



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 greateromahaorchidsociety.org August 2012

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Submission deadline for the  
**September** Informer: September  
3, 2012.

## **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:

**August 8, 2012**  
6:00 PM  
annual picnic/auction  
**Jacque Lewzader's  
Residence, 6117  
Lamplighter Dr., Omaha,  
NE (see page 6 for map/  
directions).**

**August 22, 2012**  
**6:45 PM, Papillion Library**  
Board meeting

**September 12, 2012**  
**Extension Office**  
**8015 West Center Rd.**  
7:00 PM new growers group  
meeting  
7:30 PM Guest speaker, Tom  
Mirenda, Orchid Collecti-  
on Specialist, Smithsonian  
Institution.  
Annual meeting follows talk.  
Refreshments: Linda  
Schroeder

## EVENTS

**September 21 -23, 2012**  
Twentieth Annual Chicago-  
land Orchid Festival. 8:00  
am – 5:00pm Friday and  
Saturday, 10:00 am – 3:00  
pm Sunday. Natt's Orchids,  
Hausermann Orchids and  
visiting vendors.

**October 6 – 7, 2012**  
Eastern Iowa Orchid  
Society First Annual  
Show and Sale. Floral  
Careers Building and  
Greenhouse, Kirkwood  
Community College, 6301  
Kirkwood Blvd. SW. Cedar  
Rapids Iowa. Contact:  
niledusdieker@gmail.com

**October 6 – 7, 2012**  
Denver Orchid Society  
Fall Show and Sale.  
Denver Botanic Gardens,  
909 York St, Denver CO  
80206. Contact; Shirlee  
McDaniels, 303-905-  
7014, shirlee.mcdaniel@  
comcast.net

**October 13 - 14, 2012**  
Illinois Orchid Society  
Show, Chicago Botanic  
Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook  
Road, Glencoe, IL Contact:  
Rose Matchen, 38374 N.  
9th St., Spring Grove,  
IL 60081, 847-587-6525,  
goldrose@att.net

**October 26 – 28, 2012**  
Haunting Beauty, the  
Kansas City Orchid Expo  
and the Fall 2012 meeting  
of the Mid-America  
Orchid Congress at the  
Hilton Garden Inn in  
Independence, MO.

## IT'S PICNIC TIME!

It's picnic time. Time to  
get together and have some  
fun and food. This year's  
event will be a change of  
pace from the past – it will  
be at Jacque Lewzader's  
home, giving us a bit more  
time to get through the  
meal and auction and a far  
more pleasant surrounding.  
A map and directions are  
on page 6. Arrival time is  
between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.  
The auction will follow the  
dinner.

The picnic is one half of  
the event, an auction is the  
other. For the picnic, the  
officers and board members  
will bring the main dish,  
others should plan to bring  
a side dish or desserts. As  
for the auction, we have  
a nice selection of plants  
from a couple of vendors.  
If you have some plants  
or other suitable items that  
you would like to add to the  
auction block, please bring  
them. The auction is one  
way we are able to bring in  
the guest speakers for our  
meetings, so be prepared  
to bid on the auction items.

See you there!

## NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD SELECTED

At the September meeting  
there will be an election for  
the three board members.  
The board members serve  
2-year terms and their elec-  
tion occurs in even-num-  
bered years (officers are  
elected in odd-numbered  
years). The nominating  
committee, comprised of  
Eric Stoiber (chair), Cinda  
Hutcheson, and Ann

Donovan, has selected the following members as nominees: Ron Fechner, Jacque Lewzader, and Linda Schroeder. They are the current board members and are eligible by the By-Laws to serve two successive terms (they have only served one term thus far).

Nominations for other candidates may be made from the floor at the September meeting. The nominee must have given consent to being nominated.

## BY-LAWS CHANGE

At the July meeting, the proposed By-laws change to add a Conflict of Interest Policy was discussed and voted on. The only objection came to the wording of Section 3 which deals with gifts. Marilyn Hawes requested the section be reworded to clarify who could not be the recipients of gifts and, in particular, to ensure that gifts to the Society as an organization were permitted.

Originally proposed:

Section 3. Gifts. In order to further protect officers, board members, and committee chairs, and immediate family members thereof from potential conflicts of interest, gifts from individuals or organizations who do business with or seek to do business with the Society, or who are in competition with the Society shall be politely declined. Reasonable exemptions to this rule may be allowed by a vote of the board.

