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EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

# The Spike

A small group of people with a big love of growing orchids.

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## Springtime Orchids in the Woods!

Folks remember our first in-person meeting last year for the Amana nature walk looking for the Iowa native orchid, Putty Root? (*Aplectrum hyemale*) We were a little late, but found some seed pods and one bloom stem with a couple wilted flowers. What we didn't find was any orchid leaves!

That is because they form in the fall and remain till spring. These are leaves we recently found looking for mushrooms, *which we didn't find yet*. The leaves will wilt when the plant starts to form a flower spike. These are fairly commonly seen in the woods this time of year. Nile

## PRESIDENT'S BLURB

Hello, EIOS!

We have endured a very cold, damp April and – now that it is May – the weather seems to be taking a turn for the better. Lawns are appreciably more green and lush, the spring flowers are putting on a spectacular display, and everywhere the landscape is coming to life. If you are out wandering in the woods, and you are very lucky, you may chance upon *Galearis spectabilis* (formerly *Orchis spectabile*), the Showy Galearis.



Our meeting this month will be on  
*(Continued on page 6)*



## Calendar of Events

<b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	May 8th, 2022
<b>NOELRIDGE SHOWCASE</b> 10 - 5. EIOS will have a display and orchids for sale. <b>Please volunteer to help!</b>	
EIOS May meeting at Shueyville Church; social 6:30, program 7 pm. Review selection of orchids for AOS Special awards.	May 12th, 2022 <b>NOTE THE DATE!</b>
Central Iowa Orchid Society Speaker' Day, Johnston, Iowa	July 23rd, 2022
EIOS SUMMER PICNIC Details to follow.	August 2022

# Noelridge Greenhouse Easter Showcase 2022 Fun after two years off!



EIOS setup a small orchid display that featured several Vandas in bloom. I can take credit for the big blue but the others were just brought back from RF Orchids in Florida. We had a couple multifloral paphiopedilums, miltonias, and the centerpiece was *Guarianthe skinneri* var. *oculata* (white but with a touch of lavender in the throat of the lip) - desperately needs to be repotted!

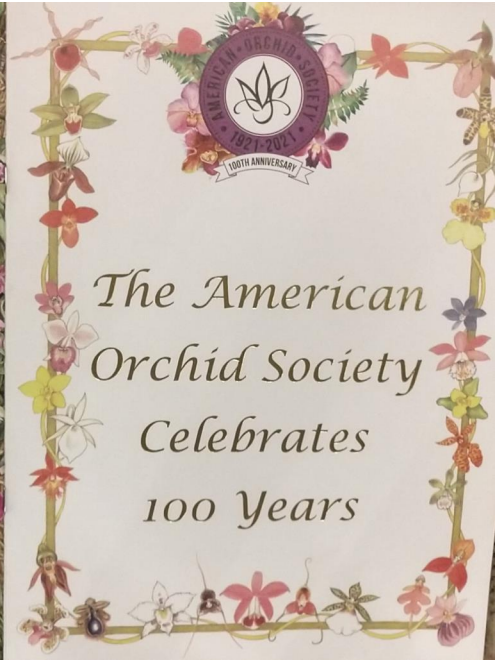
We sold about 50 orchids all donated to the club by our member **Robert Bannister**. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!** He brought back a few mini-cattleyas and they went fast too - much to my surprise! The club always packages the plants in boxes with tissue paper which enhances the presentation and we wrapped them in plastic bags to carry outside as it was still cold!

We had great volunteer help both days and special thanks to all those who participated. Lori Farmer, the new greenhouse director was very appreciative of our participation as I think they had fewer vendors this year. She said about 800 people came through during the two days.



