

# CIOS News

July 2024 | Des Moines, Iowa



## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Speaker's Day Highlights & Special Thanks

Brian Johnson, Ardie Strawman

Orchid enthusiasts celebrated Speaker's Day 2024 on July 20<sup>th</sup> with 40 registered guests and 13 AOS judges in attendance.

Guests enjoyed presentations from Iván Portilla (Ecuagenera Cía. Ltda., Ecuador) and David Sorokowsky (Paph Paradise, CA) and a day filled with good food, cool plants, and camaraderie.

If you missed this year's event we look forward to seeing you next year. Going forward, Speaker's Day will be held on the second-to-last weekend in July. Our next Speaker's Day dates will be July 19<sup>th</sup> 2025 and July 18<sup>th</sup> 2026.

[Continued page 2](#)



Clockwise from top left:  
David Sorokowsky and Steve Gonzalez  
David Sorokowsky presenting  
Morning guests arriving  
Ivan Portilla and Jason Rauscher



### Next Meeting

8/25/2024 - 2pm  
Union Park United  
Methodist Church  
2305 East 12th Street

[Details on page 2](#)

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## Special Thanks To —

CIOS members for attending Speaker's Day, bringing lots of yummy salads, side dishes, and desserts, for helping to set up and take down the tables and chairs, for donating door prize items, for purchasing door prize tickets, and for purchasing plants from the speakers.

Our speakers, Ivan Portilla and David Sorokowsky, for their informative and interesting talks, and for bringing plants to sell.

Doc Bannister for donating orchid flowers for the table centerpieces, and for giving an orchid plant to each person who attended Speaker's Day. Also for letting some of the Minnesota Orchid Society members come to his greenhouse after Speaker's Day.

Elaine Notis for reserving the Johnston Lion's Club for our event, and for cleanup at the end of the day.

Chriss Barck for working at the Registration table.

Shawn Barck for selling door prize tickets.  
Brian Johnson for being the Master of Ceremonies and for making announcements throughout the day.

Maria Fedorova for transporting the speakers and their plants to and from the event.

Nile Dusdieker and the judges for judging the plants and for explaining why a plant was awarded or not.

Brian Johnson, David Brightwell, and Finn Graziano for handing out the door prizes.

Ardie Strawman and Jenny Howell for being the Kitchen Queens, for bringing the breakfast food, ordering the chicken and ham, getting the tableware and food on and off the tables for breakfast, lunch, and dessert, making the orchid table centerpieces, and cleaning up the kitchen.

Olga Gaydayenko and Carol Lewnau for extra help in the kitchen and with the flowers.

Special thanks to Finn Graziano for donating his time to earn Silver Cord volunteer hours. He worked Friday afternoon and all day Saturday doing countless helpful jobs. Ardie and Jenny really appreciated all of his help! He will be a senior in high school and plans to go to college, so we are not sure if he will be available for next Speaker's Day. (We hope so!) We wish him well in his future endeavors.

It is definitely a group effort to make Speaker's Day a success! We always have many nice comments about the speakers, the food, and how well the day goes. THANK YOU to all!!!

Ardie Strawman, CIOS Secretary



# Duane Anderson Memorial

Brian Johnson



Long time CIOS member Duane Anderson passed away at the age of 97 on June 29. His visitation is next week at Memorial Services of Iowa (4208 N. Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA) on Monday, July 15, 2024, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The CIOS thanks Doc Bannister for providing cut orchid stems and Ardie Strawman for composing a floral arrangement and delivering it to Duane's visitation.

Ardie had a nice chat with Susan, one of Duane's daughters, and told her how we had enjoyed knowing Duane. She was very touched that we would remember her dad, as he had not attended meetings in a while and later sent a thank you note.

Carson and Lorna Whitlow also attended and met both daughters who expressed their appreciation for the arrangement and the club.

Dear Ardie and CIOS members,

Thank you so much for the spectacular white orchids you brought to our dad's visitation. This was such a touching memorial gift as he LOVED orchids!

Taking the time to come and your thoughtfulness is more deeply appreciated than any words can express.

