The Informer

Newsletter of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society

PO Box 241871 Omaha, NE 68124 greateromahaorchidsociety.org November 2011

OFFICERS

President:
Roberta Ginavan
(712) 487-3085
Vice President:
Eric Stoiber
(402) 206-4554
Secretary:
Jim Pyrzynski
(402) 734-4112
Treasurer:
Sandy Rome
(402) 714-1284
Board Members:
Jacque Lewzader
402-573-2217
Linda Schroeder
(402) 990-5501
Ron Fechner
(402) 618-4268
Past President:
Jack Thraen
(402) 571-7434

Newsletter Editor:
Jim Pyrzynski
Articles may be mailed to Jim at 2107 Alberta Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005 or emailed to: jpyrzynski@cox.net
Submission deadline for the December Informer: December 5, 2011

Omaha Orchid Society Membership Information
Annual Dues:
Single: $15.00
Family: $20.00
Annual dues are paid to the treasurer by January 1 of each year and are delinquent the day after the February meeting. Dues for new members joining after July 31st are one-half the annual ratee.

Dues should be made payable to G. O. O. S. and may be mailed to the G. O. O. S. post office box: G. O. O. S., PO Box 241871, Omaha, NE 68124.

IN THIS ISSUE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
MEETINGS

(NOTE: All GOOS meetings are held at Monthly Meeting at the Douglas/Sarpy Cty Extension Office, 8015 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE unless otherwise indicated)

November 9, 2011
7:00 PM New growers group
7:30 PM Program - Orchid Conservation
Refreshments Marie Anne Smith
Greeeter: Sandy Rome

November 30, 2011,
7:00 PM Board Meeting
Location TBA

December 14, 2011, 6:30pm
Annual holiday party, Granite City Food & Brewery, 1001 N. 102nd St. (Westroads Mall area), Omaha, NE

EVENTS

November 12-13, 2011
Michiana Orchid Society Show, Holy Cross College, 54515 State Road 933 N, Notre Dame, IN. Contact: Sandy Ohlund; 3888 East 600 North, Rolling Prairie, IN 46371; (219) 778-4457; sohlund@csinet.net.

February 4-5, 2012
Orchid Grower's Guild Orchid Quest, Alliant Energy, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI. Contact: Judy Stevenson, 222 S Kenosha Dr., Madison, WI 53705; (608) 231-3163; judy_steveson@sbcglobal.net

February 9 - 12, 2012
Omaha Home, Lawn, Garden Show, CenturyLink Center, Omaha.

February 18-19, 2012
Batavia Orchid Society Show, DuPage County Showgrounds 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton, IL. Contact: Mike Rollinger, 23625 Andrew Rd., Plainfield, IL 60585; (815) 254-2207.

March 10-11, 2012
Illowa Orchid Society Show, Wallaces Garden Center, 2605 Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf, IA. Contact: Suzanne Dennis, 9 Chrison Ct., Colona, IL 61241; (309) 441-6038; minicatt@mchsi.com.

March 24-25, 2012
Great Omaha Orchid Society Show, Lauritzen Gardens, 100 Bancroft St., Omaha, NE. Contact: Jim Pyrzynski, 2107 Alberta Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005; (402) 734-4112; jpyrzynski@cox.net.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING
SAVE THE ORCHIDS

All cultivated orchids have wild orchid species as their ultimate parent plant. No matter whether it is a highly complex Paphiopedilum or Phalaenopsis hybrid or some specially bred cultivar of a "species" - there are a wild species at the source. Some species no longer can be found in the wild – their habitat is gone; for others they can no longer be found in the wild because they have been essentially collected to the point of being extinct in the wild – existing only in cultivation. And there are some orchids that have become weeds – adapting to life far from their original range. Once a species goes extinct It is lost forever – the fantasy of Jurassic Park is still that. So it behooves us, as orchid growers, to ensure that future generations will have orchids in their natural habitats to observe and enjoy. Wednesday meeting will discuss some things we have done during the past year or so and look at other things we may consider for the future. Come and add your thoughts.

TIME TO RENEW

It's that time of year again – time to renew your membership. A form is on the last page of this newsletter. You may mail your check to the address on the form or bring it to the meeting. We have some great plans for 2012 and would certainly be grateful for your participation.

