

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JIM SPATZEK, EDITOR

Join Us & Enjoy "A Little Old-Fashioned Orchid Show, October 9-10, 1999

Fall Mini-Show

Join us for our Fall Mini Orchid Show (also known as the table-top show), "A Little Old-Fashioned Orchid

CONTENTS

<i>Fall Mini-Show</i>	1
<i>AmericanOrchid Society Judgings</i>	1
<i>Mini Show Hospitality</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Events Calendar</i>	2
<i>Hospitality!!!!</i>	2
<i>Report of the Awards Committee</i>	3
<i>Fall Mid-America</i>	4
<i>Blackhawk Orchid Society Show</i>	4
<i>The President's Message</i>	4
<i>Your Display...</i>	5
<i>Selby Vignettes</i>	6

Show" on October 9 & 10, 1999 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Be sure to allow some time on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to help out at the show--whether security, information, plant sales, clerking for judging, bringing a salad or dessert for the Judges' Dinner on Friday, or just being around in case!

You're Society will appreciate it! You'll be happy you were there. See details on the show elsewhere in the newsletter!



AmericanOrchid 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 8, 1999--6:00PM
November 13, 1999--1:00PM
December 11, 1999--1:00PM
January 8, 2000--1:30PM
February 12, 2000--1:00PM
March 11, 2000--1:00PM
April 8, 2000--7:00AM
May 13, 2000--1:00PM

June 10, 2000--1:00PM
 July 8, 2000--1:30PM
 August 12, 2000--1:00PM
 September 9, 2000--1:00PM
 October 6, 2000--6:00PM
 November 11, 2000--1:00PM
 December 9, 2000--1:00PM

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The IOS WEBSITE

Our newly revitalized website should be up and operating by now. Check in and be amazed at what TOM FRANCAZAK has done.

www.iosoc.com

Mini Show Hospitality

Our hosts & hostesses for hospitality at the Judges' Dinner and throughout the show weekend try to provide at least coffee, soft drinks and a snack to our workers. We would very much appreciate your contribution of a salad-type item and/or a dessert for the weekend. We need your contributions before the Judges' Dinner on Friday night. How much should you bring? As much as you can; we can always use it. **Please!!!!**



IOS Board Meetings

November 9, 1999
 January 11, 2000
 March 14, 2000
 May 9, 2000
 July 11, 2000

All Board of Directors meeting are held --unless otherwise noted-- at the Johnson Bank on Green Bay Road, 2 blocks south of Tower Road, in Hubbard Woods, IL at 7:30 pm. Please advise President Cinert if you cannot attend!



U p c o m i n g Events Calendar

11/08/10-10/10/99 Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini Show, Glencoe
 10/22-10-24/99 Blackhawk Orchid Society Show, Rockford,
 10/30-10/31/99 2nd Slipper Symposium, 2501 Old Lake Rd. Kissimmee, FL Inform: 407-396-1881
 11/18-11/21/99 Muestra Mundial De Orquideas Cali, Colombia
 2/5-2/6/00 Wisconsin Orchid Growers Guild Show, Madison, WI
 3/18-3/19/00 Illowa Orchid Soc 24th Spring Show Bettendorf, IA
 3/25-3/26/00 Central Iowa Orc. Society Show Des Moines, IA
 4/8-4/9/00 Illinois Orchid Society Spring Show, Glencoe
 4/6-4/9/00 European Orchid Congress, Copenhagen, Den.

4/15-4/16/00 Mid America Orc Congress Livonia, MI
 9/6-9/10/00 Orchids 2000 4th New Zealand Expo Hamilton, NZ
 9/16-9/17/00 Mid.AmericaOrch Cong. Muncie, IN
 9/15-9/17/00 7th Chicagoland Orchid Festival IOS Fall Mini Show, Glencoe
 10/6-10/8/00 4th Australasian Native Orchid Soc. Conference Melbourne, Aust.
 10/10-10/15/00 15th Australian Orchid Conference & Show Burnie, Tasmania
 3/29-4/1/01 IOS Spring Show Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe
 4/9-4/14/02 AOSSpring Trustees Meeting & IOS Spring Show, CBG Glencoe, IL
 10/18-10/26/02 17th World Orchid Conference Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia



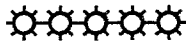
Hospitality!!!!

We need a few volunteers to help with hospitality at our monthly meetings. Like everything else, the more people who help, the less there is to do for each of them.

We'll show you how to run the coffee pt, help get the equipment & utensils out of the cabinet. But we need someone to coordinate the process and make sure it gets done each month. We're only at the CBG for about 7 meetings each year, so it's not a lifetime project. Please call any board member for information and

please volunteer.

