

**ILLINOIS ORCHID
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

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ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1952

NOVEMBER, 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sherry Maloney
708/498-0249

WHO: ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY
WHAT: MONTHLY MEETING
WHEN: NOVEMBER 20, 12:30 pm
WHERE: Chicago Botanic Garden

SPEAKER: The speaker for the November meeting will be **Jim Rose** of **Cal Orchids**, Santa Barbara, CA. The talk will be: **The Pescatoria, Cochleanthes and Zygopetalum Alliance, species and hybrids.** Jim is an expert grower and hybridizer of this group. This will be a revision of the talk Jim gave at the World Orchid Congress in Scotland that was so well received. This talk is especially useful for those of you who were unable to see Andrea Niessen, Orchideas de Valle of Colombia when she was at Klehm's. If you did get to see her, Jim will have advice on how to grow your new acquisitions. **He will bring plants for sale.** Cal Orchids carries a wide assortment of species and hybrids including Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Sarcochilus, Neofinetia-Vanda hybrids, Liparis, Zygopetalums, and many others. Call or fax to get a list if you want him to bring specific plants @ 805/967-1312; Fax: 805/967-6882

Leo Schordje

Please have your plants for judging in place by 12:30.
There will be a sale of plants by members.

REFRESHMENTS: You must have taken Sherry Maloney's advice last December and marked your calendar for October since we had so many goodies for the monthly meeting. Let's do it again in November!

As promised last month, a whole range of thank-yous are due for all the help at the Mini-Show, which was a rousing success in spite of a miserable rainy Saturday. The attendance on Saturday was minimal, but the sales crew did such a superb job selling the magnificent plants you brought in that almost half of the plants were sold on Saturday. Congratulations, Jay, Carol and crew! Sunday was a much brighter day and the attendance figures showed it. The total attendance of approximately 6,500 people just about matched last year's figure.

Dinner by candlelight in the East Gallery on Friday night was a delight, and Margo Begy and Carole Thompson kept bringing out all the "goodies" you provided all weekend long. In true IOS fashion everyone came through, but at the last minute. At 4:50 (with dinner scheduled for 5:00) Margo and Carole were standing behind a bare table covered only with a sparkling white linen tablecloth wondering how in the world they were going to feed the hordes, when the food donations began arriving and, in no time, there was little of that white tablecloth to be seen. Everything worked out well, but Margo and Carole were seen to be sprouting some suspiciously gray hairs!

Likewise, we ended up with a beautiful Exhibit hall designed by Armon MacPherson who was pulling his hair out trying to rearrange tables as last-minute exhibitors made their appearance. At the Board meeting one week before show time, only one commercial exhibitor and ten members had signed up. Discussion focused on the viability of the mini-show concept. We decided to 'wait and see' and see we did. The mini-show is alive and well!. But please - for the sake of all the rapidly aging chairpersons for the show - be daring next year; take a chance; sign up early and have faith in your plants!

Last, but certainly not least, a big thank you to Margie Casserly who did a masterful job of coordinating all the uncertainties of this year's undertaking. The most positive thing was that volunteerism was up so a big thanks to all who participated. Let's do it again in the spring.

Looking ahead, our December meeting at Hausermann's is always a horticultural and gastronomic delight. For those who have not attended this meeting before (and old-timers who may need a reminder) this is a pot-luck lunch, and each of us is asked to bring a dish (hot, cold, main course, salad or dessert) that will feed 6-8 people. Food seems to be a primary focus (after orchids, of course) for society members, as this is usually the best attended meeting of the year.

PAPH CULTURE

As a beginner, the impressions I received regarding Paph culture were that these plants needed to be shaded and moist. I remember hearing that, when in doubt, wait 'til tomorrow unless it's a paph - then water it right away.

My experience and further study have shown this to be a great overgeneralization. The first clue I got was when I bought a pile of Paph niveums bareroot in a bazaar near Bangkok, Thailand, in early November. I didn't receive these plants in Chicago til late December and they looked fine. They had sat around in humid Bangkok and thence to humid Florida en route to me. They were not showing new growths so after potting them, I seldom watered them that winter. Their stiff leaves must store moisture for their survival.

Later I started hanging some of my strap-leaved Paphs for lack of space elsewhere. They dried out fast up there, often completely, and seemed to thrive, namely, *hirsutissimum* and *esquerolei*, *exul*, *glanduliferum*, *philippinense*, *sanderianum*, *kolopakingii*, *lowii*, *parishii* and *dianthum*. In fact, *glanduliferum*, *lowii* and *sanderianum* seem very testy, about their moisture requirements and tend to appreciate being watered only when new growths are developing, or when they have thoroughly dried out. Remember, tho, all this takes place in a very humid atmosphere.

