



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

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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 2015

Joanne Miller, President
Bettina Francis, Vice Pres. /Secretary

Mark Williams, Treasurer

Mitzi Williams, Editor, Newsletter & Webpage content.

From the President:

For those of us that are new to orchid growing, there is a whole new vocabulary to learn. Because of the unfamiliar words, reading orchid related articles can be very confusing, and we often don't know what is being discussed! So I've made a list of words that were new to me when first learning about orchids, so that you could become familiar with them also.

♪ **GENERA:** Plural of genus. This is group of related plants that include several different species.

♪ **SPECIES:** A division of a genus or more comprehensive class.

♪ **HYBRID:** An orchid with various different genera for parents. An example would be a Beallara Orchid which is a blend of Brassia, Cochlioda, Miltoia and

♪ **Odontoglossum.**

♪ **EPIPHYTES:** Those orchids that are commonly found clinging to branches of trees.

♪ **LITHOPHYTES:** Orchids that grow on rocks.

♪ **TERRESTRIALS:** Those orchids that thrive growing on or in the ground.

♪ **MONOPODIAL:** Orchids with one growing point that always grows vertically like Phalaenopsis.

♪ **SYMPODIAL:** Orchids that grow sideways across the top of the pot like Cattleya.

♪ **BIFOLATE:** A plant having two leaves or leaflets on a pseudobulb.

♪ **UNIFOLATE:** A plant having only one leaf on a pseudobulb.

♪ **INFLORESCENCE:** A group or cluster of flowers.

♪ **KEIKI:** A baby plant produced by an orchid, while still attached to the mother.

♪ **SEPALS:** The outer parts of the flower that enclose a developing bud.

♪ **PETALS:** Orchids always have three petals. Two are normal and the third becomes a highly specialized structure called a lip.

♪ **LIP OR LABELLUM:** The lower petal of an orchid. Used by the flower to provide a landing platform for its pollinator.

I hope this clarifies some of the words you will find as you read articles on orchids. There is so much to learn and so little time! Hope to see you at our member sale on Monday, October 12. Should be a fun evening!

Joanne Miller, CIOS President

Next meeting:

- Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on October 12 at the Hessel Park Church. The feature of this meeting is a member sale where plants and orchid-related items donated by members are sold at **incredibly low** prices. Some of the plants were in member's collection but might not have flowered; others may be a division of an existing mature plant, or orchid jewelry, pots, books, etc. It's kind of like an orchid garage sale. The proceeds are added to the Society's treasury to enhance our activities for the members.

So, if you have any plants or items to donate, please bring them to the sale! If you have items to donate but cannot be at the meeting, please deliver them to Linda Bial, 208 W. Iowa St., Urbana or call her at 328-2665 to make some arrangements. Plants are often priced between \$1 and \$10. If you have difficulty pricing, bring them to the sale early so the officers can quickly price them.

We will also have a round table discussion on growing and blooming Phalaenopsis. Please think about some of your culture tricks to growing and blooming, that might be helpful to new growers.

Lastly, we will be voting on the new officers. Those nominated are: Linda Bailey for the Secretary/Vice President, and Terry Moore for the Show Chair positions. Floor nominations will be accepted before voting.

- Please mark your calendar for Sunday, November 15 at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Holiday Dinner at Olive Garden in Champaign. This will be the last meeting of the year, and we will celebrate it with a bang. While this is a member only event, members are welcome to bring spouses and guests.

Orchid of the month 1: Habenaria



Isn't this the most delicate orchid flower you have ever seen? This is *Habenaria medusa*, grown by Mitzi Vasconcelles of the Prairie State Orchid Society. Some people may see spiders on a stick, but I see pure white fairies floating in air.

Habenaria, also known as the bog orchid, is a genus of orchids found in the temperate and tropical grasslands of most continents. These orchids can be grown in compost rather than orchid mix. The plant is leafy and has fleshy tuberous roots. The leaves die down at the end of summer after flowering, and the new growth emerges in the spring.

The most commonly cultivated species of *Habenaria* is *Hab. rhodocheila* (image below left), a plant with a showy, reddish-orange flowers that look like Flamenco dancers. Another well known species is *Hab. radiata*, nicknamed the white egret flower. I once purchased a *Hab radiata* from a nursery in California. I was told to set the pot outside after the

leaves died down, cover it with heavy mulch because its natural environment is the Japan Alps.



But I kept it inside for fear that it would freeze. Sure enough, by mid-January, the plant was dead. However, I might have pre-judged, if my plant was like the one shown on the following video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIqctsq-P9Q>

Habenaria has been known to be difficult to grow. The key for the Asian species mentioned above seems to be complete dryness during winter, and drenching monsoon in the spring. This is very similar to Catacetum culture with which many hobbyists are familiar.

Events in the area:

- October 10-11, 2015. 10 am - 4 pm. Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale. Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. For details, see: www.iosoc.com.

Notes and tips:

- Let your Cymbidiums enjoy outdoor temperature and sun for as long as possible. They can be on a sunny deck until the night temperature drops down even to 40°F. Watering should be continued but can be every couple of days, and an addition of "Bloom Booster" fertilizer to the water will enhance the bud formation. The flower growth appears as new growth at the base of the newest bulb, but they are slightly bulged in the middle, as opposed to the lance shaped growth of the new leaves. Take extra care to prevent rain water from accumulating at the center of the leaf axels because it would rot the younger inner leaves. If the night temperature would drop drastically one or two nights, but rises in the daytime, the plants can be covered and still stay outside until the low temperature settles in.
- For most orchids indoors, fall is the time when growths slows down. This means water and fertilizer should be less than during that in spring and summer when maximum growths occur. The sun is not as bright as used to be, so some plants may require supplemental lighting. You may see some leaves turn brown and drop. This is natural unless it happens to the newest leaves or to all the leaves. Always water early in the morning, and if the sky is overcast, it is O.K. to postpone watering until the next day.

Exception to the rule are plants such as Stanhopea which requires consistent watering and feeding throughout

the seasons. Catacetums require copious watering and fertilizing until after flowering, then completely left out to dry.

Nobile-type Dendrobiums are found in an environment where definite winter dry season occurs. Therefore, they should be kept on a dry side with little water from time to time until buds form along the canes. Then misting, rather than watering may be useful in order to keep the buds alive and flower.

Orchid of the month 2: Member flower postings on Face Book

There have been some amazing images on flowers that are either grown by or in the collection of our members. Check them out on the Society's Face Book Page.



Haerella retrocalla (left) and Lc. Rustic Spots (center, grown by Terry M.) Paph. charlesworthii x sib (by Linda Bial)



Two Paphiopedilums at left and Dendrobium "Dr. Judith" (Grown by Cindy W.)

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