



# The Calypso

Volume 42 Issue 6 Nov 2019

The Newsletter of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society

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## CALYPSO DEADLINE:

Dec 29 for the January issue

*The purposes for which the Society is organized are to create an awareness of orchid culture; to foster the preservation of native species of orchids; to support research and development of orchid culture; and to hold meetings, lectures, and exhibitions.*

## NOVEMBER 16 MEETING:

Presbyterian Church, Okemos

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for:

- Plant shopping
- Experienced Society members will be available to answer questions and help problem solve orchid growing issues
- Please have refreshments in place prior to start of meeting.

*Meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm*

Our speaker this month is Gary Meyer, Ph.D.

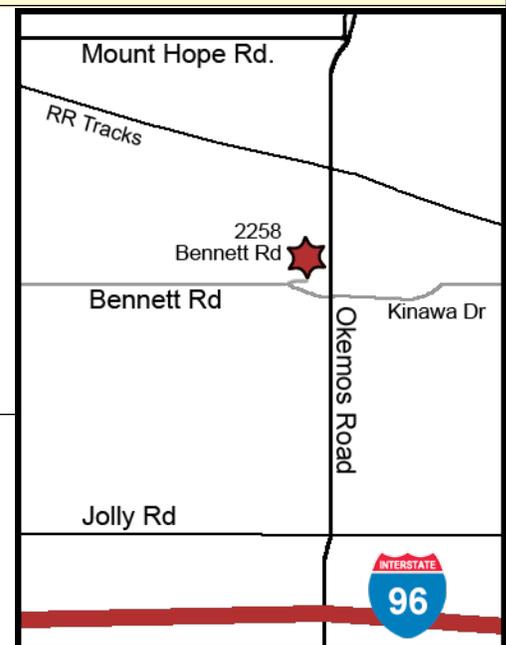
Gary Meyer's interest in orchids began when he was a freshman in high school in Michigan. He had already replaced much of his dad's beloved lawn with hundreds of perennials and North American native plants, partly in an attempt (futile, unfortunately) to attract hummingbirds. Among this plant collection were several *Cypripedium* species, which ignited his curiosity about orchids from other parts of the globe. He found a photograph of *Masdevallia veitchiana* in a library book that rendered him helpless to resist the pull to pleurothallids. Shortly thereafter, he laid eyes on a line drawing of *Dracula chimaera* in a J & L Orchids catalog, and has been enslaved by draculas ever since.

Gary started growing draculas in his parents' basement in 1990, with some degree of success. However, college, then medical school, and finally graduate school became unavoidable distractions for him. By the time he finished his Ph.D. in neuroscience in 2003, he thought he had managed to completely kick the orchid addiction.

In February 2003, Gary moved from Ann Arbor, MI to San Francisco, CA, and within two weeks of his arrival, found himself face to face with a pure yellow *Dracula gorgona xanthina* (owned by John Leathers) at the Pacific Orchid Exposition. The addiction was immediately revived, stronger than ever. Fifteen years later, Gary now maintains several hundred dracula plants (along with a reasonable dose masdevallias, lepanthes, cyrtochilums, and anguloas) in his greenhouse in Pacifica, CA.

Gary has been travelling to Colombia and Ecuador since 2005 to observe draculas in the wild and visit collections of South American dracula growers. He lives two to three months per year in Medellin, Colombia to facilitate his field explorations.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- Dawn Kittle**

I am beginning to think that time is at "warp" speed. Here it is time again for the Calypso.

What a lovely All-State meeting! The presentation and slides were informative as well as beautiful. A big appreciation goes to Chris Purver for coming across the pond to be with us again. An even greater appreciation goes to Jack Shumaker for handling the All-State gatherings for all these years. Three cheers for Ioana Sonea for "stepping up to the plate" and taking over for Jack. GLOS will continue hosting the All State meetings with Ioana leading the charge. Jack has speakers lined up for the next two years, so these meetings should continue to prove to be very educational and even fun.

At our November meeting, our speaker will be Gary Meyer from California, whose presentation is on Dracula orchids. Kristen Uthus will be selling orchids at the meeting. She should be bringing some Dracula orchids, as well as others. Looking forward to our November meeting.



