



The Fringe

Newsletter of the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society

<https://nativeorchidpreservationeducationsociety.com>

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What's Inside:

Letter from the President	1
Field Trips	1
2022 Annual Field Trip	2
NOPEs Proposed Structure	6
Early Spring Hikes	7
Pan's Garden	7
Winton Woods Aplectrum	8
Michigan Native Orchid Conference	9
Pubescens Reintroduction	9
My FIRST Ohio Native Orchid Adventure	10
OCA Native Orchid Trip	13
Tennessee Trip	13
The Carolinas Trip	17
Orchid of the Month	21
Conservation Corner	22
Membership	23
Membership Form	24

Letter from the President

Just some thoughts as we say goodbye to 2022 and welcome in 2023.



What a wonderful year! With vaccines being available we were able to come together and venture out in small groups to enjoy what we like best... finding orchids in new places and meeting others who also share our love of orchids. We also continue to work on conversation, education and the best part we continue to learn more out about our favorite subject.

Orchids!

With the new year we will work with our Advisory board to help us be successful with our conservation efforts and our members as we continue to educate others about native orchids and the special places where they grow and the need to protect them.

We will be coming out soon with our Field Trips for the coming year. Some of the trips will be close by and others will be further away. I hope to see many of you in 2023!

The schedule is not set, so please contact me if you have some requests or ideas on where we go or what orchids you would like to see.

Sincerely,
Teresa Huesman

Field Trips

Apr. 29	Davis Memorial and Wilderness Trail, Ohio. Showy Orchis (<i>Galearis spectabilis</i>), Pink Lady's Slipper (<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>), Yellow Lady's Slipper (<i>Cypripedium pubescens</i>), and maybe Putty Root (<i>Aplectum hyemale</i>) - [May 6: Backup date]
May 19	Fort Hill, Ohio. Putty Root (<i>Aplectum hyemale</i>), alba form, and Shining Ladies' Tresses (<i>Spiranthes lucida</i>)
Early Jun.	Daniel Boone Forest, Kentucky. Small Spreading Pogonia (<i>Cleisteslopsis bifaria</i>)
Jun. 8- 9	Mohican State Park - Round-leaved Orchid (<i>Platanthera orbiculata</i>) Browns Lake Bog - Rose Pogonia (<i>Pogonia ophioglossoides</i>) Lawrence Woods - Northern Tubercled Orchid (<i>Platanthera flava</i>). If any are interested, we can stay overnight locally
Jun. 24 - 25	Cranberry Glades, West Virginia. Greater Purple Fringed Orchid (<i>Platanthera grandiflora</i>), Rose Pogonia (<i>Pogonia ophioglossoides</i>), Grass Pink (<i>Calopogon tuberosus</i>), Round-leaved Orchid (<i>Platanthera orbiculata</i>), Lily-leaved Twayblade (<i>Liparis liliifolia</i>), Loesl's Twayblade (<i>Liparis loeselli</i>), Shining Ladies' Tresses (<i>Spiranthes lucida</i>), Northern Tubercled Orchid (<i>Platanthera flava v herbiola</i>)
Jul. 8-15	Native Orchid Conference - Upper Peninsula, Michigan
Aug. 8	Hazeldell and Daniel Boone Forest, Kentucky. Yellow Fringed Orchid (<i>Platanthera ciliaris</i>) and White Fringeless Orchid (<i>Platanthera integrilabia</i>)
Sept-Oct	Spiranthes species

2022 Annual Field Trip

- Jun Lao

This year's long distance field trip brought us even further than the 6-hour drive to Cranberry Glades, West Virginia, last year. This year's field trip took us to an 8-10 hour drive to eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It was a three-day field trip to three different locations – a guided tour of the orchid conservation work being done at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, then an orchid hike at Valmont Bog to see a nature preserve in the middle of factories and warehouses and under power lines, then a guided hike into the New Jersey Pine Barrens, to see a number of bog orchids and plants. Nine NOPES members were able to join the field trip.

Longwood Gardens

Day 1's venue was at the renowned Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, close to Delaware. We arranged for a visit for Monday, July 25, with a guided tour of the orchid conservation work they were doing. With Dr. Peter Zale out collecting and not available, we were under the capable hands of Ashley Clayton, who is a research specialist that works on Dr. Zale's team, and is the lead on their Valmont Bog project.

Longwood Gardens' Orchid Conservation Program has helped conservation efforts by developing technologies to grow large seedling populations of native orchids for the purpose of restoring native orchid populations, both for planting in our backyards and back into native habitats. It is hoped that as we continue our work in NOPES on orchid conservation, we can tie up with them to learn habitat restoration and potentially as a source of native orchids to put back into habitats where they once were.

Given the tight space in the lab, we were asked to split into two groups, with each group being brought to the lab, to show where the orchid seeds were being germinated and flasked, and later shown the greenhouses where orchid seedlings (native and tropical) were grown, and a small plot of outdoor land where some of the native orchids, such as *Platantheras*, were being grown.



