

THE GREATER CINCINNATI ORCHID SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

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SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING: "THE
NEW COLOR FORM OF
PHALAENOPSIS SPECIES" BY
NORMAN FANG
7:00 PM

Beginner's Meeting: Answers to Your
Questions: 6:00 pm

At the Scout Achievement Building
10078 Reading Road



Spiranthes magnicamporum
Photo by Jeanne Rhinehart



Delbert Lowell best Specimen- *Dendrobium kekouense* 'Diamond Orchids' AM/CCE/ AOS
(Awarded at OVOF)- Diamond Orchids
Photo by Eric Sauer

About Our Speaker

Norman Fang

We are privileged to have Mr. Norman Fang as our guest speaker on Tuesday September 10. His chosen topic is '*New Color Forms of Phalaenopsis Species*', and, as he is the recognized authority on Phalaenopsis, his presentation is not to be missed!

After receiving a degree in Ornamental Horticulture and studying plant culture under distinguished professors at 2 Universities, he became the owner of Norman's Orchids, located in Montclair, CA in 1988.

Norman remains active in AOS. He has served as a former Vice President, chaired their Development Committee, and served on their Public Relations Committee. He also is a Founding Member and Regional Director of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, for over 25 years! Plus he is the AOS Judging Coordinator for the Taiwan International Orchid Show and as the AOS Representative for the Taiwan Orchid Growers Association.

This highly popular guest lecturer will be speaking and interacting with us LIVE over Zoom at the Scout Achievement Building on the large screen.



Conservation Fieldtrip October 5

See the native fragrant *Spiranthes magnicamporum* on Saturday October 5! Ohio is lucky to have over 50 native orchids, blooming in readily accessible places during the year. And Lynx Prairie is one of our favorite viewing places. Many flowers, even orchids, grow close to the road. For hikers, there are other nature preserves close by such as the Chaparral Nature Preserve.

We will be meeting at 9:30 am at the Eastgate Best Buy, 650 Eastgate S Dr. for carpooling as desired.

For inquiring minds, a full story about the Great Plains Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*) is included later in this Newsletter.

Guido Braem October 20: Your Lecture Has Been Paid for by GCOS

Save the date! October 20 at 2 pm the distinguished author and Tolumnia expert Dr. Guido Braem will give a lecture on the Genus Tolumnia! Dave Allen has already paid for GCOS participants to join the lecture without additional charge.

Mid America Orchid Congress (MAOC) is sponsoring the online zoom presentation by world the renowned taxonomist and orchid expert.

In addition, we will be doing a group order for Guido Braem's books to have them shipped as a bulk order to the US and then shipped to their final address. Books can be signed and personalized as well. Book orders are due October 15th and will ship around the end of October. His books on Paphs and Phrags include information on each of the species, local habitat information and photos as well as cultural information. His book on Darwin is a great read and quite interesting and includes many details I am sure you have never heard about.

Here is the link to register or order books: [Home | Mid America Orchid Congress \(square.site\)](http://Home | Mid America Orchid Congress (square.site))

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Guido Braem and order one or more of his incredible books!

POTLUCK PICNIC AND ORCHID AUCTION REPORT

The Picnic on June 15 gave 48 people a great opportunity for socialization, sharing favorite foods, a chance to offer personal plants and divisions for sale, and provided a means to expand collections with often “tried and true” plants inexpensively.

The Annual Joint GCOS/MVOS Picnic and Auction has been celebrated for over 40 years. This year, the combination of Silent Auction and Live Auction plants kept the total auction time reasonable. Holding it in the Scout Building was appreciated. It was roomy, climate controlled and no bugs as encountered in the past.



Ohio Valley Orchid Fest Report



The fourth annual Ohio Valley Orchid Fest August 24-25 in Kettering Ohio, was brimming with lovely orchids for sale and for judging. The weekend was, as promised, of “everything orchids”!

Peter T. Lin, pictured here, as the keynote speaker presented on Mini Catts, around 6 inches tall, often producing standard sized blooms. “You can have 3 Mini Catts in the space of one standard Cattleya”. His second lecture of the day was on Dendrobiums, miniature, of course. The photo on the first page of this newsletter is his Dendrobium and it drew many comments at the Show.

At the MAOC Annual meeting Sunday morning a newly revised Classification List, Aligned with MAOC Show Schedule, was handed out. This has been emailed to GCOS members. Then followed a great Special Orchid presentation by Cheryl Erins, President of the AOS, on converting a glass cabinet 6 feet high by 18 inches square into the perfect growing area for small orchids in a living area. It was easy to move for seasonal lighting with respect to the window (although it had LED’s), little fans controlled circulation and humidity, mounted orchids hung on hardware cloth mounted on the sides... The perfect indoor greenhouse!







Spiranthes magnicamporum - the Great Plains Ladies' Tresses

Orchid of the Month – October by Jeanne Rhinehart

Spiranthes magnicamporum, the Great Plains Ladies' Tresses was the first *Spiranthes* species to be identified as a new species and not a variety of *Spiranthes cernua*. It was described as a species in 1973 by Charles Sheviak. Other species later identified as distinct species from others in the *Spiranthes cernua* complex are *Spiranthes odorata* - the Costal Fragrant Ladies' Tresses, and *Spiranthes ochroleuca* - the Yellow Ladies Tresses. Recently *Spiranthes cernua* and been further divided with *Spiranthes incurva* and *Spiranthes arcisepala* being identified as their own species.

The *Spiranthes cernua* complex group are commonly referred to as the Nodding Ladies' Tressess. *Cernua* means “nodding” as the base of the flowers arches downward which makes them appear to be nodding. The complex is also commonly referred to as the Autumn Ladies' Tresses referencing their fall blooming time. *Spiranthes magnicamporum* grows in drier regions than *Spiranthes cernua* often growing nearby.



		
<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>	<i>Spiranthes ochroleuca</i>	<i>Spiranthes odorata</i>
		
<i>Spiranthes magnicamporum</i>	<i>Spiranthes incurva</i>	<i>Spiranthes arcisepala</i>

The name *magnicamporum* comes from the Latin “magnus” and “campus” with the meanings large or great field or plain thus the Great Plains of the United States giving the name Great Plains Ladies’ Tresses.

While common in the Great Plains regions, *Spiranthes magnicamporum* also occurs in the Appalachian Mountains and in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Texas, Alabama, and Tennessee also appearing in Ontario, Canada and as far west as Colorado, Utah and New Mexico and recently in New York. It is found in wet, calcareous meadows, moist to dryer prairie and grassland conditions in calcareous soils but also around



fens and even dune soils preferring the drier conditions but tolerating moist conditions.



While common in many parts of North America it can be threatened by compacting of soil in its growing region, by invasive species growth and by general succession. The last can be controlled by periodic burns of habitats.

Besides differing habitat of open prairies and higher pH than *Spiranthes cernua*, another of *Spiranthes magnicamporum* distinctive characteristics is its pleasant fragrance, in some cases noticeable from a distance. The fragrance is described to be coumarin. This is the fragrant substance produced from tonka bean tree seeds. Another distinctive characteristic is its lack of leaves while in bloom. Seeds of *Spiranthes magnicamporum* seeds differ from *Spiranthes cernua* in that *Spiranthes magnicamporum* seeds are short and broad in comparison to the longer and narrower seeds of *Spiranthes cernua*.

Also, *Spiranthes magnicamporum* seeds are nonembryonic while *Spiranthes cernus*' are poly embryonic. *Spiranthes magnicamporum* is also the latest *Spiranthes* to bloom. Blooming times vary by region starting around August until frost.



It is pollinated by bumblebees, such as *Bombus fervidus* and *Bombus nevadensis*



but can also self-pollinate (cleistogamous).



References:

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=SPMA5>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/52774-Bombus-fervidus>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/341001-Bombus-nevadensis>

Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region, Frederick W. Case, Jr. Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1987, pp. 177-180.

Native Orchids of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, Stanley L. Bentley, University of North Carolina Press, 2000, pp198, 206-209.

Orchids of Indiana, Michael A. Homoya, Indiana Academy of Science, 1993, pp 207-210.

2024 CALENDAR

DATE	SPEAKER	ORGANIZATION	TOPIC
September 10	Norman Fang	Norman's Orchids	Phalaenopsis
October 8	Thomas Bajza	Tarzane Group	Miniature Orchids
November 12	Fred Clarke	Sunset Valley Orchids	Catasetums
Dec 01	Annual Holiday Potluck at the Haile Planetarium		

2024 GCOS OFFICERS

President (Roger Miller)	Joel Mattes (Acting President)
Vice President	Lindsey Pertuset (Acting President)
Treasurer	Dave Allen
Secretary	Ann Tsui
Past President	John Jaworski
Hospitality	Syndi Wilhelm
Newsletter Editor	Ann Tsui
Webmaster	Kris Mason
Show Chair	Joel Mattes

THE GREATER CINCINNATI ORCHID SOCIETY

2024 Membership Application

Please Print

Your Board has decided to offer a two (2) year enrollment option. Get \$5 off a year membership.

DATE	
NAME	
Names in family membership	
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
PHONE Primary	
PHONE Secondary	
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.

	1 Year RATE	2 Year RATE	YOUR PAYMENT
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$30	\$55	
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$35	\$65	
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP	\$15	\$25	
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: Dave 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.