

# The Spike Summer 2025

Jun, Jul, Aug

EIOS is Now on Facebook! At [easterniowaorchidsociety](https://www.facebook.com/easterniowaorchidsociety)  
And on the web at [easterniowaorchidsociety.org](http://easterniowaorchidsociety.org)



EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

## The Spike

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



### Some Orchids Are Just TOO BIG!

This is *Dendrobium Gattton Sunray* that lives in the far corner of our greenhouse and blooms every year late Spring: this year with 26 bloom spikes on old and new canes. This was the best blooming ever. I thought it was trying to tell me something. "I want out of here!" I put its pot inside another larger clay pot and then in a plastic feed container with a brick in the bottom and took the plant to the Noelridge Easter Showcase as the feature plant in our EIOS display. (photo on later page) Nile D

### PRESIDENT'S BLURB

We've almost made it through another year, 24-25. Our last meeting this year will be **Repotting Your Orchids at the home of Jon and Joan Lorence Sunday June 8th. 1:30 to 3:30 - map and directions on last page of newsletter.**

If you are in need of help or just not sure what to do, bring your plants and learn how to repot your orchids. If you think your plant may require a larger container, please bring one, as I don't have containers to share. (If you have an orchid to divide and share with others - bring it as well.)

Summer is a fun time to watch the orchids put on new growth for the next blooming season. Heat and humidity are increasing, so adjust your growing conditions accordingly.

(Continued on page 6)

### Calendar of Events

|   |   |
|---|---|
| June EIOS Meeting, repotting at the home of Jon and Joan Lorence. Bring you own pots and plants to share? | Sun. June 8th 2025<br>1:30 - 3:30 pm<br>Directions on last page.        |
| CENTRAL IOWA SPEAKERS DAY<br>Information on page 5  | July 19, 2025<br>All Day<br>Lions Club in Johnston, Iowa                |
| September EIOS meeting at Shueyville Church. Program pending  | Sept 4th, 2025<br>6:30, program 7                                       |
| <b>ORCHIDS ARE A SCREAM 2025 EIOS ORCHID SHOW</b> save the date! <b>New Location!</b>                     | Nov. 1-2, 2025<br>Radisson Hotel,<br>1200 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids |

#### Leadership Committee:

Jon Lorence, President  
[lorence5@aol.com](mailto:lorence5@aol.com)

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[Matberry83@yahoo.com](mailto:Matberry83@yahoo.com)

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## POTPORRI of CLUB ACTIVITIES this past SPRING!

We had two remaining orchid shows: the Wisconsin show in Racine, March 1-2, and the Batavia Show March 22-23. Two very nice displays received lots of ribbons including five Best of Class ribbons at Racine and one at Batavia to Jeff Metcalf : **'He was on a roll! - Congrats'** Pictured here, the setup crew for Racine, Nile, Lois, Bill, Jim and Jeff. Plants:



Onc. John Miller 'Kimberlyn Helen' AM/AOS and Lc. Puppy Love far right, Phrag. QF Tower middle and Doc Bannister's Best Phal Star April's Coming



The EIOS display for Batavia was bordered by blue curtains and an open window in back. A different coloring with the diffuse light!

At the Illinois Show and judging Andy received the **Herman Pigors award for the Best Species** awarded by the Chicago Judging Center in 2024, for his *Ludisia discolor* exhibited at the Minnesota Show that year. What a beautiful crystal bowl.



Our other activity was participating in the annual Noelridge Greenhouse Showcases on Easter weekend and Mother's Day. The club set two lovely displays and sold phalaenopsis and cattleyas for \$20. **Special thanks to Doc Bannister for donating the phals.** And big thanks to our helpers that manned the booth. We put the sale plants in white boxes with colored tissue paper to enhance their appeal! *Folks still wanted to buy display plants!*





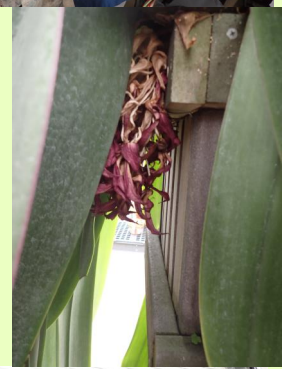
## A VISIT TO ANNAPOLIS and WASHINGTON DC for the SPRING AOS MEETING



Annually, judges and committee members attend a national meeting to conduct business, but also, to have a good time. This year, Cheryl Erins, our AOS President, choose Annapolis, Md (Naval Academy left) and arranged various extra activities in addition to conducting business. These meeting are open to all AOS members but not many attend unless they have a roll in AOS governance. All the judges get together for the Judging Committee to hash out judging policy and procedures; and to confirm new judges and changes in judging status. Other committees include: education, conservation, technology, editorial

board for the magazine, and development to name a few. The Special Annual Awards for the best awarded orchids in various classes for the calendar year 2023 were recognized. Educational lectures and a judging forum was also offered. Of course FOOD was a big attraction. Annapolis is famous for their crab cakes. Lois and I found a locals place in the old town with amazing seafood, most all was fresh from Chesapeake Bay!

