



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 greateromahaorchidsociety.org April 2013

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Submission deadline for the
May Informer: April 30, 2013

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 THE LOCATION CHANGES FOR EACH MEETING BELOW:

April 10, 2013

**Extension Office
8015 West Center Rd.**

7:00 PM new growers group

7:30 PM Program:

uncompotting session - come
to the meeting, go home with
a free plant

Refreshments: Jim Pyrzynski

April 24, 2013

**6:45 PM Papillion Library
Board Meeting**

**Saturday, May 4, 2013,
2:00 PM**

**NOTE LOCATION/DATE/
TIME CHANGE!!!!**

Papillion Library

2:00 PM Guest Speaker,

Bryon Rinke, Growing

Pleurothallids in Kansas

Refreshments: Julie Westman

EVENTS

April 6 – 7, 2013

Illinois Orchid Society
Show, Chicago Botanic
Garden, Lake Cook Road,
Glencoe, IL, Contact: Rose
Matchen, 847-587-6525,
goldrosej@att.net

April 20 – 21, 2013

Ann Arbor Orchid Festival
and Mid America Orchid
Congress, Methaei
Botanical Gardens,
1800 North Dixboro
Rd., Ann Arbor, MI,
Contact: Alex Challis,
734-971-6186, alex@
newworldorchids.com

April 20 – 21, 2013

Tulsa Orchid Society
Spring Show & Sale "An
Orchid Odyssey" Tulsa
Garden Center, 2435 S.
Peoria Ave., Tulsa, OK,
Contact: Darrin Mullins,
918-698-3930, darrin.
mullins@att.net

April 27, 2013

9 AM - 4 PM

Spring Affair plant sale,
Benefit for the Nebraska
State Arboretum. Lancaster
Events Center, 84th &
Havelock, Lincoln, NE.

May 10 – 12, 2013

Oklahoma Orchid Society
Mother's Day Show and
Sale, Will Rogers Garden
Exhibition Center, 3400
NW 36th Street, Oklahoma
City, OK, Contact: Jana
Butcher, 405-209-7657,
w.butcher@cox.net

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: FREE PLANTS FOR ALL

The April meeting has THE
real deal for you – free
plants – all you need to do
is be there and participate.
We will be breaking apart a
compost – a community pot
- which has a number of
seedlings of the same plant.
These will be larger, more
fully developed, than those
we worked on last year –
thereby increasing your
chances for success. The
plants are Laelia purpurata
var. striata and a Cattleya
intermedia var. amesiana
crossed with another vari-
ety of Cattleya intermedia.
We supply the plants, the
pots, the labels, and potting
mix – you pot your own.
Ideally we'd like for mem-
bers to report back periodi-
cally on their success – or
failure. Remember you can
learn from your mistakes
and those of someone else.
We may have some other
plants too for the meeting
but these are certain to be
there, now we just need
you to be there. The loca-
tion is the same as usual,
the Extension Office, the
second Wednesday of the
month (April 10), begin-
ner's group at 7:00 PM,
meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

GUEST SPEAKER IN MAY LOCATION/DATE CHANGE

May's meeting brings a
speaker (with plants) but
also a date, time and loca-
tion change!!! **The DATE
IS SATURDAY, MAY 4;**

THE TIME IS 2:00 PM, AND THE LOCATION IS THE SUMP MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN PAPIILLION. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS, DATE BOOKS, ETC. NOW. A MAP OF THE LIBRARY LOCATION IS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Our guest speaker is Bryon Rinke. Bryon is an American Orchid Society judge with the Great Plains Judging Center, where he is the center chair (the judging center meets in Oklahoma City for its monthly judging sessions). He has been on the judging teams for a couple of our recent shows. Bryon is a Radiologic Technologist in MRI & CT by weekday and an orchid grower the rest of his time. The topic of his talk will be pleurothallids, a topic he is well versed in. His talk will focus on how to grow them in the warm (during the summer) and dry climate of the Central Plains of the US.

