

**In This Month's Newsletter:** Note from the President, Pinky Blinders, Blue Vandas, AOS page SPEAKER'S DAY, and interesting virtual judging.

The Spike  
February 2021

EOS is Now on Facebook! At [easterniowaorchidsociety](https://www.facebook.com/easterniowaorchidsociety)



EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

# The Spike

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



What is a *Rossioglossum* [Ros.] *schlieperianum*? This Genus consists of 7 species of cool to cold growing orchids from Central America. They are related to *Odontoglossum*; separated by a distinct lip that is perpendicular and separate from the column. Genus named for English orchid collector Ross. NILE D

## PRESIDENT'S BLURB

It is now officially cold and snowy and we are all looking forward to spring and the weather warming again. As "plant people," we may pass the time by perusing seed catalogues (or orchid catalogs and websites), dreaming of fairer weather. In the doldrums of winter, we might even sneak in an orchid show or a trip to a botanical garden. Sadly, with venues closed, we will have to find other ways to stay connected with the orchid community. If you would like to spend some time with other orchidophiles, you can join us at our monthly meetings for virtual presentations.

In February, Cheryl Erins will join us to give a presentation on "Creating a New Habitat for the Little Guys." She will walk us through how to make a suitable growing space for miniature orchids. Then in March, Esteban Gonzalez will present on his extensive research of the



## Calendar of Events

EIOS Monthly virtual meeting.	Feb. 4th 2021
Cheryl Erins presents "Creating a New Habitat for the Little Guys" 6:30 Social, 7pm program.	
AOS Orchid Culture Speakers Day - registration <a href="http://www.aos.org">www.aos.org</a>	Feb. 6th 2021
\$30	
Chicago Orchid Judging Nile will be going - send plants!	Feb. 13th 2021
EIOS Monthly meeting via Zoom	Mar. 4th 2021
Steve Gonzales will talk on <i>Maxil-larias</i> .	

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# PINKY BLINDERS!

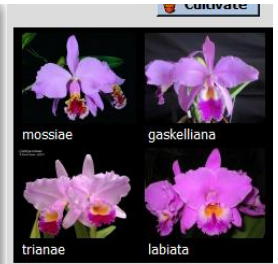
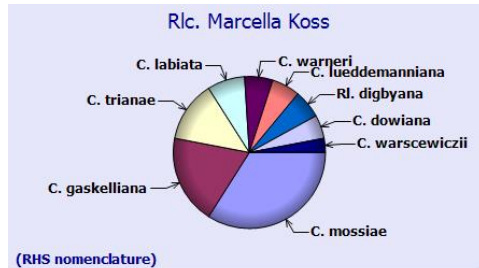
BY NILE DUSDIEKER



For those of us recluses at home during these ‘viral’ times, we may be watching the 1920s gangster series on Netflix called *Peaky Blinders*. Well, this page is about *grand old blinding pink cattleyas* from the 1970s. The three hybrids shown here all are fall to early winter blooming large unifoliate cattleyas. The top tier is *Rhynchobolaeliocattleya* (Rlc) Marcella Koss ‘Pink Marvel’ HCC/AOS, a plant I have had in the collections for many years. It was registered by Hausermanns in 1970. The second tier - right - is *Rhynchobolaeliocattleya* [Rlc.] Pink Debutante ‘First Love’ HCC/AOS which just finished blooming in December. It dates to registration by Armacost in 1969. The one on the left is my favorite *Rhynchobolaeliocattleya* [Rlc.] Pamela Hetherington ‘Coronation’ AM/AOS originally from Steward Orchids registered in 1970. I especially like the darker midline stripe. These are not small plants and they require plenty of light to bloom.



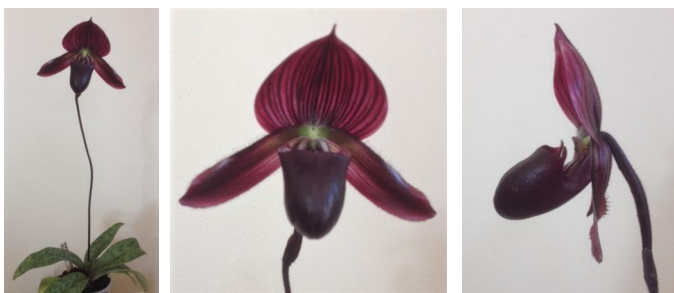
Each of these crosses has over 60% *C. mossiae*, *gaskelliana*, and  *trianae* in their backgrounds. *C. warscewiczii* and  *labiata* are not far behind!. The pie chart at the right shows the genetic complexity for Marcella Koss. Interestingly, lavender with a darker lip is the dominant color with first generation hybridization (F1) from these species. Further breeding will yield some recessive white offspring often with yellow lips. True pinks are not that easy to come by. Looking at the hybrid genetic pedigree for each of these three grexes, I found the white C. Bob Betts and Bow Bells as a parent one or two generations back. My theory is that the introductions of the whites diluted the darker lavender and allowed the pastel pink to come to the front.