Lowii and *parishii* are observed epiphytes and many of the others mentioned grow in sunny situations as epiphytes or on moss or lichen-covered rocks.

Sue Golan

SPECIAL AWARDS FROM THE FALL 1994 SHOW

Exhibitor	Exhibit or Plant	Award
Hausermann	Exhibit - Open Competition	Best of Class
Wisconsin Orchid Society	Exhibit - Orchid Societies	Best of Class
Rhonda Peters	Educational Exhibit	Best of Class
Blackhawk O. S.	Epi. <i>difforme</i>	Best of Class
EFG	Blc. Debra Ebetch 'Artist'	Best of Class
Jim Pupelis	Paph <i>glanduliferum</i> 'Jackie'	Best of Class & Best of Show
Hausermann	Paph (Vintners Treasure x <i>philippinense</i>) 'Elmhurst'	Best of Class & Frank Kuper
Jim Pupelis	Phrag. Eric Young	Best of Class
Rhonda Peters	<i>Aerangis somasticta</i>	Best of Class
Gerald Stueben	<i>Rhyncostylis coelestis</i>	Best of Class
Gem Stone Orchids	Phal. H.'x Addison 'Candy Charm'	Best of Class
Dave Johnston-Jewell	Milt. <i>candida</i> 'Cinnamon'	Best of Class
Carole Thompson	<i>Onc. varicosum</i> v. <i>rogersii</i>	Best of Class
Orchid Growers Guild	Cym. Golden Elf 'Sundust'	Best of Class
Laima Sahagian	Den. <i>bracteosum</i>	Best of Class
Bob Wolf	<i>Stelis crescenticola</i> 'Nancy'	Best of Class
Orchid Growers Guild	<i>Catasetum fergusonii</i>	Best of Class
Laima Sahagian	<i>Lepanthopsis strophora</i> 'Stalky'	Best of Class
NE Wisc. O.S. (G'Bay)	<i>Onc. ornythorhyncum</i>	Best of Class
Otto Leupi	<i>Haraella odorata</i>	Best of Class
Margo Begy	Arrangement - Wedding Cake	Show Chair's

Congratulations to all the exhibitors, all the ribbon winners, and all the special award winners.

Tom Franczak

FALL SHOW SUCCESS

It takes a lot of work to make a show look as easy as our fall show! Thank you to all the volunteers, contributors, and committee chairpeople who worked so hard to make it look effortless.

We had good participation from members, local commercial growers, and fellow societies. The number of exhibits increased from 12 two weeks before, to 27 the morning of setup. This kept Armon MacPherson, our local physicist/set-up chair, rearranging tables until the last minute. Talk about the uncertainty principle!

We asked members who had never exhibited to come practice at the mini show; and first-time exhibitors Rhonda Peters and Jim Pupelis are glad they did! Rhonda (whose plant exhibit was an afterthought to her photograph exhibit) took first place in the amateur exhibits category. And one of Jim's plants (on his overflow table, yes, he and Terry Parton shared two full table exhibits) took Best Plant in Show. Congratulations to Rhonda and Jim, and good luck to every first time exhibitor.

Thanks to all the exhibitors, to the people who performed familiar jobs reliably, and to the people who expanded their horizons and took on new responsibilities. That was so much fun. Let's do it again! Say on March 4 and 5.

Margie Casserly

Catasetum & Relatives

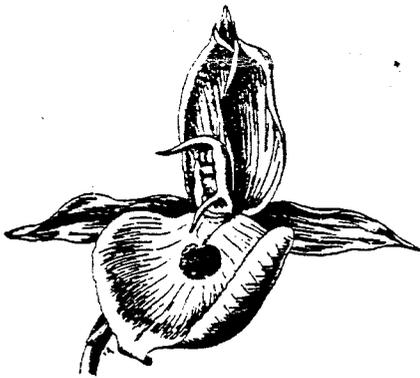
Including *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes*

These unusual orchids offer fascinating, often waxy flowers that have the peculiar habit of discharging their pollen masses (pollinia) onto pollinators. Almost always deciduous, the pseudobulbous plants have strict growing and resting periods.

