



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 greateromahaorchidsociety.org September 2011

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October Informer: October 3,
2011

Omaha Orchid Society Membership 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 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: All GOOS meetings are held at Monthly Meeting at the Douglas/Sarpy Cty Extension Office, 8015 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE unless otherwise indicated)

September 14, 2011
7:00 PM Plant sales
7:30 PM Program - Guest Speaker Sam Tsui Orchid Inn Ltd.
topic: Multifloral Paphiopedilums and culture
Refreshments: Julie Weston
Greeter: Marilyn Hawes

September 28, 2011
7:00 PM
Board Meeting, location TBD

October 12, 2011
7:00 PM New growers group
7:30 PM Program - Orchids of Mexico, - Dave Taylor
Refreshments: Sandy Rome & Elsie Snowdon
Greeter: **TBA**

EVENTS

September 17-18, 2011
Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S.Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI. Contact: Kusa Ann Haag, 1840 N. 23rd St., Sheboygan, WI 53081; (920) 980-6979; tthaag@charter.net.

September 23-25, 2011
Chicagoland Orchid Festival, Oak Hill Gardens, 37W550 Binnie Rd., West Dundee, IL. Contact: Greg Butler, 37W550 Binnie Rd., Dundee, IL 60118; (847) 428-8500; oakhillgardens@sprintmail.com.

October 8-9, 2011
Denver Orchid Society Show, Denver Botanic Garden, 1007 York St., Denver, CO. Contact: Janine Ballentine, 741 W. Mineral Ave. #2111, Littleton, CO 80120; (720) 879-8886; j9ballentine@gmail.com.

October 15-16, 2011
Illinois Orchid Society Show, Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL. Contact: Jeanne Becker, 901 Sunset Ct., Deerfield, IL 60015; (847) 945-8107; beckerjeanne@hotmail.com.

November 12-13, 2011
Michiana Orchid Society Show, Holy Cross College, 54515 State Road 933 N, Notre Dame, IN. Contact: Sandy Ohlund; 3888 East 600 North, Rolling Prairie, IN 46371; (219) 778-4457; sohlund@csinet.net.

SAM TSUI OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Our September meeting features a renown Paphiopedilum grower, Sam Tsui, owner of Orchid Inn in Bloomington, IL. For the uninitiated, Paphiopedilums (or Paphs for short) are tropical Asian lady's-slipper orchids. Sam's talk will be on multifloral Paphiopedilums and culture.

Sam began growing orchids in 1980 and became a serious paph grower in 1985. He began hybridizing paphs in 1990 and he has continued this work to the present day. The Orchid Inn began selling plants in 1995. Currently, he makes over 300 crosses, produces 4,000 to 5,000 flasks, or approximately 100,000 seedlings annually.

Hybridizing is Sam's passion. He selects only the best and most vigorous parent plants for breeding, and he continually improves his breeding stock. The quality of Sam's orchids can be seen in the awards that they have received. - approximately 181 awards as of April 30, 2011, from the American Orchid Society (including nine First Class Certificates (FCC/AOS)), Cymbidium Society of America, and the European Orchid Congress.

Sam will be bringing plants to sell and they will be for sale prior to the beginning of the meeting.

DINNER WITH SAM TSUI

We will be having dinner with Sam Tsui before the meeting at The Drover Inn, 2121 South 73rd St., Omaha at 5 p.m. Dinner will be ordered off the menu. If you would like to be included, please contact Jacque Lewzader, phone: 402-573-2217, email: jlwzader@msn.com, NLT, Monday, September 12.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

At the September's meeting there will be elections for the Society's officers. The nominating committee, comprised of Jacque Lewzader (chair), Sandy Rome, and Robert Mann, has identified the following nominees: President, Roberta Ginavan; Vice-President, Eric Stoiber, Treasurer, Sandy Rome, and Secretary, Jim Pyrzynski.

