

# CIOS News

November 2025 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: A spectacular Christmas "tree" composed of blooming orchids, bromeliads and other tropical plants on display at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. It's part of the holiday decorations in the conservatory. You can see the displays as part of a normal daily visit, or via their "Dome for the Holidays" evening events going on now through January 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Next Meeting

December Holiday Party!

12/07/2025 – 1pm  
Union Park United Methodist Church  
2305 East 12th Street

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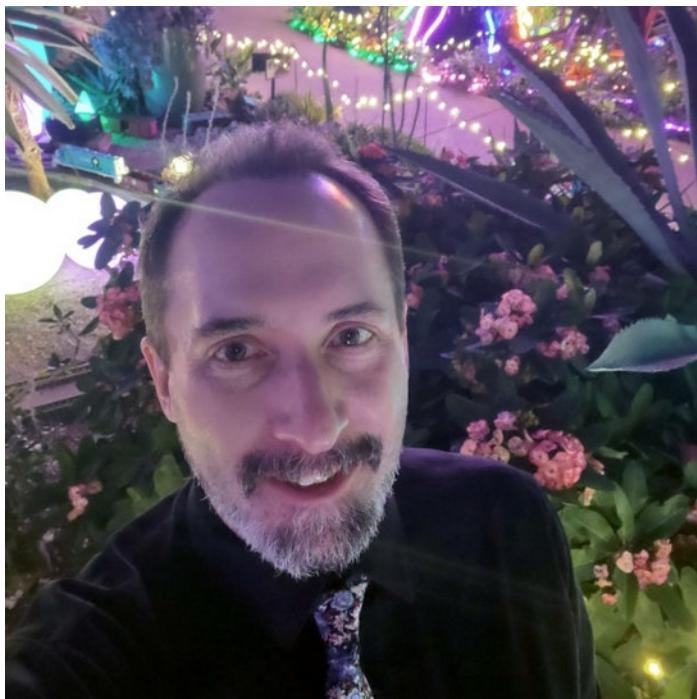
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# President's Message

Brian Johnson



It's been another busy, but rewarding month for the CIOS. We made a good showing for the EIOS event with a well-arranged display filled with lovely flowers and an impressive stained glass art piece by Shawn Barck. And speaking of art, keep in mind that the MAOC show schedule has classes for artistic and educational displays if you're feeling creative.

We also had some great interactions with guests at the Botanical Garden Champagne and Chocolates fundraiser. A big thank you goes out to Ardie, Maria, Olga, and Patty for helping with setup and working the information tables. Patty was definitely our VIP of the evening - she did a great job directing guests to the donation tables.

So during this season of giving thanks I'd like to give a big thank you to all the CIOS members who've contributed and volunteered to make these events possible. I'm also thankful we have a great group of enthusiastic orchid growers that keep the club fun and engaging.

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

## December Meeting

This meeting is also our annual Holiday Party. Note that it starts an hour earlier than usual at 1pm.

The club will provide ham, members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Also be sure to bring a beverage of your choice and place setting.

We'll hold our business meeting and officer elections before breaking for lunch. As usual, I'll try to keep the business meeting short.

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.

12/7/2025 - 1pm  
Union Park United  
Methodist Church  
2305 East 12th Street

# EIOS Orchids are a Scream 2025

Brian Johnson

The CIOS participated in the EIOS “Orchids are a Scream” show and sale event November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. A huge thanks goes out to Brad Trinkle and Joe Ku for arranging this year’s display, and to everyone who provided plants for the display. As always there were some amazing plants on view, and some really excellent displays. If you haven’t made the trip before I highly recommend planning a visit for 2026.

Unfortunately, while Joe and I were taking down we didn’t take a ribbon tally, and I forgot to grab a count during my walk-through of the event – apologies for the oversight!

Hopefully the photos make up for it. They are presented in no particular order, and are grouped (very) roughly by display/society.

Enjoy!

EIOS continued next page















# Champagne and Chocolates

Brian Johnson

The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden held their annual fundraiser on November 14<sup>th</sup>. This year's event included an opportunity for attendees to donate directly to the rebuilding of the Garden's orchid collection.

Earlier this year the horticulture staff tested the collection for virus and found a large portion of the plants to be infected. They committed to build a healthy collection and provide for ongoing maintenance and testing to keep the collection healthy.

