



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 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's getting to be that time of the year again when we must think about repotting our orchids. Generally our orchids get a boost from growing into fresh media. I've heard that some Paphiopedilum growers repot their orchids up to four times a year! Yikes! That seems to be a bit excessive to me. But most orchids generally prefer to be disturbed at the right time of the year, and it can be a different time for each species.

So how do you know when to repot? Simply by observing the plant. The ideal time is when the plant is in active growth and new root-tips are just beginning to emerge. This way the roots can grow into the new media immediately. Otherwise the plant might have to sit there for half a year without roots, and have no way to take up water or nutrients. If you do have to repot when a plant is inactive, give water sparingly and coax the new growth out with careful observation. Let it sit for a while in a little less light after repotting, then add it gradually back to its normal spot on the shelf.

Another suggestion is to take notes on your orchids or make a journal. Be sure and note when something you did worked well – or did not work well! I myself wouldn't remember what I did differently, three months later. So hopefully something momentous will be learned from your note taking.

If you are interested in watching a tutorial on repotting orchids, Repotme.com has some excellent ones. Go to that website and click on Orchid repotting clinic. There you will find repotting for Phalaenopsis and Cattleya orchids. It's very helpful! In June, we will have our yearly repotting party at Mark & Mitzi's. You will be able to get lots of questions answered about your plants at that time.

Don't forget to stop by our booth at Lincoln Square on Saturday, May 7 to see our Orchids for sale. Grand Prairie Friends organizes this sale each year in the spring. Thanks to our members who volunteered to help with this event. See you there!

May you have lots of blooms!
Joanne Miller, CIOS President

Next meeting:

- There is no regular meeting in May. Instead, we will have a sale and a field trip:

☆ May 7 (Saturday), from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m (or sell out): We will be holding a sale at Lincoln Square, along with Grand Prairie Friends, the Herb Society, the African Violet Society, the Bonsai Society, and a few other individual vendors. Sale plants include an assortment of tropical orchids from a couple of Hawaiian nurseries, as well as some hardy slipper orchids, i.e., the yellow lady slippers and the showy lady slippers, both of which are native to the northern part of the U.S. and Canada. "Hardy" means they can be grown outside year around. Volunteers are needed to help with the sale, so please respond when you receive an e-mail.

☆ May 22 (Sunday), we will be taking a field trip to United Central Orchids located in Minooka, Illinois. UCO is a mass-production orchid nursery and whole sale company. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Champaign Schnuck's parking lot. We hope to stop for lunch before arriving at UCO at 1 p.m. If you would like to go, and possibly can drive, please contact Joanne. **This event is for members only.**

Events in the area:

- The shows in many cities and states are winding down, but there is one big show on May 13-15, 2016. It is Redlands International Orchid Festival, held at Fruit and Space Park in Homestead, FL. Nearly 70 orchid vendors from around the world will be participating. For details, see <http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org/>.
 - Additional shows are found at AOS.ORG website under Events and News. If you travel around the country, you will almost always find regional society shows and meetings you can attend.
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Notes and tips:

- At the April meeting, Linda Bial gave a talk about the unusual and crazy orchids. In the talk, she gave a list of the unusual and crazy orchids can be found. Below is the list she provided:

1. My favorite go-to source, the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia: <http://www.orchidspecies.com/index.htm>
2. My new second-favorite, the searchable Orchids Wiki: http://orchids.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page
3. Site devoted specifically to orchids with unusual foliage: <http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/836>
4. Good basic information about many types of orchids: <http://www.orchid-care-tips.com/>
5. Site devoted specifically to Angraecums: <http://angraecums.blogspot.com/>
6. Site devoted to the variety of orchids in the Pleurothallid alliance: <http://www.pleurothallids.com/>
7. Site with numerous photos of unusual Bulbophyllums: <https://queenslandorchid.wordpress.com/2014/06/16/the-one-thousand-and-one-faces-of-bulbophyllum/>

Orchids of the month: Restrepia

One of the genus that Linda talked about was Restrepia, abbreviated as Rstp. Below are two species she showed in her talk: Restrepia guttulata ‘Spotted Peach’ (right) and Restrepia xanthophthalma (below left). They are found in the cool, damp, montane forests of the Andes, primarily Columbia, Ecuador and Peru, with some species found in Central America and Mexico.

The 50 or so known species all have the weird, spoon-like flower part. This is fused dorsal sepals, called synsepal. The thin, antenna-like petals and one lateral sepal all have little bulges at the tip. But the most unique feature of this

species may be that the flower forms at the back of a leaf. According to many sources, Restrepias are easy to grow at home, and quickly fill the pots with new growths, as long as the potting media retain moisture and does not dries out. Some species can be grown outdoors in Oakland, CA where summer temperatures can reach well above 80° F and winter nights can be in the 40's.



Rstp. guttulata



Rstp. xanthophthalma



Rstp. sanguinea 'mum'



Rstp. antennifera