



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 greateromahaorchidsociety.org August 2013

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August Informer: September
2, 2013

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 THE LOCATION CHANGES FOR EACH MEETING BELOW:

August 14, 2013
Extension Office
8015 West Center Rd.
6:45 PM display committee (& new growers group) meeting
7:30 PM Program: The Plant Doctor is in
Refreshments: Linda Schroeder

August 28, 2013
6:45 PM Papillion Library Board meeting

September 11, 2013
Extension Office
8015 West Center Rd.
7:00 PM new growers group/display committee meeting
7:30 PM Annual meeting
Program: The Black Orchid movie
Refreshments: Abby Vosicka

EVENTS

September 14 – 15, 2013
Wisconsin Orchid Society Show “Fall in Love with Orchids,” Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI, Contact: Lisa Ann Haag, 920-980-6979, tahaag@charter.net

September 20 - 22, 2013
21st Annual Chicagoland Orchid Festival. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Locations: Natt's Orchids, Naperville, IL, Orchids by Hausermann, Villa Park, IL. www.chicagolandorchidfest.com

October 19 - 20, 2013
Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress. “ORCHIDS ‘N ART” at the Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH.

October 19 – 20, 2013
Eastern Iowa Orchid Show & Sale, Noelridge Gardens Greenhouse, 4900 Council St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA Contact: Jon Lorence, 319-624-3666, lorence5@aol.com

October 19 - 20, 2013
Kansas Orchid Society Fall Orchid Show. Botanica, The Wichita Gardens, 701 Amidon St., Wichita, KS. Contact: Sarah J. Pratt, 316-772-5194, svcsjp@pixius.net

THANK YOU!!

A big thanks to all who came to the July picnic and auction. A number of people donated plants and other material and money for the auction. In no particular order, they include Norm Larson (who donated his large and beautiful Cattleya collection), Larry Erickson (who donated a large amount of square feet of cork bark and tree fern), Dave Taylor (who donated a number of interesting plants and did a great job as auctioneer), Robert Mann, Aaron and Kelsey Bugjo, Marilyn Hawes, Roberta Ginavan, Anne Vidaver, and Julie Westman. THANK YOU. If someone was overlooked, thank you too. And thank you all for your bids, we had a record breaking auction with a net income of over \$1600. And we had a good time, which is what counts. And last but not least thanks to the officers and board members for the food. Thanks again.

DR. DAVE AND HIS MAGIC ORCHID ELIXIRS AT THE AUGUST MEETING

Is one or more of your orchids looking a bit down these days? Maybe some bug has gotten to it, or maybe it suffering from malnutrition, or maybe the roots have gone bad. Whatever it is, Doctor Dave (Taylor) will be in with his recommended remedies for the situation. Or perhaps

other members might offer their suggestions. This is time for all to share their knowledge and experiences in learning how to grow orchids well. So bring in the patient (if it's really contagious, place it something to keep it isolated from the other plants that will be at the meeting) and Dr. Dave and others will give their diagnosis.

There will also be some plants on the raffle table donated by Dave Brightwell of the Central Iowa Orchid Society and some plants from Roy Tokunaga of H & R Nursery in Hawaii.

The meeting is at the Extension Office, on August 14, general meeting starts at 7:30 PM.

**HAVE A QUESTION
ON A PLANT?
THE GOOS LIBRARY
MAY HAVE THE
ANSWER**

Wasn't that auction terrific?? Now you have a new (possibly unfamiliar) plant. It's robust and gorgeous and you want to keep it that way. If you go to the GOOS website (greateromahaorchidsociety.org), and look at the list of books in our library, perhaps you will see a title on your particular plant. Ron will be happy to bring it for you to the August meeting if you contact him. He will also bring along a few general titles, and some in anticipation of the program which will be on pests and diseases. But meanwhile do check for specific titles you want and call or email Ron at 402 618 4268 or ronfechner@yahoo.com

**DISPLAY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

The Display Committee will have its first get together just before the regular August meeting. The

