



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 2019

- Linda Bailey, President
- Terry Moore, Vice President & Show Chair
- Joanne Miller, Sale Chair
- Linda Bial, Secretary
- Mark Williams, Treasurer
- Mitzi Williams, Editor, Newsletter & Webpage

From the President

Summer is quickly coming to an end. I hope you took time to relax and have some fun. I tend to give less time and attention to my orchids during the summer. I think they enjoy their vacation outside in the brighter light and fresh breezes. As the temperatures begin to drop, especially at night, it's time to start preparing them for their return inside. A variety of insects are probably hiding in and among the plants and growing medium. Each grower has their own routine for preparing their orchids to bring inside. For me, first I clean out the leaves and debris that has collected in the plants. If there are visible insects, I clean with water and insecticidal soap. Lastly every plant gets treated with a Bonide granular systemic houseplant insect control that is mixed into the growing medium. I've bought the supplies, now to the task.

The September meeting will be on September 9th, 6:00 pm at the home of members Dave and Niela Millar. They will be sharing their growing conditions with us. Their address is 1917 Kenneth St. Urbana. I am told there is limited parking around their house. If you would like to carpool from Champaign, the meeting place will be the south parking lot of Hilton Garden Inn next to Walgreens at the corner of Neil St. and Kirby Avenue, Champaign. Carpool will leave at 5:40 p.m.

Other topics of discussion will be next year's slate of officers and the annual holiday dinner.

Hope to see you on the 9th!

Linda Bailey
CIOS President



Next meeting:

- The next meeting is on September 9th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. We will be visiting the Millar's garden where the orchids summer outside among gazillion of annuals, perennials, potted tropicals, and whatever else that came up. The focus of the business meeting will be the nomination of new officers.
- Be thinking about the October meeting when we have member's plant sale. If you have orchids that are not doing very well under your care, and want to give them another chance, here is the opportunity to make it happen. Also, you have some divisions that you want to share, please add them to the sale. All plants are donated to the Society and the proceeds are added to the treasury for enhancing our activities. Please price your plants. Growing equipment and supplies are also welcome for this sale.

Events in the area:

- Sept. 20-22, 2019. 27th Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest, Natt's Orchids (Naperville, IL) and Orchids by Hausermann (Villa Park, IL). For more info, see www.chicagolandorchidfest.com. The festival features several growers from other states and countries and five gift certificate valued at \$600 each will be drawn for those who visited both locations. You can start at either location but be sure to visit both to qualify.

Notes and tips:

- Pay attention to the low temperatures and to the temperature requirements of each plants--some of the orchids need to be indoors!

Scent of orchids:

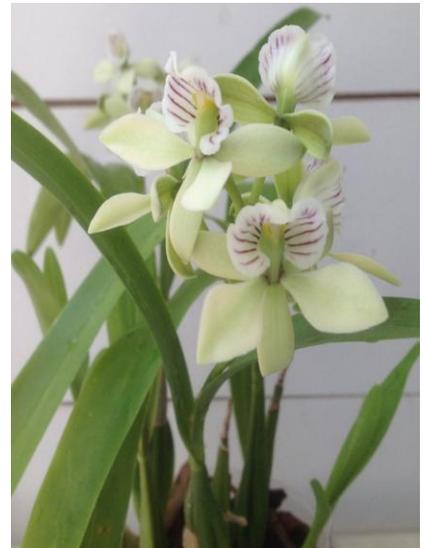
The scent of orchids. Olfactory and chemical investigations by Roman Kaiser. Co-published by Givaudan-Roure, Dübendorf, Switzerland, and Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1993. No. of pages: 264, \$175.00, ISBN 0-444-89841-7

It is interesting that beautiful flowers seem to lead humans to expect favorable fragrances. Orchids are no exception, especially because of their unique flower structures and color varieties. Orchid growers and hobbyists, while their collection practices might not necessarily put fragrance as the top requirement, still appreciate orchids that have pleasant/unusual scents. The author, trained as a fragrance and flavor chemist, reminds us that the scent of all flowers, including orchids, are for pollinators and not for humans. He used a unique method to effectively capture the scent of orchids, and analyzed them chemically. He attributes the scentless or very weakly scented orchids to be the result of vigorous hybridization, and paints a very different picture for the natural species. He examined 2200 species, and concluded at least 50% as 'moderately to strongly scented,' and only about 15-20% to be scentless. According to the author, the plant's biological clock controls the scent release, and the level of the scent is influenced by light intensity, day/night cycle, temperature, and maturity of flower. This book contains chemical analysis of 160 orchid species which are described in various groupings such as pollinator groups (moth, fly, bee), or floral images (white-floral, rosy-floral, ionone-floral, spicy-floral). The moth group of orchids, such as *Angreacums* and *Brassavolas*, have mostly white flowers, and release pleasant scents in early evening.

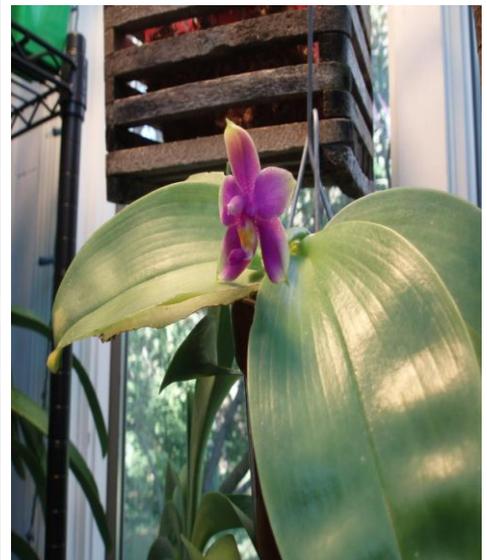
In contrast, the fly group of orchids have scents similar to rotten flesh or fecal matter, and the flower colors are often yellow to green to reddish brown.

The bee group of plants consist of a large number of species with the scents that are "rosy-floral, ionone-floral, aromatic-floral spicy-floral."

The heart of the book is a list of orchid species which include general cultural descriptions as well as chemical analysis of their scents. For example, *Brassavola nodosa*'s scent is primarily based on linalool, benzoates, salicylates and nerolidol. The scent of *Gongora* orchids, belonging to the bee-pollinated group, are based on hydroquinone dimethyl ether, methyl 3-phnylpropionate and methyl cinnamate. (E)-ocimene and some sesquiterpenes adds "slightly woody and balsamic notes." Higher the content of linalool, the stronger is the floral aspect of the scent. Other orchids familiar to many orchid growers as fragrant are *Encyclia radiata*, *Dendrobium kingianum*, *Neofinatia falcata* (now *Vanda falcata*), *Phalaenopsis violaceae*, *Oncidium 'Sharry Baby'*. Only a few flowers of these species can fill an entire room with pleasant scents.



Brassavola nodosa (by Joanne Miller) *Gongora cassidea* and *Encyclia radiata* (by Mitzi Williams)



Dendrobium kingianum (by AOS.org) *Neofinatia falcata* and *Phalaenopsis violacea* (by Mitzi Williams) □