



# The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124

greateromahaorchidsociety.org

November 2015

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Submission deadline for the  
**December** Informer: November  
30, 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:

November 11, 2015

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

**7:00 PM GROWERS  
GROUP**

**7:30 PM Program: TBA**  
Refreshments: Guess Who

November 25, 2015

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

December 9, 2015

**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 30 – 31, 2016**

Madison Orchid Growers  
Guild "Orchid Quest 2016"  
Marriott Madison West  
Conference Center, 1313  
John Q Hammons Dr.,  
Middleton, WI, Contact:  
Terri Jozwiak. 608-592-  
7905, lodijoz@charter.net

### **January 30 – 31, 2016**

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

### **January 30 - 31, 2016**

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

### **February 18 -- 21, 2016**

Omaha Home Lawn,  
Flower, and Patio Show,  
CenturyLink Center  
Omaha.

### **March 5 - 6, 2016**

Greater Omaha Orchid  
Society 29th Annual Orchid  
Show & Sale, Lauritzen  
Gardens, 100 Bancroft St.,  
Omaha, NE, Contact: Jim  
Pyrzynski, 402-734-4112,  
jpyrzynski@cox.net

## **BLACK WEDNESDAY SALE & SWAP NOVEMBER 11**

This is the month – the  
month with something  
called Black Friday  
(sounds like something  
bad but it's good I guess).  
But now Black Friday is  
creeping into Turkey Day  
Thursday. Well.... we at  
GOOS have them beat.  
We are having a Black  
Wednesday Sale & Swap  
on Wednesday, November  
11 - 2 weeks before those  
events! First we will have  
a nice selection of plants  
from Sunset Valley Or-  
chids (Fred Clarke) for sale  
AT COST!

Next, is the swap – if you  
have plants that have out-  
grown your surroundings,  
excess divisions, whatever,  
bring them, sell them, trade  
them – at the meeting.  
Who knows treasures and  
bargains you may find? Joe  
Lankton will give a talk at  
the Grower's Group por-  
tion of the meeting.

See you there.

## **COMING UP**

Next month is our annual  
holiday party. This year the  
board will provide the main  
meat dish and the members  
will provide a potluck of  
the other items. The signup

sheet for side dishes and desserts went around last month, we'll send it around again for those who didn't get a chance then.

Looking into the future (2016) – January 30, 31 is the annual St. Cecilia Flower Festival. We plan to have a display. If you would like to help out, contact Eric. February 18 – 21 is the annual Omaha Home Lawn, Flower, and Patio show at the CenturyLink Center. We plan to have an information booth with information on the Society and orchid culture (plus a small display).

Our annual orchid show is the first weekend in March, (March 5 and 6). So it is time to start making plans for that event. Look your plants over and see what needs to be done to prepare them for that event.

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### IN THIS MONTH'S ORCHIDS MAGAZINE

This month's "Orchids. The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society" has a bonus – a special supplement: "A Handy Guide to Things You May or May Not Have Known About Growing Orchids." In the supplement are articles about signs that your orchids are happy, essential tools, orchid potting mixes, flasking, sprouting backbulbs, light requirements,

The regular "Orchids" magazine has some interesting articles and tips too. There is a formula for bug spray, Tom Miranda's

tips for the month, a ghost orchid relative that lives in Jamaica, an article on some strange orchids (Dimorphis) that have different flowers on the same inflorescence. And more. Check both magazines out, they'll be in the library.

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### RENEWAL TIME

It's time to renew your membership. Memberships go extinct after the February meeting (IAW the Bylaws). So don't become an endangered or extinct species. A renewal form is on the last page of the newsletter.

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### FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY Things to do in the Fall

We just returned from the AOS Members Meetings in Wilmington, Delaware and for us Floridians, it was refreshing to see autumn colors and feel some cool air. A frost was expected for the night we were leaving.

