



Orchid Opus

VOL. 56 No. 7

July, 2008

IOS Meetings and Show Dates*

July 13, 2008 – Chicago Botanic Garden
Speaker: **Ken Cameron, PhD** on Using DNA to Identify Plants – A Test Case Using Vanilla
Workshop: **Loren Pollock** on Making Vanilla ice cream.

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

September 14, 2008 – Chicago Botanic Garden
Speaker: **Howard Ginsberg** of Bedford Orchids.
Topic: TBA.
Workshop: TBA

Orchid Events

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

September 5 – 7, 2008 – Fall MAOC – Mason, OH.

* 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

Luis Torres – IOS President

Albeit rather short, it's been quite a journey with the IOS. One sunny day in March of 2005 I'm walking through the grounds of the Chicago Botanic Garden for the first time and there's this spring show running hosted by the IOS that catches my eye. I take a moment to walk the exhibits and vendor stands and the next thing I know several hours have passed by. It didn't feel right to walk away without signing up with the IOS ... so I did. My collection of orchids at the time was modest, maybe just 10 plants but I was determined to help them thrive. I didn't attend a meeting for a couple of months mainly because I didn't have anything in bloom, silly really when I think back. I remember my first meeting in the basement of the CBG listening to Joe Dixler help us novice growers. Our speaker that month was Marguerite Webb of J&L Orchids talking about warmth tolerant Masdevallias. I even bought a bunch of them (and promptly dispatched them to orchid heaven; I've never been good with Masdevallias). Since then, the IOS monthly meeting has been a fixture for me. Only when business travel has me overseas have I missed a meeting. I enjoy the learning, the lectures, seeing plants in flower and picking through what our various guest vendors bring, but most of all I enjoy the fellowship with all of you in the IOS.

And now I find myself as the president, almost intimidating if I dwell on it too much. I make it a point to look down at my feet to remind myself that I'm standing on the shoulders of the success laid out before me by Barry Lubin and before him Wendy Wesley and so on and so forth all the way back to the founding president of the IOS. We have a great society and my intent as your new president is to strive for further improvement. Barry's presidency saw new membership increase,

membership retention improve and our financial situation further in the black. I will endeavor to perpetuate this momentum.

The focus of my presidency will be a little more holistic in the sense that I want to optimize the meeting experience for each and every one of our IOS members and emphasize the social and community aspects of our society. Back in my home country of England, social clubs and societies are quite common place. There's a club or society for just about everything under the sun. What sets them apart from anything I have encountered here in the US is that even though many of them are tiny (literally just a handful of people) they nonetheless manage to rally together behind a common cause or interest with an intensity and sense of togetherness that I haven't really experienced over here. This is what I want to accomplish over the course of my term as IOS president. I have a few ideas already of my own that I'll be unpacking over the course of the next few months with you all via the newsletter but more importantly I want to hear from you with ideas you'd like considered for enhancing the social aspects of the IOS. Dinners out together, organized greenhouse tours even an annual road trip are all possibilities. My foundational philosophy is that if we strive to create and

implement a compelling meeting experience then new members will be attracted to the IOS, our retention will continue to improve and I dare say, as a result, our financial future will track positively also. There will, of course, be challenges, not least of which is the increasing costs associated with putting together our monthly meetings and semi-annual shows. At the end of the day I'm a pragmatist rather than a dreamer so I'll always ground my ideas in what's realistic with regards to implementation. Not overlooking that we're the Illinois ORCHID society, my ambition for the IOS is that we finally put other regional societies in their place come show time! We have the talent, we have the plants, we have the artistic flare, now I'd like to see more blue ribbons for the IOS than our regional competitors. You can count on me to rally for our best collective effort come show season!

It only remains for me to say "thanks Barry" for setting the IOS on steady course of improvement. I'll do my very best to live up to the high standards you've set.

