

In This Month's Newsletter: Note from the President, Summary of beginning orchid growing, a quiz, AOS educational webinar, Not so pretty after all.

The Spike
December 2022

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



EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

The Spike

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

Holiday Bloomin Cattleyas: Doc's Holiday 'Iowa' AM/AOS

awarded Dec. 2017 (Hausermann's Holiday 'Christmas' AM/AOS x William John Nawa 'Lisa')



'Tis the season for those large lavender cattleyas to show all their glorious blooms. Many also have a wonderful fragrance. Doc Bannister bred, registered, named and had his hybrid awarded in 2017. Nile D

PRESIDENT'S BLURB

I would like to begin by welcoming our newest members, Carol Obadol, Allethina Harlan, Margaux Hovda, and Georgia Vajpeyi. After speaking with you, I discovered and unfortunately have diagnosed that you have all developed an addiction to orchids. My sympathy. *My recommendation is that you attend group counseling and therapy with the other addicts of the EIOS at our monthly meetings.* I have heard that relapses are possible. I wouldn't know. I've never been successfully rehabilitated. Sorry!

Our Holiday Party is Thursday December 1st. The food list looks delicious! Appetizers are at 6:30 and the meal is at 7:00 PM. Be sure to bring a container to put your free plant in to go home. Keep it protected from the elements.

(Continued on page 6)



Calendar of Events

EIOS Holiday Party, Shueyville Church. 6:30 appetizers, 7pm main meal, gift orchid plants for members	Dec. 1st, 2022
AOS Webinar: Orchid Culture Day 10AM - 3 PM More information on page 5	Dec. 4th, 2022
NO JANUARY MEETING	
Minnesota Orchid Show, Como Park, St Paul, MN EIOS plans a display	Jan.28-29, 2023
EIOS Feb. meeting. Program 'Hands on repotting orchids' Jon Lorence	Feb. 2nd, 2023

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Common Orchids You Can Grow

- Cattleyas – the corsage orchids
- Phalaenopsis – the moth orchids
- Dendrobiums – the spray orchids
- Paphiopedilums – the slipper orchids

& HOW TO DO IT!

This was the topic of our November meeting with a PowerPoint presentation by Nile Dusdieker. Some of the summary slides are enclosed below. Remember more information on growing various genera of orchids can be found on the AOS website aos.org and by clicking How to Grow Orchids under features on our website.

Cattleyas

- Epiphytes, pseudobulbs to store water
- Flower last 3 to 4 weeks, bloom 1 to 2 times/yr Often quite fragrant
- Bright light, greenhouse or high intensity lamps – outside in summer – semi-shade
- Wide variation in temperature tolerated
- Intermittant watering – likes to dry out
- Coarse potting material, basket or mount
- Fertilize according to media when growing

Ric. (Bc.) Marcella Koss 'Pink Marvel' Hausermann's Orchids 1970

Phalaenopsis

- Well suited for home growing. Readily available at discount stores (no names).
- Blooms last for weeks, rebloom on spikes
- Moderate light – no direct sun
- House temperatures – 60s to 80s
- Consistent moisture but not too much, a humidity tray may help
- Well draining but water retentive potting media
- Likes fertilizer both for growth and blooming

Dendrobiums

- Epiphytes with long 'canes' to store water
- Very large variety of types - *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* hybrids most common for sale
- Long lasting flowers but difficult to initiate buds
- Bright light – some full sun – tolerate high temperatures
- Water and fertilize when actively growing
- Often require a distinct rest period
- Like to be pot-bound with firm tight media

Paphiopedilums

- Semi-terrestrial with very long lasting flowers
- Moderate light, keep leaves green
- Home temperatures or slightly cooler
- Keep evenly moist and humidity is important
- Fertilize lightly and regularly, don't let residue build up, tend to like a little lime
- Repot often with water retentive but well draining media

Paph. Lady MacBeth

- **Green** leaves – proper environment
- **Healthy Roots** –
- **Observe** growth habits
- **Don't over Water**

GREEN: leaves should be olive color with proper light, thinner leaves are darker and need less light. **ROOTS:** inspect if plant doesn't look good. Most orchids need air access to roots. **OBSERVE:** Orchids grow slowly so note growth habits and research their native habitat. **WATER:** Please no ice cubes, pure water and weakly - weakly fertilizer - maybe! NILE D



THE QUIZ! We welcome new members that attended our club meeting Nov. 3rd after signing up at the October Orchid Show. Jon Lorence did show-and-tell plants. Enjoy this quiz from Dusdieker greenhouse.



Enclosed are a variety of orchid photos which need to be matched with the descriptions listed here.



#1: I am a slipper orchid native to Sumatra and I'm known by two names: *Victoria-regina* and *Chamberlianianum*.

