



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

Nov.-Dec. 2014

Vol. 8 no. 11-12, Nov.-Dec. 2014

In this Issue

- President's message
- Next meeting
- Society records
- Dinner highlights
- Notes and tips
- Orchid of the month 1
- Notes and tips 1
- Orchid of the month 2
- Notes and tips 2

Contact Us

www.ciorchidsociety.org

Join us on Facebook

Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter is published irregularly. 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 2014

Linda Bial, President
Ray Urban, Vice Pres.
Nancy Urban, Treasurer
Bettina Francis,
Secretary

Mitzi Williams, Newsletter
and Webpage content

President's message:

The end of 2014 is fast approaching and will soon be upon us! I hope this has been a good year for you all, and for your orchids as well. I hope you have learned some new things about growing orchids – about keeping them healthy and encouraging them to bloom – and perhaps tried raising one or more orchid varieties that were new to you.

The CIOS also has had a good year, with hopes that the coming year will be even better. During my presidency this past year, I've learned firsthand how much work occurs behind the scenes of our Society in order to keep it viable and moving forward. In 2015, the CIOS will undergo changes, many of which will require even more participation from our members. For instance, we plan to combine our annual orchid show with our annual sale at a new venue. This will be very beneficial in that it will allow people who come to see the show and are wowed by the orchids to be able to purchase beautiful blooming orchids of their own right then. It will, however, be a more complicated operation in which there will be numerous opportunities for our members to work to keep everything running smoothly. We will need your help!

Our recent holiday dinner was, as always, one of the highlights of the CIOS year. Such a pleasure to talk with our orchid compatriots, have a good meal, and receive a beautiful blooming orchid to add to our collections!

This being my last newsletter message as president, I want to thank all of the CIOS members for their support during the past year, but in particular I want to express much gratitude and appreciation to my fellow Board members for all their hard work and many contributions on behalf of the CIOS. Next year I'll remain on the Board as immediate past-president, and will be glad to assist our new president, Joanne Miller, as she takes the helm. Welcome, Joanne!

Meanwhile, I wish all of you the happiest of holidays and the healthiest of orchids.

Linda Bial, CIOS President

Editor's note: Thank you Linda for serving as our President!! Only a few people know how much hard work the presidency is.

Next meeting:

- The next meeting will be on Monday, January 12, 2015! We will meet at 6:30 pm in Room C (our usual room) at the Champaign Public Library. We will be discussing the upcoming events and programs. A raffle plant will be available for member drawing.
- **New Location from February! Starting with the February meeting (Feb. 9, 2015), we will meet at Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church, 700 W. Kirby Av. Champaign. It is located on the north side of Kirby Av., between Hessel Park and Prospect Ave. Please check our website for last minute updates.**
- Mark your calendar now for **March 7 (Saturday)** for our own SHOW AND SALE! For the first time, we will be able to combine our show and sale in one location. It will be held at Hessel Park C. R. Church. The room has large glass windows to the south and if the sun is out, it will show off our plants splendidly. We will need lots of volunteers to make this event successful, so please leave your calendar open.

Record of the Society in perpetuity:

A copy of our newsletter is archived by the Champaign County Historical Archives, housed at the Urbana Free Library. All issues of the newsletter dating back to v.1 no.1, January 2007 are there. In addition, our file contains sporadic issues of the newsletter in preceding years. Who knows in a million years, the Martians may find our activities interesting! The newsletter issues back to early 2009 are available on our website.

Highlights of the Holiday Dinner:

The 2014 Holiday Dinner was held at Olive Garden on Nov. 16. Nineteen members and guests attended and we all had a wonderful time. The plant drawing was, as usual, the highlight of the event. We hope some of them will appear at show and tell at our January meeting.

Nancy and Ray Urban were honored for their exceptional service and dedication as Treasurer and Vice President.

Many thanks go to Linda Bial and Bettina Frances for traveling up north to get these spectacular plants despite snow flurries all day.





