



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

April 2014

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Submission deadline for the

**May** Informer: May 5, 2014

## **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 9, 2014**

Douglas/Sarpy County

Extension Office,

8015 W. Center Road

7:00 PM Grower's Group

discussion (all welcome)

7:30 Program: Joe Lankton,

Orchid cultivation

Refreshments: Barb Bures

#### **April 23, 2014**

Papillion Library

6:45 PM Papillion Library

Board meeting

#### **May 14, 2014**

Douglas/Sarpy County

Extension Office,

8015 W. Center Road

7:00 PM Grower's Group

discussion (all welcome)

7:30 Program: The other

slipper orchids, *Cypripedium*

Refreshments: Kelsey Bugjo

## EVENTS

### **April 26, 2014**

Nebraska State Arboretum  
Spring Affair, Lancaster  
Event Center, Lincoln,  
NE. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. [http://  
springaffair.unl.edu/](http://springaffair.unl.edu/)

### **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](mailto:thelivingstons@comcast.net)

### **May 9 – 11, 2014**

Oklahoma Orchid Society  
"Annual Mother's Day  
Show & Sale", Will Rogers  
Garden Exhibition Center,  
3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma  
City, OK. Contact: Jana  
Butcher, 405-478-5789,  
[w.butcher@cox.net](mailto:w.butcher@cox.net)

### **May 16 - 18, 2014**

Lauritzen Gardens, Spring  
into Spring. see article on  
page 2.

### **July 27, 2014**

Central Iowa Orchid  
Society Annual Speakers  
Day. Camp Dodge, IA.  
Speakers: Russ Vernon,  
New Vision Orchids, IN;  
Peter Lin, Big Leaf Orchids,  
Southlake, TX.

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

There is always some-  
thing new to learn about  
growing orchids. And it  
always helps to have an  
experienced grower giving  
advice rather than re-in-  
venting the wheel multiple  
times. Joe Lankton has  
been growing orchids for  
decades and his experience  
shows in his plants. He is  
also the judging chair for  
the Mid-America Judg-  
ing Center. Every month  
the center has a judging  
session in St. Louis. Joe  
lives in Omaha, so that  
means monthly trips to St.  
Louis, as well as trips to  
orchid shows in the region  
and beyond. Joe will give  
the program for the April  
meeting and cover not  
only the basics of orchid  
growing but what it takes  
to grow really great plants  
that you can be proud of.

We will also discuss events  
coming in May: Spring  
into Spring at Lauritzen  
Gardens, and some field  
trips. One field trip is to  
the Columbus, NE area on  
Saturday May 17 to view  
the rare small white lady's  
slipper (*Cypripedium can-  
didum*). The trip takes a  
bit more than 2 hours in  
one direction. So allowing  
time for viewing and grab-  
bing a bite to eat for lunch,  
the trip will fill most of the  
day. The plan is to car pool  
from the Westroads Mall  
area, leaving a little after  
9 a.m. A sign-up sheet will  
be circulated to see who is

interested.

Another possible fieldtrip would be to either Fontenelle Forest or Neale Woods to view the showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*). The timing of the field trip would be determined by when the plants are in bloom but it would be earlier in May than the slipper orchid. Eric and Jim have been monitoring one population of the orchis in Fontenelle Forest for a couple of years to determine if it is declining. If you are interested in participating, signup and you will be contacted when the plants are in bloom.

### **SPRING INTO SPRING**

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society will be one of the many gardening and environmental organizations participating in Lauritzen Gardens annual Spring into Spring plant sale. The event begins with a members-only sale from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, the sale is open to the public (with paid admission if they are not Lauritzen members), the hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We will have a booth at the event where we will sell books, potting mix, and plants, and where we can provide information about our organization and about growing orchids. We will need to staff the booth during the event – and this provides an opportunity for you to buy some plants other than orchids. A signup sheet will be circulated at the April meeting.

