



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

March 2016

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Submission deadline for the

April Informer: April 4, 2016.

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:

March 9, 2016

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

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

**7:30 PM Program: What
did you buy at the show?
Refreshments: TDB**

March 23, 2016

**Denny's 84th and I-80!!!
6:45 PM**

Board meeting

**April 6, 2016 NOTE DATE
CHANGE!!!**

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

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

**7:30 PM Program: Santa
Barbara International
Orchid Show - Jacque
Lewzader
Refreshments: Ron
Fechner**

EVENTS

March 5 - 6, 2016

Greater Omaha Orchid
Society 29th Annual Orchid
Show & Sale, Lauritzen
Gardens, 100 Bancroft St.,
Omaha, NE, Contact: Jim
Pyrzynski, 402-734-4112,
jpyrzynski@cox.net

March 11 - 13, 2016

Denver Orchid Society
Spring Show, Tagawa
Garden Center, 7711 S.
Parker Rd., Centennial,
CO; Contact: Sydney
Landreneau, 303-933-
8598, orchidiva@msn.com

March 12 - 13, 2016

Illinois Orchid Society
Show "Amazing Orchid
Odyssey," Chicago Botanic
Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook
Rd., Glencoe, IL; Contact:
Rose Matchen, 847-587-
6525, goldrose@att.net

March 19 - 20, 2016

Illowa Orchid Society
Spring Show, Wallace's
Garden Center &
Greenhouse, 2605 Devils
Glen Road, Bettendorf, IA,
Contact: Deno Kandis, 309-
737-2672, emkandis@
mchsi.com

March 19 - 20, 2016

Springfield Orchid Society
Show, Springfield Greene
County Botanical Center,
2400 S. Scenic Ave.,
Springfield, MO, Contact:
Nathan Bell, 660-888-
0225, nbell@cofo.edu

SHOW THIS WEEKEND!!

This is a abbreviated edi-
tion of the newsletter due
to the timing of our annual
show.

The show is this weekend
at the Lauritzen Gardens.
Setup is Friday evening
- all members are wel-
come to help setup - but
to be a valid member your
dues need to be up-to-date.
Check the list of paid mem-
bers in this issue.

**We need your plants for
our Society's display - so
bring your blooming or-
chids, some foliage plants
might help too.**

Helping with the setup Fri-
day evening gives you an
opportunity to see what the
vendors have for sale ahead
of the general public. If you
want to help with the hospi-
tality room, contact Cindy
Mass, cmass@browntrans-
fer.com. Judging is Sat-
urday morning, breakfast
at 6:30 AM. Clerking for
judging is where you will
really learn about orchids,
if you want to learn come to
the judging and be a clerk.
And there are still oppor-
tunities to help during the
show on Saturday and Sun-
day, including the cleanup

and getting the exhibitors out on Sunday.

See you at the show.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

With the monthly meeting (March 9) falling immediately after the show, we have an excellent opportunity to show each other what we bought and what about the plant interested you. It also provides an excellent opportunity for getting (and giving) cultural information on the plants. So bring your plants to the meeting on Wednesday and let us have a look at your new acquisitions.

BARK HAS ARRIVED, WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MARCH MEETING

The Kiwi Bark that we placed an order for a couple of months ago, has arrived. If you placed an order for a bag(s) please come to the meeting to pick up (and pay for) your bark. The Society will be selling gallon bags of potting mix made from the bark and other additives (first batch was prepared at the February meeting using Orchiatea Bark (also made from Pinus radiata bark). Thanks.

APRIL MEETING 1 WEEK EARLY (APRIL 6)

Due scheduling conflicts with other events at the Extension Office, our April meeting will be one week earlier – on April 6. The program for the meeting will be on the recent Santa

Barbara International Orchid Show and will be given by Jacque Lewzader. The three-day event has about 40 exhibitors and is held at the Earl Warren Show Grounds in Santa Barbara, CA.

THANK YOU!

