



In This Month's Newsletter: Notes from the President,
Treasurers report and Business meeting minutes 12/18,
Pink Cattleyas, Photos from members, Meeting directions last page

The Spike
February 2019

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And on the web at easterniowaorchidsociety.org



EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

The Spike

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



Congratulations to Deno Kandis: His *Paph. Saiun* 'Forest Park' was awarded an AM of 82 pts at January Chicago Judging. A stately green beauty!

President's Blurb!

Welcome to 2019! So far weather has been cooperative and orchids are happy. Many of ours are blooming a couple weeks early. We had a wonderful holiday gathering in December and all the gift plants were taken! We did not meet in January, but will have a great meeting in February with Andy-Coghill-Behrends' talk on small Phalaenopsis. Prior to the meeting, your club will be going to two large regional orchid shows. The Minnesota Show is at Como Park in St Paul in their beautiful glass arboretum. Usually several thousand people attend. Main exhibitors are Minnesota Orchid Society and EIOS, plus a number of smaller individual displays. Then a week later we travel to Madison

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Calendar of Events

Minnesota Orchid Show, Como Park, St. Paul, MN EIOS will have a display.	1/26-27/2019
Orchid Growers Guilds' Orchid Quest at Olbricht Botanical Center, Madison, WI EIOS will have a display.	2/2-3/2019
EIOS Meeting at Shueyville Methodist Church Program 'Small Phalaenopsis' by Andy Coghill-Behrends	2/7/2019
Batavia Orchid Show at Dupage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL EIOS will have a display	2/16-17/2019
Linn County Master Gardener Winter Garden Fair, Kirkwood Community College. EIOS will have table with potting mix and plants for sale.	2/16/19
EIOS Meeting at Shueyville Methodist Church Program "Orchids 101" your questions answered. Moderator Sharon Neff	3/7/2019

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PHOTO OP FOR OUR MEMBERS AT THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY GATHERING!

Our club has 49 members and over 35 attended the party. Food was great (although a bit too much mashed potatoes) - *Y'all are such good cooks!* Gift plants were from Carmela's in Hawaii and Doc Bannister in Des Moines. We had a short annual business meeting - minutes are enclosed. *We do have a good time!*

Photos by Nile Dusdieker



Eastern Iowa Orchid Society Annual Meeting 2018 Held at Shueyville United Methodist Church, Shueyville, Iowa during the December EIOS Holiday gathering Dec. 6st. 2018. Called to order by Nile Dusdieker, President 8PM.

Club Officers: Nile Dusdieker, President and Web Master; Andy Coghill-Behrends, Vice President; Michael Hampton, Secretary and Newsletter Editor; Cathy Wilcox, Treasurer; Laynez Ackermann, AOS Representative; Nile Dusdieker, MAOC representative; Bill Snyder, registered agent in charge of filing nonprofit forms. Club currently has 49 members: quorum was present. Nile thanked everyone for all their participation in club activities throughout the year. Our club is a non-profit organization (501c3) with a major emphasis on education of members and the public about orchids. Fund raising activities go to meet that purpose. Major activities of the club include sponsoring the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale 'Orchids Are a Scream!' at the Elks Lodge in October; local orchid displays at Easter and Mother's Day Showcases and Master Gardener's Fair; participation in regional orchid shows throughout the Midwest; and eight monthly meetings with educational programs. Guest speakers are paid an honorarium and travel expenses if they are not club members. Activities (minutes) of the club are recorded in the monthly newsletters. A Treasurers report will be given by Cathy Wilcox and published in the February 2019 newsletter.

MOTION: To approve the activities of the club and specifically the actions of the officers of the club for 2018 including Treasurer's report and Secretary's documentation in the newsletter. Motion carried unanimously.

All club activities are provided by members on a purely volunteer basis. This includes meeting preparation, refreshments, representing the club at regional orchid shows and orchid judging events, orchid field trips and arranging speakers and educational programs.

MOTION: The club shall provide documentation of donated volunteer services upon request which states that no goods or services were received by the donors from the club. Motion carried unanimously.

At times the club needs to purchase items for club activities such as holiday food, gift plants, and support items like ribbons and awards for our show. These items may be purchased and paid for by individual members at the direction of the club officers with bills submitted to club treasurer for reimbursement.

