



Orchid Opus

VOL. 56 No. 12

December, 2008

IOS Meetings and Show Dates

December 14, 2008 - Annual Holiday Party hosted by Orchids by Hausermann, Villa Park, IL. Speaker: Luis Torres – “A Photo Tour of Kew Gardens”

-Doors open at 11:00 AM

-Plants on judging table and Pot Luck Lunch at 12:30 PM

-No Member plant sales.

January 11 - Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago Botanic Garden, 9-11:30 AM (preceding monthly meeting). All IOS members are welcome to attend.

January 11, 2008 – Member’s Meeting Chicago Botanic Garden
Speaker: Harry Phillips of Andy’s Orchids – “Growing Miniature Orchids”. Workshop TBD.

Orchid Events

December 13, 2008 – Orchid judging, Chicago Judging Center of the American Orchid Society, Chicago Botanic Garden (Auditorium), 1 PM, open to the public.

President’s Message

Luis Torres – IOS President

The holidays are one of my favorite seasons of the year. As a non-native US citizen, I’m particularly fond of Thanksgiving given that we don’t have a parallel holiday in the UK. For me it’s like Christmas a month early but without the presents. I’m particularly taken by the notion of giving thanks, even as we all wrestle with the bleak economic forecast. I’m grateful for the opportunity the IOS provides for us all to meet once a month to share a common passion for growing and learning about orchids. I’m thankful for a group of folks many of whom I’ve come to call my friends over the course of the last few years. I’m thankful for a healthy balance sheet (thanks Beth) and a growing membership. I’m grateful for an engaging board of directors that bring energy and vision to the IOS. I’m grateful to the CBG for the wonderful venue they provide for our IOS monthly meetings. Yes, there are lots of potential concerns and anxieties out but I’ve learned that worrying about stuff I have absolutely no control over is just a waste of energy. My orchid hobby provides me with a great escape, particularly during these trying days, and for that I am most grateful.

Round two of the holiday season is Christmas. For us here in the IOS that means the Christmas party hosted at Hausermann’s. Sunday 14th December is the date to mark on your calendar. Like our summer picnic, it really is one of those occasions where the more the merrier is applicable. It’s a pot luck occasion so bring a dish of your choosing enough for, say, 10-people. This year I’m planning on fixing my award winning ribeye steak chili. If my budget stretches far enough a couple of accompanying brews may be available also (first come first serve)! I’m not sure what Loren has sorted out by way of a talk but no

matter what I expect we'll all have a great time. Plan on being there and bring you wallet also. Let's do our bit to help the local economy.

As my Christmas gift to you all, and likely because it won't still be in bloom by the time our party on December 14th, I've attached a few photos below of my recently flowered Phrag. Suzanne Decker (kovachii 'Laura' x Cape Sunset). Bear in mind that this is a first bloom seedling but nonetheless it's holding two flowers simultaneously (14cm+ span each) with a third bud pushing up. This is an amazing feat because

2-months ago the same plant threw a phantom flower on a stunted spike out of the same growth. The flower looked horrible so the fact that I have these two simultaneous blooms is amazing (at least to me)! Two strong new growths pushing up as well so there's a lot to look forward to at the next blooming.....maybe even an award. One can only dream; that is, after all, why many of us grow orchids.

Enjoy this holiday season one and all!

-Luis



View from the Speaker's Chair

Loren Pollock - Speaker Chair

I hope that those of you that attended last months member's meeting enjoyed Ernie Gemeinhardt's presentation on new Vietnamese Paph. species. I couldn't help but get excited about some of Paphs presented, and I am sure glad Ernie gave us a little primer on CITES (if anything, just to keep me out of trouble). As usual, Ernie's presentation was informative, interesting, and easy to digest. I look forward to his next visit.

Thanks go to Sue Golan, as well, for her excellent workshop on grooming and staking our orchids for the best presentation. Let's start using the techniques Sue taught us at the next meeting!



Ernie Gemeinhardt presents *The New Paphs of Vietnam*



Sue Golan explains grooming and staking techniques

As most of you know, our holiday party is on December 14. As long as I can remember, Hausermann's has hosted our holiday party, and this year is no exception. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet new members, visit with old, shop for orchids...and of course eat! As always, our holiday party is pot luck, so bring a favorite dish (savory or sweet) large enough to feed about 8-10 people. You will 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. Let everyone share your wonderful recipes. Please bring the recipe for your dish on an index card, and we will start a collection for use by our members.

