



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 [greateromahaorchidsociety.org](http://greateromahaorchidsociety.org) June 2013

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Submission deadline for the **July**  
Informer: July 1, 2013

## Omaha Orchid Society Membership 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 February 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.

## IN THIS ISSUE

This month's meeting  
pg. 1  
Dinner with guest speaker  
pg. 2  
Picnic & auction in July  
pg. 2  
Growing tips  
pg. 2  
New library book  
pg. 3  
Conservation report  
pg. 3  
Orchids Outdoors  
pg. 4  
Cactus and Succulent Show  
pg. 5  
CIOS Speakers Day  
pg. 5  
Monthly Reports  
pg. 5  
Papillion Library map  
pg. 7

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

### NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGES FOR EACH MEETING BELOW:

**Wednesday June 12, 2013, 7:00 PM**

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

### **Papillion Library**

7:30 PM Guest Speaker, Carlos Fighetti, President, International Phalaenopsis Alliance, topic: Phalaenopsis species.

Refreshments: Ron Fechner

### **June 26, 2013**

6:45 PM Papillion Library Board meeting

### **July 10, 2013**

6:30 PM  
Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office  
Annual picnic/auction

## EVENTS

### **June 20, 2013, 7 PM**

Summer Solstice Lecture, Lauritzen Gardens, 100 Bancroft St. Omaha. Life on the Edge: Tough Plants for Tough Places, speaker Kelly D. Norris. for more info: [http://www.lauritzengardens.org/Visit/Events\\_and\\_Exhibits/Summer\\_Solstice\\_Lecture/index.asp](http://www.lauritzengardens.org/Visit/Events_and_Exhibits/Summer_Solstice_Lecture/index.asp)

### **June 29 - 30, 2013**

River City Cactus and Succulent Society show, Mulhall's Garden Center, Omaha.

### **July 28, 2013**

Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day, Camp Dodge, IA (see story, pg. 2)

### **September 14 - 15, 2013**

Wisconsin Orchid Society Show "Fall in Love with Orchids," Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI, Contact: Lisa Ann Haag, 920-980-6979, [tahaag@charter.net](mailto:tahaag@charter.net)

### **September 20 - 22, 2013**

21st Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Locations: Natt's Orchids, Naperville, IL, Orchids by Hausermann, Villa Park, IL. [www.chicagolandorchidfest.com](http://www.chicagolandorchidfest.com)

### **October 19 - 20, 2013**

Eastern Iowa Orchid Show & Sale, Noelridge Gardens Greenhouse, 4900 Council St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA Contact: Jon Lorence, 319-624-3666, [lorence5@aol.com](mailto:lorence5@aol.com)

## CARLOS FIGHETTI PRESIDENT IPA GUEST SPEAKER LOCATION CHANGE

**REMEMBER!!!**

**THE JUNE MEETING IS WEDNESDAY JUNE 12; THE TIME IS 7:30 PM, (no new growers' group meeting).**

**THE LOCATION IS THE SUMP MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN PAPIILLION.**

**SEE MAP ON LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.**

Our guest speaker for June is Carlos Fighetti. He has been involved in orchids for forty years. He is a past president of the American Orchid Society, and was on the Board of that organization for fifteen years. He was a member of the Affiliated Society Committee for eight years; a member of the Information Committee for four years (three as its Chair); and currently serves as a member of the Judging Committee and an ad hoc member of the Library and Archives Committee, of which he Chaired for two years. Carlos has also been a member of the Finance Committee. In addition, he has volunteered his time as a member of four Nominating Committees of the Society.

He is a member and a past president of the Greater New York Orchid Society, where he also served for eight years as show Chair of the New York International Orchid Show. In addition, he is a

member and was a trustee of the Ramapo Orchid Society in New Jersey. He is the current president of the Puerto Rico Orchid Society, and a member of the Mayaguez and Orquidistas de Borinquen Orchid Societies in Puerto Rico. He is also a member of the Pleurothallid Alliance, and the Peruvian and Chilean Orchid Societies. Carlos was the founding president and is the current president of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance.

An accredited AOS judge, he chairs the recently formed Puerto Rico Judging Center of the American Orchid Society. Carlos has among his judging, four World Orchid Conferences, the Tokyo Grand Prix Orchid Show, The Taiwan Show and several Latin American Shows. He has lectured about orchids all over the US and Canada and at many international venues.

