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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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**Phrag. Perufloras Spirit 'Dusty's Sweetheart' HCC/AOS** awarded to Nile and Lois Dusdieker at our fall show. More on kovachii hybrids inside.

## PRESIDENT'S BLURB

Our calendar year is almost over and what a year it has been. Our club is growing now with over 50 members. We have been very active with displays at orchid shows throughout the region, an education table at the Master Gardener's Winter Gardening Show at Kirkwood, exhibits at both Noelridge Greenhouse Showcases, educational programs at our meetings, talks by members at other Master Gardener and orchid clubs, and all around fun meetings here at home. We had our challenges: snowed out for the January Minnesota show and iced out for our February meeting. We received our kudos: Best of Class exhibits at Neenah, Milwaukee, and our show, plus Show Trophies and AOS Silver Certificates for the Mil-

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Calendar of Events

<b>Holiday Party - Appetizers at 6:30, supper at 7PM, Gift plant selection to follow.</b>	<b>Dec. 5, 2019</b>
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<b>No January Meeting</b>	
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<b>Minnesota Winter Carnival Show, St. Paul, MN; EIOS to display.</b>	<b>Jan. 25-26, 2020</b>
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<b>Orchid Quest at Madison, WI; EIOS will display</b>	<b>Feb. 1-2, 2020</b>
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<b>February meeting EIOS, Shueyville Methodist Church. Social 6:30, meeting 7 pm. Program: Orchid Diseases Part II.</b>	<b>Feb. 6, 2020</b>
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# Thank you 'Stevie Wonder' for your talk on Cattleyas!



Our good friend Steve Gonzalez from Minnesota was our guest speaker at the Nov. meeting. He gave a nice summary of Cattleya species with emphasis on blooming and growth cycles. Hybrids of these species in general follow the same blooming times. The charts on this page are from his presentations and were originally compiled by Bill Rogerson, also a Chicago Center judge and well known Cattleya expert. Cattleyas in general are very hardy, grow in open bark media and require high light. They bloom once a year on their new growths that rise perpendicular

to the surface (sympodial growth). When the media breaks down, repotting is needed BUT timing to protect the emerging roots is important. Obviously if the plant is sick then repotting should be done immediately. Steve also told us that the newer hybrids are smaller and more compact which makes them easier to grow on window sills or under lights. NILE D

## Types of Cattleyas (sympodial growth)

Unifoliate



Root < Bloom  
- Andean + Brz

Root > Bloom  
- Venezuela + Brz.

Bifoliate



Root > Bloom  
- Brazilian.....

Root < Bloom  
- Guarianthe/C. intermedia

### Blooming Seasons for Unifoliate Cattleya Species in The 'Root Before Bloom' Group

Repot these when they begin to send up new growths in Spring/Summer

<i>Species</i>	<i>Blooming Season</i>
C. maxima	July to November
C. labiata	October/November
C. mooreana	November
C. jenmanii	December/January
C. percivaliana	December/January
C. quadricolor	late December/January
C. trianaei	January/February
C. schroderae	March/April
C. lawrenceana	March/April
C. iricolor	April/May
C. mossiae	April/May
C. luteola	April/May
C. mendelii	April/May/June

### Blooming Seasons for Bifoliate Cattleya Species in The 'Root Before Bloom' Group

Repot these when they begin to send up new growths in Spring/Summer

<i>Species</i>	<i>Blooming Season</i>
C. bowringiana	October/November
C. loddigesii	November to March
C. deckeri	December/January
C. amethystoglossa	January/February
C. aurantiaca	February/March
C. intermedia	March/April/May
C. skinneri	April

### Blooming Seasons For Bifoliate Cattleya Species in The 'Root After Bloom' Group

Repot these immediately after they bloom in Spring/Summer/Fall

<i>Species</i>	<i>Blooming Season</i>
C. schilleriana	April/May
C. forbesii	April/May
C. porphyroglossa	May/ early June
C. granulosa	May/ early June
C. harrisoniana	June/July
C. leopoldii	June/July
C. schofieldiana	July/August
C. eldorado	July/August
C. velutina	August
C. bicolor	August/September
C. elongata	September
C. gutatta	September
C. tenuis	September

