



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org July 2016

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Submission deadline for the
August Informer: August 1,
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:

July 13, 2016

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

**6:30 PM Annual Picnic/
Auction**

July 27, 2016

Denny's 84th and I-80!!!

7:00 PM
Board meeting

August 10, 2016

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

7:00 PM plant sale

7:30 PM Program: TBA

Refreshments: Marilyn
Hawes

EVENTS

July 30, 2016 (Saturday)

Central Iowa Orchid Society
annual Speakers Day. See
story on page 3

September 17 - 18, 2016

Wisconsin Orchid Society
Show "Fall In Love With
Orchids" Contact: Richard
Odders, 262-632-3008,
odders2445@gmail.com.
Location: Mitchell Park
Horticultural Conservatory,
524 S. Layton Blvd.,
Milwaukee, WI

September 24 - 25, 2016

Orchid Society of Greater
Kansas City Annual Orchid
Show and Sale, Loose Park
Garden Center, Kansas City,
MO.

October 8 - 9, 2016

Illinois Orchid Society Show
"SAY IT WITH ORCHIDS"
Contact: Kay Perry 843-290-
9917, spencer.aloysius@
gmail.com. Location: Chicago
Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake
Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL

October 15 - 16, 2016

Eastern Iowa Orchid Show
& Sale, Contact: Andy
Coghill-Behrends, 319-512-
8076 mistercoghill@hotmail.
com. Location: Noelridge
Gardens Greenhouse, 4900
Council St. NE, Cedar Rapids,
IA

November 5 - 6, 2016

Kansas Orchid Society Fall
Orchid Show & Sale Contact:
Greg & Susan Tompkins
316-283-1265 setompkins@
outlook.com. Location:
Botanica, The Wichita
Gardens, 701 Amidon St.,
Wichita, KS

IT'S PICNIC TIME!

It's that time of year again
– picnic time. And while
we're at it, we'll have an
auction. Members – bring
the side dishes and des-
serts, the board members
will bring the main dish.

We have a great selection
of plants for the auction
– from Andy Phillips of
Andy's Orchids (Encini-
tas, CA), from Prayool
of Natt's Orchids {Naper-
ville, IL), from Joan Gunn
(Howard Gunn's widow),
and from Sam Tsui of Or-
chid Inn USA (Bloomington,
IL).

The festivities will get
underway with the meal,
starting at 6:30 PM at our
usual location, the Doug-
las/Sarpy County Exten-
sion Office, 8015 West
Center Rd.

In the meantime keep cool
and see you there Wednes-
day.

CENTRAL IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY SPEAKERS DAY, JULY 30, 2016

There's still time to make plans to attend the Central Iowa Speakers Day on July 30. This year it's on a Saturday and it is at the Lions Club in Johnston, IA (just north of Des Moines). If you send in your registration now, you save \$5.00 over paying for it at the door. A registration form is on page 6 of the newsletter, see the June newsletter for additional information or go to <http://c-we.com/cios/ciosspk.htm> for more information.

THE MYSTERY ORCHID AT THE JUNE MEETING PONERORCHIS

At last month's meeting I (Jim Pyrzynski) brought some orchids for show & tell. They were 2 pots of Ponerorchis and there were 3 plants in each pot and most of them were in bloom. They were rather short and had grass-like leaves, but each plant bore rather differently marked flowers. They basically resembled each other, but the flowers of each plant were different in markings and coloration from those on the other plants. I've gathered some information on the plants from a couple of websites listed at the end.

They are Ponerorchis gaminifolia, although some people suspect that there may be genes of other species in the forms in cultivation. They are found in Japan and are rather rare nowadays due to over-collection. They grow on rocky cliffs and in cracks in the rock. Excellent drainage needed! Their native range is Japan, south of Hokkaido. The summers there are cool, the winters apparently icy but not as cold as Omaha and certainly not as hot.

The plants grow from tubers (look like very small potatoes). The above ground growth starts in April – early May. The tubers should probably be repotted each year, so this should take place no later than late March. The tubers should be placed in the medium with the pointed end up and about ½ inch below the surface. One of the articles mentions that some roots form but then disappear after the growing season. I have found this to be true for certain other terrestrials that I have grown – Habenaria, Ophrys. In those species these seasonal roots spread out just below the surface of the soil, so I prefer to give the plants rather large diameter pots so these roots are not cramped. Granted this could cause problems with too much moisture but I use my terrestrial mix: coir, poultry grit and turface, with more of the grit and less coir and turface. There was a comment in one of the articles about the need for acid soil, so I did not add oyster shells or dolomitic lime.

The plants bloom from June to July (mine have finished) and then should go dormant in October. They should be watered well during the growth period and into the blooming period. But do not overwater or set the pots in water. After blooming, the watering can be reduced somewhat. Fertilize with a weak solution periodically. By the end of the summer the plants should show signs of entering dormancy (this is the first year that I am growing these (except for one abortive attempt previously) and watering should cease. During the growing period the plants should be grown in bright light but very little direct sunlight. Also high humidity and cool temperatures should be provided.

For the winter the plants should be kept cool – above freezing, and no higher than 50 degrees F. They should be kept dry but not so dry as to desiccate – in other words, give them a small amount of water every so often.

Sources: My plant source was ebay, the vendor was japaneseorchids (from Santa Barbara, CA). Purchase dormant tubers rather than blooming plants (unless you are visiting a vendor) shipping is hard on the growing plants and those from my first encounter (from a different vendor) were potted totally incorrectly.

References: <http://www.srgc.org.uk/wisley/2008/010808/log.html>

<http://botanyboy.org/a-miniature-terrestrial-orchid-from-japan-ponerorchis/>



MID-AMERICA JUDGING CENTER JUNE 2016 AOS AWARDS



Phragmipedium Intl's Tears 'Windy Hill's Standing Tall' AM/83 points
owned by Marilyn and Brian LeDoux

Phragmipedium Peruflora's Cirilia Alca
"Ann Bird" AM/86points
owned by David Bird



Acanthephippium mantinianum
'Windy Hill's Bulbous Beauty' HCC/78
owned by Marilyn and Brian LeDoux

Central Iowa Orchid Society Speaker's Day, July 30th, 2016 Registration Form

To help us plan for Speaker's Day, we encourage you to fill out this registration form and return it to: Central Iowa Orchid Society, c/o Chris Barck, 418 Lucind Street, Perry, IA 50220. We would like these returned by July 15, 2016 if possible.

Please make checks payable to the Central Iowa Orchid Society.
\$30.00 per person (\$35.00 at the door).

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZipCode _____

Number of people attending _____

Amount Enclosed _____