

IOS Meeting and Show Dates

Dates	Location / Activities
March 11, 2007	Chicago Botanic Gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop: A peek at the Judging process. • Speaker: Erich Michels on Orchids of Madagascar.
April 27-29, 2007	Chicago Botanic Gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOS Spring Show/MAOC
May 20, 2007	Chicago Botanic Gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop: TBD • Speaker: Russ Vernon on How <i>Not</i> to Grow Phalaenopsis
June 10, 2007	Chicago Botanic Gardens Workshop TBD Speaker: Our own Leo Schordje on Lycastes
July 8, 2007	Chicago Botanic Gardens Workshop TBD Speaker: Greg Allikas on Orchid Photography.
October 13-14, 2007	Chicago Botanic Gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOS Fall Mini Show

Orchid Events

Dates	Activity/Location
March 24-25, 2007	Iowa Orchid Society Show Davenport, IA
Mar 31-Apr 1, 2007	Central Ohio Orchid Society Show Columbus, OH
Sep 21 - 23, 2007	15 th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival
Jan 23-27, 2008	19 th World Orchid Conference, Miami, FL

President's Message

Barry Lubin – IOS President

This is one of my favorite times of the year to be an orchid grower! While the weather is still quite unpleasant at times, the days are getting longer. The amount and intensity of the sunlight has increased markedly over the past month and my plants are really starting to notice. The ultimate reward for an orchid grower is, of course, the beautiful flowers that our plants produce, but I find this time of year to be especially exciting because of all the new growth that the plants begin to show. New leaves, white tips on roots bursting forth from old pseudobulbs - spring has arrived on the windowsill and in the greenhouse!

The flurry of new growth always reignites my thrill with orchid growing. It also increases the need for my periodic orchid "fix". Our monthly meetings and our upcoming show will really help scratch that itch. I am guessing that many of you feel the same way, too. If you haven't been to a monthly meeting in a while, it is time to come out of hibernation! Sue has scheduled another great speaker for our March 11 meeting (Erich Michels, speaking about Orchids of Madagascar). Come on out to the Chicago Botanic Garden and bring a friend.

-Barry



Phal. equestris

Program Notes

Sue Golan – Program Chair

Did you remember to bring your water for testing at the last meeting? Barry Lubin put together a fascinating workshop about water quality. I expect that we will see a big improvement in the Orchids at the monthly meeting after you all put Barry's suggestions to work!

Then, there was Bill Thoms' talk. Wow. I learned so much and it was so wonderful to see how his plants got bigger and more floriferous year after year. What a grower. He is The

Man when it comes to Bulbophyllums and we all bought some. Let's see who's the first to bring one in bloom for Show and Tell. There will be a prize.

Next month for our workshop we'll take a visual tour of Madagascar with Erich Michels of Hoosier Orchids. Bring some money. Their plants are wonderful. For our workshop, we will take a peek at the judging process for those who are interested.



Barry discussing water quality



Bill Thoms giving us our \$2.10 worth

Member Bio

Sue Golan – Contributing Editor

While watching you all attack the sweet table at the last meeting, it occurred to me that it would be nice to know more about the angel who bakes for us. She is Linda Juberg from Streamwood and were we ever lucky when she heard about us at the flower show at Navy Pier and joined up at Oakton when we were meeting there!

This woman loves to cook. She has over 1000 cookbooks and has been cooking since she was 10. She bakes on weekends and works for an insurance company during the

week. Colin, age 13 and Gwen, 11, come along and taste test the goodies. Each of them has a few Orchids and Colin got a blue ribbon on one of his plants at the January meeting!

Linda grows various Orchids in her greenhouse, Cats, Phrags, Phals. She also has a garden railroad which she and her husband established in 2000. He does the railroad at the Morton Arboretum. They belong to the Big Train Operations or LGB club of Chicago. Orchid growers are the salt of the earth!

MAOC Show Just Around the Corner

Lois Cinert – Contributing Editor

Winter's last effort is hopefully behind us. The time of post-holiday doldrums and hibernation is passing. Our spring show is less than 8 weeks away. It's time to finalize your plans for this event.

