



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

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Contact us at:

www.ciorchidsociety.org

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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 2016

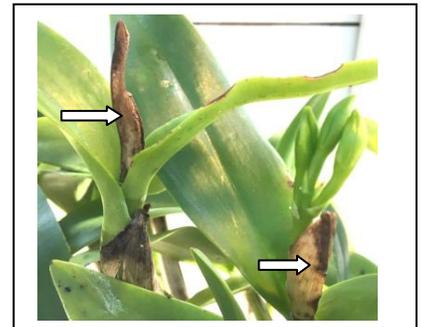
- Joanne Miller, President
- Linda Bailey, Vice Pres. /Secretary
- Terry Moore and Linda Bial, Show & Sale co-chairs
- Mark Williams, Treasurer
- Mitzi Williams, Editor, Newsletter & Webpage

From the President:

I'd like to wish you a Happy New Year and welcome you to an abundant year of growing Orchids with us at CIOS! Hopefully you are all ready to join us at our monthly meeting on Monday, January 11 at the Hessel Park Church Bldg.

This year I'd like to encourage you to Explore! Go to orchid events and shows as much as possible. This is a good way to get as much information about orchids as you can. It's a constant learning process. The next 4 months will be prime time for orchid shows and forums in our area as listed in the "EVENTS IN THE AREA" section of this issue. You can see some AOS judging as well as orchid nurseries and open houses. Any one of them sounds like a great time to me! And if you do go, please report your experiences to us at our general meeting.

Do you have brown paper sheaths on some of your Cattleyas? I do, and I was thinking "oh those will never bloom." Well, don't be in a hurry to cut them off your plant, thinking they have lost the flowers. Some Cattleyas produce flowers from within the papery bracts, just at the right time. Others have sheaths that are green and succulent. So use the "wait and see" approach before giving up on the flower. Here is hoping they will bloom and be perfect for you.



I hope you're planning to be at our January Meeting on January 11, 2016. Terry Moore will be showing us how to mount an orchid on a piece of wood. I've always wanted to know how to do that and Terry has several in his collection he will show us. In the meantime, be thinking of the Orchids you want to bring to our own Orchid Show on Sat., March 5. If you suspect that the flowers might open too early for the show, you might want to try the Hausermann's trick--cover the budded plants with a sheer material. We were told that this delays the opening of the flowers by some time.

Happy Growing!
Joanne Miller, CIOS President

Next meeting:

- Our regular meeting will resume on January 11, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Hessel Park Church. Terry Moore will give a presentation on mounted orchids. We will also begin discussing the plans for the 2016 Show and Sale at this meeting. Please share your blooming orchids for show and tell.
 - Please renew your membership. Despite the Feds threatening to raise interest rates, we will keep our membership cost the same--\$15 for an individual and \$25 for a couple. Please fill out the membership form on our website, and renew promptly.
-

Introducing our new logo and website:



Thank you to Linda Bial's daughter Anna for the design of our new logo! It is great to have a talent in the family. Also check out the new design of our website by logging in to ciorchidsociety.org. The commercial website template prevents some structural and color changes, but information can be readily uploaded. Your comment/ideas for improving the content will be very much appreciated.

AOS membership:

If you are interested in joining the American Orchid Society, please mention that you are a member of this Society. The form below has a line where you can enter the name of our Society so we can receive one month extension on our membership.

www.aos.org/images/img_content/PDFs/AOS__Join_Form_2014_Effective_051514_B&W.pdf

Events in the area:

- January 30 - 31, 2016. Madison Orchid Growers Guild "Orchid Quest 2016" Marriott Madison West Conference Center, 1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI. For details, check their Face Book page (<https://www.facebook.com/OGG.Madison>).
- February 6 - 7, 2016. Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis Annual Orchid Show and Sale, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO. For more info, see: www.osogsl.org/
- February 6 - 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/>
- February 13 - 14, 2016. Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale. Washington Park Botanical Garden, Springfield, IL. For more information, check www.prairiestateorchids.org.
- February 20 - 21, 2016. Batavia Orchid Society Show. www.bataviaorchidsociety.org/
- February 26 - 28 and March 4 - 6, 2016. Orchids by Hausermann Annual Open House Show and Sale. Many workshops and demonstrations. For more info, see: www.orchidsbyhausermann.com/events.html.
- For more show listing, see: Orchid Event Calendar at the American Orchid Society website, AOS.ORG.

