



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

March - April 2016

Vol. 10 no.3-4, 2016

In this Issue

- From the president
- Next meeting
- Events in the area
- Notes and tips
- Scenes from Show & Sale
- Orchid of the month

Contact us at:

www.ciorchidsociety.org

Join us on Face book

Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter is published monthly. Subscription is through membership in the Society.

Membership is \$15/person and \$25/couple. Please visit our home page for Membership form and mailing address.

CIOS Officers for 2016

- Joanne Miller, President
- Linda Bailey, Vice Pres. /Secretary
- Terry Moore and Linda Bial, Show & Sale co-chairs
- Mark Williams, Treasurer
- Mitzi Williams, Editor, Newsletter & Webpage

From the President:

We had a wonderful Show and Sale this month, and I want to thank you all for participating in it!. Our gratitude also goes to Linda Bial & Terry Moore for chairing this event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Many of us bought new plants at our Show and perhaps at others, so I want to offer some tips about caring for your orchids in their new home. A new plant in your home can be traumatic for both of you. You have to get to know each other! The new plant probably was grown in a nursery where there was very high light and much higher humidity than you have in your home, so the plant has to make some adjustments. Here are a couple of tips to help your plant have the least amount of stress:

- 1) Isolate your new plant from the rest of your collection for at least 3 weeks for observation for possible insects and treatment.
- 2) Place your plant where it is bright but not in direct sunlight, because your flowers will last much longer.
- 3) Be sure the plant is well watered. Often it will dry out as it is shipped and needs a welcome drink when you finally get it home.
- 4) Don't put the plant near ripe fruit. Fruit gives off ethylene gas which can cause flowers to collapse prematurely.
- 5) Don't spray the flowers with water or put it in a room with high humidity with no air movement. This can cause spotting on the flowers from fungal diseases.
- 6) Put new plants on a humidity tray to benefit from the moisture.

I hope these few tips will help you have long lasting blooms with little stress. It may take your new plant 6 months to get used to its new conditions in your home, but with a little TLC it should be ready to move right in with your collection, and thrive.

See you at our next meeting Monday, April 11 at 6:30. I am looking forward to hearing Linda Bial's program, "Crazy & Unusual Orchids".

May you have lots of blooms!
Joanne Miller, CIOS President

Next meeting:

- Our next regular meeting will be on April 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hessel Park Church. The program consists of a presentation entitled “Crazy and Unusual Orchids” by Linda Bial. We will also have a brief review of the Show and Sale to see if we can improve any aspect of it in the future.
- Mark your calendar for May 7 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon for our **sale at Lincoln Square**. We will be joined by the Grand Prairie Friends, the Herb Society, the Prairie Hosta Society, and a number of other horticultural groups in the area. In addition to some tropical orchids, we will be selling hardy native slipper orchids, i.e., *Cypripedium* species. Both the yellow and the pink showy types will be available. As usual, volunteers are needed for this event. If you can help, please contact Joanne Miller.

Events in the area:

- Now till - March 27, 2016. Orchid Show under the theme "Where the wild things grow." Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO. For more info, see: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>
- Apr 2 – 3, 2016 Central Ohio Spring Show and Sale. Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 East Broad St., Columbus, OH Contact: Screll Jones 614-864-7924 krazyladyo@gmail.com
- April 16-17, 2016 Central Indiana Orchid Society Spring Orchid Show at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Indianapolis, Ind. www.centralios.org/Central Indiana Orchid Society Spring Show.
- Additional shows are found at AOS.ORG website under Events and News. If you travel around the country, you will almost always find regional society shows and meetings you can attend.

Notes and tips:

- If you are interested in glassware of plants, check out Nature Glassworks. They have beautiful orchid sun catchers (example shown below), vases, and plates, though some are a bit pricey. Check out: www.natureglass.com.



A perfect stocking stuffer!

You can also take a glass plate or a vase from department stores and have them sand-blasted at Glass FX in Champaign. You may have to provide a traceable image of the flower.

Scenes from the Show and Sale:

We had a great Show and Sale again this year. Not only did the officers work many hours planning for the event and obtaining the plants, a lot of members volunteered to help with various tasks. We had relatively good weather, and the entire event went very smoothly.

Our members showed amazing talent for growing spectacular orchids. When the doors opened at 10 a.m., we were surprised to see a big crowd of visitors lined up at the door. Having acquired 30% more plants than the last year, we thought we will have some plants left for the afternoon, but everything was sold out by shortly past noon! That included all the potting mixes and many pots! Below are some images of the day. The editor regrets that not every show plant could be shown here. Our club needs a photographer!



Show plants



Sale plants already half sold



Hospitality table



Hospitality Table decoration

Some show plants and P.M. repotting demo (bottom left.)



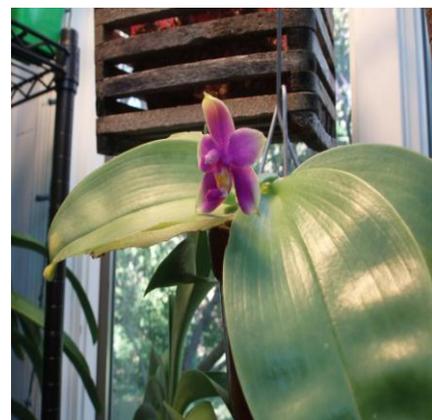
Orchids of the month: Species Phalaenopsis

After seeing all the unusual orchids, we sometimes become less interested in the plain old Phalaenopsis. Yet the commercial growers continue to put out new hybrids of interesting flower color, size, and petal texture. At times, it seems that hybrids are the only game in town. This is why it is time to give a second look at this amazing Genus that made commercial, mega-distribution of orchids ever so possible.

There are about 50 Phalaenopsis species in the world, all in the tropical Asian region from India to Australia.⁽¹⁾ Because of their relative cultivation ease and speed of growth, this genus is the most hybridized type of all the orchids. Their ancestry is so numerous and blurred that they sometimes are sold in stores as simply "Orchid." But we cannot knock the commercial effort down too much because it makes orchids available in many homes at very affordable prices. Hybridization also brings varieties of colors and shapes of flowers, plant size, and cultivation requirements that are easy to provide in a home.

If you are interested in some species of this genus, here are several that may be found in nurseries.

- Phal. gigantea, below left, in Terry Moore's collection, is the largest of the species with leaves reaching over 12 inches. It has dark reddish spotted flowers.
- Phal. schilleriana, mainly found in the Philippines, has purplish mottled leaves with light lavender flowers (center).
- Phal. violacea, Borneo, has flowers with greenish-white edge, while those from Malaysia have even pink colored flowers. Both varieties are small and have very fragrant flowers.
- There are miniatures in the group, too. Phal. lindenii is the smallest of all. Phal. lobbii and Phal. parishii are also small deciduous species found in higher elevations of India and Burma.
- Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi is different from other Phalaenopsis species in that the flower stem continues to grow and produce flowers. Therefore, the stem should never be cut unless it is completely dried out.



Phalaenopsis plants (whether hybrid or species) do not have water storing pseudobulbs, so they need to be grown in somewhat moisture retentive medium. In nature, they grow under tree canopies and are used to low light. This habitat makes Phalaenopsis an ideal orchid to grow in homes.

1. The illustrated encyclopedia of orchids, ed. by Alec Pridgeon, forwarded by Alasdair Morrison. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1995.