Orchid germinating in a test tube (above), and their germination area (below).



Orchid seedlings transplanted into pots. All images above by Jan Yates.

While one group was in the guided tour, the other group was wandering around the indoor space nearby and their awarded restrooms, which blended in with the surroundings.



The space also happened to include the newly renovated and expanded Orchid House (above image by Jan Yates). As per their website, "Transformed into an open, gallery-like space — boasting a new glass roof to restored interior and exterior concrete — the Orchid House provides an immersive orchid-viewing experience like never before. Hundreds of orchids lovingly displayed in custom frame trellises and our restored bronze case dazzle and delight, showcasing the beauty and diversity of our renowned orchid collection. With our curated orchids hand-selected five times per week for rotating display, there's always something new—and something breathtakingly beautiful—to see." It was a very nice, very open, and airy space where the walls had blooming orchids from all over the world.

The Longwood Gardens grounds is an amazing space. After our guided tour, we were allowed to wander the grounds, and we went around and appreciated the many plants in bloom around the grounds, including a nice display of bonsai near the Orchid House.



We also waited for their main fountain garden performance, which definitely did not disappoint. The very large open square had 1,719 water fountain jets, and they were synchronized to music, soaring as high as 175 feet, with the show lasting 12-minutes.

Valmont Bog

Day 2's venue was more of our typical native orchid hikes. We went to Valmont Bog Preserve, an unobtrusive location in the middle of factories and warehouses in Northeast Pennsylvania – not a site that you would think would have native orchids. It was a short hike on a maintenance road to the power line cut where Bob Sprague, president of the Native Orchid Conference (NOC), was there to accompany us. Bob frequently visits Valmont Bog.

A lot of conservation work has gone into the place, with tall brush and invasives being removed recently, allowing more of the orchids and native plants to flourish. Collaboration has also been done with the power company so that any maintenance work done there is reviewed to ensure the habitat is not damaged by workers or vehicles.



Two NOPEs members have previously been here, but for most, this was an experience to see so many White Fringed Orchids (*Platanthera blephariglottis*, above), an orchid that has not been seen in the wild in the state of Ohio for several years now, and if not seen in the wild in the state by 2024, will be considered extirpated.

In this area, there was previously the Yellow Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) blooming at the same time as the White, and this led to a hybrid swarm as the plants cross-bred and back-crossed, with the help of pollinators.



The hybrid, *Platanthera x bicolor* (the “x” indicates it is a natural hybrid), comes in different shades – from white, off-white, butter cream, butterscotch, to orange (see above).



One interesting fact that Bob shared with us is that the Yellow Fringed Orchid has not been seen for a few years now – where it was located before was dug up to create a channel to allow the water to flow through the area and not clog up – otherwise this would create a stagnant swamp. We did see a few orange fringed orchids (above), but DNA analysis done of these plants by the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Maryland, showed that these were *Platanthera x bicolor*. There is suspicion that there is no longer any pure *Platanthera ciliaris* in the area.

In a hybrid swarm like this, every plant is suspect, and even the white fringed orchids could be back-crosses and could not be conclusively *Platanthera blephariglottis* unless they are really pure white and confirmed by DNA analysis.

This is similar to the situation in Castalia, where the White Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) and its hybrid with the Northern Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum var makasin*), grow together, forming *Cypripedium x andrewsii*, and there are back-crosses where the flowers look very much like the White Lady's Slipper, but the plant is tall, and resembles the Yellow Lady's Slipper (White Lady's Slipper plants tend to be quite low to the ground). The amount of hybridization going on in Valmont Bog is being studied and monitored by SERC and Longwood Gardens.

New Jersey Pine Barrens

Day 3 of the field trip brought us a few hours' drive to southern New Jersey into the Pine Barrens or Pinelands. This is a large area in the state where the land's elevation is only slightly higher than sea level, and thus the land is usually kept damp or wet by the river water that runs through (think of the Everglades in Florida, but with more dry land). Here, the land had previously been used to create cranberry bogs that were a little lower than the surroundings, and where water is introduced to flood the area when it is time to harvest the cranberries.



Some of the land that were previously cranberry bogs have been abandoned and are now protected areas, and some bog plants can be found in the area. We saw sundews, pitcher plants, yellow and purple bladderworts, yellow-eyed grass, white water lilies, swamp azaleas, and Appalachian milkworts (*above*), among others.

The one thing about the Pine Barrens is that it is recommended that you have a guide with you, and that 4x4 vehicles are used, as when we were in the thick of the barrens, we were restricted to only 2 vehicles, and the "roads" were basically dirt fire roads, built primarily for fire vehicles to go in, in the event of a wildfire. The "roads" were usually muddy, and it was easy to get lost.