The doors open at 11:00am - so show up early so that you'll have enough time to walk the incredible greenhouses and find that special winter-blooming orchid. The meeting and eating will start around 12:30. Plants for judging should be in place by then also. **Members' plants will not be sold at this meeting.**

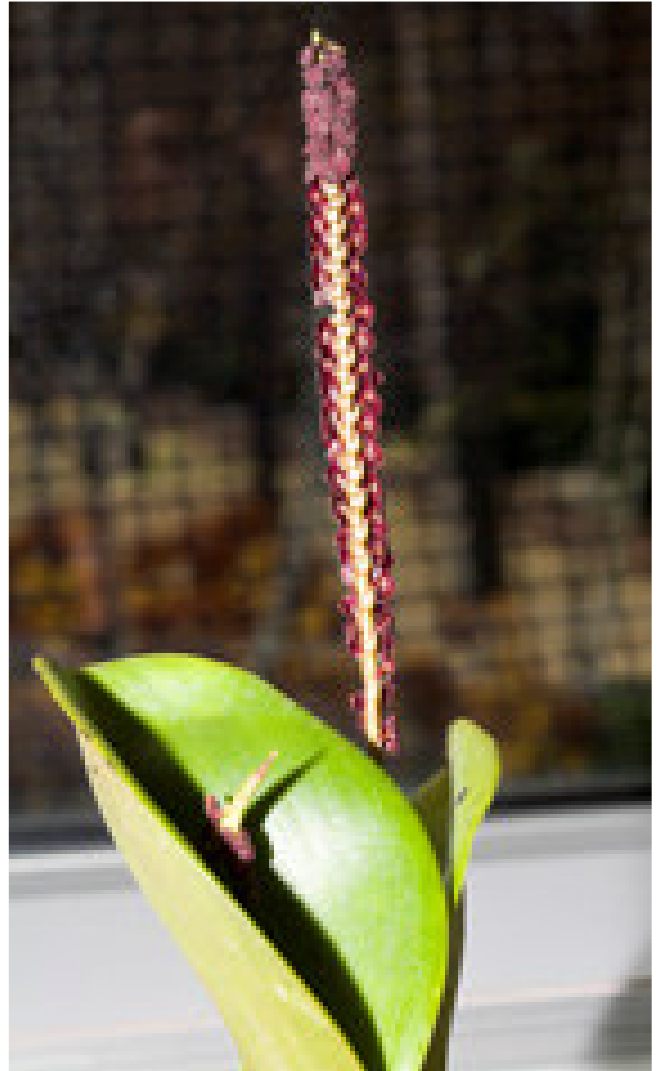
Following lunch, Luis Torres will present us with a photo tour of his latest visit to Kew Gardens which is sure to be interesting.

Orchids by Hausermann is located at 2N 134 Addison Road (2 blocks north of North Ave on

Addison Road). See attached map on page 10 for details, or call Hausermann's at 630-543-6855. They will be happy to help you with directions.

Well, I don't have much time, so I better get cooking! I look forward to seeing all of you at the party.

-Loren



Stelis pachyphyta
Grower: Sue Golan

Membership

Felicia Cochran

We had a very busy meeting last month! Please welcome the following new members:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Doria Devare | Northbrook, IL |
| Susan Sveinsson | River Grove, IL |
| Anne Puvalowski | Carpentersville, IL |
| Susan Adamowski | Arlington Hts., IL |
| Mary Connolly | Chicago, IL |

Our Membership Renewal Drive is in full swing. I will have the renewal materials at the Holiday Party at Hausermann's, so please stop by and renew your membership, if you haven't done so already. Also, please consider our "Sustaining Membership Program" again this year. This is for members who would like to do something extra for the IOS. The three levels of support we have are:

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

The Regular renewal fee is still just \$25, a bargain these days! For those choosing to renew

at the Sustaining Membership levels, the amount over the basic renewal fee is tax deductible.

