

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

August 2021

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Darlene Thompson

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Pam Everett

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Spannbauer**

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Jane Bush

Minutes of July Meeting

We had a Zoom meeting where Edgar Stehli discussed "Tolumnia Species and Hybrids"

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, Aug 9:

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



WAITING FOR
YOUR ORCHID TO
BLOOM BE
LIKE...



MSG2018

Next Meeting

Our August meeting will be online using Zoom where Tim Choltco will discuss "Sex, Lies and Orchids: Orchid Pollination Methods"

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.

Aug 9	Sex, Lies and Orchids: Orchid Pollination Methods Tim C. Choltco
Sept 13	TBD
Oct 11	TBD



Photo of the Month: Bulbophyllum binnendijkii
Photo: Abrok Piroska

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 Sunday before the meeting. I would love to showcase your beautiful orchids. (Darlene Thompson)

August 2021 Zoom Online Meeting Info

Tim C. Choltco owner and operator of [Harbinger Orchids](#) will be speaking with us about Sex, Lies, and Orchids: Orchid Pollination Mechanisms on August 9th. Tim is a self-described plant geek with varied plant interests but a deep obsession (and expertise) for orchids. Join us for this educational, and salacious, talk about orchid pollination. As always, our doors open at 6:30pm and our meeting will kicks-off at 7pm.

If you have orchids in bloom for the showtable, please send your entries to Darlene Thompson (darlenejthompson@gmail.com) by Saturday, August 7th.

Also, the GAOS board is looking for member input. **Please complete this short feedback survey by August 14th: [GAOS MEMBER ENGAGEMENT SURVEY](#)**. Your feedback is very important to inform how our society will run in the future.

Dave Miller is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Greater Akron Orchid Society August Meeting

Time: Aug 9, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88912108440?pwd=Yml1SmF2aEplLNXZpSVp0M3pkdUwzQT09>

GAOS July Meeting Notes

By Pam Everett

GAOS met on Zoom Monday, July 12 with 29 members and guests participating. Darlene Thompson convened with a brief business meeting. Among items discussed was the need for GAOS to begin looking ahead to the remainder of the year and especially into 2022. There is a real need for members to participate through assisting in meetings, programs and the organization's offices. It was also noted that the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest will be held August 27 – 29 at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Kettering, outside Dayton. This is a joint effort with the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society, the Miami Valley Orchid Society, and the Mid America Orchid Congress. Details and reservations can be secured online at Ohiovalleyorchidfest.com. Dave Miller also noted that MAOC is making available Orchid Notecards in a package of eight cards and envelopes, with each card carrying a photograph of a different orchid. The packs sell for \$15 each and can be reserved by emailing gljc.judges@gmail.com. This is a fundraising effort of MAOC.

Following the business meeting, Darlene shared photos of 18 different orchids sent in by GAOS members.

Edgar Stehli of Windswept in Time Orchids presented "Tolumnia Species and Hybrids." Tolumnia is a relatively new genus, having been separated from Oncidium section Variegata in 1986. Today there are 24 different species of Tolumnia with *T. pulchella* registered in 1837 and the remaining species registered from the mid 1980's on. Hybridization has occurred only in the past 50 years or so.

Tolumnia are found naturally in the Caribbean Basin and surrounding areas. They are quick growers, going from seedling to bloom in just three to four years. Tolumnia can take bright light with leaf tips showing a reddish cast under ideal circumstances. The triangular shape of the leaves allows Tolumnia to store water; but when not fully hydrated, leaves will fold closed. This is also true of older leaves as plant nourishment always tends toward new growth.

Many Tolumnia have very long flower stems, from which keikis may develop. After initially flowering, most plants will also put out additional flowers on side branches from nodes on the stem; so stems should not be cut until the entire stem has died back.

Continued next page:



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

As for light, the brighter it is, the better. Because Tolumnia are epiphytes they prefer not to be potted. But if potted, they should not be placed in big pots; and they must be potted in large chunks of a medium. Once watered, either potted or unpotted, roots need to dry out quickly. Water should be as clean as possible, with distilled water or RO water preferred. If plants are fertilized, roots should be rinsed thoroughly after a half hour in order to prevent the buildup and crystallization of salts in the root velamen.

Because Tolumnia are endemic to the tropics, they prefer warmer temperatures. But when they are subject to cooler temperatures, it is necessary to water less frequently.

A brief Q&A followed Edgar’s presentation, and the meeting concluded around 8:30.

