

CIOS News

April 2026 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: CIOS members brought in an array of plants for our display at the April Show & Sale event at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden including this very well grown Dendrobium Fire Wings brought in by Maria Fedorova. If you want your own orchid photo featured in the newsletter please send submissions to our general mailbox, centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Next Meeting

May Meeting

5/3/2026 – 2:00pm
Greater Des Moines
Botanical Garden
909 Robert D. Ray Drive
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April Show & Sale

Brian Johnson

On April 11th and 12th we held a Show & Sale event at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. The club and members brought in plants for sale, we set up educational displays, and brought in an array of plants for a large display. Our volunteers had great conversations with guests about orchid care and culture and we sent people home with some very nice plants for their collections. The response from both our guests at the Garden staff was very positive and we'll be returning next year.



Clockwise from top right:

Doc brought in some nice Phals in a range of colors – they were mostly gone by the end of the day on Saturday.

Close up of *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* grown by Carol Lewnau.

Educational display boards dressed up with blooming plants.

Just some of the wonderful plants CIOS member brought in for the display.

April Show & Sale

continued



April Show & Sale

continued



April Show & Sale

continued



President's Message

Brian Johnson



Spring is here and it's time to take advantage of the warming yet mild temperatures.

It's your annual reminder that the time to move plants outside for the summering season is nearly upon us. Take advantage of the currently mild weather to clean and prepare your outdoor growing spaces. Lumber prices are currently relatively reasonable, so it's a good time to consider construction projects, too. I've been thinking about building a lath or shade house to shelter my plants in the summer. A greenhouse has been on my project back burner for years as well- but I might settle for some outdoor bench upgrades.

Even though it's still too early for leaving plants outside, the mild temperatures are perfect for spraying, re-potting, and other chores. If you've been dealing with persistent pest or disease issues, consider using more aggressive (and often more odoriferous) treatments that aren't indoor appropriate. I recently scrubbed and sanitized a number of pots. It was nice being able to leave my bleach solution outside and dry my pots in warm sunshine.

Mild temperatures also make for more reliable shipping. Don't wait until the heat of summer and risk your plants cooking in the back of a delivery truck. Consider reaching out to your fellow club members for a group buy.

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

May Meeting

Our May meeting will feature a talk from Steve González-Costa.

Steve is originally from Puerto Rico and has been growing orchids for almost 50 years. He has traveled extensively and enjoyed observing various orchid habitats in his native Puerto Rico, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, and throughout Central America. Currently residing in Minnesota, Steve is a member of several orchid societies in the United States, an American Orchid Society (AOS) Judge and the current Chairperson of the regional AOS Chicago Judging Center.

Our business meeting will follow Steve's talk, and he will also be bringing in plants for sale.

5/3/2026 – 2:00pm

Greater Des Moines Botanical
Garden

909 Robert D. Ray Drive

April Meeting Minutes

Ardie Strawman

The April meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order by President Brian Johnson. We have 2 visitors here today - Kevin and Rachel. The Secretary's report was read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. We have balance in our checking account of \$5481.99. Our income from Reiman Gardens Orchid Fest was \$1758.04. Patty now has online access to our bank account, and is working on getting a debit card. Brian asked that Patty send him a detailed account of the Reiman Gardens event.

Chriss Barck reported on the Library. We have several magazines and Phalaenopsis books that can be checked out.

Brian announced that the March newsletter was emailed out. He is always happy to get photos and stories of members' orchids. Also, send him photos of the Omaha Orchid Show. Carson Whitlow noted that the newsletter is on our website also.

Vice-President Maria Fedorova has emailed the Speaker's Day speakers about the topics we have chosen for them to speak on. We can pre-order plants from the speakers, beginning in June. She said that there will probably be more members from the Minnesota Orchid Society coming to our Speaker's Day, as their picnic, which is usually the same day as our Speaker's Day, will be held another day.

Jason Rauscher will be making another trivia game for Speaker's Day. He also would like stories and photos for the Orchid Rescue Plant report.

