

AGENDA
Sunday, May 26, 2019, @ 1:30

- I. Presentation: Thomas Sampliner – His recent trip to Thailand and its orchids is the subject of his power point presentation.
- II. Reports: Treasurer's & Minutes
- III. Old Business
 - A. CIOS Show review: Lowell
 1. Attendance: over 1,200
 2. New members: 13
 3. Profit or loss
 4. Awards [see photos at end]
 5. Mechanics, e.g., food
 6. New ideas for next year, e.g., AOS display award, raise rental fee for vendor tables, provide handouts for other organizations, notify tv stations of show, etc.

Summary from John. This looked like the most successful over the past few years. Attendance exceeded 1,200. Two vendors essentially sold out (one reported over \$1,500 in sales on Saturday). We had 14 exhibits, the same as last year. We had some new food items thanks to Bobbi (pulled pork), blueberry French toast casserole (Vicki), homemade bread, pecan cookies (Linda), and Nancy's ham which won great praise from everyone. Speaking of praise several judges remarked that the show is run very smoothly. Last set of photos shows CIOS show highlights
 - B. Calendar
 1. June = Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn USA [orchidinnusa.com]
 2. July 13 is the Cincy seminar [Note: NEW DATE]. Please note that you were sent a copy of this flyer on April 21. If you need further information, please contact jyates@earthlink.net.
 3. Tentatively, July picnic is July 20th
 4. August 25th Doug Allen on the Care of Phals
 5. Sept – Nov, TBA, though Ian is doing one of the presentations
 6. OTHER IDEAS YOU MIGHT HAVE, e.g., growing orchids under lights, orchid judging workshop in Cincy, return of the South American speaker in conjunction with Cincy, preparing plants for mounting and growing in strainers, collecting aromatic orchids, orchids in small enclosed spaces, e.g., terrariums
 - C. Recommended Book = Gardening Under Lights by Leslie Halleck, copyright 2018. More about lights and lighting than you may ever want to know. If someone would like to read it and create a glossary of light terminology that would be greatly appreciated. The book is available at IMCPL.
 - D. Cincy winners: see Mike's letter at end of the agenda. Ian won second place. Display won 2nd place.
 - E. CIOS winners: [see photos at end]
- IV. New Business.
 - A. [Delayed] Report from Cincy – report on winners, see photos below
 - B. Orchid Care: An entire season has passed since this last update. It is hoped that you haven't run into any problems. For sure winter bloomers are now resting while summer bloomers are gearing up for a spectacular show. With that in mind

attention turns to repotting. MUST HAVES: Drainage material, e.g., Styrofoam, well aerated mix and sphagnum moss. This last is tricky because many new plants (those purchased within the last year or so, come packed with this moss and little else. Repotting to all bark is a shock to the roots for such a plant and you need to use moss to transition the plant to another medium, e.g., bark. Do not re-pot by taking the moss bound plant from a smaller pot to a larger pot and filling in the space with bark because the little nutritive value of moss has long been spent and there has been salt buildup. Remove as much of the spent moss as possible and surround the roots with a bark and fresh moss and either return to original pot (wash it out) or to a larger pot if necessary. Of, course, place drainage material on the bottom of the pot first.

- C. Agenda items postponed from previous meetings that were cancelled
 - 1. AOS 100th
 - 2. Other ideas for speakers: using lights for growing, mounting plants on wood or strainers, collecting aromatic orchids, judging an orchid show, return of South American speaker
- D. Projector was found!
- E. Last call for Orchiata from Larry
- F. darlenemo@parallax.ws wants to know if anyone knows about the Carmel greenhouse of Yoller and Mitchell. If so, please e-mail her. Her name is Darlene Moegerie.
- G. Raffle & Show - Tell

