

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

February 2018

President

Jane Bush

Vice President

Darlene Thompson

Treasurer

Frank Skalak

Secretary

Karen Schlote

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Dave Miller

Minutes of Jan. 2018 Meeting

Updates

Discussed 2018 show needs. We are on schedule. However, we need to really push getting the ads to complete the program. Ad sales for the program are the primary method we use to fundraise.

Preparing your plants for shows – Dave Miller

Dave discussed how to properly stake flower spikes in preparation for shows. Dave emphasized the importance of staking early. If you stake once the buds are too mature, the flowers may not present well. When staking early, don't try to stake the too close to the bud. Focus on staking to keep the bud straight

Housekeeping is also important. Wipe off the foliage. Some use diluted milk or lemon juice to remove spots and give the leaves a nice shine. Dave also recommends using insecticidal soap or neem oil to clean and shine leaves. Also remove brown foliage before the show.

Don't forget to hide your plant labels by tucking that into the pot. Mark the outside of your pot with your name and the name of the plant. This will allow the team building the display to know who owns the plant and that plants name. Even if you don't know the plants name, please give it a name. For example, if you have a no id or no name purple phal, label it some like Purple phal hybrid 'Purple haze.' This will distinguish you no id phal from other no id phals.

Upcoming Business

2018 GAOS membership dues are now due: \$20 Individual, \$30 family. This entitles you to a free plant at our Nov. holiday banquet meeting and two plants for a family membership. Checks can be made out to GAOS. Thanks

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Preparing Plants for Show &
Phragmipedium Culture**

Speaker: **Dave Miller & Darlene Thompson**

Preparing for the Show

It's time to start getting plants ready to display at the March orchid show.

Growing Phragmipediums

Darlene Thompson will share her tips on how to successfully grow & flower this member of the Slipper Orchid family. They are easily grown in the home or in a greenhouse.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

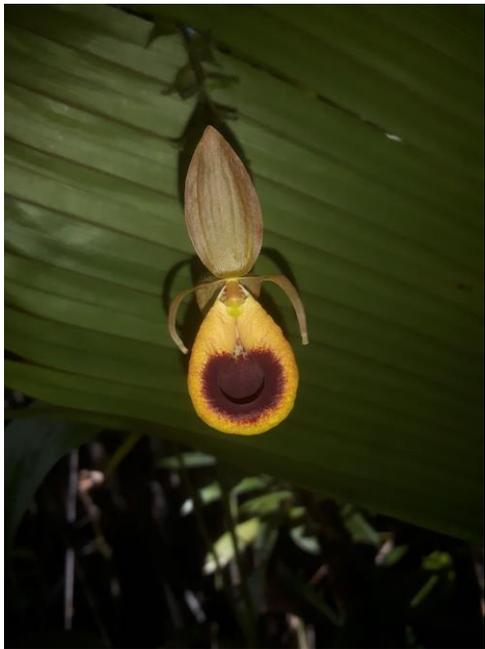
President's Corner

By Jane Bush

Greetings!

This is the most exciting time of the year for us orchid fanciers. Orchid Mania at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens is already underway and you don't want to miss it. My daughter took me to Orchid Mania several years ago and I was instantly hooked. On February 17 and 18, the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society will join Orchid Mania with their AOS sanctioned show including additional displays and vendors with plants for sale. Our AOS sanctioned show follows on March 3 and 4. The Mid American Conference event combined with the West Shore show on April 28 and 29 will climax our 3 months of orchid excitement. These events provide a great opportunity to learn more, see new hybrids, and acquire a new addition to one's collection.

TIDBIT: Brown leaf tips signal a problem in the roots.



Selenipedium palmifolium

Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) at 6:45pm, impromptu Q&A start at 6:30pm 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.**

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| Feb. 12: | Preparing Plants for Show & Phragmipedium Culture
Dave Miller & Darlene Thompson |
| Mar. 12: | Orchid Roundtable
Orchid Q&A & Show Wrap-up |
| Apr. 9: | Good Roots Grow Good Orchids
Dave Miller |



Photo of the Month: *Lepanthopsis astrophora* 'Stalky'

Cattleya dowiana: Sunshine and Yellow Fever

Submitted by Art via Chadwick Orchids

No cattleya has received more praise from orchid lovers over the years than *Cattleya dowiana*. Despite its relatively short-lived flowers and the tendency of the plants to rot when over-watered in the winter time in a northern greenhouse, it has remained one of the most admired species of the genus.

