

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JAMES F. SPATZEK, EDITOR

August brings the heat of Summer & the warmth of the hospitality at our Oak Hill Gardens meeting!!!!

Bill's Great Adventure

or.....A Florida Well
Spent\$\$\$!!

by **Bill Nelson**
(WOS/IOS)[reprinted from
the Wisconsin Orchid Society

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Bulletin]

On our recent vacation to middle and southern Florida, we visited a number of orchid growers. The following is a review, of sorts, of the growers we toured.

World of Orchids If you want to spend \$8.95 per person to see fair looking orchids in a greenhouse/garden, this place is for you! Many orchids in the garden were old or infected with *Botrytis*. The few plants for sale in the showroom were very overgrown, near dead plants. I'll pass on this place in the future.

Fenders Flora, Inc. In our quest to find a different grower, we accidentally stumbled upon Fenders Flora(not on my list). Owners Bill and Susan Fender were the nicest people I've met in the orchid industry in quite some time! Plants were of fair to godd quality. Some were being overwatered or were in need of repotting; phalaenopsis and cattleyas mostly. All in all, I'll stop in

again.

Adams and Foster. We stopped three times to ask directions! When we found the place on a sandy and bumpy road, no one was around. The AOS Almanac said the hours were 8:00am-4:30pm. I don't think we missed much, though. The greenhouse looked like a rejected airplane hanger!

Krull Smith Orchids, Inc. Again, not on my list of stops, but I'm glad I did. The greenhouses we were allowed into were all *Phalaenopsis*. Grown very crowded on rolling benches, they were a good buy at \$17.50(in bloom). Some of the plants that sold for wholesale were better than what I've seen other growers keep for breeding stock. Lori, the over-worked grower, was an absolute gem! I could have spent, spent, spent!

Odoms Orchids, Inc. Nice size! I think I saw several benches of *Dendrobiums*. I couldn't really tell through all the weeds. If only the greenhouses looked as nice as their catalog!

Laurel Orchids, Inc. Frank Priess was

very helpful. Reasonably priced Cattleya, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobium, and other plants. Some aisles were difficult to go down because of large puddles. The cat was extra friendly.

Cashen's Orchids. A call ahead to this ex-WOS President's orchid range is a must! Nice house on six acres is located in a she-she-la-la gated community. We really didn't see much of the greenhouses but we did have several hours of fabulous conversation.

Jem Orchids. Just like the name...a real gem! Species.

Joseph R. Redlinger. Never saw any of the greenhouses. I think they were in the back of the house. He just had some blooming plants in the garage.

Not Yet Named. New owner Jerry Rogers bought out FUCHS ORCHIDS (Barbara Fuchs). A new grower and owner with big ambitions. I was told that the plants were in bad shape when he bought the greenhouses (many still were). Some nice orchids and foliage plants were to be found. I bought a nice Ascocenda in bloom. I'd like to go back in a year and see what they do to the place.

Redland Orchids. Owner Ken Cameron greeted us wearily at the from of his driveway. (Most people were still tired from the show in Miami the day before). Greenhouses were set in the back of his yard along with numerous avocado trees. One will find mostly Cattleyas and a few Phalaenopsis in his newer houses. Some greenhouses were destroyed by Hurricane Andrew. A nice cement main walk, stone ground, rolling benches, and many fans made the greenhouse look very professional. Plants were in top condition, many planted in clay orchid pots he buys from Guatemala. If I grew large Cattleyas, this is where I would want them to come from.

Carib Plants, Inc. A good size range with almost every Phalaenopsis plant in bloom was a beautiful sight! We walked around the greenhouses for a while before anybody knew we were there. Again, they were recovering and unpacking from the Miami Show.

Owner, Robert Randall, came around to let me know which plants were for sale and which were not. Very personable and knowledgeable, he made me feel important. I only wish I could have spent more money but I WILL return!

Motes Orchids, Inc. I met Martin Motes at an Illinois Orchid Society meeting last winter and was quite impressed. Here is a man who had true passion for his craft! He loves his plants and what he is doing. To me, this is what it's all about. His greenhouses are filled with beautifully grown Vandas, Ascocendas and related genera. He may not be the largest vandaceous orchid grower in Florida, but this is the only place I'll go. The very reasonable prices are icing on the cake.

