

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JAMES F. SPATZEK, EDITOR

Happy New Year! Make a resolution to help the IOS in any way you can this year...especially "away" Shows

January Meeting

We happily begin our New Year with **Dr. Azhar Mustafa**, of **A & P Orchids**, who will be the speaker at

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our next meeting on Sunday, January 18th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden. His subject will be "Paphiopedilum Hybridizing at A & P Orchids" with special emphasis on large, white, complex hybrids. Dr. Mustafa's love for orchids began in 1984 when he started with one and now has over a million in an acre of "state of the art" greenhouses. In 1985 he acquired Mt. Madonna Orchids (Bob Jones collection) from California. A & P Orchid's major commercial interest is in paphs and phals but they also have a large collection of odonts, miltoniopsis, oncidiums, cymbidiums, and cattleyas. Although Dr. Mustafa is a very busy ear, nose and throat specialist, he still devotes over 50 hours a week to this major interest. A toast is in order for their amazing record of 54 AOS Awards from

January-October, 1997.

He will bring plants for sale but you may want to call Ed Hoya ahead of time at (847) 540-0843, our own member and A & P representative for a list to pre-order.

Our meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room at 12:00noon. Please have display and sales plants arranged by 12:30 pm. The lecture will be in the Linneaus Meeting Room afterwards. Our hospitality committee will be happy to accept new or slightly frozen, leftover holiday cookies, cakes, pies or whatever goodies you bring to celebrate the arrival of the New Year. Start this New Year with a resolution to be one of the "givers" not takers.

Start the new year right by treating

your orchids to a healthy beginning. Lois Cinert will present a workshop on different types of potting medium and when to use them. "Orchid Doctor Leo" or whoever else may be on emergency call, will help with your problem plants. Bring them in a plastic bag to avoid contamination with others.

Joe Dixler



DUES Are Due!

You received a dues envelope with your December 1997 Newsletter. If you have not mailed it yet, please do so at once. By our By-Laws, your name will be dropped from our membership list shortly if dues are not paid.

If you can't find the envelope, mail your check for twenty dollars(\$20) payable to the Illinois Orchid Society, for each household to:

CHRIS WELCH
229 GREENFIELD DRIVE
GLENVIEW, IL 60025



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).

- January 10, 1998--1:00PM
- February 14, 1998--1:00PM
- March 14, 1998--10:00AM
- April 11, 1998--1:00PM
- May 9, 1998--1:00PM
- June 13, 1998--1:00PM
- July 11, 1998--1:30PM
- August 8, 1998--1:30PM
- September 12, 1998--1:30PM
- October 16, 1998--6:00PM
- November 14, 1998--1:30PM
- December 12, 1998--1:30PM



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
- 2/28-2/29/98 Greater Lansing O.S.Show, Lansing MI.
- 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

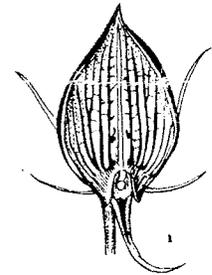
Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show & Spring Mid-Amer.Orchid Congress&AOS Trustees Meet. Eastern Orchid Congress; International Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting; Pleurothallid Alliance Meeting.

9/26-9/27/98

Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Milwaukee, WI.

10/16-10/18/98

IOS Fall Mini Show Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe.



It Is Official! The IOS Spring Show will be March 13, 14, & 15, 1998.

This is it! This is the last time we are changing the date. Some of you may have noticed that in our calendar the date for the Spring show seems to have been wandering around. If you had not noticed the changing dates for our Show, you will be relieved to know that the date is back to the original date published last January. There were a few problems. The Chicago Botanic Garden has several conflicts for space utilization, but we have

worked them out. I want to thank Laurie Freeman of the CBG for her help. The only change in the Spring show is that we are currently planning to do judging on Saturday morning, March 14, instead of Friday evening. This is because we will not be able to start set-up for the show until Friday afternoon, March 13. The Garden needs several of the Galleries and the main Exhibition Hall during the week, so we will not be able to move into all of the usual spaces for this show during the week. Our Show chairman, Sophia, will have the schedule of when each area will open up for set-up. Please be cooperative. With Everyone's help, this show will be a smooth as they usually are. Laurie Freeman and Joan Johnson of the CBG are working on making space available sooner. We will have a better idea toward the end of January as to when each gallery will be free. I'll be writing more on this later. If you need additional information please call. Thanks!