Pleurothallids are a large group (actually the Subtribe Pleurothallidinae) of the orchid family and are found in the tropics of the Western Hemisphere. The genera comprising Pleurothallidinae include Masdevallias, Draculas, Lepanthes, Restrepia, Stelis, and several others. Many of the flowers are small but so are the plants. And flowers, even though small, have intricate and beautiful forms. The small plant size means that a large collection can be contained in a rather small amount of space. While some species are the denizens of tropical cloud forests, others inhabit other environments which are easier to match in the home environment.

PLANTS PRE-ORDER INFORMATION

Bryon will be bringing plants to sell at the meeting, but you can pre-order plants from the Southwestern College. The college, located in Winfield, KS has a substantial orchid collection. Max Thompson (another AOS judge who has been to our recent shows) is the greenhouse supervisor and Bryon assists him with orchid collection. **The plants available can be viewed at the greenhouse's website: <http://www.sckans.edu/other/greenhouse/>. Orders may be placed via email: greenhouse@sckans.edu or phone: 620-229-6285; provide your name, the plants desired and specify that the order is for the Greater Omaha Orchid Society talk on May 4. ORDERS MUST BE PLACED NLT MAY 2. Cash, Check and Credit Cards are accepted.**

For those interested, we will have dinner with Bryon and Max after the meeting at a nearby restaurant.

JUNE MEETING GUEST SPEAKER DATE & LOCATION

Carlos Fighetti, past president of the American Orchid Society, current president of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Inc. and Chair of the Puerto Rico Judging Center will be the guest speaker for June. **The meeting will be on Wednesday, June 12 (the second Wednesday of the month – our usual meeting date) at 7:30 PM. But the meeting will be at the Sump Memorial Library in Papillion.** The topic for the talk has yet to be announced.

JOIN THE DISPLAY COMMITTEE SEE THE ORCHID WORLD

Our show display materials (backdrop, etc.) have seen better days and are in need of refurbishment. The backdrops are cumbersome and difficult to transport locally, let alone over long distances. The backdrop divider that Eric Stoiber built for the last show provides a starting point for building some new displays. In the process, we hope to establish a cadre of members who can put the displays up at future shows. We're looking for some interested people who want to help out with this project and it will be discussed further at the meeting.

CASH FOR BEST ESSAY

The Mid-America Orchid Congress invites you to enter their essay contest. Write an essay on "Travels with Orchids" -- and win up to \$100.00! The essay should be no more than 500 words in length and submitted no later than October 1st to Doris Asher (asherdoris@juno.com) -- winners will be announced at the Congress' Sunday Business Meeting in Dayton, OH, October 20, 2013. You do not need to be present to win. First prize wins \$100.00; second, \$50; third, \$25. All three prize-winning essays will appear in future issues of the Congress's newsletter, The Mid-American.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Doris Asher via email or by phone (517-332-0004).

LOOKING FOR GARDEN ACTIVITIES?

Looking for something garden-related to do? Check out the Omaha Council of Garden Clubs' website for a list of activities in the area: <http://www.omahagardenclubs.com/352.html>

IN AOS ORCHIDS

Much of the April issue of AOS Orchids is about perfection in orchids. One article discusses the special judging awards for 2011. One of the plants, *Bulbophyllum graveolens* 'Paraiso Tropical' AM/AOS, received the Bill Thoms Award. It's owner – Carlos Fighetti, our guest speaker for June. There are great photos for each of the 16 plants discussed.

Another article discusses the American Orchid Society's First Class Certificates (FCCs) for 2012. This is the highest flower-quality AOS award an orchid can receive. Among the winners are plants exhibited by persons who have attended our shows or given talks at our meetings: Sam Tsui, Max Thompson and Bryon Rinke, and Fred Clarke.

If you are wondering how you can grow the "perfect" orchid, another article shares some secrets on how to garner cultural awards. Read and heed.

