



The Fringe

Newsletter of the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society

<https://nativeorchidpreservationeducationsociety.com>

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Cypripedium reginae - Showy Lady's Slipper

photo by John Jaworski

Letter from the President

Greetings Everyone,

Spring is gone and now summer is here. I hope some of you have seen orchids in your neck of the woods this spring. If not more can be found this summer and fall in your respective areas with the added bonus of being in bloom.

A few of our members saw orchids during the Native Orchid Conference (NOC) Symposium in Wisconsin this past June. The symposium offers two days of great speakers and two days of orchid field trips. Some years are better than others depending on the climate conditions. The NOC is another way of learning about native orchids and networking with other like-minded individuals and organizations. It's a great way to see and learn about native orchids in other regions in the United States and Canada.

Please contact me or any other board members if you have questions. Some of your questions may have already been answered in our newsletters which are available on our website. Please consider being on the board or joining committees to help make our organization a better one.

Have a great summer and enjoy those native orchids that might even be in your backyard.

Best Regards

John Jaworski

Field Trips

As mentioned previously, this has been a difficult year to plan trips with Ohio orchids running 2-3 weeks early and Michigan running 2 weeks late in the northern region. We are giving a range of dates for our upcoming field trips. A few trips we have planned dates

If you are possibly interested in any of these, please email Jeanne at jeanws@me.com. We will email when actual dates are confirmed for any with a range of dates

Bletia (Hexalectris) spicata - Crested Coral-Root: The trip will be to Lynx Prairie in Ohio Saturday July 11.

Platanthera psycodes - Small Purple Fringed Orchid, in Cheboygan, Michigan Wednesday July 22

Platanthera ciliaris - Yellow Fringed Orchid and *Platanthera integrilabia* - Monkey-face Orchid, last week of July – 1st week of August

Malaxis unifolia - Green Adder's-Mouth and *Platanthera peramoena* Purple Fringeless Orchid end of July in Eastern Ohio

Spiranthes magnicamporum - Great Plains Ladies'-Tresses The trip will be to Lynx Prairie in Ohio in October.

Spiranthes sheviakii and *Spiranthes ochroleuca* – the trip will be to Indiana October 2

Chaparral Prairie Open House

July 25, 8 - 12

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources are holding open houses at several of the nature preserves to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. There will be various stations around the preserve including birding and various botanists. There will also be a cooling tent area.

The address is 209 Hawk Hill Rd.
West Union, OH 45693.

Chaparral Prairie is a 67 acre preserve in Adams County.



Modeling a Disappearing Habitat

Jeanne Rhinehart

Following our mission of education and conservation of native orchids, NOPES is working with the Cincinnati Nature Center to help reintroduce native orchids. They have a greenhouse that can grow seedlings for reintroduction and placement in protected areas on their properties and plantings in other areas. Teresa Huesman, Jeanne Rhinehart, and Richard Kraince PH.D. met with Cory Christopher, Jake Sberna and Robyn Brown and agreed to create a display orchid growing area including bogs and wetland areas. Our beginning educational effort includes constructing 3 bogs and an area for more alkaline loving plants.

We chose to use plastic garden pond liners in raised beds to keep the growing areas acidic. The Cincinnati area soils are alkaline ~~and~~ so we cannot allow surface runoff into the bogs. Like natural bogs these will rely on rainfall as their only water source.

The Nature Center chose a location near the greenhouse and cleared the area to sink the forms partly in the ground.



On May 9, John and Cheryl Jaworski, Ann Tsui, Teresa and John Huesman, and Jeanne and Barry Rhinehart started preparing the bogs.

We previously purchased Lava Rocks, play sand, peat moss, landscape fabric, tubing and caps for the bogs.



The lava rocks were rinsed many times before placing in the bottom with a capped pipe to allow monitoring the pH of the bog.

The clean lava rocks are covered with landscape fabric and then with sand and peat that had to be manually mixed.

At the end of the day, we thought we were ready to plant.





We came back 3 times with RO water (90 gal.) to fill the bogs and covered with pine straw to lower evaporation.



We discovered that half of the “play sand” we had purchased was not the usual silica sand but local sand which was quite alkaline. We purchased pool filter sand and more peat and had the fun job of removing what we previously put in, adding and remixing the new materials. The old mixture was spread around as fill for the area. After getting the old material out, we pumped out all the water and flushed several times before putting the new mix into the forms.





