



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

August 2015

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Submission deadline for the  
**September** Informer: August  
31, 2015.

## **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.

## IN THIS ISSUE

This month's meeting

pg. 1  
Thank you!

pg. 2  
Looking ahead

pg. 2  
Firststrays remedies

pg. 2  
CIOS AOS award winners  
pgs 3 - 4

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

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

**August 12, 2015**  
**Douglas/Sarpy Extension**  
**Office, 8015 West Center**  
**Rd.**

**7:00 PM GROWERS**  
**GROUP**

**7:30 PM Program:**  
BYF-orchids.

Refreshments:  
Marilyn Hawes

**August 26, 2015**  
Papillion Library  
6:45 PM Board meeting

**September 9, 2015**  
**Douglas/Sarpy Extension**  
**Office, 8015 West Center**  
**Rd.**

**7:00 PM GROWERS**  
**GROUP**

**7:30 PM Program:** TBA  
Refreshments:

Anne Pamperl & the  
Steineggers

## EVENTS

**August 7 – 9, 2015**

Hilo Orchid Society  
Annual Show "Orchids  
Avant-Garde," Afook-  
Chinen Civic Auditorium,  
323 Manono St., Hilo, HI  
Contact: Rick Kelly, 808-  
756-8145, rickkelly@att.  
net

**September 19 – 20, 2015**

Wisconsin Orchid Society  
Show "Fall In Love With  
Orchids," Mitchell Park  
Horticultural Conservatory,  
524 S. Layton Blvd.,  
Millwaukee, WI, Contact:  
Bil Nelson, 414-672-6446,  
qorchids@att.net

**September 25 - 27, 2015**

23rd Annual Chicagoland  
Orchid Festival, Natt's  
Orchids, Naperville, IL and  
Orchids by Hausermann's,  
Villa Park, IL. In  
conjunction with the Fall  
meeting of the MAOC.  
h t t p : / / w w w .  
chicagolandorchidfest.  
com/

**October 17 – 18, 2015**

Eastern Iowa Orchid Show  
& Sale, Noelridge Gardens  
Greenhouse, 4900 Council  
St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA,  
Contact: Andy Coghill-  
Behrends, 319-512-8076,  
mistercoghill@hotmail.  
com

## THE DOCTOR IS IN

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
how do your orchids grow?  
Are they lush and green  
or are they stressed and  
dingy? If something is not  
quite right with them this  
month's meeting is the op-  
portunity to find out.

The summer heat has  
stressed many plants –  
including orchids. If you  
have a greenhouse, keeping  
the temperatures down to  
tolerable levels is a chal-  
lenge. And even for win-  
dowsill growers, the AC  
has to run which dries the  
air. And then there are the  
bugs and diseases. They  
may be just lurking now,  
ready to explode in num-  
bers when winter comes  
and natural.

We hope to have some  
give and take from all who  
come. Every grower's own  
experiences can be helpful  
to others. Bring your plants  
too, it's easier than trying  
to imagine base on a word  
description. But if it looks  
like something really con-  
tagious – bag it so it doesn't  
contaminate other plants.  
See you there.

## THANK YOU!!

Thanks to all who came to the picnic and auction last month. We did very well during the event, making \$1,805 before expenses. And it looked as though everybody enjoyed it. Remember to support our the vendors who donated to the auction: Marilyn LeDoux (Windy Hill Orchids), Fred Clarke (Sunset Valley Orchids), Ron Midgett (New Earth Orchids), Seattle Orchids, Joan Gunn (her plants are available at In Situ Orchids on ebay. Page 5 of the newsletter has a list of the vendors and their website addresses.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Next month is September, and the meeting is our Annual meeting. It is also an election meeting – this year for officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer). At this month's (August) meeting the nominating committee will announce their slate of candidates. Nominations can be made from the floor at the September meeting, if anyone has an interest in holding office. The annual budget will also be an item for discussion and approval.

The 23rd Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival is scheduled for the last (extended) weekend in September (25 – 27) this year. The Mid-America Orchid Congress is holding their fall meeting in conjunction with the festival – see pages 7 and 8 for more info.

The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society is holding their annual show October 17 – 18 in Cedar Rapids. Last year Eric Stoiber and Don Steinegger set up a Society display. If someone would like to make the trip and do it this year, contact Eric.

## FIRSTSTRAYS.COM INSECT REMEDIES

A lot of folks are big believers in trying to be as “organic” as possible when controlling ailments in their plant collections, or just trying to spruce them up. We strongly recommend AGAINST preventive use of insecticides and fungicides, as there is a fairly strong tendency to breed resistant strains. Instead, we suggest that you take the time to carefully inspect your collection, and treat problems as soon as they arise.