MINUTES OF MARCH 24 MEETING

Attendance: 33

- I. Presentation: Russ Vernon on hybridization.
 - A. Hybridizing is the process of crossing two species in order to produce seeds that will germinate into a plant that has characteristics that you want to see enhanced. These characteristics include, but are not limited to enhancing a color, size of flower, spread between flowers, fringe, etc.
 - B. The success rate of this process is slight, but you start with a great many seeds. There are breeders who specializes in germinating the seeds.
 - C. The time involved from seed to flower can easily take up to seven years though special flasks with agar, banana peel and fertilizer can speed things along. This 'mix' takes the place of fungi which is crucial for seed germination for orchids. The fungi supplies nutrients since the orchid seed doesn't carry any.
 - D. Once you have successfully created what you want, then you can submit the information to the RHS {Royal Orchid Society?} and register the plant provided no one else has created the same hybrid.
 - E. Cloning is the process of reproduction with cuttings and not seeds from the single parent plant. Hybridizing needs two parents. Hybridizing produces variations; cloning does not.
 - F. Triploid and Tetraploid: plants with two or more sets of chromosomes [in nature most plants are diploid meaning they have two sets of chromosomes:
From AOS website:
Brief Look at Polyploidy

By Paul Gripp

One of the main features of orchids as a hobby is the wide range of interest that makes it a challenging, intriguing, and ever-searching endeavor. The study of plant genetics in reference to orchids is one of these fascinating sidelines.

Now, orchid genetics can be a very involved, technical subject, but for those of us interested in merely a working knowledge to help us in our estimate of expectations, there are a few basic facts which we should understand in order to be intelligent cultivators of this particular plant family. Perhaps the most basic-study that we, as orchid growers, should understand is that area dealing with chromosome numbers (or, levels of ploidy). Plants carry, in their anatomical make-up, a certain number of genetic carriers (chromosomes) which determine the characteristics of the plants and their future progeny.

An interesting fact about chromosomes is that, besides carrying the individual genes that determine specific characteristics, the degree of influence of an individual set of chromosomes is greatly modified by the number of sets (or level of ploidy) of the particular individual. Hence, the terms diploid (2n), triploid (3n), tetraploid (4n), pentaploid (5n), etc., refer to the number of sets or level of ploidy. Those in which the multiple is greater than the normal or diploid level are referred to collectively as polyploids. In trying to understand this, we should keep in mind that although plants of these various genetic groups do have certain specific characteristics, their main significance in breeding and heredity is their degree of influence in determining the characteristics of progeny. It is also true that the nature and significance of ploidy varies greatly among the various genera. In certain genera the rules of ploidy are fairly simple, with not too many exceptions. In other genera, however, the rules are very much complicated by uneven chromosome numbers and ability to breed among even very irregular chromosome patterns.

Generally speaking, the rules for the genus *Cymbidium* are fairly simple and well worked out, and they serve as a good example on which to learn. Breeding in cymbidiums turns out to be a blending process influenced by the various traits of both parents and weighed in quantity by their particular level of ploidy.

Diploids (2n): — Most typical, normal, naturally occurring wild types are of a diploid level of ploidy. The diploid level is the standard in nature, even though mutations and resultant abnormal strains commonly occur. Diploids are characterized by typically good, natural vigor. Diploids have many good features that are important in the most modern hybrids, and often it is their agreeable complimentary compatibility that makes a good match when used with other levels of polyploids, particularly the tetraploids.

Good *Cymbidium* diploids are certainly of great importance. Because of the fact that many of the most famous polyploids in cymbidiums have been brought about by much inbreeding, there are some poor growth characteristics that have carried along, and it is often the free-growing habit of the diploid that influences the progeny into being good, free performers. *Cymbidium* diploids are also

characterized by often having more flowers per spike than many of the more popular tetraploids. Together with this, popularity in the tetraploid line has centered around the full-shaped white tetraploid. In order to get other colors, we must draw from the diploid color genes.



Cymbidium Fanfare 'Sierra Spring', AM/AOS (1965) An example of a diploid (2n) flower.



Cymbidium Fanfare 'St. Francis', AM/AOS An example of a tetraploid (4n) flower

Tetraploids (4n) : — Tetraploids originally occurred by freak happenings, the plants' cellular structure changing in such a way as to possess twice the normal number of chromosomes in their make-up. Though tetraploids are often characterized by slower growth and heavier texture, the significance to the naked eye may or may not be apparent. It is also questionable to say that tetraploids are always necessarily associated with desirable features, such as good form and other characteristics we look for. Their main significance lies in their breeding influence. Because of their doubled chromosome number, they assert double the influence that a normal diploid would. Thus, the tetraploid has led to the finest advances in orchid breeding. This is because certain plants of good quality have been discovered to be tetraploids and they have been used in breeding to exert the advantage of their added breeding influence.

