

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

## September 2021

President

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Vice President

**Darlene Thompson**

Treasurer

**Claudia Englert**

Secretary

**Pam Everett**

Editor

**Brandon  
Spannbauer**

Trustee

**Jane Bush**

### **Minutes of August Meeting**

We had a Zoom meeting where Tim Choltco discussed "Sex, Lies and Orchids: Orchid Pollination Methods"

I think it's time to repot the cat.



### **Upcoming Business**

We are still navigating the confusing world of reopening meetings amid covid. Please bear with us as things may change month to month. Here is our tentative meeting itinerary for the rest of 2021

September: In-Person  
October: Zoom Meeting  
November: In-Person  
December: No Meeting

### **Next Meeting (In-Person)**

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, Sept. 13, 2021. Doors open 6:45 pm, and meeting starts 7:15 pm. Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Habenaria**  
Speaker: Edgar Stehli

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Each meeting will have a show table in which everyone is invited to bring in their blooming orchids to show off. This is a great way to see what other members are growing and how they do so.

New members and visitors are also invited to bring any plants they wish to show or have questions about.  
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**Meeting details below**

**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)

## Letter from the Editor

By Brandon Spannbauer



Greetings!

We are partnering up with nearby societies to promote our online Zoom meetings to members for those interested in checking them out and their interesting speakers. Details on future free online meetings will be periodically emailed out to you with instructions on how you can join and participate if you wish.

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### Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

[www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/)

[www.gcos.org](http://www.gcos.org)

### West Shore Orchid Society

[www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/)

[westshoreorchidsociety.org/](http://westshoreorchidsociety.org/)

## 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.**

Sept 13	Edgar Stehli – Habenaria (In-Person)
Oct 11	Alan Koch – Dendrobium (Zoom)
Nov 8	Wayne Roberts – Cypripedium (In-Person)
Dec	No Meeting



**Photo of the Month:** Catasetum reichenbachianum;

Photo: Alexandre Koskas

## Greetings GAOS members!

We are excited to announce that our Sept. 13 meeting will be in-person:

The GAOS Board has looked over the results of our previous survey gauging people's interest in meeting in-person and the results were a resounding YES! It was decided that the Sept meeting will be in-person with Oct being on Zoom and Nov will be decided based on people's feeling from Sept. We want to make people feel comfortable coming and participating in the meeting so here are a few details:

- Masks will be mandatory. We wish for everyone to feel safe and comfortable so we ask that everyone please wear a mask at all times. Thank you
- Bay doors will be opened on either side of the room for increased air flow

Sept 13, 2021: Doors open 6:45pm, meeting starts at 7:15pm  
Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

- Edgar Stehli will be our presenter this evening. He will be discussing habenarias
- Remember to bring any orchids in bloom for our Show Table. This is a great way to see what other members are growing and how they do so. New members and visitors are also invited to bring any plants they wish to show or have questions about

We hope that everyone has been staying healthy and look forward to getting together. Please feel free to email any questions to:

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

Thanks, and see you then!

Encyclia citrina x mariae – Laszlo Illes



## GAOS August Meeting Notes

By Dave Miller

Meeting Minutes for Greater Akron Orchid Society for Monday August 9, 2021.

Darlene Thompson, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. She covered a few items initiated at the GAOS Board Meeting which met on July 20. First, and most important item is that the society is looking for members to step up and volunteer to hold some of the offices that will be up for election at the end of this year for the 2022 calendar year. We have decided to sub-divide the Board positions in order to make it less work for each office holder. The society is looking to fill two Co-President positions and two Co-Vice President positions. Darlene is planning to stay on in a limited capacity as the Co-VP with responsibility to schedule all of the monthly programs.

