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 2018

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

From the President:

Happy New Year everyone! As I am writing this newsletter the thermometer says -9 degrees. I hope everyone can stay warm throughout this cold spell and has some time to look at your orchids and tend to them, getting them ready to look great for our March 3 CIOS Orchid Show. It seems like a long time away right now, but it will be here before we know it.

I wanted to write about growing mature Orchids, since my collection is getting older as the years go by, and I am finding they are much more reliable bloomers and have more vim, vigor and vitality as they get older and to specimen size. It's unfortunate that few such specimens are seen. Most of us acquire our orchid plants at an immature stage, and we wait patiently for a few years before it reaches blooming size. We may prefer to maintain several different small blooming size plants than take up our space for one monstrous one. But it is thrilling to see large, mature orchid plants in the glory of full bloom. I've seen pictures of plants in the AOS Magazines that have 200 some flowers! And you can bet they have been growing for quite some time!

There are a few things to consider when growing a specimen plant however. One is the growing medium and another is the container used. The media should be one that deteriorates slowly. And clay pots may have an advantage over plastic so the medium breathes a little better and doesn't become soggy or stale.

There will also come a day when you have to divide and repot the specimen monster! This is a good time to share the divisions with your fellow orchid society members and friends. This spring, Terry Moore will bring one of his huge orchids to our meeting and show us how to do just that.

In the meantime, I hope the weather will be conducive for everyone to come to our first meeting of the New Year, January 8. See you there!

Joanne Miller, CIOS President

Next meeting:

- Our next meeting is on Monday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hessel Park Church. In addition to the preliminary show and sale information, the program will include a sharing session about Dendrobiums by the members. If you have a Dendrobium, in bloom or not, please bring it to this meeting and share your experience with it.

- If you have not paid the 2018 membership dues, please do so at this meeting or by mail (see cios.org).

Events in the area:

- Feb. 3 - March 25, 2018. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show. During the period, a beautifully illustrated book by James Bateman entitled The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala, published in 1837, will be on display at the Garden. Admission to the Orchid Show is $5, in addition to the Garden entrance fee of $12. For details, see: www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/things-to-do/events/signature-events/orchid-show.aspx

- Feb. 3 - 4, 2018. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis is also having a show and sale at the garden. Admission to this event is free. Many great vendors will be present at this event. For details, see: http://www.osogsl.org/

- Feb. 3 - 4, 2018. Madison Orchid Grower's Guild "Orchid Quest", Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI. For details, contact Terri Jozwiac, lodijoz@charter.net

American Orchid Society News:

- Following the digitization of the Orchid magazine, and Orchid Bulletin that precedes it, the AOS is now making the contents searchable. Imagine, being able to find all the authoritative information on a specific species published by the AOS! Now the challenge will be to find how the genus names changed over the years.

Notes and tips:

- When the temperature of your growing area stays very low (55-65 degrees) , it is best not to water them much. Except for plants in small pots which dry out faster than those in large pots, watering every 10 days will be enough. If the roots are exposed, mist the roots. Cattleyas with buds in sheaths often blast when watered in cold temperatures. Misting the leaves and the surface of the pot is more helpful than deep watering. As is watering, misting should be done earlier in the day (9am - 12 pm ideal) so any accumulation in the leaf axis will have evaporated by nightfall.

- Cold is not always bad. Some plants thrive in cold environment: Masdevalia, Miltoniopsis, Cymbidium, to name a few. This may be the time to expand your collection by adding these species.

- Check out the Seasonal Orchid Care on the AOS.ORG website and read about January and February. Even though the writer may be in a region warmer than it is for us, the plants growing cycles seem to remain the same.

Member profile: Dee Brunkow

Dee became interested in growing orchids when a friend, who had a couple of them, talked her into trying one. The special memory of her first orchid was a free one from Prairie Gardens for getting a $50 gift certificate. She now has about a dozen orchids, with the oldest one being about 6-7 years old.

Her most favorite orchid is Phalaenopsis because they will occasionally re-bloom for her. She loves her new Dendrobium that she received at the CIOS Holiday Dinner, and is looking forward to the January program on sharing information about Dendrobiums. She is particularly fascinated by the minis, especially because she has limited growing space.

She visited an orchid shop in Kauai, HI, and was amazed at the size of some and the variety.

She enjoys being a part of CIOS because other members are willing to share information, and socialize and getting to know new people through the Society.
Dee says she is not fussy enough to ever be a good orchid mother, and they really suffer during outdoor gardening season. Her grandparents gardened, and when she was little, she used to follow her grandmother along and re--plant the weeds the grandmother pulled. Dee cannot bear to pull out anything that looks like it is trying to survive. When her sister-in-law passed away, someone sent a multi-plant basket that contained an orchid. At the insistence of her niece, Dee took the orchid in the arrangement. It rebloomed exactly one year after her sister-in-law's death.

In addition to gardening, including growing orchids, Dee says she is an self-proclaimed "imprecise quilter", i.e., not enough of a perfectionist. She has an assortment of old and sundry house plants, but outdoor gardening is her first love.

Editor's Notes:

We are beginning the 11th year of this Newsletter now. Issues back to January 2014 are available on our society website. The older issues up to the most current are archived at the Champaign County Historical Archives in perpetuity. The Archives are located at the Urbana Free Library. I have enjoyed compiling/editing the newsletter since the beginning, but would love to have some article submissions from the members. Anything orchid related (even slightly) is good. Mitzi Williams

The year of the Dog: Loyal and Honest. □