



# Orchid Opus

VOL. 55 No. 12

December 2007

## IOS Meetings and Show Dates\*

**December 9, 2007** – Orchids by Hausermann – **Holiday Party!!!** Doors open at 11:00am.  
Speaker: Dana Harrison of Hausermann's. Topic TBD. Potluck lunch.

**January 8, 2008** – IOS Board of Directors meeting at the home of Joe Dixler, 7:30 PM, all IOS members are invited to attend. Please contact Barry Lubin if you plan to attend.

**January 27, 2008** – Chicago Botanic Garden Ernie Gemeinhart on Recent Vietnamese Paph Species. Workshop TBD.

**February 10, 2008** – Chicago Botanic Garden Sam Tsui. Topic TBD. Workshop TBD.

**March 23, 2008** – Chicago Botanic Garden Speaker TBD.

**April 5-6, 2008** – Chicago Botanic Garden **IOS Spring Show**

## Orchid Events

**January 23-27, 2008** - 19th World Orchid Conference.  
Miami Florida - <http://www.19woc.com/>

\* Unless noted otherwise, member's meetings held at the Chicago Botanic Garden will begin at 11:30am in the Fairchild Room 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.

## President's Message

*Barry Lubin – IOS President*

I trust you are grooming your plants for judging, preparing your orchid shopping list and selecting the recipe of your favorite dish to bring to the IOS Holiday Party, hosted by Orchids by Hausermann on December 9. The Holiday Party is always a highlight in our meeting schedule and one you should be sure to attend. Luis explains the logistics on page 2.

As we approach the holidays and look forward to the New Year, it is also time for membership renewals. In addition to renewing your membership, I ask that you consider becoming a Gold, Silver or Bronze Sustaining Member. Your contribution to IOS (a not-for-profit corporation) through a Sustaining Membership enables the organization to provide the quality meetings, shows, newsletters and other services we have all come to expect. Felicia explains how to renew your membership the easy way and how to become a Sustaining Member on page 3.

We have had a change in the membership of the IOS Board of Directors. Toby Green has resigned from the Board and from her position as secretary due to competing demands for her time. She will remain an active IOS member. Rosalie Dixler has graciously agreed to serve as secretary (as well as retain her current position as AOS liaison) until a permanent appointment is made. Appointments for open board positions are pending board approval and, if approved, will be announced in the next newsletter.

*-Barry*

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## The View from the Speaker's Chair

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*Luis Torres, Speaker Chair*

Francisco Miranda visited with us at our November meeting to present an overview of Brazilian species cattleyas. Francisco opened with a fascinating review of the geography and variation in habitats where Brazilian orchids can be found. He then proceeded to unpack the sometimes-subtle differences between the various species types divided into bilfoliate, unifoliate and "other" categories. Francisco spoke passionately about his beloved species cattleyas closing with his thoughts and concerns about how, even with select line breeding, subtle hybrids with species-like traits are slowly setting the standard in AOS judging. In the fullness of time, Francisco predicts that "true" species will be a thing of the past ..... at least at the judging table. That would be a real shame. Given his brisk table sales, I'm proud to see IOS members doing their bit to promote growing fine species cattleyas. I'm looking forward to seeing the plants you all purchased grown-up and flowering for our monthly club judging.

By the way, I forgot to mention when introducing Francisco last month that he is a published author. If Brazilian species cattleyas have captivated your imagination then I'd encourage you to go deep with some further reading. By all means contact Francisco via his web site <http://mirandaorchids.com/index.htm> if you're interested in further research recommendations.

Looking ahead to our next meeting, plan on bringing an entrée or desert, enough for several, to our annual Christmas party on Sunday December 9th hosted at Hausermann's. Plan on showing up early and bring your wallet! There will be lots of

excellent plant selections available and as usual the team at Hausermann's will be providing the festive refreshments.... including a fruit punch with a punch! The focus of our holiday party will be the potluck lunch so please bring a dish or dessert to the party that will feed 8-10 people. We do have the ability to plug in crock-pots and warming trays. Remember to bring serving implements for your dish, and put your name on them as well as your containers. Don't forget to bring your recipe to share with others. The doors open at the greenhouses at 11 AM. The meeting and eating will start around 12:30. Plants for judging should be in place by then also. Lunch will be followed by an orchid talk by Dana from Hausermann's.

Members' plants will not be sold at this meeting.

It's as much tradition as the Queen's speech after turkey and the trimmings on Christmas Day (sorry, it's a British thing)!

