



# CENTRAL ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

## Spring Newsletter 2023

Spring Edition

Vol. 17, no. 2, 2023



American Orchid Society  
Education, Conservation, Research.  
Affiliated Society

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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).

### 2023 CIOS Executive Board:

- Joanne Miller, President
- Mark Williams, Treasurer
- Melissa Edwards, Secretary
- Lori Garrett, Editor/web; AOS Rep
- John Foran, Sale Chair

### From the President . . .

I was so pleased to see so many members at our April meeting at Melissa's home. That was certainly a nice tour she gave us and it's always fun to see how and where other members grow their orchids. Thanks again, Melissa, for a lovely meeting, including snacks and beverages! We also had a nice turnout for our May meeting, during which we watched two videos about fragrant orchids.



It's getting to be that time of year when we must think about repotting our own orchids. Generally, our orchids get a boost from growing in fresh media about every other year. If your orchid roots are overflowing the pot, when the plant itself is going over the edge of the pot, or when the potting material is getting soggy and drains poorly, it's time to repot. Each species has its own favorite time to be repotted, but usually it's time when you start seeing new growth in the spring. At that time, they are eager to grow and repotting doesn't seem to bother their cycle at that point. Observe your plants, and if you see new root tips or the start of a new shoot just beginning to emerge, this is the time! Now the roots can grow into the new media and will be eager to take up water and nutrients. After repotting, let it sit for a week in a little less light, then add it gradually back to its normal spot on the shelf.

I also wanted to suggest that you take notes on your orchids or make a journal. Be sure to note when something you did worked well . . . or did not work well. You will learn from your notes next year what you did right or wrong.

If you are interested in learning more about repotting, REPOTME.COM has repotting tutorials with excellent advice on their website. They are very helpful and will help you feel a little more confident with the procedure.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting, Monday, June 12th at 6:30 PM at Hessel Park Church. Don White from [Anything Orchids](#) will be our guest speaker and HE WILL HAVE ORCHIDS FOR US TO PURCHASE!!!

Happy Growing,  
Joanne Miller, CIOS President

Joanne's  
Iwanagaara  
Appleblossom





### Central Illinois Orchid Society Upcoming Meetings

**Monday, June 12, 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. — Don White from Anything Orchids.** Hessel Park Christian Reformed Church, 700 W. Kirby Ave, Campaign. Don will have orchids with him for purchase.

**Sunday, July 9 — Annual CIOS Member Potluck Picnic.** 4:00 P.M. at the Miller’s home. Watch your email for details. The picnic will be outside—rain date will be announced if there is inclement weather.

**Sunday, August 27 — Road Trip! Annual Orchid Auction at Missouri Botanical Garden (MOBOT), St. Louis.** The auction runs noon to 5 PM. For those interested, we will carpool to this a fun event. They sell MOBOT orchids that they have divided and many plants from various orchid nurseries that donate nice orchids to sell as a money maker for MOBOT.

### June Program: Don White from Anything Orchids

*Anything Orchids* is owned and operated by Don White. He is a member of the American Orchid Society, the Batavia Orchid Society, and the Illinois Orchid Society. Don has been raising orchids for 27 years: he still has his first orchid plant which continues to flower yearly. Don loves fragrant orchids. His favorites include *Oncidium Sharry Baby* which smells like chocolate, and fragrant cattleyas. Don is now a retired teacher. After 34 years as a primary PE Teacher, he is now trying to educate people on how to grow orchids. The goal is to have successful growers. Don often presents to garden clubs and master gardeners on orchids. He loves to introduce people to the joys of growing orchids. Don has operated his greenhouse in the Frankfort area for 20 years. Don is assisted in the greenhouse by his part-time employee, Tammy Hurley. The public is more than welcome to visit the greenhouse (best to call ahead). Stop in when you need a touch of the tropics in winter or a glimpse of beauty any time.



### The Big and the Little . . .

[From our Facebook group]

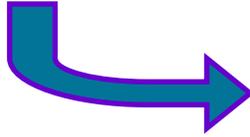
*Left:* Neilla M’s 30+ year old cymbidium is a towering 46” tall and recently boasted 6 flower spikes and 36 flowers!

*Below:* Lori G’s paphiopedilum Tyke is well named, as this diminutive plant is currently just a tad over 3” tall with a leaf span of only 6 inches.





YOUR PHOTO HERE!!



Central Illinois Orchid Society



### Win Orchid Photo Bragging Rights!

Want to show off your orchids? Starting this month, we are launching a new monthly Member Orchid Photo Contest on Facebook. The winning orchid photo will be featured as the COVER PHOTO for our Facebook group’s homepage for the following month!

There are two ways you can participate:

1. Post one or more photos of your orchid(s) to our Facebook group.
2. Click “Like” by your favorite photo(s).

At the end of the month, the photo posted during that month that received the most “Likes” will win and will be posted as our cover photo for the next month. Simple!

