



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

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

OFFICERS

President:
Roberta Ginavan
(712) 487-3085
Vice President:
Eric Stoiber
(402) 206-4554
Secretary:
Jim Pyrzynski
(402) 734-4112
Treasurer:
Sandy Rome
(402) 714-1284
Board Members:
Jacque Lewzader
402-573-2217
Linda Schroeder
(402) 990-5501
Ron Fechner
(402) 618-4268
Past President:
Jack Thraen
(402) 571-7434

Newsletter Editor:
Jim Pyrzynski
Articles may be mailed to Jim at
2107 Alberta Ave., Bellevue, NE
68005 or emailed to:
jpyrzynski@cox.net
Submission deadline for the **July**
Informer: July 2, 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:

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012
**NOTE: DAY OF WEEK
CHANGE**
**LOCATION: DOUGLAS/
SARPY COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE**

7:00 PM speaker plant sales
7:30 PM Fred Clarke of
Sunset Valley Orchids.
Refreshments: Tyler
Bolamperti

June 20, 2012
6:45 PM, Papillion library
Board meeting

July 11, 2012
7:00 PM speaker plant sales
7:30 PM Guest speaker,
Doug Martin
Refreshments: TBA

EVENTS

July 29, 2012

Central Iowa Orchid Society
Speakers Day,
Scheduled Speakers:
John Stubbings (Clown Alley
Orchids) "Oncidium Inter-
generic Orchid Care" "Unusu-
al Relatives of Cymbidiums"
Francisco Miranda (Miranda
Orchids) "Orchids from the
Brazilian Amazon" "Brazilian
Cattleyas and Laelias"

September 21 -23, 2012

Twentieth Annual Chicogo-
land Orchid Festival.
8:00 am – 5:00pm Friday and
Saturday, 10:00 am – 3:00
pm Sunday. Natt's Orchids,
Hausermann Orchids and
visiting vendors.

October 6 – 7, 2012

Denver Orchid Society Fall
Show and Sale.
Denver Botanic Gardens, 909
York St, Denver CO 80206.
Contact; Shirlee McDaniels,
303-905-7014, shirlee.
mcdaniel@comcast.net

October 13 - 14, 2012

Illinois Orchid Society Show
Chicago Botanic Gardens,
1000 Lake Cook Road,
Glencoe, IL Contact: Rose
Matchen, 38374 N. 9th St.,
Spring Grove, IL 60081, 847-
587-6525, goldrose@att.net

October 26 – 28, 2012

Haunting Beauty, the Kansas
City Orchid Expo and the Fall
2012 meeting of the Mid-
America Orchid Congress
at the Hilton Garden Inn in
Independence, MO. See story
pg. 2

GUEST SPEAKER FRED CLARKE MONDAY JUNE 11

**REMINDER: THE
JUNE MEETING IS ON
MONDAY, JUNE 11 AT
THE EXTENSION OF-
FICE.** Fred Clarke will
be the guest speaker for
the meeting. The topic of
his talk is the genus Cata-
setum.

Fred Clarke started Sunset
Valley Orchids in 1995 as
a natural outgrowth of a
hobby that began 25 years
earlier. Sunset Valley Or-
chids is a "Boutique" style
nursery which is dedi-
cated to providing excel-
lent customer service and
breeding superior orchid
hybrids for the orchid en-
thusiast. Backed by over
26 years of experience in
the horticultural industry
as a professional grower
and manager, Fred applies
these skills to produce well
grown and healthy orchid
plants.

Sunset Valley Orchids is
located in Vista, California
about 35 miles north of San
Diego and 50 miles south
of Los Angeles. The nurs-
ery has grown considerably
over the last few years and
they are now exceeding
30,000 sq. ft. of green-
houses space.

Sunset Valley Orchids
breeds award quality or-
chids. Their efforts are
focused in the development
of new and interesting

lines. They provide unique hybrids and species in several genera including; Cattleya, Catasetinae, Paphiopedilum, Australian Native Dendrobium, and a few others in limited numbers like Sarcochilus, Zygopetalum and Stanhopea.