But there is more to this issue, Greg Allikas discusses the mysteries of fertilizers for your plants. Tom Miranda's articles discuss how to attack chores of the season and the genus *Cyrtorchilus* (which those of us who toured Ecuador in 2008 saw in its native habitat). And if you are wondering how big your orchid flower really is, there is an article on how to measure it.

LIBRARY NEWS

Offered a share of a 'com-pot' you a) decline because you are dieting b) check your bank balance c) consult a book with a chapter on raising your wee one. Answer 'c' is probably best if we're talking orchids, which we will be. If this is new territory for you, a selection of books from the club library will be available, or you can check the list on the club website and choose one to pick up next time (Contact Ron @402 618 4268). Needless to say, spring is also time to attend to your plants in a variety of ways...going outside? repotting? building a greenhouse?...as we move into warm weather. Books on these problems/topics are also available...check it out.

There is a book in the library on growing seedling orchids by Bob Gordon: *Orchid Seedling Care* (with Special Emphasis on Water Quality). It should be available at the meeting for your review.

INTERNATIONAL PHALAEENOPSIS ALLIANCE

JOURNAL NOTES

The latest (Vol.23(1) 2013) is in with some interesting articles:

Farewell *Doritaenopsis*? What's this? Hybrids of plants in the genus *Phalaenopsis* with the plants in the genus *Doritis* are (or now, were) called *Doritaenopsis*. But the taxonomists have moved the plants that were in the genus *Doritis* to the genus *Phalaenopsis* and the genus *Doritis* no longer exists. So now any hybrids are just hybrid *Phalaenopsis*. The orchid registration database has been changed accordingly. (Something to remember when registering plants for shows.)

The IPA Journal continues to discuss the various subgenera in the genus *Phalaenopsis*. This month it's subgenus *Polychilos* which is characterized by fleshy, waxy flowers which bear a pair of calli (a thickening

on the lip. The subgenus is primarily centered in Indonesia and the Philippines.

There is an excellent article on moss-grown Phals. The article covers how to watering, fertilizing, repotting, lighting and temperature. The article recommends using clear pots so that it permits growers to see the health of the plants root system and since the roots photosynthesize clear pots tend to grow downward into the pot rather than becoming aerial roots.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Spring Affair, the midwest's largest gardening event, will be Saturday, April 27 at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th and Havelock in Lincoln, from 9-4 p.m. More than 500 different varieties of plants will be offered at the day-long plant sale, with educational talks, "Talkabouts" and garden vendors all under the same roof.

Plants are selected for regional suitability, unique-

ness and demand and are provided by Bluebird Nursery, Inc. of Clarkson, NE. Gardeners will find perennials, herbs, native plants, temperennials, vines and a variety of trees and shrubs—something for everyone.

Admission to the sale is free. The plant sale, plant talks and vendors of garden art, sculptures, furniture and other items are all under one roof in Pavilion I, on the northeast edge of the Lancaster Event Center. Plenty of parking is available just north of the building.

The Men's Garden Club will have a special (free) program on Monday 29, 2013 at 7:00 PM, at the Extension Office. Darrel Draper will give his portrayal of Theodore Roosevelt: Rough Rider President. The Men's Garden Club will also have the plant sale at the Extension Office on May 3, 5:30 PM – 8 PM, and Saturday AM – 2 PM.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
March 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office at 7:30 pm.

President Roberta Ginavan welcomed visitors and members to the meeting.

Minutes. The minutes for the February 2012 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report. Sandy Rome stated that the report was not available.

April meeting. Eric Stoiber gave a summary of what will be done at the April meeting – a compot (community pot) will be broken down into separate plants and the plants potted up individually. Meeting attendees will receive a free plant.

May meeting. Eric Stoiber discussed a possible rescheduling of the May meeting. One possible speaker was no longer available but another possible speaker was Bryon Rinke an AOS judge with the Great Plains Judging Center. Bryon works with the green house at Southwestern College at Windfield, KS. Orchids are available for purchase from the greenhouse. Bryon has a number of topics he could speak on but he cannot make it here for a Wednesday meeting, a weekend meeting would work. An informal poll was taken to see who would be interested in a May 4 weekend meeting with Bryon as speaker. About 12 members responded in the affirmative. Eric will pursue this further.

Lauritzen Gardens Spring into Spring. Roberta discussed the event – a fund raiser for the Gardens. GOOS will have a booth and sell books, growing supplies and perhaps plants, as well as answer questions regarding the Society and orchids. A sign up sheet was circulated.

Library. Ron Fechner discussed what was available from the Society library - the books in the library are listed on the Society website.

Doug Martin OSGKC. Roberta advised the members that Doug Martin of the Kansas City society was ill with a Staph infection and will have to undergo some treatments. A get well card will be sent to him.

Program. Dave Taylor gave a potting demo and brought some plants which were divided up and given to members to pot and take home.

Refreshments were provided by Marilyn Hawes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
March 27, 2013

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board met at the Papillion Public Library at 6:45 PM. In attendance were: Roberta Ginavan, Eric Stoiber, Sandy Rome, Ron Fechner, Jacque Lewzader and Jim Pyrzynski.

2013 Orchid Show follow-up. Jim discussed some of the costs for the show. Some of the originally purchased table cloth (rolls) were clear instead of white. The Lauritzen Gardens gave us some cloths to use and we were to replace them after the show. The clear rolls were exchanged white rolls and will be used for the 2014 show. The bill for the 2013 table cloths will be for the replacements ones ordered for use of the Gardens cloths. Ribbons were more costly this year. Mid-America Ribbon Company, the company we had done business with previously was bought out by Rixstine in Lincoln. Their charge for ribbons was higher than Mid-America. We will search for alternative sources. There are enough plates (for the best of class plates) so that we will not need to order any for next year and there are enough rosettes for next year too.

The hospitality room had a lot of food left over. Next year we should only ask for monetary donations.

Backdrops. Jim did not submit a bill for the back drop cost since it was not a one time cost item and will be used for future shows – and for that matter, Society displays at other shows. This led to a discussion on the condition of current Society display material. Sandy recommended that the boxes be repainted. The backdrops are of different materials and have different shades of black; there is some wear and tear. The Kansas City society has a team for show displays. Roberta suggested that we need a cadre of people for our displays. They would need to be able to travel, 2 – 3 shows out of town. There was a discussion on how to build such a team. A signup sheet will be circulated to see who might be interested.

April meeting. Eric advised that we have the plants and pots are available.

May meeting. Eric advised that the topic was not known; he is waiting on a list from Bryon Rinke. Eric advised that we can make pre-orders; plants available are on the College's website. Roberta advised that hotel reservations may present a problem since that May 4 is the weekend for the Berkshire-Hathaway meeting. The meeting will be a 2 PM at the Papillion Library. Information and maps will be in the April newsletter so members can plan accordingly.

June meeting. Roberta advised that she had not gotten a hold of Carlos Fighetti; she needed contact information. Jim advised that he would get it from AOS records and forward it to her after the meeting.

Spring into Spring. Roberta discussed the event. Setup needs to be completed NLT 4:30 PM Friday, May 17. Hours for Saturday and Sunday are 9 – 5.

St. Cecelia's flower show. Ron Fechner discussed the flower show and our possible participation. Brother William is the contact point. The show is January 24. We could be compensated up to \$250 for expenses. We should have business cards or membership brochures available at the display. Setup starts on Thursday but needs to be completed by 3 PM Friday. The show has a preview on Friday evening and continues on Saturday and Sunday.

Insurance. This topic will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Sandy gave an update of the Treasurer's report.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

**SUMP MEMORIAL LIBRARY
PAPILLION, NEBRASKA
MAP**

**NOTE: THE PAPILLION LIBRARY WILL BE THE MONTHLY MEETING LOCATIONS FOR;
!!!SATURDAY MAY 4 (2 PM)!!!
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 7:30 PM**

