



ILLINOIS  
ORCHID  
SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

**VOL. 52 No. 11**

**November 2004**

**Jerry Garner, Editor**

## 2004 Meeting and Speaker Schedule

**November 14<sup>th</sup>** – William Goldner of Woodstream Orchids will speak on Orchids of Panama.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** – Our annual holiday party at Hausermanns. Details in December Newsletter.

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** – Howard Ginsberg, Bedford Orchids, will speak on Golden Peokers.

Barry Lubin is hard at work on the 2005 schedule. We should have a more thorough listing in the December newsletter.

### A Note From the Editor – Mea Culpa

I apologize for the delay in getting out the November newsletter. Unforeseen problems intervened in my schedule, and it became impossible for me to get the newsletter to you before now. I have adjusted the information to reflect the delay, but the newsletter still has a lot of information you should find useful. Hopefully you will agree – better late than never. The December newsletter should arrive in a more timely manner.

## Orchid Events and Dates to Remember

### November

6 –7 - Michiana Orchid Society Show, Notre Dame, IN. Contact: Sandy Ohlund, [sohlund@csinet.net](mailto:sohlund@csinet.net)

24 – 28 – Asociacion Altaverapacense de Orquideologia Show, Coban, Guatemala. Contact: Mauro G. Garcia y Garcia, [mggarcia2@intelnet.net.gt](mailto:mggarcia2@intelnet.net.gt)

### December

4 – Porter's Orchids Holiday Open House, Grand Ledge, MI. Contact: [orchidsuzi@aol.com](mailto:orchidsuzi@aol.com)

3-5 – J&K Orchids Open House, Neenah, WI. Plant sales, potting and bonsai demonstrations, door prizes, and more! Contact: J&K Orchids, 920/836-2379. See their website at [www.jandkorchids.com](http://www.jandkorchids.com)

### February

4-6 – Orchid Quest 2005, Madison, WI. Sponsored by the Orchid Growers Guild. Contact: Liz Wood, [ewood@biochem.wisc.edu](mailto:ewood@biochem.wisc.edu)

### April

20-24 – AOS/MAOC Meeting and Show, hosted by the Minnesota Orchid Society. Check their website for location and details. [www.orchidsocietyofminnesota.com](http://www.orchidsocietyofminnesota.com)

### See Sandy Fuller's column for IOS Away Show Schedule



Photo courtesy of Aloha Orchids

**Visit the IOS Website at [www.iosoc.com](http://www.iosoc.com)**

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*Kefersteinia lactea*

Introduce yourselves to these ewcomers when you see the “smiley face” on their name badges. And, remember, it really helps if you wear your name badge too. Happy growing.

**Submit News and Articles for the December newsletter by November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Allison Tribble, Membership Chairman

Our Fall Show brought us fourteen new memberships. As of this date the total (household) memberships are 353, with individual memberships at 447. Please welcome to our growing Society the following new members:

- Holly Bernstein - Evanston
- Shawn Collins - Deerfield
- Cheryl Crompton - Des Plaines
- Bernadette Cruz - Chicago
- Beth Engle - Lake Bluff
- Cindy Ensor -Wilmette
- Don & Gloria Hoth -Chicago
- Kelly & Roberta Kinslow - Skokie
- Francesco Minanne -Chicago
- Albert Opitz -Chicago
- Ron & Cheryl Peppler -Chicago
- John Perkins -Highland Park
- Lyle Sparks -Highland Park
- Jane Stastny -Evanston
- Tom Tepper -Deerfield
- Mina Tse -Chicago



Was this Catt. really this blue? Photo by Al Papiewski

**President’s Message ~~~Important!**

Wendy Wesley, President

Since our August meeting, there has been much progress with our talks with Chicago Botanic Garden. We have now agreeably settled all of the differences that caused us to leave two years ago. A committee appointed by the Board of Directors worked to make this move a step forward in the life of the Illinois Orchid Society.

Our stay at Oakton Community College has been a pleasant one. We enjoy working with the staff at the

Business Conference Center. They worked hard to fulfill our needs for the time we have spent there.