Reworded to:

Section 3. Gifts. In order to further protect the Society from potential conflicts of interest, gifts from either individuals or organizations doing business with, seeking to do business with the Society, or who are in com-

petition with the Society, to persons in Society leadership positions (i.e., officers, board members, and committee chairs and immediate family members thereof) shall be politely declined. Reasonable exemptions to this rule may be allowed by a vote of the board. Gifts to the Society as an organization are welcome pending a review by the Board to ensure they do not conflict with the Society's goals and objectives.



*Red Spider Mites live up to their name; they do make webs.*



*Mites can multiply quickly during warm, dry conditions and get out of control before you even notice them.*

A good way to tell if you have mites is to wipe a white cloth or tissue over both sides of a leaf of a plant suspected of mite infestation. If mites or their eggs are present, reddish or brownish streaks will be seen on the cloth. Another test is to tap a leaf over a piece of white paper and see if any of the dislodged particles move. A good magnifying glass is recommended with this test.

Mites can severely weaken plants, as well as disfiguring them. Mites damage orchids by removing sap and chlorophyll with their needlelike mouthparts. It is this withdrawal of chlorophyll that results in the characteristic blanching and silvery appearance of the leaf. Their sap sucking can also cause bruised-looking areas on flowers. Because of their feeding style, they are also potential vectors of diseases

**Life Cycle** The adult female lays one large (for her) egg at a time, which hatches into a tiny nymph. After molting a few more times, the adult stage is reached again. The life cycle speeds up under warm conditions; adult to adult takes only a week at high temperatures..

When colonies become overcrowded, winged forms appear, to fly to establish new colonies. The insects can cycle continuously under greenhouse conditions, their rate of development affected only by temperature.

In the autumn, females begin producing a few males. Females born at the same time have eggs within their bodies; they mate and lay the eggs to provide next season's offspring.

**Types of Mites** *Brevipalpus californicus* The first observable injury from this mite feeding on orchid leaves appears as silvery areas that eventually become sunken and brown. Heavily infested leaves will become yellow and drop from the plants. Individuals of *B. californicus* are difficult to see because they lie flat against the leaf and move slowly; however, populations can be detected by the presence of cast skins.

*Phalaenopsis mite (Tenuipalpus pacificus)* This is one of the false spider mites, which do not spin webs. This mite is a pest in California, Florida, Panama and some European countries. Feeding by these mites causes dark spots on leaves and eventual tissue death. This mite has a slow development; the incubation period requires 18 to 23 days, and each of the developmental stages 14 to 15 days; therefore, the life cycle is at least 64 days.

*Two-spotted Spider Mite, also known as the Red Spider Mite (Tetranychus urticae)* These mites are greenish-yellow, wingless, eight-legged creatures with a dark spot on each side of their

## MITES By Susan Jones

Mites are almost-microscopic creatures, closely related to ticks, spiders and scorpions. Because of their size, their presence is usually not suspected until considerable damage has occurred. Mite damage makes a plant's leaves look silvery, especially on the underside, where the pests have killed the cells of the surface layer. From the top, the leaf often has many tiny yellow spots that turn brown over time. Spider mites also spin silken webs on the undersides of leaves. These are easy to see if you mist the foliage with water and hold the plant up to the light. You might even see the tiny mites walking along their webs. False spider mites do not make silk, and are extremely tiny and hard to see, but they produce the same silverying of the leaves.

bodies. As day lengths shorten in the autumn, they become deep red in color. As their population builds, you will start to see webs and aggregations of mites at certain sites, usually the growing points of the plant. They feed on leaf undersides and suck the chlorophyll out of plant cells. These mites thrive when plants are stressed under warm, dry conditions, but they are less of a problem under conditions of high humidity. Two-spotted spider mites are most often found on new growth and on thin-leaf orchids.

An adult female two-spotted spider mite will lay three to five eggs per day on the underside of leaves. Each adult female can produce more than 100 eggs in three weeks. They reproduce at alarming rates: 10 spider mites in May are capable of becoming 1,000 by June and 100,000 by July. Part of this equation is because the egg incubation and adolescent-to-adult periods are drastically reduced as temperature increases. Egg to adult takes about 14 days at 70 F, or less than a week at 86 F. As temperatures increase, what started out as a small population of mites can become a major infestation in just a few days.

To make matters worse, red spider mites can overwinter without feeding and emerge in the spring and summer to reinfest plants, although artificial lighting may stop the mites from hibernating, making control easier.

