



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

February 2014

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Submission deadline for the

March Informer: March 3, 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 ratee.

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:

February 12, 2014

Douglas/Sarpy County
Extension Office,
8015 W. Center Road
7:00 PM Grower's Group
discussion (all welcome)
7:30 Program: Display
challenge
Refreshments: Betty Szopo

February 26, 2014

Papillion Library
6:45 PM Papillion Library
Board meeting

March 12, 2014

Douglas/Sarpy County
Extension Office,
8015 W. Center Road
7:00 PM Grower's Group
discussion (all welcome)
7:30 Program: Panel
Discussion - Growing
orchids in the home
Refreshments: Jim Pyrzynski

EVENTS

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

June 7, 2014

OCGC Bus Tour to Flint Hills
<http://omahagardenclubs.com/52201.html>

July 27, 2014

Central Iowa Orchid
Society Annual Speakers
Day. Camp Dodge, IA.

FEBRUARY - A CHALLENGE

This month's meeting is – a
Challenge – a challenge for
you, a display challenge.
If you've read the article
in last month's newsletter
on judging displays, you
should have some idea of
what the judges are look-
ing for in a display. In this
month's newsletter there
are a couple more articles
about the aesthetics of or-
chid displays. With this in-
formation, you should have
a foundation for making an
orchid display – actually
two.

Hopefully we will have
enough plants to work
with, but that is always part
of the guesswork – orchids
don't necessarily bloom in
synch with an orchid show.
We will have some of the
leftovers from those pur-
chased for the St. Cecilia
Flower Festival that will
still be in bloom. Addition-
ally there will be plants
brought in for "show-and-
tell." From those we can
start.

Give it a try, it's all in fun
and we'll have a learning
experience in the process.
See you Wednesday.

BTW - the plants pur-
chased for the Flower Fes-
tival will be available for
you to purchase.

RENEWAL TIME

Have you renewed your
GOOS membership? If
not, take the time to do it
ASAP. By the Society By-
laws, memberships need to
be renewed by the day after

the February meeting. So don't let your membership go extinct. Your membership gives you access to the library with its large assortment of orchid related books and periodicals, the monthly newsletter which has orchid news and cultural information each month. And most of all we NEED YOU!

**27th ANNUAL
ORCHID SHOW
MARCH 29 -30**

Our twenty-seventh annual orchid show is next month – March 29 - 30. That's a lot of annual shows. And there is a lot of preparation that goes into putting on an orchid show. That's where the members come in. We have a lot of opportunities for member participation, beginning with the setup on March 28 and continuing through the weekend until show closing and teardown on Sunday, March 30 at 4 pm. We will have signup sheets at the meeting for various tasks. Please look them over and see where you can help out.

We will have the Adult Classroom again for Hospitality (last year we used the adjacent room (children's classroom) because of the Leggo exhibit). As for our hospitality needs, a cash donation works best of all.

Judging will be in the Library at the northwest corner of the building and the children's classroom may be available for some basic orchid instruction for visitors. If you think you would be able to put together a brief program (no more than 15 minutes) on orchid growing basics, see Jim Pyszynski. We would only need to have 2 sessions per day and they could cover different aspects of orchid growing or selection.

Signup sheets will be circulated at the February and March meetings: for setup on Friday (morning and evening), clerking on Saturday morning, information table on Saturday and Sunday (10 am – 4 pm), show cleanup (in addition to the hospitality donation sheet).

**OCGC JUNE
BUS TOUR TO
KS FLINT HILLS**

It's time to think about another OCGC Bus Trip!

We'll discover speciality gardens and plant collections that are woven together at Kansas State University. We'll read the rocks, enjoy a thunderstorm, visit an underground forest and listen to the voices of the Flint Hills at the FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER. And then.... KSU Master Gardeners will host us in their beautiful yards and gardens - all in Manhattan, KS on June 7, 2014.

