



# CENTRAL ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

## Summer Newsletter 2021

July-September 2021

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### CIOS ONLINE:

- [www.ciorchidsociety.org](http://www.ciorchidsociety.org)
- Facebook Group—[click here](#).
- ??s: [info@ciorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@ciorchidsociety.org)

Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter is published each quarter and delivered by email. Subscription is included with membership in the Society. Send submissions to Lori Garrett at [Lorikgarrett@gmail.com](mailto:Lorikgarrett@gmail.com).

Annual membership in CIOS is \$15/person or \$25/couple each calendar year. [Click here](#) or [visit our website](#) for the Membership Form and mailing address.

### 2021 CIOS Executive Board:

- Linda Bailey, President
- Terry Moore, Vice President and Program Chair
- Linda Bial, Secretary
- Mark Williams, Treasurer
- Joanne Miller, Show Chair
- Bettina Francis, Sale Chair
- Mitzi Williams, AOS Rep.
- Lori Garrett, Editor, website and newsletter

### From the President . . .

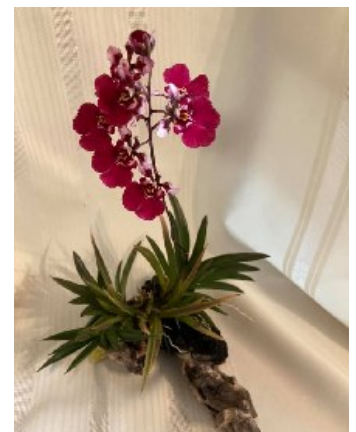
Last year, on March 7, 2020, Central Illinois Orchid Society (CIOS) held our Annual Show and Sale and it was one of our fastest sell outs. By early afternoon, all sale plants were gone and we were just visiting with folks who were viewing the show orchids. We ended the day in a great mood—we sold all the merchandise, gained some members, made new friends—it was quite a successful day. But our world would change in just 7 short days.

*“Two weeks for the shutdown,”* they said. As the shutdown and the Covid-19 pandemic stretched from weeks to months, individuals, families, schools, and businesses found ways to cope. For a year, CIOS coped by having no meetings. We weren’t completely inactive, though. Behind the scenes, donated plants, plant stands, decorative pots, and more were given away to members. Macodes seedlings were bought at wholesale and sold to members at cost, and our website was revised and migrated.

Eventually, we began to explore the option of using Zoom and how to reignite our organization. Our first Zoom meeting (March 2021) provided an opportunity to reintroduce our members to each other and validated the group’s interest and need to move forward. Meeting via Zoom brought some very real benefits. Vice President and Program Chair, Terry Moore, was able to get some great presenters from across the country to speak at our meetings. Speakers from distant locations were available and willing to join us online for our meetings and, with no travel expenses, speaker fees were more affordable.

We learned the joys of miniature orchids from Dr. Kristen Uthus ( New World Orchids), toured the Tiny Jungle and discussed semi-hydroponic growing with Chris Mende, and learned about orchid conservation work through the Orchid Recovery Program at Illinois College from Dr. Lawrence Zettler. Most recently, Terry Moore gave us a tour of his outdoor growing space and explained the value of and tips for moving most orchids outside during the summer.

We were also invited to join some online meetings of the Prairie State Orchid Society, which brought us world-renowned orchid hybridizer, Fred Clarke, who gave us invaluable tips for how to improve our



Our orchids did not mind the pandemic. Joanne Miller’s 6-year-old Tolumnia Popoki ‘Mitzi’ bloomed in gratitude after being moved from a pot to a mount.



(FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued)

orchid-growing success. Sam Tsui also gave a presentation about multifloral paphiopedilums and their culture.

We are still working to make contact with the church where we usually meet to see if and when they will be comfortable allowing outside groups to use their facility. We are exploring interest and the possibility of having hybrid meetings that offer both in-person and online options. Stay tuned as we look at ways to reengage in person. In the meantime, our next meeting is July 12th at 6:30 P.M., still via Zoom—the link will go out by email. And on August 29, we hope to see you in person! Bettina and George Francis will host our summer picnic. More information will be provided via email as the date gets closer.

