

CIOS News

March 2026 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: Phrag. Song of Love x (Paph. liemianum x Paph. lowii) grown by CIOS Secretary Ardie Strawman featured in the February newsletter now showing 4 very nice flowers. If you want your own orchid photo featured in the newsletter please send submissions to our general mailbox, centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Next Meeting

April Meeting

4/12/2026 – 2:00pm

Greater Des Moines

Botanical Garden

909 Robert D. Ray Drive

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Above: Kate Lampe shared a nice grouping of slippers grown in her dorm room. Modern LED lighting makes it easier than ever to turn almost any space into a growing space, If you want your own orchid photo featured in the newsletter please send submissions to our general mailbox, centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

April Show & Sale and Monthly Meeting

We're holding a Show & Sale April 11th and 12th at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. We'll have plants for sale including plants from our members' own collections. We'll have an orchid display showcasing a diverse array of blooms. And we'll have educational materials and displays alongside an orchid Q&A booth.

The Show & Sale will be open from 9am to 4pm both Saturday and Sunday in the combined Juniper and Agave rooms. The Botanical Garden will also have an orchid scavenger hunt and an interactive activity table in the conservatory.

Our monthly meeting coincides with the Show & Sale event and will be held Sunday afternoon at the usual time of 2pm. The meeting will be in the Plant Sciences Lab across the hall from the Show & Sale.

We'll be discussing club business along with our participation in the Botanical Garden May Spring Garden Market, our May meeting featuring an in

person talk from Steve Gonzalez, AOS Chicago Judging Center Chair, and the results from our display at the Greater Omaha Orchid Society show. CIOS member Rose Frisch will give a short talk on her orchid collection. Since we have orchid sales and a display, we won't have our usual show and tell or raffle at this meeting.

For members planning to sell at the April event, please review the Sales Events Policy on page 7. If you need your member number for tagging plants, please reach out to the general CIOS mailbox at centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

We'll see you then!

4/12/2026 – 2:00pm
 Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
 909 Robert D. Ray Drive

President's Message

Brian Johnson



Above: A casualty of putting off an overdue re-pot and disease misdiagnosis. This Dendrobium Chocolate Chip came down with a bacterial infection I thought may have been fungal. I noticed the canes were turning yellow and soft so I pulled it out of the pot to discover a mass of rotten roots and the characteristic sour aroma of a bacterial rot. I broke the plant apart, excised as much dying parts as I could and soaked the remaining divisions in a Physan solution. Time will tell if I got it in time. work to get ready for this event every year, but it's worth the effort!

This It's confession time. I've been neglecting my orchid collection and my growing space, so this winter has been hard on many of my plants.

I put off a lot of re-potting work I should have done over the summer and early fall. Bad potting media means unhappy roots and I have several plants suffering from root rot. I also have a number of plants that are just under-performing - especially my Zygos. They don't mind being in a tight pot, but they really appreciate fresh media and having their roots inside the pot.

I also half-heartedly tackled a scale infestation over the last year and spent a lot of time trying to catch up with it on several plants. I should have treated for bugs aggressively at the first signs of trouble and saved a lot of time and effort chasing a more wide-spread problem over months.

And then there's my growing space itself. I let it become cluttered with unorganized pots and bags of media. My basement dehumidifier also died, and I put off replacing it so our basement corners became mildewed and musty - yuck! All in all it wasn't a great place to work in, which further compounded issues with my plants. Who wants to work in a messy, dirty space

So now thanks to my own neglect I'm spending more time treating disease, cleaning up my potting media bins, rehabilitating ailing plants, cleaning, and generally just making my grow space functional again. Whew!

So you might be asking why I let things go. I've been thinking about that, too. I think a big part is that I've overextended myself with the size of my collection- it's time to employ a little collection curation and let go of plants that are under-performing.

