



# Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2014

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## 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 and best wishes for 2014! With the new year, the CIOS has a new president, and I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Linda Bial, and I've been growing orchids since 1976. Despite a hiatus during which I veered off into African violets, I returned to the orchid fold in the early 1990s and have happily stayed there since. When not fiddling with my orchids, I work part time as a cataloger at the University of Illinois Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

After my election in October, I began working with the CIOS Board in order to learn about the presidential duties. One thing I learned is how much goes on behind the scenes in order to get things done. I doubt any of us members realize how many tasks, large and small, the Board performs on behalf of the CIOS. So let me take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts: Mitzi Williams (past president), Bettina Francis (secretary), Nancy Urban (treasurer), Ray Urban (vice-president), and Cindy Westfall (immediate past president). Thank you all! In order for the CIOS to thrive (in fact, in order for it to survive), we truly need more participation on the part of our members. It doesn't need to take up much of your time; simply being more engaged with the group would be helpful.

Attending the meetings is good; making suggestions for programs or speakers is even better. Helping out with the annual show and sales is better yet. You needn't be an orchid expert to do these things. If there's a topic that interests you, something you'd like to learn more about, or anything else you think might make a good program at a meeting, please feel free to let us know. In addition, we need ideas about how to increase our membership so that the CIOS can continue to grow; suggestions about ways to publicize our group and attract new members are particularly invited.

Please bring your ideas, suggestions, and especially your enthusiasm for orchids to our January meeting. Meanwhile, happy orchid growing to everyone throughout this new year!

Linda Bial, CIOS President

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## Next meeting:

- Our next meeting is on Monday, January 13, 6:30 pm in **Room A** at the Champaign Public Library. Room A is across the hall from Room C where we usually meet.

In the business part of the meeting, we will be discussing the details of the show (February 15) and signing up for volunteers. If you cannot be at the meeting but are able to help at the show, please contact Bettina Francis (bfrancis@illinois.edu, 367-1266). After the business session, a video (either *Obsession with Orchids* or *Orchid Hunter*) will be presented.

- Orchid event and sale at the UI Plant Biology Conservatory and Greenhouses will be held on Sat.-Sun., March 15 - 16. On Saturday, our Society will be providing assistance with the sale and lectures.
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## Events in the area:

- Feb. 1- 2, 2014. Orchid Growers' orchid Quest. Madison WI. Hours are 10am - 5pm Saturday and 10 am - 4 pm Sunday. One day entry fee is \$7.00 and two day pass is \$10.00. Nearly 20 orchid vendors, 9 area societies, and 17 artists, including one native orchid educator will be present. There are several lectures on both days. For details, visit: <http://www.orchidguild.org/orchidquest.html>
- Feb. 1 -2, 2014, Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis Annual Show and Sale. 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Missouri Botanical Garden in the Beaumont Room, St. Louis MO.
- Feb. 1 - March 23, 2014, Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show. daily 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Missouri Botanical Garden. Admissions \$8 adults (ages 13 & over) but there may be additional fees for the Orchid Show. For details, see the events calendar at [www.mobot.org/](http://www.mobot.org/). \$5 adults (ages 13 & over), in addition to Garden admission.
- Feb. 8- 9, 2014. Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale, Washington Park Botanical Garden Conservatory, Springfield, IL. Hours: Saturday Noon - 4pm; Sunday Noon - 3pm.
- Feb 15 - March 16, 2014. Chicago Botanic Garden Orchid Show. Open daily 10 am - 4pm. Glencoe, IL. There are many special events at this show. For example, the Lenhardt Library presents a special exhibition, *Exotic Orchids: Orchestrated in Print*, from Friday, February 14, to Sunday, May 11. In addition, weekend family classes will explore the vanilla orchid seed and vanilla ice cream, learn how to create a tropical terrarium, and visit the exhibition. Admission tickets cost anywhere between \$10 and free. <https://www.chicagobotanic.org/orchid>.
- February 15th & 16th 2014. Chicago Suburban Orchid Show (Batavia Orchid Society show). Du Page County Fairground, Wheaton, IL 60187. Saturday 10 am-5pm; Sunday 10am - 4pm. Nine (9) vendors will be present. [www.bataviaorchidsociety.org/2012\\_ORCHID\\_SHOW.htm](http://www.bataviaorchidsociety.org/2012_ORCHID_SHOW.htm) (please note 2012 is not a typo. It is indeed the page name.)
- Feb. 28 - March 2, and March 7 - 9, 2014, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm. Orchids by Hausermann's. Open House. Show and Sale. Villa Park, IL. For more information, see: [www.orchidsbyhausermann.com/events.html](http://www.orchidsbyhausermann.com/events.html)
- March 8-9, 2014. Illinois orchid society Spring show. Chicago botanic Garden.

