# **The Informer**

# Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 greateromahaorchidsociety.org July 2013

# **OFFICERS**

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Newsletter Editor: Jim Pyrzynski Articles may be mailed to Jim at 2107 Alberta Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005 or emailed to: jpyrzynski@cox.net Submission deadline for the August Informer: August 5, 2013

#### **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 February meeting. Dues for new members joining after July 31st are one-half the annual ratee.

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 10, 2013 6:30 PM **Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office** Annual picnic/auction

July 24, 2013 6:45 PM Papillion Library Board meeting

#### August 14, 2013 **Extension Office** 8015 West Center Rd.

7:00 PM new growers group/ display committee meeting 7:30 PM Program: The Plant Doctor is in Refreshments: Linda Schroeder

# **EVENTS**

# July 28, 2013

Central Orchid Iowa Society Speakers Day, Camp Dodge, IA (see information and registration form - pgs 5 & 6.)

# September 14 – 15, 2013

Wisconsin Orchid Society Show "Fall in Love with Orchids," Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI, Contact: Lisa Ann Haag, 920-980-6979, tlhaag@ charter.net

September 20 - 22, 2013 21st Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 10:00 a.m.3:00 p.m. Sunday. Locations: Natt's Orchids, Naperville, IL, Orchids by Hausermann, Villa Park, IL. www. chicagolandorchidfest.com

October 19 - 20, 2013 Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress. "ORCHIDS 'N ART" at the Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH.

#### October 19 – 20, 2013 Eastern Iowa Orchid Show & Sale, Noelridge Gardens Greenhouse, 4900 Council St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA Contact: Jon Lorence, 319-624-3666, lorence5@aol. com

October 19 - 20, 2013 Kansas Orchid Society Fall Orchid Show. Botanica. The Wichita Gardens, 701 Amidon St., Wichita, KS. Contact: Sarrah J. Pratt, 316-772-5194, svcsip@ pixius.net

# LET'S HAVE A **PICNIC!**

It's picnic and auction time! The officers and board members will provide the eats – all of them. Plants and other items will be there for the auction. What's needed?? - YOU!

For the auction, we'll have a nice selection of plants for you to bid on, along with some other material. Larry Erickson, a former member, has moved to Oklahoma and generously donated some hard to come by orchid supplies, tree fern plaques and cork bark pieces, some of which will included in the auction. If vou have something suitable for the auction – bring it (NOTE: plants must be pest and disease free).

**BONUS!** Free plant to each person who purchases one or more auction item. Limit one per family.

The money raised from the auction is used mainly to fund our programs for the meetings. Speakers don't come free of charge.

We start with the picnic portion at 6:30 pm. The auction begins at 7:30 pm. And this year, we're holding the event at our usual meeting place, the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office, 8015 West Center Rd. in Omaha.

See you there!

# LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Looking ahead to future meetings. In August the plant doctor makes his visit to the meeting. So if you have a plant that is "under the weather," not looking too good, not blooming or performing as desired, etc., bring it to the meeting (if it has something really contagious it might be best to keep carefully under wraps to avoid spreading whatever is ailing it) for diagnosis.

September is our Annual Meeting. Yes, it has business related stuff – this year, the election of officers, but we also will have a screening of the movie – "Black Orchid." Popcorn anyone?

For October and November we have guest speakers. Joe Lankton in October and Ron Midgett in November. And in December we have our annual holiday party.

#### CENTRAL IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY SPEAKERS DAY

**REMINDER:** The Central Iowa Orchid Society's annual Speakers Day is only a few weeks away. It's on July 28 and it's held at the Camp Dodge, IA (just north of Des Moines). Since Camp Dodge is a military facility a photo ID is required - vour driver's license will do just fine. They have a great pair of speakers scheduled Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries in Hawaii and Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids in California. More information is on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter, including a registration form. But send it in soon – it's just \$25 (includes breakfast, lunch and dessert) if you register by July 20th.

# FALL ORCHID EVENTS

Further afield there are some orchid events coming up to consider. The 21st annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival takes place September 20- 22. Natt's Orchids (one of the vendors at out show) and Orchids by Hausermann host vendors from both the US and foreign locations: Andy's Orchids (California), New Vision Orchids (Indiana), New World Orchid (Michigan), Ten Shin Gardens Co, Ltd (Taiwan), Michel Orchid Nursery (Indiana), Orchids Garden Centre and Nursery (Wisconsin), Fox Valley Orchids (Illinois), and Ecuagenera (Ecuador). (http://www.chicagolandorchidfest.com/)

The fall orchid show starts in earnest in October with the Mid-America Orchid Congress fall meeting in Dayton, OH, the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society annual show in Cedar Rapids, IA, and the Kansas Orchid Society annual show in Wichita, KS – all on the same weekend, October 19-20.

