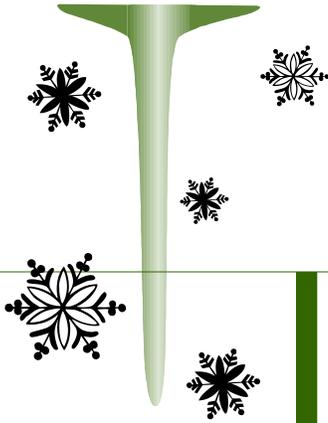


In This Month's Newsletter:

- **Don't forget to RSVP for the Holiday Party!**
- Notes from the President
- Blackhawk Show Photos
- Genes are Everything!



NOTE: We will not have a meeting in January 2011. See you in February!



EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

The Spike

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

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SEE IT HERE FIRST!: Cynoches Martha Clarke 'Lorence' HCC/AOS. This is the first award to this hybrid and it was received at the monthly Chicago judging on 11/13/10. Congratulations to Jon and Joan Lorence. They bought the plant at speakers day in Des Moines this past summer. For more photos and information, see page 2.

Notes from the President

It was nice to see so many members and guests at our November meeting. We had five guests, Greg and Connie Harris, Bob and Ann Watts, and Jim, whose last name I am sorry to say I don't remember. Hopefully, they will find orchids as interesting as the rest of us, and come back again to become members.

Nile gave a great presentation on complex paphiopedilums at our November meeting. This type of hybridization started in the early 1900's and continues so we can have the beautiful plants of today. It is nice to have a member that can give us these insights. Thanks, Nile!

We would all like to thank Andy Coghill-Behrends and Jacklyn Moore for bringing the November meeting refreshments.

Our annual Holiday Party potluck will be held on Tuesday, December 7, upstairs at the church. Appetizers will start at 6:30 pm and dinner will begin at 7:00 pm. Members and their guests are urged to contact John at

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Calendar of Events	
EIOS Holiday Party, Appetizers at 6:30 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA	12/07/10
Illowa Orchid Society Meeting, Social 6:30, Deere Wiman Carriage House, Moline, IL www.illowaorchids.org/	12/08/10
Illowa Orchid Society Meeting, Social 6:30, Deere Wiman Carriage House, Moline, IL www.illowaorchids.org/	01/05/11
Orchid Society of Minnesota Winter Carnival Show Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, St. Paul, MN mnorchid.synthasite.com	01/29/11 - 01/30/11
EIOS Meeting, 6:30 Social, Meeting at 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA	02/01/11
Orchid Quest, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI www.orchidguild.org	02/05/11 - 02/06/11
EIOS Meeting, 6:30 Social, Meeting at 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA	03/01/11

Cycnoches - The Swan Orchid



Left and Above: Two more views of Cycnoches Martha Clarke 'Lorence' HCC/AOS. The name Cycnoches comes from the Greek words 'kyknos' meaning swan and 'auchen' meaning neck, and refers to the thin, arching column of the male flowers.

Cycnoches are found from Mexico through Central America into the Amazon Basin of South America, growing from sea level up to around 1800 feet in elevation. They have cigar-shaped, fleshy pseudobulbs from 8 to 20 inches tall, and a few thin, heavily veined, large leaves. They have much in common with Catasetums, but the flowers are longer lived. Many have sweet, spicy smelling flowers. They are unusual in that they can produce male, female, or hermaphroditic flowers, which can be on the same or separate inflorescences.

Photos by Nile Dusdieker.



Blackhawk Orchid Society Show, Klehm Arboretum, Rockford, IL 10/23/10 — 10/24/10

Right: Our display at Rockford.



Bottom Left: Andy's Paph Prime Child.

Bottom Center: Laynez's Lc Ackers Madison.

Bottom Right: Here is Andy's blue ribbon winning hand-knitted phal sweater.



Photos by Nile Dusdieker.





Genes are Everything!

By Nile Dusdieker



Pictured here are two blue vanda flowers — both *Vanda Rothschildiana* (*coerulea* x *sanderiana*) — but obviously something is different! It has got to be genetic!

All living cells duplicate their genetic material (DNA) each time the cells divide. That way each cell has a full double set of chromosomes. This is called asexual cellular division. SEX is another matter entirely! Male and female germ cells have only one set of genetic material such that when they combine the resultant cells again have a new complete double set of chromosomes. In plants, the pollen and ovums are the germ cells that combine to form the new cell that will then divide and become genetically a new plant. Most plants are called 2N or diploid which means each cell has the normal double set of genetic material.

Eunuchs HAPPEN! In humans super females may be XXX or super males XYY, each with an extra chromosome. In orchids some plants are naturally 'super' with 4 sets of genetic material — 4N. This is called polyploidy. In certain instances the extra genetic material can enlarge or improve the flower but not always. Deformities occur as well. The above pictured Vanda flowers are both the

same hybrid but the larger flower is 4N while the lower flower is the native 2N. Polyploidy can be induced in the orchid lab with treatment of the cells with Colchicine which prevents DNA separation after duplication.

The 'N's get more complicated with further breeding. Tetraploids will breed with each other to make more tetraploids — or with diploids (2N) resulting in triploids (3N) hybrids. They may also have enhanced flower characteristic but usually are sterile for further hybridization because of the odd number of chromosome sets. One last term: aneuploidy simple refers to extra or altered genetic material in a plant such as have an extra piece genetic material. These are often sterile as well.



Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

Kristine Sigsbee
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Coralville, IA 52241



The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

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

(Continued from page 1)

dorsam123@mchsi.com to confirm their plans to attend and let us know what dish they will bring to share. We will all enjoy Nile Dusdieker giving his "Year in Review" program - a look back at our year of meetings, shows, and travels.

Because of past problems with snow and cold in January, the members at the November meeting decided to be pro-active and cancel the January meeting. Our January break will be a good time to check your plants to see what needs repotting and to order supplies, so when the time comes to repot, you will have everything you need on hand.

At our next meeting in February, Mr. Bannister from Des Moines will be here to give a talk on catts. and phals. He will also bring plants for sale.

It's that time of year, when the holidays bring family and friends together to celebrate the season. Orchids make a great table centerpiece and a conversational topic. Our April meeting will feature Phyllis White from Anytime Orchids, who will show us how to arrange our flowers and how to display them to their best advantage.



See you at the Holiday Party!
— John Dorsam

Hosts for Coming Months

February - Cathy Wilcox, John Dorsam

March - Marcia Wegman

April - Marilou Gay

May - Jean and Bill Snyder

June - Progressive Dinner/Picnic - Marilou Gay



Please sign up to help with 2011 refreshments at the February meeting.

2011 Membership Dues

Please pay your dues at the Holiday Party: \$15 for a single membership, \$20 per couple. If you will not attend the Holiday Party in December, please mail your check to

Cathy Wilcox

119 Taft Speedway St.

Iowa City, 52242

Make checks payable to EIOS.



Directions to First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City

From East on I-80 take exit 249 on Herbert Hoover Hwy, turn left and go about 5 minutes on Rochester, then turn left on Mount Vernon Dr. The church parking lot is on your left.

From West on I-80, take exit 246, turn right to Dodge St, turn left to Scott Blvd, turn right on First Ave, turn left on Rochester Ave, then turn right on Mount Vernon Dr. As soon as you turn right the church parking lot is on your left.