Carlos lives in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, where he grows approximately 2,500 orchid plants. He grows a mixed collection, including a good number of species. A grower of note, his plants have received over 150 awards from the AOS for horticultural, flower quality and cultural merits, including three FCCs and one CCE. He has also received eight AOS show trophies and many other awards for exhibits at orchid shows around the country.

Professionally, Carlos retired as a Senior Research Associate of the Engineering School at Columbia University, where he was the Director of a well-known research laboratory working on nuclear reactor safety. "The main emphasis was in determining the integrity of the reactor cores and the meltdown levels for normal operating as well as accident conditions for just about every nuclear reactor in the world, including the Russian designs."

The topic of his talk is "Phalaenopsis species."

## **DINNER WITH THE GUEST SPEAKER**

We will have dinner with the guest speaker, Carlos Fighetti, at the Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Bellevue at 5:00 PM. Ruby Tuesday is located on Cornhusker Rd. and the Kennedy Freeway. Exit the freeway at Cornhusker Rd., go west to the next stoplight, take a right (north) turn into a small shopping center and then another right turn (east) into the eastern half of the shopping center. Follow the road around the Chick-fil-A restaurant and continue east until you reach the Ruby Tuesday restaurant. Please advise Jim or Roberta if you will be attending dinner so we can be sure of sufficient seating space. Thanks.

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## **PICNIC & AUCTION IN JULY**

Our annual picnic/auction is coming up – July 10th. This year it's at the Extension Office and the officers and board members will provide all the food. We will have a nice selection of plants to bid on. So plan on coming. Bring a friend, bring something for the auction, but most of all, come and have fun- enjoy a meal and bid on some plants.

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## **GROWING TIPS FROM ORCHIDS GARDEN CENTRE/OAKHILL GARDENS**

### **Chuck's Orchid Tip of the Month Dividing Orchids**

As the major blooming season for most of our orchids is approaching the finale, it is now time to focus on repotting and possibly di-

viding. Orchids such as Cattleya, Oncidium, Dendrobium and Cymbidium are sympodial, meaning they grow from a rhizome and are great candidates for propagation by dividing. Do not attempt to divide your plant unless it has at least six to eight pseudobulbs, with two growths that have flowered this past season.

Dividing orchids can sometimes be a quite a task. If done incorrectly, your plants could be put in jeopardy. However, if done correctly you can multiply your collection, which is exactly what we at Orchids Garden Centre/Oakhill Gardens are doing now. Hence, the new bare root specials we are offering this month!

When dividing there are some important rules that one needs to implement for success. First, always sterilize any cutting tools that come in contact with the juices of your plant. A small flame is the most widely recommended method for sterilizing your tools. This is the best preventative for the spread of the fateful viruses that plague the orchid family. Keep in mind that your hands and the surface that you are working on, can also become contaminated so good hygiene should be practiced there as well. We use multiple sheets of newspaper on our cutting surface and each new plant gets a fresh sheet to work upon. Wear some disposable latex gloves and change them between

each plant for best results, or wash your hands thoroughly with warm water and soap between each plant. More information on sterilization to prevent virus spread can be found in our April 2013 newsletter.

One of the most misunderstood rules of dividing orchids is where to cut the rhizome. Of course, there are many schools of thought in this department, however, we follow the 3-4 pseudobulb rule. Simply put, start with the most recently flowered growth and count backwards along the rhizome and make your cut behind the third or fourth pseudobulb. With this technique you should have a nice clump consisting of the intact 3-4 pseudobulb group that will make for a great division. Leave some of the original potting medium around the roots of your new division if the media is not terribly rotted or molded. This will aid the new division in getting off to a good start.

Next you will want to prepare your potting medium itself. If you are using a fir bark based mix, it is recommended to moisten the mix slightly before potting. We like to use Physan 20 mixed at 2 teaspoons per gallon as a moistening agent to help quell any pathogens or fungus molds that may be harboring in the fir bark. Slightly moistening the fir bark and stirring it up allows the components to bond, because in most cases there is some separation during storage or transit of the mix. If you are using the Orchia bark, it is not recommended to moisten this product before using. Just pour it into

your potting box and go to town potting your orchids! (We really love the Orchinata bark. For more information on Orchinata bark, check out our previous newsletter from January 2013.)

