

# ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1952

JANUARY, 1995

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

708/498-0249

The holidays are over and it is time to get down to work. Take off those extra holiday pounds by bending over each and every plant to check for creepy-crawlies. Improve your mental state by spending time under the fluorescent lights. I'm actually thinking of deducting part of my electric bill from my taxes as a medical deduction. You've heard of that winter light-deprivation syndrome that causes depression? Well, I can attest to the fact that spending time playing with orchids under fluorescent lights is a sure cure! Do you think the IRS will buy it?

Back to business. If you missed the December meeting at Hausermann's (food galore which led to those extra pounds), I made two rather important announcements. The first was that **Steven and Rhonda Peters** have graciously volunteered to take our display to the **Madison show**. The setup will be on Friday, Jan. 20, and, if anyone is willing to go along to help, it would be greatly appreciated. If you want to send plants, they can be dropped off at my house in Northbrook or taken directly to the Peters in Island Lake no later than Wednesday. I don't know how to emphasize this point any more strongly, but in order to plan for space needs, vehicle packing strategies, etc., plants cannot be dropped off at the last minute. Please call ahead to let us know what you will be bringing.

The other announcement was a little more long-range in scope. **Sue Golan and Jim Spatzek** have agreed to co-chair the **1997 Spring Mid-America Orchid Congress** which we will be hosting. They will begin negotiations soon to secure a date. Committees (that dreaded word) will need to be formed, and a lot of brain and muscle power will be needed to make this a truly memorable Mid-Am show. Be thinking of the role you would like to play.

In the same vein, I will soon be appointing the Nominating Committee for next year's officers. If you know someone who would make a thoughtful, contributing member of the Board, please let me know. I know there are lots of people out there who can enrich our society greatly. Unfortunately, most of these people do not toot their own horn, so it's up to friends to do it for them. (I promise to keep the identity of the "squealers" secret.)

Last, but not least, start grooming your plants now for our show, volunteer your time generously, and consider having your own display this year. Time is flying and show-time is coming fast!

**WHO:** ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

**WHAT:** Monthly Meeting

**WHEN:** January 15, 1995, 12:30 pm

**WHERE:** Chicago Botanic Garden

**SPEAKER:** The speaker originally scheduled has canceled and nobody else wants to come to Chicago in January. So **Leo Schordje** is going to save the society some money by being the speaker. The topic will be **Phragmipediums and how to grow them**. The talk will include tips on growing the spectacular Phrag. besseae and its many hybrids. Leo is a regular speaker for societies in the area, including the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., for the National Capital Orchid Society in 1991.

There will be plants for sale from the Orchid Trading Company, a group that Leo is affiliated with.

**WORKSHOP:** The workshop will again be an informal question-and-answer session. Bring any diseased or problem plants for a diagnosis. Put bug-infested plants in plastic bags, please.

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

**1995 DUES:** If you have not paid your 1995 dues, please do so immediately, rather than waiting for the follow-up request in the February Newsletter.

**REFRESHMENTS:** The tables were overflowing at the Christmas Party. The left-over cakes and cookies would have been enough for a meeting or two but since there is no room to freeze them, we could not take advantage of the bounty. So, please, start marking your calendars again to bake or buy some goodies for the January and other meetings.

## REPORT OF AWARDS COMMITTEE

Tom Franczak, Chairman 708/398-5093

Halfway done already? I guess so. This is report number six of the 1994-95 competition year. Included in the point totals are ribbons from the November meeting, stragglers from the Rockford show reported too late to be included in last month's report, and results from the November AOS judging at the CBG. Let's start with the AOS judging, where SHE captured two of the three awards:

Sue Golan	Sophronitis cernue 'Red Hot Mama', AM/AOS
Sue Golan	Paph. (Sophomore x fairieanum) 'Stanley Mazurek', HCC/AOS

The judges also awarded a Phrag. Flying Fortress (= Calurum x besseae) that had been submitted by some out-of-town folks. This is a new cross and seems to realize what Phrag Eric Young aspired to, but didn't quite achieve. A less angular, wider-petaled, rounder flower (probably thanks to the 1/8 schlimii dosage) with richer color and superior size. One wonders whether crossing it with a sargentianum group species (or primary hybrid, like Mem. Dick Clements) would deepen and darkent the color in a beneficial way. I look forward to seeing what Schroderae x besseae will look like when that hybrid starts appearing at the shows and judging tables. These new complex phrag. hybrids involving besseae are most intriguing.

We brought boxcars full of plants to the display tables at the November meeting (72 from our greenhouses and 75 from our lightstands). Bob Wolf earned Plant-of-the-Month honors in the greenhouse division for his Maxillaria coccinea and yours truly was surprised but grateful to have his Habenaria rhodocheila selected as Plant-of-the-Month in the lightstand ranks. The material was quite good and the display tables were awash with Blue ribbons. Once again the comment was made that we've enough quality material at the monthly show-and-tell to stage a satisfactory orchid show. And once again that comment was right on the money.

