



Orchid Opus

VOL. 56 No. 4

April, 2008

IOS Meetings and Show Dates*

April 5-6, 2008 – Chicago Botanic Garden
IOS Spring Show. See included show schedule, or
Visit: www.iosoc.com/show/spring.shtml

May 18, 2008 – Chicago Botanic Garden
Speaker: TBA
Workshop: Luis Torres – ‘Building an Outdoor
Shade Structure’.
Board member elections.

June 8, 2008 – Chicago Botanic Garden
Speaker: Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids –
‘Orchid Growing in Europe’.
Workshop: ‘Virus Testing In Orchids’ – Presented
by Agdia Corporation.
Awards meeting to recognize our top growers.

July 13, 2008 – Chicago Botanic Garden
Speaker: TBA
Workshop: TBA

August 9, 2008 (Saturday) – Our annual picnic
hosted by Oak Hill Gardens
Hermann’s topic TBD, but sure to be interesting, as
always.

Orchid Events

May 16-18, 2008 – 12th Annual Redland
International Orchid Festival, Homestead, FL.

July 27, 2008 – Central Iowa Speakers day,
Johnston, IA

* 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

The big weekend is here! Orchid Extravaganza!, our spring show, runs Saturday and Sunday from 10AM to 5PM at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. Don't miss the gorgeous displays or enticing sales from 24 vendors. We will be selling our now-famous special bark mix and repotting plants as well.

Sandy and her team have been hard at work putting all the final touches in place, but lots of help is still needed during the show. Please come out and help anytime from setup on Thursday and Friday, to teardown on Sunday. See the volunteer schedule (www.iosoc.com/show/spring-volunteers.shtml) to select an area where you would like to get involved.

This is a great opportunity to make some space in your growing area by selling your extra plants at the IOS members' sales table. The process is very simple and experienced members staffing the sales table will help you price and tag your plants.

See you at the show!

-Barry



Den. Winter Frost

The View from the Speaker's Chair

Luis Torres, Speaker Chair

I don't know about you but I was grateful that the temperature for our March meeting was in the low-40s (as opposed to the 0-degree temperature we suffered for our February meeting!). Mixed sunshine also helped make for what I hope you all agree was an excellent afternoon.

With Barry off for a ½-marathon jaunt that morning, it fell on yours truly to run the afternoon's proceedings. Joe Dixler was kind enough to kick things off with his workshop detailing his technique for potting in sphagnum moss. A couple of key points to remember:

1. Use quality AAA-grade New Zealand sphagnum moss. There are a few places you can purchase this on-line including Orchids Limited, run by our featured speaker of the month Jerry Fischer. Pre-order with them via the web site (<http://www.orchidweb.com>) ahead of our April 5th and 6th Spring show.

2. Remember to incorporate 10%-20% medium grade perlite to break the mix up a little more so that more air can permeate the plant root system.

Other than that Joe made the whole re-potting process look easy. I've used his technique with great success and in fact have modified it for my phrags as follows. I set the bottom 2/3rd of the plant root system in a fir bark mix then dress the top 1/3rd with Joe's sphagnum/perlite mix. I find that this approach encourages lots of new root growth - essential for re-potted plants. I don't have experience with this approach for anything other than my phrags so drop me a line a let me know how you make out with other genus. Remember, Joe is always available to provide solid advice with at his mentor session that starts at 11:30am each regular monthly meeting.

Following a brief business meeting, it was my pleasure to introduce our featured main speaker,

Jerry Fischer, founder and owner of Orchids Limited. Jerry's talk to us was titled "New Developments in Phragmipedium". Even with the somewhat jittery display, the quality of photographs Jerry used to illustrate his presentation was outstanding. In outline, Jerry worked through the following:

1. Breeding with Phrag fisheri
2. Breeding for red Phragmipedium (essentially breeding with Phrag. besseae)
3. Breeding for yellow Phragmipedium (mainly influenced by the flava form of besseae)
4. Breeding for long petals
5. Kovachii and it's hybrids (if this caught your attention remember to pre-order with Jerry ahead of our Spring show April 5th and April 6th)
6. Phragmipedium andreetae; a new species discovered in Equador in 1998 that looks a bit like Phrag. fisheri

Jerry closed his presentation with a host of comments relating to the cultural preferences for Phrags.

Overall it was a visually captivating presentation that, no doubt for many, inspired us to look further into the wonderful new world slippers we know as Phragmipedium.

