

# CIOS News

October 2025 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: *Spiranthes* orchid photographed in situ by Rachel Amrine. "The Vascular Plants of Iowa: An Annotated Checklist and Natural History", by Lawrence J. Eilers and Dean M. Roosalf, lists seven *Spiranthes* species native to Iowa- *S. lacera*, *S. lucida*, *S. magnicamporum*, *S. ovalis*, *S. romanzoffiana*, *S. vernalis*, and *S. cernua*. If you'd like to have one of your own blooms featured in the newsletter send your photo and details to our general email box [centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com)

## Next Meeting

10/26/2025 – 2pm  
Union Park United  
Methodist Church  
2305 East 12th Street

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# Future Meeting Locations

Brian Johnson

In March the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden reached out to us regarding the use of their space for our monthly meetings and potential show and sale events.

Meeting at the Botanical Garden offered a couple of potential advantages. The space would be offered to us for free, saving us \$50 per month in rental fees. And our meetings would be more accessible to the public, giving us more opportunities to attract new members.

After an e-board visit late in April, we determined some potential concerns with the space. Primarily, the plant lab space is smaller than the church space we're currently meeting in, and while the Garden facilities have been re-worked for accessibility, it is not as convenient as the church, as there is a longer walk.

We voted at our May meeting to hold our September and October meetings at the Botanical Garden to test the space and determine if it would be a good fit for us.

For our October meeting we hosted Larry Zettler for a Zoom talk on Ghost Orchid conservation. The meeting was well attended with 22 members, giving us a good feeling for the capability of the space in terms of capacity and A/V support.

So, now we need to decide if we are going to move our meeting location from the Union Park United Methodist Church to the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.

## Benefits of Moving:

- Free monthly meeting space, saving us \$50 per month in rent
- Connection with other societies and increased public visibility could be good for membership recruitment
- Tighter relationship with GDMBG mean more opportunity for educational program participation and volunteer work including assisting with their orchid collection
- Spaces include built-in A/V equipment making presentations and program setup more convenient

## Drawbacks/Concerns:

- Space is smaller than the church, the October meeting felt like close to maximum capacity between people, plants, show and tell, and program.
- Accessibility is good, but the longer walking distance is more challenging for loading and for members with mobility concerns
- Food service is limited to GDMBG approved catering options. We would have to make alternate arrangements for our June potluck and holiday party

No matter which location we choose for our future meeting space, I think partnering with the Botanical Garden for educational programming and potential sales and show events would be beneficial for the club.

[Meeting locations continued next page](#)

## November Meeting

We'll be back at the Union Park United Methodist Church. We pushed our November meeting up one week to accommodate a conflict with the EIOS "Orchids are a Scream" show in which the club will be participating.

Our program will be a short presentation by our own Jason Rauscher.

We'll be announcing our slate of candidates for election in December.

We will have some plants for the raffle table, and if you have a blooming plant to share for the show and tell, bring it in!

10/26/2025 - 2pm

Union Park United Methodist Church

2305 East 12th Street

Meeting locations continued

Here are a few photos of the space from the previous meeting. It looks “bare” but the room is fresh out of remodeling with new lighting, flooring, and paint. The tables and chairs can be arranged as needed for meeting configurations and extra tables and chairs can be added.



# President's Message

Brian Johnson



Above: The bulk of the Botanical Garden's orchid collection now fits on one greenhouse table. The collection was purged of virus positive plants over the past year, and now they are looking to rebuild with

Maria and I met with Diane Brockshus, horticulturist with the Botanical Garden, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October to discuss plans for the upcoming Champagne and Chocolate event in November.

Afterward, we had a chance to re-pot some orchids for the Garden's collection. I was tasked with working with their vanilla orchid. It had to be moved during recent renovations and suffered what sounds like a bacterial infection. I potted several cuttings and the main portion of the original plant. Hopefully some of them take.

While it does seem like an odd time of year to be potting orchids - usually that's a chore for spring and summer - if a plant is actively sending up new growth and re-potting is needed I wouldn't hesitate to do so.

