



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 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:

Spring is here! I love all the changes it brings to the landscape. The daffodils are blooming and some trees are swelling their buds. And hopefully in your house, the orchids are blooming as well.

Most orchids are starting to grow again in this month of April. If you can see new root tips and new leads forming on your plants, that is your cue. With this accelerated growth comes the need for increased watering and feeding. Do not neglect your orchids this month! This is the time that care is crucial to your success at producing larger growths and inflorescences when your plants bloom in season. Strengthening your plants and getting them well established will give you beautiful blooms next fall and winter.

Your repotting activities can start once you see this new growth. It is always best to repot when new roots are still short, under an inch or two, and allow them to grow in their new medium. Once they get a lot longer, it may be hard to force long roots into a new pot and they may break. This is true for Cattleyas, Oncidiums and Dendrobiums which may start to set roots outside of their pots.

Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums are just finishing their blossoming season. Since this takes a lot of energy out of the plant you can let them rest for a short time until you see signs of new growth. When roots and new leaves are starting, you can begin to repot these genera as well. Take your cue from the plants themselves. It's usually fairly easy to spot.

I am looking forward to our next meeting on April 9. Hope to see all of you there. Terry Moore will be showing us how to divide a large Cattleya, so bring your questions, a blooming orchid for show and tell and we will have a great time. We will also be critiquing our Orchid Show so bring any suggestions for improvement you may have. Mark will also let us know how successful our Orchid sale was.

Happy Growing:
Joanne Miller, CIOS President

Next meeting:

- Our next meeting is on Monday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hessel Park Church.. The program for this month will be "How to divide your orchid" by Terry Moore. In addition, a mini-Phalaenopsis bred by Dewey Houser of Prairie State Orchid Society will be raffled off. We will also have a discussion about this year's show and sale--what went well and how we can improve. The board appreciates everyone's input. And, don't forget to bring your blooming orchids for show and tell.
 - We have one extra T-shirt in size XL. If you would like to buy it (\$16), please let Mark know.
 - We have a lot of exciting programs planned or being considered, including an out of town field trip. Be sure to check out the website for details.
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Events in the area:

- Apr 21 (10am - 5pm) -April 22, 2018 (11am-5pm) Central Indiana Orchid Society Spring Orchid Show and Sale. Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Dr, Indianapolis, IN. Vendors will be on-site selling orchids, carnivorous plants, and other cool plant related items.
 - May 12, 8am - 1pm. CIOS May Sale at the Lincoln Square Mall. This sale is led by Grand Prairie Friends. In addition to CIOS, the Herb Society, the Bonsai Society, and a few native plant vendors will participate. Mitzi and Joanne will be in charge of this event. We are now debating what types of plants to obtain. If you would like to help out with the planning and execution of this sale, please contact Mitzi.
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Notes and tips:

- As the weather warms up, the insects begin to make their appearances:

→Ants really love the loose bark mix to colonize inside. If you see an ant or two on the plant, don't dismiss them. Chances are that there are a lot more hidden below. You can first water it thoroughly and wait a few minutes. If a colony has been formed, you will see a swarm of ants. Watering is best done in a sink or a tub so you can flush the ants down the drain. Then, you can spray insecticide (make sure it is OK for indoor use) on the surface of the bark as well as the bottom of the pot, or inside the saucer. Luckily, the insecticide does not harm the roots.

→ Spider mites: Appear when the air is dry and warm. You may notice that the thinner leaves such as those of Cymbidiums and Oncidium hybrids appear dry and silvery on the surface. The mites are large enough to be visible but the infestation is not apparent until considerable damage is done. An easy way to find out is by wiping the underside of the leaves with a damp towel. Smashed spider mites will leave a brown stain on the towel. To get rid of them, wash the leaves and the stems thoroughly, and apply insecticides for 10-14 days.

→ White flies and fungus gnats: These are common house plant pests, and thrive in warm and dry air. Their bites make the plant exude sticky, sweet sap which attracts other pests to do further damage. The best way to control is a sticky yellow trap.

