



# Orchid Opus

## 2006 IOS Meeting and Show Dates

Meeting Dates	Location / Facilities
June 11	Natt's Orchids – Open House, <i>IOS Top Growers Announcement</i>
July	TBA
August 12 (Sat)	Oak Hill Gardens – Picnic, <i>Herman's topic TBA</i>
September	TBA
October 14-15	Fall Show @ CBG*

\*Note that our fall show will be our large show for the year (normally our spring show).

## 2006 Orchid Events

Meeting Dates	Location / Facilities
July 30	Central Iowa Speakers Day, Des Moines, IA
August 25-27	Fall MAOC, Lexington, KY
September 16-17	Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Milwaukee, WI
September 22-24	14th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival
October 14-15	IOS Fall Show, Chicago Botanic Gardens

## 2006 IOS Board Meetings

Our next Board Meeting will be held on July 11<sup>th</sup> at the home of Sue Golan.

All officers and directors are expected to be present. Any board member unable to attend should notify the President. Committee chairs are encouraged to attend. Any society members may attend but, because space is limited, the favor of notification (to the host) is requested.

## President's Message

*Wendy Wesley, IOS President*

This is my last news letter article as President and I just wanted to say a few things about the IOS. I feel very lucky and proud to be a part of this Orchid Society.

I would like to borrow from David Letterman's top ten list idea.

Here is my list:

### My favorite things and times...

10. The Journey back to the Botanic Gardens
9. Lois' constant talks at the meetings about our shows
8. The beautiful plants people bring in to our meetings to show and share
7. The great workshop Barry has put together for us at the meetings usually recruiting an IOS member to do the workshop (at times not a small/easy task)
6. Tom sharing all his great books and ideas with us saving us \$\$\$\$\$
5. All the hard work people do to make our society run smoothly
4. Watching our Treasurer in action keeping us all in line to insure the IOS will be here for a long time
3. The IOS fertilizer and Bark -Great stuff
2. Spending time at the meeting just sharing information on Orchids
1. Orchids

### Just a quick note of Thanks to...

Barry, Lois, Sandy, Jim, Sherry, Ann, Felica, Jerry, Sue, Joe, Allison, Alan, Joel, Loren, Linda, Barb, and all the board members and IOS members who take a little extra time to make our society a great one to be a part of.

-Wendy

# June Program Notes

Barry Lubin, Program Chair

Our next meeting is on Sunday, June 11, at Natt's Orchids, 24645 W 103rd Street in Naperville. Please see the map on page 8, or call Natt's at 630-904-0947 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.

We will have a brief business meeting at 1 PM. The main attraction of this month's event is, of course, the great variety of excellent plants that Natt's has for sale. Start your shopping early by checking their website at [www.nattSORCHIDS.com](http://www.nattSORCHIDS.com). Natt's is also generously treating us to a lunch spread.

Please have your plants in place for judging by 12:30 PM. We will not have member plant sales.

## Recap of May Meeting

### Workshop

(See Sandy's and Felicia's recap on Semi-Hydroponics™ on page 4).

### Presentation

Our featured presenter was long-time IOS member, Otto Leupi. Otto made the trek from his home near Milwaukee to tell us about the wide range of beautiful native orchids that grow in our region and in other parts of the US and Canada.

Amazingly, many of the species that are native to our region also grow in Asia and other distant parts of the world. Otto's interest in native orchids stems from a rescue mission that he worked on in 1978, and has continued from there. Otto has photographed a truly impressive collection of orchids in the wild. He cautions, however, to take only their photographs – leave the plants where they are found. They almost never thrive in another environment to which they are relocated.

If you want to try raising native orchid species, several sources on the web make cultivated species available. For example, see Cyp Haven (<http://www.c-we.com/cyp.haven/>) or Robert's Flower Supply (<http://www.orchidmix.com/>).