### **DID YOU GET A “FINAL NOTICE?”**

If you received a “Final Notice” with this issue of the newsletter, it means we have not received your

membership renewal. There is still time to renew before the May issue and we certainly would love to have you as a member, so consider renewing now.

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### **CENTRAL IOWA SPEAKERS DAY JULY 27**

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Central Iowa Orchid Society's Annual Speakers Day on July 27. They have 2 great speakers lined up: Peter Lin of Big Leaf Orchids who will give talks on “Phalaenopsis Species” and “Creating Novelty Phalaenopsis for Color and Fragrance, Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids who will give talks on “Lycaste Orchids” and “minicatts.” There will be AOS judging and plenty of food. A registration form is on page 6 of the newsletter. The fee is \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door.

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### **A BIG THANK YOU!!**

Our 27th annual orchid show and sale is now history. Thanks to all who helped make it the total success that it was. We had a great Society display but the Orchid Society of Kansas City still won the prized AOS Show Trophy. We'll try again next year. The vendors were pleased with the turnout and the sales (we don't have an exact headcount of attendance from the Lauritzen Gardens as yet). Photos from this year's show are on pages 3 and 4 of the newsletter.

Thanks again and start planning for next year!

### **ORCHID CULTURE BASICS from aos.org** © 2014 American Orchid Society. All rights reserved. **How do I water my orchid?**

Avoid overwatering which leads to the demise of many more orchids than underwatering. Constant wetness will cause the roots to rot, which leaves the plant without a means for taking up nourishment which then causes the leaves to droop and will eventually kill the plant. The classic advice is to water the day before the plant dries out. If you have to let the plant go dry to figure out what a dry plant weighs, it will not kill the plant and will make you a better grower. Another measure is to use the pencil trick (the point of a sharpened pencil, when inserted into the medium, will darken with moisture if the plant has enough water). And, there's always the old standby - put your finger in the mix. If it feels wet, it is wet. If you aren't sure whether it is time to water, wait one more day.

“Evenly moist,” while the most commonly given advice on watering, is the least easily explained. Because most plants are grown in plastic containers a good diagnosis is the weight of the plant: heavy - does not need watering; light - does require water. With a little practice, one can easily tell the amount of moisture remaining in the container.

Water your orchid early in the morning. This insures complete water evaporation on the foliage as well as the crown by nightfall. If your home is very warm or has low humidity you will most likely need to water more often. The best place to water your plant is in the kitchen sink. Use lukewarm water (do not use salt softened or distilled water) and water your plant for about 15 seconds and be sure to thoroughly wet the media. Then allow the plant to drain for about 15 minutes. It may appear dry but it has had enough water. After the plants are watered, they should be placed so that the pots do not stand in water. Some people like to place the pots on “humidity trays” or in trays or saucers of gravel or pebbles and water. The pot is placed on the pebbles above the water line. This helps to insure that the base of the pot is not immersed in water, increases humidity for the plant, and provides some air circulation under the pot.



Use a pencil or wooden skewer to determine whether an orchid needs to be watered.

THANK YOU CARD FROM CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT



02-28-14

Dear Friends of CAP  
 We very much appreciate your involvement in the Cathedral Arts Project Flower Festival 2014. For 29 CAP has been bringing the "Arts" to the Nebraska, Iowa public at no charge to the communities. Your participation shows the public that you too recognize the important role the Arts play. Thank you for taking part in another successful CAP event.  
 Sincerely,  
 Linda Stigg CAP Board

Above is a Thank You Card from the Cathedral Arts Project for our participation in the St. Cecilia Flower Festival in January. We received a \$250 donation from a sponsor to put an exhibit together; the money was used to purchase plants. The plants were subsequently sold at the February and March meetings for a total of about \$150. The board has proposal to donate \$100 to the Cathedral Arts Project (which puts on a variety of programs throughout the year <http://www.cathedralartsproject.org/>) which will be voted on at the April meeting.

SHOW GALLERY



American Orchid Society Show Trophy winner: Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City



The Greater Omaha Orchid Society display.