Notes and tips:

- Do you like to take walks in the woods or prairies? If so, you may find some native orchids which typically bloom from May to July. The North American Orchid Conservation website offers a ton of information about the types of orchids and where they can be found in the U.S. and Canada. See: <http://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/>



Primo Grow (primogrow.com), the indoor plant growing supply company in Champaign is under new ownership. They carry many orchid fertilizers, lighting equipment, and potting materials including coir (coconut husk). The new owner was very friendly and helpful, and said he would maintain posted store hours.

- Insecticidal soap that you can make at home: Sam Tsui, our speaker from Sept. 2015, says you can make insecticidal soap at home by mixing 1/3 Murphy's oil soap (diluted according to the label), 1/3 water, and 1/3 isopropyl alcohol. This solution is safe to use at home, and is less expensive than commercial insecticidal soap sprayers. Application should be once or twice a week for at least 5 weeks, but some may take much longer to completely get rid of the insects. Fill several bottles with the home-made solution so you can use them at multiple locations. If the potting mix is getting old, you can unpot the plant, soak the whole plant in the solution for a few minutes, and repot with fresh mix.

Orchid of the month 1: Underground orchid

Though beauty is in the eyes of beholder, not all orchids are beautiful or desirable, due to their odd appearance or smelly nature. When it comes to describing some not-so-desirable "fragrance" words used include road kill, 'urine', 'rotten fish', 'fresh dog poop', 'rotten vegetables', etc. Many *Bulbophyllum* species emit such "fragrance."

If the foul-smelling orchids do not surprise you, how about an orchid which **grows entirely underground?** *Rhizanthella* is an endangered species of orchid which grows only in Australia. It even flowers an inch or so below the soil surface. Instead of getting food through photosynthesis, it uses certain soil fungus to get nourishments, while the fungi depends on broom brush for nutritional support. Unlike human relationships, this 3-way symbiotic relationship is what keeps this rare orchid in existent.



Rhizanthella has three species: *gardneri* (Western underground orchid); *Rhiz. slateri* (Eastern Underground orchid); and *Rhiz. omissa* (Lamington's underground orchid.) Apparently, the Eastern species bloom in Oct. - Nov. and the Western species from May to June.

In North America, the closest plant that comes to *Rhizanthella* is Indian pipe plant (*Monotropa uniflora*) shown on the next page. They are similar in that both lack chlorophyll for photosynthesis. Indian pipe plant, however, is not an orchid, and the plants come in red, pink, yellow, and white depending on the region.

Sources:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhizanthella_slateri
2. The odd life of an underground orchid (<http://earthsky.org/earth/the-odd-life-of-an-underground-orchid>)
3. Image of Indian pipe (at right) (<http://www.psu.edu/dept/nkbiology/naturetrail/speciespages/indianpipe.htm>)



Orchid ?? of the month 2: different kind of 'orchid'

The arrival of seed and plant catalogs are making all gardeners itch for the new garden season. Among the Annual Trial Plants that were tested in 2015, the following "orchids" were stand outs, each receiving a perfect score (5 out of 5 all season). Ann Tice, a Champaign County Master Gardener, conducts the trials each year. The results of the trials and the scores and comments of all tested plants are published in the November-December 2015 *Cultivator*, the newsletter for Master Gardeners serving Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties.



Petunia 'Supertunia Orchid Charm' (above left) stood out from a distance with a free flowing waterfall of lavender pink blooms with a deeper violet eye and subtle veining on a full lush plant. Like most of the 'Charm' series, this also "buries its dead" so there is no need for deadheading.

Angelonia 'Orchid Pink' (above right) was a "petite delight filled with frilly pinkish lavender blooms nearly all season."