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## Notes and tips:

### • Orchid apps for smart phones

"Smart phones and their apps are increasingly playing a role in our everyday lives — and now orchid growers are getting a piece of the action. Here is a discussion of two widely used applications that cater to the hobbyist. The concept of **Orchid Notebook** is brilliant. Finally, a way to keep track of those dozens of orchids scattered around the house — what they look like, what their names are, how to grow them". From: Winston-Salem Journal, Jan. 7, 2014. By Arthur Chadwich/Special Correspondent, posted Friday, August 16, 2013 12:00 am.

Note: I have not tried the app mentioned above, and don't even have a smart phone, so anyone who tried it, please report your experience.

### • Ready for the spot light?

Your blooming orchid will capture many praises and admirations at the show. There are a few tricks you can do to look their best:

1. Cut off any browned or yellowing leaves, especially if they are droopy.
2. Clean leaves by wiping gently with wet paper towel or soft cloth. Some people use lemon juice to clean the Phalaenopsis leaves.
3. Prop up the flower stalk so that the flowers are visible to the viewers. If you don't have stakes made especially for orchids, long cooking skewers do the job.
4. When transporting your plant to the show, make sure the flowers or tender leaves do not touch each other. Pack the pots with plenty of room among them.
5. Consider placing smaller plants on stands so that they will not be dwarfed by large plants.
6. If at all possible, attach a label with the plant's name. Most of the Phalaenopsis may be called simply "Phalaenopsis" and that is sufficient, but if it also has a hybrid name, adding it will be useful.

### • Lighting

Complete light shelf, such as the one mentioned by one of the members, Joanne Miller on our Society's Group Facebook page, works well anywhere in the house. But if you need occasional lighting, there are several less expensive options that can be obtained easily. Hydrofarm has various grow light fixtures with various number of tubes and types. Some people only use regular 4' long shop light fixtures with either two or four tubes. If you need supplemental lighting only occasionally, the regular tubes may be sufficient.

### • Metal shelving

Wire shelving units available at Home Depot, Lowes, and other stores are great for growing orchids. The shelf height can be adjusted for taller plants, though that is not the best use of the space. The vertical frame of these shelves are hollow and castors can be attached at the bottom for easy sliding. The plants should be on saucers or on a tray. Boot trays works well, but a more inexpensive alternative is plastic plant trays without the bottom holes punched out. Trays are flimsy so it is best to stack two together.

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## Orchid of the month:

**M**asdevallias (abbreviated as Masd.) are cold-loving orchids. The recent sub-zero temperatures kept our sunroom barely above 65°F day, and around 55°F at night. Starting November the plants should be watered minimally, but especially now, because the wet medium in cold atmosphere will not be favored by the tropical orchids. But not so for Masdevallias. They are found from Mexico to southern Brazil, but mostly in the cloud forest of the higher regions of the Andes mountains (2,500-4,000 m) in Ecuador, Columbia, Peru and Bolivia. They are said to be intolerant of hot, dry conditions, but mine survived the last few summers outside in partial shade.

As you can see in the images below, the petals and sepals are fused to make the shape of the flower very unique. If you have a cold room, try these amazing little gems.



Masd. with no hybrid name



Masd. Ann Legette 'Mauna Loa'

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## Editor's note:

So we begin another year of orchid growing. There are many shows from now on until late April throughout the country so be sure to visit them if possible. Lately, the orchids, especially Phalaenopsis, are sold in most grocery stores regardless of the season, and mass-production of Phalaenopsis have made their prices come down as low as \$4.99 a 4" pot. Their color and pattern variety are amazing but this popularization of orchids makes it even more important for us orchid enthusiasts to venture into growing more unique orchids.

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