



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 2017

- 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:

Please join us next Monday for our Member Sale of Orchids & etc. We do this yearly to weed out our plants, to give others the opportunity to grow them, or maybe we have duplicates and such. You may also donate supplies such as books and pots. Please price what you bring. We will also be discussing Bulbophyllums & their culture. Please bring your Bulbophyllums for Show & Tell.

I'd also like to encourage you to attend our Holiday Dinner which will be Nov. 12 at Atties Bar & Grill, 2600 Stone Creek Blvd. in Urbana. We will meet at 5:00pm, order from the menu, and all members who attend will receive an orchid as your holiday gift!

It's cooling down outside now and for those of you who need tips on getting your Phalaenopsis to bloom, fall is the time that they need a 10 degree temperature difference between night time lows and day time highs. Why, because orchids synthesize their food through photosynthesis during the day. If night temperatures are too high, they end up burning up this food. They need lower temperatures at night to save their food, which they can then use to flower. Here are some easy tricks to get them to flower:

1. Try to drop the temps to 55-60°F for 2-4 weeks now, by either opening the windows at night or turning the indoor night temperature to 60 degrees. A wireless min/max thermometer can help you keep track of changes in temperature.

2. Make sure there is adequate ventilation and air circulation, particularly in winter to avoid fungal and bacterial disease. An oscillating fan that moves air constantly at low speed is extremely beneficial.

3. Continue feeding your plants while the days are still warm. You might like to switch your fertilizer to a blossom booster fertilizer, to encourage flowering. Be sure to water your Phals early in the day so they are dry by nightfall.

Happy Growing!
Joanne Miller, CIOS President

Next meeting:

- Our next meeting is on Monday, October 9, 2017 at the Hessel Park Church. This is one meeting you don't want to miss because it is a member plant sale. Orchids donated by the members will be sold at a very low price, and there are many gems that will be hard to find, or very expensive if bought from elsewhere.

We will also be voting on the 2018 officers. The nominations for the following positions were received at the September meeting: Joanne Miller for President; Terry Moore for Vice President; Linda Bial for Secretary; Mark Williams for Treasurer; Linda Bailey for Sale Chair; Terry Moore for Show Chair. Mitzi Williams will continue as Editor of the Newsletter and Website.

- Mark your calendar for **5:00 p.m. Sunday, November 12** also! This is our Holiday Dinner where each member will receive an orchid as a present. Members are welcome to bring spouses/guests. Gift plants are carefully selected by the Board members and include some very unusual species. The venue this year is Attie's, 2600 S. Stone Creek Blvd., Urbana. You will be able to pick from the menu individually. The menu is found at their website, atties.net. For **reservations**, please contact Joanne by **November 1**.
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Events in the area:

- October 14-15, 2017. The Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale, **Orchid Artistry**, Glencoe, IL: Chicago Botanic Garden. For more information, see: www.iosoc.com/
 - October 20-22, 2017. The Mid America Orchid Congress Fall meeting in conjunction with the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Biannual Orchid Show and Sale. For more info, visit: <http://midamericanorchids.org/>
 - October 21-22, 2017. Eastern Iowa Orchid Society Show and Sale. Noelridge Park Greenhouses, Cedar Rapids, IA. Details are given at: http://easterniowaorchidsociety.org/index_files/Show.htm.
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Board meeting report:

The separation of the VP and Secretary positions have been discussed and agreed upon by the Board at its September 9, 2017 meeting. The Board continued the discussion of member benefits, such as bus trips to area shows/sales, free trial plants, and program enhancements with invited speakers. Selection of the Holiday Party venue also continues. Member input is sought throughout the next year for the 2018 activities. The nominations for the members mentioned in the "Next Meeting" have been confirmed at the September 11 member meeting.

American Orchid Society News:

- Don't forget about the AOS Essay contest. This year's topic is: Species or Hybrids. The details are available at <http://www.aos.org/news-and-events/dillon-peterson-essay-contest.aspx>.

