



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

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

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Submission deadline for the  
**March** Informer: February 27,  
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.

## IN THIS ISSUE

This month's meeting

pg. 1

Time to renew

pg. 2

Home and Garden Show

pg. 2

25th annual orchid show

pg. 2

Members on the mend

pg. 2

Conservation corner

pg. 2

AOS monthly checklist

pg. 3

Monthly Reports

pgs. 5 - 6

Renewal form

pg. 6

## 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)

### **February 8, 2012**

7:00 PM New growers group

7:30 PM Program - Guest

Speaker, Joe Lankton -  
orchid show judging for  
clerks

Refreshments :Roberta  
Greeter: TBD

### **February 22, 2012**

7:00 PM

Board Meeting, location  
Papillion Library

### **March 14, 2012**

7:00 PM New growers group

7:30 PM Program - Show

preparation activities

Refreshments :Ron Fechner  
Greeter: TBD

## EVENTS

### **February 18-19, 2012**

Batavia Orchid Society Show,  
DuPage County Showgrounds  
2015 Manchester Rd.,  
Wheaton, IL. Contact: Mike  
Rollinger, 23625 Andrew Rd.,  
Plainfield, IL 60585; (815)  
254-2207.

### **March 10-11, 2012**

Illowa Orchid Society Show,  
Wallaces Garden Center, 2605  
Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf,  
IA. Contact: Suzanne Dennis,  
9 Chiron Ct., Colona, IL  
61241; (309) 441-6038;  
[micatt@mchsi.com](mailto:micatt@mchsi.com).

### **March 24-25, 2012**

Great Omaha Orchid Society  
Show, Lauritzen Gardens,  
100 Bancroft St., Omaha,  
NE. Contact: Jim Pyrzynski,  
2107 Alberta Ave., Bellevue,  
NE 68005; (402) 734-4112;  
[jpyrzynski@cox.net](mailto:jpyrzynski@cox.net).

### **March 30-Apr 1, 2012**

Fort Worth Orchid Society  
Show, Contact: Mary Butler,  
[Joma.butler@sbcglobal.com](mailto:Joma.butler@sbcglobal.com)

### **April 25-29, 2012**

Kansas Orchid Society Show  
& AOS Members Meeting,  
Hyatt Regency, Wichita, KS.  
Contact: Max C. Thompson,  
1729 E. 11th Ave., Winfield,  
KS 67156, (620) 221-1856,  
[maxt@cox.net](mailto:maxt@cox.net)

### **April 28-29, 2012**

Heart O'Texas Orchid Society  
Show, Zilker Botanical  
Gardens, 2220 Barton  
Springs Rd., Austin, TX.  
Contact: Geoffrey Frost, 1011  
Strickland Dr., Austin, TX  
78748-4847, (512) 413-3199,  
[geoffreyfrost@yahoo.com](mailto:geoffreyfrost@yahoo.com)

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

### **SHOW JUDGING JOE LANKTON**

Joe Lankton will be our  
guest speaker for the meet-  
ing. Joe was one of the  
founding members of the  
Greater Omaha Orchid So-  
ciety. He has won numer-  
ous awards for his orchids.  
And his interest in orchids  
was such that he chose to  
pursue becoming an orchid  
judge. This meant a number  
of years as a student judge,  
the attendance at a num-  
erous orchid shows and  
judging events. Joe is now  
the Judging Chairman for  
the Mid-America Orchid  
Judging Center in St. Louis  
(even though he lives here  
in Omaha and that means  
monthly drives to the judg-  
ing center – all for the love  
orchids).

Last month's newsletter  
had a lengthy article on the  
Show Schedule which is  
the document used to reg-  
ister plants for our shows  
and guide the ribbon judg-  
ing process. The role of  
the clerks that accompany  
the judging teams was dis-  
cussed and then there was  
a lot about the various  
classes. Joe will further dis-  
cuss the process, so listen  
and ask questions where  
you need to – AND THEN  
– SIGN UP TO CLERK AT  
OUR SHOW IN MARCH.

## PLANTS NEEDED FOR H & G SHOW

If you have some bloom-  
ing orchids that you can  
part with for awhile, please  
bring them to the February  
meeting. We need plants  
for our display at the Home

and Garden Show at the Century Link (formerly Qwest) Center. Please be sure to mark the plants so we know who owns them. Thanks

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### TIME TO RENEW

Remember – it's membership renewal time. Please use the renewal form at page 6 of this issue of the newsletter. Memberships become delinquent the day following the February meeting (February 9, 2012). To keep up-to-date on the latest in orchid news, please renew now.

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### TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW

The weather for the January meeting kept many at home and so the signup sheets for the various show functions are still quite empty. We'll be circulating the signup sheets for various areas we need help. To recap:

Morning Setup begins Friday (March 23) morning at Lauritzen Gardens and we need a few people to help with table set up. This will take a good portion of the morning to put tablecloth on the tables, skirt the tables and arrange them. Gloves might be useful to prevent splinters.

Evening Setup starts at 5:00 pm with the arrival of the exhibitors. We'll need helpers to help them into the Gardens and associated activities. There are plenty of opportunities to help out here.

