



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

May 2018

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In this Issue

- From the President
- Next Meeting
- Events in the area
- Member profile
- Notes and tips
- Ray Boehmer
- AOS News

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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:

May is finally here! With its cool, fresh weather, it's astonishing blooming trees and shrubs, and accompanying fragrances in the air, it's one of the most uplifting times of the year. Whatever adversity you may have, it lifts your spirits and makes you pause to look around and enjoy the beauty.

This weather makes it easy to make some new commitments we've been thinking about and nurture our orchids and also our outside plants. Our orchids are reflecting the changes and are stimulated by the lengthening days and increased light levels to begin their new growth. Take advantage of all the new growth as this is the time of year when plants establish themselves most easily.

If you are thinking about repotting now, have on hand all the supplies you need. A supply of new pots in assorted styles and sizes, fresh orchid mix, labels for any divisions you might make and fresh fertilizers. Having everything you need at your fingertips, makes repotting stress free, more fun and more efficient. The best results come directly from your best effort and good ingredients.

I'd also like to encourage you to go through every plant in your collection and assess which ones need repotting, or which ones are so straggly that they need to be pitched for a new replacement plant! There will be several opportunities to look for a new plant this spring and summer, and you can start over with the ideas you've learned this last year. Perhaps your "sad" plant needed more light, watered more often, more humidity or hotter or cooler temperatures. Different varieties of orchids have different growing conditions, and it's best to give them the right environment if you want to be successful.

Ask questions at our meetings. This is the easiest place to learn and you will probably get several ideas and learn several tricks to growing your favorite plant.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Paul & Kathryn Wilson's home on May 14 for our Greenhouse Walk!

Happy Growing,
Joanne Miller, CIOS President

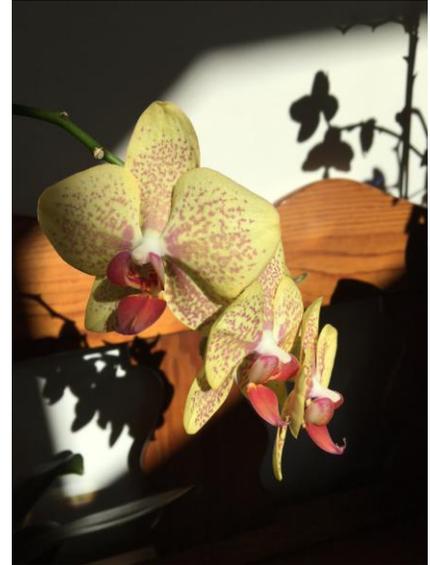
Next meeting:

● Our next meeting is on **Monday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. at 2502 Coppertree Rd., Champaign.** Paul Wilson will give a tour of his greenhouse, and his engineering wonder of rain water duct. Kathryn Wilson will show us the beautiful glass beads she designs and makes from scratch. Also at this meeting, a raffle of "mostly finished Phals" will take place. The plants were given to our Society by a friend of one of the members, and are still in bloom. As usual, don't forget to bring your blooming orchids for show and tell.

● The Phals shown below and at right will be raffled off at this meeting. They are "supermarket specials" that a friend of the club decided to discard. They have no tags, but have very pretty flowers.



They have roots way above the top of the pot and should be repotted after flowering.



Events in the area: Our sale!

We are again participating in the plant sale at Lincoln Square on **Saturday May 12, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm** (or until we sell out.) We have a variety of about 40 tropical orchids from Hawaii, plus a bunch of warm-blooming Phalaenopsis plants personally crossed and grown by Dewey Houser of PSOS. Joanne and Mitzi are in charge of the sale, but your help is much appreciated. If you can help, please be there anytime from 8am on. Please also wear the club T-shirt, if you have one, so the customers can easily identify us.

Plants included in this year's sale are: Oncidium hybrids, Miltoniopsis, mini-Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Zygopetallum hybrids. They all have tags, and some are very fragrant. (Image right on next page). In addition, Dewey Houser, a long time member of the Prairie State Orchid Society, again donated about 35 plants to CIOS to help us grow and be financially stable. (Image left on next page) Most of them are

Violeciae type Phals with continuous blooming flowering stems. Some of you would be excited to know that there are 5 Phrags (Jason Fisher, Glowing embers x bright spots). The plants from Dewey will be sold at incredibly low prices, so hope you can get there and get one.