While researching for the trip, there were YouTube videos talking about the Jersey Devil, and about people who got lost in the Pine Barrens. Good thing we had Bob, who lived in this area when he was younger, and you could see he was navigating by looking at certain trees to know which "road" to go into.

We had to keep the rear-view mirrors tucked in, as the space was just enough for a vehicle, and you could hear the surrounding brush scraping the sides of the vehicles.



Why this effort to go in? Aside from the bog-type plants that were there, some of which we haven't seen before, such as white sabatia (a gentian), there were also a number of orchids in the area. The first one we saw were White Fringed Orchids, *Platanthera blephariglotis* (*above*), and we had to make sure we did not step on some of them along the trail. We were then led to the Club Spur Orchids, *Platanthera clavellate* (*below*), which showed lighter colored green flowers, a little different from the ones we've seen in Ohio.



As we went through a muddy area that was likely a cranberry bog before (*above*), and that would be under water during spring, we saw the plants that we were unfamiliar with – bog asphodel and white sabatia or short-leaf gentian (*below*).



After crossing over to "drier" land, we caught sight of bright yellow-orange flowers on short plants – the other native orchid in the area – the Crested Orange Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera cristata*, *below*). From a distance, you'd think they were Yellow Fringed Orchids, but as you got closer, you'll see that they had a brighter, yellower hue, and the flowers were quite small.





Close-up of a Crested Fringed Orchid flower.

Bob brought us to another location, and went ahead of us to scout – unfortunately, there was only one plant of the Yellow Fringeless Orchid (*Platanthera integra*), and it was still in spike. This is a rare plant for New Jersey, as it is a disjunct population here, whereas the other populations are in the southeastern US and the Gulf Coast. It was a shame not being able to see this plant in bloom.



We were brought to another location to see a number of pure White Fringed Orchids by the roadside, and these were part of the monitoring study by SERC of a pure species population. The other plant that made this area special was the Orange Milkwort (*above*) – which stood out from the grassy surroundings by their bright orange flower clusters that looked like drumheads (we were warned though that the area had ticks, so we were there only for a short while).

Our lunch stop was a local roadside hot dog stand that was being operated by a teacher, and this was what she did during summer break, when school was out.



Our last site for the day was close to an operating cranberry bog. Here we saw White Fringed Orchids again, but out in the open, there were these yellow small fringed orchids together with a few orange ones – this was a hybrid swarm of *Platanthera x canbyi*, the natural hybrid of White Fringed (*Platanthera blephariglottis*) and Crested Orange Fringed (*Platanthera cristata*) orchids.



This was a treat, as the plants looked like bright yellow or creamy versions of the Crested Orange Fringed Orchid. Interestingly, toward the end of the swarm where the White Fringed Orchids were, was a similarly tall one that had an off-white color – a back-cross of the hybrid to the White Fringed orchid.

We were blessed with good weather during our trip – no rain the whole three days we were there, whereas there was rain the days before. Big thanks go to Bob Sprague for bringing us and guiding us to the sites in the New Jersey Pine Barrens area, and providing a great bit of background on Valmont Bog.

Thanks also go to Ashley Clayton for hosting us at Longwood Gardens, and to Dr Peter Zale who extended the invitation for the group to visit Longwood Gardens, and provided complementary tickets to our group. Thanks also go to our Jan Yates, for making the connection with Bob through the NOC, and coordinating our schedules and guided hikes with him.

NOPES Proposed Structure

Jun Lao

Since the organization has been functioning for a few years, it might be best to structure the society so as to better serve its purpose. In that regard, we propose that the following structure be put into effect:



While we may be a small organization, it may be best to focus a few people toward the objectives of Education and Preservation, as in the society's charter.

Education Committee

The Education Committee aims to increase awareness and information of North American native orchids and the need to conserve their habitats, as well as expand the membership to have more people interested in native orchids and in conserving them.

To accomplish this, we will:

- Have an updated database of native orchids in the states that we cover, with locations (limited distribution);
- Publish a newsletter that updates the membership of activities and the latest in native orchid news;
- Tap onto guides for each state for the members and general public; and
- Arrange for annual member meetings and look for speakers that would talk on topics of interest to the membership.

Preservation Committee

The Preservation Committee aims to increase awareness and encourage/provide/support activities that will help conserve the habitats that native orchids need to flourish.

To accomplish this, we will:

- Monitor the health of habitats and the orchid populations therein for the areas that we cover;
- Encourage and support member activities aimed at conserving or improving the habitats where native orchids are located (such as removal of invasives, habitat restoration, etc), including rescuing plants in areas that are scheduled for development/habitat destruction, and relocating or planting them in areas where they can thrive;
- Work with landowners and organizations to conserve natural areas where native orchids grow, such as state DNRs, land trusts, and the like, such as the Nature Conservancy; and,
- Work with individuals or groups to germinate and grow native orchids from seed, especially those that are threatened in their areas, for planting in appropriate habitats.

