



ILLINOIS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 52 No. 10

October 2004

Jerry Garner, Editor

FALL SHOW OCTOBER 2nd @ OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2004-2005 Meeting and Speaker Schedule

October 2 – Fall Show! More inside.

November 14 – William Goldner of Woodstream Orchids.

December 12 - Our annual holiday party at Hausermanns.

January 9 – Howard Ginsberg, Bedford Orchids, will speak on Golden Peokers.



Photo by Al Papiewski

Classifieds

For Sale: 2 - Sun System Micro Mini Light systems; new bulb included. 1year old. Price negotiable.

Contact Tom Meyer at 847-968-2981.

Wanted: a piece of *Cymbidium* Mimi Sandalwood from the guys who bought the plant from me some years ago, if you're still around.

Call Sue Golan at 847-234-6311.

Come to the Fall Show October 2nd!

President's Message

Wendy Wesley, President

We hope to see all at the fall show. If you are newer to the society and would like to get more involved in the IOS. Volunteering at the show would be a great step in learning more about orchid plants and our/your IOS.

If you are a not so new member and would like to get more involved with the society, participating at the shows is a great way to deepen you connections with fellow IOS members and have a lot of fun too.

I am a strong believer that we can learn more about orchids as a group than we can learn as individuals. We need to be willing to share our knowledge of our plants with each other. I encourage everyone in the society to seek out other people in the society with similar growing interests and *share, share, share*.

Lastly I feel very fortunate to be a part of a society that has been running as smoothly as our society has for over 50 years. I hope to help assist the society on its continued course of growing and getting better and stronger.
See you October 2nd at the Show!

[Deadline for submissions to the November Newsletter is October 15th. Even if you don't have e-mail, you can mail articles to me or hand them to me at the show or at meetings. Your input is more than welcome.](#)

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	847-432-5968	(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)	Sherry Maloney	847-498-0249	(smmaloney@earthlink.net)
Asst. Sec’y (Newsletter Editor)	Jerry Garner	847-864-8417	(garnerjl@comcast.net)
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Jim Spatzek	847-498-4638	(jamcam@lightfirst.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@wowway.com)
Barbara Schmitz	2008	773-275-3061	(somalijane@aol.com)

Change In IOS Officers

Jim Spatzek has replaced Steve Lipson as IOS Treasurer for the 2004-2005 term. Sherry Maloney has taken Jim’s position as Secretary.

Plant of the Month

Sandy Fuller, Away Show Chairman

The September Plant of the Month in the Greenhouse category was awarded to Laima Sahagian for *Miltassia* Dark Star ‘Darth Vader’. Congratulations to Laima for this wonderful specimen! There was no Plant of the Month in the Lights/Windowsill category in September.

**October Program Notes**

Barry Lubin, Program Chair

Our fall show on Saturday, October 2 (see Lois Cinert’s column for details) replaces our regular membership meeting in October. We will return to our customary schedule with a visit by Bill Goldner of Woodstream Orchids (<http://woodstreamorchids.com>) at Oakton Community College on November 14th.

Recap of September Speaker’s Presentation**Workshop**

IOS member Tom Heller presented a workshop on “New Stuff”. Tom discussed several new products of interest to orchid growers, including:

Translucent pots in various shapes and sizes.

These pots allow easier determination of when to water (you can see when the medium is dry) and also offer a peak at how well the roots are growing without pulling the plant out of the pot. Available from various sources including Chula Orchids

(<http://chulaorchids.com/SitePage4.0.htm#4.0>) and Calwest Orchid Supply (http://www.orchid-supplies.com/clear_pots.html).

“Solexx” Generally used as a greenhouse covering, this material also may be used for bench tops or channeling water under benches.

Available from Farm Wholesale Greenhouse (<http://www.farmwholesale.com/panels.php3>) or contact Tom (stochr@mls.lib.il.us) for some from a roll he has on hand.

“Diatomite” This “new” material was actually popular 20 years ago then fell out of favor. New supplies have come on the market, and several commercial growers have reported success using it as part of a bark or coconut husk mix. Diatomite is composed of pebble-sized chunks of diatomaceous earth that has been fired at high temperature. It is sterile, absorbs 150% of its weight in water, is pH neutral and does not decompose. Available from various vendors including Diatomite USA (<http://www.diatomiteusa.com>), Roberts Flower Supply (<http://www.orchidmix.com/cat2.htm>) and Tindara Orchids (<http://tindaraorchids.com>).