**General Prevention** To minimize orchid pest problems, implement such cultural management strategies as prevention, sanitation and plant inspection. Proper cultural conditions, such as the correct amount of water, temperature, light, fertility and humidity, minimize potential pest problems. Be sure to know the cultural practices specific to the orchids being grown.

**Sanitation** is another strategy to prevent orchid pest problems. Remove all plant debris and old potting medium. Also, remove old leaf sheaths to eliminate hiding places for pests. Inspect plants on a regular basis by looking underneath leaves to check for spider mites.

**Methods of Control** The first line of defense against mites is to raise the humidity in the growing environment. Mites are usually most severe on plants in heated greenhouses or in the home during the winter, when the air is quite dry and there are no natural enemies to keep them under control. Washing the plants thoroughly, wiping every leaf, is one way to bring the population down. Because mites feed by sucking the sap from individual cells of the surface of the leaves, and plant sap is very dilute, mites must consume a lot of sap to get the nutrients they need, and get rid of all the water they do not need. Therefore, they do better when the air is dry, as it is easier for them to get rid of the water.

If the time of year allows, put the plants outside - the natural enemies in the garden plus the more difficult environment will usually sort out the problem.

Another option is biological control. Predatory mites are released onto the infested plants, where they eat harmful mites. This strategy works well only if you mite population is not too large for the predators to catch up. Consult biological control supplier catalogs for natural enemies available for each type of mite. One word of caution: if you are using biological controls to eliminate mite populations, do not use chemical pesticides as they will kill the beneficial mites, too.

Most insecticides have little effect on mites, but a number of chemicals (called acaricides or miticides) are developed specifically for mite control. These are useful in controlling large populations of mites. Use these chemicals with care, and do your spraying cautiously, so that you get the maximum effect. Be aware that some insecticides and miticides cannot be used on orchids. Many materials have not been tested on orchids, so try any material on a small group of plants - especially when they are in flower - before exposing the entire collection to a new chemical.

Another less-exotic and much cheaper method of control involves a pint of 409 household cleaner and a pint of rubbing alcohol mixed with water to make 1 gallon of spray. This method is especially effective as a preventative or to control light infestations. For any miticide, homemade or purchased, apply a heavy coating, especially to the underside of leaves. Reapply every three to four days for six to eight applications. This will ensure that both the adults and hatching young are eliminated. For a video showing how to recognize mite damage go to [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX7nrNTtxYI&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX7nrNTtxYI&feature=player_embedded)

## References:

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Tippit, Bill and Ed Wright. 1994. Great Ideas. AOS Bulletin. April, page 428.

Wright, Jane. 1994. Orchid Pests and Diseases. Web article from book Growing Orchids in Canberra. Page 56. (<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/7040/article.html>).

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Pest Problems Explained: Red Spider Mite (two-spotted mite). Defenders, Safe, Effective Natural Biological Pest Control for Gardeners. Defenders Ltd., Kent, United Kingdom. ([http://www.defenders.co.uk/red\\_spider\\_mite.html](http://www.defenders.co.uk/red_spider_mite.html)).

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446



## MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting  
July 11, 2012

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. 29.

Minutes. The minutes of the June meeting were approved. Roberta advised that the board meeting minutes for June incorrectly stated that Eric Stoiber would be cover the expenses for the October speaker. The expenses will be split between the Society and Eric.

August meeting. Roberta discussed the August meeting which will be the annual picnic/auction. This year it will be at Jacque Lewzaders home. Dave Taylor will be the auctioneer. Bird's Botanicals will be supplying plants and there may be plants from other vendors. The Lincoln Orchid Society is invited to attend. Dave Taylor advised that GOOS members are invited to attend the LOS picnic on July 21.

Committee assignments. Roberta listed the compositions of the nominating and auditing committees. The nominating committee will nominate in August a slate of board members for the next 2 years; the election will be in September. Other nominations may be made from the floor at the September meeting. Since the August meeting is the annual picnic, the nominees will be announced in the August newsletter. The nominating committee is comprised of Eric Stoiber (chair), Cindy Hutcheson, and Ann Donovan. The Auditing Committee, which will audit the Treasurer's books, will be comprised of Dick Behrens (chair), Bob Mann, and Julie Westman.

By-Laws change. Roberta read the proposed by-laws change dealing with the Conflict of Interest Policy. Dick Behrens requested some clarification on our tax status. Roberta advised that when the Society was formed it was formed as non-corporation in the state of Nebraska. The Society was issued a tax ID number at some time but it was never "activated." In 2006 the IRS made a number of changes t tax reporting requirements for non-profit corporations. Our application to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status is in response to those changes.