## Notes for Future Meetings

- July 9 – TBA
- August 12 (Saturday) – Oak Hill Gardens, West Dundee, IL
- Sept 10 – TBA

### Directions to Natt's

From I-55 exit Weber Rd and go North, turn left at 111th Street (go West), turn right at the first light (Route 59) and turn left at the first light (103rd Street) greenhouse will be on the left about 1 mile west of Route 59.

From I-88 exit Route 59 and go South, turn right onto 103rd Street (about 15 minutes after the exit) greenhouse will be on the left about 1 mile west of Route 59. **See map on page 8.**



Otto Leupi speaking on native orchids during the May meeting



Felicia discussing container options during the May meeting workshop



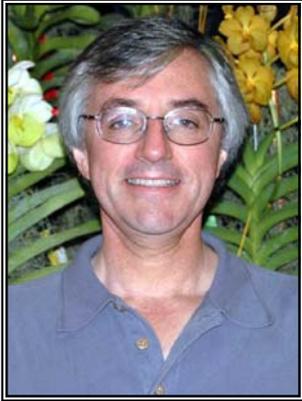
Sandy giving a repotting demonstration during the May meeting workshop

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## Board BIOS

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Allison Tribble, Contributing Editor



We are all so pleased that Barry Lubin has agreed to serve as the new President of the Illinois Orchid Society! Barry is not only extremely knowledgeable about orchids, but is one of the nicest people around.

Barry's considerable information about orchids stems from the fact that he has been growing plants for about thirty years. Barry says that his first orchid was a big,

flashy cattleya he "fell in love with" at a show in the mall. He

says he was truly hooked when the plant bloomed again the following year. Barry began by doing his own research on orchids, but ultimately decided to ask for advice from other growers. Toward this purpose, he joined IOS in 1987. Barry still grows beautiful cattleyas, but currently specializes in paphiopedalums. He grows in a greenhouse with lights just off the living room of his home.

In his "free time", Barry enjoys spending time with his wife, Patty, and their children. Barry says that Patty has never gotten into growing the orchids, but loves it when he brings them in once they're in bloom! His children are more interested in fauna than flora, and have some very exotic pets, or "critters", as Barry calls them. I hope that everyone will get to know Barry better, and show your support as he begins his new role as IOS President of the Board.

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## New Hybrid - Phragmipedium Memorial Julius Dixler

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Rosalie Dixler, Contributing Editor

I thought that the IOS might want to read about a new hybrid that Joe made and has just been registered by the International Registration Authority of the Royal Horticultural Society in England. It will be listed in a coming issue of the "Orchid Review" and "Orchids" Magazine.

Phragmipedium Memorial Julius Dixler is a cross of two species--Phragmidpedium caudatum and Phragmipedium exstaminodium. Joe made this cross from two plants in his collection and they first flowered last month. The name honors his father, Julius, who grew and hybridized prize dahlias. Joe helped his father by digging out the bulbs every fall and replanted them in spring, and vowed he would never be involved with flowers again! His father's influence, no doubt, led to Joe's later love of orchids and he has honored his memory by naming this primary hybrid after him.



Photographs by Joe and Rosalie Dixler

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## Northwest Michigan Orchid Society Annual Show

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Lois Cinert, IOS Show Chairman

The Northwest Michigan Orchid Society held its annual show at the Art Center in Traverse City Michigan. Visitors to the Art Center were treated to 240 plants in 11 displays, and more than 20 cut-flower arrangements. The quality of the flowers was high; the American Orchid Society awarded three plants from the show.

Twelve IOS members sent more than 50 plants for this event. Our display was awarded a red ribbon, and several members found ribbons on their plants – 7 blue, 5 red, and 8 white.

This was our last away show until the MAOC in Lexington, Ky, in late August. You have time to grow your summer and fall bloomers to perfection for that key event.

'Thank you' to all of the members who sent their plants for the Traverse City show.



