

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

June 2016

President

David Miller

Vice President

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Treasurer

Frank Skalak

Secretary

Lore Yu

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Barbara Ford

Minutes of May 2016 Meeting

Frank and Barb are nearly finished with the 2014 and 2015 Audit. We currently have fifty-one members. This year's show had the best attendance ever. Program costs are budgeted for \$800 and we have had some expensive speakers this year. We need to save money and have found a few ways to do this. We decided to seek a different source for our orchids. We have also converted our June and November Dinners to be complete Pot Luck Dinners.

General Business

The presentation was given by Russ Vernon. While many orchids are being mass produced for traits that are deemed easy to market, Russ is breeding for other traits, including fragrance. His orchids are not only beautiful but also very unique. The presentation was not only educational but also quite interesting and well worth hearing.

Our next meeting will take place on June 13, 2016 and will be the Summer Picnic and a member auction. People are asked to bring healthy and pest-free orchids that they wish to re-home or clean orchid supplies that they no longer want.

New Business

A New Member Contest has been announced. The member that brings in the most new members will receive a fabulous orchid bundle prize! Contact Frank with your new member name so they can be added to your count.

Help Wanted: Jim Bell is resigning as the chairman of the Show. We also need someone who is willing to order the orchids for our holiday party and we need a historian and a hospitality coordinator.

If anyone is interested in any of these positions or would like more info, please contact Dave.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, June 13, 2016 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Summer Picnic and 1st Member's
Silent Auction Sale**

Speaker: **N/A**

Come and enjoy a potluck picnic, bring a dish to share as well as your own plates and silverware, a meat dish and drinks will be provided. Following will be our 1st Member's Plant Sale. Bring any stubborn or unwanted orchids to sell at the silent auction and bid on other's that tickle your fancy.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

"The Amazing Oncidiums"

Get the scoop on the Oncidium Alliance by finding experts all in one place. The Great Lakes Judging Center will be hosting its annual educational seminar on Saturday June 18 and Sunday June 19 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Presentations will be on Odontoglossums, miniature Oncidiums, Tolumnias, Brassias, Trichocentrums, Miltoniopsis and Psychopsis among others. The keynote speaker will be Mark Chase presenting "The Five-year-old Child Test: How Well Does It Really Work to Distinguish Odontoglossum from Oncidium?". Mark Chase is the co-author of "Orchids: The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium" and currently with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

In addition to these great talks there is an auction which will include orchid memorabilia, plants (orchids and other), sportswear, flasks/compots and books. Refreshments are provided at no cost. There will be also orchid sales tables as well. Come and visit with us and get up to speed on the Oncidium Alliance.

The only expense for the seminar will be an optional \$20 dinner fee for those desiring to eat right at the facility at Washtenaw Community College before the Saturday night talk by Mark Chase. RSVP for the free seminar and also dinner reservations by contacting Doris Asher at asherdoris@juno.com.

Specific details on location can be obtained at www.gljc.org or for the seminar agenda at www.thegaos.com or for lodging or directions contact Dave Miller at 330-307-7189 or dcmjpasmil@aol.com.

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.**

- | | |
|----------|---|
| June 13: | Summer Picnic and 1st Member Auction |
| July 11: | Choosing the Right Orchid
Allen Lund, West Shore Orchid Society (plant sale) |
| Aug 11: | Jewel Orchids
Leon Glicenstein (plant sale) |
| Sept 12: | Orchid Culture
Dave Miller (plant sale) |
| Oct 10: | 2 nd Member Auction |
| Nov 14: | Holiday Banquet and Elections |