### POINT SCORE ACCUMULATIONS THROUGH 11-30-94

Greenhouse					
G. Calilao/J. Wortman	5	Carole Thompson	215	Carol Loeppert (*)	4
Carol Cloud	42	Bill Walsh	73	Willy Losert	301
Jack Coutts	17	Bob Wolf	348	Sherry Maloney	66
Ed Gamson	98	Wally Zielinski	19	Morris Millman	11
Sue Golan	923			Armon McPherson (*)	141
Sophia Harris	68	Lightstand		Bill Nelson	20
Jodi Hirt	717	Kim Anderson	12	Jane Nelson	1
Bob Hoel	1	Cathy Bailey	35	Margie Poor	21
Paul Katz(*)	5	Margo Begy	55	Jim Pupelis	340
Suki Kroeber	10	Cathy Bloome	306	Michael Rossler (*)	19
Maggie Kuntz	147	Olga Boor	10	Mel Schmidt	56
Otto Leupi	40	Lois Cinert	3	Leo Schordje	12
Jay Mullen	106	Joe Dixier	307	Linda Schubert	10
Dorothy Nieter	2	Walter Drubka	26	Linda Silva	21
Rhonda Peters	155	Joel Edwards	206	Carolyn Simons (*)	1
Nicola Radcliffe	93	James Fiala	17	Laura Stanley	5
Al Rich	16	Tom Franczak	72	Ken Vrabel	41
Laima Sahagian	783	Ron & Joan Hale	12	Renee & Chris Welch (*)	7
Heddi Schellbach	11	Rob Halgren (*)	6	Susan West	16
John Stubbings	11	Charles High	6		
Gerald Stueben	149	Alice Huehl	15		
		Lawrence Knudsen	1		
		Pat Kralik	29		

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

# Cymbidium

These orchids are prized for their sprays of large flowers, used especially as cut flowers or for corsages in the springtime. There are two main types of cymbidiums — standards and miniatures. Where summers are warm (above 90°F), only miniatures are recommended, because they are more heat-tolerant and bloom in warmer weather.

**LIGHT** is very important for growing cymbidiums. Coming from cool and bright areas in Asia, they need high light but cool temperatures. In many of our climates, the high level of light cymbidiums need is accompanied by high temperatures in the summer, which may cause the plants not to bloom. There are several ways to counteract this: spray the plants with water during summer afternoons to cool the plants down, shade more heavily and increase

flower spikes. Optimum temperatures in winter are 45° to 55°F at night and 65° to 75°F during the day. When in bud, temperatures must be as constant as possible, between 55° and 75°F. Miniatures can stand temperatures 5° to 10° higher than standards and still bloom well. Most cymbidiums can stand light frosts and survive, but it is not recommended. Bring them inside when temperatures dip to 40°F; in mild climates they may be grown outside year-round. A bright and cool location inside is best for winter months.

**WATER** must be provided at all times to cymbidiums. As semi-terrestrials, they need a fairly constant supply of moisture. Since they produce all their vegetative growth during the spring and summer months, they need the most water then. Water heavily during the growth season, keeping the potting

fertilizer (like 10-30-20), to help form bloom spikes. Fertilize at full strength every week to two weeks. In winter, fertilize once a month.

**POTTING** is usually done in the spring after blooming, usually every two years or when the potting medium decomposes. Shake all the old potting mix off the roots, dividing the plant if desired. Divisions of green bulbs with leaves must have 3 to 4 bulbs minimum to bloom; bulbs without leaves are considered backbulbs, and need special care to grow (see below). Pick a potting mix that will hold moisture well; a medium-grade fir bark with peat moss and perlite is a common mix. Select a pot that will allow for at least 2 to 3 years of pseudobulb growth before crowding the pot, while planning on placing the active growing bulb(s) of the division farthest from the side of the



## Cymbidium

Unlike many cultivated orchids, cymbidiums are semi-terrestrial. They have a growth period in the summer, needing 60° to 85°F, medium to high light, ample fertilizer and a moist potting medium. Cool fall nights (to 40°F), bloom-booster fertilizer, or no fertilizer ALL induce flowering. They should be planted in fir bark/peat moss. Miniature cymbidiums can stand temperatures 5° to 10° higher.

**Light**—Strong summer sun is important. Bright indirect light in winter.

**GIVE:** Summer—1/2 filtered to full sun (in cool climates); Winter—bright window in home or in greenhouse.

**Temperature**—Cymbidiums must have cool nights, especially in fall, to encourage flowering. Cymbidiums can stand hot summer days up to 95°F if shading, humidity, and air circulation are increased.

