

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

**September 2016**

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## **Minutes of Aug. 2016 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Dave Miller who welcomed the group as well as visitors from neighboring societies. We started the meeting with a presentation by Leon Glicenstein on the cloud forests of Costa Rica. We learned that the cloud forests contain a great variety of orchids, many not commonly seen in collections. Through his pictures, Leon gave us a wonderful tour of the country.

At the end, Leon told us of a non profit charity he represents that works to conserve the unique environments of Costa Rica, <http://sacrocr.com/en>

## **General Business**

Barb Ford took Dave's place after the presentation and announced that Jane Bush would be the show chair and Jim Bell would be the assistant show chair for the 2017 show. Donzells has graciously agreed to let us hold the show at their greenhouse.

## **New Business**

From the Editor:

Filling our monthly newsletter is fun and challenging. With so much content available, it can be daunting to decide what would be the most beneficial to GAOS members. I would like your questions that you'd like answered in the newsletters as well as any stories, article or photos that you find interesting and would like them included to be shared with the society. They can be emailed to: [braxtonds@gmail.com](mailto:braxtonds@gmail.com).

Thanks – Brandon

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, Sept. 12, 2016 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Orchid Cultivation: One Size  
Does Not Fit All**

Speaker: **Darlene Thompson**

Each orchid grower goes through many phases as part of their journey. Most often we think of these phases in terms of beginner, advance, and expert. Darlene will discuss the most critical elements of orchid cultivation in each phase, common setbacks we all experience and how to deal with them, and how to define orchid success. Darlene Thompson is an active member of the Greater Akron Orchid Society. Since starting her orchid journey six years ago, her small windowsill collection has grown to over 250 orchids. Plant Sales from Wayne and Edgar.

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

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

## Unusual Species: Orchid Close – Ups

*Thelymitra speciosa*

In-situ photos © Terry Dunham

Commonly known as the Eastern Queen of Sheba. One of the most colorful native Australian orchids. Found in Western Australia among dense low shrubs in heavy clay loam. "It was illegal to take native orchids from the wild, and theft was an occasional rather than widespread problem in WA. Habitat clearing and degradation, from slashing, herbicide use and fire, were bigger threats to orchid populations than theft." This is due in part because of the orchid's rarity and their remote habitat. Site locations are closely guarded secrets among local orchid hunter clubs and conservationists.



## 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.**

- Sept 12: Darlene Thompson  
"Orchids: One Size Doesn't Fit All" (plant sale)
- Oct 10: 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Auction
- Nov 14: Holiday Banquet and Elections
- Dec 12: No Meeting



"She's just beautiful. I can sit and stare at her for hours. We need to protect them for future generations to observe and enjoy. Once they are gone, they are gone." – Terry Dunham, orchid hunter

## Miltonia Scorch

By Cheryl Paul

My beloved miltoniopsis. When the weather got above 80F in the sun room, I moved them to the air conditioned living room. A lamp took the place of LED lights. The mister that maintained 70% humidity was replaced with 3 times per day hand misting. They were in perfect condition when I moved them; now all but two have died.

Here is the report from the morgue: The leaves began to fall over from the top of the pseudobulbs. They turned brown and fell off. The pseudobulbs took on a red-orange color at the bottom and the color began creeping upward. The pb remained plump (not soft.) I placed a call to Dr. Ron McHatton, the Director of Education, at the American Orchid Society; sent him a photo and he suspected miltonia scorch. I'd never heard of it, so wanted to share what I learned. See photos.

Miltonia Scorch is a bacterial disease, that according to the lab at University of California – Davies, is not well understood. It is primarily a disease of orchids that prefer cool, moist conditions. Miltonia hybrids,

masdevallia, and cymbidium are at risk.



The pseudobulb turns pale yellow, becoming a deep orange red. The leaves finally drop off and affected pbs spread the disease via the rhizome to the next pseudobulb. Miltonia Scorch is very infectious and requires immediate attention as soon as it is first recognized. The control consists of removing the plant from the pot, cutting away the affected pseudobulb and applying 8-quinolinol\* or Natriphene.\* Dr. McHatton recommended Physan. The plant needs repotted in fresh medium in a fresh pot. Meticulous hand and equipment sanitation is required, as well as isolation of the plant.

Sadly, my interventions were too late. RIP my little beauties. I am watching the other miltonia hybrids in the collection and so far no evidence of spread.

\* excerpted with permission, University of California – Davies Plant Lab

## Our War on Slugs

By Becky Brinkman (The Orchid Column, abbreviated to fit)

These days, 7 am finds me iPhone flashlight in hand, visiting each greenhouse, searching the orchid collection for slugs, who I then crush under foot. This summer has brought an unusual amount of slug activity in all of our greenhouses, an unexpected development in the middle of a bright dry summer. They have made their way into pots and hanging baskets, eating root tips, new shoots, young flower spikes and flowers.

One triumph in our war on slugs has been among the Bucket Orchids (*Coryanthes*), usually a prime favorite of slugs, bush snails, cockroaches and practically any other pest you can name. Everybody, it seems, loves a *Coryanthes*. But this year the *Coryanthes* are producing flush after flush of absolutely pristine new roots and shoots. Our secret weapon: diatomaceous earth applied to bare root plants.

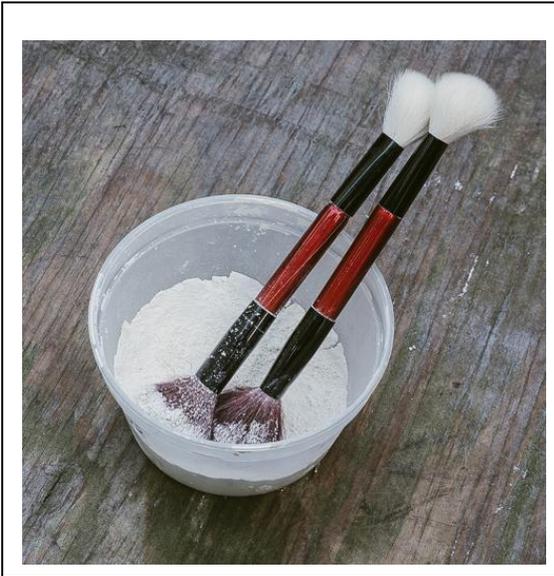
Diatoms are unicellular algae with lots of silica in their cell walls. Silica is the major constituent of sand, but it is also found in living organisms. The fossilized remains of diatoms are mined and milled to create a talcum-like powder, called diatomaceous earth, which is abrasive, porous and hygroscopic (moisture absorbing). Diatomaceous earth kills insects and mollusks by abrasion and dehydration.



We began our campaign against slugs on our *Coryanthes* two years ago. First, we removed all of our *Coryanthes* from their pots and washed away the mossy medium and the slug eggs; then we mounted the plants on wooden rafts or tree fern slabs so that their roots were exposed and there were fewer places for mollusks to hide.

We began applying diatomaceous earth to our *Coryanthes*. Bush snails are tiny. Dozens can hide in the crevices between pseudobulbs. Before treatment, I found at least one slug and 10 to 50 bush snails on each wooden slat. We applied diatomaceous earth weekly throughout the spring and summer to the exposed roots, in between the pseudobulbs and to the leaves.

This summer, after renewed applications, there are 0 to 2 bush snails per plant and no sign of chewing damage to root tips or leaves from slugs or cockroaches. We plan to continue applications through the autumn.



A few tips for using diatomaceous earth for slug, snail and cockroach control:

- Look for "Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth" in order to get freshwater diatoms. Avoid "Pool Grade," which is saltwater-derived.
- Keep the package sealed and out of the greenhouse or any other humid environment. The powder is highly porous and once it absorbs water from the atmosphere, it loses its ability to dehydrate pests.
- Wear a dust mask. Silica dust is harmful to lung tissue.
- Apply diatomaceous earth once a week to the entire plant and its mount when the surfaces are dry: the new shoots, leaves, flower spikes, the slab and in between pseudobulbs. Let it sit at least overnight before you water again, since water will wash it away.
- Any soft brush will work as an applicator, but I like the idea of battling an enemy with a cosmetic brush. Drugstores carry them.

