



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 greateromahaorchidsociety.org April 2011

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Submission deadline for the
May Informer: May 2, 2011

Omaha Orchid Society Membership 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 February 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

April meeting
pg. 1

Show recap
pg. 1

Spring into Spring
pg. 2

Native Orchid Tours
pg. 2

Spring Affair
pg. 2

Fred Hillerman
pg. 2

CIOS Speakers Day
pg. 3

AOS Orchid Growing Info
pg. 3 - 4

Monthly Reports
pg. 5 - 6

CIOS Registration Form
p. 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

(NOTE: All GOOS meetings are held at Monthly Meeting at the Douglas/Sarpy Cty Extension Office, 8015 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE unless otherwise indicated)

April 13, 2011
7:00 PM new growers group
7:30 PM Program - Annual repotting session
Refreshments: Jim Pyrzynski

April 27, 2011
7:00 PM
Board meeting, location TBD

May 11, 2011
7:00 PM new growers group
7:30 PM member recognition night
Refreshments: Marilyn Hawes

EVENTS

April 2-3, 2011
Tulsa Orchid Society Show,
Tulsa Garden Ct., 2435 S.
Peoria, Tulsa, OK. Contact:
Darrin Mullins; (918) 698-
3930; darrin.mullins@att.net.

April 9-10, 2011
Greater North Texas Orchid
Society Show, Texas A &
M Pavilion 17360 Coit Rd.,
Dallas TX. Contact: Henry
Horton, 2702 Stoneridge Dr.,
Garland, TX. 75044; (972)
414-8764; henry.horton4@verizon.net.

April 15-17, 2011
Oklahoma Orchid Society
Show, Will Rogers Park
Garden Exhibition Ctr, 3400
NW 36th St., Oklahoma City,
OK. Contact: Jana Butcher,
13505 Fox Creek Dr.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73131;
(405) 209-7657; w.butcher@cox.net.

Saturday, April 23
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Spring Affair 2011, a fund
raiser for the Nebraska
Statewide Arboretum.
Lancaster Event Center in
Lincoln, 84th and Havelock
Call Connie Paxton at
402/472-2971 or email
cpaxton1@unl.edu

May 14 - 15, 2011
Spring into Spring
Lauritzen Gardens, 100
Bancroft, Omaha, NE

May 13-15, 2011
Redland International Orchid
Festival, Redland Fruit &
Spice Park, Homestead, FL.
Contact: Bill Peters, PO
Box 924243, Homestead,
FL 33092; (305) 242-1333;
whimsy@bellsouth.net.

APRIL MEETING TIME TO REPOT

Spring is repotting time. Most orchids are initiating new growth now and early in the growth cycle is the optimum time to repot orchids. Orchids are repotted to give plants which have overgrown their pots more room, but more importantly they are repotted to replace old, degraded potting mix with fresh mix. In the process, orchids roots are cleaned of the old potting mix and non-functioning roots are removed. Good root systems are key to healthy orchids. This process often intimidates new growers (and even some experienced ones too).

So the April meeting is a great opportunity to get some assistance in the process. We will have bags of potting mix available for sale to. So come and be prepared to roll up your sleeves and do some repotting.

SHOW RECAP & A BIG THANKS

Our 24th annual orchid show and sale was a great success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of the GOOS members. Through your efforts we gained an additional 11 new members to the society. We sold over 30 bags of bark potting mix, 10 books, and 8 bottles

of fertilizer. We also had a record number of plants (for GOOS) at the show that received AOS awards – nine. A special thanks to Jacque Lewzader and her crew for their superb efforts in the hospitality room – there was a veritable banquet for all to enjoy. Thanks to all the members who helped at the information desk – the sales and new memberships are the results. Thanks to those who helped with the GOOS display and those who brought plants for it. Thanks to those who helped with the setup on Friday evening and the cleanup on Sunday, our exhibitors are impressed with the assistance we provide. And thanks to those who helped with the judging early Saturday morning. Even though many got a “baptism of fire” about the judging process, the judging process went smoothly and efficiently.

