



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

November 2014

## OFFICERS

President:

Eric Stoiber  
(402) 206-4554

Vice President:

Jim Pyrzynski  
(402) 734-4112

Secretary:

Marie Anne Smith

Treasurer:

Aaron Bugjo

Board Members:

Don Steinegger  
1 (402) 488-8064

Robert Mann  
(402) 896-1709

Ron Fechner  
(402) 618-4268

Past President:

Roberta Ginavan  
(712) 487-3085

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  
**December** Informer: Decembe  
1, 2014

## **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 ratee.

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  
holiday party

pg. 2  
Winter blooming orchids

pg. 2  
Oncidium intergenerics

pg. 3  
AOS Judging Awards

pg. 4  
Reports  
pgs. 5, 6

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS MEETINGS

### NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGES FOR EACH MEETING BELOW:

**November 12, 2014**

**Douglas/Sarpy Extension  
Office, 8015 West Center  
Rd.**

7:00 PM Grower's Group  
discussion (all welcome)

7:30 Program: Guest Speaker  
Ron Midgett, Oncidium  
intergenerics

Refreshments: Loris Purtzer

**November 26, 2014**

**Papillion Library  
6:45 PM Papillion Library  
Board meeting**

**December 10, 2014**

**Douglas/Sarpy Extension  
Office, 8015 West Center  
Rd.**

6:00 PM appetizers Holiday  
Party, Dinner at 7:00 PM.  
Price \$15

Optional gift exchange

## EVENTS

**January 24 - 25, 2015**

30th Annual Cathedral  
Flower Festival, St. Cecilia  
Cathedral, 701 N 40th St,  
Omaha, NE

**January 24 - 25, 2015**

Orchid Society of  
Minnesota "Winter Car-  
nival Orchid Show," Como  
Park Zoo & Conservatory,  
1225 Estabrook Drive, St  
Paul, MN Contact: Michael  
Dyda, 612-223-4059,  
michael1027us@yahoo.  
com

**January 31 - February 1,  
2015**

Orchid Growers Guild  
"Orchid Quest 2015,"  
Madison Marriott West,  
1313 John Q Hammons Dr.,  
Middleton, WI. Contact:  
Lynn West, 608-445-0065,  
lynnwest15@yahoo.com  
or Terri Jozwiak, 608-592-  
7906, lodijoz@charter.net

**February 21 - 22, 2015**

Batavia Orchid Society  
Show, DuPage County  
Fairgrounds, 2015  
Manchester Rd., Wheaton,  
IL Contact: Mike  
Rollinger, 815-258-0872,  
mrollinger@mindspring.  
com

**March 7 - 8, 2015**

Greater Omaha Orchid  
Society 28th Annual Orchid  
Show & Sale, Lauritzen  
Gardens, 100 Bancroft St.,  
Omaha, NE, Contact: Jim  
Pyrzynski, 402-734-4112,  
jpyrzynski@cox.net

## **GUEST SPEAKER RON MIDGETT ONCIDIUM INTERGENERICS**

November brings Ron Midgett of New Earth Orchids in Santa Fe, New Mexico as our guest speaker. Ron had his first encounter with orchids about 40 years ago when he saw some "strange" plants in Santa Barbara, California - they were Cymbidiums. The orchid bug bite had hit its target. He started an orchid business in 1990, the New England Orchid Company, to support and extensive breeding program. In 2003, Ron and his wife, Cynthia, moved to New Jersey and changed the name to New Earth Orchids. Then it was on to Santa FE, New Mexico where he established a full-service orchid nursery for Santa Fe and New Mexico. Ron serves on the American Orchid Society Membership Committee. He has also served as chairperson for AOS judging at New Mexico Orchid Guild Shows.

Ron's talk will be on Oncidium intergenerics and he will be bringing plants to sell. Oncidium intergenerics are the result of hybridization between various species and genera in the Oncidiinae subtribe. The hybrids have come a long way from the original species in beauty and ease of culture. These plants

## FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

### SOME ORCHIDS THAT FLOWER IN THE WINTER MONTHS

start blooming small with spikes of fancifully patterned flowers in shades of white, yellow, red and brown, and as they mature become large, robust plants with long stems of flowers. We will use the time from 7:00 pm until when the meeting officially begins to see what's for sale and make purchases.

#### Dinner with Ron

We will have dinner with Ron at the Farmhouse Cafe (by Manglesen's, at 84th St. and a S. 82nd St.) at 5:15 PM. If you are interested in attending, contact Jim Pyrzynski (402-734-4112 or email [jpyrzynski@cox.net](mailto:jpyrzynski@cox.net)) NLT Tuesday, November 11.