Triploids (3n): — Triploids normally are the resultant progeny from the mating of a tetraploid with a diploid. These comprise the great bulk of present-day cymbidiums. They are distinguished by uniform good growing characteristics and freeness of

performance. Their visual traits, of course, vary from the extremes of one parent to the other and combinations of both, with their typical average lying about one-third from the tetraploid parent and two-thirds from the diploid. The ideal is to find those few plants from a particular cross which exhibit the good features of both parents, and in these exceptional cases we find our improvements. We usually find that triploid cymbidiums are sterile and will not produce seed. There are, however, some exceptions which give rise to other categories of polyploidy.

Pentaploids (5n): — A still higher realm of polyploidy is sometimes found in orchid plants and this is the pentaploid. a type having five sets of chromosomes in the vegetative cell. Pentaploids have proven to be fairly useful breeders, although because of the mechanics of chromosomes, uniform growth and quality usually are not obtained and some of the resultant seedlings may be more difficult to grow and bloom. Many of our most famous plants, however, have pentaploid parents in their backgrounds.

- II. Reports: Not discussed. Will be done at May meeting
- III. Calendar for rest of year reviewed [updates are in each month's agenda]
- IV. CIOS Show:
 - A. Lowell outlined all the procedures for the show,
 - B. Sign-up sheets were provided for food and various 'jobs' at the show.
- V. Raffle: 4 plants were raffled off. Several plants were given aw

Miami Valley Orchid Show (Dayton) Results

From Michael Hinshaw:

I received an AOS award for Paph St Swithin, and I got Best of Show on a big Phrag. I'm attaching photos of the display and the awarded plant.

I also received 7 first, 2 second and 2 third place ribbons. The second and third place ribbons were from where I got all of the ribbons in a particular classes. I also received special awards for best specimen plant and best cypripedium. Considering that there were only 12 plants in the display, I think I did OK. I had not anticipated this outcome.

I had set the display up at home before the show and decided to take just slippers and save the other plants for our show. It was a different kind of display with just Paphs and Phrags.

BTW, Lowell did a good job on the CIOS display.



This is Mike's Display



Paph St Swithin "Peggy", Mike received an AOS award for this plant.



CIOS display at Dayton show.

Ian won a blue ribbon for his cattleya. As you can see there were about a dozen other winners.

2/19/19

When Orchidelirium Strikes, Kitchen Rainforests Can Follow

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Orchid addicts with huge collections test
patience of families; 'God help us'

By DANIELA HERNANDEZ

About a year ago, 11-year-old David Marcovici started collecting orchids. Since then, he's amassed a few dozen that have turned the family kitchen into a mini-rainforest. His favorites are miniatures, which he calls his "little guys."

He brought \$267—all his savings—to spend at a recent orchid show in New Jersey. Then it was on to another show earlier this month. "God help us," says his dad, Geno.

Orchid lovers really love their orchids. Many describe their hobby as an addiction. It has a name in many circles: Orchidelirium.

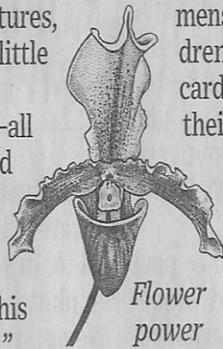
For the people who love orchid lovers, living with their

obsession is a lesson in acceptance.

Collectors will often go to extremes: Traveling far—and paying top dollar—for rare specimens; rescuing discarded plants off the street; determinedly collecting specimens of a species like children collecting Pokémon cards; and, often, turning their living spaces into veritable jungles.

