

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

**July 2020**

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**Jane Bush**

Vice President

**Darlene Thompson**

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**Dave Miller**

## **Minutes of June Meeting**

We had a Zoom meeting with guest speaker Erik Sauer give a very informative presentation on phramipediums

## **GAOS Meeting Goes Online!**

The GAOS meeting will be online, hosted by Dave Miller and Darlene Thompson with guest speaker Edgar Stehli. 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.

Our meeting will be from 7 to 8:30 pm on Monday, July 13 with people able to join the meeting as early as 6:30 pm where we will chat and answer questions until the meeting starts officially at 7:00 pm.

More info below.

## **Upcoming Business**

What kind of plant is this and where can I get one?



## **Next Meeting**

Our July meeting will be online using Zoom with our special speaker Edgar Stehli who will be discussing Bulbophyllums. Bulbophyllum is a huge group of orchids found throughout the tropics. They are quite varied in shape and size. Some are fragrant, and some not! They are generally easy to grow once you know the tricks. There have been lots of taxonomic changes in this group, but we will not be overly concerned with the nomenclature, and just consider them all Bulbophyllum, or whatever their label says. The presentation will cover a brief history of the group, and its distribution around the world. There are pictures of many of the more commonly grown species, and lots of cultural information as well. I have received many awards on my Bulbophyllum plants, and many of these are featured in the presentation.

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

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

**Email:** [greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)

## President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying your orchids. As COVID-19 continues, we will again have a zoom meeting for July with Edgar helping us to better understand and grow *Bulbophyllum* orchids. I have had several very positive comments about our zoom meetings so I hope each of you is enjoying our time ‘together at a distance.’ A special thanks to Dave Miller for getting us started in the zoom venue. Of the 3 orchid societies in NE Ohio, GAOS is the most active, sharing information via zoom, during this pandemic.

For August, we are considering having our member auction outdoors, possibly in a pavilion in the Portage Lakes Park. Dalene, our program coordinator, has suggested that each member and family could bring their own picnic supper and maybe change the silent auction format to a live auction. An email surveying how many members would participate in an outdoor meeting with social distancing and current protocol safety measures in place.

July is the time when we begin to think about officers and programs for the next year. If you have any suggestions or are interested in helping Gaos in any way, please contact any current officer.

**TIDBIT:** As the July heat is on, remember that orchids can tolerate the heat better with good air circulation and misting to cool the leaves through evaporation.

## 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.**

Jul 13           Bulbophyllums  
                  Edgar Stehli

Aug 10           TBD

Sept 14          AOS Webinar “How to pick the best orchid plant”



**Photo of the Month:** Looking through the door of his *Disa* orchid house, 30 sq feet. Photo © David Britten

## GAOS ONLINE

I hope this message finds you well. We are days away from our third virtual society meeting. This month local grower Edgar Stehli of [Windswept in Time Orchids](#) will be speaking to us about the fun, funky diverse *Bulbophyllum* ([bulbo-oh-FILL-um](#)) genus. Edgar, who has numerous AOS Awards for his bulbos, will share his knowledge of and experience with this huge group of orchids distributed throughout the tropics. His presentation includes insightful information, intriguing pictures, and informative cultural details.

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 [dcmjpasmil@aol.com](mailto:dcmjpasmil@aol.com) or Darlene Thompson at 901-210-5502 or [darlenejthompson@gmail.com](mailto: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 8:15 pm.

### Agenda

- 6:30 to 7:00 Sign-in and Chat
- 7:00 to 7:15 Greetings and Show Table with Darlene
- 7:15 to 8:00 *Bulbophyllum* with Edgar
- 8:00 to 8:15 Q&A

Please send your show table pictures to [darlenejthompson@gmail.com](mailto:darlenejthompson@gmail.com) by 12noon on Sunday, July12.

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Monday, July 13!!

