



ILLINOIS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 53 No. 8 August 2005

Jerry Garner, Editor
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2005 IOS Meeting and Show Dates

Meeting Dates	Location / Facilities
Aug. 13 (Sat.)	Oak Hill Picnic
Sept. 24-25	Fall Show at CBG
October 9	Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, Glencoe
November 13	Monthly meeting not at CBG
December 13	Hausermann's Holiday Party
Spring 2006	No Spring Show
July 06	Expected return to CBG
Fall 2006	Large Fall Show @ CBG

2005 –2006 Orchid Events

- 8/20 Porter's Orchids Open House, Grand Ledge, MI
- 9/1 –9/4 5th New Zealand International Orchid Expo, Hamilton, NZ
- 9/13 – 9/19 WA Orchid Spectacular, Freemantle, Western Australia
- 9/17 – 9/18 Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Milwaukee
- 9/23 – 9/25 13th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival
- 9/24 – 9/25 Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show, Glencoe, IL**
- 10/21–10/23 Fall MAOC, Cincinnati, OH
- 3/24-3/26/06 Spring MAOC, Omaha, NE



Dendrobium unicum

President's Message

Wendy Wesley, President

Our next meeting is our annual picnic at Oakhill Gardens. I would like to take the time to ask all our members who are going to the picnic to think of other members who might like to go but not be able to get there on there on there own. Reach out and share a ride so we all can enjoy Oakhill together.

I have not as of yet been approached by anyone who is interested in volunteering time to help out the society. I know everyone is busy during the summer but ever little bit helps to make our society run smoothly. Please volunteer if you can. See you at the picnic!

September Newsletter deadline is August 20th. Submit any news. Announcements, photos, advertisements, columns, etc. to Jerry Garner, Editor, at ioseditor@comcast.net or mail to 623 Sheridan Rd. Evanston, IL 60202.

Away Shows News

Sandy Fuller, Away Show Chairman

We were able to go to 7 away shows last year. Many thanks to all who made this possible: Lois Cinert, Diana Nielsen, Anne Kotowski, Joel Edwards, Sherry Maloney, Sue Golan, and Leo Schordje. And thanks to those of you who sent all the beautiful plants which made our displays: Lois Cinert, Pam Cobo, Felicia Cochran, Joel Edwards, Ed Gamson, Sue Golan, Anne Kotowski, Wilfred Losert, Barry Lubin, Sherry Maloney, Diana Nielsen, Claire Papiewski, Laima Sahagian, Barb Schmitz, Leo Schordje, Jim Spatzek, Allison Tribble, Rich Unger, and Wendy Wesley.

Here is our tentative schedule for away shows we will be attending in the remainder of 2005 and the first half of 2006:

September 17th and 18th - Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
October 22nd and 23rd – Mid-America Orchid Congress Show – Cincinnati, OH

(Continued on next page)

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	(brlubin@sbcglobal.net)
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	(jamcam21@sbcglobal.net)
Asst. Treas (Membership/ Dues)	Anne Kotowski	630-833-8042	(phrag207@aol.com)
Immediate Past President	Joe Dixler	847-432-7708	(jmd@dixler.net)

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

Rich Unger	2006	773-685-2677	(aroma_imp@hotmail.com)
Allison Tribble	2006	773-728-4874	(allisont@rcn.com)
Sue Golan	2007	847-234-6311	(sgolan@aol.com)
Allen Morr	2007	847-501-2532	(ozone03@ameritech.net)
Toby Green	2008	847-845-6145	(toby.green@caremark.com)
Barbara Schmitz	2008	773-275-3061	(somalijane@aol.com)
Leo Schordje	2009	847-746-9355	(lschordje@dataflo.net)
Felicia Cochran	2009	630-889-0084	(fcochran@concentric.net)

(Continued from previous page)

- October? (no date yet) – Blackhawk Orchid Society Show – Rockford, IL
- February? (no date yet) – Orchid Growers Guild Orchid Quest – Madison, WI
- February 18th and 19th – Batavia Orchid Society Show – St. Charles, IL
- March? (no date yet) – Northeastern Orchid Society Show – Greenbay, WI
- March 18th and 19th – Illowa Orchid Society Show – Davenport, IA
- May? (no date yet) – Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society – Traverse City, MI

If you are interested in helping out or just finding out more about what is involved, please contact me. It is a fun way to get more involved in our society and meet more people who love orchids.

