

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

April 2021

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Spannbauer**

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Jane Bush

Minutes of March Meeting

We had a Zoom meeting where Peter Lin discussed "Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature"

GAOS Meeting Goes Online!

The GAOS meeting will be online, hosted by Dave Miller and Darlene Thompson. Anyone who is interested will be able to participate in the meeting or just view it from home using your personal computer, smart TV or smart phone

Monday, April 12:

Our meeting will be from 7:00 to 8:30 pm with people able to join the meeting as early as 6:30 pm where we will chat and answer questions until the meeting starts

If you have any pictures of your blooming orchids for the show table, please send them to (darlenejthompson@gmail.com) by the Saturday before the meeting to be included in the Show Table presentation

More info below

Upcoming Business

GAOS yearly dues are now due, details below



Next Meeting

Our April meeting will be online using Zoom where Cheryl Erins will discuss "Understanding Light"

Zoom meeting details below

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Email: greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

Letter from the Editor

By Brandon Spannbauer



Greetings!

We are partnering up with nearby societies to promote our online Zoom meetings to members for those interested in checking them out and their interesting speakers. Details on future free online meetings will be periodically emailed out to you with instructions on how you can join and participate if you wish.

Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/

www.gcos.org

West Shore Orchid Society

www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/

westshoreorchidsociety.org/

Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) Beginner's Corner starts at 6:45pm and the meeting at 7:15pm, 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.

Apr 12	Understanding Light Cheryl Erins
May 10	Curating an Ever-Blooming Collection Darlene Thompson
June 14	TBD Darlene Thompson



Bulbophyllum palawanense
X
Bulbophyllum sumatranum

Photo of the Month: Bulb.palawanense X Bulb.sumatranum
Photo © Apichat Wikhamchai

Greetings GAOS members!

Our next meeting will be Online. Here are the details on how to enter the meeting (this info will also be emailed to you so you can follow the links that way).

You can use your Windows PC, Mac, iphone or android phone to connect and participate in the meeting. Preferred equipment will be speakers and a microphone but members have connected using only phone or computer screen and no camera attached. People have found it beneficial to test their equipment prior to the meeting so if you have questions contact:

Dave Miller at 330-307-7189 or dcmjpasml@aol.com
Darlene Thompson at 901-210-5502 or darlenejthompson@gmail.com.

The meeting will open early at 6:30 pm to allow everyone plenty of time to connect to the Zoom Conference room we are using. You can text or email either of us if you have trouble connecting using the information below. The actual meeting content will start at 7 pm and end at approximately than 8:30 pm.

Agenda

6:30pm – Virtual Doors Open for Member Mingle

7:00pm – Meeting Starts with Society Updates

7:15pm – Virtual Show Table

7:30pm – Presentation

If you have any pictures of your blooming orchids for the show table, please send them to me (darlenejthompson@gmail.com) by Saturday before the meeting. I would love to showcase your beautiful orchids. (Darlene Thompson)

April 2021 Zoom Online Meeting Info

On Monday, April 12th, Cheryl Erins will lead a presentation on “Understanding Light” following our monthly Show Table. The Zoom meeting is free to all, please follow the link below to join

Meeting opens at 6:30 pm for social time. Meeting starts at 7 pm.

Dave Miller is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Greater Akron Orchid Society April meeting
Time: Apr 12, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83696288373?pwd=dDJ0WWtKUVpaaDhjQXBHODA1bUJNZz09>

GAOS March Meeting Notes

By Pam Everett

GAOS met on Zoom March 8 with 48 individuals attending. There were a number of people from other area orchid societies participating. Darlene held a brief business meeting, reminding members once again that 2021 dues are due. The virtual show table included photos of 34 beautiful orchids submitted by GAOS members.

Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids presented “Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature” and discussed 1) why grow miniatures, 2) species, 3) primary hybrids, 4) early hybrids, 5) current hybrids, 6) miniature cattleya culture, and 7) repotting.

Miniatures are normally only 3” to 6” tall, although flowers may be 4” or larger. They can bloom more than once each year, and they are typically more temperature tolerant than their full-size counterparts.

These orchids are perfect for windowsills and do well under lights or in greenhouses and even outdoors. Some of these orchids can take temperatures as high as 90 degrees and as low as 40 degrees, although lows of 55 degrees is preferred. They like medium light. They like to dry out between watering. They are not heavy feeders except when blooming. They are also fairly pest and disease resistant.

