



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

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

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Submission deadline for the
June Informer: June 4, 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:

May 9, 2012
**NOTE: LOCATION
CHANGE TO PAPIILLION
LIBRARY**
7:00 PM New growers group
7:30 PM Program - dividing
a compot
Refreshments: the Sorensens

May 23, 2012
6:45 PM, Papillion Library
Board meeting

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012
**NOTE: DAY OF WEEK
CHANGE**
**LOCATION: DOUGLAS/
SARPY COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE**

7:00 PM speaker plant sales
7:30 PM Fred Clarke of
Sunset Valley Orchids.
Refreshments: Tyler
Bolamperti

EVENTS

**May 19 - 20, 2012,
9 am - 5 pm**

Spring into Spring, Lauritzen
Gardens plant sale. Members
have exclusive opportunity to
purchase plants Friday, May
18, 4:30 to 7 pm. Visitors
may choose from a variety of
plants grown and propagated
in the Lauritzen Gardens
greenhouses.

May 11 - 13, 2012

Oklahoma Orchid Society
Show, Will Rogers Garden
Center, 3400 NW 36th St.,
Oklahoma City, OK. Will
Rogers Garden Center, 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

May 18 - 20, 2012

Redland International Orchid
Festival, Redland Fruit
& Spice Park, 24801 SW
187 Ave., Homestead, FL.
Contact: Robert Randall, PO
Box 924243, Homestead,
FL 33092, (305) 245-5565,
caribplants@att.net

July 29, 2012

Central Iowa Orchid Society
Speakers Day,
Scheduled Speakers:
John Stubbings(Clown
Alley Orchids) "Oncidium
Intergeneric Orchid
Care" "Unusual Relatives of
Cymbidiums"

Francisco Miranda (Miranda
Orchids) "Orchids from the
Brazilian Amazon" "Brazilian
Cattleyas and Laelias"

COME TO THE MEETING, GET A FREE PLANT!!!

Yes, you read that right –
come to the meeting and
get a free plant. We will be
breaking apart a compot
(community pot) of orchid
seedlings and repotting
them into individual pots.
There will be small pots
and seedling potting mix
ready for you to use, even
labels – all FREE, just
be there. The seedlings
have been donated by some
anonymous donors.

The meeting will be held
at the Sump Memorial
Library in Papillion. The
library is located at 222
North Jefferson Street. A
map is provided on page
6 of this newsletter. The
meeting will be held in
Meeting Room 50, which
is located in the southeast
corner of the building.
Parking on East 3rd Street
is recommended; it is di-
rectly north of the library
and usually there are a
number of parking slots
normally available there.

The Papillion library is un-
der consideration as a new
meeting location. There
will be an evaluation of the
library's suitability for our
monthly meeting and eval-
uation forms will be avail-
able for your comments.
Any permanent change in
meeting location will be
made by a vote of the mem-
bership in accordance with
the by-laws.

JUNE MEETING NEWS:

WE WILL HOLD THE JUNE MEETING AT THE DOUGLAS/SARPY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE BUT THAT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **MONDAY JUNE 11**. Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids (<http://www.sunsetvalley-orchids.com/>) will be the guest speaker for that meeting and he will be bringing plants to sell. Fred is known for his "black orchids."

You may pre-order plants; there will be a 10% discount and no shipping charge. The pre-order needs to be made **NLT 5 June**. To pre-order send and email to Fred (fred.clarke@att.net) listing the plants you want to order, give your name, specify that the order is for the Omaha talk, and list the plants you want. Payment will be made at the meeting.

A BIG THANK YOU!!

Once again the Hospitality Room was a great success. Thank you to all who so generously provided food, drinks, and money to help make it such a success. Because of your generosity the club was able to divert all of our costs to the donations you provided. We had several cases of sodas left that we are offering at each meeting but all the food items were completely gone. Thanks again, from myself and from all the board members.

Jacque Lewzader

AOS Collector's Item

Caularthron bicornutum (W. J. Hooker) Rafinesque (kawl-AR-thron bye-korn-U-tum)

Synonyms: *Diacrium amazonicum* Schlechter *Diacrium bicornutum* Benth *Epidendrum bicornutum* W. J. Hooker.

Etymology: The genus name *Caularthron* is derived from the Greek *kaulos*, meaning stem, and *arthron*, meaning joint, referring to the persistent leaf bases that accentuate the appearance of the nodes. The species epithet refers to the two hollow callus projections that can be nearly as large as the lateral lobes of the lip.

Blooming Period: Flowers in January in nature and can be as late as May to June in cultivation. Plants here in South Florida are in spike now (1/16/09). Blossoms are produced in succession so flowering can last for several weeks. Flowers have a light citrusy fragrance. We find that the inflorescence is a delicacy to sucking insects and usually keep a hand sprayer with 1 tsp. Orthene® to 1 qt. of water nearby. A squirt or two every few days will discourage aphids and thrips from destroying the bloom spike.