Alternate nominations may be made from the floor at the September meeting (the nominee must have agreed to serve). The vote will follow a call for nominations from the floor. The term of service is 2 years, from the September 2011 meeting until that meeting in 2013.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

The September meeting is considered to be the annual meeting according to the by-laws. The annual reports required by the by-laws are published in this issue of the newsletter (pages 4- 5).

CHICAGOLAND ORCHID FESTIVAL

There is still time to make plans to attend the 2011 Chicagoland Orchid Festival, September 23 – 25, 2011. Four Chicagoland orchid growers (Oak Hill Gardens, Windsong Orchids, Orchids by Hausermann, and Natt's Orchids) host the event with out of state and country growers attending also. For more information go to: <http://www.chicagolandorchidfestival.com/>

Evaporation and Raising the Humidity of Your Growing Area

The efficacy of humidity trays and hand misting of in-home orchid collections has been debated for years, and there has not been a great deal of actual testing to confirm or debunk the theories. Let's forget conjecture on misting and humidity trays, and think of it scientifically.

Let's say we have a 10' x 10' x 10' "room" (size selected for calculation purposes). At 74°F (also selected for math simplicity), that volume of air can hold one-half pound of water to give 50% RH. One-half pound of water is about a cup in volume. If the room was totally sealed off, it would be easy to keep the humidity up. Unfortunately, that room isn't totally sealed from the environment, as there are other rooms in our houses, no house is perfectly sealed, and our walls do "breathe" by design. That more-or-less infinite air mass around us and the laws of nature try to spread that cup of water uniformly over the universe, so we have to replenish the supply to keep up.

Replenishing the volume or mass of water in the air is dependent upon evaporation rate, which in turn is dependent upon the air and water temperatures, the current humidity level and the surface area of the water source. Look at it this (very simplistic) way: individual water molecules are energetic and naturally move around and "vibrate". As they do, they collide with other molecules, so their motion is blocked and they "hand off" some of their energy, while getting more from molecules that run into them. The density of the molecules in the air is lower than in the liquid, so at the surface, where there are fewer other molecules to run into, some of those water molecules will have enough energy to "break away" from the liquid and enter the air - as humidity. Unfortunately, that process is not exceptionally fast - place a cup of water on the counter and see how long it takes to totally evaporate. Also, as a water molecule "escapes" into the air, it takes its allotment of energy with it, reducing what's in the water, thereby cooling it and reducing the future evaporation rate.

If we heat the water, we give those molecules more energy, so the escape (or evaporation) rate increases. Hence the "warm air" humidifier. Our only other practical alternative to heating is increasing the surface area.

As this was composed, there was a cup of water on the desk. Its surface area was only about seven square inches, so we wouldn't expect much evaporation. If we pour that water in a standard nursery tray, we increase that surface area (where the molecules might jump out of the liquid) by almost 35 times to about 250 square inches. That seems like a great increase, but is it a significant one? Unfortunately, no. A tray of standing water still takes a long time to evaporate. The common practice of adding pebbles to the tray so they are kept wet by capillary action may increase the surface area by two- to three more times, but it's still relatively meaningless. So, to get a substantial surface area, let's atomize that cup of water.

Our cup of water is about 237 ml, or 237 cubic centimeters in volume. If we atomize that to 1 mm diameter spherical droplets (much larger than what atomizing humidifiers do in reality), we create over 4.5 billion droplets, having a surface area of almost 22 million square inches! Yeah...that ought to evaporate more quickly than a tray.

Hand misting may be better than putting water in a tray, but the volume has to be substantial, so would have to be done very frequently - doing so in the morning before going to work has only transient and relatively meaningless benefit. A room humidifier can put several gallons of water into the air in a day, so you can see that a few pumps from a hand-held quart mister really won't do much. It is also important that it be done into the air, not onto the plants, as all that does is wet the leaves, making a film with less surface area, and it improves the growing conditions for bacteria, molds, and fungi.

From www.firstrays.com/

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.

Cynoches

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 *Cynoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cynoches 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.

Rhynchostele bictoniensis

Both *Rhynchostele bictoniensis* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele bictoniensis*, 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.