Fred is a popular speaker on many orchid subjects and travels extensively around the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Latin and South America. He is also an accredited American Orchid Society Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. Orchids from Sunset Valley Orchid have received hundreds of AOS awards, including 8 that have received the highest honor, the 'First Class Certificate'. He is probably best known for his Fred-clarkeara hybrids which are crosses between the orchid genera Catasetum, Clowesia and Mormodes. Of special note are his "black" orchids.

CIOS SPEAKERS DAY JULY 29

Remember, Central Iowa Orchid Society's annual speakers day is less than two months away. It's on July 29 at Camp Dodge, Johnston, IA (just north of Des Moines). Since this is a military facility you will need your photo ID for entrance. Cost is \$25 if you pre-register (see form on page 6 of this newsletter) or \$30 at the door.

The event starts with a continental breakfast which is followed by the first two talks. Then there is a break for lunch. The afternoon has 2 more talks separated by dessert (yum) and then there are drawings for prizes. Plant sales occur throughout the day.

Speakers are John Stubbings of Clown Alley Orchids who will talk about "Oncidium Intergeneric Orchid Care and "Relatives of Cymbidiums." Francisco Miranda is the owner of Miranda Orchids and he will talk on "Orchids

from the Brazilian Amazon" and "Brazilian Cattleyas and Laelias."

For more info go to <http://c-we.com/cios/ciosspk.htm>

KANSAS CITY HOSTS FALL MAOC

Start making plans now for the October 26 – 28. The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City will host "Haunting Beauty, the Kansas City Orchid Expo and the Fall 2012 meeting of the Mid-America Orchid Congress at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, MO. The Greater Omaha Orchid Society will have a display at the event. Will it "haunting" enough? Maybe, if you have some good ideas.

The keynote speaker for the meeting is Dr. Ed de Vogel, who along with his colleague Dr. Andre Schuiteman, reviewed and revamped the taxonomy of the orchids of New Guinea with the result being published in a series of compact discs, *Orchids of New Guinea*. Dr. de Vogel will lead off the programs for the MAOC fall meeting with a program on Saturday about *Bulbophyllums*, the largest orchid genus in New Guinea. On Sunday he will discuss the second largest genus of orchids in New Guinea, *Dendrobiums*. Copies of his CDs *The Orchids of New Guinea* will be available for purchase.

Dr. Mary Gerritsen coauthored with Ron Parsons of the book: *Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World*. Her topic for Saturday is "Masdevallias, Selected species and How to Grow Them." She is in the process of completing another book, *Miniature Orchid Species*, also coauthored with Ron Parsons. It should be published late this year.

Tom Miranda is the third speaker for the fall meeting. He is the orchid collection specialist for the

Smithsonian Institution and a regular columnist for *Orchids* (the magazine of the American Orchid Society). He will be the speaker for the Saturday evening banquet his talk is: "Orchid Travels in Costa Rica."

More information, including the registration form and a link to reserve hotel rooms at the show rate of \$95 plus tax per night, will appear soon at www.kcorchidshow.org as well as on the MAOC website, www.midamericanorchids.org

AUTHORS WANTED ENTER TO WIN

Write an essay on "Why Is My Favorite Orchid Genus" – you fill in the blank -- and win up to \$100.00! If you prefer to write about your favorite orchid or species within a genus, that will be fine, too. The essay should be no more than 500 words in length and submitted no later than October 1st to Doris Asher, Chair, Mid-America Communications Committee (asherdoris@juno.com) – winners will be announced at the Congress' Sunday Business Meeting in Independence, MO, October 28, 2012.

You do not need to be present to win. First prize wins \$100.00; second, \$50; third, \$25. All three prize-winning essays will appear in future issues of *The Mid-American*, the newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Four Greater Omaha Orchid Society members met at Fontenelle Forest on May 5, 2012 to search for one of the elusive orchids of the region, the Showy Orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*): Dick Beh-

rens, Tim Janssen, Eric Stoiber, and Jim Pyrzyński. One area in the forest is known to have a colony, although the species may be found elsewhere in Fontenelle Forest and Neale Woods.