Photo by Heinz Gutzke  
Dracula gorgona xanthina

**GARY MEYER, BIO, continued**

Gary also put his scientific background to work on dracula by studying the molecular taxonomy of the genus with Ken Cameron, Ph.D., director of the herbarium at the University of Wisconsin, and continues to describe new species and relocate lost species in conjunction with his South American colleagues.

By day, Gary is the Director of Clinical Analytics at IntrinsicQ Specialty Solutions, where he studies how US cancer patients are treated with pharmaceuticals. Gary also runs Colombian Orchid Imports, which imports orchid species from Colombia for sale in the United States.

Gary's talk, Dracuphilia: A Gothic Romance, will cover the history of the genus dracula, distribution of species, concepts in taxonomy and biology, and Gary's orchid explorations in the wild. The talk will additionally delve into the often conflicting effects of human interest on orchid conservation.

***Congratulations Jim Heilig!***

Jim has authored an article in the AOS special issue, *The Oncidium Alliance*, newly published. The title of his article is "Psychopsis - Butterflies By Any Other Name".

Jim and his husband have purchased a home, and now have a new address: 6750 Valle Pacifico, Salinas, CA, 93907.

→ Thanks to Dea and Julie, Pete and Georgian for our September meeting refreshments. Mary Henman, Marilyn Porter, and Ioana Sonea offered to bring snacks to our November meeting.

**GLOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- **November 16 - GLOS General Meeting** - Gary Meyer of Hawk Hill Orchids will talk about Dracula orchids.
- November 30 - December 1 - Saginaw Valley OS Show at Kochville Veteran's Hall, 3265 Kochville Road, Saginaw. Ioana Sonea will set up a 50 sq foot floor exhibit: volunteers are welcome to help setup! Plants will be collected at Ioana's on Nov 27-28 th; Pete Ostlund will help with tear-down, and he and Dot Barnett will help Ioana return the orchids and display materials at the end of the show.
- January 25 - 26 - Grand Valley Orchid Society Show at Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids
- February 14 - 16, 2020 -- Mid-America Orchid Congress and Miami Valley Orchid Society Show, Cox Arboretum, Dayton, OH
- **February 22-23 - GLOS Orchid Show and Sale**



**MINUTES OF GLOS GENERAL MEETING SEPT. 21, 2019** - submitted by Ioana Sonea, Treasurer

President Dawn Kittle opened the meeting at 7pm. 21 people, including 2 guests (Jessica Wallace and Becka Bishop) attended.

Georgian Franczyk and Dea and Julie Bishop provided abundant and excellent refreshments for today's meeting. The volunteers for refreshments for November are Mary Henman, Marilyn Porter and Ioana Sonea.

Dawn explained to the membership that the Church has some new rules in place for meetings with the goal of preserving the carpet in the Meeting Hall. Henceforth, those wanting to eat or drink need to be seated at a table. This will involve some changes to how we set up a room for meetings.

Dawn reminded members that the All-State Orchid Society meeting was October 12th, with Chris Purver from the Eric Young Orchid Foundation speaking on Paphs and Phrags. Jack Shumaker tantalized those present with an overview of the Foundation and some terrific photographs of orchids at the Eric Young Orchid Foundation taken during his visit this year. Jack also announced that due to declining health, he was no longer going to be organizing these annual meetings that so many of us look forward to; he said that unless somebody volunteered to take on this task, the meeting on October 12th would be the last one. This was very sad news, since the annual meetings have become a treasured tradition, allowing orchidists from across the state to learn from world-renowned orchidists and to catch up with fellow orchidists from around the state.

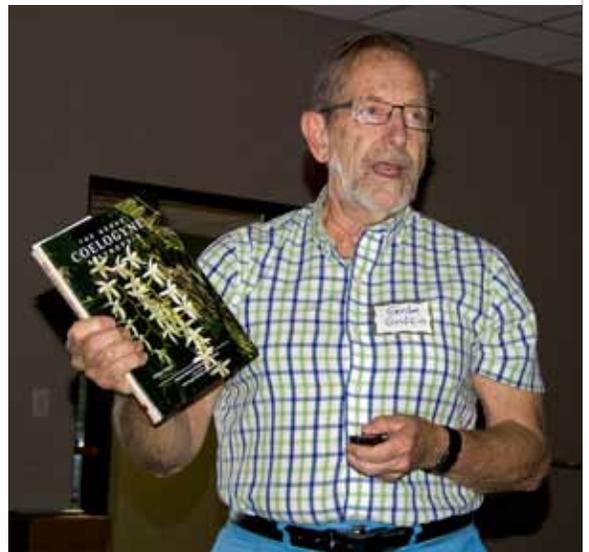
The next item was the "Show and Tell" table. Instead of asking for volunteers, Dawn asked the owners of the plants to present them. Dea Bishop presented her own and Julie Bishop's plants, showing off some of their varied collections. Dot had several plants including 2 lovely Maxillarias whose culture she explained, as well as a Coelogyne usitana that had been blooming for the last three years. Michelle Bridges showed off 3 beautiful blossoming cool-growing plants including a Zygopetalum.