The IOS Board will meet Tuesday, September 13th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Sue Golan, 599 W. Old Mill Rd., Lake Forest. Any member may attend the meeting but you should notify Sue or Wendy Wesley beforehand.

Orchid Popularity Still Growing in U.S.

Delray Beach, FL (June 4, 2005) (AOS Press Release)
 According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Floriculture Crops Survey for the year 2004, compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Survey, orchids are growing in popularity in the United States. Currently second in potted flowering plant sales with a wholesale value of \$128 million, orchid sales increased by five percent this past year. This is the second highest percentage increase of all the potted flowering plants in the category. Orchids are second in sales behind poinsettias, which experienced a one percent

increase with \$248 million in sales, and they are significantly ahead of third-ranked chrysanthemums, which increased eight percent to \$75 million in sales.

There were more than 17.2 million orchids sold in the United States in 2004, an increase of 13 percent from the previous year. "This reflects the growth of the flowers popularity. People are increasingly learning that orchids are not the delicate plants that they were once perceived to be, but are hearty, easy-to-maintain plants that have the ability to bloom all year long," said Lee Cooke, executive director of the American Orchid Society. Orchids have been included as a separate entry in the annual USDA Floriculture Crops Summary Report since 1995, when they were first submitted by the nonprofit AOS. Floriculture refers to plants in the categories of bedding, cut cultivated greens, cut flowers, flowering potted plants and foliage plants. California and Florida lead the nation and are nearly tied in production, accounting for 38.1 and 37.6 percent of the country's orchids, respectively. Together, these two states account for more than 75 percent of the country's orchids.



Dendrobium lancifolium

For up-to-date IOS news, meeting schedules and photos go to the IOS website at www.iosoc.com.



Prasophyllum macrostachyum v. *macrostachyum*

Fall Show Sooner Than You May Think!

Lois Cinert, Home Show Chairman

Our fall show is September 24 & 25. This will be our last show at Chicago Botanic Garden for a whole year. Construction on the Education Building begins October 1. Our fall show will be the last major event in the building before it is completely changed. That means that this will be your last chance to show off your skills as a grower and exhibitor for a year. This will be your last chance to experience the easy, relaxed atmosphere of our fall show as a volunteer.

Please bring your blooming plants, a fern or green foliage plant, an interesting basket, an unusual rock, and set up your half or full table display. It's easy to do. Bring your photos, orchid stamps, ceramic and glass orchid related objects. It's time to show off how many ways you can have orchids in your life. These can be objects you have produced by yourself, or things you have collected. We want to see them all. If you bring plants to our monthly meetings, you should bring some to our show. If you don't have enough for your own display (4 or 5 are enough!), you can join a friend in making a beautiful display. Don't be shy. It's fun to do, and feels great when you stand back and see what a great job you've done.

Setup is Friday, September 23, from 2 – 9 PM.

Please bring your extra plant divisions for our sales table. Bring those plants that you've had for years that just won't bloom. Give someone else a chance with them. A change of conditions might be just what they need. Bring in something that you are a little tired of, and buy something new. There are always new hybrids to add to your collection. And our sales table in the fall always has some interesting and unusual species for you to try.

Please come to volunteer your time. Our society depends on volunteers to get all the work done. Nothing happens without your help. You are the society, and we are only as good as the people who show up to make us good. No job is difficult to do. Mostly you will need to talk to other people about orchids, and be friendly, and smile. It's not hard to do. **Volunteer sheets and exhibit**

space requests are available on the web page,

www.iosoc.com, or you can call or email. You will be able to sign up at Oak Hill Gardens at the picnic, too.

