



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2019

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In this Issue

- From the President
- Next Meeting
- Events in the area
- Notes and tips
- Orchid of the month
- Editor's note

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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 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:

Welcome to 2019!

Please join us this year as we continue to explore the fascinating orchid world. This year's programming will be offered in a variety of formats. We will begin the year with our January meeting at the home of Mark and Mitzi Williams to enjoy Mitzi's collection of orchids and explore her sunroom and the conditions available to growing in her home. (While at the meeting please give your annual dues to our treasurer, Mark. \$15 for individuals, \$25 for couples.) Other meetings will include a guest grower from Mexico, a look at the variety in growing mediums, disease control in your collection, growing an orchid from a plug, Annual Show and Sale, field trips, parties and more.

Looks to be an exciting year as we share together. I look forward to learning from each of you. Currently I am struggling with plants not blooming. After reading one of the current articles from AOS on temperature and light I have decided one of the issues may be the cool temperatures in my house. Cool growing plants may have to be my go-to orchids for blooms. Looking for your suggestions, in addition to Cymbidiums, that bloom for you in cool conditions.

As a games and trivia enthusiast, I have a little orchid trivia for each month. For January: What fictional detective was known for growing orchids? See you on January 14th with the answer. Cheers to a new year full of blooming plants!

Linda Bailey, CIOS President



Next meeting:

- Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on January 14, 2019 at Mark and Mitzi's house, 3208 S. First St, Champaign. The drive way should accommodate 5 cars but you can also park along the fence. We will be discussing the 2019 program topics and the upcoming Show and Sale in March. This is your chance to give the Board your input into best possible programs for 2019.
- Please renew your membership. If you must miss the January meeting, please send your check, payable to CIOS, to Mark Williams, CIOS Treasurer, 3208 S. First St., Champaign IL 61822.
- The 2019 Show and Sale is scheduled for March 9th. It is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Terry will chair the Show, while Joanne will chair the Sale with assistance from Niela. Volunteers are needed for set up and take down, as well as helping with the show and sale throughout the day. Feeling uneasy about answering questions? Any member who worked at the show and sale can attest that you know a lot more than you think. And it is really rewarding to help educate the public about orchid growing. A task sign-up sheet will be available at the January meeting. This is our biggest fund raising opportunity, and your help will assure the success of the event, let alone making the day very enjoyable for the members and the visitors alike. Please be generous with your time for this occasion. The 2019 poster is expected to be made available at the January meeting. If you can post one at your work place or elsewhere, or know of a group that a poster can be mailed to, please contact Joanne.

Events in the area:

- Feb. 2-3, 2019. Madison Orchid Growers Guild "Orchid Quest" Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI.
- Feb. 2-3, 2019 Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis "Orchids in Paradise" Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO. www.osogsl.org/calendar.php
- Feb. 2-March 25, 2019. Missouri Botanical Garden Orchid Show. St. Louis, MO. mobot.org/orchidshow.
- Feb. 9-10, 2019 Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale. Washington Park Botanical Garden, Springfield, IL. Details are forthcoming.
- Feb. 16-17, 2019 Batavia Orchid Society Show. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton, IL.

Notes and tips:

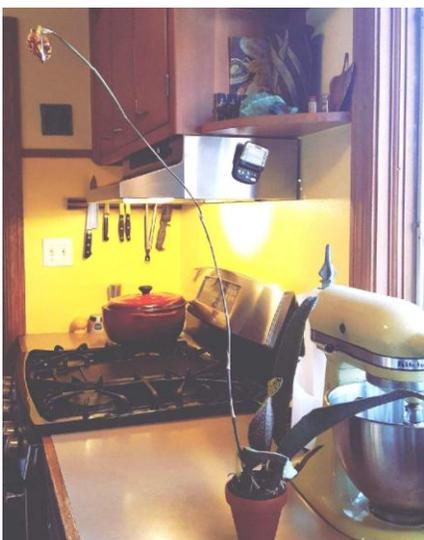
- Keep the tag! Why is it important to have a name tag for the orchid? It is because the name consists of the genetic makeup of that plant. In most cases, the plant names include the Genus name (first letter in a Cap.) and the species name (in lower case), which may or may not be followed by additional words showing the clone name. When a 'new' orchid is produced by crossing two or more genera, the hybrid's Genus name is made up of either by combining the Genus names, or by giving it entirely a new name. A combination example is: *Brassavola* x *Laelia* x *Cattleya*=*Brassolaeliocattleya*, or abbreviated as Blc. For a plant with *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* x *Cochlioda* is given an entirely new name, *Vuylstekeara* (Vuyl.).