The species is at the western limit of its range here in eastern Nebraska and its numbers seem to be declining. During last year's survey several plants were found. But a few days later, one of the plants was apparently eaten by a deer or other herbivore and all the above ground growth was gone. In a year with "normal" spring weather the orchid can be found in full bloom in our area during the first half of May. But spring 2012 was hardly normal and the plants we found were at least a week out of bloom.

A total of ten plants were found, some were actually clumps which had multiple growths. Whether they were a single plant or a number of plants growing together, could only be determined by digging the plant up and examining the fleshy root system, something that was not going to happen. The plant which had been eaten last year was alive but one small plant found along the log last year was not found.

Another survey is planned for late this summer. The Three-Bird Orchid (*Triphora trianthophora*) blooms in this area in August. It is only known in the Omaha area from one location in Fontenelle Forest. It has also been reported from locations in the southeastern corner of the state. It has small blooms that last for about ½ day, so seeing it in bloom will not be easy. But the plan is to see if any other colonies of the plant can be found in Fontenelle Forest and other locations in the Omaha area.

Catasetum

kat-ah-SEE-tum

This unusual group of orchids offers fascinating, waxy flowers that often have the peculiar habit of discharging their pollen masses (pollinia) onto pollinators. Almost always deciduous, the pseudobulbous plants have strict growing and resting periods. Most flower before entering a dormant period when they drop their leaves.

LIGHT should be strong, especially near the end of the growth period. Early in the annual growth cycle, plants will tolerate less light, from 1,500 to 3,000 foot-candles. Plants grow best with light levels of 3,000 to 6,000 foot-candles, or one-half to three-fourths full sun. As pseudobulbs mature, harden them by giving slightly more light.

TEMPERATURES reflect the fact these orchids are native to hot tropical areas and grow during the rainy summer months. During this growing period, day temperatures of 80 to 100 F and night temperatures of 60 to 65 F are beneficial. After growths mature, temperatures can be reduced to 55 F at night, with day temperatures of 70 to 85 F.

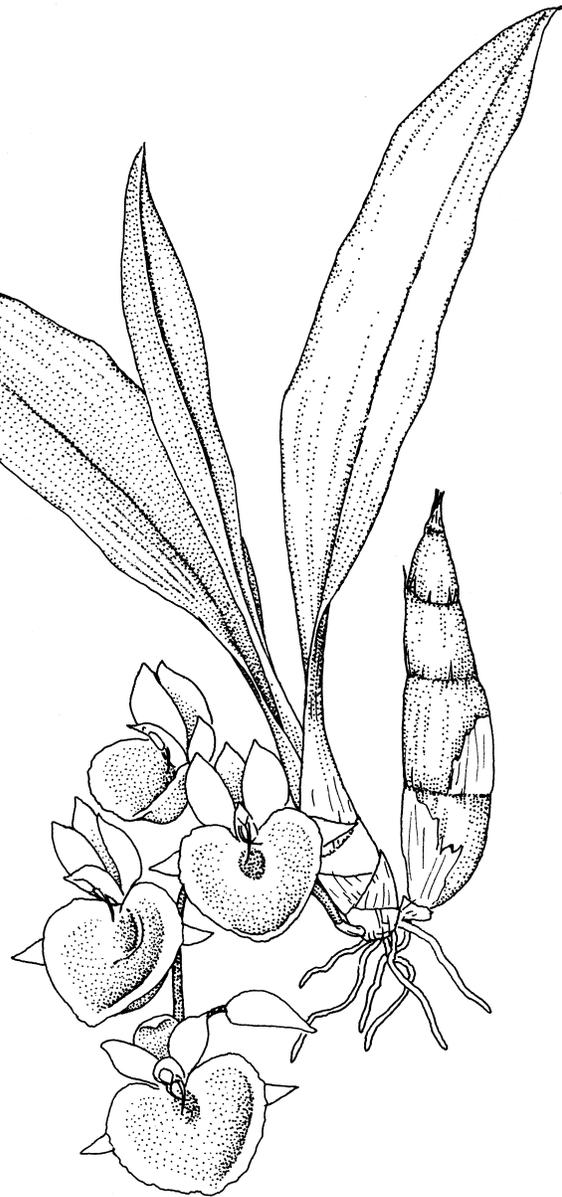
WATER is a critical factor for the production of large pseudobulbs that result in best flowering. A great quantity of water must be stored by the plant in a relatively short growing season. Water heavily as new leaves are forming. As the pseudobulb matures, gradually reduce watering frequency. Leaves will yellow and drop. At this time, watering should be stopped completely until new growth begins. Water during this dormant period only if the pseudobulbs shrivel severely.

