



Orchid Opus

VOL. 53 No. 11 November 2005

Jerry Garner, Editor
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2005-2006 IOS Meeting and Show Dates

Meeting Dates	Location / Facilities
November 13	Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, Glencoe
December 11	Hausermann's Holiday Party
2006	No Spring Show
July	Expected return to CBG
Fall	Large Fall Show @ CBG

2005-2006 Orchid Events

01/28-01/29/06	Grand Rapids, MI Orchid Society Show; Contact Rick Jensen, rjensen@meijergardens.org
03/24-03/26/06	Spring MAOC, Omaha, NE



Cymbidium sp.

Orchids on The World Wide Web

Sherrie Reddick, Contributing Editor

Our neighbor to the north, Wisconsin, offers us a wide variety of native orchids to explore and enjoy in this website:

http://www.botany.wisc.edu/Orchids/Orchids_of_Wisconsin.html. Click on "Taxa Lists" and browse through the various genera. You'll find photographs, bloom dates, local areas of growth and other information on each entry. The site has links to a taxonomic key of native orchids and to U. of Wisconsin herbarium records. This is a useful and fun site to browse. Imagine visiting just in time to enjoy the blooming orchids of the region. They are only a short drive away and armed with the information on this site you might have the rare chance to discover some of these native orchids in bloom.

As you can see in the newsletter masthead, I tossed a coin and the new name for the newsletter is officially *Orchid Opus*, submitted by Carole Thompson. Thanks to Carole and Allen Morr for their suggestions. .jg



For Your Collection

Claire Papiewski, Contributing Editor

Paphiopedilum fairrieianum

This paphiopedilum was described first by John Lindley as *Cypripedium fairrieianum* in 1857, and then by Stein as *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* in 1892. It was originally named after an orchid grower named Fairrie. Due to a typographical error, the specific epithet was first printed as “fairrieianum,” but was later corrected to the currently accepted spelling of “fairrieianum.” This widespread species grows in and around northeast India in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, among other locations, including southern Bhutan.



Paphiopedilum fairrieianum (Lind.) Stein

Originally, hundreds of plants were collected, sent to England, and offered at auction into the turn of the 20th century. A superb species, plants were much in demand. However, at that time, the species almost became extinct in cultivation because they could not survive when grown in the hot, greenhouse environments then in general use. *Paph. fairrieianum* is a variable species and there are a number of different forms including album, flavum, biflorum and nigrescens. Plants of this species do not grow well in warm conditions and should instead be kept in cool to

intermediate temperatures. Although day temperatures in the summer can reach 90° F (32° C), cooler conditions are desirable, if possible.

Warm summer nights in the mid to upper 60°s F (18°-20° C) are tolerable. From autumn through spring, however, night temperatures dropping to the low 50°s (10° C) or even into the high 40°s F (7°-9° C) seem to produce the best results. *Paph. fairrieianum* flowers throughout the year, but if given a six-week cool dry period in the autumn, it will usually flower during the winter into early spring. The flowers can stay open for many weeks when kept cool. Keep the medium damp while plants are in growth and provide high humidity and dappled bright light.

Reprinted from *Orchids*, April 2005. Painting by Linda Walsh Petchnick/text by Harry Zelenko.

November Program Notes

Barry Lubin, Program Chair

Our **November** meeting is on **Sunday, the 13th**, at the **Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, 933 Skokie Boulevard, Northbrook, IL**. A map is enclosed (page 4) for your convenience, or call the hotel at 847-498-6500 for directions.

The Mentors (newcomers) meeting will begin at 11:45. This is your chance to ask any questions you may have of our experienced growers. You can also bring in any plants with which you are having problems for expert examination and diagnosis, but please put them in a plastic bag to protect the innocent.

The workshop will begin at 12:30. Our workshop host this month will be IOS Newsletter Editor Jerry Garner. Jerry will be reviewing a sample of recently published books on orchids that everyone should have in their library. These books range from culture for beginning growers to genera-specific works for advanced enthusiasts.

Our featured speaker, Rebecca Dandekar, will be presenting **Miltoniopsis – Species and Breeding Trends**. Rebecca is a Student Judge

at the Chicago Judging Center. She has been an orchid hobbyist for eight years and is an active member of the Wisconsin Orchid Society, as well as the Illinois Orchid Society, the American Orchid Society and the Slipper Orchid Alliance. Her passion for orchid growing originated from a single purple phalaenopsis, a Valentine's gift from her husband. Today, her orchid collection numbers in the hundreds. She holds a Chemical Engineering degree and an Engineering Management degree, both from Michigan Technological University.

Please have your plants in place for judging by 12:30 PM and bring lots of plants for the members' sale table. Also, please remember to bring something for the hospitality table to share with your fellow members. **We are only permitted to bring home-baked goods to the Renaissance Hotel** – nothing in packages (e.g., no Entenmann's).