LIGHT should be strong, especially near the end of the growth period. Early in the annual growth cycle, plants will tolerate less light—from 1,500 to 3,000 foot-candles. Plants grow best with light levels of 3,000 to 6,000 foot-candles, or 1/4 to 3/4 full

WATER is critical for producing large pseudobulbs and strong flowerings. Since these plants only grow for a short period, a great quantity of water must be stored by the plant. Water heavily as new leaves are forming. After the pseudobulb is mature, gradually reduce watering frequency. The leaves will yellow and start to fall. At this time watering should be stopped completely until new growth begins again. Water during this dormant period only if the plant shrivels severely; overwatering may cause the pseudobulbs to rot and die.

root systems and like to have a rich and moist potting medium during their growing months. Many growers remove the plants from the growing medium during the resting period to ensure dryness during that time. Fine-grade orchid bark is common for smaller pots; medium-grade bark is used only on large plants. Sphagnum moss is used successfully for plants in many areas, as it provides tremendous water- and fertilizer-holding capacities. Some plants may be grown on slabs of treefern or other material, which makes it easier to keep them dry during dormancy; however, it is harder to keep them moist while growing. When well grown, these orchids



sun. As pseudobulbs mature, harden them by giving slightly more light.

TEMPERATURE. These orchids are native to hot tropical areas and grow during rainy summer months. During this growing period, day temperatures of 80° to 100°F and night temperatures of 60° to 65°F are beneficial. After growths mature, temperatures should be reduced to 55°F at night, with day temperatures of 70° to 85°F.

Catasetum and Relatives	
These pseudobulbous orchids grow during a short summer rainy season, requiring much water and fertilizer during that time. Most flower before entering a dormant period when they drop their leaves.	
Light —Strong light is necessary, especially when growing.	Water —Keep plants moist when growing; then as leaves drop from pseudobulbs keep them dry. Water during dormancy only if bulbs shrivel severely.
GIVE: West, south or direct east light. In the greenhouse, give 25% to 50% shade.	GIVE: Ample moisture when new leaves are being produced. Do not water when leaves have dropped.
Temperature —These orchids like high summer temperatures and warm winters.	Fertilizer —Must be provided on a regular basis since potting media have little.
GIVE: Days of 85° to 100°F; nights of 60° to 65°F. Plants can stand cooler temperatures while dormant.	GIVE: 30-10-10 bi-weekly during growth, then 10-30-20 as pseudobulbs mature. Plants that normally bloom in the spring need not be given 10-30-20 in the fall.

FERTILIZING is very important for producing strong pseudobulbs. Use a high-nitrogen formulation (30-10-10) while plants are in active growth, slowly tapering off as pseudobulbs form. Bloom booster formulation (10-30-20) should be used in the fall except for plants that normally bloom in the spring.

POTTING is best timed to coincide with the start of new growth(s), usually in the spring. New roots will be produced quickly at that time, and plants will not experience any setback. These plants have vigorous

can be divided down to one mature bulb and then bloom on the next mature growth.

Spider mites are a common pest of these orchids when in leaf; control by keeping humidity high and/or spraying with recommended miticides.

Prepared by: Education Committee, American Orchid Society, 6000 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33405 (407) 585-8666.

REPORT OF AWARDS COMMITTEE

Tom Franczak, Chairman 708/398-5093

The leaves are turning ... and falling ... and despite two main lots and over 20 little parking lots, it's harder to find a parking space at Morton Arboretum than in Evanston. So what season is it? That's right, show season has started. This is the fourth report of the 1994-95 competition year and show results have started trickling in. Included are results from the Peoria show, our own IOS Mini Show, and the first-ever Madison Mini Show (their big show is just around the corner in January). Also included are AOS judging results from September (held coincident with our Fall Mini Show). Our members collected four of the six AOS awards made during the show:

Jim Pupelis	Paph. glanduliferum v. glanduliferum 'Jackie', AM/AOS
Bob Wolf	Stelis crescenticola 'Nancy', CBR/AOS
Laima Sahagian	Max. pseudo-reichenheimiana 'Julie', CBR/AOS
Hausermann's	Paph. (Vintner's Treasure x philippinense) 'Elmhurst', HCC/AOS
Marilyn Lee	Ornithocephalus dolobrotus 'Cecilia de Jurado', CBR/AOS
Wally Crawford	Dend. masarangense subsp. masarangense 'Silas', CBR/AOS

Keep your ears open at our meetings and you are bound to catch snatches of conversation from time to time about the AOS judging that night. Our two visiting judges from California finished off the evening with a compare-and-contrast talk about western vs. mid-western judging practices. But don't believe everything you might hear about a certain staminode. No one can prove that it was raised on thalidomide.

