Central Illinois Orchid Society

Spring Newsletter 2022

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CIOS Online:

- www.ciorchidsociety.org
- Facebook Group—click here.
- ??s: info@ciorchidsociety.org

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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.

2022 CIOS Executive Board:

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

From the President . . .

Spring has sprung
The grass is riz
I wonder where the flowers iz
- Author unknown

Welcome to spring. Even though there was snow on my deck back when I wrote this, the daffodils were beginning to bloom and green sprouts were peeking up all over the yard. And now, spring is officially here! I get anxious to be outside working among my plants. If you were one of the fortunate ones to get a few new orchids at this year's *Sale and Show*, they will also enjoy going outside. Maybe not quite yet. Check out the article on moving plants out for the summer.

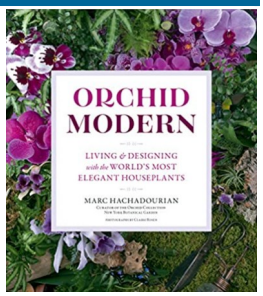
This year's *Show and Sale* was a huge success. Thank you to Bettina Francis, Sale Chair, and Joanne Miller, Show Chair, for helping us relaunch this annual event. And thank you to all who helped, from set up to tear down, those who brought plants for the show, food to keep us going, and assorted other items, and those who worked the event. We also welcome ten new members who joined at or just after the Show:

- Amy Burkhalter,
- Jordyn Chace,
- Ricardo Covarrubias,
- Barbara Godlew,
- Christine Lyke,
- Gail McWilliams,
- Brittany Rogness,
- Elena Romanova,
- Kathryn Rybka, and
- Leslie Rye.

Vice President and Program Chair, Terry, has been hard at work lining up some great speakers for this year's meetings. We anticipate holding all meetings in person this year. Don White from *Anything Orchids* was the speaker at our April meeting and we managed to relieve him of many of the plants he brought for sale. For the complete listing of meeting speakers, go to our website at ciorchidsociety.org, and I look forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting on Monday, May 9th at 6:30 P.M. in the Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church, 700 W Kirby Avenue in Champaign.

- Linda Bailey

Growing Orchids with a Display in Mind



Book Review by Melissa Edwards
Book: *Orchid Modern* by Marc Hachadourian,
Curator of Orchids, New York Botanical Garden

In Champaign-Urbana, we are fortunate to have two well-run library systems, with a treasure trove of advice and inspiration for growing orchids! Obviously, you can find information online, but if you (like me!) prefer holding a book in your hands, *Orchid Modern* by Marc Hachadourian is a terrific option.

The author, who appeared on "A Way to Garden" in 2019, (https://awaytogarden.com/success-and-flair-with-orchids-orchid-modern-with-nybgs-marc-hachadourian/) highlights a bit of history, conservation, nomenclature, and care in his book. But *Orchid Modern* particularly shines when it comes to highlighting and displaying orchids.

The author offers a number of ideas for showcasing your blooms, such as:

- in a terrarium,
- as part of a wreath,
- as a kokedama,
- and several others.

Example of a kokedama

There are detailed instructions, and while the projects aren't necessarily easy, following along is very straightforward. I "kokedama-ed" a plant a year ago and it is stunning, putting on tons of new growth, even though it has yet to flower.

Orchid Modern concludes with a listing of several "Easy Care Orchids," many of which I have under my care.
Among the dozens he mentions, I've found Angraecum sesquipedale, Cattleya 'Melody Fair', Oncidium 'Sharry Baby', and Phalaenopsis Bellina to be extremely rewarding plants. I'm planning to use his list to continue building out my collection.

Check out *Orchid Modern* (and many other orchid-related books) the next time you visit our libraries. But don't be in too much of a rush—I've currently got it checked out, and I'm not in a hurry to return it!

Central Illinois Orchid Society Online:

- **Visit https://ciorchidsociety.org.**
- **Click here to join our Facebook Group.**
- **Questions? info@ciorchidsociety.org**

Example of a multi-plant container.
Illinois Orchid Show, Chicago Botanic Garden.
[Photo by Lori Garrett]

Growing Multiple Orchids or Orchids and Other Plants Together

By Linda Bailey

Like many orchid growers, I grow many different plants. My favorite thing is container gardening. I particularly like taking large containers and combining a variety of colors, foliage, annuals, and perennials into a beautiful display. They also require less watering when you have one pot vs. many. Usually, I see orchids grown as one plant in one pot. I started doing some research to see if multiple orchids can be grown in a single container and if orchids can be grown in a container with other plants. Most articles I read advised against growing them together but then went on to give tips and considerations for experimenting with it.

There are two methods for growing the plants together. For either choice, pick orchids and/or other plants with similar growing conditions—needing the same light, water, humidity, and temperature. One method involves directly planting multiple orchids into the same growing medium. My research said planting the same genus and species together may give the best results, but experiment. Roots are going to compete for nutrients, so it is best to choose plants with comparable-sized roots. Orchids like to be root bound. Choose a container not bigger than what all roots combined will fill.

The easiest method of building a multi-plant container with plants needing differing growing media is to leave the plants in their individual grower's pots and combine the pots in a larger container. Cover the tops of the pots with moss to disguise them. This allows each plant to maintain its own growing space, and it is also very easy to trade out plants.

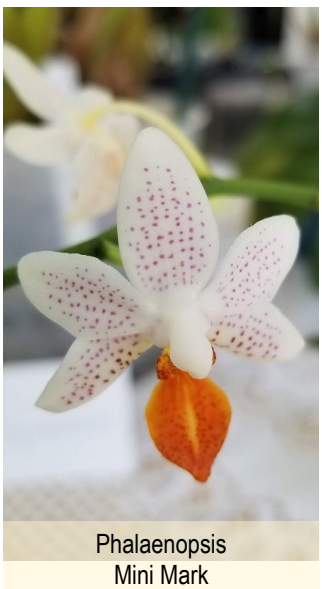
I'm just getting ready to experiment with mixing some containers. I would love to receive some feedback from any who have tried mixed containers including orchids.

Some Blooms from our Orchid Show [Photos by Linda Bial.]

Bulbophyllum
Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry

Paphiopedilum
St. Swithin

Tolumnia



Phalaenopsis
Mini Mark

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Marie Tan

How did you become interested in growing orchids?

My dad was born and raised in Indonesia. He talked about all of the beautiful and colorful varieties of orchids on his grandfather's summer home. He and my mom used to grow some when my brother and sister and I were very young. Then, because of space issues, they were given away during a move.

After my siblings and I moved out of the house, my mom had four Phals in a terrarium. They would rebloom and were very pretty. One by one, over the years though, they eventually all died.

When my husband and I were dating, he bought me a beautiful, white Phalaenopsis in bloom for my birthday. It was labeled as a "Waterfall" orchid because the blossom stem was trained in an arch. I just love it! I also didn't want to kill it. I started reading about orchids and how to care for them. I didn't have the same set up like my mom's, so I knew I'd have to care for mine differently than she did. Then I saw a pretty, little harlequin Phal at Aldi's, and it just had to come home with me.

I saw an ad for the Central Illinois Orchid Society's Orchid Show and decided I'd take a peek. I was very interested in the repotting demo and maybe buying another variety of orchid. I managed to snag the very last sale orchid that year. It was a Slipper Orchid—Hsinying Macadamia x Hsinying Glory. Realizing that I would need help with my growing orchid "collection," I signed up to be a member. That was March 2020. I've been involved with orchids for three years now. I would call myself a baby, baby beginner at this point. I really enjoy learning about them.

Are there any special orchid memories you care to share?

Mitzi (Williams) had some orchid books to find homes for. I went to her house and met her and Mark for the first time. They were both so nice. Mitzi took me back to their greenhouse and showed me around. She explained her set up and care for the different orchids. It was so beautiful. Then she gave me a plant unexpectedly. It was Phalaenopsis Su's Milk Puff x Dragon Tree Eagle. It bloomed earlier this year. This orchid will always hold a special place in my heart.

How many orchids do you have now and how old is your longest kept plant(s)?

I have seven plants currently. Sadly, I managed to kill all twelve of my baby Macodes Petola. My oldest orchid is the Phalaenopsis my husband gave me for my birthday in 2019. I'm a sap. The Phal. my husband gave me is my favorite.

Tell us about any special orchid-related experiences you have had.

I always loved orchids. But I don't really have experiences related to orchids as far as shows, travels, etc. Thank you, COVID. I did get to see an amazing "Orchid Spectrum" orchid display at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington D.C. It contained "unique, rarely seen orchids from USBG's and the Smithsonian Gardens' extensive plant collections." It was amazing!!

What orchid do you want to grow in the future?

I would like to try a Macodes Petola again. But I picked up a mini-Phal—Green Field Green Diamond Hark—at this year's orchid show. It has beautiful color, a very nice scent, and fits in my (very limited) space. This is my third mini-Phal and I'm really getting into them. I definitely plan to grow more mini-Phals in the future.

Why did you join CIOS, and if you have been a member for some time, what do you enjoy the most?

I joined because the members I met at the Orchid Show in 2020 were very nice and knowledgeable and were a pleasant group of people.

Tell us more about yourself.

I was born and raised in the Midwest. I've called the Champaign area home for the past 34 years. My parents still live in town as well. I met my husband while taking martial arts lessons at the Savoy Recreation Center—he was the instructor. We are both overcoming some health issues but still enjoy practicing martial arts, we're just a little more low key about it now.

I have a 5-year-old stepson from my husband's first marriage. Thaddeus loves helping me with the orchids. He's a big fan of the water bottle sprayers.

I'm a HUGE animal lover. Growing up, we did a lot of wildlife rehab. We also had big dogs, cats, fish, birds, horses, snakes, a goat, an albino skunk named Snowflake, a peacock, ferrets, an iguana, a hedgehog, pet rats. . . Mom did draw the line at spiders. No spiders!

We currently have two Shih Tzu, Greyson and Secret, a cat, Empress Meow Yin, a Beta fish, King Ghidorah II (yes, the Beta King Ghidorah I died tragically), and a Zebra snail, Red Ninja. I would have a whole herd of Shih Tzu if I could. I just love them! Sadly, our other two Shih Tzu passed a couple of years ago. My husband keeps me in line, so I don't turn into a crazy Shih Tzu hoarder, but he was the one who "foster failed" with the cat.

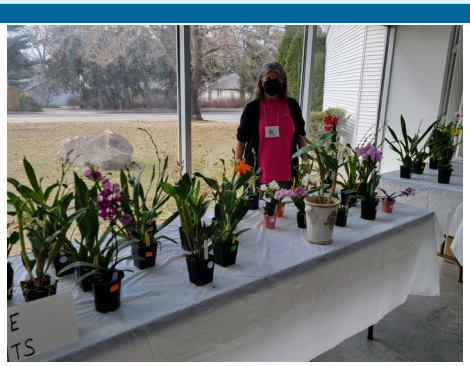
Central Illinois Orchid Society Upcoming Meetings

- **Monday, May 9th, 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. — Paphiopedilums with George Titterton (Illinois Orchid Society).** Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church, 700 W. Kirby Ave, Champaign.
- **Monday, June 13th, 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. — Growing Orchids in the Home with Steve Robinson (Illinois Orchid Society).** Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church, 700 W. Kirby Ave, Champaign.
- **July — Annual CIOS Member Picnic.** Date/time/location to be announced.

Prairie State Orchid Society Show and Sale

- **Saturday, May 7th, 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.**, Washington Park Botanical Garden. 1740 W. Fayette Avenue, Springfield, IL.

Co-chair Bettina Francis at a Sale table.



Linda Bial ready to sell.

One of three Sale tables that were empty in 1 hour.

CIOS Orchid Show and Sale

By Joanne Miller

Co-Chair, CIOS Orchid Show and Sale

[Photos by Lori Garrett]

March 5th was a beautiful day in Central Illinois! We were all looking forward to our Orchid Show and Sale as it was our first since right before COVID struck, and it is always fun to look at orchids if you're an orchid enthusiast! And the day certainly did not disappoint!

Part of our set up crew.

By 8:30 A.M., several volunteers were at Hessel Park Church, where we held the event, waiting to set up tables and bringing in their beloved orchids to put on display for the public to see. Our group had a big variety of orchids in bloom this year and our Show tables were quickly filled. We had three display tables, a table with a game called "Is This an Orchid?" where folks could try their luck guessing, and about six tables full of member orchids.

One of Bettina's repotting demonstrations.

Once the public was allowed to enter, they quickly found our three "For Sale" tables loaded with over 100 gorgeous plants—

Doors are open!

Lined up to by some orchids.

miltonias, mini-cattleyas, oncidium alliance, phalaenopsis, and Latouria dendrobiums from Hawaii—and they were eager to buy their favorite orchid. We were completely sold out in just one hour! A steady stream of visitors browsed the members' orchids and display tables, marveling at their beauty and asking questions for the duration of the event, and we gained ten new members!

At 11:00 A.M., Bettina Francis conducted an orchid repotting demonstration. It was well attended, and hopefully the people who attended have found it a little easier to repot, now that they know what steps to take. Bettina repeated the presentation at 1:00 P.M. and it was equally well attended.

As the event drew to a close at 2:00 P.M., we packed up our orchids, put the tables back, swept the floor, and left with fond memories of the triumphant relaunch of our annual Show and Sale, and we are already eagerly looking forward to next year's event.

Top right: Joanne's lovely and loving tribute to our dear friend, Mitzi Williams.

Middle right: Melissa's display of orchids under glass and orchids in milk glass.

Below: Linda's "Is It an Orchid or Isn't It?" guessing game.

Be*low right:* Lori's display with baubles, fairy lights, and a wee whimsical frog.

More Scenes from our 2022 Annual Orchid Show and Sale

CIOS ANNUAL SHOW

Summering Orchids Outdoors

By Bettina Francis

Spring is underway (my daffodils are just opening) and summer is coming. The days are lengthening and the weather is warming up. All too soon, we'll be looking for the shady side of the street, and welcoming cool breezes instead of dreading icy winds.
Will you put your orchids outdoors this year?

Our orchids—assuming they are receiving at least some light from natural sources—also react to the change of seasons. Most experienced windowsill orchid growers put their orchids outside for the summer. The reasons are two-fold: it is healthier for the orchids and it greatly simplifies their care. For the grower, watering is simplified if one does not have to worry about splashing or spilling. For most orchids, the warm, humid air of Illinois summers is much better than either the dry heat of winter or the dry coolness of air-conditioning. The light is also brighter, allowing high-light orchids to make up for the dim winters. So, we put our orchids outside, and enthusiastically recommend it to newcomers.

But (...there is always a 'but'!...) several things need to be kept in mind.

Temperature

The minimum temperature tolerated by orchids is quite variable. Because most of them cannot tolerate temperatures in the 30s or 40s, and many sulk in the low 50s, it is safest to keep them in the house until the beginning of June. In central Illinois, the average minimum temperature in June is 60 °F, which gives a reasonable safety margin over the 55 °F minimum recommended night temperature for phalaenopsis and other warm-growing orchids. If you're unsure, assume your orchid is in this category! Putting orchids out earlier risks having to carry them back inside when the occasional cold spell hits in late May. (*I speak from experience!*)

The one exception that I make are cymbidiums, which are quite cold tolerant. They are fine down to frost. The median last frost date in central Illinois is April 16th, which means that 50% of the time there *will* be a frost after that date, but only rarely is there a frost after May 1st. Two years ago, we had an actual freeze after May 5th—we had to cover our tomato seedlings, but the orchids were still inside. To play it super-safe, don't move the cymbidiums out until the middle of May.

Of course, at summer's end, the process must be reversed. Most orchids should come in before temperatures drop to 50 °F; cymbidiums can be left out until there is an actual frost warning. I find that night temperatures tend to dip after Labor Day, so I bring most of my orchids in by September 15th. I do leave the cymbidiums out until the actual first frost warning, because they absolutely need the cold nights to set buds.

Sunlight

Do not put any of your orchids onto that sunny patio when you first take them out—the leaves will sunburn horribly (see photo at right)! And since many orchid leaves last for several years, they will look ugly through one or more blooms (... again, I speak from experience). As with other houseplants, put them in a shady spot, and gradually move

them into stronger sunlight if that is what they need. Also, remember that many orchids never need full sun. In fact, most orchids prefer some shade at noon, as well as protection from the hot afternoon sun. Full shade is good for low-light varieties—a covered porch is perfect for them. "Dappled shade" is excellent for those requiring intermediate light—they will be happy in the shade of a large tree. And even high-light orchids like cymbidiums do very well with morning sun and afternoon shade. But all of them need that period of acclimatization!

Critters

Even in central Illinois, there is wildlife, and all sorts of critters will find your orchids! There are three major categories to consider: vertebrate pests, harmless invertebrates, and pest insects.

Vertebrate pests are simplest to discuss: squirrels and rabbits. I have never had a problem with rabbits bothering my orchids, but I do not generally keep orchids (other than cymbidiums) on the ground. And, so far, the squirrel problems have been limited to an occasional nut buried in the medium, or pots knocked over by squirrels in a hurry. Our squirrels prefer to chew on succulents, such as jade plants and orchid cactus, and they do it to such an extent that I cannot leave these plants outdoors.

Most invertebrates (other than insects, discussed below) are merely a nuisance. If orchid pots are set on the ground, and sometimes even if the pots are set on a shelf, the potting medium will attract various creepers, ranging from pill bugs to the occasional millipede or centipede. Pots left on the ground will often collect earthworms and may put foliage in reach of slugs. Slugs are attracted to orchid flowers and can ruin them in one night. They tend to hide in the medium during the day, but they leave behind holes in the foliage and, especially, in buds and flowers. Finally, ants may colonize the medium, especially if the plant is secreting sticky sap, as many orchids flower stems do, or as a result of scale infestations.

To minimize creepers getting into pots, keep the pots on a porch or deck, or hang them from trees. If that is not an option, evict the creepers before bringing your plants in. I do this by setting the pots in water up to their brim overnight. Be sure to provide an escape route so the animals are not stranded on the surface of the medium. (They don't swim away!)

Heavy mealy bug infestation. Watch for small, fuzzy, white spots or patches.

[Clemson University USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, CC BY 3.0 US <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/us/deed.en>, via Wikimedia Commons]

Insects

Most of the 'pests' mentioned above are incidental—they are in the neighborhood and attracted to the medium or to the plants—but they aren't really on the prowl for orchids. Some insects are in the same category, but others specifically prey on plants, notably scale (several types), mealy bugs, and aphids. These insects look different, but they exhibit similar behavior. The adults are sedentary and suck plant juices rather than chewing. After several `juvenile stages (lasting days to weeks), the adults settle down in one location on your orchid, secrete a protective coating, proceed to suck plant juices, ... and breed! The young emerge from the eggs as 'crawlers', which travel inches or feet to a new location before settling down, metamorphosing to their adult form, and repeating the cycle. The warmer the temperature, the quicker the cycle repeats.

Scale (left) is most often brown, but a white form (oyster-shell scale) also occurs. All forms of scale are protected by a hard shell, making them very resistant to contact insecticides. Mealy bugs are named for the flour-like white cover they secrete to protect themselves from predators, which also protects them from contact insecticides. Aphids are not protected by any coating, so they *are* susceptible to contact insecticides. An excellent article on scale is found on the AOS website: *https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-pests-diseases/scale.aspx*.

Other Factors:

Watering. This will probably be more frequent outside, given that warmth and wind increase evaporation. But some of the watering will occur effortlessly, when it rains. And even manual watering will probably be easier than it is indoors, especially if you can use a hose, but be sure the stream is really gentle or it will knock over the pot or scatter the medium.

Fertilizing. Summer is also the best time to fertilize orchids. There are two major options:

1. You can add appropriate amounts of fertilizer to water in a watering can, using the same routine you would indoors, but with less worry about spills; or
2. You can use the slow-release fertilizer pellets made for houseplants.

I use the latter and have not had a problem with excess fertilizer damaging the plants. Follow package directions, with the usual stipulation that orchids are fertilized at half the strength of other house plants (it is not necessary to use fertilizer specifically made for orchids). There are also fertilizer spikes that can be inserted into the medium. I do not have experience with these, but they should also work well.

Nuisances. Because ants, pill bugs, and earthworms live in and on soil, they are far more likely to infest pots set on soil (whether or not the soil is covered by grass or mulch) than pots that are not in contact with the ground. For this reason, it is better to set orchid pots on a shelf, hang them from a tree, or put them on a brick or stone Surface. Wooden decks tend to suffer if moist-bottom pots are left on them all summer.

Last Comments:

For all our enthusiasm about putting orchids outside, most of us realize it doesn't work for all orchids. First and foremost, cool-growing orchids (such as masdevalias) should *not* be put outside. Our summers are simply too hot for them—the damage outweighs the benefit.

Phalaenopsis pose a different problem. Although they love it outside in summer, they are susceptible to crown rot if water stands in the hollow of their single growth. In the wild, phalaenopsis avoid this by growing "upside down" on trees, so their growth center does not serve as a reservoir. And if one grows phals on mounts, that is probably the best option—hang them roots up and leaves pointing down. Of course, this does not work if they are potted. If potted phals cannot be kept under a roof (*e.g.*, on a porch or a carport), they will need to be checked after every rain and after every watering by hose. Coupled with their tendency to sunburn outdoors, phals are also on the list of plants that might better be kept indoors all summer, unless you have a porch or other roofed area.

Submission Guidelines for *CIOS Newsletter*

Central Illinois Orchid Society's Newsletter is published quarterly. Please follow these submission guidelines.

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

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

Your original articles, pictures, and thoughts are welcome—please send them! Submissions may include but are not limited to instructional articles ("how-tos"), successes and/or failures, book reviews, travelogues about visits to orchid shows or exhibits, conservatories, etc., "before-and-afters" about your own orchid projects, poems, photos, and most things related to orchids. Also, we would love to see your plants—send your photos.

- 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/plant names/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.

Thanks for reading! Next Newsletter: Summer Edition (July-September).

Submission Deadline: June 20th.