



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 [greateromahaorchidsociety.org](http://greateromahaorchidsociety.org) October 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](mailto:jpyrzynski@cox.net)  
Submission deadline for the  
**November** Informer: October  
29, 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:

**October 10, 2012**  
**Extension Office**  
**8015 West Center Rd.**  
7:00 PM new growers group  
7:30 PM Guest speaker,  
Howard Gunn, topic:  
Bulbophyllums  
Refreshments: Elsie & Sandy  
Rome

**October 24, 2012**  
**6:45 PM, Papillion Library**  
Board meeting

**November 14, 2012**  
**Extension Office**  
**8015 West Center Rd.**  
7:00 PM new growers group  
7:30 PM Guest speaker,  
Ann Antlfinger, topic: Orchid  
population restoration  
Refreshments: Jacque  
Lewzader

## EVENTS

### **October 6 – 7, 2012**

Eastern Iowa Orchid  
Society First Annual  
Show and Sale. Floral  
Careers Building and  
Greenhouse, Kirkwood  
Community College, 6301  
Kirkwood Blvd. SW. Cedar  
Rapids Iowa. Contact:  
[niledusdieker@gmail.com](mailto:niledusdieker@gmail.com)

### **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](mailto: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,  
[goldrosej@att.net](mailto:goldrosej@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.

### **November 3 – 4, 2012**

Kansas Orchid Society  
Fall Show. Botanica The  
Wichita Gardens, 701 N.  
Amidon St., Wichita, KS.  
Contact: Sarah Pratt, 316-  
772-5194, [svcsjp@pixiv.net](mailto:svcsjp@pixiv.net)

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING GUEST SPEAKER HOWARD GUNN

Bulbophyllums are the  
subject for the October  
meeting. Don't know what  
they are?? Well we have an  
outstanding guest speak-  
er to discuss these weird  
and wonderful orchids –  
Howard Gunn. Howard  
considers himself to be a  
“hobbyist grower” but his  
hobby is his passion. He  
lives in Sacramento, CA  
and he has traveled around  
the globe studying orchids  
and giving talks. Howard  
has 2 greenhouses, a 24' X  
28' intermediate tempera-  
ture house and a 9' X 20'  
warm temperature house.  
His collection numbers  
about 1900 orchids, includ-  
ing over 1500 different  
species. About 365 of the  
orchids are Bulbophyl-  
lums and there are about  
500 Paphiopedilums and  
Phragmipediums. Miscel-  
laneous types of orchids  
make up the remainder of  
the plants.

Howard has traveled to  
Mexico, Ecuador, and Aus-  
tralia (where he went on  
14 bushwalks) in search  
of orchids. He has just re-  
turned from a trip to South  
Africa where he gave a  
talk to the Cape Orchid  
Society. His plants have  
won many awards from the  
AOS, including 6 CCMs, 2  
CBRs, 3 CHMs, 2 CCEs,  
and 4 AMs. In addition to  
speaking about Bulbophyl-  
lums, he has also given

programs on Miniature Species, Growing Specimen Plants, Phragmipediums, Paphiopedilums, Dendrobiums, Leafless and other Weird Orchids, and Stanhopeas.

Howard will have some plants from his collection for sale at the meeting. There is some cultural information on Bulbophyllums in pages 4 – 5 of this issue of the newsletter.

Howard's visit was made possible, in part, by Eric Stoiber. Thank you Eric.

#### RAFFLE TABLE

If you have any excess plants, please consider bringing them for the raffle table. Thanks.

#### FALL MAOC ONLY WEEKS AWAY

The Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress meeting is only weeks away – October 26 – 28. The meeting is being hosted by the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, MO. The preview party is Friday evening but the day is set aside for setting up the displays. We will need plants for the displays. Plans for picking up member plants for the display will be discussed at this Wednesday's meeting.

But time is of the essence if you plan to attend. The Registration fee for the event will increase after October 12 – see the registration form at page 7 of this newsletter. Full registration gets you in to the preview party, speakers on both days. Tom Miranda will speak at the banquet (if you attended the September meeting you enjoyed his talk on the Taiwan orchid show) you can hear his talk

on orchids in Costa Rica. And there are tours of Bird's Botanicals (Dave Bird who attends our shows) orchid cave. So get your application in now.