We still have some IOS bark mix and fertilizer (both the tap water and RO blends based on the Michigan State University formula) available. If you want some, please send me an email before the meeting (BR Lubin@sbcglobal.net). I will only bring enough to fill pre-orders.



Miltonia sp. (Photo courtesy of IOS Website. Grower & photographer unknown)

Member's Judging Points

Alex Manual, Contributing Editor

(Alex Manual recently took over the task of keeping judging records from Sandy Fuller. If you have any questions about the points listed, please contact Alex directly at vandaalex@aol.com.)

Lights/ Windows	Points
Asin, Karen	5
Buckles, Betsy	1
Cinert, Lois	30
Cochran, Felicia	28
Edwards, Joel	35
Engle, Beth*	5
Fuller, Sandy	193
Garner, Jerry	27
Hall, Julie*	40
High, Chuck & Jane	60
Hiipakka, Richard*	1
Jost, Peter*	15
Kiergaard, Cleo	15
Larsson, Greger	10
Losert, Wilfred	50
Maloney, Sherry	134
Minonne, Francesco*	5
Papiewski, Claire	21
Schmitz, Barbara	134
Seidel, Gerhard	15
Stam, L & G	11
Tirzmalis, Sue*	10
Torres, Luis	112
Tribble, Allison	62
Vrabel, Ken	152
Greenhouse	
Dixler, Joe & Rosalie	160
Gamson, Edward	42
Golan, Sue	445
Heller, Tom*	1
Lubin, Barry	25
Mestdagh, J & V	10
Sahagian, Laima	133
Spatzek, Jim	9
Thompson, Carole*	30
* New Members	

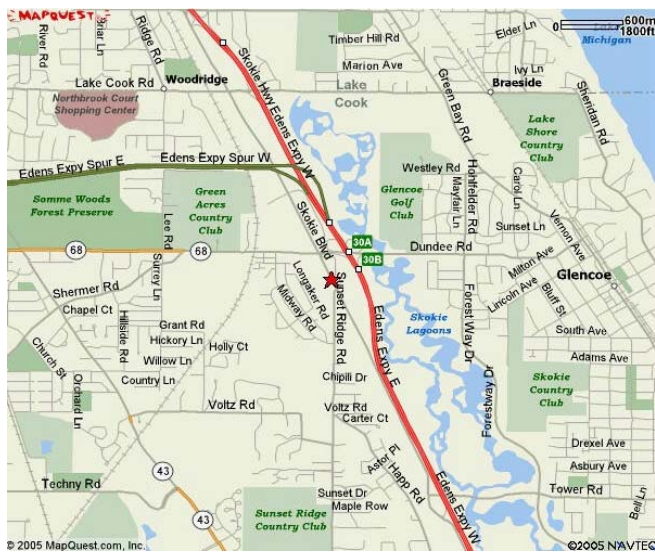
2004-2005 IOS Officers – Terms of office are from July 1 until June 30

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	(ioseditor@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)

Map to Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel



Remember the November membership meeting will be held at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel in Northbrook on November 13th.

President’s Message

Wendy Wesley, President

I want to thank all the members who attended the first meeting at the Renaissance North Shore Chicago Hotel. The hotel staff treated us very well and our meeting went smoothly. I hope everyone had a good time.

I hope to see all of you at our November meeting. Remember, the November meeting will be held at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, Skokie Boulevard, Northbrook.

Member Profile

Allison Tribble, Contributing Editor

Have you ever wondered who composes the beautiful and informative IOS newsletter? Who is the person who distributes such useful information to about 400 IOS households every month? Jerry Garner is the man!

Jerry has been editor of the IOS newsletter for the last 3-4 years. His background in English (BA, William & Mary- the Harvard of the South) and subsequent specialization in horticulture (Ph.D., VaTech – ranked #3 in the country in college football) gave him the ideal credentials to step into the role of newsletter editor, a position in which he has served the IOS so well!

Jerry’s academic achievements are not all there is to him. Did you know that he has the fairly unique distinction of being married to a lovely woman by

the same name? Jerry and Gerry (yes, it's true!) became the proud parents of a son and a daughter after an altar-bound college courtship. Romantic that he is, Jerry says they actually knew each other since he was a 4th grader and Gerry a 2nd grader. Proving that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, his daughter is now an assistant professor of horticulture at CalPoly, San Luis Obispo where she teaches fruit science and is a member of the California Citrus and Avocado Boards! His son, in Richmond, VA, is a Marketing Specialist for Bank One. Jerry's and Gerry's two beautiful granddaughters, Avery 3+ and Riley 1+, are the perfect reasons for them to travel to their hometown frequently.

