

Greater Akron Orchid Society

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society & the Mid-American Orchid Congress

October 2018

President

Jane Bush

Vice President

Darlene Thompson

Treasurer

Frank Skalak

Secretary

Lore Yu

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Dave Miller

Minutes of Sept. 2018 Meeting

Jane announced that the show has been approved for the first Saturday of March. Dave announced the Ann Arbor seminar and the AOS membership meeting in Florida. Wayne Roberts announced that West Shore Orchid Society is having J&L orchids speak on the 3rd Wednesday of October during their meeting.

After the announcements, a survey was completed by all members, the plant auction was explained, and orchids were introduced at the show table. The auction was then commenced.

Upcoming Business

We need a new Program Director. Dave Miller has done a great job and has brought in some amazing speakers, but after years of service he needs to step down to devote more of his time to AOS Judging. He has provided an easy to follow guideline and is willing to help anyone able to help fill this position. Please see the duties below.

This club is able to run only because of our monthly speakers and events. If you are interested or have questions please see Dave at a meeting to discuss it. We really appreciate it.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, October 8, 2018 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Using Lights to Grow Orchids**

Speaker: **Tim Choltco of Orchid Society of Western PA**

Tim Choltco from the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania will be sharing his methods for growing orchids at home under lights with his presentation 'Using Lights to Grow Orchids.' Tim is an accomplished orchid grower and speaker to garden groups and orchid societies. Tim will be offering orchids for sale at the meeting.

Edgar Stehli of Windswept in Time Orchids will be giving a class on orchid care.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

A big thank you to all who filled out the survey. We received many excellent suggestions and comments. One of the comments was to introduce our members in the newsletter so watch for the "Meet Our Member" feature.

November is our annual member banquet, plant give-away and election of officers for 2019 – and I'm still trying to remember to use 2018! Check the rest of the newsletter for our slate of officers.

TIDBIT: If you move your plant to a new location, it will need time to adjust to its new environment before it starts actively growing again.

Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) at 6:45pm, impromptu Q&A start at 6:30pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Members are encouraged to bring orchids from their collection for exhibit. **All are welcome; you do not have to be a member to attend.**

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| Oct 8 | "Using Lights to Grow Orchids"
Tim Choltco of Orchid Society of Western PA |
| Nov 12 | Holiday Banquet / Elections |
| Dec 10 | No Meeting – Happy Holidays! |



Photo of the Month: *Corybas himalaicus*. Blooms in June/July. (This photo is part of a research program to re-document all the orchid species described by Sir George King and Robert Pantling in, "The Orchids of the Sikkim-Himalaya" published in the year 1898.)



Meet Our Member



Jane Bush, President

With a Master's degree from the University of Akron, I taught community college biology courses for more than 25 years. Now I focus my time and energy on training dogs in the sport of dog agility and growing orchids.

I grow my cold-loving cymbidiums in my polycarbonate greenhouse and have a variety of warm-loving orchids under lights. The highlight of my orchid adventure is an AOS award for one of my dendrobiums and the show trophy for best display at the 2017 Greater Cleveland Orchid Society Show.

Slate of officers to be voted on at the November meeting:

President: Jane Bush
Vice President: Barbara Ford
Secretary: Lore Yu
Treasurer: Paul Bujak
Editor: Brandon Spannbauer

Our 2019 Trustee is Dave Miller, assigned by our By Laws as the retiring president



Cym. ensifolium with
variegated foliage
Brandon Spannbauer

GAOS Program Chairperson Needed

We are looking for a new Program Chairperson.

The primary duties of the Program Chairperson are two-fold. First, to work with the officers and members to develop the program calendar for each year. Typically, this task starts in August of the previous year with a completed schedule to be announced at the last monthly meeting of the year. There are eleven programs but June and November are dinner meetings and do not always have supplemental programs. There are also two member auction programs and generally do not have other program parts. In January and February, a lot of the program content centers around preparing for the show so those meetings require coordination with the show chairperson and members who wish to contribute their show skill to help out.

The program calendar is kept up to date and sent in electronic form to the Newsletter, Website and Social Media editors when any changes occur. A printed copy should be displayed at the monthly meetings.

The second task is to make sure that all arrangements are made for each program or to make sure the member in charge of an individual program is prepared. This might include coordination of room setup, care and determination of housing (hotel or host member) for out of town speakers, reimbursement of speaker and member expenses for travel, fees and expenses and as always, having a backup plan due to weather or unexpected problems. This is for the most part a coordination role as the Treasurer actually pays the bills and other members may be actually giving the program.

There are many resources available and this role is for coordination and responsibility that members will have meaningful programs at each meeting. There are some members that routinely give talks to other societies and they are excellent candidates for last minute backup plans.

Cattleya dowiana, Sunshine and Yellow Fever

By Chadwick Orchids, abbreviated to fit
Photos by Le Pape

No cattleya has received more praise from orchid lovers over the years than *Cattleya dowiana*. Despite its relatively short-lived flowers and the tendency of the plants to rot when over-watered in the winter time in a northern greenhouse, it has remained one of the most admired species of the genus. A lesser plant with these disadvantages would have disappeared from cultivation 100 years ago.

An industrious young orchid hunter named Josef Warszewicz found the first *Cattleya dowiana* plants in Costa Rica about 1850. Unfortunately, all specimens dried up before being able to produce a single flower. *C. dowiana* would be rediscovered by George Ure Skinner who sent so many shipments of plants to Veitch's Royal Exotic Nursery in Chelsea that Veitch had to build a new greenhouse just to handle them. One of Skinner's shipments in 1865 contained a few *C. dowiana* plants but no mention was made of them in the



shipping documents. When one of the plants flowered in Veitch's greenhouse that fall it was a complete surprise to everyone. It was also a pleasant confirmation that what Warszewicz had said about the existence of a large-flowered yellow-petal cattleya species was true.

Two years after his triumph in delivering live plants of *C. dowiana* to the horticultural world of Europe, George Ure Skinner decided to retire and return to England. He went by way of Panama, and ran into the same scourge as Warszewicz. On January 9, 1867, Skinner died from yellow fever. Warszewicz himself had a second bout with the disease, went back to Europe, and never returned to collecting orchids again.

The typical *Cattleya dowiana* has flowers with pale yellow sepals and petals with some purple or lavender blended into them and a lip that is intensely dark purple with fine gold veining. The flowers are fairly large ranging from 5 ½ to 8 inches across. The lips of *C. dowiana* vary from dark crimson-purple with and without gold veining to crimson with large yellow eyes, to lips that are virtually all yellow sometimes beautifully edged in pale lavender. One of *C. dowiana*'s most unusual characteristics is the variability of the yellow color in the lip. One year the lip may have only a small amount of yellow or no yellow at all, and the next year that same plant may produce a lip that is almost all yellow. The amount of yellow can even vary from flower to flower on the same inflorescence.

Cattleya dowiana is unique among the large-flowered *Cattleya* species because it is the only large-flowered species that does not have either an alba or semialba form. Some so-called semialba *C. dowiana*, are really semialba varieties of the natural hybrid, *Cattleya hardyana* (*warszewiczii* x *dowiana*). The yellow color in the sepals and petals of *C. dowiana* is very recessive and disappears when it is crossed with any lavender or white large-flowered *Cattleya* species.

Cattleya dowiana normally produces 4 or 5 flowers on a flower stem and, because of its beautifully colored flowers, large size and this floriferousness, *C. dowiana* has been used in breeding more than any other large-flowered *Cattleya* species. It has the unique quality of darkening and enriching the lavender color of other cattleyas when

bred with them and it is responsible for the intense dark color of many of our best lavender hybrids today. *Cattleya dowiana* is one of the most beautiful of all the *Cattleya* species and fragrant.

How To Grow Cattleya Dowiana - *Cattleya dowiana* is a strong, vigorously growing plant that produces a tall 4 or 5 flowered bloom spike in mid-summer. It will begin sending out a new growth in late winter or early spring and flower buds will emerge from the sheath before the growth is fully mature in July or August. The flowers unfortunately are not long-lived and two weeks is about all you can expect from most varieties under hot summer conditions. The short life of the flowers undoubtedly accounts for its strong fragrance since it must attract its pollinators as soon as possible before its flowers die. *Cattleya dowiana* likes a warmer temperature than most other large-flowered *Cattleya* species, with a minimum of 65F at night. It should be kept as dry as possible when it is dormant from September to March to avoid developing root and pseudobulb rot that can kill the plant. *C. dowiana* likes lots of sun and its leaves should be a light green color if you want plenty of blooms it also likes lots of moving air to keep it healthy. Although it requires very little water when it is resting during the winter, it likes a good supply of water when it is actively growing.



Photo Gallery

Member's Show Table
September 2018



Mini terrarium
Dave Miller



Brat. Royal Robe
Dean Pawlicki



Miltonia Suset
Mary Bell



Miltonia
Larry Ball



Den. Spanish Eyes
Jane Bush



Habenaria
Edgar Stehli



Diodonopsis evinacea
Dave Miller



Scaph digitale
Dave Miller



Prosc Green Hornet
Dave Miller



Zgt. Zesty Kalla
Dave Miller



Nold Cattleya
Frank Skalak



Oda Pacific Paranoia
Bernie Skalak



Phrag Mem Dick Clements
Bernie Skalak



Paph Amenantine
Wayne Roberts



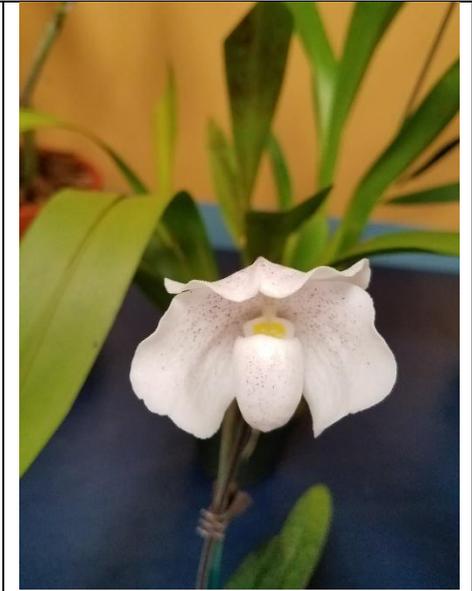
Paph Fred's Ghost
Wayne Roberts



Mtssa Estrelita
Paul Bujak



Blc Bob Crowder x harrisoniae
Wayne Roberts



Paph Greyi
Paul Bujak



Milt herralexandre
Mary Bell



Lc Red Glen
Mary Bell



Wils. Martian Leather
Jane Bush



Vuyl Fall in Love
Jane Bush



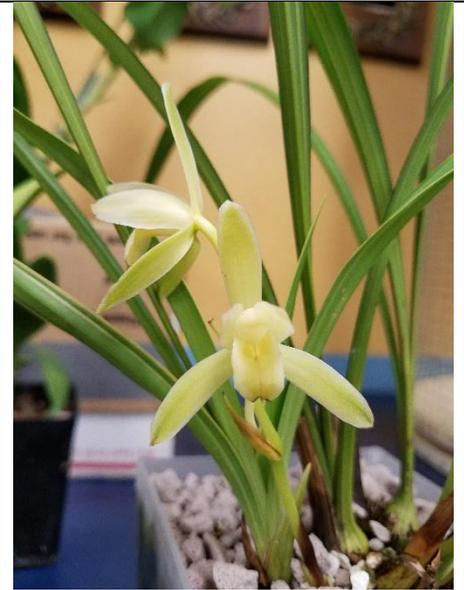
Den. Crystal Rose
Jane Bush



Mtssa Dark Star
Jane Bush



C. Cariad's Mini-Quinee
Jane Bush



Cymbidium ensifolium
Brandon Spannbauer



Den Burana Jade
Jane Bush



Tolumnia Tower
Edgar Stehli



Tolumnia
Edgar Stehli



Tolumnia
Edgar Stehli