The education theme was native orchid conservation with lectures provided by researchers from the Smithsonian Botanic Division. We toured their research facility, right, where they are cataloging mycorrhizal fungus required for germination and growth of native terrestrial orchids. They have grown some orchids from seed and are looking to reestablish them in nature with the appropriate fungus. We then visited the Smithsonian Greenhouses



plants. Above is a large Arpophyllum and a nice yellow

Lycaste. My favorite was the giant *Bulbophyllum fletcherianum*

This is similar but larger than *Bulbo. phalaenopsis* and flowers are every bit as 'stinky!' (right)



Finally, we visited the United States Botanic Garden on the Capitol Mall.

This is a marvelous place with tropical to arid, hot to cold houses and an amazing variety of plants. We saw a wall of *Dendrobium lindleyi* that were confiscated by customs in violation of CITES Convention for prohibited endangered plants. Seized plants are usually sent to local government botanical facilities such as

this - I'm not sue what happens after that. A nice display of orchids was in the greenhouse and foyer (right.)

The only downside of the trip was it took 1&1/2 hours to get out of Washington DC at rush hour. On our day off we drove to Baltimore to see Fort McHenry where Frances Scott Key penned our national anthem during the War of 1812.





Plans for our next Orchid Show are shaping up! Jon Lorence has secured Nov 1-2 for our dates at the Radisson Hotel on Collins Road in Cedar Rapids, right across from Noelridge Greenhouses. The hotel will provide tables and setup. Also the Radisson offers a special rate for those who stay at the hotel including breakfast. Those who would like to clerk will need to let Jon Lorence know as the club will pay for breakfast for them. A link for the hotel special rate will be on the website shortly.

**Mark the date - should be fun! - new location - same wonderful orchids. We need all your help to make the show a success!**

**TIDBiTS!** I finally found the perfect location in my garden room for paph. orchids. The first one, "Paph. Giantstone "White Tips" x Paph. Hsinying Yosemite "Iceberg" HCC/AOS has been blooming since January. I found the second orchid pictured right and brought it home from the Omaha show (the last week of March) from Birds Botanical. It opened the day after we got home and seems to be very happy in the plant room too. It is Paph. Lippewunder "Egg Custard" x Paph. Katai's Goldan Emerald "Jade" They certainly are my favorites now. Wish they could stay this nice until the CR show in November. Sorry we haven't been to meetings lately--many family conflicts. **Lois Friday**



**Layne Ackermann** shared his *Phrag. besseae* for the newsletter. Jon Lorence sent photos of Bulb. San-guineopunctatum 'Alba' and Guarianthe Herbert Oesterreich (Nile's plant divided at last year's repotting party) - so plant to attend, never know what you will get!

When we picked up plants for the Noelridge Showcases which Doc Bannister so generously donated, his private collection was in full bloom in his greenhouse. As summer approaches he will cut off all those blooms to let the

phals revitalize - ouch, that would. hurt I think!

Finally, continuing the theme of unusual dendrobiums from the front page; here are three more from the Dusdieker greenhouse. *Dendrobium densiflorum* forms what I call little pineapple buds that open all at once and last a couple weeks. *Dendrobium hancockii* is a spindly species (at least for me) with bright yellow flowers on seemingly dead canes. *Dendrobium parishii* is a true nobile species that will bloom later in the

season even when a very small plant. The Gatton Sunray on the front page is a very old hybrid made by Sir Jerimiah Coleman in England in 1919. It was first awarded in 1936. Named for his country estate.

EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY • EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY



**ORCHIDS ARE A SCREAM 2025**

American Orchid Society Competition

**2025 EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SHOW AND SALE**

**RADISSON HOTEL – 1200 COLLINS RD NE • CEDAR RAPIDS**

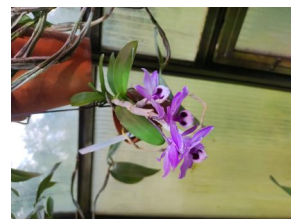
**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1st 10AM - 5PM**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2nd 10AM - 4PM**

Orchid Displays • Plant & Collectible Sales • Demonstrations

**FREE ADMISSION • NEW LOCATION**

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



The CENTRAL IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY Presents the

# 36th ANNUAL SPEAKERS DAY

Saturday, July 19th, 2025

Johnston Lions Club Community Center  
6401 Merle Hay Road  
Johnston, Iowa

## OUR SPEAKERS

### *Frank Cervera, Monster Island Orchids, NY*

Frank is a biologist who has been studying the ecology, biology and taxonomy of the genus *Phragmipedium* throughout natural populations for the past 25 years. His journey with *Phragmipedium* started in the 1980s when one of his ecology professors introduced him to orchids, which led him to buy a plant of *Phrag. longifolium*. After many years of trying to get a sense of which *Phragmipedium* species were which, and why he was killing so many plants, Frank decided to take the matter into his own hands. His 25-year sojourn to the jungles of Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Guyana and Brazil studying the genus *Phragmipedium*, the taxonomy, ecology and culture has given him unique access to the source material. Along the way, he has met some of the most well-known names and personalities in the *Phragmipedium* community. He has been to some of the most famous, and infamous, orchid nurseries in South America at critical times in the history of the genus and asked them to retell their stories. Frank has had the unique opportunity of going straight to the source and examining plants and flowers through extensive field research. He currently works in the financial services industry and resides, along with his family and his orchids, in New York (email frankrc@optonline.net)

Frank's topics will be "Phragmipedium Culture: What Can Mother Nature Teach Us?" and "The Phragmipediums of Brazil; A Journey to a Strange World".

### *Eric Sauer, River Valley Orchids, OH*

Eric has been growing orchids for over 30 years under the greenhouse name of River Valley Orchids and specializes in South American Species with a focus on *Brassia*, *Maxillaria* and *Phragmipedium*. He has spoken internationally and across the United States. Eric has had culture chapters published by Guido Braem in his book on *Paphiopedilum* and in his book on *Phragmipedium*. He also has a feature article on *Maxillaria* in Orchid Digest and several of his *Maxillaria* photos published in Eric Christenson's book on *Maxillaria*. Eric has received over 100 awards from the American Orchid Society and has four orchids named after him including two species from Ecuador. He is the current president of the Miami Valley Orchid Society and the president of the Mid America Orchid Congress. Eric also serves as one of the award photographers for the Cincinnati Judging Center. Eric's real job is as a registered landscape architect serving as the planning manager for Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, Ohio. Eric's topics will be Expanding Your Collection - Yes You can Know What You Are Gonna Get" and "A Few Favorite South American Genera".

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

|            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Continental Breakfast, Plant      |
| 8:00-10:00 | Plants registered for AOS Judging |
| 9:00-11:30 | Morning presentations, one by     |
| 11:00      | AOS Judging                       |
| 11:30      | Buffet Lunch / Plant sales        |
| 1:00 p.m.  | First afternoon presentation      |
| 1:45       | Afternoon Desert Bar              |
| 2:30       | Second afternoon presentation     |
| 3:15       | Drawing for Door Prizes /         |

**Plan to attend, this is a wonderful event!**

## REGISTRATION FEE

Registration fee of \$30.00 per person covers all costs. (\$35.00 at the door)

Early reservations would be helpful in planning the event.

For more information, reservations, etc. please contact:

Chriss Barck at (515) 418-7387



## Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

Micheal Hampton  
2280 McGowan Blvd.  
Marion, IA 52302-2258



## The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

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

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



In fond memory of our long standing member **Phil Mears** who passed away this April. Phil lived on the east side of Iowa City and maintained an wonderful backyard full of orchids and many other native plants. He was known for his weekly garden blogs each spring. Below is his *Stenorrhynchos speciosum* 'Maisie' awarded CCM/AOS 83 pts at the Minnesota Winter Carnival Show, St Paul 1/27/24.



(Continued from page 1)

At our May meeting we had election of officers and Jon will be President, Matt VP, executive-advisory council the same except Denise has declined. Officers are on the sidebar of page one.

I could really use your help! What would you like to be discussed at our programs for next year? I can choose topics I would like to learn more about, but I would rather get your input and cover topics of interest to you. Please email me. Thank you! [Lorence5@aol.com](mailto:Lorence5@aol.com)

Thanks to all for another great year. See you in June and then next year, 25-26. first meeting September 4th. At Shueyville Church.

### Directions to Jon and Joan Lorence's house.

191 Knollwood Dr NE Solon, IA 52333

1:30 to 3:30 June 8th Repotting meeting.