It is best to repot when new roots form at the base of the plant. It is best to use a dry small bark/perlite mix in a 3” pot, then water the repotted plant in a week.

The meeting concluded at 8:30.



IS THIS FOR YOU?

**The American Orchid
Society Judging
Program**

**is seeking highly
motivated orchid
enthusiasts to join the
judging ranks.**

*Work with other such people
and help maintain our
awards programs and
educational efforts.*

*For more information contact us at
judges@aos.org*

Greater Akron Orchid Society



2021 GAOS Program Calendar

- Jan 11 Managing an Orchid Collection – David Miller
- Feb 8 Understanding Orchid Nutrition - Ray Barlow
- Mar 8 Mini-Catts: Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature – Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids
- Apr 12 Understanding Light – Cheryl Erins
- May 10 Curating an Ever-Blooming Collection – Darlene Thompson
- Jun 14 Summer Picnic
1st Member Plant Auction
- Jul 12 “Tolumnia Species and Hybrids” with Edgar Stehli
- Aug 9 TBD
- Sep 13 2nd Member Plant Auction
- Oct 11 TBD
- Nov 8 Holiday banquet / Elections
- Dec 13 No meeting

Caularthron bicornutum x Cattleya Bob Betts. In February, 2020 I posted the first flower produced by this plant after waiting more than 14 years. A little over a year later it has bloomed again. If I'm lucky I may get a couple more flowers. -Gervais de Matas



GAOS 2021 Dues

By Jane Bush

Greetings GAOS members and friends,

GAOS membership dues are **now due**. Dues are our biggest income and determine how much financially we can do as a society.

Attached (to the email along with this newsletter) is the correct **application for 2021**. **An application must accompany dues money**. The application is GAOS's record of your membership.

Because we are not meeting in person, you **must mail** your application and check to our treasurer Claudia.

Please note that there are some old forms of membership applications in cyber space. If you have not refreshed your browser, you may get one of these old forms. Please be sure to use the form attached to this email or the internet form that has **January 2021 (21-03)** in the bottom right corner.

Thank you for your support of GAOS through membership dues,

Jane Bush, Trustee

Greater Akron Orchid Society Membership Application

To become a GAOS member or to renew your membership, complete the following form and present it or mail it with your payment to the society using the address below.

Dues are \$25 for a single/family membership

Make checks payable to GAOS

Name _____

Additional Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Primary Cell Phone _____

Primary e-mail _____

Check this box if you do not want your contact information on the published member list

Mail to:

GAOS
830 Zeletta Dr.
New Franklin, OH 44319



Note – At this time, electronic or credit card payment is not available.

It's Official: Botanists have found the ugliest orchid in the world

By Michelle Star



Beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, but a newly discovered orchid isn't likely to be the top choice for many as a corsage centrepiece.

Gastrodia agnicellus, from the forests of Madagascar, has been given the label of the world's ugliest orchid by botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in the UK.

And yet the plant is a fascinating one, unusual among orchids, and indicative of just how much we may miss of what's hiding in the forest undergrowth.

In turn, this highlights how important it is to protect the environment: although it's only just been discovered, *G. agnicellus* is already considered a threatened species.

It seems reasonable that the plant hadn't been recognised until September of last year. *G. agnicellus* spends most of its life buried underground, emerging in August and September only to flower and fruit beneath the leaf humus on the forest floor before disappearing underground again.

Those flowers, too, are small - just 11 millimetres in length (0.43 inches) - and nondescript against the detritus on the ground, ranging from brown to white in colour. Even so, the flower had been found before; it's just no one realised the significance until recently.

"Material of the new *Gastrodia agnicellus*, found near Ifanadiana in SE Madagascar in the 1990s, was recognised to belong in the genus and was initially considered to be *G. madagascariensis*," wrote botanist Johan Hermans of Kew Gardens in the official description of the species.

"During a field trip to Madagascar in December 2017, a *Gastrodia* with tall, dry infructescences was first noticed in the Ranomafana area. During a more recent trip, in September 2019, the same site was re-visited and after extensive searching a few new developing fruiting inflorescences were found.

"It was not until a layer of leaf litter was lifted that a small number of flowers were also discovered. It soon became clear that the flowers were quite different from those of the newly validated *G. madagascariensis* and that it was an unrecognised species."