-Felicia



Brassavola nodosa
Grower: Sherry Maloney

Culture Corner – Bug Patrol Update

Dave Tribble, Contributing Editor

The following note appeared in the October 2008 issue of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter. It is a follow-up to October's article on treating Boisduval Scale. It is reprinted here with permission. My thanks to George Titterton who submitted it.

I really tried to follow the advice given last month on spraying for bugs. I moved all of my hanging plants outdoors for spraying. I sprayed 3 times, weekly, rather than 10 days apart.

My findings are that this spray seems to have killed almost all of the nasty white scale insects that I have the most trouble with. The soft scale that I have on my paphs seems also to have died. I am still finding the hard oystershell adult scale alive, but I have been crushing it as I find it, and

spraying with alcohol to kill any tiny immature crawlers.

This has been a success. The scale problem is now under control – not eliminated 100%, but under control! Next spring, I plan on spraying everything once, to keep the white scale under control. There is finally hope for a bug-free collection!

~Denise Nash

It's Never Too Late

Lois Cinert

We're about half-way through our contest year, and we've accumulated some impressive points totals so far. There are lots of familiar names on the list, but there are some of you still missing. PLEASE bring your blooming orchids to our meetings. We want to see your lovely flowers, and congratulate you on your accomplishment! And if you have questions about growing it better – that's the point of us! – what better place than at our monthly meetings.

And if you haven't brought plants yet, there is still time to accumulate points for the contest. We have the slow but steady members who bring a few plants to each meeting and show, and we have the members who are fortunate enough and good enough at growing to have one or two spectacular plants that garner lots of points at one time. Both ways are effective, and you STILL HAVE TIME.

Our Holiday Party at Hausermann's is a great time to show off. Bring your plants for us to see!

-Lois



**Bob Younghale displays the Plant of the Month,
Dendrobium Aprichart Rainbow**

Greenhouse

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Dixler, J & R | 343 |
| Gamson, Ed | 21 |
| Golan, Sue | 304 |
| Lubin, Barry | 195 |
| Passine, Paul | 120 |
| Rogerson, Bill | 470 |
| Spatzek, James | 10 |
| Thompson, Carole | 20 |

Lights/Windowsill

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Bloome, Cathy | 35 |
| Castillo, Karen | 5 |
| Cinert, Lois | 96 |
| Cochran, Felicia | 44 |
| Criscuola, Margo | 10 |
| Duvalowski, Anne | 5 |
| Edwards, Joel | 335 |
| Engle Beth | 26 |
| Fuller, Sandy | 218 |
| Goodman, Joan | 30 |
| Hall, Julie | 16 |
| High, C & J | 169 |
| Johnson, Carolyn | 33 |
| Kiergaard, Cleo | 10 |
| Kotowski, Anne | 18 |
| Luce, Rebecca | 11 |
| Maloney, Sherry | 161 |
| Opitz, Albert | 12 |
| Papiewski, Claire | 11 |
| Pollock, Loren | 2 |
| Powell, Ellen | 106 |
| Rainbow, Jo Ann | 44 |
| Titterton, George | 48 |
| Torres, Luis | 478 |
| Tribble, Allison | 213 |
| Tropp, Bob | 5 |
| Vrabel, Ken | 155 |
| Younghale, B & H | 72 |
| Zielinski, Wally | 20 |

Financial Fun and More!

Beth Engle, Treasurer

One thing that unites all gardeners as they contemplate the compost heap is a belief in reincarnation, at least for plants.

--Geoffrey Charlesworth
The Opinionated Gardener
(1988)

Hurrah!...it is a frost! – the dahlias are dead.

--R. S. Surtees
Handley Cross (1843)

Hope you don't mind two quotes this month. As much as I love gardening, and working with plants, it is a relief when I can put away the garden hose, and take up the leaf rake, until it is time to pick up the snow shovel.

Boy, the leaf rake is getting a work out this year! All the leaves go into my garden to make nice tomatoes next year. I have a very happy Silver Maple in my front yard. I also get many, many leaf donations from my neighbors.

Speaking of donations, the IOS Board of Directors voted to approve a donation of \$50.00 to Jay Pfahl's web site <http://www.orchidspecies.com/>. If you haven't visited this web site before, you are in for treat. It is a great resource with both pictures, and native growing conditions for the species we may grow. I highly recommend you take a look. Donations like this further our objectives as written in our by-laws: "Serve an educational function in providing the general public with botanical and horticultural orchid information." I've sent Mr. Pfahl the donation, his letter of thanks is contained in this newsletter (*See the article following this one - Editor*).