When two species are bred, or crossed, they produce a man-made hybrid, and a grex will given to the offspring. The grex name is also located immediately after the genus name. So how do you know if your orchid is a naturally occurring species or man-made hybrid? Unlike naturally occurring species, all words in a grex begins with a capital letter. They are never italicized nor in Latin. *Oncidium Sharry Baby* is a perfect example. If there are additional words following the Grex, they are in single quotes and capitalized as in *Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance.'* Lastly, you may see letters such as AM/AOS or HCC/AOS, S/CSA. These are levels of awards from the organization such as American Orchid Society and Cymbidium Society of America. For various AOS award types, see: www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging.aspx.

- Orchid seeds: the first thing that can be said about them are that they are really tiny, and extremely light. In fact, among all other plant groups, the orchid seeds are the smallest, often smaller than the "period" at the end of a sentence. Unlike other seeds, orchid seeds lack embryonic matter that gives the initial nutrients for the seed to germinate and emerge. Therefore many orchid seeds depend on a type of fungus to help them germinate, though some epiphytic orchids can apparently be germinated without the fungus. In order to reach a suitable germination environment, they must float in the air to disperse widely. (Image left and center: ground cinnamon; ground pepper. Right: pods and seeds of *Cymbidium ensifolium*, a summer blooming Cymbidium in Mitzi's collection. The individual seeds are visible on the edge of the glass plate.)



Orchid of the month: *Psychopsis*



This "stop in your track" orchid in its show-biz costume is probably one of the most easily recognized orchids by orchid hobbyists. It was possibly so named for the antennae like petals on top and the sepal in the middle, forming a shape resembling the Greek letter Psi. The word 'opsis' means "in the likeness." Four genera of *Psychopsis* (abbreviated as Psychp.) hail from Central America, South America and Trinidad, an island off the Venezuelan coast. Though known as butterfly orchid, some say the flower resembles a giraffe, or Fire Balrog in the Lord of the Rings, or an ancient Japanese war helmet. The thin, stick-like inflorescence grows very tall (1 foot or more), and the flower appears at the top, one at a time. Leave the stem uncut for successive flowering. Cindy Westfall, one of our members, succeeded in flowering this plant as shown in the image at left. Note how long the flower stem is!

The AOS culture sheet indicates that Psychopsis prefers 60°-90°F temperatures with good air movement, and light ranging from 1,800-3,000 foot candles, but brighter light results in "smaller, less intensely colored and ... more reflexed" flowers. Though Psychopsis are epiphytes, they can be grown in pots with bark mix. They prefer to dry out almost completely before next watering. (www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-a-to-z/letter-pp/psychopsis.aspx.)

Repotting may be the biggest challenge for growing this striking orchid. Though it is recommended that they be repotted annually, they do not take the change very easily. There were reports of Psychopsis dying overnight after repotting! For additional information about Psychopsis, especially about repotting, see Carter and Holmes website, <https://carter-and-holmes.com/oc16-ocidium-papilio>.



Above from left & center: Psychp. Mariposa 'Peloric'; Psychp. papilio flavum. Right: Psychp. Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS. (Images courtesy of: Orchids Limited, www.orchidweb.com.)

Editor's note:



- In Asian culture, the zodiac sign for 2019 is Pig in Chinese or Boar in Japanese. I prefer boar for their wild ferocity. People born in the year of the Boar are known to be brave. They have tremendous inner strength which no one can overcome. They display great honesty. They are short-tempered, yet hate to quarrel or have arguments. They are affectionate and kind to their loved ones. But then, there is Pumbaa, a comical wild boar in the story Lion King. Apparently pumbba is a Swahili word for "foolish, weak-minded, careless, etc." --so who knows?

- You expected this issue to be edited by the new Editor, Terry. However, we ran into a software problem, and the conversion of the template into Terry's software could not be accomplished. We hope to have this problem resolved in some way in the future, as Terry will no doubt give this newsletter a fresh and innovative approach.