



It's vacation time – no meeting in August.

Our next regular meeting will be the third Thursday in September (September 15, 2005)



NOTICE – WE NEED A NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, I will be stepping down as newsletter editor due to other obligations. If you have a familiarity with word processing software and have an interest in taking over the helm, please speak up and let our nominating committee know for the upcoming election of new officers (see below). Although I am turning this responsibility over, I promise to support the new Newsletter Editor with occasional articles. If anyone else out there is interested, we can always use your input with more articles.

Tom Bell-Games

COOS OFFICERS

President	Tom Lochner	614-487-8197
Vice President	Tom Franczak	614-868-5636
Treasurer	Chuck Hill	614-442-6995
Secretary	Jennelle Szczepanski	614-868-7309

COOS TRUSTEES

Tom Bell-Games	614-487-1623
Sue Dervin	614-866-4059
Jim Harper	614-965-1921
Matina Ross	614-263-4819
Don Weber	614-846-7712
Cathy Willis	614-847-0676

Membership	Tom James	614-231-9046
Chair, Mini-shows	Jon Young	614-272-5256
Guest Speaker/Programs	Tom Franczak	614-868-5636

Nominating Committee.

I have appointed **Tennis Maynard**, **Tom Bell-Games** and **Ken Mettler** to prepare a slate of candidates to stand for election at our October meeting. They are charged with making their recommendations in time for announcement of the slate at the September meeting.

I want to urge you to provide them with input to their task. Contact them directly, whether to bring your own skills to their attention or to recommend another. Please don't be shy. We function by the grace of volunteer heads and hands and it will always be so.

Tom Lochner

Our (last) June Show.

Next year (March 25-26), we will hold our annual show in the spring. There are plenty of good reasons for this schedule change and I'm sure you know what they are. But let's look back fondly and with some pride at what we put together this past June.



The pictures you'll see in this article show mostly our society members working at setting up the show or staffing the society information table. What you won't see are the paperwork, emails and phone calls that preceded the weekend of the actual show. But the preparations and the follow-through were equally important.



Traffic is the first order of business. Get the exhibitors' and vendors' plants and fixtures out of their vehicles, onto carts, and then up to the exhibit hall where their

display areas and sales tables have been marked off already.



The exhibitors must assemble their displays and, in preparation for ribbon judging, must register their plants. In days gone by, that meant preparing the much disparaged, (some say hideous), "yellow tags" that would identify the entrants to the judging teams. This year, however, we dispensed with those tags in favor of adding the necessary identifications (unobtrusively) to the customary plant labels and generating uniform labels on a laser printer. The process went smoothly and successfully and will only get even better in future shows.



A large percentage of the registration task was completed days ahead of time thanks to exhibitors emailing the data about their plants to our volunteer coordinators.

Thus setup proceeded much more efficiently than it has in the past.



We customarily mark off 5' x 5' areas for displays and provide a 5' backdrop of black cloth on three sides. This is now a concern because the sight lines are including a lot of unsightly distraction above the 5' level where many tall plants protrude even from floor displays. We are going to give this matter a good think in the near future.



The vendors try to get their inventory organized while early birds poke through it hoping to get the treasures they want before someone else snags them. If you sit back and watch this process from just the right angle, you'll see that it's actually a dance.



Another big part of the show is the preparation of the society's exhibit. Here, under the direction of a savvy coordinator, the volunteers responsible for preparing the display try to make an orderly and aesthetically pleasing display out of an incoherent group of plants submitted by numerous society members. Dozens of plants of all sizes, shapes, colors and textures are woven into a riveting display according to a plan that only takes shape at the same time that the display itself does. And it works.





During the show our volunteers are staffing an information table. We dispense oohs and ahhs over plants purchased by the general public along with a culture sheet appropriate to the plant. And maybe a membership app, too.



We don't have a full year before our next annual show. It takes a lot of lead time to mount a show and so we're starting now. Be a part of it. C'mon in on the ground floor.

Tom Franczak



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Dear Orchid Lover,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 10th annual Open House at Hilltop Orchids. The meeting will take place on Saturday August 13, from 11:00am to whenever you orchid buffs get tired of talking orchids.

H. P. Norton of Orchidview will be our featured speaker. He will be discussing orchid culture, with a focus on Phalaenopsis & the lady slipper orchids. As always there will be hands-on workshops for potting, dividing & general care of your plants. There will also be an opportunity to learn about lab techniques for anyone who has an interest.

H. P. will have his outstanding plants for sale, and as always, there will be a selection of Hilltop hybrids, species, stem props, compots, flasks, fertilizer and potting supplies.

There is no charge for the Open House, and lunch will be provided by Marvin's Restaurant of Greencastle, Indiana.

If you need directions to the greenhouse, or information about area motels, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,

Dick & Sandy