The other problem with pinks is that they are notoriously hard to photograph. **Bill Englert sent these two photos of his Marcella Koss** - left is natural light and looks lavender or even bluish - right is a flash but I cheated a bit by enhancing the ‘warm’ on the editing to get a true pink rendition.



I really love these old hybrids. Most are not available for purchase today. Some remakes have been done. I got a compot of Marcella Koss remake from Carmelas a few years ago but the quality of the blooms was no where near the original. If you grow some of the great old hybrids - a form of orchid conservation would be to preserve them. Split them and share with other growers Also, look up their contribution to subsequent hybrids of today. Nile D.



**#1 Stem 42cm**  
**Width of hood 5.9 cm**  
**Total Width 11.2 cm**  
**Height of bloom 8.2 cm**



**#2 This one measures stem 41cm**  
**Width of hood is 5.4cm**  
**Total Width 9cm**  
**Total length of bloom 9.6 cm**



**#3 Stem 44cm**  
**Width of Hood 6.9 cm**  
**Total width 11.6 cm**  
**Total height 9 cm**

## VIRTUAL JUDGING OF PAPHIS!

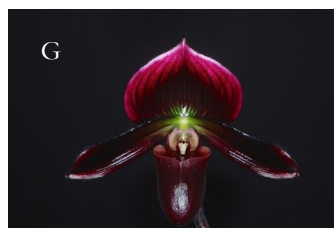
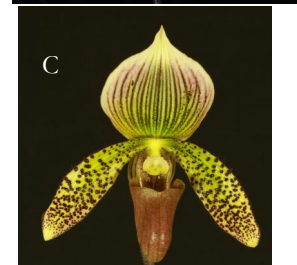
This is the third month for virtual judging of EIOS member plants. Feedback from members has been quite positive. Hopefully, as a result more members will actually send plants to real in person judging soon! Nile goes in to Chicago Sat Feb. 13th.

This month Sharon Neff successfully bloomed three paphiopedilums of the same cross - **Paph. Hsingying Alien (Supersuk x Raisin Pie)** This is a very popular 'maudiae' type hybrid that is known for blooming with consistent high quality flowers. These are not mericlones as paphs do not clone. This hybrid has received 32 awards 2004 to date (15 HCCs and 13AMs plus others) These photos were submitted anonymously for virtual judging with the size information shown at the left. Larry Sexton, Chicago Center Judge, was excited to participate and his comments are below. Congrats to Sharon for growing such nice plants.

There are several things I want to look at with these three plants.

- 1) I want to see what the awarded parents look like in the past (10-20) years ago, and what they look like now. Let's check that out. **Paph Supersuk** = *Paph. sukhakulii* x *Paph. William Mathews* and **Paph Raisin Pie** = *Paph. sukhakulii* x *Paph. Clarissa*. So with both sides having **Paph. sukhakulii (A)** in the parentage, comparing what an older *Paph. sukhakulii* looks like to what one expects now, one finds the petals should extend out nearly perpendicular to the ground. None of these plants meet that criteria.
- 2) How does the size of the flower compare to recent awards to Hsingying Alien? **Cheri HCC78 (B)** in 2018 had slightly larger size. **M&M HCC75 ("C")** in 2018 is comparable size wise to #3 but is bigger than #2 and smaller than #1. The form of **M&M** in my opinion is not of award caliber. **Hampshire Mist (D)** received an AM of 80 recently. It's size is much bigger than any of these three plants and it has really good form (but it is green in color). So #2 is also out on size, but #1&3 make the low end of size.
- 3) Color: I love the color of #1&3 with #2 being more run of the mill color. So I'll remove #2 from consideration for an award as it misses on multiple criteria.
- 4) Form: The petals on #3 are not wide enough for consideration for an award so we'll drop that one from award consideration. #1 is very symmetrical for a paph and has a nice flat dorsal sepal. While it is lacking in some criteria it is close to awardable in other criteria. **Could #1 get a 75 HCC, maybe?**

