



Orchid Opus

VOL. 56 No. 8

August, 2008

IOS Meetings and Show Dates

August 9, 2008 (Saturday) – Our annual picnic hosted by **Oak Hill Gardens**. Liese Pigors Butler will be discussing *Orchid Growing, what you should do, and what you should look for – common questions!*

11:00 AM - Greenhouse opens

12:30 PM - Have plants ready for judging. Meeting begins.

Map on p. 10 below.

More information at <http://www.oakhillgardens.com>

September 14, 2008 – Chicago Botanic Garden
Speaker: **Howard Ginsberg** of Bedford Orchids. Topic: *Mini-Catts in the 21st Century*
Workshop: Lois Cinert, *Getting Your Plants Ready for the Show*

October 11-12, 2008 – Chicago Botanic Garden
IOS Fall Mini Show

Orchid Events

September 5 – 7, 2008 – Fall MidAmerica Orchid Congress Meeting – Mason, OH.

<http://www.gardenersutopia.com/MAOC2008fall>

September 13, 2008 – Orchid judging, Chicago Judging Center of the American Orchid Society, Chicago Botanic Garden (Auditorium), open to the public.

September 20-21, 2008 – Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Show, Milwaukee, WI.

<http://www.wisconsinorchidsociety.com/html/orchidshow.html>

September 26-28, 2008 – Chicagoland Orchid Fest
<http://www.chicagolandorchidfestival.com>

President's Message

Luis Torres – IOS President

August already! Don't panic, there's plenty of summer left to enjoy and a favorite highlight of mine is our IOS annual picnic. Mark your calendars for **Saturday** 9th August and plan on attending this fantastic afternoon out together. Bring food, bring drink and bring your wallet for your inevitable purchases at Oak Hill, our perennial venue and gracious hosts for the event. I'm even going to go as far as guaranteeing picture postcard perfect weather for the afternoon so now you have to turn out, even if it's just to give me a hard time because I was wrong about the weather! Seriously though, our annual picnic is a great opportunity to spend quality time together so make it a point this year of showing up.

As I mentioned in my inaugural meeting last month, as your new IOS president I really am keen to hear from you all. In particular I'm looking for your ideas on how to improve our monthly meeting experience. For those of you there last month, I'm sure Loren's fresh made vanilla ice cream will be something you remember for a long time to come. Me personally, I'd love to make it a fixture for our summer month meetings. Maybe you feel the same way? Get in touch, let me know. Email works best (LTorres@Emerson.com), but you can call me as well if that's better for you (708 426 5125). I'm here to serve so don't be shy.

With the fall show season looming I'd like to take a moment to encourage you all to make a best effort to line up plants for home and away shows. It doesn't matter if you don't think your growing skills are sufficiently fine tuned. It matters more that you make the effort. If you have a plant in bloom that coincides with one of our home or away shows then please (please, please, please) consider sending it on a road trip. Receiving a

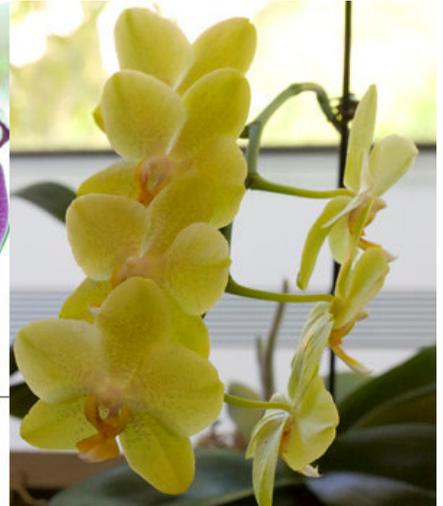
ribbon is great, but helping out your IOS is even better. Other than being in bloom there's really only one other request I have, no bugs. Let's together make this next Fall and Spring show seasons the best yet for the IOS. I know we can do it.

Happy growing and I'll see you all at the picnic.

-Luis



Luis Torres, IOS President, at his inaugural meeting.