We think you will enjoy working at the show and visiting with other amateur orchid growers, in an easy, relaxed atmosphere. Come and see us at the show.

IOS Member Passes Away

Submitted by Clarence Veague

IOS member Marie Veague passed away this past July 16th. A wake was held at Blake & Lamb Funeral Home in Oak Lawn July 19th. Each member of the Society sends sincere condolences to members of her family.

August Program Notes

Barry Lubin, Program Chairman

Our next meeting will be a picnic at Oak Hill Gardens on **Saturday, August 13**. 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!

July Meeting Recap

Workshop

Jim Spatzek, IOS Treasurer and Vice Chairman of the Chicago Judging Center of the American Orchid Society (AOS), conducted the workshop about *What Judges Look for in an Orchid*. Jim began by explaining the two types of judging – Show and AOS.

People who are knowledgeable about orchids do show judging. The judging process involves comparison of specific orchids to similar plants in the show. The best plants win show ribbons, trophies and other prizes. AOS judging uses a different process. AOS judging involves precedence (recorded attributes of plants judged previously), comparison between similar plants, review of orchid literature (to understand the history of plants judged,

or perhaps not seen previously) and experience of the judges in recognizing the qualities of a particular plant. The knowledge and experience to become an AOS judge requires a 7-year period of study and application. AOS awards are defined and granted to a particular plant based its quality. AOS judging is generally conducted by the Chicago Judging Center at the Chicago Botanic Garden on the second Saturday of the month. Both show and AOS judging are conducted at our spring and fall shows. IOS members are invited to participate in both show judging and AOS judging (as clerks) at our upcoming show on September 24-25. Of course, the plants you bring to the show will also participate in judging.

Main Speaker

Our featured presenter for the month was Marguerite Webb of J&L Orchids (<http://www.jlorchids.com/>). Marguerite discussed *Warmth Tolerant Masdevallias and their Relatives*. As Marguerite explained, many masdevallias are cool growing, but there is a good selection of species and hybrids that are warmth tolerant. With adequate humidity and air movement, some of the warmth tolerant species and hybrids can thrive in temperatures as high as 90 degrees. Others are comfortable in intermediate temperatures with highs in the 80s. All appreciate a 10 to 15 degree temperature drop at night. J&L uses a mix of medium grade tree fern (3 parts), sphagnum moss (1 part) and perlite (1/2 part) for growing masdevallias. Marguerite explained that any moisture retentive mix with good drainage could be used. Marguerite provided a detailed list of species and hybrids that grow in warm and intermediate temperatures. Contact me (brlubin@sbcglobal.net) if you need a copy.

Monthly Speaker Schedule

Barry Lubin, Programs Chairman

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speakers/Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
Aug. 13	Picnic (Saturday)	Oak Hill Gardens
Sept. 24 & 25	<u>FALL SHOW - NO MONTHLY MEETING</u> Fred Clark, Sunset Valley Orchids-	CBG
Oct. 9	Cynoches, Mormodes, & Catasetums: A Review of Some Trends ***	Renaissance Hotel
Nov. 13	To be determined	Renaissance Hotel
Dec. 11	Holiday Party	Hausermann's

**** New speaker. Sunset Valley Orchids website is www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com. Check it out!



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 Some 4 bulb - regular
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New Members' Report

Anne Kotowski, Membership Chairman

We have four new members to welcome this month.

Patricia Ullman
pullman@schiffhardin.com

Donna Pilkington
 1 N 590 Burr Oak Rd.
 Northwoods, Il. 60185

Stuart Baxter
 14N456 Factly Rd.
 Sycamore, IL. 60178-6011

Elin Eisenberg
 1380 Waverly Rd.
 Highland Park, IL. 60035

Antoinette Pettitt
 155 Harbor Dr. #411
 Chicago,IL. 60601

Be sure to introduce yourselves to these new members and make them welcome to our Society. If I have overlooked any new member, please let me know and accept my apologies. I'll make certain you are introduced in the next newsletter.

