

CIOS News

October 2024 | Des Moines, Iowa



EIOS 'Orchids are a Scream' Show Highlights

Brian Johnson



The CIOS display at the 2024 'Orchids are a Scream' event. We won a number of ribbons in several categories. Maria will have a full run down at the November meeting.

The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society hosted their 11th annual 'Orchids are a Scream' show and sales event October 19th and 20th in Cedar Rapids. Featuring orchid displays from regional societies, orchid vendors, orchid themed crafts and art, this is always a great event for collectors and enthusiasts.

A special thanks goes out to Maria and Olga for transporting everything to the show and setting up the CIOS display, everyone who provided plants for the tables, Jason for helping with take down, and of course the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society for hosting us. I hope everyone had a chance to

attend or plans to next year. It's an excellent show and worth the trip.

['Orchids are a Scream' continued next page](#)



Not every plant needs to be an enormous 'monster' to be recognized. This miniature specimen could fit in the palm of your hand.

Next Meeting

11/3/2024 - 2pm
Union Park United
Methodist Church
2305 East 12th Street

Details on page 5

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Three photos showing three “spooky” themes. Left to right, A Día de los Muertos themed display from Esteban Gonzalez and Jim Vlasic featuring colorful calaveras, the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society display in a folk art style with watchful scarecrows, and the Orchid Growers Guild of Madison featuring a whimsical “Little Shop of Horrors” theme including monstrous carnivorous plant sculptures and real carnivorous pitcher plants and fly traps. Phragmipedium orchids of all shapes and sizes were special standouts to me.

President's Message



On the road with a car load of plants after the EIOS show. One of the limitations of having a large show display is logistics- transporting plants and display materials to and from events. For this show we were able to tuck everything into a single vehicle. If you'd like to see a bigger CIOS display, then consider volunteering to help in any way you can.

For me, the EIOS show was very inspiring as an orchid grower. Seeing so many fantastic plants on show wants to me to become a better grower. I hope those of you who had a chance to see the show feel the same.

But you might be asking yourself “what can I do to be the orchid grower I want to be?” The answer is to take advantage of the resources you're provided as a member of the CIOS. We have magazines available from the AOS and Orchid Digest, a library of books, and members with years of growing experience. Do not be afraid to strike up a conversation or inquire on reference materials. Also, as a member of the AOS the CIOS has access to orchid programs and lectures.

I was also inspired by the displays on show from regional orchid societies, vendors, and artists. It's

been exciting having the club doing shows again and having the opportunity to see those wonderful displays - it gets the creative juices flowing.

If you've also been creatively inspired then please consider volunteering to help with club displays. Especially transportation, set-up, and take down (the more hands and vehicles available, the bigger our displays can be), but also with design and decoration, and supplying blooming plants for the tables. It's only with your help that we can keep making the club and our events better and better!

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

Viruses in Orchids

Maria Fedorova

Over 30 viruses are known today to infect orchids. Some of them have a very narrow host range attacking just one or a couple of orchid species, but for others the range can be very broad. The three most known viruses are Cymbidium Mosaic Virus (CymMV), Odontoglossum Ring Spot Virus (ORSV), and Orchid Fleck Virus (OFV). CymMV and ORSV are considered most common and have a wide host range, infecting many orchid genera that we have in our collections - phalaenopsis, cattleyas, dendrobiums, etc. Mixed infections, especially CymMV +ORSV, are also quite common.

How to spot that your plant may be infected by virus? Visual symptoms on leaves are tissue lesions, and they can be of two general types: necrotic (segments of dead tissue) or chlorotic (pale green/yellow coloration). There is quite a variety of necrotic or chlorotic patterns, including spots (some may be difficult to distinguish from fungal infection), rings, stripes, or blotches. The same virus can produce different types of lesions in different orchids species; for example, ORSV does not

always express itself by a ring pattern as the name would suggest. You can find a lot of useful photos of various virus-induced leaf lesions on the internet; I particularly like the [St. Augustine Orchid Society](#) website. A few photos from my personal collection in this article will give you an idea how virus symptoms on leaves may look like.

Sometimes, there are no apparent marks on the leaves (yet), but the plant just looks unhappy - does not eagerly produce new pseudobulbs or roots, or leaves are pale green and remain unresponsive to fertilizing. Virus can become a suspect, and several times in my practice that turned out to be true, as the virus test was positive. Sometimes we do not want to admit to ourselves that the plant is infected, but the flower will help reveal the secret with utmost certainty. Uneven coloring, color blotching, color leach are the signs that the plant is almost certainly infected.

'Viruses' continued on next page

Some photos from the author's collection will give you an idea what it looks like.