Hikes

This will organize hikes for our members to better expose them to the habitat and the native orchids that grow there. This will serve both the Education of our members and the general public, as well as help the Preservation of the orchids here by doing counts of the orchids in these areas and monitoring the health of the populations.

Scientific Advisory Board

We also are proposing a Scientific Advisory Board to help guide us with their expertise.

Candidates for the Advisory Council would be proposed by members or officers/board directors of NOPES. The candidate members of the Council would then be voted on and approved by the officers/board of directors, and said candidate members would then be approached if they are willing to serve as members of the Advisory Council. There is no cap to the number of members of the Advisory Council, but would be a manageable number (5-10).

Members of the Advisory Council will serve at the pleasure of the Officers/Board Directors, and will be tapped to provide their expertise and counsel when needed, and may be called to attend meetings of the Officers/Board. No remuneration will be provided to members of the Council. Said members of the

Advisory Council will be selected and approved based on their expertise in areas that will help advance the objectives of the organization. Three experts have already agreed to be members of the advisory board.

Right now, Board directors and officers will lead these units, but we would like to have members become members of the Preservation, Education, and Hikes committees, and eventually, maybe lead them. – Jun Lao

Early Spring Hikes

Teresa Huesman

We have had two winter hikes this year to look for native Orchid leaves. Our first hike was on February 11 at Bull's Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum.



This was our first time at this Middletown site. We were there only a few minutes when we found some *Aplectrum hyemale* leaves, also known as the Puttyroot orchid. This orchid blooms late May.



Our second hike on March 11 was at the Rinsky Nature Preserve in Clermont County. This is a unique environment where we were able to find several sites with *Tipularia discolor* leaves. This orchid blooms in July.



Our next hike will be April 29th, where we will see beautiful spring flowering orchids. We hope that you will be joining us!

Pan's Garden

Flower White

If you decide to look for Native Wildflowers in South Florida the last week of April or the 1st week of May during a drought, Good Luck! But there is one place that harbors Native Plants and they bloom because they are watered and that is Pan's Garden, 386 Hibiscus Ave., Palm Beach, FL 33480. The first time I went to Pan's Garden, I saw 3 new-to-me native orchids blooming: *Bletia purpurea* - Pine-Pink; *Prosthechea cochleata* - Clamshell Orchid (way high up in a tree); and *Sacoila lanceolata* - Leafless Beaked Ladies

Tresses (pictured below in order). Pan's Garden is free and if you go multiple times, you can learn the flower in its bud, bloom and fruit stages and then if you are out in the wild, you will have learned to recognize the flower in a similar habitat in one of its stages that you would have otherwise just passed by because it is so well camouflaged.



Winton Woods *Aplectrum*

Jeanne Rhinehart

Jan Yates and I checked the area in Winton Woods where we have been tracking the number of plants for the last several years. This year looks to be the best year yet with 26 locations containing 144 leaves and 14 seed pods.



This compares to 2021 figures: 21 locations and 119

leaves. The area contains more fallen ash trees some of which may have covered some plants. The opened region is allowing invasive euonymus and honeysuckle shrubs.

Michigan Native Orchid Conference July 8th – 13th

Jan Yates

Michigan's Upper Peninsula is tantalizingly close for an extended orchid hunt if you have a few days available. Drive time is roughly eight hours from the Cincinnati area and it has been on the wish list for many of us. Fortunately, it is this year's site for the Native Orchid Conference annual symposium – two



days of lectures in Marquette and three days of hiking in the area around St. Ignace, running from July 8-13th. If you're a list person, this area at this time is home to large colonies of Grass Pinks, Arethusa, Rose Pogonia,



White-fringed Orchid, Bog Candles and the Green Bog orchid. And if you're also a birder, the UP is home to more than 300 species, including the Kirtland's warbler.

Registration is open now with an attendance limit of 100 people. For additional information, see the Native Orchid Conference web site,

<https://www.nativeorchidconference.org>

Pubescens Reintroduction

Ken Mettler

In the fall of 2020, NOPES purchased and placed nine artificially propagated seedlings of Large



Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*) at a protected nature preserve near Sugar Grove, Ohio. This site is owned by the Appalachia





Ohio Alliance (AOA), which has over 15,000 acres of land in various forms of conservation. This site has one existing wild *Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens* plant.

In the spring of 2021, one of these plants bloomed and set a seed pod. In the spring of 2022, a different seedling bloomed, but did not set seed.

In the fall of 2021, NOPES purchased and planted another group of *Cyp. parviflorum var. pubescens* at another nature preserve owned by AOA. The plants grew but did not bloom during the 2022 growing season. This site is within ten miles of the previous site, and it is known that *Cyp parviflorum var. pubescens* grew wild on this site in the 1960s and 1970s, but it is believed that all the wild plants were poached. The reintroduced plants are fenced to prevent deer predation, and the locations are kept confidential in an attempt to protect the plants.