### Blooming Seasons For Unifoliate Cattleya Species in The 'Root After Bloom' Group

Repot these immediately after they bloom in Spring/Summer/Fall

<i>Species</i>	<i>Blooming Season</i>
C. lueddemanniana	March
C. warneri	May
C. warszewiczii	June/July
C. dowiana	late June/July
C. rex	July
C. gaskelliana	July
C. aurea	July/Aug /Sept.

## How Did They Get SO BIG!



**Phragmipediums** are native to South America and are called **American tropical slipper orchids**. Most of the specie plants tend to be larger than Asian Paphiopedilums with longer linear leaves such as *Phrag longifolium* pictured left. In nature they are found along streams or rocky cliffs with their roots in or near flowing water. Initially, most Phrag. hybrids were green and bronze in color with variable petal length; *Phrag Les Diroules 'Dusty's Big Boy'* (right).



Then, along came *Phrag besseae* (1981), the brilliant orange flower that added an entirely new color pallet to hybrids (pictured in Ecuador lower left). Still they were relatively small in size.



In 2002 a giant Phrag was found in Peru with natural spread of 16cm. The story of its illegal importation to the US and the drama surrounding the ultimate naming is documented in ["The Scent of Scandal"](#) by Craig Pittman. Now we can legally obtain *Phrag kovachii* and its hybrids. Three are shown up top - all over 12 cm in

width blooming in our dining room. The one on the left is *Phrag Perufloa Spirit 'Dusty's Sweetheart'* now with its 3rd flower. The cross is *kovachii* x Eric Young (*besseae* x *longifolium*) - so it has a bit of all three groups! The size and much of the color comes from *kovachii*! The middle flower is

*kovachii* x Carrefour Selous which is (*sargentianum* x *wallisii* - both green with thin petals and just a hint of red). The flower color is a blend of the green and the rose of parents but again the size is much larger due to *kovachii*..The right flower is very interesting: *Phrag. Incan Treasure (Phrag kovachii x longifolium)* - no red *besseae*). This flower morphs from an ugly duckling over 5 days into a flat large violet flower and then quickly withers. The species *kovachii* (pictured above) has a tendency to do this as well .I guess size isn't everything. NILE D (additional photos Lois Cinert)



## Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

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### The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

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Lois and Nile Dusdieker (our Pres.) remind all to come to the holiday party, Thursday Dec. 5th starting at 6:30 pm at the Shueyville United Methodist Church. RSVP to [niledusdieker@gmail.com](mailto:niledusdieker@gmail.com) with your pot-luck offering and plan on selecting your gift blooming orchid at the party. *Happy Holidays to ALL.*

(Continued from page 1)

waukee MAOC and our 'Orchids Are A Scream 2' displays. The latter was the first time I can remember that we had nearly 100 plants to arrange into the exhibit.

Our **December meeting** is the annual Holiday Party with appetizers at 6:30 and supper at 7pm. The club will provide fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, drinks, plates and silverware. Members are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. We always have wonderful food! After supper we will have our 'mandatory' annual business meeting in order to keep our 501c3 non-profit status intact. THEN the fun begins with an individual nametag drawing for each member to select their blooming orchid gift to take home. Newman's Orchids from Hawaii will provide a nice variety of genera and Doc. Bannister will offer his lovely Phalaenopsis as a donation to the club. Wonderful holiday presents for all!

For the coming year we plan to view the second webinar on Orchid Diseases at the Feb. meeting and members can bring any of their 'not so healthy' plants for a diagnostic evaluation. We plan to display at Minnesota and Madison shows as well. Members should plan to send orchids. More by email on that. NILE D

*Happy Holidays to All*

### Hosts for Upcoming Meeting

#### Holiday Party Pot-luck

#### 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!