I encourage everyone in our society to promote the interest and joy of orchids however you can. This can even be as simple as giving a few of you divisions to a friend. Most people start their interest in orchids with a single plant, as any journey starts with a single step. Of course, the obsession tends to build pretty rapidly from that small start. Bring a friend to

the Holiday party, and let Felicia put a Society membership form into their hand....

In the new year, we will be participating in the Jewel Shop and Share again. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, please try out GoodSearch, and earn the Society money every time you do a search. <http://www.goodsearch.com/>

Currently, here is our financial situation (unreconciled):

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Checking | \$11,221.61 |
| Money Market account | \$17,551.61 |
| Certificate of Deposit | \$ 5,000.00 |

I recently bought a 7-month CD for the IOS to help make our money work harder for us. It was brought home to me, when I signed us up for this CD, that this Society has been in effect since 1952, and incorporated since 1957. The bank manager was impressed with how long our Society has been in existence.

We should be very proud of our history. Look at our website. It is superb! Think of the Chicagoland area. I always marvel at the number of Orchid businesses we have within an easy drive. Yes, we have lost a few over the years, but still. What a wonderful place to be, all the more so when you consider our climate. It is much easier to love orchids in Florida or California! But, I don't know that they appreciate it as much as we do here.

If I have sent you a check, I encourage you to cash it as quickly as possible. I appreciate your help in keeping our accounts up-to-date as possible.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday party!

-Beth

IOS Donation to The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia

*Letter from Jay Pfahl, Site Compiler of The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia,
www.orchidspecies.com*

I want to thank all the members of the Illinois Orchid society for their generous donation of \$50.00. It will go towards purchasing more orchid publications so as to add to the information available on www.orchidspecies.com. I have at this moment photos and info on 9,241 different orchid species from all around the world. I expect to surpass 9,500 this year and 10,000 before April. It is amazing how paced the arrival of all these orchid species has been. At every new year, I have thought that the tide of orchid photos that make their way into my mail box would peak and it would start to trickle, but as of yet there is a constant steady flow that I can with constant diligence, keep up with. I am committed to compiling as many orchid species as possible with correct information and identifications. At this moment I would guess that more than 95% of the ID's on IOSPE are correct leaving less than 200 that are questionable. I do keep in constant contact with many taxonomists and orchid botanists from around the world and attempt to keep as current as I feel is needed. I have not dissected Masdevallia, Pleurothallis, Maxillaria, Cattleya, Laelia and Sophronitis and several other large genera as seems to be popular at this time, and will evaluate these changes at intervals down the road. I have had a few discussions with prominent Orchidists/taxonomists who also feel that we should take a "go slow" attitude with many of these determinations.

IOSPE also has had many connections with several well known and respected Botanical gardens and Universities from around the world. Leiden University, in the Netherlands, Lankester gardens in Costa Rica and the University of Florida Botany Department come to mind immediately.

Part of my regular orchid photo donating people are, Dr. Robert Dressler, Carl Withner, Dr. Leslie Garay, Franco Pupulin, Mario Blanco, Marco Campacchi, Peter O'Byrne, Andre Schuiteman, Dr. de Vogel, J.J.Vermuellen,

Patricia Harding, Padre Pedro Ortiz to name just few. Orchid taxonomists such as Eric Christenson, Guido Braeme, Mark Whitten, Mario Blanco, Patricia Harding, Carl Withner, Mark Nir, Marco Campacchi and Carl Luer have helped with the portions of the site that are their personal specialties.

All in all I can guarantee all of the members of the Illinois Orchid Society that every penny that I get from donors and many more that I personally arrange go to purchasing books and reference materials to make the site more precise and comprehensive. Thanks to you all! Remember me next year!

-Jay Pfahl



Vanda Sansa Blue
Grower: Sandy Fuller



Bc. Binosa 'Wabash Valley'
Grower: Allison Tribble

Voices From The Past – *In Defense of Wretched Excess*

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 V45, No 11 (November, 1996). the author is: Tom Franczak.