Isn't it time to stop hoping
someone else will do it?????



1999 Meetings--Balance of the Year

October 9-10
IOS Fall Mini Show
November 14
Ron Hamilton
Petit Plaisance Orchids
December 12
Annual Holiday Buffet Party
Hausermann's Orchids



SALES--FALL MINI SHOW.....

OUR FALL SHOW, A
LITTLE OLD-FASHIONED
ORCHID SHOW, IS A
GOOD TIME TO SELL
THOSE EXTRA DIVISIONS
OF PLANTS THAT ARE
CLUTTERING YOUR
GROWING AREA. HAVE
SOME PLANTS THAT JUST
WON'T BLOOM FOR YOU?
GIVE SOMEONE ELSE A
CHANCE--SELL IT AT THE
IOS TABLE AT THE FALL
SHOW. IT'S A CHANCE
FOR ALL OF US TO PICK
UP SOME GOOD PLANTS
AT REASONABLE PRICES.

CALL JAY MULLEN FOR
INFORMATION. HIS
NUMBER IS 847-432-
4684. HE LIKES TO
KNOW IN ADVANCE HOW
MANY PLANTS YOU WILL
BRING. AND, HE NEEDS
VOLUNTEERS TO SELL
ALSO!



Lincoln Park Conservatory

We are still soliciting plants
for the Lincoln Park Conservatory.
Rather than go back through the
rather long list of things they are
looking for and things they already
have too many of, I am going to just
repeat the plea for plant donations.
Contact **Leo Schordje** for the wish
list. The LPC greatly appreciates
your help.

Thank you!



Report of the Awards Committee

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

Here's the third report of the 1999-
2000 contest year. Pencil in **Bill
Nelson** pinch-hitting for **Bill
Rogerson** and it still reads
remarkably like the first two reports.
The point totals include the results of
the ribbon judging at the August
meeting at Oak Hill plus the results
of the August AOS Judging at the

Garden where, lo and behold, once
again **Joe Dixler** took multiple
awards while **Bill Nelson** received
his first. **Bill Rogerson** received no
awards....in large part because he
wasn't there. Congratulations to Bill
and thanks once again to Joe for
single-handedly underwriting (at \$35
per award) the cost of publishing the
Awards Quarterly.

Joe Dixler
Schlimia condorana 'Sharon'
CBR/AOS
Schoenorchis pachyacris
'Sensen' CBR/AOS

Bill Nelson
Ascda. Miami Mandarin
'Sunprairie' AM/AOS

And there we were at Oak Hill on
that fine August day for a nice picnic
and meeting. It was an especially
nice day for **Barb Bennett** as her
Masd.urosalpinx captured Plant-of-
the-Month honors in the lightstand
category. No such plant was cited in
the greenhouse category.

By the time you read this, show
season will be upon us. That will
swell the ranks of those exhibiting
plants and earning contest points.
Let's enjoy the coming year.

Point Score Accumulations--
GREENHOUSE thru 8/31/99

Joe & Rosalie Dixler	462
Sue Golan	61
Bill Rogerson	285

LIGHTSTAND thru 8/31/99

Barb Bennett	75
Robert Feliszak	10
Ron & Joan Hale	3
Charles & Jane High	10
Wendy & Dave Holtzman	14
Willy Losert	15
Sherry Maloney	12
Bill Nelson	80
Diana Nelson	27
Claire Papiewski	10
Sherrie Reddick	10

Nancy Spitz

15

**First Place Ribbons****Greenhouse....**

Sue Golan

Pleurothallis hirsutissimum
 Neofinetia falcata
 Dendrobium laevifolium
 Dendrobium bracteosum

Lightstand....

Barb Bennett

Masd.urosalspinx
 Dendrobium hybrid
 Paph.Lynleigh Koopowitz
 Zygo.Blue Eyes 'Ben Her'

Charles & Jane High

Phrag. Inca Embers

Wendy & David Holtzman

Coelogyne parishii

Diana Nelson

Angraecum Longiscott
 LC. Mini Purple

Claire Papiewski

Galeandra batemanii

Sherrie Reddick

C. Majorie Hausermann

Nancy Spitz

Phal. Ember

North one block and pull in and park. If you'd like a plant to be displayed and possibly garner "away show points", Barb Bennett (847) 948-8163 is our drop off point on Thursday evening. Hope you can bring plants so we can stage an outstanding display. Also we hope to see you at the show and congress. Be sure to register ahead for the speakers, dinner and also the auction.

