



# Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

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## Contact us at:

[www.ciorchidsociety.org](http://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 2018

- Joanne Miller, President
- Terry Moore, Vice President & Show Chair
- Linda Bailey, Sale Chair
- Linda Bial, Secretary
- Mark Williams, Treasurer
- Mitzi Williams, Editor, Newsletter & Webpage

## From the President:

I hope you are all enjoying your orchids from the Holiday Dinner Party at Atties. It was a fun evening to end my 4 years as President of CIOS! Although I didn't ask to be President, when the time came to take my turn, I found it to be very fulfilling. I think we accomplished a great deal in the last few years. Permit me to reminisce about some of my favorite events;

We've had several successful Orchid Shows and have expanded interest and variety with the orchid displays and "Is this an Orchid" table. We have added many active people to our membership list, of which the count is 33 today. We have had great membership picnics in July at our home and at Linda Bailey's home! I hope more people will volunteer to host us in the future. We have had enjoyable visits to both Paul Wilson and Terry Moore's homes to see their orchid greenhouses and sunrooms, plus Repotting Parties at Mitzi & Mark's, and repotting demonstrations by the half-dozen.

I always enjoyed our field trips. We've visited as a group, Hilltop Orchids in Cloverdale, IN and ate at a cute little restaurant called Almost Home in Greencastle, IN. We've been to United Central Orchids in Minooka, IL and ate at R-Family Restaurant in Morris. We've also been to Natt's Orchids and Orchids by Hausermann, both in the Chicago area, for many, many buying trips. Can't get enough of that wonderful feeling going into an orchid greenhouse! The Auction at the St Louis Botanical Garden put on by the Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis was awesome! Even though it was a long drive, we were impressed by the variety and quality of the plants we were able to bid on.

Growing orchids is a great hobby! I hope you are getting better and better each year at growing your plants. It takes time and attention but well worth the effort. Looking forward to seeing all of you in January for our first meeting of the New Year. Good Wishes to Linda Bailey, our next President. She will do a great job. Until then, thanks for the memories and have a peaceful Holiday Season.



Joanne Miller, CIOS President



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## Next meeting:

- Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on January 14, 2019 at Mark and Mitzi's house. The address and the parking information will be sent by e-mail before the meeting. We will be discussing the 2019 program topics and the upcoming Show and Sale in March. This is your chance to give the Board your input into best possible programs for 2019.
- 2019 Membership is due for renewal. Please bring your payment (\$15/person or \$25/couple) to the January meeting or mail a check to the Treasurer at 3208 S. First St., Champaign IL 61822.
- The 2019 Show and Sale is scheduled for March 9th. It is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Joanne Miller will chair the Sale with assistance from Niela Millar, but volunteers are needed for set up and take down, as well as helping with the show and sale throughout the day. Feeling uneasy about answering questions? Any member who worked at the show and sale can attest that you know a lot more than you think. And it is really rewarding to help educate the public about orchid growing. A task sign-up sheet will be available at the January meeting. This is our biggest fund raising opportunity, and your help will assure the success of the event, let alone making the day very enjoyable for the members and the visitors alike. Please be generous with your time for this occasion. The 2019 poster is expected to be made available at the January meeting. If you can post one at your work place or elsewhere, or know of a group that a poster can be mailed to, please contact Joanne.

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## Events in the area:

- Feb. 2-3, 2019. Madison Orchid Growers Guild "Orchid Quest" Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI.
- Feb. 2-3, 2019 Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis "Orchids in Paradise" Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO. [www.osogsl.org/calendar.php](http://www.osogsl.org/calendar.php)
- Feb. 2-March 25, 2019. Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show. St. Louis, MO. [mobot.org/orchidshow](http://mobot.org/orchidshow).
- Feb. 9-10, 2019 Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale. Washington Park Botanical Garden, Springfield, IL. Details are forthcoming.
- Feb. 16-17, 2019 Batavia Orchid Society Show. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton, IL.

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## Report of the CIOS Board meeting:

The CIOS Board met on Dec. 3, 2018 and discussed a number of topics including the programs for 2019. Included in the program is a speaker from Mexico as well as a field trip, though the details are yet to be delineated. The Board also confirmed the Show/Sale date of March 9, and Joanne Miller agreed to chair the Sale with help from Niela Millar. The Show side of the event as well as the coordination of publicity of the entire event will be handled by Terry.



## Notes and tips:

- Paphiopedilum problems: Shown here is a Paphiopedilum plant affected by basal rot. The pathogen is either fungi (Anthrachnose) or possibly bacteria which become active when there is too much moisture in the planting mix, poor air movement, and cold night temperatures. You can avoid this damage by watering early in the day so that the plant is free of accumulated water. One tablespoon of Physan 20 mixed in a gallon of water can be used for treatment, but the damage may be beyond hope if the roots are also affected.



(Images courtesy of Brandon Tam, Orchid Collection Specialist, Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA)

- Black rot is caused by Phytophthora fungus which mostly affects Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis. The symptoms appear on leaves and new growths as a soft, rotted spot which spreads to rhizomes and roots.

## Orchid of the month: fragrant orchids

Many visitors at our Show and Sale sniff the flowers, expecting that beautiful flowers should have nice fragrances. We know, however, that the scent of orchids (and other flowers) is not to please humans, but to attract whatever pollinator the orchid needs for survival. For this reason, the scent can range from very sweet and heavenly to utterly despicable. A book by Steven A. Frowine titled *Fragrant Orchids* (Portland, OR.: Timber Press, 2005) is a great source of information about orchids with fragrance. In addition to the lists of orchids grouped by broad genera (tribes), the book includes numerous lists on blooming season, temperatures, fragrance intensity, light preferences, and difficulty level of growing. We will have the opportunity to learn more about fragrant orchids in May from our guest speaker, J. T. Hartung, curator of orchids at Vallarta Botanical Gardens in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Below is a list of orchids with pleasant fragrances, and are relatively easy to grow in a home environment. Those with white flowers are usually pollinated at night, so the fragrance is stronger in the evening. Others are day-fragrant orchids, and the scent is usually stronger on sunny days and in high humidity.