Then, select a clean, new pot that is appropriately sized for your division. Try not to give your newly divided plant too much space as they like to be potted on the crowded side for best revitalization. Place the cut side of the division against the inside perimeter of the pot and fill the pot with your potting mix. Try to keep the rhizome about 1/2" below the potting mix and pack the mix in firmly with a blunt tool to ensure the plant is secure in the pot. If you are potting with a moistened fir bark based mix, wait about one week before watering thoroughly. If you are potting with Orchinata bark, water your repotted plants upon completion. We avoid fertilizing for about 3 weeks to allow new roots to start growing.

More information on how we repot our orchids can be found on the culture sheets posted on our web site: [www.oakhillgardens.com](http://www.oakhillgardens.com)

Happy growing!  
Chuck

*Editor's note: Orchinata Bark is available at Paradigm Gardens in Omaha.*

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## NEW LIBRARY BOOK

The Library has a new book, *Orchid Species Culture* Oncidium/Ondontoglossum Alliance by Margaret L. Baker and Charles O. Baker. The book, a donation to the library, has culture information on about 1,300

species. Similar information is available on the <http://www.orchidculture.com/> website, but at \$3.00 per culture sheet. Check it out and also take a look at other books in the library.

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## CONSERVATION REPORT

Two Society members Eric Stoiber and Jim Pyrzynski, performed a survey of Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) in one area of Fontenelle Forest on May 18. The count was down from the previous survey. Only a few plants had flowers and the count of individual flowers was down too – perhaps the result of last year's extreme drought. Five groups of plants were found. Most of these groups had multiple growths but whether they are individual plants or one, or more plants with offshoots could not be determined. The ticks were out in full force and Eric won the title of "Tick Magnet."

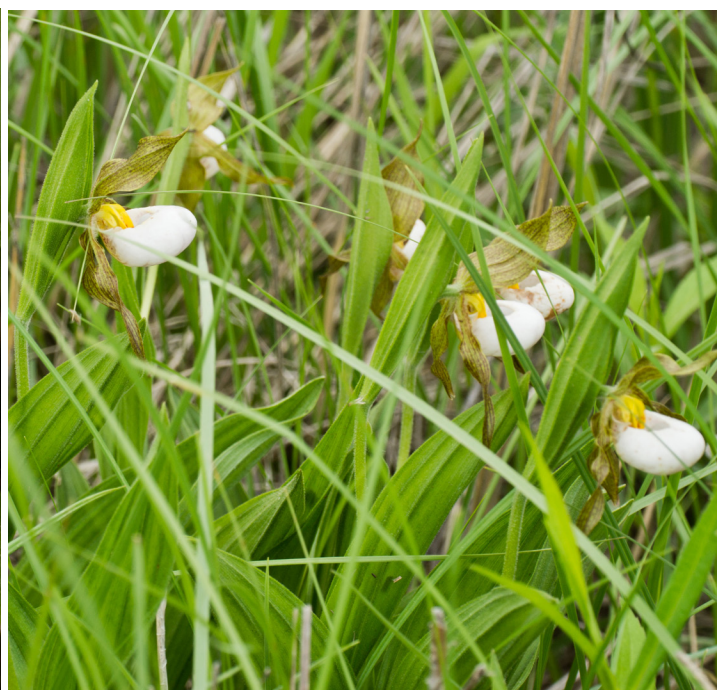
On May 29, Eric and Jim traveled to the Columbus, Nebraska area where they met another member, Chuck Hanson, and a young orchid enthusiast, Malachi Lewis (who lives in the central Nebraska area) to view a population of the Small White Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*). This was the first time Eric and Chuck had seen the species and Malachi had become acquainted with it only a few days prior. The trip was at the height of the tornado and thunderstorm filled week and the threatening weather (and the 2-hour return drive) necessitated an early return to Omaha.

*Cypripedium candidum* is on the State of Nebraska's threatened species list. The Nebraska Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act, automatically prohibits taking, exportation and possession, and imposes severe penalties on violators. For more information, see: [http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/nongame/Endangered\\_Threatened.asp](http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/nongame/Endangered_Threatened.asp)

If anyone is interested in seeing other native orchids in their habitat, contact Jim or Eric. Some may be in the local Omaha area and others may involve some travel.



