

CIOS News

June 2026 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: A cute little Dendrobium brought in by Jenny Howell for our June Show and Tell. She If you want your own orchid photo featured in the newsletter please send submissions to our general mailbox, centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Next Meeting

July

7/5/2026 – 2:00pm

Greater Des Moines
Botanical Garden

909 Robert D. Ray Drive

Details on page 4

In This Issue

President's Message and Shade

Project Photos

2 - 3

June Meeting Minutes

And Photos

4 - 5

Upcoming Events

6

Membership, Officers

7

Speaker's Day Flyer and

Registration

8 - 9

President's Message

Brian Johnson



The annual container garden under our backyard pergola is also home to large tropicals, succulents, and orchids (of course) during the summer. This year I decided to add some shade for people and plants. A shade sail provides coverage for the coffee tree, burlap coffee sacks provide coverage for the patio, and you can just see a mini pop-up greenhouse in the back corner covered with floating row cover fabric.

Summer is in full swing and temperatures are going to be soaring into the 90s the next couple of weeks into the beginning of July. For anyone summering their plants outside or managing a greenhouse cooling will be essential. The three primary cooling methods are shading, misting/evaporation, and ventilation.

It's easy to provide ventilation for outdoor plants, in the greenhouse it can be harder - make sure you're auto-vents and extraction fans are functioning and your circulation fans are set up to reduce hot spots.

And make sure to increase your watering frequency during hot, dry conditions. Also take advantage of evaporative cooling by misting your growing space or damping down your greenhouse by lightly wetting hard surfaces like floors and benches. As the water evaporates it pulls heat from the surface and surrounding air. But you must keep air circulation up as increased watering and misting will increase humidity and could lead to fungal or bacterial issues. However, the increased humidity will also help ward off pests like mites that thrive in hot, dry conditions.

But the best way to keep temperatures under control is to manage radiation- solar radiation is this case. Shade cloths or other removable coverings are very effective, but can be labor intensive to deploy and store in the spring and fall. Glazing coatings like lime wash are very cost effective, but are temporary and may need to be reapplied during the growing season.

Currently I use a combination of shade cloth panels, floating row cover fabric, and burlap fabric for shading. Row cover sheets and burlap are very inexpensive, and are good for temporary installations or testing purposes before committing to the cost of more durable shade panel.

Shading plants obviously reduces the solar irradiance reaching your growing space, but in the midwest our long summer days ensure that the total amount of light the plants receive over the course of a day is enough to maintain healthy plant growth as long as our shading isn't too aggressive. 50-60% shade cloth is good for general use, for lower light plants like Phalaenopsis 75-80% is recommended (percentages refer to amount of light blocked). Be sure to factor in the light transmission loss of your greenhouse glazing. Clear, uncoated, single pane glass has a transmission loss of around 10%, while twin wall polycarbonate panels can have a transmission loss of up to 20%. Be sure to factor that in to your calculations when shopping for shade fabric.

The next page has in progress photos showing some examples of the materials I use for shade cover.

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

Shade Project Photos

Brian Johnson



Clockwise from top left:

I started this year's project with a pre made shade sail we had in storage from a previous set up in our back garden. It did such a nice job keeping our coffee tree from scorching I decided to add more shade.

One of my small pop-up greenhouse is set up to house some orchids. Floating row cover is lightweight and keeps the sun out. It also does a good job of insulating the greenhouse in cooler spring and fall weather.

Used coffee sacks from a local roaster make for a colorful source of burlap for garden projects. The photo on the previous page shows them installed over the patio.

Temp gun readings of the patio under the burlap sun shades (84 F) and exposed (98 F) Readings were taken on an overcast, but hot day.



June Meeting Minutes

Ardie Strawman

The June meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order by President Brian Johnson. We are meeting today at the church. An abbreviated version of the May minutes was read by Secretary Ardie Strawman; the complete version was emailed to members in the last newsletter. Treasurer Patty Graziano reported that we have a balance in our checking account of \$6314.39, plus the CD of \$5596.48. Chriss Barck reported that the library has new magazines that can be checked out.

Brian reported that the May newsletter was emailed to members. If you did not receive it, let him know. He always welcomes stories and photos of members' plants for upcoming newsletters. Brian announced an MAOC webinar available tomorrow evening. Details are in an email he sent out. Membership cards have been printed. If you did not receive one, check with Brian.

Brian announced that Maria has several programs lined up for the next months. Joe will be doing a program in July. Steve Gonzalez will be doing a program in September on preparing orchids for judging. Maria is waiting to hear on a program on Romanian orchids.

