

# THE CIOS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 9      OCTOBER 15, 2009

## GROWING UNDER LIGHTS

If you've stepped outside any time in the past 2 weeks, you've noticed that Indiana has skipped from summer directly to winter. Our daylight is dwindling by the day. . .we only are getting about 10.5 hours of light during the day (and that's when it's not cloudy and raining). This month's speaker is perfect timing considering these condi-

tions. Lowell Flint, our own light growing expert, will be sharing his secrets on how he uses lights in his "orchid liar" to grow everything. . .and I mean just about everything, from paphs to vandas. Please join us on October 25 at 1:30 pm in the meeting room of the Conservatory for this timely presentation.

### Directions to Garfield Park:

Take I-65 to the Raymond St. exit, turn west toward Shelby St. Turn left (South) onto Shelby St. and go approx. 3 blocks. The entrance to Garfield Park will be on the right side (West) of Shelby St. The Conservatory is located just inside the park on the left.

## ORCHID CALL OUT

Also on the weekend of our meeting, CIOS will be putting in a display at the Louisville show. Greg Case has graciously offered to take plants down there, set up and tear down the display. He is looking for your

help in donating show plants! If it's possible, please drop off plants by 4 pm, Friday, October 23 at Garfield Conservatory as he will head down to Louisville soon there after. If this is not possible, please feel

free to get in touch with Greg and he is willing to work with you (317) 431-4123. Please take a look at your collection today and bring them out to show.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- *November 15- Annual Meeting*
- *December 6- Christmas Party and Bingo*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



**October 24-25, 2009**

Kentucky Orchid Society

Louisville, KY

**October 30-  
November 1, 2009**

Mid America Orchid  
Congress & Nashville  
Orchid Society

Marriott Cool Springs  
Hotel, Franklin, TN

**December 6, 2009**

CIOS Annual Holiday  
Party and Pitch-in  
Lunch

Garfield Park Conser-  
vatory meeting room

## AOS CORNER

"YOUTH IS LIKE  
SPRING, AN OVER-  
PRAISED SEASON  
MORE  
REMARKABLE FOR  
BITING WINDS  
THAN GENIAL  
BREEZES.  
AUTUMN IS THE  
MELLOWER  
SEASON, AND  
WHAT WE LOSE IN  
FLOWERS WE  
MORE THAN GAIN  
IN FRUITS."  
- SAMUEL  
BUTLER

*Submitted by Carol Hol-  
dren*

The American Orchid Society is busy with its Fall 2009 meetings in California, the winter show season and then we're right in to planning for the spring meetings in Oklahoma City in April 2010. These meetings and shows are a great

opportunity to find the best orchids as well as make friends with people who have similar interests to yours.

You do not have to be a member to attend any of the shows although being a member and helping with the show makes it a richer experience. You can find all of the details on shows and meetings in Orchids magazine or at our web site

[www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) and then you can put it on your calendar so you won't miss any of the fun. While you are at the calendar and you see the holidays coming up, consider purchasing an orchid calendar, an AOS pin or an AOS

membership as a gift for yourself or an orchid lover. You can get any of those off the web site or by calling 561-404-2000 and then you'll have that gift out of the way.

If you are an AOS member you have free and discounted admission to more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta - now that is a benefit many people are not aware of. Go to the "join" page of the web site to see the details of this offer. So you can buy someone an AOS membership and then expect them to take you to a garden for the day!

Celebrate fall by going to an orchid show.

## REFRESHMENTS

**October-Open**

**November-Open**

**December-Holiday  
Bingo and Pitch-In**



## VISIT TO SUNSET VALLEY ORCHIDS

*Submitted by Susan Taylor of BellaOnline Orchids*

I'm forwarding this article because I thought it was well done and might be of interest to more than just the Houston Orchid Society membership. The author is Calvin Starr, webmaster for the HOS, who recently took a trip with his family to California. He was able to visit Sun Valley Orchids and Andy's Orchids. The text appeared in the October HOS newsletter which is on the Affiliated Societies Forum under Society Newsletters. Calvin has given permission to use the text as well as pictures as long as you give credit for both. There is another article on a visit to Andy's Orchids which will appear in our November issue. Pictures are available for use from the HOS website at: <http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org/photos/photos.html>. This first article is about Sun Valley Orchids.