Our May meeting will have Steve Gonzalez from Minnesota, speaking on Cattleya Orchids in Brazil. He will be speaking in the Agave Room at the DM Botanical Garden at 2pm. He will be bringing plants to sell. Our business meeting will follow his talk.

Brian reported that we may be pivoting our sales efforts from Reiman Gardens to the DM Botanical Gardens. There are several reasons for this. Emory, who was our contact person at Reiman, is now gone and has not been replaced. Reiman did not promote the show this past February, as they had before. We also have had plenty of issues with shipping orchids in January/February for the show. On the other side, the DM Botanical Garden promoted our Show and Sale in their emails, posters, flyers. The BG likes us to do a Show and Sale in April. This is much better for shipping, and for attendance. Brian will confirm with

Alex at the BG for a date in April 2027. Our meeting today is during the second day of this year's Show and Sale, which has been quite the success! We have a display of members' orchids, plus we started out with several tables of plants for sale. People were waiting at the door for the BG to open on Saturday morning, and plenty of our plants were sold before noon! Doc scrambled to get more! The Saturday people were there to buy; the Sunday people were there to look, although there were still plants to sell. We feel this was a great success, tapping into the Des Moines market for selling new varieties of orchids, other than the phals that are available easily.

Botanical Garden Spring Garden Market - will be held Thursday, May 7 through Sunday, May 10. We can participate as a seller or as an information table, for some of the days, or all of the days. We opted for info only, and Brian will send out a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work. We have been asked to donate an orchid plant for one of the BG's gift baskets in a silent auction.

Maria asked who would be interested in purchasing a book on Native Orchids of the US and Canada. A motion was made and seconded that we purchase 10 books that we can sell later.

Brian asked that Chriss send him a list of our available library books, and that can be put online by Brian's wife, so members can see the listings and check out books.

Meeting adjourned, Respectfully submitted, Ardie Strawman, Secretary

Upcoming Events

Central Iowa Orchid Society 37th Annual Speaker's Day

July 18, 2026, Johnston, IA

Central Iowa Orchid Society

The registration fee for the event is \$30.00 per person in advance or \$35.00 per person at the door. The cost covers all the speakers as well as a continental breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon desert bar. With your paid admission you also get a ticket for the doorprize drawings held following the last presentation. You can purchase additional doorprize tickets at the door.

Also, each speaker usually brings plants to sell throughout the day so we get a chance to buy plants we usually cannot obtain locally.

This year's speakers

Dr. Kristen Uthus (New World Orchids)

Alan Koch (Gold Country Orchids, CA)

33rd Annual Chicagoland Orchid Fest

September 18-20, 2026, Villa Park, Naperville IL

Chicagoland

This is our Biggest Event every year and if you love flowers, plants and especially Orchids, it is not to be missed. HOSTED BY Orchids by Hausermann of Villa Park, IL and Natt's Orchids of Naperville, IL. Visit two different, interesting and unique orchid nurseries located within a 40 minute drive.

Free Admission and Free Parking. Special sale items & refreshments available at both locations. Guest Growers at each location will be offering plants for sale from all over the world.

Dr. Bill*s Orchids from Illinois
Ecuagenera Orchids from Ecuador
Mel*s Creations from Michigan
New World Orchids from Michigan
Tropical Exotica from Thailand

September 18 - 20, 2026 8:00am - 5:00pm
Friday & Saturday, 10:00am - 3:00pm Sunday

Redland International Orchid Festival®

October 16-18, 2026, Redland, FL

Redland Orchid Festival

Located at the idyllic Redland Fruit and Spice Park in South Dade, the Redland International Orchid Festival® is world renowned as a bucket list event for orchid lovers. Join the best orchid growers in the world along with fellow avid orchid fans for three days of pure orchid mania.

Friday (10/16)

Noon - 5 PM

Friday First Admission at 9 am

(Must purchase Friday First ticket)

Saturday (10/17)

9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday (10/18)

9 AM - 5 PM

24801 SW 187th Ave

Redland, FL 33031

Fruit and Spice Park

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: \$ _____