Gordon Griffin then gave a very detailed and informative presentation on the genus Coelogyne, discussing cool, intermediate and warm-growing species and their characteristics.

At the conclusion of the presentation, members bid spiritedly for plants on the Silent Auction table; the raffle table also had many items that were snapped up by those present.

The meeting was concluded at approximately 9pm.

Photo by Dot

**REMINDER: WEAR YOUR SOCIETY NAME TAG** - Membership Committee, Doris & Dot

Please remember to wear your Society name badge to our November meeting (and to every other meeting, too).

As an incentive to wear the name tag, which is very nice for visitors and for those of us with failing memories (!), anyone who wears the badge AND purchases even one raffle ticket at \$1.00 per ticket will get a complimentary raffle ticket.

Wear your badge to the meeting. Let's help everyone greet everyone by name by wearing a name tag.

Wear your badge. Get an extra raffle ticket!

If you cannot locate your name tag, please let your Membership Committee (Doris or Dot) know. Dot will make you a new one.

**USED ORCHID BOOKS/PERIODICALS WANTED**- Submitted by Doris Asher

Do you have some orchid books or orchid periodicals that you no longer want? For several years now at our Orchid Show, we have sold numerous used books donated by various Society members. Visitors to the Show snap them up very quickly and, because the books are donated, the Society makes 100% profit. We use the orchid magazines as free giveaways to our visitors to encourage their joining our Society.



Because this service is so popular, we would like to offer inexpensive, used orchid books again at this February's Show. Since GLOS is an IRS not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization, you may deduct the value of the books and magazines you give us. The Treasurer will be happy to provide you a receipt for your gift.

Please consider giving such items at this November meeting to Doris Asher, Christina Gregg Baker or to Mary Henman, our Show's Information Table Co-Chairs.

**MINUTES OF THE GLOS BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 3rd, 2019** - submitted by Ioana Sonea, Secretary

Present: Dot Barnett, Rob Halgren, Dawn Kittle, Jerrie Nichols, Pete Ostlund, Ioana Sonea, Becky Thayer

The meeting was hosted by Rob Halgren, who provided a delicious meal of roast leg of lamb, hummus and guacamole with veggies, pita and various chips. He even had home-brewed beer made in part with coffee bean shells—yours truly had one and was so energized that I repotted 10 orchids when I got home.

President Dawn Kittle called the meeting to order at 7pm.

1. The Membership report submitted by Doris Asher provided food for thought: as of Oct 3rd, 2019, GLOS had 89 members in 78 households, down from last year (104 members in 91 households). Members choose not to renew for a variety of reasons (live too far away, health problems, work too busy, etc). Sadly, GLOS lost a long time member, MaryDee Sist, on August 19th, 2019.

The board discussed ways to reach out to the public to encourage new people to join the Society by posting flyers for instance in the building. One suggestion was to try to publicize GLOS at MSU's department of Horticulture; another was to resume manning a table at the Meridian Indoor Market a couple of weeks before the show.