Leo Schordje
(847) 745-9355



QUESTION:

IS IT TRUE THAT CANNIBALS
DON'T EAT CLOWNS
BECAUSE THEY TASTE
FUNNY?



ANOTHER QUESTION:

WHEN YOU CHOKE A
SMURF, what color does it
turn?



The President's Message

by
Ed Gamson

We had another great meeting on the 14th, this time at **Hausermann's**. Dana Harrison spoke about and showed slides of several members of the genus, *Cattleya*, as well as their progeny. Our thanks to Dan and the Hausermann's for their hospitality, their gifts to the members, and our opportunity to see and buy their plants.

Our thanks also go out to the members who brought our lunch and desserts. Thanks also to the several members who helped put our repast on the table and then cleaned up afterwards.

Now that our Fall Mini Show is behind us, our calendar year end meeting is passed, and we all have paid our dues for next year, it is time to start

thinking about the **Annual Spring Show**, at the Chicago Botanic Garden. This year, the Spring Show will be held on March 14-15, 1998. Our timing for set-up may be somewhat different this year from previous years, so please watch for news in the next several IOS Newsletters.

Happy Holidays, everyone, and have a happy and healthy New Year.

Still a few more questions:

If a parsley farmer is sued,
can they garnish his
wages?

And,

If the cops arrest a mime,
do they bother to tell him
he has the right to remain
silent?

And,

Would a fly without wings
be called a walk?

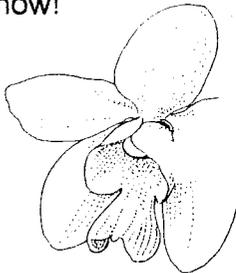


Chicago Flower & Garden Show

We received a notice that the **Chicago Flower & Garden Show**, will be held at Navy Pier on March 14-22,

1998. The IOS will not officially participate, but we have been asked to inform our members that they may put up displays at the Show and provide information about the IOS along with their displays. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carleton C. Rogers, at 847-888-4565. We are also informed that special rates for tickets (\$7.00 per person rather than \$9.00) are available for groups of 25 or more.

Remember though that the show's first weekend is the weekend of our Annual Spring Show!



Novice Idea

by
Nancy Jean Schoo

Watering is the number one cause of "orchid demise". Those that grow under lights and on the windowsill must be particularly careful to maintain a specific level of humidity which will ultimately effect the watering needs of every plant.

Time and frequency of watering is critical in orchid

growing. Many beginners tend to overwater their plants as they kill them with care. First, remember these plants (at least most of them) are tropical. They don't like COLD water. Keep your water temp at or slightly higher than room temperature. When watering, do so as early in the day as possible to avoid the risk of botrytis. This is a fungus that will cause brown or black spots on blooms. Plants are most susceptible when watered later in the day since the water does not have sufficient time to evaporate before the evening temperatures drop. If you do notice water in the crown of the plant, take the corner of a paper towel and dab it into the crown absorbing the excess moisture. The crown is the top of a monopodial plant from where a new leaf emerges.

Watering should be done about once a week in the winter. HOWEVER...your potting medium will decide for you if you need to water more frequently. Those mixes that resemble 'dirt' are a mixture of pulverized sphagnum and bark. This retains the moisture much longer so you will need to water less frequently. Pots with this medium will become very light when they are dry. Some

growers can tell if their plants need watering solely by the weight of the pot. I am a heavy waterer. I know it and I am totally unable to curtail this habit. Therefore I use a chunkier bark that retains less water and allows me to get away with it.

Mounted plants, those growing on a slab of bark or cork, will require daily or twice daily watering. Some mounted plants require complete drying between waterings; others cannot tolerate any dry periods. Consult specific culture notes.

Humidity is critical and is difficult to maintain a higher level without constant attention. In my home, I place my plants on terra cotta saucers filled with an inch of pea gravel. I've rinsed the pea gravel with extremely hot water prior to using to be sure I am not inviting unwanted critters. Be sure to let the gravel cool prior to placing a pot on top. Other people I know will use humidity trays that have a grid top. Pots are placed on top of the grid. I like the pea gravel because I feel it maintains a higher level of humidity and also helps to keep the pots stable. If you use gravel, allow a small amount of water to sit on the very bottom of the saucer but don't allow the water to reach

the bottom of the pot. Orchids do not like wet feet! Remember they're epiphytes--air plants!