Our expectations at the time of the move two years ago were to have our meetings in a friendly setting, and plan and produce successful orchid shows. Our meetings have been successful, with good attendance. Our shows have not been as successful. Attendance has been considerably less than in past years, and even with the introduction of innovative new events at the shows, we have not been able to attract the public to our new venue. Without the level of attendance, we have fallen short on our anticipated income. One of the facts of life at Oakton is the need to be able to cover our rental of the spaces we use for shows and meetings. Without adequate income from admission fees, and with decreasing fees paid by fewer vendors, we are not able to meet these obligations without using our reserve funds.

Our move back to Chicago Botanic Garden will allow us to again increase our treasury, and fulfill our educational and charitable obligations, as outlined in our charter and bylaws. We will be able to serve our membership, our vendors, and the Chicago area public.

We will have more details for you at the November meeting. Please attend. This is a move that will affect all members. We are confident that this will be a positive experience for you and for the Illinois Orchid Society.

### **Ten Books Every Orchidist Should Have**

By Ron Stoch

Perhaps these are not the ten best all around books, but all are excellent and I would recommend they be included in any orchid grower's library.

I think all orchid growers should read *Orchids and their Conservation* by Harold Koopowitz. He builds a model of conservation that can be used for anything in nature that might be in danger of extinction, and the reader comes away with a better sense of what conservation should be.

For those just starting out with orchids, I would recommend *Orchids Simplified* by Henry Jawarski and Ortho's *All about Orchids*. Both give some botanical background and historical perspective, and they have good pictures of pests and diseases. Their coverage of repotting /mounting has good photos, and both books give the reader a good idea of what is easy and what is more advanced.

If you're looking for a larger reference book, *Home Orchid Growing* by Rebecca Tyson Northern and *The Manual of Orchids* by Joyce Stewart are two books that cover almost every genus. Every book collection should have these.

For a great pocket book, *Taylor's Guide to Orchids* by Judy White is very good as a handy quick reference. *The Complete Book of Orchid Growing* by Peter McKenzie Black, though not a pocket book is also quite good and easy to access information.

*The Orchids of the Philippines* by Jim Cootes is a great book for seeing and finding out more about all the orchids of the Philippines. After you read it, you want to find and grow them all. Not a light read, it is a great reference book.

If you are interested in Bulbophyllums then *Bulbophyllums and Their Allies* by Emly S. Siegerist is the place to start and a "must have."

If you want to know more about Paphiopedilums and their culture, *The Paphiopedilum Grower's Manual* by Lance Birk is the book to turn to. A new edition will be out in January 2005.

That makes ten books - perhaps not ten all around books, but ten which cover various areas of interest and which would provide useful and accurate information. It is interesting that with all the orchid books out there on the shelves, that the vast majority is so poor. Perhaps a good follow up article might be "The Ten Worst Orchid Books That Don't belong On Any Bookshelf." Any suggestions?

### **Orchids In The News**

The BBC's "Gardeners' World" magazine touts the wonders of X *Doritaenopsis* Black Butterfly in its November issue. Described as "unusual," the plant has dark wine colored waxy flowers with white edging and is said to bloom year-round, producing five to seven arching spikes per bloom time. The photo accompanying the short article supports the claim of unusual beauty. Check it out for yourself in the November issue of "Gardeners' World" or order a seedling or two for 15 pounds each from Orchids by Peter White, telephone (01295)712159.

American orchidists not to be outdone, "Garden Design" magazine, Nov/Dec 2004, has a well written article extolling the beauty and ease of growing orchids. All the major easy to locate genera are covered, each with beautiful color

photos and helpful growing tips. The article concludes with a good, easy to understand explanation of cloning and meristem culture. The article is a bit of an advertisement for Worldwide Orchids, located near Apopka, FL and a major supplier of hybrid orchids for Home Depot and Target. Check the website [www.worldwideorchids.com](http://www.worldwideorchids.com)



*Lewisara Mandai Fancy*

### **Away Shows Report**

**Sandy Fuller, Away Shows Chairman**

In September we went to the Milwaukee Orchid Show. There are pictures on the website for those who are interested. Thanks to Diana Nielsen for designing our display which received a red ribbon, to Lois and George Cinert for assisting with registration and plant delivery, and to Sue Golan for willing to be a drop off point for plants.

