



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

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

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Submission deadline for the
January Informer: December
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:

November 20, 2013

Papillion Library
6:45 PM Papillion Library
Board meeting

December 11, 2013

**HOLIDAY PARTY
6:00 PM**
Piccolo's Restaurant
2202 South 20th Street
Omaha, NE

December 18, 2013

Papillion Library
6:45 PM Papillion Library
Board meeting

January 8, 2014

Douglas/Sarpy County
Extension Office,
8015 W. Center Road
7:00 PM Grower's Group
discussion (all welcome)
7:30 Program: Night at the
movies: "Black Orchid"
Refreshments: Ron Fechner

EVENTS

January 24 – 26, 2014

St. Cecilia Cathedral Flo-
wer Festival
701 N. 40th St. Omaha, NE

February 1 – 2, 2014

Orchid Growers Guild
"Orchid Quest 2014"
Alliant Energy, 1919
Alliant Energy Center Way,
Madison, WI; Contact:
Judy Stevenson, 608-231-
3163, judy_stevenson@
sbcglobal.net

February 6 – 9, 2014

Orchid Society of Kansas
City annual orchid show.

March 1 – 2, 2014

Northeastern Wisconsin
Orchid Society Show
Holiday Inn Neenah
Riverwalk, 123 East
Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI.
Contact: Milton Wittmann,
920-788-7413, orrwitt@aol.
com

March 29 – 30, 2014

Greater Omaha Orchid
Society 27th Annual Orchid
Show & Sale. Lauritzen
Gardens, 100 Bancroft St.,
Omaha, NE
Contact: Jim Pyrzynski, 402-
734-4112, jpyrzynski@cox.
net

April 29 – May 4, 2014

2014 Spring AOS Members
Meeting and Show
Doubletree by Hilton,
7800 Normandale Blvd,
Minneapolis MN, Sponsored
by the Orchid Society of
Minnesota, Contact; Kim
Livingston, 952-831-8135,
thelivingstons@comcast.net

IT'S PARTY TIME!

*Oh, the weather outside is
frightful, but dinner with
my orchid friends at Pic-
colo's will be delightful...*

That's right, Wednesday is
our annual holiday party,
this time at Piccolo's Res-
taurant, 2202 South 20th
Street, Omaha. The party-
ing begins at 6:00 PM.

All entrees include Soup,
salad, baked potato, mo-
staccioli, bread and butter,
tea or coffee. Menu choices
are orange roughly (\$28),
chicken (\$18), or sirloin
steak (\$26). Prices include
tax and tip.

You can participate (if you
choose) in our quirky gift
exchange (\$10 max). Con-
tact Jacque Lewzader if you
plan to attend (jlewzader@
ini-agworld.com) (402-573-
2217)

See you there!

RENEWAL TIME

It's that time. Time to re-
new your membership in
the Greater Omaha Orchid
Society. Memberships ex-
pire the day after the Febru-
ary meeting (February 14,
2014). With your member-
ship we are able to bring in
guest speakers from across
the USA. You get to use our
extensive library. Use the
renewal form on page 6 of
this newsletter. Thanks for
being a member.

A NOTE FROM OUR LIBRARIAN

It's the festive season but we know it's followed all too quickly by year-end paperwork. So too with the GOOS library. Please help us take an accurate inventory by bringing whatever you have checked out to the January meeting so we can count it. If that's not possible please call or email Ron Fechner (402) 618-4268) (ronfechner@yahoo.com) and let him know what you have. Ron, Roberta and Ann all appreciate your cooperation in making this splendid resource freely available to members. Those of you who have used these materials know how much help they are. If you haven't tried the library, the book list is on our website...make a resolution to 'check it out' in 2014.

Hints from First Rays (www.firstrays.com) "Do I Cut that Old Flower Spike?"

That is probably one of the most frequent questions asked, and like most orchid-related questions, the answer is a resounding "It depends..."

For the most part, once a plant has dropped all of its blossoms, it is safe to cut it off as close to the plant as possible and remove it, but some plants do re-bloom from old inflorescences, so we think the preferred method is to wait and see. If the inflorescence remains green, it may rebloom. If it starts to yellow, it's a goner and can be removed.

Phalaenopsis are sort of a special case. Some will

advise cutting the old spike just below the point that the first (lowest) blossom formed, as that will sometimes "force" the plant to form a branch and bloom again in the short term. We recommend against doing that, as the subsequent blossoms tend to be smaller and fewer, and such forcing can substantially weaken the plant, so much so that it may skip its next blooming cycle or even die.

We still subscribe to the "wait and see" approach for phals. If they are strong enough to rebloom, they will. If not, they won't. If you simply do not like the looks of the bare spike, feel free to remove it, as the plant will grow another when it's good and ready.

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The programs and other events for 2014 are taking shape.

January 8 (monthly meeting) - a night at the movies for a screening of the "Black Orchid" which was to be shown last September but time ran short.

January 24 - 26 is the Cathedral Flower Festival, a special committee has been organized for the society's display but take some time to go see it and all the others at St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St.

