

CIOS News

August & September 2024 | Des Moines, Iowa



Deflasking Party Highlights

Brian Johnson

Club member Keith Lowe obtained several seedling flasks from retired professor and researcher Dr. John Finer who currently resides in Florida. Dr. Finer has taken up orchid hybridizing and flasking and has created about 200 orchid hybrids in the Florida Gulf Coast University lab at Naples Botanical Garden where he is a courtesy faculty member. He also hosts “deflasking parties” where orchid enthusiasts gather to deflask seedling plants and pot them up for growing out in a group setting.

We’ve considered hosting a deflasking party for the club as a special activity. In August Maria Fedorova hosted myself, Keith Lowe, Carson Whitlow, Carol Lewnau, and Jason Rauscher for a party to familiarize themselves with the process so we can introduce it to the club.

After a nice lunch and a tour of Maria’s outdoor growing areas

(thank you Maria!) we took Keith’s 5 flasks, orchid potting media, and 2” seedling pots and formed up a production line. Carson rinsed and teased apart the seedlings, Keith, Carol, Jason and I potted, and Maria documented, tagged, and kept us organized.

We had a great time, and I think this would be a great activity for members. And it would be a way for the club to provide nice plants for sales and for our meeting door prize table - eventually.

For more details on Dr. John Finer check out this article: naples.floridaweekly.com/articles/the-plant-propagator/

And John’s YouTube channel: youtube.com/@plantpropagator



Next Meeting

10/6/2024 - 2pm
Union Park United
Methodist Church
2305 East 12th Street

Details on page 2

In This Issue

Deflasking Party – 1

President’s Message – 2

Family Portrait Competition – 3

Sedirea japonica – 4-5

August Meeting Brief and
Show & Tell– 6-7

Upcoming Events – 8

Membership, Officers – 9

President's Message



It's been a busy summer - and not just for the CIOS!

Like many of you, I've had my share of orchid growing ups and downs. I've battled pests and rough spring weather, but in the end it's been a rewarding season with some great blooms. And as that season winds down, bringing shorter days and cooler temps, we should be seeing signs of new blooms on some of our plants. And while cooler, the temps are still warm enough to maintain active growth so keep up the watering and feeding - the frequency might be lower, but it's still important to stick with good culture practices.

As summer fades into fall, it's a good time to reflect on the season and make plans for bringing plants indoor and prepare for winter growing and maintenance. Check plants over carefully for pests and disease and start treatment now to knock them out before they hitch a ride inside. And don't forget your indoor growing spaces - clean and sanitize surfaces, upgrade lights or change bulbs, adjust timers to mimic shorter day

lengths, and consider thinning out the herd. Don't hang on to struggling or under performing plants - make room for new, better stock, or for growing favorite plants into larger specimens.

And while we're on the subject of making plans, it's also a good time to consider our plans for the club in 2025. We have events to plan and prepare for in the coming months- Reiman Garden's orchidfest, CIOS day at Canoyer Garden Center, Speaker's Day and more - if you have ideas on how to make these events better - don't be afraid to share! Also, we'll be appointing a nomination committee at the October meeting and presenting candidates for officer positions in November for our December election. If you want to participate more directly and guide the future of the club, volunteering for an officer position is a great way to start.

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

Deflasking party testers clockwise from left: Carol Lewnau, Carson Whitlow, Maria Fedorova, Keith Lowe, Jason Rauscher, Brian Johnson and the real stars, 5 tubs full of seedling plants.

In addition to the plants potted up individually in bark, Maria transferred the "runts" into community pots potted in sphagnum moss. It should be interesting to see how they grow over the coming months.

October Meeting!

We'll be appointing a nominating committee for officer elections - for details on elections and officer roles see the CIOS constitution - c-we.com/cios/constituto.htm

Discussion on the EIOS 'Orchids are a Scream' event - we'll need blooming plants for the CIOS display table.

