



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 greateromahaorchidsociety.org January 2012

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Submission deadline for the
February Informer: January 30,
2012

Omaha Orchid Society Mem- bership Information Annual Dues:

Single: \$15.00
Family: \$20.00
Annual dues are paid to the treasurer
by January 1 of each year and are
delinquent the day after the Febru-
ary meeting. Dues for new members
joining after July 31st are one-half
the annual rate.

Dues should be made payable to
G. O. O. S. and may be mailed to
the G. O. O. S. post office box: G.
O. O. S., PO Box 241871, Omaha,
NE 68124.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

(NOTE: All GOOS meetings
are held at Monthly Meeting
at the Douglas/Sarpy Cty
Extension Office, 8015 W.
Center Rd., Omaha, NE unless
otherwise indicated)

January 11, 2012
7:00 PM New growers group
7:30 PM Program - Guest
Speaker: New lighting and
growing supplies - Paradigm
Gardens
Refreshments :TBD
Greeter: TBD

January 25, 2012
7:00 PM
Board Meeting, location TBA

February 8, 2012
7:00 PM New growers group
7:30 PM Program - Guest
Speaker, Joe Lankton -
orchid show judging for
clerks
Refreshments :TBD
Greeter: TBD

EVENTS

January 28 - 29, 2012
Orchid Society of Minnesota
Show, Marjorie McNeely
Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook
Dr., St. Paul, MN. Contact:
Michael Dyda, 2095 Silver
Bell Rd. #1, Eagan, MN
55122; (612) 940-1497;
michael1027us@yahoo.com.

February 4-5, 2012
Orchid Grower's Guild
Orchid Quest, Alliant Energy,
1919 Alliant Energy Center
Way, Madison, WI. Contact:
Judy Stevenson, 222 S
Kenosha Dr., Madison, WI
53705; (608) 231-3163; judy_
stevenson@sbcglobal.net

February 9 - 12, 2012
Omaha Home, Lawn, Garden
Show, CenturyLink Center,
Omaha.

February 18-19, 2012
Batavia Orchid Society Show,
DuPage County Showgrounds
2015 Manchester Rd.,
Wheaton, IL. Contact: Mike
Rollinger, 23625 Andrew Rd.,
Plainfield, IL 60585; (815)
254-2207.

March 10-11, 2012
Illowa Orchid Society Show,
Wallaces Garden Center, 2605
Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf,
IA. Contact: Suzanne Dennis,
9 Chrison Ct., Colona, IL
61241; (309) 441-6038;
minicatt@mchsi.com.

March 24-25, 2012
Great Omaha Orchid Society
Show, Lauritzen Gardens,
100 Bancroft St., Omaha,
NE. Contact: Jim Pyszynski,
2107 Alberta Ave., Bellevue,
NE 68005; (402) 734-4112;
jpyszynski@cox.net.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

PARADIGM GARDENS

Kicking off the new year,
our January program will
be presented by our friends
at Paradigm Gardens, lo-
cated here in Omaha at
8949 J St., Suite 5. They
are generally a hydropon-
ics dealer but have a large
assortment of products
that can be used by typical
orchid growers.

There have been a lot de-
velopments in the area of
lighting over the past few
years. Not so long ago,
growing under lights meant
growing under standard
40 watt, 4 ft fluorescent
fixtures. Then came the
use of High Intensity Dis-
charge lights, metal halide
and high pressure sodium.
Then there were changes
in fluorescent fixtures and
bulbs. Out with the T12,
in with T10, T8, and T5
and T5 high output. There
have been improvements
in Light Emitting Diode
(LED) lighting in recent
and years and now another
form of lighting is begin-
ning to show up - induction
lighting.

Paradigm Gardens also
carries, perlite, coir, bark,
various fertilizers and pes-
ticides, and a great assort-
ment of pots. So plan on
being at the meeting and
find out more about what is
available now and coming
in the near future.