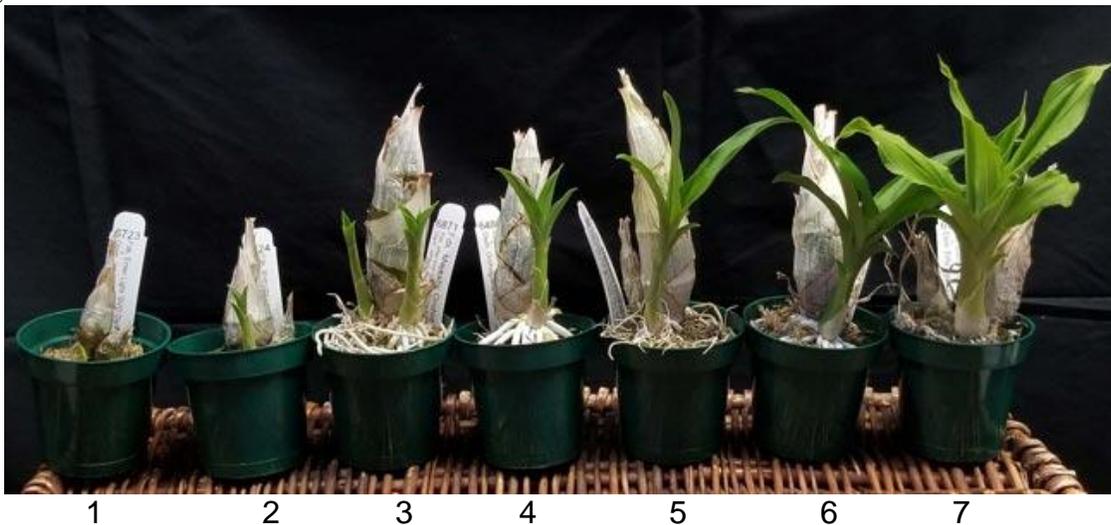
→ Mealy bugs: And ever present mealy bugs may suddenly increase in number. Physically remove what you can see by scraping or wiping them, but a diligent treatment with insecticide is needed. If they are clustered in the leaf axel or inside the leaf crease, spray them with insecticide in the morning so the plant will dry by evening. Mealy bugs are especially difficult to rid of. Repeated spraying for 5-8 weeks is needed.

- Home-made insecticidal soap: 4 Tbsp. of Dr. Bronner's "18-In-1 Hemp Peppermint Pure Castile Soap" (right) per gallon of water. If not peppermint, lavender, almond, no-scent, etc. are available. There are other formulas using dish washing soap and alcohol, but this one is worth considering.

For one thing, mixing it only with water makes it less costly than commercial or home-made "biological soap" using alcohol. With several spray bottles filled with the mixture, frequent application is a breeze. The 32 fl. oz bottle costs about \$16, and will last a long time, and it only needs to be mixed with water. If later on, you have totally gotten rid of the insects or orchids, you can use the soap for many other things, including floor mopping, dog washing, laundry and dish washing, bathing, etc. This product is locally sold at Target, but Amazon has many varieties of them, too. The only thing you shouldn't do is to drink this.



- Several of us are on the mailing list for Fred Clark's Sunset Valley Orchids newsletter. We found the following information on Catacetums in the Spring 2018 issue particularly useful. It shows the 7 growth stage of Catacetanae.



Most of us would begin watering at stage 4, but Fred says the roots are too short. Watering begins when the roots are fully developed, at stage 7, i.e., the new growths are 6-12" tall and the new roots 3-6" long. For more information and future newsletter, contact SVO at www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/index.html.