Notes and tips:

- Report from Florida: The damages made by Hurricane Irma has been devastating to the entire state of Florida. It is particularly difficult for orchid growers, leaving all the plants behind. Jerry Meola of OrchidsAmore, located in Fort Meyers, sent the following report and images.



"The plants spent two days in the sun before we were able to return home. Some have now been without shade for 4 days. Surprisingly, so far, dead plants are few. Lots of bad leaves that will take time to grow new leaves. The heat and stress seems to be making the orchids flower."

Many orchid societies reported having to cancel shows. That means not only do they lose the opportunity to raise funds for their clubs, but also they face losses from plants already ordered and



having to cancel the vendors. Growers such as Jerry at OrchidsAmore also lost the opportunity to sell plants and expand their customer base. They are waiting in limbo to hear about upcoming shows such as the Miami International Show in mid-October. Having to prepare for the show while recovering from structural and emotional destruction must be very stressful. Our thoughts are with all the orchid growers influenced by the hurricane.

** The host of the Miami International Orchid Show, the South Florida Orchid Society, had to cancel its September meeting due to Hurricane Irma, but they are able to hold the 71st Miami International Orchid Show after all.

- Several CIOS members went to the Chicagoland Orchid Fest last month. At Hausermann's, there was a vender from Ecuadore called Ecuagenera who had lots of Masdevallias and Draculas, all bare root and in moss so as to pass USDA inspection. At Natt's, there were 3 U.S. nurseries and 1 Asian nursery. They all had very healthy, interesting plants, and adding to their selection from what Natt's offered, it was hard to come away without numerous plants in hand.

Member profile: Rashmi Kapoor

By Rashmi Kapoor

I came to the United States in the early 80s. Ever since, it has been a learning experience, whether it was cooking or taking computer classes at Parkland College. I have a degree in

Biology from India but I consider myself a student in progress. Currently, I am enrolled as a Fine Arts Student at Parkland College and enjoying oil painting along with other stimulation classes. I have been exploring various art media including water color and ceramics.

I do not remember how I got my first orchid. As far



as I can recall, I was introduced to the Bonsai club and during one of its meetings, I came to know about upcoming orchid show and sale at the conservatory at U of I. That is where I bought my first orchid and became a member of the club. I do not even remember what type of orchid it was. During the club meetings my interest grew more and I bought more orchids. I was fascinated by the fact that the orchid blooms last for a long time. During my first trip to Hawaii, I went to an orchids nursery. I did not know much about the orchids. I asked the store keeper to suggest a few easy orchids. Unfortunately, I bought very young orchids and I could not take care of them properly. Over the years, all of them have died. I found some success with store-bought Phalaenopsis. Even during the member sale, I preferred to buy phals because they did re-bloom for me. I had purple and white orchids. I still have about 10 Phals.

Slowly I started to venture into buying Dendrobium, Oncidium and Paphiopedilum. These also bloomed for me and made me super excited. Currently, I have one Dendrobium and one Oncidium in bloom.

I still do not know much about the correct growing conditions for my orchids. I travel a lot. I often go to India for longer durations, leaving my plants to be taken care of by my husband or my friends. I have lost many orchids and many jasmines to neglect, aphids and other pests. I have tried using alcohol to wipe the leaves off or I have used the insecticides bought from stores. I have also tried the homemade mixtures suggested by orchid club members.

I am grateful to all the members including Mitzi, Bettina to name a few. I am always learning new things. During each of the club meetings, I get to learn newer facts about Orchids.

Editor's Notes:

This issue lacks a standing column, Orchid of the Month, due to an extremely tight schedule. If it were not the timely submission of the articles from Joanne and Rashmi, I would have had to skip publication. The next issue would be a combined Nov.-Dec. issue, so if you can contribute any article--orchid growing anecdotes, tips, plant you got to bloom--please send a write-up my way. Mitzi Williams

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