



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

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

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Submission deadline for the

June Informer: June 3, 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.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGES FOR EACH MEETING BELOW:

**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

May 22, 2013

6:45 PM Papillion Library

Board meeting

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

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

Papillion Library

7:00 PM Guest Speaker,

Carlos Fighetti

Refreshments: Ron Fechner

EVENTS

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

May 17 – 19, 2013

Redland International

Orchid Festival

Fruit & Spice Park 24801

SW 187th Ave. Homestead,

Florida, Contact: Bill

Peters, whimsy@bellsouth.

net; Robert Randall,

caribplants@att.net; www.

redlandorchidfestival.org

May 18 - 19, 2013

Spring into Spring

Lauritzen Gardens, 100

Bancroft St. Omaha. Plant

sale. (See story pg. 2)

July 28, 2013

Central Iowa Orchid

Society Speakers Day,

Camp Dodge, IA (see story,

pg. 2)

Sep 14 – 15, 2013

Wisconsin Orchid Society

Show "Fall in Love with

Orchids," Mitchell Park

Domes, 524 S. Layton

Blvd., Millwaukee, WI,

Contact: Lisa Ann Haag,

920-980-6979, tlhaag@

charter.net

**BRYON RINKE,
GUEST SPEAKER
LOCATION/DATE
CHANGE**

REMEMBER!!!

**THE MAY MEETING IS
SATURDAY, MAY 4;**

THE TIME IS 2:00 PM.,

**THE LOCATION IS
THE SUMP MEMORI-
AL LIBRARY IN PAPI-
LION.**

**PLEASE MARK YOUR
CALENDARS, DATE
BOOKS, ETC. NOW.**

**A MAP OF THE LI-
BRARY LOCATION IS
ON THE LAST PAGE
OF THIS NEWSLET-
TER.**

Our guest speaker, Bryon Rinke, will give a talk on growing Pleurothallids in Kansas. As discussed in last month's newsletter, Pleurothallids are a large group of orchids found in the tropics of the Western Hemisphere. Some have large flowers (measuring from tip to tip of the flower) such as *Draculas* and *Masdevallias*. But others are quite small but very attractive. Some are quite challenging to grow since they dwell in the cloud forests of the Andes Mountains. Others are a bit easier. Bryon will pass on his growing tips for those willing to accept the challenge.

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 the Wheatfields restaurant in the Shadow Lake Towne Center (72nd St. and Highway 370).

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.

CIOS SCHEDULES DYNAMIC DUO FOR JULY SPEAKERS DAY

That's right – a dynamic duo of speakers will give talks at Central Iowa Orchid Society's Annual Speakers Day on July 28. Who makes up this duo? None other than Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids and Roy Tokunaga of H & R Nurseries, Inc. The topics are yet to be determined but whatever they are, you will be able to learn more about growing orchids in this one-day session than you can imagine. The event is held at Camp Dodge, just north of Des Moines. The registration fee is \$25 (\$30 at the door). It starts with a continental breakfast. There is a lunch and later in the day, dessert. The speakers will bring plants for sale and you may pre-order plants too. And there are raffles for plants too. So there you have it: great speakers, great food, and lots of great information, all for \$25. Make your plans to attend now. The registration form and more info will be in the June newsletter.

LAURITZEN GARDENS SPRING INTO SPRING PLANT SALE

Support Lauritzen Gardens (host of our annual orchid show) by purchasing plants at their annual plant sale, "Spring into Spring." The event is May 18 through 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Local plant clubs, plant societies (GOOS will be there), and environmental organizations will be on hand selling plants and sharing information on how to care for plants and help sustain the environment. In addition, children's activities, live

music, and guided garden tours will be offered. In the spirit of "being green," guests are encouraged to bring their own bags and boxes to assist in carrying out their plant purchases. Lauritzen Gardens members will have the first opportunity to purchase plants on May 17 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

LATEST ORCHID DIGEST

Orchid Digest is a quarterly publication (GOOS has a subscription) and the latest issue, April – June 2013 is out. This issue has a couple of articles on newly identified species of orchids. Two new species were found in Cuba, both are in the *Cattleya* alliance. *Tetramicra ripari* was found growing among boulders and stones near streams in the mountains. Its flowers are smaller than a dime and a delicate white. The other species, *Encyclia navarroi* has large showy flowers about 2.5 inches across and has as many as 20 flowers on one plant.

Another article is about a species that was already in cultivation but it was mislabeled as something else. It was brought to a show in the Netherlands in 2006 and labeled as "Holcoglossum sp." The owner suspected the label was incorrect but she didn't know the correct name (in the same month, Indian botanist published the discovery of a small orchid *Penkimia nagaladensis*, (which, coincidentally was the same orchid). It is rare and found in the north-east India.

Just in time for Bryon Rinke's talk on Pleurothallids is an article on a new species of *Lepanthes* from Peru, *Lepanthes inca*. It is a rather small plant with a long, loose, successively many-flowered inflorescence with large flowers. Its locations in Peru is kept rather secret. It has been labeled at *L. echo*, and also as *L. dalessandroi*.

There is also a story about orchid hunting in the 19th century that should give readers an idea of what it was like to hunt for orchids back then. Many orchid collectors died on their expeditions. Some of yellow fever, others bitten by a poisonous snake, or they could be killed by natives.

And there is an article about a new species of *Bulbophyllum*, and a photo gallery by Eric Hunt of orchids in Borneo. Another article discusses the impact of climate change on orchids. Check it out, it will be in the library.