Distribution: Long known under the name *Diacrium bicornutum*, this species is found north of the Amazon River along the northern portions of South America and in Trinidad and Tobago at elevations of 650-2450 feet (200-750 meters). *Caularthron bilamellatum*, a closely related species, is found in the same area as well as Central America. Many populations of *Caularthron bilamellatum* are cleistogamous (self-pollinating) and the flowers do not open fully, or open only briefly. The two species meet in Trinidad and Tobago. In nature the hollow pseudobulbs are frequently home to stinging ants!

Description: The pronounced pseudobulbs are spindle-shaped, to 11.7 x 2.3 in. (30 x 6 cm). Each pseudobulb carries 2-3 oblong-elliptic, obtuse, leathery leaves up to 7.8 x 2 in. (20 x 5 cm). The terminal inflorescences are erect, long-pedunculate racemes to 25.4 in. (65 cm) long. Inflorescences carry 4-20 white flowers; the basal half of the lip spotted dark red and the callus bright golden yellow. Sepals are ovate-elliptic, subacute, to 1.3 x 0.7 in. (3.2 x 1.8 cm). Petals are broadly elliptic to suborbicular, abruptly acuminate, to 1.1 x 0.9 in. (2.8 x 2.3 cm). The three-lobed lip is up to 1.1 x 0.6 in. (2.8 x 1.5 cm), the lateral lobes oblong, obtuse, subparallel to the midlobe, the midlobe linear-lanceolate, acute, about twice the length of the lateral lobes, the callus a pair of high two-lobed horn-like keels. The column is semiterete, flared as broadly obtuse-rounded keels to either side of the stigma, to 0.8 in. (2 cm) long.

Culture: Grow *Caularthron bicornutum* in small pots or baskets with a medium-grade epiphyte mixture. Provide warm temperatures, very bright to full light, and regular watering throughout the year. The roots should dry out fully between waterings. Care should be taken to avoid over-potting or too frequent watering as the root system doesn't respond well to disturbance or a decomposed medium. Plants also grow well mounted providing that watering needs can be met. Those living in frost-free climates can use it as a landscape subject. Attach divisions firmly to thin canopy trees. - AOS Publications Committee



Flowers are well-held on a tall inflorescence that needs no staking.



Caularthron bicornutum 'Arp's Snowflake' HCC/AOS
Exhib: Gerald K. Arp



left: *Caularthron bicornutum* 'For Mark'
AM/AOS
Exhib: Sandra Denman



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**From the American Orchid Society's
Beginner's Newsletter
Epiphyte or Terrestrial? Sympodial or Monopodial?**

Understanding where and how orchids grow will help you better understand how to grow them. This newsletter looks at the growth habits of orchids.

The structure of an orchid plant is the same as any plant for it has roots, stems, leaves and flowers. But these parts are adapted to its way of life and differ somewhat from familiar plants which you grow in your garden.

Epiphytes and Terrestrials. Most of the cultivated orchids are epiphytes, such as the Colombian *Cattleya trianae* pictured on the right on the next page. They do not grow in the ground but instead grow in trees or on rocks. This puts their roots out into the air rather than underground. The word "epiphyte" (EP-ih-fite) means "air plant" or literally "to grow upon a plant". Epiphytes are not parasites. They do not take anything from the host plant. Epiphytes perch upon other plants but get their moisture and nutrients from air, rain and debris. Cymbidiums and other orchids are terrestrial, which means "growing in the ground". The *Sobralia* pictured at the left on the next page is a terrestrial orchid. Most of the native orchids of the United States and all the natives of Europe are terrestrials. Some epiphytic orchids have adapted to growing on rocks because nearby forests may not offer enough light. Rock-growing orchids are known as lithophytes.