Also, in the spring of 2022, NOPES purchased and planted two groups of Showy Lady's Slippers (*Cyp. reginae*) at another AOA nature preserve near the Scioto River. Wild populations of this species were formerly known to exist in this county.

The goal of these reintroductions is to establish plants that can naturally pollinate and serve as a seed source

that may be able to re-colonize lands where these species were previously known, or reasonably expected, to be a part of the ecosystem.

“My FIRST Ohio Native Orchid Adventure”

By Ron Parsons

Okay, “adventure” might be a bit of a stretch, but we most definitely had a blast! Earlier this year. Eric Sauer, of the “Ohio Valley Orchid Fest”, asked my co-author, Mary Gerritsen and me if we could come and speak at the event. I had met Eric in 2015 when he asked me to speak at the Miami Valley Orchid Society in Dayton, Ohio. I have been wanting to return, so both Mary and I agreed. The event was scheduled for late August, and Mary and I took a ‘torturous’ red-eye flight to Columbus to arrive bleary-eyed early on Friday August 26th. To backtrack a bit, when Eric asked us to speak, I asked him if there were any native orchids to be seen (which is something I always do when I speak out of state). Happily, Eric said yes, and started to arrange plans for us. Luckily for us, he was able to find a couple of native orchid nuts (not the edible kind), and asked Jeanne and Barry Rhinehart if they would consider showing us around. Most generously, they were waiting for us at the Columbus airport, and we started off in our dazed state to our first native orchid site.



After a hearty breakfast, Jeanne and Barry took to our first destination, the beautiful and tranquil Wahkeenah Nature Preserve in Fairfield County. After meeting the witty Tom Schisler, he proceeded to show us the orchid species he knew were still with flowers. Very close by was the one and only *Tipularia discolor* to be seen, in

pretty good condition. I had seen this species before in better shape, but who am I to complain? It was the first one I'd seen since I switched to digital photography in 2009 (yes, I was one of the last hold-outs) so I was pleased.



I was especially excited at the prospect of seeing *Corallorhiza odontorhiza* (the Autumn Coralroot), a species I had not seen before except in photos. No one was certain we'd find any, but our new friends managed to find two inflorescences. I was hoping they would be the proud type with semi-open flowers, but unfortunately, these were of the cleistogamous sort, too bashful to show anything except their ready-made seedpods. Regardless, I was happy to have "met" them. Nearby, there were a couple *Goodyera pubescens* with decent flowers. After going to the visitor's center there, and spending the last bit of time with



Tom, we took off for our next stop. Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserve in Clark County was another total surprise. The trails were excellent, but after descending an extended staircase, an elaborate boardwalk nearly



encircled a most beautiful fen! I knew we were going to see another new orchid to Mary and I, but because I love other wildflowers also, we were pleasantly surprised to see species like the two Touch-me-nots or Jewelweeds (*Impatiens pallida* and *I. capensis*), two blue Lobelia species (*L. siphilitica* and *L. kalmii*), Obedient plant or False Dragonhead (*Physostegia virginiana*), a Grass-of-Parnassus species (*Parnassia glauca*) and False Foxglove (*Agalinis tenuifolia*). Unfortunately, the boardwalk seemed to terminate too soon, but I was able to see a few Roundleaf Sundew plants (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and the object of our desire, a couple *Spiranthes incurva*!





The day was starting to age, so Jeanne and Barry dropped us off on some corner of who knows where to fend for ourselves. Actually, maybe they wanted to but they took us to the Orchid Fest to have a look around and prove to Eric we had made it there. From there they took us out for a wonderful (actually I thought incredible) Thai meal and brought us to our hotel after, with plans for the morrow. Jeanne wasn't certain we'd



be up for more native orchid stuff the next morning (at this point she still didn't know me very well), and although we had to be at the orchid event by the afternoon, Mary and I both were more than happy to add one last species to our list.



Saturday morning, after a quick breakfast we headed off to the Cox Arboretum in Montgomery County, part of the Five Rivers MetroParks system. An arboretum might seem to be an unusual place to go looking for native orchids but this one is special in that in addition to the planted areas it has some native woodlands. Eric is associated with the arboretum, so therefore he knew that there was a second *Spiranthes* species in flower for us to see, *S. lacera*, and told our hosts how to find them. Jeanne and Barry invited their very knowledgeable orchid bud, Jun Lao. After a short walk, the five of us found a small colony of the orchid in flower, and as with most orchids, once the habitat is fixed in one's brain, we spotted some more on our way out.

I have to say that although these weren't the most exciting orchids to see, any orchid is a good orchid, so we were pleased to see them. Even more importantly than the orchids though were the friendships I gained with Jeanne and Barry, and we have already made plans for my return in May of 2023. That will be an adventure that I am already looking forward to! Much appreciation and thanks go to Jeanne and Barry for their

thoughtfulness and generosity, and to Eric for making this happen in the first place.