The AOS trophy was awarded to the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City. Tyler Bolamperti won the GOOS Best Exhibit Award. Dick Behrens won the President’s Award and the GOOS Challenge Award for his spectacular *Cymbidium* Dorothy Stockstill “Forbidden Fruit.” The Drs. Lorraine Leiser and Dave Taylor Award went to *Jumella Arachnantha* exhibited in the OSGKC display. The Dr. and Mrs. Miles F. Skultety Award went to Linda Schroeder for her exquisite *Rhynchoaeliocattleya* Memoria Grant Eichler. Joe Lankton won the Mel Bates with his *Clowesetum* Pink Lemonade. The Jim Pyrzynski Award went to *Phragmipedium* Inca Embers in the OSGKC exhibit. The

GOOS Memorial Award went to a *Dendrobium* in the Fantasy Orchids exhibit. Beyond these special award were numerous first, second, and third place ribbons as well as rosettes and Best of Class trophies.

Awards received during the American Orchid Society judging session are as follows: Natt’s Orchids *Diplocaulobium ridleyanum* ‘Chloe Inboriboon’ received a CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition). Max Thompson’s *Paphiopedilum* Bel Royal ‘Max & Bryon’ received a CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit) of 86 points. Bryon Rinke’s *Rhinochilus* Lava Burst ‘Bryon’ received an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) of 78 points. Orchid Inn’s *Paphiopedilum* Johanna Burkhardt ‘Red Glory’ received an AM (Award of Merit) of 84 points. Dave Brightwell’s (Iowa Orchids) *Masdevallia* Tortoise received an AM of 82 points. Max Thompson’s *Paphiopedilum* Shun-Fa Golden ‘Max’ received an AM of 80 points. Sam Tsui’s (Orchid Inn USA, Ltd.) *Paphiopedilum* (Sander’s Pride X *Adductum*) ‘Sam’s Pride’ received an AM of 83 points. Dave Bird’s (Bird’s Botanicals) *Coelogyne* (*usitana* X *lawrenceana*) ‘Deanna Bird QF’ received a HCC of 76 points. Joe and Karen Lankton’s *Paphiopedilum bellatulum* ‘Omaha’ received an AM of 81 points. Photos and description information on the awarded plants can be seen at the Mid-America Judging Center’s website http://midamericajudgingcenter.org/Award_GOOS2011.html (thanks to Dave Taylor’s efforts).

Looking forward to next

year, the dates for twenty-fifth annual orchid show and sale have been set, and they are March 24 – 25, 2012.

SPRING INTO SPRING

Spring into Spring is the Lauritzen Gardens’ annual garden plant sale and it will be held May 13, 4:30 – 7 PM and May 14 and 15, 9 AM to 5 PM. Local garden clubs, plant societies and environmental organizations will also be selling plants and sharing information about how to care for plants and help sustain our environment. Visitors may also learn how to become involved in these organizations. GOOS will be among the organizations represented. We will be selling Bletillas, orchid growing supplies, and books – and of course we will encourage people to join the Society. Board members have agreed to work the event but we would like the assistance of some members. So if you are interested let a board member know. Signup sheets will be circulated at the April meeting. And even if you are not volunteering, you might want to attend the event for plants for your own garden. It’s free for Lauritzen members; non-members have to pay the standard admission charge.

NATIVE ORCHID TOURS

Are you interested in learning more about the orchids native to Nebraska? There are about 18 species found in the state, and a number of species can be found in the Omaha and Lincoln area. The earliest start blooming

in early May. Tim Janssen and Jim Pyrzynski will organize field trips to see them. A signup sheet will be circulated at the April meeting. No specific dates or location have been set but rather when orchids are found, you will be notified of the field trip specifics. The most likely locations are Fontenelle Forest and Neale Woods. If you are a member of the Fontenelle Nature Association admission would be free but if not, you would have to pay the admission charge.

