

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

**July 2017**

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Spannbauer**

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## **Minutes of June 2017 Meeting**

Dave welcomed new members and guests to the society. We had our Summer potluck banquet and the 1<sup>st</sup> Members' Plant Auction. Thank you to everyone for participating, there was a great selection of dishes to eat and plants to bid on. Our second plant auction will be at the September meeting.

## **General Business**

No new business to discuss this month.

## **Upcoming Events**

After decades of orchid sales, Porters Orchids is closing their doors to retail sales. Porters Orchids exhibits at many of our shows so many members have purchased plants in the past. Bill and Marilyn intend to reside in Grand Ledge and Bill plans to spend more time judging orchids instead of selling them.

Sales Dates: 10am – 5pm  
Beginning July 8 - 25% off  
Beginning July 29 - 35% off  
Beginning August 5 - 45% off

10868 Royston Rd, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, June 12, 2017 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Pleiones: Terrestrial Orchid Culture**

Speaker: **Brandon Spannbauer (Member)**

Over the last few years, Brandon has been cultivating Pleiones, a group of terrestrial orchids native to China. At the 2016 GAOS show, he received the JC/AOS award for his stunning display of over 100 flowering Pleiones which included three species and three hybrids. He has since compiled his experience in these interesting terrestrials into a presentation which any interested orchid grower could use to begin their own collection.

**Website:** [www.thegaos.com](http://www.thegaos.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/theGAOS](http://www.facebook.com/theGAOS)

## Building a Species Collection

By Jeffrey Parker

Many years ago, I attended my first meeting of the Maui Orchid Society. On the display table among all the showy Hawaiian dendrobium and cattleya hybrids was a very strange plant. It had long round "rat-tail" leaves hanging down and pendant sprays of dramatic yellow and brown waxy flowers. This turned out to be a beautifully grown specimen of *Oncidium stacyi*, belonging to the late Mr. Ralph Yagi, one of Maui's only species enthusiasts at the time. I think it was at this precise moment that I began to distinguish between species and hybrids. I started to pick up a few species here and there. They survived and even flowered. I eventually came to the realization that for me the species were endlessly fascinating plus I was having fun and learning. Our collection evolved in a rather haphazard way at first, eventually going to a more orderly approach. A better way to go about building up one's species collection would be to look at the plants you are currently growing and decide which genera are doing best for you under the conditions you are able to provide. Then focus on acquiring more species from those genera for awhile. Likewise, if species from a certain type of climate seem to do well for you, then you might pursue species from other genera with a similar ecological origin.

Orchid species come from almost every corner of the Earth and are found growing at sea level in the tropics, with literally salt-spray splashing on them - all the way up to 10,000 ft. where the night temperatures may be just above freezing. You're not going to be able to duplicate all those climatic conditions. However, orchids are some of the most adaptable plants on the planet. We can have success with species from greatly differing habitats. Whether your growing conditions consist of a windowsill, a basement, or a climate-controlled greenhouse - you will be able to identify microclimates within your growing area. A particular plant might be moved closer to the glass or light source, nearer the heat or cooling source, closer to a source of humidity, or perhaps nearer to the fan or fresh air vent. Old timers will tell you that sometimes, moving a plant a few inches can mean the difference between it thriving or languishing (BUT don't move your plants around constantly, they hate that!)

## 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.**

- July 10: Pleiones: Terrestrial Orchid Culture  
Brandon Spannbauer
- Aug 14: Orchid Round Table Q&A / Orchid Bingo
- Sept 11: Growing Orchids at Home  
Patty Conrad



**Photo of the Month:** A bunch of my *cyrtopidium pubescens* are currently blooming and I found this one plant with extremely long petals. It's gorgeous, definitely a keeper. -Brandon Spannbauer

An obvious consideration when building your collection is how much space you have available. While large orchid species certainly put on beautiful showy displays, many small orchids can be accommodated in a cramped space.

The orchid kingdom is very large with over 30,000 species. Growing space, time, and budgets are limited. This is why some people choose to specialize. There are cattleya specialists, pleurothallid specialists, and people who grow only fragrant orchids. It is a way for a collector to focus thoroughly on, and add to, a body of knowledge regarding, say, a single genus. On the other hand, there are super-enthusiasts like myself, who will try to grow almost any orchid species, and see our greenhouses as an important refuge for this amazing and threatened family of plants. A problem with focusing too narrowly is that you won't have year-round blooms and activity, as you would with a mixed collection. Once, we had a young visitor who was interested only in "blue" cattleyas. He walked past several rare and amazing species we had blooming at the time, and I couldn't help thinking what a pity it was that his self-imposed limitation had obscured his vision.

Shopping for orchids is supposed to be a fun experience. When I first began to grow species I had to search hard to find exciting plants to buy. Thanks to the increased interest in species, and the advancements in technology today, it is astounding what is available now. Upon receiving a company's list or catalog, I will sit down and read through the entire list putting a check mark beside each species that sounds interesting. For me this is a lot of fun, and I find it quite interesting, educational, and entertaining to compare the adjectives and superlatives that one grower uses to describe a particular species versus those of another. First, I check my own list of past purchases to see if I might have purchased that species before. I encourage everyone to start keeping their own list, which contains the following information: genus and species name, purchased from, date of purchase, cost and country of origin if known. Then, I go back and research each item by looking in my books, online, in Orchids Magazine, Awards Quarterly, or at the orchid society library. Using this information, I prioritize my wishlist.

Once you've ordered from a particular company, you'll know more or less what to expect on future orders. This will help you better strategize and allocate your annual budget for new acquisitions. Part of the enjoyment of growing species orchids is the feeling that your knowledge is increasing.

Enjoy your collection!

(*Oncidium stacyi*)



# Photo Gallery

Member Show Table  
June 2017



Noid Phal  
Mary Lou



Cattleya tenebrosa  
Wayne Roberts



Laelia purpurata var venosa  
Darlene Thompson



Paph. Susan Wedegaertner  
Darlene Thompson



Cattleya Bactia  
Jane Bush



Pptm. Bumble Bee x Zga. Mathina  
Darlene Thompson



*Bulbophyllum specimen*  
Edgar Stehli



*Cypripedium parviflorum*  
Wayne Roberts



*Lepanthes telipogoniflora*  
Dave Miller



*Leptotes bicolor*  
Dave Miller



*Lockhartia Gold Speck*  
Dave Miller



*Paph. Virtuous*  
Darlene Thompson



*Blc. Sunset Glory*  
Brandon Spannbauer



*Blc. Sunset Glory*  
Brandon Spannbauer



Auction Table



Potluck Dishes



Dendrobium Splash  
Jane Bush



Stelis argentata  
Dave Miller



C. Caudebec  
Darlene Thompson



Paph. Greyi  
Darlene Thompson



Ponerorchis graminifolia  
Brandon Spannauer



Pleuro. niveoglobula  
Dave Miller