

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1952

DECEMBER, 1994

President's Message

Sherry Maloney
498-0249

WHO: ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY
WHAT: CHRISTMAS PARTY
WHEN: DECEMBER 11, 1994, 12 noon
WHERE: HAUSERMANN'S
2N 134 Addison Road
Villa Park, IL 60181
708/543-6855

I can't believe it's time to say "Happy Holidays" again. As I write, the Phals have begun to spike so I know the long winter months are ahead of us. I have a particular fondness for Phals because they help put off the winter doldrums as I watch the spikes elongate, the buds form and finally bring a breath of spring into my January - February blahs.

I hope you have decided what you are bringing to Hausermann's for our annual 'feast'. Remember that what you bring (appetizer, main dish, salad, desert) should be generous enough to feed at least eight people. This is always a wonderful get together so please plan to join us.

I have heard many people talking about using organic methods for pest control, and in the November issue of the AOS Bulletin there is a very good article on the subject. Those of us who grow under lights and share our living space with the plants should be especially aware of the alternatives available to control pests (yes, I know the greenhouse growers think they're the only ones to suffer the affliction of slugs, mealy bugs, whiteflies, etc. but pests are universal and extremely non-discriminatory in their place of residence.)

I was familiar with Diatomaceous Earth, Pyrethrum, and the 'yellow sticky cards', but "Hot Pepper Wax" was new to me (and then maybe I've been living in a cave!). It is an organic liquid concentrate made from extremely hot peppers and paraffin wax. The active ingredient is commonly found in Tabasco sauce, so unless you have imported some south-of-the-border bugs that like their salsa highly spiced, this makes for a very unpalatable meal! Actually, the insects are smothered in the wax while the hot pepper disrupts their nervous system, according to the article. I called the company (Wilder Agriculture, Pulaski, PA) for a local source, but was told that there is no distributor in the Chicagoland area. If anyone is using it now, let me know. I plan to give it a try. Anything to avoid poisoning myself as I spray in a very confined space.

No column is complete without a plea for help in some fashion. The **Madison Show** will be held on **Jan. 21 and 22, with set up on Friday, Jan. 20**. As usual, I'm looking for someone(s) to set up the show on Friday - anytime during the day or evening and more (or same) someone(s) to tear down on Sunday, the 22nd. This would be perfect for some of our members who live northwest or far north. I would be happy to set up some close-in drop off points and ferry plants out to the 'boonies'. Please call me if this sounds feasible for you, or if you have a better plan.

Once again, I hope the holiday season finds you in good spirits and good health and leaves you with a feeling of peace and contentment.

It's the IOS Christmas Party! Gene Hausermann has graciously invited us again to hold our Christmas Party at Orchids by Hausermann. The December meeting seems to be the most enjoyable meeting of the year where we have a fun time visiting with friends and shopping for orchids. Your admission ticket is a food dish (salad, casserole or dessert) that will serve 8-10 people. The liquid refreshments are provided by our host.

After we indulge ourselves, **Dana Harrison from Orchids by Hausermann will speak to us about cool-growing orchids.**

Please have your plants for judging in place by 12:30. There will be NO SALE OF PLANTS BY MEMBERS.

Leo Schordje

1995 DUES: Enclosed is a dues envelope for everyone except new members who will be receiving their 1995 membership card. Please submit your dues early, either by mail or by dropping it into the dues box at the Party.

REFRESHMENTS: Since there are already three references to food in this newsletter, our new members must think that we are obsessed by it. But please just bring as much as last year and we'll be in good shape. If new members have questions about what to bring, you need not worry. Any salad, main dish or dessert will do.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS:

Karen & Bob Briskey	DesPlaines
Sandra Campisi	Libertyville
Georganne Channer	Palatine
Bill & Nancy Colgan	Arlington Heights
Carol Keenan	Kenilworth
Darien Stolte	Aurora
Sezgin Uskup	Lake Forest

**FIRST-PLACE RIBBONS IN THE GREENHOUSE
CATEGORY**

Carol Cloud	Trisetella hoeijeri
Sue Golan	Paph. fairieanum Cochleanthes amazonica Paph. dianthum Scaphosepalum species
Jodi Hirt	Den. microbulbon Mas. Velvetteen Angel Epi. diffusum Leptotes tenuis Kef. costaricensis Polystachya undulata
Maggie Kuntz	Sc. Junebu Onc. Nona
Rhonda Peters	Ascda. Hara Tokanaga Bc. Binosa
Nicola Radcliffe	Stellamizutaara Kelly Milt. Star of Nuuanu x Anne Warne
Laima Sahagian	Pleurothallis hypnicola Den. bracteosum Rodrigueziopsis eleuthrosepala Mas. Red Wing Den. Andree Millar
Carole Thompson	Lc. Nina Bonita Blc. Hausermann's Holiday Pleurothallis breviscapa
Bill Walsh	Rossioglossum grande Paph. Faire-Maud