HUMIDITY should be 40 to 60 percent. This can be provided in the home by placing the plants on trays of gravel, only partially filled with water so that the plants do not sit in the water. Air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity or cool temperatures exist. In the greenhouse, the humidity is best increased

by use of a humidifier. Evaporative cooling increases humidity while cooling the air.

FERTILIZE and water regularly to produce strong pseudobulbs. Use a high-nitrogen formulation (such as 30-10-10) while plants are in active growth, slowly tapering off as pseudobulbs form. A blossom-booster formulation (such as 10-30-20) should be used in the autumn, except for plants that normally bloom in the spring. Frequent applications of a dilute concentration of fertilizer are more effective than occasional applications of strong concentrations.

POTTING should be timed to coincide with the initiation of new growth, usually in the spring. New roots will be produced quickly at that time, and plants will experience minimal setback. These plants have vigorous root systems and require a rich, moist potting medium during the growing season. Many growers bare-root their plants during the resting period to ensure dryness at that time. Fine-grade media are common for smaller pots; medium-grade media are used only in larger pots. Sphagnum moss is used successfully for plants in many areas, as it provides tremendous water- and fertilizer-holding capacities. Some plants can be grown on slabs of tree fern or other material, which makes it easier to keep them dry during dormancy; however, it is harder to keep them moist while growing. When well grown, these orchids can be divided down to one mature pseudobulb and will then flower on the next mature growth. Spider mites are a common pest of these orchids



when in leaf. Control spider mites by keeping humidity high or spraying with recommended miticides.

The American Orchid Society is the world's leading provider of information about and related to orchids. We invite you to join us and learn about the world's most fascinating flowers and plants. Your membership entitles you to our monthly award-winning magazine *Orchids*, a free copy of our cultural guide *Your First Orchid* and the *AOS Orchid Source Directory*, a 10 percent discount on items purchased through The AOS BookShop and Orchid Emporium, and free admission to the International Orchid Center in Delray Beach, Florida.

American Orchid Society
16700 AOS Lane
Delray Beach, Florida 33446-4351
Tel 561-404-2000 Fax 561-404-2100
E-mail TheAOS@aos.org
Web site orchidweb.org

American Orchid Society
Collector's Item: *Catasetum pileatum* Rchb.f.
Pronunciation: Kat-ah-SEE-tum pee-lee-AH-tum (or pih-lee-AY-tum)

This spectacular *Catasetum* is widespread from the island of Trinidad, throughout the basins of the Negro and Orinoco Rivers in Brazil and Venezuela and into Colombia and Ecuador. The first plants introduced into England were collected in Venezuela and introduced into cultivation by Linden. The species was described by H. G. Reichenbach in 1882 in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. Until 1921 this species was Venezuela's national flower. The Latin name refers to the adjective *pileatus* or "with a cap", in apparent reference to the hood over the broad lip formed by the carriage of the dorsal sepal and petals.