*Two beautiful Phal hybrids
Grower: Ellen Powell*

View from the Speaker's Chair

Loren Pollock - Speaker Chair

Recap of July Program

Our July program started with a real treat, literally. In harmony with the theme of the meeting, the workshop featured vanilla in all its glory. Loren Pollock showed us how to make incredibly delicious vanilla ice cream. The taste tests after the meeting of ice cream made with seed pods from *Vanilla tahitensis* and *Vanilla planifolia* were fun and refreshing.

Dr. Ken Cameron from the Department of Botany, at the University of Wisconsin, at Madison gave a wonderful presentation *Vanilla* "the ice cream orchid". Many thanks to Dr. Cameron for making a highly technical subject



Loren teaching how to make ice cream

more accessible to those, like myself, that do not have a degree in genetics or botany.

He noted that as an orchid, Vanilla is unique since it is essentially the only one of significant agricultural value. This crop plant has a rich history of domestication by the Totonac people of Veracruz, Mexico. Eventually it was the French who took cuttings of Vanilla vines to their tropical territories in, Madagascar, Reunion, and Tahiti. And, it is in Madagascar where most Vanilla is cultivated today.

Dr. Cameron presented some interesting facts that shows how Vanilla, belonging to its own subfamily – Vanilloidea, is related to other orchids, and even has close relatives living here in North America.

I found it interesting that most of the vanilla cuttings that have been circulating through this and other countries are likely from a single plant.

Dr. Cameron uses a technique known as “DNA bar coding” to identify plant species (or animal species, for that matter), and to better understand the genetic diversity of the Vanilla orchid. He predicted that in the near future, people will be able to quickly identify a plant using a handheld device that analyzes a small snippet of plant material (I’ll bet that the AOS will be an early adopter!).

In the end, we all walked away with a greater appreciation for the Vanilla orchid. Now if I could only get my hands on some those huge pods from *Vanilla grandiflora*.

August Program

Saturday, August 9th is our annual picnic at Oak Hill Gardens, in West Dundee Illinois. This annual get together has been a tradition long before I ever became involved with the IOS. Bring your sack lunch. Our gracious hosts, Greg and Liese Butler and Hermann and Dorothy Pigors will provide snacks and refreshments.

The greenhouse opens at 11:00 a.m. Have plants ready for judging no later than 12:30. **There will be no members’ plant sales at this meeting.**

When you have finished enjoying your lunch in the shade, take a walk through the tremendous greenhouses to find an incredible assortment of orchids. Visit Oak Hill Gardens’ website at <http://www.oakhillgardens.com> to see what is in bloom.

This year Liese will give a talk on “Orchid Growing, what you should do, and what you should look for – common questions”.

See page 10 for directions and a map to Oak Hill Gardens.

This is an event that you won’t want to miss.

-Loren



Dr. Ken Cameron

The IOS Fall Orchidfest

Sandy Fuller – Home Show Chair

Our Fall Show this year will be held on October 11th and 12th. Be sure to mark your calendar. This is our member show so start thinking of how you might like to participate. Here are some ways that you can help:

1. Bring your extra plants and divisions for sale.
2. Volunteer your time to help the show to run smoothly. We will have signup sheets at the August and September meetings.
3. Plan to do your own exhibit. Five to seven plants are enough to do a half table exhibit. Lois Cinert will give us pointers on how to design your own exhibit at the September meeting.

4. Bake some goodies for the hospitality table.
5. Put up some posters and bookmarks in public places around your neighborhood to help advertise our show. We will have these available at our next two meetings.

We'll have more information on the volunteer possibilities in the upcoming newsletters. Last year our Fall Show was great fun and successful thanks to all of you who helped.

Thanks in advance for your help. We cannot have successful shows without you.

-Sandy

Financial Fun

Beth Engle, IOS Treasurer

Greetings all,

My report will be hurried today, as I leave for the airport in 30 minutes or less! Philadelphia, get ready, I'm on my way!