Are your sale plants ready? There is still time to groom them, repot them, and get them ready to sell. Any extra divisions, backbulbs, or reluctant bloomers can have a chance at a new home. This show will be a good place to pass on your plants to someone who might be looking for just that flower. Wally Zielinski can help you with getting your plants on to the sale table.

Have you signed up to volunteer for the show? We will need your help from Thursday, April 26, through Sunday, April 29. You don't need experience; just enthusiasm and a friendly smile. Allison Tribble is organizing volunteers for this event, and can tell you where we most need help.

Have you found something you would like to donate to the MAOC auction? They will literally take anything with an orchid on it, or supplies and equipment. China, photos, mugs, glasses, serving trays, clothing, stamps, plants, -- almost anything. This auction benefits the MAOC, and its conservation and educational endeavors. This is the event that is the most fun to attend, and you might go home with a treasure, too. Contact Sandy Fuller for more information.

Anne Kotowski will be setting up the IOS display. We would like this one to be the best, most spectacular display in the exhibit hall. you can make that happen by bringing your blooming plants for the display. This is our show, and our anniversary; let's make our display a memorable one.

Have you registered for the conference events? Leo Schordje has brought in noted, interesting speakers, who will speak on timely topics. It will be at least 5 years before we assemble a group of speakers for you that rivals this lineup. The banquet Saturday evening is a chance to have conversations with members of other societies and orchid growers, over good food, in a friendly, easy setting. The Affiliated Societies Breakfast Sunday morning is another chance to get together and discuss how to improve your orchid society.

We will have posters and bookmarks at the March meeting for you to distribute to your area bookstores, libraries, garden centers, and florist shops. We will also have registration information and forms. We have extended the early registration rate until March 31, so you can still take advantage of the lower registration fee. We want you to attend this event. It won't happen again for at least five years.

Information is also available on our web page, www.iosoc.com

See you at the show.

IOS Membership Report

Felicia Cochran – Membership Committee

I would like to welcome new member **Martha Bautista** of Chicago, IL to the IOS. Please stop by and say hello to Martha at the next meeting!

We still have members that have not sent in their renewals. If you haven't yet renewed, please don't forget to do it. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at fbc72@sbcglobal.net.



Cym. Pipeta 'Chiquita'



Cattleya trianaei fm. Coeralea HCC/AOS. Grower: Bill Rogerson

MAOC Speakers and Schedule

Leo Schordje- Contributing Editor

Never attended a MAOC? Ever wonder what that registration fee will get you? In addition to the Goodie Bag, you get to attend the speakers' lectures. When you see the line up below you will know you are getting your money's worth. At an MAOC we have to use two venues to hold all the events. The speakers will be in the Ballroom at the Renaissance North

Shore Hotel. These lectures are open to MAOC registrants only, so if you ever wanted to meet any of these speakers, this is your chance. There is always a little time before and after each talk to mingle with the speakers. Hadley Cash and Alfredo Manrique will have plants there for sale.

Speaker Schedule for the Spring Show and MAOC Meeting

Saturday April 28, 2007

1:00 pm - Patricia Harding "The Huntleya Clade", This is the group of orchids covering the genera Huntleya, Pescatorea, Stenia, Kefersteinia, and Chondrorhyncha among others. She is currently working on a book that will cover the known species of the group, and will share some of her work along with many pictures, stories, and cultural advice for this group. Patricia is retired from the workforce and now does orchids, as a writer, traveler, photographer and observer, with a little orchid growing on the side. When she's not traveling she lives in Oregon .

3:00 pm – Eric Christenson PhD. – The New Maxillaria – Dr. Eric Christenson is has been studying the Maxillaria of Peru and has recently described several new species, with more in the works. He will do a survey of the genus with a focus on the wonderful large flowered species of Peru. Eric A. Christenson has extensive education and experience with orchids, including a bachelor's degree in horticulture, a master's degree in genetics, a Ph.D. in orchid taxonomy, and more than five years experience as director of a micropropagation laboratory specializing in the clonal propagation of Phalaenopsis. He is particularly known for his articles that attempt to bridge the gap between taxonomy and horticulture.