Marilyn Hawes raised concerns about the paragraph on gifts. She wanted a rewording to clarify who should not accept gifts (individuals, rather than the Society).

Meeting locations. Julie Westman asked whether our monthly meeting location is changing. Roberta explained that Douglas County provides some funding for the Extension Office, the Sarpy County also provides funding, but the bulk of the funding comes from the University of Nebraska. One member of the Douglas County board made a motion to not fund the County's portion, the motion failed. Roberta further advised that the meeting location is listed in each Newsletter. The August meeting which is a picnic is at Jacque Lewzaders and the September meeting is at the Extension Office.

Doug Martin of the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City gave a program on "The Birds, the Bees and Orchids."

Refreshments were provided by Marilyn Hawes.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

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Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting  
July 25, 2012

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board met at the Papillion Public Library at 6:45 PM. In attendance were: Roberta Ginavan, Eric Stoiber, Sandy Rome, Jacque Lewzader, Linda Schroeder, and Jim Pyrzynski.

Conflict of Interest. Marilyn Hawes objected to the wording in Section 3, which deals with gifts. She wanted the section reworded to specify that individuals were prohibited from accepting gifts (not the Society). Jim provided his

suggested change in the wording and then discussed a possible add-on to clarify that the Society could accept gifts but he was concerned that all gifts might not be acceptable. Suggestions were made to have the gifts subject to board review and Jim agreed to add that terminology to the change.

The Conflict of Interests Policy has a requirement for annual acknowledgement by the officers, the board and committee chairs that they have read the policy and agree to comply with it. Jim brought a draft acknowledgement form. Linda Schroeder suggested that rather than a form for each individual, there be a statement followed by lines for signatures by the various individuals. These would be filed with other Society paperwork. Acknowledgment would take place at the board meeting immediately following the September meeting.

Picnic/Auction. The annual picnic was discussed. Jacque asked Jim to send an email to the members and ask those who didn't attend the meeting to advise if they planned to attend (a signup sheet was circulated at the July meeting). The headcount was needed to determine the amount of food needed. Sandy suggested an earlier starting time, 6:00 p.m. This might be too early for some people so that time to arrive would be specified as between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. Roberta will need price stickers for the plants so that they can be labeled with a starting bid amount. Jacque showed the Cymbidiums she got for the auction.

Robert Mann. Robert Mann was involved in a serious motorcycle accident, breaking both hips, etc. Messages were sent out to the membership requesting assistance with the library books and also to take of Robert's plants. Ron Fechner lives not far from Robert and has volunteered to assist with the library and Robert's plants.

Papillion Library. The Society has a hold on the meeting room at the library for the second Wednesday of the month through November. Roberta questioned whether we wanted to try and hold a meeting there with a guest speaker. The only month/speaker where that would be workable was November with Ann Antlfinger (it was thought it was best to avoid using the library for our out-of town speakers (September and October). The decision was to release the room on a month-to-month basis.

