CIOS News

November 2026 | Des Moines, Iowa



Above: A No ID Oncidium grown by CIOS President Brian Johnson. If you want your own orchid photo featured in the newsletter please send submissions to our general mailbox, centraliowaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Next Meeting

12/06/2026 – 1:00pm

Union Park United Methodist Church

2305 East 12th Street

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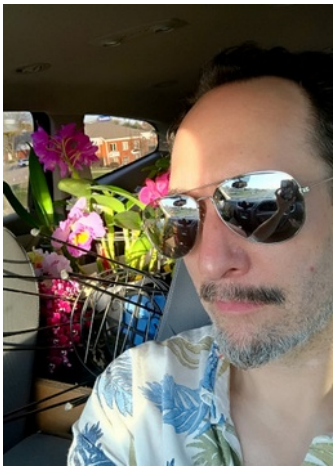
President's Message

Brian Johnson



The holidays are fast approaching and that means friends, family, and lots of busy schedules. Make sure to carve out time to take care of your orchids. This is especially important as recent cold temperatures will mean our home heating systems have been active. Int turn our watering schedules will likely have been impacted.

Make a little extra time over the next week to check your plants to see if they are drying more quickly and adjust your watering accordingly. It's also a good idea to water earlier in the day so plants can dry before temperatures cool off at night.

Also be sure to keep an eye out for pests. It's been 1 - 2 months since plants would have come indoors for the season, and most pests will develop from egg to adult in about that time. Watch for telltale signs like the honeydew left behind by scale or mealy bugs, or the silvery speckling caused by spider mite damage.

Our next meeting is also our December Holiday Party. It starts an hour earlier than usual at 1pm, and will be at the Union Park United Methodist Church. The club will provide ham, we ask members to bring a side and/or dessert to share, a beverage of their choice, and a place setting.

We'll also be holding our 2027 Officer Elections at the meeting. Votes will be by voice at the meeting unless there are any nominations from the floor.

I'm proud to announce our 2027 Officer Candidates:

President – Brian Johnson

Vice President – Maria Fedorova

Secretary – Ardie Strawman

Treasurer – Patty Graziano

Librarian – Chriss Barck

E-Board – Karen Lampe

E-Board – Cheyne Morgan

AOS & OD Rep – Maria Fedorova

Webmaster – Carson Whitlow

See you in December and Happy growing!

Brian Johnson, CIOS President



Phrag. Sedenii - a cross between Phrag. longifolium and Phrag. Schlimii first registered in 1873. The pretty pink and white flowers emerge successively over a period of several weeks to months.

A Trip to the MOS Show and Sale

Maria Fedorova

One of the side effects of becoming an orchid hobbyist is developing an uncanny ability to discover orchid events wherever you happen to be traveling. My daughter recently moved to Boston, and when I told her I was coming for a visit, it somehow "just happened" to coincide with the annual Massachusetts Orchid Society's Show & Sale.

First, a side note. We, orchid enthusiasts, are a close-knit community, always ready to lend a hand to a fellow hobbyist. I was reminded of that once again during this trip. When I emailed the show organizers if there was a storage place at the venue where I could keep my luggage if I would be coming straight from the airport, I honestly did not expect a response, at least not a quick one. After all, the organizers were undoubtedly busy just days before the show. Yet within ten minutes, I received three separate emails from committee members offering to store my suitcase in their car, give me a tour of the venue, and chat about our orchid societies. When I arrived, I was welcomed with free coffee and breakfast and, between us, even had my admission fee waived. I enjoyed a conversation with one of the organizers about our societies and discovered that we share many of the same interests and challenges.

Now, to the orchid business. Massachusetts Orchid Society (MOS) has its roots in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which was established in 1829 by a group of prominent citizens that included members of some of America's most influential families, such as the DuPonts, Vanderbilts, and Rockefellers. In Boston, a wealthy industrialist Albert Burrage (1859-1931) was the key player. He caught the "orchid bug" while traveling to South America, and by 1920's he owned 20 greenhouses, with the world's largest orchid collection at that time and hosted monthly (!) orchid shows where he regularly displayed over 1000 of his own plants. The MOS came fashionably late to the orchid world – it was founded in 1952 and today unites over 200 orchid enthusiasts. Currently, the state of Massachusetts has three other orchid societies besides MOS: Amherst Orchid Society, Cape & Island Orchid Society, and North Show Orchid Society.