IOS Display at the Northwest Michigan Orchid Society Show

Photograph by Lois Cinert

# Growing Orchids in Semi-Hydroponics™ – Review From May Workshop

*As presented by Felicia Cochran and Sandy Fuller at the May members meeting*

Semi-hydroponic™ growing is defined as growing in an inert medium which anchors the plant and allows for water and nutrients to be transported as well as increased air circulation around the roots. The method we mainly discussed was originally learned through Ray Barkalow's website: [www.firstrays.com](http://www.firstrays.com). This method uses PrimeAgra™ as the potting medium and taller plastic opaque pots with holes one to two centimeters up the side of the pot with no holes in the bottom. This creates a reservoir for the water and nutrients which allows for them to be constantly available to the plant.



Photograph by F. Cochran and S. Fuller

Some of the benefits of growing in Semi-Hydro culture are a decrease in root rot, ease of watering, and an increase of humidity around the plant. The PrimeAgra™ medium stays cooler which can help provide a cooler growing environment for those orchids that require it. It is also re-usable and can be sterilized either by soaking in bleach water or baking as you would your clay pots. In the long run this will save money on potting medium. PrimeAgra™ never breaks down so this will cut down on re-potting as it will only need to be done when the plant gets too big for the pot. This is particularly helpful for those orchids that resent being re-potted.

There are a few disadvantages to growing in semi-hydro. Some varieties of orchids like *Tolumnias* do not grow well in semi-hydro. Also, orchids with climbing rhizomes are grown better mounted. If the opaque or clear containers are used there can be an algae buildup on the roots. This is only a cosmetic issue as the algae does not adversely affect the plant. As with any watering system that provides the water from the bottom there is a build up of salts and pots need to be flushed at least monthly to remove the buildup.

The steps for re-potting that were demonstrated are as follows:

- Rinse dust from PrimeAgra™ and pre-soak for at least 24 hours (adding KLN rooting hormone).
- Remove plant from the pot and carefully clean off all of previous potting medium.
- Remove unhealthy roots.
- Add enough medium to the pot to cover the side drain holes.
- Hold plant in the middle of the pot and gently add the PrimeAgra™ to the level needed.
- Shake the pot to settle the medium around the roots.
- Add more medium if needed.
- Water well.
- Do not fertilize until you see new growth.

Potting up in semi-hydro culture is easier than other methods as none of the medium needs to be removed from the roots of the plant. After filling the new pot with PrimeAgra take the plant out of the old pot. Remove any dead roots you can see and drop it in the new pot. Fill in around the sides with additional medium and shake the pot to settle it. Water the orchid as usual.

One trick I have used to eradicate mealy bugs in the medium was to tape up the holes in the side of the pot and filled the pot with Neem mixed with water (per the instructions on the bottle). After leaving it to sit for 15 minutes, I removed the tape and drained the water. I have not had mealy bugs in that plant since. A couple other tricks that Felicia learned was to use Physan to remove algae buildup and to bag up orchids in poor condition planted in semi-hydro to help them recover.

Felicia and I have found this method of growing to be very helpful in many instances. It has helped me with growing mini-catts with short roots that kept falling out of the bark mixes and with *Phragmipediums* that I could not keep wet enough or repot before the bark mixes broke down. Felicia has noticed increased root growth for *Phalaenopsis*.



Photograph by F. Cochran and S. Fuller

In conclusion, if your current methods of growing are working, of course there is no need to change them. However, if you are interested in using this method, try it with one or two plants to see how this works in your environment. Never change your whole collection over to a new method as there are always adjustments that need to be learned with that method in your own environment.

Here are some sites to do further research on the semi-hydroponics™:

<http://www.firstrays.com/>

<http://www.growinhydro.com/index2.html>

<http://interiorwatergardens.com/index.html>

<http://www.goreorchidconservatory.com/CatalogAndInfo/Cultural-Information.html>.

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## **Orchid Equipment and Supplies for Sale**

I'm moving on June 30th, and will no longer be an avid orchid grower as I am losing a basement. I have a Hortilux PL light system, enhanced spectrum HPS (1000watt) with ballast, as well as several brand new hi qual 48" Triten 50 ultra Enviro-fluorescent lights, and a "well used orchid stand" with two tiers - four lights each, that I would love to get rid of at "give away prices! They will have to be gone by June 25th, or thrown out. I also have a ton of orchid mediums - bark, hydroponic, etc. at give away prices.

