

**In This Month's Newsletter:** Note from the President ,  
Dendrobium Section Callista, Judging Cattleyas, What we  
are growing, Tulip orchid!

The Spike  
May 2021

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EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

# The Spike

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



Spring is the SEASON OF DENDROBIUMS! Pictured here is Den. Gatton Sunray (a cross between two Callista Dendrobiums: *pulchellum* and *chrysotoxum*. More on this section of Dendrobiums later in the newsletter Nile

## PRESIDENT'S BLURB

### Holy cow, EIOS!

We seem to have gone from Freeze Warnings straight to summer weather! These weather patterns surely will give the plants in our lives a bit of consternation. If you plan to summer your plants outdoors, now is the time to prepare your growing area to make sure it is pest-free and cleared of all dead plant material to avoid spreading pests and diseases. I may have some plants outdoors before our next meeting! **We will hold our May meeting as per usual on the first Thursday (May 6th)** with social hour and show-and-tell starting at 6:30 PM and the business following at 7:00. In lieu of a speaker, we will watch an American Orchid Society members-only webinar on **"Encyclia**

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## Calendar of Events

May EIOS virtual Zoom meeting: AOS Webinar about Encyclia. Social 6:30 Program 7PM	May 6th 2021
Late MAY or JUNE field trip and picnic. Time and date pending on orchids in the wild.	
Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day: Lions Club in Johnston Iowa	July 24th 2021
September EIOS meeting: Program pending	Sept. 2nd 2021
EIOS Orchid Show 'Orchids Are A Scream Returns!	Oct. 23-24 2021

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## Dendrobium Section Callista:

We all need to learn about this section which blooms mainly in the Spring as the new ribbon judging schedule from the MAOC separates out this group. The name comes from the Greek *kallistos* (Very beautiful).



These orchids were originally listed as the Genus *Callista* but Schlechter moved them to a section of the Genus *Dendrobium* in the early 1900s. They are native to SE Asia where they like bright light, plenty of moisture, and fertilizer when growing **BUT** must have a dry rest period in Winter and early Spring. These plants like a confined growth habit in a clay pot or mounted. They tend to be fairly lanky and top heavy lending themselves to hanging in the greenhouse. Most of the new growth occurs in June for me, hence if I repot, I do it just after blooming in May. I use a well draining bark mix with perlite packed tightly. I top dress them with Osmocote or similar prolonged acting fertilizer. Often the new growths will elongate above the pot hanger and require a pot ring or stake



for support. Then, I place them up against the cool but sunny glass wall in the greenhouse and avoid watering from December till late March. Never cut off the old pseudobulbs or canes as long as they are green even when leafless. The first hint of blooming is a small bump that forms at a node on the cane. This gradually enlarges to a cluster of buds that I think looks like a pineapple. Look carefully at the plant, and if one finds a bump, likely several more are present. When I see them starting, I may move the plant to the front of the greenhouse for the benefit of brighter sunlight and I reward the plant with a 'dab' of water! The cluster of buds usually opens all at the same time and remain nice for a couple weeks. This past month Lois and I had 4 different *Callista* *Dendrobiums* in bloom. Pictured at the top is *Den. farmer var. aureoflava* which for me is one of the earlier spring bloomers liking a cool, bright rest period. Next, on the left, is *Den. densiflorum* with 3 inflorescences. This is still a small plant, I had one awarded in Omaha many years ago that then promptly died. My favorite however is *Den. thyrsiflorum* pictured down the right side. The top pictures show the inflorescences with buds enlarging. Then, the final reward when they all open. Flowers vary from white with yellow lip to all yellow flowers. Some *Callista* have more open clusters of flowers such as the Gaton Sunray on the front page. Buds and inflorescence are shown below. These are fun and rewarding plants to grow.