Jason Rauscher reported nothing new on the Orchid Rescue plants. He will be accepting trivia info for the Trivia Questions for Speaker's Day.

Speaker's Day - will be at the Johnston Lion's Club on July 18. We have no registrations as of today, but we may expect more people from the Minnesota Club as their usual picnic is not on that day. The cost remains at \$30 for registering ahead, and \$35 for registering at the door. Brian encouraged members to think about bringing items for the door prize tables - plants, books,

artwork, other orchid-related items. We like to have a big variety of items to generate interest and encourage people to buy tickets. Elaine Notis reported that she will have the keys to the Lion's Club on Friday at 4pm. We will need members to help set up tables and chairs after that.

New business - Brian reported that Ted Lare Garden Center is having their Midwest Tropical Show on Saturday, August 29. We can think about participating in this.

Patty Graziano has some thoughts on a possible lending library or group purchasing on some items - maybe light meters, ph meters, bulk purchase of medium and fertilizer, virus kits. She will put together a listing of possible items and email it to members.

Meeting adjourned. Now it's time to enjoy our tasty potluck lunch!

Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Strawman, Secretary



July Meeting

This is our last meeting before Speakers Day and the business meeting will focus on setup for the event.

CIOS member Joe Ku will be giving a presentation on the OrchidWiz.org website he has been updating and modernizing on behalf of the International Orchid Foundation.

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!

7/5/2026 – 2:00pm

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
909 Robert D. Ray Drive

June Potluck Photos

Brian Johnson

June meeting photos.



Clockwise from top right:

Lots of great Cattleya plants brought in by Doc for the raffle.

Elaine showing a very nice compact blue Catt

Close up of Elaine's Cattleya

Jenny showing her nice little Dendrobium also featured on the cover

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: \$ _____



CENTRAL IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY
37th ANNUAL SPEAKER'S DAY
Saturday, July 18th, 2026

Johnston Lions Club Community Center, 6401 Merle Hay Road, Johnston

Dr. Kristen Uthus - owner of New World Orchids, MI

The daughter of a plant fanatic, Kristen has been growing orchids for over 30 years, and in 2014 she fulfilled her dream of making orchids a full-time commitment by purchasing NWO. Although she enjoys growing many varieties of orchids and other plants, miniatures remain her passion: the weirder the better. New World Orchids specializes in Japanese species, but her miniature selection includes many other small orchid species.

Masdevallias and Draculas: Not as Scary as You Think
Miniatures: Honey, I Shrunk the Orchids!

Alan Koch - owner of Gold Country Orchids, CA

Alan started growing orchids in 1969 and specializes in miniature and compact cattleyas. He is an internationally recognized expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature and compact Cattleya breeding. In addition, Alan is currently the First Vice President for the International Phalaenopsis Alliance.

Understanding Dendrobiums
How to Manage Your Orchid Collection

Speakers will bring orchids for sale. Pre-orders are also possible.

Free freight; indicate your order to be brought to CIOS Speaker's Day.

New World Orchids: by July 14, via email to kristen@newworldorchids.com
catalog: www.newworldorchids.com 10% discount.

Gold Country Orchids: by July 14, via email to gcorchids@aol.com, catalog
<https://centraliowaorchidsociety.org/preorders/gco2026.pdf>, 3 or more
plants -10% off, orders over \$150 - 20% off.

American Orchid Society (AOS) judging at 11:00 A.M.

Everyone is invited to bring blooming orchids for judging!

Plants must be in place by 10:00 A.M.

Cost per person:

\$30 - if pre-registered (deadline - July 17)/\$35 at the door.

We encourage pre-registrations by **July 4** to help with event planning.

The cost covers:

- > Four presentations from the speakers
- > Continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon dessert bar
- > 1 ticket for door prize drawings (additional tickets available for purchase)
- > Free orchid

Detailed event program: <https://centraliowaorchidsociety.org/ciosspk.htm>

Pre-Registration Form

Deadline - **July 17**, however we encourage to complete by **July 4** to help us plan the event.

BY CHECK: \$30 per person

Please make the check payable to: Central Iowa Orchid Society.

Mail the check to: Central Iowa Orchid Society, c/o Patty Graziano, 540 SE Prairie Park Lane, Waukee, IA 50263.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Number of people attending: _____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$_____

ONLINE: \$30.00 (+\$1.33 processing fee), per person: visit

<https://go.cios.club/sd2026>