



CENTRAL ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

Autumn Newsletter 2022



October-December

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CIOS ONLINE:

- www.ciorchidsociety.org
- Facebook Group—[click here](#).
- ??s: 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.

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 . . .

Fall has arrived. The daylight is less with cool and crisp nights. For those who gave their orchids an outside adventure for the summer, the evening temps are now a bit chilly for most of your orchids. Time to have them tucked safely back inside.

As you are surveying your orchids as you bring them in, it's a good time to decide on the ones that no longer make you happy. Bring those to the **Members Sale** at our October meeting. Label them with a nominal price, usually \$5 or less. It's a fundraiser for the club, so the money collected goes to the club, not the plant owner.

The slate of board members for 2023 will be presented for club approval during our **Officer Election** at the October meeting. We will also discuss the board's proposed membership fee increase. See the article in this edition about "The Cost of Doing Business" for more information.

As an added treat, CIOS Secretary, Melissa Edwards, will demonstrate a unique way to grow hanging orchids called **kokedama**, which is a Japanese term that translates as "moss ball."

You may have some blooming orchids to show off. We'd love to see them at the meeting—please bring them for **Show and Tell**.

I look forward to seeing each of you Monday, October 10th, at 6:30 P.M. at our usual meeting location, the Hessel Park Church, 700 W. Kirby Avenue, Champaign.

Linda Bailey
CIOS President





The Cost of Doing Business

By Linda Bailey, CIOS President

Membership fees have been \$15/individual and \$25/couple for the eight years I have been a member and I'm told for many years before. There was always the perk that if you attended the holiday dinner, you received an orchid plant.



For many years, the club operated at almost no cost. They met at the library for free. There was no website. No Zoom licensing fee. The speakers were members of the club. The major expenses were insurance and the plants given at the holiday dinner. Those plants were bought at wholesale prices that used to average \$8 to \$15 each. CIOS' Annual Show and Sale, our primary fundraiser, provided a cushion.

Over the years, expenses have risen and eaten away at the proceeds from the sales. Currently we still operate on a shoestring. Our basic yearly expenses are:

- \$175 for meeting at the church (\$25 a month for seven monthly meetings);
- \$200 for our website;
- \$280 for insurance;
- \$125 for our Zoom license;
- \$81 for AOS affiliate membership;
- \$600 for holiday plants (based on holiday attendance averaging 25-30 people) with plants now averaging \$18-\$25 wholesale.

= \$1,461 Total

All costs associated with our Annual Sale and Show come from the proceeds of the sale. Due to COVID-19, annual membership fees paid for 2020 were extended through 2021. Speakers from outside the club generally charge a speakers fee starting at \$150 or more, and we also pay for their travel, accommodations, and meals when needed. We can only bring in outside speakers when there is a decent cushion from our annual sale. The profit from the sales has been anywhere from \$600-\$1300. The cushion was, at one point, \$8,000, but after the holiday dinner it may be less than \$3000.

Membership has gradually increased over the past few years with a spike in new members this year. However, we are still a very small group. We currently have 48 members, with 8 couple memberships and 32 individual. At the current membership fee, that provides an annual basic income of only \$680.

The board proposed at our last meeting an increase in annual membership fees to \$30/individual and \$50/couple. That would allow us to cover our basic annual expenses and leave most of sale profit for speakers and other activities.

Some members have raised concerns about the amount of the fee increase and about the couple discount. We will provide time for a discussion and feedback on fees and costs at the October meeting.



New Shop to Check Out

By Joanne Miller

There's a new shop in town I'd like our CIOS members to know about. It's called ORCHID & VINE. Due to the outpouring interest of people wanting more houseplants included in their home décor, Lisa Duitsman of Abbott's Florist in Champaign welcomed an addition to her present store. This shop is located in the Windsor Galleria Shopping Center where Sun Singer and Abbott's is located. They opened in July and sell orchids from Hawaii, tropical plants, rare and unusual houseplants, cacti, plant gifts and accessories, candles, plant stands, pottery, and more.

They also offer workshops for building terrariums, help with repotting plants, a potting bench for customers to use, and tips on new varieties of plants and how to take care of them. They will make you a terrarium out of the plants you pick, too. Their orchids are from Hawaii, and they have all types, not just Phalaenopsis like most of the other stores in town. I've seen Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Vandas, and Dendrobiums in there. I believe they get new shipments every two weeks, so there is usually always a new crop to choose from.

It's a delightful little store! I was pleasantly surprised when I visited a couple weeks ago. If you are anxious to get some new orchids or want to try a new variety, head on over! Those of us who have been there love the feel of their store.

From the (CIOS e)Mailbag:

Dear Central Illinois Orchid friends: We would love for you to consider attending our show. We are a friendly, laid back group that have a lot of fun.

The Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale, "**Orchids are a Scream 2022**," will be held October 22-23, 2022 at the Elks Lodge Hall, 801 33rd Ave., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We would love to have your club &/or individuals participate.