---

#### HOLIDAY PARTY NEX MONTH

Remember next month is our annual Holiday Party. We'll be dining in this year rather than out. We'll hold it at the Extension Office on December 10 and the meal will be catered. You can bring your orchids to help dress up the place and to give you a chance to brag about what you have in bloom. The meal will be Turkey and Ham, plus three side dishes, rolls, coffee, lemonade and dessert. Appetizers will be provided by the board. We'll have our usual gift exchange (if you choose to participate) but we've increased the suggested price to about \$15.00 for Christmas or Orchid-related gift items.

The names below are derived from the Latin and Greek languages and can, at first, be daunting to pronounce. It's easier if you remember that, with few exceptions all letters are pronounced. You will often hear names pronounced somewhat differently than indicated below as a result of regional differences. There are also pronunciations that are not technically correct but have found their way into common usage. The common pronunciation, stan-HOPE-ee-ah rather than the technically correct stan-HOPE-ah for Stanhopea is an example. This pronunciation has no doubt evolved because of the "pronounce every letter rule" although that would sound more like stan-HOPE-AY-ah.

C= 50F minimum, I = 55F minimum, W = 60-65F minimum

*Cattleya percivaliana* (KAT-lee-ah purr-sih-VAL-ee-an-ah) and many of its hybrids (I)

*Coelogyne cristata* (see-loh-GUY-nee KRIS-tah-tah) (C)

*Laelia superbiens* (LAY-lee-ah sue-PURR-bee-enz) [also known as *Schomburgkia superbiens*]

*Lycaste skinneri* (lye-CASS-tee SKIN-er-eye) and many of its hybrids (I)

*Trichocentrum cavendishianum* (try-koe-SENT-rum cav-en-DISH-ee-an-um) [also long known as *Oncidium* - *Oncidium* is pronounced as on-SID-ee-um] (C)

*Phaius tankervilleae* (FAY-us tan-ker-VILL-eye) [the Nun's Orchid] (I)

Many *Phalaenopsis* (fail-en-NOP-sis) species and their hybrids (W)

*Angraecum eburneum* (W)

*Angraecum sesquipedale* (an-GRAY-kum sess-kwih-PED-ah-lee) (W)

*Brassavola nodosa* (bra-SAH-voe-lah NOE-dose-ah) (I)

Early flowering *Cymbidium* (sim-BID-ee-um) species and hybrids (C)

*Dendrobium nobile* (den-DRO-bee-um NOE-bee-lee) and its hybrids (C winter)

*Epidendrum ciliare* (I)

*Laelia anceps* (LAY-lee-ah an-SEPS) (I-C)

Many *Masdevallia* (maz-dee-VAHL-ee-ah) species and hybrids (C-I)

*Rhynchostylis gigantea* (rink-oh-STY-liss jye-gan-TEE-ah) (W)

*Cattleya coccinea* (KAT-lee-ah COCK-sinn-ee-ah) (C) and many of the miniature cattleyas developed from this species.



*Epidendrum ciliare* 'Puddle Jumper: FCC/AOS  
Grower: Ken & Judy Russ

**Caring for Orchids**  
**(from orchids.com)**  
**Odontoglossum / Oncidium**  
**Odontoglossum/Oncidium (oh-don-toh-GLOSS-um)/(on-sid-EE-um)**

Odontoglossum and Oncidium intergeneric hybrids are comprised of a large group of orchids from many different genera. The Odontoglossum/Oncidium alliance is very popular among orchid growers due to its cultural flexibility and striking sprays of long lasting flowers. The plants may be grown with relative ease in the home or under a sheltered patio.

### **Lighting**

The Odontoglossum and Oncidium alliance thrives on bright light. In the home, an east or a lightly shaded south-facing window is ideal. Outdoors, place the plants on a covered patio protected from the mid-afternoon sun. Direct morning and late afternoon sun can be tolerated by the plants, provided exposure occurs gradually. The plants need to adapt slowly to the increases in lighting. The leaves should be bright green as opposed to dark green or reddish green. Reddish green indicates too much light; dark green indicates not enough light.

### **Temperature**

In temperate regions, Odontoglossums and Oncidiums may be grown outside on a protected patio covering.

Most Oncidiums and their hybrids are intermediate in temperature preference. For the best results provide nighttime temperatures of 50 to 60°F and daytime temperatures under 85°F.

Odontoglossums tend to prefer cool temperatures. For the best results provide nighttime temperatures 50-55°F and daytime temperature 60-80°F. Place the plants near a cool window in the home. In temperate regions, the plants may be grown outside under protected patio covering.

Odontoglossums and Oncidiums will tolerate higher daytime temperatures if the humidity is increased.

### **Watering**

Depending upon the temperature, Odontoglossums and Oncidiums should be watered about two or three times a week. During the summer, the plants may need to be watered every 2-3 days. The rule of thumb for watering should be as followed : More heat more water, less heat less water.