10/6/2024 - 2pm

Union Park United Methodist Church

2305 East 12th Street

“Family Portrait” Competition Update

Brian Johnson

In February we started the “Family Portrait” friendly competition. Ten plants from the same grex (offspring of the same cross) expected to vary in flower color and/or pattern were purchased from Sunset Valley Orchids and distributed among our member volunteers. Jason Rauscher won the “First to Bloom” award of the competition with a lovely flower which you can see in the June newsletter. But now he has competition for the “Prettiest Flower” people’s award.

The second flower for our consideration comes from Elaine Notis. Congratulations Elaine on a great looking flower for our viewing pleasure. If you’re one of the other competitors don’t worry, you still have a chance to win the “Prettiest Flower” award. And please bring your plants in for progress updates or if you have any growing questions. We want every competition participant to have the best chance at a nice bloom to show for the competition.



Sedirea japonica

Maria Fedorova

I am a member of various Facebook orchid groups and from time to time someone feeds a question: "What is your favorite orchid?"; many contributions follow. Personally, I cannot nominate a single orchid in my collection as THE favorite; most definitely, I have several. A couple are not unique, or spectacular bloomers, or challenging in care but they are dear to my heart for a sentimental reason as they are related to a particular person or a life event. For some of them I am proud that I could make them bloom. Let me introduce one of the orchids recently shortlisted as one of my favorites - Sedirea japonica.

Sedirea japonica, known as 'Nagoran' ('Orchid of Nago', a city in Okinawa Prefecture in Japan), is native to sub-tropical regions of southern Japan and Korea. It is almost extinct in its natural habitat, although widely distributed in collections, and is particularly popular in Japan. It is a miniature growing species with Phalaenopsis-like leaves. Flowers have a strong citrus scent. Some interesting tidbits about Sedirea taxonomy: initially it was considered as one of the Aerides species, but later taxonomists decided it deserves a separate genus. But how to name it? Spell out Aerides backwards - and you will get Sedirea!



Since taxonomists seem to be always on a move, most recently it was determined that Sedirea japonica is just one of the Phalaenopsis species. Thus, today's name of the official name of the species is Phalaenopsis japonica, however many commercial growers and hobbyists continue to call it Sedirea japonica.

My little research on web determined that there are three cultivars of Sedirea japonica in collections: the standard one (this is what I have), 'Minmaru' (a miniature version, with round leaves), and 'Seigyokumaru' (even smaller than 'Minmaru').

The care for Sedirea japonica is fairly straightforward and similar to that for most Phalaenopsis species, with one caveat described below. It prefers moderate light and grows well in bark/sphagnum mix (if grown in a pot); Minmaru and Seigyokumaru are often mounted because of their extra-miniature size. A little challenge I experienced myself but also read about on various forums is how to make Sedirea japonica bloom. This orchid blooms in spring and appears to be fairly sensitive to the right regime during the winter rest. It needs a good cool winter rest with reduced watering in order to induce a flower spike. The most important factor appears to be really cool temperatures. It took me a couple of years to figure out such sweet spot at my house, which ended up being next to the glass door of the walkout basement. There, the orchid received some good, albeit short, winter sun, supplemented with the indirect grow light. Unfortunately, I did not measure what were the temperatures next to the glass door but likely not higher than mid-50° on the coldest days. Internet says that in its natural habitat, Sedirea can be exposed to winter temperatures as low as mid-40's.

[Continued page 4](#)

“*Sedirea japonica*” continued

I purchased my plant in April 2020 from Sophie’s Orchids (an online vendor from Minnesota). I recall a handwritten note on the shipping slip: “This is what you ordered”. Perhaps, to remind me that the website listed this plant as a young seedling.