*Galearis spectabilis*  
Showy Orchis  
photo by Jim Pyrzynski



*Cypripedium candidum*  
Small White Lady's Slipper  
photo by Eric Stoiber

## Growing Outdoors Stephen R. Batchelor

*The following is an excerpt from an essay that first appeared in the American Orchid Society BULLETIN (what later became the current Orchids Magazine) in March 1981; the second in a many-part series on orchid growing for the beginner. At that time, the Society was headquartered at Harvard University, hence the references to the Cambridge offices. While much has changed in the intervening 28 years, including the society's headquarters, the general message remains the same.*

All orchid hobbyists are faced with the challenge of finding - or creating - a suitable environment in which to grow orchids. Those new to the hobby don't usually build a greenhouse overnight, and with good reason, considering both the initial expense of materials and labor, and the astronomic heating costs now involved in maintenance. It is not surprising that a large proportion of today's growers, novices and veterans alike, choose one of the other less expensive alternatives for cultivating orchids. With some ingenuity and persistence, conditions conducive to the growing and flowering of orchids can be achieved anywhere - from below ground level to the tops of tall buildings, inside under entirely artificial light, or outdoors in a more natural setting.

Outdoors Most of us live in areas which afford some months of the year appealing to both humans and orchids. Common sense would suggest taking advantage of what nature can provide by placing the plants outdoors during this time. It could be on a balcony or roof, if you live in an apartment building, or in the yard, deck or patio, if you live in a house. The orchids usually respond positively, whether you grow on windowsills, under lights, or even in a greenhouse, during the more inclement times of the year. During my years of growing orchids in Florida, I was always amazed by the improved growth and flowering of my plants when they were taken out of the greenhouse and grown outdoors after the threat of cold temperatures in the spring. In the patio or hanging in trees in the backyard, the plants received far superior air circulation, lower daytime temperatures, and the beneficial rains of those notorious Floridian downpours.

If you are not so fortunate as to have warm weather year around, but you do intend to grow your orchids outdoors at least part of the year, act conservatively. In the spring, wait until warmer weather is assured (night temperatures not much lower than 50F) - you could easily save yourself a good deal of frantic effort which might be necessary to protect your orchids from a sudden cold snap. Orchids, like humans, become conditioned to their surroundings. Therefore be wary of the radically different conditions of the outdoors. Even some of the highlight-requiring vandaceous genera will surely burn if suddenly taken from the relatively shaded environment of a greenhouse or the indoors into the bright, unfiltered sunlight of a late spring day. After all, people burn too! Unfortunately with orchids unsightly burned areas do not necessarily peel or fall off, and they can drastically reduce photosynthesizing capacity. Provide some temporary additional shading until the plants have had a chance to acclimate, then gradually remove it, watching carefully for any adverse reaction. Watering schedules which are fairly routine and unvarying indoors will be jarred beyond recognition outdoors. Watering needs will very likely be more frequent and more erratic due to the greater variation of conditions outdoors. Daily attention will be necessary until an adjustment is made to outdoor growing, both by your plants, and by yourself with respect to your own habits in caring for your orchids.

Though the vandaceous genera, once acclimated, can be grown with little protection from the sun, provided they receive compensating levels of water, most other popular genera will need some shading outdoors. This can be provided by trees or other plant life, or by means of conventional shading materials such as the slats of a lath house-type construction, saran screening, fiberglass, etc. Plants can be shifted and shading altered until a proper level of light is reached, one that causes no burning and is in balance with other cultural factors that you or nature will provide. Orchids generally benefit from being off the ground, both in terms of enhanced circulation and perhaps in a lessening of pest and disease activity. Makeshift benches, hangers for trees, or some more substantial arrangement can accomplish this end.

With the approach of fall and winter and their inexorable cold, caution is again the key. Many of the widely grown genera of orchids, particularly cymbidiums, *Dendrobium nobile* and its hybrids, *paphiopedilums*, and even *phalaenopsis*, respond to the cooler nights of fall by slowed growth and, eventually, flowering. Though these orchids should be exposed to those beneficial early fall nights in the 50'sF, for safety's sake all plants should be brought indoors before the chance of even an unexpected frost exists, and before night temperatures drop much below 50F. This precaution allows the time, too, for a last good cleaning and spraying of your orchids outdoors, so that you do not inadvertently bring some of nature's less desirable creatures indoors!

There are a number of successful indoor orchid growers who very justifiably assert that "summering" orchids outdoors is not worth the additional effort and exposure to pests and diseases. Nevertheless, the favorable response of orchids to this treatment is a well-known fact, and it is worth the consideration of the beginner, especially if the collection involved is but a small one.

**CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW  
JUNE 29 - 30 AT MULHALL'S**

The River City Cactus and Succulent Society will hold its 28th annual show and sale at Mulhall's Garden Center on June 29 – 30. Now maybe you don't think about succulents with you look at an orchid but many of them are, and one orchid especially, *Eulophia petersii*. (From wikipedia.com) It is found in arid environments in the Northern Frontier Province, Kenya, the eastern coast of Africa and the former Transvaal region of South Africa. *Eulophia petersii* is an unusual member of the orchid family in that it lives in a harsh environment. It is often found growing in acidic sandy soils or in rock outcroppings. The leaves of this orchid are thick, fleshy and very fibrous and have a sharp serrated edge and resemble those of some species of Aloe or some Sansevieria species and are usually 40 cm long. There are usually two to five leaves per pseudobulb. The pseudobulbs are yellow with a pronounced ribbing and 30 cm long with a diameter of 3–4 cm. The form that grows on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsular (Yemen) is much smaller and more compact in habit. You just might find one for sale at the show.

**CIOS SPEAKERS DAY, JULY 28**

Don't forget to make plans to attend this year's Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day on July 28, 2013. This year the speakers are Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids (California) and Roy Tokunaga of H & R Nurseries, Inc. (Hawaii). Both are experts in the culture of orchids (the topics for their talks has not been released yet) and they will come with a good supply of orchids to sell. But you can also pre-order something specific by choosing from the selections on their websites: Gold Country Orchids (<http://goldcountryorchids.com/>), H & R Nurseries, Inc. (<http://www.hrnurseries.com/>).

The cost to attend the event is \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at the door. It is held at Camp Dodge, in Johnston, IA, which is just north of Des Moines. Since this is a military facility you will need a photo ID to enter the facility. In exchange for your \$25, you will get: a continental breakfast, lunch, dessert, soft drinks, some free chances at the raffle – plus you get to hear two of the best speakers on orchid culture give you advice on how to really grow orchids, purchase quality plants from their collection and buy more raffle tickets for the raffle plants.

For more information see: <http://c-we.com/cios/speakers.htm>

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**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting, May 4, 2013

The meeting was called to order at the Sump Memorial Library in Papillion at 2:00 pm.

President Roberta Ginavan welcomed visitors and members to the meeting. Vice President Eric Stoiber introduced the guest speaker, Bryon Rinke, Chair of the Great Plains Judging Center who also brought plants from Southwestern College in Winfield, KS to sell.

Program. Bryon Rinke gave a talk on warmth tolerant Pleurothallids suitable for growing in Kansas.

The business meeting followed.

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

Treasurer's Report. Sandy Rome gave a treasurer's report.

June meeting: The June meeting was discussed. It will be at the Papillion Library on the second Wednesday of the month. The guest speaker will be Carlos Fighetti, past AOS president. Plans are being made to have dinner with the speaker prior to the meeting.

July meeting. The July meeting will be the annual picnic/auction. It will be at the Extension Office on July 10, the second Wednesday of the month. Board members will be providing the food, hot dogs will be the main item.

Display committee. Roberta discussed the display committee. The backdrops and other materials used for the Society's displays are in need of refurbishment. Plus we need a cadre a people who could travel to other shows and set up the display. A list was being circulated. The work on the materials would be outside of the regular monthly meeting hours.

Spring into Spring. Roberta discussed the event at the Lauritzen (May 18 – 19). Some additional help could be used for Saturday afternoon.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting  
May 22, 2013

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

May meeting follow up. The consensus was that the meeting went fine. Roberta felt the dinner could have been moved up since there was a gap between the meeting ending time and the dinner time. Jim countered that moving the dinner up much earlier would have made it too early for dinner and suggested that more time could have been given at the start of the meeting for viewing plants that were for sale.

June meeting. There will not be a new grower's group at the meeting. The Red Cross has the room prior to our meeting and they could be late in vacating the rooms. Carlos will be arriving early in the afternoon. Dinner will be at 5 pm, the location is yet to be determined. Some of the possibilities in the area were discussed: Wheatfields, Nebraska Brewing Company (both at Shadow Lake) and Ruby Tuesday (in Bellevue). Jacque will do a survey.

July meeting (picnic/auction). The menu for the picnic was discussed in detail with who would be bringing what. Two grills will be needed for the hot dogs. Roberta mentioned that she will need to check with the Extension Office to be sure grills will be permitted.

