

In This Month's Newsletter: Note from the President, EIOS field trip June 6th, Lady Slippers, How We Grow this Summer.

The Spike
Summer 2021

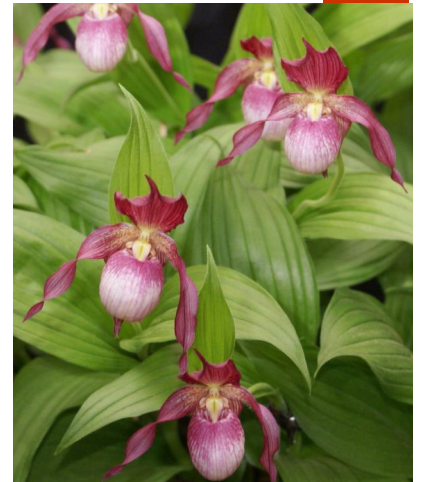
EIOS is Now on Facebook! At [easterniowaorchidsociety](https://www.facebook.com/easterniowaorchidsociety)



EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

The Spike

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



Congrats to our President, Andy Coghill-Behrends, on his **Certificate Cultural Excellence** for his ***Cypripedium Gisela* 'Island View'** awarded at the May Chicago AOS Judging. This is a hybrid between the North American *Cyp. parviflorum* and the Asian *Cyp. macranthos*. Andy has grown this for many years under a tree in his backyard but post-derecho he had to dig up his slipper bed and placed this one in a LARGE plastic tub only to be relocated this coming fall. More on Cyps later in this issue.



PRESIDENT'S BLURB

Hello, EIOS!

Well, we have finally emerged from the strangely cold spring, and summer is climatically – and officially, as of June 20th – here. Hopefully your plants (with some notable exceptions) are in full growth mode; definitely give them all the sunshine, water, and fertilizer that they will need (but not too much) to put on a good display for you in the cold, dormant months of winter.

With COVID vaccinations readily available, we are looking forward to seeing some of our orchid growing friends in person again. Judging sessions through the AOS Chicago Judging Center will be returning to the Chicago Botanic Gardens on July 10th. The Central Iowa Orchid Speakers' Day is scheduled to take place in Des Moines on Saturday, July 24th. And Orchid Shows are already being planned for Milwaukee (September

(Continued on page 6)

Calendar of Events

Central Iowa Orchid Society Speakers Day: Lions Club in Johnston Iowa. <i>See page 5</i>	July 24th 2021
September EIOS meeting: Program: plant swap and How to grow orchids! NOTE DATE CHANGE to SECOND THURS!	Sept. 9th 2021
Wisconsin Orchid Show at Michell Domes, Milwaukee	Sept. 18-19 2021
October EIOS meeting: Program 'The Genus Lycaste' by Andy Coghill -Behrends	Oct. 7th 2021
EIOS Orchid Show 'Orchids Are A Scream Returns!' Elks Hall, Cedar Rapids.	Oct. 23-24 2021

President: Andy Coghill-Behrends
(319) 512-8076
E-mail: mistercoghill@hotmail.com

Vice-President

Secretary: Mike Hampton
(319) 377-0106
E-mail: mike_eios@qwest.net

Treasurer: Cathy Wilcox
(319) 354-5879
Email: cwilcox952@gmail.com

AOS Representative: Laynez Ackermann
(319) 656-2063
Email: lwla@kctc.net

Mid-America Representative:
Nile Dusdieker
(319) 626-2236
E-mail: niledusdieker@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Mike Hampton
(319) 377-0106
E-mail: mike_eios@qwest.net

Web Page Editor: Nile Dusdieker
(319) 626 2236
E-mail: niledusdieker@gmail.com

ORCHID FIELD TRIP 2021 (NOTHING VIRTUAL ABOUT THIS!)

On June 6th several EIOS members met IN PERSON at the Amana Nature Trail to look for the native orchid commonly known as ‘Putty Root’ Andy was our guide as he had seen the tell-tale leaves in amongst the dry leaves on earlier walks



in the area. It was a hot and dry day in the forest. The remnants of the derecho from last summer were still quite evident with entire trees uprooted. The orchid’s official name is *Aplectrum [Apl.] hyemale* and it is the only species in the genus. It is really fairly common in deciduous forests from Ontario to the east coast, south to North



Carolina and across most of the forested portions of the Mid-west. It is a terrestrial orchid with a most interesting growth habit. In early fall, a sturdy leaf shoots up from a pair of corms on a purplish stalk. The leaf unfurls above the fallen leaves and remains throughout the winter. Actually, this orchid is much easier to find when the leaf is present against the dormant forest floor. A couple pictures here from about 10 years ago taken early spring when Lois and I were mushroom hunting. This is the stage that Andy saw along the Amana trail.