Best regards to you all,

-Luis

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: You can email your letters to the editor to ioseditor@higrafix.com

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article by Allen Morr in the December 2008 issue of **The Orchid Opus** on how to 'Rescue' an orchid. I decided to try out Mr. Morr's technique on an apparently very dead Dendrobium. I followed Mr. Morr's steps very carefully. Guess what? It worked! But he didn't warn me that it might bloom in the bag!

-A Grateful Reader



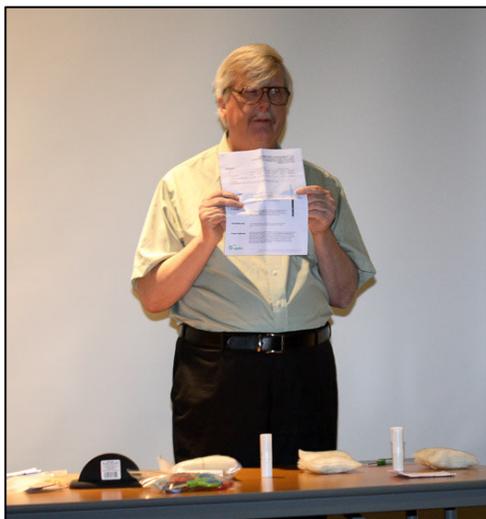
View From the Speaker's Chair

Luis Torres, Speaker Chair Emeritus

It's been a year already since I assumed the role of speaker chair and I truly hope the speakers we've had visit with us have met with your collective approval. We've covered a lot of ground and some of it, as with Larry Zettler PhD a couple of meetings ago, brand new to us. Loren Pollock will be taking over from me as I transition into my new role as IOS President and I know he's going to do a fabulous job. It really has been a pleasure serving the IOS community and I'm looking forward to my next set of challenges.

Meeting notes:

The weather certainly made for an interesting workshop run only with enthusiasm and emergency lights! Our thanks to Mike Tiffany, Senior Plant Pathologist, Agdia Marketing Services. . Look for Mike to visit with us again in about a year for a more involved treatment of the subject of viruses and orchids. For now, there's plenty of information available on the Agdia website <http://www.agdia.com>.



Mike Tiffany demonstrating the orchid virus Immuno Strip Kit

Right on queue, just moments before our featured guest speaker, Glen Decker, was scheduled to take the podium, the lights came back on! Following a brief introduction, the lights were off again (intentionally this time) for his

slide presentation featuring orchid growing in Holland as well as a tour of the greenhouses at the Eric Young Orchid Foundation on the isle of Jersey (in the English Channel).

Really what was most striking about what Glen presented was the sheer scale of the operation the Dutch run in their greenhouses. Not only is the scale impressive but the degree of automation is phenomenal and the commitment in breeding and culture to deliver a very consistent end-product to the market place is second to none. I think what Glen presented was really in contrast to what many of us think of when it comes to Chicagoland orchid growers. Overall a well received lecture. Of course it always helps when it's delivered by someone of Glen's caliber.

For those of you that missed out on the gorgeous plants that Glen brought with him, take a moment to visit his web-site at Piping Rock Orchids <http://www.pipingrockorchids.com> to make your selections. Now, at least, you know where Glen gets much of his stock!



Glen Decker discussing orchid growing in Holland

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Sunday 13th July. Our featured lecturer will be Ken Cameron, PhD, who will be delivering his talk titled "Using DNA to identify plants: a test

case using Vanilla, the ice-cream orchid" Ken spoke at the Orchid Growers Guild in February and his lecture was very well received. He has kindly provided the following summary for your review:

SUMMARY: Without mature flowers, plants (especially orchids) can be very difficult to identify. To overcome this obstacle, scientists are now developing a technique known as DNA barcoding, in which small fragments of DNA from unknown plants or plant products are sequenced, queried against a database, and matched to their correct name. When a grower purchases cuttings of *Vanilla aphylla*, can he be certain this is the species he is buying? When the consumer pays top dollar for Tahitian Vanilla beans can she be sure that she is not being swindled? DNA barcoding has the potential to provide a powerful new tool for plant identification. Its application within the diverse genus *Vanilla* will be discussed as a case study, and an introduction to the biology

of this fascinating group of orchids will also be presented.