Nile D



## How to JUDGE those grand old corsage cattleyas?



I asked Lois Cinert, our Chicago Judging Center Chairman, to look at these two unifoliate cattleya hybrids. **#1** is well known to customers that frequent Hausermann's Orchids in Villa Park, Chicago. This clone was awarded an AM/AOS in 1990. This year our plant had 5 flowers on 2 inflorescences measuring 18.5 x 20.5 cm. I asked our virtual judge to comment



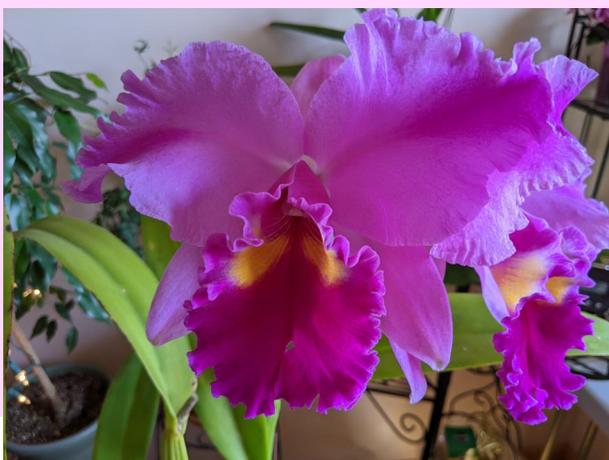
on how the current bloom would stand up by today's judging standards and asked her to give us some insight as to how we should look at these 'large lovelies'. This was prompted by EIOS show-and-tell at our April meeting when Cathy Wilcox showed us her blooming cattleya. **#2** is her unnamed cross, C. Pavlova (1920) x C. Louise Georgianna (1946) It had 2 flowers on one inflorescence, 18.4 x 17.5 cm. Much like when we used to play the game, pass the word around a circle, the name tags for these two evolved over the years to Parlova and Louis Georgiann. Thank

heavens for Orchid Wiz. So keep your nametags carefully and update personal databases for your collections.

**Lois Cinert:** *I love huge, fluffy, ruffled, fragrant Cattleyas. My first orchid was a great classic white Cattleya, and the wallpaper on our computer is usually a Cattleya. Early Cattleya hybrids were treasured for their size and fragrance. Many were mass-produced for the corsage trade, back when a special occasion and family dinner celebration required a corsage for the ladies. They were not produced to win awards to the standards the AOS looks for. They were treasured for their extravagant display of color, and elegant ruffles.*

**#1 (above)** is a great example of what an older classic Cattleya looks like. This is a well-grown, well-flowered plant. But . . . As you can see from the first picture, the flowers are of moderate substance — the flower parts are not hard and firm. Sepals look ok, held well; petals look like most of them are not held well, fold back from lack of substance. The second photo shows a single flower, with all of its parts in place. The lateral sepals frame the lip; petals are held well, horizontal and not recurved or 'floppy'; petals are lightly and pleasingly ruffled; the lip side lobes cover the column, yellow 'eyes' accent the dark magenta velvety midlobe; evenly ruffled margins are excellent — not too dense as to cause a lumpy appearance. If all the flowers on the plant appeared as this one does, the flowers could be awarded at a high level. Overall, we would probably not award this plant (today). **Many of our readers may recognize this plant as C. Irene Finney 'Spring's Best' awarded AM/AOS 1990.**

