

# Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2014

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Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter is published irregularly. 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 2014

Linda Bial, President  
Ray Urban, Vice Pres.  
Nancy Urban, Treasurer  
Bettina Francis,  
Secretary

Mitzi Williams, Newsletter  
and Webpage content

## President's message:

Happy September, fellow orchid growers! I hope you and your orchids are enjoying these last weeks of warm weather.

Recently I and some other CIOS members had the pleasure of attending an all-day seminar hosted by the Prairie State Orchid Society in Springfield. Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids was featured, and he presented a highly informative and entertaining program on hybridizing and growing Catasetums and miniature Cattleyas. Fred is one of the few remaining people who do it all with regard to orchid culture: hybridizing, growing seeds in flasks, raising young orchids to maturity, and selling them commercially. We were quite fortunate to hear him speak not only about the various Cattleyas and Catasetinae that he uses in his hybridization programs, but also about the specific growing conditions needed to successfully raise those types of orchids. Plus, of course, we were able to purchase plants from the many beautiful varieties he brought along for sale.

The Catasetinae group is comprised of several types of orchids -- Cycnoches, Catasetums, Mormodes, and Clowesia – all of which bear beautiful and unusual blossoms. They're unusual in other ways as well: they're deciduous, meaning they require a dry spell over the winter during which they lose their leaves, and the Catasetums in particular are unusual in that they have unisexual flowers, meaning the blossom is either male or female. The same plant may produce both male and female flowers, but not both at once.

If you're interested in checking out Fred Clarke's website, it's at [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com). Here you can find photos of his gorgeous orchids for sale, including the black-blossomed Fredclarkeara After Dark, along with much helpful information about Cattleya and Catasetinae culture. And speaking of informative orchid sites, let me also remind you that the American Orchid Society provides access to a wealth of orchid culture information on their website ([www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)), and if you are an AOS member, you also will be able to sign up for free webinars on various topics, presented by knowledgeable, experienced growers.

Linda Bial, CIOS President

## Next meeting:

- Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 8, 2014 at the Champaign Public Library **in Room 215 on the second floor (Library Friends Conference Room)**. There is an elevator by the staircase just behind the information desk. The featured program will be a video entitled "40 species you can enjoy in your greenhouse, by Sandra Tillisch-Svoboda. We will also nominate 2015 officers for election. Bring your blooming orchids for show and tell. A sick plant for care advise is also welcome.

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## Events in the area:

- Sep 13 – 14, 2014, Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Millwaukee, WI For more info, see: <http://www.wisconsinorchidsociety.com/htm/orchidshow.html>
- Sept. 19-21, (8am - 5pm Fri. and Sat.; 10am - 3pm Sun) Chicagoland Orchid Fest, hosted by Natt's Orchids and Orchids by Hausermann. Natt's is located in southern Naperville, and Hausermann's is in Addison, IL. Festival offers cash prizes ranging from \$50 to \$250 towards the purchase of plants. In order to qualify, an entry form must be stamped at both nurseries. The entry form is available for printing at [www.chicagolandorchidfest.com/images/GrandPrizeApp12.pdf](http://www.chicagolandorchidfest.com/images/GrandPrizeApp12.pdf).

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## Urgent requests:

- **Officers for 2015:** The Society will have multiple vacancies in 2015. President, Vice President, and Treasurer positions all need to be filled. If you would like to be more involved in the Society matters, this is a good opportunity to do so. If you are willing to serve, please send an e-mail to Linda Bial ([lindabial@gmail.com](mailto:lindabial@gmail.com))
- **New Meeting Room needed:** If you have been following the reports on budget problems at the Champaign Public Library, you may have known that they were in search for new revenue sources without raising taxes. We were informed that fees will be charged for the use of the rooms this fall beginning with any new reservation. The Room C where we hold regular meetings and shows will cost \$25 per HOUR, and the smaller rooms on the second floor will be \$10 per HOUR. Since there is no sales or fundraising activities allowed at the Library, it will be impossible for us to pay to hold our meetings or shows there.

The board will be meeting on Sept. 7 to discuss this issue as well as several other topics critical to our Society's well-being. If you know of a place that is less costly or free, please let any of the officers know.

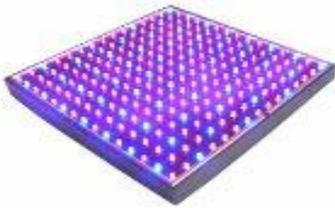
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## Notes and tips:

- Linda Bial reports that one of the orchids she put outside for the summer must have enjoyed itself immensely, since it developed a bloom spike – for the first time in many years! It's a NoID plant, so its blooms will be a nice surprise when they open. Patience pays off, doesn't it?

