

CIOS News

January 2026 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: Phalaenopsis Taida Blush 'Taida Pink Butterfly' grown by CIOS President Brian Johnson. This plant produced a very nice cascade of blooms with a lovely velvet appearance. IF you want your own orchid photo featured in the newsletter please send submissions to our general mailbox, centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Next Meeting

February Meeting

2/1/2026 – 2pm

Union Park United
Methodist Church
2305 East 12th Street

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President's Message

Brian Johnson



Above: Your author back in 2024 posing with his plants basking in the glow of LED grow lights. This was part of an article I wrote measuring and comparing grow lights.

In November and at our last meeting in January we had presentations from club members Jason Rauscher and Carol Lewnau who gave short talks on their home orchid growing spaces. In February we'll have a presentation from Patty Graziano.

I'd like to encourage any and all club members to consider giving a short talk on their own growing spaces, orchid growing experience, artistic endeavors, field visits, or tours.

I know our club members have a wealth of experience and knowledge, and I think it should be shared. One of the best ways to learn and grow as an orchid enthusiast is to see how others successfully care for and manage their collections, ask questions, and apply that knowledge to their own orchid cultural practices.

If you're not comfortable presenting to the group, consider a write up for the newsletter. In the November 2024 issue of the CIOS newsletter I wrote an article on measuring and comparing the grow lights in my basement growing area. I've also written articles on pests and diseases, and our Vice President Maria has contributed articles including a feature on her experience growing *Sedirea japonica*. You can view the archive of CIOS newsletters on the CIOS website

<https://centraliowaorchidsociety.org/news.htm>

Keep in mind that contributions don't need to be technical. They could be photos or drawings, a write-up of your experience at an orchid show or greenhouse, or even a book review.

I'd like to use the newsletter in conjunction with monthly meetings to offer members the opportunity to share and discuss their orchid experiences. My hope is that will sharing will inspire others and help us become stronger as a club.

If you have any questions, contributions, or ideas you can always reach out to the general CIOS mailbox centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you, and happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

February Meeting

We'll be discussing the upcoming Reiman Garden Orchid Fest 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.

2/1/2026 – 2pm
Union Park United
Methodist Church
2305 East 12th Street

January Meeting Brief

Ardie Strawman

The January meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order by President Brian Johnson. We have 2 visitors here today - Barb and her son, Daniel.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

New Treasurer Patty read the Treasurer's report. She announced that she is the new official signer of our bank account. We have a balance in the checking account of \$2824.68, plus the CD of \$5597.77. We will make a tax write off for Doc Bannister for his monthly donations. Yearly dues are due now. Chriss Barck gave the Librarian's report that there are new magazines here now, which can be checked out.

President's report - Brian announced that the December newsletter was emailed to members. If you did not receive it, let him know. He also said he welcomes photos and stories about members' orchids for the Newsletter. Brian welcomed new Eboard members Patty Graziano as Treasurer and Joe Ku as 1st year Eboard member.

Jason Rauscher gave his report on the First to Bloom Contest, which was won by Carol Lewnau. The photo contest was won by Rose. Each received a photo prize. Brian asked if there was continuing interest in the Contests and whether we should continue them. Members nodded Yes. We can order more plants for the First to Bloom contest and open up the Photo Contest to any orchid-type photo to be highlighted in the Newsletter.

New Business - Reiman Garden Orchid Fest will be Feb. 6-8. Friday night is the Members' Preview and is typically very busy. Saturday and Sunday are sales and info days. We need lots of helpers on Friday for set-up and then for sales and wrapping plants. Saturday we need help with sales and the info tables. There are sheets for members to sign up to work Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We will be purchasing the Phalaenopsis plants from Doc Bannister and 70 cats and 12 zygotelums from Fred Clarke.

We will be hosting an Orchid Class at the Botanical Garden on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 5:30-7pm. It will include an informational program and an activity, probably re-potting. Patty, Maria, Jenny, and Ardie will be working on this.

The Omaha Orchid Club Show and Sale will be March



Above: CIOS member Carol Lewnau gave a slide show style presentation on her home growing area which features automated misting and lighting in a climate controlled basement space. Very interesting!

28-29. Do we want to set up a display? We have some time to think about this.

We will be doing an Orchid Show and Sale at the Botanical Garden, probably on April 11-12. We may be selling plants left over from the Reiman Gardens Show, plus ordering some new ones. Also, members will be able to sell their own plants, with 10% of the price going to CIOS and 90% to the member. We are doing this as a thank you to the Botanical Garden for allowing us to use the larger rooms for our monthly meetings.

Speaker's Day will be July 18, 2026. Alan Koch is confirmed as one of our speakers. We have a list of his possible topics and need to choose two for him to speak on. Fred Clarke may have a conflict, so we might need to find a replacement.

Brian announced that we sent a flower arrangement and snack box to Carson and Lorna Whitlow, to wish them Happy Holiday season from us.

We had Show and Tell plants from Jason Rauscher and Brian Johnson.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Strawman, Secretary

Carol Lewnau gave a presentation on the growing area at her house.

January Meeting Photos

Brian Johnson



Upcoming Events

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.

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.

Wisconsin Orchid Society's "Orchids for Everyone"

[March 7 - 8, 2026, Racine, WI](#)

Wisconsin Orchid Society

Our annual spring show will be held the weekend of March 7 - 8.

Mileager's Garden Center
4838 Douglas Avenue in Racine, WI

Illinois Orchid Society's "Orchids: Amplified"

[March 14 - 15, 2026, Fort Wayne, IN](#)

Illinois Orchid Society

The show will take place the weekend of March 14-15, 2026 at the Chicago Botanic Gardens ("CBG") in Burnstein Hall. Deadline to register a display is February 22, 2026, and the deadline to register plants is Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Saturday & Sunday

March 14 - 15
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, IL

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: \$ _____