Ctsm. pileatum 'Riopelle', CCM/AOS
Grower: James Riopelle Portland, OR



Ctsm. pileatum 'Imperial'
AM/AOS
Grower: Martin J. Nathan, MD,
Los Angeles, CA

Ctsm. pileatum 'Kay Rinaman'
CBM/AOS
A rare yellow form
Grower: James Riopelle
Portland, OR



Catasetum pileatum is an impressive plant even out of flower. The fusiform (spindle-shaped) pseudobulbs grow about 16cm (about 6 inches) tall and the large leaves can reach 40cm (about 16 inches long) making typical plants nearly 60cm (2 feet) tall. Robust clones can be even bigger. *Catasetums* normally produce flowers of a single sex. The plants themselves are not constrained to one sex or the other as are some plants but any given inflorescence will usually carry flowers that are either male or female with male flowers more prevalent. Male inflorescences can reach 30cm (12 inches) long and carry up to 12 flowers reaching about 13cm (about 5 inches) across. Female inflorescences are typically shorter, fewer-flowered and the fleshy flowers are fewer in number. In some species in the *Catasetum* Alliance, the differences between male and female flowers are so striking that early taxonomists mistook female forms for different species. Inflorescences in this species are produced from near the base of the maturing pseudobulb typically in late summer or fall although plants are capable of flowering about any time. Mature pseudobulbs on well-grown plants may produce several inflorescences at once or spread out over a fairly long period of time.

Male *Catasetum* flowers have a specialized trigger mechanism clearly visible in the center of this flower. *Catasetums* belong to a group of orchids pollinated by male Euglossine bees (sometimes called "orchid bees"). These bees are attracted to the powerful fragrances produced by these flowers and will swarm in large numbers. When a visiting bee accidentally trips the trigger, the pollinia are forcefully ejected from the anther cap and adhere to the bee's body. The tension in these triggers is substantial and pollinia can be thrown several inches (reportedly up to 6 feet if no obstacles are encountered) from the plant and at a speed measured in excess of 10 ft/second. The force involved in the impact appears to serve two purposes; first to cause the sticky pad to adhere firmly to the insect and second to get the insect to go to another flower.

Catasetum pileatum is a lowland species where it occurs as an epiphyte. The species is adapted to hot, humid rainforest with only a short dry winter season and this is one species that may not go completely dormant for any period of time. Temperatures range from a maximum of 30C (86F) to a minimum of 15C (59F) and humidity is high at night even in the dry season. While actively growing, plants should be given as much water, warmth and humidity they will tolerate without damage to the foliage and ample fertilizer. These plants are heavy feeders and the goal is to produce the largest pseudobulbs as possible by the onset of late summer. After flowering and when leaves fall, the plants should be kept dry with high humidity and warm temperatures until the newly developing growths have roots about an inch long. With *Ctism. pileatum*, this time interval can be quite short and successful growers provide a winter rest only if the plant's appearance indicates a need for dormancy. Plants are best grown potted. Some successful growers use straight sphagnum moss in clay pots top-dressed with time-release fertilizer (in low-humidity climates plastic pots will retain moisture longer). Others recommend bark or tree-fern based potting mix. Regardless of the mix chosen, it must hold adequate moisture, drain rapidly so excess moisture isn't a problem and aerate the roots.

Ron McHatton, August 2009

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MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
April 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order at the Papillion Sump Memorial Library at 7:30 pm.

President Roberta Ginavan welcomed visitors and members to the meeting. She stated that holding the meeting at the Papillion Library was a test of the facility for possible future meetings. She noted that the Red Cross had use of the room we were using until 7 PM but that they might relinquish it earlier. The small room across the hall (which has a capacity limit of 8) could be used for the new growers group. The meeting must be completed by 8:45 PM; the library closes at 9 PM. There are other possibilities – a different day or time could eliminate the conflict with the Red Cross, the wall separating the adjacent room could be removed on some days adding to the space available, etc. However changing the date/day could put at risk our ability to coordinate with other societies on speakers, etc. Any permanent change in location and day/time would have to be approved by the membership in accordance with the By-laws. Attendees were provided with survey forms to complete.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report. No report, the treasurer was unable to attend.