Here are our current totals:

Checking account:	\$13,824.17
LaSalle	\$77.26
CD.....	\$5,000.00
Money Market	\$12,484.43
Total.....	\$31,385.86

We had a rousing discussion on the 2008-2009 budget at the last board meeting. There were no tears, but passions were in full force. Join the board and have some fun! If anyone is interested in becoming treasurer for 2009-2010, please let me know.

Dave Tribble has volunteered to audit my paperwork for the 2007-2008 year. Thanks Dave! Helps keep me on the straight and narrow.

As always, any questions, please let me know.

-Beth



Eria clausa Grower: Sue Golan



Lc. Acker's Spotlight 'Pink Lady'
Grower: Albert Opitz

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.

Pre-made wire rings (fig. 1) look great on paper. But when you try to get them to stay on pots (especially plastic ones), it's another story.

Fig 2 shows a recalcitrant ring that won't stay upright. Fig 3 shows the solution. One additional support crimped on the ring at the top.



Board BIOS

Allison Tribble, Contributing Editor

The Illinois Orchid Society is happy to welcome new Board member, George Titterton. George has been a member of the IOS for about three years, although he has been growing for about twenty-five years. His work schedule has only recently allowed him to devote more time to IOS. He hopes that now he will be able to develop better orchid growing skills as well as use his talents to expand the membership of our society.

Never a “shrinking violet”, George has unique contacts and abilities that will provide the Illinois Orchid Society with new venues for member recruitment. In addition, he and Allison Tribble will serve on the “Sunshine Committee” reporting to Felicia Cochran. The purpose of this committee is to perform better outreach to our current and future membership.



George Titterton, new Board members, looks dapper while tending his orchids.

George lives in a charming vintage condo on the North side where he grows his eclectic collection of plants in natural light, particularly in his sunroom. When asked what he likes to grow, George answers, “Heat-loving plants...Catts, Epidendruns, Paraphalaenopsis, etc. And a variety of ‘try-me’ plants...weird and odd-looking.”

Because George works in the design world, he often has access to plants that are discarded after a big show at the Merchandise Mart. He has done some world-class “Dumpster-Diving” to salvage beautiful orchids and nursed them back to health. George also hopes to establish a way for the discarding showrooms to donate their plants to the IOS.

He has been friends with Allison since they were in Jr. High School, and they were awed bi-annually at IOS Orchid Shows, thinking "If only I could grow something like that!"

As a fairly recent member of IOS, George knows that it can be hard and even intimidating to meet people. He is outgoing, funny, funny, FUNNY, and smart and kind. George and Allison will be making a concerted effort to seek out and get to know our members. Please look for us also, and introduce yourselves!

-Allison



Brassia Edvah Loo 'Nisheda'
Grower: Allison Tribble

June, 2008 AOS Judging Results

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

The June American Orchid Society Monthly Judging at the Chicago Botanic Garden brought out twenty-three great plants for consideration for awards. Nine AOS awards were granted at this judging to some really fine clones. This would have been a wonderful opportunity for you to see the native American Ghost Orchid (*Polyplocicon lindenii*) in bloom. A gorgeous plant of the leafless orchid was presented and awarded. If you are ever able, you can come and observe judging on the second Saturday of every month in the auditorium of the Chicago Botanic Garden. Judging usually begins around 1:00pm. If you have plants for consideration, please bring them.

Here are the awards for June, 2008:

- *Cattleya aclandiae* 'Kathleen' AM/82
Owner: Bill Rogerson
- *Polyplocicon lindenii* 'Dundee'
CCM/88
Owner: Oak Hill Gardens

- *Laelia tenebrosa* 'Michael II' CCM/85,
HCC/79
Owner: Bill Rogerson
- *Cattleya aclandiae* 'Michael' AM/86
Owner: Bill Rogerson
- *Cattleya aclandiae* 'Michael III'
HCC/79
Owner: Bill Rogerson
- *Cattleya aclandiae* 'Michael II' AM/85
Owner: Bill Rogerson
- *Cattleya warscewiczii* var. *alba*
'Kathleen' AM/88
Owner: Bill Rogerson
- *Tetramicra canaliculata* 'Mary Weiss'
CCM/87
Owner: Tony Nuccio, Wheaton, IL

Congratulations to all these great growers!
Come and see an AOS judging!

