



Orchid Opus

VOL. 55 No. 7

July 2007

IOS Meeting and Show Dates*

July 8, 2007 – Chicago Botanic Garden
Workshop: **Barry Lubin** - "Big Box Hardware Stores - an Orchid Grower's Best Friend".
Speaker: **Greg Allikas** - "Orchid Photography".

August 18, 2007 – Oak Hill Gardens Picnic –
Saturday, 11:30am. Speaker: **Herman Pigors** –
Topic TBD. Visit www.oakhillgardens.com or call
(847) 428-8500 for directions

September 9, 2007 – Chicago Botanic Garden
Workshop: **Lois Cinert** – Plant registration just in
time for the show.
Speaker: **Cathy Bloome** on Native Orchids and
Conservation

October 13-14, 2007 – Chicago Botanic Garden
IOS Fall Mini Show

* Unless noted otherwise, member's meetings held at the Chicago Botanic Garden will begin at 11:30am in Bernstein Hall for the Mentor's Meeting, plant judging, and plant sales. We move to the Auditorium at approximately 12:30pm for our Workshop, business meeting, and speaker.

The Chicago Botanic Garden is located one traffic light East of Route 41 (Edens Expy) on Lake Cook Road, in Glencoe, Illinois.

IOS Board Member Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on July 10, at 7:30pm at the home of Luis Torres. All IOS members are welcome. Please contact Luis at mlrtorres@hotmail.com if you plan to attend.

President's Message

Barry Lubin – IOS President

You may recall that I wrote about the performance goals set by the Board of Directors in the August 2006 newsletter. With the end of our fiscal year on June 30, it is time to take a look at how we did compared to those 3 major goals:

Goal 1: Attract New Members to the Society

We need a strong membership to provide the talent and resources to stage our beautiful shows, afford the best speakers at our monthly meetings and contribute toward orchid conservation activities.

How did we do? We started the year with 215 members. We finished the year with 217 members – basically no change. We wanted the number to increase substantially. While I am a bit disappointed that we didn't show substantial net growth, I am encouraged that we recruited 32 new members at the last show, an exciting gain in momentum.

Where do we go from here? We continue to recruit at the venues we used in the past and look for additional opportunities and methods for recruiting in the coming year.

Goal 2: Retain existing members and enhance their involvement in society activities.

Members leave the society for many reasons. Interest in, and time available for our hobby ebbs and flows for all of us. We must ensure, however, that the society provides as much value for as many members as possible to retain their interest and participation. The level of involvement of a member in society activities significantly affects the value of membership. More involved members tend to stay with the society for longer periods of time.

How did we do? We haven't kept precise numbers in the past, but our annual membership turnover (the percentage of members who do not renew membership from one year to the next) appeared to run at about 30-40%. Our turnover this year was closer to 18%.

Where do we go from here? While significantly less than in some years, the turnover still represents a lot of people. We need to continue our efforts to make newcomers feel welcome, get continuing members involved in society

activities and ensure that we are providing value to them for their participation.

Goal 3: Strengthen the financial condition of the society.

The society needs adequate financial resources to provide a high level of service to our members and enable us to support other selected organizations consistent with our mission for conservation and education. We wanted the operations of the society to generate the resources to meet the goal of financial security of the society while allowing us to make targeted contributions.

How did we do? We had not been in financial condition to afford to make contributions to other organizations for several years. This year, our financial condition was strong enough for the Board of Directors to approve contributions of \$250 to the American Orchid Society and \$750 to the Chicago Judging Center of the American Orchid Society. As I write this, our overall financial results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007 are being compiled. I will ask our treasurer to prepare additional financial information to report to you in the next newsletter.

Where do we go from here? We continue to work to maintain cash reserves at a level needed to secure the operations of the society while supporting orchid education, conservation and orchid judging.

In summary, we made some gains in improving aspects of the society's operations that are critical for IOS to be an organization that all of us can enjoy for many years. We still have lots of work to do. We need the help and support of all

members to do it. I will continue to report to you periodically as to how we are doing in that effort.

