



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

June-August 2017

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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 2017

- 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 have really had an extremely hot and humid summer this year! Although it is good to have tropical type weather for some Orchids, there are others that don't like it as much. If temperatures are above what is recommended for each type of orchid then this could cause the plant to slow, or even stop, growing. Temperatures that are too hot for your orchid can also cause the flowers to wilt and can dry up the leaves and spikes.

Humidity is also another important consideration, as is how much light your orchid needs. Little thermometers on my orchid shelves show temperature and humidity, and help check that the environment your orchids are in, is acceptable.

Temperature ranges are grouped into three different categories. There are warm temperature growing orchids which include Angraecums, Phalaenopsis and Vandas. Minimum temperatures at night are 65°F and temperatures in the daytime should not exceed 90°F.

There are Intermediate temperature growing orchids which include Aerangis, Cattleya, Cymbidium, Epidendrum, Maxillaria, & Paphiopedilum to name a few. Their minimum temperatures should not fall below 55°F at night and should not exceed 75°F in the daytime.

And last, there are cool temperature orchids. These include Cymbidium, Dendrobium and Odontoglossum. For these the night temperature should not drop below 45°F and 70°F during the day.

I hope this helps you find the ideal temperatures for your particular orchids, so they can grow to their full potential and remain healthy and happy.

The Prairie State Orchid Society in Springfield will again host its annual seminar on August 26, from 8:30 am to 3:0 pm. The 2017 speaker is Art Chadwick and he will speak on "First Ladies and their Cattleyas." Lunch will be served and the cost is \$20.00. Orchids will also be for sale. If you are interested in going, please, and if you can drive for car pooling, let me know by August 12.

Joanne Miller, CIOS President

Next meeting:

- Our next meeting is on Monday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hessel Park Church. A fascinating video program entitled "What plants talk about" will be shown. The business meeting will include nomination for the officers. If anyone wishes to run or nominate someone for the positions of: the President, Vice President/Secretary, Treasurer, Sale Chair, Show Chair, and Editor of Newsletter and Website, please let Joanne know. The voting will take place at the October meeting.
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Events in the area:

- August 20, Sun. 12 noon to 5:00 pm. Annual Orchid Auction by the Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis. Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO. Hundreds of orchids will be auctioned, along with a robust selection of plants/divisions available for purchase. This event provides a unique opportunity to purchase divisions from plants that are housed in MOBOT's world class orchid collection. Arrive early to preview and to get the best selection of plants on the sale table. The event is free but the Garden admission still applies. For more information, visit: www.osogsl.org/
 - August 26, Sat., 8:30 am - 3:00 pm. Prairie State Orchid Society Seminar featuring Arthur Chadwick. \$20 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Registration deadline is August 18. For more information and registration form, please visit the PSOS home page: <http://prairiestateorchids.org>.
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Board meeting report:

The CIOS Board met on August 6 at 3:30 pm with all members present. The discussion included the selection of the September meeting program as well as possible future programs. The officers were also asked if they would like to/be able to continue serving for 2018. All officers, except for the Show Chair, Linda Bial, are willing to continue. A suggestion was made to hold a regular meeting in May even though we have a May sale at the Lincoln Square. Terry gave a status report on the T-shirt project. Following the treasurer's report that we have a comfortable amount of overage to cover financial needs for the next several years, the Board discussed special activities that we can do for the members such as bus trips to nurseries, shows, buying seedlings for the members, and raffles. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

American Orchid Society News:

- 2017 Dillon/Peterson Essay Contest:
The contest is open to members and non-members alike. The theme for 2017 is "Species or hybrids: Which do you prefer and why?" Do you grow hybrids because of their cultural adaptability and reliable blooming (sometimes more than once a year), or do you grow species because of the challenge and diversity?

This is a chance to show off some of your favorite orchids as you use them to illustrate your points! The essay must be no longer than 5,000 words, and must be original as well as unpublished. The deadline is Nov. 30, 2017, and the winning essay will be published in the June issue of Orchids the following year. For more information, visit: www.aos.org/about-us/article-submissions/essay-contest-winners.aspx.



Member profile: Terry Moore:

By Terry Moore

I first became aware of orchids when I took my annual bike ride down the street to Strausers Florist on Cleveland and Bowman in Danville to pick up my mother's corsage. She always wore one at Easter and Mother's Day at church. After a time I was in charge of ordering it every year and picking it out. I remember being very intrigued by the orchid's beauty. It was usually a Cymbidium or a Cattleya orchid and I remember asking my mother why we couldn't grow them ourselves and make them every year.