1. Brassavola types-- Brassavolas are used for many hybrids with Cattleya types, as in Bc. and Blc. A few of them retain fragrances from their parents.

☞ B. nodosa -- This is a species with a common name 'Lady of the Night'. The fragrance, most notable in early evening, is similar to that of freesia and lily of the valley. Its clustered blooms appear several times a year, and combined with its ease of culture, this plant is very popular among beginners.

☞ Blc. Midnight Perfume--A rather floppy plant with large, white nodosa-like flowers, but quite a stand out in sweet vanilla scent that is present even during the day.

2. Cattleya types -- because of intense hybridization, it is difficult to find the species that produce pleasant scents, but some of the hybrids are stand outs.

☞ C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' -- a well-known hybrid and all-time favorite of Cattleya growers. The flowers are somewhat small but the waxy, deep red petals and sepals are stunning, and the rosy fragrance is rich in intensity.

☞ Cattleychea Siam Jade -- The "chea" part comes from the genus name Prosthechea in its parentage. It's absolutely wonderful fragrance resembles that of Jasmine and gardenia.

☞ Potinara Dick Smith -- one of this compact Cattleya hybrid, 'Dark Beauty', is very fragrant and fills the entire room during the day. The scent may not be as strong or nice in other hybrids of this orchid.

3. Dendrobium--by far, the most fragrant among the Dendrobiums is:

☞ Den. kingianum. A native of Australia, the spurred, purple flowers of this plant last a long time and fill the entire house with their sweet scent. "Little but mighty" describes this gem.

4. Encyclia -- Encyclias are not as commonly found among home growers as Cattleya and Phalaenopsis groups, but a few of them are so fragrant that they deserve to be noted.

☞ Enc. radiata -- this small species with spicy, lily of the valley like smell is still widely available from many growers for very affordable prices.

☞ Enc. cordigera -- this honey/vanilla scented orchid comes in dark purple to lavender flower colors.

5. Oncidium species -- Being widely used for hybridizing, many of them have amazing fragrances, and are available from many nurseries.

☞ Onc. Sharry Baby -- A very popular Oncidium hybrid with spicy sweet scent.

☞ Onc. Twinkle and other small hybrids -- though the fragrance is light, the numerous flowers are long lasting, and provides a subtle, spicy floral undertone.

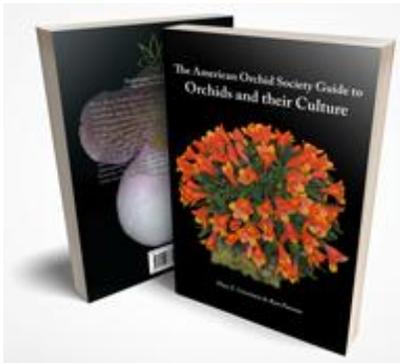
6. Other random orchids that makes your head (or rather nose?) turn are -- Rhyncholaelia digbyana; Rhynchostylis gigantea; Miltoniopsis; Trichopilia suavis; Beallara Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'; Angraecum leonis; Phalaenopsis Mini Mark; and Sedirea japonica.

If the book by Frowine is unobtainable, check out the following website for more information:

<https://www.nybg.org/blogs/plant-talk/2010/03/tip-of-the-week/tip-of-the-week-fragrant-orchids/>

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## AOS news:



- *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and Their Culture* book by Mary Gerritsen and Ron Parsons will be available later this year. This 250-page tome will become a definitive orchid resource and a prized addition to your book collection.

- AOS is enhancing its products, programs, and services, among which are publication of Orchid Encyclopedia, gift items from the Gift Shot, educational youth program about orchids and their care, more video and webinars, and adding specialized contents. To this end, they are hoping to raise \$60,000 by the end of the year. Your donation (via AOS.ORG) is

tax deductible, and will be much appreciated.

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## Holiday reading list:

- Hansen, Eric. *Orchid fever : a horticultural tale of love, lust, and lunacy*. New York: Vintage Books, a division of Random House, 2000. print
- Koopowitz, Harold. *Orchid Tales: the adventures of George and Matilda*. Laguna Niguel, CA: Orchid Digest, 2014. Kindle and eBook.
- Koopowitz, Harold. *Diamonds and Disas: the future adventures of George and Matilda*. Laguna Niguel, CA: Orchid Digest 2016. Kindle and eBook.
- Koopowitz, Harold. *The Emerald Orchid: a George and Matilda Adventures*. Laguna Niguel, CA: Orchid Digest 2017. Kindle and eBook.
- Orlean, Susan. *The Orchid Thief*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1998. print. (CIOS has a copy for loan)

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## Editor's note:

2018 has been a very busy year for me with a family trip to Japan and a few places in the U.S. My apologies for not publishing the newsletter as often and in a more timely fashion than in the past. Though a total switch over to Terry Moore as the new Editor may not occur due to software problems, I am hoping that, with Terry's help, we can get back to the routine schedule. Therefore, we most certainly welcome an article or two from you. Just anything you want to share with the rest of the members will be much appreciated.

Our 2019 programs include many exciting events, so, do mark your calendar and be sure to attend the meetings. The Activity Calendar will appear on our website. Merry Christmas!