In other news, it is my pleasure to announce our candidates for election in December:

AOS / Orchid Digest Liaison - Maria Fedorova

Webmaster - Carson Whitlow

Eboard 1<sup>st</sup> year - Joe Ku

Eboard 2<sup>nd</sup> year - Jason Rauscher

Eboard 3<sup>rd</sup> year - Carol Lewnau

Librarian - Chriss Barck

Treasurer - Patty Graziano

Secretary - Ardie Strawman

Vice President - Maria Fedorova

President - Brian Johnson

Election will be by hand vote at the December election as long as there is one candidate for each officer position. Additional candidate nominations from the floor will be allowed at the December meeting, and if there are multiple candidates for an officer position we will vote by ballot at the meeting.

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President



# October Meeting Brief

Ardie Strawman

The October 2025 meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society began with a Zoom Presentation by Larry Zettler on Ghost Orchids. After the presentation and questions, the meeting was called to order by President Brian Johnson. The Secretary gave an abbreviated version of the September minutes, and it was approved. It was noted that a long-time member, Lois Godwin, had passed away and we sent flowers to her funeral. Ardie read the Thank you note from her daughter, saying that her mom "would have loved the flowers." The Treasurer's report was read and approved. We have a balance in our checking account of \$3161.51 plus the CD of \$5000. We have the Lion's Club reserved for Speaker's Day 2026 and have given them a \$200 deposit. Chriss said that there are several new magazines which can be checked out.

President's report. Brian said that the newsletter was emailed out. He encouraged members to send him photos and/or stories of their orchids.

Brian said that we had a Zoom Eboard meeting on Sept. 25. Several topics were discussed, one of which is having members share their stories of their successes and challenges in growing their orchids.

The Eastern Iowa Orchid Show will be Nov. 1 and 2 in Cedar Rapids. Joe and Elaine will be working on this. Maria would like a list of plants that members will be sending so the Eastern Iowa people can make the tags for the plants. Brian will be sending an email to let members know when and where to meet with their plants for the show.

November is the month for the Nominating Committee to present their list of officers for 2026. Brian agreed to be President for 2026, Maria for Vice President, Ardie for Secretary, Patty Graziano for Treasurer, and 1<sup>st</sup> year Eboard member Joe.

Our next meeting will be Nov. 2 and Brian will not be here as he will be returning with plants from the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show. We talked about having an alternate President (Jason) or moving the meeting to the Sunday before (Oct. 26) We would need to check with the church to see that the room is available. We are trying out the Botanical Garden for our meetings in Sept. and Oct. and would be returning to the church in November.

The Botanical Garden is having an event on Nov. 14, 6-9pm, called Champagne and Chocolate. They have asked us to have an information table, and possibly sell orchids. They are remodeling their orchid room and are looking for many new plants, specifically ones that will grow well in the conditions of that area. A thought would be to have attendees purchase orchids and then donate them back to the Botanical Gardens, or donate a specific amount toward purchase of some larger plants. We would need to contact vendors to see what might be available.

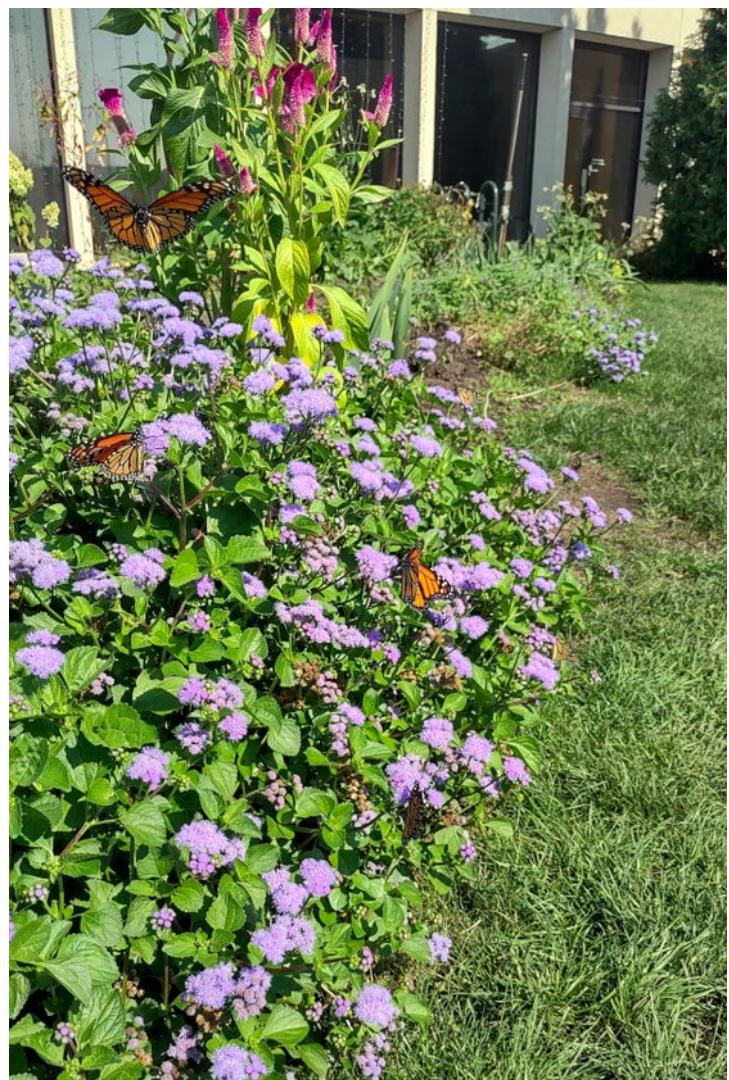
The Botanical Garden has asked us if we are interested on having an Advanced Orchid Care class, probably in February 2026. We will think about this.

