

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JAMES F. SPATZEK EDITOR

October 18, 19 & 20--The IOS Fall Mini Show & Plant Sale!!

IOS Web Site

The Illinois Orchid Society has joined the "information super highway"!

We are pleased to announce the

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creation of a site on the world wide web for the Illinois Orchid Society. The URL(address) is:
<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/1272>

Tune in for the latest information about speakers, meeting times, and shows, as well as links to other orchid societies on the world wide web.

Any suggestions or comments are appreciated. E-mail them to me, your humble webmaster, at r-halgren@nwu.edu.

Rob Halgren



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).

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

- 10/11-10/12/97 **Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress & Orchid Society of St. Louis Show**
- 10/18-10/20/97 **Illinois Orchid Soc. Fall Mini Show Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL**
- 10/25-10/26/97 **Blackhawk Orchid Society Show, Rockford, IL**
- 10/31-11/2/97 **Indiana Orchid Soc. Show, Arts Garden At Circle Center, Indianapolis**
- 11/14-11/15/97 **Kansas City Orchid Society Show**
- 2/7-2/8/98 **Wisconsin Orchid Growers Guild Show Madison, WI**
- 2/21-2/22/98 **Batavia Orchid Society Show, Charlestowne Mall St. Charles, IL**
- 3/14-3/15/98 **IOS Spring Show Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe.**
- 3/21-3/22/98 **Illowa Orchid Soc. Show, Bettendorf, IA**
- 5/7-5/8/98 **Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show & Spring Mid-Amer. Orchid Congress & AOS Trustees Meet.**
- 9/26-9/27/98 **Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Milwaukee, WI.**
- 10/15-10/16/98 **IOS Fall Mini Show Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe.**



NOVEMBERSPEAKER.....

Mark your calendars now for our

November meeting which is Sunday, November 16, 1997. Our speaker will be **Marguerite Webb from J & L Orchids**, in Easton, CT.



Orchid Artistry in Autumn

This is the title of our 1997 Fall Mini Show at the Chicago Botanic Garden, October 17-19, 1997. It is the smaller of our two annual shows but it is never short on quality.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a registration form to have an exhibit in the show. This is a great opportunity to try your hand at a small display....or go together with a friend or two....on a display. These are small table top displays which give you the opportunity to show those few great plants in your collection. Mail your form today as we are a little short on exhibits and would like to have yours!!!!

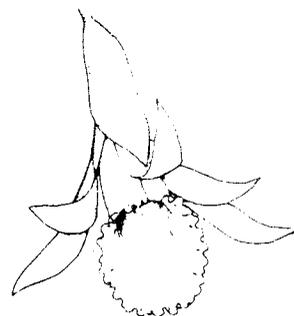
Also enclosed is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help on both days. We know many of you say we'll be there and not to worry but worry we do until we have your re-assuring telephone call. Please call **Sophia Harris**, the Show Chairman, to let her know

you will help. Her number is: (847) 367-4770. Pick up the phone and call her **NOW!**

We need volunteers for desserts and salads, etc. for the Judges' Dinner. Please plan on a favorite salad or dessert or appetizer for that matter to bring on Friday for the Judges' & Clerks Dinner and general hospitality. There's never enough! How much do you bring? As much as you can....a salad, appetizer or dessert for 12 or more people would be really great!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We also need volunteers to clerk at judging on Friday night, to help with registration all day on Friday, etc., etc.. We hate to beg but it seems we always get to that point. **John Stubbings** is Judging Chairman, so call him if you can't reach anyone else and volunteer to clerk. You get to eat first! His number is: (847) 480-1532.

Thanks in advance for doing your part to make our Show a great success.



1996-1997 Monthly Competition

LAST YEAR'S contest had been over for several month now. Here's the results at long last. (Yes, I'm caught in the transition between two different word processors; will master the new one shortly, and here's the last of the documents from the old one!)

My congratulations to all who competed last year. To the winners, good show! Let the records indicate tht **Joe Dixler**, haveing put his new greenhouse into service at the end of 1996, competed for the first time in that category....and won it! That, after having won the lightstand category the year before. Wow!