Contact Barbara Schmitz @ 773-275-3061.

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## **IOS Sweatshirts and Polo Shirts Available**

We still have a selection of IOS Sweatshirts and Polo shirts for sale. Please see Felicia at this Sunday's meeting, or email her at [fb72@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fb72@sbcglobal.net). Support your society!

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## **Bud Blast – When Good Orchid Buds Turn Bad**

*By Susan Jones. Reprinted from the July 2003 issue of the American Orchid Society's Orchid magazine*

IT CAN BE HEARTBREAKING TO watch helplessly as long-awaited orchid buds brown, die and drop instead of becoming those much-anticipated flowers. Bud blast, when buds wither and fall from an otherwise healthy plant, may occur through any of a number of causes. Buds are the most sensitive part of an orchid, and are easily affected by unsuitable conditions in the growing environment. Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums seem particularly susceptible to this problem. The most frequent reasons for this are as follows:

**WATER** Under- or overwatering is a common cause of bud blast. If a plant becomes too dry, it may withdraw moisture from buds as a survival mechanism. Overwatering can damage the orchid's root system, with the end result being a lack of water to the plant.

As with underwatering, when the plant is unable to absorb sufficient quantities of water, it will withdraw water from the buds, bringing about their demise. Budding Cattleyas are particularly sensitive to overwatering, which can cause buds to blacken and die while still in their sheath. Water that is allowed to sit on buds or in bud sheaths provides the perfect environment for fungi and bacterial

growth, generating rots that will blast buds. Watering with cold water can shock a plant, causing bud drop.

**TEMPERATURE** Temperature extremes or rapid temperature changes are often a culprit in bud blast. If a budding orchid receives drafts from a window, an air conditioning or heating vent, or even a rush of air from a hot oven, it may drop buds. Similarly, buds may blast when exposed to temperature fluctuations that occur when taking a plant in from the car or outside during hot or cold weather, bringing plants back into a heated house after a summer outdoors, or temperature extremes caused by running heating or air conditioning for only part of the day.

**ATMOSPHERE** Orchid buds are sensitive to fumes from paint, natural gas leaks and other chemicals. Once pollinated, flowers generate methane gas, causing them to collapse and saving energy for seed production. Methane or ethylene gas from other sources may also trigger bud or flower collapse, Ethylene gas given off by ripening fruit; gas leaks; inefficient burning of gas stoves or heaters; engine exhaust; cigarette, cigar or pipe smoke; open fires; smog or air pollution can also cause bud blast and age and distort open flowers.

**LIGHT** If lighting available to its developing buds is inadequate, an orchid won't flower properly. Low lighting can cause buds to abort. Too much lighting may also cause trouble; direct sunlight on developing buds can overheat and desiccate them, leading to bud blast.

### **CHEMICAL DAMAGE**

Fertilizer, fungicide or pesticide applied at dosages above a plant's tolerance or in a manner inconsistent with manufacturer's instructions may damage buds, causing them to drop.

**HUMIDITY** Developing buds need high humidity. If their environment is too dry, or the ambient humidity fluctuates a great deal, buds may be adversely affected and drop.

**INSECTS** Aphids and thrips can cause bud blast. These insects feed on flowers and flower buds, sucking the plant juices. The buds of the infected plants fail to develop properly, dropping from the plant or opening to damaged and disfigured flowers.

Thrips can be controlled using Diazinon or Malathion.

Aphid control often involves not only eliminating the aphids themselves, but also the ants that farm them. Insecticidal sprays and sugar-based ant baits are recommended. For a few

aphids, dab with a cotton swab soaked in rubbing alcohol. Other means of control include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils (Neem or Sunspray), growth regulators and chitin inhibitors (Enstar II), Pyrethrum-based insecticidal sprays, stronger insecticides (Malathion), and systemic insecticides (Orthene, Shield).