NATIVE NEBRASKA SPRING BLOOMING ORCHIDS

Early May

- *Galearis spectabilis*, Showy Orchis – woodlands along the Missouri River (Fontenelle Forest, Neale Woods, Indian Cave State Park), rare

Mid-May

- *Cypripedium parviflorum*, Small Yellow Lady's-Slipper – woodlands along the Missouri River, rare

- *Cypripedium candidum*, Small White Lady's Slipper – moist meadows in north-central Nebraska, rare

American Orchid Society Monthly Checklist for May and June

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay

AOS ORCHIDS 101

Why won't my orchid re-bloom?

Like all plants, orchids require sufficient light in order to produce flowers.

Insufficient light is the most common cause of failure to re-bloom your orchid. Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom.

How do I feed my orchid?

Experienced orchid growers fertilize their orchids weakly, weekly.

Orchids need to be fed regularly. Growers suggest using a "balanced" fertilizer such as 20-20-20 that includes all "necessary trace elements." Regardless of the fertilizer formulation you choose to use, it should contain little or no urea. If you are unsure of what fertilizer to use, you can generally use any fertilizer you would for your other container plants. Orchids will do far better with too little fertilizer than with too much. Many growers recommend the "weakly, weekly" approach, applying a dilute (1/4 strength) fertilizer each time they water, rather than applying a full dose once a month. Also, it is best not to fertilize a completely dry plant as the fertilizer can burn the dry roots. Water first then follow with fertilizer solution.

to be continued

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MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
April 10, 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 gave a report on show income and the monthly income/expenses.

May meeting. Eric Stoiber discussed the May meeting. It will be Saturday, May 4, at 2 PM at the Papillion Library. Bryon Rinke, Chair of the Great Plains Judging Center, will be the speaker. He will have plants for sale from the Southwestern College (Winfield, KS) greenhouse. Plants available can viewed on the college's website and they can be preordered for the meeting. Bryon will talk about growing Pleurothallids in Kansas.

June meeting. Roberta discussed the June meeting. It too will be at the Papillion Library but it will be on the normal meeting night and time (second Wednesday), June 12. Carlos Fighetti, Chair of the Puerto Rico Judging Center, will be the speaker. Carlos is also the President of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, and a former American Orchid Society president. The topic is yet to be determined.

Lauritzen Gardens Spring into Spring. Roberta discussed the personnel needs for Spring into Spring at the Lauritzen Gardens (May 17 – 19) and she circulated a signup sheet.

Display Committee. Roberta discussed a new committee, the Display Committee, which would be responsible for redoing the materials used for the Society displays and work on display arrangements. Ultimately committee members could travel to area shows to set up the Society's display.

Program. Eric broke down compots of *Laelia purpurata* and *Cattleya intermedia*. Members potted up the seedlings for themselves. Also a selection of 2 different *Phalaenopsis* seedlings (already potted) was available for attendees.

Refreshments were provided by Jim Pyrzynski.

Raffle plants were the remaining *Bletillas* that the Society purchased.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
April 24, 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.

Membership issues. The status of the membership was discussed. A number of longtime members have yet to renew (memberships expire the day after the February meeting). Jim went over the list of who has yet to renew and Sandy updated his list. Jim will provide the board with a list of who has not renewed and their contact information. Board members can select who they would prefer to contact from the list.

Jim also mentioned that much of the “regular” membership has been absent from recent meetings. They represent the core group of the Society and we need to ensure they remain involved with the group.

Beginner’s meeting. The beginner’s group meeting needs some structure in order to provide a good framework for the discussion but allow for attendees to ask questions. Robert Mann and Ron Fechner are directing the discussion now. It was suggested that the meeting could open with about 10 minutes of planned discussion and follow with questions (any topic).

Non-profit filing refund. Sandy informed the board that we received a refund from the government from the fee we paid for filing our 501(c)(3) application. After the refund, our actual cost for filing the paperwork was \$100.

May meeting. Eric discussed the dinner arrangements. Wheatfields at Shadow Lake Shopping Center will not take reservations but they said there should be no problem with fulfilling our needs for a group dinner. Dinner will be at 5:30 PM (following the meeting).

June meeting. The June meeting will also be at the Papillion Library. Roberta said she would see what was available at the Shadow Lake Shopping Center during the May dinner before looking elsewhere. One complication – the blood mobile will be at the library that night and they have the rooms until 7 PM (but they may leave earlier).

July meeting (picnic/auction). The picnic/auction will be held at the Extension Office, July 10. We have hot dogs for the meal. Jacque recommended that board members bring the rest of the meal. We also have plenty of pop. There was a discussion of where and how many plants to purchase for the auction. There was a discussion about the bidding process and starting bids.

Insurance. The insurance policy was reviewed. The March orchid show at the Lauritzen Gardens is mentioned. Also an address of the Extension Office is listed on another sheet. A number of questions arose as to what was actually covered and what was needed. The Gardens requires coverage, the Extension Office requirements are not known. A meeting will be scheduled with the agent and board members who are available will attend.

Spring into Spring. The Lauritzen event was discussed. Jim has another commitment on Friday afternoon but he will drop off books, and potting mix. Fertilizer was sold out at the show, the last of the Bletillas were raffled off at the April meeting. Jim suggested he could donate the remaining Phalaenopsis that he got from Carmelas. There were 3 full size Phals in bud (bonus) and a number of the seedlings (2 different hybrids) were still available. What doesn’t sell could go to the auction. The offer was accepted. Sandy said she would check on the availability of Spiranthes from Bluebird Nursery.

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 MAY MEETING, SATURDAY MAY 4 (2 PM) AND THE JUNE MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 7:30 PM