Here they are....our top growers in 1996-1997 and their point scores.

Greenhouse:

1. Joe Dixler	1616
2. Sue Golan	1345
3. Laima Sahagian	1077
4. Sophia Harris	954
5. Jodi Hirt	704

Lightstand:

1. Willy Losert	882
2. Cathy Bloome	344
3. Sherry Maloney	293
4. Kevin & Irma Dixler	237
5. Charles & Jane High	220

And our top newcomers for 1996-97 are:

Greenhouse:

Chuck & Elaine Oslakovic 116

Lightstand:

Diana Nelson 181

Some 69 of us participated in last year's contest--26 greenhouse

grower and 43 lightstand growers. To those of you who brought plants to our monthly show-n-tell but did not send plants to an orchid show, it's graduation time. You've had your rehearsal, now it's show time! As I look at the plants brought in every month, I applaud you for your growing skills. I want to see those plants in your own or in an IOS exhibit at the orchid shows. Those of you who have yet to exhibit a plant anywhere, start bringing them to our monthly meetings. Cut your teeth there and start ready for the big time.

Point Score Accumulations FINAL TOTALS

Greenhouse Category--5/31/97

G. Calilao & J. Wortman	88
Jack Coutts	87
Joe Dixler	1616
Sue Golan	1345
Sophia Harris	954
Jodi Hirt	704
Bob Hoel	131
Maggie Kuntz	74
Barry Lubin	10
Jerome & Virginia Mestdagh*	11
Bob Morrison*	53
Jay Mullen	165
Dorothy Nieter	2
Chuck & Elaine Oslakovic*	116
Rhonda Peters	564
Nicola Radcliffe	32
Jack Robbins	40
Bill Rogerson	480
Laima Sahagian	1077
Jim Spatzek	5
John Stubbings	210
Gerald Stueben	74
Carole Thompson	703
Bob Vonderohe	19
Bob Wolf	429
Wally Zielinski	22

Lightstand:

Kim Aaron	33
Walter Andersen	1

Kim Anderson	59
Barb Bennett*	67
Cathy Bloome	344
Olga Boor	20
Dipen Chemburkar	22
Mary Chidester	1
Lois Cinert	105
Michael Cornwell	46
Kevin & Irma Dixler	237
Tilda Dulman *	10
Joel Edwards	103
John & Joan Emmerich	29
Ed Fieldler *	41
Tom Franczak	203
Ron & Joan Hale	90
Rob Halgren	10
Charles & Jane High	220
Ed Hoyas *	3
Cheryl Kwiatkowski*	53
Eric Lador*	3
Willy Losert	882
Sherry Maloney	293
Lorraine Meyer	85
Armon McPherson	12
Lauren McVey-Rush	6
Bil Nelson	50
Diana Nelson*	181
Claire Papiewski*	7
Marsha Ramsay*	16
Mel Schmidt	45
Nancy Jean Schoo*	50
Leo Schordje	206
Vic & Linda Schubert	1
Art & Ann Sellmer	6
Cindy Smith *	30
Laura Stanley	16
Ken Vrabel	154
Dorothy Wallace*	20
Chris & Renee Welch	65
Susan West	67
Norman Wolff	2

*indicates new member for purposes of the 1996-97 competition year.





The President's Message

by Ed Gamson

Our September meeting had a large, but uncounted number of participants. That was great because we had a workshop of AOS Judging presented by **Jim Spatzek** in which Jim discussed the various AOS Awards and the criteria for their being granted. He also illustrated several of those criteria with slides of several orchid genera.

Jim's talk was followed by a beautiful slide presentation given by **Alan Koch** of **Gold Country Orchids** in which he showed us the trends he is helping to set in the breeding of mini-Cattleyas. Many of his hybrids bloom two or more times each year under warm to intermediate growing conditions with a lower light requirement than is usually needed for the Cattleyas most of us are used to growing. Our speaker was also kind enough to donate two plants to the raffle that was also extremely successful.