“Dura Bench” This is a sturdy, plastic, “egg crate” material that can be used as a bench top. Contact the manufacturer, Southwest Agri-Plastics (<http://swapinc.com>) for a supplier (will vary based on quantity required).

“Root Growth Enhancer” provides mycorrhizae (symbiotic fungi) that may be helpful in root growth. Available from Down to Earth Distributors (<http://www.down-to-earth.com/solublerootgrowth.html>).

Tom explained that he has used some of these products, and may experiment with some of them. He presented these products for the information of the members, but recommends that you do your own research and evaluation of each one. The supplier references list these products as available, but please do your own research and practice due diligence before ordering from them.

If you are using products that are helpful in your growing activities and that may not be well known to the members, please contact Tom (stochr@mls.lib.il.us). He has graciously agreed to be the collector of new product

information, and will provide an update to the group at a future meeting.

Featured Presenter

Our guest speaker in September was Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids (<http://www.pipingrockorchids.com>). Glen enthralled us with a pictorial review of his expedition to the jungles of Peru to examine the habitat of the newly discovered *Phragmipedium kovachii*. The color and size of the flowers of *Phrag. kovachii*, up to 8” across, caused a major shock throughout the orchid world.

Glen’s journey started with a trip to the Incan ruins at Machu Picchu. In addition to the fascinating structures that remain, the area is also the natural habitat of many orchid species, including Sobralias and *Phrag. caudatum*. From there, Glen headed north toward the Ecuador and the habitat of *Phrag. besseae*. *Phrag. besseae* was found growing in the cool mist of a waterfall with constant airflow.

The trip through the jungle to the particular area where *Phrag. kovachii* could be found was far more arduous than Glen had expected. Rather than an easy 90-minute hike, the journey took an exhausting 4 hours to reach the plants. When he finally arrived, Glen was treated to the sight of some 3000 plants, growing in clumps of 30 to 40 plants, each 2 to 3 feet across. The area was very rocky and extremely moist.

Glen explained that *Phrag. kovachii* is protected by CITES, as are all slipper orchids. In spite of this protection, Glen reported that the area he visited was stripped of plants only a few weeks after his visit. Unlike some species where enforcement of restriction against illegal trade has been lax, US Fish and Wildlife has taken extreme measures to prevent *Phrag. kovachii* from being brought into this country. Any *Phrag. kovachii* found outside of Peru is illegal. Fortunately, the government of Peru has licensed the collection of a very limited number of plants. Glen is working with these authorized collectors to flask seeds of the species and make crosses that will be legal for export in the next few years.

The speaker for January 9 will be Howard Ginsberg of Bedford Orchids (<http://bedfordorchids.com>). His topic is "Golden Peoker, Golden Parent". He will also conduct a hands-on workshop where participants will learn and practice the correct procedure for compotting seedlings from flask.



Miltonia sp. from Hoosier Orchids. Photo by Al Papiewski

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 e-mail addresses, and a telephone number.

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

(Rosalie won this award last year with an article on show displays and the many props she and Joe have collected in their travels. Rosalie also has an article in the September 2004 issue of *Orchids* on increasing and retaining local memberships, using the IOS as an example. Be sure to read it!)

Fall Show News

Lois Cinert, Home Show Chairman

The Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show, *Growing Stronger*, will be held at Oakton Community College, **October 2, 2004, from 10am to 5pm.** Our sales and displays will be in the Business Conference Center. Setup for the show is Friday, October 1, from 2pm to 9pm. Registration closes at 8pm – no exceptions! Teardown is Saturday at 5pm.

Plant sales – Please call **Wally Zielinski if you are selling plants.** He will give you the numbers you need on your plants to sell them – and get paid for them. 847-587-5534, wallyzzz@earthlink.net

Displays – we still have room for your displays. You only need three or four plants; call a friend and have your first orchid show display! You can also bring in a blooming plant; we will find a place to display it. Contact Lois Cinert for more information. 630-739-1068, geolocin@earthlink.net

Lectures - 11am Leo Schordje – New Trends in Phrag Breeding
1pm Rich Unger – Orchid Fragrance
3pm Ernie Gemeinhart – Growing Under Lights in the Home

We still need **volunteers** to help with information, repotting, and just being friendly and helpful to our guests. Contact Lois directly or go to the IOS web page, www.iosoc.com for more information and forms.