Additionally, the Board discussed the possibilities of resuming live monthly meetings. One possible scenario would be to have live meetings in September and November with a Zoom-only meeting in October. One big issue that might prevent doing so is whether enough people would actually attend a live meeting during these times. With that in mind, Darlene has included a simple on-line survey with the meeting announcement email. She has requested for people to help the Board understand how much support would be in favor of live meetings resuming and also to identify those members who are interested in supporting the society by taking an active leadership role. The Board is planning to have another meeting on August 17 so Darlene has requested for members to complete their survey by August 14.

Continued below:



**IS THIS FOR YOU?**

**The American Orchid  
Society Judging  
Program**

**is seeking highly  
motivated orchid  
enthusiasts to join the  
judging ranks.**

*Work with other such people  
and help maintain our  
awards programs and  
educational efforts.*

*For more information contact us at  
[judges@aos.org](mailto:judges@aos.org)*

# Greater Akron Orchid Society



## 2021 GAOS Program Calendar

- Jan 11 Managing an Orchid Collection – David Miller
- Feb 8 Understanding Orchid Nutrition - Ray Barlow
- Mar 8 Mini-Catts: Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature – Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids
- Apr 12 Understanding Light – Cheryl Erins
- May 10 Curating an Ever-Blooming Collection – Darlene Thompson
- Jun 14 Summer Picnic  
1<sup>st</sup> Member Plant Auction
- Jul 12 “Tolumnia Species and Hybrids” with Edgar Stehli
- Aug 9 TBD
- Sep 13 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Plant Auction
- Oct 11 TBD
- Nov 8 Holiday banquet / Elections
- Dec 13 No meeting

Meeting notes continued:

The MAOC (Mid-American Orchid Congress) is holding their annual orchid show in conjunction with the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest which is to take place August 27-29 in the Greater Dayton area. There will be lots of vendors, great speakers, and other activities relating to the show. Details can be found at <http://www.midamericanorchids.org> or by going directly to <http://www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com>. The MAOC is a non-profit organization supporting over 50 orchid societies in 17 states and Canada. GAOS is a member society.

Our speaker for tonight is Tim Choltco, who is an active member of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh. His talk "Sex, Lies & Orchids" explained how many orchids use mimicry and sometimes outright deceit in mis-directing pollinators to assist orchids in pollination. His photographs were outstanding in showing how some orchid flowers look like female bees or wasps in order to attract the male pollinators. He also showed how some orchids simply use outright deceit in order to find those pollinators which may be gnats, flies, bees, wasps, moths, and sometimes even birds such as hummingbirds. For more information or to contact Tim directly, go to his website at [harbingerorchids.com](http://harbingerorchids.com).

## GAOS 2021 Dues

By Jane Bush

Greetings GAOS members and friends,

GAOS membership dues are **now due**. Dues are our biggest income and determine how much financially we can do as a society.

Attached (to the email along with this newsletter) is the correct **application for 2021**. **An application must accompany dues money**. The application is GAOS's record of your membership.

Because we are not meeting in person, you **must mail** your application and check to our treasurer Claudia.

Please note that there are some old forms of membership applications in cyber space. If you have not refreshed your browser, you may get one of these old forms. Please be sure to use the form attached to this email or the internet form that has **January 2021 (21-03)** in the bottom right corner.

Thank you for your support of GAOS through membership dues,

Jane Bush, Trustee

## Greater Akron Orchid Society Membership Application

To become a GAOS member or to renew your membership, complete the following form and present it or mail it with your payment to the society using the address below.

Dues are \$25 for a single/family membership

Make checks payable to GAOS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if you do not want your contact information on the published member list

Mail to:

**GAOS**  
830 Zeletta Dr.  
New Franklin, OH 44319



*Note – At this time, electronic or credit card payment is not available.*

## **NParks on mission to rescue critically endangered orchids**

By Audrey Tan & Mark Cheong

### **Growing number of hikers at Clementi Forest have placed two species at risk**

We would have easily missed the critically endangered orchids lining the "trail" if not for the eagle-eyed researchers pointing them out.