Our website easterniowaorchidsociety.org has local hotels and a location map

listed. The show book and show layout will be linked later. We use MAOC show tags for registration. The show will again have a Halloween theme which has been fun in the past!



Please confirm your participation by replying to this email: niledusdieker@gmail.com. For your display we can provide 5' round tables, 6' rectangular tables, option of a room divider, and a portable backdrop. The room has good lighting and plenty of space. We set up from noon to 6 P.M. on Friday, October 21, and many of us congregate at a local Mexican restaurant afterwards. Takedown is 4 P.M. on Sunday. Your members are welcome to clerk for judging on Saturday morning.

We hope to see you there.

Nile Dusdieker, Registration Chair, 319 -360-0219

Andy Coghill-Behrends, Show Chair

Jon Lorence, President of our Club.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Elena Romanova

How did you become interested in growing orchids?

I saw orchids in various botanical gardens that I frequent and in nature-themed documentaries, but thought they were exotic and difficult to cultivate at home in the Midwest. Visiting the CIOS Spring Show at Champaign Public Library in 2013, if I remember correctly, changed my mind. Plus, I won a raffle coupon to Prairie Garden! Excited, I quickly went to PG to buy something new, and perhaps even an orchid. There was a dazzling display of *Phalaenopsis*; one with unique flowers I have never seen in general stores before caught my gaze. It was pastel but not pale, delicate but elegant, with shades of pink, beige, and cream mixed together but somehow distinct. Bright magenta Phals were screaming "Pick me!" but that mystic cream orchid simply waited for me to make the right decision. I left the store with two orchids: that unusual cream *Phalaenopsis* and an *Odontocidium Everglades Elegance 'Nancy Lee'*; both are still thriving. There is no doubt that discovering the CIOS Show helped me to venture into orchid growing, and I am deeply grateful for this gift.



How long have you been involved with orchids and what level of knowledge would you say you have?

After about 9 years of growing orchids, my expertise is primarily based on practical experience and quick online research on culture of potential new additions to my collection. I also like orchid shows and nurseries where I find opportunities to talk to growers, professional and hobbyists. Now, being a member of the CIOS, I am excited to learn from peers and invited speakers.

Are there any special orchid memories you care to share?

One spring, a massive *Phalaenopsis* arrangement called Blushing Bride at the Chicago Botanical Garden Orchid Show made a deep impression on me. Later, in the fall, we answered an unexpected doorbell late at night and found two gift-wrapped orchids on our doorsteps, one definitely looking like Blushing Bride, the other being an amazing, white *Dendrobium nobile* in full bloom, and no one around, no card. The plants' appearance was intriguing. Then our daughter literally jumped out from the dark, screaming "Surprise!" She secretly flew to Urbana, thoughtfully exited the Uber car a block away from the house, quietly walked to our door, placed plants by the door, and hid in the bushes. That was my best B-day surprise, although my husband might have narrowly escaped a heart attack.

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

There are 19 orchids of 7 genera in my collection. Phals are the overwhelming majority because I used to receive them as gifts at the beginning. The longest kept plants are those two I purchased at PG with the help of the CIOS raffle coupon 9 years ago. Two years ago, the creamy-pink Phal developed a keiki that matured and bloomed last fall for the first time. They now grow in the same pot—I refer to them as double delight. They put up a flower display for 9 months/year and brighten my day every time I pass by.

[Continued]



Any favorites among your collection? And why do you like them?

I admire every plant beauty in my house, but over time I have learned to appreciate *Phalaenopsis* for its variety, undemanding culture, reliable and predictable blooming habits, and outstanding longevity of color fiery. Collectively, they put up a flower display for 9 months/year and brighten my day every time I pass by.

Any special experiences related to orchids--travels, shows, etc.?

Orchid shows are my favorite, but I go to botanical gardens anytime and anywhere they are available. For example, the Indianapolis Zoo has some spectacular orchids in their botanical collection at Hilbert Conservatory. The conservatory is currently closed due to construction, but it is on my destination list for the near future. The most impressive orchid collection can be found in Atlanta Botanical Garden. It is worth traveling there just to visit the gardens during summer and tour the Fuqua Orchid Center's tremendous variety of orchids from around the globe.

What orchid do you want to grow in the future?

My ambition is to master the care of the stunning, mottled-leaf vinicolor *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* and, hopefully, grow a pot full of them blooming like a bouquet. So far its progress is super slow, with ups and downs. Sometimes I think this goal may not be achieved in my lifetime. As a more attainable dream, I would love to add a colorful *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* to my collection in the future.

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

After attending the CIOS Spring Shows for several years and occasionally reading the website, I joined in winter 2022. I felt that I developed an interest beyond random plant purchases and that having peers interested in talking about orchids would be nice. The society meetings, seeing what others grow, tips and tricks from members and invited speakers make membership beneficial. People here are very nice.

