



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

May 2016

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Submission deadline for the

June Informer: May 30, 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

This month's meeting

pg. 1

Busy Lauritzen weekend

pg. 2

Upcoming Webinars

pg. 2

How did the cyps do?

pg. 2

AOS Monthly Schedule

pg 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGES FOR EACH MEETING BELOW:

May 11, 2016

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

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

7:30 PM Program:

Brassavola nodosa
hybrids, speaker: Dave
Taylor

Refreshments: The
Behrens

May 27, 2016

Denny's 84th and I-80!!!

7:00 PM

Board meeting

June 15, 2016

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

7:00 PM plant sale

7:30 PM Program: Guest

speaker: Loris Rose of
Cal-Orchids, Inc.

Refreshments: Robert
Mann

EVENTS

May 7 – 8, 2016

Oklahoma Orchid Society "A
Symphony of Orchids"

Biltmore Hotel & Convention
Center, 401 South Meridian
Ave., Oklahoma City, OK,
Contact: Jana Butcher, 405-
209-7657, w.butcher@cox.net

May 14, 2016,

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lauritzen Gardens Spring into
Spring plant sale

100 Bancroft St., Omaha, NE,
[https://www.lauritzengardens.
org/Visit/Events_and_](https://www.lauritzengardens.org/Visit/Events_and_Exhibits/Spring_into_Spring/)
[Exhibits/Spring_into_Spring/](https://www.lauritzengardens.org/Visit/Events_and_Exhibits/Spring_into_Spring/)

May 14 - 15, 2016

River City Cactus and
Succulent Society show and
sale. Lauritzen Gardens (see
article, pg. 2)

May 13 – 15, 2016

Redland International Orchid
Show

Fruit and Spice Park, 24801
SW 187th Ave., Miami, FL
33031, 305-247-5727, [http://
www.fruitandspicepark.org](http://www.fruitandspicepark.org)

July 30, 2016 (Saturday)

Central Iowa Orchid Society
annual Speakers Day.

Speakers: Fred Clarke (Sunset
Valley Orchids) (Second

Speaker to be Announced)

Registration fee for the
event is \$30.00 per person in
advance or \$35.00 per person

at the door. Johnston Lions
Club Community Center,
6401 Merle Hay Road,

Johnston, Iowa

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: LADIES OF THE NIGHT

MAY MEETING

Brassavola nodosa, a or-
chid so fragrant in the eve-
ning that it is called "the
lady of the night" (*dama
de noche*). It is native to
Mexico, Central America,
Colombia, and Venezuela.
It is widely hybridized
and it and its hybrids will
be the subject of the May
program. Dave Taylor, who
spent some time in Mexico,
will give the program.

At last year's show John
Dolen had a *B. nodosa*
hybrid which won an AOS
award (Brassocattleya
North Miami 'Prairie Dar-
ling Debbie,' HCC/79 pts).
Eric has ordered some hy-
brids from H & R Nurser-
ies in Hawaii which will be
available for purchase at a
very reasonable price at the
meeting. And who knows,
there may be a future AOS
award winner among them.

JUNE MEETING

June's meeting is on the
third Wednesday of the
month – June 15. We will
have a guest speaker from
out-of-town. Lauris Rose
of Cal-Orchids, Inc. will
be here. Lauris will be
bringing plants for sale but
if you are interested you
may pre-order some spe-
cific things for her to bring.
The website is <http://www>.

calorchid.com/. They have an interesting assortment of plants including species and hybrids from Africa, Cattleya hybrids, Epidendrum hybrids, Laelia anceps hybrids, other hybrids and species. So visit the website and then give them a call ((805) 967-1312) to order for their Omaha visit.

JULY MEETING

The July meeting is July 13 and it is the annual picnic/auction.

BUSY WEEKEND MAY 13 - 15 AT THE LAURITZEN GARDENS

SPRING INTO SPRING

Lauritzen Gardens will hold its annual Spring into Spring plant sale Friday, May 13, evening (Lauritzen members only) and on Saturday, May 14 which will be open to the public (with entry fee). Discover new ideas for your garden at the plant sale. This event is a unique opportunity to shop from a hand-picked selection of plants from area garden clubs and Lauritzen Gardens.

- Thousands of plants for sale: annuals, perennials, herbs, tropicals, ornamental grasses, succulents and more.

- Beautiful containers designed and planted exclusively by Lauritzen Gardens staff

- Plant experts on-site to answer questions and provide suggestions

- Learn about area garden clubs and horticultural organizations and shop from their unique selection of

offerings

- Live music on the festival garden terrace from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CACTUS/SUCCULENTS

The River City Cactus and Succulent Society will host its annual show at Lauritzen Gardens, May 13 – 15 (the same weekend as the Gardens' Spring into Spring). Friday evening (4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.) is for Lauritzen Gardens members only, Saturday and Sunday the sale hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is open to the public with either a Lauritzen membership or entry fee. Sometimes you may find some orchids among the succulent selections – Oeceoclades and Eulophia species in particular.

UPCOMING AOS WEBINARS

Special Interest Webinars

Specially for our members:

Food, Sex & Alcohol: The Fascinating World of Orchid Pollination

When: Tuesday, May 31 at 8:30pm EDT

Join us for a fascinating glimpse into the world of orchid pollination with Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Education/Science Officer. Ever wonder why these flowers we are so passionate about look and smell the way they do? It's not by accident. Ron will examine how flower form and fragrances are influenced by the need to attract appropriate pollinators.

Register at <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/3176334435104154883>

North American Orchid Conservation - Open to everyone

When: Tuesday, June 21 at 8:30pm EDT

Join Past AOS President and Education Chair Sandra Svoboda as she talks about the endemic orchids of North American and the conservation efforts and organizations that exist to ensure that our North American native orchids survive

Register at <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/700915946744837891>

HOW DID YOUR CYPS GROW?

Apparently there has been little success with our Cypripediums from seedlings experiment the past few years – except for me that is. Last month I brought in a “window box planter” that I use as a compot for the Cypripedium seedlings. I brought in one of Cypripedium parviflorum var. makasin (a northern form of the small yellow lady's slipper) that were planted in May of 2014. What I didn't notice then was there was a flower bud on one of the plants. About a week later I noticed that there was something more than just another leaf and a couple of weeks later I was rewarded with a very nice blossom – 2 years from out-of-flask to a blooming plant! Of course that is one out of many, although I had similar success with some C. kentuckiense seedlings from 2010.

None of the C. reginae seedlings from 2014 survived, or for that matter even grew, but there some survivors from last year's (2015) C. parviflorum var. makasin seedlings. It appears that frequent watering (daily in the mix I am using) seems to help get the seedlings off to a good start. We won't have any experiment this year, although I will be getting more seedlings this spring.



American Orchid Society
Monthly Checklist for May and June

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

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