SPRING AFFAIR APRIL 23

The 25th annual Spring Affair plant sale is April 23 from 9 AM – 4 PM. It’s at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th and Havelock in Lincoln. The plant sale is a benefit for the Nebraska State-wide Arboretum. Admission is Free. The plants are from Bluebird Nursery, Inc. and are selected for their hardiness in Nebraska. There are even a couple of hardy orchids among them.

FRED HILLERMAN 1914 - 2011

Fred Hillerman passed away March 28, 2011. He was 96. He was an expert in Angraecoid orchids (orchids which part in the Angraecum alliance). After retiring from teaching high school biology, he built a post-retirement business, ‘The Angraecum House’ in Grass Valley, CA, and imported, hybridized, and sold Madagascar orchids. He became a world authority and he was co-author (with Arthur Holst) of [An Introduction to the Cultivated Angraecoid Orchids of Madagascar](#) (there is a copy in the GOOS library). This book not only discusses the Angraecoid orchids but also non-angraecoid orchids and a comprehensive history of the island of Madagascar and its geography, climate, and other key information for those interested in its orchids.

CENTRAL IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY
SPEAKERS DAY JULY 31, 2011

Central Iowa Orchid Society has announced the speakers for its 23rd Annual Speakers Day, July 31, 2011 which will be held at the Recreation Center at Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa. The speakers are Norito Hasegawa of Paphanitics Unlimited, California and Iván Portilla of Ecuagenera Cía. Ltda., Ecuador.

Norito Hasegawa is owner of Paphanitics, unlimited. He is primarily a hybridizer of Slipper Orchids (*Paphiopedilum*) although his interests and collection of 15,000 orchids include miniature *Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cymbidiums* and variegated orchids of all sorts. He first became interested in orchids after seeing orchids in mass at the World Orchid Conference held in Long Beach in 1966. After he bought his first orchids, he failed miserably, but persisted in trying to grow them outdoors, and in no time he had hundreds. Now, he can't imagine his life without orchids. He is a judge in both the American Orchid Society and the Cymbidium Society of America. Norito will speak on "What's New in Paphs" and "Multifloral Paphs."

Iván Portilla was born in the small town of Bomboiza at Amazon base in the southern part of Ecuador. He has been growing orchids for about 15 years and is in charge of doing the international orchid shows and propagation at Ecuagenera, the largest orchid grower in Ecuador. Iván will speak on "Orchids of Ecuador in their Natural Habitat" and "*Cattleya maxima* and Its Different Forms." You are encouraged to pre-order plants for delivery at the event. See the Central Iowa Orchid Society website for a pdf file of the catalog <http://c-we.com/cios/ciosspk.htm> or go to the Ecuagenera website <http://www.ecuagenera.com/>. Order at least three weeks in advance to ensure your plants will be included since they will have to have CITES paperwork prepared for importation.

The day begins with a continental breakfast at 8:00 am; the speaker presentations begin at 9:00 am. Lunch (which is included with the registration fee) is at 11:30 am. The speaker presentations resume at 1:30 pm. There is a dessert bar during the afternoon session and after the presentations are completed there will be a drawing for door prizes. There will be plant sales with the vendors during speaker breaks and lunch. There will be AOS judging during the event. Any plants brought for AOS judging must be in place by 10:00 am.

The registration fee (see page 6 of this newsletter for a form) of \$25.00 per person covers all costs (\$30.00 at the door). Early reservations would be helpful in planning the event. For more information, reservations, etc. Please call: Carson Whitlow at 515-993-4841, David Hutson at 515-276-4475, David Brightwell 515-289-2853.

Fort Dodge is a military facility and you must have a photo ID to enter the fort. It is located in Johnston Iowa, a short distance north of Des Moines. Because of road construction on Merle Hay Road, the following is suggested: From 1-35/I-80, take exit #129 (NW 86th Street). Go north approximately 2.4 miles to stop sign at NW 70th Avenue. Turn east (right) onto NW 70th Avenue. Go approximately 1.2 miles to stoplight. Entrance to Camp Dodge will be to the left. Once through the gate, follow signs to meeting place.