TIME TO RENEW

Remember – it's membership renewal time. Please use the renewal form at page 6 of this issue of the newsletter. Memberships become delinquent the day following the February meeting (February 9, 2012). To keep up-to-date on the latest in orchid news, please renew now.

HOME, GARDEN, LAWN, & PATIO SHOW

A big Thank You to all who signed up to help at the Annual Home & Garden Show at the CenturyLink Center (new name for the Qwest Center). The event is February 9 – 12 and we still have a number of slots available for people to help out. The signup sheets will be circulated again at the January meeting – or you may contact Jim Pyszynski for more information.

We plan to sell our potting mixes, plants, books, other orchid supplies. And we will be publicizing our upcoming March show and the benefits of belonging to the Society. So if you think you can help out, please sign up. You get in to see the Home and Garden Show free.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW

Our annual orchid show and sale is less than 3 months away – March 24 and 25, with setup on March 23. This is our big event for the year and we need a lot of participation by the membership to make it a success.

Show Setup. The first item on the agenda is show setup on Friday. Early Friday morning there is a need for a few reasonably strong

individuals to set up the tables. Later, at 5 pm, the exhibitors and vendors will begin to setup their displays, and more help will be needed assisting exhibitors with getting their material into the Gardens, etc.

Society Display – don't forget the Society has a display and display means plants – YOUR plants. If you have a blooming orchid, bring it for the show (there are some caveats, it should be pest and disease free). You can enter it for judging and maybe win a ribbon or more. Between now and the show, look over your plants, see which are starting to produce bloom spikes and stake them and groom them for the show.

Your own display??? Yes individuals, or even groups of individuals, can put up their own display. Our own Tyler Bolamperti has done for the past few shows, and Marilyn Hawes has also put up a display. A display does not have to be large nor elaborate, 1 -5 plants might even do. A display does not even have to be plants (but it needs to be about orchids). It could be your orchid-related collectibles, etc. See Jim Pyszynski about an exhibit application, they also will be available on the Society website in the near future. If this is your first exhibit, you qualify for the GOOS First Exhibit Award.

Ribbon judging is early Saturday morning. At 6:30 AM there is a judging breakfast and a judging briefing. We need clerks to assist the judges with the judging. At the breakfast the judging chairman will set up teams of judges and assign judges and clerks to the teams. The teams will be assigned various groups of orchids, ex-

hibits, etc. to judge. There are 3 clerks for each team: the **Head Clerk** records the decisions of the judges in the judging books, the **Ribbon Clerk** maintains the ribbons and adds the required information on the ribbon and getting judges signatures on the ribbon, the **Spotter** assists in locating exhibits and plants, etc.

The program for the February meeting will be given by Joe Lankton. Joe is the AOS Judging Chairman for our show – and also is now the Judging Chairman for the Mid-America Judging Center in St. Louis. Joe will discuss the judging process and clerking duties during the program. Last year some questions were expressed about the mechanics of the judging process and this should clarify what happens and the roles clerks play in the process.

Information table. We will need people to staff the information table during the show hours both days – 10 AM – 4 PM. Shifts are 2 hours long, at least 2 people per shift. The information table will have bark, fertilizer, books, etc. for sale and most importantly - memberships.

Cleanup. At the end of the show it's cleanup time. Exhibitors need to be helped getting their material out of the Gardens, the tables need to be folded and stacked, and a general cleanup take place.

Hospitality. We will also need donations (money or food) for the hospitality room (we all liked to eat

while we're having a show).

So signup sheets for all these functions will be available at our January meeting and the other meetings that precede the show. Mark the show dates on your calendar and figure out where you can help out. Thanks.

THE SHOW SCHEDULE

Last year's show generated some comments about the judging process and exhibits and there were some concerns about how to identify what orchid was going to be judged. As mentioned in the preceding article Joe Lankton will discuss the judging process at the February meeting but the following is an in-depth look at the Show Schedule.