2. The secretary had no items held over from the previous meeting to report

**Old business**

3. GLOS Annual show in 2020. Pete Ostlund reported that all is on track for next year. He will invite the local Orchid Societies to participate in December. There was discussion on whether one more vendor (the companion plant growers currently renting Bill Porter's greenhouses) might participate and whether they would be expected to put in an exhibit (they would).
4. Dot Barnett reported that this year's postcards are ready to be sent to the printers. She was able to obtain a very good price for printing them.
5. Alternate meeting places for GLOS were discussed again. Becky Thayer will check out the Michigan Nature Association in Okemos. Pete Ostlund has contacted the Obedience Training Club of Greater Lansing about renting their new building, due to be completed in November. This appears very promising.
6. A discussion was held regarding the All State Orchid Society Annual Meetings. Jack Shumaker announced in September that he can no longer take on that responsibility due to declining health. Ioana Sonea was willing to take on that responsibility but was concerned about her lack of knowledge of the wider world of orchids and orchidists. The GLOS board discussed this and felt that GLOS members had enough contacts throughout the world that the Society could take on the task of finding speakers and helping Ioana contact them. The final decision was that GLOS would hold the annual meetings henceforth, with Ioana being the point person, if Jack Shumaker was not able to continue doing so and had not found a successor. Jack was contacted by email and approved the decision.

**New business**

7. Suggestions were sought for vendors to bring plants to meetings. Rob Halgren can set up plants for sale for one of us to bring to meetings. Others that may be willing to sell plants include Larry Watson and Dr. Kristen Uthus.
8. Upcoming meetings:
  - November 16th, 2019: Gary Meyer will be talking about Draculas. He will not be bringing plants to sell: Dr. Kristen Uthus does well with Draculas and such, and will be contacted to see if she could sell plants at this meeting.
  - January 18th, 2020: Either Bill Bergman or Bill Cadman will talk – topic TBA. Whoever does not talk in January could give a presentation in April 2020.
  - March 21st, 2020: either Dea Bishop or Jerrie Nichols could give a presentation on orchid care geared towards beginners as well as experienced growers.
  - April 18th, 2020: Bill Bergman or Bill Cadman?
  - May 16th, 2020: Rob Halgren on growing under lights or growing indoors?
  - June 20th, 2020: this meeting always conflicts with the Great Lakes Judging Center symposium, resulting in a poorly attended meeting. The Board decided to cancel this meeting from now on, and to encourage members to attend the GLJC symposium in lieu of meeting in Okemos. The topic of the 2020 symposium will be Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, and Piping Rock Orchids will be selling plants.
9. Past meetings: Gordon Griffin asked that the speaker's fee (\$100) be donated to the Great Lakes Judging Center in his name.

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**MINUTES OF THE GLOS BOARD MEETING** - continued from p.4

## 10. Away shows:

- Michiana is October 26-27th : Jerrie Nichols will put together a small basket exhibit; plants will be collected at Dot Barnett's, and assembled on Thursday Oct 24th. Bill Porter kindly agreed to transport the display to the show, and Rob Halgren will be able to bring it back.
- Saginaw is November 30-December 1st: Ioana Sonea will set up a 50 sq foot floor exhibit: volunteers are welcome to help setup! Plants will be collected at Ioana's on Nov 27-28th; Pete Ostlund will help with tear-down, and he and Dot Barnett will help Ioana return the orchids and display materials at the end of the show.
- Meijer Gardens is January (date TBD). Pete Ostlund and Dot Barnett, with the possible help of Michael Bukala, will set up the display. Carol Ann Stuht has traditionally helped with this show, but may or may not be able to do so this year. The same people will take down the display and return the orchids.
- MOS will be in March: Doris or Ioana may setup?
- Ann Arbor is taken care of by Jerrie Nichols. More info later.

The next Board meeting will be held at Dot Barnett's home on December 5th.

**REPORT FOR THE MICHIANA SHOW, OCT. 26-27**

Jerrie Nichols and Dot assembled the basket display on Dot's dining room table; Bill and Marilyn Porter transported the baskets and set up the display, registered the plants, and removed the registration slips from the plants after judging. Rob Halgren brought the plants back to Dot's home where they could be retrieved by the participants.

There were 21 beautifully grown orchids submitted by Tammy Scherer, Julia Bishop, Pete Ostlund and Dot. They filled three large baskets, no filler plants needed. Tammy's plants, especially, gave the display good height. Without her plants, the display would have been quite flat!

These photos will give you an idea of how we put together our GLOS basket displays. First we set up the structure, place the plants, and then finish off the baskets with moss or black cloth. We then take a "sketch photo" (Dot's top image) to help us remember where everything goes.

The bottom photo (taken by Rob Halgren) shows the final result, placed by Bill and Marilyn Porter at Michiana. The two plants that got trophies were taken out of the baskets for judging, and then placed by the judges beside the baskets instead of in them -- a nice touch which really shows them off, with all their ribbons.