Along with adding another 90 gal of RO water, we came back and added: Rose pogonia – *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, Grass Pink – *Calopogon tuberosus*, Yellow Fringed Orchid - *Platanthera ciliaris*, Tubercled Orchid – *Platanthera flava*, Crested Yellow Orchid – *Platanthera cristata*, Copper Iris – *Iris fulva*, Northern Blue Flag Iris – *Iris versicolor*, Bog violet – *Viola lanceolata*, Cardinal Flower – *Lobelia cardinalis*, Purple Pitcher Plant - *Sarracenia purpurea*, Large Fruited Cranberry – *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, Burke's Southern Pitcher Plant - *Sarracenia purpurea venosa* v *rosea*, now *Sarracenia rosea*, Great Blue Lobelia - *Lobelia siphilitica* and Sphagnum moss .



To complete the landscaping, we added stone, topsoil, pine bark mulch and landscaping rocks. We connected the back two bogs with a wall of landscaping rocks and filled with topsoil. We then lined the interior with stone draining into the walled area to create a fen where surface runoff water can go through to our two orchids that do not want acid conditions: the Showy Lady's-Slipper - *Cypripedium regina* and Large Yellow Lady's-Slipper - *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*.





Travels This Spring

Jeanne Rhinehart

It was an unusual spring. Discovered orchids were running 3 weeks early when I missed the *Cypripediums* in Shawnee and Castalia Prairie. Gas prices, the weather, along with life challenges impacted planned trips as reports were showing smaller blooms along with differing bloom times for species that usually bloomed simultaneously. Multiple sites reported that the Large Whorled Pogonia - 20. *Isotria verticillata* plants produced no blooms this year.



Ron Parsons came into town to see the Small Whorled Pogonia - *Isotria medeoloides* in Pennsylvania and *Calypso bulbosa* in Michigan and as usual covered a lot of territory on the days around and over the Memorial Day weekend.

After picking him up at the Columbus airport, we traveled to Pennsylvania to see the Small Whorled Pogonia. It was pouring rain and because of the rare orchid's sensitive environment, only Ron went with our guide to see them and his pictures are below.

We traveled to the Upper Peninsula stopping along the way to see (pictured below): *Cypripedium reginae* - Showy Lady's Slipper was just starting at the Cedar Bog for our first stop. Waterloo Nature Preserve was our next stop to see *Arethusa bulbosa* - Dragon's Mouth Orchid, *Cypripedium acaule* - Pink Lady's-Slipper and *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin* - Northern Small Yellow Lady's-Slipper. We then traveled to Alpena to see the *Cypripedium arietinum* - Ram's Head Lady's-Slipper which was just starting to bloom. Ron also wanted to see the Dwarf Lake Iris - *Iris lacustris* so we made a stop at Thompson's Harbor. While there we noticed that the *Cypripedium*s were just coming up; they were in full bloom at this time last year.





Steve Baker agreed to show Ron and I the orchids and wildflowers in the Upper Peninsula. Weather conditions have plants in this region behind last year but luckily for us Calypso was in full bloom. Occurrences of Calypso in Michigan are very low, and we were very lucky to get to see them. We saw several of them and then Steve took us to see the Yellow trout lily – *Erythronium americanum* and Great White Trillium – *Trillium grandiflorum*.





On the way home we stopped again at Alpena to see how the Ram's Head - *Cypripedium arietinum* was progressing and it was worth the trip.



Orchid of the Month

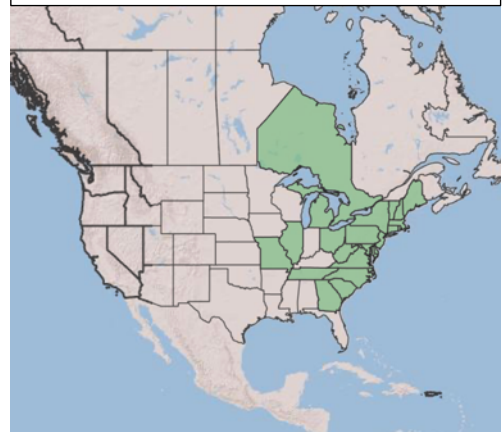
Isotria medeoloides (Pursh) Raf. Small Whorled Pogonia

Jeanne Rhinehart



The Small Whorled Pogonia - *Isotria medeoloides* has been called “the rarest species east of the Mississippi” with new discoveries covered in the media. Most of the known populations are found in Maine and New Hampshire. In the states where it has been found it is considered rare, imperiled or extirpated. It is considered threatened in the United States under the Endangered Species Act. In 1994 The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service downlisted it from endangered to threatened. There are about 104 populations around its range with most being less than 25 plants.