DECEMBER MEANS HOLIDAY PARTIES

The holiday season is approaching and we have our annual holiday party scheduled for Wednesday, December 14 at Granite City Restaurant at the Westroads. Last year, all who attended had a great time and a fabulous feast. We had our peculiar gift "exchange" and we will continue the tradition this year – the gift should cost no more than $10.00. The festivities will begin around 6:30 pm. The menu is as follows: London Broil, Lemon Chicken w/ baby red potatoes and green beans, Cole Slaw, Cheddar Soup, Sourdough Bread, Cookie, Tea or Coffee. Prince, $18.99 plus tax and gratuity. Guests are invited so come and bring someone along. If you are interested, please advise Jacque Lewzader at jlewzader@msn.com or signup at the meeting.

FOR SALE 2012 CALENDARS & MORE

We still have a number of the American Orchid Society 2012 (actually they are 15 month calendars) left – a perfect gift for the holidays or brighten up your kitchen wall with some pretty pictures of blooming orchids. The price is $12.50; we'll have them at the meeting on Wednesday.

Also we will have some of the Bletillas Yokohama 'Kate' at $10 each. It's too late to put these outdoors but they make nice house plants and should bloom on their next growth cycle. Perhaps they would be another gift for that budding orchid grower. And we will have bark potting mix if you need some for repotting your plants.

HOME, GARDEN, LAWN, & PATIO SHOW

The annual Home, Garden, Lawn and Patio Show is on the horizon and we need to start making plans now for our participation. The show is scheduled for February 9 – 12 at the CenturyLink Center (formerly Qwest Center). Although we have not received our application form, based on past shows we will need to have personnel to staff our table Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday late morning, afternoon, and evening, and Sunday late morning and afternoon. Also we would need help during the setup on Thursday afternoon and possibly Sunday after 5 pm for cleanup.

We will have plants to sell, orchid potting mix, fertilizer and books. And we want to take the opportunity to publicize or March show and other society activities. This is a great way to increase our exposure to the public and increase our membership. So at the November meeting we will be circulating signup sheets. We realize it is early and the event is a few months away but with no official meeting in December and the Garden Show immediately following our February meeting we have limited opportunities to make plans. Please look at your calendars and see whether you may be able to help out. Thank you.

IN THIS MONTH'S ORCHIDS MAGAZINE

The latest (November) issue of Orchids contains some excellent articles on orchid culture. Tom Mirenda's (our guest speaker for September 2012) musings on November murmurs has some information pertinent to the seasonal change and growing orchids. He recommends allowing Catlleyas and Dendrobiums to get much drier than you would grow them in summer when they are in active growth. Some others, such as Catasetums, drop their leaves naturally and can be seriously damaged if drenched with water during this time. Some orchids, he notes, need to have a change in day length to initiate bloom, so if you are growing them under lights or in a room that is used for other purposes and is lit, you might consider changing your timer or relocating the plant. He also provides information on spotting mite damage and gives control measures.

An extensive article by Marry E. Gerritsen takes you through the Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil. The tour was organized by the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA). The OCA is an outgrowth of the San Diego County Orchid Society's Conservation Committee which has as its goal to conserve orchids and their native habitats. The article (this is only part 1) takes you through several reserves and private collection.

In an article by Ernie Gemeinhart (speaker at the 2010 Spring MAOC) discusses Cocholopetalum Paphiopedilums. These are the successive blooming slipper orchids. They differ from the multifloral in that the flower stem has only one flower open at a time. When it drops off (after a couple of weeks) it is replaced by another. While some multifloral paphs can be quite large, these are a more manageable size. A well-grown plant can have multiple flower stems each with its own bloom. And the article provides some excellent cultural information.

For the home grower there is an excellent article including information on building a light stand, potting materials, and moisture/light/temperature requirements for different genera. Another article by Jerry L. Fischer, explores LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights. These Fischer states that he is generally pleased with LED lighting as a source of supplemental light for growing in his greenhouse in Minnesota. Terry Rosborough discusses using the LED lights in an indoor plant room.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW

Mark your calendars. The Society will hold its twenty-fifth orchid show and sale on March 24 – 25, 2012. The show will be at the Lauritzen Gardens.

Left photo:*Paphiopedilum spicerianum* photo by Gordon Kenyon
Right Photo: *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* 'Monster' HCC photo and grown by Ramon de los Santos
Paphiopedilum spicerianum with the dorsal sepal projected forward in the photo by Kenyon is the most common. The flattening out of the dorsal sepal and the larger, rounder, and flatter shape of Paphiopedilum spicerianum 'Monster' HCC is an example of the direction of breeding for awarded orchid flowers. There is thought that in nature the forward projected sepal found in slipper orchids keeps water out of the pouch. Water in the pouch could drown the pollinator or make the flower to heavy for the stem. As orchid breeding for awards changes the dimensions of flower parts, there are questions about the usefulness of awarded species for conservation. Judging orchids for awards is an important part of orchid horticulture. It would be interesting to see what awarded orchids will look like 100 years from now.

