

Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

Jim Spatzek, Editor

Guido Braem on the genus, *Laelia*

February Meeting

Our star-studded year continues with **Dr. Guido Braem** at the next meeting on Sunday, February 14th at the Botanic Garden. We are very pleased that he has placed us on his schedule for this year's rotation through the US from his origination in Germany. He is sure to send us into orbit with his lecture on the genus, *Laelia*. Guido's world class status as both a taxonomist and author will shed light on all the species of this genus but will focus pri-

marily on those of Mexico, Central America, and Brazil. His last appearance in our own constellation was both memorable and enlightening. His humor sparkled; and, his brilliance radiated throughout the presentation.

To start your preparation for our April Orchid Show, **John Stubbings** will present a workshop on orchid registration. It is always exciting when your plant is at its peak, and perfect for displaying at show time. What a disappointment to learn it was never considered for a ribbon because of misclassification of improper labeling.

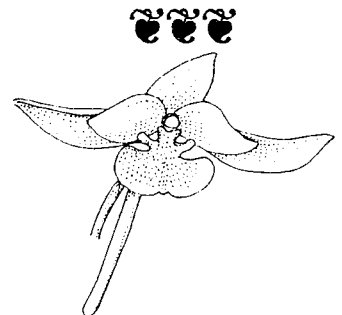
Our meeting will be held in the Linneaus Room at 12:00 Noon. Please have display and sales plants arranged by 12:30pm. The lecture will be in the Auditorium. Be an IOS starlet at this month's Valentine Day Hospitality table. The January deep freeze has passed and now there's no more excuses. We

need all of your support. Eyes will shine when our own little and big dippers are given the opportunity to fill their kissers.

Joe Dixler



Illinois Orchid Society Annual Spring Show -- April 9-11, 1999-- Mark your calendar!



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The President's Message

BY
Ed Gamson

It is 1999 and our calendar year started off with a blizzard. Contrarily, our first year of meetings on the second Sunday of each month started off with another great speaker that our 1st Vice President and Program Chairman, **Joe Dixler**, charmed into visiting us. We received a beautiful presentation from **Dennis d'Alessandro of Gypsy Glen Orchids** who showed us his slides and told us about orchid species from the several altitudes and microclimates of Bolivia and Ecuador. Many of us also thank him for providing plants for our purchase at a frenzy before and after he spoke.

We were privileged again to hear about and see pictures of plants that were first indentified by our speaker, with two species being named for him. In additional, we once again saw evidence of habitat destruction through which we may be losing plants that are not yet known to exist.

I was particularly struck by Mr. d'Alessandro's

comments to the effect that he was asked to kill and preserve for herbarium specimens at least two plants that were the only individuals of their species known to exist. My sense of science was relieved to hear that he chose instead to self the plants, and wait to obtain progeny before relinquishing those plants for scientific inquiry.

Off my soap box now, I am pleased to report that despite the weather, the fifty or sixty members present for Mr. d'Alessandro's presentation were also warmed by **Nancy Jean Schoo's** workshop on the use of artificial lights for growing our plants. Tireless Nancy Jean is also our membership chair and personally reminded many of those present that dues are again due. Thank you, Nancy Jean.

I understand that we are having troubles again with the receipt of the IOS Newsletter, even by those who should receive this missive by first class mail. We are sorry that some Newsletters are not being properly delivered by our friends at the U.S. Mail. It may be that some who do not receive their Newsletters have not paid their dues--although noone has yet be dropped for 1999 for non-payment. Probably, though, it is a function of the weather and

the remaining issues of the Newsletter will be received on time. Some other unknown glitch in the process may also have occurred recently. If you do not receive your Newsletter at all or if it arrives in an untimely manner before the next meeting, see me or call me, and I will look into the matter once more.

Our usually unthanked editor, **Jim Spatzek**, takes on the Society's part of the editorial process in actually creating this Newsletter fro his contributors' faxes, and sees to mailing the finished product in a timely manner. By the way, Jim Could always use more articles about orchids from our readers. All the[appropriate] news that fits, we print.



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.)