On a sadder note, I have reluctantly accepted the resignation of our elected Treasurer, **Rhonda Peters**, who

had to resign because of an illness in her family. I have appointed **Heddi Schellbach** to be our new Treasurer. The Board unanimously ratified that appointment at our September Board meeting.

I am please to announce that **Betty Blank** has taken on the role of Hospitality Chair on an interim basis. Our Secretary, **Nancy Jean Schoo**, will work with Betty who happens to be her sister.

As you will read many times elsewhere in this edition of the IOS Newsletter, our next regular meeting will be at least a two day affair on Saturday and Sunday, October 18 & 19 for our Fall Mini-Show, "**Orchid Artistry in Autumn**". Those who wish to help with set-up and judging, can start on Thursday or Friday and then party on through the weekend. We will be honoring one of our founding members, **Dorathy Kuper**, for her untiring assistance to the IOS.

To sound my seemingly unceasing note, we need your help to make the Show a success and more fun for all of us. Please contact **Sophia Harris** or one of the several committee chairs whose names you will see in this issue.

The Fall Mini Show is a table top show with smaller displays than we have for the Spring Show. You don't need a full display of plants, nor expertise in setting up a display.

Just bring your blooming plants and you can share space with another member or members who also don't have a full display themselves (however it's better to make contact before the show with other members so that Sophia can plan on a table for you!).



Coming next month in the IOS Newsletter:

"The Illusive Black Orchid"

By
Joe and Rosalie Dixler



Paph. Mirabel
'Hampshire Royalty'
FCC/AOS 90 pts.

At the recent (9/27-9/28) **Wisconsin Orchid Society Show**, held at the Domes in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, one of the rarities in the world of orchids occurred...the awarding of a **First Class Certificate (FCC/AOS)** by the

American Orchid Society.
And who was the lucky
winner?

It was **Arnie Klehm**, Arnold J. Klehm Growers. What an achievement! We believe that this is Arnie's second FCC/AOS but we know it's no less a thrill the second time around.

As chairman of the judging team that point this plant, a cross between Transvaal and stonei, we can say it was overwhelming to be able to present such an award. And what a magnificent plant it was! Three gorgeous lime green flowers and one bud, with an outstanding flat dorsal with mahogany strips, and beautiful long petals spotted in chestnut with mahogany hairs on the edges...and all this presented on a stately 54 centimeter inflorescence. [You can tell we didn't like it!!]. And guess what? We know of three people who are now the proud owners of four clones from the same flask. We'll keep our fingers crossed...maybe even our eyes!

Congratulations, Arnie, on a truly magnificent plant!

Jim Spatzek

American Orchid Society Awards Part 1

As requested at the September IOS meeting we will present an ongoing description of all of the American Orchid Society Awards.

Awards for Individual Plants (and Special Groups of Plants)

First Class Certificate (FCC)

Awarded to an orchid species or hybrid which scores 90 points or more on the AOS point scales.

Award of Merit (AM)

Awarded to an orchid species or hybrid which scores between 80 and 89 points inclusive on the AOS point scales.

Highly Commended Certificate (HCC)

Awarded to an orchid species or hybrid which scores between 75 and 79 points inclusive on the AOS point scales.

Judges' Commendation (JC)

Awarded to flowers or plants, individually or in groups, for a distinctive characteristic or aspect of historical or other importance which, in the opinion of the judges, is worthy of recognition. Judges' Commendation must record the specific values for which the award is given. Granted without scoring by an affirmative vote of at least 75 percent of the judging team assigned.

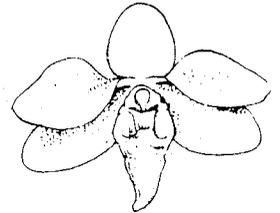
[continued next month]

Delusions of Grandeur

An Am, Award of Merit. One day that certificate will be hanging on my wall! This was my very first goal that I had set for myself when I began growing orchids a little less than four years ago! Lofty goal? At the time, I didn't think so. Over those four years, my goals have been reevaluated a 'few' times. It went something like this:

I started with phals. Relatively easy growers. Temp and light requirements on the moderate side. Perfect for home growing. No greenhouse needed here! I bought a few books, joined the AOS, and started learning.

