

In This Month's Newsletter: Note from the President, Blue Cats by Laynez, Show Season Review, Florida get-away, Surprise in the Greenhouse

The Spike
April 2023

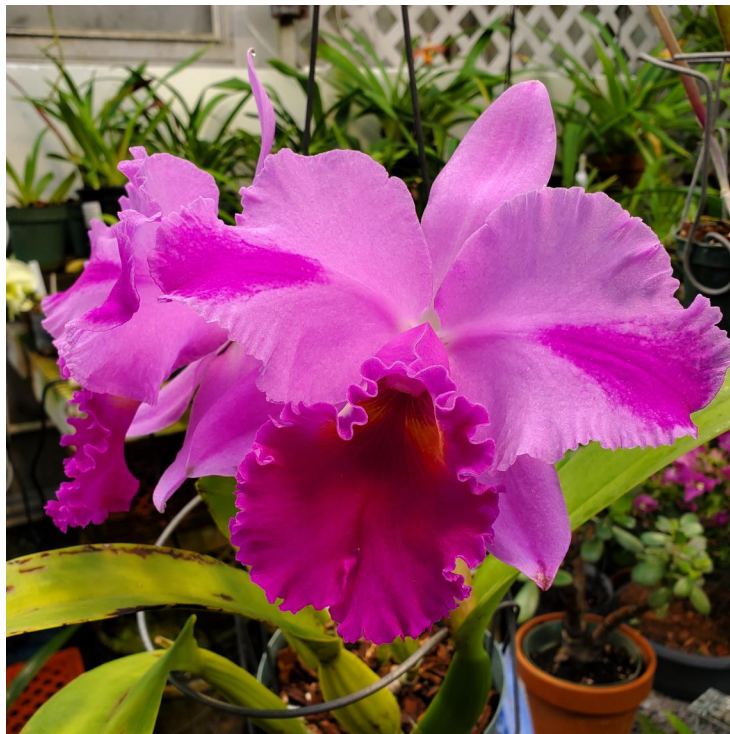
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EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

The Spike

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



Our President sent this picture of a gorgeous pink Cattleya cross - **C. Pavlov x C. Louise Georgianna**. These flowers are spectacular but unfortunately we don't see them that often as the plants tend to be large and require high light conditions. Interestingly, this cross is between two white parents but with *C. intermedia* and *Mossiae* as grandparents. Pinks often come through with first generation hybrids crosses.

PRESIDENT'S BLURB

I must begin with a huge Thank You to Andy for his program in March on the genus *Rossioglossum*. Inspires a person to go shopping.

Last meeting I was presented with a situation where I was nearly speechless. On one hand I thought how did this happen; and on the other grateful and inspired that it happened. I am speaking of the plants that Jeff and Jim brought for show and tell. They were gorgeous! Beautifully grown and flowered. The thing is, the plants are divisions of my plants that I provided for the auction and they are grown better than I was growing them. I laughed and immediately had to find out what they did differently. It is wonderful to see plants grown so well. GREAT JOB!!

The April 6th meeting is "**The World of Cypripediums**" given by Carson Whitlow. It is a wonderful program on terres-

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Calendar of Events

EIOS monthly meeting program: The World of Cypripediums by Carson Whitlow	April 6th 2023
Easter Showcase, Noelridge Park Greenhouse, Cedar Rapids, Iowa EIOS will have plants for sale	April 8-9 2023
EIOS monthly meeting program: Review of orchid awarded in 2022	May 11th 2023
NOTE DATE CHANGE!	
Mother's Day Noelridge Show- case: EIOS will have plants for sale	May 14th 2023
EIOS progressive dinner and growers tour	June 4th, 2023

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It's A Small World. By Laynez Ackermann

I was at my sister's house for Thanksgiving and so decided to go to Hausermann's to get some orchid bark. I walked into the display room and my eye, as usual, went to the Cattleya table. Across the room a blue one caught my eye. The closer I got the better it looked and even though I only went there for bark I had to have that plant. Talking to the cashier it came up I was from Iowa and as we discussed other Iowans he said the plant you have come to us from Carson Whitlow. When I said I knew him, he told me that I should send Carson a picture of the bloom. I emailed Carson and indeed he wanted a picture and I sent him some.

I looked into the plant. The cross was labeled CW102 Lc Memoria Francis Takakura X C. Purity 'Coerulea'. The label was dated 12/14. I think Nile and myself may have bought some of these from Carson but I have killed mine. This was a first bloom seedling. If it took Hausermann's 8 years to first bloom it I don't

feel too bad about losing mine. I thought it's a small world when I can go to Illinois to get orchid bark and get a Carson Whitlow creation.