Once again we will have our expert **repotting service**, and will be selling our custom **bark mix**, books, pins, and our **IOS sweatshirts and polos**.

This is our show, so let's show off what we can bloom, and help our guests learn to grow. (An additional note from Lois on the show appears later in the newsletter)

Outreach Report

Claire Papiewski, Outreach Chairman

The IOS has been invited to set up a free 10 x 10 table at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Navy Pier, Saturday, March 12th through Sunday, March 20th, 10am to 6pm. This would be an information table announcing our spring show, giving out membership information and cultural sheets.

Before I can register for this table, I need to know if enough people would be able to volunteer a few hours during the eight days of the show to have the table manned at all times. Please let me know if you are interested. Call me at 847-622-8664 or email dreflap@wowway.com.

This is a great venue for attracting new members and just spreading the word about the IOS and orchids.

And on another note...

Earlier this year the IOS had an educational exhibit at the Des Plaines Public Library. The display was there for about 30 days, in a glass wall case under lock and key. The items included colorful pictures, trinkets, stamps, books, etc. We also had a membership poster and displayed our spring show poster. There was no live material.

We would like to put together another library exhibit somewhere in the Chicago area. If you are interested in securing exhibit space in your library, please call me at 847-622-8664 or email dreflap@wowway.com. Be forewarned. These display slots have a waiting list, but the wait should be well worth it.

Deadline for Submissions for the November Newsletter is October 15th.

Member News

Barb Schmitz, Welcoming Chairman

Two very active IOS members, Betsy and John Buckles, are avid bird watchers, as well as expert orchidists. In March of this year they took a bird watching/orchid hunting trip to Belize and they have passed on photos of some of the wild orchids they encountered while in Belize. Look for these photos in the November newsletter in a full page spread on native and wild orchids.

Betsy and John have visited many US states and foreign countries for their bird watching and orchid adventures, but they say they still love discovering the many bird species that frequent our own Chicago Botanic Garden.

Betsy and John are at almost all the IOS meetings and shows, so be sure to get to know them and enjoy some of their bird and orchid adventures.



**Phalaenopsis cultivar unknown. Hoosier Orchids
Photo by Al Papiewski**

Advertising in IOS Newsletter

The IOS Newsletter is actively seeking advertising from members and vendors of orchids and orchid related products. We are asking our commercial members to consider placing a small ad (the size of a business card) in the newsletter for one year at a cost of \$5.00/month. The newsletter goes to 350+ households and 15 area libraries. That's certainly a big bang for your bucks. Contact Jerry Garner, Newsletter Editor, to place your ad.

Support YOUR Fall Show

Lois Cinert, Home Show Chairman

There is still time for you to make plans to show off your blooming orchids at our fall show **Growing Stronger**. We will be showing off our best flowers in the Business Conference Center at Oakton Community College, 1600 E Golf Road, Des Plaines Illinois. Bring your plants Friday, October 1, after 2:00. We will have space for any plant you bring.

We'd also like you to help out on Saturday, any time between 10am and end of cleanup. There is always room for one more helper at the plant sale table, or at our information table. If you can't spare any time for volunteer work, be sure to come anyway to hear the three talks by our guest speakers, at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm.

Bring a friend; there will be no admission charged for this show. We want you to come and enjoy the show, visit the plant sales table, find a good book to help you grow better, stronger plants, and get your own IOS polo or sweatshirt to show your colors.

The show is one day only, Saturday, so don't miss it!



Dendrobium secundum

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.

Other Upcoming Orchid Events

2004 AOS Members Meeting:

The Denver Orchid Society will host the AOS Fall Members Meeting October 6-10. Register NOW to hear first rate speakers, including our own **Hermann Pigors**. For show information telephone 303-987-3005 or go to the Denver Orchid Society Website www.DenverOrchidSociety.org/2004_show and for registration information call 303-933-8598. The host hotel is the Four Points Sheraton in Denver, telephone 888-238-1947.