February 13, 1999--1:00PM

March 13, 1999--1:00PM

April 9, 1999--6:00PM

May 8, 1999--1:00PM

June 12, 1999--1:00PM
 July 10, 1999--1:30PM
 August 14, 1999--1:00PM
 September 11, 1999--1:00PM
 October 8, 1999--1:00PM
 November 13, 1999--1:00PM
 December 11, 1999--1:00PM



Calendar of Upcoming Events

2/6/1-2/7/99 Wisconsin Orchid
 Grower's Guild
 Show, Madison,
 WI

2/20-2/22/99 Batavia Orchid
 Society Show,
 Charlestowne Mall
 St. Charles, IL

2/27-2/28/99 Peoria Orchid Soc.
 Show, Peoria, IL

3/6-3/7/99 NEWOS Spring
 Show, Green Bay,
 Wisconsin

3/20-3/21/99 Central Iowa
 Orchid Society
 Show, Des
 Moines, IA

4/9-4/11/99 Illinois Orchid
 Society Annual
 Spring Show
 Glencoe, IL

4/17-4/18/99 Illowa Orchid Soc.
 Show; Bettendorf
 IA

4/23-5/2/99 World Orchid
 Congress,
 ConventionCenter,
 Vancouver, BC,
 Canada. E-mail:
[congress@venue
 west.com](mailto:congress@venuewest.com).
 (Judging, Tues.,
 April 27, 1999

5/22/1-5/23/99 Mid-American
 Orchid Congress
 & Greater Lansing
 Orchid Soc. Show
 Lansing, MI

9/25/9/26/99 Wisconsin Orchid
 Society Show &
 Mid American
 Orchid Congress
 Mitchell Park
 Conservatory
 Milwaukee, WI

10/8/1-10/10/99 Illinois Orchid
 Society Fall Mini
 Show, Glencoe, IL

10/22-10-24/99 Blackhawk Orchid
 Society Show,
 Rockford, IL

4/4/6-4/9/00 European Orchid
 Congress,
 Copenhagen, Den.

9/6-9/10/00 Orchids 2000
 4th New Zealand
 Expo
 Hamilton, NZ

10/5-10/8/00 4th Australasian
 Native Orchid Soc.
 Conference
 Melbourne, Aust.

10/10-10/15/00 15th Australian
 Orchid Conference
 & Show
 Burnie, Tasmania

2002 17th World Orchid
 Conference
 Shah Alam,
 Selangor, Malaysia

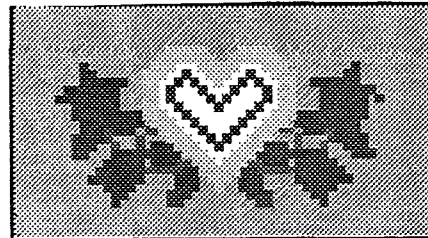


Board of Directors Meeting

The next IOS Board of Directors meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 1999, at the Johnson Bank in Hubbard Woods, IL. All officers and directors are expected to be there.

If you miss more than two consecu-

tive meetings, you are subject to replacement.



New Director:

President Ed Gamson appointed Tom Franczak to fill the directorship vacated by Rob Halgren's move to Michigan.



Last Newsletter

Sorry to say that if you have not paid your 1999 dues this is not only your last newsletter but it is the end of your membership in the Illinois Orchid Society. If you forgot and still want to join, contact Nancy Jean Schoo, Ass't Treasurer. [630] 837-3153 or e-mail: nancyjean@earthlink.com



One of our founding members, Dorathy Kuper, has been ill. For those of you who know her, she would certainly appreciate hearing from you. You can

write or send a card to:
 Dorothy Kuper
 c/o Richard Krueger
 RR13 Box 207
 Bloomington, IL 61704



Sale & Open House....

Clown Alley Orchids

John & Sandy Stubbings
 2825 Weller Lane
 Northbrook, IL 60062
 847-480-1532

847-480-0643-Greenhouse

- ▶ Sunday, February 28, 1999
- ▶ 11:00am till 5:00pm
- ▶ Phalaenopsis-any size from flasks thru specimuns in 10" pots. Most in spike or bloom.
- ▶ Galeandra species & hybrids.
- ▶ Cattleyas, ondidiums and many other genera.
- ▶ Come see the new greenhouse!

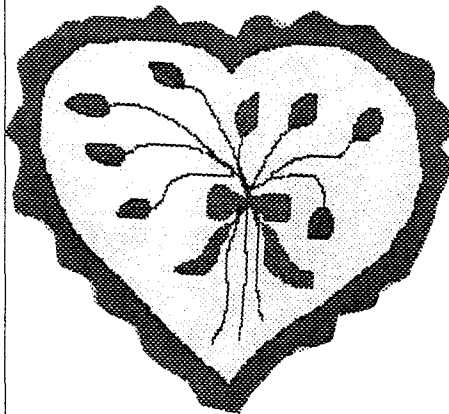


Hospitality Still Needs Help!!!!!!

Are ye all daft? Do ye expect someone else to always do it? Well, not so! How would you like the refreshments to stop at our meetings?