Ribbon judging is early Saturday morning. At 6:30 AM there is a judging breakfast and a judging briefing. We need clerks to assist the judges with the judging. At the breakfast the judging chairman will set up teams of judges and

assign judges and clerks to the teams. The teams will be assigned various groups of orchids, exhibits, etc. to judge. There are 3 clerks for each team: the Head Clerk records the decisions of the judges in the judging books, the Ribbon Clerk maintains the ribbons and adds the required information on the ribbon and getting judges signatures on the ribbon, the Spotter assists in locating exhibits and plants, etc.

Information table. We will need people to staff the information table during the show hours both days – 10 AM – 4 PM. Shifts are 2 hours long, at least 2 people per shift. The information table will have bark, fertilizer, books, etc. for sale and most importantly - memberships.

Cleanup. At the end of the show it's cleanup time. Exhibitors need to be helped getting their material out of the Gardens, the tables need to be folded and stacked, and a general cleanup take place.

Hospitality. We will also need donations (money or food) for the hospitality room (we all liked to eat while we're having a show). Jacque Lewzader will have signup sheets for what is needed for our hospitality room.

So signup sheets for all these functions will be available at our February meeting and the other meetings that precede the show. Mark the show dates (March 23 – 25) on your calendar and figure out where you can help out.

Of course an orchid show is about plant displays, displays by vendors and displays by other exhibitors. The Society will have its

own display and we also encourage members to have their own display.

Society Display – don't forget the Society has a display and display means plants – YOUR plants. If you have a blooming orchid, bring it for the show (there are some caveats, it should be pest and disease free). You can enter it for judging and maybe win a ribbon or more. Between now and the show, look over your plants, see which are starting to produce bloom spikes and stake them and groom them for the show.

Your own display???

Yes individuals, or even groups of individuals, can put up their own display. Our own Tyler Bolamperti has done for the past few shows, and Marilyn Hawes has also put up a display. A display does not have to be large nor elaborate, 1 -5 plants might even do. A display does not even have to be plants (but it needs to be about orchids). It could be your orchid-related collectibles, etc. See Jim Pyrzynski about an exhibit application, they also will be available on the Society website in the near future. If this is your first exhibit, you qualify for the GOOS First Exhibit Award.

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### MEMBERS ON THE MEND

Carol Behrens, who broke her femur, late last year, continues to make slow but steady progress. She is receiving IV antibiotics for another couple of weeks and she has therapy daily. She has an IV antibiotic shortly after 1:30

pm so that might be a good time to call, the number for Carol is 402-717-6112.

Our hopes and prayers are with Carol for a good recovery.

Meanwhile, down in Lincoln, Mel Bates underwent triple bypass surgery. Mel is being cared for by his daughter. He is restricted from driving (and I suppose dancing too) for a while. He plans to work at the Home and Garden Show and will have some of his *Bletilla striata* for sale. Mel can be reached at 1-402-466-4458 (since this is a Lincoln number, you have to dial a "1" first if you're in the Omaha area). We wish Mel a speedy and good recovery too.

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### CONSERVATION CORNER

Orchid conservation remains a hot topic. There were a considerable number of comments about a scientific paper published by the Smithsonian on the role of fungi-filled forests for saving vulnerable plants including orchids. Here is are some comments from the paper's abstract:

"Roughly 10 percent of all plant species are orchids, making them the largest plant family on Earth. But habitat loss has rendered many threatened or endangered. This is partly due to their intimate relationship with the soil.

Orchids depend entirely on microscopic fungi in the early stages of their lives. Without the nutrients orchids obtain by digesting these host fungi, their seeds often will not germinate and baby orchids will not grow. While researchers have known

about the orchid--fungus relationship for years, very little is known about what the fungi need to survive.

Biologists based at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center launched the first study to find out what helps the fungi flourish and what that means for orchids..."

We'll cover more information on this study when it becomes available.

The February issue of AOS Orchids also has some conservation-related articles. In a very readable article by Lawrence Zettler, he discusses efforts to save one of Hawaii's endangered native orchids, *Peristylus* (formerly *Platanthera*) *holochila*. For those who don't know, Hawaii, despite its tropical nature has only three native orchids. However a number of other orchids have escaped and colonized the islands (the subject of another article in this issue). Marge From at the Zoo has done work similar to Zettler's with Madagascar orchids and our own native Western Prairie Fringed Orchid.

There is also an article by Peter Tobias, PhD, of the Orchid Conservation Coalition. He attended the 20th World Orchid Conference in Singapore where conservation was a topic (there are also some photos of displays from the conference). Some important remarks from his article:

"... the most efficient way to protect orchid species is through habitat preservation."

"... habitat preservation means identifying orchid-rich areas and protecting them as much as is possible ..."

"We may not even know all the orchids that in the habitat. New orchids are still being discovered in natural habitats, but very few, if any species are now being discovered in our greenhouses."

