



# The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society

<https://cincinnatiorchids.org>

## February 2022 Newsletter

The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society hopes everyone is staying healthy. Our February meeting will be over Zoom. We are also sharing members' orchids with an online Show-and-Tell.

### President's Message

The daylight hours are increasing with each passing day, which means that spring is going to be here soon. Spring also means that our spring orchid show will happen on April 9 and 10 at the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) on 10078 Reading Rd (45241). It is a large, well-lit facility with all of the rooms and amenities that we need. The plans are coming together nicely for a great show, which will only happen if we have volunteers for all of the assorted tasks: e.g., set-up, tear-down, hospitality, clerks for the judging, etc. Sign-up sheets will be available at our March meeting (also at BSA), or e-mailed/phoned in. Needless to say, one of the most important items is your lovely blooming plants. I have already had some conversations with my plants, indicating that it would be best for their future health if they bloomed in the first week or so of April. Alas, this has not always produced the desired results, but we can always hope. Our spring show, with its plethora of flowers, ranging from gushingly showy to botanically fascinating, is just another step into what we all hope to be better times. If I haven't mentioned it, please volunteer! (it is fun work, great way to see fellow members)



Fdk. After Dark SVO Photo by Rick Noel

Many of us grow under lights of various kinds, and we are pleased to have Kelly McCracken (High Desert orchids, in New Mexico) give a presentation on this important topic. This February 8 meeting will be the last ZOOM only.

### GCOS February 8 Meeting

Our meeting will begin at 6:30 pm over Zoom. We have a lot to go over for show planning. Kelly McCracken will be speaking about "Indoor Lighting" starting at 7:00 pm.



Kelly McCracken, owner of High Desert Orchids started as an avid hobbyist, and like many of you, couldn't stop buying plants. Quickly one greenhouse became two, and now she grows plants in a unique 3,000 sq ft high-bay industrial warehouse space all under artificial lights. Kelly specializes in miniature plants, with a particular affection for miniature Cattleyas, Angraecoids, Jewel Orchids, and Dendrobiums.

## New Home for GCOS

Starting with our March meeting, our members meeting will be held at Dan Beard Council Boy Scouts of America 10078 Reading Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45241. Our show and picnic will also be held here.



## GCOS Spring Show April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

Our show will be held at the Dan Beard Council Boy Scouts of America from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Our schedule of events is:

Friday April 8 <sup>th</sup> :	10:00 - 8:00	Sales table setup
	12:00 - 8:00	Setup for displays
	1:00 - 8:00	Registration of plants and changes from pre-registration
	4:00 - 7:30	Hospitality will be open
Saturday April 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30	Coffee, doughnuts and other breakfast food
	7:45	Team assignments
	8:00	Ribbon judging followed by AOS judging
	10:00	Show opens to the public
	12:00	or when AOS judging is over, lunch will be served for judges, vendors and volunteers
	5:00	Show closes
Sunday April 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 - 5:00	show open
	5:00	tear down

We will need various helpers to make this a success. We will go over these positions and needs at our meeting Tuesday.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

February GCOS Board meeting	February 1	Zoom
February GCOS meeting	February 8	Zoom Kelly McCracken, High Desert Orchids, "Indoor Lighting"
Cincinnati Judging	February 13	Civic Garden Center and Zoom
March GCOS Board meeting	March 1	Zoom
March GCOS meeting	March 8	Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids "Australian Dendrobiums" Dan Beard Council BSA
Cincinnati Judging	March 13	Civic Garden Center
April GCOS Board meeting	April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Zoom
April GCOS meeting	April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Brandon Tan "The Huntington Collection"
GCOS Spring Show	April 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dan Beard Council BSA
Cincinnati Judging	April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Civic Garden Center
April GCOS meeting	April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Dan Beard Council BSA
May GCOS Board meeting	May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Zoom
May GCOS meeting	May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Russ Vernon
GCOS / MVOS picnic	June 18 <sup>th</sup> 11 - 6	Dan Beard Council BSA
Ohio Valley Orchid Fest	August 26-28	Emmanuel Lutheran Church

