



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:

Recently my husband and I were fortunate enough to get a few weeks off for a vacation. So of course we headed south to Florida where we could enjoy the sunshine and 70 degree temperatures. We went to Ft. Myers Beach where we've been before and enjoyed shelling, beach walking and visiting two Orchid Nurseries. Florida has lots of sunshine and can grow the warm-growing Vandas much easier than we can in Illinois. I saw rows and rows of them hanging, but also saw a variety of Cattleya types, Tolumnias, Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums. Sundance Orchids was a beautiful nursery with 7 greenhouses and 20,000 sq. ft. of orchid space. They also featured bromeliads which are a good companion plant for Orchids. I picked out a little Tolumnia to bring home because it was the easiest to transport. I'll see how it transitions to our Illinois weather.

Another item they had available to purchase were Mopane root pieces for mounting orchids. It is a root of the Mopane tree in Africa and is very dense, heavy, and has textured surfaces of dark brown and light brown, making it a very beautiful piece of wood. They had an abundance to choose from that already had orchids attached to them. It is used as a type of driftwood for decoration or as a great natural display for plants to attach to. They had large "living logs" they called them, which they mounted tillandsias, mini Phalaenopsis and bromeliads on. People in Florida can place them on their decks outside, year round. So not only was it fun to see, but an educational adventure as well.

I hope you are all busy coaxing you orchids to bloom! Our Orchid Show/Sale is fast approaching. It is always so much fun to see the orchids that our members have grown. Our chairmen for the show have been busily preparing for the success of the show and hopefully we will all be able to volunteer our time and talents to help them. We will have our signup sheet available at our next meeting on Monday, Feb. 8. Our program will be "40 Species for your Greenhouse". Hope to see you there at 6:30!

Happy Growing!

Joanne Miller, CIOS President



Next meeting:

- Our regular meeting will be on February 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hessel Park Church. A video presentation, "40 Species for your Green House" by Orchid Digest, will be shown. We will also finalize the plans for the 2016 Show and Sale at this meeting, including the sign-ups for various tasks. Show and tells are always welcome at regular meetings.
- Here is our 2016 Show and Sale poster. Compliments go to Bettina and Linda Bial.



Because we were sold out so quickly in the past, we are nearly doubling the number of sale plants this year. We need lots of volunteers to help at the event. If you would miss signing up at the next meeting, please respond to the call for help that will be sent by e-mail.

Growing supplies will be available for sale also. Repotting demonstrations will be offered at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Visitors often have questions about the care of orchids they have or want to buy, and even if you feel you don't have enough experience to answer them, you will find quite the contrary. Plus it is fun sharing the joy of orchid growing with others.

If you volunteer for set up, we would like to have you there by 9:00 a.m. The show plants should be brought in no later than 9:30 a.m. Pre-sale (members only) will also begin at 9:30 a.m.

How to make your plants show-ready:

To make the leaves shine, especially those of Phalaenopsis, some people wipe the leaves with a spot of mayonnaise on a soft paper towel. After a few minutes, buff them to get the best shine. If you have the tag for the plants, please leave it in the pot so the visitors can see the name of the plant. General grooming and staking of Cattleya-type plants can be found at: www.orchidworks.com/showguide/grooming.

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/>

- February 13 - 14, 2016. Noon - 4 p.m. (Sale ends at 3 p.m. on Sunday). Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale. Washington Park Botanical Garden, Springfield, IL. For more information, see: www.prairiestateorchids.org.
- February 13 – March 13, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Show), 2016. Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. Displayed plants will be discounted for sale on March 17. www.chicagobotanic.org/orchid/
- February 20 - 21, 2016. Batavia Orchid Society Show and Sale. DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL. www.bataviaorchidsociety.org/
- February 26 - 28 and March 4 - 6, 2016. Orchids by Hausermann Annual Open House Show and Sale. Addison, IL. Many workshops and demonstrations. For more info, see: www.orchidsbyhausermann.com/events.html.
- March 12 - March 13, 2016 Illinois Orchid Society Show "Amazing Orchid Odyssey". Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. For more information, see www.iosoc.com or their Face Book page.
- March 13 - 14, 2016. University of Illinois Plant Biology Conservatory and Greenhouses Spring Fling and Orchid Sale. Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sun. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. In addition to regularly priced orchids, there will be some TLC table of discounted orchids. Contact Mitzi if you can help answer questions on Saturday.

Notes and tips:

- If you are interested in glassware of plants, check out Nature Glassworks. They have beautiful orchid sun catchers, vases, and plates, though some are a bit pricey. Check out : www.natureglass.com.
- Many of you missed the January meeting, and a great presentation by Terry Moore about mounting orchids. Below is a summary of his talk:

1. Terry uses cork bark for the mount mostly but any piece of hardwood slab, styrofoam covered with sphagnum, or even the backside of a terra cotta pot can be used.
2. The plant can be attached to the mount with fishing line, a piece of pantyhose, or wire, with some sphagnum moss tucked in here and there to give added moisture. The plant can be even glued to the mount without harm.
3. The mounted plants are watered every day during summer, but winter waterings vary depending on the species. With the exception of Masdevallias and Bulbophyllums which require daily watering regardless of season, it is safe to cut down winter waterings to every 2-3 days.
4. All epiphytes, including Cattleyas, can be mounted, but they can get large and very heavy.