Plant tested positive for ORSV and CymMV



Plant tested positive for CymMV

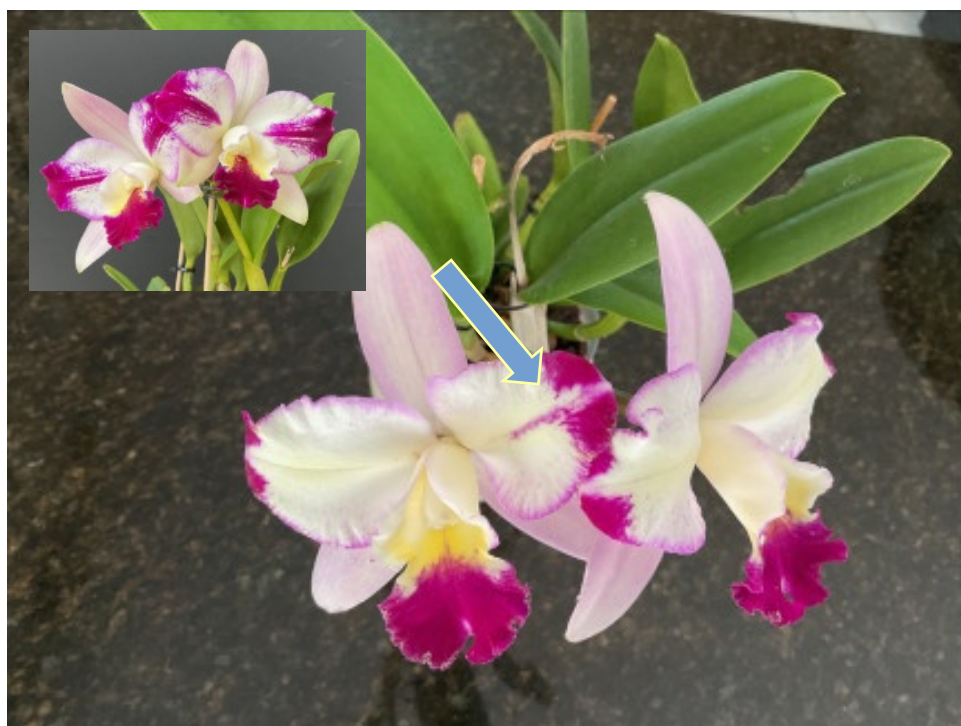
How do viruses get transmitted from one orchid to another? This can happen mechanically through horticultural operations (watering, feeding, trimming) when virus penetrates through small lesions or, potentially, they can be also absorbed by roots. Some insects (e.g., mites, aphids) can serve as vectors for transmitting certain viruses as well, so keeping your collection insect-free has an additional bonus.

Several other key recommendations to help prevent virus spread in your collection:

- Avoid recirculated water or 'common bath' (when several orchids are placed in the same water-filled tub).
- Sterilize trimmers (in flame or disinfectant) before using on the next plant.
- Reusing orchid media is not a good idea, throw it away!
- Pots: I grow most of my orchids in clear plastic pots, and if the plant is confirmed for virus, both the orchid and the pot with all media are mercilessly discarded. Sometimes it can be a more difficult decision to also throw away decorative planters where you place plastic pots because those are more expensive. If I choose to keep the planter, I sterilize it in bleach for at least a couple of hours, often overnight. It is recommended to use at least 10% disinfecting chlorine bleach (not other types).
- I also avoid reusing plant stakes. Those are also very affordable and not worth risking your far more expensive plants. For smaller plants, you can get a package of wood sticks (come in difference sizes) at Asian grocery stores or on Amazon. For taller plants, Home Depot, Lowe's, nearby plant nurseries or Amazon are your friends.



Sc. Crystelle Smith 'N.R.' Tested positive for OSRV. Note symptoms on leaf and flower. Flower shown in the insert (top left) – this is how it **should** look like.



Rlc. Koa's Delight 'Sparky' tested positive for CymMV. Leaves are asymptomatic but very clear asymmetrical color leach on the petal (blue arrow). Insert in the top left corner shows the previous bloom when virus symptoms were still invisible.