**REMEMBER WE DO THIS AGAIN ON MOTHER'S DAY** and will need members' volunteer support. The proceeds from these two events essentially fund our fall orchid show and we hand out cards advertising the show dates. Shown below left was the first batch of orchids for the Easter Showcase. Below right is Doc Bannister in his greenhouse with "just a few more" to choose from. This greenhouse is actually his personal collection and not for commercial use - WOW! Nile D





Lois and Nile Dusdieker attended the AOS centennial + meeting in Coral Gables, Florida April 6-10, 2022. The *plus sign* is there because it was supposed to happen a year ago but was postponed twice due to ‘the bug’. In addition to Nile’s duties on the Judging Committee, they attended lectures on orchid conservation, some other AOS committees, the members’ town hall, and the grand banquet gala! The meeting was held at the nearly century old Biltmore Hotel nestled in residential Coral Gables, above left. It was a grand hotel but not close to a local café or McDonalds for breakfast - so we went to Publix Market for fruit, coffee-cake, individual packaged cereals, and some milk that we stored in the mini-bar fridge. The coffeemaker in the room did make fancy expresso that we diluted down. The hotel is known for its pool. We enjoyed the 80 degree temperatures and the scenery wasn’t bad either! \$18 dollar Pina-coladas, but I had a coupon. The Chicago Judging Center was well represented at the meeting with Cheryl Erins (the new AOS Vice President), Steve Gonzalez, Jim Vlastic,, Larry Sexton and myself attending. We did have some extra time to snoop around. We visited the **Viscaya** Mansion and museum built in the early 1900s by James Deering, of the Deering-McCormick International Harvester legacy. Amazing gardens and ornate rooms in the villa overlooked Biscayne Bay in South Miami. They had a few decorative orchids on display. We also did some ‘gator



*bunting*’ in the everglades where we found some native orchids in bloom. (More on the next page). The gala party that closed the meeting was spectacular. Sunset cocktails on the balcony with parasol formal gowned ladies posing for pictures with the guests. (**Lois is the one in green**). A lovely three course meal followed by a modern dance presentation and then

dancing to ‘80s’ disco music closed out the evening. Significant funds were raised to promote orchid conservation as well! Nile D



## Gators and Orchids Galore: in the Florida Everglades!

Lois and I have been to the everglades many times in the past. We walked in the Fakahatchee swamp in 2009 with the Van Hyftes. My how things have changed! The Ta-Miami trail has been upgraded and now is a speedway. Miami has grown westward into the swamp. With development, several ecologic changes have also been made. Several long bridges have been added to allow the fresh water of the glades to readily pass under the developed road barrier. A little known side road called the 'loop road' offered a more leisurely drive with time to stop and see the wildlife (not too close however) The trees were covered with moss and bromeliads. I'm sure orchids were there as well but not in bloom. The main attraction was the alligators - they were everywhere - and they were big!



One of the speakers at the AOS meeting talked on Florida native orchids and I asked him afterward if he knew of any currently in bloom close by. He gave us simple directions to a pine grove prairie in Everglades National Park where we found many Grass Pinks - *Calopogons*. He had visited the area 2 weeks prior and said the field was literally pink - not so for us, but still rewarding. Here are several photos of *Calopogon tuberosus* we found scattered amongst the grasses. The color variation was impressive. As usual, Lois found the first

one! We also learned about an absolutely great website for identifying native orchids. <https://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org> (or just Google **GoOrchids**) This will list native orchids by state or location and offers a field guide to identification. It is sponsored by the North American Orchid Conservation Center. It is always fun to go 'Orchid Snooping! Nile and Lois



## May Meeting Election of Officers

At our meeting this month, we will elect the officers for the coming year. The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society is a non-profit organization run entirely through volunteer efforts and we appreciate our members rising to fill these positions. A slate of candidates will be presented for consideration at the May meeting:

### Leadership Team:

John Lorence (President of Record)  
Joan Lorence  
Sharon Neff  
Denise Klemp

Secretary: Mike Hampton

Treasurer: Cathy Wilcox

AOS Representative: Laynez Ackerman

Mid-American Representative: Nile Dusdieker

Newsletter and Website: Nile Dusdieker, Michael Hampton

We will gladly accept nominations from the floor during the May meeting. Additionally, if anyone else would like to step up to serve as part of the Leadership Team, please email me directly and we can add you to the slate of candidates. Thank you so much to everyone who has agreed to serve.



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- **Reduced processing fees** for AOS-judged awards. Members save \$20 on processing fees for each AOS award. **FREE and discounted admission** to nearly 300 Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, (a \$30+ value after just two uses). With the Reciprocal Garden Admission program, members enjoy free or reduced admission to and discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide. See below for important information on this benefit.

ORCHIDS Magazine and Annual Supplement: Twelve issues per year of the award winning **ORCHIDS magazine**. These monthly issues feature informative articles and beautiful photos for beginner and experienced orchid growers. (Non-member price \$120). The **ORCHIDS Annual Supplement** - This special annual supplemental issue of ORCHIDS magazine covers a different topic each year. (Non-member price \$25). **Digital access to 350+ back issues** (all the way back to 1932!) of ORCHIDS magazine, Priceless!

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## Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

Micheal Hampton  
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### The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

*A small group of people with a big love of  
growing orchids*

[www.easterniowaorchidsociety.org](http://www.easterniowaorchidsociety.org)

**SUMMER FUN!** Central Iowa Orchid Society's Speaker's Day at  
Johnston Lions Club Community Center, 6401 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA  
50131

**Saturday July 23rd 2022**

Contact Carson Whitlow (515) 993-4841 [slipperguy@aol.com](mailto:slipperguy@aol.com)

Scheduled Speakers - 2022

**Francisco Miranda** (Miranda Orchids, FL)

"The Genus Cattleya in Brazil"

"Orchids of Rio de Janeiro"

**Peter T. Lin** (Diamond Orchids, CA)

"Mini-Catts: Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature"

"Genus Dendrobium: A Family Portrait of Dendrobium Species"

Speaker's Day is an annual event hosted by the Central Iowa Orchid Society. This year, 2022, will be our 33rd annual Speaker's Day and will be held on Saturday, July 23th.

The registration fee for the event is \$30.00 per person in advance or \$35.00 per person at the door. The cost covers all the speakers as well as a continental breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon desert bar. With your paid admission you also get a ticket for the door prize drawings held following the last presentation. You can purchase additional door prize tickets at the door. Also, each speaker usually brings plants to sell throughout the day so we get a chance to buy plants we usually cannot obtain locally.

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the **second Thursday** – May 12<sup>th</sup> – at the **Shueyville Methodist Church**. I have compiled a presentation on all of the awards given through the AOS Chicago Judging Center and we will cast our votes for the best plants for each of the AOS Annual Special Awards. If you would like more information about these awards, you can find them on the American Orchid Society Website here: <https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/aos-awards.aspx>  
Also at our May meeting, we will elect officers for the coming year. A slate of candidates will be presented (see article on previous page for more information), but we will gladly accept nominations from the floor during the meeting. Finally, we will plan for a Summer potluck picnic perhaps in early August. Andy

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT MOTHER'S DAY NOELRIDGE SHOWCASE.** Setup at 9AM and open to public 10-5pm. We will have about 25-30 orchids for sale. Let Andy or Nile know if you can help. Also bring a blooming orchid for the display.

### Hosts for Upcoming Meeting

**Surprise**

**If you signed up, you will be greatly appreciated**

**Thank you**

### Directions to the First United Methodist Church in Shueyville, Iowa

This is half way between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, The church is located 1 mile EAST of Exit 10 (Swisher-Shueyville) off Interstate 380. Our meetings begin with a social time at 6:30 pm; followed by the official meeting and program at 7:00 pm. Meetings are free and open to anyone interested in orchids! Our club displays orchids at regional orchid shows and participates in American Orchid Society orchid judging. Meeting programs include beginning orchid growing, discussion about various types of orchids and orchid conservation, plus plant sales and holiday party just for fun. Enjoy our website, [easterniowaorchidsociety.org](http://easterniowaorchidsociety.org), read our newsletters, attend our Fall Orchid Show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and come join us at our next meeting!