### Visit to Sunset Valley Orchids

**By Calvin Starr**

My son and his wife had promised to take two of our grandkids to San Diego this summer to visit the zoo, the beach and other attractions. Since they would be gone during my birthday they gave Beverly and me tickets to come along. We would miss the August meeting and the workshop so I decided to see what orchid nurseries were close by to provide my monthly orchid fix. Boy did I hit the Jackpot.

Within 40 miles of our hotel were Sunset Valley Orchids and Andy's Orchids. Both require an appointment and I got lucky that the time slots I had available were also good for them. Sunset Valley Orchids is owned by Fred Clarke, our HOS speaker for November, and a highly regarded hybridizer. Fred is well known for his Cattleya hybrids and his widely acclaimed black Catasetum hybrid, Fredclarkeara After Dark (Mo. Painted Desert x Ctsm. Donna Wise). Five of Fred's After Dark hybrids have received FCC/AOS awards.

Sunset Valley Orchids consist of 4 modern green-

houses covering about 28,000 square feet and the space is optimized by using rolling benches.

The greenhouses use water walls and swamp coolers for cooling and are also equipped with heaters for those occasional cool spells they have in Southern California. To water the plants Fred has a 1000 gallon per day Reverse Osmosis Water system and he hand waters all of the orchids twice a week. He uses a custom version of MSU fertilizer that is blended for hot weather. Fred says that watering is the most important part of successfully growing orchids.

Sunset Valley Orchids offers many of Fred's crosses in 3 inch pots at a very reasonable price. There were several of the 3 inch plants in bloom when we visited and the quality of the plants is excellent. If you like spotted cats, have a look at his web site, <http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/>. I did not purchase any plants while I was there, but I have a list that I will be sending to Fred to bring to Houston when he comes in November. I would like to Thank Fred for the time he spent with us. The nursery visits were a highlight of the trip.



"OCTOBER IS NATURE'S FUNERAL MONTH. NATURE GLORIES IN DEATH MORE THAN IN LIFE. THE MONTH OF DEPARTURE IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE MONTH OF COMING - OCTOBER THAN MAY. EVERY GREEN THING LOVES TO DIE IN BRIGHT COLORS."  
- HENRY WARD BEECHER





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**We're on the Web!**

**[www.centralios.com](http://www.centralios.com)**

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
NOVEMBER 5, 2009

*You are cordially invited to attend:*

On behalf of Dr. Charles E. Bracker and Ball State University, I would like to invite you to a special event honoring the work and generosity of Dr. Bracker.

Dr. Bracker is renown in the orchid community as a researcher and photographer. Recently, he has made significant gifts to Ball State University including his collection of more than 1,000 orchids, his collection of over 1,800 orchid prints, and his collection of more than 72,000 digital orchid photos.

Dr. Bracker's orchid collection has been added to Ball State's Wheeler Orchid Collection, the largest such collection at any university in North America with roughly 1,800 species. With Dr. Bracker's generous gift of breathtaking orchid prints and digital photos, Ball State now houses the largest such collections at a major university. The diversity and beauty of these collections further expands Ball State's orchid expertise and research potential.

Please join un on October 20, 2009 as we make these collections and events available to the public.

- Opening of the Dr. Charles E. Bracker Orchid Photographs Exhibit, Bracken Library, Room 210
- Tour of the Wheeler Orchid Collection, Greenhouse at Christy Woods, 2:30-3:30 pm
- Demonstration of the Bracker Digital Photograph Collection, Schwartz Digital Complex, Bracken Library, 4-5pm (transportation will be provided to and from the greenhouse tour)
- Discussion by Mr. Russ Vernon on "Orchid Art and Conservation", Bracken Library, Room 104, 7:30 pm

Due to Dr. Bracker's health, he is uncertain at this time if he will be attending the festivities. We will be videotaping the events for him.

In an effort to raise funds for the orchid and photograph collections, Dr. Bracker has graciously made available 50 signed, numbered orchid prints for a minimum contribution of \$500. Funds will benefit both the Bracken Library, which houses the print and digital collections, and Ball State's greenhouse project, providing better facilities for the orchids. Information will be provided that day or you can contact me at [marobbins@bsu.edu](mailto:marobbins@bsu.edu) or 765-285-7055.

I hope you will attend these events. If you need directions or information on housing or parking, please contact me. Please RSVP by October 13, 2009 to help us plan accordingly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Robbins, CPA, CFRM

Director of Development

Ball State University