

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

April 2017

President

David Miller

Vice President

Jane Bush

Treasurer

Frank Skalak

Secretary

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Barbara Ford

Minutes of Mar. 2017 Meeting

Our spring show was a great success with many attendees and reception. Dave welcomed new members and guests to the society.

We then broke into smaller groups and began our first ever Orchid Round Table, an open discussion about any orchid questions or concerns that we growers face. New members and guests were invited to engage with experienced members to help them through growing hurdles.

There were plants and pots available from an orchid enthusiast whom has recently passed, all proceeds were donated to GAOS.

General Business

We are still looking for a secretary. It is a very easy position and will help us out. The secretary takes basic notes on the proceedings of the meetings, types them and emails them to me to be included in the newsletters and our records. Please see Dave if you're interested.

2017 club dues are now due. It is \$20 for a single membership and \$30 for a family. Please see Frank at a meeting for payment.

New Business

OSU ATI will be having their annual orchid and plant sale towards the end of April. They will be sold for affordable prices, generally between \$5 - \$20. Visit our Facebook page to be kept updated with the place and time, at the time of this publication they have yet to be determined.

The West Shore Orchid Society will have their spring show April 29 (10-5pm) – April 30 (11-4pm) at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center in Strongsville
18100 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, OH, 44136

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, April. 10, 2017 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Orchids & Their Friends in Costa Rica**

Speaker: **Frank and Bernie Skalak, Members**

Frank and Bernie Skalak will recount their vacation to Costa Rica with a presentation highlighting the natural flora of the area, including orchids.

Our meetings are free to the public and membership is not required to attend. A show table is set up for members and visitors alike to display their blooming orchids. The Greater Akron Orchid Society meetings offer an opportunity for those interested in orchids to learn more about these nifty plants and meet others who also enjoy them. Members of the society can answer any orchid question you might have. More information can be found at www.thegaos.com or by calling Dave at [330-307-7189](tel:330-307-7189).

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Cypripedium plectrochilum

By Brandon Spannbauer

Cypripedium plectrochilum, also known as the Ram's Head Ladyslipper, it's a species orchid native to China. It is one of the smallest known cypripediums, shown here smaller than a quarter. Its pouch comes to a very unique spur, much different than the rounded pouch of most other members of the genus. While very tiny it is a fairly common species in its habitats in China, probably because it is pretty adaptable to a wider range of conditions than most cypripediums. This is a first-time bloomer for me and a unique and beautiful addition.



Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) at 6:45 pm 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. 10: Orchids & Their Friends in Costa Rica
Frank and Bernie Skalak

May 8: Orchids in Ecuador
John Dunkleberger

June 12: Summer Picnic / 1st Member Plant Auction



Pleione Cultivation

by Brandon Spannbauer

Pleione can be easy or hard to grow depending on the grower you're talking to. They are still relatively uncommon in the states while being very popular in other areas around the world. They come from areas with distinct seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter and we need to replicate this effect in order to grow and bloom them properly.

Temperature – Pleione are considered cool growing with summer highs of 75 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit. I combat this with Ohio's summers by growing in nearly full shade (outside) and allowing them to cool at night. In winter, they need to achieve cold temps just above frost. I keep them in the fridge all winter (they are dormant), they can also be kept in a frost-free garage, basement or cold frame

Pots and Media – Plastic or clay can be used, they need to be carefully watered before flowering is complete and kept moist when in full growth. The media needs to be very open and free draining yet able to retain moisture. I use a 1:1 bark and sphagnum moss mix yet many mixes are suitable from pure moss to mixes with pine needles, coarse peat, perlite and leaf mould.

Winter – The dormant period of all Pleione. This is the correct time to repot. Usually around September (for spring flowering Pleione) and a few months later for winter flowering. If you're starting with an old pot of Pleione, remove everything and cut the roots off leaving around 1 inch to use as an anchor for the bulbs. Bulbs only last one season and old ones can also be removed. The bulbs can either be potted up in new mix now or can be kept in cold storage like a fridge (in paper bags) until spring growth occurs.

Spring – When you start to see new growth (Feb – March) remove the bulbs and pot them up. They should be planted approx. 1/3 deep and spaced about 1 inch apart and a top dressing of bark added, keeping at least half the bulb above the media. Most will flower in the spring.

Water – Pleione cultivation is considered difficult mainly because of the confusion of when to water. When they are dormant they receive no water at all. In spring growth we will be tempted to water the Pleione and this is where many will rot and die. The roots usually start to grow as the flowers fade. It is important to keep the media just damp. I water from the bottom at this time because water on the buds or flowers will rot them almost overnight. However, once the roots are established and the leaves start to grow then watering can increase substantially and normal feeding can begin.