June meeting and guest speaker. Roberta discussed the June meeting. The June meeting will be at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office and will be held on Monday, June 11. There will be a guest speaker, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. Members are encouraged to pre-order plants for the meeting, the deadline for pre-ordering is June 5. Roberta mentioned that there may be a dinner with Fred Clarke prior to the meeting and, if so, members will be advised via email so that they can make plans to attend if they wish.

Roberta discussed the August picnic/auction. It will be held at Jacque Lewzader's home. Roberta stated that the auction is our largest fund raiser for the organization and the funds enable us to bring in guest speakers.

Roberta also discussed the fall Mid-America Orchid Congress meeting. It will be held in Kansas City (and hosted by the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City). GOOS will have a display. Members are encouraged to attend the event which will feature a number of guest speakers.

Roberta advised that the Society's 501(c)(3) application had been submitted to the IRS. A copy of the submission was available for review.

Eric Stoiber and Jim Pyrzynski gave the program on breaking down community pots (compots) for potting into individual pots. Three types of orchids were available for attendees to repot and take with them. The orchids were donated.

Refreshments were provided by Art and Vicki Sorensen.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
May 23, 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, Linda Schroeder, and Jim Pyrzynski.

Roberta began the meeting by opening an envelope from the IRS. It was an acknowledgement of the receipt of our 501(c)(3) submission.

June meeting. Roberta discussed the preparations for the June meeting with Fred Clarke as guest speaker. Jim will contact Vicki Shallow on the day of the meeting to ensure she will be there for the meeting (she is our Master Gardener for our access to the Extension Office). Roberta also discussed the difficulties she encountered in coordinating with the Extension Office. A dinner with Fred Clarke was discussed. Jacque recommended The Farmhouse. She will make arrangements. Dinner will be at 5 PM.

Papillion Library meeting comments. The comments from the attendees were discussed. Eleven attendees responded negatively about the library; 11 responded favorably about the library; and 8 were undecided. Some of the concerns about the library were the space available, and the fact that we had to evacuate the room by 8:45. A day/date change for the meeting could change the situation by making the adjoining room available as an addition and also could allow for more time before library closing time. Members will have to be polled on what the possibilities are for a meeting time and day.

Conflict of Interest. Roberta proposed By-laws change to add a section on Conflict of Interest was discussed. Jim stated that the proposed change was too wordy and unnecessarily complicated. Roberta stated she used an example from Hurwitt and Associates as the starting off point and worked in what was specific to the Society. Gifting, which was not in the example, would have to be included. Board members were requested to rework the draft and bring their recommendations to the next board meeting.

Spring into Spring. The results of our booth at Spring into Spring were discussed. The Society made around \$133 gross from the event. The consensus was that our participation was worthwhile. We were able to interface with a number of attendees for the event and we supported the Gardens in having a successful event.

Miscellaneous. Eric questioned about what to do with the "rescued" plants that he had (the plants were given to the Society by Tim Janssen and were from stores who had orchids that did not sell and were about to be discarded). The recommendation was that they be brought to the auction if they are in good shape, or possibly put on the raffle table. Jim advised that the left over plants from the Home and Garden Show were not in good shape. He repotted the six Phalaenopsis plants and found that the roots were in poor condition and the Dendrobium need to be repotted but had a new growth. The auction was discussed. The Society will purchase \$250 - \$300 worth of plants from David Bird. Eric advised that we should make sure we have a good variety of plants for the auction and not a lot of the same thing.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

**Central Iowa Orchid Society
Speaker's Day, July 29th, 2012
Registration Form**

To help us plan for Speaker's Day, we encourage you to fill out this registration form and return it to: Central Iowa Orchid Society, c/o Shelley Lambert, 1191 235th St., Boone, IA 50036. We would like these returned by July 14, 2012 if possible.

Please make checks payable to the Central Iowa Orchid Society.

\$25.00 per person (\$30.00 at the door).

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZipCode _____

Number of people attending _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Interested in attending a Saturday evening Reception with our speakers and CIOS members _____