Proceedings on Sunday 13th July will start at 11:30am with the mentors program hosted by our own Joe Dixler. Make sure that your exhibit plants and plants for sale are set by 12:30pm in time for our workshop we're working on something 'cool'. After a brief business meeting Ken is scheduled to speak at 1:30pm. As is customary please make an effort to bring some home baked goodies (nothing store bought please) to share with your colleagues at the IOS. As part of our "new" meeting experience the coffee will be catered by the CBG as this seems to have been well received by the members.

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday 13th July.

Happy growing,

-Luis

Program Notes

Loren Pollock, Speaker Chair

How ironic – I've spent the last two years 'reminding' our board members that their newsletter content is due, and now, here I am at the 11th hour trying to get my thoughts down on paper.

Two years have passed, and once again I find myself in a role in which my predecessors have done an impressive job. Thank you Luis, Sue, Barry, Wendy, Joe and the rest of the speaker chairs. I am stepping up to the plate, and I can only hope to meet up to your standards.

I have been with the IOS for about 6 years now (The only reason that I know this is that I keep putting my new member badge in front of the old in the plastic pouch). I've picked up a lot in those 6 years...numerous plants (a lot of which are no longer with us), an evolving approach to growing them, and many friends. I've gained quite a bit.

My reason for accepting this role as speaker chair is no different than my reason for working

on the newsletter – the society has helped me, and I would like to give a little back.

Simply stated, as speaker chair, I am responsible for lining up speakers, and recruiting presenters for our monthly workshops. From what I have gathered, there does not appear to be a shortage of interesting speakers. The challenge will be to find speakers that cover topics that meet the needs of our members.

So help me out by taking a few moments to drop me line and let me know what you hope to get out of this society. What's in it for you? Help me help you get the most from your society.

For information on the speaker for this coming member's meeting and a recap of last month's meeting, please see Luis' column above (thanks Luis).

A little on the workshop this coming Sunday...

I managed to escape the spotlight during the 'Loren's One Night Stand' workshop presentation, but that is not the case this Sunday. So, in the spirit of the warm Summer weather, and Ken Cameron's case study presentation on DNA testing of the Vanilla orchid, I'll be presenting on how to make Vanilla ice cream. Samples will be served – of course!

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday. And, thanks for giving me this opportunity to serve.

-Loren



The Juberg family proudly accepting the first annual Linda Juberg Memorial Service Award



Congratulations to Joe and Rosalie Dixler for winning the 2007 Joseph Koss award

Member's Judging Points

Lois Cinert, IOS Awards Committee Chair

Well, the contest for 2007-2008 is over. If you don't know what I'm talking about, I will explain.

We grow orchids; love them passionately, devote lots of our time and money to getting more and better orchid plants, and growing them to the best of our ability. The Illinois Orchid Society is here to aid and abet you in your quest.

When you have purchased your orchid, brought it home and pampered it with correct amounts of light, water, food; when you have defended it against fungus, bacteria, and an army of insects – it will bloom. Maybe.

We all want to see your blooming orchid. It took a lot of work to coax that flower out of that green mass. We want to congratulate you for your effort and achievement. We all learn from your growing experience, whether it is a rare exotic

from Joe's magnificent greenhouse, or your first blooming Phalaenopsis on a windowsill.

Please bring your blooming orchid plants to our monthly meetings. You will be rewarded with points, just for bringing your blooming plant. The rules are simple: You must have owned the plant for at least 6 months; it must be free of disease and insects. We will help you get the simple entry form filled out with the correct information. Points are awarded as follows: For each blooming plant – 1 point; for second place (red ribbon) – 5 points; for first place (blue ribbon) – 10 points; for plant of the month (gift certificate) – 20 additional points.