The Challenges of Ex Situ Orchid Conservation

text by Mark Sullivan

What the words "ex situ orchid conservation" bring to the minds for most of us is the growing of orchid species plants in cultivation. It can also mean the gathering and saving of orchid seeds, and DNA. One goal of ex situ orchid conservation is to save a species ex situ as it disappears in situ. A further, though unrealistic goal for many species, is to reintroduce the species back into the wild. I say "unrealistic" because the underlying reasons for species extinction in the wild need to be addressed before a successful reintroduction can happen. Ex situ conservation boils down to saving genetic information and diversity.

As orchids become extinct in their natural habitats, ex situ orchid conservation takes on greater importance. The loss of natural habitat will continue as humans exploit and develop land, divert water flow, and change the environment. The continent of Europe has the most developed land. Only 15% of its land is "natural" and not changed by human activity. 1 It is likely that as the human population continues to increase all other continents are headed in the same direction. There has been no time in modern human history where habitat destruction has not happened or been reversed. In fact, habitat destruction is only accelerating. This loss of habitat is the number one reason for species extinction. Ex situ conservation is the conservation of last resort we have with any species.

The need for a conservation effort now is urgent. Many orchids border on extinction as their habitat dwindles or are already extinct in the wild. A few of these include Caladenia brachyscapa (extinct both in situ and ex situ, Tasmania, Australia), and Paphiopedilum wardii (over collected and reported to be extinct in Burma; habitat limited to SW Yunnan, China). Many orchid species have less than 100 individuals known to exist. These rare orchids include Platanthera holochila (less than 40, Hawaii, USA), Corunastylis superb (40 plants, single site by the side of a road, Australia) and Caladenia pumila (2 individuals, 2009, Victoria, Australia, recently rediscovered having not been seen since 1926). Most orchids species are either not cultivated in ex situ or their number in ex situ is unknown.

Conservation, whether in situ or ex situ, must be planned with a long time frame in mind. This is difficult to comprehend in a world of instant gratification. Three hundred years out is difficult for the mind to grapple with. In the history of earth, evolution of species, and change of habitat three hundred years is a blip in the time line. Our approach for ex situ orchid conservation should be as far out as we can think.

Right now, two important objectives of science to further species conservation are the identification of all species found on earth and the categorization of them using DNA. Orchid DNA analyses are still in the stage of DNA sequencing of all orchid species and determining relationships between species. One of the biggest hurdles scientists face in categorizing a species using DNA is making sure the DNA they are analyzing comes from a true species. Knowing definitively if a plant or animal is a true species is also a problem for ex situ conservation. Since we are still figuring out the DNA of orchid species we haven't determined what true orchid species we have in ex situ. To illustrate this problem we can look at the conservation work being done on the American bison (Bison bison). In 1890 the bison almost became extinct with an estimated count of 750 animals. Today that number is around 360,000 or is it? To prepare a long term conservation plan for the bison, scientists started taking DNA samples to compare against a true bison DNA sequence. They were surprised to find out that many of the bison were actu-

ally hybrids with cattle DNA. The only bison herd that appears not to have cattle DNA in its genes is the Yellow Stone National Park herd. The Wind Cave National Park herd may also be made of true species but DNA testing continues. This narrows down the number of true American bison to about 10,000. Once you create a hybrid, no matter how many subsequent generations of breeding with a species, you still have a hybrid with DNA from the initial hybridization. While a plant or animal can look like a species, it could be a genetic hybrid. One of the biggest challenges of ex situ conservation, especially with orchids where extensive hybridization has occurred, is to conserve the genetic purity of a species. There is a great risk of "genomic extinction" through hybridization. This can easily happen with orchids, especially the more popular species. People "improve" a species by hybridizing it and then still calling it a "species". A tag gets lost or tag markings fade on a hybrid and then it gets retagged as a "species". These "species" then unwittingly get used in breeding. All subsequent generations are genetic hybrids even if the outer appearance may look like a species. If the two species used as parents are closely related and some taxonomists consider them one species then this may not be a problem. The basic question is what is a species?