Display Committee meeting will start at 6:45 PM on August 14, taking the place of the New Growers Group (new growers should feel free to join in the display discussion). The purpose of the Display Committee is to revamp the current display material (back drops, wrapping cloth, etc) and to build a cadre of members who can set up our display at our local events and also at out-of-town events. Looking to the near future, we hope to be able to have displays at the St. Cecilia Cathedral show (last weekend in January), the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City show (the second weekend of February), the Home and Garden Show (the second weekend in February) and spring AOS meeting and show in Minneapolis at the end of April and beginning of May. But most important is the display for our own show at Lauritzen Gardens at the end of March. The local public events give us an opportunity to show our stuff to a variety of segments of Omaha-area population. The out-of-town shows give us a chance to reciprocate for the support of our show from other orchid societies (OSGKC regularly has a display at our show) and, at the AOS annual meeting, put us out there with other societies in the region. The following members had showed an interest in the Display Committee: Aaron and Kelsey Bugjo, Emmalee Clark, Ann Donovan, Ron Fechner, Roberta Ginnan, Marilyn Hawes, Cindy Hutcheson, Robert Mann, Sandy Rome, Eric Stoiber, and Twilla Westercamp.

AUGUST ISSUE OF ORCHIDS

The August issue of Orchids, the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society contains some interesting and pertinent articles. Two articles are relevant to the topic of this month's meeting (The plant doctor is in) since they are about controlling insect pests. One discusses the use of Insect Growth Regulators (IRGs). An IGR is a chemical substance that inhibits the life cycle of an insect. They are typically used to control populations of harmful pests. In the article, Raymond A. Cloyd, PhD who is a Professor and Extension Specialist in Horticultural Entomology/Integrated Pest Management in the Department of Entomology at Kansas State University, discusses when to apply IRGs, insect physiology, the categories of IRGs, and their side effects. According to Dr. Cloyd, timing of application is critical, and they are most effective when they are applied early or when pests are first detected. They are less effective when there are overlapping generations of the pest.

Greg Allikas also attacks the pests, specifically with some "solutions" for use on aphids, thrips, and mealybugs in a home environment. The solutions include home remedies such as rubbing alcohol, Formula 409 cleaner (the household cleaner), as well as specific products (e.g., insecticidal soaps, Neem Oil, etc.)

For those who want to relive the trip to Ecuador, there are two articles about Ecuador. One dis-

cusses the orchids in bloom during March and April in Napo Province. The province is located in the northeastern part of the Andes in Ecuador. The altitude is high and the author, Alexander Vasijev, gives some vivid descriptions and photos of his travels. Another brief article discusses the tours provided by Ecuaganera, our host for the 2008 trip.

Tom Mirenda of the Smithsonian and our speaker last September discusses the genus *Prosthechea* in one article. The best known plant is the cockle shell orchid, *Prosthechea cochleata*. And in another article he discusses the importance of water and the effects of the summer heat. He provides some guidance on how to rescue plants that have succumbed to heat stress.

Check it out. Issues of *Orchids* are available in the GOOS library.

ORCHID DIGEST JULY - SEPTEMBER

The July - September, 2013 issue of *Orchid Digest* is in too. For orchid photographers, there is an in-depth article by Daniel L. Geiger on equipment, lighting and other photographic techniques, and computer software.

In another article, Walter Orchard discusses the cultivation of *Disas*. The genus *Disa* consists of over 150 species. They are found mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and some nearby areas. There are some spectacular species but their cultivation requires techniques quite different than that used for most other orchids.

There are a number of other articles including one a newly discovered species of *Eria*, another on a rare orchid, *Thunia alba*, another on preserving historic *Paphiopedilum* hybrids. And there is more. *Orchid Digest* issues are also in our library.

Neem Oil

By Susan Jones

The Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica*) also known as indian lilac or margosa) probably originated in India or Burma. Neem is a large, fast-growing evergreen that can reach approximately 40 to 80 feet (12 to 24 m) in height. The tree is drought resistant and heat tolerant, and may live up to 200 years. It grows in many Asian countries, as well as tropical areas of the western hemisphere. Neem oil, which is extracted from the tree's seeds, has been used for its medicinal and insecticidal properties for more than 4,000 years.

