



# Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2015

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## Contact us at:

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

## Join us on Face book

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 2015

Joanne Miller, President

Bettina Francis, Vice Pres. /Secretary

Mark Williams, Treasurer

Mitzi Williams, Editor, Newsletter & Webpage content.

## From the President:

### HEARTS AND FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY -

It's February and time to start thinking about which orchids you would like to bring to the Orchid Show next month. Will it be that Slc. Jewel Box Orchid 'Dark Waters', or that pretty Cattleya 'Chocolate Drop'? Whichever ones you pick will be eye-catching to the visitors coming to our show. Remember to clean the leaves and cut off the dead brown-ends of the leaves. We want them looking their best!

Our Orchid Show/Sale wouldn't be possible without each of you volunteering your time and talent to the show. If you have already volunteered to help, thank you! Every person willing to give a few hours of their time is appreciated.

Did you know....That the male Crestless Gardener Bowerbird of New Guinea is the only animal besides man that uses orchids for their beauty? The orchid blossoms are used to decorate the entrance of the bower, made of sticks and vines. The male bird builds this bower for his courtship display. The orchids are placed on a carpet of moss laid down at the bower entrance. The Bowerbird periodically replaces the wilted blossoms with fresh ones, thus impressing and winning the female of the species.

Do you have any friends or acquaintances that like orchids but are not members of our society? Please consider bringing them to a meeting with you as a guest. They might like to join our group.

Since Feb. can be a time for some of us to give gifts, why not give an orchid? Pick up one or two and give them to your friends. Here, take my car! They are definitely addictive! Give them as gifts and throw in a culture sheet on how to grow them. We've got an exciting new world of orchids ahead of us. Have fun spreading the cheer!

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our meeting Feb. 7, at 6:30. It will be at our new location at Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church, 700 W. Kirby, Champaign, IL., one block West of Hessel Park.

Happy Blooming,  
Joanne Miller, CIOS President

## Next meeting:

- The next meeting will be on Monday, February 9, 2015. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Hessel Park Church, 700 W. Kirby Av., Champaign. The previously planned program on "growing orchids under light" has been cancelled due to speaker's unavailability. Instead, **the program will be "Member Roundtable Discussion: How I Grow Orchids."** Members will share information on their growing methods such as lighting, watering frequency, humidity and fertilizing. Feel free to bring blooming plants for show and tell. A raffle plant will be available for member drawing.

In addition, we will be discussing the details of the Show and Sale next month. We hope many of you can attend this meeting and volunteer for various tasks for the event. If you can work at the show and sale but will miss the February meeting to sign up for a time slot, please contact Bettina Francis (bfrancis@life.illinois.edu) or Linda Bial (lindabial@gmail.com). We also need publicity help by putting up posters at your work place, familiar businesses. etc. Posters will be available at the meeting.

- March 7, 2015, **9:00\* am - 5\* pm**. CIOS Annual Orchid Show and Sale, Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church, 700 W. Kirby Ave., Champaign. **\*The public hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** but we need member volunteers to help set up the tables and displays as well as take them down. The members will be allowed to purchase plants beginning at 9:00 a.m. at listed prices, and whatever is left after 4 p.m. at greatly discounted prices.

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## Membership renewal:

Please bring your 2015 payment to the next meeting, or send it to Mark Williams, 3208 S. First St., Champaign IL 61822. The dues are \$15 for one member and \$25 for a couple. In order to keep your contact information up to date, please submit the membership form along with your payment. The form is available at: [www.ciorchidsociety.org/membership.html](http://www.ciorchidsociety.org/membership.html). If the link does not open, please copy the line and paste it on your browser.

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## Events in the area:

- Now - March 22, 2015. Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show: Orchids and their pollinators. St. Louis, MO. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admissions \$5.00/person (age 3 and up) in addition to the regular garden admission of \$8 adults. For more info, see [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/)
- Feb. 14 - 15, 2015. Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale. Washington Park Botanical Garden. For details, see [www.prairiestateorchids.org/index.html](http://www.prairiestateorchids.org/index.html)
- Feb. 21 - 22, 2015. Chicago Suburban Orchid Show, hosted by Batavia Orchid Society. Du Page County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton IL. For details, see: [www.bataviaorchidsociety.org/](http://www.bataviaorchidsociety.org/)
- Feb. 27 - Mar. 1, and March 6 - 8, 2015. Hausermann's Annual Open House Show and Sale. Non-spiked plants, though some are blooming size, are offered at about 30-45% off. Events include workshops and displays on growing under lights; floral design demonstrations; and greenhouse tours. For more information, see: [www.orchidsbyhausermann.com](http://www.orchidsbyhausermann.com).

- March 14 (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) - 15 (1 p.m. - 3 p.m.), 2015. Univ. of Illinois Plant Biology Conservatory and Greenhouses annual orchid sale. CIOS member volunteers are needed to help with this sale.
- March 14 - 22, 2015. Indiana Flower and Patio Show. Indiana State Fair Grounds 1202 E. 38th St. Indianapolis, IN 46205. Many garden and plant related exhibitors, including an orchid nursery Hill Top Orchids, will be present. For more information, see <http://hsishows.com/wp/indianaflowerandpatioshow/>.
- March 20 - 22, 2015. Tennessee Capital Orchid Show and Sale, and Mid-America Orchid Congress. "Orchids in Rhythm". Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin, TN <http://orchidsinrhythm.org/>

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## Notes and tips:

- Troubles with Phalaenopsis: the problems on Phalaenopsis are visible on leaves and flowers. A "brown spot" on a leaf may be caused by a number of factors. The January issue of the AOS's Orchids magazine has an article which shows different problems in color photos so you can properly diagnose the problems and provide appropriate treatment.
- The February 2015 issue of the Orchids magazine features the hardy orchid, Bletilla. The popularity of this cold climate orchid is increasing among tropic orchid growers. They come in many different flower colors ranging from white to yellow to dark pink, and all shades in between. Though our area straddles between zone 5 and 6, these orchids can be grown successfully in protected areas with heavy winter mulch.

● Meet Bob Long, our webmaster. Bob is the person who, as webmaster, helps our Society make a global presence. He does it purely as a favor to our society! He is a member of the Prairie State Orchid Society (Springfield area), and is also the webmaster for that group. At their Christmas Dinner meeting, he received an award of appreciation for his timely and tireless work. Please send your thanks to him through the webmaster link on our home page!



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## AOS Corner

The American Orchid Society (AOS) membership is available for \$40/yr with digital access to the "members only" parts of their website, AOS.ORG. The digital access includes the magazine, Orchids, as well as their hour-long webinars which are presentations of various topics by national and international experts. Membership with print and digital access is \$65.

Some of the information on their website is available to non-members. These include a limited selection of culture sheets on orchids, a list of numerous Q & A's, and a selection of stored webinars such as "Orchids and Their Culture".

## Orchids of the month: Cymbidium (Cool growing)

While most orchids we grow are from tropics or high mountains and require certain level of high or low temperatures, humidity, and special growing medium, Cymbidiums are the ones most suitable to our area as they can be outside during summer. And in the fall, temperature drop to nearly 40°F is required for bud formation. Growers in warm areas such as Hawaii and Florida cannot grow them, while those in central to northern California can grow them as garden plants. They must be inside during winter in our area, if you have space to accommodate a large pot and long strappy leaves, this is the plant for you!



Switching to bloom-boosting fertilizer (higher phosphorus content) from general growth fertilizer in autumn also helps the bud growth. Meijer store in Urbana (and perhaps other locations) recently had the following sunning Cymbidiums for sale at a very reasonable price.

