

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JIM SPATZEK, EDITOR

Dorathy Kuper Confirmed as Judge Emeritus by the American Orchid Society

AOS Trustees Meeting

The trustees of the American Orchid Society at their semi-annual meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana confirmed the elevation of **Dorathy Kuper**, a founder of the Illinois Orchid

Society and Accredited AOS Judge to the status of Emeritus Judge. This is a great and well-deserved honor.

Congratulations, Dorathy, on this honor and all your work on behalf of the Illinois Orchid Society.

Message

BY

Lois Cinert

Did you see the Fall Mini-Show, "A Little Old Fashioned Orchid Show"? It was just enough Show. With 17 tables representing 33 exhibitors, the Show was just big enough for a mini show, with just enough really beautiful orchids to merit five AOS Awards, and two Chicago Horticultural Society Ribbons. The volunteers worked exceptionally hard and well, all weekend long, and there were just barely enough of them to make it work! Were you one of them???

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The President's

Vic Schubert, Pat Babiarz and Joel Edwards started it off on Thursday night, with Ed Gamson heading the work force on Friday. Pat Kralik handled registration, and John Stubbings with a little help from Pete Peterson, organized the judging. Jay Mullen, recovering nicely, was helped by Wally Zielinski, Armon Mc Pherson, Morris Millman, Joe Dixler, Lincoln Michal, the Schuberts, and anyone else we could Shanghai. The cut flower-membership-raffle table was womaned by Sherrie Reddick, Barb Bennett, Diana Nielson, Sherry Maloney, and highlighted with a special guest appearance by Nancy Jean Schoo (also recovering nicely.) Teardown would not be possible without extra helping hands from Charles & Jane High, Phil Carlucci, and the ever present and helpful (and Lucky) Anne Kotowski. Special thanks to Linda Schubert for help with the judges' dinner, and Sherry Maloney for the judges' gifts. Thanks to all the clerks who helped with judging, and Tom Franczak, our librarian.

If you didn't get to the Show to see it or to help out, talk to some of the people mentioned above. Our spring show is coming up and we want you to have this much fun too!

The November meeting is highlighted elsewhere; try to

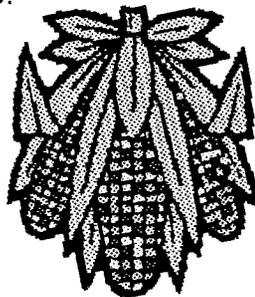
attend. We work really hard to get good speaker and useful, interesting workshops for you. December, as always will be out Christmas party at Hausermann's. We'd love to see you there too with your favorite recipe to pass (it's your admission ticket!).



NEXT IOS BOARD MEETING.....

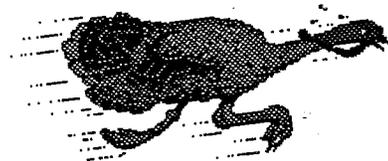
The next Board of Directors meeting of the Illinois Orchid Society will be **Tuesday, November 16, 1999** at the Johnson Bank, on Green Bay Road, in Hubbard Woods, IL. If you are a director you are expected to attend and if for some reason you cannot attend, please call Lois Cinert.

Please note that this date is a change from the previously published Director's meeting schedule!



IOS WEB SITE...

www.iosoc.com



November Meeting

Button up your overcoats! Don't let the windy city get to you! We know the winter will be here soon, but we have a brath of fresh air coming in from the magnificent wine country ove the Golden Gate Bridge--our next speaker **Jim Hamilton**. He will discuss "Unusual Orchids that Can Be Easily Grown" on Sunday November 14th in the Auditorium. His well-established plants grown in pots, teak baskets, or on hapu or cork mounts. Jim will offer tips on growing and will show you some new techniques to stimulate your interest to grow some of the more difficult orchids. He began **Petit Plaisance** in 1981 with his partner, Ron Ehlers, in west Sonoma County--an hour north of San Francisco. Ten years ago, Jim and Ron's interest in species quickly mushroomed into a passion that has overshadowed their extensive *Miltoniopsis*, miniature *Cattleya*, and *Phalaenopsis* hybridizing programs. They now specialize in native plants with an

extensive collection of *Bulbophyllums* and *Lepanthes*. Besides being the immediate past president of the San Francisco Orchid Society, a board member of the Sonoma County Orchid Society, and a member of the Publications Committee for the AOS, Jim has a very active schedule exhibiting and selling at orchid shows throughout the world. We are very lucky that he could arrange to be at our meeting.