**Join Zoom Meeting (Click the link below to join the meeting, you will have to install Zoom software for the first time, it is quick and easy, just follow the prompts)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8709108597?pwd=ano5RnF6UmMzREIGbi84bXFNekRtd09>

Meeting ID: 870 910 8597

Password: 367965

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,8709108597#,,,0#,367965# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,8709108597#,,,0#,367965# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 870 910 8597

Password: 367965

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbjMGScJl5>

## Protecting the Holy Grail of Victorian Orchids

By Liam Mannix ([TheAge.com.au](http://TheAge.com.au))

At a top-secret location in Victoria, fenced off and well-camouflaged, there grows a plant. It is obviously special. It is rare and beautiful and deeply strange. The secrecy is vital because, were its location known, it would become a tourist attraction – and risk being trampled. Or worse: stolen by illegal wildflower poachers. Scientifically, it is labelled *Caladenia colorata* – the coloured spider orchid. The team of scientists who have spent more than a decade trying to cultivate it simply call it the “holy grail”.



“It’s a completely outrageous plant,” says Dr Noushka Reiter, leader of that effort. Orchid lovers are an obsessive bunch, but Colorata inspires a fervour that goes above and beyond, both because it is extremely endangered – only about 1000 exist in the wild – and extremely odd. “I would not say orchid lovers are crazy,” says Dr Reiter, a scientist and orchid lover at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. “They are just eccentric.” Unlike most other plants, orchids won’t grow alone – they need a very particular species of fungi as a partner. A seed from the orchid won’t grow unless it lands in dirt colonized by the exact right fungi.



The orchid and fungi grow together, the fungi living inside the cells of the plant. During its life, the fungi provides it with nutrients it cannot get otherwise, and the orchid provides the same service to the fungi.

But that’s not its oddest trait. Colorata is what’s known as a single-species ‘sexually deceptive’ pollinator.

Most plants will let any old insect spread their pollen. Not colorata, which insists on a certain native wasp.

Most plants lure in their pollinators with offers of delicious nectar, or a sweet smell or pretty flower. Not colorata.



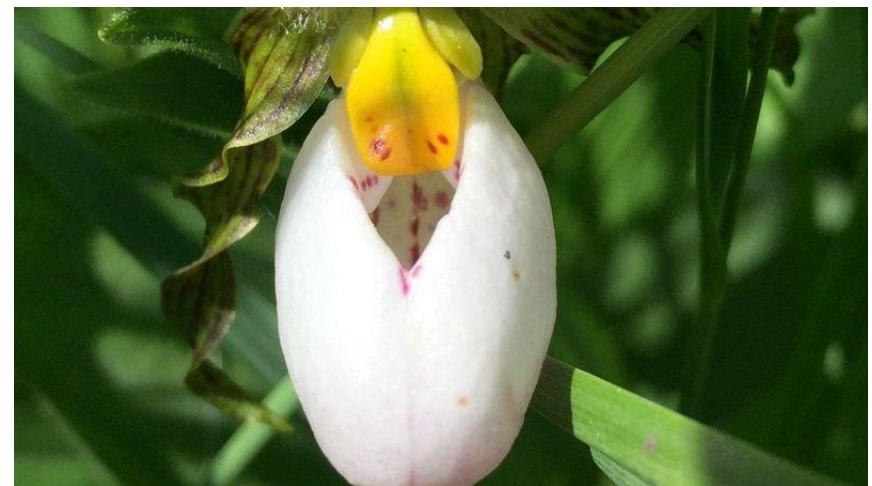
It emits a pheromone that smells just like a female wasp. An amorous male wasp, not possessed of particularly good eyesight, mistakes the orchid's petals for a potential mate. And then he... well, he tries to mate with the orchid and, in the process, getting covered in pollen. Which he spreads when he tries to mate with other orchids. Deceptive. Given all those moving parts, you can imagine that trying to breed a spider orchid has been something of a challenge. "It's been a fun process," says Dr Reiter, dryly. In an effort to preserve the extremely endangered orchid, Dr Reiter, a scientist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, has led a multi-institute team that has spent the last several years trying to breed them in captivity.



