



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

February 2016

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Submission deadline for the  
**March** Informer: March 4, 2016.

## **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:

**February 10, 2016**  
**Douglas/Sarpy Extension**  
**Office, 8015 West Center**  
**Rd.**

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

**7:30 PM** Program: show  
preparations  
Refreshments: Cindy Mass

**February 24, 2016**  
**Papillion Library**  
**6:45 PM** Papillion Library  
Board meeting

**March 9, 2016**  
**Douglas/Sarpy Extension**  
**Office, 8015 West Center**  
**Rd.**

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

**7:30 PM** Program: What  
did you buy at the show?  
Refreshments: TDB

## EVENTS

**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

**March 11 - 13, 2016**

Denver Orchid Society  
Spring Show, Tagawa  
Garden Center, 7711 S.  
Parker Rd., Centennial,  
CO; Contact: Sydney  
Landreneau, 303-933-  
8598, orchidiva@msn.com

**March 12 - 13, 2016**

Illinois Orchid Society  
Show "Amazing Orchid  
Odyssey," Chicago Botanic  
Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook  
Rd., Glencoe, IL; Contact:  
Rose Matchen, 847-587-  
6525, goldrose@att.net

**March 19 - 20, 2016**

Illowa Orchid Society  
Spring Show, Wallace's  
Garden Center &  
Greenhouse, 2605 Devils  
Glen Road, Bettendorf, IA,  
Contact: Deno Kandis, 309-  
737-2672, emkandis@  
mchsi.com

**March 19 - 20, 2016**

Springfield Orchid Society  
Show, Springfield Greene  
County Botanical Center,  
2400 S. Scenic Ave.,  
Springfield, MO, Contact:  
Nathan Bell, 660-888-  
0225, nbell@cofo.edu

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING SHOW PREP & PLANT SALE!

Our annual show (our 29th) is less than a month away. Last month Joe Lankton went over the Show Schedule which gives the classes under which you enter your orchids. At this month's meeting we will have show tags and the show schedule available for you to prepare show tags for your plants that you plan to bring to the show. Come the evening of March 4 bring your plants and their associated show tags to the registration desk. Additional information will be provided to complete the show tags and then the plants can be given to the Society Display Committee for them to place in the display.

We may also have the bark we ordered. It's on its way but it may not arrive in time for the meeting. If it's here in time, the bark you ordered will be at the meeting as well as additional bark for us to prepare potting mix to sell.

And the plants purchased for the St. Cecilia Flower Festival will be for sale at the meeting at a very reasonable price. The plants were sold to us "at cost" by Dr. Bannister and Dave Brightwell of Iowa Orchids. There is a very nice selection of plants available to choose from.

## IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Remember, memberships expire the day after the February meeting. So for 2016, that's February 11. Time is running out, don't delay. We need you and we would love to have your participation in our group. So renew now. Thanks.

And thank you to the following people who have already renewed (if your name does not appear in the list, it may be due to the fact that the check is in the mail, but to be sure see Aaron): Dick and Carol Behrens, Aaron and Kelsey Bugjo, John Dolen, Ann Donovan, Ron and Julie Fechner, R. J. Hadley, Marilyn Hawes, Joe Lankton, Robert Mann, Cindy Mass, Julia Milota, Diana Nevins, Anne Pamperl, Jim Pyrzyński, Don Steinegger, Eric Stoiber, Anne Vidaver.

## MEETING NEWS

The March meeting is only a few days after our annual show. So for something a bit different, we plan to have a show and tell discussion on what we bought at the show and suggestions on how to care for our new acquisitions. We can also discuss the show in general and what can be done for the next show.

Programs for April and May are still in discussion. But for June we have a guest speaker. Lauris Rose of CalOrchids in the Santa Barbara, CA area will come to give a talk. She will be bringing plants to sell, the website is <http://www.calorchid.com/>.

Note that the meeting dates for the April and June meetings are not the second

Wednesday of the month due to unavailability of the Extension Office on those dates. The April meeting will be on the first Wednesday, April 6, and the June meeting will be on the third Wednesday, June 15.

## SHOW TIME NEXT MONTH!

As noted in the first article on this month's meeting, the show is less than a month away. We still have plenty of places for people to help out. Attendance at the January meeting was a bit sparse, so many lines on the sign-up sheets are still blank.

Additionally we will need plants for the Society display, or perhaps you would like to do your own display. There are some other kinds of displays beyond just plants – collectibles, artwork (produced by the exhibitor), educational, etc. See Jim for an application if you would like to have your own display. Also, see Jim if you would like to sponsor a trophy for Best of Class.