Applications for Humans Since ancient times, man has utilized neem products for their pest-repellent properties. Neem has been shown to ward off sand flies and mosquitoes, aiding in control of the spread of diseases such as malaria. Neem oil has been used to treat lice and scabies, and tea brewed from the leaf of the tree employed as a termite control. Neem leaves placed in the pockets of woolen clothing are said to fend off moths; added to stored grains and beans, they help keep insects out. Neem products are included in some dog soaps and shampoos to repel fleas and ticks, and used as a cattle-feed supplement to kill parasites. The application of neem derivatives to bags and stored grains provides safe and relatively inexpensive protection against insect pests, fungus and even rats, reducing post-harvest losses in developing countries.

Medicinal Uses Neem is considered harmless to humans, animals, birds, beneficial insects and earthworms, and has been approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency for use on food crops. Azadirachtin and other active ingredients in the neem seed have insecticidal properties that are effective against a broad spectrum of insects, many mites and nematodes, and even snails and fungi, and do not seem to generate resistance in the pests they affect.

Neem products do not provide absolute insect control, but frequent applications can reduce pest populations dramatically by repelling them; inhibiting their larval development, growth, fertility, mating and egg laying, and deterring feeding. A solution of neem oil smothers insect pests and has antifungal properties as well — the oil coats the plant's surface and prevents the germination of fungal spores. Neem oil can also be used as a safe, natural leaf polish. A recipe for a neem-oil foliar-spray solution suggested by growers is as follows:

Mix 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of neem oil and ½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) of a gentle, plant-safe liquid dish soap (as a spreader and sticker for the oil) to 1 quart (.9 l) of warm water, or 4 teaspoons (20 ml) of neem oil and 2 teaspoons (10 ml) of liquid dish soap to 1 gallon (3.8 l) of water. A 50:50 solution of isopropyl alcohol and warm water can be substituted for plain water.

Shake the solution intermittently during application to keep the ingredients well mixed. Because the oil smothers insect pests, be sure to completely cover all plant surfaces for maximum effectiveness. Some sources indicate that the mixture begins to break down after eight hours, so a fresh batch should be used at every application. The insect-controlling properties of neem lose effectiveness over time, especially in warmer temperatures, and may be washed off during watering or by rainfall, so repeat sprayings at weekly to biweekly intervals are needed to control successive generations of pests. In addition, it is useful to keep up manual removal of bugs as part of the control regime.

Precautions Oil solutions should never be applied to plants during hot weather (85° F [29° C] or warmer) or in direct sunlight. To prevent burning of tissues, treated plants should be shaded until the application is dry. Another consideration is avoiding strong or excessive amounts of detergent or use of ammonia-based cleaners, as these may damage your plants, especially sensitive parts like buds and flowers. This is particularly true of soaps that could remove natural protective waxes from plant tissues. One source suggests that the flowers of some orchids, such as *Miltonia* and *Masdevallia* species, may be sensitive to neem oil. Horticultural oils, including neem, can also affect bees if it contacts them — once the spray has settled it is no longer harmful.

Other Considerations Most growers like to see insect pests drop dead right away. Although pesticides usually provide that instant gratification, their use contributes to the buildup of toxins in the environment, can affect beneficial insects and generate populations of pests resistant to their effects. In addition, these chemicals are responsible for the accidental poisoning of humans, pets, livestock and wildlife populations.

As an option for ecologically friendly pest management, neem is nontoxic to humans, animals and beneficial insects. It is biodegradable, does not build up resistance in pests and is relatively inexpensive. For safety and health reasons alone, controls such as this may be the only option for indoor growers or those whose collections reside in or very close to their living area.

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Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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American Orchid Society 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.



Cycnoches chlorochilon,
the green swan orchid.



Dendrobium Burana Stripe
is a popular and easy phalaenopsis-type
hybrid.



Rossioglossum grande
shows off its large, dramatic flowers.