Below are the point standings. No one is even close to establishing dominance in this race (though I know that several of you are straining to do just that ... I'm starting to just love the race that is shaping up!). Everything is volatile when there are shows aplenty ... miss a show and your competition may just run up 100 points or more on you. Exhibit in all of them and you're likely to earn an award at next June's awards luncheon. Look at what the IOS Mini Show alone did for Jim Pupelis. From nowhere to first place in the lightstand rankings in a flash. Subtract out the 60 points for the AOS award and he'd still be in first place.

Speaking of which ... What is more ominous? You walk into a retail liquor establishment and the bartender places "your" drink in front of you before you even speak a word. Or. You're not in attendance at an AOS judging when one of your unnamed plants is awarded. When the judges note the ownership of the plant, they save the cost of a phone call and merely fill in your "standard" clonal name. Hmmm. Scary.

POINT STANDINGS

Greenhouse		Lightstand			
G. Calilao/J. Wortman	5	Cathy Bailey	35	Mel Schmidt	26
Carol Cloud	32	Cathy Bloome	135	Leo Schordje	12
Jack Coutts	2	Lois Cinert	2	Linda Silva	1
Ed Gamson	92	Joe Dixler	178	Carolyn Simons (*)	1
Sue Golan	480	Walter Drubka	26	Laura Stanley	5
Sophia Harris	68	Joel Edwards	173	Ken Vrabel	15
Jodi Hirt	269	James Fiala	17	Renee & Chris Welch (*)	7
Bob Hoel	1	Tom Franczak	2		
Maggie Kuntz	65	Ron & Joan Hale	10		
Otto Leupi	40	Rob Halgren (*)	5		
Jay Mullen	26	Alice Huehl	15		
Dorothy Nieter	2	Lawrence Knudsen	1		
Rhonda Peters	105	Pat Kralik	23		
Al Rich	11	Carol Loeppert (*)	3		
Laima Sahagian	521	Sherry Maloney	59		
Heddi Schellbach	11	Armon McPherson (*)	87		
John Stubbings	11	Jane Nelson	1		
Gerald Stueben	149	Margie Poor	10		
Carole Thompson	110	Jim Pupelis	261		
Bill Walsh	22	Michael Rossler (*)	7		
Bob Wolf	283				
Wally Zielinski	19				

(*) indicates new member for 1994-95 competition purposes.

DATES TO REMEMBER

1994

- Nov. 5-6:** Blackhawk Orchid Society, Rockford
(Judging - 11/4 - 7 pm)
- Nov. 5-6:** Hoosier Orchid Society Show, Fashion
Square Mall, Indianapolis (Judging - 11/5-8am)
- Nov. 20:** Monthly IOS Meeting, CBG, 12:30 pm
- Nov. 26:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
(Please note new time)
- Dec. 11:** IOS Christmas Party at Hausermann's, 12 noon
(Start thinking about your contribution of an
appetizer, salad or dessert, NOW!)
- Dec. 17:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm

1995

- Jan. 17:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
- Jan. 21:** Monthly IOS Meeting, CBG, 12:30 pm
- Jan. 28-29:** Wisconsin Orchid Growers Show, Madison, WI
- Jan. 28:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
- Feb. 18-19:** Batavia Orchid Society Show
- Feb. 19:** Monthly IOS Meeting, CBG, 12:30 pm
- Feb. 25:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
- Mar. 4-5:** IOS Spring Show, CBG
- Mar. 25:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
- Mar. 28-30:** Illowa Orchid Society Show, Moline
- April 22** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
- May 27:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
- June 24:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 3 pm
- July 22:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: The
deadline for the **December** Newsletter is **Novem-
ber18**. Please submit your articles via mail or by Fax.

GET WELL, DORATHY. Dorathy was involved in
an auto accident and is recovering in her home in
Wisconsin.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The November meeting
of the Board is November 14 at Margo Begy's home.
(Call Margo for directions.) As always, Board
meetings are open to any members who want to attend.
Just let Margo know in advance so she knows how
many to expect.

PLANT SALE on Nov. 13, 10-4, at Jay Mullen's, 490
Ava Street, Highland Park (2 blocks N of Roger
Williams, corner St. Johns, E of NW RR tracks.

BLESS YOUR HEARTS, all you volunteers who
worked at the Information, Membership and Now
What? tables at the fall show. Thank you, Mary
Chidester, Dorothy Nieter, Ron & Joan Hale, Vic &
Linda Schubert, Maxine Phillipsborn, Lajima Sahagian,
Armon McPherson, Del Ogren, Tami Kenny, Olga
Boor, Etta & Frank Pasek, Lois & George Cinert, Pat
Kralik, Cathy Bloome, Leo Schordje and Joel
Edwards. We needed you and you did well. Thanks.

Tom Franczak



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NOVEMBER, 1994

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