The plant is nicely scented too and so my ride home with it in the car was pleasant. Carson will be our speaker at the April meeting talking on native Lady Slippers some of which we can grow or find in the wild here in Iowa.



Layne also sent this picture of another 'old time' blue cattleya. These mostly bloom in the fall. Some folks see them as violet in coloration. This is Cat. CG Roebling 'Sentinel' a primary hybrid cross of *C. gaskelliana* x *C. (Laelia) purpurata*. It used to be *Laeliocattleya* [Lc.] but with genus name changes it is simply *Cattleya* followed by (1895) when it was registered by Sanders in England. There is another CG Roebling (1916) (*C. harrisoniana* x *C. mendelii*) made and registered by M Roebling of Trenton New Jersey in 1916. **Aren't these names fun!** Photo Wiz right



Spring Show Season is **DONE** but what a 'Ride' our Society had!

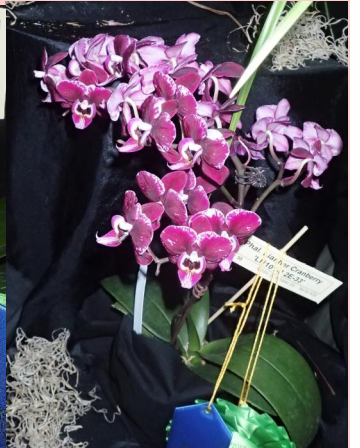
EIOS exhibited 3 weeks in a row: Batavia Show (2/25) at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois; Mileagers Greenhouse in Racine Wisconsin (3/4); and finally the Illinois Show at the Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe, Illinois (3/11). The final show was our largest display by far, done in the 'round' with several specimen plants and 7 Best of Class or Special Awards. Jon Lorence's

Dendrobium anosmun hung from one of our long standing driftwood trees and highlighted one side of the exhibit. It received Best of Classes for Dendrobiums, for Specimen Plants and the President's award for Best plant in the show!

It was just perfectly bloomed with most all flowers open and in their prime! At the opposite side of the exhibits on the other tree were two giant Bulbophyllums of Marcia Whitmore's - **Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'** Best of Class Bulbophyllums and **Bulb. falcatum**. (below) These two plus Jon's dendrobium captured 1st, 2nd, 3rd place ribbons for all specimen plants in the show.

Doc Bannister's phals highlighted the display. A basket of whites sat at the top center and art shades, orange, yellow and lavender spread around the sides. He received two Best of Class for **Phal. Joy Spring Canary**, a novelty hybrid

with *amboinensis*, *violacea* and *michlitzii* in parentage; and **Phal. Lianher Cranberry**, a multifloral miniature big-lip cross. (above right) Deno Kandis contributed another pendent **Dendrobium moniliforme x lamyiae** that brightened the yellow side of the display. Above it was Andy's **Ludisia discolor** and although not well seen, Dusdieker's **Maxillaria tenuilifolia** hung on the tree scattering the 'coconut' scent throughout the hall. We used two Paphiopedilum baskets to consolidate the flowers and facilitate transport. The overall height of the exhibit is shown in the photo on the left. NILE



More Show Photos

We attended and exhibited at 5 Spring shows (Jan - March) Minnesota, Madison, to Batavia, Racine and Illinois. Special thanks to all who contributed plants. About 15 club members participated. Also we could not have done this without transport and setup help. (Andy and Will, Jeff and Jim, Nile and Lois, Bill Page, Dorothy and Michael Hampton, Deno Kandis, Marcia Whitmore). Our Racine display was smaller but tasteful (right).

VETERANS of the SEASON! Some folks don't think that orchids are 'tough' but looking back at the show lists, we had several that made it to all 5 shows. **Phal. Sogo Yukidian 'V3'**



is one durable white, I can see why it is so popular with events and weddings. The little **Phal Lianher Cranberry** charmed the judges with first place ribbons for all shows and the Best of Class at the last one! (One tough cutie!) The white with red lip, **Phal OX Honey** was not always a ribbon winner but was a regular participant. Phal basket from the Racine show (left)

At the far left in the picture is Jeff Metcalf's first bloom seedling, **Lc. Puppy Love 'True Beauty' HCC** a five show veteran. Andy's **Ludisia** was there for Minnesota, Madison, and Illinois.