By the time you get this newsletter we will have attended the Blackhawk Show in Rockford. Look for pictures on the website from this show.

Upcoming shows we are planning to attend are:

Orchid Growers' Guild Orchid Quest 2005, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Alliant Energy Center, Exposition Hall, Madison, WI.

Batavia Orchid Society Show at the Charlestown Mall in St. Charles (I have not been able to determine the dates yet).

Northeast Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, March 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 2040 Airport Dr., Green Bay, WI.

Illowa Orchid Society Spring Show, March 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> at the Putnam Museum & Imax Theatre Lobby, 1717 West 12th St., Davenport, IA.

If anyone is interested in helping out with our display at away shows, please contact me. It is fun working with orchids and meeting new people. Setup is usually on Friday and teardown on Sunday evening. If you cannot spare the time, please send your plants.

For those of you that have never sent plants to an away show here are some instructions that will help things run smoothly. Please write up a list of plants with your name and phone number at the top of the page. Include it in your box and make sure your plants are watered, clean, staked and bug free. Put your name on both the box(es) you are sending them in and on the pot of each plant. Please make sure your plant has a label with its species or hybrid name or parentage. If it is cold, be sure to pack plants so they can withstand short periods outside. I look forward to seeing everyone's beautiful plants at our away shows. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

### **IOS Members' Judging Points**

**Sandy Fuller**

<b>Lights / Windows</b>	<b>Points</b>
Bestman, Jim and Gerry	1
Bloome, Catherine	47
Buckles, Betsy	10
Burns, Joe *	1
Cinert, Lois	69
Cochran, Felicia *	10
Dandekar, Rebecca	10
Delvecchio, Pat	2
Edwards, Joel	76
Fuller, Sandy	248
Garner, Jerry	26
Hardy, Maurice	5
High, Chuck & Jane	45
Kiergaard, Cleo	20
Kotowski, Anne	24
Losert, Wilfred	223
Maloney, Sherry	240
Nielsen, Diana	71
Papiewski, Claire	28
Samuelson, Helen and David	19
Schmitz, Barbara	208
Schordje, Leo	98
Seidel, Gerhard *	10
Spitz, Nancy	15
Tribble, Allison	53
Unger, Rich	22

Vrabel, Ken	78
Wesley, Wendy	10
Wilson, Nicole *	32
<b>Greenhouse</b>	
Lipson, Steve	38
Dixler, Joe and Rosalie	656
Gamson, Ed	31
Golan, Sue	109
Lubin, Barry	31
Mestdagh, J&V	30
Morr, Allen	11
Sahagian, Laima	159
Thompson, Carole	120
Zielinski, Wally	17

\* New members

If you have any questions regarding your points, please contact Sandy Fuller.

### **Meeting Program and Speaker**

#### **Barry Lubin, Programs Chairman**

Our next meeting is on **Sunday, November 14**. Our speaker will be Bill Goldner of Woodstream Orchids. Bill's presentation topic will be "Orchids of Panama". Bill has spent a good deal of time visiting orchids in their natural habitats in Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Thailand, Malaysia and India. Bill is an Accredited American Orchid Society Judge in the National Capitol Center and the Co-chairman of the Paphiopedilum Forum. His plants have received numerous AOS awards.

Woodstream is the exclusive representative for **Maduro's Tropical Flowers** of Panama. This joint venture provides access to hundreds of nursery-grown or seed-produced species and unique hybrids from Central America, many available for the first time in the United States. Their website and on line catalog is [www.woodstreamorchids.com](http://www.woodstreamorchids.com) Bill welcomes preorders that may be delivered when he visits, with quantity discounts as listed on the site.

The Mentors (newcomers) meeting will begin at 12 noon. The workshop, on proper plant staking will be presented by Sue Golan and will begin at 12:30 p.m. Please have your plants in place for judging by 12:30 p.m. and **remember to bring some goodies for the hospitality table.**

### **Fall Show Report**

#### **Lois Cinert, Home Show Chairman**

Our fall show, Growing Stronger, was held at Oakton Community College on October 2. We hope you were able to attend. Our show was compact and intimate, but was full of beautiful orchids, and attended by an enthusiastic public. The displays were elegant, the plant sales tables full. Our expert potter was kept busy, as were the folks at the membership and information tables.

