

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

June 2019

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Jane Bush

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Minutes of May 2019 Meeting

It was announced that West Shore Orchid Society was having a speaker to educate the society about miniature orchids. In June, they will have Fred Clark come and if one wishes to pre-order with a 10% discount from his website, he will bring the orchids to the meeting. The meeting is June 19, 2019.

<https://westshoreorchidsociety.org/>

<https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/>

Our speaker was Leon Glicenstein who presented a tour of Peru which included information and photos of the local orchids, people, history and ruins of Peru. He travelled to Machu Picchu and the surrounding areas and studied many of its native plants and flowers. It was a wonderful presentation, thank you Leon.

Upcoming Business

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, June 10, 2019. **Doors open 5:45 pm, meeting starts 6:30 pm.** Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Summer Picnic**

Speaker: **1st Member Plant Auction**

Our annual summer picnic will begin earlier than our normal meetings, at ****6:30 pm**** Please bring a dish and your own place settings for our potluck style meal. Refreshments will be provided.

After the meal, we will hold our 1st Member Plant Auction of the year. Bring plants and orchid related items to sell to society members. We all have purchased plants that don't do well in our environment or refuse to bloom for us, bring them to the auction and hopefully you can find something new and exciting to take home with you.

Plants are priced and auctioned. The seller takes home 75% of the final price and the society receives 25%. Please do your best to remove all pests before being auctioned, thank you.

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 our neighboring societies, we have three wonderful opportunities this month to hear Fred Clark from California share his wealth of orchid knowledge. He will be at the Great Lakes Judging Center on June 15 and 16 speaking on Cattleyas. Then, Monday night, June 17, he will be speaking at the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society meeting. On Wednesday, June 19, his last engagement in this area is at the West Shore Orchid Society meeting June 21. I hope you will make plans to take advantage of these great opportunities.

This month is our annual summer picnic and member auction. This is a great time to share good fellowship and orchid plants. Remember that sellers get 75% of the selling price and 25% goes to GAOS. Several members have sold plants they could not get to bloom only to see it on the show table because it was happy in someone else's growing conditions. Do you have one that you are ready to part with? Can you find a hidden gem on the auction table for your collection? Be sure to join us on June 10. Doors will open at 5:45 (traffic permitting) and the picnic will start at 6:30 PM. Please bring a dish or dessert and your own place setting. Spouses and friends are welcome.

TIDBIT: When to water by Barry Wolf: When you get a new orchid plant, water it and note its weight. When the pot feels lighter, it is time to water it again.

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.**

Jun 10	Summer Picnic / 1 st Member Plant Auction
July 8	How We Grow Orchids with Dave Miller
Aug 12	Game Night: "Orchid Jeopardy"
Sept 9	2 nd Member Plant Auction "Orchid Diseases Part 1" Jane Bush



Photo of the Month: Cattleya percivaliana 'Summit' FCC-AOS. Grown by Jerry Rodde. Cattleya percivaliana is a cool growing, largely lithophyte, or sometimes epiphyte from Colombia to Venezuela at elevations of around 1300 to 2000 metres. Photo: ff/Gary via The Orchid Source

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



Paphiopedilum sanderianum x gigantifolium by P. Leone

Orchid Treasures

By Edgar Stehli

We all love orchids! Who doesn't check out the sales table for something new and exciting to add to or replace in the collection? Everyone has their favorite orchid, and that's great! However, there are some overlooked treasures in the orchid world. These treasures often surround us at meetings and shows, but seldom do we take the time to appreciate them for the beauty they are.

I am speaking of the people in the orchid world. From the new member looking to further their knowledge of the orchid family to the long time very knowledgeable member. We often take our members for granted. We overlook, or perhaps are ignorant of all the time, energy, and often money these orchid gems invest in our society.

I have been to board meetings where discussions about the future direction of the society is determined. Meetings to choose food items for the various events, meetings to pick speakers for the society lectures...meetings about all the little things that keep the society functioning. I have been to show committee meetings where all the little details of putting on a show are covered. Judging meetings where a select group of volunteers gather to examine someone's special flowers.

Too often we take these orchid gems for granted. Some of these gems stand out in the limelight, while others tend to keep to the shadows. But they are all there whether we see them or not. They are the officers past and present, the members who help put on the show, the members who have taken the time to become AOS judges, as well as the rare gem that just does what is needed without being asked.

Orchid Gems, Orchid Treasurers, call them what you will, they should not be taken for granted. Please take a little time to tell them you appreciate what they do for the orchid world. Sometimes all a person needs is a pat on the back for a job well done in order to keep going. I wish I could personally thank everyone who has helped me with my orchid obsession. While I can't do that here, I would like to thank all the officers past and present, all the Judges and clerks past and present, as well as all the behind the scenes volunteers who keep things going. I would also like to thank Dave Miller, Darlene Thompson, and Chester Kieliszek who helped me with the last Windswept in Time Orchids open house. Help getting plants repotted, benches cleaned up, and helping customers pick out plants that could become part of their collection.

Thank you all! You are all orchid gems I treasure.

Phantasm of the Forest

By Peter Zale, Ph.D., abbrev. for space

Many guests visit Longwood Gardens to appreciate, enjoy, and study our carefully curated, world-class collection of more than 11,000 kinds of plants. Occasionally, plants find their way to the Gardens without the assistance of horticulturists—some of these are native while others are unwanted invasive species. Very rarely, a plant is found that defies logic and provides insight into the horticultural history and ecological health and capacity of the interface between Longwood's gardens and natural lands.

In July 2018, Longwood's Director of Library and Information Services David Sleasman spotted the bright red fruits of a ghostly, striking plant growing along an access road in one of Longwood's naturally forested areas and immediately queried the curatorial office about its identity. It was identified as *Cyrtosia* (syn. *Galeola*) *septentrionalis*, a hardy, Japanese native orchid known for its medicinal properties and peculiar life history. While it is not unusual to see orchids in the Conservatory or outdoor gardens, the occurrence of this species is truly an anomaly due to its highly specific requirements for seed germination and growth. In fact, it's considered impossible to cultivate and has never previously been found in the United States. So what makes *Cyrtosia* so special—and how did it come to be at Longwood?

Cyrtosia belongs to a highly specialized group within the orchid family known as mycoheterotrophic orchids, which obtain some degree of their food or nutritional needs from fungi, rather than making it themselves through photosynthesis. *Cyrtosia* is an obligate mycoheterotroph—all of its food comes from parasitism of a common parasitic fungus called *Armillaria*, known commonly as shoestring or honey fungus. The reliance on fungi is evident by appearance of the plants; they are achlorophyllous, meaning that they don't produce leaves and chloroplasts necessary for photosynthesis. Without the fungus, these orchids cannot survive. This relationship is extremely difficult or impossible to replicate in cultivation, begging the question: how did these orchids find their way to Longwood Gardens and how long have they been there?



A robust clump of *Cyrtosia septentrionalis* in Longwood's naturally forested area. Photo by Duane Erdmann.

Although Longwood has a rich history of importing and promoting plants from Japan, how *Cyrtosia* arrived at the gardens remains a mystery. Since it is impossible to cultivate *Cyrtosia* in a garden setting, it is also impossible to purchase from Japanese nurseries, and accordingly there are no official records of its introduction in the plant accession database.

The introduction of this species was accidental. It is plausible that the tiny, long-lived seeds of *Cyrtosia* hitch-hiked their way to the Gardens on the roots of other plants imported from Japan. This makes sense considering the location of the plants near the experimental greenhouses, the first place many imported plants would have been first grown at the Gardens.

While it may seem unremarkable, the fact that appropriate fungi exist to support the germination and sustained development of this orchid cannot be understated. There are at least 10 individuals of *Cyrtosia* growing in widely scattered parts of the naturally forested area and some of them are large clumps of multiple stems—suggesting that not only have the plants been there for a long time, but they are thriving!

Cyrtosia is also unique in other ways. The bright red, banana-like fruits are meant to attract birds. Birds feed on the sweet, fleshy fruits of the orchid and, in doing so, eat the seeds. The seeds are then dispersed as they pass through and out of the bird's digestive tract, making *Cyrtosia* one of a handful of the 25,000 to 30,000 orchid species in which seeds are not dispersed by wind. Unlike other orchid seeds, which are dust-like, *Cyrtosia* seeds are comparatively large. We have not found evidence that birds are eating the seeds of *Cyrtosia* at Longwood, but while searching the woods for plants, many partially eaten fruits were discovered throughout the woods and sometimes at appreciable distances from the parent plants. It appears that squirrels, not birds, can also use the fruits as a food source and may be responsible for distributing them throughout the woods.

As introduced species carry the potential to be invasive, we are closely monitoring the *Cyrtosia* to prevent further spread in our natural areas and beyond. Since this species has such a specific relationship with *Armillaria* fungus, we also wonder if further spread may be limited because the fungus it is associating with is limited in distribution. We are currently growing the fungus in our tissue culture lab and have partners that will use molecular tools to provide an identification. With this we can learn much more about the potential ecological breadth for the orchid in our region and begin to determine its invasive potential.

At this point, we don't feel that *Cyrtosia* is displacing any native species or displaying invasive potential. In the event that it appears the *Cyrtosia* is aggressively spreading into natural areas surrounding Longwood, we will eradicate it. Over the years this has been done for several plant species introduced to the Gardens and we constantly monitor our natural lands for invasions.



This photo illustrates the comparatively large size and vibrant color of *Cyrtosia*. Photo by Duane Erdmann.

Another interesting trait of mycoheterotrophic orchids is their ability to enter prolonged dormancy. Some of these orchids are known to flower one year, but may not be seen again in the same place for a number of years, only to reappear and flower after a substantial length of time. In the meantime, staff scientists will attempt to propagate this species by growing the fungus and the seeds in strictly controlled laboratory conditions to learn more about them and how they arrived and have persisted at Longwood. This effort will support other current research initiatives to learn more about the conservation horticulture and collections development of Pennsylvania native orchids that will one day be used in garden displays and in the restoration of Longwood's natural lands.

As a side note, at least 55 different kinds of orchids are native to Pennsylvania. Some of these, such as the coralroots (*Corallorhiza*), are mycoheterotrophic and superficially similar to *Cyrtosia*. At least one of these, *Corallorhiza maculata*, can be quite showy in flower. However, these orchids are impossible to grow in garden settings and should be left in their native habitat for all to enjoy.



Corallorhiza maculata, one of at least 55 different kinds of orchids native to Pennsylvania. Photo by Duane Erdmann.

What would you do?

By Craig Penalosa



Reliable Bloomers Wanted

By Pam Everett

At the May meeting, Pam had an idea, for those who wish to participate, to send Pam a list of two or three of their orchids that are regular bloomers and have been easy to grow. This may help, especially newcomers, to be on the lookout for plants which they can be successful in growing as they begin their journey into the orchid world. It may also give some of the more seasoned members ideas for plants they haven't yet thought to cultivate.

The main idea, though, is to give each member one additional way of participating in GAOS activities.

To participate provide simple info on the following growing requirements:

- 1) Orchid Name
- 2) Light and Air
- 3) Humidity and Temp
- 4) Media
- 5) Repotting
- 6) Fertilizer
- 7) Side Notes

Send to Pam at pjoeverett@aol.com where she will start a database for us.

Upcoming Orchid Events

'Orchids Under the Dome'

Presented by Niagara Frontier Orchid Society

November 9-10, 2019

Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens
2655 South Park Ave, Buffalo NY

Photo Gallery

May 2019 Meeting



Phal I-HSin Venus
Dave Miller



Zygotoria Zesty Kalla
Dave Miller



Milt Ambre's Charr
Dave Miller



Cym Mad Irishman
Pam Everett



Haraella retrocalla
Bernie Skalak



Dendrobium unicum
Barb Ford



Lep bicolor
Bernie Skalak



Onc Sharry Baby
Bernie Skalak



Phrag Mem Dick Clemmens
Bernie Skalak



Mtp Lady Snow
Frank Skalak



Cattleya leuddemaniana
Bernie Skalak