



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

October 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
September Informer: October
5, 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
David Johnston

pg. 2
Doc Miller

pg. 2
October Orchids

pg. 2
AOS Orchid Q & A

pg. 2
AOS award winners

pgs 3
Paph culture sheet

pg. 4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGES FOR EACH MEETING BELOW:

October 14, 2015

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

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

7:30 PM Program: Joe
Lankton, your selected genus
Refreshments: Betty Szopo

October 28, 2015

Papillion Library
6:45 PM Board meeting

November 11, 2015

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

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

7:30 PM Program: TBA
Refreshments: Sandy Rome

EVENTS

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

**October 31 – November 1,
2015**

Kansas Orchid Society Fall
Orchid Show & Sale
Botanica, The Wichita
Gardens, 701 Amidon
St., Wichita, KS, Contact:
Sarah J. Pratt, 316-655-
0572, svcsjp@gmail.com

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

THIS MONTH ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PAPHS & PLANTS NEEDED FOR CEDAR RAPIDS SHOW

First off – the Eastern Iowa
Orchid Show in Cedar
Rapids, IA is just 3 days
after our October meeting.
We plan to have an exhibit
there and need your bloom-
ing orchids! Please bring
your plants to the meeting,
have the pots labeled with
your name and please pro-
vide a list of your plants
so we can get them back
to you. If you are unable to
bring them to them meeting
contact Jim Pyrzynski. We
need to have the plants by
Thursday evening since
we will be leaving for
Cedar Rapids early Friday
morning.

Now for the program for
the October meeting -
Paphs – Paphiopedilum,
those strange looking or-
chid with a lip shaped (in
some people's imagina-
tion) like a lady's slipper.
**To accompnay the meet-
ing we will have a nice
selection of Paphs in bud
for purchase.**

Paphs and other lady's slip-
per orchids (Cypripedium,

Phragmipedium, Selenipedium, and Mexipedium) belong to the orchid subfamily, Cypripediodeae. The “slipper-type” lip is a characteristic of the subfamily. In addition to the lip, there are 2 petals, a dorsal sepal above the lip, and 2 ventral sepals which are usually united into a single structure (called a synsepal) behind and/or under the lip. Paphs do not have pseudobulbs, so they need adequate water although the amount may vary by the growing season.

Paphs are tropical Asian slipper orchids and their geographic range extends from India eastward across southern China to the Philippines and the Mala Archipelago to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Be at the meeting and learn more from Joe Lankton about these interesting orchids.

JEWELL ORCHIDS DAVID JOHNSTON

For those members who remember Jewell Orchids who used to vend at our shows until they moved to Georgia, we have some sad news. David Johnston, former member and past president of CIOS and owner of Jewell Orchids, has been diagnosed with lung cancer which has metastasized to his brain. He recently finished 10 days of radiation on his brain and had a biopsy performed on his lungs to see what it shows. Hopefully it will indicate what type of cancer (small cell, i.e.) so the doctor will know how to treat it and what type of chemo to use. David is staying strong but is very weak from the

radiation.

You can send your thoughts to David through Angel at _orchidhalo@gmail.com (mailto:orchidhalo@gmail.com) or to David Johnston, 25 Good Hope Road, Colbert, GA 30628.

DOC MILLER

Lewis (Doc) Miller, age 84, passed away in September at Risen Son Christian Village in Council Bluffs. He was preceded in death by his 98 year-old brother who died 10 days earlier. He had been suffering from a broken hip which healed but had numerous setbacks for the past several months. He made some progress recently and was off all therapies except speech. He still maintained a sunny outlook and he still enjoyed looking at flowers and plants. A sympathy card from the Society was sent to Marge Bibeau who cared for him.

OCTOBER AOS ORCHIDS MAGAZINE

The October issue of AOS Orchids is out and it has a number of interesting articles. As usual, Tom Mirenda has some pertinent tips in his Monthly Checklist article on getting ready for the winter season (on a side note, the weather has been so warm here the outdoor growing season seems to have been extended well into October). And he has another article a few pages in about the genus Pleione – beautiful little orchids with large flowers. They are seldom seen, maybe because

their blooming season is short and they require special growing considerations. Towards the end of the magazine, David Mellard has an article on how to grow them in an artificial bog which includes some specific information on temperature and water.