**FIRST-PLACE RIBBONS IN THE LIGHTSTAND
CATEGORY**

Margo Begy	Cat. Gertrude Hausermann Asconopsis Irene Dobkin
Cathy Bloome	Paph. complex white Paph. philippinense Warmingii eugenii
Tom Franczak	Habenaria rhodocheila
Wilf Losert	Gastrochilus dasypogon Phal. Zuma Aussie Delight Phal. violacea Schoenorchis fragrans Dtps. Malibu Queen Cleisostoma rosea
Armon McPherson	Onc. ornithorhyncum Doritis pulcherrima

Bill Nelson	Slc. Kevin Hipkins
Margie Poor	Milt. Laurie Kathleen
Michael Rossler	Phal. Fairy Fiesta
Mel Schmidt	Ornithocephalus inflexus Ascda. (V. Sapan x Yip Sum Wah)
Ken Vrabel	Kagawara Red Lava
Susan West	Phal. Porcelain Doll

AN ORCHIDIST'S GLOSSARY

(The real meanings behind some catalog terms)

Easy to Grow: (1) Almost sure to bloom at least once during your lifetime. (2) Only if you live on Maui.

A Challenge: Will probably never flower, but will survive if given a special diet, a vacation in Tahiti, and its own valet.

Fussy: Only a masochist would buy this one.

Compact Grower: Can be counted on not to take over the entire growing area.

Vigorous Grower: Stock up on plant stakes and 18" pots; a machete will help too.

Adequate Humidity: If the plants try to crawl toward the kitchen sink, the atmosphere's too dry. If your eyeglasses fog up while looking at the blossoms, chance are you've overdone it.

Minimum Night Temperature: That below which a given orchid will awaken in order to ask for an extra blanket.

Good Air Circulation: Something between the air movement needed to blow out one birthday candle and that requiring tethers to hold plants on the bench.

Award Quality: May receive an FCC, AM, HCC, CBM or other such honor. If not, might qualify for the PAA (Pest Appeal Award), AWF (Absolutely Won't Flower), DLC (Dropped Leaves Certificate), or the GC (Garbage Can).

Prize Winner: Will tip over on the way to the show, no matter how carefully you pack it.

Freshly Collected and Imported: No roots, no leaves. Good luck!

Clearance Special: (1) We couldn't sell them, you try!
(2) We couldn't bloom them, you try!

Organically Grown: Full of bug bites.

Watering Instructions Included: Do not water too little or too much.

Rampant Grower: In 3 years, should be out of this 2" pot.

[Adapted from a collection in *Chula Orchids Newsletter*, a monthly publication put out by Harry Tolen, Chula Orchids (a catalog with lots of articles, questions and answers, etc.) Write or call for one free copy; subscriptions are \$15/year. Subscribers may apply the \$15 to the first purchase within the year. Write Chula Orchids, Vista Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910, or call 619/410-0746.]

Cattleya

Cattleyas are among the most commonly grown orchids, and their culture is often used as the basis for comparison with other types of orchids.

The flowers in cattleyas and their related hybrids come in many colors. Culture varies only slightly among most of these groups; this cultural information is a general guide to "standard" cattleya culture.

Like most other cultivated orchids, cattleyas are epiphytes, or air-plants. Because they are epiphytic, they have developed water-storage organs, called pseudobulbs, and have large, fleshy roots covered with a spongy, water-retentive velamen. They are accustomed to being dry at the roots between waterings, and therefore should be potted in a very porous, free-draining medium.

temperatures can be tolerated (up to 95°F), if humidity, air circulation and shading are increased.

WATER should be provided in two ways: in the pot by watering and in the air as humidity. Watering in the pot is dictated by many criteria — size and type of pot, temperature, light, etc. Mature cattleyas need to dry out thoroughly before being watered again. Seedlings need slightly more constant moisture. Compare the weight of a dry pot of the same size and type of medium; it can indicate if a plant needs water. A freshly sharpened pencil inserted in the potting medium can be an indicator of moisture. If in doubt, it's best to wait a day or two until watering. Plants in active growth need more water than plants that are resting. Water below 50°F may injure plants, as will softened water.

mulation may be used occasionally (every 4 to 6 applications) to make sturdy growths and promote healthy blooming. When in active growth, plants need fertilizer every two weeks, and when not growing, once a month. Fertilizer can also be applied with every watering at 1/4 recommended dilution. Thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended to prevent buildup of fertilizer salts.