To prevent us - and the growing number of hikers venturing into Clementi Forest - from literally stamping these two orchid species out of existence in Singapore, the National Parks Board (NParks) staff gently prised each individual from the leaf litter and placed them into a plastic box.

We had joined NParks on an orchid rescue mission into the forest last Wednesday. The aim was to collect individuals from two rare orchid species, *Denia ophrydis* and *Zeuxine clandestina*, and nurture them at the Singapore Botanic Gardens to ensure their survival.

The numbers of both orchid species have dwindled sharply following an influx of hikers into Clementi Forest, after footage depicting it in its early morning splendour spread on social media last October.

Clementi Forest sits on land zoned for residential use. The Government said in January that the site will still be earmarked for this purpose although there was no immediate need to develop it.

Nature enthusiasts hope the plot can be rezoned as a nature park - but Singapore residents could be loving the forest to the detriment of its inhabitants.

"People enjoy Singapore's nature areas for their ambience," acknowledged Mr Lua Hock Keong, deputy director of NParks' National Biodiversity Centre, and one of the researchers on the trip.

"But many are often not aware that these green spaces have biodiversity too."



### **SENSITIVE PLANTS**

The common snout orchid (*Denia ophrydis*) was once presumed nationally extinct until it was rediscovered in Clementi Forest in 2011 by an NParks team that included Mr Lua during a biodiversity survey.

Today, that forest and the Nee Soon Swamp Forest are the only places where this orchid is known to persist. But human impact is taking a toll.

Before hikers turned up in droves, Mr Lua had counted about 50 of the plants clustered at one site. Later, he went back and found fewer than 20. By March, just one remained.

NParks staff such as Mr Ang Wee Foong, centre director of the Seed Bank, often make trips to Singapore's forests and nature areas to source materials such as seeds or plant cuttings that will allow them to nurture future generations of native plants.

On these trips, parent plants are left behind. But last Wednesday's visit was different. It was a salvage mission to rescue as many orchids as they could find. The plainness of both orchid species makes them the wallflowers of their natural habitats.

A tropical rainforest assaults the senses - birds call, humidity clings to the skin, plants outdo one another with large, showy leaves, and streams gleam with an oily sheen. This sheen, we learnt from NParks' group director of conservation Lim Liang Jim, is "forest kombucha".

Microbes in the water break down organic matter such as dead leaves, making these nutrients available once again to the rest of the forest. The oil on the surface is a by-product of these processes, he explained.

These orchids are ground-dwelling species, unlike their showier cousins that tend to be epiphytes that grow above ground on branches and get moisture from the air, or water flowing along the branches and tree trunks during rain.

These terrestrial orchids develop a rhizomatous stem bearing short roots that worm their way through the topmost layer of fallen plant debris before reaching the soil, Mr Ang explained.

But the constant pounding of feet on this layer of topsoil can compact it - with disastrous consequences for plants like these orchids that depend on this layer to gain a foothold in the forest.

Ground orchids also rely on mycorrhiza - a type of fungus invisible to the naked eye - to help them thrive in the forest environment, Mr Lua added.

## ENSURING SURVIVAL

Last week's rescue mission was not the first for Mr Ang or Mr Lua. NParks staff have been making salvage trips since Mr Lua noticed a decline in orchid numbers.

Some of those collected earlier are now bearing seed pods.

Nature guide Ivan Kwan advises visitors to keep to existing trails.

"Even within Clementi Forest and other unofficial hiking areas, paths have already been created (due to) trampling. If people keep to these paths, the impact from high visitorship can be lessened," he said, adding that people should also not litter, or feed or harass wildlife.

"It's great that more people are taking the time to enjoy nature in Singapore, but we need to be careful and make sure we don't love our green spaces to death."

Hello everyone! I wanted to share a little project I've been working on. Maybe some of you are familiar with the Terra Base by DOOA, a Japanese brand that has amazing aquascaping and terrarium goodies.