<https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/plant-profile/ISME2>



The name *Isotria* comes from Greek meaning “equal” and “three”. This refers to 3 sepals having about the same size and shape and arranged symmetrically. This genus has one other species *Isotria verticillata* which is more common and slightly larger.

The name *medeoloides* is Greek meaning like a *Medeola*. This is because it is very similar to the common Indian Cucumber-root *Medeola virginiana*.



Isotria verticillata - Large Whorled pogonia
Photo by Jeanne Rhinehart



Medeola virginiana - Indian Cucumber-root
Photo by Angela Carter

It's description from the Flora of North America:
Herbs, singly or rarely in small clumps, short-rhizomatous, 4–25 cm. Stems pale grayish green, glaucous; scales 2–4, near soil line, white to light green. Leaves pale grayish green; blade elliptic-obovate, 17–85 × 8–40 mm, apex acuminate, glaucous when young. Flowers subsessile, without nectar and fragrance; sepals arching, green to light green, linear-oblongate, 12–25 × 2–3 mm; petals light green, oblanceolate, 12–18 × 2–4 mm; lip light yellowish green to pale greenish white, streaked with green, obovate, 11–16 × 4–5 mm, lateral lobes narrowly triangular, margins involute, middle lobe rounded, margins slightly revolute, undulate; callus yellowish green, longitudinal, becoming elongate, with fleshy, wartlike papillae toward apex; column 8–10 mm; ovary 10–15 mm; rostellar flap reduced. Capsules 12–28 × 2–10 mm; pedicel of mature capsule elongating to 5–17(–20, rarely) mm. $2n = 18$.

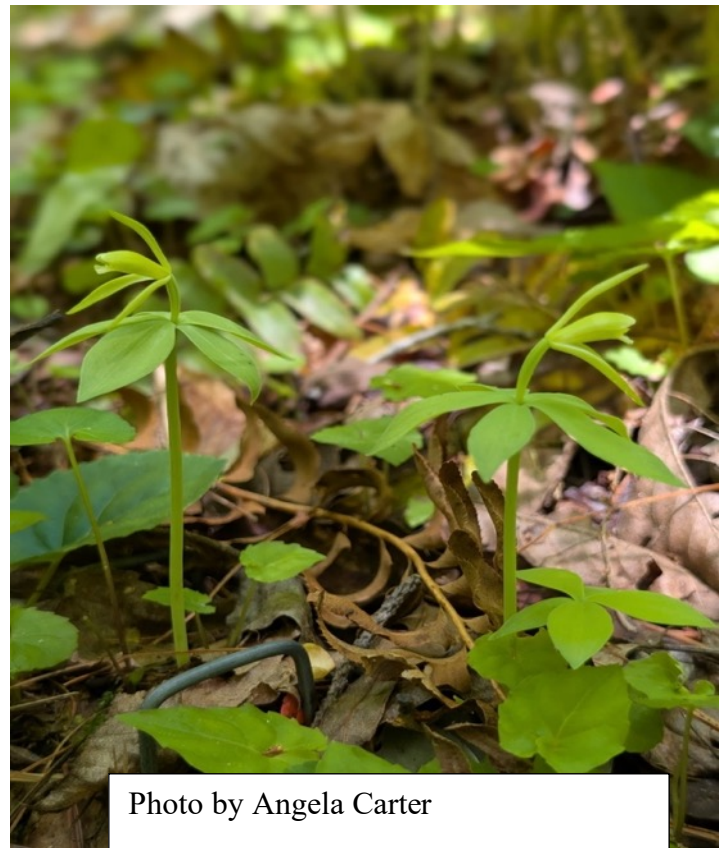


Photo by Angela Carter

Photo by Jun Lao



Its habitat is mostly hardwood and mixed forested regions where there is light, moisture and soil fungi. Most plants today are found in the Appalachian Mountains and Coastal Plains from Maine to Georgia and west through to Ohio, Michigan Tennessee and Illinois. It has disappeared from Missouri and Western Ontario.