As always, if you have suggestions, criticisms, ideas, or just want to express an opinion, I would really like to hear from you (BRLubin@sbcglobal.net, 847-432-6005).

-Barry

Orchid Events

September 21-23, 2007 – 15th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival

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

November 16-18, 2007 - Mid-America Orchid Congress,

Kansas City, Kansas -

<http://midamericanorchids.org/>

January 23-27, 2008 - 19th World Orchid Conference.

Miami Florida - <http://www.19woc.com/>

Program Notes

Sue Golan, Contributing Editor

Hope you learned some computer smarts at the last meeting when Dave Tribble told us how to set up an Orchid database. He and Allison keep track of their babies, and their ribbons reflect it.

Then Leo Schordje told us all about Lycastes, showed us many of those beauties and, having educated us, he sold us some. Leo is a true Renaissance man and can answer many of your Orchid related questions. He's very approachable and comes to most meetings, so look for him and let us all know when your Lycastes bloom.

Our next speaker on July 8th will be Greg Alikas who is *THE* premier Orchid photographer in the world. I can't wait to see his slide presentation. We are so privileged to have the finest Orchid growers, photographers etc. coming to Chicago just to talk to us. Don't miss this!

Our very own Barry Lubin will conduct a workshop on "A Big Box Store is an Orchid grower's best friend". It sounds like there'll be some practical tips here so bring a pad to write down Barry's ideas. Isn't it amazing that there's always something to learn no matter how long you've been growing Orchids?



Dichaena glauca. Grower: Sue Golan

Tricks of the Trade

Dave Tribble, Contributing Editor

We're starting a new regular column for members to 'trade' their lesser known, but very useful secrets connected to the growing of orchids. If you have an idea contact me, or the Newsletter editor, and we'll get your hint posted.

Do you grow a lot of miniature mounted orchids, and are looking for a simple way to display them for monthly judging? You can, of course, just lie them down on the table. But you know the judges are always influenced by presentation! An easy way is to use a 'plate' stand as shown in the picture to the right. They are sturdy, fold up, and come in a variety of sizes. The one shown is 13" tall and was purchased at Pier 1 for \$5.00



The AOS Website Members Only Section is Now Available

Rosalie Dixler – American Orchid Society Liaison

The “Members Only” section is now available on the AOS website at www.orchidweb.org/aos/. AOS member login is found on the upper right corner of the AOS Home Page. You will be asked to place your ID number in the Member ID box. Your member number is found on the address sheet placed over your “Orchids” Magazine that you receive in the mail. Your ID number can be found above your name.

If you are not a member and want to join, you can do so on that page on the website, or you can contact the AOS at 561-404-2050, or, email Pam at pgiust@aos.org. There are many benefits of membership. Go to www.orchidweb.org/aos/membership/page01.aspx to see them. Membership is presently \$60.00 for one year and \$108 for two. You can join online, or you can join at an IOS meeting through our AOS representative, Rosalie Dixler, at which time you will receive a free copy of “Orchids” magazine.

There are several wonderful resources in the Members Only section that beginners as well as experts will benefit from:

Orchids A to Z

Although still evolving as a reference tool, **Orchids A to Z**, has been designed to one day be a definitive source for information concerning orchid genera. Renowned authorities have submitted content for the genera for which they are noted, assuring you the best information available. There will be full-size images and phonetic spelling of the genus name along with a sound file of the spoken name. (A sound card and speakers are required for this feature. Depending on your browser version and settings, certain adjustments may be required.)

Orchid Tourist

AOS volunteer Susan Plimpton, wrote The Orchid Tourist in 2002, a pocket-sized worldwide directory of orchid collections open to the public, which included information about 115 collections in 37 countries in the USA. This valuable resource is now in the Members Only section of the AOS Web site. Each listing has contact information, as well as details about the collection's content and size. This handy guide is a boon to anyone who likes to visit public orchid collections when they travel.

