



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

October 2014

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Submission deadline for the
November Informer: November
3, 2014

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:

October 8, 2014

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

7:00 PM Grower's Group
discussion (all welcome)

7:30 Program: Innovative
ways to grow your orchids
Refreshments: Sandy Rome
& Elsie Snowden

October 22, 2014

Papillion Library
6:45 PM Papillion Library
Board meeting

November 12, 2014

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

7:00 PM Grower's Group
discussion (all welcome)

7:30 Program: Guest Speaker
Ron Midgett, Oncidium
intergenerics
Refreshments: Loris Purtzer

EVENTS

October 11 – 12, 2014

Illinois Orchid Society's
"Fabulous Fall Orchids"
Chicago Botanic Gardens,
Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe,
IL. Contact: Rose Matchen,
847-432-7708, rosalie@
dixler.net

October 11 – 12, 2014

Denver Orchid Society Fall
Show. Echter's Nursery
& Garden Center, 5150
Garrison Street, Arvada,
CO; Contact: Keith Funk,
303-478-5080, keithfunk@
comcast.net

October 18 – 19, 2014

Eastern Iowa Orchid
Show & Sale, Noelridge
Gardens Greenhouse, 4900
Council St. NE, Cedar
Rapids, IA. Contact: Nile
Dusdieker, 319-626-2236,
niledusdieker@gmail.com

November 1 – 2, 2014

Kansas Orchid Society
Fall Orchid Show & Sale,
Botanica, The Wichita
Gardens, 701 Amidon
St., Wichita, KS. Contact:
Sarah J. Pratt, 316-772-
5194, svcsjp@pixius.net

**January 31 – February 1,
2015**

Orchid Growers Guild
"Orchid Quest 2015,"
Madison Marriott West,
1313 John Q Hammons Dr.,
Middleton, WI. Contact:
Lynn West, 608-445-0065,
lynnwest15@yahoo.com
or Terri Jozwiak, 608-592-
7906, lodijoz@charter.net

BE INNOVATIVE IN GROWING ORCHIDS

To paraphrase the nursery
rhyme, "Mary, Mary quite
contrary, how do your or-
chids grow? With flower
spikes, leaves, and new
pseudobulbs all over, or
with fading growths, and
no spikes, and a new pests
giving a show." Many
times we need to think
"out-of-the-box" when it
comes to orchids. You see
a pretty plant in the gro-
cery store, the label reads
– "just add ice" – really?
You read a culture book and
find more specific direc-
tions, but the author lives in
Florida and you live in Ne-
braska or Iowa where the
temperatures and humidity
levels are subject to wide
variations, sometimes in a
single week. Some authors
write for greenhouse grow-
ers and you're not about to
build one or turn your home
into one. What to do??

Innovate! Look at your
plants, they will talk to you,
if you just listen. And they
may tell you the way they
prefer to grow, and when
they do, you may need to
invent some new solutions
to growing them.

Eric Stoiber will lead the
conversation by presenting

some ideas, and you are invited to chime in with your own discoveries. We can all share with your successes and failures (you can (and should) learn from your failures as well as your successes).

So plan to attend this month's meeting and let us know how your orchids grow.

CEDAR RAPIDS SHOW

The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society show in Cedar Rapids is just around the corner (October 18 and 19, with setup on October 17). We plan to have a display at the show, Eric Stoiber will travel to Cedar Rapids and set it up. But we need plants for the display – YOUR plants. The setup is during the day on October 17 (due to the lack of lights for the night) so Eric will have to leave early on Friday morning. So he will need your plants no later than Thursday, October 16. Please place a label (masking tape works great) on the pot of the plant with your name in order to make it easy for Eric to get back to you. He will also need information on the name of the plant in order to enter it for ribbon judging, so be sure there is an appropriate label with the plant. It would be very useful for you to have a list of the plants accompany the plants. It would make the registration process quicker and possibly allow for completing the show tags before Eric departs for

Cedar Rapids.

Contact Eric at the meeting or at (402) 206-4554 or EricSt11@aol.com. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated, and, who knows, maybe your plant will win an award.

ONCIDIUM INTERGENERICS IN NOVEMBER

Intergenerics, specifically *Oncidium* alliance intergenerics, are on the agenda for the November meeting. Ron Midgett of New Earth Orchids, Santa Fe, NM will give a talk on the great variety of colorful and beautiful orchids that are in that group. For a little clarification for the uninitiated, intergenerics are the plants that result from hybridizing (crossing) plants from one genus with those in related genus. The *Oncidiinae* (a "subtribe" of orchids) has a number of genera that have been used to produce some beautiful and easy-to-grow orchids. The genera involved in the hybridizing include *Oncidiums*, *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossums*, *Brassia*, etc. Some recent taxonomic changes have resulted what species constitute the various genera.