The Orchid Conservation Alliance Orchids in the Wild Tour Native Orchids of Ohio and Neighboring States

The Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA) is grassroots 501(c)3 organization founded in 2005. The focus of the OCA is raising money to conserve land in orchid-rich regions of the world, and since its inception the OCA has raised close to \$1,000,000 to support the creation and expansion of 7 orchid reserves. One of our primary fundraising activities involves taking people on *Orchids in the Wild Ecotours*, introducing orchid lovers to the wonders of seeing orchids growing in their natural habitats in countries around the globe. Previous trips have visited Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, China, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar, South Africa, France, Greece, Italy and Switzerland. In 2023, for the first time, the OCA has organized a native orchid tour with Jeanne Rhinehart and Angela Carter of the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society. The dates of the tour are May 14-25, 2023.

The Ohio Valley is home to over 50 orchid species, including some of the most spectacular in North

America. We have planned a tour and dates that will maximize the number of slipper orchid species that we expect to see. The area we will visit is home to *Cypripedium acaule*, *C. acaule* var. *alba*, *C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens*, *C. parviflorum* var. *makasin*, *C. kentuckiense*, *C. candidum*, and *C. x andrewsii* as well as many other lovely orchid species, such as *Galearis spectabilis*, *Isotria verticillata*, *Spiranthes lucida*, *Aplectrum hyemale* var. *pallida*, and *Neottia cordata*. The Ohio Valley also has several famous historical sites including the Serpend Mound, Fort Hill Earthworks, the Portsmouth Murals, Kelley's Island, the Glacial Grooves and the Marblehead Lighthouse, all of which are featured on our tour. Other flowers and interesting plants will include the endemic Lakeside Daisies (*Tetaneuris herbacea*), lupines, azaleas (*Osmundia claytoniana*), and [Forest Lousewort](#) (*Pedicularis canadensis*). Our tour begins in Columbus, Ohio, travels south and west to bordering Kentucky, north and west to neighboring Michigan, and ends in Buffalo, New York, with the spectacular Niagara Falls as the finale. Our small group will be traveling in a minibus and staying at very nice hotels near the reserves and conservation sites. Our guides, Angela Carter and Jeanne Rhinehart, both live in the Ohio Valley, are active in NOPES, and know all the best sites to see these orchids and other wildflowers. We will visit several conservation reserves and areas that not open to the public. For more information about the tour and to register, please go to:

<https://orchidconservationalliance.org/ohio/>

Tennessee Trip

Jeanne Rhinehart

Several NOPES members (Angela Carter, Jun Lao and Jeanne Rhinehart) made a trip to several Tennessee



Deleted: forest lousewort.

non-disclosure preserves to see *Platanthera ciliaris*, *Platanthera cristata*, *Platanthera integrilabia* and some of their hybrids. The area contained plants we could identify as the 3 species but there were many apparent hybrids. Further studies will need to be made to determine which are the parents of the various hybrids. In addition, we did find a total of 8 different species.



A part of an area with the 3 species and a probable hybrid



Spiranthes tuberosa
Photo by Angela Carter



Spiranthes lacera
Photo by Angela Carter



Spiranthes vernalis
Photo by Angela Carter



Platanthera clavellata
Photo by Angela Carter



Tipularia discolor
Photo by Angela Carter



Platanthera ciliaris



Platanthera integrilabia



Platanthera cristata
Photo Angela Carter



Yellow Fringed
Photo by Jun Lao



Platyanthera x channellii
Photo by Jun Lao



Yellow Fringed
Photo by Jun Lao



Platyanthera x channellii
Photo by Jun Lao

Yellow Fringed Orchids are the familiar *Platyanthera ciliaris*. They are known to make hybrids with a number of white or yellow *Platyanthera* species. When it hybridizes with the White Fringed Orchid, it produces *Platyanthera x bicolor*, which can be anywhere from white to cream to buttery yellow to orange.

It is harder to identify the hybrid it makes with the Crested Bog Orchid, *Platyanthera cristata*. One way to distinguish the hybrids, called *Platyanthera x channellii*, is that the flowers are sized more like the small *P. cristata* flowers, but they have the bold orange color of *P. ciliaris*, rather than the more yellowish hue of *P. cristata*:



The opening to the ovary of *P. x channellii* that we saw had a keyhole shape seen in *P. ciliaris*, rather than the triangular shape that occurs in *P. cristata* (above).

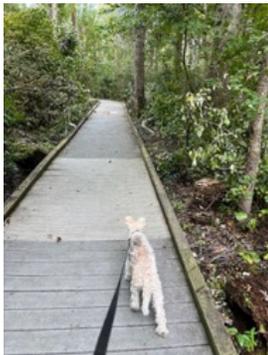
The Carolinas Trip

Jeanne Rhinehart

Our trip to see the Shadow Witch Orchid (*Ponthieva racemosa*) was planned for several years as COVID delayed our trip.