2005 –2006 Membership Directory

The 2005-2006 directory has been mailed out. If you haven't received one or if there are any mistakes let me know, (630) 833-8042 or @ phrag207@aol.com . The following is a list of corrections and additions to the membership directory, please make the changes.

Correct email address:

- Sherrie Reddick - sherrier600@sbcglobal.net
- Joe Gardner- wjgardner@core.com
- Clarence Veague - cjvmcv@core.com
- Catherine Wormser- pokyw@aol.com
- Jim & Camille Spatzek- jamcam21@sbcglobal.net
- Linda Niemczyk- Ismorto@sbcglobal.net

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Additions:

Ken Vrabel
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DesPlaines, IL. 60016
(847) 298-4943

Notebaert Nature Museum
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Donna Pilkington
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Stuart Baxter
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Sycamore, IL. 60178-6011

Elin Eisenberg
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carpenjoyce@hotmail.com

Misc. changes:

Loren Pollock @ 26 Turnbull Woods Ct.
Pamela Herbst should be Penny Herbst

On a personal note, I would like to thank **Allison & Dave Tribble** for all the work they have done for the membership of the IOS. Putting together the directory is a huge task, I am glad it wasn't the first job I had to do.

The Society is still in need of several volunteers for vacant positions. If you can spare just a few hours a month, it would benefit the IOS greatly. This is a wonderful opportunity for new members to become involved & meet members. Not-so-new members should consider volunteering too. Contact Wendy Wesley for more info.



Cattleya Once Again

Expert Picks Top Ten Orchid Favorites

(Adapted from the NYBG Website)

After experiencing the amazing varieties and numbers of orchids plants on display at The Orchid Show at The New York Botanical Garden, novice growers and avid collectors were sure to want to bring home an exotic souvenir. Which is the best choice for home growers? Darrin Duling, the Garden's Curator of Glasshouse Collections and Co-Curator of The Orchid Show, offers characteristics and tips to help narrow the field of selection:

- ***Brassavola*** - Key characteristic: Pristine white, waxy flowers are intensely fragrant at night. Care: Bright, indirect light. Warm temperatures.
- ***Cattleya*** - Key characteristic: Possesses the largest, most fragrant blooms. Care: Bright, indirect light. Warm temperatures.
- ***Cymbidium*** - Key characteristic: Numerous waxy corsage-type flowers. Care: Needs cooler temperatures to flower.
- ***Dendrobium*** - Key characteristics: Various sizes from miniatures to tall cane-types. Colorful flowers. Care: Provide bright sun and plant will flower all year.
- ***Ludisia discolor*** - Key characteristics: Terrestrial orchid with striking burgundy foliage marked with hot pink linear stripes. One-foot tall spikes of small white flowers in late winter are an added bonus for this primarily short, spreading plant. Care: Shade and even moisture.
- ***Oncidium*** - Key characteristic: Sprays of small flowers on long stems. Care: Bright, indirect light with warm to moderate temperatures.
- ***Paphiopedilum*** - Key characteristic: Called the lady's slipper orchid because of its shape. Care: Bright, filtered light and warm temperatures.
- ***Phalaenopsis*** - Key characteristic: Dazzling long-lived moth-like sprays of flowers. Care: Bright, indirect light with warm temperatures.
- ***Phragmipedium*** - Key characteristic: Slipper orchids with flowers appearing in combinations of green, beige, ivory, pink, and red. Care: Thrives with "wet feet." Can be grown in a saucer of water in sunny conditions.

• *Vanda* - Key characteristic: Large flat open flowers with checkered patterns. Care: Need lots of full, direct sunlight and high humidity.

Preparing to Show Orchids

Marilyn H. S. Light

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(I think this article is timely with our **upcoming Fall Show September 24th –25th at the CBG**. The article has been edited and adapted for our newsletter. Jerry Garner , IOS Editor)

We all likely remember when we first saw orchids in a handsome display at a show. It was possibly then that we became inspired to become orchid growers and to someday proudly show what we had bloomed. We may not have realized it, but a lot of preparation goes into showing orchids. In order to achieve the very best, an exhibitor must choose healthy stock, grow it well, care for the developing flowers and transport it safely to the show. Lets get prepared to do as good a job!