The second leaf photo shows a new shoot which then becomes the flower raceme or stem. This usually starts early May and as it grows the leaf withers and disappears. Typical blooming is late May or early June here in Iowa. The orchid is much harder to spot without the green striped leaf



and with competing vegetation the flower spike is often hidden. Mary Horn points out a stem next to a log with still a few flowers. Mostly we saw dried flowers. Pollinators were at work as seed pods were present. In another 2 weeks all evidence of the orchid will be gone (except for seed pods shown below left) not to re-awaken till fall. The olive colored flowers don’t open widely. Nile D



Lady Slippers Galore

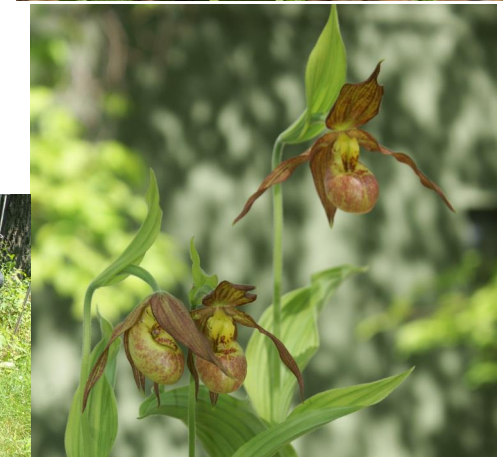
Photos and text by Nile Dusdieker



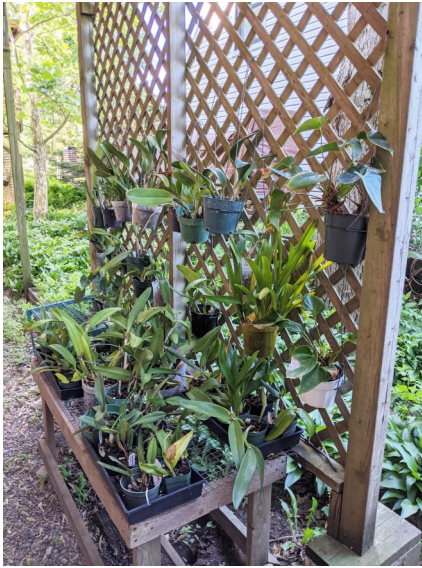
Growing *Cypripedium* (commonly known as Lady Slippers) has become quite popular in recent years. Seedlings are available to plant early spring or late fall. I have been growing them for many years but a couple problems have arisen. MOLES! These creatures seem to like to tunnel and eat or disturb the roots of the slippers which spread superficially just below the ground level. My solution has been to place new plants in open plastic baskets in the ground which protects the core plant.

AND DEER! Which has prompted use of mesh wire cages to protect early tender growths. CONDITIONS CHANGE! Certainly cold winters with a early spring thaw and then more cold is hard on the Cyps. Soil conditions also change. Fortunately we have forest sandy soil which I mulch with leaf debris. But the big change has been loss of tree cover and too much sunlight in late May and June. I place some shade cloth atop the cages (See below). I may have to consider moving the Cyp bed in the future. Also I have found that a summer leaf mulch and attention to watering regularly keeps the plants green and growing well into August before going dormant. Enjoy these pics of our plants.

Plants on the left are **native American species** found in Iowa and the mid-west. From the top down: *Cyp parviflorum* var. *pubescens* (the large Yellow Lady Slipper) , *Cyp reginae* (the Queen Lady Slipper, state flower of Minnesota) *Cyp kentuckiense*, (found a little further south) and *Cyp candidum* (the small White Lady Slipper) . On the right are hybrids often combining one or more species of Asian slippers. *Cyp Sabine* a cross between *Cyp fasciolatum* and *macranthos* (this one favors the coloring of the *fasciolatum*), *Cyp. x ventricosum* a natural hybrid between *Cyp. calceolus* and *macranthos* (it seems quite hardy for me), *Cyp Inge* a cross of 2 yellows, *parviflorum* and *fasciolatum* (the pouch is a paler yellow), *Cyp. Annegret* a cross of *Cyp. parviflorum* var. *makasin* x *Cyp. shanxiense* (kind of a funky color!) Below is the caged Cyp bed. Nile D



HOW DO YOUR ORCHIDS GROW IN THE SUMMER?