There will be plants for sale but there is a discount if you pre-order plants that he will bring to the meeting. Phone or fax him at 7807-876-3496. The e-mail address of Petite Plaisance is: orchids@sonic.net. Their catalog is on his web site at : <http://www.sonic.net/orchids/index.htm>. Some of his plants have been collected while he traveled in Asia, Central and South America, and from major nurseries in Europe.

Our meeting will be held in the MultiPurpose Room at 12:00 Noon. Please have display and sales plants arranged by 12:30pm. We will give our thanks for any leftover Halloween treats, or other goodies for our hospitality table. Mark your calendar for our annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 12th at Hausermann's. Start thinking about that delicious spread we enjoy every year, and make this

year's required donation an even better one. Let's make this Millenium offering a memorable one.

John Stubbings, the head of the Chicago Judging Center, will again present the workshop. He will continue his excellent slide lecture presented at the September meeting on classification of paphiopedilums with the same type of discussion for phalaenopsis.

Joe Dixler



IOS Board Meetings

November 16, 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

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 11/18-11/21/99 | 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,
openhagen, 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.America Orch Cong.
Muncie, IN |
| 9/15-9/17/00 | 7th Chicagoland Orchid Festival |
| 10/6-10/8/00 | IOS Fall Mini Show,
Glencoe |
| 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 |
| 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 |



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.

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



MINI SHOW-- Best Of Classes

<u>Class</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Owqner</u>
1-3	Exhibit	EFG

4-5	Exhibit	Wisc.Orc.Socie
6-8	Exhibit	Rosalie & Joe Dixler
15-22	Enc.autrorubens	"
23-32	Blc.Ronald Hausermann"Addison"	Hausermann's.
34-43	Paph.Vintner's Treasure x philippinense	Hausermann's
44-44b	Phrag.schlimii	Carole Thompson
45-48	Ang.Comorensis	Oak Hill Gard.
49-60	Plectrelminthus cupatis	Bob Wolf
61-77	Dorisia Sunset	Natt's Orchids
78-84	Colm.Wildcat"Bobcat	Hausermann'
85-91	Onc.lanceanum	Hausermann's
103-109	Dend.cuthbertsonii	Otto Leupi
110-111	Masd.Angel Tang	Barb Bennett
112-116	Pesc.Star Sapphire	EFG
117	Habenaria rhodocheila	Joel Edwards
118	Dend.cuthbertsonii	Otto Leupi
119	Paph. Bellatulum	Joel Edwards
120	Pleur.sclerophylla	C.Rojohn

President's Award

Paph Bellatulum--Joel Edwards

Show Chairman's Award

Ornithocephalus dolobratum--Carole Thompson

Frank Kuper Memorial Award

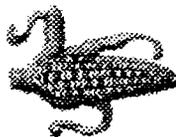
Phrag. Schlimii "Wilsox"--Carole Thompson

Chicago Horticultural Society Ribbon

Dend. Chrisiyanum--R & J. Dixler

AOS Show Trophy (exhibit)

R & J. Dixler



We thought you would be interested....

....in further evidence of the efficiencies of modern technology, as evidenced by the "Spell Check" feature on your computer:

Eye halve a spelling chequer

It came with my pea sea.
 It plainly marques four my revue
 Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
 Eye strike a key and type a work
 And weight four it two say
 Weather eye am wrong oar write
 It shows me strait a weigh.
 As soon as a mist ache is maid
 It nose bee fore two long,
 And eye can put the error rite
 Its rare lea ever wrong.
 Eye have run this poem threw it
 I am shore your pleased to no
 Its letter perfect awl the weigh
 My chequer tolled me so.

--Sauce Unknown

The above is fondly dedicated
 to Blanche Coutts--The Editor



OPEN HOUSE
 10am-5pm, Sunday
 November 21, 1999

**CLOWN ALLEY
 ORCHIDS**

2825 Weller Lane
 Northbrook, IL 60062

John & Sandy Stubbings

Home: 847-480-1532
 Greenhouse: 847-480-0643

Just in time for your Holiday
 Season decorating & gifts!

Refreshments will be available!