But, please, GLOS members, we need help with putting up the displays: we need more volunteers with fresh ideas to help set up the displays!

Everyone who participated received at least two ribbons, and the display won a first.

Note:

Pete and Dot each received an AM/AOS award on one of their plants. They also received trophies for Best of Class.

Rob Halgren received an AM/AOS award on two of the Paphs in his vendor display.

GLOS cleaned up again!

Please see the judging results of the GLOS display and photos of Rob's awarded plants on the last page of this Calypso.



*Congratulations to Pete, Rob and Dot!*

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12TH, 2019 ALL STATE ORCHID SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING** - submitted by Ioana Sonea, Secretary

Sam Tsui and his wife brought a large variety of plants, predominantly Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, to sell, since Chris Purver had been unable to export the plants he had planned to bring.

The physical setting of the meeting was altered to comply with the new requirements of the Presbyterian Church: refreshments were placed along the west wall, and tables were set up in a U-shaped row so that members could eat and drink at a table instead of balancing everything in their laps. This seating arrangement seemed to work well and Edward, the church sexton, helped greatly with setup and tear down, along with many volunteers from the audience.

Attendees brought refreshments including an amazing array of desserts and some great snacks. They were able to socialize and purchase some of the high-quality plants the Tsuis had brought before the meeting was called to order. Attendees came from nearly all Michigan orchid societies, and even further afield (Russ Vernon came with his family from Indiana). There were almost 60 attendees, a tribute to the popularity of this annual event.

Jack Shumaker and Dawn Kittle announced that GLOS would ensure the continuation of the annual meetings. Jack presented a recording of the previous year's meeting to representatives of the Michigan Orchid Societies and thanked them for the financial support that enabled this meeting to take place. Doris Asher then introduced the speaker, Chris Purver from the Eric Young Orchid Foundation on the Isle of Jersey, UK.

Chris gave a presentation on the Eric Young Orchid Foundation's Phragmipedium breeding program, showing the audience the progression from the first successful hybrids to today's triploid or tetraploid plants with greatly improved substance, form and color. The blooms were stunning, and many in the audience couldn't help but be disappointed that Chris was unable to import plants.

Chris discussed the thought processes behind the breeding, allowing us to gain insight into the decision making behind the crosses. He provided excellent tips on successful culture of these gorgeous plants. Overall, it was an outstanding presentation, very appreciated by all. Many attendees stayed to talk to Chris who was happy to answer cultural and other orchid related questions, purchase additional plants from the Tsuis, and simply visit with friends.

Jack Shumaker thanked Dottie Winter for organizing and setting out the refreshments, and Georgian Franczyk for greeting and registering the attendees. He invited everyone to join him and Chris Purver for supper at the Stillwater Grill restaurant after the event.

We're all very grateful to the many attendees who helped put the room in order before leaving the building.



**CULTURAL NOTE - FROM RAY BARKELOW OF FIRST RAY'S ORCHIDS NEWSLETTER**

## Using Pesticides Wisely

Considering the season, when many of us are bringing plants inside for the winter, I thought it would be good to rerun this information.

Despite all of our efforts to keep our collections clean, tidy, and pest-free, there simply will come a time when we're forced to pull out the "big guns" in our arsenal of commercial pesticides. Your stewardship of their use is an important aspect of orchid culture.

While I am not intending to list specific products, I would like to share some general pesticide use guidelines.

