

CIOS News

December 2025 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: Potinara Mark's Valentine grown by CIOS member Rose Frisch. This is an interesting color form of the hybrid – Pot. Little Toshie 'Gold Country' AM/AOS x Slc. Circle of Life 'Fordyce Herald Angel' AM/AOS. Most photos of this cross show various shades of red, pink and dark orange flowers. This peachy yellow/orange seems unique for this hybrid.

Next Meeting

January Meeting

1/4/2025 – 2pm

Union Park United
Methodist Church
2305 East 12th Street

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President's Message

Brian Johnson



With the new year comes new opportunities for change and growth both for the club and for our collections. We're welcoming two new officers for 2026, Patty Graziano is taking on treasurer duties and Joe Ku joins us as a first year e-board member. We're excited to help them into their new roles and to hear what new ideas they might have for the future of the club

We'll also be splitting our meetings between the United Methodist Church and the the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. See page 3 for details. I'm excited for the chances we'll have to make new connections and gain new members.

The Reiman Garden Orchid Fest is coming in February which is a big event for us, both in terms of fundraising for the year and for fulfilling our obligations for education and outreach. It's also a great opportunity for members to add to their collections.

We're also making plans for a show and sale at the Botanical Garden. It will likely be smaller in scale to the the Reiman Garden show, but it will be open to member sales - yes, members can sell plants at select CIOS events.

Carol Lewnau, our third year e-board member, reminded me in an email she sent describing her experience with the Mid-Iowa Cactus and Succulent

Society Show. *"I also belong to the Mid-Iowa Cactus and Succulent Society which meets at the GDMBG and puts on a show and sale in the fall. Members bring in interesting plants to show and the group allows members to sell their extra cactus and succulent plants in addition to bringing in 2 vendors who also sell plants."*

The cactus group requires that the plants be pest free, and be priced with the initials of the seller included on that tag. The club kept 15 or 20% of the sales and the rest went to the cactus club member.

The Minnesota Orchid Society allows their members to sell plants a few times a year in a very similar way. We are a small club, so I wanted to make the pitch for this approach early so that people could be thinking about plants in their collection that might be ready to find new homes - encouraging members to take pictures of blooming plants or try to match older pictures with the plants that might be offered for sale."

The CIOS also has similar policies for member sales at events- the full policy doc is on page 9. But in short, we require plants to be in good condition (healthy and free of pests). Plants in poor condition can be removed from the sales tables at the discretion of officers and e-board members present at the event. All items must be tagged with seller ID, price, and item description. All items sold shall be subject to local sales tax and a 10% surcharge on the total price. The Society will collect all revenue from the sale of plants and other related items and will provide to the sellers a check for the total amount of their sales, minus the 10% surcharge and the included local sales tax.

I think a sale/show at the Botanical Garden would be a good opportunity for members to make some room in their collections and make a little extra money for new plants, supplies, and growing space upgrades!

This is especially the case with this year's Speaker's Day. We're bringing in Fred Clarke and Alan Koch. They are great speakers, but they always have a good and varied selection of plants for sale.

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

Upcoming CIOS Spring Events

Brian Johnson

Reiman Gardens Orchid Fest

The Reiman Garden;s Orchid Fest will be held February 6th-8th 2026. It will start with a member preview night on Friday and sales will open to the public Saturday and Sunday. Friday is generally very busy for sales so we'll need good staffing for setup, running checkout lines for cash and credit, and packing plants.

The CIOS as usual will host sales tables and and information booth. We'll need members to work both. Please consider volunteering for a shift if you can, it's a rewarding experience and greatly helps make our events successful.

Sales table volunteers can be expected to answer some basic care questions, help pack and wrap plants for cold weather, and work cash and card sales.

Information booth volunteers can be expected to answer orchid care questions, and hand out culture sheets and club information.

We'll have sign up sheets at the January meeting with work shifts. Generally work shifts are about two hours long.

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden Show/Sale

We're holding some of our 2026 meetings at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden this year. We decided to hold our "warm weather" meetings there, so the April, May, July, August, September, and October meetings will be at the Botanical Garden. The June potluck will be at the church.

We also worked with the Botanical Garden staff to get access to the larger Juniper and Agave room spaces for out meetings as we had concerns with the smaller Plant Sciences Lab room typically used as the meeting space for societies. In exchange for access to the larger spaces we agreed to hold spring show and sale event. This event would be similar to our 2024 event at the Canoyer Garden Center.

For this event we will allow members to bring orchids and orchid related items for sale - plants, media, pots, books, etc... The CIOS would withhold 10% + applicable sales tax from the members' total sales and issue checks to members for the remaining amount.