Featuring Phalaenopsis, in bloom & bud--many varieties available in white, white with red lip, white with stripes, yellows, novelties & multiflorals!

Also available are Cattleyas, Oncidiums, and the largest collection of Galeandra species & hybrids. Many are in bloom or bud!

Compots available of Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, and Galeandra plants.

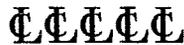
All plants and compots are priced to sell!



New Members

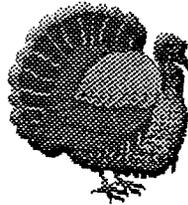
Please welcome the following new member to the IOS:

Sue Carlson
 Carol Ann Gac
 Theresa Hrastnik
 Nancy Maybloom
 Barbara Oberheide
 Joan Perlstein
 Richard J. Unger



Tell Your Friends!

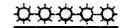
Tell your friends who grow orchids or want to grow orchids that an IOS Membership right now is a GREAT deal! When joining after September 1st, membership is good through the end of this year **and** through the end of the year 2000 also. **AND**, several Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association members care giving new members coupons for \$10 off their purchases. As a result, new members essentially fet back their \$20 dues (\$25 for First Class mailing) and more when they use their coupons.



Dues Renewal Time!

For those of us who have not joined since September 1st of this year, it is time to renew our IOS dues. In this newsletter is an envelope in which you can mail your renewal to **Barb Bennett** or save the postage and bring it with you to the November or December meeting and put it

in the renewal box. Once you have renewed, you will receive your new membership card with your next newsletter in a similar renewal envelope, so be sure to check the envelope before pitching it in the trash!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Attention Beginners!

Would you enjoy getting together with other beginners and a few experienced growers to discuss orchid growing? The beginner's group is starting. Call **Barb Bennett** (847-948-8163) if you are interested!

News from the Net

By Barb Bennett

Cultural Tips from the Web

Lava Rock Potting Medium for Paphs

Source: Rod Venger@vengers.com

Benefits: Non-organic (so it won't break down); porous (it will hold water but not expose roots directly to water for long periods of time).

Neutral pH

Disadvantages: It's heavy. It'll cost a fortune to have it shipped. We buy 1/4" lava from gravel yards for \$52.00/ton (5 gallons cost \$2.00). That could easily run \$10.00 -\$20.00 in a garden supply. It's also good for tall Dendrobiums, as it keeps them from getting top heavy and toppling over.

Expanded Clay Pellet Orchid Medium

Source: Robert Pavlis

(rpavlis@labtronics.com)

There are two sizes of these pellets, approximately 1/4 inch and 1/2 inch. For some conditions, the larger one may dry out too quickly, so the smaller may be preferable, depending on how often you water, etc. I have used them for Dendrobiums with good success because they like to dry out, have a lot of air at the roots, and do not like to be repotted. The clay pellets meet all these needs. If you keep the salts down, you can grow them in this medium for a long time - my oldest one has been in it for 4 years. I have also started using it for Catts. The roots like the medium and I have found some Catts lose roots easier than others in bark. I am hoping this medium will prevent this. I am putting anything that needs a dryer medium into clay pellets, including Vanda seedlings. My larger Vandas are in wine corks, which are excellent. After 4 years, in a clay 6" pot, the corks are still solid and show no signs of breaking down. Clay pellets are not cheap, but if they last for 4 or 5 years, they are ultimately cheaper than bark.

Fertilizers

Source: Terry Glancy/Pine Ridge Orchids

Try fertilizing vandaceous orchids with 9-45-15 only; no other formulation.

The 9% N is plenty for any of the vandaceous plants. Avoid a 20-20-20 fertilizer for Vandas, for several reasons. In certain 20-20-20 fertilizers the nitrogen is present principally as urea and is not utilized optimally by the plant because in a soil-less medium, there are no bacteria to convert urea to the nitrate that the plants need. If you give a lot of nitrogen to Vandas, they will do nothing but grow. That is why I recommend the 9-45-15 formulation. I've given this advice to many commercial vandaceous growers and they were floored by the difference in flower count, size, improved color, and frequency of spike initiation.

Source: Ninette Maples

An ideal orchid fertilizer regimen is:

- 1/4 tsp. per gal of a 20-20-20 fertilizer every week for three weeks

- Flush with plain water on the 4th week and then resume fertilizer schedule again. This goes for any fertilizer, 10-30-20 or 30-30-30. I use this method in my greenhouse with 1000 orchids.