When orchids are in ex situ, we are the pollinators. What draws us to pollinate one orchid with another is different from what draws an orchid's natural pollinator(s). Natural pollinators are drawn to an orchid because of scent, shape, visual cues that mimic food or mate and sometimes because of an actual nectar reward. Human pollinators have pollinated flowers that are pleasing to us: pleasing scent, large, round, flat, with good substance, and without what we perceive as blemishes. We are attracted to the unusual, the outliers of a species and not the plainer, everyday examples of a species. We pollinate selectively to create above "average" orchids. We hybridize.

This creates two problems from a conservation point of view. If reintroduction occurs the original pollinator may have trouble pollinating our "above average" orchids. The proportion between flower parts may have changed, allowing a pollinator to escape without the pollen attached. A sepal that once acted as a hood to keep rainwater from collecting in the pouched lip may be flattened. Rainwater collects in the pouch and drowns potential pollinators. Of course, this assumes that the pollinator exists in the orchid habitat and has not suffered the same demise as the habitat or the orchid it pollinated. Our pollination for orchids that please us skews the gene pool of an orchid species in ex situ to the unusual varieties of that species. We jeopardize the "average" genes of the orchid as would have been found in nature. We lose the genetic diversity of a species.

Saving the genetic diversity of species is a top goal of ex situ conservation. A conservation orchid breeder would breed to increase or stabilize the genetic diversity of an orchid species. Line breeding and breeding for specific traits would not be done. While award winning orchid species can be a part of any conservation effort, they should not make up a large percentage of the effort. There is more wiggle room with plants than with animals in saving genetic diversity. Plants can decrease to a smaller number of individuals than animals and still have a healthy population.

Large number of individuals of species does not protect a species from going extinct. Many orchids are niche players with only a few individuals in unique habitats. This makes these orchids particularly vulnerable to habitat destruction and they can disappear like Caladenia brachyscapa. But even orchids found in relatively large numbers and over large habitat areas are vulnerable to extinction. While there are no abundant orchid species that have yet suffered this fate there are a number of cautionary tales that tell us not to leave our guard down.

The passenger pigeon (Ectopistes migratorius) was once said to be so great in numbers that a passing flock would be a mile wide and would darken the skies of the US Midwest for days. Before the hunting of passenger pigeons it is estimated that they were 25- 40% of the total bird population in the US. People shot the passenger pigeon for feather decoration, for food, but most were shot just for the "fun" of it. People believed that there was an endless supply. From 1900 until 1914 a concerted effort was made at ex situ conservation of the passenger pigeon. The last passenger pigeon in the world died in September 1914 at the Cincinnati Zoological Garden. Great numbers of a species does not guarantee that a species will not go extinct. When explorers from Europe found the new tropical world of Central and South America, they would often ship back to Europe things packed in crates with orchid plants used as the "Styrofoam peanuts". Orchids were used as packing materials because they were so plentiful and easily available. While there is a little hope for conservation if an orchid species gets down to one plant, we should not be lulled into complacency because of the abundance of a species. There are many things that can go wrong and we do not want to get down to one plant or the extinction of a species. We must keep a watchful eye.

When plants and animals are interbred and not crossbred, they lose vigor, gain abnormal and often-crippling traits, and become more susceptible to disease. Orchid breeders are well aware of this risk as they line breed. The risks increase with every successive generation. Cultivated edible bananas have been so line bred that they have become very susceptible to black sigatoka, a fungus. There is concern that it could cause the collapse of the banana industry. Dog breeds suffer from genetic abnormalities that affect their hips and hearts. The importance of maintaining genetic diversity cannot be understated.

One way of saving genetic diversity is with a seed bank. Orchid seeds are small and can be saved in a small space. The Millennium Seed Bank Project is coordinated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It is an ex situ conservation effort to prevent the extinction of plants in the wild. There are national seed banks located around the world that participate in the Millennium Seed Bank Project. The Millennium Seed Bank stores seeds in large, -20 degree Celsius underground vaults preserving the world's largest seed collection. In 2009 they reached a banking of 10% of all wild plant species. Their next goal is to bank 25% of the world's flowering plant seeds by 2020.

The Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use is a UK Darwin Initiative. Their target is to have 1000 orchid species seeds in storage. They are also gathering data on germination media, longevity of orchid seeds, seed capsule ripening time and the number of seeds per capsule. Other efforts The Orchid Seedbank Project like the sell, swap, and donate orchid seeds to researchers and

conservation. The Meyer Conservatory provides another model for promoting orchid species conservation. The business receives orchid species seeds from customers, grows them in flasks and then sells them at a low flat rate without regard to rarity.