The Show Schedule is the document which provides a standardized set of orchid show guidelines for societies affiliated with the Mid-America Orchid Congress. It includes show rules, registration procedures for plants and exhibits including show tags, guidelines for registration clerks and ribbon judging clerks, etc. When a plant or exhibit is entered in the show, the exhibitor fills out an entry tag with the required information regarding class number, exhibit number, etc. The entry tags are given to the registration clerks who enter one copy into the show judging books and return one to the exhibitor who will place the tag in the exhibit or on the plant. In the morning of the judging, the show judging chairman announces the teams for the judging which are comprised of judges and clerks. Each team is assigned a set of show classes to judge. The team members should take a copy of the show schedule with them in order to follow

what is covered in the specific class number being judged. The ribbon judging clerks have some specific duties; they are:

1. **Head Clerk**

Responsible for the efficient performance of the judging process. This also includes recording the decisions of the judges, making a record of the awards given, and leading the judges to the next class to consider. When personnel are available, this person should be assisted by two additional clerks.

2. **Ribbon clerk**

Responsible for maintaining the ribbon supply, adding class, entry number and date to each ribbon awarded, obtaining the signatures of the judges, and placing the ribbons in accordance with the awards granted.

3. **Spotter**

Assists in locating exhibits and plants plus any other duties that may be assigned.

The Show Schedule also contains this information for clerks:

During the show judging, clerks are not to participate in the process unless asked to do so. Most often, only judges are to be involved in the deliberations concerning an entry considered for competitive awards. In all cases, clerks are to assist the judges to effect efficiency during the judging process. Further, deliberations, when verbally expressed, must not be repeated nor discussed with others.

Now let's look a bit further at the classes. There are 108 classes. Most are about specific plant types but there are some for entire exhibits and some for other orchid-related items: e.g., art, photographs, collectibles, and orchid arrangements. The classes are arranged into larger groups of related items. The first 3 larger groups, consisting of a total of 9 classes, are for whole exhibits. One group is for societies, another for amateurs, and one is "open competition" group. Then follow a number of groups specifically for plants which are grouped by "Alliance." The purpose is to group plants by related types for judging purposes. It wouldn't make a lot of sense to compare a *Phalaenopsis* to a *Paphiopedilum* for judging purposes. Now remember the orchid family, Orchidaceae, is a very large and diverse family of plants comprised of some 25,000 species found on every continent except Antarctica. And that does not include the numerous manmade hybrids that are made every year. You will encounter only a very small portion of the family at an orchid show but there is still a lot of diversity and it helps to have some familiarity of what some of these plants and their flowers look like in order to know what to look for in an exhibit when you're searching for the plant that is going to be judged. One internet source is orchidspecies.com which has orchids grouped by genus and then lists the species in the genus. There are photos for many of the species. (Living things are classified using two Latin names, the first is the genus and the second is the species. A genus is a higher-level category that includes one or more species under it. The plural of genus is genera.)

The first "Alliance" of orchids in the Show Schedule is the **Cattleya Alliance**. Cattleyas are the corsage flower of a previous era when women wore corsages. They have a large and showy lip with 3 petals and 2 petals that are similar and relatively plain. But the alliance contains a number of other genera that may or may not look like a Cattleya. The genera in the alliance include: *Epidendrum*, *Encyclia*, *Brassavola*, *Broughtonia*, *Laelia*, *Sophranitis*, *Prosthechea*, etc. and these are judged in their own classes. The Cattleya hybrids are judged by various criteria, mainly flower color. *Laelias* generally look a lot like Cattleyas, as do *Sophranitis*. Many *Encyclias* look like diminutive Cattleyas but *Epidendrums* can be quite different, even from each other.

The next group is the **Cypripedium Alliance**. These are the "slipper orchids" since the lip resembles a shoe or pouch. There are only two genera of slipper orchids you are likely to encounter in an orchid show: *Paphiopedilums* (which are tropical Eastern Hemisphere plants) and *Phragmipediums* (which are tropical Western Hemisphere plants). There are some similarities and some differences but you are more likely to see *Paphiopedilums* in an orchid show due to the larger number of species and their greater variety.

