



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

January 2015

OFFICERS

President:

Eric Stoiber
(402) 206-4554

Vice President:

Jim Pyrzynski
(402) 734-4112

Secretary:

Marie Anne Smith

Treasurer:

Aaron Bugjo

Board Members:

Don Steinegger
1 (402) 488-8064

Robert Mann
(402) 896-1709

Ron Fechner
(402) 618-4268

Past President:

Roberta Ginavan
(712) 487-3085

Newsletter Editor:

Jim Pyrzynski

Articles may be mailed to Jim at
2107 Alberta Ave., Bellevue, NE
68005 or emailed to:

jpyrzynski@cox.net

Submission deadline for the
February Informer: February
2, 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 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

St. Cecilia Flower Festival

pg. 1

Coming next month

pg. 1

Annual orchid show

pg. 2

Maxillariella tenuifolia

pg. 2

Renewal time

pg. 2

Judging Center news

pgs. 3 - 4

Reports

pg. 5

Membership renewal form

pg. 6

Masdevallia veitchiana

pg. 6

Classifieds

pg. 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGES FOR EACH MEETING BELOW:

January 14, 2015

**Douglas/Sarpy Extension
Office, 8015 West Center**

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

**7:30 PM Program: Anatomy
of an orchid**

**Refreshments: Jacque
Lewzaader**

January 28, 2015

Papillion Library

**6:45 PM Papillion Library
Board meeting**

February 11, 2015

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

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

**7:30 PM Program: Orchid
swap and shop**

Refreshments: TDB

EVENTS

January 24 - 25, 2015

30th Annual Cathedral
Flower Festival, St. Cecilia
Cathedral, 701 N 40th St,
Omaha, NE

January 24 - 25, 2015

Orchid Society of
Minnesota "Winter Car-
nival Orchid Show," Como
Park Zoo & Conservatory,
1225 Estabrook Drive, St
Paul, MN Contact: Michael
Dyda, 612-223-4059,
michael1027us@yahoo.
com

**January 31 - February 1,
2015**

Orchid Growers Guild
"Orchid Quest 2015,"
Madison Marriott West,
1313 John Q Hammons Dr.,
Middleton, WI. Contact:
Lynn West, 608-445-0065,
lynnwest15@yahoo.com
or Terri Jozwiak, 608-592-
7906, lodijoz@charter.net

February 21 - 22, 2015

Batavia Orchid Society
Show, DuPage County
Fairgrounds, 2015
Manchester Rd., Wheaton,
IL Contact: Mike
Rollinger, 815-258-0872,
mrollinger@mindspring.
com

March 7 - 8, 2015

Greater Omaha Orchid
Society 28th Annual Orchid
Show & Sale, Lauritzen
Gardens, 100 Bancroft St.,
Omaha, NE, Contact: Jim
Pyrzynski, 402-734-4112,
jpyrzynski@cox.net

THE WHATS AND WHERE'S ON ORCHIDS

To kick off the new year
we will have a discussion
about orchid terminology,
flower and plant structure,
general cultural consid-
erations and other things
related to orchids. You, the
audience, should feel free
to chime in with your own
personal observations and
questions – it's not intended
to be a lecture but rather a
learning experience for all.

Bring some plants (protect-
ed as necessary from the
elements) so that we have
examples "in the flesh"
rather than just drawings
and photos.

ST CECILIA FLOWER FESTIVAL THIS MONTH

The St. Cecilia Flower
Festival is coming up later
this month – January 23 –
25. We will have a display
just to the north of the main
altar. Setup is mainly early
on January 23 (it opens for
patrons later that evening)
with a little time available
on Thursday, January 22.
If you would like to help
out, contact Eric Stoiber,
402-206-4554, EricSt11@
aol.com.

COMING NEXT MONTH AND BEYOND

Looking a ways into the
future, next month's meet-
ing will have a new twist
(although we did attempt

something similar a few years back) – a swap and shop. If you have some plants you would like to trade with someone (please make sure they are pest and disease free) bring them to the meeting and see if you can trade for something you might be interested in. If you would rather sell your plants, fine, but the 10% of the sale will go to the Society.

Also in February (Feb. 5 – 8) is the annual Home and Garden Show at the Century-Link Center. As in last year, we plan to have a small booth with minimal staffing – no sales, just information. If you would like to help out see Jim Pырzynski. It would be great to have members providing advice on orchid growing and promoting the show in March.