Growing orchid species ex situ and maintaining seed banks is expensive. Collecting, cleaning, organizing and keeping seeds in sub zero vaults is expensive. Likewise, growing and maintaining orchids in greenhouses is both time consuming and expensive. The idea of reintroducing orchids back into the wild (especially if you are rebuilding the habitat) adds greatly to the expense. It is by far more cost effective to conserve orchid species in situ and protect habitat in the first place. With about 25,000 orchid species in the world, ex situ conservation of them all is impractical. The cost alone would be staggering. There will be orchid species going extinct in the future. A great emphasis should be on the conservation of orchids in their natural habitats. For the ex situ conservation, the focus should be on orchid species where the habitat protection will likely fail or has failed. The last challenge that ex situ orchid conservation faces is that many species are difficult or not possible to be maintained ex situ. This is specifically true of terrestrial orchids where our knowledge of their relationship with the rest of their habitat is not fully understood. While we can bank the seeds, we are at a great disadvantage of further propagating them, especially if the species goes extinct in the wild.

Right now, the state of the ex situ orchid conservation effort is fairly disorganized. The Millennium Seed Bank Project is the most organized efforts. Botanical gardens, researchers, commercial species growers, and home growers are pretty much doing their own thing with no coordination among them.

So what can be done? As scientists discover, catalog and understand species in situ, there could be a similar effort to discover the state of species ex situ. The establishment of an ex situ orchid conservation database would greatly facilitate this effort. With refinement, the database could be used for conservation breeding. With a database, we would understand our strengths and weaknesses better in terms of what species we have in ex situ and how that matches with orchid species in situ. We could then better focus our limited resources in ex situ on orchids that are threatened with extinction in situ. A "proof of concept" example of a database is the Living Orchid Collection. If and when our ex situ conservation database is established, it will require dedication from the orchid world.

The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens in the United Kingdom has a Program called the National Plant Collections, which is to be "as complete a representation of a genus or section of a genus as possible." Some orchid genera are in this collection. A similar program could be set up with orchid societies. Orchid societies could choose to be the keepers of as complete a representation of a genus or section of a genus as possible. The collective members of the society would maintain the genus representation in their various growing situations. They could help guarantee the genetic diversity of species in the genus. Societies could choose to be the keepers of several genera. If different societies overlap by keeping the same genus, this would be beneficial. It could promote interaction between societies. An easy way to begin would be for orchid societies to access which species their members grow. This would be an indication of the genus the society could become involved in with an ex situ conservation effort. Then orchid society members would become direct participants in orchid conservation. The effort would give orchid societies another dimension of interest in keeping and attracting new members.

Orchid conservation is going to take a concerted effort by the people who love orchids. A few scientists and conservationists cannot do this alone. The more people involved, the better the chance for success. Not only will the participation in orchid conservation open a new aspect to this great hobby of ours, but our success will help safeguard orchid species for future generations.

1. **Primack, R. B**. 2006. Essentials of Conservation Biology. 4th Ed. Habitat destruction, pages 177-188. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA.

References:

Derr, James, Bison Conservation Genetics and Disease, Texas A&M, College of Veterinary Medicine Bison Conservation Initiative, US Department of the Interior

Schorger, A. W. 1955. The Passenger Pigeon. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison WI.

Flynn, Paula, Department of Plant Pathology, Iowa State U., 3/25/2005 Banana - Black Sigatoka Disease, Horticulture & Home Pest News, IC-493(5)

This article was published in Orchids Australia, June 2010. http://www.orchidsaustralia.com/

The Millennium Seed Bank Project: http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/conservation-climate-change/millennium-seed-bank/index.htm
Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use: http://www.osssu.org/index.html
Orchid Seedbank Project: http://members.cox.net/ahicks51/osp/
Troy Meyer Conservatory: https://lab.troymeyers.com/flasking/home.php
Living Orchid Collection: http://livingorchidcollection.org

Mark Sullivan is the administrator of the Orchid Conservation Coalition (http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org) and a member of the AOS Conservation Committee.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Greater Omaha Orchid Society General Meeting
October 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office at 7:30 pm.

President Roberta Ginavan welcomed visitors and members to the meeting.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Auditing Committee: Dick Behrens, Chair of the Auditing Committee, stated that all the books were in order.

