

In This Month's Newsletter: Note from the President, Show and Tell, Judging Conundrum, How Dave Grows, Greenhoods are not Hoodilums.

The Spike
March 2021

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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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Pterostylis concinna is a terrestrial Australian species called a greenhood. Nile and Lois received a CBR/AOS (Certificate of Botanical Recognition) at monthly judging in Chicago this February. More about this species inside.



PRESIDENT'S BLURB

Hello, EIOS.

The long, dark doldrums of winter are slowly drawing to an end and we can begin to look forward to spring and the beginning of another growing season. Hopefully there is lots of activity in your winter growing spaces.

There should be many plants that are producing spikes and getting ready to bloom (and more that are thinking about it soon). Remember not to move or rotate those plants until the blooms open so that the flowers will orient themselves uniformly. This can make the difference between a pretty display and a truly spectacular show!

Some of your catasetums might be waking up from their long winter naps. This can be a good time to repot them in fresh medium before their new roots begin to emerge (or – at least – while they are very small to avoid breaking

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Calendar of Events

EIOS Monthly meeting via Zoom Program by Steve Gonzalez on Maxillaria Social 6:30 Program 7 pm	March 4th, 2021
MidAmerica Orchid Society Speaker Day 10AM to 3PM, \$5 midamericanorchids.org/	March 20, 2021
EIOS Monthly meeting via Zoom Program pending - AOS webinar Social 6:30 Program 7 pm	April 1st, 2021
Hopefully in person field trip	Early May 2021
EIOS Monthly meeting Planning an in person gathering	June 3rd 2021

EIOS SHOW AND TELL: VIRTUALLY



I bring bloomers into the breakfast room so Lois and I can enjoy with morning coffee and bird watching. Above from the left: *Ctt* Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' AM, *Ctt* Gold Digger 'Buttercup' HCC; *Aliceana* Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' AM, *Phrag.* Peruflora's Spirit 'Dusty's Sweetheart' HCC; *Gur.* Herbert Oesterreich 'Crownfox' AM. **Nile D**

This is *Cypripedium* Michael. I have always wanted to try Cyps in pots...this hybrid is listed at zone 5b. I stratified it in the mud room refrigerator. I also have a couple of *reginae* that are just starting. The reliable *Dendrobium wenzelii* 'Timberlane' CCM/AOS...always blooms for the Batavia show...(sob, sob) **Marcia Whitmore** (right & below)



A couple more from **Marcia Whitmore**: "Amazing how our plants grow when you can actually take care of them." *Paph. godefroyae* 'Bleeding Heart x godefroyae' 'Goldfish' top; *Paph.* Catherine Briois 'album' (right).



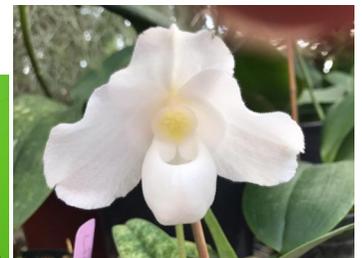
Jon and Joan Lorence's *Ctt.* Jewel Box and a nice variety of blooming Phalaenopsis. (both sides)



This is one of the plants I got from you (the club) in that large order. It was worth the wait. Now I want to get more. Perhaps for the springtime. Earlier this little dendrobium had bloomed. Thank you for doing this. **Philip Mears** (left)



The *Den spectabile* was blooming on 8-29-20, now has 21 flowers and 2 new growths. Smells great. The mini cat is SVO7552 with 2 1/2" flowers. Good Growing. **Bruce Byorum** (above & right)



Judging Conundrums by Nile D

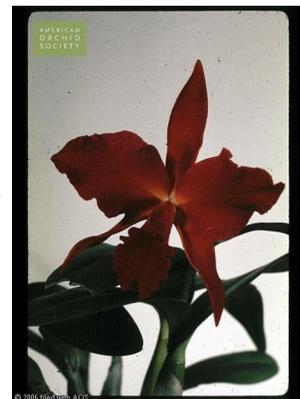


What to do when your previously awarded plant re-blooms - do you take it in for another judging - what are the considerations of the judging team. The flowers at the left are *Phrag. Peruflorea's* Spirit 'Dusty's Sweetheart' 77 pt HCC/AOS awarded at our last orchid show in October 2019. Top row is my rebloom a couple weeks ago and the bottom row are the official award photos 2019. Both flowers are same size. I took the new bloom in for judging 2/13/21. Comments related to me were that the rebloom was flatter but a bit less color intensity and had a color break on pouch. If pointed for an award, it likely would be in the same HCC range (75-79pt) as the award the plant already carried. In general to receive a second flower quality award for the same plant the flower should be at least 20% better, according to Lois Cinert, Chicago Center Chair. The plant certainly is a consistent bloomer and still alive!