First, the team has to hunt for soil containing the right fungi. Seeds from one of the remaining plants are placed in the soil, and then the plant is wrapped up in a dark space for three months. Finding the wasp is harder. To help, the Gardens enlisted Trust for Nature, a government-established organization that sets up legally protected wildlife reserves on private land. Together, they surveyed the trust's holdings, finding six sites with the right mix of fungi, wasp, soil and climate. "It's a very, very tricky science," says the Trust's south-west Victoria coordinator Adam Blake. "The only way you can find out whether this wasp is present is to go out and try to trap it." Those six sites in the Wimmera, in Victoria's far west, were planted three years ago. And, Dr Reiter says, they now have well over 400 new seedlings happily growing by themselves – enough for a self-sustaining colony. "For the first time, we have a population growth rate greater than one," says Dr Reiter.

## Will County Forest Officials Secretly Preserve Rare Orchid

By Susan DeMar Lafferty (Chicago Tribune)



There is only one white lady slipper orchid plant in the Forest Preserve District of Will County and officials are monitoring it closely. (Juanita Armstrong-Ullberg)

Among all the flora in the Forest Preserve District of Will County, one is so distinctive, so vulnerable and so rare, that officials will not reveal its location. It is not easy to find the elusive and fickle white lady's slipper orchid, even if one does know where it is, said Juanita Armstrong-Ullberg, the natural resources land manager for the forest preserve district. Armstrong-Ullberg is doing her best to protect this one last plant known to exist on forest preserve property and its habitat. Once abundant throughout the prairie state, it has declined due to a loss of habitat, over shading by invasive brush, deer browsing and fluctuating ground water levels, she said.

The only other spot in Will County where it grows is at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, which has several dozen groups, she said. According to reports, there are 49 groups of these delicate white slippers in Illinois — all within the six county area —Cook, Will, DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties, Armstrong-Ullberg said. The long-lived perennial, one of the smallest of the lady slipper orchid species — *Cypripedium candidum* — occurs naturally in the eastern and central United States and Ontario, Canada. It was once on the state's list of threatened species, but was delisted in 2014, even though it is still imperiled and still vulnerable, Armstrong-Ullberg said.

Its distinctive white flower resembles the toe of a slipper with a white-magenta spotted lip, twisted green to yellow petals and ribbed leaves covered by short hairs, which blooms from late April to early June.

Armstrong-Ullberg has been monitoring this — and about two dozen other plant species - since 2001, but she can't claim credit for discovering this rare orchid. Even she had to be told where to find it.

Every five to 10 years, the forest preserve district does an inventory of its plants with botanists, and that may have been how the white lady's slipper was first sited, she said.



The one plant forms a large clump, which has produced up to 70 slippers in the past. This year, however, was one of the fewest — only four little white slippers, and Armstrong-Ullberg is not sure why.

She does what she can to encourage its growth.

Since habitat loss is the main reason for its decline, the district works to preserve the habitat, managing the site with prescribed burnings and brush clearing, and trying to prevent deer from eating certain plants. But she said officials can't control the drawdown of the water table or the amount of incoming pollution as the site is surrounded by urbanization. "Every time a subdivision is built, the wetland is filled in. The wetlands are the kidneys of the earth," she said.

The orchid likes the calcium rich soil of the wetlands and prairies, and requires the Mycorrhizae fungi to germinate from seed — which takes 10 to 16 years to produce a flower — but it can also propagate "rhizomatously" — from its roots, she said.

In 2003, Armstrong-Ullberg and her forest preserve colleagues collected thousands of very tiny seeds and with the help of a local orchid grower, shipped the seeds to a greenhouse in Oregon specializing in growing orchids.

Two years later, the forest preserve district received 30 dormant bare roots that were planted at a site in the Joliet area that had a similar alkaline soil/wet prairie habitat and used known associate plant species that occur in the same habitat, she said.