Cathy Wilcox says. “Attached is a photo of my outside orchid growing area. It is on the west side of our house and is along a walkway to get from the front to the back of the house. The growing area is under a deck and there is a large tree on the other side of the lattice. Our neighbor's garage is on the other side of the lattice. I had an old light bench and sawed off the top of the light bench. We cut a piece of sturdy wire grid to make a top so that I can set the plants on it. The area is shaded and gets rain (if and when we get rain!) and has good air movement from winds from the south, north or west. We have squirrels and ground squirrels but they don't bother the plants.” Cathy



Dorothy Hampton grows in a Gazebo in the summer. “All the screened windows keep unwanted bugs out. Usually I water with rain water (when it rains!). Plants rest on a grate so air can flow under pots. Arrangement of plants is around the outside perimeter to provide the most light to them.” Dorothy



Marcia Whitmore grows in the greenhouse all year long! From left to right: *Enantbleya* [Eny.] Golden Sunburst, lovely Brassia NOID, *Den. uniflorum*, *Paph.* Vanda M. Pearman (not a vanda at all - *bellatulum* x *deleatitii*). **Keep cool Marcia!**

GROWING NOWHERE! Dave Wujek says, “I kept my collection of plants (orchids, cacti and succulents, and everything in between) at Carl Sandburg Community College where I taught in the Biological Sciences for nearly 35 years until my retirement in 2002. I taught the last Botany course that year, and, since the greenhouse was essentially unused since then, I have filled it with plants that I find interesting. The school will be offering courses starting this fall that will require the use of the greenhouse (for the first time in 19 years), and they have asked me to move my plants out by the end of June. Since I have no facilities at home to keep plants over the winter, I have decided to move on. I had a good run. I've been worried for years that they were going to shut me down because my plants were not exactly serving any curriculum function. They were just occupying the greenhouse so that it wasn't empty for the last 19 years.” Dave is selling plants and supplies if interested. dewujek@grics.net We'll miss his beauties!



Left: *Chysis bractescens*, *Lep-totes bicolor*.
Right: *Encyelia cordigera*, *Pfrag.* Fox Valley Fireball.



CENTRAL IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY
Presents the
**32nd ANNUAL
SPEAKERS DAY**

Saturday, July 24, 2021 Johnston Lions Club
Community Center
6401 Merle Hay Road
Johnston, Iowa

OUR SPEAKERS

Alan Koch

Gold Country Orchids, CA Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleya's. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 250,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature compact and Cattleya breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society magazine, as well as many International Publications. He has also been published in several proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and 3 terms on the Board of Directors, as well as two terms as a Trustee for the AOS.

Alan's topics will be "**A New Look at Intergeneric Phalaenopsis**" and "**Cattleyas and the Golden Age of Orchid Fashion**"

David Sorokowsky

Paph Paradise, CA

After receiving his degree in Biochemistry from the University of Toronto, Dave opted to step outside his chosen field and operated a tropical fish import business for eight years. Upon returning to school Dave received a degree in Enology and Viticulture from Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. While attending Brock Dave began acquiring orchids one 2" pot at a time and before he graduated, Dave had over 100 orchids. Wine-making and a passion for orchids prompted Dave to seek a warmer climate in California about one year later. Dave has been growing paphiopedilums for about 15 years and seriously hybridizing for the past 10 years. He is an accredited AOS judge and his paphiopedilums have received close to 100 awards to date from the AOS and CSA. Many of those awarded plants playing important roles in his breeding program.

Dave's topics will be "**Novelty Paphs**" and "**Multifloral Paphs**".
AOS Judging will be held at 11:00A.M.

Everyone is invited to bring or send plants for judging!

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration fee of \$30.00 per person covers all costs. (\$35.00 at the door) Includes breakfast donuts, a great lunch, and afternoon dessert bar plus raffle. For a printable registration form-
<http://c-we.com/cios/ciosreg.htm> Both speakers will accept pre-orders and bring them to speaker's day. For more information, reservations, etc. Please call: Carson Whitlow at (515) 993-4841

Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

Micheal Hampton
2280 McGowan Blvd.
Marion, IA 52302-2258



The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

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

www.easterniowaorchidsociety.org

Awarded plants always die Right?



Pictured here is the exception to the rule! **Phrag. Les Dirouilles** (*Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice* x *Phrag. Leslie Garay*) was awarded an AM 81 pts in May of 2009 and has been growing for me ever since. I always hesitate to report but have divided it once already. I'm sure now that I have drawn attention to it - ---- we'll see if it lives! 2009 award pic below NILE D



(Continued from page 1)

18-19), Chicago (October 9-10), and our own EASTERN IOWA (October 23-24)! It will be great to see some of the amazing things that other people are growing in other areas of the Midwest.

I anticipate that we will be returning to meeting in person in September (our meeting space at Shueyville Church is available and ready for us to return). That being said, there are lessons to be learned from our COVID-19 experience and I will be exploring ways to allow our members to participate in meetings even if they are unable to be physically present. If anyone reading this feel particularly tech-savvy and would like to help in this effort (or if anyone has great ideas for topics and activities for our fall meetings), please let me know.

Happy growing!

Andrew Coghill-Behrends

Hosts for Upcoming Meeting

September is open

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!