In addition to Tom Miranda there two other great speakers. Ed De Vogel, Ph.D. will give two talks. On Saturday he will speak about the Bulbophyllums of New Guinea and on Sunday the topic of his talk will be the Dendrobiums of New Guinea. In 1996, Ed initiated with colleague Andre Schuiteman an effort to compile an illustrated database of the orchids of New Guinea. Known as the New Guinea Orchid Project, it produced six CD-ROMs, providing a comprehensive synopsis of all 2716 species and 63 subspecies of orchids occurring in New Guinea. The CDs will be available at the MAOC meeting.

Mary Gerritsen, Ph.D. will give a talk on Select Masdevallia Species and How to Grow Them on Saturday. She is a co-author (with Ron Parsons) of the book Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World, documenting one of the most brilliantly colored genera or miniature orchids. Her initial purchases of just a few plants has burgeoned into a collection of about two thousand plants, mostly species, rich in Masdevallias and other miniature orchids of many different genera. She keeps them in her two greenhouses, three lath houses, outside, in her sun room, her office, and anywhere else she can.

There are also a number of orchid vendors at the meeting with plenty of orchids to tempt you: Birds Botanicals, Cal-Orchid, Michel Orchid Nursery, The Orchid Inn, Oak Hill Gardens, J&L Orchids, and New Vision Orchids.

Time is a-wasting, complete the registration form on page 7 and mail it in.

#### Growing Plants Outside the Conditions You Can Normally Provide

If you have read some of the articles posted here, you know I am a big proponent of analyzing your growing conditions and acquiring plants that are well-suited to the environment you can easily and routinely provide. Sometimes, however, one just has to have a plant (or plants, more likely) that is/are a stretch. Sure, you can crank up the heat in your home, or air condition your greenhouse, but what if you don't want to make that kind of investment? No worries! There are easy ways around those issues.

Plants that like it warmer: This is an easy one - use a seedling heat mat under the pots.

The 9" x 19" size pictured fits perfectly inside of a standard nursery tray and boosts the root zone temperature by about 15°F above ambient, and drawing only 17 watts of electricity, it won't "break the bank" doing so. Other sizes are available for those wanting to "convert" larger areas.

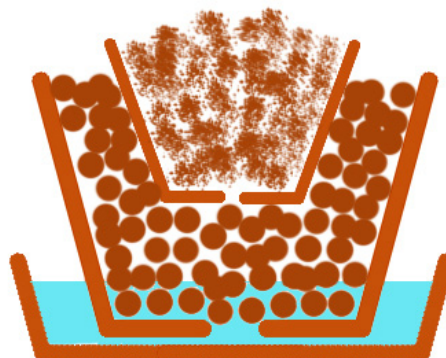


Plants that like it cooler: This requirement presents a bit more of a challenge, but can still be achieved quite simply.

If you grow your plants in semi-hydroponics™, switching from a plastic- to a clay pot (standing in a tray of water to act as the reservoir) will increase the evaporation rate through the side wall of the pot, enhancing the evaporative cooling. If you do not grow in S/H culture, you can still take advantage of the evaporative cooling by nestling your pot inside of a clay pot of LECA, as pictured below.

This technique - utilizing EcoWeb™ as the potting medium - has gained a great deal of popularity with growers of small, fine-rooted Andean species and their hybrids.

Ed. Note: Hydroton clay pebbles are similar to LECA and are available at Paradigm Gardens locally.



From First Rays, <http://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.

**Cycnoches.** 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 *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches 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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## **BULBOPHYLLUM CULTURE NOTES**

The genus *Bulbophyllum* is the largest in the Orchid family (Orchidaceae). Species are found around the globe in the tropical region. Some general guidance, obtained from a Australian grower, is provided below. But to provide optimum culture, it is best to research the cultural requirements of the species under consideration. One starting point is a book on *Bulbophyllums* in the GOOS library, *Bulbophyllums and Their Allies* by Emly S. Siegerist. Another source of information is the internet. One website [orchidculture.com](http://orchidculture.com) has culture sheets, some are free but most cost a few dollars each. And a google search on *Bulbophyllum* culture will lead to other sources.

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### **Elanbee Orchids**

#### **Cultural tips for *Bulbophyllum***

Most *Bulbophyllums*, including the *Cirrhopetalum*, are easier to grow mounted and to us present a more natural appearance. Most are rambling growers and resent being disturbed; however, they do not seem to mind an occasional clipping of a few unruly leads to keep them neat.