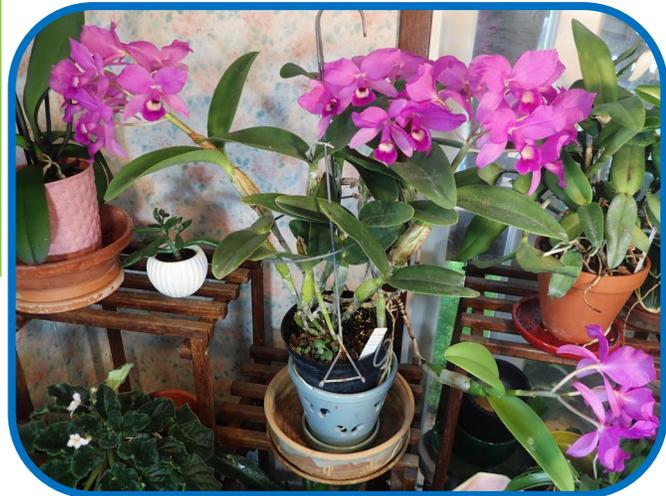
**#2 (below)** is typical of the form shown by many early Cattleyas grown for the cut-flower trade. The color is excellent — even across all flower parts, with a darker splash accent on the petals. The lip is large and flat, with just enough yellow in the center to draw your eye to the lip. The ruffles at all margins are elegant and add to the appeal of the flowers. But . . . The flower parts are not all held together on a plane. The second picture shows the petals held back at an angle from the lip, creating a large gap between the two. The over-all form of this flower would prevent it from earning an award. I would definitely keep growing this lovely plant for the exuberant display of color and fragrance. It is a classic Cattleya, and would have been on the leading edge of Cattleya breeding in its day. **Thanks Lois—this was fun and shows how judging criteria has changed over time. Nile D.**





**What  
Are We  
Growing?  
EIOS MEMBERS**

*Guarianthe skinneri* 'Casa Luna' AM/AOS in 2007. This clone has been awarded 14 times by 4 different judging organizations world wide. Definitely a keeper for the Dusdiekers



**Paph. Raisin Pie (Paph. sukhakulii x Paph. Clarissa)** This is currently one of the most popular Maudiae type slippers available today. Color can vary from a deep vini as above to dark green with stripes on the dorsal. This cross has received over 40 AOS awards. Thanks Marcia for sharing!



**Phal. Chang Jih Lady** (Phal. Sogo Kaiulani x Phal. Sogo Key) is one of 63 hybrids registered with the Chang Jih name presumably Taiwan. This has never been awarded - amazing color. Thanks Jon Lorence



Dave Wujek sent three nice ones below left to right: **Laeliocatanthe [Lcn.] Newberry Lava Burst** with 3 different species, Laelia, (Schomburkia) Guarianthe, and Cattleya in background. Then **Phragmipedium Grande**, one of the best and largest green Phrags, Finally **Phrag. Fliquet** (Phrag. Leslie Garay x Phrag. Memoria Dick Clements), a nice cross between green and orange varieties.

**C. Janice Evans** (C. Claesiana x C. Pro-spector) from Laynez is a wonderful 'blue' Cat! The clone 'Sweet Sixteen' was first awarded in 1993



## SPRING TULIP? ORCHID? *ANGULOAs*



*Anguloa* orchids are native to the mountain regions of South America and are terrestrial. They tend to be leafless during the dry season and then in late winter put up new leaves that will become a new pseudobulb along with several bloom shoots. I got this hybrid from Ecuagenera which is a cross between *Anguloa uniflora* and *virginialis*. The bloom spikes take a long time to elongate and then the buds enlarge looking like a typical tulip. They stay green till the sepals and petals part creating a small opening. Gradually the flower changes color - this one



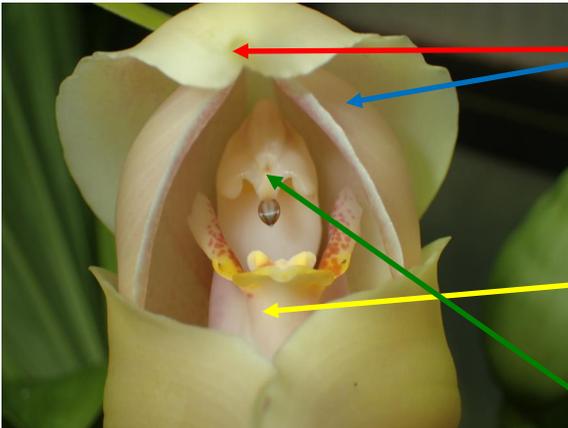
to yellow and then matures to cream with a pink tinge (the *virginialis* genetics). The entire blooming sequence took about 2 months for me and the flowers were open a good 3 weeks.