The March meeting is a week earlier than normal, coming this time on the first Wednesday in March (Mar. 4). This is only 2 days from setup for our annual orchid show, which is on March 7 -8. And this provides an excellent opportunity for getting your plants registered for the show. You can either bring the plants to the meeting or bring the nametags and perhaps have a photo for reference. We will guide you through the registration process.

In April we will have a guest speaker, Nile Dusdieker of North Liberty, IA. Nile is a AOS judge with the Chicago Judging Center and he has had articles published in AOS Orchids and given talks elsewhere. He also has a Webinar on the AOS website on Australian terrestrial orchids which you can view.

MARCH 7 - 8 ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW

As mentioned in the previous article, our annual orchid show is March 7 – 8 with setup on the day before. We have plenty of opportunities for members to get involved including show setup on Friday morning and evening, clerking for the judging early

Saturday morning, staffing at the Society information table during both days of the show and show teardown on late Sunday afternoon. We will also welcome and need help with show hospitality.

The show will give you an excellent opportunity to take some time and stroll through the new conservatory addition to the Gardens. Signup sheets will be circulated at the January and February meetings, please see where you can help out.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's time to renew your membership with our group. Your membership helps support some of the activities and show us who are real supporters are. As a member we keep you informed via our monthly newsletters and occasional emails on important events that you might interest you. It also gives you an opportunity to participate in our annual orchid show. The show for 2015 is March 7 – 8. If you plan to participate (have a plant in the society display, help out with the vendors (your participation gets you in to the show without having to pay the Lauritzen Gardens entrance fee), etc.) you will need to be an up-to-date member. Memberships expire the day after the February meeting (meaning your membership would expire on February 12).

A membership renewal form is on page 6 of this newsletter. Please use it and update any information that may have changed since the last time. Thanks.

***Maxillariella tenuifolia* (Lindl.) Coconut Orchid**

Like *Brassavola nodosa*, *Maxillaria tenuifolia* is one of those orchids that belongs in every collection. While small plants remain compact, it may also be grown into a specimen in a rather short period of time. The grasslike foliage makes an attractive houseplant even

when not in flower. Being a widely distributed species, it is adaptable to a broad range of growing conditions. Also known as the “coconut orchid”, this *Maxillaria* will perfume the home or greenhouse with its coconut-scented flowers and delight family and visitors.

The genus as we have accepted it in the past has undergone considerable transformation. A new classification system proposed by Mark Whitten PhD and Mario Blanco in the February 2011 issue of ORCHIDS should lend clarity to what was once a large and diverse genus. While the names change, the orchids stay the same for us to enjoy in our collections. If you are one who likes to be on the cutting edge of orchid taxonomy, you may change your nametags for this species to *Maxillariella tenuifolia* which is fortunately, not a major name change to remember. It is a pity that this group of orchids is not better known outside a dozen or so popular members. There are many fine species, both large and small, well worth growing and suited to all types of culture from cool to warm, shady to bright.

This species was discovered near Veracruz, Mexico by Karl Theodore Hartweg and described by Lindley in 1837 in the Botanical Register. It is primarily a low elevation species found from Mexico to Costa Rica at elevations up to 1500m (4921 ft). The best temperature range for cultivation is warm to intermediate, providing temperatures no lower than 50 ° F (10° C) day or night. The long rhizome makes for a somewhat straggly plant that wants to “climb” out of a pot, but a good sized plant can be easily kept in a six inch pot. It will eventually start to droop over the edge as it grows up but by that time, you should plan to repot it anyway as it will take a couple of years to reach that stage by which time the media will need replacing. Basket culture is an optimal solution to accommodate this growth habit and a slab of tree fern will work equally well, although not offer as tidy a presentation. Most elements of *Max. tenuifolia* culture are quite forgiving with the main consideration being the avoidance of stale or soggy media. We have grown it in all sorts of media including osmunda, fir bark, coconut husk fiber or chunks and of course, fir bark mixes. The paramount quality of the media is that it does not stay consistently wet so sphagnum may be the least suitable choice. Plants should not be watered again until dry, or just approaching dry. Fertilize along with your other orchids every week or two using a half strength solution of balanced fertilizer. Light tolerance is broad for this species and it can be grown in a bright greenhouse, or with “Phals” on a windowsill. Lower light will produce long whip-like foliage and a more straggly plant as it reaches for the light. Should your plant not flower, you will need to give it more light. Flowering season is March-April and flowers last for a week to ten days or longer if kept cool. Flower color is typically oxblood red with a spotted lip, but yellow color forms are known to exist. Plants propagate easily and are always readily available in the trade so there is no excuse to not have one in your collection.