#2 I am a slipper orchid primary hybrid between *Paph. tigrinum* and *Paph. bellatulum* with a German connection. Wössner Tigerbell

#3 I am a cool growing orchid native to the Andes of Columbia to Peru. *Rodriguezia* [Rdza.] *batemanii*



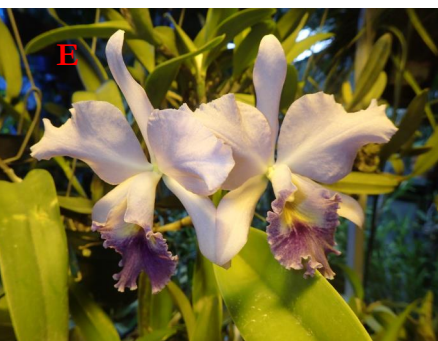
#4 I am a first bloom seedling of a cross made by Nile nearly a decade ago from blue 'cats' at the Noelridge Show. Parents were **Ctt. Portia** x **C Tanya Duncan**.

#5 I am a 50 year old hybrid that has never received an AOS award. Rlc. **Paul Hausermann** - known as a splash petal cattleya.

#6 I am the same cross as another pictured here. This is my second blooming. Ctt. Portia x C Tanya Duncan



#7 I am a terrestrial orchid native to China. I have lovely striped leaves. *Calanthe* [*Cal.*] *argenteostriata*.



ANSWERS

A4, B5, C3,
D1, E6, F7,
G2

How did you do?
Nile D



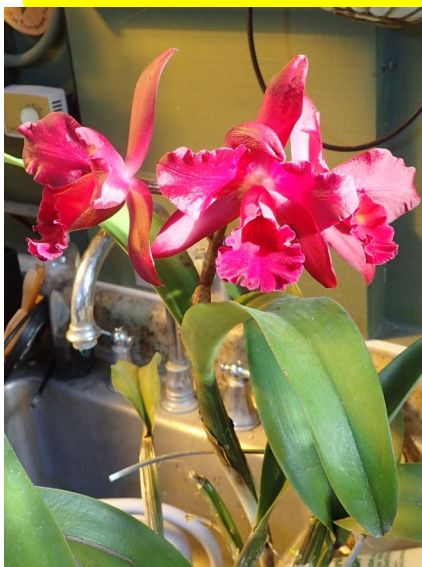
Aren't These Pretty? WELL Maybe Not SOOOO!

See what you think! On the right is Rlc. Meditation '#5' which has been a regular bloomer for me for years - this year it had terrible ruffled form and bloomed out of cycle. Also I noted purple blotches on the newer leaves. (left) I have two different clones, 'Queen's Dowry' and 'King's Ransom' that seem to be much healthier plants with no spotting.



In the past, those purple spots, especially on epidendrums, have suggested VIRUS. I tested and sure enough it was positive for Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus (ORSV). **Garbage!?**

Below is a first bloomer for me from Carmela's Orchids some years ago. At first glance - wow - wine red with four flowers on a healthy appearing plant. A closer look as the flowers matured showed color breaks in the petals. (see arrows) This is a genetic alteration and may be inherent to the cross, but frequently it sug-



gests VIRUS. I tested and sure enough it also was ORSV positive. The other common virus is Cymbidium Mosaic Virus (CymMV) The St. Augustine Orchid Society has a nice review of orchid viruses.

<https://staugorchidsociety.org/culturepests-viruses.htm>

So what to do now? They are '**garbage dumpster orchids**'! Pot and all. I do save the wire supports but Lois bakes them in the oven at 300 degrees for an hour for sterilization,



I don't test all our orchids for virus but try to practice good hygiene for hands and potting table plus I try to watch for 'bugs' especially ants that can transmit disease. I read recently that as many as a third of old standard cattleyas are virused. Many show no signs of the disease. What to do in this case? A purest would test them all and discard the 'baddies'. I have trouble with that but I do try to keep an eye out and document the blooms and growth habits of each plant. I test when there is a question. I have a Clo. Black Jade (Cls russelliana x Ctsm denticulatum) (left) that has bloomed annually since 2013 and tests + for both viruses. The flowers are perfect and I can't bear to part with the plant. It has a place of isolation in the greenhouse and I have told it "you can stay here as long as you continue to grow and bloom each year - otherwise it is the dumpster for you too!" Nile D

The AOS is Proud to Announce its Third Annual Orchid Culture Day!
A Virtual Event

Join us **SUNDAY**, December 4th starting at 10:00 AM CST/11:00 AM Eastern
 This is information from the AOS website

Come with your coffee and snacks! Enjoy a day with these delightful speakers and learn about these topics, history, hybridizing and of course, orchid CULTURE!

