



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

November-December 2019

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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:

With a couple of snows already behind us and stores all aglow, the holidays are upon us. I think this year's holiday dinner was a success. I heard good comments about the change of venue to Timpone's. There was a great variety of orchids for members to choose from. Thank you Dave, Niela and Terry for joining me in the selection. Special thanks to Dave for driving.

So I did some research to see if there were any orchids with special Christmas associations. What I found was four or five plants that have been given Christmas nicknames. The association primarily because it blooms around Christmas. My favorite is *Angraecum sesquipedale* also known as Darwin's orchid, and its Christmas nickname Star of Bethlehem orchid. It is an



epiphytic orchid in the genus *Angraecum* endemic to Madagascar. The orchid was first discovered by the French botanist Louis-Marie Aubert du Petit-Thouars in 1798, but was not described until 1822. It is noteworthy for its long spur and its association with the naturalist Charles Darwin, who surmised that the flower was pollinated by a then undiscovered moth with a proboscis whose length was unprecedented at the time. His prediction had gone unverified until 21 years after his death, when the moth (*Xanthopan morgani praedicta*) was discovered and his conjecture vindicated.

There is no meeting in December. Please join back with us on January 13th for our first meeting of 2020. Topic will be growing under artificial lighting. A special light unit will be raffled off at the meeting. May your holidays be filled with blooms. Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Linda Bailey, CIOS, President

2020 Officers:

Linda Bailey-----President
Linda Bial-----Secretary
Terry Moore-----Vice President and Program Chair
Joanne Miller-----Show Chair
Bettina Francis-----Sale Chair
Mark Williams-----Treasurer
Mitzi Williams-----Newsletter and Website Editor

The health and vitality of a society depend on member participation in every aspect of the organization. Your help is needed in assisting with the Show and Sale, treats for the meeting, suggestions for possible speakers, writing articles for the newsletter, and sharing your experience with other members.

Next meeting:

- The next meeting is on Monday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Hessel Park Church. Cindy will lead the discussion on how to use various lighting systems for better growing results.
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Events in the area:

- February 8, 2020, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale. Washington Park Botanical Garden: Springfield, IL. PSOS has changed the Show/Sale date to one day this year.
 - February 14-16, 2020. Batavia Orchid Society Show. DuPage County Fairgrounds: Wheaton, IL
 - March 14-15, 2020. 10 am – 4 pm. Illinois Orchid Scotty Show and Sale. Chicago Botanic Garden: Glencoe, IL
 - Due to the Departmental Policy, the UI Greenhouses and Conservatory will not hold the sale any more. So, our Show and Sale is the only opportunity for the CU community folks to acquire orchids.
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Notes and tips:

- Overwatering in winter is an easy and sure-to-kill-the-buds mistake. Especially if your growing area is cold, the Cattleya bud can turn black almost overnight. Orchids can tolerate 10 or more days of no-water when the sunlight is limited and the temperature is below 60 degrees. Remember—benign neglect is good for them.
- If you have a fairly bright space that stays cold (55-60 °F night; 60-70 °F day), consider growing some species of Masdevalia (pronounced mas-deh-VAHL-lee-ah). They are found in cool, misty mountains of Central and South America. They like high humidity and almost soggy planting medium, but occasional dryness helps the roots to stay healthy. The relatively large, and brilliant-colored flowers atop a mass of upright leaves, they are truly the orchids with attitudes.

If the fused sepals and petals do not capture your attention, the bold, vivid flower color should. Most of them are small so are suitable for small spaces. A company called Society6.com has cool, Masdy-related items such as rugs and shirts also.



Scenes from the Annual Holiday Dinner



As usual, a table full of beautiful plants wait to be selected by the members. Twenty five (25) people including 3 guests, attended. Thank you to those who took a whole day to get the plants, and made them ready for the members to select. Thank you Joe Floess for calling out the numbers.

Editor's Note:

This has been a fun-filled year with an outside speaker/vendor, field trip to Natt's, a visit to member's garden, and an addition of two new members. One piece of sad news is that a long-time member Beth Armsey has passed away in October at the age of 100. She was a 1940 UI alum in microbiology, Until the last few years, she was able to come to the Show and Tell and brought her friends from Clark Lindsey.