There are several compelling reasons to expand your collection of orchids beyond all limits that might be imposed by reason, common sense, horse sense, public ordinances, or a decent respect for the opinions of mankind. And I mean to assuage your guilt and sorrow when your sig other (or sig otter) gently tickles your conscience with a bull horn. "If those plants aren't removed from the (a) coffee table, (b) kitchen table, (c) dresser, (d) microwave, (e) sofa, (f) car seat, (g) refrigerator, (h) counter top, (I) ironing board, (j) staircase, (k) bathtub, (l) bookcase, (m) cupboard, or, (n) all of the above ...IN 5 MINUTES, I'M GOING TO THROW THEM IN THE GARBAGE!!!! IF YOU'LL PLEASE TURN THE GARBAGE CANS OVER AND TAKE THE PLANTS OFF THEM!!!! DO YOU HEAR ME?????"

There, there, m'dear! It is a fact that more orchids die from smothering love than from neglect. Too much love means too much doting means too much watering means rotted roots means desiccated plants, etc., etc. The solution is to grow so many plants that you barely have enough time to eat, sleep, and minimally water your plants. Until you divine some way to operate more efficiently, your plants will benefit from this reduced attention. So if you move from watering can to hose and wand, from sink or bathtub to light-stand, (with a tub collecting the water and a submersible pump to get rid of it), from exquisite measurement of fertilizer to the equivalent eyeball method, you need merely add more and more plants to your collection to devour whatever time you might save by becoming more efficient. (I have a proof that doing this will also help close the hole in the ozone layer, but it is too lengthy to include in the margins of this essay).

It is a fact that light falling on an empty square inch of light-stand is wasteful. Think of the

electricity needed to generate that light and what it costs in money and resource. Tsk! Tsk! There are plants starving for photons in Europe, and you would waste all that light. Look ashamed. Now pack those plants together more tightly and when you see how much white space there is on your light-stand shelf, go out and buy enough plants to fill it. Your plants will benefit from the increase in humidity that will result from the cramped quarters and, by some strange and tortured logic, you'll be helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. It is a fact that money is at the root of all evil and will also burn a hole in your pocket. Too much of it sitting idly by under your mattress will depress the entire economy. So go out and spend some of it on more plants. By more twisted logic, that will help balance the federal budget and it's simply the patriotic thing to do.

It is a fact that if you grow and bloom one Paph stonei, you will impress your friends mightily. But, if you were to grow and bloom five Paph stonei's (all different clones, at that), your friends would be astounded. Twenty-five blooming stonei's and they would be flabbergasted and dumbstruck. And that's just stonei! Imagine if the plant were Paph rothschildianum, or the color varieties of Cattleya labiata-alba, semi-alba, coerulea, mosca, concolor, (This is like reciting ice cream flavors!), aquinii, oculata, alba plena, or combinations - instead of stonei! Or in addition to stonei!!! You see, a mere linear increase in the number of dramatic and showy orchids you grow will reward you with a geometric increase in the amount of shock and devastation you can visit upon your friends' nervous systems.

It is a fact that having numerous clones of some particular, desirable orchid affords you the luxury of always doing what is best for the plant. If you discover a pot full of dead roots when you

repot your one and only *Laelia purpurata*, you may be tempted to do what you feel is best for you. Namely, to go into denial and repot that plant in its original pot. If this is one of your two dozen *Laelia purpuratas*, however, you will admit that the plant is set back a year or two and repot it in a smaller pot, thereby aiding its recovery and helping it re-grow its roots. Likewise, you won't be rushing to pot up your *Paph adductum* seedlings, as if that would hasten their growth to blooming size, if you already grow a dozen adult adductums. Trying to rush a plant through some particular stage, whether growth or rehabilitation or rest after blooming, is almost always self-defeating. Sure, you can trick a *Phalaenopsis* into producing more flowers by just cutting the inflorescence back partially, after the plant has produced an initial crop of flowers, instead of cutting it off completely. But that is such a short-sighted gimmick. You'll be left with a wilted rag of a plant after the second flowering. If you want more flowers, buy more plants. Don't wreck a few by bleeding them dry when having a

lot lets them all bloom and rest, so you get your flowers and they have the energy to regroup and bloom strongly again next year. If you follow this enlightened strategy you will arrive at the point where you have at least one orchid in flower every single day of the year, and you will bring music to the spheres and promote world peace.

