



# CENTRAL ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

## Summer 2024

Vol. 18, no. 2, 2024



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).

### 2024 CIOS Executive Board:

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

### From the President . . .

Dear Orchid Enthusiasts,

Just wanted to say hello summer! Fall is just around the corner, they say. I'd like to thank everyone that came to the CIOS Picnic at my house last month. Everyone made the best food! And it was such a great time talking to everybody.



By looking at the growth of my orchids, they have enjoyed their summer outside! I hope I can find room on my shelves when I bring them back inside. That will be when the temperatures start getting lower than 55- 60 °F. I know some species, like *Cymbidiums*, like staying out until the temperature drops into the 40's, but I don't have any of them.

The various types of *Oncidium* Sharry Baby are starting to spike here, and I can't wait to get a whiff of their chocolate fragrance and see all the little red flowers they will produce. I have two Sharry Baby plants. One is "Sweet Fragrance" and the other is "Red Fantasy." Mine usually have at least 100 flowers with white tips. The long, leathery leaves take up quite a bit of space, but it's worth it! Their culture is as follows:

- Plant in medium-grade bark or add sphagnum moss to the mix.
- Be sure your mix drains well. I use clear plastic pots.
- Maintain relatively high humidity and place over pebble trays.
- They like plenty of water and should be watered as soon as the media starts getting dry. The pseudobulbs should be plump if it is receiving the right amount of water.
- My plant likes dappled sun to bloom.

Various temperatures are tolerated and mine does well in the summer temperatures we are having right now. However, the hotter the temperatures, the more air circulation you should have. They tend to get tiny brown spots on their leaves, but that is common.

When it gets lower than 55 °F outside, bring them inside. They do like night temps in the 60's to induce blooming. Hope you will try a Sharry Baby if you don't already have one. It's a fun orchid!

Happy Growing!

Joanne Miller, CIOS President



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Annual Orchid Auction at Missouri Botanical Garden

We don't have a monthly meeting in August, but here is something you might consider instead. Each year, the Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis hosts its annual Orchid Auction at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, MO. This year's event is Sunday, August 18th. Some of our members, including Joanne ([millersn6shn@aol.com](mailto:millersn6shn@aol.com)) have attended in the past and have really enjoyed it. Joanne says, "they will have several orchid vendors selling their plants too. It's worth a trip there if you've never been. You could also eat there at the Garden Restaurant." While you're there, check out the rest of the gardens as well. If you are a member of the American Orchid Society or the American Horticulture Society, take your current card—it should get you in for free through the reciprocal gardens program! [CLICK HERE](#) for a list of the vendors who are participating and photos of many of the plants.

The Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis



*Orchid Auction*

**Sunday, August, 18th 12–5 pm**  
view plant list @ [OSOGSL.org](http://OSOGSL.org) | Preview @ 11 am



Missouri Botanical Garden  
4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63110





*Free Webinar:*

*The Botany of Desire (and How I Got Hooked on Native Orchids)*

Dennis Whigham, Ph.D.

Tuesday, August 20th, 6-7:30 P.M. Online (link will be sent by email)

How do plants make a living? That question has propelled botanist Dennis Whigham for his nearly 47-year career with the Smithsonian. Orchids were especially bewitching. On August 20, join Dennis for a journey of discovery through the orchid world. He'll take you from their unlikely beginnings as "dust seeds," to the microscopic fungi they depend on to thrive, to their quirky—or downright sneaky—strategies to get pollinated. He'll also reveal some of the most shocking discoveries, including the realization that more than half our continent's native orchids are in trouble. Discover how stewards across the continent are rallying to save native orchids through the North American Orchid Conservation Center, and what you can do to help ensure their survival.



[CLICK HERE](#) for information and to register for this talk, part of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center's Evening Lecture Series.

*CIOS September Monthly Program*

*Expanding Your Orchid Horizons:*

*Points for Success with New Genera*

*Dr. Bill Udziela*

Monday September 9 @ 6:30 P.M.

Hessel Park Church, 700 W. Kirby Avenue, Champaign.



Growing bored with grocery-store *Phalaenopsis*? Looking to expand and diversify your collection? In this presentation, Dr. Bill, owner of Dr. Bill's Orchids will bring new hobbyist growers and experienced growers alike "back to basics," as he explains the importance of evaluating your growing environment before introducing new plants into your collection. He will discuss how to provide the proper mix of environmental conditions to best suit the needs of your new introductions. Dr. Bill will focus on practicality—modifications that can be easily be applied by the newest windowsill hobbyist growing their first orchid, or the grower who has hundreds.