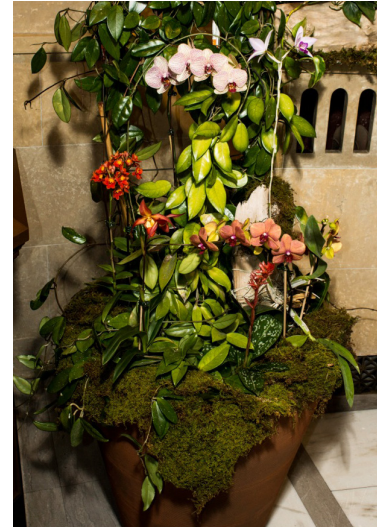
The tour leaves from Lauritzen Gardens at 6:45 AM from lower parking lot on east side. Your Cost: \$75.00 and that includes bus, all fees, a light breakfast along the way, lunch & dinner!

This tour has sold out for the last 6 years, so sign up early.

Use the signup form on pg.6

**PICS FROM THE
CATHEDRAL
FLOWER FESTIVAL**

Orchids to Eric Stoiber, Twilla Westercamp, Marilyn Hawes, Sandy Rome, Aaron and Kelley Bugjo for making our first display at the St. Cecilia Flower Festival a success. There were a lot of favorable comments.



DESIGNING AN ORCHID EXHIBIT



COLOR FLOW

The Holy Grail of Orchid Exhibits ?

a few words about color flow

If you hang around enough orchid shows and listen to the discussion among exhibitors...those people in the trenches putting in the beautiful orchid displays for you and your out-of-town-guests to admire...you're bound to hear the phrase, "color flow". You'd think you might hear these folks talking about the state of the union or the latest flavored coffee whitener but no, they'll most likely discuss color flow, at least at some point. You won't specifically find color flow mentioned in any official publications and yet it always comes up at orchid shows.

It's the graphic in the title above...that spectrum thing. That's color flow plain and simple. Color flow in an orchid exhibit means that you shouldn't put an orange in a group of lavenders. The colors should *F ~ L ~ O ~ W* from one to another gracefully like the rainbow. By sticking to this rule you can avoid any bone-jarring clashes that might disturb judges and the public at large. By utilizing color flow you can throw away those "please wear protective eyewear" signs you planned for your display. Color flow will guarantee that a sense of serene well being will envelop all who view your exhibit. But most of all, color flow makes sense and provides a useful guideline for placing orchids in an orchid exhibit.

White is a combination of all the colors in the spectrum so theoretically you could put white orchids anywhere without a clash. Yet they are the lightest color and because of that draw attention. Typically white orchids, especially groups of white orchids, are placed to the rear of an exhibit, this provides depth and makes them appear somewhat less bright. If you have just a few small white flowers they can be placed coming off of yellows, pinks or greens with good effect.

Use those odd color orchids as transitional elements that can bridge between two seemingly disparate color groups. For instance, many Paphs have color patterns that allow them to fit well between greens and lavenders providing a bridge between lavender/purple and green/yellow. Some of the artshade Cattleya hybrids can fill the gap between reds and lavenders. Oncidium complex hybrids such as Aliceara & Miltonidium have elaborate color patterns that make them ideal as filler between color groups. Orchids such as *B. nodosa*, *B. digbyana*, *Epc. Vienna Woods* can make an excellent transition from greens to whites and all bicolor orchids can serve as transitions between two color groups. And finally, don't overlook species orchids to provide not only variety and interest but fill those awkward spaces that no conventional hybrid can.

HOW MUCH DO I NEED?

RULE # 1

When putting in an orchid exhibit you are always better off having too much than too little. Of course this does not mean that you must USE it all. When you are at the exhibit hall it is a real luxury to have MORE foliage than you really need, plenty of mulch to cover all of your staging and enough of an orchid selection that you have just the right orchid for a particular spot. After spending hours planning your exhibit, gathering materials, creating your prop, collecting plants, and transporting all of your stuff to the exhibit hall...it is only frustrating to have to compromise at this point. Don't allow it. The guidelines offered below are conservative. If you can exceed them then by all means do so. You will appreciate it on set-up day.

ORCHIDS

Plan on having at least 100 blooming orchids per 100 sq. ft. of exhibit space. Plants should be groomed for exhibition and flowers should be fully opened but not on their way out. A few days in an air-conditioned exhibition hall can be hard on flowers, only those in their prime will last. Be sure that plants have been fully watered before putting them in an exhibit. If the show will last more than a few days make provisions to water the plants at some point during the show.

