

# CIOS News

May 2026 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: CIOS member Rose Frisch shared this interesting Phal during our April meeting. This plant is showing an occurrence of spontaneous reversion, where a hybrid plant can exhibit traits of its parent plants. This can be caused by genetic instability or environmental factors like changes in growing conditions, such as temperature and light. If you want your own orchid photo featured in the newsletter please send submissions to our general mailbox, [centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com)

## Next Meeting

June Potluck!

6/7/2026 – 1:00pm

Union Park United

Methodist Church

2305 East 12th Street

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# President's Message

Brian Johnson



sign up at an upcoming meeting, or by mailing in the registration form available on our website, [centraliowaorchidsociety.org](http://centraliowaorchidsociety.org) or the last page of this newsletter.

Both speakers will have plants for sale at the event and we should pre-order information coming soon, so watch your inboxes for that.

Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President

This month has been a wild one for our household. A fallen tree wrecked our cars and left us without power for several days. Thankfully no one was hurt and life is returning to normal. But it's a reminder of how quickly things can take a turn and how unprepared we were for losing electricity. Luckily, the weather was mild if on the warm side and we rode out the outage with a borrowed generator.

If the weather had been sub-freezing or extremely hot, however, it could have been a dangerous situation for us or possibly our orchid collection. It's a consideration that should be relatively low on the list of priorities in an emergency, but it is something worth considering especially if you have a large or valuable collection.

What plans do you have in place in case of a weather or power emergency? Is it something you've considered? As we head into hot and stormy summer months it's something I find myself thinking about.

On a more positive note, summer also brings us Speaker's Day on July 18th. I'm looking forward to talks by our speakers Alan Koch and Dr. Kristen Uthus. If you are attending and haven't already, please sign up for Speaker's Day as soon as possible. Early registration helps us plan for the event. And if you're still on the fence, I highly recommend it - it's a full day of fun, education, food, and good company. You can



The tree took our our cars, but fortunately missed our house and garage, and while losing power for several days was inconvenient for us, it wasn't dangerous. It could have been much worse.

# May Meeting Minutes

Ardie Strawman

The meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society began with a talk by Steve Gonzalez on his 2015 trip to Brazil. It was very interesting and colorful! We appreciated him coming to speak to us.

The business meeting followed, with the meeting being called to order by President Brian Johnson. An abbreviated version of the April minutes was read by Secretary Ardie Strawman, and approved. A full listing of the minutes can be found in the last newsletter. The Treasurer's report was given by Patty Graziano, and approved. We have a balance in our checking account of \$5326.33, plus the CD of \$5596.48. Librarian Chriss Barck announced he has several new magazines that can be checked out.

Brian announced that the April newsletter was emailed out. He is always looking for photos and stories of members' orchid-growing to add to the newsletter. Maria Federova announced that the speakers for Speaker's Day will have their catalogs available in early June for pre-ordering plants to be picked up at Speaker's Day. She also announced that the books on Native Orchids of the US and Canada should be delivered in July, and will cost \$16.64. We previously ordered 10 books for CIOS to sell at events. Jason Rauscher is in charge of the Trivia Quiz for Speaker's Day and will take trivia questions from members to add to the quiz. He is also in charge of the Orchid Rescue Plants activity. Photos and info can be sent to Jason.

The Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens Spring Garden Market is this coming weekend. Brian, Rose, Patty, and Ardie have signed up to work at our Information booth, handing out flyers and answering questions.



Our next meeting will be the June potluck meeting and will be held at the church, beginning at 1pm instead of the usual 2pm start time. Members are asked to bring a dish to share and their own table setting and drink. Chicken will be provided by the Club. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ardie Strawman, Secretary

We had several show and tell plants brought by Elaine Notis and Brian Johnson. We also had lots of plants for the door prize table.

## June Potluck!

**Our next meeting is also our annual potluck and starts an hour earlier than usual, at 1pm and will be back at the Union Park United Methodist Church.**

The club will provide chicken. Attending members please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Also, be sure to bring our own table setting (plates, cutlery, glasses) and a beverage of your choice.

Lunch will be preceded by a short business meeting.

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!

6/7/2025 - 1pm

Union Park United Methodist  
Church

2305 East 12th Street

# May Meeting and Presentation Photos

Brian Johnson

On April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

The talk inspired lots of great questions and conversations.

A small group of plants brought in by Brian Johnson for a splash of color.

Steve's talk took us on a tour of South and South-Eastern Brazil and took us from coastal hillsides, cloud forests, rugged grasslands, and sheer cliffs. What an adventure!

# May Spring Garden Market

Brian Johnson

We had an information booth at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden's Spring Garden Market May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Rose Frisch, Patty Graziano, and Ardie Strawman for helping man the booth. We had some great interactions with guests and fellow plant societies at the event.

These events not only help us fulfill our mission as a non-profit educational society, but really help the club grow by engaging with the public and turning fellow enthusiasts into members.



Clockwise from top right:

Our info booth set up and ready to go Friday morning with culture sheets, club info, and a small display.

The gardens were also full of late spring flowers.

The Spring Valley Farms team brought in a honey bee hive .

Look close – a confused hoverfly found it's way into the pouch of this this lady's slipper.

# May Spring Garden Market

continued



Clockwise from top right:

*Phalaenopsis* Yang Yang Black Grape

*Paphiopedilum philippinense*

Howeara Lava Burst 'Puanani' AM/AOS

Vendors tents glowing under sunny blue skies.

# Upcoming Events

## Central Iowa Orchid Society 37<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com)

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## 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 possible. Cost: \$30 pre-registration/\$35 at the door - Registration form on back of the page. Early reservations are helpful in planning the event. 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

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.

More information: <https://centraliowaorchidsociety.org/ciosspk.htm>

Facebook: Central Iowa Orchid Society Central Iowa Orchid Society

Speaker's Day, July 18th, 2026

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### Speaker's Day 2027 Registration Form

To help us plan for Speaker's Day, we encourage you to fill out this registration form and return to: Central Iowa Orchid Society, c/o Patty Graziano, 540 SE Prairie Park Lane, Waukee, IA 50263.

We would like these returned by July 4, 2026.

Please make checks payable to: Central Iowa Orchid Society.

\$30.00 per person (\$35.00 at the door).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or: Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: MO \_\_\_\_ YR \_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_