The next group is the **Vanda and Phalaenopsis Alliance**. The *Phalaenopsis* generally would require no introduction but there are some species that might surprise you. Due to the large number of *Phalaenopsis* hybrids there are a seventeen of classes that categorize the plants based on color and markings and some other characteristics. The remaining twelve classes in this alliance are quite diverse and include such genera as *Aerangis* and *Angraecums* (these two genera are generally of African or Madagascar origin), *Asocentrum*, *Rhyncostylis*, *Renanthera*, *Aerides*, and *Vanda* as well as related genera and their hybrids (such as *Ascocenda*).

The **Oncidium Alliance** is the next group. It is quite diverse and includes the following genera: *Brassia* (spider orchids), *Miltonia*/*Miltioniopsis* (pansy orchids), *Oncidium*, *Tolumnias* (equitant *Oncidiums*), *Odontoglossums*, and various lesser known genera.

The **Cymbidium Alliance** is the next group. Cymbidiums may be familiar to many people. Occasionally plants may even be found for sale in grocery and big box stores. The flowers are sometimes sold for use as corsages. There are two classes for Cymbidium hybrids. But the class for Cymbidium species includes allied genera and hybrids that frequently bear little resemblance to Cymbidiums. These include Ansellia, Cyrtopodium, Eulophia, Oeceoclades, etc.

The **Dendrobium Alliance** is the next group. The genus Dendrobium itself is quite large and diverse and there are some allied genera to consider too. The genus Dendrobium is divided into 3 classes for species types and 3 corresponding classes for hybrids. The types are Nobile, Phalaenopsis (these are Dendrobiums whose flowers bear a resemblance to Phalaenopsis flowers but are not at all related to the genus Phalaenopsis) and Antelope types, and then “other” types.

The next group is **Miscellaneous genera**.

The first four classes in the miscellaneous group deal with Pleurothallids. There are two classes for Masdevallia and Dracula – one for species and one for hybrids. Then there is one class for the genus Pleurothallis species, hybrids, and intergenerics (hybrids between the genus Pleurothallis and another genus). And there is one class for allied genera, hybrids, and intergenerics not covered by the preceding classes. Masdevallias and Pleurothallids in general are fairly popular and frequently found in orchid show displays.

The next seven classes deal with a various genera. One class is for the genus Lycaste, another for the genus Maxillaria (the coconut orchid is in this class), and one class for Zygopetalum (these orchids are becoming more popular due to their ease of culture and rather large flowers). The genera Catasetum, Cycnoches, Mormodes and related plants are in another class. Bulbophyllums (a large and very diverse genus) are in another class. Then there are two “catch-all” classes, one for species not covered elsewhere and one for hybrids not covered elsewhere.

We’re in the home stretch now. There is one class for miniatures (plants not exceeding 6 inches in growth excluding the inflorescence). Another class is for seedlings flowering for the first time. And another class is for specimen plants (large plants with many growths and flowers).

There are two more groupings. One for Orchid related art including a class for paintings, etchings, charcoals. A class for color photographs, and a class for black and white photographs. And there is a class for various arts and crafts (jewelry, metal art, etc.) Any entries in these four classes must have been created by the exhibitor. Then there is a class for orchid related collectibles, e.g. stamps, china, etc.

The final group is comprised of two classes. One is for orchids for personal adornment such as corsages, bouquets, etc. And one class for orchid arrangements.

If anyone has questions about the show schedule and the judging process, feel free to bring your questions to the February meeting.

Collector's Item: *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* Rchb.f.