In growing most *Bulbophyllums*, we have found sphagnum moss pads mounted on the backside of cork slabs to be an excellent growing method. The recurved shape of the cork retains more moisture in the moss pad, which the *Bulbophyllums* love. We have found the easiest method is to tie the plant with 6 lb. test nylon fishing line. There are almost as many ways of mounting *Bulbophyllums*, as there are *Bulbophyllums*.

After the plant has recovered from its self-imposed pout and the new roots have gained a foothold, the nearly invisible fishing line can be removed. The fishing line does not seem to injure the *Bulbophyllums*, and is usually left in place. Other mounting materials are wood slabs, driftwood, cactus wood, tree fern plaques, tree fern, tree fern totems, and tree fern balls. Wood baskets with sphagnum moss are a close second choice.

If a potted *Bulbophyllum* is your choice, they will enjoy any loose well-drained media. The bulk of *Bulbophyllums* have numerous short roots which do not penetrate the media deeply, so shallow media is a must to avoid root rots.

In our experience most *Bulbophyllums* are in continual growth, except for a brief rest in the cool of the winter. They usually bloom on the matured new growth. If there were a peak bloom period it would probably be spring and early autumn.

The majority of *Bulbophyllums* are comfortable in a temperature range of 7 deg C to 35 deg C. Some of the higher elevation *Bulbophyllums*, such as those from the Himalayas and New Guinea mountains prefer cool temperatures for part of the year and can be a little difficult in warmer areas.

Preferred light conditions are bright shade. If adjusted slowly, full morning sun up to noon is enjoyed by most *Bulbophyllums*. If you can comfortably read a newspaper without squinting or straining to see then you have the right light.

*Bulbophyllums* prefer to be evenly moist, except a slight drying in the winter. During growth period, the *Bulbophyllums* should be given heavy watering, so they are never dry. Because of the wet conditions loved by the *Bulbophyllums*, fungus can be a problem. A monthly preventative spray of your favorite fungicide is desirable to ward off problems.

Good air movement is a must to keep leaf fungus down, because of the heavy watering regime.

Fertilization is simple - *Bulbophyllums* love to eat, 1/4 strength at each watering is sure to keep them happy. We have found organic fertilizers, such as fish emulsion, cow manure teas are enjoyed as well as salt-based fertilizers. If you use the salt-based fertilizers ensure no salt residue are left in the roots. Always flush, with clear water, monthly to

protect the short tender roots from fertilizer burn.

While not insect resistant, Bulbophyllums seem to rarely be bothered by insects other than an occasional scale or mealy bug infestation, which can be easily handled by a 70% isopropyl alcohol and soap drench, or your favorite insecticide.

<http://members.optusnet.com.au/bdobson/Our%20Orchids.html>

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## MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting  
September 12, 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. The minutes of the July and August general meetings were approved.

2012/2013 Budget. Treasurer Sandy Rome discussed the proposed budget for the new fiscal year (September 2012 through August 2013). Jack Thraen made a motion to approve the budget. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's report. Sandy also discussed the treasurer's report. She proposed combining certificates of deposit that the Society currently has and adding some of the funds currently in the checking account for a larger, longer term CD. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting. She also noted that State of Nebraska Taxes were a new item in the report and the requirement to pay these was discovered as a result of the federal 501(c)(3) application process.

Annual Reports. Robert noted that the required annual reports were in The Informer (newsletter).

Board Member Election. The election of Jacque Lewzader, Linda Schroeder, and Ron Fechner to the board was approved by the membership.

Treasurer Accounts Audit. Dick Behrens made the report for the Audit Committee. The books and accounts were found to be in order.

Refreshments were provided by Linda Schroeder.

Program. Guest speaker, Tom Mirenda of the Smithsonian Institution, gave a talk on his trip to the Taiwan orchid show.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting  
September 26, 2012

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

October Program. Will be Howard Gunn and he will talk on *Bulbophyllums*. Dinner will be at the Farmhouse Café at 5 PM prior to the meeting.

November Program. Ann Antlfinger will give the talk in November – probably on reintroduction of native orchids into habitat. The board voted for a gift with a value of \$50 for her talk. Sandy Rome will decide what will be suitable.