The above example shows that if one can keep the plant alive (most of my awarded plants up and die the next year) and when cultivated consistently, then plant genetics will dictate similar flower attributes. If subsequent blooms are not as good, then culture is suspect. Can this plant ever get another award? Probably not a flower quality BUT if allowed to grow and develop multiple growths that bloom at the same time, then a cultural award is possible: CCM - Certificate of Cultural Merit (80-89pts) or CCE - Certificate of Cultural Excellence (90pt and above). In that case the flowers are described along with the plant. Flowers need not be of award quality individually. The cultural award goes to the grower where as the flower quality award stays with the plant and its divisions.



This brings up a second conundrum! Many of us grow mericlones or divisions of awarded plants such as *Ctt. Jewel Box* 'Dark Waters' (*Gur. aurantiaca* x *C. Anzac*) which was registered by Stewart Orchids in California in 1962. The hybrid has received 55+ AOS awards. 'Dark Waters' is a popular cultivar known for hardiness and dark colored vibrant flowers. This cultivar has 7 previous AOS awards (5 cultural and 2 quality). The flower quality awards are an HCC from 1965 and AM of 84 pts from 1972 (right) with 2 flowers on one inflorescence. **NOW comes the conundrum!** My 'Dark Waters' (left) blooms yearly and I think has better flower quality than the old 1984 award but certainly not enough for a cultural award. My best flower was 9x11cm on this plant with 15 flowers on 5 inflorescences (pictured left). I took my plant in for judging as well, specifically to see if it warranted a flower quality award update to possibly a high AM rating. Judging does not usually upgrade a flower award unless it goes to the next level; and clearly my flower was not a FCC (90+ points). Sometimes a low AM (80 pts) will be upgraded to a high AM usually after asking the exhibitor if they are willing to pay for a second award of similar quality. In my case, the judging team was looking at possible cultural award but no flower quality upgrade. The most recent cultural award is shown here (below right), AOS photos by Judy Higham, CCE 90 pts, 189 flowers, 18 buds with flower



pictured beside it 7-8cm. The flower quality does not need to be awardable for a cultural award but it can be considered when looking at a similar plant for a subsequent flower award. The team did not feel my flower was worthy of an upgrade and comparison of the 2 flowers pictured would support that. **A comment to all you growers out there:** Check the tag on your plants and if they have a clonal name, research and see if the clone is awarded. Record the award with the tag name. If your plant doesn't have a clonal name, research the species or hybrid to see if your bloom or culture has potential for an award and **send it in for judging.** Nile D





Lc. Trick or Treat above
Phrag. Eric Young below

How Dave Wujek Grows!

Dave lives in Galesburg, Illinois and is a member of EIOS and Illowa Orchid Societies. He is an excellent grower as the following photos attest.

I have been managing the greenhouse at the community college in Galesburg, IL, since it was built in 1978. In an effort to make the greenhouse more relevant to the college community, and to utilize my knowledge of plants gained from 34 years of teaching Botany at the college (and also giving me an opportunity to share my photos), I've begun to write a monthly article for the school newsletter describing various aspects of the greenhouse plants. Since I have a large number of orchids in the greenhouse, I will be talking a lot about them. In particular, I'm looking forward to discussing orchid structure as it relates to pollination strategies, illustrated, of course, with my photos. But I also have lots of cacti and other succulents, bromeliads, carnivorous plants, and even a young corpse plant (aka, voodoo lily), that lend themselves to descriptions of structure, function and ecological relationships. Dave Wujek