'Viruses' continued

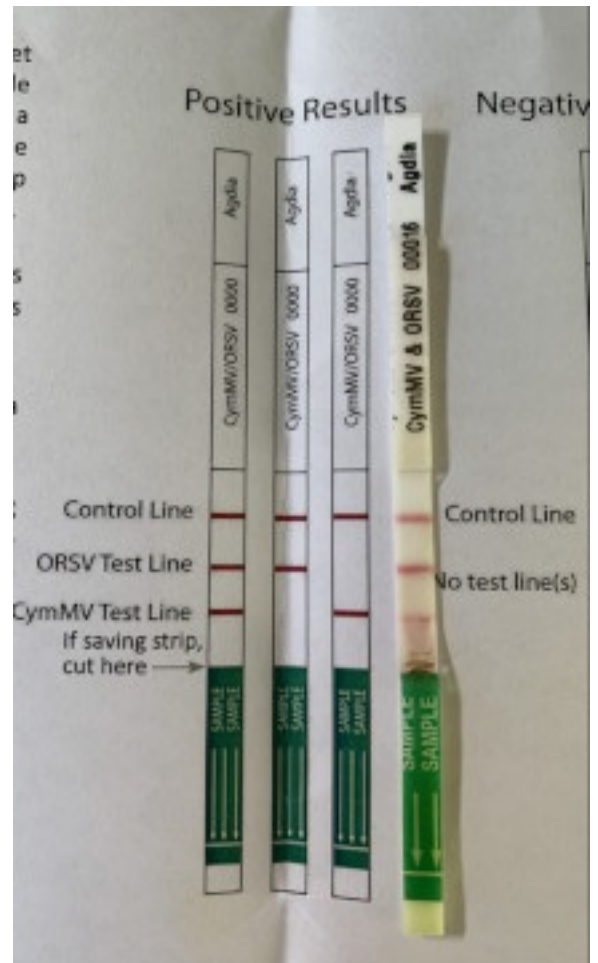
- Last but not least, when you want to procure a new orchid and have an opportunity to see it first, always pay attention if it has symptoms that may indicate virus infection, and if in doubt, ask yourself: do I absolutely need it, is it worth risking my collection?

I am also aware that several large commercial nurseries issued a refund if the buyer confirmed virus presence through the test. Not sure if the same would 100% work if you purchased your plant on eBay or Etsy, although there are many reputable orchid growers out there.

Orchid virus testing has been already mentioned a couple of times. It is the ultimate way to tell if the plant has a virus. The commercially available test is a 'strip test' which detects virus-produced protein by antibodies. The most popular commercial test in the U.S. is sold by Agdia, an Indiana-based company. The test is very simple to use, and it comes in two options: \$70 for 5 tests or \$170 for 25 tests. If you need to test just a few plants, the cost-saving idea is to team-up with several other CIOS members and purchase a larger kit to split. The caveat is that Agdia test detects only two viruses: ORSV and CymMV, although they are the most common in our collections, and I am not aware of commercially available tests for other viruses on the U.S. market today.

If your orchid is infected by virus, my strong recommendation is to get rid of the plant as soon. This is what American Orchid Society says: "At the present time, there are no proven methods for removing virus from adult plants...Infected plants should, at a minimum, be completely isolated from other plants, or, better yet, destroyed". Throwing away the orchid can be a tough decision, but you have to recognize that there is no 'fix', while you want to keep the rest of your plants happy and healthy. And after all, isn't a dynamicity of our orchid collections and opportunity to fit-in new plants are some of the appealing elements of our hobby? 😊

If you are an AOS member and want to learn more about the topic, I recommend to listen to a recorded webinar by John Hammond "Viruses in Orchids, Symptoms, Spread and Sanitation", aired on April 17, 2024, which you can find on AOS website.



Example of the Agdia test where the analyzed plant was tested positive for both ORSV and CymMV

November Meeting!

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

Highlights from the EIOS 'Orchids are a Scream' event.

11/3/2024 - 2pm

Union Park United Methodist Church

2305 East 12th Street

October Meeting Brief

Ardie Strawman

The October 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 \$3125.69, plus the CD of \$5000. We have paid the deposit for the Lion's Club for 2025 Speaker's Day. Their rental rate has increased; for 2025, we are paying a gradual increase of \$425. 2026 will probably be higher. Chriss said there are lots of new magazines to check out.

Brian said the newest newsletter was emailed out. If you did not receive it, let him know. He said members are invited to submit articles for the newsletter. The deadline for the next newsletter will be right after the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show, coming up Oct. 18-20.

New business - the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show will be Oct. 18-20 at the Elks Hall, 801 33rd Ave. SW Cedar Rapids. Maria and Olga are planning to go on Friday to set up our display. We need members to take down the display and bring the plants back to DM on Sunday. Maria asked that anyone who is sending plants to let her know the names of the plants so she can make up ID tags for them. Members are encouraged to send plants for the display and for judging. Maria will arrange pick up.

Reiman Gardens Orchid Fest will be Feb. 7,8,9 2025. We talked about getting compact cattis from Fred Clarke, assorted budded varieties in 3 inch pots. We need to decide on how many we want. We are assuming that we will get 36 plants from Kalapana through Brightwell's. We need to check with them. Plus lots of Phals from Doc Bannister.