The plant was very small, indeed. As a couple years passed, the orchid seems to reach the flowering size, yet no bloom. By early 2024, I started thinking we were not meant for each other, and I should consider giving it to more experienced hands. This is when I noticed a bump, but it seemed to be in the wrong place. In *Phalaenopsis*, new flower spike emerges several leaves below the top one, and after the youngest leaf is fairly developed. For my *Sedirea* though, the bump appeared simultaneously with the onset of the new leaf, and for a while the plant looked as if it had started the second direction of growth. It took at least a couple of weeks to become sure that it was not some morphological abnormality but - finally! - the flower spike. By end-May, all eleven flowers were fully open, and their lemony scent is quite pleasant.

Sedirea japonica is now on my list of favorites, and for two reasons. Certainly, for a tender beauty of its lemony-colored and fragrant flowers, each having a unique stripe pattern and reminding me of Japanese hieroglyphs. But also because of a certain sense of pride that I was finally able to understand how to make it bloom.

And what is a favorite orchid in YOUR collection? Share with us by submitting an essay about it for our Newsletter.



August Meeting Brief

Ardie Strawman

The August meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order by President Brian Johnson. The abbreviated minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. We have a balance in our checking account of \$7393.83, plus the CD of \$5000. Chriss said we sold \$397 of door prize tickets at Speaker's Day. Other income and expenses will be announced at next month's meeting, but for now, we show a profit. Chriss said he has several new magazines that can be checked out. Maria has the newest edition of Orchid Digest, which also can be checked out.

Brian announced that anyone who would like to share their orchid-growing story could let him know, and it can be on the agenda for a future meeting. Brian also said that the deadline for adding to the next newsletter would be the week after Labor Day. Anyone who has a story or pictures to share are welcome to send that info to him. It was suggested that the Newsletters be archived on our website; Carson said he could do that.

Speaker's Day recap - Brian thanked everyone who helped with Speaker's Day. It is quite the group effort! Brian had made announcements during the day about what was next, etc. This was appreciated. We had some discussion on people who wanted to come in to Speaker's Day just to order and/or pick up plants from the speakers. We decided the EBoard should talk further on this. Comments were made on the extra time that happened between the speakers, and what possibly to do during this down-time. Maybe a workshop on dividing plants or a quiz on plants. Maybe adjusting the schedule, as there is an hour

allowed for each speaker's talk and sometimes they do not speak for the entire hour. The Eboard can talk about this also. Carson Whitlow announced that we have one speaker for sure for 2025 - Eric Sauer from River Valley. Carson has talked with Frank Cervera and will contact him again to be a speaker. Frank speaks on Phrags. Carson announced that he is retiring from securing speakers, but that we have speakers pretty well lined up for 2025, plus Alan Koch and Fred Clarke will be speaking in 2026. Thank you, Carson!!!



We agreed to stay with having Speaker's Day at the Johnston Lion's Club, as there will be a significant price increase for 2025. The space is perfect for what we need, etc. Brian will check with Elaine to confirm that we will have the space for 2025.

Trip to Chicagoland. Sat. Sept. 21. We would be leaving early, drive to Chicago to Hausermann's and Nat's, and return home late. The Club will pay for the vehicle and gas. An email will be sent out for club members to notify Brian by Sept. 7 if they want to go.

We discussed changing the meeting dates in the summer. Previously, we had Speaker's Day on the last Saturday of July, so then we did not have a meeting at the first of August, rather it was at the end of August. Then we had no meeting in September, but waited until Oct. Now that we have changed Speaker's Day to the week earlier, we should have our meeting at the first of August and the September meeting would be the Sunday after Labor Day. A motion was made to change the meeting dates to the first Sunday in August and the second Sunday in September. Motion was seconded, discussed, and passed. We need to check with the church to make sure this is ok with them.

We talked briefly about the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show in October in Cedar Rapids.