It was too large to transport to the other shows. Similarly Phil Mear's **Stenorrhynchos speciosum** and Jon lorence's **C. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'** were regulars at the later shows. (right) Sequential bloomers such as Jeff Metcalf's **Phrag. Don Wimber** (left) and Nile's **Paph chamberlainianum** also went to all five shows - and it is still blooming now! (middle). We were very fortunate to have a wide variety of different kinds of orchids (genera) which made out exhibits quite popular with show visitors. A couple weirdos are shown here: (below left) is Bill Pages' **Tsubodaara Melinda Marie** (a combination of **Aganisia**, **Pabstia**, and **Zygopetalum**). Next to it is Dusdiekers' **Sudamerlycaste cobiana**. The trio of helpers from the Batavia setup show that we do all have a good time! No weirdos there! Nile D

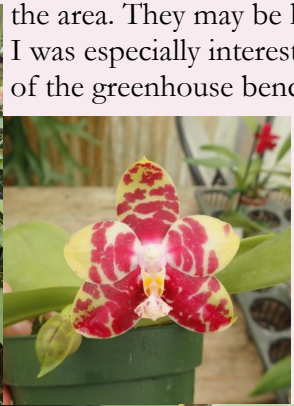


A Little Get Away:

After show season Lois and I got to zip to the Atlantic coast of Florida primarily to **do nothing!** Nice weather, beautiful beach, too many people; but we managed to see some wildlife. Lots of gators anywhere in some native swamp. We didn't see any pythons which are invading the Everglades. We visited Blue Springs State Park and saw over 100 manatees that like to winter there due to the warmer water. Then of course had to visit some orchid nurseries! The area just east of Orlando



near Apopka is home to many nurseries for all kinds of plants. **Orchids in Bloom** had a wonderful variety of potted orchids at very reasonable prices. Jim Krull, in past of Krull-Smith Orchids, now owns this nursery. Some photos of their plants and displays. Next stop just down the road was **Krull-Smith Orchids** which is probably the premier nursery in



the area. They may be having the AOS Spring meeting in the next couple of years. I was especially interested in their breeding of novelty phalaenopsis. Some photos of the greenhouse bench and a couple that I purchased. These need to be grown different from standard phals - they like it hot with good drainage media. They flower sequentially on inflorescences for months at a time. We shall see! This row: Phal. Hannover Passion, Phal Freya's Firefox. Next row Phal. Krull's Red Dragon and one parent, Phal Ken Avant. I also found the rather gangly species **Phal amboinensis** - cheap - if I can keep it alive. looks like I can divide it Finally, we spent the afternoon at **Ecuagenera's nursery** open house. They are know for species propagation of North and South American orchids and they visit orchid shows around the world. Ivan Portillo was there and arranged our tour over the Andes in Ecuador after the World Orchid Congress in 2017. He told us he would gladly arrange another special tour if we could get a group together. A new shipment of plants had arrived from Ecuador that day and we had to sample several as one can see. They had huge Anguloas (Tulip Orchid) and this one made it home in good shape. Nile

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www.easterniowaorchidsociety.org



A Surprise in the Greenhouse - smells like old dishwater - this *Epidendrium ciliare* (the Fringed Star Orchid) was just starting to bloom. It is a wide spread species in the Caribbean, Central and South America usually growing as a clumping epiphyte. The white fringed lip and fragrance seems to attract the pollinator, Pseudosphinx tetrio at least in Puerto Rico where it was studied. Nile D



(Continued from page 1)

trial orchids, some of which are found locally. Carson has been breeding and propagating orchids for many years. He has published over 30 articles in U.S. and European journals. Carson's hybrid work is recognized throughout the world. Please join us.

Your mom and kids would enjoy visiting Noelridge Greenhouses Easter weekend Sat. and Sun. April 8th and 9th 1100-5:00. Purchase an orchid, visit, and tour the greenhouses. If you are one of the volunteers to help advertise our society those days, a huge Thank You.

The show season has come to a close (fall-spring). We all must take a moment and thank Nile, Lois, and all those responsible for all they do to make it possible for our society to be recognized through the beautiful displays of orchids they create at each show. THANK YOU TO ALL!

Have you ever wondered if there is an orchid garden in heaven? One with more flowers, more color, more beauty than you can ever imagine. How great it would be to walk among them and hopefully tend to them. I wonder if you can kill an orchid in heaven? LOL !!!

Hope to see you at the meeting. Bring a friend.

Jon

Hosts for Upcoming Meeting

Bill Page

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, read our newsletters, attend our Fall Orchid Show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and come join us at our next meeting!