Sunday April 29, 2007

11:00 am – Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids. "The Adventure Begins, The Latest in Complex Paph Hybridizing at Marriott Orchids". Hadley Cash recently published an overview of his Paph breeding program in Orchid Digest. He has been an avid grower for over 20 years and maintains a 6,000 square foot greenhouse with over 75,000 slipper orchids in Kernersville , North Carolina . Hadley will have plants available for sale before and after the lecture. You may order for delivery at the show, MarriottOrchids@triad.rr.com or visit www.mariottorchids.com

1:00 pm – Eric Christenson "The Orchids of Peru". Eric Christenson has been working for many years often with David Bennett to develop a modern inventory of the orchids of Peru. He will showcase the more spectacular species and touch on the state of orchid conservation in Peru.

3:00 pm – Alfredo Manrique – Phragmipedium kovachii: Habitat, Culture and Conservation. In 2002 the discovery of a new Phragmipedium in north of Peru was released, In 2003 I was allowed to collect five plants , with the collection we gathered data about soil (Ph 7.9 , Ec 0.4 dS) , Water quality (10 to 20 ppm of TDS) rain pattern (Almost daily) Temperature (from 9°C to 30°), and other information available that would help to understand the species needs. As today the 5 plants survived and have been divided into 25 plants, crosses have been made and several dozens of different hybrids created. Despite the loss of thousands of plants from the few habitats discovered due to illegal collecting, the species still exists in the area in unreachable cliffs. The Peruvian Natural Resources Department declared the area banned for forestry or agriculture, the City of Moyobamba declared the site a Natural reserve and the visit to the area is restricted. Alfredo Manrique is the proprietor of Centro de Jardinaria Manrique, an orchid nursery in Lima, Peru . He also is the Past President Club Peruano de Orquideas 2001- 2005. Alfredo will have flasks of Phrag. kovachii available for sale before and after the lecture.

If you would like order ahead for delivery at the lecture, Leo Schordje will forward on to Alfredo Manrique you order, contact him at LSchordje@dataflo.com or (847) 309 – 3821.

Madison & Batavia Shows Report

Anne Kotowski – Away Show Chair

Yes the spring show season is in full swing. Zero degree temperatures with wind chills I don't want to know. I decided to conduct a simple experiment to see what temperatures

changes the plants receive transporting them to and from the shows. I placed a maximum/minimum thermometer in one of the boxes. Surprisingly, it recorded only a drop to 65 degrees. I

know I've always worried about freezing my plants, but moving them from the house to a warmed up car as quickly as possible seems not to harm them. Not a lot of ribbons from Madison, but the Away-plant- of - the- show is Cathy Bloome's Ascocenda Su-Fun. Bright orange color with well placed flowers. Special thank you to Cleo Kiergaard and Lois Cinert for helping with the setup, and extra special thank you to Sandy Fuller, Lois and Beth Engle (of Bolingbrook) for coming out Sunday and missing the Superbowl. Thanks to plant donators, Luis Torres, Joel Edwards, Cathy, Sherry Maloney, Sue Golan, Allison & Dave Tribble, Bob Mack, Sandy Fuller, and Ed Gamson. Two weeks later was the Batavia show, bad

weather moved in just as I arrived at the Charlestown Mall, maybe it's a rule. We couldn't start setting up until 9:00pm, but with help from Lois & George Cinert, Joel Edwards, Luis Torres and plants also from Claire Papiewski and Sandy Fuller, we had the exhibit put together by 11:30. Away-plant for Batavia is Luis Torres's Paph. Claire De Lune. It was in perfect condition. Think of your average maudiea type paph. And double it in size. Even the judges liked it, giving it first place and best in class. Congratulations to Cathy and Luis, no prizes now, but you are in the running for the end of the year prize. By the time you read this, Green Bay will be over, but Illowa in Davenport will be coming Mar. 23-25.

