



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

September 2015

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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.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

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

**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

**September 23, 2015**  
Papillion Library  
6:45 PM Board meeting

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

## EVENTS

**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](mailto: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.  
<http://www.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](mailto: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, [svesjp@gmail.com](mailto:svesjp@gmail.com)

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

### **FREE MSU FERTILIZER**

This month's meeting is  
our "annual" meeting, a  
meeting where we take care  
of some of the important  
"business formalities" of  
the Society: officer/board  
election, budget discussion/  
approval, etc. – kind of dry,  
right (and a lot of politics  
is in the news these days  
24/7). So we will spice it  
up a bit if possible. First  
off, we will have free (no  
strings attached) Michigan  
State Fertilizer for attend-  
ees and possibly a few other  
freebies. If we can we will  
fit a short program or por-  
tion of a program.

So for the election, this year  
it is for officers. The nomi-  
nating committee (Ron  
Fechner, Betty Szopo, and  
John Dolen) is charged  
with the responsibility of  
finding a slate of qualified  
and willing candidates.  
The slate of candidates  
they selected consists of:  
Eric Stoiber, President; Jim  
Pyrzynski, Vice-President;  
Aaron Bugjo, Treasurer,  
and Cynthia Mass, Secre-  
tary. All the current offi-  
cers with the exception of  
the Secretary, Marie Anne  
Smith, stated that they were  
willing to serve another

term in their current position (and they are eligible to do so since they have served only single 2-year term). If anyone would like to make a nomination from the floor, there will be an opportunity to do so – but the nominee must agree with being nominated.

The proposed budget for the fiscal year September 2015 through August 2016 is on page 7 of this newsletter. The proposed budget is in the right-most column (the column to the left, shows the income and expenses for the period from September 2014 through August 2015). There will be some time for a discussion and then vote on the budget.

Annual reports are given in this issue of the newsletter. If you have questions on the reports, bring them up during the meeting.

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### **FALL ORCHID SHOW OPPORTUNITY**

Fall orchid shows present opportunities to show some of the plants you may have in bloom now that won't be available for show in the spring. The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society will hold their annual show in Cedar Rapids October 17 – 18. Setup is October 16 and setup needs to be completed by around 5 pm since there are no lights in the facility for an extended setup.

We had our first display there last year and we would like to continue with the relationship. Dr. Nile Dusdieker, who is heavily involved with the EIOS, was one of our guest speak-

ers this past year. For this participation to work we need a couple of things. We need orchids for the show. So look at your plants now and see what might be available for the event. The show occurs on the weekend immediately after our October (14) meeting, so plants could be brought to the meeting. And we are looking for anyone interested in going to Cedar Rapids and helping out. It does mean an early departure from Omaha as it is about a 5 hour drive. If you are interested contact Eric or Jim.

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### **AOS ORCHIDS**

This month's AOS Orchids Magazine has some interesting articles:

Great Ideas - Take your plants on a magic carpet ride?? Well not the one of the 1960s song, but a carpet on a cookie sheet which is soaked with water to help keep your plants humid and cool – cool man!

Mounting Orchids – We had a program on mounting orchids (how are yours doing??) earlier this year. Greg Allikas has a very complete article on the how, when, and why to mount some of your orchids. The article has excellent photos of the process. Check it out.

Grower Profile – A familiar face is on the last inside page of the magazine. Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn, Ltd. is featured. Learn a little bit more about Sam and his business.

Scientific articles – Several pages of the current issue are devoted to more scientific articles in the Lindleyana section. Conservation of an endangered Chinese orchid is the subject.

### **Insect Repellent:**

Place small, open containers of eucalyptus oil in the growing area. The vapors will discourage critters from approaching. (Yeah, it's going to smell like a Hall's Cough Drop factory, but it's good for opening your sinuses, too – a la Vick's Vapo-Rub.) Eucalyptus oil has also been shown to be an effective fungicide, but I know that a dispersion in water and alcohol, when sprayed directly on the plant, will damage flower buds, so I can't recommend that use.

### **FUNGICIDE:**

Those of you who frequent the internet orchid forums know of my "crusade" for the use of cinnamon as a fungicide. I've done a lot of digging, and it turns out that the chemicals in the bark have all sorts of medicinal applications (I've even cured athlete's foot with my alcohol extract!) Choose the consistency that is best for your situation:

**Powder:** Apply normal, household cinnamon powder directly to the affected part of the plant by dusting heavily. This has proven to be a good way to control slime mold and mushrooms in the mulch in my outdoor flower beds, too!

**Poultice:** Mix cinnamon powder with sufficient casein-based glue (Elmer's) to make a thick, brown paste. Apply to the wound and let dry. The Elmer's Glue is water soluble, but resists washing-off quite well. This is the preference for mounted plants that get watered or misted frequently. An alternative to the Elmer's Glue, but just as waterproof and long-lasting is made by mixing cinnamon powder and cooking oil to form a thick paste. (Thanks to John Kawamoto!)

**Spray:** You can prepare a cinnamon spray using either alcohol or water as your solvent. The alcohol infusion is faster to prepare, and offers some insecticidal properties as well. This is my preferred method, and has been effective at eliminating all sorts of fungus problems, including damping-off of deflasked seedlings.

Put 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of cinnamon powder in a pint (500 ml) of isopropyl rubbing alcohol. Shake well and let stand overnight. Filter the solution to remove the sediment (coffee filters work well), and use the brown liquid as a spray. (While it's not a big problem for most orchid growers, I've heard that this is good for powdery mildew, as well.) or...

Put the cinnamon powder in hot water. Shake well and let stand for several days. Filter and use as above. (Some feel that the alcohol can be too desiccating when used on seedlings.)

### **CROWN ROT TREATMENT:**

Crown rot is caused by letting water sit in the folds between leaves, resulting in a bacterial or fungal infection, or even both. Prevention is the key, so water or mist early in the day so the stuff has time to dry by nightfall. If you do get a case of crown rot:

Pour a liberal amount of hydrogen peroxide in the wound and let it stand for about 5 minutes to kill the infecting agents.

Tilt the plant to pour the liquid out of the crown.

Let the plant dry completely.

Sprinkle with dry cinnamon.

Treat the plant normally, being sure to keep the wound dry.



MID-AMERICA JUDGING CENTER AUGUST 2015 AOS AWARDS



*Cattleya guttata* "Ina Joanne" HCC/79  
owned by Doug Mallory of Memphis, TN



*Cattleya Newberry Luisa'a love* "Lone Jack" AM/85  
owned by Alex McConnell of Kansas City, MO

*Cycnoches herrenhusanum* "Peggy's Delight" AM/81  
owned by Peggy Baker of Memphis, TN