Season 2 with these 3 plants showed them to spike despite



my lack of knowledge on assisting a plant to spike with fertilizer change, temperature change, etc. This is a piece of cake; I'm a natural! I stumbled onto the section on propagation, got my toothpicks out and went to town pollinating two blooms on the same plant. Within a week I could see 2 pods in progress. Confirmation that I was a natural. I read about the AOS awards and put my eye on the AM. My luck began to change. I bought a paph.

Beautiful creatures these paphs are, incomparable to any know flower on earth. I dug deep into my pocket and bought the most expensive I could at the time--about \$60--a complex hybrid! (I had no clue what



that meant.) The bloom lasted for weeks. As I continued to read, I learned more about the feeding and caring of orchids. I was also introduced to keiki paste--a hormonal paste used to entice spiking or plantlet growth. Hmm! Within a few weeks I had a mutant--buds and stems everywhere! Perhaps I overdid it! I lost a full year with that poor plant. I totally drained all the energy from it by asking it to over produce. Incidentally, none of those buds ever came to fruition. Meanwhile my 2 pods fully matured. I decided to try and flask one pod myself and send the other to a lab. Sending one to the lab was the only smart decision I had made in weeks! Despite my nursing background and knowledge of aseptic technique, each of my flasks promptly grew every type of fungus and no orchids. At this point I had spent 1 1/2 years learning valuable lessons. Time to reevaluate!!!!!!!!!!!!

With the mutant growths and contaminated flasks, I decided that perhaps the AM was an overshot. As I briefly glanced at the lesser AOS Awards, I decided to go with winning a blue ribbon at a show. Much more reasonable, I thought! Most of my phals continued to bloom with the new season--all except one....a healthy plant, but no blooms. I promised to not be impatient. This statement is key in orchid growing...patience! I purchased other species as well. They look so pretty when you buy them in bloom. Important suggestion: **TAKE PICTURES OF ALL YOUR PLANTS IN BLOOM. LABEL THE PICTURES! IT COULD BE YEARS BEFORE YOU SEE THEM BLOOM AGAIN!!!!**

I listened to the experts. I followed culture notes to the letter. I bought books, read them, made notes, and vowed to venture forward. After 2 years, my complex hybrid paph still sneers at me, refusing to share its potential. A reputable paph grower suggested its addition to the compost pile would be ideal. My phal that refused to bloom, appears to be reconsidering, although the verdict is not out. Next important lesson is: Read as much as you can and learn to adapt the advice to YOUR growing conditions. Make changes in very small increments and watch for response. Keep Notes!!!!!!!!!!!!

I knew the IOS Spring Show was approaching and surely my blue ribbon was waiting for me. I primped and cared for my plants carefully. I planned EXACTLY which I would show. The show was eminent....my blooms were not! My favorite, a Phal of course, was in full bloom and certain to be my winning prospect. One week before the show, three blossoms on my Phal wilted and fell. ARGGH! (Blue ribbon very shaky at this point.) Two day before judging I had a *Sophronitis coccinea* open--one bloom. Pretty, but very small! I had a couple phals that were OK. Registration time was upon me. Goals reevaluated: Let's just ribbon....ANYTHING!

I helped clerk during the judging. As we made our rounds, I glanced at the IOS exhibit and saw the most beautiful sight--a third place ribbon on my *Sophronitis*! I ribboned! Goal achieved! Through all of this I learned that reevaluating was the process for which I achieved my goal. Don't give up! My volunteering for the IOS put me into close

contact with those that have achieved my loftiest goals. From these people, I learn!

At this point, I have experienced the stages of 'beginnerism'. I feel it best to share some tips and lessons I've learned. I plan to include some beginner tips in our newsletter. This is truly aimed at those just starting and presumably those growing on windowsills. I don't plan on giving culture advice. There are lots of places to find that. But, I will show you where to find the information.