- **READ THE LABEL**, and read it completely, including not only the application instructions, but be especially careful to read – and heed – the safety warnings and recommended protective gear.
- Preventive treatment with pesticides is a mistake. As there is no way to totally kill all critters with a single treatment, that's how resistant strains are developed. Use pesticides as a curative measure only. Insect Growth Regulators (IGR's, such as Enstar II) are less of an issue in this regard, as they kill all development stages of insects and prevent them from reproducing, which precludes the possibility of passing on the resistant genes.
- Rotate your pesticides. Different classes of chemicals have different modes of action on the pests. At one end of the spectrum are those that suffocate the insect (oils) or simply remove protective coatings (soaps) and make them vulnerable to the environment around them, while at the other end are those that disrupt biological processes in one or more of several different ways. Varying the mode of action between bouts of infestation is the best way to ensure maximum effectiveness and prevent the development of resistance. Here is (A link to) a chart ([https://www.ohp.com/Literature/pdf/CCC\\_XIII.pdf](https://www.ohp.com/Literature/pdf/CCC_XIII.pdf)) of the control mechanisms of many commercial insecticides, so you can choose wisely.
- Follow the label directions explicitly in terms of the concentration to use, the frequency of application, and the period between those applications. One of the most common issues that folks have with pesticide use is that of improper treatment:
  - \* Too weak of a concentration seems obvious, in that it simply won't kill the pests.
  - \* Too strong of a mix concentration can also be bad, as not only might it be damaging to the plants, in some cases it will negatively affect the solubility of the active ingredient, rendering it less effective.
  - \* Most pesticides do not kill insects in all stages of their maturity – egg, larva, pupa, adult – so while a single treatment might kill, for example, all of the adults present, there are more critters waiting to mature and take their places devouring our plants. Insecticide labels recommend repeating the treatment – usually two or three times – so be sure to do just that.
  - \* The time period between treatments is dependent on both the pesticide and the life cycle of the pest. If the chemical has extended residual action, the time period between treatments may be longer. If it doesn't, such as is the case with home remedies concocted from soaps and alcohols, more frequent treatments will be necessary. Likewise, pests with short life cycles will need more frequent treatments to avoid missing the maturation and reproduction of an entire generation.

Failure to comply with any of these guidelines can fail to control the pests and may lead to the development of resistant strains that are even harder to eradicate.

Until next time... Good Growing!

**FEBRUARY 22-23, 2020 GLOS ORCHID SHOW** - submitted by Pete Ostlund, Show Chair

The dates for our 37th orchid show are February 23 -24, 2019. The planning for the show is well underway. Please mark your calendars. We'll need volunteers for various duties for the show dates and for the 2 days prior (February 20 and 21).

The following vendors have indicated they are coming to our show: Oakwood, New Vision, Orchid Inn, Ortonville Orchids & Tropicals, Windswept in Time, Natts, Littlefrog Farm, New World, and Roberts Flower Supply, and Mei's Creations.

More information about the show will be coming out in future months. But we need volunteers to make the show a success. Please mark your calendars for February 20 – 23 so you can avoid other conflicts.

We usually set aside time at our December Board Meeting (December 5th at Dot's house) to discuss Show issues or unresolved problems. Please feel free to attend the board meeting, or you can send your issues/unresolved problems to me or other board members prior to the meeting.

Thank you in advance for helping to make our show successful.

**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE GLJC**

The Greater Cleveland Orchid Society Show and Sale will be February 15-16 this year – the third Saturday of February. The Great Lakes Judging Center is moving its regular monthly judging from Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor to the Show site in Cleveland, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, 11030 East Blvd. Please update your calendars so that you will not bring your orchids in bloom to Matthaei on February 15th to be judged.

Doris Asher, GLJC Liaison to Matthaei



**COME TO AN ORCHID HOLIDAY PARTY**

The personnel of the Great Lakes Judging Center invite you to join us for our annual holiday party on Saturday, December 21, 2019, at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor, MI.

At 11 am the festivities will open with a presentation of the AOS Annual Award winners selected at the Homestead, FL, AOS Meetings – always a feast for the eyes. Next we shall feast on a potluck lunch provided by the judges for all to enjoy. Plan to have a fun time with orchids, books, holiday items (and who knows what else) for auction! The proceeds support the Judging Center.

Regular orchid judging takes place immediately following the festivities. All visitors are welcome to sit in on the judging – and to bring an orchid to be judged.

For additional information, contact Doris Asher at 517-332-0004 or asherdoris44@gmail.com .

An organization of orchid societies dedicated to the preservation of orchids  
<https://midamericanorchids.org>



**GLOS TREASURER'S REPORT** - submitted by Rob Halgren, Treasurer

August 16, 2019  
 Period since 8/16/2019

Income	
Memberships	\$52
June Meeting	\$15
August Meeting	\$117
Park Deposit Refund	\$40
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$224</b>
Expenses (Jack Shumaker - All-State Meeting)	\$200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$200</b>
Net gain for period	\$24

N.B. We have \$12505.25 in 9 CDs (as of June 30, 2019)

*Supplemental note from Doris Asher:*

**Finances from September GLOS meeting**

Jack Shumaker gave us a check for \$100 to reimburse GLOS for rental of the Church for the October All-State Meeting.