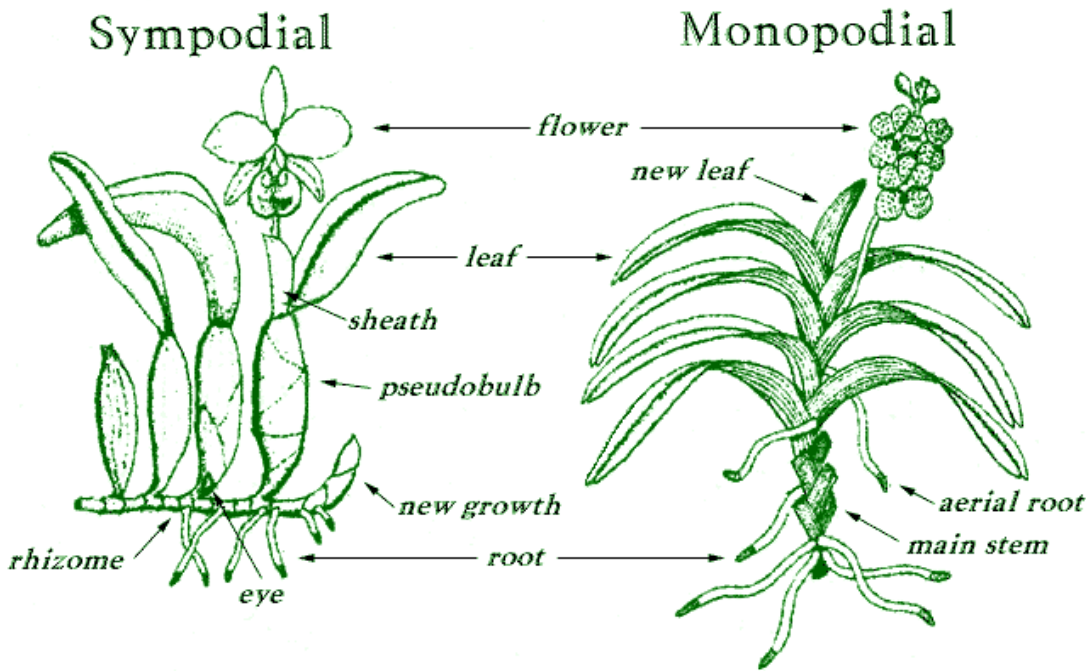


Sobralia lilastrum growing as a terrestrial in the Gran Sabana, Venezuela



Cattleya trianae as an epiphyte in Colombia

Sympodial and Monopodial There are two types of growth found in orchid plants. One growth pattern is called sympodial (sim-POH-dee-al), the other is monopodial (mon-o-POH-dee-al). For sympodial think of sideways. An orchid with sympodial growth moves sideways. From a connecting stem (rhizome) which grows horizontally, it puts up successive growths in which each one is a duplicate of the one before.



Examine the sketch. The upright growths are called pseudobulbs, each a repetition of the one before and growing parallel to each other. A plant may produce one new pseudobulb at a time, perhaps even only one per year. But it may make two or more growths simultaneously, and a large plant may make several new growths at the same time. Hybrids may have more than one cycle of growth per year.

The majority of the cultivated orchids are sympodial - they grow sideways. New growth begins at the base of the previous mature growth. *Cattleya*, *Oncidium*, *Dendrobium* and *Cymbidium* are all examples of sympodial orchids.

On the other hand, monopodial (mon-oh-POH-dee-al) orchid plants grow continuously taller - upwards, and some reach many feet in height under ideal conditions. Think of the vandas, growing outdoors in the tropics. Others have reasonable height limits, such as the phalaenopsis group. Monopodial means "one foot".

A monopodial orchid has neither pseudobulbs nor rhizomes. It grows continually upward from the top of the plant. It produces roots and flowers at intervals from the vertical stem.

Quite in contrast to the foliage habits of sympodial orchids, a monopodial orchid has alternate leaves the entire length of the stem. Lower leaves may fall off as the plant ages. *Phalaenopsis*, *Vanda*, *Ascocenda* and *Angreacum* are all examples of monopodial orchids.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
April 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.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report. A report was emailed to Roberta but was not available for the meeting

Spring into Spring. Roberta discussed the event at the Lauritzen Gardens. She circulated a sign up sheet for the event and asked if anyone would volunteer for the May 4 late afternoon/evening. Jim Pyrzynski volunteered.

May meeting will be at the Papillion library. Directions will be provided in the May newsletter. The program will be on breaking apart compots. The June meeting has a guest speaker, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. The meeting will be on Monday, June 11 at the Extension Office. Richard Kohout mentioned that there may be a conflict with the Iris Society for that night. Doug Martin will be the speaker for the July meeting.

Tony Peralis attended the meeting. He designed the GOOS logo. He gave Roberta the original art work. He said that the prize that he received was an orchid plant (which died shortly later).

Dave Taylor gave the program on repotting orchids.

Refreshments were provided by Jim Pyrzynski.

Raffle plants were provided by Norm Larson and Jim Pyrzynski. Since a raffle was not held they were awarded to 2 new members.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
April 25, 2012

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

501 (c)(3) status. Roberta informed the board that the required documentation has been submitted to the IRS. Copies of the document (over an inch thick) were available for review. The Society will need to keep accurate records of income and expenses, provide receipts for donated items. There will be a need to maintain continuity of documentation through the subsequent board administrations.