Seated from left to right: Linda Bailey. Bettina, Ed (Terry's guest), Terry, Jim, Joanne, Nancy, Linda Bial, Tammy, Noni, Steve, Ray, Cindy. George Francis (not pictured), photographer.



Left to right: Linda Bial, Tammy, Becky (Steve's wife) Bob (Noni's husband), Mitzi, Mark, Steve.

Membership renewal:

Please send in your 2015 membership dues to Mark Williams, 3208 S. First St., Champaign IL 61822. The dues are \$15 for one member; \$25 for a couple. In order to keep your contact information up to date, please fill out the membership form along with your payment.

Orchid of the month 1:

By Cindy Westfall

I grow my Masdevallias in fine coconut husk with perlite, the same mix I use for Paphs. I don't grow them especially 'cold,' but the growing area is in my basement laundry room, so the temperature is moderate during the warm parts of the year, and a bit chilly during the winter.

The Masdevallias I have are all hybrids that are considered more 'temperature tolerant.'

I keep the medium consistently moist on these plants as well. Light is low-medium (like for paphs or a bit brighter). They appreciate re potting before the medium breaks down.

Last winter my Masd. imposter X floribunda (below left) had no blooms and several leaves turned yellow and fell off. I repotted it and it recovered nicely:). Earlier this year I ordered a Masd. Redwing, which arrived with zero living roots, but some new leaves coming on. I repotted it while in full bloom, and now several months later it has roots again and more new leaves! So they will bounce back pretty well, at least in my experience. Below left are Masd. Maui Gold 'Tico' (orange) and Masd. floribunda (right, pink)



Editor's note: Cindy has also successfully grown Dracula orchids, cousin of Masdevallias. The unique features of the fused sepals and petals are also visible in the above image of Dracula 'Cinnamon Angel'. Draculas often present "faces", resembling lemurs, orangutans, tamarins, etc. Both Masdevallias and Draculas are found in Central and northern South America, and belong to the Plurothalid family. Once considered very difficult to grow, hybridization has improved their tolerance to warmer, less humid growing conditions. The fragile looking flowers last surprisingly long. Requiring little pots and small spaces, they are ideal orchids for some cold window sills.

Notes and tips 1:

- Oncidiums--how to rebloom

Oncidiums are among the most commonly held orchids by the hobbyists, but the success in reblooming is mixed. In the video www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JoUo3IBNhgm, "Brad" the producer talks about how to rebloom Oncidium Sharry Baby. He says that oncidiums require a drop in temperature at night. The ideal level seems to be 55°F. It also requires bright light. The flower spikes are generated by a new bulb which emerges at the base of the last new bulb. Then it takes 9-10 months to produce flower spikes, so one may categorize Oncidiums as annual bloomers. (Note: you can click off the advertisement that appears before Brad's video.)

Orchid of the month 2:

Wicked!

A black orchid! It is a type of Cattaceum called Monnierara Millennium Magic 'Witchcraft' (AM/AOS). Cattaceums are also strange orchids in that the key to growing and reblooming is to totally let it dry. Growers often say "put it up on a high shelf, and forget about it until spring". The fat and stubby pseudobulb stores water enough for many months until spring when the climate is suitable for more sensitive leaves to grow, and for the plant to flower. Some growers consider them easy to grow and totally suitable for beginners!



Notes and tips 2:

- Bud blasting in Cattleyas:

You watched the sheath emerge on your Cattleya during the summer, and now see the flower buds swell up inside and push towards the top. You may even see the color at the tip of the bud. Then, almost overnight, you notice that the bud seems a bit yellow, and then gets darker and darker until eventually it turns completely black. Bud blast!

AOS website says "bud blasts in Cattleyas occur due to over or under watering." If underwatered, the moisture is drawn back from the emerging buds. If overwatered, it suffocates the roots. The plant at right grew two spikes with two buds each. A flower opened on one of the spikes and stayed in bloom for many weeks, but the other bud blasted after watering.

Two buds emerged on the second spike (below). A few days after watering, however, one of the buds blasted. The other bud looked like it was far along enough to open, but eventually blasted. Sad....



□