Source: Lester W. Poole

(lwp@lajoya.com)

The usage directions on fertilizer labels should be followed closely. While there are many choices among growers on how best to fertilize orchids (weakly/weekly; etc.), Peters, Dynagro, Schultz, and other reputable fertilizer producers base their instructions upon research and experience, and will not offer instructions that are contrary to the best interest of your plants. A study by Dr. Hugh Poole and Tom Sheehan, on "Mineral Nutrition in Orchids" in "Orchid Biology, Review and Perspectives", Vol. II, pg. 190, is one of the best references done to date regarding the nutritional needs of orchids.

Homemade Insecticide Spray

Source: Jim Brasch

(jbrasch@mcmaster.ca) A safe, effective spray for scale, aphids, mealybugs etc. is a solution of two tsp. mineral oil in one quart of water with a

few drops of ordinary kitchen detergent. Spray to run-off in the morning and repeat at 5 day intervals for three weeks or so.

Source: Hal Frank

A homemade insecticide spray can be made using 2 1/2 Tbls. Palmolive liquid dishwashing soap (only the original formulation-no additives or concentrates), 2 1/2 Tbls. ordinary cooking or salad oil (e.g., Canola). Shake together into one gallon of water. This concoction is effective on virtually any known insect, including scale, mealybugs, and spider mites. It kills on contact, so it is necessary to spray thoroughly. Don't forget to spray the undersides of the leaves. Since it kills by dissolving protective coats and by suffocation, insects do not develop a resistance to it, so you can use it over and over. Applications every three months or so is sufficient for maintenance. A word of caution- due to the oil content, the mixture can easily become very hot in the heat of the day and burn your plants. Limit spraying to early morning or late afternoon.

Phalaenopsis Fertilization

A 30-10-10 fertilizer is high in nitrogen, which encourages vegetative growth. A blossom booster is 6-30-30, 10-60-10, 3-12-6, 19-31-17, etc. with the middle number being the highest concentration, phosphorus, which encourages more flowers. Usually Phals will form buds in the fall and bloom in the winter and spring. That's why cultural guides often say to fertilize Phals with a blossom booster from Sept. to Feb. Also, 4-5 weeks of 50-55°F nights in the fall will help set buds on Phals. Some Phals do not adhere to this schedule and you may see a spike appearing at other times of the year. When you do see a new spike starting, switch to a blossom booster until the flowers are all open. If Phals are growing in bark they need a high nitrogen fertilizer, such as 30-10-10 during the growing season. If your Phals are in a "mud" mix or sphagnum moss, a balanced fertilizer (i.e., 20-20-20) is fine for the vegetative growth phase.

Cattleya

KAT-lee-uh

Cattleyas are among the most popular orchids. Their culture is often used as the basis for comparison with other types of orchids. Cattleyas and their related hybrids come in many colors, shapes, forms and sizes. Culture varies only slightly among most of these. This sheet is a general guide to basic cattleya culture. Like many other cultivated orchids, cattleyas are epiphytes, or air plants. They have developed water-storage organs, called pseudobulbs, and have large, fleshy roots covered with a spongy, water-retentive velamen. They are accustomed to being dry at the roots between waterings, and therefore should be potted in free-draining media.

LIGHT is the most important factor in growing and flowering cattleyas, whether in a greenhouse or in the home. Bright light to some sun should be given to the plants, with no direct sun in the middle of the day. This means an east, shaded-south (as with a sheer curtain) or west window in the home, and 50 to 70 percent full sun in a greenhouse (3,000 to 5,000 foot-candles). Leaves should be a medium-green color, pseudobulbs erect and requiring no staking.

TEMPERATURES should be 55 to 60 F at night and 70 to 85 F during the day. Seedlings should have night temperatures five to 10 degrees higher. A 15- to 20-degree differential between day and night is recommended, especially for mature plants. Higher day temperatures can be tolerated (up to 95 F), if humidity, air circulation and shading are increased.