Ron will have plants to sell – something to brighten those dull, gray, cold days of winter which lie ahead. So mark your calendar and plan on attending the meeting on November 12.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Plans are underway for our annual Holiday Party. This year we'll dine in rather than out. It will be held at the Extension Office on December 10 and the meal will be catered. We'll have our usual gift exchange (if you choose to participate) but we've increased the suggested price to about \$15.00 to be more realistic. More information will be discussed at our monthly meetings between now and the party and in the Newsletter.

SOME HELPFUL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON AOS.ORG

Q. Leaf-tip Burn. I've noticed the tips of the leaves of some of my orchids are brown, and guessed it was due to over-fertilizing. This morning, I discovered two small (not tiny) brown spots on a dendrobium leaf. The cane has at least seven to eight leaves, and the spotted one is top-most. By looking at the back of the leaf, I found the center of the brown spots became thinner than the leaf. Are the spots an indication of sunburn or fungus? I have the orchid at an east window, so it shouldn't be receiving too much sun. — Elizabeth Hsu

A. The leaf-tip burn you describe is not unusual in orchids grown in the home or under very dry conditions, nor is it necessarily indicative of over-fertilizing, but rather of salt-related damage. This occurs when the salt concentration in the soil solution reaches a certain critical point, either through accumulation by over-dry conditions, or by the excess application of fertilizer. Keeping the plants more evenly moist, and flushing thoroughly with clean water can also help to reduce this sort of injury to orchids. I doubt that the symptom you describe on the top leaf is fungus, and even if it is, it sounds like a type that is the result of a secondary infection that is rarely more than a cosmetic problem. Unusually cold water can bruise the softer tissue of a developing leaf, making it susceptible to infection in the same way that a cut on your hand is liable to be infected. The infection usually stops on its own, leaving the type of lesion you describe. — Ned Nash

Q. Phalaenopsis Spiking When should my phalaenopsis start putting up spikes? I thought it would be around this time (January), but they are doing nothing. Is there something I can do to coax them into spike? — James Tinker

A. In response to short days and cooler temperatures, early winter is generally when phalaenopsis begin to show their spikes in most parts of the country. If your plants are not spiking, it may be the result of insufficient light during the growing season, or the temperatures in the home may be too warm at night. Try providing temperatures in the high 50s into the low 60s for a week or two and see what happens. — Ned Nash

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY
Monthly Checklist for September and October

Cattleya

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too. Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.



Cycnoches chlorochilon,
the green swan orchid.

Cycnoches

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

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.

Dendrobium

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Dendrobium Burana Stripe is a popular and easy phalaenopsis-type hybrid.



Rhynchostele biconiensis

Both *Rhynchostele biconiensis* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele biconiensis*, formerly known as *Lemboglossum*, *Odontoglossum*) is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: sulphureum (green with white lip), album (brown with white lip) and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in *Odcdm.* Bittersweet and *Odm.* bicross) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for *odontoglossum* beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum

Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossum grande

Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.



Rossioglossum grande shows off its large, dramatic flowers.

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

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REPORTS

September 14, 2014 Annual & Town Hall Meeting
Greater Omaha Orchid Society
Douglas & Sarpy County Extension Office

Growers Group: Joe Lankton opened discussion regarding the sudden drop in temps and heavy rains, with many members already bringing orchids indoors. Friday temps expected: 37 degrees. Orchids like routines. Phals need 10-15 degree drop for spiking. H & R, St. Louis orchids shown with good growth. Cymbidiums like a "cold snap" while dendrobiums need a dry cold season.

7:30 p.m. President Stoiber introduced elections for board: Don Steineger, Robert Mann, and Ron Fechner. No floor nominations came forth. Joe Lankton moved to accept slate; Anne Pamperl seconded; all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: President Stoiber substituted for Treasurer Aaron Bugjo and distributed copies of the budget (also included in the September newsletter). The Audit committee verified the ledger and accounting as correct. New categories noted; details mentioned by Stoiber. Table skirts discussed. Shows have a variety of table sizes and types, explained by VP Pyrzynski, creating challenges along with clips and storage. Pyrzynski indicated that with planning, purchase of a number would be possible. "In" and "Out" entries clarified. Past President Roberta Ginavan gave examples of this "wash" documentation. Sandy Rome brought up the Christmas party and gifts. Roberta Ginavan moved to approve the budget; seconded; all in favour.

Shows: Cedar Rapids, IA with tabletop display on October 18-19th. President Stoiber will attend; 5-6 hour drive; members may ride with him, leaving early Friday morning through Sunday's dismantling/late afternoon. Blooming orchids are needed.