Orchid of the Month: Dendrobium

If you have trouble growing Dendrobiums, you are not alone. Up till recently, the AOS put out just one sheet of culture instruction for Dendrobiums, which in reality, consists of over 1,000 species, and are found in a vast, climatically different regions of the tropics and the semi tropics of Eastern Asia, i.e., from the Himalayas to Malaysia, the Philippines, China, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia. Some species grow in

full sun like Vandas, while others thrive in complete shade. Some require cool temperatures, especially at night, while others do better in constant, warm temperatures. The flower size, shape, and color of Dendrobiums reflect these environmental variations. Thus, knowing its origin is critical in growing a Dendrobium successfully. Fortunately, very recently, the AOS divided Dendrobiums into 41 different groups, and described the care for each group.

The type of Dendrobium most often seen in the market is Dendrobium Phalaenopsis, which belongs to the Phalaenanthe group along with Den. bigibbum. They are found in Northern Australia, New Guinea, and parts of Indonesia. These plants are evergreen, prefer being very warm (60-65 night; 75-85 day), and do not require a dry, rest period for flowering. The new flower spike appears at or near the top leaf axis, either on a new cane or on old ones. Water and fertilize heavily when roots appear from new growth, and



continued as they approach dryness throughout the year (every 2-5 days), being mindful of humidity, air movement and the amount of light they receive. Repot when the potting media has broken down (about 3 years). The old canes can be cut off but leave about 3 canes when dividing. If grown too cool and dry, the plant will drop the leaves.

Another common Dendrobium is a Nobile type (below: Dend. Country Girl 'Warabeuta'.) The unique feature of this species is that they require dry rest

period in order to flower. They have leaves all along the canes that turn brown and drop in cooler, drier weather. One to five flowers are borne at the nodes of the leafless canes in midwinter to early spring.

During summer, give warmth, water and fertilize heavily when roots appear. Rest begins from late October by withholding water and fertilizer, while keeping them in high light and cool nights (40°-50°F.) High humidity during the day in this period helps some leaves to stay green and canes from shriveling too much. Keikis often appear when fertilizer too rich in nitrogen is given, and some growers remove them to plant or discard.



Additional species such as Den. loddigesii and Den. moniliforme (above left and right), and Dend. anosmum (or superbum) (not shown) also benefit from dry rest period, but they prefer night temperatures in the mid 50's.



The Dendrobium which require no rest period that are gaining popularity are the Latouria type. The leaves at top of pseudobulbs are large and leathery, and the flowers are usually yellow-green. Species such as Den. atrovioleaceum, Den. macrophyllum and Den. spectabile share the same cultural needs, i.e., warm all year (60°-65° F nights, 75°-90° F days) with no rest period. Grow in medium to high light and can be kept cooler in winter (50°-60°F) if humidity is low. (Left: Dend. Pam Tajima)

what attracts every grower to this plant. This orchid grows in South Eastern Australia, on rocks or among the decaying leaf litter in rock crevices, and withstands a broad range of temperatures.

Cultural needs vary from source to source, but most useful is by the late Dr. Neptune of the MA Orchid Society. In this article, he says Dend. kingianum will grow in any condition, but to bloom, it requires a night temperature of below 50°F. (<https://www.massorchid.org/Resources/Documents/DenkingianumCultureNotes.pdf>)



(Images at right courtesy of Orchids Limited)

In contrast, the two Dendrobiums noted below come from a very wet area of the region and require opposite growing conditions from Dend. kingianum.

Dend. laevifolium (below left) requires constant water and high humidity. This species is deciduous and blooms on canes which have already shed their leaves. Appears to grow best if high grade sphagnum moss is used. Dend. bulbophylloides (below right) is from lower altitudes than other species, and grows best in conditions cool to intermediate (55°-60°F nighttime average and 74°-78°F daytime average.)



The region receives heavy rainfall all year with 2" to 10" average, and with heavy deposits of dew and mist from fog in winter to summer necessitates year-round watering for these species. Keep plants dryer in winter, but they should never be allowed to completely dry out. Provide 70%- 75% humidity during summer and fall, slightly dryer in late winter and spring.



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