The orchids were found in deep shade in a humid evergreen forest, at the bases of trees, hidden among flowers, moss and leaf litter. Yet they emitted a pleasant, musky, rose-like scent, Hermans wrote, that grew stronger in warmer temperatures.

After the flowers are pollinated, the stem grows longer, likely to aid the scattering of the seeds.

And, as with other members of the *Gastrodia* genus, the orchid plant has no leaves - in fact, it has no photosynthetic tissue at all.

That's because this plant is a holomycotroph - a type of orchid that relies solely on a relationship with fungus for the nutrients it needs to survive. The fungus extracts nutrients such as carbon from the soil or other plants, and the orchid slurps up what it needs from the fungus.

All orchids rely on a relationship like this with fungus at some point in their life cycle, but as most species grow into adulthood, their reliance on fungus fades. It's not exactly clear what the fungus derives from the relationship, but in many cases, it's part of a mycorrhizal network, where the fungus exchanges nutrients with other plants.



For *G. agnicellus*, its precise relationship with fungus is one of several unknowns, but it will be an important one to figure out. Its habitat under specific trees suggests that the mycorrhizal system it relies on is quite specific. This is consistent with other species in the genus, but it also means that threats to its habitat, such as encroaching human agriculture and wildfire, could be a serious problem.

It's also unclear how the plant is pollinated. Ants were observed crawling in and out of the flowers - likely, Hermans noted, to steal nectar - so that's one possible pollination pathway. But more study will need to be done to determine how *G. agnicellus* relies on, and contributes to, the complex ecosystem it inhabits.

There is some good news, though. Although the plant's range seems small, it has been found in the Ranomafana National Park protected area. Which means, according to Kew Gardens, that it has some measure of protection, for now, against anthropogenic habitat loss.

G. agnicellus has been selected as one of Kew Gardens' top 10 new species of 2020, and described in Curtis's Botanical Magazine.

Catasetinae Spring Care

By Sunset Valley Orchids

It's officially spring, and your Catasetinae should be getting started on their growing season. Some of you along the southern edge of the country have already started watering and fertilizing. I am hearing reports from southern growers that many plants now have new growths that are 6-12" tall with new roots approximately 3- 6" long. This is the time to start watering and fertilizing! Growers farther north (myself included) may still have a few weeks until the new roots are 3-6" long. Remember that not all Catasetinae come out of dormancy at the same time, so you may have some plants showing well-developed roots while others will be just starting to root. Begin watering and fertilizing plants that are ready and hold off on the ones still needing more time; this is a good practice to develop.

During this time of year, Catasetinae like lots of light, warmth, humidity and air movement. Be sure your plants are getting the correct conditions now, as this will really help them get a good start on their seasonal growth.

Ideal temperatures in early spring are 60-70 degree nights and 75-85 degree days. Humidity should be 50% or higher to best support the plants and new roots.

When beginning to water, start slowly and gradually increase the frequency and quantity as the plants develop their pseudobulbs. I start the watering season using ½ tsp fertilizer per gallon of water and increase to 1 tsp per gallon as the days get longer and the plants experience high temperatures in July and August before switching back to ½ tsp per gallon in September and October.

Don't forget that Catasetinae prefer to be repotted or divided with the onset of new growth, just before or as the new roots start to show. If you have plants in 3" pots, wait until you see the start of a new growth, then unpot and add more moss around the existing medium to fit into a 4" pot.

Early in the growing season is when spider mites can get a foothold on your plants. Be diligent and check the undersides of the new leaves regularly. If mites are detected, spray immediately. Their populations can quickly get out of control if early action is not taken!

New Orchid Discovered

By savingnature.com



Western Andes Cloud Forest

The cloud forests of Colombia's Western Andes are a very special place for biodiversity, especially when it comes to orchids. The climate here is ideal for a wide variety of tropical plants, with mountain peaks enveloped by the mist that forms when warm air meets chillier mountain currents. Its remoteness also make it an ideal location to discover new species.

In fact, these forests are home to over 200 species of orchids in all forms and sizes, from miniature *Andinia*, *Stelis* and *Lepanthes*, to larger *Masdevallia*, *Maxillaria* and *Dracula*. And the rangers have only begun to explore, forging trails with names like "Transylvania" for the variety of *Dracula* orchids found here.