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit (and join) our Facebook group, and to post your photos and cast your vote(s).

### Vendor Review: Orchid Classics by Lori Garrett

I have ordered orchids several times from Orchid Classics and I have been impressed with every order I have received. The plants are carefully wrapped, with tape across the top of the pot holding the media in place, each plant individually wrapped and sealed in heavy white paper, and additional folded sheets filling any extra space in the box. As a bonus, each order has arrived with a surprise free gift orchid! The first time this happened, it came with a handwritten apology because one plant I ordered was smaller than they usually ship, so they sent it AND a full-size in-spike phalaenopsis. My most recent order for three plants came in a larger than expected box. Inside were not three, but FIVE plants—those I ordered (shown on the right—Vandachotylis Pinky, Recharra Frances Fox ‘Fire Flame’, and Dyakia hendersonianum) and TWO GIFT ORCHIDS (below). One is a bulbophyllum dentiferum ‘Emily’ (bottom, second photo) and the other is a mini-phalaenopsis with four spikes in full bloom. Each spike was staked individually for shipping (bottom third photo) and not a single bloom was shed when I released them (bottom right). All plants are quite healthy and this customer is quite happy.





**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:  
Elizabeth Beilke**



*How did you become interested in growing orchids?*

My grandmother loved and grew orchids. She passed away a few years ago, and I started growing orchids as a way to connect with my memories of her.

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

3 years...I consider myself a beginner.

*Are there any special orchid memories you care to share?*

I'll never forget the day I successfully rebloomed my first orchid...because it was also the day I successfully defended my dissertation. It was during the COVID lockdown, so it was all held remotely from my living room. After my committee had finished asking all of their questions, I found a moment to look over at my plant collection and noticed that my white Phalaenopsis had finally blossomed. It was very poetic.



Elizabeth Beilke with a hoary bat: *Lasiurus cinereus*.

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

My oldest orchid is 3, but my oldest plant is a Schefflera that is 12 years old. I move a lot for my work, so this plant has lived in nine different states with me: Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina, Indiana, and now, Illinois.

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

I love plants that are resilient and effortlessly beautiful. Right now, my Phals and some of my easier Hoya fall into that category. I'm particularly obsessed with my Hoya 'Mathilde' because she is completely unfussy and absolutely gorgeous.

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

I went to the orchid show at the Chicago Botanic Garden this year. The best part was that they had orchids displayed behind large lenses so you could appreciate all of the fine details in the blooms.

*What orchid do you want to grow in the future?*

I want to try a tolumnia orchid. I don't have a lot of growing space, so I'm generally interested in small plants.

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

I joined this year, mainly to connect with a community of plant enthusiasts!

*Any other information about yourself you care to share?*

For my work, I study bats! A large focus of my work has been studying how bats interact with insects, forests, and timber harvest.

*Please share an interesting or unusual fact or interest of yours.*

I'd love to leave you with an interesting bat fact. I'm sure most of you are aware of the fact that bats eat insects that are a nuisance to humans (especially mosquitoes). But bats are also incredibly important in the garden! Some very common bat prey items include cucumber beetles, stink bugs, leafhoppers, weevils, tent caterpillar moths, and various leaf-rolling moths. In general, small moths, beetles, true bugs, and flies are the staple foods of most bat diets.



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**  
**Facundo Fernandez-Duque**



*How did you become interested in growing orchids?*

My interest in orchids actually started after becoming interested in passifloras. About five years ago, I became interested in passifloras for their beautiful flowers. I grew a wide variety of them and got to enjoy lots of different flowers. Unfortunately, passifloras only flower for a day though. Given how long some orchid blooms can last, I saw orchids as the opposite of passifloras, so they intrigued me.

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

I've only been growing orchids for a couple of months so definitely a beginner!

*Are there any special orchid memories you care to share?*

It's been a very short time since I've been growing them but my first orchid recently started growing a new leaf so I'd say that's always special.

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

I have five orchids now and I'm happy to say that none of them have died so far. The oldest one is now around six months.

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

I'd say it's a tie between my first Phalaenopsis and a small Cattleya. I like the Phalaenopsis because it has beautiful white and yellow flowers. While I like the Cattleya because...well, it's the only one that isn't a Phalaenopsis!

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

I've spent some time working in South American jungles and it's always nice to see these orchids in the wild.

*What orchid do you want to grow in the future?*

It would be nice to grow a fragrant orchid, but I'm content with just keeping what I have alive and happy.

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

I joined a couple of months ago because I enjoy learning new things and this seems like a passionate community.

*Any other information about yourself you care to share?*

I grew up in Argentina and spent a lot of time playing outside. I love everything that has to do with nature and really enjoy learning new things, especially when it's about plants or animals! I also love cooking, reading, and playing with my dog.