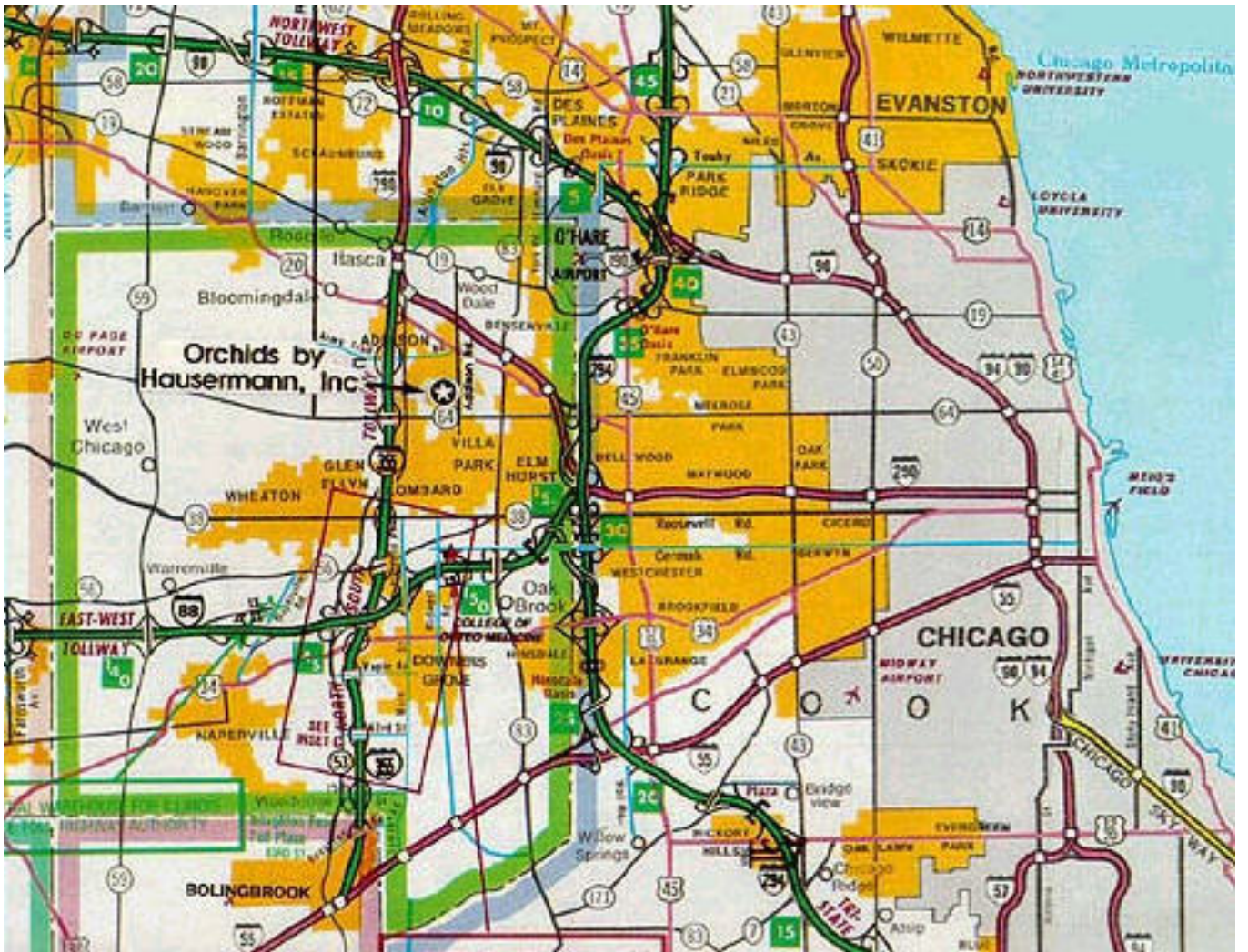
There you have it. By and measure: space, time, resource power, and prestige, more orchids are always preferable to fewer. And there is no upper boundary. I rest my case.

-Tom Franczak

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A collection of various orchid flowers in shades of pink, purple, yellow, and white, arranged in a cluster. The background is a dark green, textured surface resembling bark or foliage.

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