So there are plenty of opportunities get some plants in the fall so that they are ready for our show in March.

# American Orchid Society Monthly Checklist for July and August

## Cattleya

Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

## Paphiopedilum

Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.

## Phalaenopsis

Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

# Cymbidium

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

# **High-elevation Plants**

For cooler-growing plants, such as masdevallias, other pleurothallids and the like, the next few months will be a challenge. During the hottest times, keep your plants more shaded and be sure to keep the humidity level much higher. Do not let plants dry out. Delay any potting until the weather cools.

# **Oncidium intergenerics**

Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums, such as Odontocidium, Wilsonara and Colmanara, will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral display. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.

# Vandaceous

Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded for the best flower presentation later.

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

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# **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting June 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order at the Sump Memorial Library in Papillion at 2:00 pm.

President Roberta Ginavan called the meeting to order at the Papillion Library.

There was a short business meeting.

The Minutes were approved.

Sandy Rome gave a Treasurer's report for Apr/May which was filed for audit.

Roberta Ginavan discussed the July meeting which will be a picnic at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office. It will begin a 6:30 pm. Officers and board members will provide the food.

Carlos Fighetti, the guest speaker for the meeting, gave a talk on the various Phalaenopsis species and what characteristics are looked for in hybridizing between the various species and hybrids. He recommended growers research the growing conditions for species to determine how to best grow the plants. The sources he recommended were books and websites, in particular www.orchidspecies.com.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting June 26, 2013

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.

June meeting. There was a quick review of the June meeting. The general consensus was that the meeting room was a bit crowded. Roberta mentioned that Ruby Tuesday was fine (for dining). The time allocation was not sufficient. The meeting should have started at 7 pm if possible (but that start could not be guaranteed since the Red Cross has use of the room until 7 pm).

Extension Office. The proposed cuts to the Extension Office (in the Douglas County budget) were mentioned. If the Extension Office would no longer be available, another facility would be needed for meeting. One possible is a church at 60th and Sorenson Parkway (Mt. Olive Lutheran).

July meeting. The dinner will start at 6:30, auction at 7:30. The forms for tracking the items auction were discussed. Eric has asked Dave Taylor be auctioneer, Eric will be the backup. Larry Erickson made a donation of cork, tree fern, etc. Suggested beginning bid prices were discussed. Only some of the donation will be used for the auction. He also donated some HID light fixtures. Plants will be purchased from Dave Bird. As an incentive to bid, a free plant will be given to each person who purchases one or more auction item. Limit one per family.

Future meetings. The programs for the rest of the year are set. Eric will verify Dave Taylor's participation in the August meeting.

St. Cecilia's flower show. Roberta, Jim and Ron Fechner met with Brother William (of St. Cecilia's Cathedral) on June 19. Jim summarized the meeting. The show is January 24 - 26, 2014. Setup is January 23 and 24; the evening of January 24 is for patrons of the event. The show is open to the public on January 25 - 26. They were shown an corridor off to the right and behind the altar which had small altars and niches that could be used for displays. There were also radiators (covered) on the outer wall that could be used (they would be off during the show). The theme for next year's show is "South Pacific." About 10,000 people attend the show annually. Jim expressed concern that with the radiators off temperatures might be quite low. Additionally he suggested that members might be reluctant to bring their plants for the displays since the Kansas City show is probably 2 weeks later (and would be a AOS judged event). He suggested that if we decide to participate in the Cathedral show, we purchase plants for it. They could be used for the display and/or sale at the Home and Garden Show 2 weeks later or raffled off at the meeting. Jacque recommended that we keep it small and simple initially rather than overdoing it. The plan is to get membership approval at the August meeting (we need to give Brother William are decision by early August).

Display committee. Roberta suggested that we have the display committee meet at 7 pm before the August meeting (with the new growers group).

Insurance. The premium for the next insurance period has been paid. Sandy is still working on what is covered versus what we need to have covered. Abby Vosicka has mentioned (via email) that she works with insurance and might be able to assist. The premium is \$425 per year but it does not contain and property (library, computer) coverage. Sandy did update the tax ID number.

Budget. Sandy discussed the upcoming budget (the By-laws require it to be published in the September newsletter and voted on at the September meeting). The proposed budget will be emailed to board members for their review.

Committees. Roberta discussed the need to identify members to fill the nominating committee (3 persons required, to be announced at July meeting), auditing committee (3 members, to be announced at the August meeting). There was insufficient time to further discuss the issue (as well as 2014 programs (which was also on the agenda)).