October: Opening up the meeting to members with tips for growing bloomers.

Last Weekend in January: St. Cecelia's. March 6-7-8, 2015: GOOS Orchid Show at Lauritzen Gardens.

Town Hall: President Stoiber passed around a notebook to note interests: orchids, speakers, what enjoy, get intrigued about, and solutions for issues are welcomed; input requested. Don Steinegger would like to see a speaker on species. The St. Louis speaker was among the best on how to grow; more in-depth. Mrs. Behrens commented on presentations less interesting or too vague. Stoiber suggested use of local growers to keep costs down. With a speaker, members are able to purchase orchids, mentioned by Lankton. "If we cannot get a speaker, what would members enjoy?" Don Steinegger noted that even between Lincoln and Bellevue, light is different, so speakers should not be "careless" about what is suggested for growing orchids. How to keep excellent vendors coming needs thought. Don Steinegger agrees with Jim Pyrzynski about keeping the number of vendors down. Lauritzen attracts people with funds, and there is no fee. Chicago Oak Hill is going out of business, different than Oak Hill/Orchid Center near Madison, WS. Don Steinegger notes uniformity value in seeing actual greenhouses and genetics.

Break with wide variety of foods brought in by Julie Weston was appreciated.

President Stoiber introduced topic of how to grow membership numbers. Suggestions by members were brought up. Don Steinegger suggested need to engage people "eye-to-eye" vs. just handing out materials. The need to invite people personally and engage each quickly is important. When new members arrive, welcome new members. Many ideas were mentioned by members, and some were entered in the book going around. "Show and Tell" could be very useful in getting to know members and a time to socialize further. The new member, A. J. H., introduced himself; is a Master Gardener; attended March show and purchased several orchids. A.J. suggested that all members receive business cards to hand out to potential members. Name badges will be used in the next meeting. Name badges that are permanent and turned in could be used for each meeting so that everyone can get to know each other better.

President Stoiber thanked Julie Weston for foods. Jacque Lewzader and Linda Schroeder were thanked for their time serving on the board; raffled plants were distributed.

Show & Tell: Marilyn showed two miniatures growing in a hamster cage to keep rabbits out. Jim Pyrzynski showed an encyclia purchased on eBay and a tiny mounted orchid needing watering each morning, then drying out.

President Stoiber adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Marie Anne Smith
Secretary

September 24, 2014 Greater Omaha Orchid Society
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Sump Memorial Library
Papillion, NE

Present: newly elected board members Robert Mann and Don Steineger; President Stoiber, Vice President Pyrzynski, Treasurer Bugjo, Past President Roberta Ginavan, Secretary Marie Smith, and Jacque Lewzader, who will present materials and introduce plans for the holiday party.

President Stoiber opened the meeting with discussion on the By-Laws, and new signatures to comply with the Society's Conflict of Interest Policy as defined in Article IX, and in compliance with the "gift policy" and in instances when conflicts might arise within business arrangement discussions. A letter thanking the society was also received from Marilyn LeDoux, Labadie, MO.

Holiday Party: December 10th: Jacque Lewzader shared several possible menus for a buffet at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office. The board agreed on catering by HyVee at \$18-\$20 per person for Turkey, Ham, 3 sides, rolls, coffee, lemonade and dessert. Appetizers shall be provided by the board. Schedule: 6:00-6:30 appetizers; 7:00 - Dinner. Optional Gift Exchange: \$15 suggested for Christmas or Orchid-related gift items.

October General Meeting: Vice President Pyrzynski: Flowering orchids are needed. Stoiber is willing to talk about ways he grows orchids, inviting others to bring their orchids for discussion. His topic of "Innovative containers" picked up by Roberta, was suggested for focus, which could encourage members to jump from that into several new topics during the year.

New Members: Name badges for members are to be set up on printer. Aaron Bugjo has experience with these. Roberta mentioned the "Greeting Committee" of years past. "Idea" book with four members expressing thoughts on having a Speakers Day was brought up; would need heavy advertising inviting general public. Pre-orders were also discussed as a way to get people in from other communities. Moving the auction to another month on the weekend where a picnic could be held was also suggested.

November: Ron coming in to present. Eric is communicating with this speaker.

Bark: \$1,030 available toward a new supply. Cork is in Roberta's trunk. Don Steineger suggested a session on growing things on cork and bark panels. Outstanding check and financial "to do" items noted by Bugjo.

President Stoiber adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m. with no further items to discuss. Gift ideas for the Holiday Party and speaker suggestions are needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Anne Smith
Secretary