Repeat any treatment method twice after the initial application at seven- to 10-day intervals to kill successive generations. Test new controls on a small population of plants before widespread use. When using insecticides, check labels to be certain the insecticide works against the particular pest and that it is approved

for use on orchids. Always use any chemical in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

**GENETICS** Occasionally, even under perfect cultural conditions, an orchid will continually abort buds. There may be a genetic mutation responsible for its inability to produce viable blooms, in which case the plant should be discarded.

**References**

*Bud Blast*. 2002. Helpfuls and Tips, OrchidGreenhouse.com. <http://www.orchidgreenhouse.com/web/helpfuls.cfm?Page=bud-blast>

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Photo taken at Oak Hill Gardens

Phalaenopsis Tan Swee Kim



Photograph by Lois Chiert

Odontoglossum Anne Gripp AM/AOS



Photo taken at Oak Hill Gardens

Dendrobium thrysiflorum

## IOS Board Members – 2005 - 2006

### Officers (Terms of office are from July 1 until June 30):

President	Wendy Wesley	773-227-6064	( <a href="mailto:wswesley1@aol.com">wswesley1@aol.com</a> )
1 <sup>st</sup> VicePresident (Meetings/speakers)	Barry Lubin	847-432-5968	( <a href="mailto:brlubin@sbcglobal.net">brlubin@sbcglobal.net</a> )
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice (Home Show Chair)	Lois Cinert	630-739-1068	( <a href="mailto:geolocin@earthlink.net">geolocin@earthlink.net</a> )
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Away show chair)	Sandy Fuller	847-991-5434	( <a href="mailto:sjfuller62@comcast.net">sjfuller62@comcast.net</a> )
Secretary (Recorder)	Sherry Maloney	847-498-0249	( <a href="mailto:smmaloney@earthlink.net">smmaloney@earthlink.net</a> )
Asst. Sec'y (Newsletter Editor)	Jerry Garner	847-864-8417	( <a href="mailto:garnerjl@comcast.net">garnerjl@comcast.net</a> )
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Jim Spatzek	847-498-4638	( <a href="mailto:jamcam21@sbcglobal.net">jamcam21@sbcglobal.net</a> )
Asst. Treas (Membership/ Dues)	Anne Kotowski	630-833-8042	( <a href="mailto:phrag207@aol.com">phrag207@aol.com</a> )
Immediate Past President	Joe Dixler	847-432-7708	( <a href="mailto:jmd@dixler.net">jmd@dixler.net</a> )

### Board Members (Terms of office expire June 30 of the year shown.):

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

## IOS Slate of Nominees for – 2006 - 2007

The following slate of officers and board members has been **confirmed**:

### Officers (Terms of office are from July 1 until June 30)

President	Barry Lubin
1 <sup>st</sup> VicePresident (Meetings/speakers)	Sue Golan
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice (Home Show Chair)	Sandy Fuller
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Away show chair)	Anne Kotowski
Secretary (Recorder)	Beth Engle
Asst. Sec'y (Newsletter Editor)	Loren Pollock
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Jim Spatzek
Asst. Treas (Membership/ Dues)	Felicia Cochran
Immediate Past President	Wendy Wesley

### Board Members (Terms of office expire June 30 of the year shown.):

Walter Zielinski (to fill a vacancy)	2007
Allen Morr *	2007
Toby Green*	2008
Barbara Schmitz*	2008
Leo Schordje*	2009
Joe Dixler (to fill a vacancy)	2009
Luis Torres	2010
Lois Cinert	2010

\*Currently serving – not part of the election.

## Map to Natt's Orchids



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Illinois Orchid Society  
Loren Pollock, Editor  
26 Turnbull Woods Court  
Highland Park, IL 60035

[ioseditor@higrafix.com](mailto:ioseditor@higrafix.com)

*The June members meeting will be held at  
Natt's Orchids on June 11.  
See inside for details.*