No show can be a success without the hard work of those of you who volunteer to help. Every plant shown or sold had to be brought into the Business Conference Center. Displays had to be set up, plants sold, memberships solicited. All of this happens because someone volunteers to do the work.

On Friday, our plant movers helped all of us unload. Tom Heller helped Barry Lubin with bark, and the repotting area. Sherry Maloney set up the registration table, and Ed Gamson, Barb Schmitz and Sue Tirmalis pulled carts of plants into our room. Sherrie Reddick, as usual, made herself available for whatever needed to be done, and Felicia Cochran offered to do anything else that was left. Setup went smoothly with the help of the Oakton Staff, and Henrietta Nigliazzo. Anne Kotowski joined the group to complete the registration process, and our show was ready. Judges, under the direction of Jim Spatzek, arrived at 6:30am, and completed their duties quickly. Their clerks included Ed Gamson, Joel Edwards, Laima Sahagian, Maurice Hardy, Jane and Chuck High, and Rebecca Dandekar.

When the show opened, Jerry Garner and Anne Kotowski greeted our guests at our upstairs information table, while Allison and Dave Tribble encouraged people to join our society and Rosalie Dixler promoted the AOS. Claire Papiewski helped with information and book sales; Wendy Wesley, Felicia Cochran and the faithful Ralph Minnis sold the plants that Wally Zielinski arranged and managed with the help of Wilf Losert. Linda Juberg helped answer questions, and kept our guests happy. Joe Dixler, Allan Morr and Steve Lipson manned the repotting room, and sent lots of people home with happy plants. We had three excellent speakers, Leo Schordje, Rich Unger, and Ernie Gemeinhart, who was asked for an encore performance!

As usual, our show went off without a hitch, thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteers. There are also thanks to Pat Kralik for our show schedules,

Barry Lubin & friends for the dirty, thankless job of creating our bark mix, which you all love. Thank you all. It is wonderful to see you all working so well together to help our show.



*Vanda John Cubb*

### **Outreach Activities**

**Claire Papiewski, Outreach Chairman**

Update on Chicago Flower & Garden Show, March 12 through March 20<sup>th</sup> 2005

In the October 2004 IOS Bulletin it was announced that we would be given a free 10 x 10 space at the show. We will have an information table announcing our spring show, handing out membership information and cultural sheets. Show hours have been extended through 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

More than 19,500 people attended the show daily last year. Those who parked their cars in the lot scurried to find a space and paid for that privilege.

The Show Committee will reserve a free parking space for your car while you are volunteering at the show, and while you are volunteering, admission is also free, but they need to know that you will be coming. I'm sure you can take a nice break to enjoy the rest of the show while you are there. This Show Committee cares for its volunteers. All we need is you.

I know this kind of commitment is very far in advance given the March 2005 date.

If you think you can come for just a few hours, call me at (847) 622-8664 or email:

[dreflap@wowway.com](mailto:dreflap@wowway.com).

### **Refreshments for Membership Meetings**

Let's not forget the refreshment table we all seem to love so dearly, and for good reason. Don't let the task of stocking the table at the meetings fall to the same few people every month. Bring something in to share with your fellow IOS members and volunteer to help with set up or clean up.

### **November/December Orchid Checklist**

- Cattleya** Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter. The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases). Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.
- Cool-Growing Orchids** One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from Masdevallias to Odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

**Cymbidium** Finally we begin in earnest the main Cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

- ***Oncidium crispum* Complex** This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.
- ***Paphiopedilum*** The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. *Paphiopedilum*s are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike. While *Paphiopedilum*s rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With *Paphiopedilum*s, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers,

- keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

**Phalaenopsis** Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in *Phalaenopsis*. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our *Phalaenopsis* will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest. A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

**Vandaceous Genera** Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.



*Epidendrum Joseph Lii*



## Fall Show 2004

### But Where Is Lois?

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Annual Holiday Party –Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>  
@ HAUSERMANN'S

Deadline for December Newsletter:  
November 20<sup>th</sup>

Important Message Inside From IOS  
President Wendy Wesley