When I was in grad school and I was working on Mercy Hospital's 5th floor, a co worker, Joe Parnarauskis would occasionally bring a Phalaenopsis orchid from his collection and leave it in the nurses' station for all to enjoy, so I was reintroduced to orchids. He presented me my first orchid-- a white Phalaenopsis. This was in 1987.

Soon after Ed and I moved to Chicago, I already had the orchid bug but had no sense of where to get plants. But it happened: the dry cleaners we used down on Michigan and Lake had a plant stand that often filled with big blooming such as Cattleyas, Dendrobiums and occasionally a Cymbidium. I found myself getting off the L a stop earlier, so I could peer into the window to see if they had any orchids. I was still planning to make my mom orchid corsages and soon had a small space with a couple of Catts and Dendrobiums. It is a wonder that I was successful in getting them to rebloom because one of my setups involved my plants perched in my picture window right above a big radiator. So I really had no sense of humidity and other kinds of variables I now am so conscious of from day to day. Even as I write this on an airplane, 30k feet up in the air, I am conscious of it being 90 in CU and dry, and worry ..but I did make my mom a few corsages during this period we lived in Chicago. I still had no idea there was such a thing as Hausermann's even though I know they were in existence then .

The next few years took me to Seattle and, by chance, a couple of my friends had sizeable orchid collections and even had portable greenhouses they put up as attachments onto their patio decks in the winter. It was really through them that I acquired any knowledge of culture or even the vast number of different genera of orchids other than the Cattleya, the Dendrobium, or the moth orchid.

There in Seattle, I began visiting nurseries and started to build a small collection so that, when I moved to CU, I had perhaps 50 orchids in my collection, mainly Angrecoids. Encyclias Coleogynes and mini Cattleyas.

I also began seeking out more in-depth information and would browse used book stores in Seattle. In Oregon and during trips to Sante Fe, I did find many books on orchid culture which were invaluable but still complicated to me. When to fertilize this one versus that one. It was still very much trial and error. A reblooming was the only guide I had to success. Unfortunately when I moved back to Champaign only a couple plants survived out of the 50.

Fast forward to the advent of the internet and my introduction to orchid societies and my orchid hobby has only escalated in my passion as evidenced by an almost out of control collection that now numbers above 550 plants (estimate. I really don't want to know.) It is focused on Angrecoids, Dendrobiums, Erias, Coelogyne, Brassavola and Cattleya species and hybrids. Though more confident now due to societies and internet, it is still a commitment to provide my collection with replicating their natural environment.



Notes and tips:

- The August AOS Monthly e-mail to affiliated societies, AOS Corner, included a lengthy article about orchid care during the hurricane season. The growers in the South-Eastern coast, Florida, and those along the Gulf coast go through this problem nearly every year. We in Illinois are lucky in that our storms are less severe than those in the south, but we do occasionally get hit by very high winds and torrential rains. We also have many days of warm, cloudy days with no breeze--a perfect set up for insect pests and diseases to quickly attack our orchids. Below is an excerpt from this month's AOS Corner: Hurricane Preparation, by Martin Motes of Motes Orchids.

ORCHID FIRST AID First be prepared to quickly replace shade either on the structure or by positioning shade cloth temporarily until the structure can be rebuilt. The plants will have been severely stunned, bruised or nicked by buffeting winds. Often they will have been dark and wet for many hours. These conditions are the most highly conducive to fungal and bacterial development. While the plants are still wet they can be sprayed with a tertiary ammonia product, such as Physan, Consan or Greenshield (pool algicide contains the same chemical). This has the advantage of blending with the water on the plants to provide some immediate protection. Once the plants are dry again, spray them with a broad-spectrum fungicide/bactericide. . . The strategy for the next few weeks is to keep the plants as dry as possible (most will be moving toward more dormant states in September and October). Close monitoring for disease development plus excising damaged tissue as disease develops are essential. This should be done with a clean instrument that is disinfected between cuts, preferably with a supersaturated solution of trisodium phosphate or by flaming the cutting edge. Spraying the entire collection will go a long way toward preventing isolated problems from becoming epidemic.

Orchid of the month:

- *Bletilla striata* and hybrids



The Japanese beetles this year have been the worst we have seen. They ate not only the roses (their favorite), but also practically defoliated everything in the

sunnier parts of our gardens including the crab apple leaves, Cannas, ferns, and even the milk weed flowers and leaves. But some plants remain untouched--the most surprising is the hardy orchids, *Bletilla* species.

At right are the *Bretilla striata* in early August. Despite all the ups and downs of the temperatures, winds, droughts, heavy rain falls, and the Japanese beetles, they look great in the garden. For whatever reasons, the Japanese beetles avoided them.



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