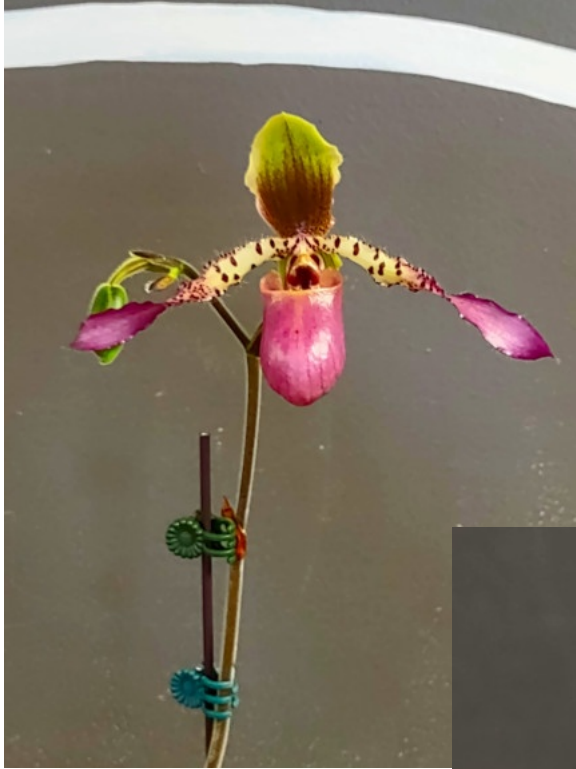
Ted Lare Garden Center had a Plant Sale Event yesterday; perhaps we should look into this for next year. We also talked about having an event at Canoyer's next fall.

Meeting adjourned. But re-opened as Brian needs to make sure Reiman Gardens is having their Orchid Event next February, and then Doc will order plants for it. Meeting re-adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Strawman, Secretary

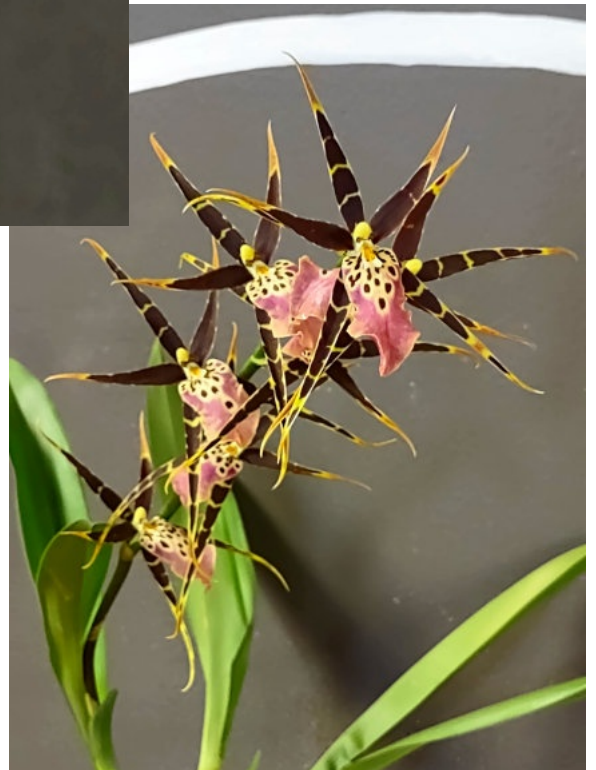
Show and tell plants were brought by Brian, Maria, and Jason.

August Show and Tell Photos



Clockwise from upper left

- Paph. Song of Love
- Cattleya White Reception 'NN'
- Bratonia Shelob
- Zga. Happy Bay 'Oliver's Twist' x Zga. World Charmer 'Spring Rose'
- Pecteilis radiata - Egret orchid



Upcoming Events

Wisconsin Orchid Society Show

"Fall in Love with Orchids"

September 14-15 2024, Milwaukee, WI

wisconsinorchidsociety.com/orchidshow.php

Award-winning exhibits of flowering orchid plants and orchid-related exhibits. After you have enjoyed the exhibits, you will want to go to the sales area and purchase your favorite orchids, pots, books, and potting medium.

