the Dendrobiums need a cooler, drier period to initiate their flowers. Know your plants! Check for insects before you bring your orchids inside. A spray with a good insecticide listed for orchids about 5 days before you bring them in will kill the live pests, and a second application right before the plants come in should do in any newly hatched critters. If you have a small collection, you can immerse the pots in water to the brim, and drown or drive out whatever might be living there. Watch out for spread of disease. You should change the water between plants, and make sure leaves and crowns are dry before night. Watch the weather. The cooler night temperatures are good for some plants, and dangerous for others. Read up on which ones enjoy the cool, and which like to be warm and cozy. The best tool you have for orchid growing is your knowledge of your plants and how they grow.

Anyone planning to exhibit at the Fall Show, at any away show, and even at the monthly judging should review the judging and exhibiting guidelines on pages 2 and 3 of the Membership Directory. Another excellent resource is the O Zone website at www.homes2sell.com/ozone/index.html. Check it out for some really helpful ideas.

September Program Notes **Barry Lubin, Program Chair**

For our next meeting on Sunday, September 12, we return to Oakton Community College. Our speaker will be Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids. Glen is a recognized authority on growing phragmipediums and paphiopedilums. He will be updating us on the recently discovered and stunning beautiful *Phragmipedium kovachii* from Peru. For a preview of the wonderful phrags and paphs that

Glen grows check out the catalog on his website at www.pipingrockorchids.com. Call (518-882-9002) or e-mail Glen in advance to order plants for delivery at the meeting.

The Mentors (Newcomers) meeting will begin at noon and the workshop will begin at 12:30.

Please have your plants in place for judging no later than 12:30 and bring lots of plants for the members' sale table. As always, your fellow members would appreciate a contribution to the hospitality table.

Recap of August Speaker's Presentation

We were treated to a gloriously bright and sunny, but pleasantly cool day for our picnic at Oak Hill Gardens. Our speaker was the incomparable Hermann Pigors. Hermann is celebrating his 50th year of growing orchids, and he clearly has the knowledge that only 50 years of experience can provide.

Hermann talked about several topics that were requested by the members. He started with a few tips about growing in general. One tip I found particularly interesting was about the need for the proper level of humidity for orchids to grow properly. We have all heard over and over that orchids need a relatively high level of humidity for proper growth. Did you know that at too high a level, transpiration stops and growth ceases? Hermann cautioned that humidity should not be allowed to rise to more than 80% during the day to prevent decrease in growth.

Some of the other topics Hermann covered included Species and Conservation, How to Grow a Specimen Plant, and Miniature Orchids. He also offered practical advice in response to members' questions about orchid problems.

Many thanks to our hosts, the Pigors and Butlers, for a truly enjoyable meeting and congratulations to Hermann on 50 years as a quality grower.

No information was received for the Outreach, Member Morsels, or President's Message columns for the September Newsletter. Hopefully, these columns will reappear in the October Newsletter.



Hermann shares his 50 years of growing experience with IOS members at the August picnic. (Photo courtesy of Al Papiewski)



The beauty of a multi-flowering green Paph. Captured by Al Papiewski at the August meeting at Oak Hill Gardens.

2004 Dillon/Peterson Essay Competition

Rosalie Dixler, AOS Representative

The theme for the 2004 Gordon W. Dillon/Richard C. Peterson Memorial Essay Competition is "My Favorite Orchids." Authors should write about a genus or group of orchids they are particularly interested in, explaining their fascination, the plant's cultural needs and the types they grow. The winning entry (if any) will be published in the May 2005 issue of "Orchids." Color slides or black-and-white prints as well as line drawings or tables that enhance the essay are not necessary for prize consideration.

Deadline--All entries must be received at AOS headquarters in Delray Beach, Florida by Friday, November 30, 2004. Submit all entries to Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay Contest, AOS, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351, or electronically to jmengel@aos.org. Documents must be saved in Word for Windows (.doc) or sent as a rich text format file (.rtf). Images must be sent as 35mm slides or color or black-and-white prints, not electronically. Please include mailing and email addresses, and a telephone number.

For contest rules or questions contact Jane Mengel, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Bach, FL 33446-3451 (phone 561-404-2043; fax 561-404-2045; email jmengel@aos.org).



Blc. Goldenzelle

Mark your calendar now for the Fall Show October 2nd at Oakton Community College

September/October Checklist

Cattleya Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches ventricosum*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium Through diligent modern breeding programs, the cymbidium season gets stretched longer and longer.

Now we can expect to have flowers open as early as September and October. Stake inflorescences and move the plants to a shadier location to help the flowers develop successfully. Because the plants will have warmth tolerance "built in" genetically, keeping the plants as cool as possible will help prevent bud curl. For the midseason varieties, inflorescences should be initiated by now. Feed plants on a regular schedule with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) and shade the plants lightly.

Dendrobium This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Paphiopedilum Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose for the AOS website.



Lewisara Mandai Fancy

Member News

Edith Gamson, longtime IOS member and mother of Board member, Ed Gamson, passed away recently. The Society extends its sympathy to Ed and to other members of the family.

2005 Meeting and Show Dates Set

Although speakers and workshop topics have not yet been confirmed, meeting dates and show dates for next year are set. Remember the IOS meets on the second Sunday of each month, except in June and August. June is reserved for a field trip and in August we hold our annual summer picnic on the second Saturday. Specific dates can be found on the back of the membership directory. The 2005 show dates will be April 9th and 10th, and October 8th and 9th. Details regarding speakers, workshops, and shows will be printed in the newsletter as the information becomes available. Mark your calendars now and don't miss a single IOS event in 2005!

Six Ways to Build an Orchid Collection

- Read the magazine of the American Orchid Society, *Orchids*. It is filled with ads from most of the best orchid firms. Write for catalogs and lists of interest. Some firms issue full-color catalogs with photographs and many plant descriptions; smaller firms often offer only a list with names and prices. Any charge for a color catalog is usually refunded with the first order.

- Visit local greenhouses and nurseries. There is no better way to get an idea of plant and flower size. Visiting in person enables one to see many flowers simultaneously. Commercial growers provide helpful answers when asked to suggest plants that will do well in particular environments.
- Consult the American Orchid Society's Commercial Growers Directory, published in the Society's Almanac. It lists various orchid firms, large and small, by state and country. Keep a copy of this handy resource in the car. Any trip can be made to fit around a conveniently located nursery. Copies of the Almanac are sent to all members of the American Orchid Society. Others may order a copy from the Society.
- Attend orchid shows and other plant sales. Orchid shows are full of plants in flower and booths managed by vendors ready to dispense cultural information, plants, books and accouterments.
- Join a local orchid society. The meetings are good sources of new plants, whether by door prizes, raffles, annual auctions and shows; communal plant orders that yield big discounts; and/or the visiting guest speakers who are also commercial vendors and bring a load of plants to sell.
- Talk to fellow orchid growers. Club members often divide plants to give away or sell among themselves. When a desirable orchid is seen on the show table at a monthly meeting, ask the owner if he or she plans to divide it soon, and make deals. Once a plant collection is assembled, arrange trades for future acquisitions.

Prepared by judywhite for the AOS website.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

Deadline for Submissions for October

Newsletter –September 19th

NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 12th at OCC