



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

November 2015

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Submission deadline for the
December Informer: November
30, 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.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGES FOR EACH MEETING BELOW:

November 11, 2015

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

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

7:30 PM Program: TBA
Refreshments: Guess Who

November 25, 2015

Papillion Library
6:45 PM Papillion Library
Board meeting

December 9, 2015

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

6:00 PM appetizers Holiday
Party, Dinner at 7:00 PM.
Price \$15

Optional gift exchange

EVENTS

January 30 – 31, 2016

Madison Orchid Growers
Guild "Orchid Quest 2016"
Marriott Madison West
Conference Center, 1313
John Q Hammons Dr.,
Middleton, WI, Contact:
Terri Jozwiak. 608-592-
7905, lodijoz@charter.net

January 30 – 31, 2016

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

January 30 - 31, 2016

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

February 18 -- 21, 2016

Omaha Home Lawn,
Flower, and Patio Show,
CenturyLink Center
Omaha.

March 5 - 6, 2016

Greater Omaha Orchid
Society 29th Annual Orchid
Show & Sale, Lauritzen
Gardens, 100 Bancroft St.,
Omaha, NE, Contact: Jim
Pyrzynski, 402-734-4112,
jpyrzynski@cox.net

BLACK WEDNESDAY SALE & SWAP NOVEMBER 11

This is the month – the
month with something
called Black Friday
(sounds like something
bad but it's good I guess).
But now Black Friday is
creeping into Turkey Day
Thursday. Well.... we at
GOOS have them beat.
We are having a Black
Wednesday Sale & Swap
on Wednesday, November
11 - 2 weeks before those
events! First we will have
a nice selection of plants
from Sunset Valley Or-
chids (Fred Clarke) for sale
AT COST!

Next, is the swap – if you
have plants that have out-
grown your surroundings,
excess divisions, whatever,
bring them, sell them, trade
them – at the meeting.
Who knows treasures and
bargains you may find? Joe
Lankton will give a talk at
the Grower's Group por-
tion of the meeting.

See you there.

COMING UP

Next month is our annual
holiday party. This year the
board will provide the main
meat dish and the members
will provide a potluck of
the other items. The signup

sheet for side dishes and desserts went around last month, we'll send it around again for those who didn't get a chance then.

Looking into the future (2016) – January 30, 31 is the annual St. Cecilia Flower Festival. We plan to have a display. If you would like to help out, contact Eric. February 18 – 21 is the annual Omaha Home Lawn, Flower, and Patio show at the CenturyLink Center. We plan to have an information booth with information on the Society and orchid culture (plus a small display).

Our annual orchid show is the first weekend in March, (March 5 and 6). So it is time to start making plans for that event. Look your plants over and see what needs to be done to prepare them for that event.

IN THIS MONTH'S ORCHIDS MAGAZINE

This month's "Orchids. The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society" has a bonus – a special supplement: "A Handy Guide to Things You May or May Not Have Known About Growing Orchids." In the supplement are articles about signs that your orchids are happy, essential tools, orchid potting mixes, flasking, sprouting backbulbs, light requirements,

The regular "Orchids" magazine has some interesting articles and tips too. There is a formula for bug spray, Tom Miranda's

tips for the month, a ghost orchid relative that lives in Jamaica, an article on some strange orchids (Dimorphis) that have different flowers on the same inflorescence. And more. Check both magazines out, they'll be in the library.

RENEWAL TIME

It's time to renew your membership. Memberships go extinct after the February meeting (IAW the Bylaws). So don't become an endangered or extinct species. A renewal form is on the last page of the newsletter.

FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY Things to do in the Fall

We just returned from the AOS Members Meetings in Wilmington, Delaware and for us Floridians, it was refreshing to see autumn colors and feel some cool air. A frost was expected for the night we were leaving.

Like spring, fall is an important transitional season and orchid growers should be making preparations for the coming winter. As days get shorter and cooler, orchid growth will slow and in some cases, cease altogether. Unless a plant is in a crisis situation, put off any repotting until the lengthening days of spring. For many orchids, it is this change of seasonal conditions that begins flower initiation. As we move into November, be on the lookout for developing inflorescences on Phalaenopsis, Cymbidium and certain hybrids and species in other genera, and begin staking when spikes reach 6-8 inches.

