



The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

May 2015

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Submission deadline for the
June Informer: June 1, 2015.

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:

**May 13, 2015 Douglas/
Sarpy Extension Office,
8015 West Center Rd.**

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

7:30 PM Program: hardy
lady's slippers

Refreshments: Julie Westman

May 27, 2015

Papillion Library

6:45 PM Board meeting

**June 10, 2015 Douglas/
Sarpy Extension Office,
8015 West Center Rd.**

**7:00 PM GROWERS
GROUP**

7:30 PM Program: Mounting
orchids

Refreshments: Cindy Mass

EVENTS

May 9 – 10, 2015

Oklahoma Orchid Society
"Annual Mother's Day
Show & Sale," Will Rogers
Garden Exhibition Center,
3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma
City, OK Contact: Jana
Butcher, 405-478-5789,
w.butcher@cox.net

May 15 – 17, 2015

Redland International
Orchid Festival, Redland
Fruit & Spice Park,
24801 SW 187th Ave.,
Homestead, FL Contact:
Bill Peters, 305-242-1333,
whimsyorchids@gmail.
com

June 1 - 4, 2015

Native Orchid Conference
14th Annual Meeting,
White Mountains, New
Hampshire, [http://www.
nativeorchidconference.
info/conferences.html](http://www.nativeorchidconference.info/conferences.html)

July 27, 2015

Central Iowa Orchid
Society 27th Annual
Speaker's Day, Camp
Dodge, IA. [http://c-we.
com/cios/ciosspk.htm](http://c-we.com/cios/ciosspk.htm). See
story page 2

September 25 – 27, 2015

Chicagoland Orchid
Fest, [http://www.
chicagolandorchidfest.
com/](http://www.chicagolandorchidfest.com/)

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

It's springtime again and the hardy lady's slipper orchids (Cypripediums) are blooming. Last May we experimented with growing seedling Cyp. reginae (the Minnesota State Flower). But there was little luck in getting those seedlings to grow. So at this year's May meeting we will try a different species, Cypripedium parviflorum var. makasin. This variety of the yellow lady's slipper is very similar in its growing requirements to our native Nebraskan Small White Lady's Slipper (C. candidum). I (Jim Pyrzynski) have had more success in getting the seedlings of these to grow and come back the following spring. The plants should be arriving the day of the meeting, so we will have to pot them at the meeting. There will also be a couple of blooming Cypripediums to see at the meeting. So come and see something different in the orchid world.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE

Many orchids are well known for being epiphytes, meaning they grow on another plant, typically a tree. They draw nutrients from the air, rain, and the debris accumulating around itself, but not from the tree. But how do we cultivate orchids(?) – in pots. In many cases the roots also photosynthesize, but un-

less the pots are clear or translucent there is little possibility for them to do that in a pot. At the June meeting, Eric Stoiber will give a demonstration on mounting orchids. He will also discuss how to select orchids for mounting, mounting media, etc. And there will be some plants to mount at the meeting and to take home with you. So make plans to attend the June 10th meeting.

SPRING INTO SPRING

Spring has sprung and there are garden events in abundance. Lauritzen holds its annual Spring into Spring May 15, 16 – 17. We will have a booth where will publicize the Society and possibly sell. Spring into Spring is a plant sale which the Gardens holds annually. They plan to have thousands of plants for sale – annual, perennials, herbs, tropicals, ornamental grasses, succulents and more.

We need volunteers to staff the booth during the event. The hours for the event are Friday evening from 4:30 to 7 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm. One advantage is that by volunteering you get into the Gardens free of charge (a \$10 savings). This gives you a opportunity also to do some plant shopping too. If you're available and interested, contact Jim Pyrzynski. Thanks.

TRIP REPORTS

Your orchid society has been on the road this spring – to Wichita, KS and Kansas City, MO. Eric and Jim traveled to Wichita for the Kansas Orchid Society show, which was held March 21 – 22 at the Botanica, the Wichita Gar-

dens. We won a third place ribbon for the display and many of the individual orchids displayed also won ribbons. Botanica is a very nice botanical gardens certainly worthy of a visit if you happen to be in the Wichita area.

The first weekend in May, Eric and Jim traveled to Kansas City for the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City show at Loose Park. This was a new venue for them. Previously they held their show in conjunction with a Home and Garden Show in February, so no snow or ice to contend with this time, just smooth sailing down I-29. At the KC show, the society received a second place ribbon for the display and there were a number of ribbons for individual plants. Two plants were pulled for AOS judging – a Paphiopedilum grown by Dwight Languis and a Cypripedium grown by Jim – but they did not receive AOS awards. A number of orchid societies had displays at the event. In addition to us and the host society, there were displays from the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society, Orchid Society of the Ozarks, Springfield Orchid Society, and Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis.