MOTION: The club has a policy to reimburse individual members for purchase of items specifically designated by the officers for general club use. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BZ: Next year's orchid show will be Oct 26-27, 2019 at the Elks Club Hall on SW 33rd Street. The club will again setup a small display and be selling donated orchids to raise funds for our fall show at the Easter and Mother's Day Noelridge Showcases and the Winter Gardener's Fair at Kirkwood Community College. The club plans to exhibit at several orchid shows throughout the Mid-West this year. **SPECIAL THANKS:** To all our club members that have given of their time and funds to support the club this year. We should be especially proud of the recent orchid show at the Elks Lodge. Thanks to Michael Hampton newsletter editor, Nile Dusdieker our web master, Cathy Wilcox our Treasurer. Special Thanks to Doc Robert Bannister for donating so many plants for our various functions.

No other old or new business items?; were brought forth and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Submitted: Nile Dusdieker President. Dec. 6, 2018

Pink Cattleyas Winter Marvels

Photos by Laynez Ackerman text by Nile Dusdicker



Large flowered cattleyas are becoming a rarity in orchid collections and at orchid shows. They are large unifoliate plants that really don't bloom well until they are in 8 to 10 inch pots (over 10 to 15 years growth from seedling). They largely have been replaced with smaller compact plants with smaller flowers that bloom much sooner. Laynez likes the 'oldies' Pictured here is his Rlc. Pamela Hetherington (left): a grand old hybrid registered in 1970 by one of the great hybridizers of the mid 1900s, Stewart Orchids near San Francisco. It has over 5 generations of breeding and has 7 AOS awards including 2 FCC (the highest flower quality award given). It has been used as a parent in 193 hybrids to date. The right photo is a Stewart's cross between Pamela Hetherington and Drumbeat Heritage, named Rlc. Triumphal Coronation. Several club member have this hybrid thanks to divisions from Doc. Bannister. The middle photo is Rlc. Mount Hood 'Orchidglade' AM/AOS made by another famous company, Jones and Scully of Miami Florida in 1966. The flowers are from 15 to 18 cm across. As an added bonus, they smell GREAT! Nile D

Guarding the holy grail of orchids

Liam Mannix

At a top-secret location in Victoria, fenced off and well-camouflaged, there grows a plant.

It is obviously special. It is rare and beautiful and deeply strange.

The secrecy is vital because, were its location known, it would become a tourist attraction – and risk being trampled. Or worse: stolen by illegal wildflower poachers.

Scientifically, it is labelled *Caladenia colorata* – the coloured spider orchid. The team of scientists who have spent more than a decade trying to cultivate it simply call it the "holy grail".

"It's a completely outrageous plant," says Dr Noushka Reiter, leader of that effort.

Orchid lovers are an obsessive bunch, but *Colorata* inspires a

fervour that goes above and beyond, both because it is extremely endangered – only about 1000 exist in the wild – and extremely odd.

"I would not say orchid lovers are crazy," says Dr Reiter, a scientist and orchid lover at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. "They are just eccentric."

Unlike most other plants, orchids won't grow alone – they need a very particular species of fungi as a partner. A seed from the orchid won't grow unless it lands in dirt colonised by precisely the right fungi.

The orchid and fungi grow together, the fungi living inside the cells of the plant.

During its life, the fungi provides it with nutrients it cannot get otherwise, and the orchid provides

the same service to the fungi.

But that's not its oddest trait. *Colorata* is what's known as a single-species, "sexually deceptive" pollinator.

Most plants will let any old insect spread their pollen. Not *colorata*, which insists on a certain native wasp.

Most plants lure in their pollinators with offers of delicious nectar, or a sweet smell or pretty flower. Not *colorata*.

It emits a pheromone that smells just like a female wasp. An amorous male wasp, not possessed of particularly good eyesight, mistakes the orchid's petals for a potential mate.

And then he... well, he tries to mate with the orchid and, in the process, gets covered in pollen. Which he spreads when he tries to

mate with other orchids. *Deceptive*.

Given all those moving parts, you can imagine that trying to breed a spider orchid has been something of a challenge.

"It's been a fun process," says Dr Reiter, dryly.