Unfortunately, it's too difficult and expensive to get one where I live, so I decided to make my own! I caulked up the bottom of a terracotta, cylindrical pot and wrapped Java moss around it. This will act as substrate for the plants I had planned to add on top. I secured everything with cotton thread (I only had blue so, it looks a little stark still). You fill the pot with water and it keeps everything nicely moist through evaporation.

On top of the Java moss, I added ferns and different types of small orchids. I use this as a "nursery" for some of my orchids that are struggling, or I accidentally broke off, and interestingly enough, they are recovering! I also added a rim of terrestrial moss to the top of the pot so it will hopefully spread around. The idea of this pot is that the top will be a bit drier than the bottom, so if the orchid needs more humidity, it will go on the lower side of the pot.

I hope you like it or even give it a try! It has been super fun to do this and see it grow! – Nichole Fiorentino



# Photo Gallery

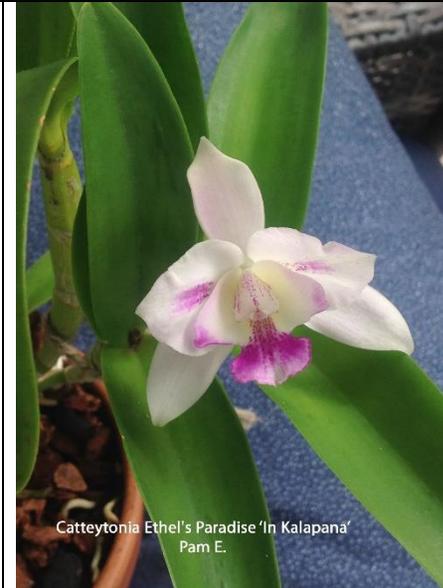
Home Displays  
Aug 2021



*Paphiopedilum Lynleigh Koopowitz*  
Jaret A.



*Braselostele Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'*  
Jaret A.



*Cattleytonia Ethel's Paradise 'In Kalapana'*  
Pam E.



*Cattleya warszewiczii var. sanderiana*  
Jaret A.



*Cattleya warszewiczii* var. *sanderiana*  
Jaret A.



*Clivia Denigratum* 'SVO Excellence' X *Chuck Taylor* 'SVO Sunshine'  
Chester K.



*Habenaria*  
Mandy B.



Bulb Thai Spider  
B86



*Lycaste balliae*  
Frank S.



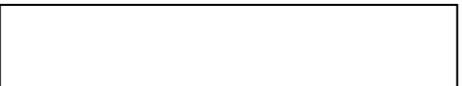
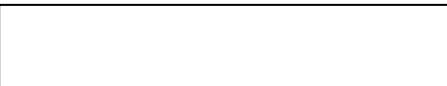
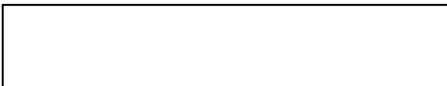
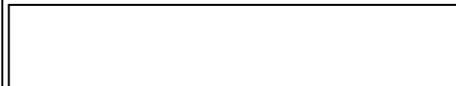
*Oncidium Burgundian* 'Too Sweet'  
Jaret A.



*Odontoglossum Pacific Paranoia* 'Other Side of Cool'  
Bernie S.



*Odontoglossum Pacific Paranoia* 'Other Side of Cool'  
Bernie S.





Zygolum Louisedorf 'Littlefrog Inda Moonlight' AM/AOS  
Dave M.



Phal. Kenneth Schubert x violacea 'Mademoiselle Bleu'  
Chester K.



Phal bellina 'Star'  
Lore Y.



Phal violacea var Indigo  
Chester K.



Phalaenopsis Mituo Love 'Rainbow' AM/AOS  
Jaret A.



Phrag. Margo's Pinky  
Chester K.



Prosthechea cochleata  
Pam E.



Psychopast Menehall 'Hidos' FCC/AOS  
Dave M.