

ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Jim Spatzek, Editor

**HAPPY
NEWYEAR**

January Meeting

For the inaugural meeting of our new year, our electors choose **John Schwind** to speak at our next session on Sunday, **January 7th** at the Botanic Garden in Glencoe. His subject will be **"Masdevallia,"** and he will explain how to grow this challenging group. While John has been raising orchids for 26 years, he elected to grow **Masdevallias** in 1984, with gradual success. He also grows paphs and phrags, and more recently developed an interest in **cirrhopetalums** and **bulbophyllums**. Retired from IBM, he is now employed in the Computer Services area of Clarke College. John will bring

plants for sale, so don't spend all of your money during the holidays.

We will assemble in the Linneaus Room at 12:00noon. As you know we now have a volunteer to take your plants into the display area from the driveway at the rear entrance. You can get a token from the guard at the entry gate, then make a right turn across from the first parking lot, placing the token in the box which raises the arm of the toll gate. Drive around the back area of the Garden, drop off your sales and display plants with our volunteer **Marilyn Malles**, park your car, and then come back and arrange and tag your plants! You must complete this action by 12:30pm or you will receive a late postmark and an absentee designation on your entries! Then our own judges will hand count their votes for these display plants. Their

opinions, however partisan, are supreme as there is no court of appeals. Sorry but no votes will be counted for dimpled flowers, hanging petals, or pregnant pods. We print these rules before judging, so that the IOS legislative board is fully aware that our electors cannot relax Lois with the plant of the month. John's lecture will follow in the Auditorium. For this inaugural year's hospitality table, we ask that you raise your right hand and swear to bring some goodies. We are campaigning for urgently needed volunteers to help with hospitality. Please call Lois and offer your assistance to arrange these treats, as she has recused herself from this activity.

Rich Unger will present a workshop on orchid fragrance. In the past you have developed your sense of sight in identifying the various species and now we want to help you develop your sense of smell

in recognizing them. Your nose will soon know what you never knew about orchid fragrance.

Joe Dixler



The President's Message by Lois Cinert

Now it's the new millennium so lets dispense with the normal New Year's resolutions and make some new century commitments. Resolve to be a better grower. Everyone want to be. Just improve one aspect, then go on to the others...one at a time. Resolve to attend more monthly meetings. You will learn so much from our speakers, and see many fascinating flowers on our show-and-tell tables. Resolve to bring your plants to away shows, or drop them off. Let other people share in the joy and sense of accomplishment you have. Resolve to participate in our home shows...Bring plants, or volunteer for a few hours. It is so much fun, so

interesting, and you meet so many great people that there are not words to describe the experience.

We ended the old year with our party at **Hausermann's**. What a great time was had by all as usual. We missed Dana Harrison, who was out ill, but **Tom Kalina of Fox Valley Orchids** substituted in giving the presentation after dinner. It was an interesting discussion of Phrag. besseae and its hybrids, and we learned some amazing things. Thank you to Tom for filling in for Dana.

As of the date of this writing, we still don't have anyone to help with hospitality at the January meeting. Please call **Joe Dixler** or me if you want to help.

Enjoy the snow falling; it's beautiful, even though it's a lot of work, causes headaches, changes your best laid plans....just like orchids.



Please mark your calendars for this years meeting dates now so you don't make other plans! Here they are:
Jan.7, Feb.25, April 29, May

20, June 24, July 8, Aug.12, Sept. 9, Nov.11, and Dec 9.

The Spring Show will be March 29-April 1, and the Fall Show Oct. 11-14, 2001.



American Orchid Society Judging ..

The judging of the American Orchid Society Chicago Judging Center are held monthly in the Linnaeus 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.)

Dec. 9, 2000-1:00PM
Jan.13,2001-1:30PM
Feb.10,2001-1:00PM
March 31,2001-7:00AM
April 14,2001-1:00PM
May 12,2001-1:00PM
June 16,2001-1:00PM
July 14,2001-1:00PM
August 11,2001-1:00PM
Sept.8,2001-1:00PM
Oct.12,2001-6:00PM
Nov.10,2001-1:00PM
Dec. 8,2001-1:00PM



IOS Website:

www.iosoc.com

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members:

Don & Irene Summers
Suzanne Hessdorf &
Martin Gross
Margo Criscuolo

See you at the next meeting.



Dues Renewal Time

This is your last newsletter if you have not paid your 2001 dues. If you have not yet paid your dues and wish to receive a membership card, you must pick-up one from Barb Bennett at the meeting or send her a self-addressed stamped envelope.

For those who have renewed, you should receive a membership badge in this newsletter. If you have renewed and did not receive a membership badge, call Barb Bennett and let her know. Please neatly PRINT your name on the membership card, to make it easier to read and say "hello" to each other.

This new design is to allow the name to be prominent and easier to read.

Barb Bennett



NEW BADGE HOLDERS

The membership cards for 2001 will be larger than previously and will no longer fit into the small plastic holders that are attached with a pin. Barb Bennett will exchange the small badge holders for the large size at the monthly IOS meeting. Due to the cost of mailing, there will not be a mass mailing of new badge holders. In addition to being larger, the new badgeholders will have a clip rather than a pin for attachment! Please take care of your new badge holders. Each of these cost 50 cents and replacement of misplaced badge holders increase the costs of the society.



Upcoming Events in the Orchid World

1/27-1/28/01	Winter Carnival Orchid Show St. Paul, MN
2/3-2/4/01	Orchid Quest 2001 Show Madison, WI
3/3-3/4/01	NWOS Show Green Bay, WI
3/17-3/18/01	Iowa Orchid Society Show Des Moines, IA
3/24-3/25/01	Illowa Orchid Society Show Bettendorf, IA
3/31-4/1/01	IOS Spring Show, Glencoe, IL
9/29-9/30/01	Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, The Domes, Milwaukee, WI
10/13-10/14/01	IOS Fall Mini Show, Glencoe, IL

Happy New Year!!