On a different note, for several years Mitzi Williams has served as our website and newsletter editor and done a remarkable job with both. In spring, when our website needed to migrate to a different platform, she recruited Lori Garrett and Melissa Edwards to help with the redesign. Once it was well underway, Mitzi decided she needed a break and asked Lori to take over from her. Lori has been Editor of *The Cultivator*, the newsletter for Champaign County Master Gardeners, for 10 years. She graciously stepped up to fill this void and we thank her for taking on this responsibility. And Mitzi, thank you for your years of dedication in that role and for all you have done and continue to do for CIOS.

We are looking at the newsletter coming out about once each season and we are looking for volunteers to write articles and submit photos. Lori is happy to edit submissions and produce the newsletter, but she needs material to publish. We have many knowledgeable growers and talented writers—our newsletter will be as good as you help us make it. See information about submitting items later in this edition.

Cheers to happy and healthy orchids growing outside for the summer.  
- Linda Bailey, CIOS President



Linda Bial was pleased when, after at LEAST 15 years, her *Dendrobium aggregatum* var. *majus* rebloomed in May.



### Central Illinois Orchid Society Online:

- Visit <https://ciorchidsociety.org>.
- [Click here](#) to join our Facebook Group.
- Questions? [info@ciorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@ciorchidsociety.org)



## Member Spotlight: Mitzi and Mark Williams

by Mitzi Williams

Perhaps my interest in gardening began when I was born. With the war in its last stretch, Japan in 1943 had extreme food shortage and utter destruction in major cities. Upon my father's death, my mother (with me about to be born) had the good sense to move to my father's home, an obscure ocean front village, where they had gardens and ocean access. As my mother worked, I spent most of my time with my aunt, who took me to the gardens outside of town or sorting small shellfish out of the catch of the day at the beach.

Later, we moved to a large city where gardening did not happen except for a few vegetables and flowers. Even moving to the U.S., my life with plants did not come to be until I was married and moved to the current home. But how do you fill a half acre of yard with evergreen trees and lawn? I tried annuals and found them much too labor intensive or annual replacements too expensive, while perennials are too short-blooming. Then I discovered roses, which bloomed from May to nearly November. I especially liked tea roses for their elegance and fragrance. Oh, the beauty and the fragrance of old cultivars like Touch of Class, Eiffel Tower, and Mr. Lincoln! The only problem with the roses is that they are not in bloom during winter, and that's where orchids came into my life.

My first orchid was a small pot of *Ludisia discolor* that my older daughter gave me. I had never seen an orchid, and thought the plant rather ugly. Needless to say, I paid little attention to it and the plant died shortly after. Then I saw a pot of beautiful flowers in Japan at a subway florist's window that turned out to be *Phalaenopsis*, and I was hooked. The following year, probably 1986 at Mother's Day Weekend on campus, the student Horticulture Club was selling beautiful, tall *Phalaenopsis*. I bought one and was able to keep it going for a long time. I still have a few pots of very old *Phalaenopsis* clones that Hausermann's produced.

I joined CIOS as soon as I retired in 2004. Back then, the membership was about 10 to 12, some just showing up. The meeting was held on campus jointly with the students' group. We had a lively auction to raise funds and everything was pretty casual until the campus began locking the buildings after 5 P.M. and we were unable to meet there. When I was asked to serve as president in 2007, my first and foremost task was to find a consistent place to meet. We first met in (more like squeezed into) a small room at Urbana Free Library. We held our first and second shows there in 2007 and 2008. As our membership increased, we had to move out of town to Champaign. A nice conference room at the Champaign Public Library became our meeting room and the venue for subsequent shows. The libraries in both Urbana and Champaign, however, had one major problem—no sales allowed. That propelled us to look for yet another location, and now we have a pretty dependable location with the current meeting location (once we are safe from COVID) at the Hessel Park Church.