The January – March, 2012 issue of Orchid Digest has an article entitled "The Orchids of Crete and their Conservation." Crete is a Greek island that is botanically rich and a wide variety of habitats. There are about 67 different orchid species found on the island (more than three times the number found in Nebraska). Development pressures are placing some of the habitat at risk and efforts are underway to combat this. A non-profit, volunteer organization, Flowers of Crete, has been formed to raise awareness of the urgent need to conserve rare and endemic species.

On a more positive note, another brief article in Orchid Digest there is a report on the discovery of populations of two different Fringed Orchid species (*Platanthera*) in Georgia and the conservation efforts to continue their presence in these habitats.

There is another bit of news from the Native Orchid Conference, Inc. About 49 acres including a bog containing 7 species of orchids and some other rare plants and insects became a preserve of the North Branch Land Trust. The preserve is located in northeastern Pennsylvania. White-fringed and yellow-fringed orchids and colorful hybrids of the two plants grow in the bog. The hybrids have been found only in one other site, in Georgia (see above paragraph).

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## American Orchid Society Monthly Checklist for March and April

### **Cattleya**

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing. With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

### **Cymbidium**

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout



for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

### **Dendrobium (Australian)**

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

### **Lycaste**

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

### **Miltoniopsis**

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

### **Paphiopedilum**

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

### **Phalaenopsis**

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

### **Pleurothallids**

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

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

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## MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting  
January 11, 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.

The minutes of the November and December meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report. No report. Treasurer Sandy Rome reminded members that dues for 2012 were due.

Jim Pyrzynski circulated signup sheets for the Home and Garden Show at the Century Link Center.

Jim also circulated signup sheets for the annual orchid show and sale at Lauritzen Gardens on March 24 – 25, 2012.

T-shirts and sweatshirts with the GOOS logo were discussed but Jacque Lewzader who is the point of contact for this effort was away and could not attend the meeting.

Program. Greg and Nick Berna of Paradigm Gardens discussed artificial lighting for growing plants, starting with what was available in the past and progressing to the present. They also discussed other products they have available at their store.

Refreshments were provided by Julie Westman.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

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Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting  
January 25, 2012

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board met at the Papillion Public Library at 6:45 PM. In attendance were: Roberta Ginavan, Sandy Rome, Jacque Lewzader, Eric Stoiber, Linda Schroeder, Ron Fechner, and Jim Pyrzynski.

Home & Garden Show. Jim discussed the Home and Garden Show planning. The volunteer roster was essentially filled but the recent news about Mel Bates' operation raised some issues about whether he will be able to fill in as he indicated. Jim will contact Mel. Jim mentioned that he was awaiting the forms for the personnel and parking tickets from Mid-America Expositions, Inc. and had some concerns about how slow they were in getting the material out. He will call if he does not get the information by Monday's mail. He contacted Carmela Orchids today (they had just returned from Florida last night) and confirmed all the order/shipping requirements for the plants/ They should be here next week (week of January 30). Roberta reminded Jim to request plants for the display be brought to the February meeting.

Annual Orchid Show. Paradigm sent in their show application (there was no check).

Refreshments. Jacque reviewed the refreshment signup sheet that was circulated at the January meeting. There was no volunteer for February and one of the board members volunteered.

Benson Plant Rescue. Roberta distributed some cards, etc. from the group. They are involved in getting plants from area vendors that are languishing. Linda will discuss with them about our efforts to "rescue" languishing orchids.

Papillion Library Facilities. Roberta discussed the library facilities and their usage guidelines. Later Wanda Butts met with the board and showed a larger meeting room capable of holding 50 people which had a digital projector and computer. During the week the meeting would have to end by 8:45 pm. The availability of the room was discussed and using it would probably require a change in meeting times and dates. It was available on the fourth Wednesday

but that conflicted with the LOS meeting night. It was available on a couple of Sundays (1 pm – 4:45 pm) but that would impact sharing speakers with OSGKC and possibly others. Raffles and sales were not a problem. The issue will have to be discussed further with the membership. Future board meetings will be held at the library on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 6:45 pm.

Ways and Means. Jacque discussed the issue about purchasing sweatshirts with GOOS logos. She discussed what was available from the vendors, whether they were silkscreen or embroidery, fabric, etc. Sale to the public had been mentioned by a member but Jim suggested that there would be little motivation for a nonmember to purchase a clothing item with just our logo but perhaps they would be interested in something with an orchid on it.

Show Hospitality. Jacque discussed the hospitality room menu. A decision was made to have chicken for Sunday. There were minor changes to the menu elsewhere.

Tax matters. There was an extended discussion of the information required to support the application for 501(c)(3) status. Hours required to accomplish various tasks had been submitted by some board members but some had not. Additionally board members had submitted additional information about their experience, etc. There was a review of the by-laws and changes. One problem noted was the lack of dates on much of the material so determining when the by-laws became effective. Jim has added information to recent by-laws to state when the by-laws was approved by the membership and add additional information which version they superseded.

Business cards. Eric reported that the business cards were being made by Office Depot. They were supposed to be ready for the meeting but were delayed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

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**GREATER OMAHA ORCHID SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (2012)**

**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

