

CIOS News

September 2025 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: Oncidium Sweet Sugar 'Lemon Drop' grown by Elaine Notis. According to Elaine, "it put on quite a show this tear." I agree! 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

Next Meeting

10/5/2025 – 2pm
Greater Des Moines
Botanical Garden
909 Robert D. Ray Drive
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Lois Godwin Memorial

Ardie Strawman



Lois Godwin longtime member of the Central Iowa Orchid Society passed away Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

Lois and her husband, Al, were CIOS members and supporters for many years. They donated many supplies to our group. A flower arrangement, including orchid flowers, was ordered and delivered memorial service held on September 6th.

We received a lovely Thank You note from her daughter, thanking us for the beautiful arrangement, and saying "her mom would have loved it."

October Meeting

Our second of two meetings at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden this year. As long as remodeling construction is on track, we should be in the Kemin Plant Sciences Lab for this meeting.

The October program will be a talk on Orchid Conservation by Larry Zettler.

We'll be discussing our participation in the Eastern Iowa Orchid Society fall show, upcoming elections, and ideas for future programs and events.

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!

10/5/2025 - 2pm
Greater Des Moines
Botanical Garden
909 Robert D. Ray Drive



President's Message

Brian Johnson



Above: The author with his Howeara Lava Burst 'Punani' AM/AOS

Fall is officially here!

Cooler temperatures are on the way and that means getting ready to bring your outdoor plants back inside. Thankfully this can be done in stages as some plants are definitely more tolerant of cool conditions than others.

Start by preparing your indoor or greenhouse spaces with a thorough cleaning. Remove debris and dead leaves, clean and sanitize surfaces, clean windows or greenhouse panels for maximum light transmission, and make sure your lights, fans, timers, etc.. are tested and ready to go. It's also a good time to consider making upgrades to your growing space.

And once you're ready to move plants, begin with tender, more tropical orchids like *Phalaenopsis* and *Vandas*. These should generally be kept 60 degrees or above at night, but two to three weeks of "cool" fall nights dipping into the mid 50's will improve flowering. But "cool" is relative. Temperatures below 50 degrees can be detrimental.

On the other end of the cold-tolerance spectrum are nobile-type *Dendrobiums* and cool-growing *Cymbidiums*. These can take temperatures into the 30's. Both need cool nights for best flowering, so can be left outdoors well into October or even early November depending on how sheltered they are from

frost and precipitation. These will be the last plants to come inside.

Of course, you need to do some research and determine what's right for your particular plant, especially if you're growing species. For example, most *Cattleyas* will tolerate temps down into the upper 40's, but warm to hot growing species like *Luteola* or *violacea* would suffer. And while most *Phalaenopsis* species and hybrids will be fine with night time temperatures in the 50's, lowland, warm-growing species like *violacea* and "novelty" hybrids should stay above 60 degrees at night.

General tips:

Cool and dry is better than cool and wet. Protect plants from cold, damp conditions which will encourage disease. Make sure leaves, and especially sheaths, buds, and crowns, dry before cool night temperatures settle in.

Take advantage of micro-climates. Shelter plants near buildings and walls that absorb and radiate heat at night and block cold winds. Covering your outdoor growing area with shade cloth or row cover fabric will also trap heat radiating up from the ground and can help protect plants from wind.

While dips in night time temperatures can be good for inducing seasonal blooms, day time temps should still warm up into the 70s for warm-growing plants. Once temperatures are forecast to dip below 70 degrees for an extended period it's time to start moving your most tender plants inside.

For more information on orchid temperature tolerance I recommend "Cold Tolerance of Warm Growing Orchids" by Sue Bottom on the St. Augustine Orchid Society Website, link below:

Cold Tolerance of Warm Growing Orchids

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

September Meeting Brief

Ardie Strawman

The September 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. We still have some questions about Speaker's Day income and expenses, so will wait until next month to have that explained further. We did approve the checkbook and CD balance. Chriss Barck reported there are new magazines that can be checked out.

President's report – The August newsletter was emailed out. Brian is always looking for photos and stories about members' orchids to share.

One of our long-time members, Lois Godwin, passed away recently. Ardie ordered a flower arrangement with orchids and other flowers to be sent to her visitation and service in Indianola.

Report on the First to Bloom contest – Jason Rauscher reported nothing new yet.

New business – The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society show and sale, "Orchids are a Scream," will be held Nov. 1 and 2 in Cedar Rapids, at the Radisson Hotel, 1200 Collins Rd. NE. We will need blooming orchids for our display. Maria and

Olga are not able to work on this, but Joe and Elaine will be. Also Patty and Brian will be helping. Friday is set-up, Saturday morning is judging and the show hours are 10-5, Sunday show hours are 10-4, with take-down at 4. In past years, we have met Maria at the Urbandale library to give her the show plants. This year, we will work on some other place to meet.

Doc Bannister asked if we are going to be selling orchids at Reiman Gardens Orchid Fest. He needs to know so that he can order the plants. We said Yes.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Strawman, Secretary

Show and tell plants were brought by Brian Johnson, Patty Graziano, and Karen Lampe.

We had 20 people in attendance today. We met for the first time at the Botanical Garden, but not in the Kemin Lab, as it is being remodeled.



Upcoming Events

Kansas Orchid Society Magic and

Macabre: An Autumn Orchid Experience

October 4, 2025, Wichita, KS

Kansas Orchid Society Show

Join us for the Kansas Orchid Society's Fall Plant Show and Sale! There will be magical orchids on display, wonderful plants for sale, and chances to win plants in raffles! Show entry free with Botanica admission.

Saturday, October 4th 2025 from 9am-5pm

Botanica, the Wichita Gardens

701 N Amidon St, Wichita, KS 67203-31627

Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale

October 11 - 12, 2025, Glencoe, IL

IOS Fall Show

See hundreds of rare and unique orchids from the private collections of the top growers in four states compete in 130 competition classes in the longest-running amateur orchid exhibition in the Chicago area.

For 73 years, the Illinois Orchid Society has brought the allure and mystery of the orchid world out from the glasshouse and into plain view for the public.

The Illinois Orchid Society Show is free, and does not require a ticket beyond your Chicago Botanic Garden admission and parking.

Shop for orchid plants and supplies from our network of commercial growers and collectors.

Reserve your timed entry to the Chicago Botanic Garden in advance.

October 11 - 12, 2025

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL 60022

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

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 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: _____