Odontoglossums and Oncidiums prefer to be kept on the moist side. This does not mean that the plants like to be left in standing water, however try to water the plants early in the day, so that the foliage will be dry by nightfall. To prevent bacterial and fungal disease use Physan 20 once a month.

### **Humidity**

Odontoglossums and Oncidiums prefer 50-65% humidity. Humidity should be increased with higher temperatures. Humidity Trays may be needed for plants grown in the house.

### **Fertilizer**

Odontoglossums and Oncidiums must be fertilized on a regular basis! For best results, use Norman's Optimal Orchid Nutrients every other week. It is recommended to pre-water plants, before applying the diluted nutrient solution if the potting media is dry.

### **Potting**

Odontoglossums and Oncidiums should be grown in either Medium Orchid Bark or Fine Orchid Bark Mix. They should be repotted once every two years. Ideally the plants should be repotted immediately after flowering.

### **Pests**

Common pests associated with Odontoglossums and Oncidiums are scale, spider mites and aphids. X-CLUDE, an encapsulated pyrethrum time-release insecticide is the most efficient method of pest control.

RECENT MID-AMERICA JUDGING CENTER AWARD PHOTOS



Phragmipedium Peruflora's Saltimbanco (Phrag. *Boissierianum* x *kovachii*) 'Freda Barnick,' HCC/79 points. Owned by Dave Bird



*Aerides quinquevulnera*, 'Prince's Passion JG,' AM/80 points, owned by John Gross. Plant held 124 flowers and 110 buds on 5 inflorescences.



Phragmipedium Cahaba Morning Mist 'Windy Hill,' AM/81 points. Owned by Marilyn LeDoux



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Mark Koch 'Catspaw,' HCC/79. Owned by Craig Plahn.

## REPORTS

October 8, 2014 Greater Omaha Orchid Society - General Meeting

Harrison Bugjo, 11 weeks old, attended his first meeting among 22 members, including drivers from Lincoln. Members now wearing name badges give hearty greetings.

Holiday Party -December 10th - Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office. Appetizers: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner catered by HyVee: 7:00 p.m. Jacque Lewzader announced menu at \$16.00 pp payable time of dinner. served at 7:00 p.m. Members may mix and mingle into conversations. Optional Gift Exchange: \$15 value. President Stoiber gave reasons for holding this Holiday Party at Extension Office.

October 18-19, 2014: Cedar Rapids, Michigan still needs flowering orchids. President Stoiber will drive and offered rides. He will leave Friday morning, October 17th; return late Sunday.

Show & Tell, now early in the meeting, gave members opportunity to discuss the orchids shown.

Vice President Pyrzynski showed orchids from China, lady's slippers from a German biologist, a recently discovered lethal tiny orchid, a Medusa in a pumice pot that was divided, Orchid Farm's pink orchid, an enormously grown-from-a-tiny-orchid from Oak Hill, and a fragrant orchid growing in his garage.

Don Steinegger brought in a wrinkling-leafed new orchid he repotted immediately to view roots, dead, but with a stem. Coarse bark, after inoculating the orchid, helped the uptake of the root grown in humid conditions and misting. Don demonstrated the damage of a flower, explaining the genetic history of the cross, quite complex with many qualities not easily recognized. Looking at what is under the media and consulting with medical staff revealed that about 99% of the problem with new plants are in the roots and this is why it is critical to repot and examine its roots.

Carol Behrens brought a phaphiopedilum which was incorrectly identified originally. She has successfully grown this by watering just a bit every day. Don Steinegger also waters frequently.

Anne Pamperl brought a cattleya, blooming twice a year, with fragrance in mid-day.

Roberta Ginavan brought an orchid from an earlier raffle, donated by Aaron Bugjo.

Aaron then shared a species grown outdoors which did well; has six spikes after two years; purchased from Mr. Renke.

Eric Stoiber shared a species orchid with a lavender bloom growing in sphagnum.

November: Ron Midgett from New Earth Orchids is the guest speaker bringing orchids for sales. See Eric Stoiber for details about pre-orders.

Raffle orchids, cork, and mounting tree sections were available for purchase, along with literature displayed at the Paradigm weekend event, along with several blooming orchids.

### Innovative Ways to Grow Your Orchids

After a refreshingly chatty "mix and mingle" break, Eric Stoiber began an educational session, starting with a large glass jar with an experimental light in the neck of the jar using a 2 watt LED bulb. Pollinators and the rain forests of Australia lead to a demonstration of clay balls poured into a large clay pot, followed by sphagnum packed into the pot, then packing around a smaller pot inside, to keep the orchid's roots cool. Shale is also in the bottom for drainage. Next: mix of fine bark, clay, perlite, etc. into the inner, smaller clay pot. Picking up a tiny bare-rooted plant, Eric grabbed a handful of "good" sphagnum while passing around the "growing tips" for view (good lime green growth), to prepare for the potting of this plant. This was compared to a "swamp cooler" often used in deserts. Next: using his mother's plastic embroidery netting as a base filled with sphagnum moss, he demonstrated how a large orchid grows into this unusual, creative, and successful mount.