Lessons:

- Stay on top of repotting - don't let your potting media go bad, when in doubt, re-pot
- Keep your work spaces clutter free and dedicated to work
- Make sure your storage spaces have enough room to store what you have now and what you might need in the future
- Clean spaces are more pleasant to work in and healthier for your plants
- If you find a problem take care of it immediately. Pests and disease don't wait for you

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

March Meeting Minutes

Ardie Strawman



The March meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order by President Brian Johnson. The entire Secretary's minutes of the February meeting were included in the February newsletter, so an abbreviated version was read today. The Treasurer's report was not read as Patty Graziano is working on getting online access to our account through the bank. We will have a financial report on Reiman Gardens Orchid Fest next month. Chriss Barck said there are new magazines and several books that can be checked out. Brian announced that the February newsletter was emailed out. If you did not receive it, let him know. He said he welcomes photos and stories about your orchid-growing for the newsletter.

Advanced Orchid Class - Ardie, Jenny, and Patty talked about the class they led last week at the Botanical Garden. There were 7 people in attendance.

We talked about Cattleya growing - light, watering, fertilizing, pests, and bark v. moss as growing medium. Most of the class members repotted the orchid that they received in the class, and asked more questions. It was a good experience.

First to Bloom Contest - As we have several small cattys and zygos already here, we decided to use those in the contest, now re-named "Orchid Rescue."

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Show and Sale will be March 28-29. We would need help on Friday night with set-up, then Saturday and Sunday, with take-down on Sunday afternoon. Maria asked that if you have orchids to go to the Show, to let her know so she can print tags for the plants.

Botanical Garden Orchid Show and Sale will be April 11-12. We will have a display of orchids and will be selling orchids also. Members are welcome to sell some of their own plants that are in good condition, with the sales tax and 10% taken out for the club. More info to follow in the next newsletter. We will need plenty of volunteers for this event - for the information booth, for sales, and for working on the display. As April 12 is the day for our next meeting, we are hoping that it will work out to have the Sale hours on Sunday until 2:00 and then our meeting after that. We need to talk with Doc about having phals for sale. Maria will talk with other growers, possibly Gold Country and Nat's to get plants for sale at the Show.

We have sheets with the Speakers' topics for Speaker's Day. Everyone is asked to choose their top 2 choices for each speaker.

Maria Fedorova has been talking with Steve Gonzalez about speaking at our May 3 meeting, and bringing plants to sell.

Meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Strawman, Secretary

Show and Tell plants were brought by Karen, Maria, and Elaine.
Patty had a program on her Growing Setup.

March Meeting Photos

Brian Johnson



March Meeting Photos

continued



Above, Top Left: Maria demonstrates an Agdia orchid virus test on a Cattleya with suspicious markings on the petals. Thankfully, it tested negative for virus. We chalked the discoloration up to physical damage.



Left: Patty Graziano gave a short presentation on her collection, including the plants she grows in her classroom and uses for student activities. Her students love giving the plants names.



Bottom Left: Jason Rauscher is heading up this year's "First to Bloom" contest. This year features a bit of a twist. We used a batch of frost damaged orchids from a plant shipment for the Reiman Garden Orchid Fest event making this more of an "Orchid Rescue" competition. Blooms will be a nice bonus, but mainly we're looking for the healthiest survivor. Good luck to this year's participants!

Society Sales Events Policy

1. Only plants owned by the Society members or owned by the Society may be sold at Society sales events.

2. Non-orchid plants may be offered for sale under the same conditions as for orchids, however may not constitute more than 5% of the total orchid plants displayed.

3. Labeling of non-orchid items, such as fertilizers, if not in original containers, should include directions for use and information on the contents sufficient to identify it in case of ingestion or exposure.

4. A 3" x 5" tag shall be attached to each item. The seller number (membership number) shall be in the upper left hand corner of the card and the price for the item shall be in the upper right hand corner. A description on the item (such as fertilizer, bark, plant, inventory number, etc.) may be added in the center or backside of the tag. This tag is used by the Society for the proper allocation of sales.

5. The seller is responsible for attaching the tag to the sales item. The tag shall be attached with a rubber band, plant clip, or twist tie. (Ideally, a hole punched in the tag and the rubber band or tie put through it allows for easy attachment and removal of the tag when sold.) The tag may be folded in half if applicable. Tape, staples or other attachments which are difficult to remove should not be used.