POTTING is necessary when 1) the rhizome of the plants protrudes over the edge of the pot, or 2) the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after 2 to 3 years). It is best to repot 1) just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, 2) after flowering, or 3) in the springtime.

Mature cattleyas are usually potted in medium-grade potting material; seed-



Cattleya

Like most other cultivated orchids, cattleyas are epiphytes, or air-plants. They have developed water-storage organs called pseudobulbs and have large, fleshy roots covered with a spongy, water-retentive velamen. They should be potted in very porous, free-draining media, the most popular being fir bark; other media are shredded treefern fiber, various types of rock and processed coconut fiber.

Light — Sufficient light is important for healthy growth and flower production.

GIVE: Bright light, some sun. In the home, an east, west or shaded-south window. In a greenhouse, about 30% to 50% of full sun. Under lights, 4 fluorescent tubes directly over plants.

Temperature — Mature plants need a 10° to 20° difference between night and day.

GIVE: Nights of 55° to 60°F; days of 70° to 85°F. Cattleyas can tolerate temperatures up to 95° to 100°F if shading, humidity and air circulation are increased. Seedling cattleyas need temperatures 5° to 10° higher than mature plants.

Water — Mature plants must dry out between waterings. Seedlings need more constant water.

HUMIDITY: Need 50% to 80%. In home, mist in the morning, and place on trays of pebbles. In greenhouse, wet down floor if conditions are too dry.

Fertilizer — Must be provided on a regular basis because potting media have little.

GIVE: Mature plants in fir bark, 30-10-10 every two weeks. Mature plants in other media, 20-20-20 every two weeks. Seedlings need more constant and more dilute solutions of fertilizer. Plants not in active growth (fall-winter) can be fertilized once a month.

LIGHT is one of the most important factors in growing and blooming cattleyas, whether in a greenhouse setting or in the home. Bright light to some sun must be given to the plants, but no direct sun in the middle of the day. This means an east, shaded-south (as with a sheer curtain) or west window in the home, and 30% to 50% of full sun in a greenhouse (3,000 to 5,000 foot-candles). Leaves should be a medium green color.

TEMPERATURES. Recommended temperatures are 55° to 60°F at night and 70° to 85°F during the day. Seedlings should have night temperatures 5° to 10° higher. A 10° to 20° differential between day and night is recommended, especially for mature plants. Higher day

HUMIDITY. Cattleyas need 50% to 80% relative humidity. This can be provided in the home by placing the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water so that the plants stand above the water. Misting the plants in the morning only is helpful in dry climates. Air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity and/or cool temperatures exist. In the greenhouse the humidity can be increased by wetting the floor. Evaporative cooling increases humidity while cooling the air.

FERTILIZER must be given to cattleyas on a regular schedule. In fir bark, a high-nitrogen (30-10-10) formulation, or a similar proportion, is used. High-phosphorus or bloom booster (10-30-20) for-

lings in fine-grade. Until a plant has six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be put into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, 3 to 5 bulbs per division are required. Select a pot that will allow for 2 to 3 years of growth before crowding the pot. Place a small cone of potting material in the bottom of the pot, cut off any rotten roots, and spread the firm, live roots over the cone. Fill the pot with medium, working it around the roots. Pack firmly; stake if necessary. Keep the plant humid, shaded and dry at the roots for awhile to promote new root growth. A vitamin B1 solution may help re-establish plants quickly.

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

Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for the New Year

November Checklist

☐ **Calanthe** The tropical hybrids derived from *Calanthe vestita* will be at their peak. Plants should have been dried off some and be totally leafless now. Flower spikes are up, and remember, flowers will resist spotting from botrytis if kept in drier conditions. Enjoy these flowers that last many weeks.

☐ **Catasetum** It's natural for these orchids to begin regressing. The leaves will start to degenerate, a signal the flowering season is about to begin. Reduce watering to compensate for lack of active growth.

☐ **Cattleya** Almost all potting should have been completed by this month. The summer's growth is mostly finished, and sheaths that will flower from winter through April and May are set. Older sheaths on spring-flowering cattleyas, which may have been present since July, will begin to senesce and turn yellow. When this happens, gently remove the sheath to prevent condensation from forming inside that will kill any buds present. The growth should still flower in its time, but the developing spike will need additional support that would have been supplied by the sheath.