Large, Rare Tiger Orchid Blooms at Garfield Park

This is a reprint of a Feb. 17, 2007 article found in the INDYSTAR.com online publication – by Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp

A rare orchid, *Grammatophyllum speciosum*, is blooming, an event as rare as the orchid itself.

This is the largest plant in the orchid family, reaching 15 feet tall and weighing 2 tons in its natural habitat. Its move to the conservatory a few months ago required a box truck, said Fritz Nerding, director of the conservatory and gardens at Garfield. (In the interest of full disclosure, I should tell you that I'm on the board of the Friends of Garfield Park.)

Native to the rain forests of New Guinea, Indonesia and Malaysia, the tiger or giant orchid has bloom stalks 10 to 15 feet long, each with 60 to 80 flowers. The flowers, which on a mature plant bloom only every two to four years, open to about 6 inches wide. The plant stays in bloom for about two months.

Slow to bloom in cultivation, this is only the fourth time this particular plant has produced flowers since being imported 40 years ago, Nerding said.

"Not many people have this plant because of its size. It won't fit in most homes," said Mark Zelonis, director of

Oldfields and the garden and grounds at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

The last public bloom of this species in the U.S. was in 2003 at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, where it received a lot of attention from national and international media. The first public viewing of the species in bloom was in 1851 at Crystal Palace in London.

The specimen at the conservatory was grown by **Erich Michel** of the Hoosier Orchid Co., 8440 W. 82nd St., who has had it since 1994. It took 10 years to bloom for the first time.

The plant has been allowed to grow large and has never been divided. It has seven bloom stems and hundreds of flowers. The flowers are yellow with maroon or dark red spots. It is expected to continue blooming into March, Nerding said.

"This is something that you will not see very often," Zelonis said. "It's really an amazing plant because of the sheer number and size of blooms. This is really quite a happening in the green world."



Paph. Sangii. Grower: Joe & Rosalie Dixler



Cattleya schroederiae 'Kathleen' HCC/AOS. Grower: Bill Rogerson

Help! Photographer Wanted

Jim Spatzek - Chairman, Chicago Judging Center – American Orchid Society

The Chicago Judging Center of the American Orchid Society is looking for one, two, three photographers who are willing to take the monthly photographs of all of the awarded plants. The judging takes place on the second Saturday of each month at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois at 1:00pm. You will receive recognition for your work in the AOS publication, Orchids as your photos are published. Some of our judges have experience and would be willing to work with you until you feel comfortable. We'd like more than one volunteer so everyone doesn't have to be at the Center, every month. One

of our former members, Rhonda Peters was the photographer for years but unfortunately moved out east.

If you can help, we'd love to have you. Please contact Jim Spatzek, Chairman of the Chicago Center at: (847) 498-4638 or by email at: jamcam21@sbcglobal.net

Thanks for considering us!

-Jim

Member's Judging Points

Alex Manuel, IOS Awards Committee

Here are the points through February.

See you all at the March meeting.

-Alex

PS. If you have questions with your points please email me at vandaalex@aol.com

Lights / Windows	Points
Bestman, Jim & Jerry	32
Bloome, Cathy	25
Bricheno, Justine	36
Buckles, Betsy	20
Cinert, Lois	37
Cochran, Felicia	56
Dangoia, Phyllis	10
Edwards, Joel	161
Engle, Beth	51
Fuller, Sandy	459
Garner, Jerry	50
Goodman, Joan	10
Hall, Julie	20
Harding, Maurice	4
Herbst, Penny	10
High, C. & J.	45
Johnson, Carolyn	35
Jost, Peter	5
Juberg, Collin	1
Juberg, Linda	10
Kowalski, Dan & Terri	10
Kotowski, Anne	24