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

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**Greater Omaha Orchid Society
President's Annual Report to the Society
September 6, 2011**

The 2010-2011 year has been a very busy and productive one for the Greater Omaha Orchid Society. The Society presented its 24th annual orchid show and sale at Lauritzen Gardens in March and participated in the Greater Orchid Society of Kansas City show in February. The Society also had educational booths at Mulhall's open house in October, the Omaha Lawn, Garden and Patio show in February and the Lauritzen Gardens "Spring into Spring" in May. After the Mulhall open house, two PowerPoint presentations were developed to show various types of orchids and were used in the two latter activities. In addition, society members donated past copies of the AOS Bulletin, which were available to attendees to educate them on orchids and orchid growing.

Programs for 2011 were in place prior to the January 2011 meeting and were available on the Society website. Between September 2010 and August 2011, society members Rita Miller, Jim Pyszynski, Marge From and Joe Lankton presented programs. Dave Taylor led the annual repotting session which was so popular that the May program was changed to accommodate requests for him to answer additional questions. Carol Behrens, Tyler Bolamperti and Marilyn Hawes presented a panel on specific orchid genera when a guest speaker was unable to come at the last minute. One program was a member participation activity in which a number of tasks relative to the annual show were completed. We were fortunate to have Gary Meyers, Hawk Hill Orchids/Colombian Orchid Imports, speak on Colombian orchids and John Stubbings, Clown Alley Orchids, speak on unusual relatives of cymbidiums. Again this year, our out-of-town speakers were obtained in conjunction with the Kansas City and St. Louis orchid societies with costs shared across societies. Plans are in place to share two speakers with the Denver and Salt Lake orchid societies in 2012. G.O.O.S. members served as greeters to be sure visitors and guests were welcomed. The annual picnic and auction and annual holiday party were well attended. Attendance at meetings has averaged about 28.

During the year, the GOOS library was examined. Lost books were found and a number of books donated to the society by the family of Sam DiMauro were added. All books were fitted with nameplates, check out and date due slips. More than 90 titles are currently available to members. Librarians were appointed, check-out procedures clarified and library information was posted on the society web site.

In 2010, the Internal Revenue Service required all not-for-profit organizations to complete a form in order to retain their not-for-profit status. In attempting to comply, we learned our federal tax number had never been activated. As a result of discussion with IRS, it was decided to pursue designation as a 501(c)(3) organization. In preparation, the society amended its articles of incorporation with the State of Nebraska, revised its by-laws and applied for a new tax number. Currently, officers are preparing documents required by the Internal Revenue Service which will be submitted for initial review before the end of 2011. We expect the process to be completed in 2012.

Jacque Lewzader, Eric Stoiber and Linda Schroeder were elected to the G.O.O.S. Board in September. They and the other members of the Board, Marilyn Hawes, Sandy Rome, Jim Pyszynski and Jack Thraen, have worked tirelessly this year to accomplish the tasks described in this year-end report. To them I am most grateful for their support, suggestions and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberts Ginavan

2010-2011 Treasurer's Report

Accounting started on October 2010. The actual balancing of the ledger, statements, and checkbook are correct to the best of my knowledge. The budget for 2010-11 was better than last year at coming closer to a realistic budget. The Ways and Means category was a little off due to the purchase of bark and books to increase our inventory, over time it all evens out. Book and Bark cost = \$441.59. Carryover to the next year items: cost of Picnic plants from Oak Hills Gardens and several months of newsletter costs. The item costs are not reflected in the Ending Balance and Net Income. The cost of a Computer and an increase of the Judging Center Donation was voted on and approved. There was an increase of liability insurance cost. Two new items were added this year to increase our income, Bletilla plants and calendars. There is a need for improvement to track raffle/donated and new member plants so it offsets the ways and means costs. This affects the income at the Lawn and Garden Show. The new fiscal year began on September 1, 2011.