For the full member sales policy see page 9.

We'll also have an orchid display, education display, and an information booth with orchid and club info.

Advanced Orchids Class

The CIOS will be hosting an Advance Orchids Class at the Botanical Garden February 26th, 2026, from 5:30-7 pm. We are responsible for developing programming and facilitating the class. We'll need a couple of volunteers to assist with this event. If interested please email me.

January Meeting

This meeting is our first meeting of 2026, and will be held at the United Methodist Church at the usual time of 2pm.

We'll be discussing the upcoming Reiman Garden Orchid Fest, meetings and a show/sale at the Botanical Garden, winners of the 2025 First to Bloom competitions, and more!

We'll have plants for the raffle table and as always if you have anything interesting to share, bring it in for show and tell.

1/4/2025 – 2pm
Union Park United
Methodist Church
2305 East 12th Street

December Meeting Brief

Ardie Strawman

The December meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order by President Brian Johnson. An abbreviated version of the last month's minutes was read and approved. The complete transcript of last month's minutes is available to read in the last Newsletter. The Treasurer's report was given and approved. We have a balance in our checking account of \$3096.37 plus the CD of \$5000. Chriss asked that members pay their 2026 dues as soon as possible. We made a donation to Illinois College, Orchid Recovery Program as a thank you to Larry Zettler for his program on Ghost Orchids. Today is Chriss's last day as Treasurer and we thank him for his many years of serving our Society!!!

President's report - Brian said the November Newsletter was sent out. Please send him photos or stories of your orchid-growing for future newsletters Brian thanked all those who were involved with the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show. We won a third place ribbon for our display.

Brian thanked Patty, Ardie, Maria, and Olga for helping with the Botanical Garden's Champagne and Chocolates event. (Brian was there helping also!) We had an orchid display and talked about our orchids. Earlier this fall, the Garden's orchids were tested for viruses. About 70% were found to have a virus and were discarded. Many new plants were there for "Adoption" and all were spoken for by the end of the

evening.

Meetings in 2026 - The Botanical Garden would like to have us use their Plant Sciences Room for our monthly meetings; however we are not sure there is enough space for us. They offered us the Agave and/or Juniper Rooms, as long as we have a Show/Sale sometime during the year. After much discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to have the January, February, March, June, November, and December meetings at the church, and the April, May, July, August, September, and October meetings at the Botanical Garden. Plus a Show/Sale in April at the BG. This will take some good communication as to where the meetings will be held.

Election of 2026 officers - The nominees are: President - Brian Johnson, Vice-President - Maria Fedorova, Secretary - Ardie Strawman, Treasurer - Patty Graziano, Librarian - Chriss Barck, 1st year Eboard - Joe Ku, 2nd year Eboard - Jason Rauscher, 3rd year Eboard - Carol Lewnau, Webmaster - Carson Whitlow, and AOS/Orchid Digest Liaison - Maria Fedorova The nominees were elected by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned and we enjoyed a tasty potluck lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Strawman, Secretary



December Meeting Photos

Brian Johnson



December Meeting Photos

Brian Johnson



Upcoming Events

Miami Orchid Society's "Tamiami International Orchid Festival"

[January 16 - 18, 2026, Miami, FL](#)

Tamiami International

Ninety national and international orchid growers and allied product vendors come together under one roof to offer an amazing assortment of exotic orchids and orchid-related products.

Local orchid societies and vendors create beautiful exhibits full of exotic and rare orchids in artistic arrangements.

Friday 12pm - 6pm
Saturday, Sunday 10am - 6pm
Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo Center
10901 SW 24 St, Miami, FL 33165

Grand Valley Orchid Society Show

[January 24 - 25, 2026, Grand Rapids, MI](#)

Grand Valley Orchid Society

The Grand Valley Orchid Society Show is being held
January 24 - 25, 2026

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
1000 East Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Orchid Society of Minnesota's "Winter Carnival Orchid Show"

[January 24-25, 2026, St. Paul, MN](#)

Orchid Society of Minnesota

The Orchid Society of Minnesota's "Winter Carnival Orchid Show" is being held January 24 - 25, 2026

Marjorie McNeely Conservatory
1225 Estabrook Drive, St. Paul, MN 55103.