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

Plant of the Month

Following is a new column featuring the Plant of the Month Winner(s) from the prior meeting. Each month, the winner of the Greenhouse and the Lights/Windowsill categories will be asked to share their methods and experience for growing the plant recognized by our judges as the best at the meeting.

Greenhouse

Plant Name: Thecostele alata
Grower: Barry Lubin
How long have you grown it: 5 or 6 years. It never bloomed before. It put on a lot of new growth this year and I guess the plant decided it was finally time for a performance.
How do you grow it: Nothing special, all the plants in my greenhouse get treated the same way. It is growing in an area of good, but not the brightest, light.



Plant of the Month - Greenhouse: Thecostele alata
Grower: Barry Lubin

Membership Matters

Felicia Cochran , Membership Chair

As many of you may have noticed, last year we started selling ad space in our Membership Directory to offset the cost of printing the directory. This year we want open the ads to the membership. We are making ad space available for a tax-deductible donation of \$100.00 for a whole page, \$50.00 for a half page and \$35.00 for a third of a page. These

openings can also be used for Congratulation Announcements, Birthday Greetings, etc. If you would like to place an ad or notice, please contact either Loren Pollock at b_rand@yahoo.com , Victor Lentini at f1orchid@aol.com , or Felicia Cochran at fbc72@sbcglobal.net .

Voices From The Past – *Delusions of Grandeur*

Dave Tribble, Contributing Editor

Periodically, we will bring you items from past IOS Newsletters. Our forefathers, God bless 'em, left us with much astute and sage advice. The item below is reprinted from the Illinois Orchid society Newsletter V46, No 10 October 1997). the author is: Nancy Jean Schoo.

An AM, Award of Merit. One day that certificate will be hanging on my wall! This was my very first goal that I had set for myself when I began growing orchids a little less than four years ago! Lofty goal? At the time, I didn't think so. Over those four years, my goals have been reevaluated a 'few' times. It went something like this:

I started with phals. Relatively easy growers. Temp and light requirements on the moderate side. Perfect for home growing. No greenhouse needed here. I bought a few books, joined the AOS, and started learning. Season 2 with these 3 plants showed them to spike despite my lack of knowledge on assisting a plant to spike with fertilizer change, temperature change, etc. This is a piece of cake; I'm a natural! I stumbled onto the section on propagation, got my toothpicks out and went to town pollinating two blooms on the same plant. Within a week I could see 2 pods in progress. Confirmation that I was a natural. I read about the AOS awards and put my eye on the **AM**. My luck began to change. I bought a paph.

Beautiful creatures these paphs are, incomparable to any known flower on earth. I dug deep into my pocket and bought the most expensive I could at the time--about \$60—a "complex hybrid" (I had no clue what that meant.) The bloom lasted for weeks. As I continued to read, I learned more about the feeding and caring of orchids. I was also introduced to keiki paste--a hormonal paste used to entice spiking or plantlet growth. Hmm.! Within a few weeks I had a mutant--buds and stems everywhere! Perhaps I overdid it! I lost a full year with that poor plant. I totally drained all the energy from it by asking it to over produce. Incidentally, none of those buds ever came to fruition. Meanwhile my 2 pods fully

matured. I decided to try and flask one pod myself and send the other to a lab. Sending one to the lab was the only smart decision I had made in weeks! Despite my nursing background and knowledge of aseptic technique, each of my flasks promptly grew every type of fungus and no orchids. At this point I had spent 1 1/2 years learning valuable lessons. Time to reevaluate!!!!!!

With the mutant growths and contaminated flasks, I decided that perhaps the AM was an overshot. As I briefly glanced at the lesser AOS awards, I decided to go with winning a blue ribbon at a show. Much more reasonable, I thought! Most of my phals continued to bloom with the new season, except onea healthy plant, but no blooms. I promised to not be impatient. This statement is key in orchid growingpatience! I purchased other species as well. They look so pretty when you buy them in bloom. Important suggestion: TAKE PICTURES OF ALL YOUR PLANTS IN BLOOM. LABEL THE PICTURES! IT COULD BE YEARS BEFORE YOU SEE THEM BLOOM AGAIN!!!!!!