Orchids by Hausermann is located at 2N 134 Addison Road (2 blocks north of North Ave on Addison Road). See attached map for details, or call Hausermann's at 630-543-6855. They will be happy to supply you with directions.

Happy Holidays and good growing.

Seasons greetings,

Cheers,

*-Luis*

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## Membership Report

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*Felicia Cochran, Membership Committee Chair*

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped out at the membership table during the fall show.

Please welcome the following new members:

<b>Karen (Cleo) Castillo</b>	<b>Wilmette</b>
<b>Howard &amp; Susan Reese</b>	<b>Highland Park</b>
<b>Terri Morton</b>	<b>Chicago</b>
<b>Kim Sunhzz</b>	<b>Deerfield</b>
<b>Yale Gerol</b>	<b>Glencoe</b>
<b>Lin Strong</b>	<b>Prairie View</b>
<b>Madina Upson</b>	<b>Barrington</b>
<b>Irene Williams</b>	<b>Chicago</b>
<b>Melinda &amp; Linda Wills</b>	<b>Chicago</b>

Our Membership renewal drive will start at this next meeting, which is the Annual Holiday Party

held at Orchids by Hausermann. Please stop by the table and see me to renew your membership!

While you are getting ready to renew your IOS Membership, please consider our "Sustaining Membership" program. If you would like to do a little something extra for your society, this is your chance. We have three levels of Supporting Memberships:

- **Gold - \$100**
- **Silver - \$75**
- **Bronze - \$50**

The regular membership renewal fee is still \$25. The Sustaining Memberships are tax deductible for the amount over the regular renewal fee.

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## Tricks of the Trade – Trash It or Rescue It?

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*Dave Tribble, Contributing Editor*

*If you have a Trick of the Trade that you would like to share, please contact Dave Tribble at [dtribble@rcn.com](mailto:dtribble@rcn.com), and we'll get your hint posted.*

*By Allen Morr – Reprinted from the IOS Newsletter, April, 2003*

All of us have been faced with the decision to trash an orchid we have nearly killed. If it is a favorite, and you have some patience, oftentimes it can be rescued. If it has not failed due to disease or an onslaught of bugs, remove the orchid from its pot. You will probably discover the roots are rotted or almost non-existent. Wash off all the potting mix, and with sterile scissors or a razor

blade, trim away the "mushy" roots. Treat the cuts with a fungicide such as Physan 20, or dust with cinnamon ~ a natural fungicide! Next, wrap a small ball of dampened sphagnum moss (preferably New Zealand sphagnum) around the roots and tuck into the corner of a suitably sized Ziploc bag. Seal the bag and pin a corner to the wall of your greenhouse or growing area where there is plenty of light. Leave the bag tightly closed (watering not necessary) and after 4-6 months you should be rewarded with new roots. The worst that can happen? You finally killed off your nearly dead plant!



*Degamoara Winter Wonderland 'Frosty'. Grower: S. Maloney*



*Pleurothallis allenii. Grower: C & J High*

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## Fall Show Wrap Up

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*Sandy Fuller, Home Show Chair*

Sorry for the delay in this report. Although I had a great time, it took me a while to recover from the Show. I believe this Show was our best Fall Show in quite a while. I hope everyone who participated had a great time.

We had a great turn out for the show. I believe this was due to multiple things. One of which was the great job Rosalie Dixler and Allison Tribble did on publicity. I believe that many people came because of their wonderful experience at the MAOC show. The weather on Saturday was conducive to encourage attendance.

There were 20 exhibits with around 300 entries in the Show. Thank you to everyone who brought their plants (and orchid related items) and spent their time creating all the lovely exhibits. Thanks also to Sue Golan for leading the AOS judging and Loren Pollock for his excellent photography work on the AOS awarded plants and on the show in general.

The new database software worked out well and the registration process went well thanks to Felicia Cochran, Lois Cinert and Sherry Maloney.

On Saturday the plant sales table was mobbed. Thanks to all who brought plants to sell. Saturday afternoon, we had to call some of our commercial members to bring more plants. On Sunday the sales were stronger than usual even though the weather was not quite as nice as Saturday. As Barry mentioned in the last newsletter Wally will

be retiring from the plant sales coordinator position. Wally you will be missed. Thanks for all the years you put into managing the plant sales.