**GIVE:** Nights of 45° to 60°F; days of 65° to 85°F.

**Water**—Spray with water when plants are outside to keep them cool. Mist in home in the morning to raise humidity. Avoid misting flowers.

**GIVE:** Summer—water copiously enough to keep moist. Winter—water just to keep from drying leaves.

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

**GIVE:** Summer—30-10-10 once a week at recommended rates. Early fall—use 10-30-20 bloom booster until flower spikes appear. Winter—use balanced fertilizer once a month.

air movement. The maximum amount of light possible, short of burning, should be given to the plants. This means only light shade during the middle of the day, or about 20% shade. In cool areas (e.g., coastal California), full sun is tolerated. Leaves should be a medium to golden green in color, not dark green. Shade more in the winter, especially if in bud.

**TEMPERATURE** is the most critical factor in blooming cymbidiums of either type. During the summer, standard cymbidiums are usually grown outside in semi-shade, where day temperatures should be 75° to 85°F (or more), but night temperatures in the late summer to fall (August to Oc-

tober) should be 65° to 75°F. Miniatures should be grown in a similar manner, but with higher temperatures. Standard cymbidiums should be kept in a cool, bright location during the winter. Keep barely moist during the winter.

**HUMIDITY** outdoors is usually sufficient during the summer months, except in dry climates. There, evaporative cooling in a greenhouse, or misting outside, is necessary. Keep humidity at 40%-60% during the winter, especially if plants are in bud. Keep the air moving to prevent fungus (*Botrytis*) from spotting the flowers.

**FERTILIZING** at the proper time will help cymbidiums bloom. During the growth season (spring through late summer), high-nitrogen fertilizer (like 30-10-10) is used. In late summer, use a

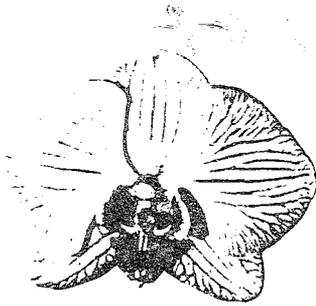
pot. Spread the roots over a cone of the mix in the bottom of the pot, and fill the pot with medium, working it among the roots, tamping firmly. The junction of roots and pseudobulbs should be about 1/2" to 1" below the top of the mix. Keep shaded, drier at roots but humid, until new roots grow.

Backbulbs may be left on the division to add strength, or removed to propagate. Take single backbulbs, and bury halfway in a bark or peat/sand mix. Keep shaded and warm until new growth sprouts, and pot as above. It may take up to three years to produce a blooming-size plant from this method.

## GARDEN TALK

*Garden Talk* is published for the members of the Chicago Horticultural Society.

photo: John Coultts



### Orchid

Although the orchid is considered to be one of the most beautiful of flowers, the legend of its origin is one of the least endearing. According to Greek mythology, Orchis was the son of Patellanus, a satyr, and the nymph,

Acolasia. At a feast of Bacchus, Orchis assaulted a priestess, which so enraged the congregation that they tore him to pieces. Patellanus pleaded that his son be put together again. The gods compromised and turned the remains of Orchis into a flower, thinking that since the deceased had been such a nuisance in life, he should be a satisfaction in death.

For many centuries the flower was thought to retain the lascivious nature of the young Orchis, and the root of an orchid was an essential ingredient for any elixir of love. Today orchids are grown extensively for their spectacular blooms and fragrance. Unlike some flowers where a change in color can drastically alter its "language of flowers" message, the gift of any orchid always sends the sentiment "a beauty is beheld."

Ginger Henrichs,  
Head Librarian

## January Checklist

- Angraecoids** Most species will be quite dormant this time of year, which leaves them susceptible to root rot from overwatering. Keep fairly warm and a little on the dry side until new roots emerge.
- Calanthe** Divide and repot the tropical-deciduous types (Grouville, St. Aubin and Rubens). Remove healthy one- to two-bulb divisions as growths begin to appear. Pot in a highly organic mix (1/2 part fine bark and 1/2 organic materials, such as peat, ground sphagnum, rotted manure).
- Cattleya** Long nights, short days and cool temperatures make this the low point of the growth year for cattleyas. Watering and feeding needs are at a minimum. Give maximum light and watch for emerging buds from those that flower from winter into spring. Stake spikes for best presentation.
- Cymbidium** Now is the peak flowering season for cymbidiums, during which time the plants require fertilizer with lower nitrogen (the first of three numbers of the ratio on a fertilizer-package label). Stake inflorescences to promote attractive flower arrangement. Bait for slugs and snails.
- Lycaste** Decrease the watering to slightly dry out the plants. The leaves will drop on the deciduous yellow varieties. Watch for developing inflorescences on the lead (newest) pseudobulbs.
- Paphiopedilum** Standard hybrids are in about the middle of their blooming season, so enjoyment is the key word. They still require watering and feeding, especially if they are in the drier home environment. Mottled-leaved Maudiae types require less water and food than at other times. More light will help to set buds for the spring and summer bloom season. This is a good time to rest mature strap-leaved types by reducing water and food, while keeping light levels higher.
- Phalaenopsis** Moth orchids show little, if any, active growth, owing to cool temperatures and low-light conditions. Watch watering carefully to preserve health of roots. This season's inflorescences are probably well developed by now, and should have already been staked for best support and presentation. Prevent cold drafts from reaching plants. — Prepared by James Rose and Ned Nash