Winner of the President's Award: Paphiopedilum Taiwan (Orchid Inn USA display).



The Dr. and Mrs. F. Miles Skultety Award Winner: Ctt Goldigger (OSGKC display)



GOOS Challenge Award Winner: Cymbidium Kuranda (Aaron & Kelsey Bugio)



Drs. Lorraine Leiser and Dave Taylor Award winner (best species): *Ophrys ferrum-equinum*, Jim Pyrzynski  
Also CHM/AOS award



The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Memorial Award winner (best Dendrobium): *Dendrobium atrovioleaceum* X *pygmy atrovioleaceum* 'H & R' (Iowa Orchids)



Pyrzynski Award winner (Best Phragmipedium)  
*Phrag. kovachii* X *Living Fire* (Iowa Orchids)



Phalaenopsis Orchid Classic's Golden Showers 'Tiny Tot,' HCC/AOS,

exhibitor: John/Debra Dolen



*Paphiopedilum haynaldianum* AM/AOS, exhibitor: John Dolen

## MONTHLY REPORTS

03-12-14 Greater Omaha Orchid Society  
General Meeting - Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office

Joe Lankton demonstrated a software program called "Orchid Wiz" to a packed membership among several beautiful "show and tell" colorful and sweetly scented orchids.

President Stoiber called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. with announcements. Jacque continues to take monetary donations for the upcoming March Orchid Show. Treasurer Bugjo reviewed the current balance and indicated that several membership renewals are in the wings. Eric mentioned the remaining St. Cecelia's orchids. Any not purchased has a buyer for the lot. VP Pyrzynski brought snacks and announced the need for one more volunteer for the show; more judging clerks are also needed. The sign-up sheets were passed around. Postcards are still available for \$1.00 off admission. Speakers Day (end of July at Camp Dodge, requiring a photo ID) info was announced. Orchids are needed for the MN show. Pyrzynski and Stoiber will be setting up the display there. Contact them for details.

Program 1: "My Orchid Growing Areas" -- Pyrzynski shared views of his Orchid Room with wire racks, 3 shelves, and humidifier; tray drains from the West Coast; wire mesh for mounted orchids; and 4' x 6' growing tray draining to the floor with fan. Jim explained the systems used, materials, watering, and lights. Next: a room to the right --6' dimensions-- and details were viewed. Jim maintains 77% humidity in the morning using two 33-gallon containers of water, pumped and sprayed on orchids surrounded by plastic along all walls, and draining to the floors. An additional growing rack has seedlings, com pots, and frags. Orchid growing next continues into the garage where exotic orchids from Turkey and Greece enjoy the light set-up. In the yard: a revised 6' x 18' dog kennel with wind cloth covered by plastic bird mesh for suitable orchids under shade cloth during warm months. Questions were expertly answered.

Program 2: Jacque Lewzader presented, "In the Beginning" slides showing a Pop-Up Greenhouse with a humidifier and fan set up in the former "hot tub" area. Temps with a heater provide enough heat during winter. Orchids are removed during summer months. A second area: three shelves cross wide West windows for natural light. Downstairs: 10' x 8' greenhouse with two humidifiers and boot trays with rocks for 70% humidity days/50% nights. Challenges are present in summer with heat. Sprayers are used for watering; humidifiers are filled daily. Greatest challenge: water salts with water softener system. Dehumidifier water collected is used on orchids during the summer. Jacque answered questions. The greenhouse was set up on a wood base and the quality of the kit was validated by Stoiber. Venting/air movement issues were discussed and ideas suggested based on experiences and what seen.

Pyrzynski demonstrated a light from Paradigm (5,000 lumens) to all members; would work well without huge expense, and good along wire racks.