Cultural Discussion Group...

The next Cultural Discussion Group will be in February. Watch next month's newsletter for details.



Your homepage...

Have you assembled a personal website and does it contain a few pictures of your orchids? No matter if it is focused on pictures of the grandkids, your last vacation to the Dells, or the poems you wrote when you were in college, if you answered "Yes" to the first question then I want the URL for inclusion as a link from the society's website to yours. Now c'mon, be brave and send the URL to me: terpsichore@dataflo.net. Let's try it out! If you are overcome with shyness later on, I promise I will remove it, but give it a try. I can't believe that there aren't a dozen or more personal websites out there amongst our

membership. I'm lonely on the link page and I want you company!

Tom Franczak



Please bring you plants to the January meeting!!! Keep them warm with a container of hot water in your plant box. We will again have helpers to get your plants into the Education Center. This is an ORCHID Society. Let's see your orchids!



January Board Meeting.....

The January Board of Directors meeting date has been changed to **January 16th**. We will meet at the home of Nancy Jean Schoo. Board members, officers, and others interested parties, please note this change!!!



New From the Net.....

Barb Bennett

From the December Orchidguide Digest.....

Questions/Comments from Shawn P. Harrington, MD Subject: Bulbophyllums -Recipe for Success

I need some advice on optimal growing of Bulbos. I have been growing them for a number of years in many different media with varying success overall. What I am hoping for is a description of how you grow yours well. I realize some of you are blessed with perfect conditions, etc. but I am most interested in those that grow in basements or average hobby greenhouse and really feel they grow them well. Now is your chance to brag. We all like doing that, don't we?

Most recently, I have taken to mounting my (typically bare root plants) on homemade Hydrologs. You know, the moss covered florist foam blocks. I can describe how to make them easily if you wish. In the past I have had success growing other

moisture loving genera on these. They can take up a lot of room however and are not easily transported to club meetings, shows, etc. And somehow just don't look natural.

In the past I would mount dry root plants on a moss pad on cork with a dab of Keiki-grow on the nodes before mounting. However, this sometimes proved to be too dry and the plants would dessicate before the bare-rooted, typically dormant plants had a chance to re-establish. I have found that straight sphagnum stays too wet in a pot and sometimes develops rhizome/pseudobulb rot, at least under my conditions in a small lean-to style greenhouse in MN where temps range 55-95F, humidity 25-75% depending on the time of the year.

The hydrologs seem to do well although the plants easily grow off the mount once they start proliferating, and the logs generally have to be watered every

other day to maintain some degree of moisture in the foam. They also can be difficult to rewet without repeated drenching once completely dried out. But all in all they are OK. Have seen some really well-grown specimens on hydrologs, where the logs are never allowed to dry out. I just don't have the misters/humidity to prevent that without daily watering.

So how do you do it? What media/mix do you use, fertilizer esp if atypical, temps/humidity, etc. Do you agree that Bulbos generally resent repotting and not want/need much fertilizer? Would a low concentrated "organic" fertilizer be best? Can they all be grown similarly or do certain of them require special conditions?

Responses:

Bill Pinnix-Oregon: With a soldering iron, melt holes in hard plastic plant trays. Potting media consists of loose

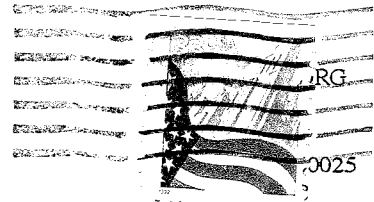
sphagnum moss, top dressed with tree fern under the bulbs (some placed under new growth to keep it from direct contact of the sphagnum, helps stop bulb rot) and all held in place by fishing line. This can be hung on the wall, or placed on a bench. Water nearly every day, as it dries rapidly. Grown in a greenhouse with 70% humidity.

Stephen Kemp -Australia : Growing both cool growing and intermediate to warm Australian species. Mounted on tree fern or potted in sphagnum moss. Some in small bark mix are doing OK but not as well as the ones in sphagnum moss. They receive good light but are hung at or below bench height. Feeding is 1/4 strength balanced (inorganic) fertilizer and rain water when available.

Bill Bergstrom-Hawaii: uses medium of "fairly compressed" New Zealand sphagnum moss in plastic pots with very good results in 90% of the species. He advises to pay attention to several issues; No fungicides, etc., since the moss will get covered with bright green algae. Chemical kill it and you end up with yucky scum (easily removed but a big pain when you have thousands of plants). You MUST keep the moss good and damp. Some love it wet. A few do well in teak

baskets, others do not. *B.corolliferum* does spectacular in wood baskets (here). The hydrologs are surely a great way to grow them (as long as you keep them damp) Howard Gunn (the best in the West for growing them) uses them frequently with superior success. His humidity is every bit as high as mine in Hawaii, perhaps even higher since he is enclosed. Air movement is a major concern when you have this much dampness. (Remember, fungicides are bad news!!) I lose very few leaves, etc. from roth and water a lot, but have good air movement. I feed once a week heavily. I repot often by whacking off three or more bulbs as they drift over the side (*B.masdevalliaceum* for instance...every few months) and find no problem with repotting. Maybe that has been the problem with those 10%...they just were unhappy campers...don't know. They didn't tell me...just died...a slow...agonizing death... As for hydrogen peroxide...it works. It should be proclaimed as a major benefit. It is also great for ridding that scum that forms and causes the death of growth of *Phragmipedium Grande*. You know, that icky, gooey stuff that forms just at the base of the growth. That must be a bacteria, but I have never checked. **(Continued next month)**

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