At our next meeting, we will talk about whether to continue having meetings at the Botanical Center or return to the church or somewhere else

Elaine brought in supplies and materials from long-time members, Bob and Dorothy Rust. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ardie Strawman, Secretary

Maria Fedorova brought 2 show and tell plants.



# Upcoming Events

## Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City's "Bewitched by Orchids"

[October 17 - 18, 2025, Overland Park, KS](#)

OSGKC Bewitched by Orchids

NEW VENUE: Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical  
Gardens, LongHouse Visitor Center

Enjoy orchid displays, shop from local and out-of-state  
orchid and plant vendors, and then take time to explore  
the beautiful Arboretum grounds. Mark your calendars  
and join us for a weekend filled with nature, color, and  
blooming orchids!

Friday 10am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 4pm

Overland Park Arboretum Longhouse Visitor Center  
9209 W. 179th Street, Overland Park, KS 66013.

## Redland International Orchid Festival

[October 17 - 19, 2025, Homestead FL](#)

Redland Orchid Festival

Moved to October for cooler weather, the 2025  
Redland International Orchid Festival will be the  
largest, most international orchid event in the United  
States with over one hundred growers and more allied  
vendors in the beautiful and relaxing Fruit and Spice  
Park in South West Miami Dade. Join us for what  
promises to be three days of peace and orchids  
October 17-19, 2025. Gates open at 9 am on Friday for  
Friday First Admission. General admission Noon on  
Friday, and 9 am to 5 pm Saturday and Sunday.

Redland Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave,  
Homestead, FL 33031

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

[November 1-2, 2025, Cedar Rapids, IA](#)

Orchids Are a Scream

Please note the new location. THE RADISON HOTEL  
CONFERENCE CENTER right across from Noelridge  
Park. We will have orchid displays by orchid clubs and  
individuals from around the Mid-west. Orchid  
memorabilia and orchid vendors from the Chicago  
area.

Saturday, November 1, 2025

7:00 AM Judges and Clerks Breakfast at Hotel

7:45 AM Show Judging

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Show and Sale Open to the Public

Sunday, November 2, 2025

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Show and Sale Open to the Public

4:00 PM Display Takedown

RADISSON HOTEL, 1200 Collin Road NE Cedar  
Rapids, Iowa

## The Orchid Digest Cattleya Symposium

[November 8, 2025, San Marino, CA](#)

OD Cattleya Symposium

Join us at The Huntington for the 2025 Cattleya Orchid  
Symposium—a must-attend event for orchid enthusiasts  
of all levels. This in-person gathering will feature  
leading experts sharing their knowledge on cultivation,  
conservation, and research within the Cattleya  
Alliance. Connect with fellow orchid lovers, discover  
the latest insights, and deepen your appreciation for  
these stunning blooms. Whether you're an experienced  
grower or new to the hobby, you'll find inspiration and  
practical takeaways. Mark your calendar for a day of  
beauty, learning, and community in the world of  
Cattleyas! Can't join us in person, no problem! Join  
virtually or watch the recording whenever it works for  
you!

### Speakers

Art Chadwick, Chadwick Orchids

Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

Pepe Portilla, Ecuagenera

David Toyoshima

In person at the Huntington Library & Botanical  
Gardens in San Marino, California

Saturday, November 8, 2025

10:30 am - 7:00 pm

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: \_\_\_\_\_