Watering and fertilizing will be needed less frequently, and temperatures can be decreased. Lengthening nights and cooler temperatures are what trigger winter and spring bloomers to spike.

The first of the winter whites and pinks will begin to show this month. Purchase plants for winter bloom so you can see the sheaths and buds that will give winter pleasure. By the time you really want these, it may be too cold to ship, or they may simply be unavailable, having been sold to those who have planned ahead.

☐ **Cymbidium** Take special care of the flower spikes. Bait for snails and slugs to avoid damage. Lower light levels and temperatures will improve flower quality and longevity. Proper staking will prime the chosen candidate for Best of Show. When it becomes evident a plant is not going to bloom this year, it can be divided and repotted, if necessary.

☐ **Dendrobium—Australian Types** Plants will have hardened off their growths by now and soon will be showing spikes. Hybrids derived from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* grow and flower best if kept much cooler in late autumn and winter. Keep plants in bright light and switch to a fertilizer with less nitrogen.

☐ **Paphiopedilum** Paphiopedilums can be potted almost year round. Examine those that flower in the summer and pot as necessary. November is when the "standards" — sometimes called "toads" — begin to show their bloom sheaths and spikes in earnest. Be especially careful not to allow any water to lodge in the leaf axil, as this can lead to spike rot. Also, do not allow hot spells to damage the sheaths. If the weather is quite warm, spikes can develop almost too rapidly and require staking. Watch water needs carefully as weather cools, to avoid root loss during the winter.

☐ **Phalaenopsis** All repotting should be completed by now. The shortening days and cooling temperatures signal plants to begin flower-spike production. Any that can be expected to flower by Christmas will be 50 percent developed and need staking. Spike initiation for the main spring bloom is at its heaviest.

Be on the lookout for any disease or insect problems that may be cropping up with the onset of the cooler weather. Eliminate them now, before they spread.

☐ **Masdevallia and Other Pleurothallids** Most will be recuperating from the summer heat. Let them strengthen and show signs of active new growth before repotting or dividing. The next few months show plant resurgence and lush new growth. Wait until the new year to increase nitrogen.

☐ **Zygopetalum** This will be the main season for this spellbinding genus and the next couple of months will provide a show of color and fragrance. Reduce watering and keep the temperatures above 50 degrees to avoid black leaf ticking.
— Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose

REPORT OF AWARDS COMMITTEE

Tom Franczak, Chairman 708/398-5093

Here's the fifth report of the 1994-95 competition year. Included in the point totals are results from the October meeting and ribbons from the Rockford show, insofar as they have been reported to me. AOS judging in October produced the following two awards:

Arnie Klehm Phal. violacea 'Blue Velvet', HCC/AOS
Wally Crawford (Amesiella philippinense x Ceratocentron fessellii) 'Silas' AD/AOS

"What in the world is an AD?" you're probably asking. Indeed it is an obscure and extremely rare award. In words, it's an Award of Distinction and can be made to recognize promising new areas of hybridizing. Most of you can readily picture an angraecoid orchid. Usually star-shaped, white, spurred to the max (remember Darwin's moth). Each species differs from the next in size, a little. But not in color. They're very reminiscent of Henry Ford's Model T ... any color you want as long as it's black. Or, in the case of angraecoids, any color as long as it's white. (Never mind about the greenish aeranthes.)

All that's changed, as of the October judging. The intergeneric cited above is orange and red. As Sue Golan put it when announcing the award, "What this brings to the table is color in a small angraecoid." Wally had purchased the plant from Barry Jones (Orchid Outlet). Needless to say, word spread fast and, at the Rockford show, a feeding frenzy took place atop Barry's sales table. Wally (Milwaukee, by the way, not IOS) didn't bring the plant to the show because he had removed the pollen so that Arnie could advance the cause of hybridization with it. One can only speculate what Arnie might offer in the future if everything is fertile. Perhaps the Star of Bethlehem in red or pink?

We brought 98 plants to the show-and-tell in October, evenly split between greenhouse and lightstand. There was some fine material on the display tables (see the list of Blue ribbon winners), but nothing grabbed either set of judges as spectacular, so no Plant-of-the-Month awards were made.

A number of you have been fattening up on show ribbons. Things are getting pretty serious over there in the greenhouse division. We may have several of you in four digits before this thing is over. And it's good to see Willy Losert back in the game after recovering from the rigors of last year's stretch drive. Be careful he doesn't make a shambles of the lightstand division by the time the Madison show results are in next January. Willy doesn't need many bats to run up the score.