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

# The Central Iowa Orchid Society is proud to announce its 25th Annual Speakers Day July 28, 2013 Recreation Center at Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa

We are pleased to have Alan Koch (Gold Country Orchids, California) (http://goldcountryorchids.com/) and Roy Tokunaga (H& R Nurseries, Inc., Hawaii) as our speakers (http://www.hrnurseries.com/)

# Alan Koch will speak on: "Growing in the Home" "Miniature Cattleyas for the Home Grower"

# Roy Tokunaga will speak on: **"The Secret Lives of Orchids" "Dendrobiums in the Latouria and Formosae Sections"**

# **Schedule of Events**

# Saturday, July 27

7 p.m. – 10 p.m. Informal get-together at the home of Elaine Notis, Johnston, IA Come meet out speakers and other orchid enthusiasts

# Sunday, July 28

8 a.m.	Continental Breakfast/ Plant Sales	
8 – 10 a.m.	Plant Registration for AOS Judging	
9 – 11:30 a.m.	Morning talks, one by each speaker	
11 a.m.	AOS judging	
11:30 a.m.	Buffet Lunch / Plant Sales	
1 p.m.	First afternoon talk	
1:45 p.m.	Afternoon Dessert Bar	
2:30 p.m.	Second afternoon talk	
3:15 p.m.	Drawing for Door Prizes/ Plant Sales	

Both Alan Koch and Roy Tokunaga will have plants for sale throughout the day. See the speakers' websites for preorders.

# Please note that a picture ID is required to enter Camp Dodge.

For the most up-to-date information, refer to our web site: http://centraliowaorchidsociety.org

# **Registration Form**

Return your reservation to: Shelley Lambert, 1191 235th St., Boone, IA 50036

# The registration fee is \$25 per person if received by July 20th, \$30 at the door.

Name		
Address		
Email or phone		
Number Attending	Total Enclosed	

# Hotels near Interstate 35/80

Along NW 86th Street (Exit 129): Hilton Garden Inn - 8600 Northpark Dr, 515-270-8890 Stoney Creek Inn - 5291 Stoney Creek Ct, 515-334-9000

Along Merle Hay Road (Exit 131): Holiday Inn - 4800 Merle Hay Rd, 515-278-4755 America's Best Inn - 5050 Merle Hay Rd, 515-270-1111 Ramada Inn - 5000 Merle Hay Rd, 515-278-0271 Days Inn - 4845 Merle Hay Rd, 515-965-1995 Quality Inn & Suites - 4995 Merle Hay Rd, 515-278-2381 Econo Lodge Inns & Suites - 4755 Merle Hay Rd, 515-278-8858

# Along Hickman Road (Exit 125)

Comfort Suites - 11167 Hickman Rd, 515-276-1126 The Sleep Inn - 11211 Hickman Rd, 877-233-0333

# Directions to the home of Elaine Notis, 6008 Redbud Court, Johnston

From I-80/35, exit 131 (Merle Hay Rd exit): Go north on Merle Hay Rd into Johnston, turn left onto Pioneer Pkwy, then right onto Sunset Lane, then left onto Winwood, then left onto Redbud Court. From 1-80/35, exit129 (NW 86th St exit): Go north on NW 86th St, turn right onto NW62 Ave, turn right onto Pioneer Pkwy, then left onto Sunset Lane, then left onto Winwood, then left onto Redbud Court.

# **Directions to Camp Dodge**

Exit I-80/35 at either NW 86th St or Merle Hay Rd. Go north to NW 70th Ave. The entrance to Camp Dodge is on NW 70th Ave, between Merle Hay Rd and NW 86th St. Enter Camp Dodge on Maintenance Drive. Turn right on 5th Street. Turn left on Main Ave. Turn right on 7th Street. Rec. Center is on the left, parking is on the right.

# **Biographies of our speakers**

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college, he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society magazine, and the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker, past member of the AOS Judging Committee and the Research Committee, and an Accredited Judge. Currently, Alan is Vice-chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the Orchid Digest, and a Trustee for the AOS.

Roy Tokunaga is a graduate of the University of Hawaii. He majored in biology with a degree in secondary education. When he couldn't find a teaching job after graduation, he started working with orchids and has been involved with them ever since. He started growing commercially in 1974, mostly involved with seed germination and cloning. In 1986 he started hybridizing, working primarily with Dendrobiums. Roy is currently the Vice-President of H&R Nurseries, Inc. of Waimanalo, Hawaii. H&R Nurseries is a world renowned and well respected grower of quality orchids. In addition to his duties at H&R, Roy is a member of the Honolulu Orchid Society and an AOS judge.