

Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

August-September 2015

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Contact us at:

www.ciorchidsociety.org

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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 2015

Joanne Miller, President
Bettina Francis, Vice Pres. /Secretary

Mark Williams, Treasurer

Mitzi Williams, Editor, Newsletter & Webpage content.

From the President:

My orchids that are growing outside right now are doing quite well. There are always problems to contend with, however, and I wanted to give you a list of things to check and watch out for.

Keep your growing area clean. Every time you water, remove any dead leaves or blossoms from the plant and take the dead material out of the growing area. They could spread diseases and bugs to your other plants if they hang around on the floor and ground. Bugs love to get under dead leaves and litter.

Proper spacing of your plants is also important. Orchids need air circulation like they would receive in the tops of the trees, if they were in their natural habitat. They also enjoy the breeze they receive by being outside.

Are they getting too much light? Burning of the leaves can result if they receive direct sunlight all day long. Dappled shade, under an overhang, or shade cloth above them, would be the best for your plants. Sunburned leaves have slightly yellow patches, often rough and slightly raised. Move your plants to a location that receives less sunlight each day if you notice this.

Look closely at your plants to see if they are being eaten by any bug or have spider webs on the leaves. I've had great success with insecticidal soap spray. It is harmless to pets, children and non toxic to you. I do wear gloves when spraying, but it keeps insects at bay if used monthly.

Most orchids like a 10 to 15 degree drop in temperature at night. This is just a natural occurrence if your plants are outside. Now all we have to do is remember to bring them inside when the night temperatures start to get around 50, probably in September sometime.

I am looking forward to our September 14th meeting! Our speaker Sam Tsui, from Orchid Inn in Bloomington, IL specializes in Paphiopedilums and will bring some orchids for sale or we can pre-order. Please see the next page for a profile on Sam Tsui.

Happy Growing!
Joanne Miller
CIOS President

Next meeting:

- September 14, at 6:30 pm, Hessel Park Church. After a brief business meeting, the program will feature Sam Tsui who is a world renowned Paphiopedilum specialist and hybridizer. Along with a talk about all aspects of growing Paphopedilums and Phragmipediums, Sam will have some plants for sale.
- The October meeting will be held on October 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hessel Park Church. This meeting is our member orchid sale. Plants are usually offered at very low prices. Please donate your excess plants or divisions for this sale. Orchid growing supplies including books can also be donated. Details on where to drop off your plants and other items will be sent by e-mail.

Call for nominations:

We will have the following vacancies for 2016. We need your involvement with the Society matters, and particularly welcome the new members to volunteer. Election will take place at the October meeting.

- Show Co-chair --this position focuses on the Show aspect of the Show and Sale event in early march, 2016. Linda Bial will serve as the Sale Co-chair, and will focus on the sale end of the event, but the two positions work together in publicity, room arrangement, staffing, etc. Our Show and Sale popularity is increasing, and we need your help in making the coming event even more successful than in the past.
- Vice President/Secretary position--the duties of this position is throughout the year.

Orchid of the month 1:

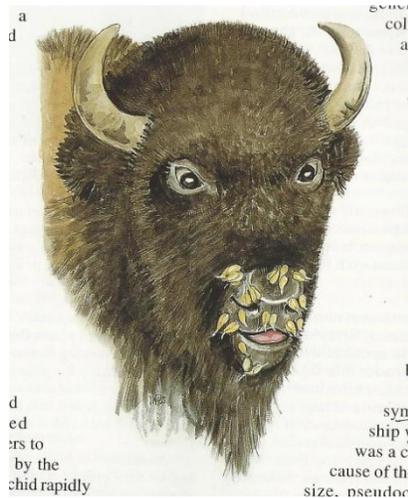
If you have not signed into Face Book, you are missing many beautiful images of the flowers our members are posting. Below are just a few of the recent postings. We have amazing talent among our members!



A rescued Doritis by Cindy. Cat. Kiritsubo 'Coloma' by Terry.

Otaara Hwa Yuan Bay 'She Shu' by Joanne. "Very fragrant" she says.