Anyway, I look forward to seeing you all at our April 5th and 6th Spring show. Please support the IOS with your blooming orchids for our display. I'm still working on our featured speaker for our May 18th meeting but you have my word it will be interesting!

Happy growing!

Cheers,

-Luis



*Jerry Fisher speaking on new developments in *Phragmipediums**



*Joe speaking on potting with *Sphagnum* moss*

Heads-Up for the June 8 Workshop

Do you have any plants that just don't seem to want to grow? Perhaps they flower, but do the flowers have strange color breaks? Do the leaves have mottling or streaks that don't look quite right? Your plant may have a virus! Unfortunately, viruses are quite common in orchids and there is no cure. Some plants show the effects very clearly; others may have no visible clues. So, how can you tell if your plant is incurably ill?

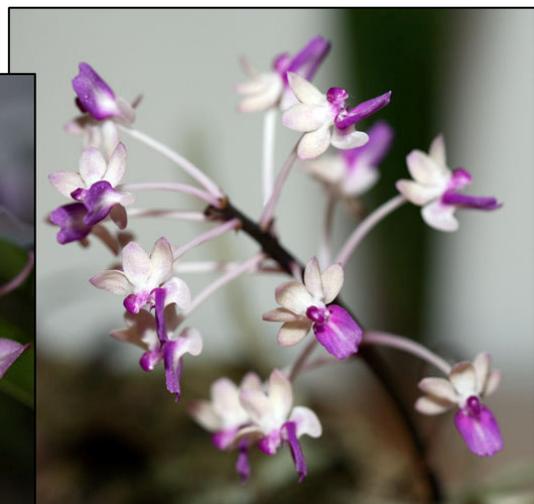
Virus testing has been available for many years from numerous laboratories. You needed to send a sample of the suspect plant tissue to the lab for testing. A much more convenient test has been developed recently by Agdia, Inc. (www.agdia.com/orchid_product_brochure.pdf).

A small sample of the plant is inserted in a plastic envelope containing a special liquid. The tip of a test strip is soaked in the liquid. Within 30 minutes, red bars form on the test strip to indicate whether either of the 2 most common orchid viruses are present in the sample. If the plant is infected, it can be disposed of guiltlessly, or at least isolated, to protect the rest of the collection.

For our workshop at the June 8 meeting, Agdia has graciously agreed to send a representative to talk about orchid virus testing and let members test a sample from any suspected plant in their collection. All you will need to do is bring in a piece of a leaf about the size of a US quarter. More information will be provided in next month's newsletter.



Iwan. Apple Blossom



Seidenfadenia (Aerides) mitrata

Spring Show Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Show setup..... 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Registration..... 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Friday, April 4, 2008

Show setup..... 10:00 am to 9:00 pm
Registration..... 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Judge & Clerk Breakfast & Briefing6:30 am
Show Judging.....7:00 am
AOS Judging.....10:00 am
Show & Sale open to the public..... 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Judges Lunch12:00 Noon

Sunday, April 6, 2008

Special opening for Photography..... 9:00 am to 10:00 am
Show open to the public..... 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Show Teardown..... 5:00 pm

Please visit the IOS website at <http://www.iosoc.com/show/spring.shtml> and click on **show schedule** (near the middle of the page) to see detailed entry rules and regulations.

Tricks of the Trade – Plant Tags From an Ink-Jet Printer

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, and we'll get your hint posted.

If you have a Laser printer, then you can make permanent plant tags for your plants. There are many advantages: the info is printed directly on the plastic tag and will not wash off. What can you do if you do not have a Laser printer?

We use an InkJet printer and print on clear Ink Jet labels [Avery 8667]. These are ½” x 1 ¾”. We print them using Word (go to ‘Envelopes & Labels’ under Tools). They can be printed one at a time, or a bunch if you are using a Database. After placing the label on the tag, cover it with clear Scotch tape. While not

permanent, they generally last about a year, sometimes longer.

While there are clear disadvantages, there are also some advantages. We include the last replot date on the tag. Hence, we have to reprint tags every year or so anyways. Also, the labels can be removed with a razor blade and the tags can be reused. The tag shown is 5” long with the print area 1” wide. They were obtained from Cal-West <http://www.orchid-supplies.com/>



Our Spring Show

Sandy Fuller – Home Show Chair

Our Spring Show is finally upon us. It looks like we are going to have a nice size show. We have about 24 vendors and 35 exhibits at the time of this writing. Our exhibits will be displayed in Nichol's Hall as usual for our Spring Shows. The vendors will be located in Burnstein Hall and the Greenhouse galleries. We have a nice variety of orchid vendors along with vendors selling orchid jewelry, orchid prints, orchid art, clay orchids and orchid pots.

