



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 greateromahaorchidsociety.org December 2012

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Submission deadline for the
January Informer: December
31, 2012.

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:

December 12, 2012
Holiday Party!
Grisanti's, 10875 West
Dodge Road, Omaha, NE
6 PM -

December 26, 2012
6:45 PM Papillion Library
Board Meeting

January 9, 2013
Extension Office
8015 West Center Rd.
7:00 PM new growers group
7:30 PM Program: workshop
show preparations
Refreshments: Jacque
Lewzader

EVENTS

February 7 - 10, 2013
Spring 2013 Home and
Garden Show. Century
Link Center, Omaha.

February 8 - 10, 2013
Kansas City Orchid Show
The American Royal
Center, 1701 American
Royal Court, Kansas
City, MO Contact: Doug
Martin, 913-248-8669,
bethdoug@kc.rr.com

February 16 - 17, 2013
Batavia Orchid Society
Show, DuPage County Fair-
grounds, 2015 Manchester
Rd., Wheaton, IL. Contact:
Mike Rollinger, 815-
258-0872, mrollinger@
mindspring.com

February 23 - 24, 2013
Greater Lansing Orchid
Society Show, Michigan
State University Crop &
Soil Sciences Conservatory,
Contact: Pete Ostlund, 517-
449-5248

March 2 - 3, 2013
Greater Omaha Orchid
Society Annual Orchid
Show. Lauritzen Gardens,
100 Bancroft St., Omaha,
NE. Contact: Jim
Pyrzynski, 402-734-4112,
jpyrzynski@cox.net

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

It's Party Time! Rather
than a formal meeting we
have our annual holiday
party. Grisanti's at 10875
West Dodge Road (just
west of I-680) is the loca-
tion this year (see map pg.
6).

The meal selections in-
clude Eggplant Parmesan,
Lasagna, Grilled Chicken
Marsala, Prime Rib, and
Salmon Florentine. Prices
vary from \$13.99 to \$17.99.

We will still have our usual
"gift exchange" - it's an
exchange with a twist.

Contact Jacque Lewzader
if you want to attend NLT
Monday December 10,
her email address is jlew-
zader@ini-agworld.com,
phone: 402-573-2217.

If you won't be attending,
please have a safe and
happy holiday and see you
next year.

KEEP WARM WITH READING MATERIAL FROM THE LIBRARY

Busy with the holidays?
For sure, but looking
ahead, consider this: All
the library books, listed on
the GOOS website, will be
available for checkout in
January.

Did you get a gift orchid?
Is midwinter being unkind
to your plants? Are you
facing repotting? Looking
to introduce a new 'breed'

to you collection this spring? Going to Mexico this winter? What is that crawling/spotting/gnawing on your prize plant? Building a greenhouse? Many of the titles on the GOOS list are for beginners..great pix, clear directions, etc. Others cover very specific types or situations.

In your quiet moments, check the list and note the titles that you want to investigate. Let Ron know (ronfechner@yahoo.com 402 618 4268) and he can be sure the titles you want to see come to the January meeting where you can look at them in detail and/or check them out. Then you'll be ready for our repotting meeting, placing an order with a vendor or introducing that newcomer to your collection. Or maybe just looking at pix while you keep warm and wait for spring.

See you in Jan...

RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of year again – time to renew your membership. A form is on the last page of this newsletter. You may mail your check to the address on the form or bring it to the meeting. We have some great plans for 2013 and would certainly be grateful for your participation.

HOME & GARDEN SHOW HELP WANTED

The annual Home & Garden Show at the Century Link Center is February 7 – 10. The volunteer signup sheet was circulated at the November meeting and the support was great. However there are a few hours where we could use some support: Friday (February 8) evening 7 pm – 9 pm and Saturday 4 pm – 7

pm. If someone would like to volunteer for these time slots, please contact Jim Pyrzynski (jpyrzynski@cox.net, 402-734-4112). The paperwork for name cards and parking passes may have to be filed before the January meeting so an email request for volunteers may be sent out before then. Thanks for the support!

ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW MARCH 2 - 3

Our annual orchid show follows shortly after the Home and Garden Show. It's scheduled for March 2 – 3 at Lauritzen Gardens. An early Easter date and scheduling conflicts for AOS judges were the main factors in moving the date to early March this year. We will need volunteers in a number of areas for the show; the show hours are 10 am – 4 pm, Saturday and Sunday.

Setup will be Friday, March 1 and will entail some early setup of tables on Friday morning; the bulk of the setup will be Friday evening and will involve assisting vendors and exhibitors as well as setting up the GOOS display.

Early Saturday morning (6:30 am) is the time for judging and we will need clerks for that event. Clerking is a great way to learn more about what to look for when you buy that orchid for your collection.

Sunday after 4 pm help will be needed with the tear down and cleanup. This also involves assisting exhibitors with the packing up.

Throughout the event we will need help at the information table, selling orchid

supplies and books, giving advice about growing orchids to visitors, and signing up new members. Donations (food and/or monetary) will be need for the hospitality room too. The signup sheets will be circulated at the January and February meetings. Thanks for the help in advance.

FROM FIRST RAYS

Helping a Plant Recover from Root Rot

OK, we've all done it - root rot. Usually we let it happen by waiting too long to repot, letting a poor plant suffocate its roots in a dense, mucky mess. Of course, it's often our most valuable or favorite plant, so how do we get the plant to recover?

First, keep in mind that as a "natural creature", the plant has a survival mechanism, so it wants to recover. Then, with that in mind, consider that our job is give it the highest likelihood of doing so. The keys to recovery are high humidity, warm temperature, and subdued light. Consider the following scenario:

A plant with no roots has no way to take up water, but can lose water through leaf stomata and cell wall permeation. As the plant dries, it gets weaker and weaker, making it less likely to have the energy to recover. That drying rate is directly related to the relative humidity, so high humidity sustains the plant while it tries to grow new roots.

Plant growth rates are directly related to the temperature, and warmer

equals faster. You want the plants' metabolism to be faster, in hope that it will recover before the negative effects of desiccation kick in.

Low light levels seems counter-intuitive, as plants need light to create the sugars they "burn" to function, but doing so requires water as well, further depleting the plants' internal supplies. By keeping the plant in subdued light (not dark), you minimize that loss, again, extending the time that the plant can grow those new roots.

It may be difficult to maintain those conditions, so one thing to consider is the "Sphag-n-Bag" treatment to create a good, controlled environment. Another option - one that adds to the probability of survival, but is not a substitute for providing the conditions above - is the application of a rooting hormone. Brand is not critical, but freshness is (the hormones degrade with time, temperature and light exposure). We recommend K-L-N due to its lower cost for the volume received. The most effective treatment method for a root-free plant is a soak:

Fill a container with water at about 80°F (~27°C). Add about a teaspoon of hormone concentrate per gallon of water (~1.25 ml/L). Totally immerse the plant for about an hour. It is not necessary to repeat that, but you may begin adding the hormone to your irrigating solution (only a drop or two per gallon) once root growth has begun. Do not fertilize until the plant is established in its new pot and fresh medium.

<http://www.firstrays.com/>

MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
November 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office at 7:30 pm.

President Roberta Ginavan welcomed visitors and members to the meeting.

Minutes. Roberta advised that the date for the plants needed for the MAOC was incorrect. It should read October 25, 2012.

Treasurer's report. Treasurer Sandy Rome gave a report on the transactions and the amount of money in the treasury.

MAOC meeting. Roberta discussed the Fall 2012 Mid-America Orchid Congress held last month and future MAOC meetings.

Home and Garden Show. Jim discussed the 2013 Home and Garden Show at the Century Link Center. He had devised 2 different volunteer schedules – one for 2-hour shifts and another for 3-hour shifts. The longer shifts might result in fewer volunteers needed but it might deter volunteers from volunteering for two consecutive shifts (a total of six hours). The members opted for the 2-hour shift version. The signup sheet was circulated.

Holiday Party. Jacque Lewzader discussed the holiday party which will be held at Grisanti's on December 12.

Table skirts. Jim Pyrzynski proposed that the Society purchase table skirts to be used at the annual orchid show. We currently rent them at a cost of \$10 per skirt. Skirts are available for purchase, prices range from around \$13 - \$30. Based on the limited use they would have (one use per year) a medium quality should suffice, these would run about \$17. After some discussion, the decision was made to have Jim obtain a sample skirt for further review.

