

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

May 2019

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Minutes of April 2019 Meeting

Orchid Corner: Edgar explained orchid societies and their benefits. He also announced a field trip in May to Sandusky to find orchids in the wild.

The April program was on mounting and potting orchids. Materials for mounting and potting, as well as orchids, were available for purchase

It was announced that Margaret Hartman died March 30, one month shy of 100. She was a founding member of our Orchid Society and grew gorgeous Cattleyas. Her late husband had also been a member.

Dues for 2019 GAOS membership are now due. Individual memberships are \$20 and Family memberships, \$30.

Individual members can receive one free plant at the November meeting while family members can get two. Please bring your dues payment to a meeting

Upcoming Business

Welcome new members! We hope you enjoyed our Spring Show and would love to see you at a meeting. Meetings are free and open to the public, so come stop by. Details are below.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, May 13, 2019. Doors open 6:45 pm, meeting starts 7:30 pm. Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Orchids of Peru**
Speaker: **Leon Glicenstein**

Leon Glicenstein will give us a video tour of orchids in Peru. Leon is from State College, Pennsylvania. Leon is a world authority on orchids and orchid hybridizing and comes to us to give a travel tour of the orchids which grow in Peru.

Included in his superb photography of the local orchids, people and fauna in Peru will also be a number of slides on the history and condition of the Incan ruins of the palatial village located high in the mountains.

Each meeting will have a show table in which everyone is invited to bring in their blooming orchids to show off. This is a great way to see what other members are growing and how they do so.

New members and visitors are also invited to bring any plants they wish to show or have questions about.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

Thanks to Barbara Ford, Mary and Jim Bell, and Andrea Altvater for an outstanding GAOS display at the WSOS show. Our display won a first-place award. Darlene Thompson, Barbara Ford, Dave Miller, Pam Everett, and Jane Bush contributed flowering plants. Darlene Thompson, Dave Miller, and Pam Everett all received Best-in-Class Trophies. Darlene's Paph Frank Smith also received an AOS award.

For the May meeting, we have an exciting program for you. Our guest speaker will be Leon Glicenstein giving us a video tour of the extraordinary orchids in Peru. He will also include a bit of the history and condition of the Incan ruins.

TIDBIT: When moving your orchids outside for the summer, keep all of them in the shade for the first few days. Then, slowly move them from the shade to early morning or late afternoon sun. From the house directly to full sun will burn even the sun lovers.



Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) Beginner's Corner starts at 6:45pm and the meeting at 7:10pm, 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.**

May 13	"Orchids of Peru" with Leon Glicenstein
Jun 10	Summer Picnic 1 st Member Plant Auction
July 8	How We Grow Orchids with Dave Miller
Aug 12	Game Night: "Orchid Jeopardy"



Photo of the Month: Paphiopedilum Lola Bird
(Paph. emersonii x Paph micranthum).

Photo By: www.nickyslippers.com.au

EDUCATIONAL ORCHID SEMINAR IN ANN ARBOR

The Great Lakes Judging Center is sponsoring an education seminar on the Cattleya alliance of orchids at Washtenaw Community College (Morris J. Lawrence Building, 48 East Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor 48108), Saturday and Sunday, June 15-16, 2019.

On Saturday, there will be AOS judging at 1:00 p.m. with speakers beginning about 3:30 depending on when judging is complete. Attendees can take advantage of a delicious catered supper on Saturday for \$20 payable in advance; the evening continues until about 9:00 p.m. with auctions, orchid sales and more talks.

On Sunday, June 17th, things get under way at 8:30 a.m. with a complimentary breakfast provided by the judges; lectures interspersed with auctions and orchid sales run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

People are welcome to attend one day or both days or part of one day.

While the program is still under development, we have already made arrangements for two guest speakers: Fred Clarke, from Sunset Valley Orchids, will give two talks: "Trends in Mini-Catt Hybrids" and "Judging Mini-Catts", and Paul Storm, from Meke Aloha Orchids, will speak on "Schomburgkias". There will be four additional talks on Cattleyas and their relatives. Both Fred Clarke and Paul Storm will be selling plants – Fred has already offered a 10% pre-order discount and no shipping cost. We will ask Paul about particulars on his sales.

There is no admission fee, but we do request that you register your intent to attend to allow us to provide enough refreshments and enough seating. You may indicate your desire to eat the Saturday evening dinner with us – cost \$20. Cash or checks made payable to GLJC. Registrar: Doris Asher, asherdoris44@gmail.com; send checks to Doris at 277 N Hagadorn Road, East Lansing MI 48823; you may also register via our website: www.gljc.org and pay via PayPal with your credit card.

Join us!

Doris Asher

2019 Great Lakes Judging Center Annual Seminar

June 15 12 noon to 8 pm and June 16 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Washtenaw Community College Ann Arbor, Michigan

The Cattleya Alliance

Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, on "Trends in Mini-Catt Hybrids" and "Judging Mini-Catts"

Paul Storm, Meke Aloha Orchids, on "Schomburgkias"

Four other speakers on Cattleyas and their relatives.

Sat. 1pm AOS Judging

Auctions all day on Saturday and orchid sales both days.

Location, times, costs and daily schedule at www.gljc.org



Of course, my masdevallia princeps bloom fades just days before the West Shore show. This a first-time bloom for me, I was blown away by the color and size, over 12" from tip to tip! There is a second spike coming, here's hoping it makes it to a future meeting.

-Brandon Spannbauer

Summering Orchids Outside

By Darlene Thompson

Whether you are a windowsill or greenhouse grower, the summer presents a great opportunity to let your orchids enjoy the natural light, air movement, and humidity. Plus, it gives you a chance to clean your growing area and save on energy. In this brief article, I suggest some things to consider when placing your orchids in their new summer homes.

Before taking your plants outside, you should monitor the temperature by checking the Weather Channel or using a min/max thermometer in your growing area. Regardless of the method you chose, you want to make sure the minimum night temperatures outside do not go below the suggested temperatures for your orchids. If you have a variety of orchids, they may not be able to all go outside at once. A good rule of thumb is to not put out your warm growers, like phalaenopsis, until you can plant tomatoes, which is between 50°F and 55°F.

Just as you do anywhere else, you want to make sure your growing area has the right balance of shade and sun. Some outside growers have shade houses for their orchids. For the rest of us, we have to find an alternate way of providing our plants with the right amount of shade. Placing orchids under a shade tree or hanging the orchids from the tree is a great option. Last year, I covered a wire shelving rack with a sheer curtain to protect my orchids from the direct sunlight on my balcony. Be creative and resourceful when finding a safe summer home for your orchids. Avoid placing them directly on the ground as this is an open invitation for creepy critters to invade your pots.

The higher summer temperatures mean more watering. Thankfully, rainfall will help you out a little here. While your orchids will love the occasional shower of fresh, clean rain water, Mother Nature can also over water. When there is heavy rainfall, orchids can become waterlogged, especially if you have potted plants. Waterlogged pots increase the probability for roots and new growth to rot. This is especially true when the rain is accompanied by a cool front. To protect orchids, you can simply place something made of water proof material over your plants when the rains are heavy. This could be a piece of fiberglass or a small tarp. If you have saucers under your pots, empty them after each rainfall or you risk rotting the roots.

Some heat loving plants appreciate the higher summer temperatures. However, those that tend to grow in cool conditions will not. To give my cooler-growing Colmanara (*Odontocidium*) some heat relief, a friendly local grower suggested that I place it inside a large clay pot. I then put the clay pot in a saucer of water. The clay pot wicks up the water from the saucer to help keep the Colmanara cooler on warm days. If you do this, be sure to put stones or packing peanuts between the clay pot and the plastic pot. I found this technique very helpful and plan to repeat it this summer.

Finally, you want to watch out for pests. Make sure you are checking your plants and your growing area ever so often for pests. This includes checking under pots where snails like to hide. Remember the best defense against pests is a healthy plant. Pests target stressed plants, so monitor the condition of your plants. Make sure they are getting the right amount of water, fertilizer, light, and shade.

I hope that you find the article helpful in preparing for summer growing. In addition to these suggestions, be sure to talk to other society members to get additional advice and more specifics about summering your orchids outside in northeast Ohio. Your orchids will love you for it.

The Weird Sex Lives of Orchids

By Justine E. Hausheer, abbrev to fit.



Drakaea thinniphila, a species of Australian hammer orchid.

Love is in the air for the birds and the bees... but what about the plants?

The animal kingdom is full of strange, endearing, and even alarming courtship rituals and mating habits. Yet we don't hear much about the bizarre reproductive strategies that plants use to produce the next generation. As it turns out, they're equally weird. And diverse. And sometimes horrifying. The corpse flower smells like rotting meat. Strangler figs hitchhike on birds and then entomb their host trees. And many species, like aspens, clone themselves over and over. But in my opinion, orchids take the prize for weirdest plant sexy times.

Don't believe me? To start, even the word orchid originates from the Greek word for testicle.

English botanist John Lindley coined the word "orchid" after the *Orchis* genus, one of several in the Orchidaceae family. It turns out that some species in *Orchis* genus have a pair of twin tubers that are shaped like, well, testicles.

Etymology aside, orchids deploy a plethora of weird strategies to get down and get rooty. Read on for some of our favorites...



Cryptostylis ovata (not a very sexy wasp). Photo © Kevin Thiele

Trick Insects Into Mating With You

Species in the *Cryptostylis* genus have flowers that so closely resemble the female dupe wasps that male wasps are fooled into mating with the flower. As the male wasps do the deed, they get covered in orchid pollen that is then transferred to other flowers as the male continues on his sexual escapades.

This trick isn't unique to the tongue orchids; several species in the *Ophrys* genus employ the same strategy. The bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) specializes in tricking bees, while the fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*) does the same for digger wasps.



Stanhopea ruckeri. Photo © Orchi

Smell Like a Lady Insect. Or A Dying Aphid. Or a Mushroom.

Many orchid species use scent to attract pollinators. Another Aussie variety, the bird orchid (*Chiloglottis reflexa*) mimic both the looks and the scent of female thynnine wasp. Then there are the *Stanhopea* orchids of Central and South America. This genus specializes in attracting orchid bees, a group of metallic green, chunky bee species that collect plant scent to mark their territory and use in mating displays.



An orchid bee

Male orchid bees have specialized legs that can collect plant scent compounds and then store them in leg sacs. To gather the *Stanhopea* orchid scent, the bees must clamber up through an obstacle course of twisted flower petals, bumping into pollen as they go.

Dracula lafleuri, found in the cloud forests of Ecuador, take a different approach. Instead of mimicking an insect's sexual partner, they look (and smell) like mushrooms. Their spotted petal resembles a species of fungi where flies congregate and lay eggs. Combine that with a deceptive, mushroomy scent, and the flies can't resist.



Catasetum saccatum. Photo © Arne and Bent Larsen, Haarby, Denmark

Set a Spring-Loaded Booby Trap

Charles Darwin described the *Catasetum saccatum* as "the most remarkable of all orchids." Here's why: The *Catasetum* stores its pollen on a spring-loaded sticky disc at the back of the flower. When an unsuspecting insect lands and touches an antenna-like trigger, the orchid hurls the pollen towards the insect with considerable force. (When Darwin himself poked one flower with a whalebone, the projectile pollen landed on a windowpane 3 feet away.)



Coryanthes speciosa. Photo © Dr. Nasser Halaweh

Temporarily Kidnap Your Pollinators

This is where pollination takes a dark turn. Orchids in the *Coryanthes* genus also rely on orchid bees for pollination, but they set a very different kind of trap.

Instead of a petal obstacle course, their flowers form the shape of a smooth-sided bucket filled with sticky secretions. As the male bees fly in to gather scent compounds, some slip down the side of the bucket and get covered in liquid.

Thankfully, the plant provides an escape hatch: Part of the bucket is lined with knob-like structures to help the bee climb into a narrow tube. This tube constricts as the insects enter, trapping them (again) as the plant presses pollen sacs onto their bodies. The bees are held captive for as long as 45 minutes while a glue on the pollen sack dries, securing it to the bee until its next ill-fated visit to a bucket orchid.



Photo © Hectonichus

Let Them Stay for Breakfast

Orchids in the *Serapias* genus take a decidedly less violent approach to attracting pollinators. The flowers of the European *Serapias vomeracea* orchid form a hollow, enclosed tube where insects (usually beetles and bees) can shelter overnight or during bad weather.



Masdevallia caesia with 18 blooms. This cool to cold growing, pendant epiphyte is endemic to southwestern Colombia in cloud forests at elevations of 1600 to 2200 meters. A high level of anthocyanin which aids in its ability to withstand cold temperatures also gives its foliage that extraordinary blue color.
By: Adam Erhenfeuchter

Upcoming Open Houses

Windswept in Time Orchids

May 25-26: 11am – 5pm

8066 Skyline Dr, Broadview Heights, OH 44147



Hey girl. Photo © Elena Gaillard

When All Else Fails, Have Sex with Yourself

Instead of evolving elaborate booby-traps, disguises, or scents, the *Holcoglossum amesianum* simply has sex with itself.

Found on tree trunks in China's Yunnan province, it's one of the rare flowering plants that pollinates itself, requiring some admirable floral flexibility to do so. Instead of relying on insects or wind to transport pollen from one plant to another, this orchid evolved an anther (the pollen-laden male part) that can twist a full 360 degrees and insert itself into the stigma cavity (or female part).

Photo Gallery

WSOS Orchid Show





Photo Gallery

April 2019 Meeting



Phrag Inca Fire
Dean Pawlicki



Lep Bicolor
Claudia Englert



Vuy Melissa Brianne
Jane Bush



Cattleya mossiae
Wayne Roberts



Dor Momilani Girl
Jane Bush



Tsubotaara Melinda Marie
Jane Bush



City Haddie Notch
Jane Bush



Lepanthes telipogoniflora
Dave Miller



Miltoniopsis Hybrid
Jane Bush



Cymbidium Hybrid
Jane Bush



Paph Fairre Helen
Dave Miller



Phalaenopsis Hybrid
Dave Miller



Rodrumnia Sundown Reef
Dave Miller



Psychopsis Mariposa
Dave Miller



Phrag longifolium
Dave Miller



Odcdm Wild Willie
Frank Skalak



Blc Mem Grant Eichler
Frank Skalak



Onc New Year
Frank Skalak



Phrag Bouley Bay
Darlene Thompson



Phrag Frank Smith
Darlene Thompson



Den aphyllum
Darlene Thompson



Lycaste Walnut Valley Mac's
Darlene Thompson



Masdevallia Hanezka
Dave Miller