As I write this, the elections are over (Remember the BTU tax? ... I think we're safe now) and with them those god-awful obnoxious TV ads (I was SO very glad that she still wasn't one of the boys ... weren't you?). CITES is up to more mischief in Florida ... come to think of it, have any of you helped your representatives get their heads straight about CITES on the matter of flora? And now that the professional basketball playoffs are over, the professional basketball regular season has resumed. Which means that Jim Pupelis is attending games instead of tending to his plants. Tsk tsk.

POINT STANDINGS

Greenhouse		Lightstand			
G. Calilao/J. Wortman	5	Cathy Bailey	35	Margie Poor	21
Carol Cloud	42	Margo Begy	25	Jim Pupelis	340
Jack Coutts	17	Cathy Bloome	255	Michael Rossler (*)	19
Ed Gamson	98	Lois Cinert	2	Mel Schmidt	48
Sue Golan	708	Joe Dixler	178	Leo Schordje	12
Sophia Harris	68	Walter Drubka	26	Linda Silva	21
Jodi Hirt	595	Joel Edwards	206	Carolyn Simons (*)	1
Bob Hoel	1	James Fiala	17	Laura Stanley	5
Maggie Kuntz	117	Tom Franczak	37	Ken Vrael	26
Otto Leupi	40	Ron & Joan Hale	10	Renee & Chris Welch (*)	7
Jay Mullen	106	Rob Halgren (*)	5	Susan West	16
Dorothy Nieter	2	Charles High	6		
Rhonda Peters	135	Alice Huehl	15		
Nicola Radcliffe	62	Lawrence Knudsen	1		
Al Rich	11	Pat Kralik	23		
Laima Sahagian	691	Carol Loeppert (*)	3		
Heddi Schellbach	11	Willy Losert	210		
John Stubbings	11	Sherry Maloney	66		
Gerald Stueben	149	Armon McPherson (*)	114		
Carole Thompson	143	Bill Nelson	15		
Bill Walsh	73	Jane Nelson	1		
Bob Wolf	283				
Wally Zielinski	19				

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

1994

- Dec. 11:** IOS Christmas Party at Hausermann's, 12 noon
(Remember to bring your contribution of an appetizer, salad or dessert, and your dues!)
- Dec. 17:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm

1995

- Jan. 15:** Monthly IOS Meeting, CBG, 12:30 pm
Jan.21-22: 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
Feb. 25-26: Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show
Okemos, MI
- Mar. 3-5:** IOS Spring Show, CBG
Mar. 25: AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
Mar. 28-30: Illowa Orchid Society Show, Moline
April 8-9: Michigan Orchid Society Show & Mid-America Orchid Congress, Livonia, MI
- April 9:** Monthly IOS Meeting, CBG, 12:30 pm
April 22 AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
May 21: Monthly IOS Meeting, CBG, 12:30 pm
May 27: AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
June 11: Monthly IOS Meeting (not at CBG)
June 24: AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 3 pm
July 16: Monthly IOS Meeting, CBG, 12:30 pm
July 22: AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG, 2 pm
August 20: Monthly IOS Meeting (not at CBG)

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: The deadline for the January Newsletter is **December 12**. Please submit your articles via mail or by Fax.

WE COULD USE SOME HELP ON THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE. If you can attend all or most of the AOS judgings at the CBG and can arrive an hour early and stay an hour late and are able to do a little light lifting, then you can provide some valuable service to the society. With the switch in times for the judging (from 7 pm to 2 pm), what was inconvenient for some will now be convenient (and vice-versa). I would like to have two or three of you volunteer to help me with this work. You should also already be a member of the CBG because your IOS membership does not cover your parking fee on the Saturdays when judging is held. (Actually, you should already be a member of the CBG just because you should.) Call me for details and to sign the enlistment papers.

Tom Franczak 708/398-5093

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- August 26:** AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG 2 pm
Sept. 17: Monthly IOS Meeting, CBG, 12:30 pm
September 23: AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG 2 pm
October 6-8: IOS Fall Mini-Show, CBG
October 28: AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG 2 pm
November 19: Monthly IOS Meeting, CBG, 12:30 pm
November 25: AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG 2 pm
December 10: IOS Christmas Party
December 16: AOS Supplemental Judging, CBG 2 pm



FOUNDED IN 1952

DECEMBER, 1994



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