Schedule (All times are Central Standard Time)

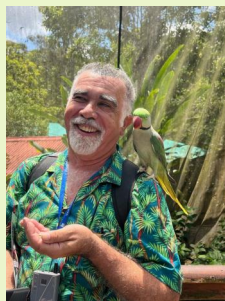
10:00 -10:45 am Russ Vernon
 10:45 - 11:00 am Q & A
 11:00 -11:15 am Coffee Break
 11:15 - 12:00 Noon Peter T. Lin
 12:00 Noon -12:15 pm Q & A
 12:15 - 12:30 pm Refreshment break
 12:30 - 1:15 pm Ron McHatton 1:15 -1:30 pm We'll take questions for Ron to answer later
 1:30 -1:45 pm Refreshment break
 1:45 - 2:30 pm Tom Mirenda 2:30 - 2:45 pm Q & A
 2:45 - 3:00 pm We will spin the Wheel of Orchid Fortune for prizes

Join us **SUNDAY**, December 4th starting @ 10:00 AM Central (11:00 AM Eastern)

This event will be held virtually using our GotoWebinar platform.

Unable to Join the Live Stream? No problem! We will provide registrants a link to view the recording at your convenience.

Tom Mirenda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades. He is an AOS Trustee and accredited judge, a well-known speaker and author. He is featured in *Orchids* magazine every month with his culture column "Tom's Checklist". Tom is a past Chair of the Conservation committee and has contributed to the conservation of orchids both in situ and ex-situ in collaboration with orchid gardens, professional growers, academia, and backyard growers. Tom's talk is titled "**How Habitat Informs Culture: Lessons from a World Traveler.**"



REGISTRATION \$30 - you can find information at **AOS.ORG/webinars**

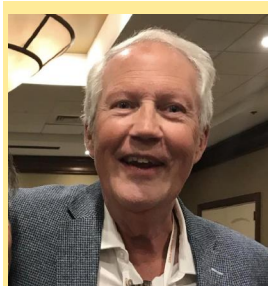
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3170416916604535823>

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Peter T. Lin, a noted breeder and AOS judge, will speak on **Dendrobium Species and their Culture**. Peter started growing orchids over 40 years ago. He is an AOS accredited judge and a hybridizer of mini-catts. He enjoys meeting other orchid enthusiasts and can often be found at orchid shows and society meetings around the country. Due to limited growing space, Peter specializes in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias (Vandas). He is also known as "Mr.Sophrontis" as he has a passion for growing and collecting them. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids in Southern California.



Russ Vernon, a noted breeder, AOS Judge and AOS Trustee will speak about **Oncidiums: Concern, Confusion and Culture**. Russ is a graduate of Ohio State University and has been active at Ball State University's Wheeler Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank for many years. He and his wife Anita own New Vision Orchids, specializing in "Odonts" (Oncidiums) and their intergenerics. He is a past president of the Mid-America Orchid Congress and International Phalaenopsis Alliance.



Ron McHatton, PhD. AOS Chief Education and Science Officer and *Orchids* magazine Editor will be speaking via pre-recorded program on **(Updated) Effective Pest Management**. Ron leads the monthly Orchid Greenhouse chats. He is a graduate of Iowa State with a PhD in Chemistry

and a postdoctoral Fellow at Caltech. He represents the AOS on the Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group (ORAG) and advises the RHS on matters of hybrid registration and nomenclature. He is an accredited 35-year AOS Judge. He grows a variety of orchids and has tended up to 2500 at one time due to his self-proclaimed lack of orchid willpower.

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

Be sure to come to EIOS Holiday Party, Thursday, Dec. 1st, 2022 at the Shueyville Methodist Church. The Paphs shown above are some of the gift plants from Lehua Orchids, Hawaii, available to members along with some Phalaenopsis from Doc Bannister. Those who ordered extra plants from Lehua, they will be available at the party with itemized cost payable to Nile. EIOS will provide the meat and members have signed up for appetizers, vegetables, desserts and beverages. The club has silverware and napkins. We will have a brief annual business meeting. Appetizers at 6:30, main meal at 7pm, dash for plants to follow!

(Continued from page 1)

Your Orchid Holiday Thank You List:

- Thank you for not scolding me for not blooming this year. However, your disappointment is obvious.
- Thank you for bringing home new plants to talk to. The local crowd is quite boring to talk to.
- Thank you for not knocking me off the shelf and onto the floor this year. It really hurts.
- Thank you for not breaking off my spike before I bloomed like last year. All that work for what? My spike lying on the floor?

MOST OF ALL Thank you for not putting my friends in the compost pile for not blooming.

Keep in mind the Minnesota Orchid Society show is January 28 & 29, 2023. Start talking to your plants now. **There will not be a January meeting in 2023.** Weather is usually not permitting. February will be repotting and plant care. If you have a plant that needs to be repotted or divided, bring it in and get help. Bring your troubled plant and get it free counseling from our unlicensed therapists.

See you at the Party!

Jon (Our next newsletter will be combined Jan-Feb 2023.)

Hosts for Upcoming Meeting

Holiday Pot-luck Feast

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!