We have been asking for volunteers to help for months and everyone thinks someone else will do it. Well, get on the stick! Either YOU volunteer or it may just stop!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Call Nancy Jean Schoo or Betty Blank (773) 631-7675 or e - m a i l : beablank@prodigy.net.



A Novice Idea

by
 Nancy Jean Schoo

From time to time, a novice orchid grower gets the yen to try their hand at growing an orchid from flask. Growing

from flask requires special handling of the plantlets in order to advance them to flowering size.

Orchid flasks can be purchased from most of the area orchid growers. These plantlets are orchid seeds that have been specially prepared in a nutritive agar that allows them to advance to the leaf/root bearing stage. Generally most plants that are ready to be 'deflasked' have been growing for 10-12 months. Once deflasked, it can take 18 months to 3 years for phals and paphs to bloom, and other plants much longer. Cymbidiums and catts will bloom the day you receive your first Social Security check, that is considering you are 40 or less at the time of propagation!!

Equipment needed included a long forceps or tweezers, paper towel, and fine bark potting material. When deflasking, work in a clean environment with all surfaces and equipment cleansed with a bleach solution. To prevent contamination, wipe the outside of the flask also to be sure you are not passing along bacteria in which it has come in contact. Wash your hands before proceeding. Carefully remove the stopper on the glass flask. (Note: some growers now use plastic containers with snap on/air

tight lids that make deflasking much easier).

Once the flask is open, use body temperature water on the outside of the flask to release the agar from the glass wall. Then allow some water to enter the flask to melt the agar. The tiny plants will slowly release from the agar and can be poured out. Some plants will require the use of the long forceps to grab them and coax from their environment. Take care not to bruise the leaves or roots. If you have let your plantlets grow too long in flask; they may not fit through the mouth of the flask. You may need to wrap the flask in newspaper and break the glass. Be careful not to cut yourself with any glass remnants.

After removing the plantlets, rinse well in water and remove any agar residual. Lay the plants on paper towel to dry. Plantlets can be rinsed again with a solution of Superthrive (1/4tsp. Per gallon) and Physan 20 (1 tsp. Per gallon) to encourage growth of the plant and discourage growth of bacteria or fungus.

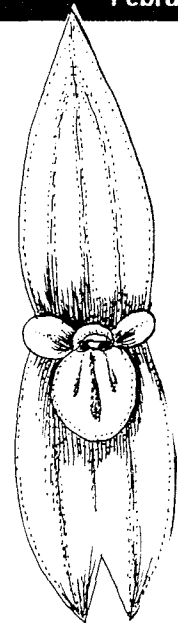
The plantlets are now placed in 'compots' or community pots. These compots allow many plants to grow together. By keeping plants together, they will aid in supporting

each other's leaves, maintain humidity, and ultimately it saves room. I tried growing just 2-3 plantlets together and they quickly bit the dust. The other compot had about 20-30 plantlets and they thrived.

Compots should be in areas of moderate light, although I know some that have them placed about 12-18 inches from broad spectrum lights and they grow faster and stronger and will bloom sooner. Day length can be around 12-14 hours. Be cautious of direct hot sunlight, as these tiny guys will burn. Keep compots watered twice a day. Light, moisture, temperature, and air movement is necessary in successful compot growth. You can generally expect 20-60% of your seedlings to survive as a novice compot grower.

My first experience was to deflask some phal 2 ½ years ago. The plants now are in spike and will be shown as first bloom seedlings at our Spring Show!

Happy Growing!



FOR SALE:

Sodium vapor light fixture, 1 ½ yr. old. Bulb is 4 mths. old. Extra bulb included; never used. \$195.00

Call: Marsha Ramsay, (630) 357-0563; leave a message.



Report of the Awards Committee

**Tom Franczak, Chairman
(847) 590-5731
terpsichore@dataflo.net**

Here's another report for the 1998-99 contest year. Included in the point totals are ribbons earned at the Christmas Party at Hausermann's and AOS Awards from the December judging held at the

Sue Golan

CBG.

The AOS awards are as follows:

Gerald Steuben
Pescoranthus Star Sapphire
'Georgia' AM/AOS (83 pts)

Wally Crawford
Pleurothallis prolifera 'Silas'
CCM/AOS (85 pts.)

Bob Wolf
Masd.angulifera 'Queenie'
CCM/AOS (82)

Gerry is special. Did you know that Gerry is a founding member of the IOS and one of the very few still with us? (Only Dorothy Kuper comes to mind as another). And guess what...this is his first AOS Award. We certainly hope it isn't another 47 years until your second, gerry.