In his Upper West Side apartment, Michael Riley wanted to recreate how orchids grow in nature. They hang from trees and rocks. They don't grow in pots. To mimic the ecosystems he visited around the world, he outfitted two walls with plywood, a thick rubber membrane, and

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*Flower
power*

Orchid Lovers Test Families

Continued from Page One

sheets of cork he bought through a specialty vendor. To the cork, he pins the plants' roots, which he covers in moss to help them acclimate. An automated misting system, similar to those grocery stores use to keep produce wet, hangs near the ceiling. "It's a hobby gone wild," he said.

His partner, Francisco Correa Mendoza, does a lot of plant care, but the pay is lousy, the couple jokes.

Orchids, among the planet's most diverse family of plants, have long captured the imagination of hobbyists. In the Victorian Age, wealthy Europeans contracted orchid hunters who would travel to South America, Africa and Asia in search of rare specimens. Often collectors would instruct their envoys to misdirect competitors or destroy whatever they couldn't take to prevent others from finding the same flowers.

Now, the scouting is mostly reserved to online shops, auctions and orchid-show season, which roughly spans January to March.

At the same orchid show where Mr. Marcovici was chasing his son from vendor to vendor, Aga Montes was on the hunt for an *Epicattleya* Rene Marques, a yellow-and-fuschia dendrobium she says is hard to find.

"Ever since I saw it at the [New York Botanical] Garden, I wanted one," said the 31-year-old chemist, who was dressed in orchid-embroidered pants. She bought two from a Taiwanese retailer. Each plant was \$30.

Her flowers take up an entire room in her three-bedroom home in New Jersey, with more sprinkled throughout the house. She stopped counting after she topped 100, in part because then her "hubby can't say, 'Well, you already have 500,'" she said.

Fans say growing orchids can be relaxing, plus it provides them with a sense of accomplishment and a community. While some orchids still have steep price tags, in recent decades, orchid collecting has taken root beyond the elites, thanks to techno-

logical advances that have made commercial growing cheaper and easier.

Phalaenopsis, or the "moth orchid," which is the gateway plant for many modern collectors, often costs only about \$10 at grocery stores.

Social media and the internet have also seeded new ways for orchidphiles to indulge. Orchids' ornate and colorful flowers fit well into social media's cult of pretty, according to growers. Younger fans call themselves plant parents and take to Instagram, YouTube and Facebook to show off their blooms, share growing tips and make new friends. The more popular ones, who can have thousands of followers, are known as "plantfluencers."

"There's this really nasty stigma out there...that orchids are hard," said Chris Satch, who promotes the hashtag #orchidsareforeveryone to his roughly 3,800 Instagram followers. "It's just retraining your mind to think, 'What does this plant want?'"

About four years ago, a friend gave Mr. Satch a coconut orchid, a blood-red flower that typically grows in Mexico and Central America and smells like coconut cream pie.

"It's the best thing in the world to wake up to," he said. "It gave me the orchid disease."

Mr. Satch, 27, now shares his small New York City apartment with roughly 90 orchids—plus a human. His dendrobiums, oncidiums, cattleyas and other orchids inhabit the window sills in his bathroom, kitchen and living room.

He had to bargain with his new roommate, Koko Lawson, to get the bedroom with the windows—for his orchids' health, Ms. Lawson, 28, said. He pays a little more in rent.

When the two moved in together a few months ago, Mr. Satch warned her about his plant obsession.

She asked him if it was "Jumanji-level," to which he replied "sort of," she recalled.

She accepted his plant family, but told him she wanted no part in taking care of them.

Before Will Wilson moved to a bigger house outside New Haven, Conn., with his mom and stepdad, his orchids "took up every spare counter space we had," he said. In their new place, his collection of nearly

300 orchids is mostly contained to a spare bedroom.

"It was almost forced upon me. Not that I complained, of course," said the 18-year-old high-schooler, who wants to study plant genetics in college.

The good news for family harmony is that his mom, Mary Ellen, is now collecting orchids, too. "I've been infected," she joked.

The bad news: She wants to expand her collection of 40 orchids into the back of the house, and her husband "just doesn't know it yet."



Orchid lovers were everywhere at the 2017 Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR APRIL 2019 SHOW



Our display



Cattasetum chysis bractescense



Coryanthes macranta



Phal Lioulin First