Greg Allikas - April, 2011

This essay is dedicated to the memory of Eric Christenson, PhD who passed away in early April. Eric was a noted authority on *Maxillaria* and was continuing to describe new species up to his death. While outspoken, Eric was always willing to make suggestions to improve articles I wrote for web and print. His broad knowledge, accuracy and attention to detail held my writing to a very high standard. I only wish he were able to edit this because I am sure that I made a mistake somewhere. An article covering his contributions to the orchid world is in the works for a future issue of ORCHIDS magazine.

© 2014 American Orchid Society, aos.org. All rights reserved

JUDGING CENTER NEWS
DECEMBER 2014 AWARDED PLANTS



Dendrobium shiraishii 'Lev' AM/82 points
upgraded from a HCC/79
owned by Aleksadra and Viktoriya Kumok from Rossville, TN



Phragmipedium Flamingo 'Windy Hill's Rose Bird' HCC/77
owned by Marilyn and Brian LeDoux



Paphiopedilum Fairly Sauced 'Swamprad' HCC/78
owned by Mark Mills of Memphis, TN



Phalaenopsis Marc's Beauty 'You look Mahvelous' HCC/79
owned by Marc Valentine from Cordova, TN

REPORTS

December 10, 2014 General Meeting minutes

The meeting was the annual holiday party held this year at the Extension Office. Prior to the festivities President Eric Stoiber advised the members of the status of Dave Taylor's health (he was to have heart surgery at Mayo Clinic). Also he gave a report on Ron Fechner who was injured when fell. Get well cards from the society will be mailed.

The meal was catered and there was a gift exchange.

12-17-14 Greater Omaha Orchid Society - Board of Directors Meeting
Sump Memorial Library, Papillion.

Present: Eric Stoiber, President; Jim Pyrzynski, Vice President; Aaron Bugjo, Treasurer; Robert Mann, Board; Jacque Lewzader, Committee Chair; Marie Smith, Secretary

Eric opened the meeting at 7:53 p.m. discussing the exhibit at St. Cecelia's. Final set up is January 23 at 3:00; tear-down by noon on January 26th. Eric has tickets. Dave Bird, K.C., is having a BBQ and Open House on January 20th.

JANUARY: Eric or Jim: "Introduction to Orchids."

FEBRUARY: "Sale or Swap." February 5 - 7: Omaha Home & Garden Show.

MARCH: Tagging orchids in preparation for shows.

APRIL, MAY, JUNE: Seeking speaker. Marge From may also present.

HOLIDAY DINNER: Eric believes it went well. The dinner was paid for. As there was quite a bit of food leftover, it was donated to The Salvation Army.

NEWSLETTER: the question of including advertising came up for the purpose of sharing info on products that can be purchased in large quantities and divided among interested members. Selling plants when a speaker presents is allowed. The society will receive a percentage of sales. From a bookkeeping perspective, percentages received will become a "donation." Eric is in favor of classified ads (i.e. "buying x quantity; looking for growers to share cost"). A template for a classified can be used. "If selling to the club, XX% is requested." Eric proposed bringing this up to the members, along with establishing a firm % from any sales.

MARCH ORCHID SHOW: Jacque will get it set up; Roberta will follow up. Jacque will request financial donations during the January meeting for the hospitality room foods.

PICNIC IDEA: Aaron brought up question of opening up the picnic and sales to public people to drive up the sales and membership, and awareness. Alternatively, hold picnic early (separate), followed by opening up the sales to the public.

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER: Minimize the business discussion in September; budget will be in the newsletter ahead of time. If have a speaker in September, postpone the business meeting in October, with elections then.

Eric adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Marie Anne Smith
Secretary

GREATER OMAHA ORCHID SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (2015)

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

Masdevallia veitchiana

Eric Stoiber's fabulous *Masdevallia veitchiana*

See it at the January meeting.

THE CLASSIFIED SECTION

We received a suggestion/request that we include a "Classified Section" in the newsletter where members could post items that they are looking for, have available for sale, exchange, etc. Or perhaps they would like to have someone go in with them on a bulk purchase.

So we are going to give a trial. It is reserved for GOOS members and it should be orchid-related. The ads will need to be sent in NLT than the Monday of the week preceding the month's meeting. For example, if you want to place an ad in the February 2015 newsletter, the ad will need to be sent in for publication NLT February 2. The ads need to be sent to Jim Pyzynski, editor, jpyzynski@cox.net. If you don't have email capability, send by mail (the ad would have to be placed in the mail NLT the Friday or Saturday preceding that Monday) addressed to Jim at 2107 Alberta Ave, Bellevue, NE 68005.

