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The Spike  
**May 2017**

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



EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

# The Spike

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



## Who Am I?



**GENUS:** a – *Epidendrum*, b – *Encyclia*, c – *Oncidium*, d – *Miltonia*, e – *Paphiopedalum* (demerits if you select this one!)

**SPECIES:** a – *flavescens*, b – *ciliare*, c – *sphacelatum*, d – *concolor*, e – *alata*, f – *mello yellow*, (more demerits).  
Answer on back page.

What is this?? I can't believe it. Sunshine and warmth in the forecast for next weekend, and just in time for our excursion into the wilds of Iowa in search of **mushrooms!** No, that's not it; it's orchids. We are going to be searching for some of the nearly 30 species of orchids native to Iowa. So get out your hiking boots and your sunscreen, and let's see how many of those species we can spot this weekend. It's going to be a beautiful day, so everybody come out and join in the fun. And, if you do happen to see a mushroom, you can pick it, but leave the orchids alone. We are just observing those beautiful blooms out there in nature.

Remember there is no regular meeting this Thursday; we are just taking the field trip this weekend. There

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### Calendar of Events

<b>May EIOS meeting</b> <b>Note New day of week and new place</b> <b>FIELD TRIP to see native orchids - see page 3</b>	<b>5/7/2017</b>
<b>Mother's Day Noelridge Showcase</b> 10AM - 5 PM EIOS display and plant sales	<b>5/14/17</b>
<b>June EIOS meeting at Shueyville Methodist Church</b> <b>Andy Coghill-Behrends will talk on Cattleyas</b>	<b>6/1/17</b>
<b>Central Iowa Speaker's Day in Des Moines</b>	<b>7/29/17</b>
<b>September EIOS meeting</b>	<b>9/7/17</b>

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## EIOS Display and Sales Table at Noelridge Easter Showcase

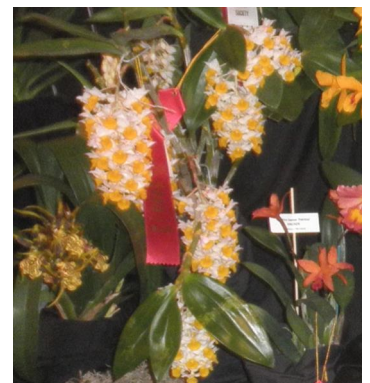


Funding for our Fall show has never been easier. Noelridge greenhouse has two Spring Showcases when the public is invited to tour the greenhouse and visit various vendors and organization tables. Bill & Nile helped setup our small orchid display here on Easter weekend. Lois, Bill, Denise and Michael (hiding) spiffed up the plants on the sales table. Almost all were gone by Sunday afternoon. We had a nice variety of plants from slippers to intergenerics and of course beautiful phalaenopsis; all donated courtesy of Doc Bannister and the Dusdiekers. Special thanks to those who donated their time during this busy weekend as well. Not only did we raise funds for our orchid show but we interacted with lots of people with questions about orchids. The club will do the same on Mother's Day Sunday from 10 to 5 pm. *By Nile D*



**The Omaha show** was pretty nicely set up, with a double row of tables running down the middle of the room. They had black drapes hanging between the two rows of tables, so all the displays had the drapes as a backdrop behind the displays. Except for Omaha, all of the displays were relatively small, basically tabletop displays. We probably had the most plants of anyone except Omaha. There were some really nice plants there. A *Dendrobium* Hamana Smile (below left) was rightfully judged the best specimen plant; it was at least three feet in diameter, with hundreds of flowers on it. Minnesota had a beautiful *Bulbophyllum falcatum* (center) that sprawled out over about two feet in the middle of their display. Nile's *Dendrobium thysiflorum* (right) was clearly robbed of the blue ribbon in class 84. *by Bill Page*

Our display at the Omaha Orchid Show put up single handedly by our Pres. Bill Page. How does he get all those in his car?



## It is *Cyp.* Time of the year again! Let's go SEE! *By Nile D*

Our club is planning a field trip in place of our usual May meeting at the Shueyville Church. Andy C-B says his cypripediums are coming along nicely. Nile and Lois found two groups of native orchids at MacBride Field Campus and marked them with flags. Dan Say sent the photos at the right of some 'putty root' (*Aplectrum hyemale*) he found in Washington County. Some of us will visit Rochester Cemetery around May 1st to see how the 'wild ones' are doing there.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (Check EIOS email for sure!)

