

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JAMES F. SPATZEK, EDITOR

Holiday time is here! Let's close the year by celebrating at Orchids by Hausermann!

The December Meeting....

*Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Merry
Christmas! Felix
Navidad! Joyeux Noel!
Frohe Weihnachten!*

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And, Wesołych Świąt!

Another happy orchid growing year has passed before we knew it. Our very successful Mid-American Orchid Congress & Spring Show, picnic, awards brunch, and excellent meetings made 1997 a memorable year. And once again the curtain descends at our grand finale at **Hausermann's**. **Dana Harrison** will be the speaker on Sunday, December 14th. His subject will be "Cattleyas, Their Culture, Breeding and History." Our host, **Orchids by Hausermann**, will supply the 'drinks' and if our membership comes forth with

their usual outstanding donations of great 'eats', we will definitely be 'merry'! Bring an appetizer, a salad, meats, casserole, dessert, or any other holiday specialty that can feed 12-15 people. Your dish is your entry ticket to the party. Holiday cheer is extended to guests who are welcome, but then be sure to add another helping or two. This is your chance to shine--blue ribbons are always in order on this display table.

The festivities are in their greenhouses on Addison Road in Villa Park (North Avenue or Rte 64 & Addison Road, about a mile west of Rte 83 and North Avenue

(phone: 630-543-6855). Their doors will be open at 11:00 am and the party begins at Noon. There will be no member plant sales, but Hausermann's certainly has enough orchids to fill anyone's shopping list. Please have your plants arranged by 12:30pm for judging of this always beautiful holiday display. Lunch will begin about 1:00pm with the lecture following the festivities.

Joe Dixler



FUTURE PROGRAMS

January 18, 1998
Azhar Mustafa, A & P Orchids
Paph Hybridization
February 15, 1998
Will Rhodehamel, Hoosier
Orchids--Pleurothallids
May 17, 1998
Dr. Eric Christenson
Phalaenopsis Species
Recently Discovered
June 14, 1998
Klehm Nursery--Awards
July 19, 1998
Leo Schordje
August 16, 1998
Oak Hill Gardens Picnic

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).

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

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
3/6-3/8/98 53rd Miami
Internat'l Orchid
Show
3/14-3/15/98 IOS Spring Show
Chicago Botanic
Gardens, Glencoe.
3/21-3/22/98 Illowa Orchid Soc.
Show, Bettendorf, IA
4/18-4/19/98 Northeast Wisconsin
Orchid Society Show
GreenBay, WI
4/25-4/26/98 Michiana O.S.Show
Bridgeman, MI

5/7-5/10/98 Southern Ontario
Orchid Society Show
& Spring Mid-Amer.
Orchid Congress &
AOS Trustees Meet.
9/26-9/27/98 Wisconsin Orchid
Society Show, Mil-
waukee, WI.
10/16-10/18/98 IOS Fall Mini Show
Chicago Botanic
Gardens, Glencoe.

*Merry Christmas
& a Prosperous
New Year from the
Officers and
Directors of the
Illinois Orchid
Society!*



A Novice Idea

by Nancy Jean Schoo

'Tis the season for the winter blooming orchids to begin 'throwing their spikes'. The novice grower, who may not have witnessed the initiation of a spike, may confuse a newly generated root with a spike. How can you tell? First, know your plant and from where the spikes and roots grow. Some plants will

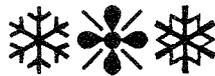
throw a spike from between the leaves(monopodial), others from the top of the pseudobulb(sympodial), and still others from the base of the plant near the roots.

Phals are one that can fool the beginner. The spikes will emerge from the base of the plants near the root system. Roots will generally appear soon after a new leaf has emerged. Roots will initially be apple green in color and have a rounded tip. The new root will quickly develop a grayish outer coating call velamen. This protective coating helps to retain moisture from the air and adds strength to the root as it grasps its surroundings for stability. Roots will generally grow outwards first, pushing away from the plant.