Beginning Balance for the year:	\$13,343.71 at last audit 8-6-2010
Ending Balance:	\$12,504.62 for audit submission 8-31-2011
Net Income for the Year 2010:	\$839.09 negative
Gross total receipts:	\$6,269.50
Gross total Expenses:	\$7,142.78

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2010 - 2011 Treasurer's Report (cont.)

The largest income earners	Net Income
The Lauritzen Garden Show:	\$562.00
The Lawn and Garden Sale at the Qwest Center:	\$366.00
Spring Into Spring:	\$111.16
Annual Membership Picnic:	\$474.68
Meeting Raffles:	\$190.00
Ways and Means:	\$-8.60 negative
Membership Dues	\$972.50

Ways and Means is defined as items resold for income in multiple events, for example, bark and fertilizer and Bletillas.

Memberships: 77 Roster members

Certificates of Deposit: Total: \$6501.53 as of 9-6-11

Sandy Rome, Treasurer

ANNUAL SHOW REPORT

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society held its twenty-fourth annual orchid show and sale on March 26 – 27, 2011. The show was held at the Lauritzen Gardens, the location for the preceding four shows. Attendance at the show was 1,700 with 1,400 holding Garden memberships. Coupons for \$5.00 admission were used by 127 of the attendees, these were distributed by garden staff, volunteers, and GOOS members.

There were 11 exhibitors at the show, including exhibits by three orchid societies (Lincoln Orchid Society, Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City, and Greater Omaha Orchid Society). Tyler Bolamperti of GOOS also entered an exhibit. Vendors at the show were Bird's Botanicals (Blue Springs, MO), Michel Orchid Nursery (Mooresville, IN), Fantasy Orchids (Louisville, CO), Iowa Orchids (Des Moines, IA), Natt's Orchids (Naperville, IL), Orchid Inn, Ltd (Bloomington, IL), and The Plant House (Omaha, NE).

The AOS trophy was awarded to the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City. Tyler Bolamperti won the GOOS Best Exhibit Award. Dick Behrens won the President's Award and the GOOS Challenge Award for his spectacular Cymbidium Dorothy Stockstill "Forbidden Fruit." The Drs. Lorraine Leiser and Dave Taylor Award went to Jumella Arachnantha exhibited in the OSGKC display. The Dr. and Mrs. Miles F. Skultety Award went to Linda Schroeder for her exquisite Rhyncholaeliocattleya Memoria Grant Eichler. Joe Lankton won the Mel Bates with his Clowesetum Pink Lemonade. The Jim Pyrzynski Award went to Phragmipedium Inca Embers in the OSGKC exhibit. The GOOS Memorial Award went to a Dendrobium in the Fantasy Orchids exhibit. Beyond these special award were numerous first, second, and third place ribbons as well as rosettes and Best of Class trophies.

Awards received during the American Orchid Society judging session were as follows: Natt's Orchids Diplocaulobium ridleyanum 'Chloe Inboriboon' received a CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition). Max Thompson's Paphiopedilum Bel Royal 'Max & Bryon' received a CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit) of 86 points. Bryon Rinke's Rhinochilus Lava Burst 'Bryon' received an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) of 78 points. Orchid Inn's Paphiopedilum Johanna Burkhardt 'Red Glory' received an AM (Award of Merit) of 84 points. Dave Brightwell's (Iowa Orchids) Masdevallia Tortoise received an AM of 82 points. Max Thompson's Paphiopedilum Shun-Fa Golden 'Max' received an AM of 80 points. Sam Tsui's (Orchid Inn USA, Ltd.) Paphiopedilum (Sander's Pride X Adductum) 'Sam's Pride' received an AM of 83 points. Dave Bird's (Bird's Botanicals) Coelogyne (usitana X lawrenceana) 'Deanna Bird QF' received a HCC of 76 points. Joe and Karen Lankton's Paphiopedilum bellatulum 'Omaha' received an AM of 81 points.