If you were planning to volunteer and haven't done so yet, there is still time to give our Volunteer Coordinator Claire Papiewski a call or sign up on our website. Here is the link to the volunteer page on our website:

<http://www.iosoc.com/show/spring-volunteers.shtml> .

It is a great opportunity to get to know other society members. Thanks in advance to those of you who have already signed up.

We will be using the electronic registration forms for plant registration. Here is the link to the page that gives the registration instructions:

<http://www.iosoc.com/show/spring-plantregistration.shtml>

If you need assistance with filling out the forms, please feel free to contact Lois Cinert (Registration Coordinator), Felicia Cochran (Registration Database Administrator) or myself.

The hours of the show will be 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday. We will have a special opening for photographers on Sunday from 9 am to 10 am. On Saturday at 1 pm in the Auditorium Dave Tribble will be giving a talk on Growing Orchids in the Home and on Sunday at 1 pm in the Auditorium Joel Edwards will be giving a talk on Potting and Mounting Orchids.

If you want more information about the show be sure to go to our show page and admire the handiwork of our website administrator Tom Franczak. He does an excellent job on our website.

<http://www.iosoc.com/show/spring.shtml>

If you have any questions about the show in general, please feel free to contact me.

See you there.

-Sandy



Den. sanderae var. Major



Pleurothallis truncata



Slc. Mine Gold 'Corona'

Financial Fun

Beth Engle, IOS Treasurer

Happy Soon-to-be-Spring!

The Crocus in the front yard are starting to show their buds, so actual spring must be here, regardless of those large snowflakes that fell just a short time ago...right? The Robins are back, I've sown my heirloom tomatoes, and our spring show is right around the corner; those are sure signs of spring. Yea! I can't wait to be able to start putting the orchids outside, and they can't wait either!

I am pleased to announce that we had 12 participants for the February Jewel Shop and Share days, and netted \$52.57. Good Job! I should be able to report on our March days for the next newsletter. Our Jewel Shop and Share days are over for this year. Thanks to everyone who participated!

In February, I put a portion of our money market fund into a 6 month CD to earn a little higher interest. Now, I wish I had gone for a longer maturity time. Hindsight, it is said, is 20/20. My goal is to continue to reinvest in CD's and build our accounts further. Here are our current standings as of this writing:

Checking Account	\$15,692.72
CD	\$5,000.00
Money Market	\$12,431.27
LaSalle Account	\$77.26

Total	\$33,201.25

Much of our increase since last month has been, once again from Spring Show table fees, and membership renewals.

I hope that everyone will volunteer to work at our Spring Show. It is really a great time. It is the members and their willingness to give to this Society that makes it great! Be Great! Volunteer! If you can't volunteer, come shop! Shoppers are Great too!

Don't forget that the IOS will have a member sales table. You get 75% of the sale price, and the IOS keeps 25%. I mail you a check shortly after the show. It's a wonderful opportunity to create some space on your shelves, and nice chance to pick up plants you haven't had before -- at a great price. I know my collection has had many wonderful addition from the IOS table...

As always, if you have any questions concerning the IOS treasury, please let me know.

Hope to see you in April

-Beth



Paph. armeniacum

Preparing Your Plants For Display in the IOS Exhibit

Sandy Fuller – IOS Home Show Chair

Our exhibit at the Spring Show needs your plants to help make it beautiful. Ann Kotowski will be working her usual magic with our exhibit and will need plants to do this with. Please consider bringing your flowering orchids in and dropping them off on Thursday or Friday. To make sure your plant is at its best, remove dead leaves and clean the remaining ones with a cloth dampened with water with a little lemon juice added. Make sure there are no bugs present on the plant. Stake the inflorescence if needed to show

off the flower(s) to their best advantage, and don't forget to water them well. Please bring a list of your plants with you as well to help with the registration process. If you can, it would be helpful to enter them in the plant registration form that can be located by clicking on this link: <http://www.iosoc.com/show/Forms/Excel%20Registration%20Form.xls>

Thanks in advance for your support of our Society's Display.