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

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MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
July 10, 2013

The meeting was the annual picnic/auction. It was held at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office. A potluck dinner provided by the officers and board members was served starting at 6:30 PM.

A brief business meeting consisting was convened during the dinner. The following announcements were made:

1. Roberta Ginavan discussed the upcoming Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day scheduled for July 28.
2. The Display Committee will meet prior to the August general meeting, starting at 7 PM (in lieu of a new growers' meeting).
3. The Nominating Committee consists of the following members: Ron Fechner (chair), Marie Anne Smith, and Robert Mann. The committee will nominate officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurers) and will name the nominees at the August meeting. The election will take place at the September meeting.
4. The Auditing Committee is comprised of the following members: John Dolen, Julie Westman, and Julie Hartman.

After dinner the annual auction was held. Dave Taylor served as auctioneer and Eric Stoiber as assistant.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
July 24, 2013

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, and Jim Pyrzynski.

July meeting. The board agreed that the picnic & auction was a great success and recommended that the membership be thanked for helping to make it such a success. Jacque recommended that the board continue to provide the food for the event. Sandy commented that the blessing should be more generic since not all members may be Christian. Jim asked what Roberta planned to do with the plant lights she received from Larry Erickson since they were bulky and not ready for hook up. The lights appear to be an older style and would need rewiring since there are no connectors. Eric suggested that personnel at Paradigm Gardens may be able to provide some suggestions.

Extension Office. There was a problem with the Extension Office door lock. Apparently the lock had been glued. Additionally Ron Fechner experienced problems in contacting Laurie Hubbard (our POC); she works irregular hours and hasn't available when she said she would be. Although the Douglas County Board passed its budget, there was still some concern regarding the fate of the Extension Office in the long run, in addition to the recent access issues. The church that Vi Thraen attends would probably allow use of their facility. They have a kitchen but no projector, nor a screen. Jacque and Vi will meet with the church personnel to obtain more details.

August meeting. The program for the August meeting will be given by Dave Taylor and will be "The Plant Doctor is in."

Future meetings. To avoid conflicts with the holidays, the board meeting for November will be on November 20, and that for December, on December 18.

Display committee. Roberta discussed the need for the display committee to get started on projects. The Cathedral Show (last weekend in January) may be the first show on their agenda, the Home and Garden Show and the Kansas City show (which should be the second weekend in February (same weekend as the Home and Garden Show in Omaha)) would be next. Someone is needed to lead the committee – no volunteers. Roberta will send a list to Jim. The committee should meet prior to the August meeting (the beginners group could get involved)

Insurance. Sandy discussed the insurance policy. We are insured for two incidents per year, \$1,000,000 each. The books could be insured but the computer would not be since it quickly becomes obsolete.

Budget. The budget was discussed. An amount for purchase of fertilizer should be added (we are sold out). The meeting place donations were discussed. The Sump Memorial (Papillion) Library donation for board meetings should be \$100, but since we also two regular meetings there, that amount should be increased to \$200. Sandy asked when was the decision made to give \$100 to the Papillion Library. Roberta asked Jim to research past board meeting minutes and send the appropriate minutes to the board. The expense for speakers was discussed. In some cases the speaker's fee appear in a different fiscal year than the when the event took place since it takes some time for the bills to come in.

Nominating Committee. Ron Fechner had some questions about the nominating committee (of which he is chair). It was explained to him that the nominations for officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) takes place in odd-numbered years. Jim advised that he would send a list of current members to Ron and other committee members so they could contact potential nominees.

Miscellaneous. Eric recommended that a donation be made the Lauritzen Gardens. He thought it would be good way to ensure the availability of the location for our annual show. Roberta countered that the event is one that brings in a large volume of people to the Gardens, so our donation is probably not needed and recommended that it be brought up with the budget (but it was not raised during the budget discussion).

There was some discussion about changing the fiscal year date. Currently it is September 1 through the following August 31. It is not aligned with the calendar year (which memberships are) nor is it aligned with the end of a quarter (which would make some reporting easier). Sandy recommended that switching to October 1 to the following September 30 would be better than the current arrangement. The discussion was tabled for now.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary