The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
8767 Apalachee Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45249
www.cincinnatiorchids.org/

December 2011 Newsletter

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<th>Board of Directors</th>
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<td>President: Ron Miller</td>
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<td>Vice President: Elaine Better</td>
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<td>Secretary: Pat O'Connor</td>
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<td>Treasurer: Margaret Cullen</td>
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The next meeting of the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society will be on Tuesday, January 03, 2012. Note that this is the first Tuesday of the month. The meeting will be held at the Civic Garden Center (CGC) on 2715 Reading Road across from Bethesda Hospital. There will be time to socialize from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. There will also be a Beginners Class at 7:00 PM in the CGC Library. You can still bring your plant(s) in and ask some of the Societies experts any question that you have regarding your plant(s). The formal meeting is scheduled to start at 7:30 PM.

Our Web Site - If you can, take a look at our Web Site at: http://www.cincinnatiorchids.org. If you have any material or ideas to add to the Web Site, please contact our Publication Chair, Brian Spitler, at publicationschair@cincinnatiorchids.org.

Beginners Class – Brian Spitler and Rick Noel are developing a series of Beginners Classes to be presented throughout 2012. The topic for our January meeting is still to be determined. This class starts in the Library at 7:00 PM and ends at 7:30 PM.

Speaker – Our speakers for the January meeting are Jeanne & Barry Rhinehart and Barry Jones. They will be talking about the recent World Orchid Congress held in Singapore that they attended. Several plants will be sold through a silent auction.

Refreshments - Diana Dwight and Larry Sanford will be providing refreshments for the January meeting. The Signup Sheet for 2012 will passed around as well.

A Word from the Outgoing President (Ron Miller)
This is the last time that I write to you as the President. In January 2012, Elaine Better takes over as the new society President. Please give her the support she needs by volunteering your time and donations. As we reach the end of the calendar year, I would like to remind the membership, once again, that we are a 501(c)(3) organization and that donations to the society are tax deductible. Donations are one of the major ways that we have for increasing income so that we can bring in better speakers, have a better Web Page and cover rising operating costs so that we don’t have to raise membership dues. Please consider making a donation this calendar year. Many thanks go out to all the volunteers that have helped with our shows and seminars over the past two years. Thanks also go to the Board Of Directors for their support over the last two years especially Alexa Noel who just completed 6 years on the Board and has moved on to the MAOC as Treasurer.

Greenhouse Tour – The next Greenhouse Tour will be announced at the January meeting. We are tentatively scheduled to visit Eric Michel's greenhouse in Indianapolis on January 14.
**Membership Renewal** - It’s also the time of year when we renew our membership. Registration forms can be found on our Web Page or by asking Pat O’Conner for a form at the next meeting.

We recently learned that there is confusion about our dues, especially among new members who may have joined mid-year or at the spring show. We sincerely apologize for any misunderstanding. Based on feedback from several new members, it’s obvious that our communications were not clear when we signed you up. So, to clarify simply, our dues are based on the calendar year. For renewing members, we begin collecting annual dues in the fall and appreciate if everyone pays before January 31. We don't consider memberships to have lapsed until the end of the first calendar quarter (March 31). So we have a significant grace period. In 2011, we made a sincere effort to prorate dues for folks who joined mid-year but we also priced member drives at our shows specifically in consideration of the plant or plant voucher provided as a promotional item. We will continue to evaluate how we structure and price show member drives in the future and certainly welcome any comments or constructive feedback on how we can avoid confusion in the future.

**Winter Event** – Our Winter Event will be held at Jan Yates house on December 04, 2011 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Registration forms will be available at the November meeting in order to pay the $10 to help cover costs of this event and to document what type of food you are bringing. If all goes well, we will even have plants for sale.

**Cincinnati Judging Center Plants & Books** – Our Judging Center will be having a plant and book auction and sale on December 11th. Part of Fran May’s plant collection and Larry Sanford’s book collection will be sold or auctioned. If you are interested, this event starts at the CGC at 11:00 AM and ends at noon.

**Newsletter Circulation Policy** - The newsletter is sent to all members whose membership is current and to other orchid societies by reciprocal agreement.

**Orchid of the Month** - This month features Vanda Boschii 'Elliott Weinfield' AM/AOS. This plant belongs to Stan and Elaine Better and won the Best-In-Show at our Fall Show and received an Award of Merit (AM) from the AOS. The photo was taken by Rick Noel.

**Culture:** Due to the size of this plant, it stays inside year round with southeast exposure and good air movement from two ceiling fans. It gets misted and watered daily in the summer when temperatures can get as high as 90 °F. It gets watered every 2 to 3 days in the winter. Fertilizing is done every week in the summer and every 2 to 3 weeks in the winter.

If you have a good orchid photo that you would like featured in the Newsletter, send it along with cultural information to Ron Miller at orchidad@cinci.rr.com.