On a more floriferous note, Jerry has been growing orchids since his early success with a cymbidium way back when he was a Horticulture professor in Virginia, and a student gave him the plant. He has been growing phalaenopsis and a lot of miniature varieties of many genera for the last 15 years. Currently, he grows under natural and artificial light in the sunroom in his vintage condo in Evanston. Jerry is a freelance writer. He publishes articles on orchids, botany, and landscape design history. He is currently revising his book on Horticulture careers. Jerry teaches horticulture at the CBG, the University of Chicago, and the City Colleges of Chicago. He is always helpful to anyone who has questions about orchid cultivation.

The membership of the IOS appreciates Jerry's obvious hard work on our newsletter. We feel even more admiration because he has been doing such fine work for our society while struggling for seven years with only recently diagnosed neurological and heart conditions. Hats off to you, Jerry!

Growing *Pleione formosana*

By Marni Turkel

The genus *Pleione* contains approximately 20 species, plus five or six natural hybrids, which are all adapted to the monsoon climates of eastern Asia. *Pleione formosana* is one of the

easiest in the genus to grow and along with its hybrids, it is readily available in the trade.

With some attention to basic seasonal requirements, *Pln. formosana* will reward you with beautiful blooms in late winter and early spring.

In order to thrive, *Pln. formosana* needs a cool, dry winter rest period with some chilling. Winter dormancy usually begins in November when the leaves drop off; at this time, watering should be reduced and then stopped. Mist if necessary only to prevent the pseudobulbs from shriveling. Repotting should be done during dormancy and yearly repotting is recommended. Do not bury the pseudobulbs, but rather nestle the bottoms in the mix to about one quarter to one third the depth of the pseudobulbs, and leave enough space between bulbs for a year's growth. Especially beautiful in



a group planting, Pleiones are traditionally grown in shallow planters, but will also do well in containers of standard depth. *Pleione formosana* blooms on the emerging growth.

Begin watering sparingly after root growth commences, usually about the time the flowers are fading, and keep the mix barely damp. When active top growth starts, plants should be watered and fertilized regularly, keeping the mix evenly moist. In the greenhouse, 50 percent shade is recommended. Many growers keep pleiones outside and then winter them in a frost-free garage or cellar where the temperature may drop some of the time into the mid 30s and 40s.

A wide variety of mixes can be used. One is equal parts peat moss, fine perlite and river sand. Another is equal parts river sand and a humus-rich potting soil that contains peat moss. Bark and moss mixes are other possibilities. Use a porous mix that provides excellent drainage while retaining ample moisture.

This cultural information applies to all hybrids and many species of pleione. If you are interested in learning more about this genus, visit the Pleione Website at www.pleione.info/, where you will find a gallery and cultural information as well as listings of books, suppliers, and links to other pleione sites.

Reprinted (with minor editing) from the AOS December 2002 *Orchids*.

Text and photo are by Marni Turkel. Pictured is *Pleione formosana* grown by John Leathers in a 9-inch pleione dish.

Membership Report

Anne Kotowski, Membership Chairman

We welcome our two new members this month to our Society. Make sure you introduce yourself to them and make them feel welcome. Wear your nametag to make conversation easier for everyone.

New Members

Anne Frederick
Susan Zomava

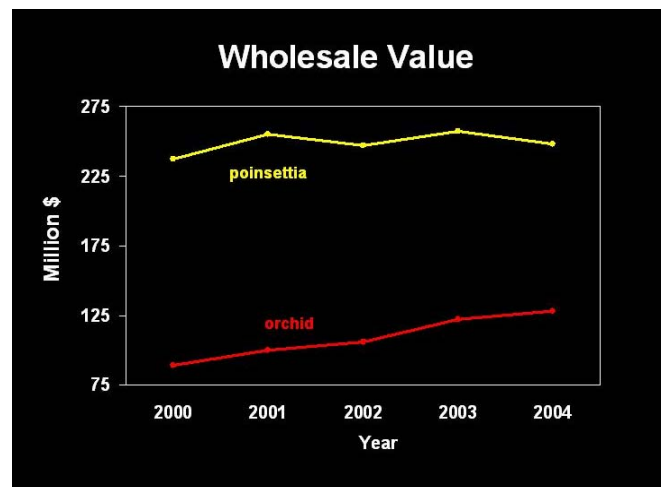
Remember we still have reasonably priced IOS golf shirts and sweatshirts available for members. Show your pride in the IOS and wear your shirt to meetings and shows.

Be sure you notify me if your mailing address or email address change. We need to keep our member list up to date and you don't want to miss your newsletter and other IOS information.



Paul and Lori Passine's Vanda display at the Fall Show.

Did You Know? From AOS Website



Upcoming IOS Meetings

December 11, 2005 - Once again, our annual holiday extravaganza, held at Hausermann's. Doors are open at 11 a.m. Your admission ticket is a hot or cold dish sufficient to feed five or six or a dozen. Bring a designated driver so you can enjoy the punch!