Program 3: "How We Grow Orchids" by the Behrens in Florence, NE. A display with goldfish pond was shown highlighting prized orchids. After 48 years in the same house, areas include full sun now on the East side upstairs (250-watt sodium light in East window); "Carol's Area" on Sun Porch; outdoors for Summer plants; and Winter in the basement. With cedar tree removal near home, additional East light is helping. Interest began in 1984 using the basement, which did not work well: not enough light. Outdoor deck built about 25 years ago with interesting hardware cloth and screen for hail protection, artistically designed looking like large flat umbrellas letting light in during the morning; shade later from the house.

Carol's Sun Porch has hanging and benched orchids with two skylights and constant fans; 150-watt sodium lights. In winter cold, system prevents temps below 55 degrees. Most orchids go to the basement in winter on trays (inverted clay pots on trays as a base) with fan blowing constantly and shades that can be pulled down or up as needed for East window light and 430-watt light from MN. Rainwater from the roof is captured in four 30-gallon heavy duty garbage cans and used over 3 months. Water is screened (screen door mesh).

Yard: 3 Purple Martin poles are used to hang orchids for two months before bringing dendrobiums inside. Here in sun light, they hang and spike in October. A display full of orchids grown in the Behrens' home was shown; two considered for the AOS award, surrounded by a hand-built banjo. Dick Behrens answered questions about temps and stressing plants. Cymbidiums go from shade to direct sun in April. "If orchid is not right, the stress will show the issue." Avoid shocks. 30-10-10 outside; winter: 3-12-6. Carol uses a higher number in the middle which prevents "black rot."

Stoiber thanked the three presenters, and began "Show and Tell" with many spectacular orchids of great variety, color, size, and scents followed by additional thanks with encouragement to attend the show on March 28th - March 29th at Lauritzen Gardens. Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Anne Smith

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Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting  
March 26, 2014

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board met at the Papillion Public Library at 6:45 PM. In attendance were: Eric Stoiber, Jacque Lewzader, Aaron Bugjo, Linda Schroeder, and Jim Pyrzynski. Sandy Rome also attended the meeting.

Spring into Spring. The annual event at the Lauritzen Gardens was discussed. It will be held 16 - 18 May. There was a discussion on whether the Society should sell plants at the event. A possible source for plants would be Oak Hill (Orchids Garden Centre). Jim will call Jennifer Evans at the Gardens, the application has not been sent in and is late.

Cathedral Show. We received a "Thank You" card for our efforts; we also received a check for \$250 from our sponsor. That money was used to purchase plants for the display. The plants were sold to members at the meetings following the Cathedral Flower Festival (for a total of about \$150). Board members agreed with a proposal that we make a \$100 donation to the Cathedral Arts Project ([www.cathedralartsproject.org](http://www.cathedralartsproject.org)) which sponsors the event. Brother William has told Eric that we are welcome to participate again. The donation will require a vote by the membership.

July and October programs. Jim will contact Nile Dusdieker (Chicago Judging Center) and Sarah Pratt (Timbucktoo Orchids and Great Plains Judging Center) for possible speaking engagements.

Annual Orchid Show. The annual orchid show was discussed. Jim discussed the last minute preparations. Jacque asked Jim to obtain clarification from the Gardens on access time for Saturday morning (judging breakfast).

Books. Mark van der Woerd will be bringing a copy of a newly published 2 -volume book on miniature orchids to the show for interested parties to review for possible bulk purchase.

At the close of the meeting Eric and Jacque had a discussion on how to retain new members.

Meeting adjourned.

Jim Pyrzynski, for Marie Anne Smith

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**Central Iowa Orchid Society?Speaker's Day**  
**July 27th, 2014**  
**Registration Form**

To help us plan for Speaker's Day, we encourage you to fill out this registration form and return it to: Central Iowa Orchid Society, c/o Ardie Strawman, 3206 Bel-Aire Road, Des Moines, IA 50310. We would like these returned by July 12, 2014 if possible.

Please make checks payable to the Central Iowa Orchid Society.  
\$25.00 per person ( \$30.00 at the door).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in attending a Saturday evening Reception with our speakers and CIOS members \_\_\_\_\_