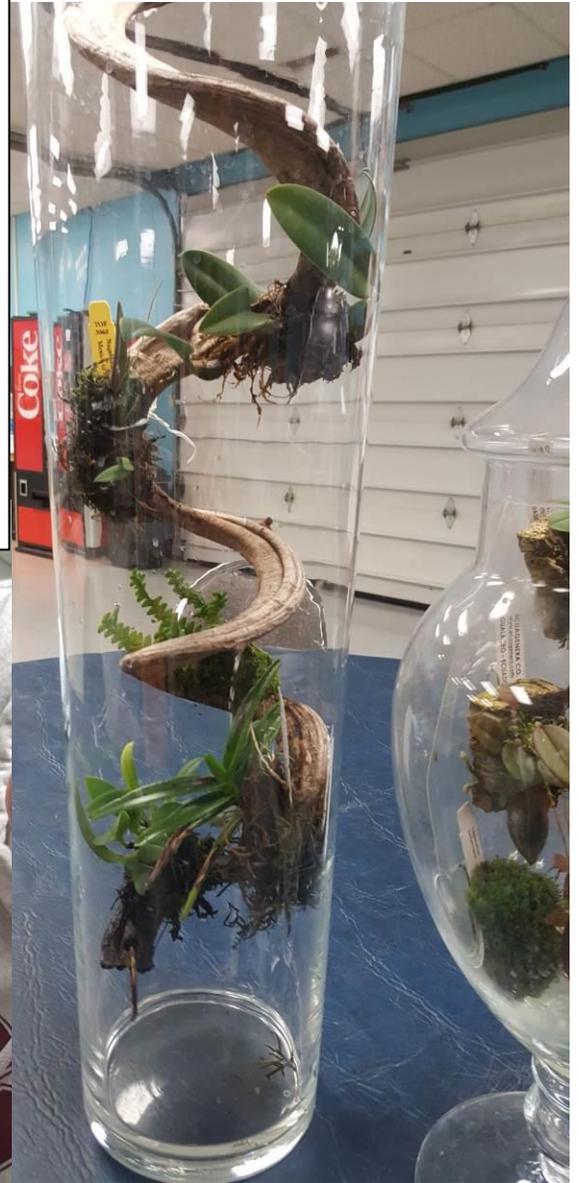
Jenny Ross showcasing her different orchid terrariums.

Terrariums are a great way to create a self-contained miniature environment where individual factors can be easily controlled, most importantly, humidity. This is especially useful for pleurothallids, madevallias, draculas, lepanthes and bulbophyllums just to name a few.

She found her materials from various locations like Home Goods for the containers and a pet store for the twisted wood mount.

She waters her terrariums about once a week by filling the entire container with water and leaving them to soak overnight and emptying it the next morning.

Terrariums do very well under lights or in a bright, shady location. It is important to pay attention to the temperature inside the container which can climb very fast when sealed and near a heat source like a light or a sunny window.



Brief Look at Polyploidy

Paul Gripp (adapted from the AOS Website, abbreviated to fit)

One of the main features of orchids as a hobby is the wide range of interest that makes it a challenging, intriguing, and ever-searching endeavor. The study of plant genetics in reference to orchids is one of these fascinating sidelines.

Now, orchid genetics can be a very involved, technical subject. Perhaps the most basic-study that we, as orchid growers, should understand is that area dealing with chromosome numbers (or, levels of ploidy). Plants carry, in their anatomical make-up, a certain number of genetic carriers (chromosomes) which determine the characteristics of the plants and their future progeny.

An interesting fact about chromosomes is that, besides carrying the individual genes that determine specific characteristics, the degree of influence of an individual set of chromosomes is greatly modified by the number of sets (or level of ploidy) of the particular individual. Hence, the terms diploid (2n), triploid (3n), tetraploid (4n), pentaploid (5n), etc., refer to the number of sets or level of ploidy.

Generally speaking, the rules for the genus *Cymbidium* are fairly simple and well worked out, and they serve as a good example on which to learn. Breeding in cymbidiums turns out to be a blending process influenced by the various traits of both parents and weighed in quantity by their particular level of ploidy.

Diploids (2n): — Most typical, normal, naturally occurring wild types are of a diploid level of ploidy. The diploid level is the standard in nature and are characterized by typically good, natural vigor. Diploids have many good features that are important in the most modern hybrids, and often it is their agreeable complimentary compatibility that makes a good match when used with other levels of polyploids, particularly the tetraploids.