**Nile's comments - Competition is tough for such a popular and quality hybrid - Congratulations to an excellent grower. A couple other vini colored awards to Hsingying Alien: Mike Slusher HCC 77 2014(E); Donna Olsen HCC 77 2015(F); Thelma Barnick HCC 77 2015(G). What do you think?**



**Virtual Judging: IS IT or IS IT NOT, WHAT IT IS?**



This is a plant purchased from Ecuagenera in 2017. The first time it bloomed, I thought the blackish lip had fungus and pinched them off. The plant was hidden in the back of the greenhouse and when it bloomed this time, the spike was huge and the lip was a deep purple. So - submitted anonymously for judging. NILE

***Xylobium Leontoglossum* – Virtual Judging**

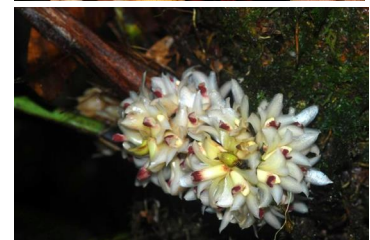
*Xylobium leontoglossum* is a species that was first described in 1855 as *Maxillaria leontoglossa* and later transferred to the genus *Xylobium* in 1889. It has received only one award through the American Orchid Society: a Certificate of Botanical Recognition to the clone ‘Lil’ on December 18, 1984. Twenty-one flowers and eight buds on two inflorescences; flowers greenish yellow, speckled with small reddish dots; lip curved downward and covered with small red warts; column white, with a few red dots near the apex; fragrance heavy, sweet. (AOS Photo at right)

The flowers on the awarded plant had a natural spread of 2.5 cm. The flowers on this plant are quite a bit larger (in the range of 3.8-3.9 cm natural spread), have a crisp ivory color with some pleasing radial striping, and with a lip that is deeply saturated oxblood. I can count approximately 20 flowers (maybe more) on just one inflorescence. Jay Pfahl (of the International Orchid Species Photographic Encyclopedia) indicates that flowers of this species have a spread of 3.0 cm. In almost all of the photographic evidence I have been able to locate, this species should be spotted – not striped – leading me to believe that **this plant might not be *leontoglossum* at all (very likely *variegatum*)**, but our job is to judge the plant as presented, even when in doubt as to its true identity. Based on this information and on the picture of the awarded plant, I can be fairly safe in an assertion that the plant that I am judging has better floriferousness, larger flowers, better presentation, and color and form that are at least equal. Despite the obvious superiority of this clone, it is always a difficult process to grant the first flower quality award to a species without a larger pool of examples for comparison, as we do not want to set the bar for further awards too high (by awarding an HCC to, perhaps, the most perfect example of the species) or too low (by awarding an AM or FCC to what might be just an “average” flower). If this plant were to arrive at my judging table, I would give it a score of 79 points and give it a **provisional award** of HCC/AOS, **pending proper identification** with the AOS’s **Species Identification Task Force (SITF)**. Thanks Andy Coghill-Behrends!



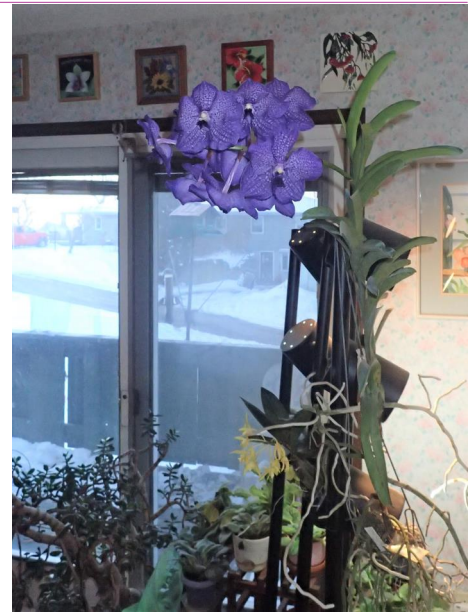
Andy’s discussion highlights the difficulty in judging lesser known species. The AOS gives a CBR (Certificate of Biologic Recognition) to a new species presented to the judging table without pointing for a flower quality award. SITF is the AOS committee that reviews the photos and will then determine if the species is named correctly as listed. Photos on left are examples of additional material needed.