The net show income (table fees minus expenses) was \$562.00. The show also generated \$286.00 (\$170.48 net (est.)) of Ways and Means income through the sales of barks, books, fertilizer, and pins. There were 11 new memberships added during the show; new members were given a free plant for joining – a Bletilla hybrid.

Next year's show is scheduled for March 24 -25, 2012 at the Lauritzen Gardens. The success of the 2011 show is a result of the efforts of all members who participated. Thank you.

Jim Pyrzynski, Show Chair

MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
August 10, 2011

The August meeting was the annual potluck and auction and was held at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office. Dinner began at 6:30 p.m. Vice-President Marilyn Hawes called the meeting to order briefly during the dinner. The minutes of the July meeting were approved. Marilyn called on the nominating committee (Jacque Lewzader, Linda Schroeder, and Robert Mann) to report on the nominees for Society officer positions in the September election. The nominees are as follows: Roberta Ginavan, president; Eric Stoiber, vice-president; Sandy Rome, treasurer; Jim Pyrzynski, secretary. The official meeting was adjourned, the dinner continued, followed by the auction.

Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
August 27, 2011

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board met at Denny's Restuarant at 7:00 PM. In attendance were: Roberta Ginavan, Sandy Rome, Marilyn Hawes, Linda Schroeder, Jacque Lewzader, Eric Stoiber, Jack Thraen, and Jim Pyrzynski.

Picnic/Auction review. The auction grossed \$879; the net income (after deducting purchased plants) was \$474.68. There was a consensus that the event could have been better attended. Suggestions included a different location (the auction had to be quickly terminated due to needing to leave the facility by 9 pm and other restrictions on the use of the facility), a different day and/or month (e.g., a weekend, stick with using the month of June, etc.) There were enough items. Suggestions were made that the bidding should have started at a higher amount, particularly for the purchased items (the average price for the Oak Hill purchased plants was \$10 but the bidding started at \$5).

September meeting. The dinner with guest speaker Sam Tsui was discussed. Jacque will work the issue further and members will be advised via email and the newsletter.

Other meeting programs. October, Dave Taylor will give the program. November's program will be on conservation. Jim advised that he will give the program. He will discuss the things done with native Nebraska orchids this year (some are yet to bloom), and then also add information concerning conservation of tropical orchids. Prior to the meeting, Roberta had received an article that appeared in Lankesteriana on conservation in Madagascar written in part by Melissa Whitman of UNL. There was some thought that maybe she could give a program in the future or perhaps Ann Antlfinger of UNO on Spiranthes. Jim suggested that the January or February meeting program should be on show judging so that clerks have a clearer understanding of the process before the show in March.

Donated plant credit. Linda had discussed how they dispose of old orchid plants with Bakers. This lead to a discussion on how credit would be given if plants were donated. Once the paperwork for 501(c)(3) is approved we would provide the donor with a letter for his/her tax records. Beyond that we could make mention in the newsletter, website, etc. The issue will be discussed further.

Annual reports. Roberta reminded the treasurer, Ways & Means Chair, and Show Chair, that annual reports are due to Jim by September 7 for inclusion in the newsletter.

Business Card. Eric is still working the business card he suggested at the previous meeting.

Insurance/warranties. There was a discussion on whether to extend the warranty on the computer. The consensus was – no. Insurance for the library books – some books are out of print and an internet search on Amazon, etc. shows that they carry a higher price tag than when they were new. Some books still remain to be evaluated before a recommendation can be made.

Show. Jim discussed the status of AOS show approval. Joe Lankton delivered the application paperwork to Craig Plahn, Mid-America Judging Center judging chair, in June but AOS apparently has not received it. Determining where the problem is has been difficult and the paperwork and check may have to be resubmitted.

Budget. Sandy went over a proposed budget. Show expenses were missing and the judges' luncheon should be considered a show expense and not included in hospitality.

AOS Calendars. If calendars are ordered again, members interested in having a calendar will be asked to pay for it in advance to preclude having unpaid for calendars.

Greeter. Marilyn will be the greeter for September.

Meeting adjourned.

Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary