

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

## October 2017

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**David Miller**

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**Frank Skalak**

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**Brandon  
Spannbauer**

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### **Minutes of Sept. 2017 Meeting**

Dave welcomed new members and guests to the society. Patty Conrad from the Cleveland Orchid Society was our speaker for the night. She discussed keeping orchids in our home and explained her care for her many mounted plants. It was a very informative talk with many great photos.

Our spring show is going to be held March 3-5, 2018.

### **General Business**

It's time to start thinking about next year. We are calling for volunteers to become board members, we need some new blood! Dave is asking for an apprentice program director to assist him in getting programs together. He has a very detailed list of potential speakers and just needs someone willing to help make calls and finalize next schedule. Please see him at the meeting to discuss this position. Thanks

### **Upcoming Events**

We had a couple board meetings to discuss changes to the by-laws, Jane has been working on making revisions to the current by-laws which will be distributed along with this newsletter and will be voted on in the next meeting.

Elections are coming up and if you're interested in a position or helping out in the upcoming year in any capacity please speak with Dave or Jane. Thanks

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, Oct 9, 2017 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **2<sup>nd</sup> Member Auction**

Speaker: ---

We will hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Plant Auction of the year. Bring plants and orchid related items to sell to society members. We all have plants that don't do well in our environment or refuse to bloom for us, bring them to the auction and hopefully you can find something new and exciting to take home with you.

Plants are priced and auctioned. The seller takes home 75% of the final price and the society receives 25%.

Please do your best to remove all pests before being auctioned, thank you.

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

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

## New Orchids Discovered in Madagascar

By Greg Loades

A new species of orchid with enormous, highly scented flowers has been discovered in Madagascar. It was discovered by Austrian botanist Anton Sieder, who passed on his findings to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, who confirmed the plant, named *Cynorkis christae*, as being new to science.

Another nine new orchids have been discovered in the same area in the past two years, including *Cynorkis aconitiflora* a delicate, violet flowered species with blooms similar to *Aconitum* and *Cynorkis elephantina*, notable for its speckled flowers and flower stems.



*Cynorkis christae*

## 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.**

Oct 9:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Member Orchid Auction
Nov 13:	Holiday Banquet / Elections
Dec 11:	No Meeting
Jan 8:	TBD



**Photo of the Month:** *Masdevallia Steve Vance* was a gift from Dave Miller. Its parentage is *M. Copper Angel* x *M. princeps* and you can really see *veitchiana* from the copper angel in this hybrid.  
Photo By: Brandon Spannbauer

"It is quite a find," said Johan, who saw the orchid in the flesh in January this year after travelling to the mountains with a team from Kew and Paris. "One of the most noticeable traits of this new orchid is its sweet scent, which one of our team likened to smelling like champagne," he added.

*Cynorkis christae* also has enormous flowers, with a 5cm (2in) wide lip and a 16cm (6in) spur. Most of the flower is pure white, while the top petals have distinctive maroon markings.

While still in Madagascar, Sieder secured the permits needed to collect some plant material of *Cynorkis christae*. He sent it – preserved in alcohol – to Kew in a shoebox, and Johan saw this 'astonishing thing' for the first time, before making a botanical sketch of it. The lengthy process of confirming this plant and the nine other species as new began. The plant was named after Anton's wife Christa, hence *Cynorkis christae*.



*Cynorkis aconitiflora*



*Cynorkis elephantina*

"It has puzzled me quite a lot as to why this orchid hasn't been recorded before," says Johan. "It is probably due to it growing in quite a remote area," he adds. "It is quite an adventure to get there!"

A year after Anton's email Johan and his team set out to see the orchid and it took them four days to travel to the site, on the western side of the Tsaratanana Mountains, from the Madagascar capital Antananarivo. The trip was in Johan's words a 'gamble' because the plant only flowers for a month or so during the rainy season and flowering could easily have been missed.

Johan says there are a couple of hundred *Cynorkis christae* visible along the road where the orchid was discovered, growing on steep slopes and rock faces. "It has caused an immense amount of amusement to the people living in the area, with so many people taking such an interest in the plants," says Johan. "It is like a group of people suddenly studying the daisies growing in your front lawn."

Johan is hoping that a further trip to Madagascar later in the year will allow for collecting seed although it will be ripe in the wet season when the area may not be reachable. If it can be saved, seed of these orchids could be added to the Kew Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place in East Sussex, which aims to prevent the extinction of plants in the wild by storing seeds for the future.

Other new orchids to science discovered in Madagascar



*Cynorkis sanguinolenta*

# Photo Gallery

Member Show Table  
September 2017



Lc. Mini Song  
Jane Bush



Phrag. longifolium  
Frank Skalak



Blc. George King  
Frank Skalak



Paph. Berenice album  
Dave Miller



Coel. Unchained Melody  
Dave Miller



Miltonia  
Dave Miller



Enc. cochleata  
Dean Pawlicki



Lepanthes telipogoniflora  
Brandon Spannauer



Den. Thongchai Gold  
Frank Skalak



Blc. George King  
Frank Skalak



Paph Berenice album  
Dave Miller



Restrepia xanthophthalma  
Dave Miller



Miltonia  
Dave Miller



Phrag. longifolium  
Frank Skalak