☎ Call Bill Nelson, WOS president, if you have questions or need a registration form. (414) 672-6446.



Blackhawk Orchid Society Show

The Blackhawk Orchid Society Show will be held at the Klehm Arboretum in Rockford, IL, Oct.22, 23, and 24, and the IOS will have a 25sq.ft. display. Come on out and take look on Saturday and Sunday; it should be a nice fall drive. We would love to have any blooming plants you may have to help create the IOS display. Barb Bennett (847) 948-8163 has volunteered to be the North Side drop off point for plants.

Lois Cinert (630) 739-1068 will be the drop off point for the South Siders. Drop any plants off on Wednesday or no later than early Thursday evening. Please call ahead to be certain someone is home. Check out the IOS website, www.iosoc.com for updates on drop off points and directions to the show.

Remember these societies support our shows by having displays. It's our turn to reciprocate and we can't do it without you. Remember you get double points for the annual contest by sending plants to away shows.

Call big Leo Schordje at (847) 746-9355 if you have any questions about procedures, etc.

Thanks in advance for being part of the society.



The President's Message

by Lois Cinert

Our recent September meeting kept to the theme of Adventure Orchids. This time, Leon Glicenstein from Hoosier Orchids led us through the wilds of Florida in a hunt for

Fall Mid-America

The Fall Mid America Orchid Congress and Wisconsin Orchid Society Show is September 23-26 at the Domes in Milwaukee!

This may be history by the time you get this newsletter but then again it may not. If you can get out, come on up to the Domes to see the show--I-94 to National Avenue. West on National to what would be 27th Avenue.

native orchids, and some companion plants that are really meat eating. It was a great presentation, with beautiful tropical vistas and the interesting native orchids. It was also an adventure getting into the Garden. A couple of other folks showed up for one of their events, and traffic was interesting.

Coming up is the Fall mini show. It is just a little show so we can let the public see what we bring to our monthly meetins. It's just us, and a few local grower friends, and a few neighbor society friends, so it's just a friendly little show. It started out with plain tables with a few orchids. Now it has grown a little to a show with decorated tables and arranged orchid plants, but it's still just a little show.

We don't want you to be intimidated. It is easy to set-up a small display by yourself or with a friend. If you've never done it before, bring your orchids, a few small green plants, and some cloth or cache pots or baskets to cover the pots. We'll help you decide how to set-up and show you how easy it is. If you spend you time and effort growing and blooming your plants, you ought to show them off. If you do it at the monthly meetings, you can do it at the mini-show. It's just as easy!



Show Volunteers.....

Volunteers are still need for our Fall mini-show, **A Little Old-Fashioned Orchid Show**, October 9 & 10, at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Take a couple of hours on Saturday or Sunday (or both if you're feeling generous) to walk around the exhibit hall and talk to the guests who come to see our flowers. Or, if you have time on Thursday night or Friday, help out with unloading the displays or helping with registration. Our judges' dinner is an easyway to help out, with setup, serving, or clean-up. Stay to clerk; follow the judges and listen in to what really makes a blue ribbon blossom. There's lots to do, and we need your help. Please give **Lois Cinert** a call or fill out the volunteer form in the last newsletter. Call me at [630] 739-1068.



BRING COOKIES, BRING CAKE, BRING TORTES, BRING DOUGHNUTS, BRING MUFFINS, BRING CUPCAKES, BRING SWEET ROLLS, BRING BON BONS!!!

GET THE HINT?

You are all such wonderful bakers and we just can't geth

through a show without your donation of baked goods and desserts. We'll be there Thursday evening, all day Friday, and Saturday morning eagerly awaiting your donation of something really good for the mini show hospitality table.

Thank you in advance for caring!



Your Display...

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE MINI-SHOW. IF YOU BRING PLANTS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR SHOW AND TELL, BRING THEM OCTOBER 8TH OR 9TH FOR OUR MINI SHOW. A DISPLAY IN THIS SHOW CAN BE AS SMALL AS 3'X3', SO YOU ONLY NEED A FEW PLANTS AND A GREEN PLANT OR TWO. SIMPLE IS THE WORD! IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE OR TWO BLOOMING PLANTS, BRING THEM ANYWAY. WE'LL TRY TO PUT THEM IN SOMEONE'S DISPLAY AND YOU'LL GET CREDIT. CALL A FRIEND AND COMBINE YOUR PALNTS FOR A MULTIPLE PERSON DISPLAY. IT'S EASY! IT'S A GOOD WAY TO GET EXPERIENCE SETTING UP. IT'S FUN! THINK HOW GOOD YOU'LL FEEL WHEN THE CROWD ADMIRES YOUR EFFORTS! THIS IS GREAT PREPARATION FOR HAVING YOUR OWN EXHIBIT IN THE ANNUAL SPRING SHOW, ALSO!