Lastly, a misting everyday

with a spray bottle will help keep humidity up. I found that Amway (No, I don't sell it!) Sells a spray bottle for their fabric finish. It has the finest spray I have ever seen. Do not spray your blooms! They won't like it. Leaves and roots only....please! Remember, misting is NOT a replacement for a good weekly saturating. Just remember to let the water drain out of the bottom and watch for wet feet!

Happy Growing!!!!



And here's one for Tom Franczak and Cathy Bloome,

What do you do when you discover an endangered animal that eats only endangered plants?



American Orchid Society.....

Join the **American Orchid Society**, it's the natural adjunct to your **IOS** membership. You'll lots more and it's a decent magazine. Single memberships are \$36 per year, or \$65 for two years. Send your check to:

**American Orchid Society
Membership Dept.
6000 South Olive Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL
33405-4199**

or call, (561) 585-8666, or fax to (561) 585-0654, providing your credit card number and they will charge your membership.



Don't Forget to Renew IOS Membership for 1998

Now that the holiday season is over, please don't forget to renew your IOS membership for 1998. So far, about half of our members have renewed, and will be receiving a new 1998 IOS Membership Card

with this month's bulletin. If you need a new badge holder, I will have them available at the January meeting. For those of you who may have too busy with the hectic holiday season, please take a moment to fill out and mail the enclosed membership renewal form. Remember, membership in the IOS is a real bargain. Your membership card entitles you to free admission to the Chicago Botanic Garden on days when an IOS meeting or show is scheduled. In addition, you get a chance to see a great selection of orchids each month, buy plants at great prices from the sales table, and have the opportunity to hear some of the preeminent speakers in the orchid world. So don't put it off any longer. Send in your IOS membership renewal today!

**Chris Welch
Assistant Treasurer
IOS Membership Chair**



Quiz#13

Who was Carl von Linne?

If you know the answer, sent it to:

Eric Lador, 311 Albright Ct.,

Vernon Hills, IL 60061
 or,
 E-Mail to:
 eric_lad@msn.com
 or to:
 uri.lador@abbott.com
 or fax to:
 [847] 935-4994



Report of the Awards Committee

Tom Franczak, Chairman
 [847] 590-5731
 terpsichore@dataflo.net

Here's the first long overdue report of the 1997-98 contest year. The point totals are current through the end of November and should conform to your own running totals through that date. Rather than explain, or explain away the lag in getting these numbers to you, let me just urge someone with template experience and the patience to tutor me to contact me as soon as practical. Meanwhile, there is still some catch-up to be done. In particular, I hope to have determined which of you are eligible for the newcomer's contest by next month and have resumed my tirades about boosting your scores in the contest.

There is a rule change that has taken place effective last June. AOS Awards have heretofore been scored as 60 points (=3 blue ribbons at a show). Effective with this contest year, AOS Awards that are not pointed will be valued at 50 points. The pointed awards are the HCC, AM, FCC, CHM, and CCM. The non-pointed awards are the JC,

CBR, AD, and AQ. As before, only awards for plants(i.e. not exhibits are acknowledged in our score-keeping.

My apologies for the delay in reporting these numbers. As you can see, we have two heated contests in progress--a mild surprise in the greenhouse race, but a shocker in the lightstand division. Meanwhile everyone else is **lah-de-dah'ing** their way through the contest. I would remind you that the contest prizes for third through fifth place finishes are still pretty substantial.

Point Score Accumulations Thru November 30, 1997

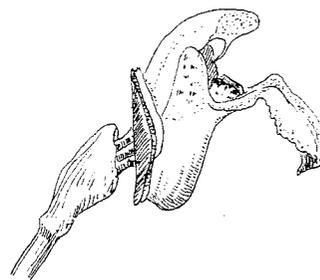
Greenhouse:

Jack Coutts	20
Joe Dixler	1467
Ed Gamson	25
Sue Golan	318
Sophia Harris	932
Maggie Kuntz	34
Anthony & Barb Lachnit	15
J & V. Mestdagh	11
Jay Mullen	16
Dorothy Nieter	47
Rhonda Peters	84
Laima Sahagian	335
Jim Spatzek	16
John Stubbings	87
Gerald Stueben	5
Carole Thompson	111
Bob Wolf	195
Wally Zielinski	121

Lightstand:

Kim Aaron	1
Barb Bennett	223
Cathy Bloome	10
Olga Boor	1
Dipen Chemburkar	32
Lois Cinert	28
Michael Cornwell	42
Kevin & Irma Dixler	104
John & Joan Emmerich	1
Ron & Joan Hale	21
Rob Halgren	75
Charles & Jane High	81
Cheryl Kwiatkowski	15

Eric Lador	2
Willy Losert	195
Sherry Maloney	80
Lorraine Meyer	11
Bill Nelson	7
Diana Nelson	220
Claire Papiewski	6
Marsha Ramsay	15
Nancy Jean Schoo	17
Leo Schordje	67
Art & Ann Sellmer	5
Laura Stanley	61
Ken Vrabel	56
Dorothy Wallace	10
Chris & Renee Welch	45
Susan West	9



First Away Show of 1998

The first "away" show of 1998 will be the **Wisconsin Orchid Grower's Guild** show in Madison, Wisconsin. This is a spectacular show and we will need all the plants and help we can get to take the exhibit to Madison on Friday, 2/6/98, and help with set-up, and to bring back the plants on Sunday, 2/8/98. The venue is approximately a two hour drive from the northern suburbs of Chicago. We want to have a **large** exhibit with as many members participating as possible. These exhibits are not for just

a few chosen members.

To that end **Sophia Harris** can use your help and a van if you have one. It would be nice to have one crew to set-up the exhibit and one to bring it back. Please volunteer to help her by calling: **847-367-4770**, and to get information about where to bring your plants so they can be taken to the show. Usually plants need to be at Sophia's house by Thursday, 2/5/98, so she has time to organize them for the trip.

Some hints: DO not pack your precious baby in a 2" pot in a 2-foot carton. Be realistic. Mark all plants with your name, address, and telephone(masking tape on the pots usually works.). All plants must be labeled. Any plant called " Unknown Cattleya Hybrid runs the risk of not going to the show. If your plants have insects or disease of any kind, do not bring them. They will be left at home.

Let make 1998 the year that lots of society members get to exhibit in the away shows--not just a chosen few. Call Sophia with specific questions, as I made up the foregoing from general knowledge.

Answer-Quiz#12

The quiz was " What is co-evolution and how does it relate to orchids?"

Co-evolution means that two species evolve such that the evolution of one of them affects the evolution of the other. For example, the evolution of complex structures such as Ophrys flowers resembling insects, can hardly be understood as a result of evolutionary development alone. Such structures evolved as a result of an 'arms race' between the orchids and insects. The resemblance of the flower to an insect had to keep pace with the steadily improving capacity of the insects to detect differences between the real insect and the mimic. The case of Ophrys is complicated by the one-sidedness of the relationship, with the orchid being dependent on the pollinator and not the reverse. This is the result of evolution from reward to deceit. These orchids inhabit environments that are poor in nutrients, therefore, they have evolved pollination systems for the deceit of the pollinator. This saves the investment of substances in the production of rewards.

Another example is that of *Angraecum sesquipedale* and the moth *Xanthopan morgani*. *Angraecum* flowers that happened to have somewhat longer spur were visited by a smaller population of moths that happened to have a longer proboscis. These moths gained an advantage since they were assured of having nectar-containing flowers that were inaccessible to other insects. The flowers gained an advantage because they were assured of having pollinators that were less likely to visit different types of flowers, where they could lose the pollinia. As this relationship progresses, both the moth and the flower continue to

develop the characteristics that provide them with an evolutionary advantage.

I received only two replies this time, by Kevin Swagel and J & V Mestdagh. I apologize if I missed the audience with this quiz. If anybody feels that he or she has a quiz of general interest I would be happy to include it in the nead future. The Winners Club grew by only 2 this time. Kevin Sweagel, who won three gift certificates already, has a 50% likelihood to wn it for the fourth time.

Winners Club Members:

J & V Mestdagh	5
Kevin Swagel	4***
Lorraine Meyer	4*
Steve Peters	3*
Diana Maxwell	3*
Anne Kotowski	3*
Betty Blank	2
Nancy Jean Schoo	2
John & Joan Emmerich	2*
Jim Spatzek	2
Joe Dixler	1
June Eguro	1
Earl Locke	1
Cheryl Kwiatkowski	1
Rob Halgren	1
Sophia Harris	1
Lois Cinert	1
Dorothy Nieter	1
Cathey Bloome	1
Ed Gamson	1

(the digit indicates the # of correct entries; the * asterisk indicates a lucky club member)