If you have been summer-

ing some or all of your orchids outside, now is a good time to get your indoor growing area cleaned up and ready to welcome the returning orchids. Whether it is windowsill carts, a basement light setup or greenhouse, use diluted chlorine bleach (1:10) or Physan to clean off any accumulated algae. It is easier to make repairs when there are no plants, so make sure that your growing area is in top condition for the trying conditions of winter. Make sure that heaters are working and that you have plenty of fuel. If you use backup devices or alarms, test them too. Be sure to check plants thoroughly for pests before returning them to the close quarters of your indoor growing area or greenhouse.

For more detailed seasonal culture information on specific genera see Tom Miranda's excellent monthly "Orchid Checklist" in Orchids magazine.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay

Home Remedies By Susan Jones

Hand Picking The first line of defense, if a plant is not heavily affected by pests, is to pick bugs, slugs and snails from the plant and squash them. Pests have yet to develop a resistance to this type of control.

Water Pests like mites are usually most severe on plants in heated homes during the winter, when the air is dry and there are no natural enemies to keep them under control. Raising the ambient humidity through humidity trays, saucers of damp pebbles placed under each plant,

or even a room humidifier can help.

For mites, aphids, mealybugs and other insects, a gentle brush or jet of water can kill and dislodge them from plants. Regularly washing the foliage thoroughly with soapy water, wiping every leaf and rinsing with a sink sprayer is one way to bring populations down.

Soaking is a third way water can be used to combat insects. Completely immerse the pot and potting medium of the affected plant in a bucket of water overnight to evict ants, roaches, sow bugs and pill bugs from the medium.

Rubbing Alcohol Soak a cotton swab in 70 percent isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and dab scale, mealybugs, mites and aphids off orchids. The alcohol dissolves the insect's waxy covering, and is a good tool to reach the pests hidden down in the sheaths and leaf crevices. Pay particular attention to the midrib, other veins and leaf edges. Repeat the treatment at seven to 10 day intervals to remove successive generations.

Another method is to spray alcohol, mixed with a few drops of mild liquid soap, from a misting bottle or small pump sprayer. Avoid strong or excessive amounts of detergent, as this may damage your plants, particularly buds and flowers.

Alcohol can be combined with insecticidal soaps, but not with oil, and should never be used near fire. One of the advantages to using alcohol is that insects do not develop resistance to the treatments.

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MID-AMERICA JUDGING CENTER OCTOBER 2015 AOS AWARDS



Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica v. *alba* 'Mahvelouly Yellow'
AM/81 owned by Marcus Valentine of Memphis, TN

Phal. hieroglyphica v. *alba*
'Mahvelouly Yellow' CCM/88
owned by Marcus Valentine of
Memphis, TN



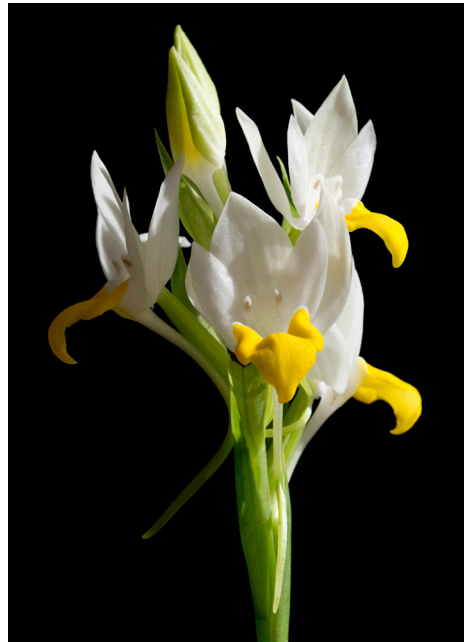


Phalaenopsis Fusheng Sweet Paradise 'Shelby's Prince' HCC/79
owned by Hilltop Orchids

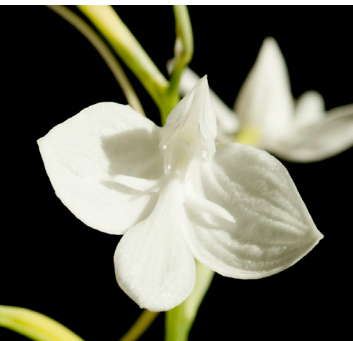
MEMBERS' PLANTS BLOOMING NOW



Cattleya kerrii, grown by Eric Stoiber



Pecteilis sagarikii,
grown by Jim Pyrzynski



Habeneria lindleyana
grown by Jom Pyrzynski

Submit your photos for the next newsletter to Jim
jpyrzynski@cox.net

GREATER OMAHA ORCHID SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (2016)

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