It was an easy decision to select that plant as Plant-of-the-Month the next day at Hausermann's. And, Gerry made it a daily double when his Brassavola nodosa was selected for a Cultural Award at the meeting. Although that is not unprecedented (I seem to remember Cathy Bloome did that a number of years ago), it is a very rare distinction. Hats off to Gerry Steuben!

Bob's and Wally's plants were, ummmm, nice, too.

Point Score Accumulations--thru 12/31/98--

GREENHOUSE

Joe&Rosalie Dixler	589
Sue Golan	133
Sophia Harris	938
Bob Hoel	55
Maggie Kuntz	67
Steve&Judy Lipson	102
J& V Mestdagh	10
Jay Mullen	15
Sue &RobRosenbacher(*)	19
Laima Sahagian	277
John Stubbings	120

Gerald Steuben	193
Lew Seidenberg	11
Carole Thompson	220
Bob Wolf	144
Marilee&Walter Zielinski	99

LIGHTSTAND

Barb Bennett	111
Cathy Bloome	121
Lois Cinert	6
Kevin&Irma Dixler	1
Joel Edwards	19
Jack&Joan Emmerich	10
Robert Feliszak (*)	10
Ed Fiedler	1
Tom Franczak	16
Ron&Joan Hale	16
Charles & Jane High	261
Wendy&DaveHoltzman(*)	62
Cheryl Kwiatkowski	15
Willy Losert	286
Sherry Maloney	192
Morris Millman	11
Armon McPherson	46
Diana Nielsen	119
Dorothy Nieter	5
Claire Papiewski	28
Sherrie Reddick	14
Nancy Jean Schoo	34
Art&Ann Sellmer	41
Nancy Spitz	8
Ruth Stables	5
Ken Vrabel	16

(*) indicates new member for purposes of the 98-99 competition year.



Sadie was on her deathbed, with her husband Morris at her side. He held her cold hand as silent tears streamed down his face.

"Morris," she said weakly.

"Hush, my shina maidel" he

interrupted. "Sha, don't talk." But she insisted.

"Morris", she continued. "Before I should die, I have something that I have to confess to you."

"There is nothing to confess," said the weeping Morris. "It's all right. Everything 's all right."

"No, no. I must die in peace. I must confess, Morris, that I have been unfaithful to you."

Morris stroked her hand. "Now, Sadie, don't be concerned. I know all about it," he sobbed.

"You do?" she gasped.

"Sure. Why else would I poison you?"



Exuberance Wanted!

No experience needed. On the Job Training! High expectation of having more fun than you ought to! Meet nice people! See lots of beautiful orchids!

Sound like a dream job? You bet it is, and you can have it all for the small investment of three or four hours of your time. The job involves talking about orchids to interested people, meeting other orchid growers, and watching

newcomers ooo and ah at the color and fragrance of our beautiful plants.

We really really need your help with our Annual Spring Orchid Show at the Chicago Botanic Garden, starting April 8 from noon to 9:00 pm, and April 9, from (9:00am to 4:30 pm) for set up and registration. Then on the 10th and 11th from 9-5 to help with our guests at the orchid show. Friday night is judgind, with the judges' dinner, and we need help with that, too!

If you think this is a snow job, talk to the folks who worked the fall show, or last spring, to get their opinion. It's really lots of fun, interesting, informative, and more fun.

Please give me a call or fill out the volunteer form and sent it or give it to me at the Febvruary or March meeting. Or just show up at the Show. We'll find something for you to do that suits your own particular talents. We want this to be a beautiful and enjoyable experience.

More next month!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lois Cinert



Away Shows

There are many away shows coming up. Are you willing to help? You get mileage and if you stay for the weekend, you also get two nights reasonable hotel expenses. Help YOUR society by volunteering to take, bring back, or make a weekend of it, do both!

Coming shows which need your help are:

Batavia --St. Charles, IL
February 20, 1999

Peoria Show
February 26, 27, 28, 1999

Green Bay , Wisc.
March 5,6, 7, 1999

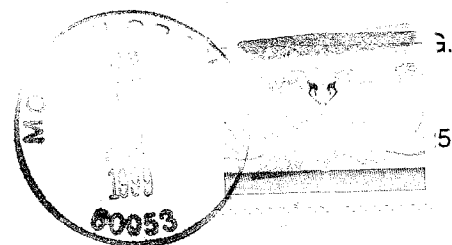
Central Iowa Show
Des Moines, IA
March 19, 20, 21

Want to help and have a great weekend? Call Lois Cinert and volunteer.

Illowa Orchid Society Show
Davenport, IA
April 17, 1999



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