I agree with Andy - this *Xylobium* may be a different species. Pictures of *Xyl. variegatum* - above right and *Xyl. subpulchrum* - below right, are other possibilities. Nile (Wiz Photos)



# Why ONLY blue Vandas bloom easily in Iowa!

By Nile D



I have tried growing vandas for years with highly variable results - mostly poor! These species and hybrids are very popular in the South, especially Florida, where night time temperatures rarely dip below 60 degrees. They love high light and usually do not require a big pot if misted or watered regularly. Every time Lois and I visit RF Orchids in Homestead Florida, I can't resist bringing

home multiple plants - yellows, oranges, bright reds, even white and green ones. They live in the front, sunny side of the greenhouse and even in the coldest days of winter the temperature is a minimum of 55 degrees at night. It seems however, that the blue ones are always the first to come into spike. Why? Recently this **Vanda Banjong Sky Blue** was in bloom and one can see the snow on the ground outside our dining area! As usual the answer is in the genetics. Most blue vandas have *V. coerulea* in their background. (left) It was discovered first in the Khasi (Khasia) Hills of northeast India, plants have since been found in the mountain regions of Burma and northern Thailand. They usually grow high up in rough-barked trees that are not exceedingly leafy so that the plants are fully exposed to the sun, rain, and wind. The roots sprawl over the dry rough bark with no moss or lichen present. Therefore, they are able to dry very rapidly after becoming wet. Over most of the range they are found at 3000-5000 ft. They grow and bloom COOL. (Average 45 to 75 degree temperature spread).

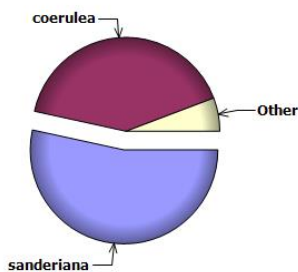


Also note the big round flat flowers. That is due to *V. sanderiana* (right) which is common in nearly all the large flowering vanda hybrids. In the Philippine Islands where it is endemic to Mindanao Island in the provinces of Davao, Cotabato, and Zamboanga, plants are normally found on the trunks of dipterocarp trees at low elevations, usually below 1650 ft. (500 m). This species grows WARM (60 to 90 degree variation). Both of these species have enhanced tetraploid line breeding.



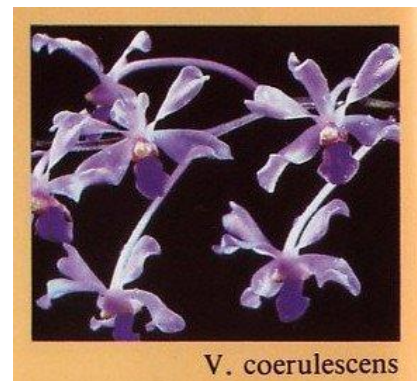
Our hybrid above has 41% *V. coerulea*, 53% *V. sanderiana* and 6% other species in its background. Clearly the cool tolerance of *V. coerulea* dominates in this blue hybrid. The shape is largely due to *V. sanderiana* as well. That is why these bloom easily in Iowa winters!

Vanda Banjong Sky Blue



Another 'blue' vanda is *V. coerulescens* pictured at the right, much smaller shaped flower whose habitat is northeast India, Burma, northern Thailand, and southwest China. In China, this orchid is found in tropical southern and southwest Yunnan Province where it grows as an epiphyte on trees at 3600-4900 ft. This species has a temperature range from 50 to 90 degrees. It blooms for me each January on the cool side of the greenhouse.

*Species photos and habitat information from Orchid Wiz 7.1.*



V. coerulescens

## Speaker's Day - Day of Orchid Culture

This is the link [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) to get the registration form and submit the \$30 fee. The meeting is on Go To Meeting. If problems contact [naya@aos.org](mailto:naya@aos.org) and she will help.

Register today for the First AOS Speaker's Day, aka Day of Orchid Culture! All registrants will be entered to win prizes on the Orchid Wheel of Chance!

Coming up on Saturday, February 6th  
Starting at 11:00AM EST 10:00 AM Central.  
Register online at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

## AOS INFORMATION PAGE



The AOS Centennial Meeting is reschedule for Oct. 27-31, 2021 in Coral Gables Florida; Biltmore Hotel

## ORCHID CULTURE DAY: 2/6/21 11:00 am.E.T.

### Dr. Kristen Uthus—Miniatures

11:00-11:45 am

Kristen studied plant and animal ecology and evolution at Virginia Commonwealth, VCU and Ohio State Univ. OSU, was a teacher at OSU, the University of Michigan, as well as Eastern Michigan Univ. She has been growing orchids for over 20 years. She purchased New World Orchids in 2014, and has made orchids her full time commitment. Miniatures are her passion, but grows the Japanese orchids *Neofinetia falcata*, *Bulbophyllums*, and *Angraecums*. Living in Manchester, MI, supported by her family, she speaks to many audiences on a wide variety of Orchid subjects. Check out the website: [www.newworldorchids.com](http://www.newworldorchids.com)