January 15, 2006 - TBA (This meeting will be held at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, 933 Skokie Boulevard, Northbrook, Illinois.)

February 12, 2006 - Brian Gerhard of [Down Under Native Orchids](#) in Australia is our guest speaker. Pre-ordering plants from his website

catalogue is encouraged. (This meeting will be held at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel.)

March 5, 2006 - A bus trip to Green Bay to visit the NEWOS Spring Show! Schedule details and costs TBA.

For current news about meetings, shows, and much more, check out the IOS website at www.iosoc.com, the best orchid website on the internet!

Book Reviews

Jerry Garner, Newsletter Editor

Flora's Orchids. Ned Nash and Isobyl LaCroix, Consultants. Global Book Pty Limited. 2005. Cloth. \$59.95. 368 pages. ISBN – 088192-721 – X.

This newest entry in the Timber Press *FLORA* publications, *Flora's Orchids* is everything readers have come to expect from this high quality publisher. Beautifully designed, filled with over 1300 high definition color photographs, and written in a clear, concise, readable style this book is a “must have” for reference, identification, or the pure enjoyment of a beautiful book.

Respected orchid writers Ned Nash and Isobyl LaCroix consulted on this project, as have a dozen other orchid experts. A dozen experts contributed to the book's content, especially the 1500 descriptions of the orchids included in the book. Over 80 photographers provided 1300+ photographs for most of the species and hybrids covered.

The book is divided into three sections: The World of Orchids; A-Z of Orchids; and a reference section with a glossary, quick-reference cultivation table, and an index. The World of Orchids includes a brief discussion of “what is an orchid?”, how orchids are classified and named, hybrids, cultivation, propagation, pests, conservation, and orchid history. This section, though brief, is clearly written and alone encompasses more information than many of the books already on my bookshelf.

Section two, A-Z of Orchids, is the “meat” of this book. Herein are 264 pages of photos and descriptions of approximately 1500 orchid species and hybrids. A reader can get lost in this section, mesmerized by the beautiful photography and the almost overwhelming number of species included in the book.

The reference section, that part of many books readers may never look at, is an important addendum to *Flora's Orchids*. The handy cultivation table includes growing guidelines on the 1500 species and hybrids in the book. The information is accessible, concise, well organized. There are many orchid encyclopedias and reference books in the trade; some may say too many. What makes *Flora's Orchids* different and worth the \$59.95 price?

First, this is one of the most current and thorough resources for orchid information in one publication, and the contributors are some of the top experts in the orchid world. Second, the book is simply a pleasure to look at. It has been expertly designed and logically organized to be reader friendly, drawing the reader in and enticing him or her to read more rather than use the book only as a reference. Third, *Flora's Orchids* is a reliable source for photographs and descriptions of more orchids than I could count in any other similar encyclopedia in the same price range. This alone is reason enough to add this book to your collection and then use it as your primary resource for identification and descriptive information on orchids.

There are a few orchid references that most orchid hobbyists and growers will agree anyone serious about orchid growing must have. *Flora's Orchids* should be near the top of that list.

Speaking of books, Julie Hall reports that the New York Botanic Garden is offering some orchid books for sale at very reduced prices. Check out the NYBG website <http://www.nybgshopinthegarden.org/>, left click on “books” and then left click again on “sale books.” There are some good bargains on orchid books and other gardening books as well.



Orchid Fact and Fiction

Jerry Garner, Newsletter Editor

The word orchid comes from Greek mythology. Orchis was the son of a nymph and a satyr. During a celebratory feast for Bacchus, the drunken Orchis committed the sacrilege of attempting to rape a priestess of Bacchus' temple. Enraged, the god Bacchus had wild beasts set on Orchis. As his body was being torn apart, Orchis metamorphosed into a slender and modest plant, the orchid species *Orchis masculata*..

The Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*)

The spotted orchid was said to have received its red spots from Christ's blood as it grew under the cross. Its German name is Kreuzblume or 'flower of the cross'.

“You like orchids? Nasty things...Their flesh is too much like the flesh of men, their perfume has

the rotten sweetness of corruption.” (Does anyone know the author of this quote?)

The orchid genus *Dracula* consists of 118 species. The strange name *Dracula* is derived from Latin ("little dragon"), referring to the strange aspect of the two long spurs of the sepals.

Orchids get their name from the Greek *orchis*, meaning 'testicle', from the appearance of subterranean tuberosities in some terrestrial species. The word 'orchis' was first used by Theophrastus (372/371 - 287/286 BC), in his book *De Historia Plantarum* (*The Natural History of Plants*).

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<http://portersorchids.com> 517-622-4188



Quality Orchids for the Home Environment

Please mark Sat. Dec. 3rd on your calendar for our annual Holiday Open House. Hours are 10 - 4. See our website for further information.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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