



# Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

July-August 2014

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## In this Issue

- President's message
- Next meeting
- Events in the area
- Essay contests
- Call for nominations
- Notes and tips
- Orchid of the month
- Need feedback
- Facebook info

## Contact Us

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

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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:

Greetings! I hope everyone's orchids are doing well this summer, even if your attention has been diverted to outdoor gardening for the time being.

For quite a while, I've had it in mind to write about the history of the Central Illinois Orchid Society. While we have several long-standing members, many of the rest of us are relatively new to the CIOS and have little knowledge of how, or even when, the group was first began.

The CIOS officially came into existence in January, 1958, with 18 founding members. Prior to this, those people had met and formulated by-laws. Minutes of the meetings, however, weren't kept until a year later, in February, 1959. At that time, a proposed constitution was also presented and accepted. In the early years, after presumably meeting in members' homes, the CIOS in 1962 began to meet in buildings on the University of Illinois campus: first in the Floriculture Building, then Turner Hall, and later Burrill Hall. When that began to prove problematic, meetings were moved to the Urbana Free Library in early 2007; later they moved again, to the Champaign Public Library, in 2010.

Many current CIOS practices began early in its history. For instance, a hiatus in meetings during the summer, raffling orchids donated by members at meetings, a summer picnic at a member's home, and the winter holiday party were all in place by 1963. Other aspects used to be different, however. Although showing orchids was always of keen interest to members, in the past they would travel with their orchids to shows held in other cities, such as Chicago and St. Louis. In 1977, for example, the CIOS reserved space at the Chicago Botanic Gardens for a show. Also, auctions were the fund-raising method of choice, rather than the plant sales we have now. Formerly, the CIOS worked more closely with local nurseries, orchestrating events and presentations at places like Greenview, Prairie Gardens, and Lowe's.

Although membership has risen and ebbed, and the CIOS has passed through more and less active periods, it has staunchly remained in place since 1958, providing a welcoming forum for people from Champaign-Urbana and environs to meet to discuss and learn about their favorite plant family, the Orchidaceae.

Linda Bial, CIOS President

## Next meeting:

- Our next meeting is a pot-luck picnic on July 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. The event is hosted by Bettina and George Frances, 801 S. Anderson, Urbana. This event is not open to the public but the members are welcome to bring guests. Please e-mail Bettina (bfrancis@life.uiuc.edu) if you plan to attend and how many guests you are bringing. Please also tell her what dish you can bring. Main food, drinks, cups, drinks, and eating utensils will be provided.
  - No meeting in August, but we will meet on Monday, September 8, 2014 at the Champaign Public Library. **The meeting will be in Rm 215 (Library Friends Conference Room) on the second floor of the library.** There is an elevator by the staircase just behind the information desk. The program is yet to be determined.
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## Events in the area:

- Sunday, July 27, 2014. Central Iowa Orchid Society (another CIOS) is having an annual Speaker's Day. Location is at Camp Dodge, Johnston, IA. Speakers include Peter Lin of Big Leaf Orchids in Southlake TX, Russ Vernon from New Vision Orchids of Muncie, Ind. Pre-registration fee is \$25. For more details, visit [www.c-we.com/cios/ciosspk.htm](http://www.c-we.com/cios/ciosspk.htm)
  - Saturday, August 23, 2014. 9am - 3pm. Prairie State Orchid Society Seminar, Rochester Public Library, Rochester, IL. This all-day seminar will feature Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, Vista, CA. Cost is \$20 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, see [www.prairiestateorchids.org](http://www.prairiestateorchids.org).
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## Essay contests:

Do you like to write? There are two essay contests that anyone can enter.

- An essay on "My problem with orchids is..." (writer fills in the blank) is invited by the Mid- America Orchid Congress. Cash prizes are offered for this contest. The submission must be in by October 1, 2014. For details, see the March 2014 issue of the CIOS Newsletter on our website.
  - Another essay contest is hosted by the American Orchid Society on the theme of: **Growing Orchids: Art or Science?** Can you get better blooms by using a certain fertilizer or nutritional supplement, or by talking to your orchids? Tell us what you think. The winning essay will be published in the following June issue of the Orchids. The deadline for this essay is November 30, 2014. For details and the past winning essays, see: <https://www.aos.org/default.aspx?id=113>
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## Call for nominations:

Linda Bial indicated she was unable to continue as President of CIOS in 2015. If any of the members is willing to serve as President, please contact Linda (lindabial@gmail.com). **The Society really needs your rising to this occasion!!** Any other vacancies will be communicated by e-mail. The election of the 2015 officers will take place at the September meeting. There will be plenty of time to learn the duties of the positions before January 2015.

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## Notes and tips:

- If your orchids are outside, and the temperatures remain above 80°F, they will enjoy some misting early in the morning and in mid-afternoon. Do not crowd your orchids as it prevents adequate air movement around the plants.
- When watering, be careful not to let water collect and stay inside the new growth. This will rot the new growth and you may not have flowers next flowering season. With proper watering and feeding, you may be surprised to see flowers for the second time!
- Keeping the pots off the ground, preferably on a slotted surface (wire mesh, or plastic light fixture cover) will keep the damaging insects, slugs, and other bugs away.
- Once a month or so, spray the plants with insecticides . Spray both the tops of the plants and under the leaves. You can also dip the entire pots in an insecticide solution before they are brought indoors in the fall.

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## Orchid of the month: What's wrong with this picture?



The orchid shown above left is *Encyclia radiata*, one of the easiest plants to grow and one with great fragrance. But, the flowers are upside down, i.e., the lip is at the top. Take a look at the *Dendrobium* on the right. Notice the buds at the top of the flower stems have two pointed ends. The smaller pointed ends are the lips of the flowers. If they open as is, these flowers will also be upside down. However, *Dendrobium* flowers, as in many other orchid flowers turn themselves around. This process is called resupination (pronounced re-soup-i-nation,).



Encyclia cochliata (cockleshell orchid)

This process is for no other reason than ease of pollination, and the flowers often turn 180 degrees, but in some cases 360 degrees. In the case of the Dendrobium above, you can see the bottom two buds have actually turned about 90 degrees, and the flowers are in the process of completing the turn. Another common Encyclia with npr-resupinate flowers are Encyclia cochliata, cockleshell orchid. Apparently, bees and birds pollinate Encyclias which call central and tropical south America home.

The best explanation of resupination is found at Orchid Society Council of Victoria website: (<http://www.oscov.asn.au/articles2/respun.htm>).

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## Need your feedback:

The Society is as good as its member's participation. Your feedback will be most welcome. What topics do you wish to be covered by the program? Do you know of anyone who may be willing to speak at our meetings and share their expertise with us? The subject matter does not have to be completely orchid-related.

The Board is investigating the possibility of a fall sale in early November at Lincoln Square when the Farmer's Market goes indoors. Any thoughts about that? Any suggestions or questions about the show and the sale? What part of what we do now do you like, and what part needs changes or improvements? If you have any comments, please feel free to let the Board members (officers) know!

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## We are on facebook:

Join other CIOS members on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/546310858794689/> . You can also go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and enter central illinois orchid society in the search box.

There have been postings of some amazing orchids on this page. The most recent few include a Dracula orchid grown by Cindy Westfall and mini Dendrobium with a variegated leaves with pink edging. The Dendrobium belongs to Linda Bial.

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