FOLIAGE PLANTS

For naturalized exhibits, that is landscaped exhibits, figure that about 20% - 30% of the total area will be foliage plants. You will need a variety of sizes and heights. Actual needs will depend on the show staging, exhibit design and location of your space. Corners will require less foliage. Often show committees will provide a minimum amount of foliage with the exhibit space, ask the show chairman about this. Provide at least a row of tall foliage (up to 8') for creating a barrier between your space and the exhibit you back up to. For a 100 sq. ft. space that would be about 8-10, 5-gallon Ficus benjamina, areca or queen palms depending on how full they are. Stocky two-gallon arbutus, philodendron or Boston fern can be used between and in front of the background material as well as for the sides of the exhibit area. 15-20 of these two-gallon plants would be a good number to have on hand. Finally, two dozen or more small maidenhair or fluffy ruffles ferns work well as contrast and relief between orchid plants. Philodendrons and other foliage plants as well as some bromeliads also work well for this however, avoid strongly variegated foliage (important!), it competes with the orchids. Finally, an interesting specimen foliage plant such as a citrus trained to a standard can provide a focal point for an exhibit as well as a great place to display that special orchid. DO NOT use any other flowering plant material in your exhibit (important!). And finally, Do not use any artificial plant material in your exhibit (important!).

GROUNDCOVER

The word "groundcover" refers to any material used to cover the floor or tabletop that the exhibit space encompasses. This material is also used to cover any staging that is used to create levels within the exhibit area as well as the orchid pots in most cases. Groundcover can be almost any material that serves this purpose without distracting from the orchids themselves. For naturalized exhibits groundcover is typically a bagged material such as cypress mulch, peat or pine bark "deco nuggets". Sheet moss was and still is extremely popular giving a nice woodland look to any orchid exhibit. It must be moistened before use however and today many exhibitors are looking for easier to use materials. Tabletop exhibitors generally use yard goods to cover tables, with black or dark green fabric being favorites. Yard goods have also begun showing up in floor exhibits; large dropcloths dyed or painted a dark color provide a quick effective way to cover large areas of staging and foliage pots. Camouflage cloth such as used by hunters has been recently seen at orchid shows and makes a fast, easy groundcover especially when combined with a bag or two of dried leaves. Any groundcover material you decide on should be of a neutral color that does not detract from the orchids and should be readily available and inexpensive enough that a large enough quantity can be obtained for your exhibit space. A 2-cu. ft. bag of cypress mulch or pine bark should cover about 10-15 sq. ft. of space depending on how thick it is applied and whether or not the space is flat or contoured. Five bags would be minimum for 100 sq. ft. exhibit taking into account the space taken up by foliage and orchids. . Allow 3-4 boxes of sheet moss per 100 sq. ft. exhibit space and be sure to bring buckets and tubs to soak it in. Two or three bags of dark peat or topsoil will make a nice path in a 100 sq. ft. exhibit.

STAGING

A successful exhibit has different levels on which to display orchids. Foliage plants are also more attractive when they are not all on the same horizontal plane. Whatever you use to achieve these levels will in part depend on the groundcover you have decided on. If you are using sheet moss your staging will need to be waterproof. Plastic milk crates, fern stands, plastic pots, wooden vegetable crates and crumpled newspaper in plastic garbage bags all work well and are equally suitable for dry groundcover. The newspaper does not need to be in garbage bags if you are using dry groundcover. Whatever materials you use should light in weight and easy to transport to the exhibit hall. They also must be sturdy enough to support orchids without compromise throughout the duration of the show. I remember one exhibit I worked on where the committee chairman had devised staging using chicken wire and lumber. It collapsed and destroyed our two best Cattleyas. If using crumpled newspaper be sure that any orchids are seated firmly before finishing the exhibit. Six or so milk crates can be used to carry materials to the exhibit hall and then pressed into duty to gain height for background foliage. An assortment of plastic pots, which are light in weight, and can be used upturned to provide elevation to an orchid or foliage plant.