## Hospitality for Meetings

March	Christa and Matthew Speights Dan and Ann Tsui
April	Cheryl and John Jaworski Barry and Jane Jones
May	Needed
June	Needed

## Orchid of the Month - *Dendrobium antennatum* Christa Speights

*Dendrobium antennatum* (den-DROH-bee-uhm an-ten-NAH-tum)

In 1843, the famed English botanist George Bentham published a paper in the *London Journal of Botany* succinctly titled, "Enumeration of the Plants collected by R. B. Hinds, Esq., and by Mr. Barclay in the Feejee Islands, Tanna, New Ireland and New Guinea; to which are added a few species gathered in Amboyna by Mr. Barclay." In this mouthful of a paper, he references *Dendrobium* section *Spatulata*, a section named for their narrow spatulate (spoon-like, with narrow base) petals, which made them appear "insect-like." One of the species referenced, named by the also eminent English botanist John Lindley, was *Dendrobium antennatum*. Lindley no doubt coined the species name for the antenna-like petals (the genus name *Dendrobium* means something like "tree-living" in Latin). While the petals might look vaguely insect-like, they appear to many of us more like the spiraling horns of some antelopes (think kudu antelope), hence the common name for section *Spatulata* of "antelope orchids."



While the type specimen of *D. antennatum* was collected in New Guinea, it has a large range that includes most of coastal New Guinea, Queensland Australia, and the Solomon Islands. This may explain why it is one of the easier members of section *Spatulata* to grow (it seems that widely-ranging species are often more adaptable). In the wild, it is usually found at low altitudes in coastal rainforest regions where it experiences only mild seasonal variation in rainfall and temperature. This means that, unlike some other *Dendrobium* that want a reduction in watering during winter—such as the *D. nobile*-types—*D. antennatum* and most other members of section *Spatulata* want consistently high watering (moist but not soggy), high humidity, and high temperatures throughout the year. I grow *D. antennatum* mounted, and water it several times a day to make up for lower humidity in our house.



(Obviously, a potted specimen should be water less frequently.) *D. antennatum* is a warm grower, and may not do well with nights much colder than 60° (the coolest I've grown it is 65° at night). On the other end, it is fine with heat, most comfortable with days that reach 80°-90°. *D. antennatum* appreciates bright light, perhaps 2000-3000 foot-candles. Direct sun can burn it, but now that it has acclimated, our specimen grows rapidly just beneath 250w metal halides.

The best thing about *D. antennatum* is the flowers...the never-ending flowers! We grow it with similar conditions year-round, and I don't recall a time in the last 4-5 years when our specimen was *not* in bloom. Often, there are 2-4 spikes in bloom at one time, and each flower lasts for weeks. The blooms are quite attractive: twisted white sepals; a white lip with purple lines; and long, spiraling green sepals. They have a faint, honey-like scent. They're undoubtedly the most exotic-looking flower in my collection (although *D. spectabile* does give good competition).



One reference we found online noted that *D. antennatum* was myrmecophilus, associated with ants. We can confirm this from personal experience. Our specimen has many extrafloral nectaries that produce little drops of nectar (notice the things that look like water drops along the flower spike in one photo). We've definitely noticed that ants are attracted to it (they find a way to climb up to our *D. antennatum* inside our house, where it is mounted at the top of a large tree sticking out of an indoor pond!). Like many other plants with extrafloral nectaries, *D. antennatum* is probably attracting ants with the nectar so they will defend it against herbivorous insects.



Besides the ease of growing, the glorious flowers, and the interesting relationship with ants, a final benefit of this orchid is its size. While some members of section *Spatulata* grow enormous (with canes too long to fit inside a house), *D. antennatum* is reasonably compact, with canes perhaps 18"-24" long. (*Dendrobium antennatum* var. *d'albertisii*, once considered a different species, appears to be an even smaller variation.)

If you can provide the proper conditions, this is probably the easiest member of the antelope *Dendrobium* to grow, and it will reward you with frequent—and even continual—blooms.

## Orchids in February in Ohio

As soon as the ice and snow leave the ground and you can go hiking, start watching for native orchids around you. Green leaves stand out amongst the leaf litter under trees. Watch for three kinds of orchid leaves found in Ohio at this time of year. If you see them, make note of where they are so you can come back later in the year when the orchids are in bloom. Two of these species of orchids, *Aplectrum hyemale* and *Tipularia discolor*, are sometimes called “naked ladies” as they bloom after their leaves disappear. The third orchid, *Goodyera pubescens*, is visible year-round.

*Aplectrum hyemale*, known as Puttyroot or Adam-and-Eve Orchid, is noticeably unique from other plants seen at this time. Each plant has a single leaf with distinctive ribbing. Plants are found in wooded regions and flood plains. Their leaves are



visible in the fall through late winter when they disappear. The flower spike appears in mid to late May around here.





*Tipularia discolor* or the Crane-fly Orchid is the second orchid around Ohio whose leaves disappear before the bloom spike appears. Most leaves are green on top, but they can be found in a dark form, but the consistency is that the underside of the leaf is purple. This distinguishes the *Tipularia* from the other green leaves found at this time of year. The bloom appears in late July to early August.



*Goodyera pubescens* leaves are visible year-round with flowers appearing in mid to late July.



All three orchid species can be found in the Germantown Metro Parks and at Wahkeena State Nature Preserve. They are all found throughout Ohio with *Tipularia* which is commonly found at the Cincinnati Nature Center.

## GCOS Board Meeting

The next Zoom board meeting will be 7:00 pm Tuesday, March 1. Anyone can attend board meetings. If interested in attending contact Jeanne Rhinehart at [jeanws@me.com](mailto:jeanws@me.com).

## GCOS Membership 2022

Membership forms are found at the end of the document. Membership prices are listed there. Payments can be made by check or on our website with PayPal. After February's newsletter, only members will receive newsletters by email. For all others the newsletter can be found on our website.

## 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](mailto:jeanws@me.com).

## 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](mailto:glenn.f.evans.09@gmail.com).

## American Orchid Society Webinars <https://www.aos.org>

# Webinars-Coming Attractions!






<b>When</b>	February 15, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	February 23, 2022 8:30pm EST Wednesday	March 16, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday	March 22, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday
<b>Topic</b>	<b>A Guide to Modern LED Lighting</b> How to set up an indoor grow area	<b>Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&amp;A)</b> <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	<b>The Story of Jewel Orchids</b> Glistening Gems of the Forest Floor	<b>Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&amp;A)</b> <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Kelly McCracken</b> Owner High Desert Orchids, Miniature Orchid Specialist	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Nicholas Rust</b> Orchid hybridizer with a passion for terrestrials	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!  
Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.  
We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure.  
GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.  
Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)



## GCOS Social Media

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

GCOS Facebook Page

[https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=greater%20cincinnati%20orchid%20society&epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=greater%20cincinnati%20orchid%20society&epa=SEARCH_BOX)

## Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Board of Directors

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

# THE GREATER CINCINNATI ORCHID SOCIETY

## 2022 Membership Application

### Please Print

Although dues for 2021 are optional, regular dues and/or contributions are gratefully accepted. Judicious management of GCOS funds over the years has provided adequate fiscal stability to carry us through these “bumpy” times. We do ask that every renewing member complete this 2021/2022 form with updated information. We will have a new membership chair and he/she will need it. Thank you.

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

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.

	<b>RATE</b>	<b>YOUR PAYMENT</b>
<b>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	\$25	
<b>FAMILY MEMBERSHIP</b>	\$30	
<b>STUDENT MEMBERSHIP</b>	\$10	
<b>DONATIONS, to support GCOS (identify any restrictions)</b>		
	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](mailto: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.