As always when Angela plans a trip, she researches all we might possibly see. Our group included Leesa Scudder, Lynette Dean, Dan Boone, Angela, Barry, me, and Lucy our 17-year-old wire fox terrier. In addition to orchids, we each had different



interests of what we wanted to see. So, this trip included the several locations in Virginia, North and South Carolina. Our first location (with Lucy) was in



the Great Dismal Swamp in North Carolina which also includes Lake Drummond.

Dan Boone had several plants on his bucket list including an uncommon species of



Washington Hawthorn^a
(*Crataegus phaenopyrum*).

Angela planned our destinations from a central location in Surfside, SC. The dunes at the beach had been wiped out by Hurricane Ian 10 days earlier.



Our first major orchid destination was to see the Hairy Shadow Witch Orchid (*Ponthieva racemosa*). The late Jim Fowler had told Angela Carter where we could find them. Angela found it right where Jim had told her.

On the way to Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area we passed a spectacular specimen of American beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*.



The first was the Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area. The pines

were spectacular, and we visited several sites on later days.



)and *Sarracenia flava* variety *ornate*). Venus Flytraps (*Dionaea muscipula*), and



sundews (*Drosera capillaris*) Venus Flytraps only occur *in situ* in North Carolina.



One the first animals observed in the Green Swamp Preserve was the Golden Orb-weavers spider, (*Nephila clavipes*). We found several webs and several more spiders.

Our next destination was the Green Swamp Preserve in North Carolina to see carnivorous plants including over 15 species and hybrid pitcher plants including *Sarracenia flava* with an opportunistic Goldenrod Crab Spider (*Misumena vatia*



We were too late to see blooming orchids in the Green Swamp but did see the remains of a *Platanthera*.



At Huntington Beach State Park we saw a large number of different species of birds including storks and sandpipers. South Carolina has worked hard to bring the Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* seen below. Spoonbills were almost extinct in the US by 1860 due to overhunting for their plumes. Declining habitats added to this





In addition to it we saw Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)



and the Great Egret (*Ardea alba*),

We returned to another pine forest in the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, to find *Gentiana autumnalis*, the



pine barren gentian. We also spent a lot of time trying to photograph woodpeckers. They were very skittish about being photographed. We were able to

identify the birds we saw using the app Merlin to record their songs.

We then traveled to the Congaree National Park in South Carolina to see hundreds of the Fragrant Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes odorata*).



They were so fragrant we could smell them before we saw them.



We also heard many woodpeckers in the National Park.



Traveling to another pine preserve was another highlight of the trip with sighting of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)
Photo by Leesa Scudder.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is considered endangered throughout its range in SE United States

In a marsh around a small pond in the one of the preserves we unexpectedly found Yellow Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes*



cernua). Photo by Angela.



Yellow Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes ochroleuca*) photo by Angela Carter



At one of the seeps along the road we found an aging *Spiranthes cernua*,



We returned home we along the



Blue Ridge Parkway getting there early to see sunrise. As it got lighter, we could see many Yellow Lady's Tresses, asters, and (*Gentiana austromontana*) at right.



Orchid of the Month Hairy Spider Witch *Ponthieva racemosa* (Walter) C. Mohr

Hairy Spider Witch *Ponthieva racemosa* (Walter) C. Mohr is also known as Shadow-Witch, Many Flowered Ponthieva, Glandular Ponthieva, and Glandular Neottia. Genus was once *Arethusa*. It was named by Sir Joseph Banks in 1778 in honor of Henri de Ponthieu a French botanist who collected in Caribbean. *Racemosa* is Latin meaning like a raceme which is the name of the inflorescence found in this species.

Genus *Ponthieva* consists of 25 species found in southeastern United States, the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

There are 3 species in the United States. *Ponthieva racemosa* and *Ponthieva brittoniae* are found in Florida and a third *Ponthieva ventricosa* found in Puerto Rico along with the other two.



Ponthieva racemosa is rare and/or threatened over most of its range in the US. It is found in moist shaded woodlands along stream banks and near springs mostly over calcareous rock. It grows at elevations of 0 to 50 meters. It is threatened because of loss of this habitat caused by woody plant encroachment, invasive competition, and land conversion for urban development and timber harvesting.



Its leaves are a rosette of three to eight large elliptic, glossy dark green and stay green year-round. Its inflorescence forms in fall or early winter up to 24 inches tall having up to 35 green striped, white flowers. Flowers are about ½ inch and are non-resupinate (having lip on top of flower). Flowers are fragrant with a faint citrus scent which has been used in perfumes and as a love potent.





The plants reproduce by seeds and underground runners.

Halictid have been seen visiting flowers in Florida, but no definite pollinator has yet been observed. Oil may be collected by Anthophora bees to feed their larva.