Duane Anderson's family  
Susan, Debi, and Scott



[View Duane's Obituary](#)

# Summering Orchids Outdoors

Brian Johnson

As an indoor orchid grower it can be hard to replicate the growing conditions that many tropical orchids are adapted to. Most of the species we grow are epiphytic or lithophytic in nature growing on tree branches or even exposed rock faces experiencing high air movement, high rainfall, bright light - even direct full sun, day-to-night temperature swings, and even seasonal light and temperature changes that can trigger blooming cycles.

Certainly, supplemental lighting is easier than ever thanks to LEDs, but it can be trickier to provide temperature cycles, high airflow, and seasonal rainfall and light changes if you're an in-home orchid grower like myself.

An obvious solution is to "summer" your plants outdoors, letting them drink in bright light, fresh rain, and warm breezes.



CIOS member Maria Fedorova's array of orchids summering under the shelter of a south-facing, second floor deck. An ideal spot for hanging orchids as it provides sun filtering, great airflow, weather sheltering, and convenient access for watering and care. A purpose built structure like a lath house would provide similar conditions but would cost considerably more. Photo courtesy Maria Fedorova.

['Summering' continued on page 5](#)

## President's Message



Another successful Speaker's Day is behind us, but we're already looking forward to next year.

As always, we have to thank not just our CIOS members for volunteering, and especially our long time member and Vice President Carson Whitlow for securing great speakers every year, but also our guests, AOS judges, and speakers without which this event would not be possible.

There was a lot of positive feedback expressed from this event particularly for the event running very smoothly. Something I think

our members should be proud of.

For me the experience also reinforces the importance of joining an orchid society. There is no online substitute for the face to face interactions that happen with an in-person event. The opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience are essential for becoming the best grower you can be.

Speaking of growing, as we're passing through the peak of summer temps are high and so are pest pressures. Stay vigilant and keep up the watering and feeding. Soon enough we'll be heading into Fall and if we keep up good culture we'll be rewarded with a good crop of blooms with the shorter days and cooler nights ahead.

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

## August Meeting!

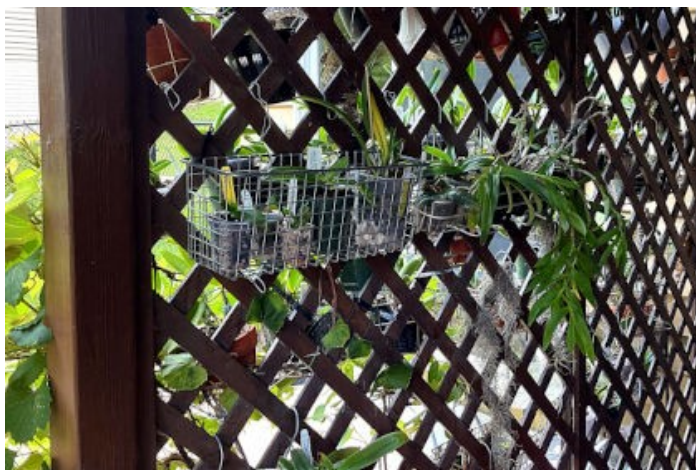
This meeting is at the end of the month since we had Speaker's Day at the end of July. There is no regular meeting in September.

We'll be discussing the possibility of a trip to the Chicagoland Orchid Festival, and plans for the EIOS "Orchids Are a Scream" show in October.

8/25/2024 - 2pm  
Union Park United  
Methodist Church  
2305 East 12th Street

## “Summering Orchids” continued

Summering setups can range from a semi-sheltered porch or deck, a patio with a shade cloth, a screen or lathe house, or a temporary bench set up on the side of a building or shed.



Clockwise from top left:

Orchids hanging from a fence under dappled shade.

Hanging in a tree also works- plants should be mounted close to the trunk.

The back side of Maria’s under-deck trellis provides increased shading on a Southern exposure for lower light plants.

The author’s simple bench-top structure using sawhorses and row cover fabric against a Southern facing garage wall.