6. If the seller decides to reduce an items price, the tag must be replaced with a new one. A tag may not show any previous price or indication of a reduced price. Reducing the price of an item is at the discretion of the seller.

7. Plants or items deemed in poor condition or inappropriate for sale at the Society sales event should be removed from the sales table by the seller. If not removed from the sales table, at least two officers and/or members of the e-board must be in agreement, and plant(s) should be removed prior to placing on the sales table. If there is disagreement among the officers and/or e-board members on the removal of the item, a vote of the officers and/or e-board members present should be taken and the majority be the deciding factor.

8. All items sold shall be subject to local sales tax and a 10% surcharge on the total price. Seller pricing of

their merchandise should be cognizant of these costs.

9. The Society will collect all revenue from the sale of plants and other related items. The Society will provide to the sellers a check for the total amount of their sales, minus the 10% surcharge and the included local sales tax. The tags which were placed on their items and used to figure their revenue shall also be returned to the seller. The Society will submit the total sales tax collected to the Iowa Department of Revenue.

10. If the Society decides to approve the acceptance of credit cards at any of the sales events, credit card fees shall be divided proportionally among the sellers.

11. Plants and items for sale will be placed as deemed appropriate by those officers and/or e-board members present at the sales event. Groupings of plants and any identifying, cultural or other pertinent information should take into consideration the space needed and any surrounding items. Pictures, displays and other informational material should be as small as practical and should be reviewed by the officers and/or e-board members present for suitability.

12. The Society will provide cultural information for the major orchid types such as those found on the American Orchid Society website. Sellers offering other genera are encouraged to provide cultural information.

13. The Society shall not be responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.

14. The Society shall provide these guidelines to its members prior to any Society sales event by including them in the newsletter immediately prior to the event.

E-board Approved 11/1/2009-1/10/2010

Upcoming Events

American Orchid Society 2026 Spring Conference

April 8 - 11, 2026, Apoka, FL

AOS Spring Conference

Make plans to join us April 8th through the 11th for the 2026 Spring Conference in Apoka, FL.

Your full registration package includes 6 Expert Speaker sessions, Meet & Greet Social, Silent and Live Auctions, 2 Hands-On Workshops, State of the organization assembly and AOS elections, Award Presentations, the sumptuous "Orchid Paradise" banquet and more! There will be AOS Judging sponsored by the Florida North-Central Judging Center.

It will be held in conjunction with the Apoka International Spring Orchid Festival which is presented by Krull-Smith, Inc. at their nursery in Apoka, Florida.

We are thrilled to welcome Julien Baruch, Frank Cervera (SOA), George Hatfield, Alan Koch, Harold Koopowitz and Ron McHatton as our featured speakers this spring.

Apoka International Spring Orchid Festival

April 10 - 12, 2026, Apoka, FL

Apoka International

The Apoka International Spring Orchid Festival will be Central Florida's largest orchid event of the year! Come see an explosion of orchid flowers and walk through the greenhouses full of our big mother plants. We have local vendors and vendors coming from all over the world to bring you exciting, rare species and new hybrids! This event will be free and open to the public April 10th to April 12th from 9 am to 5 pm all three days.

Our vendor list includes:

Afri Orchids (South Africa)

AWZ Orchids (Brazil)

Bredren Orchids (Florida)

Blue Ridge Orchids (North Carolina)

Ching Hua Orchids (Taiwan)

Gold Country Orchids (California)

Hang-a-Pot (Florida)

Krull-Smith (Florida)

Mainshow Orchids (Taiwan)

Miranda Orchids (Florida)

OFE Orchid Supplies (Florida)

One More Orchid (Florida)

Orchid Diva (Florida)

Orchid Eros (Hawaii)

Orquivalle (Colombia)

Paph Paradise (California)

Springwater Orchids (Florida)

Sunset Valley Orchids (California)

Tokyo Orchid Nursery (Japan)

Tropiflora (Florida)

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)

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: \$ _____