



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2016

Vol. 10 no.9, 2016

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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:

Several of us just got back from a wonderful Prairie State Orchid Society Seminar in Springfield, given by Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids. It was a great day of learning about some new orchids that I have not studied or heard of before. Peter's orchid nursery is in Southern California, and he specializes in mini-Catts, Sophronitis, Dendrobiums and a wide variety of miniature orchid species. He is also an AOS judge, and an orchid hybridizer. We all left with at least one new orchid to add to our orchid collection. I brought home a Habenaria, a Leptotes and a Mystacidium. Hopefully they will live for many years!

I've been reading articles about orchid roots lately, and wanted to share some things I've learned about the special nature of roots, and how caring for them properly will dramatically improve your orchid growth. Roots consist of a thin inner core, with an absorbent outer covering made up of layers of dead cells. This layer, which soaks up water through its surface, is called the velamen and it covers the root behind the green growing tip. The green tips are extremely vulnerable to damage and can be easily broken when they are outside the pot or when you repot your orchids. Roots are extremely important to orchids. If they are killed through overwatering or snapped off, they cannot be replaced until the plant makes new growth. If this happens, the pseudobulbs will shrivel and the foliage will become limp until new roots enable the lost water reserves to be made up. In the meantime, regular spraying or misting will help to slow down dehydration. It also helps to use clear plastic pots if you can, so you can see what's going on in that medium. So take care of your roots! You'll be so glad you did!

Hope to see you all at our next CIOS meeting on September 12 at 6:30 at Hessel Park Church. Bettina and Cindy will give us a presentation on Growing Orchids under lights. Can't Wait!

Happy Growing!
Joanne Miller, CIOS President



Next meeting:

- Our next meeting is on Monday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Hessel Park Church. Bettina Francis and Cindy Westfall will give a presentation on growing orchids under light. Orchids benefit from some artificial lighting, especially during the month of December through February, but there are many different options that may be considered for your specific growing area. This presentation will provide much needed practical information that can be applied to specific situations. If you have blooming plants, please bring them for show and tell. This meeting is open to non-members.
- Mark your calendar for October 10, the member orchid sale day. If you have divisions that you want to donate to the society for this sale, please let Joanne know. Details will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter.
- Our Holiday Dinner outing is on **Sunday, November 6** at 5:00 p.m. Place TBA but it is not too early to make a note for this fun event on your calendar. Members and guests are welcome. Members will receive a present of a blooming orchid.

2017 officer nomination:

September is the nomination month for the officer positions in the Society. The positions and the incumbent are:

President	Joanne Miller
Vice President/Secretary	Linda Bailey
Treasurer	Mark Williams
Show/Sale Co-Chairs	Terry Moore and Linda Bial
Editor, Website & Newsletter	Mitzi Williams

All of the current officers are willing to continue for another year but if you wish to nominate someone (or yourself), please feel free to do so at the September meeting. The vote will be taken at the October meeting.

Board meeting report:

The Board met at 3 pm on Sunday, August 28, 2016. The discussions included: 1) treasurer's report ; 2) what to do with the donated plants; 3) October member sale and Oncidium discussion; 4) review of the 2016 May sale and plans for 2017; 5) support for the Douglas County Museum project; 6) Holiday dinner date change; 7) 2017 programs and speakers; 8) state-wide show possibility. Next board meeting will be in December.

In the mean time, the Board would appreciate any suggestions or comments for programs, speakers, or anything else pertaining to our activities. Member participation is critical for small groups such as ours for not only to not only to survive, but also to thrive. So, please--



Events in the area:

- Natt's Orchids and Orchids by Hausermann are again hosting the Chicagoland Orchid Festival. Additional growers will be present at both locations. Fee-based seminars are available at Hausermann's, and the visits to both locations will qualify you for a free drawing for gift certificates ranging in value from \$50 to \$250.



- Saturday, October 8 - Sunday October 9, 2016, 10 am - 4 pm. Chicago Orchid Society Fall Show, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. For more information, see: <http://illinoisorchidsociety.nationbuilder.com/calendar>.

Notes and tips:

- September is the month when the night temperatures can drop down below 60°F at times. So, if your plants are outside, keep an eye on the temperatures daily. If the temperature drop is just for a night or two, and warm sunny days are expected to return, the plants can be covered during the night, but eventually the tropical orchids should all come in before the night temperature remain below 60°. The exception is the Cymbidiums which need to experience cold temperatures in order to produce flower spikes. So, leave them out until the night temperatures drop to around 45°F. They should be also moved to a sunnier location as the heat becomes less intense.

Two things should be kept in mind for moving the plants inside: 1) treating the plants and the pots with insecticide, and 2) gradual acclimatization. As in the spring move to the outside, the plants need to be moved gradually--so place them in a shady spot for several days before settling them in the house. The plants can be sprayed with insecticide several times over 3-5 days, or the entire pot can be dunked in a bucket of insecticide. Some people do both.