We also stage two shows each year, and attend several shows presented by neighboring orchid societies. For sending plants to away shows, you will be awarded double points. They accumulate very quickly at away shows. If your blooming

plant holds its flower well, you can send the same plant to several meetings and shows. A good Paph or sequential blooming Phrag can keep you in points for months.

Plants awarded by the Chicago Judging Center at their monthly judging, or at shows are awarded points, too. Growers of plants with quality awards get the same number of points as their plant was awarded; cultural and other awards get 50 points.

At the end of the fiscal year, we award the grower with the highest total points. We did that

at our June meeting. You, too, can win a gift certificate to a local grower next year. All you have to do is bring your blooming plants.

The top three growers under lights/windowsill this year are: Joel Edwards, Sandy Fuller, and Dave & Allison Tribble; greenhouse winners are Joe Dixler, Sue Golan, and Paul Passine. We also recognized lots of special mention growers, and will do it again next year.

Let's get your name on the list this coming year!

Membership Report

Felicia Cochran

I would like to welcome the following new members to the Illinois Orchid Society:

- **Kathleen Alghrim Hoffman Estates**
- **Marion Leslie Gurnee**

Please be sure to say hello to them at the next meeting.

In order to stay as strong a society as possible, there is always a need to attract new members. Our normal recruiting opportunities include both our Fall and Spring Shows, the spring Open House at Orchids by Hausermann and the Chicagoland Orchid Festival held every fall. While these are

good events to reach out to new members, we need to look for more ways to increase our numbers.

In the past, various members have given talks about orchids to local garden clubs and libraries, or gone to local garden centers for their open house events. If you know of a local club that might be interested in hearing about orchids, please let us know, and we can arrange for someone to give them a talk on orchids. If you have any other ideas for recruiting opportunities, please let myself or any other board member know.



Cattleya guatemalensis. Grower: Ken Vrabel



Phal. Hausermann's Candy 'York' x Magenta Star 'Delight'. Grower: Ken Vrabel

Tricks of the Trade – Adjustable Bloom Stakes

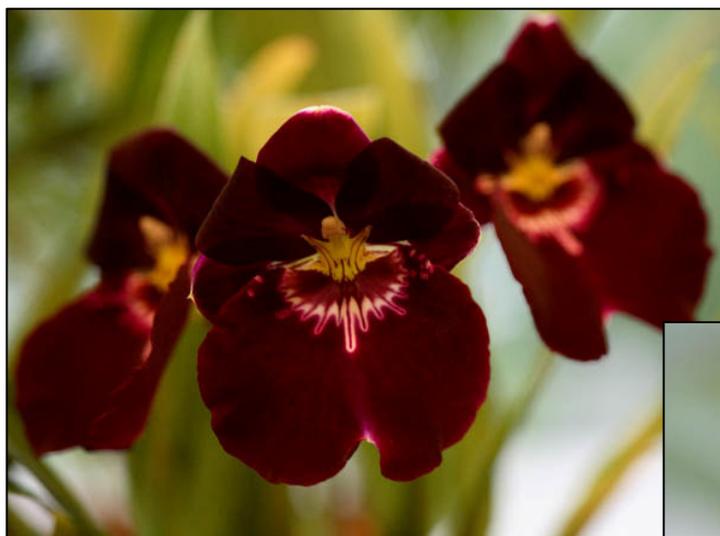
Dave Tribble, Contributing Editor

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.

A well known example of Peter's Principle states: *Whatever the height of an orchid bloom, it does not match the length of any of your stakes!* Ah! You should have bought some of those adjustable stakes! No.....They don't sell adjustable stakes. You have to make your own.