Silent auction: \$59.00  
 Raffle: \$62.00

Total Fund Raising: \$121.00

There were no dues at this meeting.

You are receiving the Calypso either as a PDF file, a hard copy, or both, depending on what we have from you in our records. If you would like to change this, please tell either Dot or Doris Asher. *If you are not receiving emails from us, please let Dot or Doris know -- we will need to know if we have your correct email address!*

If you have not received the PDF file by at least one week before the General Meeting, please let Dot know.

**GLOS MEMBERS SHOW THEIR GENEROSITY – 2020 SHOW TROPHY SPONSORS** - Submitted by Doris Asher

Once again, Society members have come through, underwriting all but two of the trophies for our Show this February! The trophies will be prepared by Larry Galdes. I continue to look for someone to underwrite these two trophies: for Orchids-in-Use Public Choice and for the Don and Kris Garling Memorial Best of Show Trophy. Who can help me?

Sponsors can save themselves expensive postage by paying Treasurer Rob Halgren in person at our November or January meetings. A check or cash is equally welcome – the cost is \$25.00. Checks payable to GLOS may also be mailed to Rob Halgren, Treasurer, 2100 Grovenburg, Lansing, MI 48911.

Thank you, donors, very much.

This year's sponsors are:

Trophy	Sponsor
Exhibits, Open	Pete Ostlund
Exhibits, Society	Pete Porciello
Exhibits, Amateur	Anonymous GLOS Members
Cattleya Alliance	Andrea Bishop
Cypripedium Alliance	Dot Potter Barnett
Phalaenopsis	Julie Bishop
Vanda and Ascocenda	Diane Zoeller
Brassia and Miltonia	Mary Henman
Oncidium Alliance	Don and Jane Farrelly
Cymbidium Alliance	Dawn Kittle (in memory of Sherwin Kittle; in memory of Betty Jane Harvey)
Dendrobium Alliance	Michael Henderson
Pleurothallid Alliance	Lynn O'Shaughnessy
Alex Challis Memorial Miscellaneous Genera	Littlefrog Farm
Specimen Plant	Jerrie Nichols
Art (Excluding Photography)	Harry & Dottie Winter
Photography	Carol Ann Stuht
Marilyn Lee Memorial Orchids in Use (Amateur)	Jim Heilig
Orchids in Use (Professional)	Tammy Scherer & Jim Churn
Orchids in Use Public Choice Award	Open – Sponsor Needed
Don and Kris Garling Memorial Best of Show	Open – Sponsor Needed
AOS Show Trophy – Outstanding Exhibit	Greater Lansing Orchid Society

**HELLO SLIPPER FRIENDS!**

We received a request to forward the attached notice about the International Slipper Symposium on Nov. 2, 2019. This detailed information arrived too late to be included in our Fall Slipper Orchids, although the basic information was included in our Upcoming Events. We are always happy to pass along information about important orchid meetings.

<https://slippersymposium.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/slippersymposium/>

Hope that as many of you as possible will consider attending - so many great nurseries in that area, and the speaker list looks great!!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns; my role as membership secretary is to make your membership as smooth as possible.

Regards,

Tim Culbertson, Membership Secretary

159 Sands Place

Oceanside CA 92054

**CULTURE****AOS CORNER**

Orchids on the Half-Shell by James Massay  
originally published in ORCHIDS – November 2014  
Oyster Shells as Orchid Mounts

“If only it were as easy to grow orchids as it is to raise oysters . . . !” How many times have I repeated this complaint over the years? Raising oysters has been a hobby of mine almost as long as I have been struggling with orchids. A possible intersection of the two endeavors struck me three years ago when a woman in my local orchid society, not knowing that I raise oysters, happened to tell me she was looking for some large oyster shells on which to mount orchids. I laughed and said, “I’m your man.” After that, of course, I became interested in raising orchids on oyster shells myself. I always like to make good use of everything available, so this seemed like a very good purpose for my numerous shells.