For those who want to avoid an early morning drive to Des Moines and leave on Saturday, there is an informal get-together at Elaine Notis's home, 6008 Redbud Court, Johnston, IA 50131, 515-278-9177, at 7 pm.

ORCHID GROWING INFORMATION FROM
THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

How do I water my orchid?

Avoid overwatering which leads to the demise of many more orchids than underwatering. Constant wetness will cause the roots to rot, which leaves the plant without a means for taking up nourishment which then causes the leaves to droop and will eventually kill the plant. The classic advice is to water the day before the plant dries out. If you have to let the plant go dry to figure out what a dry plant weighs, it will not kill the plant and will make you a better grower. Another measure is to use the pencil trick (the point of a sharpened pencil, when inserted into the medium, will darken with moisture if the plant has enough water). And, there's always the old standby - put your finger in the mix. If it feels wet, it is wet. If you aren't sure whether it is time to water, wait one more day.

"Evenly moist," while the most commonly given advice on watering, is the least easily explained. Because most plants are grown in plastic containers a good diagnosis is the weight of the plant: heavy - does not need watering; light - does require water. With a little practice, one can easily tell the amount of moisture remaining in the container.

Water your orchid early in the morning. This insures complete water evaporation on the foliage as well as the crown by nightfall. If your home is very warm or has low humidity you will most likely need to water more often. The best place to water your plant is in the kitchen sink. Use lukewarm water (do not use salt softened or distilled water) and

water your plant for about 15 seconds and be sure to thoroughly wet the media. Then allow the plant to drain for about 15 minutes. It may appear dry but it has had enough water. After the plants are watered, they should be placed so that the pots do not stand in water. Some people like to place the pots on “humidity trays” or in trays or saucers of gravel or pebbles and water. The pot is placed on the pebbles above the water line. This helps to insure that the base of the pot is not immersed in water, increases humidity for the plant, and provides some air circulation under the pot.

When should I repot?

Orchid plants need repotting for one or a combination of two main factors: Potting mix breaks down, often evidenced by dead roots, or the plant outgrowing the container. In the first case, a larger pot may not be required, simply replace the growing medium. In the second case, the plant may need dividing or may be shifted into a larger pot. Fresh media should always be used. A good general rule of thumb is to pot for the bottom of the plant, the root system, and not for the top, the foliage.

Monthly Checklist for May and June

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

AOS thanks Ned Nash for this essay .

REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
March 9, 2011

The meeting was called to order at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office at 7:30 pm.

President Roberta Ginavan welcomed visitors and members to the meeting.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Sandy Rome gave the Treasurer's report.

Qwest Home and Garden Show. Jim Pyrzynski thanked everyone that assisted in the event. Plants that were not sold were brought to the meeting for sale to members. He also said that there was a small profit made for the society from the event.

Annual Orchid Show. Jim discussed the final preparations for the show. He emphasized the need for more clerks for judging. He circulated the signup sheets for more volunteers. He also requested that members bring any blooming orchids to the show for the Society display.

Show Hospitality. Jacque Lewzader was out of town for the meeting but Jim also discussed the needs of for Show hospitality, requested donations, and circulated a signup sheet.

Lauritzen Gardens Spring into Spring. Roberta discussed the annual event at the Lauritzen Gardens. GOOS will have a table and sell items and provide information about the Society at the event. Board members have volunteered to staff the GOOS table but additional volunteers from the membership will be solicited at the April meeting.

Library. Ann Donovan gave an update on the Society library.

Program. Marge From gave a slide presentation on the Henry Doorly's Zoo conservation activities and then discussed the efforts with the Western Prairie Fringe Orchid which is native to Nebraska and neighboring states.