The 2026 MOS show "World of Orchids: Rooted in History" (November 6-8) was not huge, probably about the same or slightly larger than EIOS (Cedar Rapids) or GOOS (Omaha) shows. It was housed at the Sons of Italy hall in Winchester, a charming old town just outside Boston, which is also a place of monthly MOS meetings. Eight vendors, including our friend Ivan Portilla of Ecuagenera, brought their orchids, as well as some aroids, hoyas, and ferns. In addition to the orchid society displays, each vendor was asked to also contribute a small display. Besides the Massachusetts-based orchid societies, New Hampshire Orchid Society, Nutmeg Orchid Society (Connecticut), and Ocean State Orchid Society (Rhode Island) also participated in the show. Both ribbon judging and American Orchid Society (AOS) formal judging took place. I visited the show in the first part of Saturday when the AOS judging was still underway, so missed a few most beautiful plants removed from the displays for AOS evaluation. Five complimentary lectures by orchid experts were offered throughout the weekend, with most sessions dedicated to orchid cultivation and growing techniques.

Before visiting the show, I flipped through the 2026 Registration Guidelines and Classifications, as I was curious to see the differences in the ribbon judging awards and Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOS) classification that we follow at our reginal shows. A few notable differences were the following:

- *Cattleyas* and *Laelias* were judged as separate classes. Not everyone seems to embrace the relatively recent merger of *Laelias* into *Cattleya* genus based on molecular phylogenetic data. 😊

- Many Best-in-Class awards were memorial awards rather than MOS awards; the winner was decided by the team judging the respective class. E.g., Best Phalaenopsis Alliance – Ester Sweet Memorial Award, Best Sunset/Artshade Phalaenopsis – Louis Guida Memorial Award, Best Dendrobium Alliance – Harry Kubick Memorial Award, etc.

- Separate award classes for orchids grown on windowsills without any supplemental lights. Previously, the award had covered any home-grown orchid, but in 2026 it was revisited to recognize only plants that were grown and bloomed without the aid of grow lights. The change reflects the reality that many hobbyists now maintain sophisticated indoor growing setups, complete with shelving, artificial lighting, cases, and other greenhouse-like amenities. Orchids entered in the Home Grower-Windowsill Only class for a group need to be also entered in the respective flower classes.

Continued next page

Hope you will enjoy some of the photos I took. I noticed quite a bit of lovely nature-borrowed decorations: fresh forest moss (a perk of holding the Fall show in the Northeastern United States), tree trunks, bark, and sprinkling-in a few non-orchid plants with eye-catching foliage, giving the display an extra charm. These nature-inspired elements added texture, depth, and considerable charm to the displays.

As my orchid knowledge and experience continue to grow, I did not spot too many completely unfamiliar orchids, particularly those that produced an immediate "wow" reaction. There were certainly many spectacular plants on display, including several beautifully grown specimen-sized orchids that were truly impressive.

Now, an ultimate question: did I escape the desire to add new orchids to my collection? You probably do not need to guess twice. Despite my best intentions to limit myself to the two plants I had preordered from Ecuagenera, that plan failed. On the bright side, I came home with several new *Trichopilias* and, finally, a *Pleione* - a tricky deciduous terrestrial orchid that I have wanted to try growing for quite some time. And also, blame Ivan Portilla, who is a great salesman and somehow convinced me to purchase a quite rare semi-alba form of *Cattleya maxima* – bare-root, to be established in November, in home-growing conditions! Please all wish me luck! 😊

Maria Fedorova



MOS Display

Cattleya Princess Clementine x *Cattleya velutina*



A stunning specimen of cork-mounted Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Buckberry' FCC/AOS, from Waldor Orchids



Display of New Hampshire Orchid Society



Amherst Orchid Society display. Notice two Wardian cases - a great, safe way to display miniatures, particularly those requiring high humidity.



Mini-display from J&L Orchid – and so many ribbons!



Masdevallia imposter - one of the 'wow' finds at the show



Zygopetalum Rhern Moonlight – an interesting idea to display this robust hybrid with hanging down flower stems instead of a typical upright position, giving the plant a more natural look.