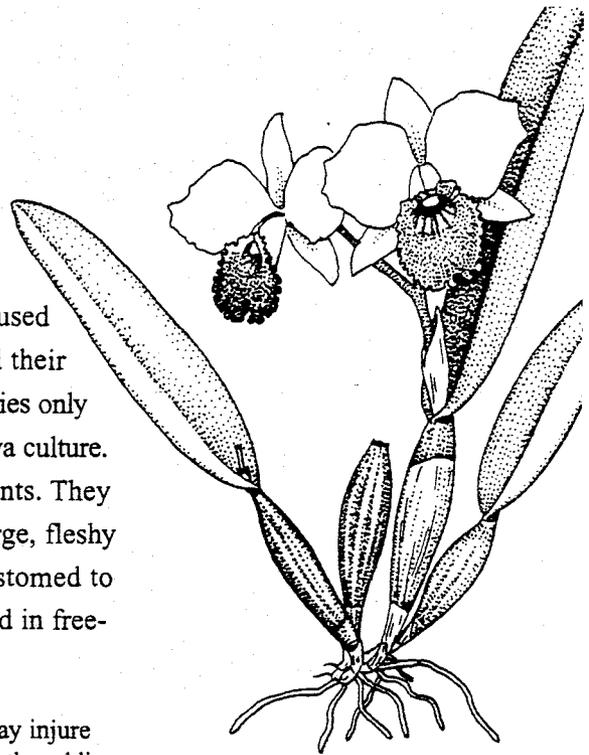
WATER should be provided in two ways: in the pot by watering and in the air as humidity. Watering in the container is dictated by many criteria: size and type of the vessel, temperature, light, etc. Mature cattleyas need to dry out thoroughly before being watered again. Seedlings need more constant moisture. Compare the weight of a dry pot of the same size and type of mix; it can indicate if a plant needs water by the relative weight — light means dry, heavy means wet. If in doubt, it's best to wait a day or two until watering. Plants in active growth need more water than plants that

are resting. Water below 50 F may injure plants, as will water softened by the addition of salts.

HUMIDITY should be 50 to 80 percent for cattleyas. This can be provided in the home by placing the plants on trays of gravel, only partially filled with water so that the plants do not sit in the water. Air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity or cool temperatures exist. In the greenhouse, the humidity is best increased by use of a humidifier. Evaporative cooling increases humidity while cooling the air.

FERTILIZE on a regular schedule. In fir bark, a high-nitrogen (such as 30-10-10) formulation, or a similar proportion, is used. Otherwise, use a balanced fertilizer. When in active growth, plants need fertilizer at least every two weeks, and when not actively growing, once a month. Fertilizer can also be applied with every watering at one-quarter the recommended dilution. Thorough flushing with clear water every month is recommended to prevent the buildup of fertilizer salts.

POTTING is necessary when the rhizome of the plants protrudes over the edge of the pot or the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after two to three years). It is best to repot just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, after flowering or in the spring

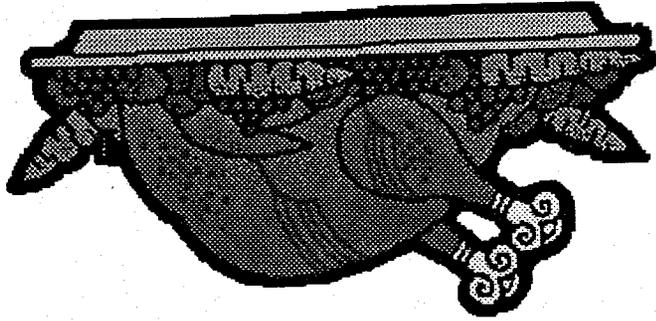


Mature cattleyas are usually potted in coarser potting material than are seedlings. Until a plant has at least six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be put into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, three to five pseudobulbs per division are required. Select a pot that will allow for approximately two years of growth before crowding the pot. Pile medium against one side of the pot and cut off all dead roots. Spread the firm, live roots over the pile, with the cut rhizome against the side of the pot. Fill the pot with medium working it around the roots. Pack firmly and stake if necessary. Keep the plant humid, shaded and dry at the roots until new root growth is seen.

The American Orchid Society is the world leading provider of information about and related to orchids. We invite you to join us and learn about the world's most fascinating flowers and plants. Your membership entitles you to our monthly award-winning magazine *Orchids* free copy of our cultural book *Your First Orchid* and the *AOS Almanac*, a 10 percent discount on items purchased through The AOS BookShop and access to the largest pool of orchid expertise ever assembled. All this and much more can be yours as a member of the AOS.

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