



The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society

<https://cincinnatiorchids.org>

February 2023 Newsletter

The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society hopes everyone is staying healthy. January and February meetings will be only over Zoom Meetings will resume in person for the March meeting.

President's Message

GCOS, president's message, February 2023

Six more weeks of winter says the groundhog...maybe not. But I do know that in about six weeks we'll be on the verge of our 2nd annual spring show at BSA on Reading Road. In the context of the world we live in, what a luxury and privilege it is to celebrate the beauty and wonder of the orchid world. The show will go more smoothly this spring because the GCOS invested in reusable table coverings, a credit card reader and more. It will be better yet if we get lots of members helping out with food, money for trophies, and assorted supplies. Please help us to have a wonderful show.

January's newsletter included an affordable and safe insect control spray. I've just finished a second round of spraying every plant, and as always, I am appalled at how quickly an

infestation can appear. Always check the underside of leaves, base of pseudobulbs, dry sheathing leaves. Although this spray is not a systemic insect killer, if used regularly, it will keep the little monsters at bay...safely. Thanks you Jeanne, for providing the formulation (1 Tbs Dr. Bronner's liquid peppermint castile soap, 1 cup alcohol, and water to fill a 2 qt sprayer)

Let's see, February is the time to think about repotting my Habenerias, because they seem to sprout any time from about late March through May. Twenty or thirty years ago, these frequently showy terrestrials (from Thailand, China, India & environs) were not so common and appreciated as they are now. Fortunately, these days there is an expanding number of hybrids and species from which to choose, and at least one of our spring show vendors (Edgar Stehli) will have a good selection.

Habenaria medusa



Photo by Rick Noel

Our ZOOM only February meeting is on the 14th, at 6:30 for Q and A, 7pm for the main meeting featuring Alex Minter speaking about those wonderful Australian orchids. Also, I will try to do show and tell at the beginning.

Happy growing, Roger

GCOS February 14 Meeting

Meeting starts at 6:30 followed by our talk at 7:00 pm.

Springtime Epiphany: Biodiverse Orchid Glories of Southwestern Australia!

Southwestern Australia is an extreme biodiversity hotspot. Join Alex Mintzer (Prof. Emeritus of Biology, Cypress College) for a tour of southwestern Australia that highlights landscapes, wildlife, wildflowers, and particularly the diversity of wild orchids that he and his spouse Carole saw over a few amazing days in September 2019! Alex will incorporate major concepts from evolutionary biology and ecology in his presentation. This talk is highly recommended for naturalists, biodiversity mavens, wildflower enthusiasts, fans of Australia, students of evolution, and orchid lovers... Best of all, there will be no quiz after the show!



Upcoming Meetings and Events

February Meeting - Zoom only	February 14	Alex Minter Springtime Epiphany: Biodiverse Orchid Glories of Southwestern Australia!
February Judging	February 12	Cincinnati Judging Center
Greater Lansing Orchid Show	February 25 -26	
March Judging	March 12	Cincinnati Judging Center
March Meeting - hybrid	March 14	Matthew Speights
Ann Arbor Orchid Show	March 18 - 19	
GCOS Show	March 25-26	BSA
April Judging	April 9	Cincinnati Judging Center
April Meeting	April 11	Eric Sauer
Central Indiana Show	April 22-23	Indianapolis, IN

May Meeting date change	Thursday May 11	Ron Parsons
May Judging	May 14	Cincinnati Judging Center
June Judging	June 11	Cincinnati Judging Center
June Meeting	June 13	Steve Benjamin Growing on slabs – a hands on activity
GCOS / MVOS Picnic	TBA	
July Judging	July 9	Cincinnati Judging Center
August Judging	August 13	Cincinnati Judging Center
Ohio Valley Orchid Fest	August 26 - 27	BSA
September Judging	September 10	Cincinnati Judging Center
September Meeting	September 12	Doug Martin Growing Terrestrials
October	October 8	Cincinnati Judging Center
October	October 10	Edgar Stehli Windswept in Time
November	November 12	Cincinnati Judging Center
November	November 14	Leon Glicenstein
Christmas Party	TBA	

GCOS Spring Show - March 24 Setup, March 25-26 Show

Hey there orchid enthusiasts! Our society spring show is swiftly approaching, and we appreciate our volunteers making our show a success!