February 6 - 9, Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City Show. GOOS will have a display at the show, an opportunity for you to loan your plants for the display and maybe win an award.

February 12 (monthly meeting) - Display challenge - something different, two teams compete to see who can field the best display.

March 12 (monthly meeting) - a member panel discussion on the challenges of growing orchids in the Omaha area.

March 28 - 30 - annual orchid show and sale at Lauritzen Gardens (setup March 28).

April 9 (monthly meeting) - (tentative) guest speaker: Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids

April 29 - May 4, AOS meeting, MAOC spring meeting, in Minneapolis, MN. The Society will participate with a display. Lots of speakers and vendors - make plans to attend.

May 14 (monthly meeting) - The other lady's slipper orchids - Cypripediums (Jim Pyszynski) with an optional field trip to Central Nebraska on May 17

June 11 (monthly meeting) - (tentative) Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids. (location change for this meeting only)

July 9 (monthly meeting) - program TBA

August 13 (monthly meeting) - annual picnic and auction

September 10 (monthly meeting) - our "annual meeting" with a number of business items to take care of

October 8 (monthly meeting) - program TBA

November 12 (monthly meeting) - guest speaker: Ron Midgett, New Earth Orchids

December 10 (monthly meeting) - annual holiday party - catered at the Extension Office

REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society - General Meeting
November 13, 2013, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office

7:30 President Stoiber introduced Ron Midgett, New Earth Orchids, Santa Fe, NM, presenting "Let's Play Orchid Trivia!" Following his history as a grower in several geographical areas, *Cattleya Brabantiae* was introduced, using old names. SL Orpetii in Massachusetts was named after his orchid grower, Mr Orpet, in Santa Barbara. New Earth Orchids is located in the High Desert with temps between 65 to 95 degrees, and 340 days of full sun. Blooming seasons may shift by three months; colors may change. Lc Allie's Spice "Peppermint" has been in constant bloom since December. Acknowledgements were noted regarding breeding programs by Nickou, Passander, and Roger Cole, along with Stewart Orchids, Frank Fordyce and Rita Crothers. First, second and third generations of Sc Beaufort were viewed, with C. Luteola x S. coccinea noted as the most influential *Cattleya* parent of the last 30 years ("Elizabeth" AM/AOS and "4N"). Registered in 1963 being bred in 1925/etc. Blc Three Suns "Melinda" HCC/AOS is huge. Moderate sizes were bred. Early minicabs: X loddigesii = Sc Crystelle Smith; difficult to grow; unruly. New directions crossed: Pot Little Toshie. Classic yellows from California (Pot Beaugold; Pot Memorial Gold). Stewarts Yellows are in the background of many today. Produced: sturdy plants that grow well. Pot Beaugold "Apricot Glow" - Blc Pacific Gold x Sc Beaufort: large flower count. Current directions: Pot Memoria Jim Nickou "James" HCC/AOS deep buttercup yellow. Attempts: quick to bloom; 3-6 flowers per stem; vigorous; compact growth habit. Three directions pursued. C. Harace "Maxima" AM/AOS: 8" across; breeds lavenders and purples...until Blc Goldenzzelle. Pot Daniel J. Diver (DEEever) C. Horace "Maxima" AM/AOS x Pot Mem Jim Nickou "James" HCC/AOS great lip color. Sue's Heart will grow in 4" pot blooming 5 times a year. Watermelon Delight; Goldilocks; "Shungetsu" AM/AOS; Pot John Passander "Goldilocks" has 32 blooms. Second Direction: F1 generation of compact *Cattleyas* from SC Beaufort for plant size...bigger than parent. Two F1's crossed together also resulted in Pot Dal's Success "Copper Queen" in orange. Third Direction: Minicatts: Slc Seagull's Apricot "Glorious" in 5" bonsai pot. Red; does not mind high temps. Best efforts include: "Embers" at 5" from "Goldilock" x Glorius" for "Scarlet O'Hara;" "First Timer" HCC-AM/AOS; "Firebrand" AM/AOS: bloomed 9 times in a 4" pot in 6 months. "Outstanding" AM/AOS and "High Noon." Remake of Pot. Apricot Sands resulted in solid red. One more generation out, flowers tended to be without little influence of Beaufort; smaller. Pot Beau's Lemonade and Pot Gold Chiffon: compact; continuous bloom since December. Blc Hwa Yuan Gold "O-2" has 7" flowers x Pot John Passander "Goldilocks" = Pot Santa Fe Gold. Ron concluded that achievements on some plants have compactness, rapid, vigorous growth, reduced bloom time, uniformity of quality, good flower count, and multiple season blooming.