CD purchase. Sandy Rome proposed that the society purchase a long-term (60-month) Certificate of Deposit for \$10,000 rather than maintaining 3 shorter term CDs and a large amount in the checking account. There was some discussion about the purchase. Rich Kohut made the motion to purchase the CD, the motion was seconded and approved.

Refreshments were provided by Jacque Lewzader provided refreshments.

Raffle plants were provided by Norm Larson and Jim Pyrzynski.

Program. Guest speaker, Ann Antlfinger, gave a talk on *Spiranthes cernua*, a Nebraska native orchid.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
November 28, 2012

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, Ron Fechner, Linda Schroeder and Jim Pyrzynski.

Certificates of Deposit. Sandy advised that the CD purchase had been completed; the paperwork required signatures from some officers and they were obtained at the meeting.

Sale plants & Home & Garden Show. Ron Fechner advised that he had discussed the possible purchase of orchids from Trader Joe. The prices were \$6 for mini Phals and about \$13 for the standard size. They would need to be ordered the month before. A decision on amounts will be made at the December board meeting. Jim advised that the volunteer sheets for Friday and Saturday were essentially filled but more people were needed for Thursday and Sunday. There

was a discussion about ways to drum up interest in the Society's booth from the passing public. Jim suggested that we could have short demos on orchid care (pruning of spent flower stems, repotting, etc.). The demos would only run about 15 minutes and would only cover the basics. Saturday was considered the best day and possibly also Friday. A review of the members who volunteered for Saturday indicated that there should be a sufficient knowledge base. Eric reminded that more GOOS business cards should be generated for the event.

Holiday party. Twenty-one people have signed up. Jacque requested that Jim send an email message to the membership, reminding those who signed up about the dinner and requesting they advise her if they need to cancel. Also reminding any others who have not signed up that they could still attend. Vicki Shallow will not be able to attend so an alternate gift (a \$50 gift certificate from Bluebird Nursery) will be given in lieu of dinners for her and her husband.

Annual Orchid Show. Jim advised that he will be sending out invitations to the show in the coming weeks. The board agreed that there should be no change to the current vendor table fee (\$125 per table) this year. The new owner of Oak Hill Gardens expressed an interest in the show when he was at the OSGKC show in October and an invitation will be sent to them.

2103 programs. Programs for 2013 were discussed. The website needs to be updated to show the events for the new year. January's program is a work session to prepare for the Home & Garden show; February more preparations for the March show at Lauritzen Gardens. March's meeting (which immediately follows the annual show) is a repotting session. April is open – a possible speaker would be Nile Dusdieker of North Liberty, IA (a student judge at the Chicago Judging Center). May could be another speaker. June/July/August activities depend on which month is the picnic/auction. September is the annual meeting and the video "Black Orchid" would be shown then. October is open and November would be an in-house speaker. Dave Taylor should be contacted to see if he has any new programs.

Insurance. Society insurance was a topic of discussion at the MAOC affiliated societies breakfast. The GOOS insurance is for one event, the annual show and is more accident related than anything else. Some societies have had incidents which indicate other problems for which insurance may be required. The insurance coverage will be discussed at future board meetings (before the current policy is up for renewal). Other items for consideration in the coverage include: liability, fraud, medical, etc.