Using a large suet cage, Eric uses water-absorbing floral foam and sphagnum to grow a great hybrid. An interesting history of one of his oldest, original orchids was shared, starting with mounting, to a currently "hanging" practically upside down orchid which, when you "treat it right" and by February, stop watering it, the orchid goes into full lavender blooms. It is watered top and sides. It hangs and grows through the bottom of the pot. Large media is in the top. He believes that to grow orchids in indoors, it is not the light so much as the air movement for happiness, and nice water. Eric asked members to join in the conversation.

A "problem cattleya" was shown, with roots growing wildly, by Jim Pyrzynski. Coconut husks can be used to line your pot, followed with big chunks of tree bark, covered with more husk for airy roots weaving throughout the basket. When too big, these are repotted into a bigger basket, yet without disturbing the roots as long as able.

Question: how to grow a Vanda. Jacque immerses them in water twice a week for an hour or even overnight, then

into the greenhouse with 70% humidity. If outdoors, these need watering once a day with Spanish Moss over the roots for best wetting.

Running fans: how to keep humidity. Eric suggested hanging a damp cloth near the fan for humidity, to prevent drops in humidity when fans are running. Orchidarium: when kept packed with plants, fans/lights will work as a micro-climate as mentioned by Marilyn Hawes.

Raffle winners selected one of five orchids available. Several additional questions and comments were made by members. Humidi-domes were mentioned by Eric in response to a question, as well as how to mount a rooting orchid. Com pots were also suggested for helping all to grow together.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m., following a much more conversant, interactive meeting time for all members to enjoy, due to the changed format and name badges. Eric encouraged members to return in November for guest speaker Ron Midgett's presentation.

---

October 22, 2014 GOOS Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Sump Memorial Library, Papillion

Present: President Eric Soiber, VP Jim Pyrzynski, Past President Roberta Ginavan, Board - Robert Mann, Secretary Marie Smith.

President Stoiber began speaking about material received from Tom Bell-Games: "Orchids Under Glass" - November 7 - 9, 2014, Columbus, OH at Franklin Park Conservatory. Fairfield Inn & Suites at Columbus Airport no longer has special rate available as ended 10-20-14.

Paradigm Gardens: possible presentations in future.

Cedar Rapids Show: wonderful hosts; three vendors. Discussion began about the value of attending; variation of registration systems; classification differences, and challenges with "show tags." (In March, there is a series of three shows each weekend, starting with GOOS during March 6-8th.) Reimbursement topic remains unresolved.

November 12: Ron Midgett, Oncidium Intergenerics at Douglas/Sarpy Extension Office. Dinner with Mr. Midgett: Farmhouse Cafe on 84th St., 5:15 p.m. Members may pre-order from Mr. Midgett, New Earth Orchids. Contact Jim Pyrzynski or Eric Stoiber for details.

Upcoming year: speaker thoughts expressed. April 8th meeting will be bumped to April 15th. "Don't do your taxes. Come to the GOOS meeting!"

April: a good month following the March orchid show to involve new members in discovery / learning. Idea by Roberta: "bring your orchid purchased at the show; discuss habitat / how to care for / identity...vs. repotting. Lively discussion with piggy-backing occurred. New orchid growers coming in are the focus. Jim mentioned a possible section/table on older web seminars. Roberta suggested a large display board with date of April meeting "hitting people in the face" with info assuring future orchid growers that we are here to help each to successfully grow their orchids. A comic book/magazine rack display for the various sheets of info on orchids would help. Agreement reached on using Roberta's idea for April meeting.

Thank you letter received from Brother William Woeger, F. S. C, Cathedral Arts Project, for the \$100 donated back to St. Cecelia's.

July 8th: penciled in for Picnic or the weekend of the 12th. Membership will be asked. Harrison & 72nd Street has a large park.

Speakers: Dave Bird? Speakers from Denver? Next month: decisions. Comical "How NOT to Grow an Orchid" mentioned by Roberta is excellent, yet costly. Eric asked each to come back with one idea / speaker for 2015.

Orchids needing a home: Roberta has been offered two orchids from a home for the society. Marie, living nearby, is designated as person for pick up and delivery for the upcoming General Meeting.

Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory, Lauritzen Gardens: VP Jim Pyrzynski shared his stunningly beautiful photos taken at various points--more beautiful than photos in the Lauritzen booklet, easily a cover or card. Consideration was given to donating \$1,000-worth of orchids.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Anne Smith