Any other information about yourself you care to share?

I was transplanted from Eastern Europe last century, went to graduate school, and now work as a Chemistry professor at UIUC. Besides orchids, I grow African violets, streptocarpus, several vining plants, outdoor roses, and several fruit trees including a dwarf grapefruit that bears 3 fruits annually. Until recently, all my indoor plants including orchids were seamlessly integrated into my house interior, but capacity has been reached. I am experimenting with grow lights to explore the tops of kitchen cabinets as plant space; results are encouraging. Other hobbies are biking around CU, hiking anywhere but preferably in the mountains, and being regularly exposed to something new through travel.



Central Illinois Orchid Society Upcoming Meetings

Monday, October 10th, 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. — CIOS Member Sale and Officer Elections. Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church, 700 W. Kirby Ave, Champaign.

Sunday, November 13 — CIOS Holiday Dinner. 6:00 P.M. at *Jupiters at the Crossing*, Champaign. Watch your email for details. All members present receive a free orchid at the dinner!

December — No meeting. Happy holidays to you all and we look forward to seeing you in 2023!

It's That Time of Year...

Did you move your summered-outside orchids back inside only to discover that either they got much bigger or your house got smaller? If you're out of space but not done collecting, here are some solutions to your problem:

- a. Don't buy more orchids. (NGH*!)
- b. Add grow lights to your office décor—instant new collection!
- c. Go mini or micromini!



*NGH = NOT gonna happen!

Eltropectris Calcarata

By Linda Bailey

At our October meeting, Wade Hollenbach of Wade's Orchids (Middleburg, PA) did a presentation on Catasetinae and he brought some for sale. I wasn't too keen on trying this orchid again. My experience with them has been that they go into their dry rest period never to reemerge.

Wade brought other types of orchids for sale also, and I was attracted to one that was merely a large leaf sticking out of the pot—a leaf that didn't even look like most orchid leaves. I bought it. Wade said it was ready to be repotted in a bigger pot and told me to leave the root ball intact and just wrap sphagnum around it to fill in the new pot. Attached are photos of the plant as it came, potted up in its new bigger pot, and a stock photo of the blooms I am expecting this winter.

I knew nothing about this plant, so here's what I found out doing a bit of research. *Eltropectris calcarata* is a terrestrial species of orchid commonly known as the Spurred Neottia. Terrestrial means it grows on the ground. It is found in the Indies, Bahamas, northern South American, and Florida. It grows within Everglades National Park and Fakkajatchee Strand Preserve State Park. Although it is listed as threatened in Florida, it is thriving in other parts of the world so it does not have official endangered status. The plant has one or two blue leaves on reddish stems. The scape can grow up to 50 cm tall with 3 to 17 greenish-white flowers resembling egrets in flight. It prefers low light, cool to hot, and moist growing conditions. The plants bloom January to March. If I am successful, maybe it will be blooming for our March show.



Eltropectris calcarata - closeup, by NC Orchid from North Carolina, USA. CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41075644>

Brassidium Kenneth Bivin

By Joanne Miller

I'd like to introduce you to a Spider Orchid. This one is called Brassidium Kenneth Bivin. It looks "like a white-skirted cheerleader caught halfway through doing the splits!"* Brassidium Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara' is a hybrid Oncidium orchid that is a cross between a Brassia and an Oncidium.

It is a vigorous free-flowering orchid that can have 10 or more flowers on a single stem. My plant has 7-inch-wide flowers and is 9 ½ inches long. Very large and spidery looking! It has dark mahogany red petals with curly yellow tips and a white lip.

It is wonderfully attractive! It can flower anytime, and can be in bloom constantly. The long lasting flower has a sweet intense, cedar fragrance. There are many different kinds of Spider Orchids. Among the ones I know about are Miltassia Shelob 'Okika', Brassada Orange Delight, and Brassia Rex.

Spider Orchids like bright light, room temperature (70s), water when the top inch gets dry, and to be fertilized weekly. It's best to cut off the spikes when they finish blooming. You can grow them on a windowsill if you have bright enough light. Otherwise, they grow well under fluorescent lights. If you can find one, scoop it up! They are a delight and a very interesting orchid for your collection.

* Quote from Bloom Again Orchids by Judy White. In this book, the author writes about all kinds of orchids that are relatively easy to grow. It is available at the Champaign Public Library.



From Joanne Miller: This is my Paphiopedilum spicerianum. I got this plant about 5 years ago and it is just now throwing three spikes. I have divided it once before, but it grows quite fast and blooms faithfully in the fall for me.



From Lori Garrett: This is what can happen if you attend the Chicagoland Orchidfest and don't have a plan (or ANY common sense!)



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:

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

Your original articles, pictures, and thoughts are welcome—please send them! Submissions may include but are not limited to instructional articles (“how-to”), 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: Winter Edition (January—March).
Submission Deadline: December 20th.