### Francisco Miranda—Geography and Culture of Brazilian Orchids

12:00-12:45 pm

Born in Rio de Janeiro, received a degree in Biology and started taxonomic work with orchids in 1981. Living in Manaus, he studied the Amazon orchids completing his Masters Degree on section *Cattleyodes* of the genus *Laelia*. Has authored several papers and two books on Brazilian orchids, and now lives in Haines City, Florida where he owns Miranda Orchids, [www.Mirandaorchids.com](http://www.Mirandaorchids.com), specializing in Brazilian species and the *Cattleya* alliance. He guides fabulous! tourist trips to Brazil and enjoys exploring to find new species.

### Dr. Ron McHatton—Those Pesky Bugs

1:00-1:45 pm

A chemist by training, Ron has been growing orchids for more than 50 years and has experience with every growing environment from windowsill to greenhouses. His collection numbers in the 1000s. He is the AOS Chief Education and Science Officer, and has a long history of volunteer positions with the AOS and the Orchid Digest, prior to joining the AOS staff in 2007. He does the monthly hit Greenhouse Chats for the AOS, and is on the board of Orchid Digest. Ron's email is [rmchatton@aos.org](mailto:rmchatton@aos.org).

### Dave Sorokowsky—Growing Fabulous Paphiopedilums

2:00-2:45 pm

After receiving his degree in biochemistry from University of Toronto, Dave operated a tropical fish business. Returning to school, received a degree in enology and viticulture, from Brock University, began collecting orchids. Winemaking and a passion for orchids, prompted him to move to California, He has been growing *Paphiopedilums* for 15 years, hybridizing for 10 of them. Leaving winemaking, he focuses all his time on Paph Paradise Orchids. [www.paphparadise.com](http://www.paphparadise.com). He is an accredited AOS judge and his Paphs have received over 100 awards from the AOS and CSA with many of those plants playing important roles in his hybridizing program.

### Alan Koch—Dendrobium Culture

3:00-3:45 pm

Alan owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact *Cattleyas* along with other miniature species. While in college, his interest turned to orchids after his aunt gave him 3 *Cymbidiums*. He purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, CA. for his 250,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in Brazilian *Cattleyas* and has published articles in *ORCHIDS* and world known publications. An internationally known speaker, he is a past member of the AOS Judging and the Research Committees, and is an accredited judge and the training coordinator of the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center, and served two terms on the AOS Board of Trustees, and has been the Auctioneer for the many AOS Member Meeting Auctions. You can visit Alan at [www.goldcountryorchids.com](http://www.goldcountryorchids.com).

## Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

Micheal Hampton  
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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)

#### EIOS Treasurer's Report 2020

**Beginning Balance 1/1/20: + \$4492.33**

Revenue (show excluded):

Membership: \$330

Donations: \$278

SVO payments: \$1034.65

Interest: \$4.77

**Total: \$1647.42**

Expenses (show excluded)

Speakers: \$350

SVO order \$1145.32

AOS Renewal: \$153

Church donation \$100

Book for members: \$656.98

**Total: \$2405.30**

EIOS show only

Revenue: \$120

Expense: \$223.98

**Ending Balance 12/31/20: \$3630.47**

**CD value 12/31/20: \$5220.11**

Submitted by Cathy Wilcox,

EIOS Treasurer 1/18/21

Minutes of our last meeting: (Jan.)

We all had fun with the orchid identification quiz. Andy mentioned that the club will likely continue with virtual meetings throughout the spring. We talked about our fall orchid show and definite planning will remain on hold till late spring. Discussion of having a 'mini' single day show and sale was mentioned. We have not heard the status of Noelridge Showcases at this point. **NEEDED:** volunteer for club vice-president! Also, please send pictures of your blooming plants and a short blurb about your growing skills. Other articles are welcome!

(Continued from page 1)

genus Maxillaria. These presentations will be wonderful and I hope you all can attend – be on the lookout for a Zoom invitation appearing in your email inbox within the week.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy, and – as always – happy growing! Andy.

### Hosts for Upcoming Meeting

**Virtual Meeting**

#### 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!

#### Membership dues for 2021:

Please remember to submit your annual dues to Treas. Cathy Wilcox: 119 Taft Speedway, Iowa City 52245

Single member \$20

Family \$30

**If you were a 2020 member and did NOT participate in the SVO order then deduct \$10 from your renewal for 2021**

**Those who participated in the SVO plant order received a \$10 credit to replace the usual holiday gift plant which we didn't do due to CoVid.**