I cannot recall when my husband Mark got roped into orchid matters and joined CIOS, but we also joined PSOS (Prairie State Orchid Society) and we enjoyed the good company of both of our societies all these years. At our shows, he used to say "I know nothing—ask so and so," but one year I heard him tell our visitor something about an orchid that we had for sale. I was shocked!

My collection at one time was about 250, but due to my poor health of recent years that number is less than 100. I like all kinds of orchids and I like to buy orchids without seeing what the flower looks like. Our sunroom where the orchids spend colder months is a hybrid between a screened-in porch, which Mark wanted, and a greenhouse, which I wanted. It was expected to be a retirement project, but the growing number of orchids pushed its construction 10 years earlier. During the summer, they go on vacation under the pergola with about 50% shade. When pressed to choose, I would say my favorite tropical orchids are *Angraecums*, *Brassavolas* and





their crosses, Cattleyas, Encyclias, and Dendrobiums. I must admit, however, that I am increasingly drawn to the orchids native to colder climates such as Illinois. In a larger scale, tropical orchids' demise to whatever destructive causes will also be detrimental to the "native" orchids of the North.

### From the Treasurer:

CIOS's membership fees are annual, payable each January for that calendar year. However, due to the pandemic and our lack of meeting for most of 2020, all current memberships are valid through December 31, 2021. Membership renewals for next year will be due in January 2022.



### Notes from the Greenhouse and Tips For Summer Success

by Terry Moore

While most of our orchids have awakened from any winter rest by May and been taken outside for the summer grow season, June arrived with a flush of several Paphiopedilum blooms and mid-to-late-June was Encyclia time—both species and hybrids. Their fragrant blooms scented my back patio, and when the doors were left open the scent would waft into the house during the early mornings.



Encyclia tampensis

For this month, we continue with Encyclia blooms. Also, I have found and am happy to say I will have a large number of first-time Richard Mueller/Brassavola hybrids throwing up inflorescences, so I expect a lot of flowers of different colors to be blooming at once.

*Tips to remember:* About Brassavola and Cattleyas—both like a wet/dry cycle and therefore do not like to sit in wet, damp, or decomposing media. For best results, mount Brassavola orchids bare root (no moss) if you are able to provide 60% humidity and able to mist them daily, and it is advisable to place them outside in summer with the brightest light they can take short of burning, otherwise with protective shade cloth. But bear in mind in summer Brassavola want the high light and to be watered frequently as long as they can dry quickly. Watering your mounted orchids is similar to watering Vandas—you always water Vandas until the roots turn from white to green. The same is true for mounted plants—you water or mist or soak in buckets until the roots have soaked up the water and are plump and green. That is when you know your orchid has been watered sufficiently.



Bl. Sunset Glory

Potting your Cattleya in big, chunky bark or lava rock will give your plants the stability and aeration necessary to allow them to get moisture to the roots while the air pockets allow faster drying of roots. You should still provide the same high light and copious water for your Cattleya types even when potted up in summer.

*Another tip:* As pseudobulbs begin to mature and complete their growths, often with sheaths and particularly the case with bifoliate Cattleyas (i.e. *C. aurantiaca*, *C. bicolor*, *C. guttata*, *C. aelandiae* and the *Guarianthes*), they are particularly susceptible to rot and loss of growth tips (i.e. sheaths). I tend to either put these plants back



Bl. Pauwela Spots

*(Notes from the Greenhouse, continued.)*

inside when they have completed growths or have sheaths, or I provide some cover under the edge of a roof so as not to allow rain to get on the top of these plants or any water to drip down on them that will possibly damage and ruin the developing sheaths and possible bloom.

As this is the middle of the growing season, we all should be consistently fertilizing our orchids weakly weekly, as I strive to achieve, or following whatever fertilizing program you employ. It is still best to be using a higher-nitrogen based fertilizer with micronutrients now. In addition, each week I supplement with Liquid Kelp, which promotes good root development, and Cal-Mag, which contains calcium, magnesium, iron, and trace minerals that promote nutrient uptake and flowering and prevent leaf tip burn. When using Cal-Mag, follow the label directions, and measure the pH of the fertilized water prior to using the Cal-Mag—the pH must be between 5.8-6.0 for the plant to uptake the Cal-Mag solution.

About once every four weeks, I switch instead to plain (preferably rain) water with Epsom salt. The Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate) aids chlorophyll production (healthier plant and greener leaves) and promotes blooming with larger flowers. Recommendations for the amount to use vary, but most sources recommend 1/2 to 1 tsp. of Epsom salt per gallon of water. I use it at half-strength in the summer, but full strength in the winter. It also helps flush accumulated salts from the potting media or mount. But do not rely on Epsom salt alone for this — be sure to flush regularly with plain water between feedings so the salts leach from your pots.

All of these tips will ensure your orchids grow healthy, strong growths that, in time, will give your plants the energy to give you blooms yearly, and often more than once a year.

### **Welcome New Members!**

There may be a pandemic still going on—you know, that one that forced us to stop meeting last year and is still hindering our face-to-face interactions—but that didn't stymie anyone's passion for orchids.

We just managed to get our annual Show and Sale done before the lockdown hit, and we gained some new members from that event. But we also had others join last year and thus far in 2021. We are thrilled to welcome our new members and look forward to getting to know you all. Thanks for joining!

#### *New Members in 2020:*

- Cindy Cracraft, Champaign, IL
- John Foran, Arthur, IL
- Connie Foran, Arthur, IL
- Rickey Geiser, Carol Stream, IL
- John Hoagland, Covington, IN
- Emilie McGill, Champaign, IL
- Kathie Spegal, Champaign, IL
- Barbara Stanger, Philo, IL
- Marie Tan, Savoy, IL

#### *New Members (to July 1) in 2021:*

- Virginia Reinhart, Sidney, IL
- Janet Roadcap, Champaign, IL







## Central Illinois Orchid Society July Monthly Meeting

### Orchids To Grow Your Collection On

Monday, July 12 @ 6:30 P.M. on Zoom

Presenter: Wade Hollenbach, Wade's Orchids, Middlebury, PA

<http://www.wadesorchids.com>



Many of us dream of owning a spectacular orchid collection (some may already have theirs). Some of us may pore over orchid-selling websites, purchasing whatever catches our attention at the moment with a snappy photo or with the phrase “in spike.” Maybe we have not yet braved anything beyond a grocery or home improvement store’s standard Phalaenopsis. Perhaps we need some guidance and to know more about the seemingly endless options that are available.

In this presentation, Wade Hollenbach of *Wade's Orchids* will take us on a tour of approximately 50 orchid species (and a few hybrids) he has selected that will improve any collection. He will include suggestions and cultural information. Many of these selected orchids can easily be grown to specimen size and become very impressive. All plants are those with which Wade has personal experience and most are plants that he is currently growing.

Wade Hollenbach has grown orchids since 1978. He sells orchids “to help pay the fuel bills for the greenhouse.” He is starting a breeding program with Encyclias and the Cattleya alliance. One of Wade’s goals is to provide healthy plants to others at reasonable prices, saying, “I have fond memories of days long gone where it was inexpensive to invest in new directions in breeding and growing the seedlings on anticipating becoming the first person to see the flower of this unique orchid. I hope to bring that format back to you, the orchid grower.”

[Click here](#) to visit Wade's Orchids' YouTube channel.

## Upcoming Events



- **Saturday, August 21.** ROAD TRIP TO NATT'S ORCHIDS, Naperville, IL. Natt's is a family owned business and the largest Vandaceous orchid grower in the Midwest. We will carpool (drivers are needed) and Natt's is providing lunch. Watch your email for details.
- **Sunday, August 29**—ANNUAL MEMBER PICNIC. Hosted by Bettina and George Francis. Time and address will be sent to members by email.
- **Monday, October 11**—MEMBER SALE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022.

## July Feature Genus: Reed Stem Epidendrum

By Terry Moore

Currently in bloom and spike:

- **Epidendrum polyanthum** (right top): Impressive, long-lasting, cascading plumes of flowers, amber tinted orange-to-green with cream centers. Attractive foliage reblooming even on older canes. It rapidly grows into a stately specimen. Temperature tolerant. Spring and Summer blooming. Species from Mexico to Costa Rica.
- **Epc. Mikawa Prime** (right bottom, Epc. René Marqués Epidendrum pseudepidendrum): Epidendrum hybrid, colorful in both foliage and flowers. Flowers are sherbet green with a marigold yellow lip and bright pink nose. Care: Grow in intermediate light with high humidity. During active growth, allow plants to dry only slightly between waterings. Reduce water in the cooler months.



### LIGHT:

This may be the single most important factor. With too little light, the plant will become leggy and will not flower well, if at all. The level should be equal to or greater than that for growing cattleyas (2500-3500 footcandles or about 60-70% shade). If you give your epidendrum too much light, the foliage may bronze a bit from stress.

### WATER:

Epidendrums, like most tropical orchids, have two distinct seasons: a hot, wet growing period followed by a cooler, drier, flowering season. New growth generally initiates around the first of March. At this time, increase the water (depending on the weather) to every four to five days, keeping the plants constantly moist but not soggy. By the end of the growing season, which for us is September into October, decrease the watering to seven to eight day intervals, allowing the plants to dry out somewhat between waterings.

### POTTING:

Since the frequency of watering is dependent on the potting mix you use, you must adjust your watering schedule to suit your particular needs. For Epidendrums, it is advisable to mix fine and medium grade fir bark in almost equal volumes and then add 15 to 20 percent coarse perlite. When potting bare root reed stem Epidendrum, I first pot in sphagnum moss to ensure a consistent supply of moisture, but once established in your environment you can move to a more airy mix of bark and perlite.

### FERTILIZER:

For the hobby grower, I recommend any brand of commercially made fertilizer with a formula approximating 20-10-20. If you are using purified water you will have to provide additional calcium—many people use Cal-Mag fertilizer occasionally to accomplish this objective. By September or October, greatly reduce the amount of fertilizer to the plants so as to limit cane growth in the winter.



### Submission Guidelines for CIOS Newsletter

The Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter is published quarterly each year. Please follow these guidelines for submissions.

The deadline for each edition is the 20th of the month prior to publication as follows:

<i>Submission deadline:</i>	<i>For newsletter edition:</i>
September 20th	Autumn Edition (October-December)
December 20th	Winter Edition (January-March)
March 20th	Spring Edition (April-June)
June 20th	Summer Edition (July-September)

Your original articles, pictures, and thoughts are welcome—please send them! Types of articles may include but are not limited to instructional articles (“How to’s”), successes and/or failures, book reviews, travelogues about visits to orchid shows or exhibits, conservatories, etc., before and after’s about your own orchid projects, poems, photos, and most things related to orchids.

- In accordance with copyright laws, all submissions must be your own original work. We cannot reprint items that have been published elsewhere without written permission from the author or copyright holder.
- Photos and images must also be your own work. With few exceptions, most photos/images on the Internet are copyright protected and cannot be used without written permission.
- All submissions undergo an editorial process and may be edited for accuracy, clarity, and length as needed.
- Please do not format your submissions—that is done by the Editor for proper layout, visual appeal, and to ensure style consistency.
- Please submit articles as Microsoft Word documents (not as PDFs please). If you work on an Apple/Mac product, please save your documents as either DOC, DOCX, or RTF (not their default PAGES) files and save photos as JPEGs (not their default HEIC).
- Please submit all photos as JPEG files separate from articles and please include a list of captions/ explanations for each photo. For photos accompanying an article, although you may indicate where you would like the photo inserted, please realize the final layout is at the Editor’s discretion for proper fit and visual impact.
- Send all newsletter submissions or questions to Lori Garrett, newsletter/website Editor:  
[Lorikgarrett@gmail.com](mailto:Lorikgarrett@gmail.com).



Thanks for reading! Next Newsletter: Autumn Edition (October—December).  
Submission Deadline: September 20th.