Lights / Windows	Points
Kwiatkowski, Cheryl	5
Larson, Greger	10
Lentini, Victor	101
Losert, Wilfried	81
Maloney, Sherry	146
Manuel, Alexander	99
Minonne, Fransco	6
Ortega, Norine	10
Papiewski, Claire	12
Sahaigian, Laima	18
Seidel, Gerhardt	30
Stafford, John & Kathryn	24
Teplica, Dave	36
Tirzmalis, Sue	2
Torres, Luis	301
Tribble, Allison	219
Vrabel, Ken	126
Younghale, Bob & Helen	21
Zielinski, Wally	2

Greenhouse	Points
Dixler, Joe & Rosalie	472
Gamson, Ed	16
Golan, Sue	410
Hale, Jeff	45
Mack, Bob	260
Mastdagh, J. & V.	20
Passine, Paul	130
Thompson, Carole	121

* New Members

Water Quality – Workshop Recap

Barry Lubin, Contributing Editor

Many growers find that attention to the quality of the water they use significantly improves the growth and flowering of their orchids. Water quality refers to the amount and type of materials contained in the water that were not put there by the grower.

Most IOS members use tap water, with an occasional dose of fertilizer, for irrigation. For the most part, that approach works fairly well. If you are new to orchid growing, your primary focus should be learning how to manage all of the other important growth factors (e.g., light, temperature, humidity, etc.). If you are having success in growing and flowering your plants, but you think your plants may not be achieving their full potential, then improving water quality may be a logical next step.

The source of water for communities in our area is often Lake Michigan, and the water quality is good. Communities located further from Lake Michigan may draw water from other lakes, rivers or wells, and generally also have good quality water, but quality is more variable depending on location. While good, these sources are not ideal for growing orchids – more on that in a moment. Water from sources not treated by a municipality are much more variable and should be tested. In this area, well water is usually “hard”, containing significant amounts of dissolved minerals, and it is typically “softened” before use. Do not use softened water on your orchids – the amount of salt used to soften the water will likely kill your plants.

A quick (though limited) test of water quality can be done with an inexpensive pocket meter that measures electrical conductivity. Pure water is a very poor conductor; water with more dissolved solids conducts electricity more readily. On a conductivity meter, pure water would register close to 0 microsiemens (the units used to indicate conductivity). At the meeting, we measured the conductivity of water samples brought in by members from various locations in our area. The samples ranged in conductivity from about 300 - 350 microsiemens from communities along the lake (including Chicago), to over 1,600 microsiemens from a southwestern community. Based on research performed by Assoc. Professor Yin Tung Wang at Texas A&M, root damage was observed when phals were irrigated with water registering higher than 1,400 microsiemens. Fertilizer at the rate of ¼ teaspoon per gallon (the old “weakly weekly” adage) added to the water from the communities on the lower end of the measured samples would not exceed 1,400 microsiemens. Samples from communities at the higher measured ranges may be harmful to orchids without any added fertilizer.

Dr. Wang also conducted research to determine the optimal amount of fertilizer for growing phals. He found that fertilizing “weakly weekly” is not the best way to grow orchids. In his test, he found that fertilizer levels in the ¾ teaspoon/gallon range produced far better growth and flowering. Please note that the plants were grown in optimal conditions. If your conditions are less than optimal (e.g., poor light and low humidity) fertilizer at this high level will likely

be excessive. One of the conditions required for optimal grow was to start with good quality water. Otherwise, the water mixed with fertilizer would quickly exceed the conductivity level where root damage occurred. So, tap water even from communities at the low end of the measured range may not be pure enough if you wish to experiment with higher levels of fertilizer.