Exhibitors have a variety of goals in mind when they show an orchid. Some wish to proudly show their very first orchid whose blooming event thankfully coincided with the local show date. Maybe they will win a ribbon and maybe not but they will have succeeded in blooming what they once only dreamed of.

Rosettes, ribbons, trophies and maybe an award or two are a definite lure for some exhibitors while others simply wish to assist their club by supplying additional plants for a larger exhibit. In larger displays, flaws are likely not seen by the casual observer but in smaller exhibits or when a plant is on the judging table, flaws are much more apparent. It is therefore in the best interest of the exhibitor to groom plants before the show. Not only will plants be at their best, but a ribbon or two may be more likely forthcoming.

Preparing the plant

The process of showing orchids begins long before the show date. Protect show plants from conditions that damage foliage and new growths. Most orchids keep their leaves for several years or even longer. A spot of drought or too little shade can produce effects such as accordion-pleated foliage in miltonias or an unsightly brown papery patch on a cattleya leaf. The plant likely will recover from the damage but the telltale signs will persist and render the plant unsuitable for display where the foliage will be easily seen. Control pests, water and fertilize with care, avoid spraying with hard water or products that leave an unsightly residue. Above all, grow the plants as well as possible for maximum bloom quality and production.

A few days before show time, select plants at their blooming prime. While grooming is a year round task, verify that all debris including dead foliage, dried back bulbs, and fallen blooms have been removed. Examine the foliage, especially the undersurface, for signs of scale and other pests. Gently wipe the upper surface of each leaf with a clean damp paper towel. Change towels between plants. Repeat if necessary at the show to remove travel dust. Do your fellow exhibitors a favor by leaving infested plants at home.

When foliage is unsightly because of physical damage, we can still make good use of the blooms. Blooms can be entered in a cut flower or decorative class. In a large display, minor problems may disappear amongst the mass of blooms. An alternative is to remove the damaged portions from an otherwise large healthy specimen but this should be done only as a last resort.

Training the inflorescence

Inflorescences are soft when immature but as they elongate, can become brittle and inflexible. As tiny flower buds develop, they will adjust their position according to the direction of light and the plant habit. Resupination (lip becoming lowermost) happens a few days before the flower opens. The best time to stake an inflorescence is when it is young. This way, flower buds and flowers will be carried to best advantage. Use a long enough stake to support what is expected to develop. Inflorescences can be staked to be upright or arching. Phalaenopsis and odontoglossum are staked vertical over their entire length or partway which permits the flower-bearing part to drape gracefully in a cascade of wonderful blooms. Use only new bamboo or sterilized metal or plastic stakes. Be certain that a stake will not wobble during transport. Gently train a developing inflorescence by securing it along its length as it elongates using twists of waxed florist tape. Never attach the tie so tightly that the stalk becomes deformed. During the entire training process until flowering, keep the plant in the same position relative to the direction of light. A mark on the pot can help with realignment if the container has to be moved. Stakes are sometimes removed for display purposes but if this is not the intention, choose a stake style to complement rather than detract from the flowers.

Care of the flowers

Developing flower buds are very susceptible to physical damage such as bruising, sun or frost burn, and insect predation and this can happen weeks before the show. A tiny scar on an equally tiny bud may not be noticeable but the damaged part can become an unsightly blemish when the bud expands to open. Protect developing buds from damage by paying close attention to culture.

Control insect pests, especially thrips and aphids preferably before the buds form. Thrips' nymphs will feed just under the petal edges of an opening bud leaving silvery scars to mar an otherwise beautiful flower. Botrytis fungus is a problem when nights are cool, humidity is high and there is poor air circulation. Affected buds and flowers will develop unsightly speckles.

Bud drop is a maddening habit of some dendrobium and phalaenopsis plants. A sharp change in temperature and humidity is suggested as the cause but you may not be able to stop bud drop from happening. If you have plants that are particularly susceptible to bud drop, bear this in mind before choosing them for the center of a display. Chances are that

the changes experienced on the way to the show or at the show will cause buds to change color and drop.