## Siting Considerations

Before you start setting your plants outside, first decide what plants you want to summer and what conditions your outdoor space can provide - Cattleya, Oncidium, Dendrobium, multi-floral Paphiopedilums, Vandas, and Cymbidiums are light loving plants that would enjoy a bright space with light shading. I summer my Cattleyas and large Oncidiums on a bench against a south facing wall. I use a double layer of floating row cover to protect the plants from weather and full direct sun.

Phalaenopsis, mottled leaf Paphiopedilums, and Phragmipediums would benefit from additional shading. My lower light plants live on an East facing patio that receives dappled morning light but is shaded from the afternoon on. If I wanted to use my Southern facing space to grow lower light plants I would need to add more light protection like a 50%-70% shade cloth.

High winds, heavy rains, and hail are part of summer life in the Midwest. When siting a location for your orchids look for locations with some shelter - the eave of a building or a protecting wall are good spots. Or find a location where you have provisions for adding cover with shade or row cover fabric, wood slats, or other screening material. Buildings and walls also provide reflected light and thermal mass that will add warmth

‘Summering’ continued on next page

“Summering Orchids” continued

to the adjacent growing area which is useful in the Spring and Fall when nighttime temperatures are cooler.

Before your plants are put into their outdoor homes, it's best practice to provide time for them to acclimatize to outdoor conditions in a more sheltered location. Before I put my bright light plants into their southern exposure home, they spend a week on my east facing patio close to the house under row cover. This is especially important when transitioning plants outdoors from a relatively low-light indoor space.

And with your plants are outside it's also a good opportunity to clean and tidy up your indoor growing space and install upgrades like new lights and timers.

## Watering and Feeding

Once your plants are in their summer homes you'll notice changes to their watering cycles. They'll dry more quickly, especially in late summer heat, so you will need to water more frequently in absence of regular rainfall.

More frequent waterings and rainfall will leach more salts from the media which prevents build-up but it will also strip nutrients from the media which will need to be replaced with more frequent fertilizer applications.

## Is it too late to summer your plants?

No. You still have a couple of months of warm weather to take advantage of. And if you're not ready to set plants outside this year, it's still a good time to plan for next year. The sun is still relatively high in the sky and trees are in full leaf which will give you a good idea of the shelter, shade, and light levels you can expect in different areas of your yard. Light conditions will change dramatically as the sun gets lower in the sky and leaves drop later in the fall.

## Things to watch out for

### Pests

Slugs and snails like to hide under moist pots and then sneak out at night to munch new buds and leaves. Watch for telltale slime trails they leave behind. Ants are another pest you are not likely to encounter in the home. While not necessarily damaging, they can be a nuisance.

There is less risk of exposing people or pets to sprays when your plants are outdoors, so you can use more “aggressive” outdoor products. This can be a good opportunity to treat plants that have been suffering from persistent infestations that haven't responded to

“indoor safe”.products or treatments. Whatever you choose to use, make sure it has label indications for ornamental plants and always follow label directions for application.

### Diseases

Increased airflow will help keep fungal and bacterial infections at bay, but they can crop up - especially in cool and wet conditions. If possible, allow plants more drying time during cool weather or move them to a sheltered spot where they receive light and air movement but are protected from rainfall.

And don't be afraid of using commercial, systemic anti-fungal sprays or drenches. Having your plants outdoors is a good opportunity to apply treatments you might be hesitant to use indoors that could knock out lingering fungal infections.

## End of Season

At the end of the season you'll want to isolate your plants before bringing them back into your collection - inspect them frequently for pests and treat immediately on discovery. Just like you would when bringing new plants in. And giving them a week or two in a dry, sheltered location with lower light levels will help them transition back into your home environment which will be relatively dark and dry.

Many plants from more temperate regions expect a cool dry fall rest like Nobile Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums, and Catasetums. These plants can tolerate and even benefit from cooler fall temps. They can stay outside longer than plants adapted to equatorial conditions that will not appreciate temperatures dipping into the low 50's.