Phal spikes will emerge very near to the lowest or oldest leaf. A matured plant may throw more than one spike or may throw a spike between some of the larger leaves. A spike will usually be a slightly darker green color than a root and may have a reddish tinge to the lip. The tip of a spike will be more pointed than a root. It will also take an upward growth swing as it reaches for the light. Soon you will see the distinguishing characteristic of a spike-the development of the nodes. A young node will have a ridge

that takes on a chevron-like appearance. These ridges will eventually develop a small meristematic bud that is covered with a pointed leaf-like jacket called a bract. Tiny flower buds will also develop from the tip of the spike. Be cautious to keep your pots always facing the same direction. If you continuously turn your pots, your spike will turn and bend as the tip reaches for the light. Keep the pot stationary and you will enjoy a graceful arch to the spike when it is heavy with blooms. Happy Growing!

["A Novice Idea" will be a monthly article giving basic information and growing tips to the beginner grower]



The President's Message

by Ed Gamson

It was good to see you all at the November meeting. Marguerite Webb of J & L Orchids was our speaker and brought out members and non-members

from the immediate area as well as from downstate Illinois and Wisconsin.

I am also pleased to report that our membership is growing and that we are seeing and meeting our new members at our monthly get togethers. This is one kind of involvedness(a word my computer doesn't recognize) that we have been trying to foster. That involved activity was also in evidence at our Fall Mini Show. I, for one, am pleased and I hope that we will continue to see you all and interact throughout the year.

As you will read in detail elsewhere in this issue, our next meeting will be on December 14, at Orchids by Hausermann, Inc., in Villa Park. We will try to have our new members' membership cards available for you there.

As part of the meeting, we will be feted with food and drink and a presentation. We will also be able to partake in the beauty of plants in the greenhouse, which with a little arm-twisting and passage of the green, will be available for adding to our collections.

I look forward to seeing ALL of you at Hausermann's.



1998 Dues are Due

YOUR 1998 IOS DUES ARE NOW DUE!! ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER IS A DUES ENVELOPE. PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK NOW TO AVOID HAVING THE IOS SEND SECOND NOTICES. DUES ARE \$20 PER HOUSEHOLD PER CALENDAR YEAR. INCLUDE \$5 IF YOU WISH YOUR NEWSLETTER SENT FIRST CLASS.

IF YOUR ENVELOPE IS MISSING, SEND YOUR CHECK TO:

CHRIS WELCH
IOS

229 GREENFIELD DRIVE
GLENVIEW, IL 60025

THANKS FOR PAYING RIGHT AWAY!!!!!!!

Answer--Quiz 11

The quiz was, "In 1862 Darwin described an orchid from Madagascar with an unusual characteristic that would discourage most pollinators from visiting the flower. What was that orchid, what is the characteristic that attracted Darwin's attention, and what pollinates it?"

In 1862 Darwin published his treatise "On the Fertilization of Orchids by Insects" (though he spelled Fertilisation with an 'S'). In it he described the *Angraecum sesquipedale* from Madagascar, which hold the nectar in a 20-35 cm. long spur at the bottom of the flower, Darwin speculated that the nectar is held far from reach of any insect by a "huge moth, with a wonderfully long proboscis" that may pollinate it. The moth, *Xanthopan (Macrosilia) morgani f. praedicta* was discovered 40 years after Darwin described the flower. This moth with a "wonderfully long proboscis" of about 1 foot long, would probably be able to reach the nectar, hopefully would be able to pollinate the flower, but as of 1995, has not been observed in the act of either one.