Blue Pagoda Orchids. Small lean-to greenhouse in the back of Blue Pagoda Florist. Owner Larry Evans was very accommodating in showing us his lab. He told us he had not been well in the last five years, hence his plants were not in the condition they should be. Having had a bit of a contamination problem in his lab, the plants seem to be on a rebound. He does some flasking work for Hausermann's and other growers. When Larry feels better and starts producing more plants in his lab, the quality should return.

Dabbert Orchids. Here, orchids are grown mostly in shade houses. Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis are what you'll find here. Phalaenopsis were small, but nicely grown plants in large pots. The prices are just to high for what you'll get. Needless to say, we didn't stay long.

Tropiflora. A lovely couple on holiday from Britain told us to stop here. Wow!! Bromeliads and Tillandsia species as far as the eye can see. It was just amazing. In this collection they do have several greenhouses of orchids. A mixture of species, vandaceous, small Cattleyas, and Dendrobiums. Many mounted and well established. Fair Prices. Some plants looked newly imported. Another must stop!

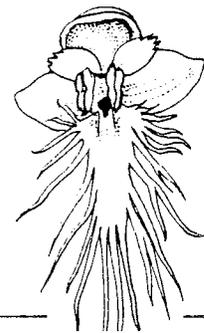
Art Stone Co., Inc. Orchids are a sideline here. The main business is

cement lawn figurines. Greenhouses were small and hot. Some of their plants had a much life in them as their lawn ornaments. The ones that were left seemed okay, with reasonable prices. Staff was extra friendly!

Florida Native Orchids. Three shade houses are next to the owner's house. His (Bud Spence) Phalaenopsis crosses are innovative but not high quality. Prices were average. Bud was a very interesting and friendly guy. I wish I had more time that morning.

Louis Del Favero Orchids. I talked to the owner, Louis Del Favero, at Tropiflora. Expressing my interest to see his greenhouse, he didn't seem too receptive. "Oh, well," I thought. But several days later I did call for directions. I was told they didn't have much time to assist me because they were getting ready to leave for yet another orchid show. Browsing around the greenhouses, I found mostly well-grown species. Some newly imported--the rest, well established. Many plants were not labeled, but Louis knew every one. He turned out to be friendly and gave me a great deal on the plants I bought. I'll remember his 30% off Summer Sale!

Tropic I Orchids, Inc. Cattleyas, Vandas, and Phalaenopsis are here in good quantities. Three large greenhouses built in the 50's or 60's look as though they haven't seen any improvements. Plants seem happy and well grown. Competitive prices! Tropic I Orchids have received many AOS awards, so you'll know that the plants are quality.



American Orchid Society Judgings

The judgings of the American Orchid Society Chicago Judging Center are held monthly in the Linneaus Room of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL, on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 1:00PM (unless otherwise announced here and in the AOS Bulletin, Orchids).

August 9, 1997--1:00PM
 September 13, 1997--1:00PM
 October 18, 1997--9:00PM
 November 8, 1997--1:00PM
 December 13, 1997--1:00PM
 January 10, 1998--1:00PM
 February 14, 1998--1:00PM
 March 13, 1998--6:00PM
 April 11, 1998--1:00PM
 May 9, 1998--1:00PM
 June 13, 1998--1:00PM
 July 11, 1998--2:00PM



Calendar of Upcoming Events

9/20-9/21/97 Peoria Orchid Society Show, Peoria IL, Northwoods Mall
 9/21/97 Larry Miller Memorial Lecture, Peoria, IL
 James Rose, Cal Orchids, Santa Barbara World Orchid Congress speech on Miniature Cattleya Breeding in Japan.
 9/19-9/21/97 The Chicagoland Orchid Festival,

9/27-9/28/97

10/4-10/5/97

10/11-10/12/97

10/18-10/20/97

10/25-10/26/97

10/31-11/2/97

11/14-11/15/97

2/7-2/8/98

2/21-2/22/98

3/14-3/15/98

3/21-3/22/98

5/7-5/8/98

9/26-9/27/98

10/15-10/16/98

8:00am-5:00pm
 Various Commercial Growers in Chicago.
 Wisconsin Orchid Society Show & Sale Mitchell Park Domes Milwaukee, WI
 West Shore Orchid Show, Strongsville, Ohio
 Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress & Orchid Society of St. Louis Show
 Illinois Orchid Soc. Fall Mini Show
 Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL
 Blackhawk Orchid Society Show, Rockford, IL
 Indiana Orchid Soc. Show, ArtsGarden At Circle Center, Indianapolis
 Kansas City Orchid Society Show
 Wisconsin Orchid Growers Guild Show Madison, WI
 Batavia Orchid Society Show, Charlestowne Mall St. Charles, IL
 IOS Spring Show
 Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe.
 Illowa Orchid Soc. Show, Bettendorf, IA
 Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show & Spring Mid-Amer. Orchid Congress & AOS Trustees Meet.
 Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Milwaukee, WI.
 IOS Fall Mini Show
 Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe.