Oh...there is also another reason to attend this meeting:

**Dr. Bill is bringing plants with him for purchase!**





Thanks, Joanne and Jim (and Toby)! Scenes from CIOS' Annual Picnic, hosted by the Millers, July 13th, 2024.

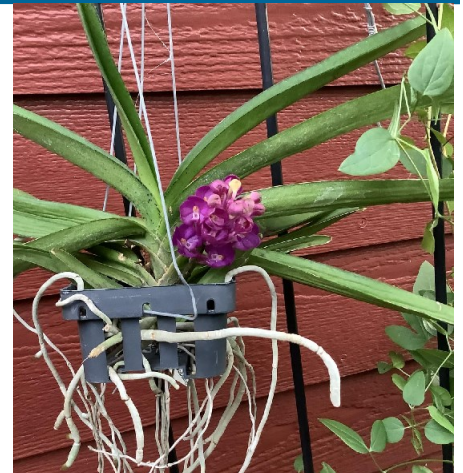


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♪ "Summer Breeze ... Makes Me Feel Fine!" ♪

By Lori Garrett

Ah, summertime, and the growing is easy. Whether your orchids are enjoying a nice long summer vacation in the great outdoors or lounging on a sunny windowsill inside your climate-controlled abode, you are likely noticing a lot of change these days. Summer is peak growing season for orchids. New roots in the spring lead to new shoots in the summer. Summer sun, higher temperatures and humidity, gentle breezes (and an occasional derecho!) and fresh rainwater provide optimal conditions that allow most of our plants to thrive. And this allows the plants to produce more energy for growth and maturation—and blooms! Mother Nature has done a nice job of the caretaking for us this summer—not many extremely hot days and, at least here in Chambana, fairly regular rains with nice breezes. But that doesn't mean we should abdicate all our responsibility to her—"Out of sight, out of mind" is not an advisable strategy for pricey orchids.



Linda Bailey's Vanda



Niela Millar's Stanhopea



Plants in active growth—indoors or out—usually require more water and more nutrition. Check your orchids between rains to be sure those summer breezes aren't drying them out too quickly—they may need more frequent watering (including those living inside). Let the media and roots be your guide. And if they are pushing out new growths, they likely could use more fertilizer as well. Increase the frequency, not the concentration, of the fertilizer. Always water the media before feeding—that helps dissolve and disperse the fertilizer so it is less likely to burn the roots. And don't forget to flush the pots with only water every few waterings to dissolve built-up salts.

We all know the importance of slathering our skin with a good sunscreen when we are going to be out and about enjoying summer. But what about our plants? They can't seek shade on their own when they are outside, but they can suffer sun damage. You should offer protection from the most direct sunlight, during mid-day. Also be sure you know your orchids—some thrive in high-light conditions while others prefer, even need, some shade. As we are getting later in the season, your outdoor plants are at less risk than they were around the summer solstice. They have had time to acclimate to the conditions in their outdoor home, and the sun is not as intense as it was then. However, sunburn can still occur. Flat, thin leaves, such as those of the common *Phalaenopsis* (lower left) are most susceptible to sunburn. Feel the leaves of your plants that are getting very much sun—if the surface feels hot, move it into more shade. A sun-damaged leaf will not improve. Although the damage may be unsightly, a small amount of sunburn will not usually have much impact on the plant's overall health and the damaged leaf will likely eventually be shed. However, if there is much sunburn, it can stress the plant and slow its growth, and the damaged area is susceptible to infection.



Although our orchids welcome the humidity and summer rains, there can be too much of a good thing. When it rains, water can get into the crowns of your plants or sit on the leaves for too long. Fortunately, a nice breeze after a rain usually takes care of the problem. But not always. After a good rain, it is advisable to check your plants to be sure no water is pooling in the crowns, nooks, or crannies. Standing water is a breeding site for fungal or bacterial infections and rot can result quickly. Plants that grow only from the crown are especially vulnerable to crown rot, which will kill them. Similarly, with heavy rain, water may accumulate in the pot or in trays under your plants, which can lead to root rot.