As the plants come inside, fertilizer and watering should be less frequent for most of the plants, except for Cymbidiums. Beginning early September, the fertilizer should be switched to the "bloom boosting" kind, i.e., higher Phosphorus content. Phosphorus appears in the middle of the fertilizer ratio. Continue with this type until mid to late November when new flower spikes emerge. Gradually switch to plain water until spring.



- The genus *Dendrobium* contains many physically diverse species from vastly different environments. (*) Below are two common types of *Dendrobiums*: Nobile-type *Dendrobium* (pictured below left) and *Dendrobium Phalaenopsis* (pictured below center, and right which was grown by Joanne.)

A. Nobile-type: These come from southeast Asia, including Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, northeastern India, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and much of southern China. They grow at heights between 650-6550 ft, and experience definite winter dryness as well as lower temperatures, i.e., 70°F daytime to 50°F or below night time. They will not produce flower buds unless the medium is allowed to dry nearly completely starting late October, and only given small amounts of water for a month or so.

Nobile-type *Dendrobium* is deciduous and will lose most of the leaves in the fall. If the plant is allowed to dry, little nobs will appear up and down the pseudobulb, and develop into clusters of flower buds. The pseudobulbs can be misted. Once the buds form and begin to grow, watering can be gradually resumed.

B. Another type often seen on the market is *Dendrobium phalaenopsis*. This is an evergreen dendrobium and produces flower spikes at the top of the pseudobulb. These originates from species found in North Eastern Australia, but lower altitudes than the Nobiles, i.e., below 2000 ft., where temperatures are steady between low 70's to high 80's year around.

For more information, see Orchids Limited's website, www.orchidweb.com/orchidculturalinformation.html.



* *Dendrobium species culture* (http://www.orchidculture.com/COD/FREE/Den_Art.html).

Member profile: Paul and Kathryn Wilson

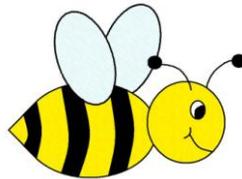
After working as physicians at Carle Foundation Hospital until 2015, Kathryn and Paul Wilson joined CIOS in 2016. However, they had been members before in the 1990's, when smoking was allowed in public places including the UI classrooms where the meetings were held. There were several heavy smokers in the group then, so the Wilsons could not continue as members. CIOS is lucky to have them back as they have been long-time orchid growers. Paul has also gotten his brother Ken into growing orchids. Ken is now a *Phragmipedium* expert and serves as program chairman for the Denver Orchid Society.

Their interest in growing orchids began in 1986 when they were residents in internal medicine in Iowa City when a cardiologist friend gave them a tour of his standard Cymbidium collection. They then moved to Oklahoma City for their Endocrinology Fellowship from 1987 to 1990. Paul saw a large ugly plant at a VA Hospital "garage sale" and decided it must be an orchid. It turned out to be *Cattleya bowringiana* and was their first orchid. It was magnificent when it first bloomed and they were hooked!

They still have their first *C. bowringiana* and a few of their other original orchids. A mycology professor (fungus expert) gave them *Cymbidium Evening Star* "Bethlehem" in 1988, and it has done very well. Their favorites include *C. bowringiana*, *C. Portia* and *Oncidium Gower Ramsey*. Their collection now includes about 250 orchids which are kept in a wrap-around Four Seasons green house on the southeast corner of their home in Champaign. Paul has fixed the rain barrel outside with a pump so the orchids in the greenhouse would be watered with rain water.

In the 1990's, they participated in two AOS-sponsored orchid trips: one to Guatemala and one to Costa Rica. They also went with the AOS group to the World Orchid Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. They enjoyed a personal tour of the Smithsonian orchid collections by Tom Miranda, the orchid collection specialist there and a well-known contributor to the Orchids magazine. Over the years, they have attended numerous orchid shows in various cities. They feel their collection has reached the "stable" stage, so are not planning to branch out to include any particular species.

In addition to a greenhouse-full of orchids, their activities and interests extend to many directions such as: hiking, camping and gardening. Kathryn is a glass bead artists and melts glass with a torch to make intricate beads of many different shapes. Paul especially enjoys woodworking and astronomy. In addition, they have kept bees in their back yard for the last 14 years. Though not for sale, the honey is packaged under the label "Coppertree Apiary." They have an indoor observation hive where bees can come in and out from outside. Paul is looking forward to attend the Master Naturalist program at the UI Extension this fall.



AOS News

As mentioned in the last issue of the Newsletter, the AOS created a Face Book page for affiliated societies, www.facebook.com/groups/AffiliatedSocietiesOfTheAOS/. Though initially for the representatives of the affiliated societies, the participation is now open to any member of the affiliated societies regardless of being a personal AOS member. The page administrator says: "We do intend to remain a 'closed' group and members must be still approved and added by [the] Administrator" and "posts will continue to be monitored . This forum will remain as a place to share your successes, challenges and best practices with other orchid societies, and we hope that participating clubs will find new ideas for improving membership recruitment, retention and participation. The AOS volunteers will also post information and helpful links, and the AOS will use this bridge to maintain contact with you and your society."