



THE GREATER CINCINNATI ORCHID SOCIETY

September 2026 Newsletter

CincinnatiOrchids.org

The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture



Mary E. Gerritsen & Ron Parsons



© Ron Parsons

Thelymitra ixiodes. Photo by Ron Parsons

September 8th, Ron Parsons

“Down Under No 12 (South-east Australia, Again!)”

Australia's orchids are as unique as her animals, with most having no close relatives outside the country. This talk features pictures from trips to the southeast states of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. Many orchids featured are very rare, and not likely to be seen by most visitors. All photos were taken in the wild. Tasmania has over 200 orchid species! These include spider orchids (*Caladenia*), bearded orchids (*Calochilus*), donkey orchids (*Diuris*), sun orchids (*Thelymitra*) and so much more.

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for almost 52 years and has been interested in species orchids for most of that time. He loves to photograph them whenever possible. Ron has nearly 130,000 digital images, most of which are of orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. Ron has co-authored five books on botanical subjects, all with Mary E. Gerritsen. (These are listed in his bio on the GCOS website.) In 2019 ***The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture***, pictured here, was released, and is on its third printing. The fifth book, a four-volume set of the much-revised second edition of *A Compendium of Miniature Orchids Species* was released in October, 2021.

Plant Sale at the Sept 8 Meeting!

Mature plants, some of which are in bloom! Some were purchased at Orchid Fest, some are spectacular orchids have been donated by members. *All proceeds benefit GCOS!*

Orchid Basics and Exchange of Ideas (Formerly Beginner's Conversation)

6:00 September 8 “*Transitioning Plants Inside and the Critters that Come with Them*”

A **New Name** for Beginner's Conversation! Both those new to orchids and experienced growers exchange information, hence the name change.

Meet in the smaller room at the end of the hall on the left in the Scout Achievement Building.

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Report on the Donation to Warder Nursery by Mary Gardner



Conservation and education is an important mission for GCOS. Our Conservation Donation this year was to Warder Nursery (the growers for Krohn Conservatory, and most of the other Cincinnati parks). Our donation allowed Warder to purchase many beautiful orchids, and Krohn is thrilled to display them as they come into bloom. A few have already taken the stage!

I have had the privilege of volunteering with Rachel, a Cincinnati Parks horticulturist who runs the Warder Nursery. We have repotted many orchids, that will hopefully graduate and grace the Krohn Orchid House.

Krohn has graciously welcomed us. GCOS will soon have a space, in or near the Orchid House, welcoming visitors to join our society, and learn all the beauty and fun of growing and preserving orchids!



Photos by Rachel Brucato are only a few of the orchids purchased.

News Flash!

The time for 2027 membership renewal starts early!

Consider that dues are the primary source of revenue for GCOS. Our revised Policies state memberships, new or renewed, made after August 15 are good for the rest of that and all of the following calendar year! Renewals made before December 31 are helpful.

Please fill out a Membership form with each new or renewal. Yes, although we may have your information, the forms help record keeping.

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest

Tons of fun was had at OVOF. We started the weekend with a Preview Party and shopping on Friday night with a BBQ picnic dinner, and raffle prizes. Saturday and Sunday followed with judging, great lectures, more shopping, raffles, and good food.



Den magnum
And
Phlidota palida



Masdevallia Prince Charming 'Highland'
and detail inset



Spencer's Spotlight:

Our very own Spencer Chroninger took some beautiful photographs at Orchid Fest and we wanted to share with the rest of you.



Masdevallia Othello and
detail inset



Paph helenae



Bulb Kalmpung 'Merry Janes Jpy'

GCOS/MVOS Picnic and Auction June 21st

Our lively auctoineers Jim France and Kris Mason entertained about 25 attendees.

We thank Rick and Alexa Noel for their expert and efficient recording of who bought what from which seller.

This year MVOS skipped the hassle of grilling mets and burgers by providing commercially prepared chicken pieces. Abundant salads, sides, fruit and desserts delighted our tastebuds.

Fieldtrip to Eastern Ohio With NOPES July 11



A lovely morning was spent by Jeanne and Barry Rhinehart, Kwen Hsu and Dan and Ann Tsui at Lynx and Chaparral Prairies. The many Crested Coral-root (*Bletia spicata*) native orchids were caught in various stages of opening at Lynx. Chaparral was carpeted with brilliant wildflowers, dancing butterflies and abundant birds.

Upcoming Meetings and Events Calendar:

Speaker/Event	Date	Speaker/Place	Topic/Information
GCOS Members Meeting	September 8	Ron Parsons	<i>Orchids of Australia and Tasmania</i>
Judging Center	September 13	Civic Garden Center	Judging Starts at 1 pm
Board Meeting	September 22	Symmes Library	6:00-8:30 and on Zoom
Judging Center	October 11	Civic Garden Center	Judging Starts at 1 pm
GCOS Members Meeting	October 13	Rick Burian	<i>Orchids of South Africa</i>
Board Meeting	October 27	Symmes Library	6:00-8:30 and on Zoom
Judging Center	November 8	Civic Garden Center	Judging Starts at 1 pm
GCOS Members Meeting And Regular Meeting	November 10	David Sorokowski	<i>Paphiopedilums</i>
Board Meeting	November 24	Madeira Library	6:00-8:30 and on Zoom
<i>Holiday Celebration</i>	<i>December 6</i>	<i>Scout Achievement Building</i>	<i>2:00-4:00 Event (Place reserved 1:00-5:00)</i>
<i>GCOS 2027 Orchid Show</i>	<i>April 3,4 2027</i>	<i>Scout Achievement Building</i>	Mark Your Calendars!

Cookie at OVOF

Photo by Ashlee Williams



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2027 Membership Application

Please Print

Get \$5 off a year membership with a two year enrollment.

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: Jeanne Rhinehart, 6222 Le Roy Place, Cincinnati, OH 45230**
- 2) Take a photo of the form and email to jeanws@me.com

If you want to make a donation or pay for membership, you can send a check to Jeanne Rhinehart 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.