Budget. Sandy Rome discussed the proposed budget for September 2011 – August 2012. She explained that the amounts of income on the displayed slide were derived from budget projections based on the recent income and expenses. The projected expenses in the area of non-profit fees and taxes raised some discussion. Sandy advised that most of these expenses were for submission of forms required to complete our federal non-profit 501(c)(3) approval process – a one-time expense. After some additional discussion the budget was approved by a majority vote.

Board Replacement/Committee Assignments. Roberta advised that Ron Fechner would fill the vacancy on the board. Roberta then listed the new committee assignments: Show, Jim Pyrzynski; Refreshment, Jacque Lewzader; By-Laws, Linda Schroeder; Publicity, Dick Behrens; AOS Liaison, Robert Mann; MAOC Liaison, Roberta Ginavan; Newsletter Editor, Jim Pyrzynski; Yearbook Editor, Jim Pyrzynski; Program Committee, Eric Stoiber; Ways and Means, Sandy Rome and Jacque Lewzader; Membership/Greeters, Bill and Annette Brink; Historian, Marilyn Hawes; Parliamentarian, Jack Thraen; Librarian, Ann Donovan; Library Assistants, Robert Mann, Tim Janssen; New Growers' Group, Tim Janssen.

Holiday Party. Jacque Lewzader advised that the holiday party would be at Granite City at the Westroads and the date is the normal meeting date, December 14,2011.

AOS Calendars. Jacque advised that she had 2012 calendars for sale.

Julie Hartman advised that the GOOS website is out of date.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board Meeting
October 26, 2011

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society Board met at Sandy Rome's home at 7:00 PM. In attendance were: Roberta Ginavan, Sandy Rome, Linda Schroeder, Jacque Lewzader, Eric Stoiber, and Jim Pyrzynski.

Upcoming meetings. The meetings for November and December were disused. The program for the November meeting will be on conservation and will be given by Jim. Jim also discussed the Home and Garden Show at the CenturyLink Center. The show is February 9 – 12 (starting the day after the February meeting). So we will need to start circulating signup sheets at the November meeting and order plants for late January delivery. December is the holiday party. The menu was discussed at some length. Jacque will check with Granite City Restaurant on some questions and the board will finalize the menu via email. The menu will emailed to the membership and be listed in the newsletter. There was some discussion about a possible raffle or auction. A suggestion was made to invite Vicki Shallow to the party. The next board meeting will be scheduled for November 30.

Meeting location. Jacque and Linda went over some of the possible alternate locations for the meetings. Roberta reported that she talked with Laura and someone who is supposedly the building manager at the Extension Office. He stated that he wanted to ensure public use of the facility. There will be further discussion with the Extension Office to see a suitable agreement can be reached.

Speakers/2012 programs. 2012 Programs. January – a possible program could be one given by Paradigm Gardens on their lighting equipment, fertilizer, etc. They need to be advised to limit the presentation to 30 minutes. February – Jim will contact Joe Lankton to see if he would do a program on judging (covering what judges expect from clerks). Various possibilities for speakers were discussed. Tom Mirenda of the Smithsonian is firm for September. Possible speakers: Ann Antlfinger (on Spiranthes) - Sandy will try to contact; Doug Martin during the summer – Roberta will contact; Peter Lin (Diamond Orchids – not Peter Lin of Big Leaf Orchids). Eric raised the possibility of Howard Gunn on Bulbophyllums. The issue of money came up. Doug Martin's fee would essentially be gas and a donation to the MAOC conservation fund. A general policy has been that if the speaker sells plants there generally is no honorarium. Transportation and lodging expenses are covered by the society. The total budget for speakers and refreshments is $1500 for the fiscal year.

Business Card. Roberta advised Eric and Jim to determine the costs for the suggested business cards. She would like some for a November program she will give.

Other shows. The OSGKC show is February 10 -12 which is the same weekend as the Home and Garden Show at the CenturyLink Center so we will not participate in it. OSGKC will host the fall MAOC (Oct 26 – 28) and we can plan to participate in that one. The spring AOS members' meeting is in Wichita in April and we might consider participation.

Calendars. Jacque advised that she still has some calendars to sell.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pyrzynski, Secretary

GREATER OMAHA ORCHID SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (2012)

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY/STATE/ZIP_____

PHONE (___) _____

EMAIL_____

SINGLE DUES - $15.00 FAMILY DUES - $20.00 STUDENT (18 YRS AND UNDER) - $5.00

Make check payable to the Greater Omaha Orchid Society, and mail to:
Greater Omaha Orchid Society, P. O. Box 241871, Omaha, NE 68124