Brenda Oviatt of Botanica, an orchid nursery in Montana, has an excellent article on a rare species of *Aerangis*, *A. maireae*. The discusses the quandries of conservation in the realities of the 21st century and quagmire of CITES regulations. The *Aerangis* is found in Tanzania and another article of photographs of African orchids.

Check the issue out, it will be in the library.

AOS ORCHID Q & A

Q.

Phalaenopsis Spiking? When should my phalaenopsis start putting up spikes? I thought it would be around this time (January), but they are doing nothing. Is there something I can do to coax them into spike? — James Tinker

A.

In response to short days and cooler temperatures, early winter is generally when phalaenopsis begin to show their spikes in most parts of the country. If your plants are not spiking, it may be the result of insufficient light during the growing season, or the temperatures in the home may be too warm at night. Try providing temperatures in the high 50s into the low 60s for a week or two and see what happens. — Ned Nash

Q.

Re-Rooting Plants? What is the best way to re-root orchids that have lost their roots for one reason or another? Specifically I'd like to know about re-rooting phals and plants in the Cattleya Alliance. — P.J. Hatcher

A.

Traditional wisdom dictates that plants can be encouraged to root by providing a moist atmosphere while keeping the medium on the dry side. This enables the plant to remain turgid (not wilted) until the roots naturally come to support the foliage. In practice, this can be done by repotting the plants into the smallest container that will accept the root mass and encasing the entire product in a plastic bag. The bag can be supported off the foliage by making a wire loop and inserting the ends of the wire into the pot. The plant should be watered into the medium, covered with the bag and left in a shady spot until root growth is evident. Depending on the season, this may take days or weeks. As days shorten after late September until January, it will take longer than in spring and summer as days lengthen. — Ned Nash

MID-AMERICA JUDGING CENTER AUGUST 2015 AOS AWARDS



Cattleya Mango Spice 'Lone Jack'
HCC/79 points
owned by Alex McConnell, Kansas City



Phragmipedium Jason Fischer 'Greg Hoerner'
AM/80 points
owned by David Bird from Kansas City

Paphiopedilum

paff-ee-oh-PED-ih-lum

Paphiopedilums, the lady's-slipper orchids, originate in the jungles of the Far East including Indonesia. They are semiterrestrial, growing in humus and other material on the forest floor, on cliffs in pockets of humus and occasionally in trees. They are easy to grow in the home, under lights or in the greenhouse.

LIGHT is easier to provide for paphiopedilums than many other types of orchids. They require shady conditions, as in the home in an east or west window, or near a shaded south window. In the greenhouse, shade must be provided. Give about 1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles. In the home, fluorescent lighting is excellent; suspend two or four tubes 6 to 12 inches above the leaves.