August IOS Meeting

You can be a happy camper if you attend our our annual picnic at Oak Hill Gardens, on SUNDAY, August 17th, in Dundee, IL. Hermann Pigors will be our camp director and counselor and will help us in the sport of successful orchid growing. Starting at noon, bring lunch for a picnic in a field of trees, with cold drinks and sweets complements of Hermann & Dorothy. Be sure to take time out to display your plants for judging by 12:30PM, with ribbons and cheers for our happiest campers on the greenhouse and light room teams.

The program will begin at 2:00pm. Hermann will be offering tips for successful orchid blooming. Making the best choices is often the key to success. He will coach us on selecting orchids that are easier to bloom; reveal the techniques to pick which plant or seedling is the best of a group; instruct us in which plants to choose to have blooms throughout the year; and, offer methods for flowering a stubborn plant. After this informative talk you can browse through his green-

house, making an educated selection among the wide variety of orchids. There will be no member plant sales at this meeting.

Directions are easy: Northwest Tollway(I-90) to Randall Road; take a right on Randall Road(North) and go to the second traffic light(watch speed limits) which is Binnie Road. Then left(west on Binnie) to Oak Hill Gardens, across from the golf course. Or call 847-428-8500 for directions.

Joe Dixler



I had a friend who was a professional clown. When he died, all his friends went to the funeral in one car.



AWAY SHOWS

A new season of "Away Shows" will begin shortly, and your 2nd VP, Sophia Harris, who is in charge of all IOS Shows and Show participation wants you to know a few important things about these shows.

First, we try to participate in as many of the away shows as possible. In order to do that we need your blooming plants and you help in either set-up or tear-

down, or both! Generally on the Thursday before the away show we gather the plants at one or two locations and from there they are consolidated into either a van or car to go to the show. Your plants must be disease free, clearly labeled with the plant name and your name and address, and cleaned-up as much as possible. Depending upon where the show is, your plants will return and the Sunday of the show weekend and can usually be picked-up on the Monday after the show as the designated location. We **cannot** create a display without **your** plants. Your **cannot** win ribbons or accumulate points in the annual competition without displaying **your** plants. Remember showing at away shows earns **double points** in the competition.

You need to help in either setting up or tearing down the IOS Display at these away shows. Volunteer to help Sophia or take a display by yourself and make a weekend of it. The IOS will pay for up to two night's hotel @ \$50 per night, and your gas & tolls. If it's a Mid-America Orchid Congress as in St. Louis this October, the IOS will also pay your registration for the Congress. It will make everyone's life a lot easier if a few of you will volunteer. You'll have a lot of fun on the road, meet great orchid people, and learn!

Our first opportunities to display at away shows are coming quickly. Please volunteer by calling **Sophia Harris @ 847-367-4770**. The set-up is usually Friday afternoon with tear down on Sunday afternoon. Where can we go this Fall? Here are the choices, won't you help?

Peoria Orchid Society Show
Sept.19,20,21

Wisconsin Orchid Society Show
Milwaukee, WI
Sept. 26,27,28

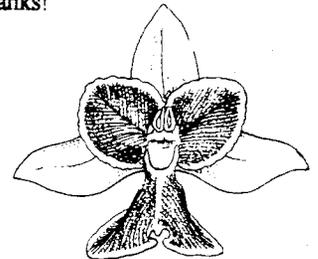
Greater St. Louis Orchid Society
Show & Mid-America Orchid
Congress

Oct. 10,11,12

Blackhawk Orchid Society Show
Rockford, IL
Oct.24,25,26
(Show set-up Friday Morning & Afternoon)

Indiana Orchid Society Show
Indianapolis, IN
Oct.31, Nov.1 & 2

Pick a Show; make it a weekend except Milwaukee & Rockford which are not overnight shows, and help the IOS. Thanks!