Selby Vignettes

As you know our society has annually supported the Orchid Identification Center at Selby Garden, Sarasota, Florida with donations of much needed orchid books. Dr. John T. Atwood, the director, has graciously offered to do a few articles for our newsletter. We really appreciate his efforts.

"Experimentation with Potting Materials"

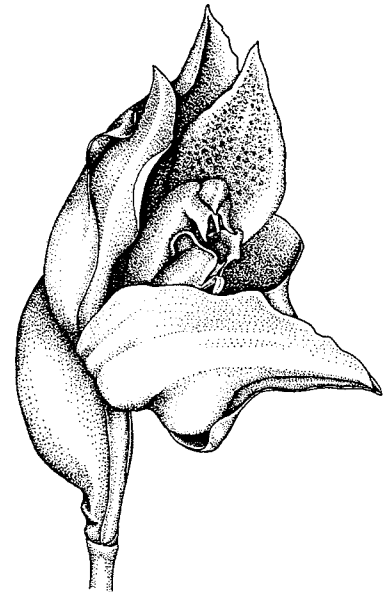
Orchids are my business and I work with them every day, and when I get home I actually grow a few to enjoy. I like to experiment with available natural materials, not only to decrease exploitation of diminishing tree fern populations, but also I'm just plain cheap! I don't encourage the readership to follow me headstrong into cultural disaster but I do encourage experimentation with novel potting media on less valuable plants. I have had my share of disasters--cocoa bean mulch that killed the roots on a cattleya hybrid; crunched-up Styrofoam hamburger containers that nearly killed my *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*--but I also have had a few successes. I once lacked potting medium in the dead of winter up north but was able to collect quantities of dry beech leaves still attached to the tree. I potted several *Paphiopedilum hennisianum*

with the beech leaves (*Fagus grandifolia*) in a plastic pot and got almost instantaneous new root systems. I have had similar results using bark from hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*) and wild sphagnum, although I have since learned that some sphagnums work better than others, in fact, one species with little black stems caused my plants to cease growth altogether.

But this is a story about a recent experiment here in Sarasota, Florida. I have pine needles--lots of pine needles from 17 (gasp!) slash pines (*Pinus elliottii*). Though not the long-leaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) the leaves are long enough--about a foot long. The needles make great mulch, something we have plenty of and we share them with the neighbors with lots left over. I decided to try composting them by spreading wheelbarrows full under an oak tree. After two to three years they broke down into a beautiful fibrous loam somewhat held together by the roots from the surrounding laurel oak tree. I removed perhaps 20 wheelbarrows full of this compost to a bin about eight feet across simply constructed of rabbit fence. So what do you do with this gunk? Faced with a repotting challenge on a *Phaius tankervillei* and *Spathoglottis kimballiana*, I decided to try the compost (perhaps a bit recklessly) on them last

February. Working with this compost is a bit like working with osmunda because of the oak roots. The *Spathoglottis* now has eight flowering inflorescences (one new one developing) and a lot of new growth. The *Phaius* doubled its shoots from two to four and is about four feet across. Clearly I have found a use for my pine needles, although a different species of pine might yield different results. Every potential potting material needs experimentation before broad application. Can the readership share similar stories?

For those who love the large yellow flowers of *Spathoglottis kimballiana* providing a show for more than half a year, distribution plants will be made available this November to Selby Garden members. These plants made available through tissue culture should be flowering next summer.



**Please Note the following changes
& additions to the member's
directory:**

**Fox Valley Orchids
2N134 Addison Road
Villa Park, IL 60181-1101**

**Chris Welch
29 Washington Drive
Cranbury, NJ 08512-2728**

**Armon McPherson
28 Shore Drive
Oswego, IL 60543
(630) 551-1631**

Please welcome our new members:

**Wil, Debbie & David Pilipauskas
823 Apache Trail
Lake Villa, IL 60046-9100
(847) 356-4235
email: acornaca.megsinet.net**

**Neil Doppelt
210 Hazel Avenue
Glencoe, IL 60022
(847) 835-5537**

**The Illinois Orchid Society, Inc.
James F. Spatzek, Editor
10 Fairfax Lane
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-4013**

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October 1, 1999
Address Correction Requested**

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Lincolnshire, Illinois
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