Future meetings. The September meeting will the showing of the video as well as the annual meeting.

Table skirts. Roberta mentioned that the purchase of table skirts was tabled at a past meeting and should be brought up again for discussion. Jim said the issue could not be discussed the June meeting due to the guest speaker and the July meeting is the picnic/auction. He suggested including the purchase in the upcoming budget.

Insurance. Sandy was unable to arrange a meeting with the insurance agent due to scheduling conflicts.

Spring into Spring. Sandy Rome gave a synopsis of the gross and net income from the event. Marie Anne Smith emailed some comments that were considered. Jacque suggested that there should be photos of the plants for sale and more information on the Spiranthes.

St. Cecilia's flower show. Ron Fechner met with Brother William, who seemed to be interested in having the Society involved in their event. He would like to interview some of the board members. The event would require a display only where we could have our brochures, etc. No persons would be required to be with the display. Setup is on Thursday and Friday with the initial viewing (not for the general public) on Friday evening. The show normally is the last weekend in January or the first weekend in February. The theme for 2014 will be South Pacific.

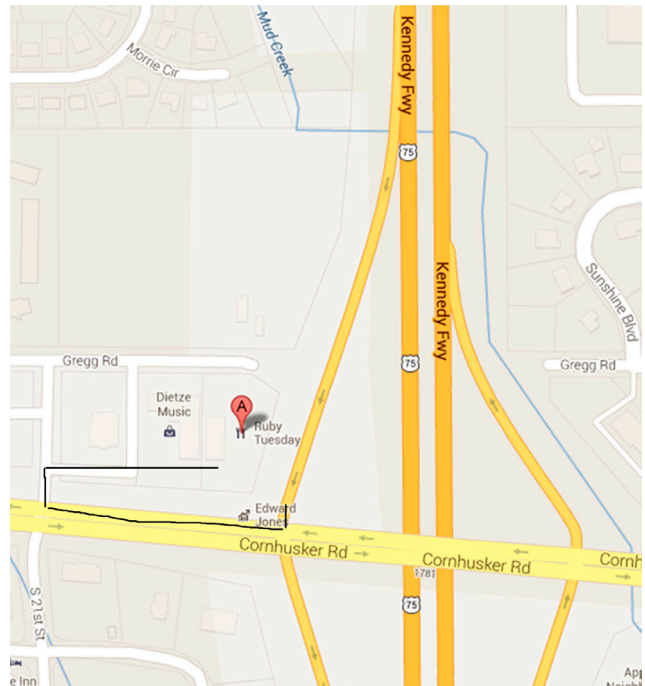
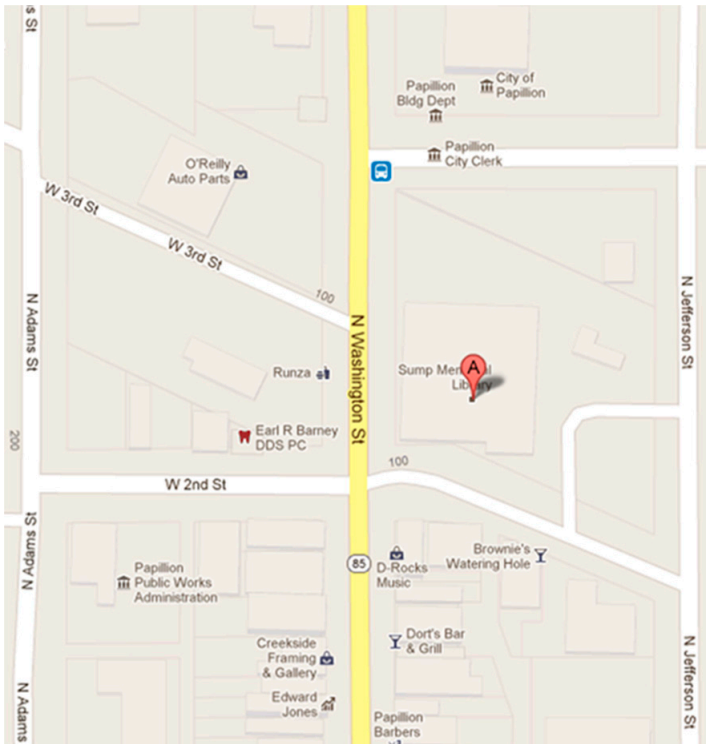
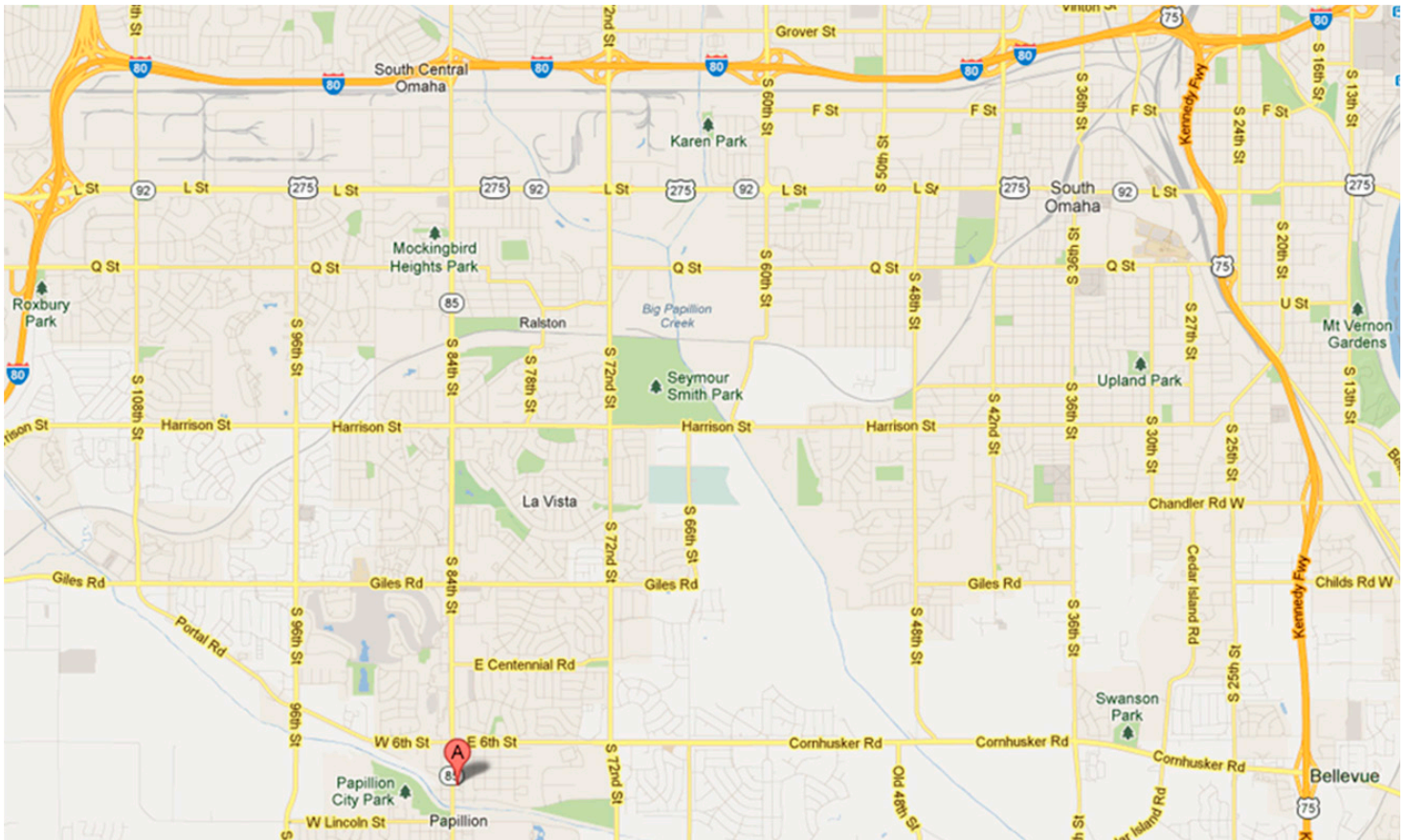
Website problems. Jim mentioned that the website hasn't been updated. He has sent updates to Rich Sukovaty and contacted him by telephone. Roberta said the MAOC might be able to support us and will check further.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

**SUMP MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
**222 N Jefferson St., Papillion, NE**  
**MAP**

**NOTE: THE PAPILLION LIBRARY, WILL BE THE MONTHLY MEETING LOCATIONS FOR THE JUNE MEEING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 7:30 PM**



Ruby Tuesday, Bellevue

Papillion Library