## Resources

AOS - Summer Orchid Care

[Link to Article](#)

St. Augustine Orchid Society - Insecticides and Miticides for the Treatment of Orchid Pests

[Link to PDF](#)

Mississippi University Extension BugWise Newsletter - Insecticides for Use on Ornamental Plants in the Home Landscape

[Link to Article](#)

# July Meeting Brief

Ardie Strawman

The July meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order by President Brian Johnson. The Secretary's report was read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read. As of today, there are 32 people that have paid to attend Speaker's Day, plus some judges have registered. We have a balance in our checking account of \$6178.82, plus the CD of \$5000. The report was approved.

Old business - Brian announced that the Newsletter was emailed to members on June 30. If you did not receive it, contact Carson Whitlow. Brian said the deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter would be July 28. Speaker's Day - will be Saturday, July 20 at the Johnston Lion's Club, with set up on Friday at 4pm. Maria Federova and Carson will work together to get the speakers picked up from the airport, and transported for the weekend. Brian said we will have our door prize table, with plants purchased from the speakers, as well as plants and other orchid-related items donated by members. We will be taking photos of the rooms at the Lion's Club as we enter on Friday, and as we exit on Saturday, so we are not charged for cleaning, as we were last year. We will be taping a ticket on the underside of

1 chair at each table, and the person sitting in that chair will be able to take home the table centerpiece. Workers will be able to get in to the Lion's Club beginning at 7am. At 7:30, people will be let in to register, get their free plant, and their 1 free door prize ticket, and then they may purchase more door prize tickets. Announcements will be made at 8am, welcoming everyone, and announcing the order in which lunch will be served. If anyone has a plant to be judged by our AOS judges, it must be registered by 10am. Ardie Strawman announced that breakfast will be provided by the Club, as well as chicken, ham, potato salad, baked beans, and all the table service items (cups, plates, napkins, silverware). No serving spoons are needed, as we own lots of them. Club members are asked to bring 1 side dish and 1 dessert. We had some discussion on the dates of future Speaker's Days, so as to have as little conflict with other events as possible. We decided on having Speaker's Day on the next to the last weekend of July. So in 2025, it would be July 19, and in 2026, it would be July 18. Also in 2026, we will be having Alan Koch and Fred Clarke as our speakers. Member presentations - Brian asked that any member who would

like to make a brief talk on how they grow their orchids to let him know and it can be scheduled into a future meeting.

New business - Our next meeting will be Aug. 25, as there is no September meeting. The Eastern Iowa Orchid Show will be Oct. 19-20, with set up on Oct. 18. Maria and Olga are planning to set up, but we will need other members to tear down on Sunday. We talked about a possible bus trip to Chicago on Sept. 22, but will talk further at our August meeting. Keith Lowe talked about his friend Dr. John Finer, who has orchids in flasks, and would like to know if we are interested in having a flask to separate and grow. Let Brian know if you are interested.

Shawn Barck gave the library report and said there are new orchid magazines that can be checked out.  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ardie Strawman, Secretary

Show and tell plants were brought by Brian, Carol, Maria, Carson, and Doc

The door prizes were distributed.



# July Show and Tell Photos





# Upcoming Events

## Ohio Valley Orchid Fest 2024

August 24-25, 2024, Kettering, Ohio

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

Orchid Show and Sales

AOS Judging and Ribbon Judging

Demonstrations - Re-potting Help! Bring Your Plants and we can help re-pot!

Speakers, Auctions, Food, Fun Family Activities

## Minnesota State Fair Orchid Show

August 30 – 31 State Fair Horticulture Building

[orchidsocietyofminnesota.org/state-fair-orchid-show/](http://orchidsocietyofminnesota.org/state-fair-orchid-show/)

Stop by or annual Minnesota State Fair Orchid Show!

Blooming orchids will be displayed in various themed displays

## Wisconsin Orchid Society Show

“Fall in Love with Orchids”

September 14-15 2024, Milwaukee, WI

[wisconsinorchidsociety.com/orchidshow.php](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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, 2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

[easterniowaorchidsociety.org/our-orchid-show](http://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.

## Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City's

“Bewitched by Orchids”

October 25-26, 2024, Merriam, KS

[osgkc.org](http://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.

For more events see

‘The Orchid Mall Announcements and Events’

[orchidmall.com/announce.htm](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_