"We have not found any of the plants flowering or even vegetative growth from the orchid," she said.

Again, in 2006-07, they also planted seed from their only plant at a Joliet site and are still waiting for a flower.

Another year, they attempted cross pollination with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County — and that following year was when 70 flowers appeared on their plant. She said they are secretive about the location because they fear someone would try to dig up the white lady slipper and plant it in their own yard.

"But this orchid, like many orchids, are fickle in their habitat selection and once moved would likely struggle to bloom or even survive," said Armstrong-Ullberg, who also monitors the yellow lady's slipper that lives in the Channahon preserves, and didn't bloom until three years ago.

Armstrong-Ullberg also stays on top of ongoing research on the Mycorrhizae fungi upon which the orchid likes to feed.

"I am still learning a lot," she said.

All orchids are somewhat rare, but the white lady's slipper, she said, may be moving back on to the threatened species list.



## Monthly Checklist for July and August

By AOS

### Cattleya

Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

### Paphiopedilum

Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.

### Phalaenopsis

Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

## Cymbidium

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

## High-elevation Plants

For cooler-growing plants, such as masdevallias, other pleurothallids and the like, the next few months will be a challenge. During the hottest times, keep your plants more shaded and be sure to keep the humidity level much higher. Do not let plants dry out. Delay any potting until the weather cools.



## Oncidium intergenerics

Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums, such as Odontocidium, Wilsonara and Colmanara, will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral display. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.



The Philippine species, *Euanthe sanderiana*, rewards growers with massive heads of flowers at the end of summer.

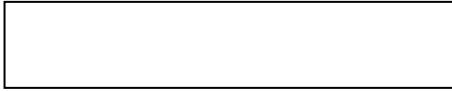
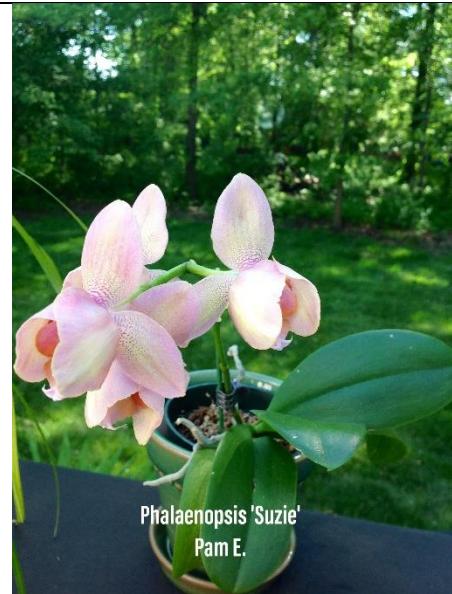
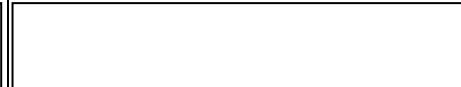
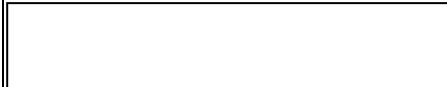
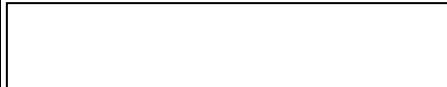
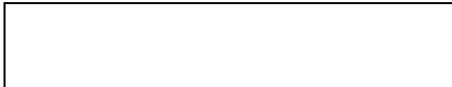
## Vandaceous

Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded for the best flower presentation later.

# Photo Gallery

## Home Displays June 2020







Cyp. Gisela  
Wayne R.

Cyp. ventricosum  
Wayne R.



Cyp. franchetii  
Wayne R.



Cyp. plectrochilum  
Wayne R.



Paph QF Kulani 'Cocoa AM/AOS  
Darlene T.



Paph. parishii  
Darlene T.



Phrag. Ivan Portilla (maybe..)  
Darlene T.