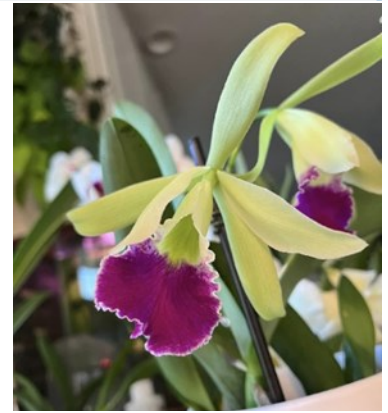
Another concern for outdoor plants are pests—mites, scale, mealy bugs, and a host of others. Most of these can be handled by hosing off the plant, manual removal, or use of rubbing alcohol or insectidal soap. Also beware of bigger pests—ants love to snuggle into some good orchid media, resulting in ant volcanos when you water the pot. Then there are the pesky four-legged furry critters. I grow my orchids inside crop cages that are fully covered by mesh with maybe 1/2" gaps. When I was checking my plants today, I found a huge walnut in one pot—I know it was a squirrel, just not sure how it accomplished the feat.

Much as I hate to say it, the days are growing shorter and the nights are getting cooler. I dread winter's approach, but this seasonal transition is great for our outdoor orchids. Many of them need a good temperature differential to promote blooming—a drop of 10 to 15 degrees between day and nighttime. We are getting that now. We likely have more summer heat ahead, but we also have some autumnal temps heading our way this week. Now is the time to start watching the lows—some orchids like a nice chill, but most are unhappy when the temperature dips below 60 or 55 °F. Even though many plants can tolerate lower temperatures, they may sulk and lose their vigor. Know your plants and their desires.

And as summer starts to fade, we outdoor growers need to start contemplating the homecoming. It's a good time to clean their inside home—shelves, trays, supplies. Check your grow lights if you use them. Wipe everything down to get rid of spores or eggs—STILL don't know where all the mealybugs come from! And remember—you put your plants outside to increase their growth—don't be surprised if you need more space when they come back inside.

As the summer breeze gives way to autumn leaves, we hope to reap the rewards of the summer growth spurt. May your blooms be abundant, and may the ants and mealybugs stay outside.

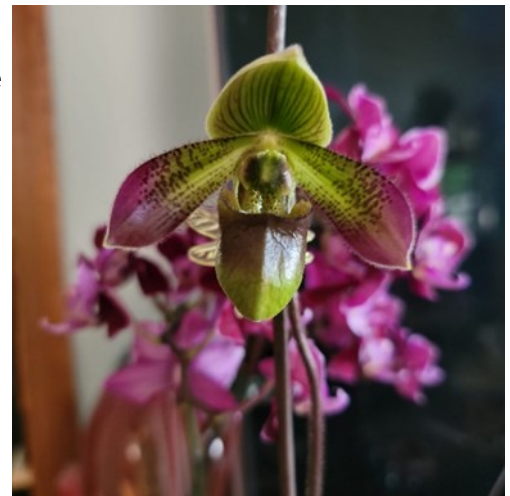
For more about seasonal care of orchids, visit <https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/seasonal-orchid-care>.



Vanessa DeShambo's *Cattleya*



Cindy Westfall's *Bulbophyllum*



Lori's *Paphiopedilum*



Save the date! **CIOS Annual Show and Sale**

Saturday, March 8th, 2025





Start Making Plans Now For The

# 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest



September 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

8:00am - 5:00pm Friday & Saturday

10:00am - 3:00pm Sunday

Special sale items & refreshments available at both locations.

**Guest Growers** at each location will be offering plants for sale from all over the world.

**Visit** two different, interesting and unique orchid nurseries located within a 40 minute drive.

## **GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**

Nursery Gift Certificates valued at \$600 will be awarded at the festival's conclusion. A total of five (5) winners will be drawn from participants who have visited both locations during the festival weekend. Winners will be able to choose from which nursery they wish to have their certificate issued. See festival website or contact participating grower for an application form.

**Look for festival special offers at both locations by visiting the festival website at [WWW.chicagolandorchidfest.com](http://www.chicagolandorchidfest.com)**

### **Orchids by Hausermann**

2N134 Addison Road

Villa Park IL 60181

630-543-6855.

[info@orchidsbyhausermann.com](mailto:info@orchidsbyhausermann.com).

[www.orchidsbyhausermann.com](http://www.orchidsbyhausermann.com).

### **Natt's Orchids**

24645 103rd Street

Naperville IL 60564

630-904-0947

[nattsorchids@nattsorchids.com](mailto:nattsorchids@nattsorchids.com)

[nattsorchids.com](http://nattsorchids.com)



### 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 10th of the month prior to publication as follows:

<i>Submission deadline:</i>	<i>For newsletter edition:</i>
September 10th	Autumn Edition (September, October, November)
December 10th	Winter Edition (December, January, February)
March 10th	Spring Edition (March, April, May)
June 10th	Summer Edition (June, July, August)

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: Autumn Edition  
**Submission Deadline: September 10th.**