A young orchid hunter named Josef Warszewicz found the first *Cattleya dowiana* plants in the small Central American republic of Costa Rica about 1850. Accompanied only by his Indian guide, he discovered *C. dowiana* in the mountain forests of Costa Rica and sent a group of plants back to England to Hugh Low & Co.

Cattleya dowiana should have been Warszewicz' crowning achievement, but the Costa Rican plants arrived in England in such poor condition, they all died before producing a single flower. All that was left were Warszewicz's written comments in his letters extolling the beauty of the flowers. These comments, however, created an excited interest in the new yellow-petal cattleya and it became the talk of horticultural circles in Europe.



Veitch had to build a new greenhouse just to handle them. One of Skinner's shipments in 1865 contained a few *C. dowiana* plants but no mention was made of them in the shipping documents. When one of the plants flowered in Veitch's greenhouse that fall it was a complete surprise to everyone. It was also a pleasant confirmation that what Warszewicz had said about the existence of a large-flowered yellow-petal cattleya species was true.

The typical *Cattleya dowiana* has flowers with pale yellow sepals and petals with some purple or lavender blended into them and a lip that is intensely dark purple with fine gold veining. The flowers are fairly large ranging from 5 ½ to 8 inches across. The lips of *C. dowiana* vary from dark crimson-purple with and without gold veining to crimson with large yellow eyes, to lips that are virtually all yellow sometimes beautifully edged in pale lavender. One of *C. dowiana*'s most unusual characteristics is the variability of the yellow color in the lip. One year the lip may have only a small amount of yellow or no yellow at all, and the next year that same plant may produce a lip that is almost all yellow. The amount of yellow can even vary from flower to flower on the same.

Cattleya dowiana normally produces 4 or 5 flowers on a flower stem and, because of its beautifully colored flowers, large size and this floriferousness, *C. dowiana* has been used in breeding more than any other large-flowered *Cattleya* species. It has the unique quality of darkening and enriching the lavender color of other cattleyas when bred with them and it is responsible for the intense dark color of many of our best lavender hybrids today.



How To Grow Cattleya Dowiana

Cattleya dowiana is a strong, vigorously growing plant that produces a tall 4 or 5 flowered bloom spike in mid-summer in the United States. It will begin sending out a new growth in late winter or early spring and flower buds will emerge from the sheath before the growth is fully mature in July or August. The flowers unfortunately are not long-lived and two weeks is about all you can expect from most varieties under hot summer conditions. The short life of the flowers undoubtedly accounts for its strong fragrance since it must attract its pollinators as soon as possible before its flowers die. *Cattleya dowiana* likes a warmer temperature than most other large-flowered *Cattleya* species, with a minimum of 65F at night. It should be kept as dry as possible when it is dormant from September to March to avoid developing root and pseudobulb rot that can kill the plant. *C. dowiana* likes lots of sun and its leaves should be a light green color if you want plenty of blooms. *C. dowiana* also likes lots of moving air to keep it healthy. Although it requires very little water when it is resting during the winter, it likes a good supply of water when it is actively growing.

Photo Gallery

Member Show Table
January 2018



Beginner's Corner



Alcra. Martitch
Paul Bujak



Pot. Triple Love
Jane Bush



Cymbidium Rodco's Creation
Frank Skalak



Dendrobium Fairy Moon 'Sweetie'
Bernie Skalak



Dendrobium Spring Dream
Jane Bush



Epidendrum polybulb
Bernie Skalak



Masdevallia Jelly Belly
Dave Miller



Oncidium Heaven Scent 'Radiant'
Wayne Roberts



Oncidium Sherry Baby
Jane Bush



Paph Fairly Dreamy 'MoJo'
Dave Miller



Paph Hellas x Lawless Reverie
Dave Miller



Krull's Emerald Meadows x farrieanum
Dave Miller



Paphiopedilum spicerianum
Dave Miller



Phal Maui Galaxy
Dave Miller



Rrm. Orchidom Alameda Beth x Tol. Alameda Joy
Dave Miller



Cattleya Ruth Neily
Wayne Roberts



Zygo Advance Australia
Dave Miller



Beginner's Corner