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

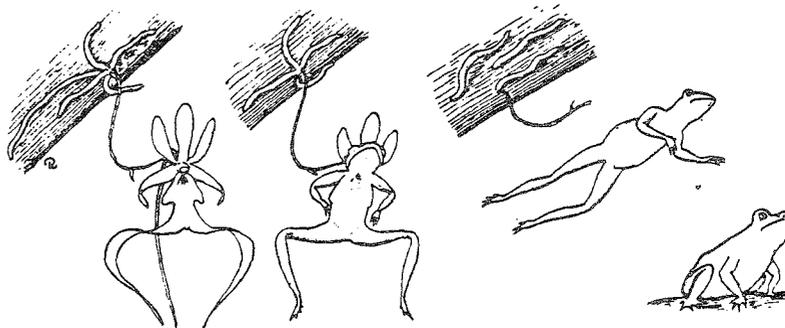
**FIRST-PLACE RIBBONS IN THE LIGHTSTAND  
CATEGORY**

<b>Sue Golan</b>	Cochleanthes amazonica Cattleya schilleriana Odontoglossum naevium Paphinia hererrae Cymbidium Frosty Jack Paph. (fairieanum x Rosemary) Sophronitis cernua Macradenia lutescens
<b>Jodi Hirt</b>	Den. microbulbon Polystachya undulata Hexisea imbricata Oncidium croesus Dryadella albicans Paph. villosum 'Crazy Tibet' Maxillaria sp. Pleurothallis sp. Leptotes tenuis Zootropion sp. Oncidium Sharry Baby
<b>Suki Kroeber</b>	Phrag Schroderae
<b>Maggie Kuntz</b>	Trichopilia (coccinea x fragrans) Pleurothallis hypnicola
<b>Rhonda Peters</b>	Odontocidium (Onc. tigrinum x Odm. Goldrausch) Den. (Nagasaki x White King 'Higashima')
<b>Nicola Radcliffe</b>	Bl. Fladosa x B. cordata Ctna. Rosy Jewel 'Maili'
<b>Laima Sahagian</b>	Brassavola nodosa Rhynchostylis coelestis x Ascda. Nancy Knap Den. eriiflorum Liparis condylobulbon Epidendrum avicula Milt. Grin 'Pink Frill' Ang. germinyanum Stenorrhynchus speciosum
<b>Carole Thompson</b>	Lc. Mini Purple 'Tamani' Oncidium Potpourri Rodriguezia venusta Ornithocephalus inflexus Gomesa recurva Ionopsis paniculata
<b>Bob Wolf</b>	Maxillaria coccinea Cirrhopetalum Louis Sander

<b>Kim Anderson</b>	Vanda Bangyikhan 'Sompom Blue'
<b>Margo Begy</b>	Phal. Little Mary C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' C. Heather Kwiatt
<b>Cathy Bloome</b>	Aerangis mystacidium Aerangis distincta Paph. charlesworthii Catasetum pileatum v aureum
<b>Olga Boor</b>	Cymbidium Showgirl 'Four Star'
<b>Joe Dixler</b>	Renanthopsis Mildred Jameson Oncidium papilio 'Mendenhall' Lycaste skinneri x delicatissima Warmingia eugenii Paph. spicerianum Dendrobium oligophyllum Mormodes (cogniauxii x sinuata) Calanthe Sedenii Paph. markianum
<b>Tom Franczak</b>	Habenaria rhodocheila
<b>Wilf Losert</b>	Schoenorchis fragraas Phal. Hakalau Queen 'Hawaii' Aerangis luteo-alba v rhodosticta Phal. Orchid World 'Bonnie Vasquez' Phal. Zuma Aussie Delight Phal amboinensis Rhynchocentrum Lilac Blossom

**Morris Millman** Blc. Emily Shape 'North Park'

**Armon McPherson** Liparis condylobulbon



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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)  
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

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:** The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 16. Please submit your articles via mail or by Fax.

**FOR SALE:** Complete HID light-growing system. Three 1,000 W metal-halide fixtures with reflectors. Benching system for 21'x7' area, including custom-made, self-draining trays.  
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JANUARY, 1995

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