

CIOS News

July 2026 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: A lovely *Neofinitia falcata* on the Speakers Day judging table. If you want your own orchid photo featured in the newsletter please send submissions to our general mailbox, centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Next Meeting

8/2/2026 – 2:00pm
Greater Des Moines
Botanical Garden
909 Robert D. Ray Drive
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President's Message

Brian Johnson



Speakers Day 2026 is behind us and it was a good one. As always it was a day filled with colorful plants and flowers, first class talks, wonderful food, and raffle tables flowing with prizes including beautiful art. Thank you to everyone who attended and to everyone who brought plants in for AOS judging. Our judging tables were well represented this year.

I hope everyone who attended Speakers Day took home new knowledge they can apply to their own collections. I also hope everyone took home a new plant (or two) to try. Some of my favorite - and best growing - plants have been Speakers Day acquisitions. Some of them genera I would never have considered without a little encouragement.

And even as we reflect on this year's successful event, our thoughts turn to the future and Speakers Day 2027. If you have any suggestions or ideas for next year, please speak up! This will be especially important in the coming years. This event relies on speakers that

can also bring in plants for sale. Sadly, that pool of speakers is getting smaller. We may need to change the format of the event - not immediately, but something we may need to consider. But no matter what the event format, I think it should remain focused on orchid education. So if you have any thoughts on programming, new speakers, or anything else to keep Speakers Day running in the years to come, please share.

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President



Above: Our own Jason Rauscher hosting the second annual Orchid Trivia Challenge. Education can come in all forms - even fun ones!



The AOS judges share their post judging recap in afternoon between talks. It's another interesting educational opportunity for guests.

Speakers Day 2026 Special Thanks To...

Ardie Strawman

CIOS members for attending Speaker's Day, bringing lots of yummy salads and desserts, for helping to set up and take down the tables and chairs, for donating door prize items, for purchasing door prize tickets, for contributing to the Trivia Quiz #2, and for purchasing plants from the speakers.

Our speakers, Alan Koch and Dr. Kristen Uthus, for their informative and very entertaining talks, and for bringing plants to sell.

Doc Bannister for donating orchid flower stems for the table centerpieces and for giving an orchid plant to each person who attended Speaker's Day.

Elaine Notis for reserving the Johnston Lion's Club, and for the cleanup at the end of the day.

Patty Graziano for working at the Registration table and for taking care of the SD financials

Shawn Barck for selling door prize tickets.

Brian Johnson for being the Master of Ceremonies, setting up the AV equipment, and for sending lots of emails to members with details of Speaker's Day.

Maria Fedorova for transporting the speakers and their plants to and from the event.

Nile Dusdieker & the judges for judging the plants and for explaining why a plant was awarded or not.

Jason Rauscher for creating Trivia Quiz #2 and teaching us some new orchid information.

Brian Johnson, David Brightwell, Elaine Notis, Patty Graziano, and Dan Kawamura for handing out the door prizes.

Rose Frisch and Olga Gaydayenko for their help in the kitchen. Also Rose helped with the orchid centerpieces.

Jerry Strawman and Randy Frisch for their help on Friday.

Finn Graziano for popping in on Saturday to say Hi.

Ardie Strawman and Jenny Howell for being the Kitchen Queens, for bringing the breakfast food, ordering the chicken and ham, getting the food and tableware on and off the tables for breakfast, lunch, and dessert, making the orchid table centerpieces, and cleaning up the kitchen.

It is definitely a group effort to make Speaker's Day a success! We always have many nice comments about the speakers, the food, and how well the day goes. THANK YOU to all!!!!



Speakers Day in Photos

Brian Johnson



Speakers Day in Photos

Brian Johnson



Speakers Day in Photos

Brian Johnson



July Meeting Minutes

Ardie Strawman

The July meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order by President Brian Johnson. We are meeting today at the Botanical Garden. An abbreviated version of the June minutes was read by Secretary Ardie Strawman; the complete version of the minutes was emailed to members in the last newsletter. Treasurer Patty Graziano was not at the meeting, so we have no current financials. Brian reported that, as of today, there are 13 AOS judges registered for Speaker's Day, as well as 27 people have registered by mail, online, or in person today. Since it is now July, new members can join for half the original price for the rest of the year, so \$7.50 for a single membership. Chriss Barck reported nothing new with the library; there are always magazines that can be checked out.

President's report - Brian said the June newsletter has been emailed out to members. He encourages members to submit photos and stories of your orchids to him for future newsletters.

Vice President's report - Maria Fedorova has been in contact with TJ Hartung about doing a program for us. He asks that a group request him to come to speak, then he makes a route to drive to requested meetings. He can possibly meet with us in May 2027. His fee is a \$300 donation. Maria will keep in contact with him. Steve Gonzalez will be doing a Zoom meeting with us in September on Preparing Your Orchids for Judging.

Speaker's Day 2026 - Will be held at the Johnston Lion's Club on Saturday July 18. Set-up will be Friday afternoon at 4pm. Members are encouraged to come and help set up tables, chairs, tablecloths, etc. Members are asked to bring a salad and dessert for the

lunch on Saturday. A sheet was sent around for members to sign up to help on Friday, and to let us know what salad and dessert you are bringing. The Club provides a continental breakfast, as well as chicken, ham, potato salad, and baked beans, plus water and soda. Brian encouraged members to bring items for the door prize table - orchid plants, books, collectibles, etc. Jason Rauscher is making the trivia game and will take questions for that. Plants can be preordered from the speakers, for delivery on Speaker's Day.

Carol Lewnau has received many items from former members Bob and Dorothy Rust. Some are offered here today; others will be offered at Speaker's Day. There are cork mounts, hanging baskets, hooks, and lots of pots. Brian has a large container of coconut chips that can be bagged up for sale.

Old business - we will talk with Patty about possibly buying items in bulk or items that can be shared. We also have info from Cross Estates about purchasing jars of dried fertilizer.

We decided that we will not participate in the Ted Lare Garden Plant Show in August.

Jason has a logo design for Speaker's Day that can be made into various items. We decided on one design and he will order 50 mugs with the design. Maria is going to print new name tags for members.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Strawman, Secretary

August Meeting

We'll be discussing the results of Speakers Day 2026 and next year's meeting calendar. Also, Joe Ku will be moving in August and we'll need to elect a new e-board member so we'll need nominations for the position.

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!

8/2/2026 – 2:00pm

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
909 Robert D. Ray Drive

Upcoming Events

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest

August 22-23, 2026, Kettering, OH

Ohio Valley

Join us for a weekend of Orchids, Food and Fun for the Entire Family!

Orchid Show and AOS Member Mingle

Orchid Sales - Orchids, Supplies and Related Items!

AOS Judging and Ribbon Judging

Demonstrations - Repotting Help! Bring Your Plants and we can help repot!

Three Speakers

Raffle Games

Food (for registrants)

Fun Family Activities

Volunteer Opportunities!

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

Saturday 9 - 5
Sunday 12 till 3:00

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
4865 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio

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

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.

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: \$ _____