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#### In This Month's Newsletter:

#### • Don't Forget to Renew Membership Dues — See p. 2!

- Notes from the President
- 2011 Treasurer's Report
- Plans for Displays at Upcoming Shows
- Growing Under Lights Presentations in February

#### February 2011





Grow and Bloom Vandas in Iowa!: Jacklyn Moore's Vanda Banjong Sky Blue grew outside spring to late fall under the south pergola and received two weeks of 40 degree nights before coming inside. The spike grew 14 amazing flowers. She fed it Dyna Gro Orchid Pro, switching to Dyna Gro Bloom early September. Jacklyn hopes this picture inspires other EIOS members to expand their orchid collection to include vandas.

### Notes from the President

Winter Greetings, EIOS!

It's hard to believe that we were experiencing temperatures in the 60's for our January meeting. Winter has returned with a vengeance, though - and it provided an exciting opportunity!

When my orchids come inside for the winter, I put them under lights in the basement; my setup really is just to get them through the Winter until they can get outside in the fresh air and sunlight, though (more on that at the February meeting). So, I have to do everything that I can to give them an extra chance at surviving the colder months.

With the warm, dry weather we have been having I had been using our local tap water to keep my orchids hydrated; this means salts and other chemicals had a chance to start building up in their growing medium. The weekend after our last meeting, however, I was able to melt

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#### Orchid Grower's Guild Orchid Quest, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI www.orchidguild.org EIOS Meeting, 6:30 Social, Meeting at 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA

Batavia Orchid Show, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 02/18/12 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL -02/19/12 www.bataviaorchidsocietv.ora

Calendar of Events

Linn County Master Gardeners Winter 02/18/12 Gardening Fair, Kirkwood Community College 6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/

Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show, 03/03/12 -03/04/12 Holiday Inn Hotel - Neenah, 123 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI

newisos.org/orchids-in-the-treetops/

EIOS Meeting, 6:30 Social, Meeting at 7:00 03/06/12 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA

Illowa Orchid Society Show, 03/10/12 Wallace's Garden Center, 2605 Devils Glen Rd., -03/11/12 Bettendorf, IA

EIOS Meeting, 6:30 Social, Meeting at 7:00 04/03/12 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA

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President: Andy Coghill-Behrends (319) 354-7225 E-mail: mistercoghill@hotmail.com

Vice President: John Dorsam: (319) 351-0318 È-mail: dorsam123@mchsi.com

Secretary: Jon Lorence (319) 624-3666 È-mail: lorence5@aol.com

Treasurer: Cathy Wilcox (319) 354-5879 Èmail: wilcoxfam4@lycos.com

Membership: John Koch (319) 337-4547 Èmail: JHKoch@mchsi.com

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

Mid-America Representative: Nile Dusdieker (319) 626-2236 É-máil: niledusdieker@pol.net

Newsletter Editor: Kristine Sigsbee (319) 545-8140 Email: ksigsbee@yahoo.com

Page 2 THE SPIKE





The start of the 2012 orchid show season is here! As usual, the EIOS is planning to attend several shows in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

The first show is the Orchid Grower's Guild Orchid Quest at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin February 4-5. This is a great show and we would love to include your plants in our display. Please e-mail Nile (niledusdieker@pol.net) with your plant names by Wednesday, February 1.

The second show is the **Batavia Orchid Show at** the **Dupage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton**, Illinois, February 18-19. Please e-mail Nile with your plant names by Wednesday, February 15.

The third show is the Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show in Neenah, Wisconsin the weekend of March 3-4. Finally, the Illowa Orchid Society show is March 10-11 at Wallace's Garden Center in Bettendorf, Iowa.

The more EIOS members participate in our show displays, the better they are! If you would like to help set up and take down displays, or are interested in being a clerk for any of these shows, please contact Nile for more information.

#### EIOS Treasurer's Report for 2011 by Cathy Wilcox, Treasurer

Beginning Balance:	\$2898.81
Revenue:	
Membership Dues	\$ 470.00
Fundraisers	\$ 377.25
Interest	\$ 3.02
Total Revenue:	\$ 850.27
Subtotal:	\$3749.08
Expenses:	
Speakers	\$ 100.00
Holiday Party	\$ 409.28
Donation for Facility	\$ 100.00
Newsletter	\$ 35.20
Total Expenses:	\$ 644.48
Ending Balance:	\$3104.60

#### 2012 Winter Gardening Fair

EIOS is planning to attend the Winter Gardening Fair presented by the lowa State University Extension Linn County Master Gardeners again in 2012. Bill Snyder has reserved a table for us and will be at the fair all day, from about 7:50 am until 3:25 pm, when the last gardening class ends. The Fair is a great opportunity to promote the EIOS and recruit new members, as many people visit our table before the first class starts at 8:30 am and during the lunch break. Volunteers are welcome to help at our table! Bill would also like a few orchids to dis-

play at the table. If you would like to help, please contact Bill by e-mail at w0of@msn.com. THE SPIKE Page 3

ideas!

#### 2012 Illowa Bus Trip to Chicago Saturday, June 9

We will leave from South Park Mall in Moline at 6:30 SHARP. Park by Younkers. The price for the trip is still \$50 and will include:

- Continental Breakfast on the bus.
- Early Lunch at Natt's, a great place to buy neat plants.
- Orchid Beauties at Hausermann's Orchids, plus roses and perennials.
- Orchids, African Violets, and great house plants at Oak Hill Gardens.



Good snacks on the way home!

We have reserved a 47 passenger bus with Tri-State. There will be plenty of storage space for your plants, bark, and miscellaneous purchases. THERE IS A BATHROOM ON THE BUS!

Tickets will be available at the Illowa Orchid Society Show March 10-11 at Wallace's Garden Center. Please contact Jackye Crouch (Jackyebc@aol.com) for more information.

## Orchids and Moore Valentine's Day Sale Highlights

One of the phal crosses I will have at the sale is Phal Shiuh Dong Orange x Kuntrarti Rarasnati, an orange red artshade novelty hybrid with a double dose of Phal. venosa and Phal. equestris in its background. Phal. Shiuh-Dong Orange is a registered (2007) cross between Phal. Kuntrarti Rarashati and Phal. Chingruey's Beauty, the later contributing larger flower size and taller flower stem to the striking color and floriferousness of Phal. Kuntrarti Rarashati (venosa x equestris). These are beautiful plants!

Some of my phals will be from Doc Banister. I will also have vandas in bloom, complex paph, a variety of oncidinae, cattleya, epidendrum, masdevallia and dendrobium.

My sale runs Saturday through Tuesday, and I am offering a free humidity tray with plant purchase (while supplies last).

## **Growing Under Lights**

Have the cloudy winter days and the long, dark, winter nights got you down? Come to our February meeting to learn about "Growing Under Lights." John Dorsam and Andy Coghill-Behrends will bring short presentations on their light setups, which are very different from one another. EIOS members who grow under lights are strongly encouraged to bring pictures of their plants and growing areas to share with the club. Maybe we will all get a few bright



#### Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

Kristine Sigsbee 2855 Coral Court #202 Coralville, IA 52241



The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

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

(Continued from page 1)

the snow from our back yard into 20 gallons of fresh water, which should last for a while and leach all those pesky chemicals from the mix!

If you decide to try this, make sure that the area from which you gather snow is free of herbicides and other chemicals which could spell a quick demise to your favorite plant. Gather the snow in clean fivegallon buckets and allow to stand at room temperature until melted (this can take a while), or gather in a large stock pot and melt on the stovetop. I filter my melted snow through a sieve lined with a clean kitchen towel to remove and seeds or other detritus I may have inadvertently included and into empty milk containers until ready to use. Don't use the water immediately! Make sure that it has warmed (or cooled) to room temperature first; 40 degree water can send your orchids into a vegetative version of hypothermia and they won't appreciate it... but do it right and your plants will thank you for it!

Happy melting!
— Andy Coghill-Behrends

#### **Hosts for Coming Months**

February: Vicki Mildenstein
March: Lois and Nile Dusdieker
April: We need volunteers!

A sign-up sheet for 2012 refreshments will be available at the February meeting, or you can send an e-mail to Andy Coghill-Behrends (mistercoghill@hotmail.com).

#### 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 and turn left on Mount Vernon Dr. As soon as you turn left 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, and stay on until you meet Rochester Ave, turn left, go few minutes, turn right on Mount Vernon Dr. As soon as you turn right the church parking lot is on your left.

The meeting is in the Youth Room, as soon as you enter the building turn left & turn right.