*Please share an interesting or unusual fact or interest of yours.*

I love animals, so anything to do with them is pretty much an interest of mine! My work has also taken me to some pretty interesting places (many with orchids) and I'm always happy to share stories, so please feel free to ask about that!



## GIVE YOUR ORCHIDS A SUMMER VACATION!

By Joanne Miller and Lori Garrett

Some of you may continue growing your plants under lights or on your windowsills through the summer. But I have found that summering your orchids outdoors makes a big difference in blooms next winter and is an attractive option. Outside they will get humidity, rain water, and gentle breezes, and provide you an opportunity to clean up your winter growing area. They will respond very favorably to a summer vacation outdoors. Do wait until it stays around 60 degrees at night, however, before moving them outside.

Putting your plants out will also allow you to apply pest control without smelling up your garage or driving the pets out. Another good reason is to provide a temperature difference between day and night. This is especially favorable in the fall when your orchids are setting flower buds for fall and winter blooming.

However, there are a few things you need to watch out for. One would be providing enough shade. You should probably allow about 50 to 60% shade for most varieties of orchids. The exception would be Vandas and Cattleyas. Think of the kind of shade they would get in the tropics—like that of the shade of a tree—mottled is best. Morning sun from the east is your best bet. The sun isn't too hot in the morning and, ideally, by about 1:00 they should be in indirect sun. Too much sun can cause leaf damage by sunburn. Leaves that get burned do not recover and are susceptible to fungal or bacterial infections. At the very least, they stress the plant and are unsightly. In general, orchids that have broad, thin leaves are less tolerant of direct sun and should be protected by more shade. Signs that may indicate overexposure to the sun include the temperature of the leaf and the coloration. If the leaf feels hot to the touch, it likely needs more shade. If the leaves become a paler yellow-green or develop purple or red discolorations, the plant may be getting too much sun.

Another thing to monitor is pest control. Inspect your orchids whenever you water. If you see scale, mealy bugs, ants, or mite damage, quickly take care of your plants. Either spray the bugs off or use a hydrogen peroxide or rubbing alcohol spray mist, insecticidal soap, or Neem oil. Repeat this process three times at weekly intervals for best control. Bugs can quickly get out of control outside! Perhaps you have fewer issues with the six-legged critters than with the furry four-legged variety. If so, consider using crop cages to keep those pesky varmints out.

Continue to fertilize most of your orchids while outside—they are very busy growing this time of year and need the nourishment. If it gets below 55 to 60 degrees at night, either throw a sheet over them or bring them inside. Most orchids don't like to get too cold. Cymbidiums may be an exception.

Also monitor the water situation. Just because they are outside doesn't mean Mother Nature will take care of everything for us. Orchids are in their most active growth period and will need plenty of water, and we do get some dry spells. In contrast, don't let them sit in water after a rain as they might rot. Many growers don't use trays underneath their plants when they are outside, but if you opt to use them, use trays that drain or plan to empty them after a rain. Also, be very mindful of monopodial orchids, such as phalaenopsis and slippers—if water is left standing in the crown of these plants for almost any amount of time, they can get crown rot and quickly dry. Check them, dump any water in the crown, and hope for a nice breeze to do the rest.

We hope this helps some of our beginner orchid growers. We all grow our orchids different ways, and you'll have to experiment to find the best way for you to make it work. And remember, advice is always free for the asking!



## In Honor of National Orchid Day By Margaret Schrock, Master Gardener

In honor of National Orchid Day, which was April 16th, let's take time to appreciate the beauty and diversity of orchids. Orchidaceae, the second largest plant family in the world, boasts over 700 genera and over 25,000 species. The horticultural industry grows thousands of orchid hybrids and cultivars and potted orchids are now the number-one selling blooming plants in the United States. People from all walks of life grow orchids in their homes, and many botanical gardens host large collections of orchids. Although most orchids grow in tropical areas, orchid species inhabit all parts of the globe, in warm and cold locations, deserts and the arctic circle —everywhere except on glaciers! Illinois is home to 49 native species.

Here are a few fun facts about orchids:

1. Vanilla extract used in baking comes from an orchid, *Vanilla planifolia*.
2. Orchid seeds are extremely small, microscopic or dust-like. One orchid seed pod may contain millions of seeds. Most orchid seeds contain no nutritive material and require a specific mycorrhizal fungus to germinate and provide nutrition.
3. Orchid flowers may be as small as 0.1 inch (2 mm) to as large as 15 inches (38 cm).
4. Some species of orchids are considered a weed in the U.S.
5. Some orchid flowers have a lovely, sweet fragrance and others smell like rotten meat.

So, whether you enjoy orchids by visiting displays in botanical gardens, growing your own plants, searching for native wildflowers, or by adding vanilla to your baking, National Orchid Day is a great time to appreciate all that orchids bring to our lives.