- New grow light:

If you are thinking about using supplemental lighting this winter, the new LED lighting panel may be of interest to you. David Bird, of Dave's Botanicals, who grows orchids in a cave in Kansas City, MO uses these and highly recommend them for home growers, too. LED bulbs are very energy efficient, produce red, blue, white, and orange light waves without heat. A 1 foot by 1 foot panel of 60 watt lighting comes with a 6 foot cord and contains 225 bulbs which produce red, blue, white, and orange waves to address the light needs for plant growth. One box can illuminate an eight square-foot area. The only drawback may be that the light panel, when lit, looks like an obnoxious Union Jack flag. But, it will be facing down, so it looks like a bit of neon light in your house.



One panel is \$45 (2 for \$80) plus shipping and handling of approximately \$15 for two. The panel is very light so can be hung easily with a couple of hooks. If you are interested in ordering, please let Mitzi know by Sept. 17. Dave will be in St. Louis for a show and can bring them so we can save on shipping.

On the internet, you will find several LED lighting at a much higher cost. They are in high wattage, and provides a much wider lighted space.

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## Orchid of the month 1: Miscellaneous



Here are two somewhat unusual orchids. The one at left is *Dendrobium bractiosum* 'New Guinea'. The small cluster of flowers at the base of the plant can last well over 6 weeks.

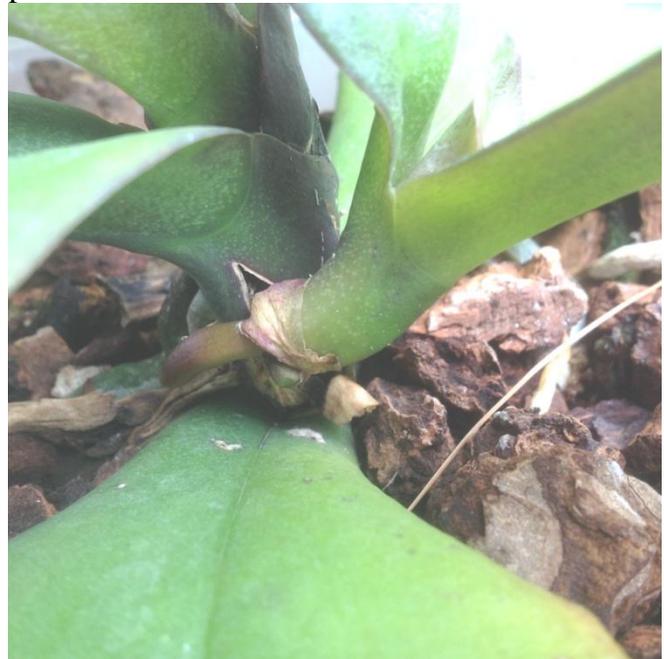
The plant at right with yellow flowers looks like a cross between *Doritis pulcherrima* and *Ascocentrum miniatum*, but is it not yet named. The compact size of this plant at about 24 inches including the pot makes it ideal for growing it on a windowsill.

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## Orchid of the month 2: never say "never"

Many people told me that a *Phalaenopsis* plant is done with once its crown, the top center core of the plant, is rotten, broken off, or dead. The picture below left shows such a plant. This plant looks totally abused, with one of the leaves showing a round hole which resembles a cigarette burn! This was among several that were donated to the Society early 2014. The newest leaves of this plant were rotted at the base and eventually broke off, leaving only a woody stump in the center. The older leaves, however, were sufficiently turgid and disease/pest free. The roots also looked thick and healthy, so it was repotted to see what will happen.

After nearly 3 months outside under shade, but without any special care, the effort paid off. A new plant has emerged at the base where a root or a flower spike might have originated! The images below right shows the new plant with one thick root protruding at the base. While there is no sign of new leaves at the center of the plant, this baby plant will grow into another respectable plant before winter.



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## Orchid trivia:

Did you know there is an orchid which grows entirely underground? *Rhizanthella gardneri*, commonly known as western underground orchid, lives entirely underground and blooms underground. According to several sources, another species, *Rhizanthella slateri* is also found in eastern Australia. The following sources provide more information on these incredible species.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10730>

<http://www.news.uwa.edu.au/201102073251/research/was-incredible-underground-orchid>