## Things to do in the Fall

By AOS

Like spring, fall is an important transitional season and orchid growers should be making preparations for the coming winter. As days get shorter and cooler, orchid growth will slow and in some cases, cease altogether. Unless a plant is in a crisis situation, put off any repotting until the lengthening days of spring. For many orchids, it is this change of seasonal conditions that begins flower initiation. As we move into November, be on the lookout for developing inflorescences on *Phalaenopsis*, *Cymbidium* and certain hybrids and species in other genera, and begin staking when spikes reach 6-8 inches.

If you have been summering some or all of your orchids outside, now is a good time to get your indoor growing area cleaned up and ready to welcome the returning orchids. Whether it is windowsill carts, a basement light setup or greenhouse, use diluted chlorine bleach (1:10) or Physan to clean off any accumulated algae. It is easier to make repairs when there are no plants, so make sure that your growing area is in top condition for the trying conditions of winter. Make sure that heaters are working and that you have plenty of fuel. If you use backup devices or alarms, test them too. Be sure to check plants thoroughly for pests before returning them to the close quarters of your indoor growing area or greenhouse.



*Cattleya percivaliana* 'Sonia de Urbano' can bloom anytime from October into January, its native habitat is the Venezuelan Andes

## Monthly Checklist for September and October

By AOS (Abbrev. to fit)

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation.

For phalaenopsis, the bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences.

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* type. Capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. 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 nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

This is the month for cattleya purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

## AOS Photo of the Week



### *Dendrobium amboinense* 'Ori Gem'

PHOTO © DUYN HUYEN

Marsh Helleborine, County Kent, England

*Dendrobium amboinense*, the Amboin Island dendrobium, is an ephemeral flowering lowland species of orchid in the subtribe Dendrobiinae.

The species is endemic to the island of Ambon and nearby islands in the Banda Sea, in Indonesia. The flowers, up to four per inflorescence, are produced on very short racemes. Both leafless and leaved pseudobulbs are capable of producing an inflorescence. The flowers are up to 20 centimetres (7.9 in) across. The sepals and petals droop producing a distinctly wispy appearance. <sup>[1]</sup>

Flowers open at night and are completely closed by the following sundown. Freshly opened flowers are bone white, and as the afternoon progresses the color slowly changes to a pale shade of burnished orange.

# The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the July 2016 meeting



*Psychopsis Kalihi*  
Darlene Thompson



*Bl. Sunny Delight* x *Bl. Richard Muller*  
Brandon Spannbauer



*Neofinetia falcata* cross  
Wayne Roberts



*Asctm. Mona Church*  
Darlene Thompson



*Habenaria regnieri* – Edgar Stehli



*Brs. Spider's Gold*  
Wayne Roberts



*Paph. Dollis Kobold*  
Darlene Thompson



*Lepanthes calodictyon*  
Brandon Spannbauer

# The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the July 2016 meeting



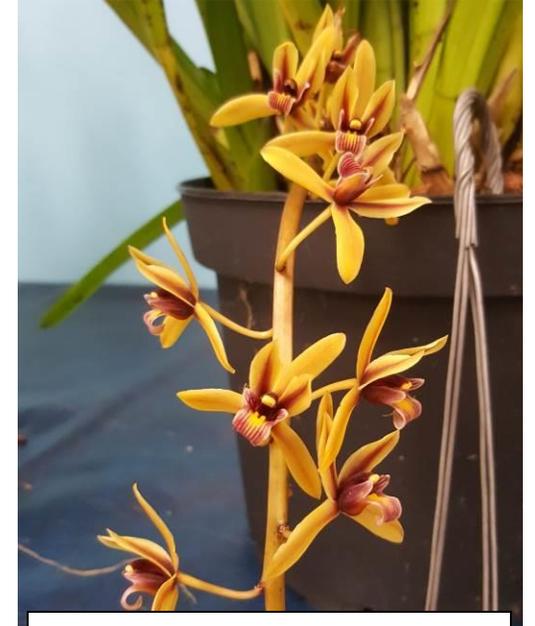
*Paph. Envy Green*  
Darlene Thompson



*Habenaria medusa*  
Edgar Stehli



*Howeara Lava Burst*  
Darlene Thompson



*Cymbidium finlaysonianum*  
Wayne Roberts