MONTHLY REPORTS

January 8, 2014 - GREATER OMAHA ORCHID SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING - Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office

At 7:00 p.m., Joe Lankton presented info on Cattleyas with handout "Cattleya Plant Culture according to Fred Clark," noting dry roots before watering, weekly in cool months, adjusting to 2-3 times a week as heat progresses, fertilizing with 100 PPM nitrogen (1/2 tsp per gallon). Monthly, omit fertilizer and water twice, an hour apart to reduce salts. See handout for light. Southern exposure in bright filtered light and temp ranges seasonally from 55/60 to 75/80 and good air movement work. New Zealand pine or Douglas Fir bark mixed at 3 parts bark/1 part Perlite for medium noted. "Cattleyas do not like to be over-potted" : pot size is important ensuring dry roots. Avoid over-sized pots for this reason. See handout regarding re-potting and dividing. "Please do not underestimate the importance of re-potting when new roots are starting to show, the stress on a newly potted plant is greatly reduced as the new roots will quickly reestablish it."

President Stoiber began the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Set up scheduled January 24th for ST. Cecilia's. \$250 is being provided for orchids. Feb. 6th: Kansas City show. Call Eric Stoiber, if interested in attending or need more details.

The CenturyLink's Home and Garden Show is unmanned, although Vice President Pyrzynski is going in. Jim passed out free passes for Thursday night. Eric described the more "natural look" display with driftwood being envisioned. Moss, and willow branches were mentioned.

Treasurer Aaron Bugjo and Eric are driving on Feb. 6th to K.C. and can take plants to the show, if members contact Eric a by Feb. 4th.

Program: The Black Orchid film was shown about half way through, with snacks provided by the board.

RENEWS: Friendly reminder: renew your membership before Valentine's Day! Bring to February General Meeting or mail to GOOS, PO Box 241871, Omaha, NE. 68124.

NEXT MEETING: February 12th.

LOCATION: Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office, on service road, South side of West Center Rd., between 72nd and 84th.

New members welcome! Bring an interested guest who may be considering joining, are curious, and enjoy being with orchid lovers as well as rare opportunities to see the wondrously beautiful and rare monthly display of "Show and Tell" orchids: the special visual gifts shared so delightfully!

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Anne Smith

January 22, 2014 Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion

Present: Eric Stoiber, Jim Pyrzynski, Jacque Lewzader, Roberta Ginavan, Aaron Bugjo, Linda Schroder, Marie Smith

President Stoiber called the meeting to order.

St. Cecelia's: Photos of the display were shared. Dave Bird provided orchids, yet the variety was limited due to the severely cold weather. These plants are under care of Eric until needed.

K.C. Show: Aaron and Eric will have a display by Friday at 10:00 a.m. with travel to K.C. planned on Thursday. Plants are needed.

February Display Challenge: New display being sewn for 4 ft. sections on PVC. Ten tabletop displays are made.

March at Lauritzen: Vendors contacted, Jim announced. Judging can occur again in the library; classroom to be used for talks during the show. Posing to membership: 2 - 3 talks during the afternoon on potting, bugs, etc.? Discussion occurred regarding store orchids vs. properly potted orchids. Question raised about interest in using the parking lot at Extension Office for a repotting time: bring in your orchids for repotting for a fee. Advertising possibilities mentioned for community base and reaching out through other groups with shared interests. Ideas included having a coupon for a free repotting with membership, suggested by Roberta.

Jim brought up show date challenges for the annual orchid show, still seeking a consistent annual date that does not

conflict with Easter.

Calendar: March: Eric may reach out to the membership to request a panel of people willing to serve the need. Jim contacted speakers; emails noted. Jim and Roberta will communicate together regarding dates/notes/possibilities. April: Alan Koch? May 17: Trip to Central NE. June: Piping Rocks Orchids with Glen Decker; July: Roy from Hawaii while in area? August: Auction from Dave Bird and a few vendor donations; Sept: Business Meeting with remaining "Black Orchid;" Oct: need an idea; Nov: Ron Midgett; Dec: Catered Party at Extension Office. October ideas discussed: Winterizing/Pests suggested by Aaron, with interest by board.

Open Discussion: Jim mentioned website design needs for G.O.O.S. Roberta noted the MAOC website contact for assistance. Options included considering interns, bulletin board ads... One need is in keeping the calendar current.

