



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

Nov.-Dec. 2016

Vol. 10 no.11-12, 2016

In this Issue

- From the president
- Next meeting
- Board meeting report
- Events in the area
- Orchid of the month
- Member profile
- Notes and tips

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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:

It seems to be the cry of many of us, “I don’t have room for any more Orchids!” But then, as soon as we see one that catches our eye, we can’t wait to bring it home! One solution to limited space is the careful process of elimination. Many of us can barely remember when we just owned 5 or 10 orchid plants. But they might grow bigger than we expected them to, or we had several given to us, or we went to an orchid show and bought 5 instead of 1. And now all of a sudden you don’t have any more shelf room! From time to time it is important to go through your orchid collection with a critical eye and do some culling. This can be extremely rewarding. Here are some things to think about, to get you started.

First, dispose of any plants that appear diseased or that struggle to survive. Many of us keep ailing orchids in the vain hope that they will suddenly thrive. This is highly unlikely! It’s enough of a challenge to keep healthy orchids growing; there is no reason to attempt to revive the nearly dead. Chalk those losses up to orchid “experience”.

Next, look at your duplicates. Most of us know the sorts of orchids we like and we just keep buying them. These duplicates, particularly those in bloom, make great gifts for your friends who are not orchid collectors. Also very large orchids become difficult to house as time goes on. Keeping a healthy, vigorous division and sharing the other divisions with friends can often solve the problem. Since most of us have a limited amount of space and time to devote to our orchids, we owe it to ourselves to grow only those we really like and that perform well for us. Ridding your collection of plants that have never bloomed or aren’t healthy can make room for other orchids that you may enjoy more. Since there are so many new orchids and hybrids coming out every day, your goal should be to assemble a healthy collection of the highest quality possible.

Hope you have a wonderful holiday season and see you next year!
Joanne Miller, CIOS President



Next meeting:

- Our next meeting is on Monday, January 9, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at Hessel Park Church. We will be discussing plans for the 2017 Show and Sale. The feature program is a documentary video entitled The judge, the hunter, the thief, and the black orchid, directed by Rich Walton. The Show and Sale is on Saturday, March 5. We need all your talent and volunteer time for this event.
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Board meeting report:

The CIOS Board met on November 13, 2016 and discussed the following topics: 2017 Show and Sale which will be on March 5. We need someone to design the poster which should be available in January. Terry will chair the Show part and Linda Bial will chair the Sale part. Terry will arrange a small display by the Hospitality Table. Terry reported that the Douglas County Museum in Tuscola requested some assistance with their open house program. He does not expect too much work involved with it. The board reviewed the 2017 program items. One outside speaker and a field trip to St. Louis are being considered. After some discussions, it was decided to participate in the sale at Lincoln Square in May 7. At this point, both tropical and native orchids will be sold in both March and May.

Events in the area:

- November 26-27, Sat. 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saginaw Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale. Kochville Veterans Hall, 3265 Kochville Rd., Saginaw, MI. Orchid classes will be held on Saturday and Sunday.
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Orchid of the month: *Epidendrum nocturnum*

Patty Floess's patience paid off. After over 3 years of care, her *Epidendrum nocturnum* finally bloomed this fall. Also known as a member of reed-stem orchid (as you suspect, it grows tall like a reed), this orchid is native to Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, other Caribbean Islands, Central America, and northern Brazil. It is commonly called "night fragrant orchid" or "night scented orchid", and produces a sweet pleasant fragrance at night. Lucky you, Patty!

A video introduction of this plant is available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pUao2nyEHY>



Epidendrum (abbreviated as Epi.) has 1000-1500 species, and the flower size ranges from 1/4 inch to 6 inches in diameter. Due to their abundance in Central America, they are almost thought to be weeds! Most of the species are suitable for intermediate temperatures, and many have fragrance that makes this plant worth growing.

Member profile: Sara Taber

By Sara Taber

I am not a likely candidate for interest in orchid growing; I am a bit surprised to find myself pursuing it. I had very little exposure to orchids growing up. My mother kept few houseplants and those were not at all exotic varieties. We lived on a lake surrounded by natural beauty, so my parents didn't landscape or even buy flowers to decorate. Spending time outside there, I did notice wildflowers and became interested in identifying them. My grandmothers both grew vegetable gardens; that's the kernel of my own interest in growing plants—getting something for virtually nothing! Seeds, soil, sun: it takes care of itself, and yields such a useful, practical outcome, better than store-bought. Even when I finally had my own yard, my tastes ran to filling borders with architectural plants, natives and perennials. Nothing too fancy, frilly, or fussy. Nonetheless, I did come to admire orchids in magazines and movies, and absorbed cultural lore about them. I just never had a thought to grow an orchid--not my kind of plant.

So what happened? In the end, I got sucked in by the challenge of keeping an orchid alive. My husband gave me a *Phalaenopsis* orchid for Valentine's Day one year, and it died within a couple months of dropping blooms. My next *Phalaenopsis* survived more than a year, but it never bloomed again. By this time, I had stumbled upon the Central Illinois Orchid Society shows at the library, and had gotten reacquainted with Mitzi, whom I knew from kids in school and the Master Gardener program. I started to ask questions and look for more ways to be successful.

During this time, I began volunteering at Japan House. About three years ago, Jim Bier, the designer of the gardens, asked if I had an interest in orchids, as he had more than he wanted. I was non-committal, knowing my lack of success, and suggested I might see what he had that appealed to me, i.e., that I might be able to keep alive! It turned out he was ready to be done with his collection and wanted to give it away as a group with all accessories. A few more than a dozen orchids, trays, fertilizer, lights, and that was a turning point. I have not kept them all alive, but with the lights and fertilizer, I finally started to experience re-bloom, and with that I was hooked.

Jim's orchids included some *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleyas*, and several other genera. There are duplicates and the tags are long since unreadable, so I do not have positive identification of them. I have repotted them all now, and hope to take photographs and keep better records of their progress. I appreciate what Jim gave me, in fact, the *Cattleya* has a frilly bloom that I would have considered not my type. Now I would not give it up! Last year at the CIOS holiday dinner, I was near the end for taking my choice, and selected an *Odontocidium* Wildcat 'Golden Red Star'—it's another expansion of my taste, more frilliness! Given confidence and cash, however, I would develop a collection of slipper orchids. I briefly had a *Paphiopedilum callosum* purchased on a society trip last year. Such elegance. I am going to continue to go slow and develop my knowledge-base. The plants deserve careful attention and the blooms are beautiful.

Hoping to hit spring wild flower in bloom, I visited Rocky Mountain National Park in early June, but in 2009, winter went late and some trails were closed due to snow. After an alpine meadow hike, we went to Wild Basin for a low, warmer spot. The trail was damp, cool and a bit muddy. I spotted a tiny flower in the sun at the edge of the trail, and took a photo for later reference. On the way out we checked a trail head store and found a book of common plants found on that hike. There it was listed as "little brown orchid",



looks like *Cypripedium fasciculatum* (above right). In the following days, we also found several spots of *Calypso bulbosa* (above left). I was pleased and proud that I noticed these little plants and recognized them to be orchids.

Notes and tips:

- Look what is on e-Bay! A Noritake dinner plate, a cup and saucer, and a serving bowl with an elegant orchid (possibly *Brassavola*) pattern. It is not too late to put this on your Santa list, and start bidding.



- We had a great time at the Holiday Dinner. Thank you Jay for your excellent drawing skills.