Reiman Gardens Orchid Fest

[February 6 - 8, 2026, Fort Wayne, IN](#)

Reiman Gardens

The Reiman Gardens Orchid Fest is being held
February 6 - 8, 2026

Reiman Gardens
1407 University Blvd. Ames, IA 50011

Orchid Growers Guild's "Orchid Quest"

[February 7 - 8, 2026, Madison, WI](#)

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison

ORCHID QUEST has something for everyone! It is the Upper Midwest's largest orchid show and sale, featuring thousands of exotic orchids on display and for sale to the public. The event showcases individual plants and group exhibits designed by orchid clubs from Wisconsin and neighboring states that are judged at the national level by the American Orchid Society.

Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday 10 am - 3 pm

ADULTS \$10 | STUDENTS \$7 | CHILDREN <5 FREE

Tickets for sale at the door

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center
1 John Nolen Dr, Madison, WI 53703.

Three Rivers Orchid Society Show

[February 7 - 8, 2026, Fort Wayne, IN](#)

Three Rivers Orchid Society

The Three Rivers Orchid Society Show is being held
February 7 - 8, 2026

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory
1100 S Calhoun St, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

For more events see

'The Orchid Mall Announcements and Events'

orchidmall.com/announce.htm

Membership

The Central Iowa Orchid Society (CIOS) was organized in 1960. 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 in November and dues become delinquent after the February meeting.

Meetings are generally held on the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 pm. This year locations will alternate between The Union Park United Methodist Church and The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. See our website, centraliowaorchidsociety.org for the schedule.

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 Patty Graziano, Treasurer
540 SE Prairie Park Ln.
Waukee, IA 50263

CIOS Officers for 2026

President - Brian Johnson

Vice President - Maria Fedorova

Secretary - Ardie Strawman

Treasurer - Patty Graziano

E-Board (1st Year) - Joe Ku

E-Board (2nd Year) - Jason Rauscher

E-Board (3rd Year) - Carol Lewnau

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 **After July 1st - \$7 for an individual or \$12 for a family.**

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Indicate Family or Single: _____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Society Sales Events Policy

1. Only plants owned by the Society members or owned by the Society may be sold at Society sales events.
2. Non-orchid plants may be offered for sale under the same conditions as for orchids, however may not constitute more than 5% of the total orchid plants displayed.
3. Labeling of non-orchid items, such as fertilizers, if not in original containers, should include directions for use and information on the contents sufficient to identify it in case of ingestion or exposure.
4. A 3" x 5" tag shall be attached to each item. The seller number (membership number) shall be in the upper left hand corner of the card and the price for the item shall be in the upper right hand corner. A description on the item (such as fertilizer, bark, plant, inventory number, etc.) may be added in the center or backside of the tag. This tag is used by the Society for the proper allocation of sales.
5. The seller is responsible for attaching the tag to the sales item. The tag shall be attached with a rubber band, plant clip, or twist tie. (Ideally, a hole punched in the tag and the rubber band or tie put through it allows for easy attachment and removal of the tag when sold.) The tag may be folded in half if applicable. Tape, staples or other attachments which are difficult to remove should not be used.
6. If the seller decides to reduce an items price, the tag must be replaced with a new one. A tag may not show any previous price or indication of a reduced price. Reducing the price of an item is at the discretion of the seller.
7. Plants or items deemed in poor condition or inappropriate for sale at the Society sales event should be removed from the sales table by the seller. If not removed from the sales table, at least two officers and/or members of the e-board must be in agreement, and plant(s) should be removed prior to placing on the sales table. If there is disagreement among the officers and/or e-board members on the removal of the item, a vote of the officers and/or e-board members present should be taken and the majority be the deciding factor.
8. All items sold shall be subject to local sales tax and a 10% surcharge on the total price. Seller pricing of their merchandise should be cognizant of these costs.
9. The Society will collect all revenue from the sale of plants and other related items. The Society will provide to the sellers a check for the total amount of their sales, minus the 10% surcharge and the included local sales tax. The tags which were placed on their items and used to figure their revenue shall also be returned to the seller. The Society will submit the total sales tax collected to the Iowa Department of Revenue.
10. If the Society decides to approve the acceptance of credit cards at any of the sales events, credit card fees shall be divided proportionally among the sellers.
11. Plants and items for sale will be placed as deemed appropriate by those officers and/or e-board members present at the sales event. Groupings of plants and any identifying, cultural or other pertinent information should take into consideration the space needed and any surrounding items. Pictures, displays and other informational material should be as small as practical and should be reviewed by the officers and/or e-board members present for suitability.
12. The Society will provide cultural information for the major orchid types such as those found on the American Orchid Society website. Sellers offering other genera are encouraged to provide cultural information.
13. The Society shall not be responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.
14. The Society shall provide these guidelines to its members prior to any Society sales event by including them in the newsletter immediately prior to the event.

E-board Approved 11/1/2009-1/10/2010