Hospitality Room: Jacque needs financial donations for the hospitality room at Lauritzen Gardens instead of donations of food. Eric will bring this need to the membership. Aaron will enter the donations on the ledger. Jacque shall present receipts for foods purchased. Aaron's Omaha Steaks may be able to donate for a banner as sponsor; he will ask.

Eric noted Joe's ability to help during the February meeting to give pointers about judging displays.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Anne Smith

OMAHA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS JUNE 7 FLINT HILLS BUS TRIP SIGNUP FORM

Name(s) _____

Garden Club (If any) _____

Telephone(s) landline _____ cell _____

Email _____

Send Registration by May 1, 2014 to (NO refunds after June 1, 2014 - except for wait-listed folks.) Make Checks payable to: Omaha Council of Garden Clubs. Marta Wasson- Davis, 7719 Marisu Lane Crt., LaVista, NE 68128

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

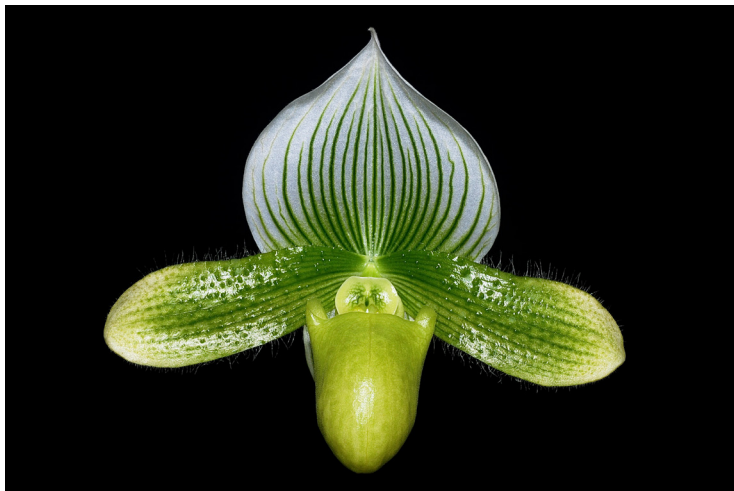
EMAIL _____

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

AWARD NEWS FROM
THE MID-AMERICA JUDGING CENTER

January 2014 Judging Results



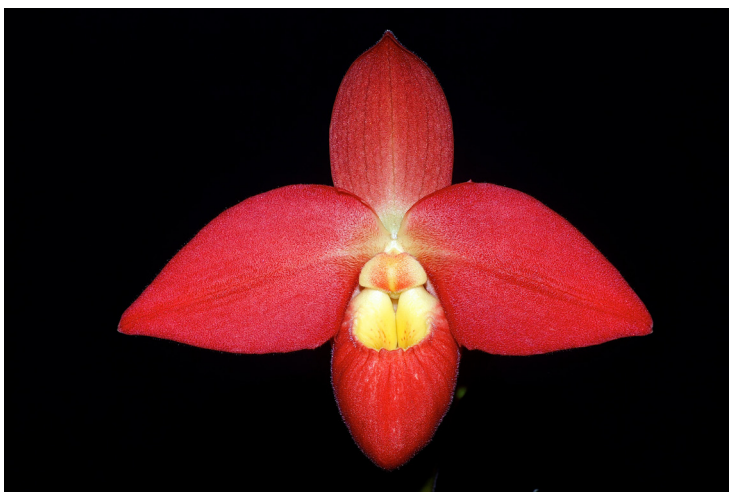
Paphiopedilum Hilo Super Citron 'Green Citron'
HCC/79 points
owned by Sam Tsui



Paphiopedilum Macbeth's Ghost 'Windy Hill'
HCC/79 points
Owned by Marilyn Ledoux



Bulbophyllum grandiflorum 'Windy Hill'
CCM/86 points
Owned by Marilyn Ledoux



Phragmipedium Rachel Kirk 'Windy Hill'
AM/80 points
Owned by Marilyn Ledoux



Phragmipedium Cahaba Morning Mist 'Windy Hill'
HCC/78 points
Owned by Marilyn Ledoux



Paphiopedilum tranlienianum
This plant owned by Sam was awarded a
Certificate of Botanical Recognition (provisional)



Paphiopedilum Michael Koopowitz 'Burgundy Long
Petals'
AM/82 points
owned by Sam Tsui