Member profile: Dave and Niela Millar

By Dave and Niela Millar

We have lived in Urbana for 41 years. Prior to that we lived in the Chicago suburbs. Somehow, not sure how, we learned of Hausermann's Orchid Open House. That was probably 40 yrs. ago. One visit there and we were hooked! Came home with a car full of beautiful orchids! That was when orchids were not found at places like Walmart, so it became an annual trip for us. Now that orchids are more readily available locally, we have not traveled there. However, in recent years, we have traveled to Florida through orchid territory and brought back several from there. Currently we have probably 50 orchids. We especially enjoy the super fragrant purple and green, *Zygopetalum*, we just got at the CIOS sale. Also love Vandas, but haven't been able to keep them alive!



Other than orchids, we enjoy gardening, both flowers and vegetables. Initially my passion was iris, but not wanting to use harsh chemicals, the iris borers got the best of them. Next my passion went to hostas. I have probably 75 kinds of them. Becoming a bit bored with just admiring various patterns of leaves, I next discovered the world of daylilies, which are my current passion. Probably have 75 of them.

After Dave retired from the machine tool industry, I asked him to make me some sculptures for the garden. Thus began our adventure into kinetic copper garden sculptures using wind and water. Also copper lighting and various critters using copper and incorporating ceramics. It became our livelihood for several years as we traveled around the Midwest selling our work at garden shows and art fairs. We are 'almost' retired from that.

We have a daughter living in Oregon, so that is a recurring trip to visit her and be tempted by all the wonderful plants out there that seem to grow as fast as weeds with all the rain. Gardener's paradise! Being a part of CIOS has been fun to learn about so many kinds of orchids. And seeing the wonderful different ones members bring in for show and tell is great.

Notes and Tips:

- Vanilla (flavoring) prices are going up and so are all other food products, especially ice cream. And as you might have guess, it all comes down to supply and demand. Read all about it in the Economist: <https://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2018/03/economist-explains-4>. Apparently, the source of the flavoring comes from various Vanilla species in many regions of the world, Madagascar produces the top quality Vanilla, and the farmers in Madagascar are planting more Vanilla. If this improves their economy as well as the habitat preservation, it is all good.



The May issue of Orchids has a featured article on Vanilla with beautiful illustrations of many species of Vanilla.

Good bye Ray Boehmer:

We were saddened to learn that one of our members, Ray Boehmer, suddenly passed away on April 19, 2018. His obituary appears in the News Gazette:

<http://www.news-gazette.com/obituaries/2018-04-29/ray-boehmer.html>

He was Professor of Science Education at Milikin University in Dacatur, and sometimes taught on Saturdays, thus making it difficult for him to attend our show and sale events. With his retirement in 2016, he was hoping to be able to participate in the monthly meetings more often. He has been a member of our society for many years, though most of you may not had the chance to get to know him. A contribution in his honor has been sent to the Illinois Audubon Society as wished by the family. We hope the beauty of nature at this time of the year and all the busy activities of the birds that he so loved will give some comfort to the family and friends. Following the wishes of his family, CIOS has made a contribution in his honor to the Illinois Audubon Society.

AOS News:

- It is finally here--that is, digitally accessible AOS magazine articles for the period 2003-2009 and 2011-2018, representing over 2,050 articles. The 2010 issues and those prior to 2003 will be added as time goes. As a librarian, the lack of search capabilities of these great articles that appear in the monthly ORCHIDS magazine has been most frustrating. It resulted in many issues with sticky tags marking the articles of interest.

The searches can be narrowed by date, and key words, or genus and species names. The test searches indicated that searches are free and brings the issue dates that include the articles that met the search criteria, but one must be an AOS member to actually access the full article.

If you did use the search and came up with an issue that you want to read, please feel free to contact the Editor. □