PhalFanatics is holding their 3rd Annual PhalFanatics Symposium on August 21, 2021. This is an online Symposium held via Zoom. Cost is \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members. The symposium will also be recorded so you can register and watch the recording later. To register, go to <https://phalfanatics.com/events>. Attached is a list of their talks. Note the timing is Pacific standard time so it will be later in the day for those of us in the Eastern Time Zone.

PhalFanatics Symposium

August 21, 2021
(Pacific Standard Time)

09:00 - 09:30 am	Check In and Opening Remarks
09:30 - 10:30 am	“Phalaenopsis Pests and Diseases” Bob Fang
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 - 11:45 am	“Phalaenopsis Taxonomy” Harold Koopowitz
11:45 - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 - 01:30 pm	“Growing Phalaenopsis Under Light” Jeff Young/Mei Ling Clemens
01:30 - 01:45 pm	Break
01:45 - 03:15 pm	Auction
03:15 - 03:30 pm	Break
03:30 - 04:30 pm	“Dynamic Phalaenopsis tetraspis: Color Palette at Play” Norman Fang
04:30 - 04:45 pm	Closing Remarks

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.

The Scientist Using Fire to Save Orchids From Extinction

The Mid-Atlantic is the unlikely to home to one of the most innovative orchid conservation programs in the country.

By Lucy Sherriff

On a hot, humid Maryland afternoon in August 2017, Deborah Landau nervously scanned a clearing for signs of life. Clad in tick-proof clothing from head to toe—uncomfortable in this weather but necessary as Landau had twice before contracted Lyme disease—she had been waiting almost a year for this moment.

The 53-year-old conservation ecologist for The Nature Conservancy who specializes in rare plant species had taken a huge risk the previous year. She had burned the entire area, in the hope of saving the *Oxypolis canbyi* plant, also known as Canby's dropwort. There's only one location in Maryland where this white-flowering plant grows: in the Delmarva Bay, an area of ephemeral wetlands that are wet in the fall and winter, and prairie-like and dry in the summer and spring.

"This plant is super rare, very imperiled," said Landau. "I've spent many years opening this wetland back up and the population increased, but it was still struggling."

Landau lives and breathes plants, and her work at the conservancy plays a vital role in keeping some of the country's rarest flora alive. Through controlled burns, careful and painstaking monitoring, and warding off would-be poachers, Landau is responsible for not only ensuring they stay alive—but that they thrive. We think of orchids as tropical plants, but a number are found right here in the U.S., and some of the world's rarest are located in a preserve in Maryland. Just Landau and a small team of dedicated conservationists and volunteers are all that stand between these plants and extinction.

Months before Landau's humid August visit, she had been at the very same site, drip torch in hand, ready to send fire dancing across the land in front of her.



In the past, the wetlands would have had fires sweeping through them, keeping them open for these flowers to grow. But a history of stringent fire measures, thanks to a misunderstanding of the role fire plays in the ecosystem, has meant that if a wildfire does start naturally, the flames are extinguished before they can burn as nature intended. That has allowed trees and long grasses to take over, creating too much shade for the flowers to thrive. After intense lobbying, The Nature Conservancy was granted permission to carry out a burn in order to save the Canby's dropwort species.

"It took years and years to get the approval and to figure out how to burn this site in an ecologically sensitive way," Landau said.

She and her team came up with a plan so that only the wetland would burn. They needed a day when it had rained the day before so that the forest was wet and unlikely to burn. That would allow fire to spread through the grasses of the wetland without causing unintended harm to the forest. When a day with optimal conditions arrived, Landau and her team suited up in fire-proof gear and set the ground ablaze. They used the transition from grass to shady forest as a natural fire break and minimized how much fuel they used in such an ecologically sensitive area.

As Landau and her team lit up the drip torches, the reality of what was about to unfold truly took shape. Sitting in the middle of the meadow were three Canby's dropwort plants. Sending a wall of flames racing across the landscape, even after a day of rain, came with real risks to the very plants Landau was trying to save from extinction.

“I was terrified when we were doing it,” she said. “I could’ve killed the entire Maryland population.”

But knowing the fire might be their only salvation had led the team to this point, and so the burn began. “All it took was three lines of ignition, and the wetland just wanted to burn, it was just screaming fire-adapted, the way these fuels carried was so beautiful,” Landau said, recalling the day

After years of planning, the burn was over in just 45 minutes. “It was almost anti-climactic, after all those years of planning,” she laughed.

As soon as the fire was out, Landau ran to the patch where they had been and put her hand on the ground.

“The soil was actually still damp, even though it had burned,” she said. “The seeds were protected.”