Below are a number of home remedies – concoctions that come highly recommended, but please remember that you're using them at your own risk, and that of your plants, and the I can take no responsibility for the outcome.

### INSECTICIDES:

Your choice of home-made insecticide should be based upon what you're trying to eliminate.

Soft-bodied bugs, such as aphids & mealie bugs:

Straight 70% or 90% isopropyl rubbing alcohol – touch insects with a soaked cotton swab, or for larger infestations, spray the entire affected plant, being sure to thoroughly wet all surfaces. Repeat every 3 days for about 2 weeks. (I have never experienced any problems with buds, flowers, or any part of the plant when using an alcohol spray.)

Garlic/pepper spray – liquefy 2 bulbs of garlic and 2 hot peppers in a blender 1/2 to 2/3 full of water. Strain to remove the solids and add enough water to the garlic/pepper juice to make 1 gallon of concentrate. Use 1/4

cup of concentrate per gallon of spray. To make garlic tea, simply omit the pepper and add another bulb of garlic. Add two tablespoons of blackstrap molasses for more control.

Insects that have hard shells, such as scale, and thrips:

Mix 1 teaspoon (5 ml) each cooking oil and liquid dishwashing soap or detergent in a quart (liter) of water. Concentrations are not critical – some recommend a tablespoon (15 ml) of oil be used. Shake well, and spray the plant, being sure to thoroughly wet all surfaces. Repeat every 3 days for about 2 weeks. (The soap breaks down the waterproof, waxy coating on the insects' shells, and the oil will smother them.)

General-purpose insect spray:

One cup (250 ml) each Formula 409 or Fantastik household cleaner/degreaser and isopropyl rubbing alcohol and 2 cups water, making a quart or liter of spray. Use the same as the formulas above. (I've not tried this one.)

Mix three tablespoons of Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Pure-Castile Soap and 3/4 cup isopropyl rubbing alcohol in a quart bottle, then add water to fill it up. Supposed to be a good, general purpose insecticide.

Orange Plus, a household cleaner made from byproducts of orange juice production, can be sprayed directly on plants to eliminate insects. (I suspect other concoctions

made using citrus oils may also be effective, but have no knowledge or experience concerning them.)

in a 1 quart spray bottle mix 1 tsp Murphy's Oil Soap, 1 tsp Sunspray (or cooking oil), 1tbs lemon juice, and fill the rest with 1/2 water and 1/2 alcohol.

Ant eliminator:

Melt about 1/4 pound of candle wax, then slowly stir in about 1/4 cup sugar and 4 ounces boric acid powder (available at your local drug store). When thoroughly mixed, pour into a pan, creating a 1/4" to 1/2" thick slab. Cut or break into chunks, and distribute around the greenhouse. If you decide to try this indoors, be sure to keep them away from children and animals.

A surprising – and no doubt smelly – ant repellent is fermented cow manure tea. Put about a gallon volume of fresh manure in a 5-gallon bucket and top it up with water. Cover and let stand for a couple of weeks or more until it's fully “cured.” Spray around the greenhouse and under the benches. (CJ Maciejewski claims this keeps fire ants away down in Houston, and if it works for them...)

Here's another volunteered from the world of cyberspace: raw grits or corn meal! Sprinkle them in an area where ants are attracted, and they will gobble them up. Later they will swell in their bellies. (Need I say more?) Another contributor verified that the grits or corn meal works, but only for larger ants. For the small ones, try sprinkling some bath powder around.

(to be continued next month)

CENTRAL IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY SPEAKERS DAY  
AOS AWARD PHOTOS



Cattleya Gaudii 'Orchiddoc' AM 83 pts  
Exhibited by Larry Seton



Catasetum Melanie Davidson 'Omaha'  
AM 82 pts  
Exhibited by Joe Lankton



Cattleya Spring Majesty 'Prairie Summer' HCC 79 pts  
Exhibited by John Dolen



Paphiopedilum (Paph. Snow Trix X P. Rothschildianum)  
'Jeanie' AM 85 pts  
Exhibited by Orchid Inn USA, Ltd



Phragmipedium Emerald Fire AM 80 pts  
Exhibited by Orchids Ltd.



Paphiopedilum Alexes 'Red Dancer' AM 81 pts  
Exhibited by Orchid Inn USA, Ltd



Paphiopedilum Gloria Naugle 'Red October' HCC 79 pts  
Exhibited by Orchid Inn USA, Ltd



Paphiopedilum parishii var. dianthum  
'Five Amigos' HCC 75 pts  
Exhibited by Orchid Inn USA, Ltd