Autumn – Pleione enjoy being grown outdoors because they get the natural drop in temperature. Continue watering as normal until the leaves start to turn yellow and fall off, usually around September. At this time stop all water and wait a few weeks for the bulbs to become fully dormant before being moved into cold storage.

This is the best Pleione website out there, good luck growing!

<http://www.pleione.info/>



Pleione bulb beginning its new growth. It should have been planted a few weeks before this step but I caught it too late, oops. Aim for a growth 'nubbin' as the cue to plant.



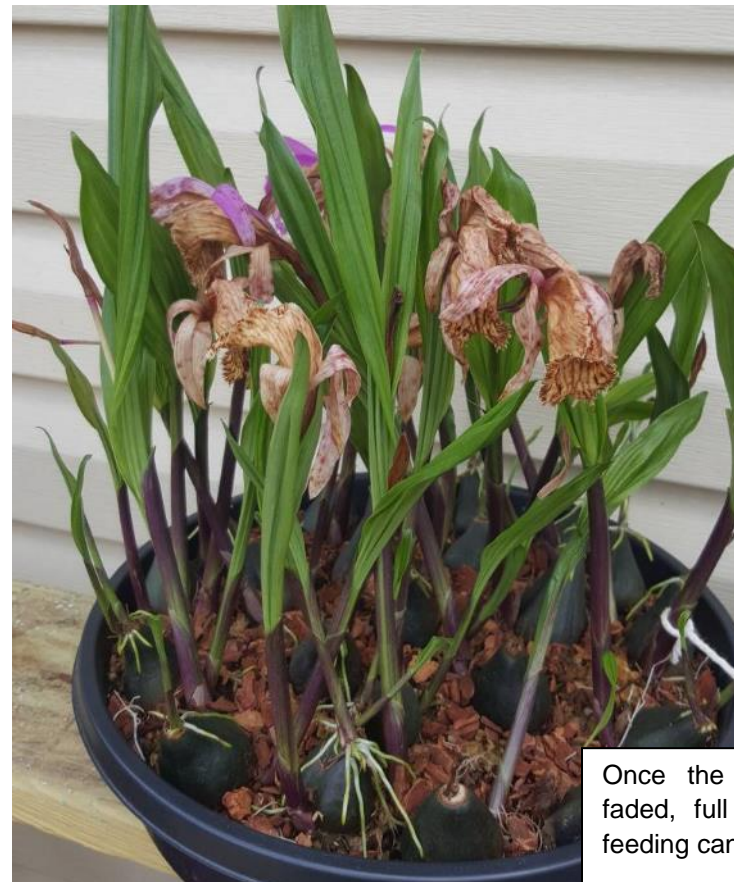
Pleione at the beginning of growth. Some will start with leaves and the largest ones will start with flowers.



Flowers will open around a month after planting



Baby Pleione called bulbils can grow from either the top of the base of the parent bulbs. They can be removed during the dormant phase and grown alongside the larger bulbs and will take 2-3 years to bloom.



Once the flowers have faded, full watering and feeding can begin.

Photo Gallery

Member Show Table
March 2017



Den. Crystal Rose 'Sarah Jane' HCC/AOS
Jane Bush



Lc. Purple Cascade
Jane Bush



Pleione Tongariro
Brandon Spannbauer



Pleione grandiflora
Brandon Spannbauer



Pleione Snow Monkey
Brandon Spannbauer



Pleione Display
Brandon Spannbauer



Cymbidium Hybrid
Jane Bush



Mem. Fizz
Jane Bush



Caulocattleya Spring Fragrance
Jane Bush



Pot. Triple Love
Jane Bush



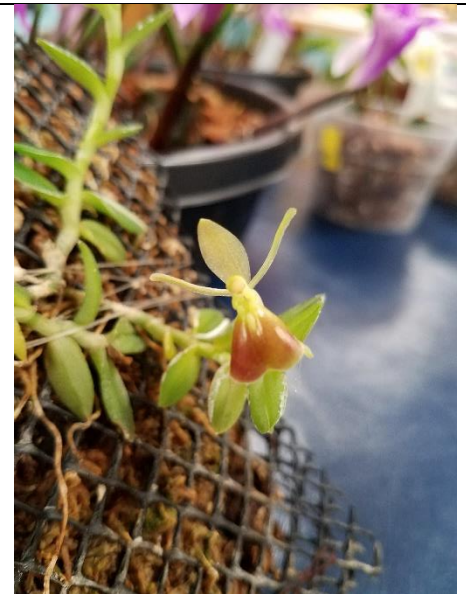
Den. Rainbow Dance
Dave Miller



Den. schuetzei
Darlene Thompson



Masdevallia Magic Wand
Brandon Spannbauer



Epidendrum porpax
Brandon Spannbauer