Meet **Sunday, 2 PM May 7th** at Dusdieker house (1968 Elm Ridge Rd NE, North Liberty); Iowa City folks meet at Andy's (423 Elmridge Ave Iowa City). We can car pool. We will see Dusdieker Cyps, then visit MacBride Field Campus and see if the deer have left the orchids alone. Next to Rochester Cemetery and *Cyp. parviflorum* var *pubescence* (the large yellow Lady's Slipper.) Finally, will stop by Andy's house in Iowa City to see his cultivated slippers. Should be a fun trip and maybe we can even pull some invasive garlic mustard while we are at it

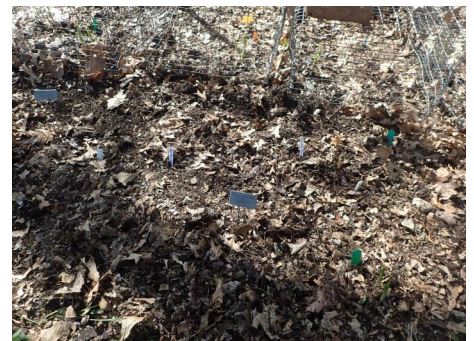
Some Cyps are already in bloom like this *Cyp. formosanum* in Dusdieker's slipper bed. This is an early bloomer native to mountains (9000 ft) in Taiwan (Formosa). Cool to cold grower. Notice the unusual 'clipped' leaves on this plant.



### GROW YOUR OWN SLIPPER ORCHIDS

**Cypripediums** are rapidly becoming popular perennial bedding plants. Bare root plants in dormant stage are available usually for planting in late October or as I prefer, in early Spring - *just about now!* The week of April 20th I added 4 new plants to our Cyp. bed. If the soil is sandy and essentially 'woodland soil' then they can go right into the soil. Some growers like to plant Cyps in large pots with a mix of equal parts of sand, perlite, oyster shell or chick grit, and potting soil. Then place the potted plant in the ground with the lip of the pot level with the rest of the plot. I use a variation on this technique planting them in baskets with the above mix and fill in with some of our native woodland soil. Regardless of the technique, one should mulch the plants with leaf compost in summer to hold moisture and a thicker amount in winter for protection against extreme cold temperatures.

PICTURES: Cyp dormant plant with growth 'eyes'; plastic basket and hole with gravel in bottom; my mix of sand, perlite, chick grit, and potting soil; baskets in ground topped with more sand; finally covered with leaf mulch. We'll see if they come up!



## Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

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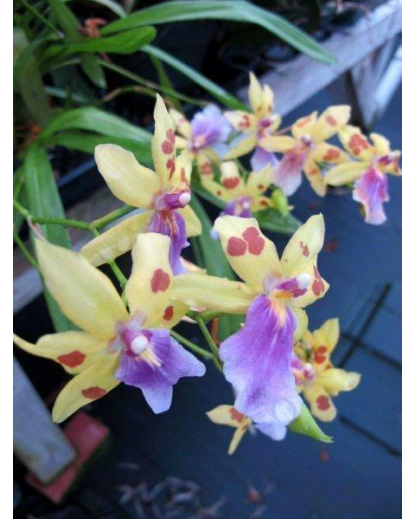


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Answer: *Miltonia flavescens* native to coastal Brazil. Grows in high light with adequate moisture daily. They grow best in baskets with open media. Used infrequently in hybridization but one hybrid (cross with *Miltonia clowesii*) yields a striking colored hybrid, named *Milt. Goodale Moir* with a blue lip and yellow barred sepals and petals. Photo Wiz—Lehua Orchids



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will be one more meeting before our summer break, and it will be on Thursday, June 1. The program that evening will feature Andy Coghill-Behrends talking about something. I forget what, but I know it will be good, and you won't want to miss it. Also on the agenda that night will be the big election of officers. There are going to be some tight races, and every vote will count, so be sure to come out in June to cast your votes.

Candidates on the ballot so far are as follows:

President	Peggy Green
Vice President:	Nile Dusdieker
Secretary:	Mike Hampton
Treasurer:	Cathy Wilcox
AOS Representative:	Layne Ackermann
Mid-America Representative:	Nile Dusdieker
Newsletter Editor:	Mike Hampton
Website Editor:	Jim Quaintance

### Hosts for Upcoming Meeting

**Call Bill Page if you would like to Volunteer**

### 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](http://easterniowaorchidsociety.org), read our newsletters, attend our Fall Orchid Show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and come join us at our next meeting!