Orchid of the month 2



Did you know, among many of the plants and animals that are now extinct, there was an orchid called the Buffalo Orchid (*Bisonea buffalophila*) which grew in the Great Prairie where the buffalos roamed. Their two-foot tall spikes with large blue flowers graced the land from April to May. Though the plants lived only 2-3 seasons and apparently flowered only once, the seeds were able to germinate in the buffalo wallows. Due to the bitterness of the plants, the buffalos avoided eating them but carried the relatively large seeds around their noses and in their nostrils. Later on, the immigrants (mostly from Germany and Scandinavia) who settled in the region found that the plant grew well on the sod roof of their houses. We owe this information to a German traveler who sent the dried plants to Linnaeus. The specimens are now housed in the Royal Museum in Uppsala, Sweden.

This article is a synopsis of an article by Daniel C. O'Neil entitled "The buffalo orchid", published in the American Orchid Society Bulletin, April 1995 p.372-373.

Events in the area:

- Sept. 25-27, 2015 Chicagoland Orchid Fest. At Orchids by Hausermann's, Addison, IL and Natt's Orchids, Naperville, IL. 8 am - 5 pm (Friday - Sat.) and 10 am - 3 pm (Sunday). Guest growers, special sale items and refreshments are available at both locations. The highlight of the festival is the drawing of up to 5 individuals who visited both locations. Prizes of gift certificates ranging from \$50 - \$250, valued at \$600 total, can be used at either nurseries. For the festival flyer, see: www.chicagolandorchidfest.com/images/2015Chicagoland_Orchidfest_flyer.pdf
- October 10-11, 2015. 10 am - 4 pm. Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale. Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. For details, see: www.iosoc.com.

Notes and tips:

- AOS free webinar on "Growing phalaenopsis: the basics of achieving success with the beautiful moth orchids." will be offered on Sept. 15, 2015. 7:30-8:30 CST. Non-AOS members can participate, but registration is required. Go to www.aos.org and click on the Webinar tab.
- Did you know that orchids suffer from edema, too? They are manifested as hard, dark bumps on leaves and sometimes flowers. According to Sue Bottom, proper watering is key to prevent edema. Too much water when the plant is not actively growing, or watering when temperature is dropping (like evenings and on cloudy days), cause the excess water to become blisters. For the full article, see September 2015 issue Orchids which will be made available to members at the next meeting.
- On the AOS website, you can see the table of contents of each Orchid magazine. If you are interested in reading any particular article, please let Mitzi know. If the Society issue is still available, it can be reserved for you.

Book review:

Orchids of tropical America: an introduction and guide, by Joe E. Meisel, Ronald S. Kaufmann and Franco Pupulin. Cornell University Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0-8014-5335-9 (hard cover). Also available in paperback.

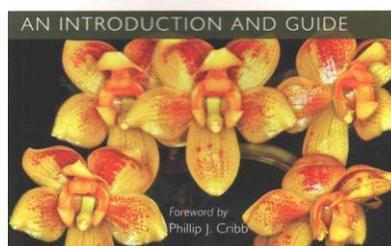
Covering over 120 orchid genera from Mexico, the Caribbean, all of Central America, and South America from Venezuela and Colombia to the subtropics of Argentina, this book contains 20 pages of information about orchid ecology and conservation, and another 20 pages of information on orchid identification with abundant line drawings. The bulk of the book (160 pages) is devoted to the description of orchids from *Acineta* to *Zygopetalum*. Most genus is represented in 1-2 pages with 2- 6 excellent color photographs of species. The discussion of each genera uniformly includes flower and plant structures, distribution and diversity, and ecology and history. The information about the type of pollinators, and how they achieve pollination is fascinating.

A chapter on Nature Reserves and Conservation Sites in each country tells where "orchid-rich habitat" is located. Lengthy bibliography and a detailed index follow.

This is a good book in learning what types of orchids come from the tropical Americas. However, for growers, especially if a novice, this book is too heavy on botanical information and gives very little practical care information. "Cool highlands" for *Miltoniopsis*, or "terrestrial... in low to middle - elevation forests and grasslands" for *Phragmipediums* is not enough to fully understand how to simulate the growing conditions in a home.



ORCHIDS of Tropical America
Joe E. Meisel
Ronald S. Kaufmann
Franco Pupulin



Foreword by
Phillip J. Cribb

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