Hybrid *Phalaenopsis* have reached a popularity unimagined thirty, even twenty years ago. They have done what no other orchid was able to do by becoming a favorite houseplant. They have introduced thousands of people to this wonderful family of plants. As varied and attractive as these hybrids can be, there is a certain charm that their species ancestors possess that makes them worthwhile additions to any orchid collection. Although there are other choice candidates, *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* may arguably be the most popular species in the genus. This pink-flowered *Phalaenopsis* truly lives up to the genus' moniker, "Moth Orchids". As an added bonus, the beautiful barred leaves make for an attractive houseplant even when not in flower. And most flowers have a delicate rose fragrance when in bloom.

Phalaenopsis schilleriana was described by H.G. Reichenbach in 1860 and named after Consul Schiller who first flowered the orchid two years earlier. The species is endemic to the Philippines where it enjoys the warm tropical climate. *Phal. schilleriana* has been popular among hobbyists since its discovery is generally easy to find for purchase. The AOS has granted some thirty awards to the species including a number of awards for culture. Christenson cites one valid variation in his monograph, *Phalaenopsis* (2001); *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* f. *immaculata* (Rchb.f.) Christenson. This form lacks the characteristic spotting of the base of the lip and callus.

For a species orchid, *Phal. schilleriana* is among the easiest to grow and is nearly as tolerant of a wide range of conditions as hybrids. *Phalaenopsis*' low light requirements make this a suitable species for windowsill and under-lights growers. Choices for potting media are varied and are usually selected by climate and growing conditions. Northern growers prefer a moisture-retaining mix such as peat based "mud mixes" or medium fir bark. Southern growers tend toward coarser potting media like medium fir bark or coconut husk chunks often amended with additives: Diatomite, sponge rock or chunky peat. We use sphagnum moss in clay pots for all of our Phals here in South Florida and will often add some lava rock or charcoal chunks to open it up a bit. Most growers use plastic pots because it retains moisture better but here in hot Florida we find the moisture evaporative qualities of clay may help keep roots a little cooler. If you have the luxury of space, *Phalaenopsis* grow nicely in hanging pots that allow the leaves to droop naturally. This also helps avoid crown rot and if you do not stake the inflorescence, it will arch naturally and make a beautiful graceful presentation.

Phalaenopsis light conditions should generally be quite shady with no direct sunlight but we find that the heavily barred foliage of *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* and its close relative, *Phal. stuartiana*, seem to tolerate a little brighter conditions, especially if there is a fan nearby. Our Phals have tolerated temperatures into the 40's F but to keep plants in prime condition do not subject them to lower than 60 ° F. Cooler night temperatures in the fall, 55 ° F., are needed to initiate flower spikes. Fertilizer regimen should be the same as for your other orchids; weakly weekly and cut back to twice a month in winter.

Most *Phalaenopsis* are not plagued by too many pests but spider mites and soft brown scale are the most common. Household remedies such as rubbing alcohol and a soft toothbrush work well if the problem is addressed early on. See the pest and disease section of www.aos.org regarding specific remedies.

References:

Cootes, Jim. 2001. *The Orchids of the Philippines*. Timber Press.
Christenson, Eric A. 2001. *Phalaenopsis, a Monograph*. Timber Press.

Greg Allikas, March 2009

Phalaenopsis schilleriana creates a striking presentation when the flowers are allowed to develop to a naturally arched pendant inflorescence.



MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
December 14, 2011

The December meeting was the annual holiday party which was held at Granite City Restaurant at the Westroads. There was one problem, we had been anticipating a buffet style meal but were instead served individually. The price for the meal was adjusted to compensate for the mixup. Otherwise the party went quite well and a good time was had by all who attended.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
December 28, 2011

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board met at Denny's at 7:00 PM. In attendance were: Roberta Ginavan, Sandy Rome, Jacque Lewzader, Eric Stoiber, and Jim Pyrzynski.

Holiday Party. The holiday party was reviewed. The reason we did not have a buffet as had been planned was a policy of Granite City that buffets would be only for parties that have around 30 – 35 persons minimum. This requirement had not been conveyed to us. The arrangement of the tables made for better interaction between the attendees. The gift exchange went well with some good gifts included in the mix. The consensus was to have next year's party at Granite City.