A botanical description of an anguloa per Orchid Wiz and Charles Baker's information is as follows:

Pseudobulbs are egg shaped, often with deep furrows and have sharp points at apex.

Leaves are fan shaped, fairly delicate and folded. They drop off when pseudobulb is mature.

Inflorescences develop at the base of the previous year's growth. Multiple spikes are common.



The FLOWER! One per inflorescence, 5 x 7 cm in size.

sepals (red line) and petals (blue line) curve forward and lateral sepals are often fused. Depending on the species, the internal coloring may vary from the external. (*ruckeri* is yellow on outside and deep maroon on inside for example. This flower was cream on both).

The Flowers do not open widely, reputedly just enough to allow a pollinating bee to enter. Inside is an amazing lip and column.

Lip: (yellow line) three lobes, concave with side lobes vertical. The midlobe has a long disc or callus extending from the base all the way to the front with prominent mounding which I suspect is a bee landing pad!

Column: (green line) extends from base of the flower forward to just above the callus on the lip and has an interesting anther cap that may be of a different color .

These orchids are not that hard to grow if kept wet and on the cool to intermediate side (50s to 75 degrees year round) with reduced water late fall and winter. My biggest problem in the past has been to get the dormant pseudobulbs to break bud and develop new growth. Nile D.

**In August of 2019, I judged the orchid show in Medellin, Columbia and saw amazing anguloas in bloom (shown below).**



## 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](http://www.easterniowaorchidsociety.org)

## Central Iowa Orchid Society's Speaker's Day, July 24, 2021

Website: <http://www.c-we.com/cios/speakers.htm>

Speaker's Day is an annual event hosted by the Central Iowa Orchid Society. This year, 2021, will be our 32nd annual Speaker's Day and will be held on Saturday, July 24th.

The first Speaker's Day was held in the summer of 1989. In the past we have had speakers from all over North America, some coming from as far as Canada, Mexico, Ecuador and Hawaii. The speakers give presentations on all aspects of orchid growing and commonly grown genera of orchids.

The registration fee for the event is \$30.00 per person in advance or \$35.00 per person at the door. The cost covers all the speakers as well as a continental breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon desert bar. With your paid admission you also get a ticket for the door prize drawings held following the last presentation. You can purchase additional door prize tickets at the door.

Also, each speaker usually brings plants to sell throughout the day so we get a chance to buy plants we usually cannot obtain locally. Vendors can be contacted directly for preorders as well.

### Scheduled Speakers - 2021

**Alan Koch (Gold Country Orchids, CA)**  
**"A New Look at Intergeneric Phalaenopsis"**  
**"Cattleya's 365, 24/7"**

**David Sorokowsky (Paph Paradise, CA)**  
**"Novelty Paphs"**  
**"Multifloral Paphs"**

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Species and Hybrids"** by Mike Curtin, which was originally presented to the AOS in September, 2020. Encyclias are a wide-ranging genus, with at least one species (*E. tampensis*) growing naturally in southern Florida. Please look for a Zoom link closer to the meeting date.

We will not hold our June meeting in the usual fashion. I will be monitoring the Putty Root orchids at the Amana Nature Trail and we will (possibly on short notice) schedule a field trip – in the afternoon of either Sunday, May 30th, or Sunday, June 6th - to see them in bloom. The Amana Trail is not terribly accessible for those with mobility issues, but we will be sure to take lots of pictures to share with those who can't make the journey. Following the trip to the Amana Trail, we will meet up at Kent Park for a light snack before heading home. We don't meet as a club in the summer so our first fall meeting will be in September. Don't forget the Central Iowa Orchid Society Speaker's Day - information above.

Happy growing! Andy

### Hosts for Upcoming Meeting

**Virtual meeting via ZOOM**

### Directions to the First United Methodist Church in Shueyville, Iowa when in person meetings resume.

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!