Field Trip: Orchid Grower Greenhouses:

The Chicago Botanic Garden is offering a one day field trip to Oak Hill Gardens and Hausermann's. A bus will transport participants from the Garden on **October 22nd**, leaving at 9am and returning by 4pm. Lunch is provided as a part of the tour fee. In addition, IOS member, Jerry Garner, will present a mini-course en route on orchid growing basics. At the greenhouses, participants will receive a guided tour and the opportunity to talk with the growers and purchase plants. This tour is primarily for orchid novices. Fee for CBG members is \$79, nonmembers \$99. To register, call 847-835-8261.

Blackhawk Orchid Society Show:

Klehm Arboretum, 2701 Clifton Avenue, Rockford, IL. **October 22-24**. Contact Brian Lang for Show information at 815-297-4723. NOTE – This is an away show for us and Sandy Fuller would love to have your help with the IOS display.

Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis Fall Show:

Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO. Contact Diana Parker, 636-677-6054.

The Essential Orchid Library

Tom Heller has agreed to put together a list of “must have” orchid books and other publications for the serious amateur orchid grower's library. If you have any favorite books you would like included on the list, send your suggestions to Tom

or to Jerry Garner. Publications can be highly technical or written for the novice. The resulting comprehensive bibliography will be published in the November or December newsletter.



Paph. venustum album

Membership News

Allison Tribble, Membership Chairman

We added one new member in September:

Virginia Grabowski ~ Highland Park

Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome her to our Society. With the addition of this new member, the membership role (households) has risen to 337. Total individual membership is now 424.

Remember to wear those membership badges to meetings and to shows. This will help all of us become better acquainted. Introduce yourself to members or guests you don't know. Ask what they grow; tell them about your orchid interests. Amazingly, many longtime members only know some other longtime members by sight, not by their names!

Town of the Month: This month we highlight Niles, Illinois. We have four active members living in Niles. They might be able to car-pool to meetings or give growing advice!

Carole Thompson
 Sonja Utter
 Susan Moser
 Ronald Slovick

IOS Board Meetings

The IOS officers and board members meet the second Tuesday of the odd months of the year in the home of a board member. All IOS members are welcome to attend these meetings. If you plan to attend, please notify Wendy Wesley or the host of the meeting beforehand. The next two meetings will be:

November 9th, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Sue Golan, 599 West Old Mill Road, Lake Forest, IL.

January 4th, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Sandy Fuller, 352 Cheryl Lane, Palatine, IL.

Collector's Corner

Jerry Garner, Newsletter Editor

(Each month I will feature an unusual species orchid in this column. A brief plant description, cultural information, and plant photo will be included. If there are certain species you would like to see featured or you would like to write about. Please contact me.)



Photo from Oak Hill Gardens website

Zootrophion endressianus Luer 1982

The name is derived from the Greek meaning *menagerie*, an allusion to similarity of the flowers to animal heads.

Subfamily Epidendroideae
 Tribe Epidendreae
 Subtribe Pleurothallidinae

Distribution: Tropical Central and South America and Jamaica and Cuba; 1 of 11-15 species.

Description: A small epiphyte lacking pseudobulbs but with well developed erect 1-leafed stems arising from a short rhizome. Leaves are thick and held erect. Flowers 1 or 2 borne under the leaves, in this species cream speckled with red. Flowers are tubular shaped and appear to never completely open.

Culture: This species prefers warm temperatures, 12-15 degrees C. minimum. Can be grown mounted or in small pots (2"-3") in a well-drained medium. Excellent drainage is essential. Water carefully year round. Grows best in shade, but in high humidity. Typically blooms in the fall, but I have had the plant bloom mid-summer and fall in a 2" pot.

Be sure to regularly check the IOS website www.iosos.com Webmaster Tom Franczak does a fantastic job maintaining an informative and interesting site.



Potinara Wanata Gold

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Jerry Garner, Editor
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Evanston, IL 60202**

Postmaster: Dated Material

October 2nd - Fall Show @ OCC
10am -5pm in the Business Center
See Pages 4 and 6 Inside

November Members Meeting – Nov. 14th
@OCC

Deadline for Submissions for November
Newsletter – October 15th