We will need help in these areas:

- Setting up on March 24th at the Dan Beard Council building
- People to man tables to sign up new members and give out info about our society
- People to assist the AOS judges during ribbon judging the morning of March 25th
- People to help at the potting bee
- People to provide food and beverages for the volunteers and vendors in the hospitality room
- People to help break down the show at the end of the day on March 26th

Please consider what way you can help and if you aren't able to help in any of these areas please consider a monetary donation to help cover the cost of food items, the cost of our trophies we give out or any other expenses we have for the show.

I'm excited for the show and I hope you are too!

Joel Mattes, Spring Show Chair

joel.mattes21@gmail.com

The following link is to sign up for setup, help at the Show and tear down:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0948aeac2aa7ffc16-orchid#/>

Click on this link to view and sign up to bring food, water or soft drinks:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948AEAC2AA7FFC16-show>

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest

Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on the third annual Ohio Valley Orchid Fest and Mid America Orchid Congress August 25-27, 2023. Planning is underway to create another fun filled and education packed weekend with lots of orchids to take home for your collection. Come for the weekend and see old friends and make new ones, enjoy some good food and spend a great weekend in Dayton, Ohio! Keep an eye out on the website, www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com for details and registration information.

Orchid of the Month - Cattleya warscewiczii

This is one of my favorite orchids and, sadly, I do not grow it well. So here is a short course on growing it and why you want to do so.

Joseph Warscewicz discovered a large, stately flowered purple orchid in the mountains around Medellin, Colombia in 1848 then promptly lost his plants in shipping. Herbarium specimens, though, arrived safely in the hands of his friend, H.G. Reichenbach who published a proper description in 1854 in a German botanical publication *Bonplandia* and named the orchid *Cattleya warscewiczii*. For years though, if you found this orchid for sale or in a personal collection, it may have borne a tag that said *Cattleya gigas*, which means 'giant' and which was given by another botanist John Jules Linden who published in 1873, 19 years too late for his name to be the official one but which had the advantage of being easily pronounced so it stuck for quite a while as a horticultural name.

I can say with certainty that everyone who is reading this has seen *C. warscewiczii* on the covers of orchid magazines and orchid books, a dark purple cattleya instantly recognizable by two bright yellow 'eyes' at the base of the lip. What may not be apparent is the sheer size of the flowers; it is the king of the species, with flowers up to 12 inches petal tip to petal tip and up to 10 flowers per inflorescence, beautifully presented. There are two forms, distinguished by bloom time and size: one blooming late June to early July, with pseudobulbs about eight inches tall. The alba clone 'Firmin Lambeau' and purple 'Imperialis' are in this group. The second Sanderiana form blooms late July to early August with taller pseudobulbs, larger flowers with darker lips. Both has the bright yellow eyes, of varying sizes, in a few plants the eyes more or less merge.



C. warscewiczii "El Pirato" AM/AOS
Photographer: Campo Belalcazar



C. warscewiczii form Sanderiana 'Bodacious' AM/AOS
Photographer: Glen Barfield

C. warscewiczii has only a few color forms: a true alba; a semi-alba (white with a colored lip), the most famous one being the clone 'Frau Melanie Beyrodt' and which was the parent of the classic cattleya *C. Enid*. There is also a coerulea form and some forms which could be considered blush.

Now for the hard part, hard because we orchid growers love to repot in the spring. Most of our cattleyas (and other orchids) are throwing new roots with abandon, having bloomed over the winter and spring. So, we repot, outside, a beer on the potting table next to us. Do not repot *C. warscewiczii* at this time; its new roots have been out for a while and even the most careful repotting technique will set the plant back.

Instead, follow this schedule: in late January, early February, put *C. warscewiczii* in bright light (without burning) and lightly spray the pseudobulbs until the new eyes break. Leaves and pseudobulbs should be yellow-green. Keep spraying the plant until the new pseudobulbs are about 4 inches tall. Too much water at this stage appears to retard the plant's growth. After the pseudobulbs are taller than 4 inches, start regular watering but let the plant dry thoroughly between waterings. Be patient and just let the plant grow. After the flower sheaths have developed and the buds start emerging, if daytime temperatures get above 90 degrees, try to move the plant to a cooler location. This will prevent the inflorescence from drooping and not displaying the flowers well. After the flowers have faded, then repot. Do not wait because this is when the plant will throw its new roots for the next year from the newest pseudobulb. The plant also rests a long time after this stage because of all the energy that went into flowering. This is what I usually forgot and then watched my plants falter. Get your timing right though and *C. warscewiczii* will reward you year after year.



C. warscewiczii 'Gabe's 10th' FCC/AOS, an alba variety
Photographer: Glen Barfield



C. warscewiczii 'Gabriel Amara' AM/AOS, a coerulea form
Photographer: Glen Barfield



C. warscewiczii 'El Luto' AM/AOS, a semi-alba
Photographer: Daniel Vejarano

Jan Yates

For additional information:

The Classic Cattleyas, A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick, Timber Press 2006

The Cattleyas and Their Relatives, Vol. I: The Cattleyas, Carl L. Withner, Timber Press 1988

Memberships Due Now

Membership form below

GCOS Board Meeting

The next in person board meeting will be 6:00 pm Tuesday, February 28th. Anyone can attend board meetings. If interested in attending contact Roger Miller rogermilleroboe@gmail.com

Your Orchid Photos on Our Web

If you want to send your photos with a short description and the name of the plant and your name to Jeanne Rhinehart jeanws@me.com. We also would appreciate any articles for the newsletter on culture or Orchid of the Month.

Cincinnati Judging Center

There will be a meeting on the second Sunday of each month at 11 am. For information, contact Glenn Evans at glenn.f.evans.09@gmail.com.

American Orchid Society

<https://www.aos.org>

The American Orchid Society's website is a great resource for orchid growers. We want to encourage membership. Even nonmembers can find information to help them become better orchid growers. Information at right.

GCOS Social Media

GCOS Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/687922501752919/>

GCOS Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=greater%20cincinnati%20orchid%20society&epa=SEARCH_BOX

You can follow us on Instagram @cincinnatiorchids.

Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Board of Directors

President	Roger Miller	Director	Syndi Wilhelm
Vice President	Joel Mattes	Director	Pat O'Connor
Secretary	Ann Tsui	Director	Steve Helbling
Treasurer	David Allen	Director	Christa Speights
Past President.	John Jaworski	Director	Lindsey Pertuset
Director	Jeanne Rhinehart	Director	Kristen Mason

Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY <https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>
 Cannot make on the scheduled date and time. No need to worry.
 Register now and view on your time schedule.
 Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	Feb. 07, 2023 8:30 pm EST Tuesday	Feb. 12, 2023 11 am-4 pm EST Sunday	Feb. 28, 2023 8:30 pm EST Tuesday	March 09, 2023 8:30 pm EST Thursday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 05</i>	The Winter Blues Orchid Culture Day <i>Expressions of the Color Blue in Orchids</i>	The Culture Grid: Cultural Diversity in Orchids <i>A simplified approach</i>	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by March 07</i>
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Fred Clarke Dr. Leslie Ee Rob Griesbach Carson Whitlow	Catherine Higgins Orchid Grower AOS Judge and Trustee	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

Check Out the Timeless Collection of Recorded Webinars on the AOS Website

Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

Use the WEBINAR Display Filter

THE GREATER CINCINNATI ORCHID SOCIETY

2023 Membership Application

Please Print

The past three years have been difficult to maintain membership goals. Your Board has been forced to raise annual membership dues to maintain adequate finances for the Society.

DATE	
NAME	
Names in family membership	
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
PHONE Primary	
E-MAIL ADDRESS PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY	

Unless you ask us not to, we include your information on a membership roster that is sent to other GCOS members and to the American Orchid Society (AOS). This chapter is an affiliate of AOS.

	RATE	YOUR PAYMENT
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$30	
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$35	
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP	\$15	
DONATIONS, to support GCOS (identify any restrictions)		
	YOUR TOTAL:	

You may join/renew your membership in one of two ways:

- 1) **Mail the form to: David Allen, 3899 Sandtrap Circle, Mason, OH 45040**
- 2) Take a photo of the form and email to dallen47@gmail.com

If you want to make a donation or pay for membership, you can send a check to Dave Allen or pay online via PayPal at the society's website: <http://www.cincinnatiorchids.org>

Our mission is to create and stimulate knowledge and interest in orchids and their culture, to demonstrate orchid culture to the public, and to preserve orchid biodiversity both in nature and cultivation by enthusiasts.

The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society is a 501(C)(3) tax exempt organization. Dues and donations to us are tax deductible for those people who itemize their deductions.