Like spring, fall is an important transitional season and orchid growers should be making preparations for the coming winter. As days get shorter and cooler, orchid growth will slow and in some cases, cease altogether. Unless a plant is in a crisis situation, put off any repotting until the lengthening days of spring. For many orchids, it is this change of seasonal conditions that begins flower initiation. As we move into November, be on the lookout for developing inflorescences on Phalaenopsis, Cymbidium and certain hybrids and species in other genera, and begin staking when spikes reach 6-8 inches.

If you have been summer-

ing some or all of your orchids outside, now is a good time to get your indoor growing area cleaned up and ready to welcome the returning orchids. Whether it is windowsill carts, a basement light setup or greenhouse, use diluted chlorine bleach (1:10) or Physan to clean off any accumulated algae. It is easier to make repairs when there are no plants, so make sure that your growing area is in top condition for the trying conditions of winter. Make sure that heaters are working and that you have plenty of fuel. If you use backup devices or alarms, test them too. Be sure to check plants thoroughly for pests before returning them to the close quarters of your indoor growing area or greenhouse.

For more detailed seasonal culture information on specific genera see Tom Miranda's excellent monthly "Orchid Checklist" in Orchids magazine.

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

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### Home Remedies By Susan Jones

**Hand Picking** The first line of defense, if a plant is not heavily affected by pests, is to pick bugs, slugs and snails from the plant and squash them. Pests have yet to develop a resistance to this type of control.

**Water Pests** like mites are usually most severe on plants in heated homes during the winter, when the air is dry and there are no natural enemies to keep them under control. Raising the ambient humidity through humidity trays, saucers of damp pebbles placed under each plant,

or even a room humidifier can help.

For mites, aphids, mealybugs and other insects, a gentle brush or jet of water can kill and dislodge them from plants. Regularly washing the foliage thoroughly with soapy water, wiping every leaf and rinsing with a sink sprayer is one way to bring populations down.

Soaking is a third way water can be used to combat insects. Completely immerse the pot and potting medium of the affected plant in a bucket of water overnight to evict ants, roaches, sow bugs and pill bugs from the medium.

**Rubbing Alcohol Soak** a cotton swab in 70 percent isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and dab scale, mealybugs, mites and aphids off orchids. The alcohol dissolves the insect's waxy covering, and is a good tool to reach the pests hidden down in the sheaths and leaf crevices. Pay particular attention to the midrib, other veins and leaf edges. Repeat the treatment at seven to 10 day intervals to remove successive generations.

Another method is to spray alcohol, mixed with a few drops of mild liquid soap, from a misting bottle or small pump sprayer. Avoid strong or excessive amounts of detergent, as this may damage your plants, particularly buds and flowers.

Alcohol can be combined with insecticidal soaps, but not with oil, and should never be used near fire. One of the advantages to using alcohol is that insects do not develop resistance to the treatments.

*Reprinted from the JANUARY 2005 issue of Orchids -- The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society. Copyright American Orchid Society -- www.aos.org*

MID-AMERICA JUDGING CENTER OCTOBER 2015 AOS AWARDS



*Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica* v. *alba* 'Mahvelouly Yellow'  
AM/81 owned by Marcus Valentine of Memphis, TN

*Phal. hieroglyphica* v. *alba*  
'Mahvelouly Yellow' CCM/88  
owned by Marcus Valentine of  
Memphis, TN





*Phalaenopsis* Fusheng Sweet Paradise 'Shelby's Prince' HCC/79  
owned by Hilltop Orchids

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MEMBERS' PLANTS BLOOMING NOW



*Cattleya kerrii*, grown by Eric Stoiber



*Pecteilis sagarikii*,  
grown by Jim Pyrzynski



*Habenaria lindleyana*  
grown by Jom Pyrzynski

Submit your photos for the next newsletter to Jim  
[jpyrzynski@cox.net](mailto:jpyrzynski@cox.net)

**GREATER OMAHA ORCHID SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (2016)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE DUES - \$15.00    FAMILY DUES - \$20.00    STUDENT (18 YRS AND UNDER) - \$5.00

Make check payable to the Greater Omaha Orchid Society, and mail to:  
Greater Omaha Orchid Society, P. O. Box 241871, Omaha, NE 68124

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