Board Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the IOS Board of Directors is Monday, September 15, 1997, at 7:30 pm at the home of Joe Dixler, 811 Stonegate drive, Highland Park, IL (847-432-7708). All Officers and Directors are expected to attend. If you will not attend please notify Ed Gamson(847-432-7825).

Directions: Lake-Cook Road East to Green Bay Road. North(right) on Green Bay to Stonegate(past the Ravinia Park entrance). West(left) on Stonegate to 811!

QUIZ #8 Answer

The quiz question was: "Which plant family is closest evolutionarily to orchids?" I was afraid last time to get in hot water with this quiz because the

answer is not very clear (anymore). But actually I got only 2 correct answers(kind of) and a few answers that came close but not close enough. I was prepared to take any of the following as correct: *Liliaceae*, *Amarylliaceae*, lily-like, *Liliflorae*, *Asparagales*, and even *Liliales*. Here's is why.

The orchids are most closely related to the families that used to be classified as the *Liliaceae* or possibly the *Amarylliaceae*. However, these families have been broken up into many, so the former *Liliaceae* are now placed in several orders. This may appear as rampant splitting, but it reflects the diversity of the lily-like plants, which are now placed in the super order of *Liliflorae*. Unfortunately, there is little agreement on the classification of these plants.

Several researchers divide the former *Liliaceae* into the orders of *liliales* & *Asparagales*. The orchids share a number of characteristics with the *Asparagales*, all of which are different in the *Liliales*. Also molecular systematics analysis(DNA analysis) finds the orchids more closely related to the *Asparagales*, however, these studies are still preliminary and more groups must be analyzed. Thus, the best answer in *Asparagales*.

This time I had to cut short the time for people to submit their answers because I had to go abroad unexpectedly. I got 5 answers so far, but only the answers of Betty Blank and Nancy Jean Schoo had one of the magic words.

In the July meeting we did not draw a winner of those who submitted correct answers for the last quiz because none of them were present. We will draw winners for both quizzes next time and hopefully all those who submitted (or at least some of them) will be present.



Quiz # 9

Now you know that *Asparagales* plants of the former Lily family is closest to the orchid family. What are three of the four major differences that set them apart?

Send your answer to:

Eric Ladorr, 311 Albright Ct. Vernon Hills, IL 60061

or E-mail to: **Eric_Lad@MSN.COM**

or to: **uri.ladorr@abbott.com**

or fax to: **(847) 938-2346 if it works!**



The President's Message

by ED GAMSON(847-432-7825)

We had a great meeting on the 20th! **John Sullivan** showed and told us about the latest in growing under lights, and **Joe Dixler** presented a workshop on the use of water from reverse osmosis and other non-tap water sources for our plants.

I saw a lot of new faces at the meeting, but in view of the large number of under lights growers we have, I expected to see more old faces too. As you will see elsewhere in the Newsletter our next meeting will be at Oak Hill Gardens. I hear that **Hermann Pigors** had another of his excellent presentations ready for us.

Another nice part of our last meeting was that I also saw we had participation by a number of people who had not helped before. Bravo! That was a great start but we still need more help.

More specifically, we need a

new hospitality chair to help out at the monthly meetings, and hopefully, at our two yearly shows. **Carole and Jim Thompson** who had served so well before came to our rescue at the last meeting but would like to re-retire from this role. If you are interested in the job, hospitality chairman, please phone Carole or Jim Thompson(847-966-6269). They can provide you with all of the information about the job.

Our Fall Mini-Show is also coming up in October. **Sophia Harris**, who had been staging our exhibits at away shows, is now also our new Show Chair. Sophia had already been talking with **Linda Schubert**, our previous Show Chair, and is learning what had to be done. Nonetheless, putting on one of our shows is no small task. Sophia will need a hearty crew of volunteers to help stage the Show.

We are a Board that is long on enthusiasm, with some of us being possibly a little short on experience in dealing with and for the Society. We are all learning our jobs and will doubtless err occasionally.

All of that is to say that one should not be concerned about an apparent lack of experience in setting up a show or helping with any task. We are fortunate in having a cadre of "older", or perhaps more experienced members who have the knowledge and experience, but have opted this year for a respite. They are still here, however, and will help us when asked.

So, again, we need **YOUR** help. Look for Sophia's sign-up sheet for the October Fall Mini Show, and sign-up! It can be a lot of fun. Call the Thompson's about the hospitality chair and call me if you would like to do Something I have not mentioned.