RENEWING MEMBERS

Thank you to the following people who have renewed: (the list is based on mail received by February 24; If you mailed your check later than that your name would not appear). Dick and Carol Behrens, Aaron & Kelsey Bugjo. John Dolen, Ann Donovan, Ronald and Julie Fechner, Don and Roberta Ginavan, RJ Hadley, Marilyn Hawes, Tham Johnson, Cookie Katskee, Dwight Languis, Joe & Karen Lankton, Jacque Lewzader, Robert Mann, Cindy Mass, Julia Milota, Bryan Moore, Diana Nevins, Anne Pamperl, Loris Purtzer, Jim Pyrzynski, Don Steinegger, Eric Stoiber, Vi Thraen, Anne Vidaver, Abby Vosika, Twilla and Ben Westercamp, Julie Westman, Thank you again very much, your support is greatly appreciated.

JEWELL ORCHIDS PLANT ORDER

At the Holiday Party, John Dolen mentioned the passing of an old friend and supporter of our shows, David Johnston, owner of Jewell Orchids. Dave, who lived in Jewell, IA, exhibited and sold at our shows until his retirement. Then he moved to Georgia and continued his business there. Dave's widow is continuing on

with the business and John suggested that we could provide some much need moral support by making a group purchase. The time frame for this is not certain but take some time over the next month or so and review the offerings on the website, jewellorchids.com, and compile your list. At an upcoming meeting (not March) we will discuss this further.

Transporting Blooming Orchids **By Susan Jones**

During this time of year unpredictable and often inhospitable winter weather makes transporting flowering orchids a tricky matter. A shock of cold, dry air can quickly damage and even blast an orchid bud or bloom, a particularly heartbreaking event if one is on the way to have the flower judged. When carrying your flowering plant to a show, home from a nursery, to judging or even to give as a holiday gift, taking a little bit of precaution against potential cold damage can prevent a lot of disappointment later on.

An orchid's flowers and buds, as the most vulnerable parts of the plant, are easily damaged by environmental stress. Some of the more cold-sensitive varieties may even drop leaves if the exposure and shock is of sufficient severity. Phalaenopsis and vandaceous orchids (neofinetias are a bit hardier than most, but their blooms are still sensitive) are among the least tolerant of chills. Other orchids that are most often affected include those with flowers of more delicate substance. The thicker, heavier and waxier an orchid's floral tissues are, the more resistant to cold damage they will be.

Tips from a Pro

Long-time orchid grower, Connecticut Orchid Society member and one of the technical editors of Orchids magazine, Ann Jesup provided the following savvy ideas for ways to minimize disaster en route to an orchid society meeting, show or judging at a presentation to the Society.

Start with a good quantity of packing materials, she advises. Have on hand a variety of boxes of different sizes, including some insulated styrofoam boxes to shelter your plants from inclement weather. Padding is also important. she suggests waxed floss paper (also known as "spaghetti"), shredded paper, polyester batting and styrofoam peanuts as useful materials.

For protection against brief exposure to the elements, the plastic bags in which newspapers are delivered make an ideal sleeve to slip over a smaller plant. Dry-cleaning

bags supported by wire hoops can help protect larger plants or those with tall inflorescences from freezing or drying out in winter weather.

Insulating Plants

Newspaper is an effective, easily available and inexpensive insulation material. If plants must remain in an unheated area for any length of time during inclement weather, a cardboard box lined with newspaper will help retain heat around the plant. Foam packing peanuts may be added to stabilize and protect the plant in the box, but provide little in the way of insulation or heat retention.

For extreme situations in which prolonged exposure is anticipated, a heat pack can be placed under protective insulation in the bottom of the box. Disposable chemical heat packs are available in different lengths of effectiveness — the most commonly available last six to eight hours, but other durations are available. They can be ordered on line (enter “disposable heat packs” into a search engine to find a vendor). Some orchid vendors who use them for shipping may also be persuaded to sell some of their stock.

Another consideration is staking your plant’s inflorescences. This can not only improve the overall appearance of the blooms, but will also help keep the spike and flowers stationary and less susceptible to injury during transportation. The proper time to stake an inflorescence is when the flowers are beginning to develop. This helps ensure that the buds are oriented properly once they open. For aesthetics’ sake, Jesup suggests attempting to keep the stake unobtrusive. Placing the thinnest stake possible as close to the foliage as is practical helps to avoid distracting attention from the blooms themselves.

Finally, when the temperature is low, warm up your vehicle in advance of transporting blooming orchids to minimize the length of time your plants will have to endure the chill temperatures. Plan your trip so the plants will spend the shortest possible time in transit, and never leave orchids sitting in a hot or cold car.

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



Be sure to have plenty of boxes and packing material for transporting orchid plants.