Take a couple of large stakes. Cut off the tops to a desired length (e.g. 6 inches), and cut the bottom sections to a similar length. Your local hardware store sells plastic tubing for ice makers, etc (look in the plumbing section). The tubing is ¼" outside diameter, and 0.17" inside diameter. Cut off a piece about an inch and a half long. Slide the two wire pieces into the tubing. Voila! You now have a bloom stake that is adjustable from about 6.5 inches up to 10.5 inches!

To combine long sections use two 1.5 inch sections of the plastic tubing with about a foot of overlap of the wire pieces. To ease tightness lubricate with petroleum jelly.



Milt. Bert Field 'Eileen'. Grower: Allison Tribble



Phrag. Besseae. Grower: Luis Torres

Financial Fun

Beth Engle, IOS Treasurer

Happy Summer!

*One should cultivate letters or his (their) garden.
-Voltaire*

Most of my orchids are happily outside, after too long a winter spent inside. I let the orchids try and compete with the perennials, to give them an idea of what I expect from them.

I'm keeping the Phals inside this year, mostly, since the slugs in the garden love them more than I do. I hope your garden and plants are enjoying their summer too!

Here are our current totals (unreconciled for June):

Checking account:	\$13,437.44
LaSalle	\$77.26
CD.....	\$5,000.00
Money Market	\$12,471.33
Total.....	\$30,986.03

If you have any questions, please let me know.

-Beth

The IOS Fall Orchidfest

Sandy Fuller – Home Show Chair

How time flies. It seems like we just wrapped up our Spring Show and our Fall Show will be here before we know it. It will be held on October 11th and 12th. Setup will be on Friday October 10th.

The theme for this show is Orchidfest so be sure to mark the date on your calendars and plan to join us for a great time.

American Orchid Society Judging, May, 2008

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

Twelve great plants were presented for consideration at the May 2008 American Orchid Society judging at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Six awards were presented to four plants. The plants, awards and winners were:

Cymbidium Sweet Devon 'Dorsam', CCM/84 pts & HCC/78 pts.
Owner: John Dorsam, Iowa City, Iowa

Cattleya mendelii 'Stuart Low', AM/81 pts.
Owner: Bill Rogerson, Winnetka, Illinois

Cattleya warneri v. alba 'Claire', AM/83 pts. & CCM/87 pts.
Owner: Bill Rogerson, Winnetka, Illinois

Cattleya granulosa v. alba 'Kathleen', JC
Owner: Bill Rogerson, Winnetka, Illinois

In addition there were plants of Pleurothallis, Miltonia, Phalaenopsis, Mexipedium, Paphiopedilum, Oersterdella and more Cattleyas. Were any of these your plants? The only way to get an AOS award is to show your plants at judging. Judgings are held the second Saturday of the month and the Chicago Botanic Garden at 1:00pm. Come and observe the judging and learn more about what makes a great orchid.

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

President	Luis Torres	847-303-6838	(mrltorres@hotmail.com)
1 st Vice President (Meetings/speakers)	Loren Pollock	847-219-0718	(ioseditor@higrafix.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)	Karen Castillo		
Asst. Secretary (Newsletter Editor)	Barry Lubin	847-432-5968	(brlubin@sbcglobal.net)
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	Barry Lubin	847-432-5968	(brlubin@sbcglobal.net)

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

Bob Tropp	2012	(jackietropp@comcast.net)
Claire Papiewski	2010	847-622-8664 (dreflap@yahoo.com)
Leo Schordje	2009	847-746-9355 (lschordje@dataflo.net)
Joe Dixler	2009	847-432-7708 (jmd@dixler.net)
George Titterton	2012	(getinteriors@juno.com)
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)



Angulocaste Aurora. Grower: Joe and Rosalie Dixler



Paph. Curtisii. Grower: Luis Torres



REXIUS

ORCHID BARK



888-4-REXIUS
one pallet minimum

**Heat-Treated
Douglas Fir Bark**