The forests contain hemlock, beech, oak and pine with plants sometimes found near witch hazel. They are generally located in southern exposure slopes with cool temperatures, adequate light and moisture and acidic soils many times

with leaf litter and decaying wood.

Soils with an abundance of *Russulaceae* fungi along with light from an opening of the overhead canopy of trees have shown related to the emergence of plants and blooming according to the 5-year review by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2022 with their reporting on its life cycle as pictured below.

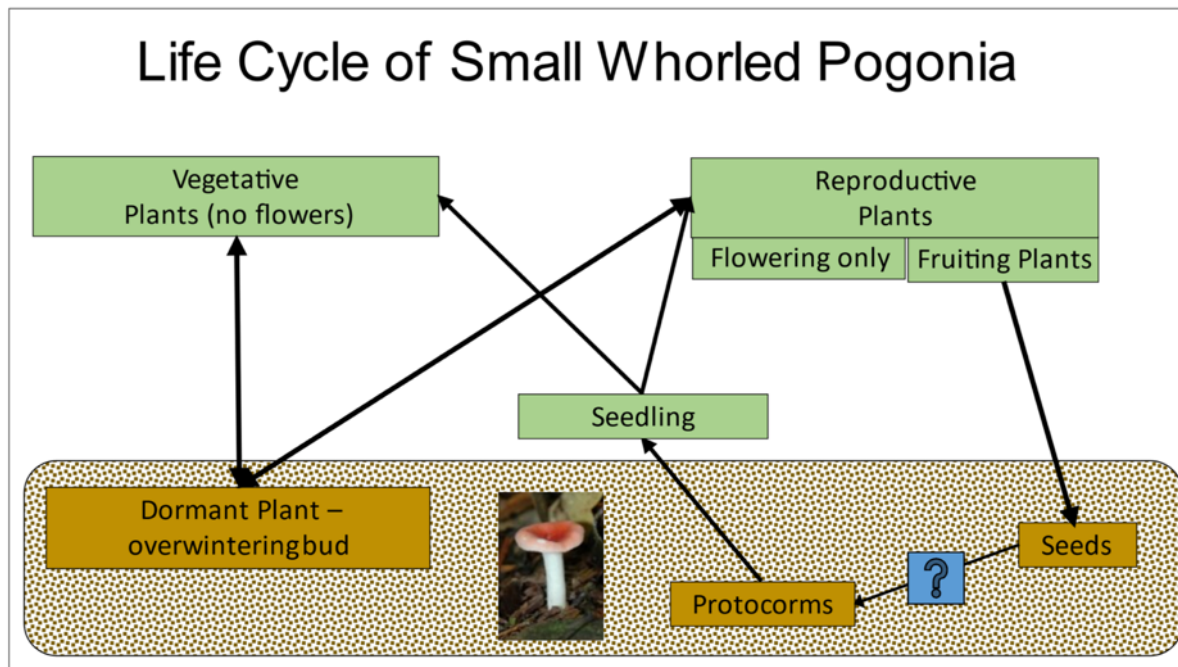


Figure 3. Life cycle of small whorled pogonia. Stages in brown boxes occur underground; stages in green boxes are above ground. All stages require mycorrhizal fungi.

One of the probable reasons for its threatened status is due to its small size, growth habit and short bloom time making it hard to see. It also has been found to disappear underground for long periods of time. This tendency has been noted for years. Donovan Stewart Correll stated “It has one of the longest resting periods of any of our eastern orchids, during which time it remains dormant underground and sends up no leaves or flowers – at least ten and possibly twenty years elapsing from one blooming seasons to another.”

After the flower opens it pollen emerges from the anther contacting its stigma making it successful at self-pollination. Thus, it does not need a pollinator for reproduction (autogamous).



Photo by Angela Carter

References:

Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Annapolis, Maryland, August 2022,

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plants database, <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/plant-profile/ISME2>.

Flora of North America, http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=242101723.