My first tip: GET INVOLVED! Your learning will be much more enjoyable when shared with others. There are volunteer jobs for those with a lot of time, and those with little time. Some tasks can be done at home, others require going to the CBG or elsewhere. There are jobs that require lots of orchid knowledge and jobs that don't require any orchid knowledge but still put you in contact with those that do. A Hospitality Person at our meeting is one of those jobs! Just serve the sweet and come listen to the speaker and learn!

Status as of today: Isn't the orchid foliage beautiful--especially on this complex paph hybrid, and the 5 plantlets that have survived from my first propagation attempt? I love my orchids. I talk to them; I play with them! My *Laelis sincorana* is about to bloom for me a second time. What--a bloom again?

Nancy Jean Schoo
IOS Secretary

"ORCHID ARTISTRY IN AUTUMN"

Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini-Show Chicago Botanic Garden October 16-19, 1997 Registration Form

General Information

The Illinois Orchid Society sponsors two shows annually at the Chicago Botanic Garden. This is our Mini-Show which is for IOS members and sister orchid societies to display their talents and growing skills.

The displays are table top only; there are no floor exhibits. You may choose a full table or a half table. Set-up is from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Thursday and from 9:00 am to 4:00 PM on Friday. There are electrical outlets spaced around the exhibit hall floor, but you may need an extension cord to reach one of them.

There is no large IOS exhibit at the Mini-Show, but if you would like to set up a display with another member or other members, please feel free to do so. Last year we had one table set aside for members who may have had only 1 or 2 plants in bloom. If there is interest in this again, we would be glad to reserve one table for this exhibit. We need someone to volunteer to set it up again.

The only sales are by IOS members. The society retains 25% of each sale so price your plants accordingly. Bring your sales plants to the main exhibit hall at the Chicago Botanic Garden on Thursday evening, October 16, or during the day on Friday, October 17. Sales slips for each plant must be filled out by the plant's owner. These can be obtained in advance of the Show if you'd like complete them earlier. (This also applies to registration slips to enter your plants in the Show judging.)

A Show program will be mailed to you after you register using this form or you may obtain one at the September meeting. For further information, call Sophia Harris at 847-367-4770/6642.

Mail registration form to: Sophia Harris, 27040 N. Meadowoods, Mettawa, IL 60048



I would like to request display space at the Fall Mini-Show:

Full table (3' x 6') _____ Half table (3' x 3") _____

Name on Exhibit: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

If you would like to be a part of the IOS Mini-Show Oct. 16-19, 1997, please use this form to indicate the times you would like to work and what jobs you would like to do. Just circle the hours you can work if you don't know what job you want.

<u>Days</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Jobs</u>	
Thurs. Oct. 16	4:00 pm - 8:00 p m	Plant Registration	_____
Fri., Oct. 17	9:00 am - Noon	Plant Registration	_____
		Traffic	_____
	Noon - 3:00 pm	Worker Hospitality	_____
		Plant Registration	_____
	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Traffic	_____
		Worker Hospitality	_____
		Plant Registration	_____
	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Traffic	_____
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Worker Hospitality	_____	
		Judges' Supper	_____
		Clerking	_____
Sat., Oct. 18	7:30 am - 9:00 am	Photography Host	_____
		Security	_____
	9:00 am - Noon	Information	_____
		Raffle	_____
		Worker Hospitality	_____
	Noon - 3:00 pm	Security	_____
		Information	_____
		Raffle	_____
		Worker Hospitality	_____
	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Security	_____
		Information	_____
		Raffle	_____
Worker Hospitality		_____	
Sun., Oct. 19	7:30 am - 9:00 am	Photography Host	_____
		Security	_____
	9:00 am - Noon	Information	_____
		Raffle	_____
		Worker Hospitality	_____
	Noon - 3:00 pm	Security	_____
		Information	_____
		Raffle	_____
		Worker Hospitality	_____
	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Security	_____
		Information	_____
		Raffle	_____
		Worker Hospitality	_____
	5:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Security	_____
Tear-down		_____	

Your Name _____ Your Phone Number _____
 Mail to Sophia Harris, 27040 N. Meadowoods, Mettawa, IL 60048-9612/Phone 847-367-4770