But Landau had to wait nine months to see if the plants grew back and flowered, a metric of whether the fire had done its job. The very goal of the burn was to clear the area, and Landau had an idea that the plant may thrive in fire-treated soil.

“It was very stressful,” she recalled. “I had a lot of second-guessing. You know, maybe I shouldn’t, maybe this is the wrong thing. Maybe I should go and wet the area first. But thinking it through. We knew it was a fire adaptive plant. We knew that this is probably why the plant was there in the first place, because historically there had been fires in the area and naturally it wouldn’t have gotten a little sprinkling of water beforehand. So we just did hands off. And we burned it.”

That August day Landau finally returned to the burn site to carry out her survey is ingrained in her memory. To the untrained eye, the field looked like any other grassy forest opening. But to Landau, who scanned the landscape feverishly for signs of the telltale white almond blooming flowers, it was the site of something spectacular. She immediately spotted the sprinkling of snow in the middle of the wetland, visibly larger than the previous year—and a surefire sign that her risky burn had worked.

“There’s no counting needed,” she said. “I counted, but I didn’t have to. It was quite an emotional moment. As a woman in the field I try not to be emotional, and I won’t but yes, oh, it’s, yeah, it absolutely was so gratifying.”

Before the burn, there were just three plants. As of 2021, there are around 3,000 *Oxypolis canbyi* plants.

“I literally spent five years planning that burn, and being told by our managers that you can’t burn this. And it worked. ... It’s really just nature saying ‘you did the right thing.’ It really brings home the importance of this ecological restoration.”

The Nature Conservancy owns around 30,000 acres in Maryland, and Landau is responsible for overseeing the plant species, running the program, and monitoring plants of interest. An integral part of Landau’s work is controlled burns, which are increasingly used by conservation organizations and land managers as public and scientific opinion towards fire as a management tool shifts. Last year, Landau and her team had the most successful burn season they’d ever had. When her team isn’t lighting fires, though, Landau is busy planning them by updating maps, setting objectives based on previous burns, and drafting burn plans.

A lot goes into organizing a burn like the one she carried out last August, and Landau is responsible for making sure everything goes according to plan. Measurements of the conservancy’s land have to be precise, and every forest edge, grassy plain, and watershed must be documented in order to plan out burn areas. Getting it wrong could mean whole regions go up in flames. It’s also imperative that Landau has the locations of the very plants she’s trying to save, so she can track their progress and develop conservation plans appropriate to the species.

“We need to get approval from a lot of different levels,” she said, “and we have to make calls to adjacent landowners to let them know there’ll be a burn, figure out whether we need to work with partners as sometimes our borders are adjacent to state or private land.”

It’s also important she has coordinates in hand before she heads out into the field. There’s rarely any signal in the areas she monitors, and so she creates maps in the office and uploads them to her phone prior to setting out. It’s a big change from her early work when she was in her 20s when, Landau said, she spent a lot of time “getting lost” in the field. “I would have these big topography maps and roll them out in the field and try to understand where I was with my compass,” she recalled.

Landau is often required to spend the night in the field, as many of the sites are a two-hour-plus drive away from the office in Bethesda. Over her two decades of working with the conservancy, (this year marks her 20th anniversary) she has learned to pack “twice as much water as you think you’ll need” and dry socks “because there’s nothing more miserable than driving home for four hours in wet socks.”

Half the time, Landau goes out on her own. On monitoring trips, such as when she has to check up on another rare plant—harperella—she'll have a crew of around five people with her. The plant grows on the banks of a particularly clean river along Maryland's Sideling Hill Creek.

"The only way you can monitor it is by literally walking in the creek," Landau said. "I just walk down the middle of the creek, with people on either side of the banks, and it's six or seven hours of that. It's a small plant, so you really have to be looking."

When Landau is monitoring orchids, and in particular the *Cypripedium candidum*, more commonly known as white lady's slipper, she needs a small, carefully chosen team because they need binoculars to even spot the flowers. They're a select group of people who she uses regularly year after year. The group is instructed to turn off GPS functions on their phones, to guard the secret location.

The plant is highly sought after by collectors, who will think nothing of stealing into the preserve at night and nabbing the flower. The white lady's slipper is so-called for its bulbous, white oval petal, speckled with pink, which folds over to create a pouch, with the lip covered by a yellow petal that delicately drapes over the opening. The reason the stunning plant is still in this area is that it is so hard to get to.

The river where the orchid grows in proximity to sits hundreds of feet below the undulating western Maryland mountains. Dirt roads wind through farms and forest, but none make it to the river bottom. The terrain is so steep that it's simpler for Landau's team to wade through the river itself to access the sites where the flower grows.