Chicagoland Orchid Festival

September 20-22, 2024, (Chicago, IL Area)

chicagolandorchidfest.org

Orchid's by Hausermann - Villa Park, IL

Natt's Orchids - Naperville, IL

Guest Grower Bartrop Plants from Columbus, Ohio

Fascination of Orchids International Festival

September 20-22, 2024, Santa Ana, CA

fascinationoforchids.com/oc.html

Be dazzled by thousands of Orchids and other Exotic Plants. Perhaps, even take home a plant or two from vendors from California, Asia and South America.

8th Annual Huntington International Orchid Show

October 18-20, 2024, San Marino, CA

huntington.org/orchid-show

Lush displays by local and regional orchid societies and international growers, while vendors have a wide range of orchid plants and related merchandise for sale.

Eastern Iowa Orchid Society's "Orchids are a Scream"

October 19-20, 2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

easterniowaorchidsociety.org/our-orchid-show

Come see hundreds of blooming orchids exhibited by orchids societies from around the Midwest and displays of orchid related crafts and collectibles, all centered

around a seasonal Halloween theme. Orchid plants and collectibles will be for sale by regional vendors. Volunteers will answer questions. All plants will be judged by the American Orchid Society Judges.

Central Ohio Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale

October 19 - 20, 2024, Columbus, OH

centralohioorchidsociety.org/events

The Central Ohio Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale is being held October 19 - 20, 2024 at the Polaris Fashion Place, 1500 Polaris Pkwy, Columbus, OH 43240.

Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City's

"Bewitched by Orchids"

October 25-26, 2024, Merriam, KS

osgkc.org

The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City Show is being held October 25 - 26, 2024 at the Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater St, Merriam, KS 66202.

Tamiami International Orchid Festival

January 17-19, 2025, Miami, FL

tamiamiorchidfestival.com

The Tamiami International Orchid Festival is Miami's largest, most diverse orchid show. Over the past twenty years, the Tamiami International Orchid Festival has not only become a great Miami orchid show, but a nationally and internationally recognized orchid event. The January 17-19, 2025 Tamiami International Orchid Festival will be the largest orchid show in the United States.

For more events see

'The Orchid Mall Announcements and Events'

orchidmall.com/announce.htm

Membership

The Central Iowa Orchid Society (CIOS) was organized in 1961. It is a nonprofit social club. Membership in the CIOS also includes membership in the Mid-America Orchid Congress.

Yearly dues are \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a family. **New members joining after July 1st are only required to pay one-half the annual membership fee - \$7 for an individual or \$12 for a family.** Membership can be renewed starting January 1st and dues become delinquent after the February meeting. Members will be dropped from the roll if dues have not been paid in six months.

Meetings are generally held on the first Sunday of every month at the Union Park Methodist Church, East 12th & Guthrie, Des Moines and begin at 2:00 pm.

Among the advantages of membership in CIOS are a large library of orchid literature, programs, displays and discussions on blooming plants, helpful advice, door prizes, and friendly socializing about orchids.

We invite you to attend a meeting and see for yourself the excitement that orchids generate. While there, inquire about membership or send in the below membership application to:

Central Iowa Orchid Society
c/o Chriss Barck, Treasurer
16402 J Ave.
Perry, IA 50220

CIOS Officers

President - Brian Johnson

Vice President - Carson E. Whitlow

Secretary - Ardie Strawman

Treasurer - Chriss Barck

E-Board Member (1st Year) - Carol Lewnau

E-Board Member (2nd Year) - Maria Fedorova

E-Board Member (3rd Year) - Jenny Howell

Immediate Past President - Roy Molina

American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest
Liaison - Maria Fedorova

Librarian - Chriss Barck

Webmaster - Carson Whitlow

General correspondence can be sent to:
Central Iowa Orchid Society
c/o Carson E. Whitlow
22957 280th Street
Adel, IA 50003

General email:
centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Central Iowa Orchid Society Membership Form

Please make checks payable to the Central Iowa Orchid Society. \$15 for single, \$25 for family membership

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Indicate Family or Single: _____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ or:

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: MO ____ YR ____ Security code: _____