Classics of Orchid Literature

The AOS is now in its 75th year of publishing Orchids, formerly called the American Orchid Society Bulletin. During its celebrated history, several papers have withstood the test of time to become landmarks of orchid literature. Via the links in this page of the AOS website, you have access to reprints of these classic papers, each of which - some, decades after publication - are still terrific educational resources. Here are a few examples:

- **Polyploidy In Cattleyas** by H. Kamemoto, AOS Bulletin-- Normal plant and animal cells are diploid with two sets of chromosomes; while polyploidy individuals have more than the two sets of chromosomes. The most common type of polyploidy is tetraploidy, where there are four sets of chromosomes in a cell. Tetraploid plants tend to have larger and fuller flowers with heavier substance. Because of these improved characteristics, many complex orchid hybrids are tetraploid. The results of the first in-depth study of polyploidy in orchids appeared in the AOS's magazine in July 1950.

- **A New Nutrient Solution for the Germination of Orchid Seeds** by Lewis Knudson — AOS Bulletin — Before 1922, orchid seedlings were extremely rare and expensive due to the difficulty in germinating the seeds. In nature, orchid seeds require a fungus for germination. The early seed-germination procedure required growing both the fungus and orchid together (symbiotic germination). Germination was a hit-or-miss process depending upon the right ratio of fungus to orchid growth. In 1923, Lewis Knudson of Cornell University revolutionized the process by demonstrating that orchid seeds could be germinated on a nutrient medium without the aid of the fungus (asymbiotic germination). Using Knudson's method, not only did seed germination occur in a predictable and reliable way, it also resulted in millions of seedlings per capsule. Knudson experimented with different medium and ended up with the famous Knudson's Solution C. Knudson's C is still being used today. The composition of Knudson's Solution C was published for the first time in the 1946 AOS Bulletin.

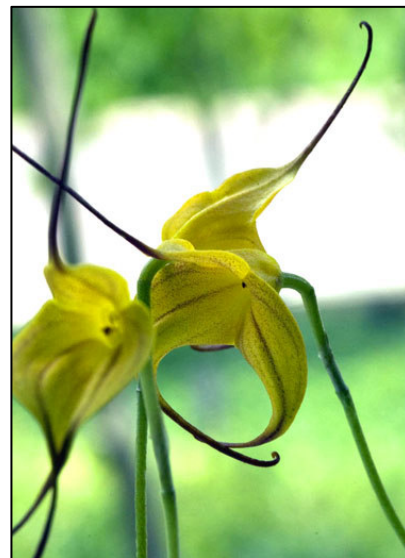
Book Reviews

There are presently about 25 reviews of orchid books listed that were previously published in Orchids magazine. A few of those listed are:

- **The Best Orchids for Indoors** edited by Charles Marden Fitch, 2004, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York, 86 color photographs. 120 pages;
- **The Cattleya and Their Relatives: The Debatable Epidendrums** by Carl L. Withner and Patricia A. Harding, 2004, Timber Press, Portland, 98 color photographs and 68 line drawings, 300 pages.
- **Cattleya labiata autumnalis** by Lou C. Menezes, 2002, IBAMA, Brasilia, 237 color photographs, 252 pages
- **Dendrobium and Its Relatives** by Bill Lavarack, Wayne Harris, Geoff Stocker, 2000, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 450 color photographs.
- **Orchid Ailments** - The AOS's Pests-and-Disease Series- Orchids magazine's popular Orchid Ailments series provided readers with information and images to help identify orchid ailments and grow healthier plants. From Aphids to Virus, the series explored the finer points of insect pests, rots, disease and cultural challenges, to name a few, and offered advice on prevention and treatment for the problems. The links take you to the individual articles in this series. A few listed are: Orchid Blossom Midges — January 2003; Whiteflies — February 2003; Cold Damage — March 2003.
- **Judy White's Beginners Series** - Seldom has an author captured the attention of the orchid community -- from novice to expert -- in the manner that Judy White did in her beginners series. Judy's passion for the hobby combined with her incredible writing talent created a seven-part series in the AOS Bulletin from December 1989 through July 1990. A superb garden photographer, Judy White is the principal photographer at GardenPhotos.com. She is also a well-known gardening writer and lecturer, and is author and sole photographer of the Taylor's Guide to Orchids. Her topics include: A Passion For Pots, Media Mania Revisited, A Buyer's Guide To Orchids, Green Side Up: Reveries of Repotting, Confessions Of An Overwaterer, Why On Earth Won't It Bloom?
- **Great Ideas** - In the early 1990s, Ed Wright and Bill Tippit teamed to write and illustrate a popular column in the Bulletin. The series was dubbed "Great Ideas", and offered recipes for accomplishing tasks associated with becoming a better orchid grower. A few examples are: The Whackerback Method for Vandas (Aug92), Using Vinyl Guttering to Increase Growing Space (Feb93), A Heavyduty Hanger for Larger Dendrobiums (May93), The Spray Spider (Jun93).
- **AOS Awards Index** (prior, "Fisher/Bishop Index") - This resource includes an introduction and definitions, as well as an index from 1932-2005 for all AOS flower awards published in the Register of Awards, its Supplements, and Awards Quarterly through Volume 36, Number 4 (December 2005). Via most computers, the pdf allows users to search for keywords; enlarge or shrink text; and print pages or the entire document.



Dendrobium Winter Frost. Grower: Allison Tribble



Masd. Cassiope. Grower: Sue Golan

IOS Board Members – 2007 - 2008

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)	Luis Torres	847-303-6838	(mrltorres@hotmail.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)	Toby Green	847-845-6145	(toby.green@caremark.com)
Asst. Sec'y (Newsletter Editor)	Loren Pollock	847-219-0718	(ioseditor@higrafix.com)
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Beth Engle	815-886-4953	(hortpotter@wmconnect.com)
Asst. Treas (Membership/ Dues)	Felicia Cochran	630-521-1529	(fbc72@sbcglobal.net)
Immediate Past President	Wendy Wesley	773-227-6064	(wswesley1@aol.com)

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

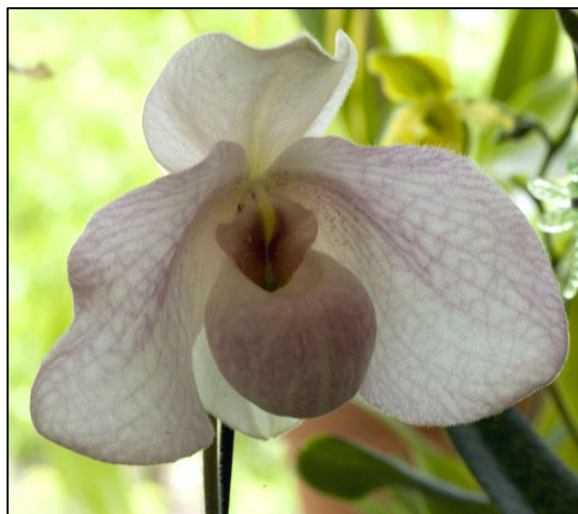
Jerry Garner	2008	847-651-8139	(garnerjl@comcast.net)
TBD	2008		
Leo Schordje	2009	847-746-9355	(lschordje@dataflo.net)
Joe Dixler	2009	847-432-7708	(jmd@dixler.net)
TBD	2010		
Lois Cinert	2010	630-739-1068	(geolocin@earthlink.net)
Victor Lentini	2011		(f1orchid@aol.com)
Allison Tribble	2011	773-728-4874	(allisont@rcn.com)



Brassada (Brassia Spider's Gold 'Elegant' x Ada aurantiaca). Grower: Betsy Buckles



*Enciclia 'Green Hornet'.
Grower: Joan Goodman*



Paph. Joyce Hasegawa. Grower: Sandy Fuller.