A big THANK YOU to all those who provided plants for the displays: Dick and Carol Behrens, John Dolen, Marilyn Hawes, Dwight Languis, Jacque Lewzader, Jim Pyrzynski, Eric Stoiber, and Dave Taylor. The spring 2015 orchid show season is over but the fall season is only a few months away and we plan to travel to the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society show in October. We're always looking for a couple of volunteers to help out in this effort – and it can be fun. Contact Eric if you are interested in helping out.

CIOS SPEAKERS DAY, JULY 27 ROBERT FUCHS AND SAM TSUI

The Central Iowa Orchid Society will hold its twenty-seventh annual speakers day on July 27 at Camp Dodge, IA. Camp Dodge is a short distance due north of Des Moines. It is a federal facility and a photo ID will be required for entrance. The day starts off with a continental breakfast and plant sales. The first round of talks by the guest speakers follows breakfast. This year's speakers are Robert Fuchs of R. F. Orchids and Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn, USA.

Robert F. Fuchs, R.F. Orchids, FL

Robert Fuchs is a third-generation orchid grower, and president of R.F. Orchids, Inc., in Homestead, Florida, USA. The nursery was founded in 1970. In 1984, R.F. Orchids' Vanda Deva 'Robert' AM/AOS-SM/11WOC was named the Grand Champion of the 11th World Orchid Conference in Miami. A recognized expert on vandaceous orchids, Robert presents lectures to audiences around the world, and his articles have been published in many prestigious publications.

Robert Fuchs is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge, past president of the South Florida Orchid Society, life member of the AOS, and was President of the 19th World Orchid Conference, in 2008. He was inducted into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2013, the first orchid grower to be so honored. In 2014, the AOS appointed him as a Trustee of the World Orchid Conference Trust. Robert's topics will be "Kiss Your Ascocendas Goodbye" and "Vanda Species".

Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn, IL

Sam began growing orchids in the early 1980's. After trying many types of orchids, he became a serious Paphiopedilum grower in 1985. In 1990, he began hybridizing with Paphiopedilums and continues that work today. As he became more involved with Paphiopedilums, he started selling commercially in 1995 as the Orchid Inn. He grew orchids in his basement and greenhouses attached to his house. As the business grew, in 2004, he purchased six acres of property and built his first commercial 6,000 square feet greenhouse. Currently he makes over 300 crosses, produces 4,000 to 5,000 flasks or approximately 100,000 seedlings annually.

In the past 18 years, Sam has been very active in the orchid world by traveling to shows, promoting sales, and lecturing. Sam currently fills orders from around the world and attends over 20 orchid shows/conferences a year. He also does approximately 25 Paphiopedilum programs/lectures to orchid conferences, societies and groups annually in

the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and Europe. Over the past 18 years, he has judged at the Japan Grand Prix, the world's largest orchid show.

Sam will bring plants to sell. He will also accept pre-order until one week prior to the Speaker Day, and will offer at least 10% pre-order discount, except for NET price items, package and divisions. Sam's topics will be "Paphiopedilum sanderianum Breeding and Culture" and "The Wonderful World of Parvisepalums and Their Culture".

Advance registration for the event is \$30.00 (at the door, the fee is \$35.00). A registration form is below. More information including directions and lodging is available at the CIOS website: <http://c-we.com/cios/ciosspk.htm>.

Central Iowa Orchid Society

Speaker's Day, July 26th, 2015

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 Chris Molina, 7647 NE Berwick Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021-9262. We would like these returned by July 11, 2015 if possible.

Please make checks payable to the Central Iowa Orchid Society.

\$30.00 per person (\$35.00 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 _____

CASH FOR BEST ESSAY

The Mid-America Orchid Congress invites you to enter their essay contest. Write an essay on "My Most Exciting Orchid-Related Experience" -- and win up to \$100.00! The essay should be no more than 500 words in length and submitted no later than September 1, 2015, to Doris Asher (asherdoris@juno.com) -- winners will be announced at the Congress' Sunday Business Meeting on September 27, 2015, location to be announced. 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 Congress's newsletter, The Mid-American.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Doris Asher via email or by phone (517-332-0004).

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR MAY AND JUNE

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

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