Questions were answered. President Stoiber announced break, raffle sales, and time to view/purchase orchids from New Earth Orchids. Jacque reviewed information about the Holiday Party with sign up sheet passed through the membership. President Stoiber announced the Orchid of the Year Award presented to Roberta, during the show in Dayton, OH. The award was viewed by the membership. No changes to Minutes. Aaron Bugjo reported on the Treasurer's Report with the current balance, and status with copies passed around. Upcoming shows were noted. Show and Tell orchids included interesting stories on "Trick or Treat" blooming for Halloween, and Chocolate Drop, which has been crossed with many other orchids according to Ron Midgett. Tiny, black, and bright red orchids were shown, along with two Jim shared. President Stoiber thanked Ron Midgett and everyone attending. The "Black Orchid" CD with snacks provided by the board is scheduled for January. Raffle drawings for eight donated orchids pleased the winners.

Gift swap will also be included at the Holiday Party with \$2-\$3 gifts.
Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Anne Smith

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting, November 20, 2013

Present: Sandy Rome, Jim Pyrzynski, Eric Stoiber, Jacque Lewzader, Roberta Ginavan, Ron Fechner, Marie Smith.

President Stoiber noted that Ron Midgett needs to be paid for his lecture.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Stoiber. Future agenda ideas were the focus:

Roberta reviewed her listing of speakers through the Denver society. Decker, Clark, and Bussey were mentioned. Denver does not meet in June, July, or August.

JANUARY 8th: Black Orchid film; board snacks.

FEBRUARY 12th: "Display Challenge!"

MARCH 12th: "Growing Orchids Indoors" panel discussion/slides.

APRIL 9th: Allan Koch "would be a good catch." Jim, as Speaker's Chair, will contact the possible speakers.

MAY 14th: Conservation possibility to plan a trip to Columbus during the weekend of the 17th/18th, as Mother's Day is the weekend prior.

JUNE 11th: Glen Decker can visit June 9, 10, or 11th, if held at the church location mentioned at earlier meetings, as the 11th is unavailable at the County Extension office. Joe may be asked to provide a projector. He will need to be contacted if he is still available for the 11th; speaker's fee needs to be discussed.

JULY 9th: Under consideration...

AUGUST 13th: Picnic and auction is preferred by the board.

NOVEMBER 12: Ron Midgett returns; speaker's fee is reduced (\$100).

St. Cecilia's Flower Show: Ron, Eric and Jim will meet with Doris at St. Cecilia's to discuss the space. Jim will take photos of the space and measurements also will be taken. Eric will work with the committee on what needs to be done after the meeting.

Current News: RSVP by December 6th: DECEMBER 11th at 6:00 p.m. - Piccolo's at 2202 South 20th Street, South Omaha, NE. 68108. 402.342.9038.

2014 holiday party: Catering for a buffet-style meal at the Extension Office. Gift exchange discussed with the need for a change. Chocolate-covered cashews and chocolate-dipped orange slices will be made by Jacque for members, perhaps with an orchid as a gift.

Springfield, MO has a show two weeks prior to GOOS March show (14-15): "something to think about."

President Stoiber adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

**GREATER OMAHA ORCHID SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (2014)**

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

**NEWS FROM THE
MID-AMERICA JUDGING CENTER**

The American Orchid Society has 25 judging centers – across the continental US, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The judging centers are supported financially and administratively by the affiliated societies in their respective areas (AOS Judging Handbook, Part Two, Chapter 6 (<http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=37>)). The Greater Omaha Orchid Society is affiliated with the Mid-America Judging Center which is located in St. Louis, MO.

The mission of the Mid-America Judging Center of the American Orchid Society is to provide orchid growers in the



Bulbophyllum rothschildianum 'Windy Hill'
Award of Merit/83 points,
Owner Marilyn and Brian LeDoux



Bulbophyllum rothschildianum 'Windy Hill'
Certificate of Cultural Merit/85 points
Owner Marilyn and Brian LeDoux



Rhyncattelanthe Life's Charm 'Lone Jack'
Highly Commended Certificate/76 points
owned by Alex McConnell of the Orchid Society of
Greater Kansas City



Paphiopedilum Hsinying Alien 'Vasti Bird'
Award of Merit/81 points
Owned by David Bird



Paphiopedilum insigne 'Kaluha Kreaan Bird'
Judges Commendation for variegated foliage
Owned by David Bird



region with the opportunity to have their plants evaluated and judged for AOS awards. The Judging Center also hosts guest speakers and other educational opportunities for orchid growers. Judging take place usually on the second Saturday of the month (see the calendar at <http://midamericajudgingcenter.org/Calendar.html>) at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (CBCSE), 4651 Shaw Ave, St Louis, MO 63110. Registration of plants for judging begins at 1:00 PM on meeting dates. Cut flowers should be sent to Drs. Craig and Diana Plahn, 1911 Westview Ave., Kirkwood, MO 63122.

All growers are invited to bring their plants to judging. Visitors are welcome to observe the judging process and attend many of the guest lectures.

At the November 11, 2013 judging session 15 plants were submitted for judging. Six awards were given at the session. Photos of the plants, their awards and the owners are shown here.

The Mid-America Judging Center Chair is Joe Lankton who is also a GOOS member.



Phalaenopsis violacea 'Linda Bird'
Award of Merit/81 points
Owned by David Bird