Good *Cymbidium* diploids are certainly of great importance. Because of the fact that many of the most famous polyploids in cymbidiums have been brought about by much inbreeding, there are some poor growth characteristics that have carried along, and it is often the free-growing habit of the diploid that influences the progeny into being good, free performers. *Cymbidium* diploids are also characterized by often having more flowers

Tetraploids (4n) : — Tetraploids originally occurred by freak happenings, the plants' cellular structure changing in such a way as to possess twice the normal number of chromosomes in their make-up. It is also questionable to say that tetraploids are always necessarily associated with desirable features, such as good form and other characteristics we look for. Because of their doubled chromosome number, they assert double the influence that a normal diploid would. Thus, the tetraploid has led to the finest advances in orchid breeding. This is because certain plants of good quality have been discovered to be tetraploids and they have been used in breeding to exert the advantage of their added breeding influence.per spike than many of the more popular tetraploids.



Left: *Cymbidium* Fanfare 'Sierra Spring', AM/AOS (1965) An example of a diploid (2n) flower.

Right: *Cymbidium* Fanfare 'St. Francis', AM/AOS An example of a tetraploid (4n) flower

Triploids (3n): — Triploids normally are the resultant progeny from the mating of a tetraploid with a diploid. These comprise the great bulk of present-day cymbidiums. They are distinguished by uniform good growing characteristics and freeness of performance. We usually find that triploid cymbidiums are sterile and will not produce seed. There are, however, some exceptions which give rise to other categories of polyploidy.

Pentaploids (5n): — A still higher realm of polyploidy is sometimes found in orchid plants and this is the pentaploid. A type having five sets of chromosomes. Pentaploids have proven to be fairly useful breeders, uniform growth and quality usually are not obtained and some of the resultant seedlings may be more difficult to grow and bloom. Many of our most famous plants, however, have pentaploid parents in their backgrounds.

Aneuploids: — Hybridizers are continually trying to do the unusual: therefore, there is an emphasis on abnormal types which has led to the development of a number of orchid plants with uneven chromosome numbers. These are termed aneuploids. Aneuploids are usually derived from uneven and rather unstable crossings, when parents of semi-incompatible chromosome numbers are used. The seedlings of such aneuploid crosses are usually most irregular and will vary — from flower to growth patterns between siblings. This irregularity is brought about because their individual chromosome numbers are not exact multiples of the typical base number of the parent plants. There are many fine plants among the aneuploids, and although their implications in breeding are definitely hit and miss, it assuredly makes for interest and speculation.

With these various levels of ploidy available for hybridizing, there are a variety of possible combinations and it is possible to anticipate some generalities about the resulting progeny. It is with these thoughts in mind that hybridizers propose hopeful crossings.

The subject of ploidy has many interesting facets, each of which can be magnified into a particular situation in a specific genus or group of plants. Cymbidiums have been used as a passing example because they are not only well worked out but simple in example. In some other genera things can be far more complicated. Although there are many variations and exceptions in the behavior of living things, most of these differences can be explained by subsequent modifications and rearrangements which do not change the underlying principles.

The ways of Mother Nature sometimes appear confused and complicated, but in reality they are orderly and pleasant, and these phenomena are brought forth most finely in our study of the orchids.

The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the April 2016 meeting
(Plant owner names may be wrong, apologies)



Cymbidium goeringii
Brandon Spannbauer



C. gaskelliana – Jane Bush



Den. Chrysotoxum
Darlene Thompson



NoID Phal – Mary Lou



Bulbophyllum – Edgar Stehli



Phrag Bel Croute
Bernadette Skalak

The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the
April 2016 meeting



Iwanagara Apple Blossom
Wayne Roberts



Pleione x barbarae – Brandon Spannbauer



Masdevallia ayabacana
Brandon Spannbauer



Asc. Christensonianum
Edgar Stehli



Pleione x barbarae – Brandon Spannbauer



Cypripedium Phillip
Dave Miller

The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the
April 2016 meeting



Paph. Mystic Isle
Dave Miller



C. Dorothy Warne 'Favorite' – Jane Bush



Trichopillia Charlotte
Edgar Stehli



Masdevallia Peach Allure
Brandon Spannbauer



Paph. Lowii – Wayne Roberts



Milt. Echo Bay
Jane Bush