The repotting table was busy as usual with Joe Dixler at the helm. That is such a popular feature in our show. Thanks to Joe, Barry, and Loren who did the dirty work of mixing up the famous IOS Bark Mix.

Our new treasurer, Beth Engle had the dubious task of counting all the money from our income on the show. It looks like we had a very profitable Fall Show.

Thanks to the North Shore Garden Club for putting together the lovely arrangements that were used for display and the raffle prizes.

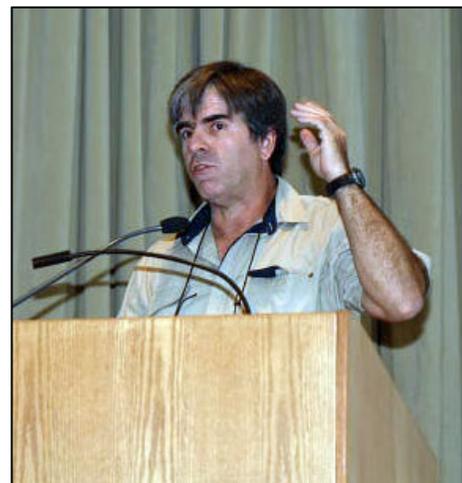
Both Joel Edwards and Luis Torres did a great job educating and challenging our show attendees to grow orchids and grow them better. Thanks guys.

Victor Lentini did a wonderful job of coordinating our volunteers. Thanks to all of you who signed up to help: Beth Engle, Jerry Garner, Toby Green, Maurice Hardy, Cleo Keirgaard, Anne Kotowski, Karen Lustig, Morrie Millman, John Parry, Ellen Powell, Sherry Reddick, Sue Tirmalis, Dave and Allison Tribble.

I say it again, and I always mean it. We cannot do it without you.



*The Mentor's Meeting is a great way to learn from our more experienced growers*



*Francisco Miranda speaking on Brazilian Orchids*

# Member's Judging Points

Lois Cinert, IOS Awards Committee

Member Name		Jul	Aug	Sep	Milw	Fall Show	Rckfrd	Nov	AOS	Total
Dixler, J & R	G	35				250			76	361
Gamson, Ed					14	19				33
Golan, Sue	G	26	55	30	26	96	39	16		288
Lubin, Barry	G				13	48		30		91
Mack, Bob	G			50	18			48		116
Passine, Paul	G					202		15		217
Spatzek, James	G						10			10
Thompson, Carole	G					2				2
Weisz, E	G			10						10
Bloome, Cathy						24				24
Brand, Laura		2								2
Buckles, Betsy			10							10
Cinert, Lois					2					2
Cochran, Felicia						9				9
Edwards, Joel				45	101	77	189		75	487
Engle Beth						31				31
Fuller, Sandy		10	36	12	66	50	38	63		275
Garner, Jerry		5								5
Goodman, J				5						5
Hall, Julie				10		18				28
Hardy, Maurice						20				20
High, C & J				25		14		15		54
Kotowski, Anne							31			31
Lentini, Victor						4		16		20
Losert, Wilfred			57				110			167
Maloney, Sherry		55	31	40	28	9	11	20		194
Papiewski, Claire			30							30
Pollock, Loren					14					14
Powell, Ellen								5		5
Sales, G		10								10
Schordje, Leo		30				103				133
Skupien, Mitchell			10							10
Tirzmalis, Susan		5								5
Torres, Luis		50	55			52				157
Tribble, Allison		61	21	20	32	37		3		174
Tropp, Bob		10		15						25
Vrabel, Ken		14	12	37		37		15		115
Wesley, Wendy			5							5

G = Greenhouse

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## Orchid Society – A Definition

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*Lois Cinert, Contributing Editor*

If you have been sent this newsletter, you are most likely a member of the Illinois Orchid Society. You filled out an application when you joined, and paid some money for the privilege of attending meetings and shows. You probably own (or did own) at least one orchid plant, and liked the flower enough to be curious about how it grows, and where it comes from, and why it is so fascinating.

In this world today, you can buy orchids at grocery stores; you can go on line to buy them, and find information about growing them, and you can stay at home to do all of this.

You don't need an orchid society to grow orchids.

That's the first part of our name – **Orchid**. The second part of our name is **Society**. And that is what I want to talk to you about. We are a society, a group of people who have at least one thing in common, our love of orchids, and all the mysteries involved with growing them. And we, like most other people, love to share our experiences, our triumphs and tragedies with other people; hence Society. And there is something more compelling in the face-to-face interaction with other orchid growers. We share our passion for our flowers, and convey that in our conversation. It's something you can't get on line.