I listened to the experts. I followed culture notes to the letter. I bought books, read them., made notes, and vowed to venture forward. After 2 years, my complex hybrid paph still sneers at me, refusing to share its potential. A reputable paph grower suggested its addition to the compost pile would be ideal. My phal that refused to bloom appears to be reconsidering, although the verdict is not out. Next important lesson is:

Read as much as you can and learn to adapt the advice to YOUR growing conditions. Make changes in very small increments and watch for response. Keep notes!!!!!! I knew the IOS

Spring Show was approaching and surely my blue ribbon was waiting for me. I primped and cared for my plants carefully. I planned EXACTLY which I would show. The show was imminent....my blooms were not! My favorite, a Phal, of course, was in full bloom and certain to be my winning prospect. One week before the show, three blossoms on my Phal wilted and fell. ARGGH' (Blue ribbon very shaky at this point.) Two day before judging I had a *Sophronitis coccinea* open-one bloom. Pretty, but very small. I had a couple phals that were OK. Registration time was upon me. Goals reevaluated: Let's just ribbonANYTHING! I helped clerk during the judging. As we made our rounds, I glanced at the IOS exhibit and saw the most beautiful sight--a third place ribbon on my *Sophronitis!* I ribboned! Goal achieved! Through all of this I learned that reevaluating was the process by which I achieved my goal. Don't give up! My volunteering for the IOS put me into close contact with those that have achieved my loftiest goals. From these people, I learn! At this point, I have experienced the stages of 'beginnerism'. I

feel it's best to share some tips and lessons I've learned.

My first tip: GET INVOLVED! Your learning will be much more enjoyable when shared with others. There are volunteer jobs for those with a lot of time, and those with little time. Some tasks can be done at home, others require going to the CBG or elsewhere. There are jobs that require lots of orchid knowledge and jobs that don't require any orchid knowledge but still put you in contact with those that do. A Hospitality Person at our meeting is one of those jobs. Just serve the sweet and come listen to the speaker and learn!

Status as of today? Isn't the orchid foliage beautiful -- especially on this complex paph hybrid, and the 5 plantlets that have survived from my first propagation attempt? I love my orchids. I talk to them; I play with them. My *Laelia sincorana* is about to bloom for me a second time. What? -- A bloom again?

Nancy Jean Schoo

Officers and Board Members

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		(rej_yoga@yahoo.com)
Asst. Secretary (Newsletter Editor)	Barry Lubin	847-432-6005	(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	847-432-6005	(brlubin@sbcglobal.net)

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

Leo Schordje	2009	847-746-9355	(leosorchids@sbcglobal.net)
Joe Dixler	2009	847-432-7708	(jmd@dixler.net)
Claire Papiewski	2010	847-622-8664	(dreflap@yahoo.com)
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)
Bob Tropp	2012	874-676-2495	(jackietropp@comcast.net)
George Titterton	2012	773-989-9044	(getinteriors@juno.com)

Directions to Oak Hill Gardens:

37W550 Binnie Road
Dundee, IL 60118-0025
Phone: (847) 428-8500

From East, Southeast, & Northeast

Use expressways to get on Northwest Tollway [I-90] going West. [Access from 294, or Kennedy Expway]. Exit North on Randall Road [34]. Cross Higgins Rd [72]. Left on Binnie Rd. Oak Hill Gardens is about a quarter of a mile on your right.

From far North & Northwest Suburbs:

Take Dundee Rd [68] West through Inverness. Bear left on Hawthorne Rd [59] & [68] SW through Barrington Hills. Stay on [68] SW. Right on Higgins Rd [72] at West Dundee. Right on Randall Rd [34]. Left on Binnie Rd. Oak Hill Gardens is about a quarter of a mile on your right.