It can be found growing with other orchid species including the Club-spur orchid (*Platanthera clavellata*), Fragrant Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes odorata*), and Adder's Mouth orchid (*Malaxis spicata*).

Plants may be purchased online but should be purchased from reliable sources to ensure plants are not taken from the wild. This will protect the native source and the plants you receive will stand a better chance of living.

References:

Native Orchids of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, Stanley L. Bentley, University of North Carolina Press, 2000, pp.195-197.

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Wild Orchids Across North America, Philip E. Keenan, Timber Press, 1998, pp. 310.

The range information above is from:

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New York Botanical Garden Steere Herbarium, <https://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/world-flora/monographs-list/?AltKingdomLocal=Plantae&AltPhylumLocal=Magnoliophyta&AltFamilyLocal=Orchidaceae&AltGenusLocal=Ponthieva&sortBy=ClGenusLocal>

Membership

Thanks to those members who have renewed for 2023. Your support is appreciated.

For those who are still in winter mode, here is the current 2023 Membership Application.

Your support purchases legally-produced seedlings of native orchids which are appropriate for our Midwest

environment, pays speaker fees for winter programs when the sun doesn't shine for far too long and enables NOPES to have a web presence to show that conservation efforts by a small group of people can still have an impact. And, in the meantime, we get to hike together and enjoy ourselves.

See you on the trails.

Janice Yates
Treasurer

Conservation Corner

We again want to remind our readers of other groups who need are support with their activities. Support them by joining or donating to their efforts, volunteering for their many projects, and by joining their hikes or participating in their educational efforts. Clicking on their website links show what they have been doing and what they are offering.

Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association (ONAPA) <https://www.onapa.org>

Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA) <https://www.appalachiaohioalliance.org>

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/nature-preserves>

The Nature Conservancy <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/ohio/>

North American Orchid Conservation Center <https://northamericanorchidcenter.org>

Native Orchid Conference <https://www.nativeorchidconference.org>

Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society

2023 Membership Application

IN CONSIDERATION of being given the opportunity to participate in any NOPES activity, including scheduled, supervised club activities, and during my membership, I, for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

1. Understand the nature of NOPES Activities, both in meetings and hiking based, and that I am in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity.
2. Understand that:
 - A. some NOPES ACTIVITIES such as Orchid Hikes involve risks and the danger of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death ("Risks") as a number of the activities of NOPES will be outdoors where there may or may not be trails, or sloping terrain that may have moderate effort required, or the possibility of insect or animal bites or inadvertent contact with poisonous plants;
 - B. these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or the negligence of the Releasees named below;
 - C. there may be other risks and social and economic losses unknown to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I assume all such risks and responsibility for losses, costs and damages I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity.
 - D. if I observe any condition which I consider to be unacceptably hazardous or dangerous, I will notify the proper authority in charge of the Activity and will refuse to take part in the Activity until the condition has been corrected to my satisfaction.
3. Understand that NOPES is a society dedicated to the appreciation of native orchids through education and preservation. Individuals found poaching orchids will have their membership immediately revoked and will be reported to local and state authorities.
4. Understand that a member may not act on behalf of nor invoke the name of NOPES without the express written permission of the board of NOPES. Members agree to hold harmless NOPES, the board, its officers and other members for any activities conducted by said member.
5. Release NOPES, its administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers, other participating organizers, any sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place (the "Releasees"), from all liability, claims, losses or damages on my account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by their negligence, including negligent rescue operations; and I further agree that if, despite this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of them, I will indemnify, save and hold harmless the Releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damages, or costs which any may incur as a result of such claim, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I have read this agreement, understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it and have signed it without any inducement or assurance of any nature and intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid, the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect.

Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society 2023 Membership Application

Printed Name of Participant: _____

Address: _____

CITY STATE ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ (Home ____ Cell ____)

Email: _____

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENTAL CONSENT (if participant is under the age of 18).

AND I, the minor's parent and/or legal guardian, understand the nature of NOPES 'activities and the minor's experience and capabilities and believe the minor to be qualified to participate in the activity. I hereby release, discharge, covenant not to sue, and AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the Releasees from all liability, claims, losses, or damages on the minor's account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or part by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations, and further agree that if, despite this release, I, the minor, or anyone on the minor's behalf makes a claim against any of the above Releasee,

I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the Releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss liability, damages, or costs any may incur as the result of any such claim, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

CITY STATE ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ (Home ____ Cell ____)

Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (only if participant is under the age of 18):

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Membership dues are \$20.00 for an individual or \$30 for a family. Please make checks payable to NOPES and mail to Jan Yates, 4110 Rose Hill Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229. Or pay online via PayPal at <https://nativeorchidpreservationeducationsociety.com> and mail or email the membership form to Jan Yates. Email is jjyates4110@gmail.com

The Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society is a 501(c)(3) organization and dues and donations are tax exempt for most people who itemize their deductions.