Conflict of Interest. During the process of submitting IRS documentation, the issue of conflict of interest arose. A conflict of interest situation could arise when a member has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the board and the Society for a vote. Sample by-laws provisions were reviewed. The consensus was to keep the provisions simple and not complicate things. A complicated document might serve as a deterrence in member participation in the activities of the Society and in holding positions on the board and committees. Roberta will draft a By-laws change to add an article on conflict of interest.

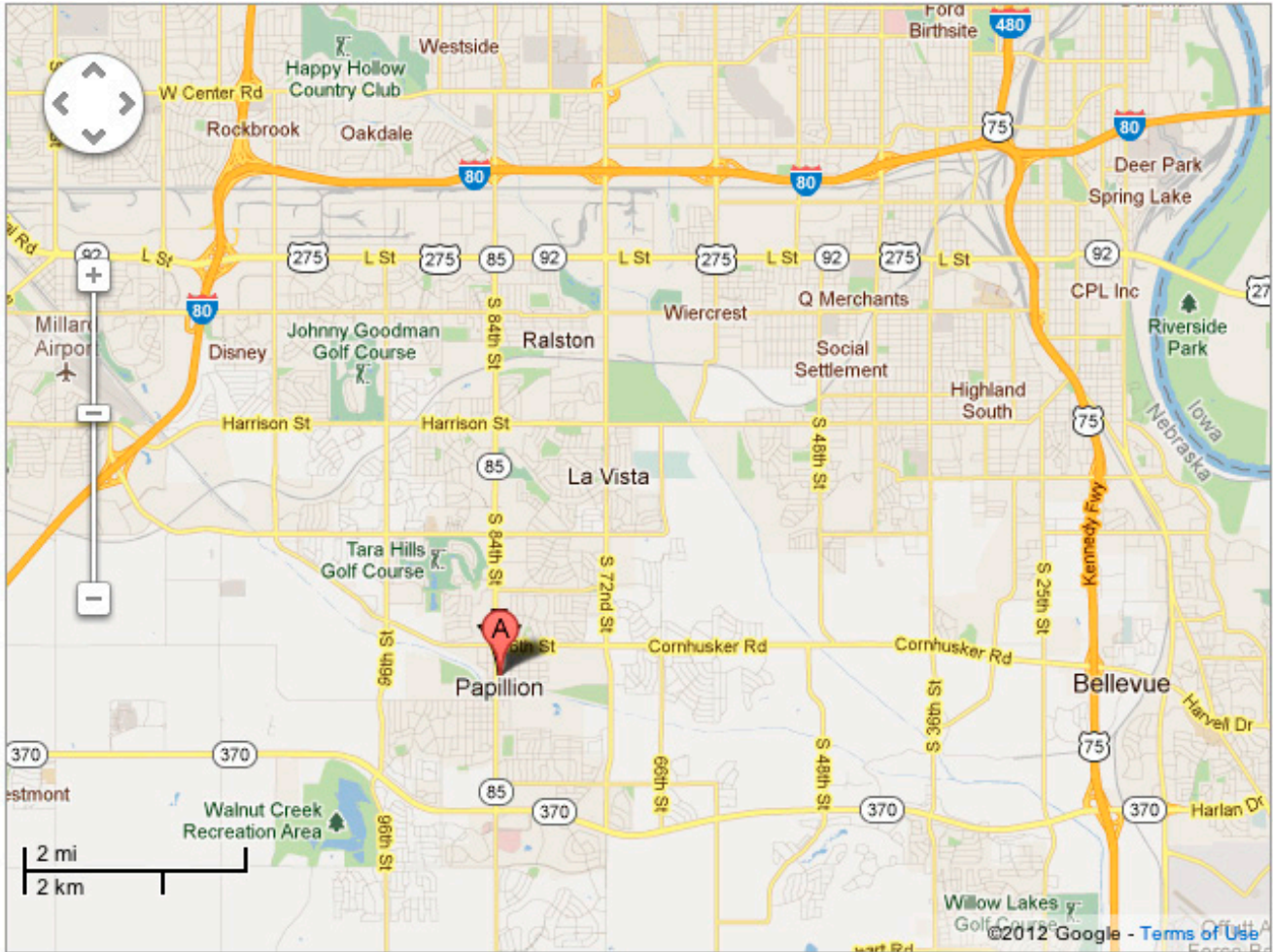
Meetings and programs. The picnic will be in August. Last year we ordered plants from Oak Hill Gardens but they will be out of business by August. The board decided to purchase plants for the auction from Dave Bird. Roberta will pick them up. Jacque Lewzader volunteered to host the picnic. The board will bring the main dish.

July's program will be presented by Doug Martin.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

PAPILLION LIBRARY LOCATION



PAPILLION LIBRARY LOCATION DETAIL

222 North Jefferson Street

NOTE: Washington St. is the same as 84th St. in Omaha