For more information about orchids:

- Visit the web site of the American Orchid Society that provides extensive information about the various genera of orchids and how to grow them at <https://www.aos.org/about-us.aspx>.
- Cornell Extension provides information on growing phalaenopsis orchids as houseplants at <https://warren.cce.cornell.edu/.../orchids-as-houseplants>.
- For more information about orchids in Illinois, see the Chicago Field Museum Field Guides at <https://fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org/guides/guide/1191> and Southern Illinois University at <https://nickrentlab.siu.edu/OrchidsIllinois.html>.
- For an interesting article about the mystery of orchids see @UIExtension <https://extension.illinois.edu/.../2020-02-28-mysterious>.

*[Editor's note: This article is reprinted with author permission from the Champaign County Master Gardeners' Facebook page. Photo montage was created from photos Margaret took at our Central Illinois Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale.]*

April 16 is **NATIONAL ORCHID DAY**

To many, orchids are considered exotic and rare flowers. In fact, Orchidaceae is the second largest plant family in the world. Orchids are native to all continents except Antarctica with 49 species native to Illinois. But because many species native to America are threatened or endangered, they may deserve their reputation as rare and exotic.

Some of the orchids exhibited at the Central Illinois Orchid Society's annual show in Champaign IL.

Two of the orchid species native to Illinois

Champaign County Illinois Master Gardeners 2023

Scenes from our 2023 Show and Sale

Welcome new members!

Not only did we have a great event, but we also gained seven new members at this year's Show and Sale! We are thrilled to welcome the following orchid fans to CIOS:

- Elizabeth Beilke,
- Facundo Fernandez-Duque,
- Faye Jones,
- Benjamin Lough,
- Nooreen Meghani,
- Alexis Schollmeyer, and
- Joe Taylor.





[Editor's Note: Because I promote our CIOS Show/Sale in the Master Gardeners' newsletter and via their listserv, it seemed only fair to reciprocate. If you want tickets for the CCMG Garden Walk, let me know—I can bring them to our June meeting. Or use the QR code below to order online, or purchase at the Garden Centers listed below.]

# Champaign County Master Gardeners Presents Garden Walk 2023 JUNE 17 9AM TO 4PM



## Inspirational Gardens: *Old. New. Reimagined*

\$10, children under 10 FREE

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For Will Call tickets, scan QR code below. Questions? 217-333-7672

*Tickets*

*Six Private Gardens*

The Finish Line \* My Secret Garden \* The Urban Oasis \* My Earthly Paradise  
Down the Garden Path \* Garden of the Towering Redwood

*Two Public Gardens*

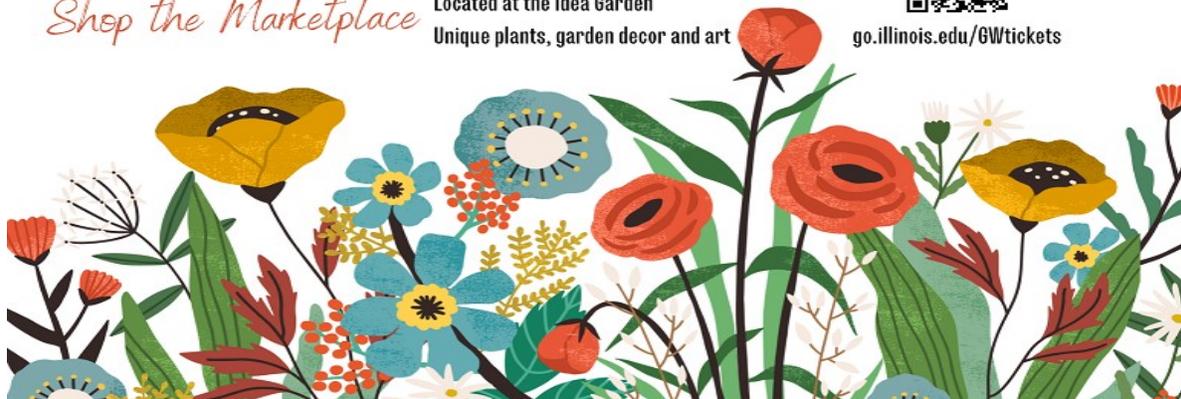
Prosperity Garden operated by City of Champaign  
CCMG Idea Garden with demonstrations

*Shop the Marketplace*

Located at the Idea Garden  
Unique plants, garden decor and art



[go.illinois.edu/GWtickets](http://go.illinois.edu/GWtickets)



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**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>
June 20th	Summer Edition
September 20th	Autumn Edition
December 20th	Winter Edition
March 20th	Spring Edition

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/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. Members’ images posted to our CIOS Facebook group may be used in our newsletter.
- 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) 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 (if possible)/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: Summer Edition  
**Submission Deadline: June 20th.**