We will be short one vendor this year, Ron Midgett, New Earth Orchids, will not be able to attend but we still will have Natt's Orchids, Orchid Inn USA, and Bird's Botanicals – Dave promises something new this year.

And the Gardens will have a new exhibit this time featuring brilliantly-colored glass sculptures created by Craig Mitchell Smith. So the show attendance should be quite heavy this year.

## AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY Monthly Checklist for March and April

### Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

### Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

### Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

### Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning

of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

### **Miltoniopsis**

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold..

### **Paphiopedilum**

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

### **Phalaenopsis**

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike. Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

### **Pleurothallids**

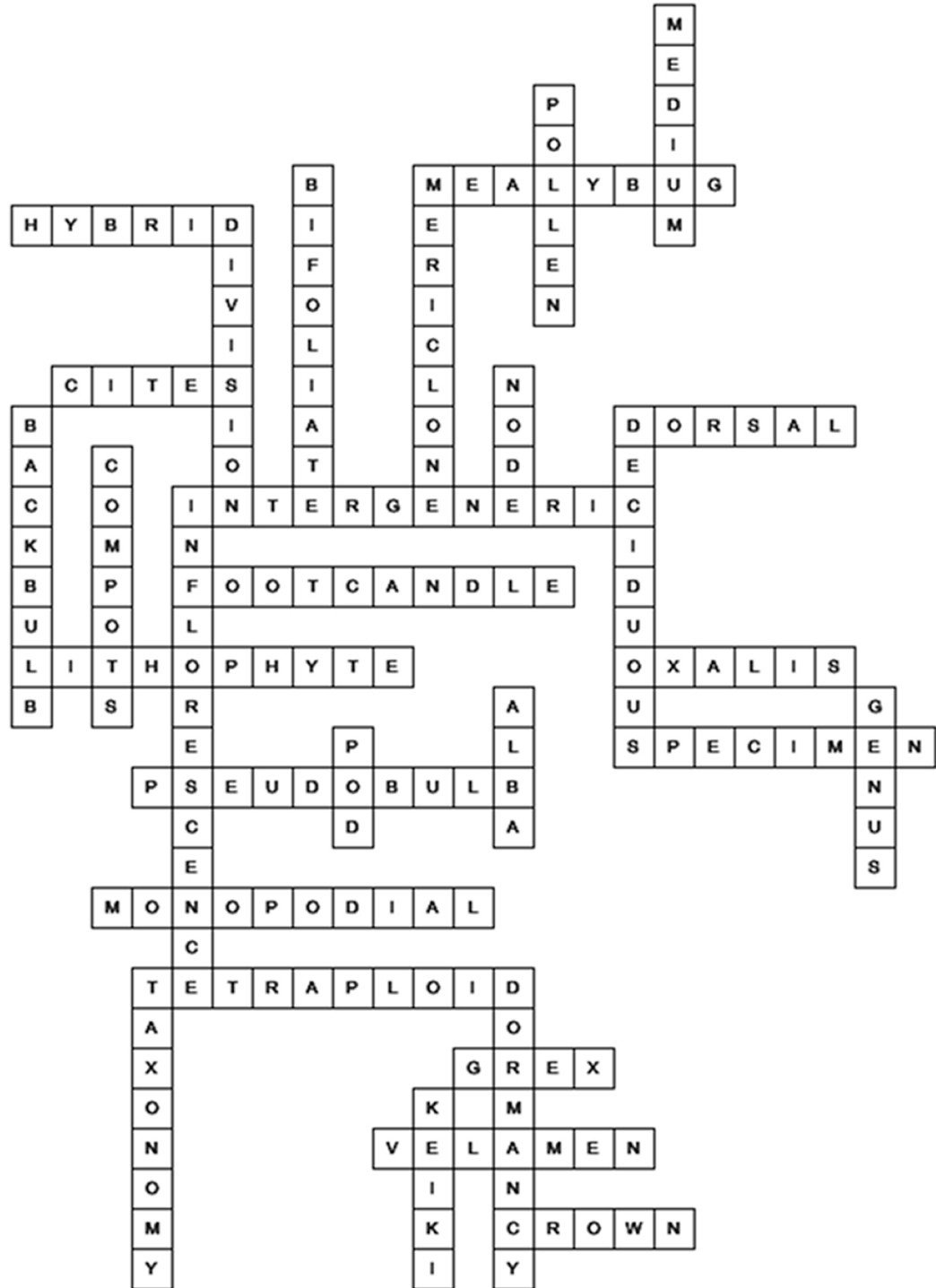
Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

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# ORCHID CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## All About Orchids



**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