In an effort to preserve the extremely endangered orchid, Dr Reiter, a scientist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, has led a multi-institute team that has spent the past several years trying to breed them in captivity.

First, the team has to hunt for soil containing the right fungi. Seeds from one of the remaining plants are placed in the soil, and then the plant is wrapped up in a dark space for three months.

Finding the wasp is harder. To help, the Gardens enlisted Trust for Nature, a government-

established organisation that sets up legally protected wildlife reserves on private land.

Together, they surveyed the trust's holdings, finding six sites with the right mix of fungi, wasp, soil and climate.

"It's a very, very tricky science," says the Trust's south-west Victoria co-ordinator Adam Blake. "The only way you can find out whether this wasp is present is to go out and try to trap it."

Those six sites in the Wimmera, in Victoria's far west, were planted three years ago. And, Dr Reiter says, they now have well over 400 new seedlings happily growing by themselves – enough for a self-sustaining colony.

"For the first time, we have a population growth rate greater than one," says Dr Reiter.



NEWS FROM 'DOWN UNDER'

Our daughter's in-laws live in Melbourne, Australia and have beautiful orchids in their backyard. Kevin Duke sent this newspaper article for us to see.

These little terrestrial orchids are called 'spider orchids', *Caladenia colorata*.



PHOTOS from our MEMBERS. (Please send more!)



I just wanted to share this pic of the Miltonia I got at the Holiday party. It is a creamy white with purple and red. It is absolutely beautiful. The best part is that it smells like lilacs. Have a great Holiday. Bill Englert



EIOS Treasurer's Report 2018	
Beginning balance 1/1/208	+ \$9008.86
Revenue (Show excluded)	
Membership \$790	
Plant donations \$229	
Interest \$18.51	
Total	+1037.51
Expenses Show excluded)	
Speaker \$100	
Holiday party 843.89 (includes 2017 food cost)	
AOS membership \$125	
Donation for meeting space \$100	
Name badges \$52.99	
Total	-1221.88
EIOS show only	
Revenue	+ \$2079
Expenses	-\$1697.42
 Ending balance 12/31/18	 \$9206.07
 Submitted by Cathy Wilcox EIOS Treasurer 1/19/19	



Marsha Whitmore sent this Lysudamuloa Red Jewel that is blooming this January. This is a good Lycaste variant to grow as it usually is a vigorous grower and the flowers are large.



A fun quote on orchids I just had to pass on. Laynez

In March 1915, Woodrow Wilson's cousin introduced him to Edith Bolling Galt, a widow with smiling violet eyes and stylish attire. "You are the only woman I know who can wear an orchid," Wilson told her, "On everybody else, the orchid wears the woman."

McDowell, Marta. All the Presidents' Gardens: Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses—How the White House Grounds Have Grown with America Timber Press

Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

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The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

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

www.easterniowaorchidsociety.org



Congratulations

Andy Coghill-Behrends was elevated by the Chicago Judging Center to an Associate Orchid Judge at the January meeting. No more talks every 6 months and his judging skills now count! He is shown here helping setup EIOS display at Wisconsin this year. He will be giving his last student judging talk at our February meeting on Small Phalaenopsis.

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Wisconsin for Orchid Quest at the Olbricht Botanical Garden in Madison Wisconsin. This show is the first gathering of most of the clubs in our judging region for 2019. Also, there is a large room FULL of vendors that will have many unusual plants for sale. This show is only about 3 hours from Cedar Rapids. Anyone who has not attended a regional show—this is a good one to see! Later in February (2/16) the club displays at the Batavia Show in Wheaton, Illinois and Jean and Bill Snyder will man our display and information table at the Winter Gardener's Fair at Kirkwood the same weekend. I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting. We will try to have a set time for 'how to grow orchids' questions each meeting this year prior to the main program. Also the entire March meeting will be focused on answering your questions on basic orchid culture. Please bring plants for show and tell AND SEND PLANTS TO THE SHOWS—you likely will get some ribbons! I will send out emails as to where and when to collect the plants. We plan to have a raffle at our next meeting - get a free ticket if you bring a plant to show and tell. Nile Dusdieker

Hosts for Upcoming Meeting

Sharon Neff

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 an auction 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!