Refreshments were provided by Dick and Carol Behrens.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
March 23, 2011

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board met at Jacque Lewzader's residence at 7:00 PM. In attendance were: Roberta Ginavan, Marilyn Hawes, Sandy Rome, Jack Thraen, Jacque Lewzader, Linda Schroeder and Jim Pyrzynski.

Library. Ann Donovan's ideas for the library were discussed and there was general agreement among board members with them. Her plan is to have all books due back in November from an annual inventory and checkouts can resume in January. Roberta had some thoughts regarding the use of software and a numbering system as well as some standing rules regarding the books. The rules and inventory would be published in the yearbook. Roberta also liked Ann's suggestion that borrowers of a book should provide comments on it. Magazines: It was agreed that AOS magazines would be kept for 1 year, Orchid Digest and International Phalaenopsis Alliance Journals for 3 years (12 issues each). There are some old issues of the Orchid Digest from the 1980s and there is a gap and then more from 1990s to the present. The older issues should be disposed of but Sandy recommended that members get the first pick on them. Sam DiMauro's AOS magazines have GOOS info stickers on them and will be distributed at the Lauritzen show.

Website. A ninth-grade student (who likes orchids) came across the GOOS website and also a silk flower website which also had links to other websites with orchid information. Sandy suggested members look at the silk flower orchid webpage (<http://www.silkflowers.com/orchids-the-exotic-flower-guide>) and vote whether we should have a link to that page.

Lauritzen Show. Jim discussed the final updates for the show. All awards are ready. The judges luncheon has been ordered from Hap Abraham Catering. Table and skirts will be delivered Friday morning and be setup immediately. Setup officially begins at 5 pm. Jim had just picked up a plant shipment for Eric Michel Orchids. There appears to be a sufficient number of clerks available for ribbon judging. Mark van der Woerd will give a critique of the show displays and plants after the AOS judging is complete.

Show Hospitality. Jacque discussed the final hospitality preparations for the show. She asked that Jim email the membership about a need for coolers for the hospitality room.

Future shows. Jim advised that next year's show will be the fourth weekend in March (March 24/25) since the Gardens had another event (a prom) that needed it on the last Saturday (March 31). The Mid-America Judging Center has given their consent; the Springfield Orchid Society show is March 17/18. In 2012 Easter falls on April 8 which precluded use of the Gardens for the prom on that weekend. This also works to our advantage since April 1 is Palm Sunday and Orchid Inn will not attend a show that is on Palm Sunday weekend due to other commitments. In 2013 Easter is on the last weekend in March which may mean moving back the show even further.

Incorporation. Roberta advised that the paperwork has been completed with the State of Nebraska. The changes to the by-laws have to be published 3 times and then the next step will be to obtain a tax ID.

Conservation discussion. Roberta initiated the discussion and Jim interjected that rather than some top down approach a bottom up approach, trying to get members interested in conservation, might be more effective. He has discussed having a signup sheet for possible field trips to native orchid locations (Fontenelle Forest, Neale Woods, etc.) with Tium Janssen. Tim and others would scout the sites for orchids and then contact the members who signed up. Sandy suggested we might do something at the Earth Day celebration in Elmwood Park in 2012. Jack recommended a conservation committee be formed to get more people involved. Another issue was people who might be able to help other members with their plants when needed (e.g., a family emergency requires an extended absence with no one to care for the plants). A call list for this could be generated or maybe the individuals identified in the Yearbook.

Other comments. It was suggested that nametags (blanks) be available at the door so attendees could be better identified. Also someone should act as greeter for the meeting; the greeter duties could be spread around month to month. A greeter signup sheet should be circulated at the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

**Central Iowa Orchid Society
Speaker's Day, July 31st, 2011**

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 Leo Schlunz, 422 S. 5th Street, Chariton, IA 50049-2402. We would like these returned by July 17, 2011 if possible.

Please make checks payable to the Central Iowa Orchid Society. \$25.00 per person (\$30.00 at the door).

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZipCode _____