Awards, American Orchid Society Chicago Judging Center, March, 2008

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

The regular monthly judging of the Chicago Judging Center was held at the Chicago Botanic Garden on Saturday, March 8, 2008. There were three awards:

- CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence) 90pts.
Cattleya trianae semi-alba flammea 'Kathleen'
Owner: Bill Rogerson
This plant had 24 flowers and 5 buds.
- CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit) 86 pts.
Cattleya schroederiae 'Paul'
Owner: Bill Rogerson
This plant had 41 flowers and was truly spectacular.
- HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) 78 pts.
Phalaenopsis (Yu Pin Beauty x Yu Pin Lady) 'Sun Prarie'
Owner: Bil Nelson, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In addition we had two AOS awards at the recent Batavia Orchid Society Show held on February 16, 2008. The awards were:

- HCC 76 pts.

Brassada (Brs.Spider's Gold x Ada aurantiaca) "Timberlane"
Owner: Marcia Whitmore, Coal Valleney, IL

- HCC 77 pts.
Paph. Limelight 'Robert Ware'
Owner: Prairie Orchids, Omaha, NE

And lastly, there were three awards at the recent Northeast Wisconsin Orchid Society Show in Neenah, Wisconsin. The awards were:

- HCC 76 pts.
Paph (spicerianum x Stone Lovely) 'Dee'
Owner: Bob Lewis, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- CHM (Certificate of Horticultural Merit) 82 pts.
Dendrobium wattii 'Silas'
Owner: Walter Crawford, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition)
Amesiella minor
Owner: unknown at this time

The IOS Joins The Orchid Conservation Coalition

Dave Tribble, Contributing Editor

A new emblem now adorns the pages of The Orchid Opus, as well as the IOS website.

The emblem, entitled 1% for Orchid Conservation signifies that the IOS has joined the Orchid Conservation Coalition. The IOS Board of Directors voted to join the coalition at the last Board meeting on March 9, 2008.

The OCC is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to promote orchid conservation through two programs.

The 1st (**1% for Orchid Conservation**) enrolls organizations such as orchid societies, orchid



nurseries, and other groups who pledge to allocate 1% of their annual revenues to orchid conservation. The OCC does not collect or disburse funds, so the IOS, through its Conservation Committee, will determine how the funds are directed.

The second program entitled *The Living Orchid Collection* (LOC) is designed to encourage individuals, as well as groups, to register species in a data base maintained by the OCC. The details on this program are explained in the article on page 9.

For more information on the OCC and its programs visit the web-site at: <http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/>

Membership Report

Felicia Cochran, Membership Chair

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped out during the Open House at Orchids by Hausermann. I would like to welcome all of the new members that joined us during February and March.

Ann Krahn	Mendota	IL
Bess & Harold Worden	Milwaukee	WI
Larry Miller	Westmont	IL
Susan Evenhouse	Elk Grove Village	IL
Theresa Adelman		
& John Marruffo	Pekin	IL

Celeste Ceisel	Northfield	IL
Ronald Susmarski	Willowbrook	IL
Nancy Isaac	Winnetka	IL

As a reminder, we still have quite a few members who have not renewed yet for 2008. Dues for the year are \$25.00. If you don't have your renewal form, you can print out the membership form off of our website at <http://www.iosoc.com/iosapp.htm> and then just mail that form and your check to me. The address is on the form.

The IOS Honors Members' Achievements With New Award

Allison Tribble, Contribution Editor

The members of the Illinois Orchid Society now have a new award to aspire to receiving. Previously, any of our awards were given to denote significant achievements in orchid growing. Now, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce the creation of a new, annual award geared more toward orchid SOCIETY growing. The *Linda Juberg Memorial Service Award* has been established to honor the memory and spirit of dedicated service of Linda Juberg. Linda worked tirelessly for IOS, supporting monthly meetings and shows. Her selfless dedication to helping IOS whenever help was needed serves as a example and inspiration for all members. Linda wasn't the best orchid grower in the society, but she generously provided home-baked treats at each of our meetings and almost single-handedly catered and managed hospitality at several shows. In this important way, she was essential to the strength of the IOS as a community. The award will be presented to the Illinois Orchid Society member

who demonstrates the qualities of enthusiasm and service in support of the mission of IOS.

The first presentation of the Linda Juberg Memorial Service Award will be made to Linda's family at our June 8 meeting.

The award is intended to be self-supporting. An anonymous benefactor has graciously agreed to match contributions of IOS members to a total of \$1,000. By raising \$1,000 from IOS members, the matching gift will enable the IOS to fund this memorial award in perpetuity. If you would like to contribute toward the award, please write a check payable to IOS and note on the check "For Linda Juberg Memorial Service Award". Checks can be mailed or handed to our treasurer, Beth Engle.