You also can't get the nuance of details that can appear in an actual conversation. Words on paper lose feeling, and some degree of meaning. Humans are gregarious, especially in flocks of people with something in common. There are other conversations going on at our meetings, but ask a grower about a plant he has brought for the show table, and you will certainly get an answer.

We each grow our plants in their own little niche of climate and light. No two of us grow in exactly the same way. It is by comparing our successes with those of our fellow members that we learn, and can improve what we do, and grow better flowers. It is this personal touch, and the little things that we learn from each other that

make our society membership worth every dime. We learn from each other, we teach each other.

The speakers that we bring in are a bonus for your dollar. The range of people we have brought in in the past goes from taxonomists, to growers and photographers. All of them also have the passion for their topics, and will willingly answer questions. This is the best way to find out about your orchids, and all aspects of growing them. The speakers we bring in are the best in the country.

It's time to renew our memberships. The December meeting at Hausermann's is the traditional place to do it. Gather with your orchid friends at a beautiful greenhouse full of flowers; find an orchid you have never seen, or don't know how to grow, and ask how to grow it. I bet you'll find an answer, from an old friend, or a new one. That is the value of your membership with the Illinois Orchid Society. Join us again.



*Encyclia cochleata.*  
Grower: Ken Vrabel



*Phrag Dennis Kleinbach x St. Owen.*  
Grower: Sandy Fuller

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## Awards, American Orchid Society Chicago Judging Center, Nov., 2007

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

The Illinois Orchid Society is the sponsoring society for the Chicago Judging Center, which many of you may not know. The monthly judgments are usually held in the auditorium at the Chicago Botanic Garden at 1:00pm on the second Saturday of each month. All members of the IOS are welcome to attend at any time and watch the judgments. We also invite you to bring your special blooming orchid plants if you would like them considered for AOS awards.

There were four awards at the November, 2007 judging. Here are those results:

- **Paphiopedilum Chunky Mama 'Plump Pudding'**, Award of Merit (AM) 82 points. The owner is Arnold J. Klehm
- **Cattleya dowiana 'Kathleen'**, Award of Merit (AM) 80 points. The owner is: Dr. Bill Rogerson.
- **Paphiopedilum Barbi Playmate 'Hampshire'**, Award of Merit (AM) 81 points & a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) 82 points. The owner is: Arnold J. Klehm.

If any of you have questions about judging, judging terminology, etc., feel free to email your questions to me and I will answer them in future newsletters if possible.

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## In Memoriam – Bob Wolff

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*Sue Golan, Contributing Editor*

Those of you who were members of the IOS in the 80s and 90s will surely remember Bob Wolff and his wonderfully grown orchids. I had to count the flowers on his *Dendrochilum* once (small and numerous) and I will never forget him or his plants. He grew the unusual, and so beautifully! He was always willing to answer a beginners' question and came to the monthly meetings with plants to show and help to give.

His collection was donated to the Botanic Garden by his daughters and can be seen, here and there, on the original big Orchid tree. If you see something unusual blooming, it's probably his!

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## In Memoriam – Dorothy Nieter

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Hello,

I'm Dorothy Nieter's "stepson-in-law," and I'm writing to advise you and members of the IOS that she passed away on Nov. 21, 2007, at Mather Pavilion, where she had been cared for since 2002 following her debilitating stroke. I know how important IOS was in her life, and I am sure that many members will be saddened by her passing.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Ackerman* (married to Carol Boyer Nieter, Dorothy's stepdaughter)

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

President	Barry Lubin	847-432-6005	(brlubin@sbcglobal.net)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (Meetings/speakers)	Luis Torres	847-303-6838	(mrltorres@hotmail.com)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice (Home Show Chair)	Sandy Fuller	847-991-5434	(sjfuller62@comcast.net)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Away show chair)	Anne Kotowski	630-833-8042	(phrag207@earthlink.net)
Secretary (Recorder)	(Open)		
Asst. Secretary (Newsletter Editor)	Loren Pollock	847-219-0718	(ioseditor@higrafix.com)
Treasurer (Collects/disburses monies)	Beth Engle	815-886-4953	(hortpotter@wmconnect.com)
Asst. Treasurer (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	773-763-6363	(florchid@aol.com)
Allison Tribble	2011	773-728-4874	(allisont@rcn.com)

**Map to Orchids by Hausermann:**