Certificates of Deposit. The CDs and accounts are at Security Bank. One large CD with a longer maturity period would be beneficial. One CD matures in November. Ron Fechner suggested that the bank may waive the penalty for early cashing in if the purpose is to combine into another larger CD. The board decided to advise Sandy (absent from the meeting) to bring in the information to next board meeting and take action in November.

Budget. Jim made some comments regarding the budget. He clarified that the price of the tables and skirts at the show was the same as last year – but that we rented more tables and skirts since we had more vendors and rented more tables which increased the total cost. The cost for skirt rental is \$10 each. Jim said he has found skirts selling for as high as \$26 or so and as low as \$13. If we were to purchase skirts, we would recoup the cost in about 3 years (about 30 - 36 skirts would be needed). Roberta said we should explore this option further.

Speakers. A list of potential speakers that other societies were considering (with whom we have a speaker relationship with (Salt Lake City/Denver or St. Louis/Kansas City)) was discussed. The list was unavailable for the meeting but Jim reviewed the meeting notes. Some speakers were not ones that we were interested in. For a few others more information was needed. Eric asked about how we could make a suggestion to the societies of other speakers they could consider. Costs associated with speakers and speaker compensations were discussed. Roberta's position has been is that if a speaker sells plants then a speaker fee is not necessary. Eric countered that many good speakers (who are growers) will not come if they do not get a speaker fee in addition to plant sales. The consensus was that a hard and fast rule would not work but costs and compensation should be negotiated as much as possible. A possible visit to the Zoo to view Marge From's lab was discussed. The space limitations and zoo hours would be potential problems.

Library. Ron gave a rundown on what has happened with the Library. He now has the books (Robert Mann had them but was involved in a serious accident and has not been able to attend meetings or work with the library). Ron discussed library plans with Ann Donovan. Ron said he would like to publicize what is in the library to the membership – perhaps finding synopses of what is in the various books. Books that relate to a speaker's topic would be made available at the meeting and some other books would be brought in to the meetings.

Robert Mann update. Robert is out of the nursing home and making progress.

MAOC preparations. The MAOC is late in the month of October – too late for members to bring plants to the meeting for the MAOC show. Other arrangements will need to be made and worked out at the October meeting for collecting show plants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary



# Kansas City Orchid Expo & Mid-America Orchid Congress

October 26-28, 2012

www.kcorchidshow.org

**Registration** (Please type or print legibly)

	First Registrant			Second Registrant		
Name (for your badge)						
Society Affiliation						
Street Address						
City, State, Province, Zip						
Telephone						
E-Mail						
Judging Status	Accredited	Probationary	Student	Accredited	Probationary	Student
Participating in ribbon judging?	Yes	No		Yes	No	
Do you wish to clerk?	Yes	No		Yes	No	
Participating in AOS judging?	Yes	No		Yes	No	

	First Registrant		Second Registrant		Sub Total
<b>Full Registration (includes welcome bag and unlimited access to show, vendors, speaker and Preview Party )</b>	\$60		\$60		
<b>Full Registration (after 10/12/12)</b>	\$80		\$80		
<b>Preview Party (non-registrants)</b>	\$10		\$10		
<b>One-Day Registration (Saturday only) (includes access to show, vendors and speakers)</b>	\$35		\$35		
<b>Saturday Kansas City Barbeque Luncheon (no charge for judges, please note if you will attend)</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No	
<b>Saturday Kansas City Barbeque Luncheon (non-judges)</b>	\$25		\$25		
<b>Banquet – 6oz. Filet Mignon</b>	\$40		\$40		
<b>Banquet – Beef Tenderloin and Grilled Salmon</b>	\$40		\$40		
<b>Banquet – Beef Tenderloin and Grilled Chicken</b>	\$40		\$40		
<b>Affiliated Societies Breakfast</b>	\$20		\$20		
Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.			<b>Total</b>		

<b>If you wish to tour Bird's Botanicals, please circle your choice</b>	Friday 2:30-4pm	Saturday 10-11:30am	Saturday 2-3:30pm	Sunday 1:30-3pm	<b>How many?</b>	
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If you are flying into Kansas City International, please let us know. We may be able to offer an economical shuttle service.

Friday Arrival: Airline and Flight: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Departure: Airline and Flight: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with payment (check made to OSGKC) to: **Paul Kreutzer, 609 Rosewood Cir., Raymore, MO 64083.** Information at: paphphal@att.net or 816-478-7087.