The Board also wishes to thank Maurice Hardy for his inspired idea for a service award in Linda's memory.

The Living Orchid Collection

Mark Sullivan, Administrator of the Orchid Conservation Coalition [reprinted with permission]

Ex situ (Latin) means out of place. Whenever we grow orchid species out of their normal growing habitat we are growing them *ex situ*. *In situ* orchid conservation and habitat preservation are the first line of defense for safeguarding orchid species for the future. A strong conservation effort would result if orchid growers would pledge not to buy newly discovered orchids like *Phragmipedium kovachii* until after the orchid and its habitat have been safeguarded *in situ*. Given the realities of our world, *ex situ* orchid conservation is important.

Orchids and their habitats continue to be destroyed by logging, farming, collection and climate change. *Ex situ* conservation can start by just growing your species orchids well. The next step is to propagate them from division and seed, and then distribute them to other growers. Our current *ex situ* conservation efforts are unorganized and without clear direction. This could lead to

problems for species *ex situ*. One of the problems is preserving genetic diversity of a species. Another is knowing how many individual plants of a given orchid species are *ex situ*.

For a long time *Paphiopedilum delenatii* was considered extinct in the wild. All *Paph. Delenatii* from 1910 to 1991 were bred from a few plants found in the 1910's and 20's. This led to line breeding for about 60 years resulting in little genetic diversity and growth vigor. In 1991, new populations of *Paph. delenatii* were found. This increased the genetic pool of *Paph. delenatii* giving greater diversity and vigor to the *Paph. delenatii ex situ*.

Preserving genetic diversity of a species is important for *ex situ* orchid conservation. A large group of individual plants of a particular species are necessary to preserve a species well *ex situ*.

Species with few individuals have to be carefully crossbred to increase the health of species *ex situ*. *Ex situ* conservation must encompass a wide range of flower and other plant characteristics of a particular species and not be limited to award winning quality. Award winning flower quality is based on human perception and not on the natural pollinator's perception. Zoos have cooperative systematic breeding programs for mammal species in their care to maintain healthy populations and genetic diversity. We should do that with orchid species.

The Living Orchid Collection (LOC) is a beginning strategy for an organized, *ex situ* orchid conservation program in which everyone who grows a species orchid can participate. LOC is a collective, living orchid collection entered into a web database. Grouping orchid collections together as a virtual single collection will be a stronger *ex situ* conservation effort than separate individual collections. A grower enters their species orchids into the database. Each grower will continue to own, grow and have all rights over their orchid. A LOC identification allows

growers to remain anonymous unless they want their identity to be known.

LOC could be used for producing pollen, seed, propagation for genetic diversity, research, replanting in natural habitats, and taking pressure off wild collecting. Researchers and *ex situ* conservation efforts can use the database and then contact the grower by e-mail. The grower can decide if they want to take part in a particular *ex situ* conservation effort.

Orchid societies are encouraged to enter as a group. This would allow society members that grow only a few species to participate more effectively in *ex situ* conservation. A society would essentially have its own Living Orchid Collection. For more information on the Living Orchid Collection:

<http://www.livingorchidcollection.org>

Find your orchid's name! Send:
P1: Genus, Name(or species), Cultivar
P2: “ “ “ “
To: Dave Tribble – dtribble@rcn.com

Greenhouse Available for the Taking

Available for the Taking: A 10 x 13 foot greenhouse located in Evanston. Disassembly required. If you are interest, contact Barry Lubin (847-432-6005, BRLubin@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Officers (Terms of office are from July 1 until June 30):			
President	Barry Lubin	847-432-6005	(brlubin@sbcglobal.net)
1 st Vice President (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@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.):			
(Open)	2008		
Claire Papiewski	2008	847-622-8664	(dreflap@yahoo.com)
Leo Schordje	2009	847-746-9355	(lschordje@dataflo.net)
Joe Dixler	2009	847-432-7708	(jmd@dixler.net)
Julie Hall	2010	773-871-1375	(jhallwbrown@access4less.net)
Lois Cinert	2010	630-739-1068	(geolocin@earthlink.net)
Victor Lentini	2011	773-763-6363	(f1orchid@aol.com)
Allison Tribble	2011	773-728-4874	(allisont@rcn.com)

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