Display of the Ocean State Orchid Society



A close look at one of the Wardian cases



November Meeting Minutes

Ardie Strawman

The November meeting of the Central Iowa Orchid Society was called to order by President Brian Johnson. An abbreviated version of the October minutes was read by Secretary Ardie Strawman. The full version of the minutes can be found in the latest newsletter and on our website. The minutes were approved. Treasurer Patty Graziano reported that we have $5890.94 in our checking account and $5684.71 in our CD. We have made the deposit for the Lion's Club for Speaker's Day 2027. The report was approved. Librarian Chriss Barck reported that there are no new magazines to check out, but there are lots of books to check out.

President's report – Brian said the October Newsletter was emailed out this week. There were lots of photos from the Easter Iowa Orchid Show. He asked that anyone with ideas for programs for 2027 to let him know – perhaps repotting, everyday care for orchids, the upcoming April Show. Maria is not here today, but Brian said she has the speakers lined up for Speaker's Day 2027 – Peter T. Lin from Diamond Orchids and Carlos Lopez from Sunset Valley Orchids. We will be having 3 Zoom speakers for our meetings in 2027. Jan. – How to make orchids bloom and April – Orchid rehab. Brian thanked everyone who helped with the Easter Iowa Orchid Show. We received a blue ribbon for our display and lots of other ribbons, notably Shawn Barck's stained glass piece. The Omaha Orchid Show will be coming up in March and we will need help with that.

As for our election of 2027 officers – the candidates are
President – Brian Johnson
Vice President – Maria Federova
Secretary – Ardie Strawman
Treasurer – Patty Graziano
Webmaster – Carson Whitlow
AOS liaison – Maria Federova
Eboard – Jason -3rd year, Cheyne and Karen – one will start as 2nd year and the other will start as 1st year. All were elected. :-)

New business – The December meeting will be our Winter Potluck. It will start at 1pm and will be held at the church. Members are to bring their own table service, drink, and a salad or dessert to share. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardie Strawman, Secretary
Show and tell included a plant from Elaine T. and Shawn Barck's beautiful stained glass piece.



A sample of some of the orchid installations featured at the Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha. The Gardens host the Greater Omaha Orchid Society's spring show and sale, and the conservatory is filled with hundreds of orchids and other tropical plants.

Upcoming Events

CIOS Events

CIOS Christmas Party

December 6, 2026

The CIOS annual Christmas party will be at the Union Park Methodist Church an hour earlier that usual at 1pm.

We'll have a potluck style lunch, so bring a side dish or dessert to share. The club will provide ham as a main. Bring a beverage of choice and your own place setting.

We'll have a short business meeting and hold our elections before breaking for lunch.

Business Topics:
Elections!

See you Sunday on 12/6!

Regional Events

MAOC Annual Meeting via Zoom

December 9, 2026 via Zoom

MAOC

The Zoom meeting will be 7:30 Eastern Time on December 9. All societies represented will be enrolled in a drawing for a society talk by Eric Sauer. MAOC officer societies will not be included in the drawing.

Tamiami International Orchid Festival

January 15-17, 2027, Miami, FL

Tamiami

The Tamiami International Orchid Festival is Miami's largest, most diverse orchid show. Over the past twenty years, the Tamiami International Orchid Festival has not only become a great Miami orchid show, but a nationally and internationally recognized orchid event. The January 15-17, 2027 Tamiami International Orchid Festival will be the largest orchid show in the United States.

WHEN: Friday-Sunday January 15-17, 2027 from Noon to 6 p.m. Friday (enter First Friday with Special Friday First Ticket) or 10 am to 6 pm Saturday and Sunday

WHERE: Miami Dade County Fair Expo Center - 10901 SW 24th St, Miami, FL 33165 Get Directions

TICKETS: $20 at the door (Buy in advance to save) | Kids under 12 - Free Get Tickets

Orchid Quest

February 5-7, 2027, Madison, WI

OGG

The Orchid Growers Guild of Madison is holding their Orchid Quest event in the beautiful Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Frank Lloyd Wright's "dream civic center" located in downtown Madison, Wis., on the shores of Lake Monona.

Join over 1,700 orchid enthusiasts to see an exhibition featuring more than 550 orchids in spectacular displays by at least seven
regional orchid societies.

15 specialty orchid nurseries from across the USA and overseas.

Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 3 pm

1 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI 53703
ADULTS $10 | STUDENTS $7 | CHILDREN <5 FREE

Tickets for sale at the door
Parking at Monona Terrace, $5/day

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) - vacant

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: $_____