

In This Month's Newsletter:

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EASTERN IOWA ORCHID SOCIETY

The Spike

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

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G'day Mates! A view of the Sydney Opera House and Harbor Bridge from the Sydney Botanical Gardens with lovely orchids in the foreground. The photo was taken in September by Nile and Lois Dusdieker on their trip to Australia. This flower is known locally as the Sydney Rock Lily even though it is an orchid. *See the photos and article on pages 2-3 for more details!*

Notes from the President

Fall 2010 got off to a good start with our September meeting. Jacklyn Moore gave a great talk and discussion on growing masdevallias and draculas. She also had a nice assortment of plants and supplies to choose from. She brought Ann York's plants for a silent auction.

I would like to thank Nancy Granner and the Lorences for the September meeting refreshments. There will be a sign up sheet for 2011 refreshments at the next meeting.

Our October 5th meeting will be an opportunity to generously supply our fellow members with our cuttings, divisions or other plants we just don't want. We all have plants we just can't get to bloom and would like someone else to try. The 25 cent auction is a way for our club to generate some funds and also have a good time. Remember that we bid in quarters and that a bid of 5 is \$1.25 and so on.

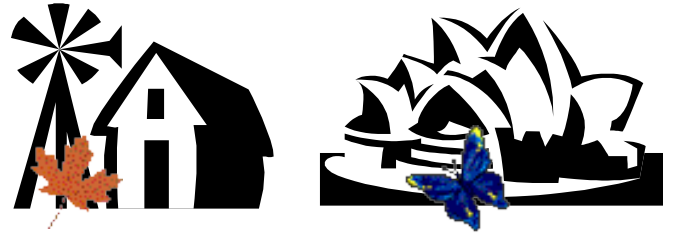
— John Dorsam

Calendar of Events	
 Chicagoland Orchid Festival, Oak Hill Gardens & 3 other locations, Chicago, IL www.chicagolandorchidfestival.com	09/24/10 -09/26/10
EIOS Meeting, 6:30 Social, Meeting at 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA	10/05/10
Illowa Orchid Society Meeting, Social 6:30, Deere Wiman Carriage House, Moline, IL www.netexpress.net/~whitbrits/illowa.htm	10/06/10
Illinois Orchid Society, Fall into Orchids Mini Show and Sale, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL www.iosoc.com	10/09/10 -10/10/10
Blackhawk Orchid Society Show Klehm Arboretum Visitor's Center, Rockford IL www.klehm.org	10/23/10 -10/24/10
EIOS Meeting, 6:30 Social, Meeting at 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA	11/02/10
Illowa Orchid Society Meeting, Social 6:30, Deere Wiman Carriage House, Moline, IL www.netexpress.net/~whitbrits/illowa.htm	11/03/10
EIOS Holiday Party, Time TBA, First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Ave, Iowa City, IA	12/07/10

Sydney Botanical Gardens, Australia



Left — The famous Sydney Rock Lily is actually an orchid, *Dendrobium speciosum*, that is native to Australia and blooms in the spring. Australia is way Down Under in the Southern Hemisphere, so it is spring in Sydney when it is fall in Iowa.



Right — The Orchid Snoops found a large specimen of *Dendrobium speciosum* growing in Sydney Botanical Gardens (see cover photo and article on page 3), on their recent trip to Australia.



Left — This specimen had thousands of flowers. Note the large pseudobulbs with thick, leathery leaves.

Right — Close-up of a spray of the Sydney Rock Lily's creamy, white flowers. Read the article on page 3 for more about these lovely orchids and their habitat.



Photos by Nile Dusdieker

'BATs n' Lilies?'

What do these have to do with *Orchids*?



Fruit bats hanging around high up in the trees of the Sydney Botanical Garden.

spring blooming trees and flowers. *An eerie feeling crept over us; we wanted to button our collars* — not just because of the cool breeze! **Swish, flap, flap, flap, squeak** — something had us in their radar! Looking up we saw the resident fruit bats high in the trees — hundreds — with huge, 3-foot wing spans! They function as excellent night-time security to keep vagrants off the grounds!

On our previous trip we found some native *Dendrobiums* in those gardens but couldn't re-

Nile and Lois Dusdieker, went 'baby snooping' to Australia, again, to see their new grandson (#2), Adam Michael Duke, in Sydney, born August 13th, 2010. *Interesting trek!* — 24 hours of travel time each way, lost a Wednesday and picked up two Thursdays, went from shorts and T-shirts to long johns and sweatshirts (10 degree Centigrade = 50 degree Fahrenheit).

Nevertheless, we found ourselves walking in the beautiful Sydney Botanical Gardens, a huge park along Sydney harbor, enjoying all the



Close-up of fruit bats Sydney Botanical Garden. They are sometimes called 'flying foxes.'



The Orchid Snoops pose by a *Dendrobium speciosum*, also known as the Sydney Rock Lily.

member exactly where. Like telepathy, the bats swarmed and pushed us up the hill (**we ran!**) to a large rock just covered with the '**Sydney Rock Lily,**' as the sign clearly shows. **This is no lily!** It was a huge *Dendrobium speciosum* in full bloom with thousands of cream to white flowers. Actually, it is a common native orchid found on the cliffs and rocky areas all over New South Wales. Several varietal forms exist and this one was the most common, *var. speciosum*. The pseudobulbs are large and tough with thick, leathery leaves. The plant goes dormant during the hot summer

(Continued on page 4)

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.*

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months and puts out new growths in the fall and winter. Blooming is early spring — **just about NOW!** They tend to form rather **LARGE** specimen plants! You can grow these too — as long as they are neglected and don't get too wet. I think the real secret is — *'bat dung!'* Not sure where we can get that locally.

Sincerely, The Orchid Snoops

— Nile and Lois Dusdieker



Hosts for Coming Months

October: Nancy Kennedy, Candace Barnhill

November: Jacklyn Moore, Andy Coghill-Behrends

December: Holiday Party

A sign-up sheet for 2011 refreshments and the December Holiday Party will be available at the October meeting.

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.