Maria Fedorova, who has been volunteering with the Garden, assisted their effort by working with the horticulture team to create a list of plants for the collection and acquiring a number of plants at the recent Redland International Orchid Festival and from other sources.

CIOS members also put together an orchid display for the event and set up an information booth where we chatted with guests about orchid care and culture.

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Above: Guests were greeted by a display of blooming orchids provided by club members.

Right, top: The centerpiece of the display was a large Cattleya paired with champagne flutes and chocolates. Right: The information booth also featured blooming orchids including a large Dendrobium.





Above: A selection of close ups from our display.

Below left, center: We helped the Botanical Garden staff assemble a display showcasing plant for their collection. Guests could make a donations to the Garden to purchase virus testing kits and to reimburse the CIOS for acquired plants. In all the Garden collected \$835 in donations for the orchid collection.

Below, right: The conservatory dome is filled with lights and decorations for evening events taking place over the next several weeks.



# November Meeting Brief

Jenny Howell

The November meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order at 2:15pm by President Brian Johnson.

The October minutes were read. A correction was made: "a \$200 deposit" should read "a \$225 deposit" for the Lion's Club rental. A motion and second to approve the correction was passed.

The Treasurer's report was read. We have \$2796.51 in checking and \$5009.32 in a CD earning 2.1% until December 26. Chriss will shop around for better rates before then. Expenses for the month included a deposit on the Lion's Club for Speaker's Day next year, memorial flowers for former club member, Zoom meeting fee for the October meeting, and MAOC dues.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Brian asked if you didn't get the newsletter or if you would like to contribute to the newsletter to let him know.

Elections will be held at the December meeting. Nominations can still be taken from the floor, in addition to those currently on the ballot.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES** - If you would like to contribute a plant to the club display, contact Maria. Bring your plant to the Urbandale Public Library for pick up by Joe on Wednesday as 5pm, for delivery to the show. Meet at the same place on Sunday around 7pm where Brian will return them to you.

**Champagne and Chocolate Show** - A plan for the sale is progressing to include a small display with club info. Contact Brian if you can help.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Reminder to pay dues for 2026 Future meeting space - Discussion weighing pros and cons of meeting in the Botanical Garden or the church or elsewhere, included questions about the size of the space at the Botanical Garden, pricing of the church (\$50 per month), where to have food-related meetings in June and December, and can we have a hybrid situation with meetings at the church and occasional open house type meetings at the Botanical Garden.

**NEW BUSINESS** - The December holiday party/meeting will start at 1pm with a short business meeting, followed by lunch. The Club will provide ham. Members should bring place service and a beverage, along with a potluck dish to share.

Dues are due January 1 and are again \$15 per person or \$25 for a family.

Members are encouraged to present their orchid growing stories at club meetings to share their experiences and get to know each other. Carol will take on this challenge for the January meeting, Patty might be up for it in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

Jason gave a fun presentation about how he grows his orchids.

Show and Tell - Jenny, Joe, and Maria brought blooming plants to show.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenny Howell, acting Secretary



A stained glass art piece by Shawn Barck

# November Meeting Photos

Brian Johnson



Above, left and center: Jenny Howell and Maria Fedorova showing off some great flowers.

Above, right: Carol Lewnau brought in a large batch of pots, hangers, mounts, and baskets donated by Bob and Dorothy Rust, long time club members.

Left: Joe Ku showing an interesting mounted orchid.

Right: Kate Lampe brought in a well-flowered Paph with no ID.



# November Meeting Photos

Brian Johnson



Above, left: Jenny's *C. Interglossa 'SVO Blue Splash'* x *C. leopoldii f. coerulea 'Kathleen'* JC/AOS

Above, center: Maria's *B. nodosa 'Susan Fuchs'* FCC/AOS x *L. purpurata v. flamea sanguinea*

Above, right: Maria's Trt. Ollie Palmer

Left: Joe Ku's mounted *Brassocattleya*

Right: Kate Lampe's no ID paph



# 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](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 in November 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 for 2025

President - Brian Johnson

Vice President - Maria Fedorova

Secretary - Ardie Strawman

Treasurer - Chriss Barck

E-Board Member (1st Year) - Jason Rauscher

E-Board Member (2nd Year) - Carol Lewnau

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 **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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or:

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: MO \_\_\_\_ YR \_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_