Financial matters. Roberta and Sandy reported on their preparations of the required paperwork and accompanying data for submission to the IRS. They requested that Jim provide a copy of the current (2012) yearbook and an inventory of bark, books, etc. by January 9. Also they requested that the website be updated with 2012 events. Jim volunteered to provide the necessary information to Rich Sukovaty, the webmaster. There was a discussion on how to apply Nebraska sales tax and how sales tax paid to other states was considered in the calculations. Sandy will provide the board with a link to the State website dealing with this issue.

Ways and Means. Jacque discussed the issue about purchasing sweatshirts with GOOS logos. The members will be surveyed at the meeting.

Refreshments/Greeters. The refreshments volunteer list for 2012 had not been circulated. Julie Westman who was supposed to provide refreshments a few months back was unable to do so and she had indicated that she would provide them in January. Jacque will confirm the arrangements with Julie and advise Jim so the appropriate information can be listed in the newsletter. Roberta advised that Annette and Bill Brink will be the greeters for January and they will circulate a sign up sheet for 2012. Jacque will circulate a sign up sheet for refreshments for 2012.

Kansas City February show. Roberta confirmed that we had decided not to participate in the OSGKC show since it is the same weekend as the Home and Garden show in Omaha.

Extension Office. Roberta has not met with the Extension Center management and suggested that any meeting be held after January 18.

Programs. There were no concerns for the January nor the February meeting. Roberta requested a list of specific tasks for the March meeting which would be for show preparation. Fred Clarke will be the speaker for June 11 (Monday night). Antlfinger may be a good fit for October or November. The months for the picnic and Doug Martin as guest speaker are still up in the air. Programs not yet determined will be listed as such in the yearbook and on the website.

Home & Garden Show. Jim is awaiting information for the show office. He probably will need to order more fertilizer, certainly in time for our show in March.

GOOS Show. Jim gave Sandy 3 checks from the first 3 vendors, in order of their receipt: 1. Bird's Botanicals, 2. Orchid Inn, 3. Natt's Orchids.

Show 2013. Jim advised that Lauritzen Gardens asked about our plans for 2013. March 31 is the last Sunday in March and is also Easter Sunday. So the show cannot be held that weekend. The preceding weekend (March 23, 24) is Palm Sunday weekend and that would be a conflict for Orchid Inn. The weekend before that (March 16, 17) is normally the Great Plains Judging Center monthly judging weekend and the judges we have from there (the McCabes, Max Thompson, Bryon Rinke) would probably not attend our show. The weekend before that is the second weekend of the month, normally the Mid-America Judging Center (St. Louis) judging weekend providing another conflict. This left the first weekend in the Month (March 2, 3). The Home and Garden Show last year was early in March but that was unusual. Without participation of Great Plains judges we have a difficult time meeting the requirement for the number of judges needed. Jim mentioned that other societies have their shows in March (e.g. Springfield) and we need to be sensitive to when they schedule it. A suggestion was made that we schedule the show for the March 2, 3 and if the Home and Garden Show were to be scheduled the same weekend we would have only minimal presence at that event with information on the times and place of the show. Jim will discuss the issue with Joe Lankton.

Business cards. Awaiting further action by Eric.

Miscellaneous. Sandy reported that the expenditures are within the budget. The PO Box has been renewed as has been the subscriptions for the IPA Journal and the Orchid Digest. Sandy did recommend that Roberta open the mail to see if there were any items that needed immediate action. Money could have been saved on the renewals to the IPA Journal and Orchid Digest if the renewals had been done in a more timely manner.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

**GREATER OMAHA ORCHID SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (2012)**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

EMAIL _____

SINGLE DUES - \$15.00 FAMILY DUES - \$20.00 STUDENT (18 YRS AND UNDER) - \$5.00

Make check payable to the Greater Omaha Orchid Society, and mail to:
Greater Omaha Orchid Society, P. O. Box 241871, Omaha, NE 68124