Pests and Diseases

Pests and diseases have no business at a show but that does not mean that they will not be present. We all have a duty to ensure that our plants are not a source of problems for other exhibitors. Greenhouse growers are encouraged to check especially yellow flowers and new succulent growths for aphids before bringing the plants to the show. While a blast of water or even soapy water will remove most, some nymphs may linger. Flower thrips, and a nasty hermaphroditic thrips that affects papas and other orchids, *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis*, can spread to other plants at a show. Control pests before the show otherwise leave the monsters at home.

Transport

Planning is critical to success. Suitable boxes, packing, helping hands and a vehicle are all part of successful transport. When selecting plants that might be in flower at show time, consider how they can be packed and how those containers can fit in your vehicle. It is not unknown for someone to rent a van to transport an especially large or tall specimen. Consider the effect of too much heat from the sun or car heater, the chance of sunburn, freezing because of proximity to an uninsulated wall or chill because of the air conditioning. If you stop along the way for a meal, consider what will happen to the plants left in the car over midday. Heat from the sun will quickly damage flowers and even kill plants. Take no chances with a precious cargo that you have worked hard to acquire. Park in the shade. Cover plants in boxes with a lightweight cloth to mask the sun's rays. I use a picnic cooler to transport tiny pleurothallids in cool, humid comfort. To transport catasetums with their all too vulnerable male flowers, try securing the staked inflorescence by attaching cords to the stake and to either side of the box. Advise the driver to avoid sharp turns or sudden stops, both of which can cause plants to shift, topple or otherwise be damaged.

At the show

Have on hand: show schedule, paper towels, spray bottle and water, tweezers, scissors, razorblade and alcohol, waxed florist tape. Locate your assigned exhibit area then get assistance to transport the plants and containers to that area. Move carefully and deliberately especially with tall or ungainly specimens. Sudden and expressive hand movements have been known to knock off a flower or two! Unpack carefully, check that any stakes are still secure. Groom again if needed, remove any traveling supports and table your blooming beauties. Be sure the entries are registered and labeled then sit back and enjoy the show and the culmination of months of preparation. Good luck!



Phal. Ruth Tauscher 'Red Flare'
HCC/AOS (Olympia Orchids)

Phalaenopsis Culture / Growing Tips for Moth Orchids

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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 exposure to excessive heat or cold, or having the pollen removed. Once the flowers wilt on a spike, the spike can be cut above the second node from the bottom. This will sometimes 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 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%. This 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. Occasional misting will not improve humidity longer than the few minutes or seconds it takes the mist to evaporate.

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 balanced fertilizer like 10-10-10. 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 a medium like a bark mixture or sphagnum moss. Repotting is best done after flowering.

(This article has been edited in light of more current recommendations for growing phals successfully. J. Garner, IOS Editor)



I ran this notice in the July newsletter and received no response. Either you aren't reading the newsletter or you don't really care about this particular subject. Always the optimist, I try again!

I do need member input. Reading many other society's newsletters, I have come to realize that other societies have a name for their newsletter. Well, what do you think? Should we get a name for ours too? Maybe we could have a contest for the best name and the winner receive some appropriate reward. Let me know what you think. Jerry Garner, Editor

Reminders:

This month's meeting will be held Saturday beginning at 11:30 at Oak Hill Gardens.

The Fall Show is happening very soon and Lois needs your help. Volunteer now. Contact Lois by e-mail, phone, or at the picnic Saturday.

Phalaenopsis photo on left courtesy of the NYBG Website.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*Illinois Orchid Society
Jerry Garner, Editor
623 Sheridan Road #1
Evanston, IL 60202
ioseditor@comcast.net*

Submit articles, photos, news, etc. for the September newsletter by August 20th to Jerry Garner at ioseditor@comcast.net

August 13th membership meeting will be at Oak Hill Gardens. Bring a picnic lunch, plants for judging, and a list of plants you want to buy at Oak Hill.