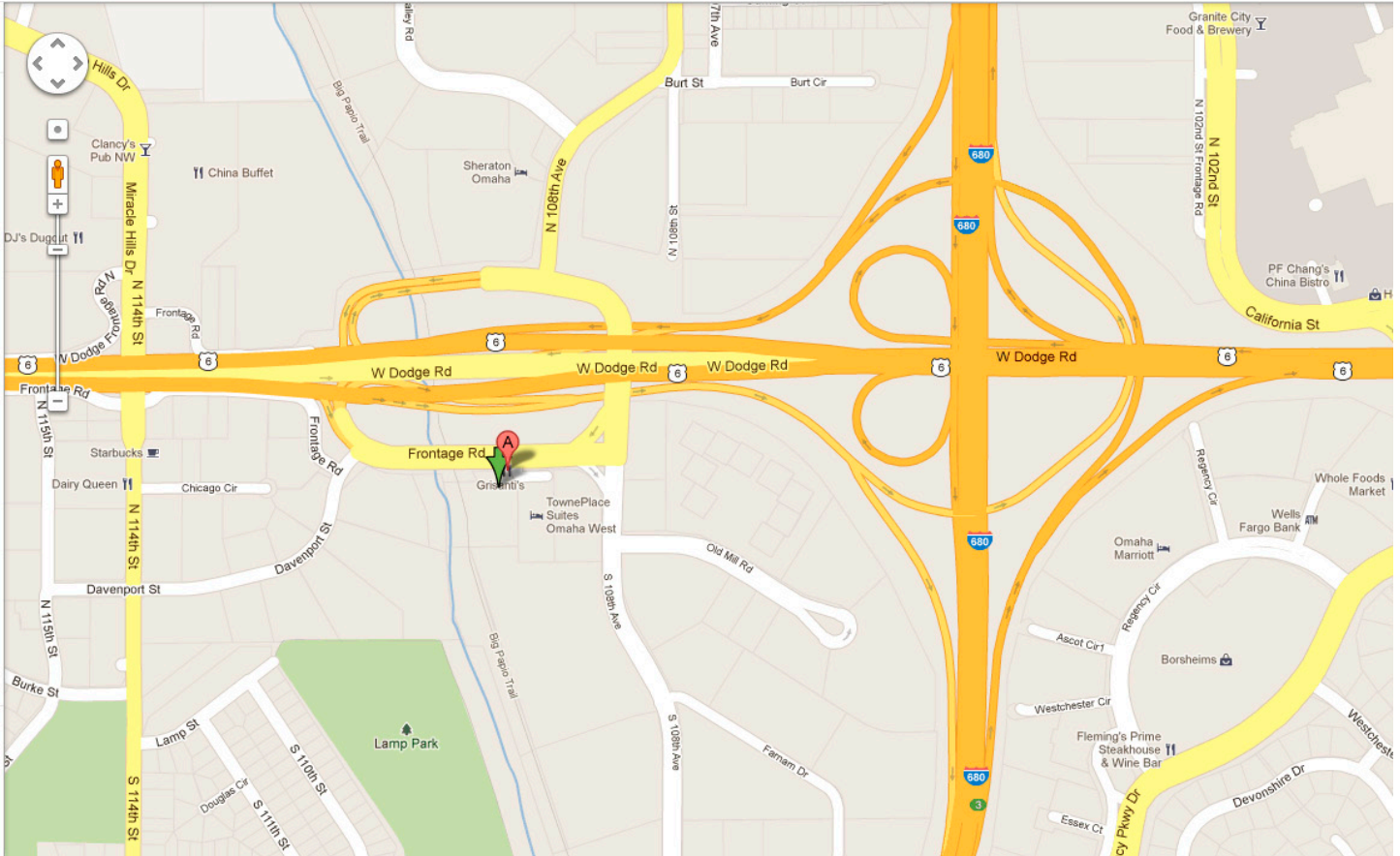
Extension Office Rep. Ron Fechner advised that he is also a Master Gardener representative for the Society. Vicki Shallow will be the primary and Ron will serve as an alternate.

Donations for facility use/etc. \$550 was budgeted for use of meeting facilities and related matters. In addition to the Extension Office for our monthly meetings (except picnic and holiday party), we also use the Papillion Library. The board agreed to partition the fund as follows: \$400 to the Extension Office, \$100 to the Papillion Library, \$50 for a gift to Vicki Shallow (Vicki is a not a GOOS member and volunteers her time to be with us at the meetings (Extension Office policy requires that either a Master Gardener or an Extension Office employee be on the premises when other organizations are using the facility).

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Grisanti's, 10875 West Dodge Road, Omaha



**GREATER OMAHA ORCHID SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (2013)**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

EMAIL _____

SINGLE DUES - \$15.00 FAMILY DUES - \$20.00 STUDENT (18 YRS AND UNDER) - \$5.00

Make check payable to the Greater Omaha Orchid Society, and mail to:
Greater Omaha Orchid Society, P. O. Box 241871, Omaha, NE 68124