The Transylvania Trail rises to 9,700 feet (2,950m), winding through montane forests and stunted subparamo vegetation. Along the ascent, *Dracula* orchid species like *D. gorgona*, *D. chimaera*, *D. iricolor*, *D. andrettae* and *D. gorgonella* adorn the forest. It was on this very trail, that Ubiel Rendon, a Hummingbird Conservancy Ranger, noticed an unusual orchid and wondered about its classification. After conferring with two *Dracula* experts, Nicolas Pelaez and Gary Meyer, the team confirmed the discovery of an entirely new species.

As anyone who has read *The Orchid Thief* knows, it is amazing that any species of orchid has escaped discovery in a region of Colombia that has been scoured for *Draculas* since the Victorian orchid craze. Perhaps it was because this new orchid species is endemic to a small area in the Western Cordillera of Colombia that it had escaped the notice of obsessed orchid collectors. In total, it's Area of Occupancy is no more than 500 km² (193 square miles), a virtual needle in the haystack of the Andes Mountains.

Making It Official

The new *Dracula* orchid is now official, with publication of its description in in Volume 20, Number 2 issue of *Lankesteriana International Journal of Orchidology*. Its name, *Dracula irmelinae*, honors Irmelin Indenbirken, Leonardo DiCaprio's mother, in appreciation of his commitment to conservation efforts. Through his foundation, his generous support of Saving Nature's projects has helped ensure the survival of orchids and countless other species struggling for safe haven in the Western Andes of Colombia and other biodiversity hotspots around the world.

Protecting Wild Orchids

Sadly, although newly discovered, *Dracula irmelinae* is already Endangered (EN) according to criteria established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, due to habitat loss in the area. Saving Nature is working with The Hummingbird Conservancy to change that. Our project here is restoring this area for orchids and other species.

Photo Gallery

Home Displays
March 2021



Phrag. Acker's Rose River
P129
Dave M.



Myndobella gayana
Wynne K.



Brassocattleya Green Bird
(Bc. Binosa x B. Little Stars)
Brandon S.



Brassavola Yellow Bird
Pam E.



Cattleya luteola
Janak L.



Catt. lueddemanniana
Jane B.



Cym. Petticoat Lane
Jane B.



Cymbidium Mad Irishman 'New Horizon'
Pam E.



Tolu. guttata X Rodrumnia Orchidom Happy Choice
Edgar S.



Cymbidium Rodco's Creation
Bernie S.



Cynorkis angustipetala
Edgar S.



Dendrobium Mini Snowflake
Pam E.



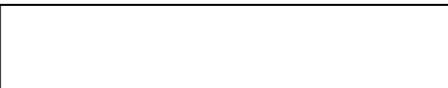
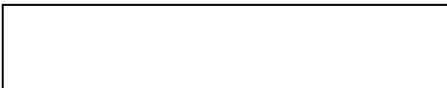
Dendrochilum wenzellii
DDC01
Dave M.



Epicattleya Rene Marques
Brandon S.



Rodrumnia (The Hollow's Legacy X Squirrel Hollow)
Edgar S.





Lou Biala and his orchid collection



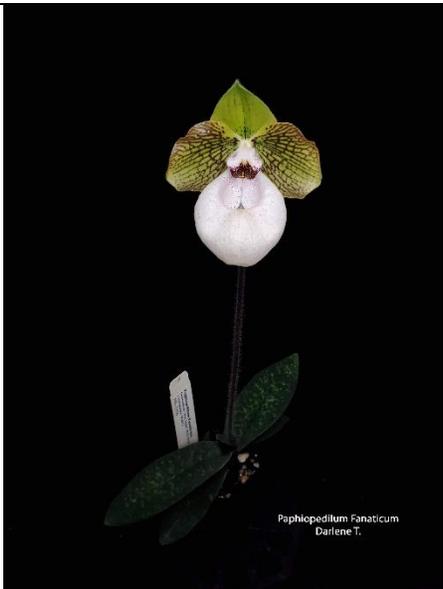
Oncidium Sharry Baby
Bernie S.



Paphiopedilum Enzan Land x Cocoa Festival
Pam E.



Paphiopedilum subachillii
Wayne K.



Paphiopedilum Fanaticum
Darlene T.



Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum f. albiviride
Darlene T.



Phalax Dan Rosenberg 'Tropical Ice' HCC/AOS
Lore Y.



Phragmipedium 'Acker's Dragon' 'Duck Creek' HCC/AOS
Dave M.