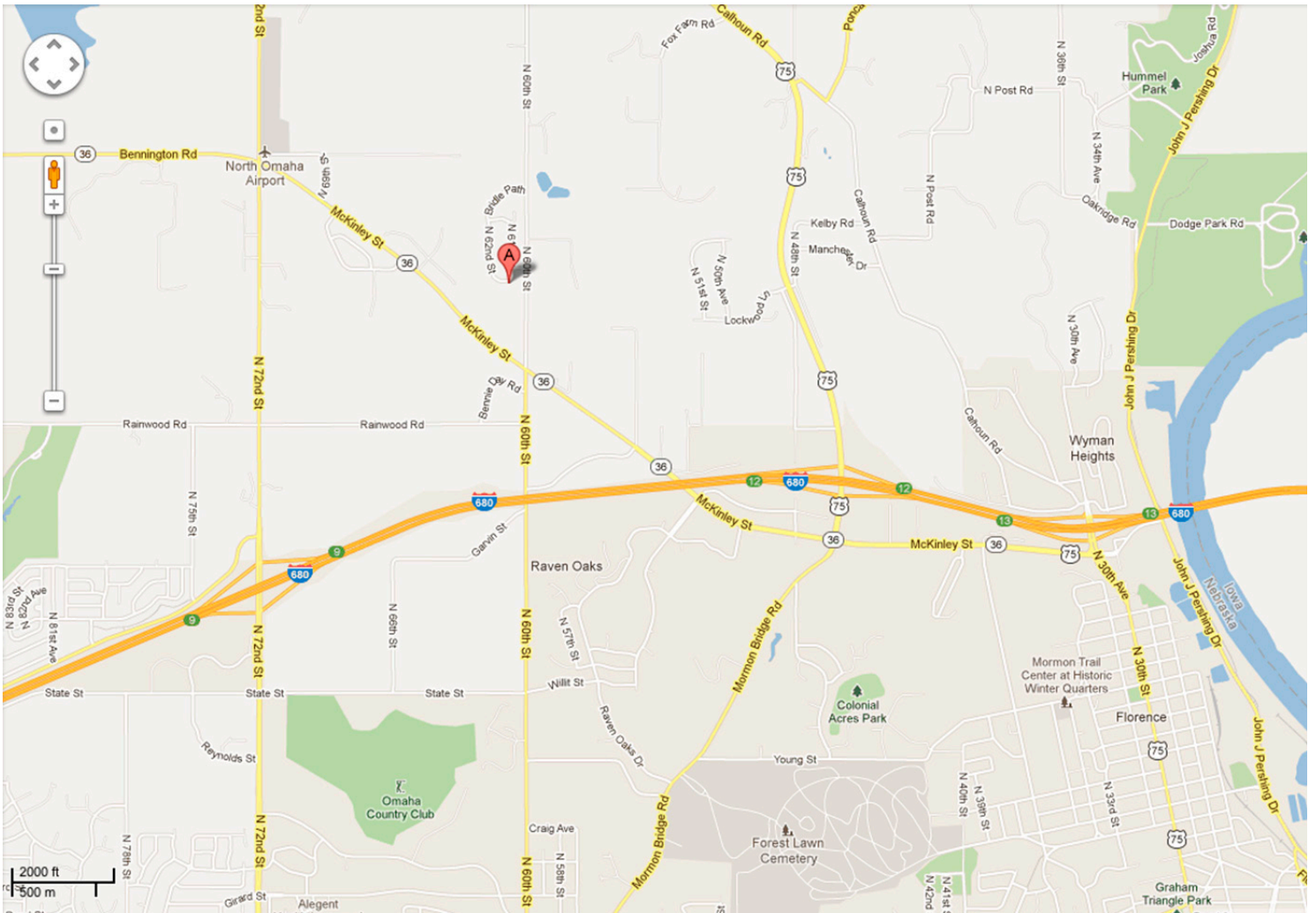
Programs. The September program to be given by Tom Mirenda was discussed. He will be one of the speakers at the Kansas City MAOC and will talk on Costa Rica there so we don't want to hear about that in September and we don't need a repeat of his birds, the bees and orchids that we heard a couple of years ago and which was also the topic of the July program by Doug Martin. Board members were asked to check the talks Mirenda had available and provide suggestions.

For 2013, Jim suggested that the January meeting be the "work" meeting since the Home and Garden Show is in early February (Feb. 7 – 10) and items will need to be prepared for that event as well as our show in March. Eric suggested that the March meeting could be the annual repotting session since it immediately follows our show. However, Roberta suggested we look at what months might work for speaker-sharing with either St. Louis and Kansas City or with Salt Lake City and Denver. She went through the calendar and came up with the months where this might work. The next step would be to see whether the other societies have speakers lined up and who they might be. Scheduling the picnic for June was suggested. Kansas City wants to bring in Fred Clarke (again) but that would mean a Monday night session. A suggestion was made that possibly we could have Fred Clarke for a Saturday speakers day and then Kansas City could have him for their talk on Sunday. Roberta recommended that the September meeting have a local speaker at most since it is the Annual Meeting (IAW the By-Laws) and various reports are given and elections are held. The budget for outside speakers has been about \$1200.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

**MAP TO JACQUE LEWZADER'S HOME  
6117 LAMPLIGHTER DRIVE  
PHONE: 402-573-2217**



**DIRECTIONS (From Lincoln) adapt for your point of departure.**

- 1. Take I-80 E toward Omaha**
- 2. Take exit 446 to merge onto I-680 N**
- 3. Take exit 12 to merge onto US-75 S/Mormon Bridge Rd toward 48th St**
- 4. Turn right onto NE-36 W/McKinley St**
- 5. Turn right onto N 60th St**
- 6. Take the 1st left onto Lamplighter Dr**
- 7. Turn left to stay on Lamplighter Dr  
Destination will be on the left**

**Destination: 6117 Lamplighter Dr.**