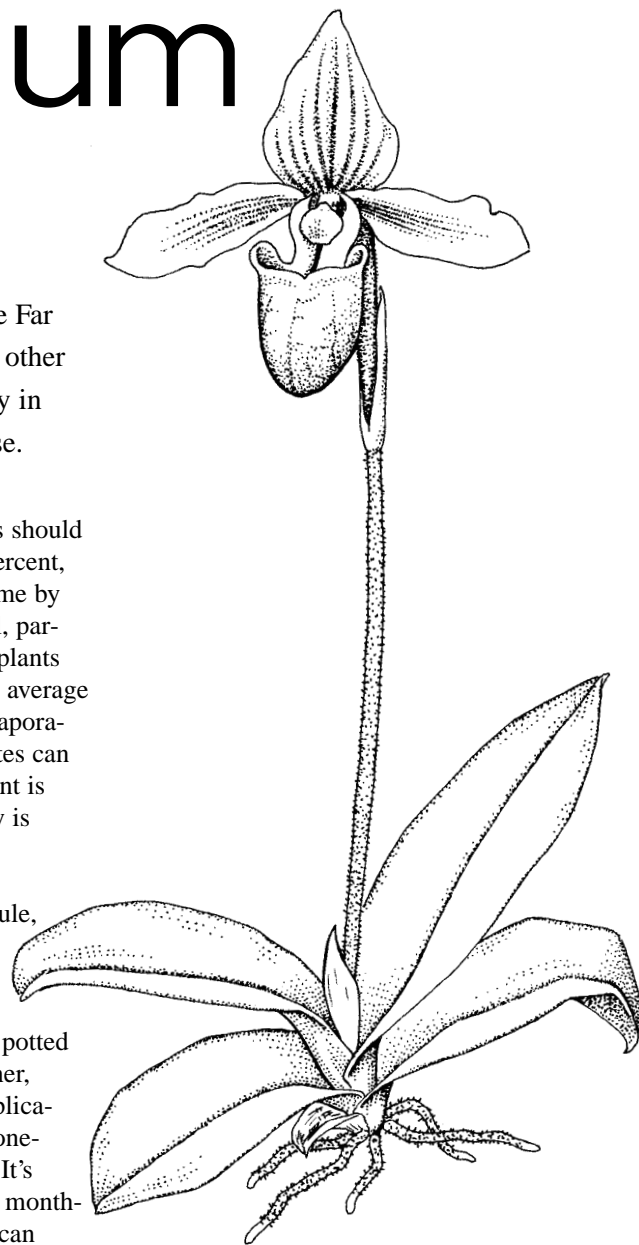
TEMPERATURES for paphiopedilums cover a considerable range. Paphiopedilums are traditionally separated into two groups: the warm-growing mottled-leaved types and the cool-growing green-leaved types. A third, increasingly popular group is the warmer-growing strap-leaved multi-floral paphiopedilums. Warm-growing types should be kept at 60 to 65 F during the night, and 75 to 85 F or more during the day. Cool-growing types should be kept at 50 to 60 F during the night and 75 to 80 F during the day. However, many growers raise all plants in the same temperature range with excellent results. The plants can stand night temperatures in the 40s if necessary (as when grown outside in mild climates), as well as temperatures to 95 F. Care must be taken to protect the plants from rot when cold (keep humidity low, and avoid moisture on leaves or in the crowns of the plants), and also to protect from burning when hot (shade more heavily and increase humidity and air movement around the plants).

WATER must be available at the roots constantly, because all plants in this genus have no pseudobulbs. All of these plants need a moist medium — never soggy, but never dry. Water once or twice a week.

HUMIDITY for paphiopedilums should be moderate, between 40 and 50 percent, which can be maintained in the home by setting the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water, so that the plants never sit in water. In a greenhouse, average humidity is sufficient. Using an evaporative cooling system in warm climates can increase the humidity. Air movement is essential, especially when humidity is high.

FERTILIZE on a regular schedule, but care must be taken to avoid burning of the fleshy, hairy roots. High-nitrogen fertilizers (such as 30-10-10) are recommended when potted in any fir-bark mix. In warm weather, some growers use half-strength applications every two weeks; others use one-quarter strength at every watering. It's important to flush with clear water monthly to leach excess fertilizer, which can burn roots. In cool weather, fertilizer applications once a month are sufficient.

POTTING should be done about every two years, or as the medium decomposes. Seedlings and smaller plants are often repotted annually. Mixes vary tremendously; most are fine- or medium-grade fir bark, with varying additives, such as perlite (sponge rock), coarse sand and sphagnum moss. Moisture retention with excellent drainage is needed. Large plants can be divided by pulling or cutting the fans of the leaves apart, into clumps of three to five growths. Smaller divisions will grow, but may not flower. Spread the roots over a small amount of medium in the bottom of the pot and fill with medium, so that the junction of roots and stem is buried $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep in the center of the pot. Do not



overpot; an average plant should have a 4- to 6-inch pot.

The American Orchid Society is the world's leading provider of information about and related to orchids. We invite you to join us and learn about the world's most fascinating flowers and plants. Your membership entitles you to our monthly award-winning magazine *Orchids*, a free copy of our cultural guide *Your First Orchid* and the *AOS Orchid Source Directory*, a 10 percent discount on items purchased through The AOS BookShop and Orchid Emporium, and free admission to the International Orchid Center in Delray Beach, Florida.

American Orchid Society

16700 AOS Lane
Delray Beach, Florida 33446-4351
Tel 561-404-2000 Fax 561-404-2100
E-mail TheAOS@aos.org
Web site orchidweb.org