Interestingly, one of the 8 answers that I received indicated that the flower is pollinated at night. That information is inconsistent with my sources which indicated that the moth has not been observed pollinating the flower (History of the Orchid, by Reinikka(1995), and Pollination and Evolution of Orchids by Van Pijl(1969). Jim Spatzek, J & V Mestdagh, Diana Maxwell, Cathy Bloome, Joan Emmerich, Ed Gamson, Ann Kotowski, and Kevin Swagel submitted answers. All were correct and all will be entered in the drawing. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Members of the Winners Club:

Lorraine Meyer	4*
J & V Mestdagh	4

Steve Peters	3*
Diana Maxwell	3*
Anne Kotowski	3*
Kevin Swagel	3**
Betty Blank	2
Nancy Jean Schoo	2
John & Joan Emmerich	2*
Jim Spatzek	2
Joe Dixler	1
June Eguro	1
Earl Lock	1
Cheryl Kwiatkowski	1
Rob Halgren	1
Sophia Harris	1
Lois Cinert	1
Dorothy Nieter	1
Cathy Bloome	1
Ed Gamson	1

(The digit indicated the number of correct entries; * indicates a lucky club member)

Eric Lador

Note On Night Pollination of *Angraecum Sesquipedale*:

To quote An Introduction To The Cultivated Angraecoid Orchids of Madagascar, Hillerman & Hoist, 1986,

"...Darwin postulated that there must be a nocturnal hawkmoth in Madagascar..." key word is nocturnal. Moths are also for the most part nocturnal. *Angraecum sesquipedale* is only fragrant at night thus also substantiating the night pollination, since the fragrance would be the main attracting element.

Jim Spatzek

Seen in Ann Landers Column in the Tribune "Fire, What to Do!"

During a recent ecumenical gathering, a secretary rushed in

shouting, "The building is on fire!"

The **Methodists** gathered in the corner and prayed.

The **Baptists** cried, "Where is the water?"

The **Quakers** quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings.

The **Lutherans** posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.

The **Roman Catholics** passed the plate to cover the damage.

The **Jews** posted symbols on the doors hoping the fire would pass.

The **Congregationalists** shouted, "Every man for himself!"

The **Fundamentalists** proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!"

The **Episcopalians** formed a procession and marched out.

The **Presbyterians** appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out!



Quiz # 12

What is co-evolution and how does it relate to orchids?

This should be an easy one. Send your answer to Eric Lador, 311 Albright Crt, Vernon Hills, IL 60061,

or E-mail to: eric_lad@msn.com
or to: uri.lador@abbott.com
or fax to: 847-935-4994

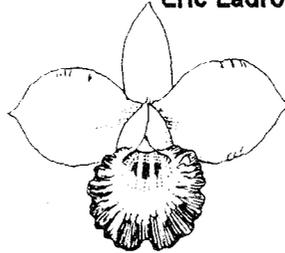
Two unimportant comments:

1. Have so far had to mail the gift certificates to most of the winners but I would rather had it to the winners during the meeting. It would be nice to see you there.

2. If you have an interesting quiz that you would like to publish in the newsletter, please let me know.

I hope you are enjoying the quizzes.

Eric Lador



Happy Hanukkah with all the joys of the season!!!



AOS AWARDS

(continued)

Special Annual Awards

The Nax Botanical Trophy

The Nax Trophy is awarded annually by the Board of Trustees to the grower of the orchid species which is regarded as the most outstanding orchid species which has received an award during the previous year. The trophy, the first of the AOS's annual awards, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. David Nax in 1964 and is housed permanently at the AOS Headquarters. Each Winner shall receive an appropriate, signed award certificate. A nomination for this trophy may be made by each judging committee and forwarded to the chair of the JC at least 60 days prior to the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The Butterworth Prize

The Butterworth Prize is a monetary award given annually by the Board of Trustees to the grower of the orchid plant, either species or hybrid, which is regarded as the most outstanding example of orchid culture to have been awarded a Certificate of Cultural Merit during the preceding year. This, the first of the AOS's permanently endowed awards, was provided in 1966 through the gift to the AOS from Mrs. Rachel Butterworth Dietz in memory of her parents, John and Nancy Butterworth, and of George Butterworth, past president of the AOS. Each winner shall receive an appropriate, signed award certificate. A nomination of this prize may be made by each judging committee and forwarded to the chair of the JC at least 60 days prior to the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees.

(Continued next month)