Pot. Paradise Beauty 'Golden Angel' up
Phal. King Car 'Sleeping Memory' below



ABOVE: Phrag. Ekolu Qunital
BELOW: Phal. NoID



Phal. Golden Apollon
Phrag. schlimii



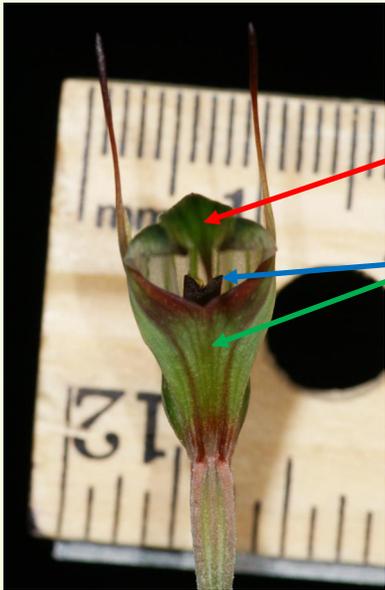
Phrag. Olaf Gruss
Bc. Star Ruby 'Xanadu'



Greenhoods Are Not Hoodlums! By Nile D



A Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR) was awarded to this *Pterostylis concinna* 'Dusty's Pea - Wee' CBR/AOS at February Chicago judging. The species had not been previously recognized by the AOS although it is well known in Australia. Multiple photos of the plant and flower with careful measurement of flower parts and a dissection of the flower will be emailed to the SITF (Species Identification Task Force) panel at the AOS along with the following description: **One light green flower on one inflorescence to 15 cm on one of six clustered plants, 4.0cm wide by 15.2 cm tall, growing in an 8 ½ cm plastic pot in terrestrial soil mix; rosette of 4 egg-shaped leaves, flat, dark green 1.2cm wide x 1.8 cm long, on very short stem close to surface of media; inflorescence from basal center of rosette, two bracts; dorsal sepal and petals fused form helmet-shaped galea (hood) erect ¼ length then curving forward to horizontal point, striped dark green, brown at pointed apex; lateral sepals wide, fused basal 1/3, taper to superiorly pointed tips above galea, green striped light brown, tips dark brown; lip barely visible in center of flower, slender, pointed apex, dark brown-maroon; column thin, striped green, yellow anther cap; substance medium; texture matte; native to woodlands of south eastern Australia and Tasmania; awarded for botanical significance.** Experts will review the submitted information and hopefully confirm the proper identification; then the award will be confirmed. The flower parts are really interesting as shown at left.



THE GALEA (HOOD) fused dorsal sepal and two petals

THE SPIKES - the lateral sepals fused at base, tips pointed

THE LIP and COLUMN barely visible in center of flower but more obvious in the dissected flower.

Now one can read the description again and it may make more sense! Lois and I were familiar with these native orchids as we visited the 'Bush' in Victoria near the town of Angelsea in 2009 and saw many greenhoods in the wild. Photos below show a mossy eucalyptus forest with ferns and moss covered ground. Nestled in this area were literally hundreds of these little orchids. The photos are what I believe to be the same species as this award. They grow in Aussie winter and bloom in the spring (September) and then go dormant as the temperatures heat up and the soil dries out Therein lies the problem growing these here as we are off cycle by 6 months.



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www.easterniowaorchidsociety.org



NOTES FROM OUR LAST MEETING
We had a fun Zoom virtual program presented by Cheryl Erins from the Batavia Club on how to build an enclosed growing chamber inexpensively with some degree of ingenuity added as well. She started out with a glass corner display case from IKEA and then water-proofed the chamber, added a mesh to hang plants from, supplied air movement and a misting source. This can be called a Wardian Case which is a type of terrarium named after Dr. Nathan Ward a grower in London in the mid 1800s.

We also discussed future virtual meeting with possibility of a field trip in May.

Please remember 2021 dues:

\$20 single \$30 family with \$10 discount if you were member in 2020 and did NOT participate in the Fred Clarke fall orchid order. Mail to Cathy Wilcox, Treasurer;119 Taft Speedway, Iowa City 52245

Vanda coeruleascens that we talked about last month. Blooms yearly on the cool side of our greenhouse. Nile D

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them). But it is still too soon to start watering and fertilizing. It will likely be many weeks before their roots are long enough to have grown into the potting medium.

I hope I can count on you to join us at our next meeting. We will be meeting via Zoom and our special guest will be Steve Gonzalez, a member of the Orchid Society of Minnesota and a Certified Judge in the AOS Chicago Judging Center. He will be presenting to us on his favorite genus: Maxillaria. Please be on the lookout for an email invitation to join our meeting in the near future. I look forward to seeing you there!

Until then, happy growing!

-Andy

PS note the MidAmerican Orchid Congress speaker day information in the calendar on page 1 Cost is \$5 per person which is a good deal..

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