Canoyer Garden Center would like us to have an event there next spring, 2025.

Also we should check into being part of Ted Lare Garden Center summer plant event 2025.

Brian has a flyer about a Zoom event on Oct. 20 about Tolumnias. Check with him for more info.

According to our Constitution, October is the month for forming a Nominating Committee for officers for next year. We have an opening for an Eboard position, plus Vice President. Also we should be splitting up positions in which some of our members are doing double duty. Maria will work on this.

Chriss said he needs to buy stamps and envelopes. He can do this and then report on the costs.

Maria said that Doc Bannister gave her a box of ribbons that he has won over the years. Is there something that we could do to use these as a promotional project?

Jason has the "First Bloom" of our group cattleyas! Other members should bring in their plants to the next meeting to show how they are doing.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Strawman, Secretary

Carson Whitlow gave a program on the growing of Calopogon Adventure

Show and tell plants by Maria.

Lots of door prize plants given by Doc Bannister and others. Thank you!



Calopogon tuberosus Fall Care Program



Carson demonstrating corm de-potting and cleaning.

Calopogon tuberosus commonly known as the grass pink orchid, is native to eastern North America including Iowa. It has a bulb-like corm that resembles a tuber, hence the name "tuberosus."

Carson demonstrated fall care for Calopogon orchids grown in

container culture. When the foliage starts to die back in the fall, you dig up and clean the corms, removing old roots and stems. Then store the clean corms in a plastic bag with a small amount of damp peat based media in the fridge (crisper). In the spring plant the corms in full sun in an acidic, potting mix like sphagnum peat.

Calopogon corms have two eyes - a primary and a secondary. The secondary eye will produce growth if primary is damaged. Carson revealed that it's possible to take advantage of that growth habit to increase your plants. Cut the corms in half, glue the halves together with super glue, and both halves will form new growths as if they are both primary eyes.

Squirrels will happily dig and eat the corms, so use a wire

cage/cover over the pot to keep critters out.



Corm removed from the pot before removing old roots and stems.

October Show and Tell Photos



Upcoming Events

Ann Arbor Orchid Society

"Ann Arbor Orchid Festival"

November 16-17, 2024, Mathaei Botanical Gardens,
Ann Arbor, MI

annarbororchidsociety.org/2023-ann-arbor-orchid-festival/

Free admission!

Orchid raffles!

Orchids on display!

Orchids for sale!

Family friendly

Classes offered for the basics of growing orchids and how to repot / mount your orchid.

Tamiami international Orchid Festival

January 17-19, 2025, Miami, FL

tamiamiorchidfestival.com

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.

The World Slipper Orchid Conference #3

January 17-19, 2025, Grand Nanihoa Hotel Hilo, HI

orchiddigest.org/events

Includes Lectures, Friday night dinner, Saturday lunch, and Saturday night dinner.

Scheduled Speakers:

Chu Xuan Canh (Vietnam), Frank Cervera (USA), Elizabeth Chen (Taiwan), Tim Culbertson (USA), Olaf Gruss (Germany), Marc Hachadourian (USA), Harold Koopowitz (USA), Alessandro Valenza (Italy)

Orchid Society of Minnesota

"Winter Carnival 50th Anniversary Orchid Show"

January 25-26, 2025, St. Paul, MN

orchidsocietyofminnesota.org/winter-carnival-orchid-show/

Get ready for an amazing experience as the St. Paul Winter Carnival Orchid Show returns for its 50th year celebration! This dazzling event has evolved into the ultimate winter extravaganza for orchid enthusiasts across the Midwest, drawing in a staggering crowd of nearly 5,000 lovers of these exquisite blooms.

Immerse yourself in the Orchid Society of Minnesota's spectacular vision, meticulously curated by the Show Committee. Prepare to be whisked away from Minnesota's icy embrace to the lush embrace of tropical wonderlands, right within the heart of the conservatory.

We extend a warm invitation for you to bask in the awe-inspiring splendor of our showcased orchids. Delve into the wealth of orchid wisdom offered by our passionate members and seize the opportunity to acquire top-notch orchids from our exceptional vendors.

Collaboratively, the Show Committee and the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory staff have worked together to make the 50th Anniversary something special.

Madison Orchid Growers Guild

"Orchid Quest"

February 1-2, 2025, Madison, WI

orchidgrowersguild.org/orchidquest

Orchid Growers Guild's "Orchid Quest" is being held February 1 - 2, 2025 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, 1 John Nolen Dr, Madison, WI 53703. .

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: _____