Even if you plan to stick with “weakly weekly”, you face a problem using tap water – its pH. pH measures whether the water is acidic or basic (the opposite of acidic). On the pH scale, 7 is neutral – neither acidic nor basic. Values less than 7 on the pH scale are acidic, higher than 7 are basic. Vinegar from the grocery store is an acid with a pH of about 2.5. Drano is a very strong base (which is why it dissolves hair clogging pipes) and measures over 13.5 on the pH scale. Research done on plants other than orchids indicates that nutrient absorption is best in the pH range of 5.6 to 6.6, or slightly acidic. (I don’t think anyone has actually researched pH vs. nutrient absorption specifically for orchids). The tap water samples brought in by members ranged from 7.2 to 8.0 on the pH scale – very mildly basic. Water is treated to be slightly basic by municipalities by adding calcium and magnesium carbonate to the water. By making the water slightly basic, it is less likely to leach metals from water pipes that can be harmful to people. Calcium carbonate is the same material as in Tums – it neutralizes acid. It is also the crusty white material that builds up on leaves and the edges of the pots when you use tap water on your plants. Orchids need calcium and magnesium for growth. Unfortunately, the calcium, magnesium and many other nutrients you add to the water may not be readily available when the pH is in the basic range. I measured the pH of municipal water that contained ½ teaspoon/gallon of IOS “Metro” fertilizer to be 7.1, and to register 985 microsiemens on the conductivity scale. So, municipal water used with the “weakly weekly” routine doesn’t exceed the safety level for conductivity of the water, but may still provide less than optimal nutrition.

How can you improve the quality of the water you use for your orchids? There are several practical ways. Distilled water from the supermarket is exceptionally pure, but very expensive. It would be practical only for a very small collection. Rainwater, when available, is another source. Most growers use a reverse osmosis (“RO”) filter as the most convenient and cost-effective way of supplying larger quantities of high quality water. RO filters are available from most hardware stores and on the internet (a search for reverse osmosis on E-bay produced more than 450 hits) for prices in the \$100 - \$200 range. Most of the units are designed to be installed permanently under the kitchen sink. Installation isn’t difficult, but if you aren’t handy you may want to call a plumber. The advantage of the under-the-sink units is that RO water will be readily available for your family to use for drinking and cooking. With reports about concerns with drinking water appearing just about weekly in the newspapers, this use may be far more important than watering your plants.

In summary, if you are new to orchid growing, learning the basics should be your priority. If you have been growing orchids for a while, and want to “kick it up a notch” as Emeril

would say, you may want to try improving water quality as a means to achieve better growth and flowering of your collection.

In Memoriam

Jack Robbins, IOS members since 1982. Jack was an avid grower and hybridizer of phaleanopsis. He made many of his

own crosses, seeking a true red phal. Many thanks to Jack’s family for the donation of plants and flasking equipment to IOS.



Phrag. kovachii



Phrag. Kovachii in spike

IOS Board Members – 2006 - 2007

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

President	Barry Lubin	847-432-5968	(brlubin@sbcglobal.net)
1 st VicePresident (Meetings/speakers)	Sue Golan	847-234-6311	(sgolan@aol.com)
2 nd Vice (Home Show Chair)	Sandy Fuller	847-991-5434	(sjfuller62@comcast.net)
3 rd Vice President (Away show chair)	Anne Kotowski	630-833-8042	(phrag207@aol.com)
Secretary (Recorder)	Beth Engle	815-886-4953	(hortpotter@wmconnect.com)
Asst. Sec’y (Newsletter Editor)	Loren Pollock	847-219-0718	(ioseditor@higrafix.com)
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Jim Spatzek	847-498-4638	(jamcam21@sbcglobal.net)
Asst. Treas (Membership/ Dues)	Felicia Cochran	630-521-1529	(fbc72@scbglobal.net)
Immediate Past President	Wendy Wesley	773-227-6064	(wswesley1@aol.com)

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

Walter Zielinski (to fill a vacancy)	2007	847-587-5534	(wallyzzz@earthlink.net)
Allen Morr	2007	847-501-2532	(ozone03@ameritech.net)
Toby Green	2008	847-845-6145	(toby.green@caremark.com)
Jerry Garner	2008	847-651-8139	(garnerjl@comcast.net)
Leo Schordje	2009	847-746-9355	(lschordje@dataflo.net)
Joe Dixler (to fill a vacancy)	2009	847-432-7708	(jmd@dixler.net)
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Lois Cinert	2010	630-739-1068	(geolocin@earthlink.net)