It's not a simple wade in the park, though; the team must also slide down a steep creekside, battle coarse undergrowth, scramble around rocks, wade through chilly streams, and finally perch on a precarious ledge so they can scan the tough, unforgiving landscape with binoculars in hopes of sighting the elusive orchid. Luckily, it takes dedication to hunt for the white lady's slipper, which is helpful in keeping this fragile, enigmatic species protected.

Like the Canby's dropwort, suppression of natural fire cycles, leading to an encroachment by woody plants and brush has contributed to pushing this flower to the brink of extinction. Residential development, alterations in the watershed system, and competition for resources with other invasive species have also made the chances of survival increasingly slim.

And despite the challenges, sometimes the most determined of orchid poachers manage to locate the delicately blossomed flower, leaving Landau to simply hope the collectors will look but not touch.

"I'm in a lot of rare plant groups on Facebook," Landau said. "And every now and again I'll see my orchids. I know a couple people know where that site is, and they'll scramble down and take a picture. I'll reach out to them and very kindly, but personally say this is a private property, this is a rare plant, please respect the fact that we're protecting it for a very good reason. And they usually understand."

Landau has had run-ins with poachers, one who had asked permission to collect rare carnivorous pitcher plants on the eastern shore of Maryland. Of course, Landau declined, but on one occasion found the person driving out of the site where the plants are located.

"I notified the Department of Natural Resources, and they said they've got their eye on him," she said. "But there wasn't anything they could do."

So Landau reached out to the man directly.

"I said no," she quipped, impersonating a schoolteacher-like tone. "As far as I know, he hasn't been back."

Landau's passion and love for her land are overwhelmingly obvious and have been the driver behind her decades of work. So, too, is her relationship with the orchids she's fighting to keep alive in a world increasingly pushing them to the brink.

"I really do love them," she said. "They're so mysterious, so much is [happening] behind the scenes, underground. They are so tied in with the ecosystem. They need their pollinators. But you don't see the microbial fungi although you know it's playing a role, and the fungi is probably associated with the adjacent deciduous trees that's 20 feet [6 meters] away. They're always an exciting find anytime you run across one. Even if it's the 100th that you've seen that day."

Landau can wax lyrical about her love of orchids for hours. Just don't ask her for tips on how to raise them.

"I can't grow them for the life of me. I have a horrible green thumb. I'm terrific in the field. Restoration is what I was made to do. When it comes to house plants? Forget it."

Photo Gallery

Home Displays
July 2021



Bc. Hippodamia (3N)
Jaret A.



Ctsm. Melana Davison
x Extravaganza
C26
Dave M.



Cattleya aclandiae
Jaret A.



Cattleya aclandiae
Jaret A.



Cattleya purpurata var. russelliana
Jaret A.



Paph. Greyi x Benkei
P187
Dave M.



Den. Pure Heart 'Snow Love'
Chester K.



Den. Yellow Majic 'Festival'
Chester K.



Dendrobium - Latouria Type
Amanda G.



Lc. Puppy Love 'True Beauty'
Chester K.



Microterangis harlotiana
Mandy B.



Microterangis harlotiana
Mandy B.



Phal. Léa Marie Salazar
P94
Dave M.



Phal. Girl Talk
Chester K.



Phal. tetraspis 'C1'
Chester K.



Phragmipedium Mem. Dick Clements
Bernie S.



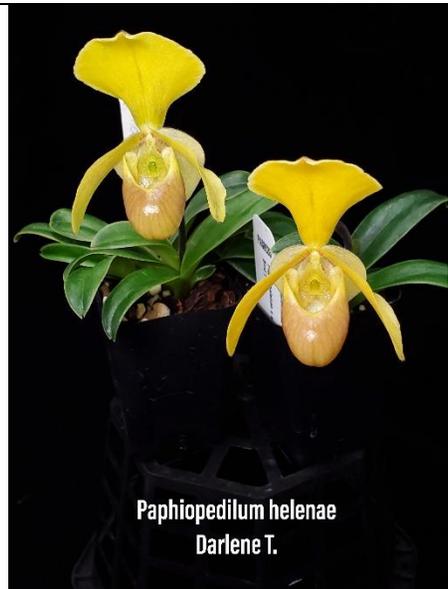
Phragmipedium Mem. Dick Clements
Bernie S.



Promenaea Chameleon
Frank S.



Paphiopedilum henryanum
Darlene T.



Paphiopedilum helenae
Darlene T.



Paphiopedilum godefroyae
Darlene T.