There are several advantages to using oyster shells for orchid mounts. The shells are very inexpensive (usually free) and readily available in areas where oysters flourish. In contrast to other mounting materials, they are durable and not subject to decay. Two elements needed by orchids, calcium and nitrogen, are present in the shells and provide slow-release nourishment for the plants. The orchid’s roots find a place on which to anchor themselves on the rough surface of the shell. When in bloom, an orchid presents a striking appearance on an oyster shell.

Like many other orchid growers, I mix crushed oyster shells with potting medium to provide nutrition for plants that are not mounted. Also, to ensure good drainage, I place whole oyster shells instead of packaging material in the bottoms of pots. This seems to me to be a more natural and beneficial method than using synthetic packing peanuts, as many growers do.

If you don’t live on one of the coasts, you can obtain oyster shells inexpensively by simply buying some oysters still in the shells and having a feast before putting the shells to work. Another option would be to stop in a restaurant that serves oysters-on-the-half-shell and ask for some of the shells. I always clean my shells with a pressure washer to remove the salt. You could accomplish the same result by soaking the shells in fresh water to get rid of the salt and then scrubbing them with a stiff brush. Orchids are mounted on an oyster shell the same way as on any other mounting material. You can use either the smooth side or the rounded side of the shell, depending on your preference and the size of the plant.

In nature, oysters frequently make the defensive move of bonding to each other. In the past, I would divide oysters that were bound together. Now, I leave them alone and hope they will get bigger—together. Two conjoined oyster shells make a wonderful mount. People have accused me of gluing two shells together; however, conjoined twins are, in fact, just a lucky find in my oyster float. I have given several people in my local orchid society oyster shells to use, and some have had success with them. My own best results have been with hard-cane dendrobiums. I should add, though, that I always get my best results in any growing medium with these dendrobiums. Some cattleyas I have put on oyster shells look healthy and promising, but they are not yet big enough to bloom. I am continually experimenting with different orchids to see if they will thrive on oyster shells.

Old farmers used to say that when they butchered hogs, they used everything except the squeal. Oysters don’t squeal, but they do squirt water. If you eat an oyster and mount an orchid on its shell, you can use everything except the squirt!



Mounting complete. A dendrobium plant with sphagnum moss around the roots. I tie the plants to the mount using strips of recycled pantyhose. It is easier to tie than monofilament fishing line and will not decompose for long periods in the sun.

— Jim Massay is an AOS member living in Yorktown, Virginia, and is a member of the Peninsula Orchid Society of Virginia. 111 Faulkner Road, Yorktown, VA 23692 (jimmassay@cox.net).



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### ANDY'S ORCHIDS AND THE ORCHID CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

The Orchid Conservation Alliance promotes the conservation of orchids and orchid habitat around the world.

The Orchid Conservation Alliance, founded in 2006, promotes the conservation of orchids and orchid habitat around the world. Currently we have reserves in Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia, however, we are open to orchid conservation anywhere. Preservation of natural orchid habitat preserves the orchids, their pollinators, their genetic diversity, and other fauna, as well as the birds, frogs, insects, reptiles, and mammals in the forests where they live.

Andy's Orchids is a proud sponsor of the OCA, and you can be one too. For every purchase you make at [Andysorchids.com](http://Andysorchids.com), a portion of the sale will be donated to this noble cause:

"the preservation of orchid species and their habitats"

We hope you can join us in this worthy cause.

### NOTE FROM ROBERTS SUPPLY FOR OUR SHOW:

We are selling our box truck and buying a used Sprinter van next week. We will not be bringing as many supplies as before. So please let your members know that to insure they get what they need, please pre-order as our van space will be smaller to bring people's orders of large items. First come, first served. We will not be going to Grand Rapids if the construction is still going on since that affected our sales terribly last year. Fortunately some of the Grand Rapids customers came to your show to pick up supplies instead, so that will probably happen next year also. We still have most items in stock, but as slower moving items sell out, we are not buying new inventory to replace it. We still have most items, just letting you all know we are downsizing so you can plan ahead.

### HELLO SLIPPER LOVERS!

We've recently been asked to send along two messages that may be of interest to you!

Plant Delights Nursery announced to the Slipper Orchid Alliance their fall harvest of *Cypripediums* is taking place, and the plants are now available at sale prices of 10% off until mid- to late November. Use this link to the sale page: <https://www.plantdelights.com/collections/perennials-on-sale>. They are trying to get them to customers in time to get them planted this fall when it would be ideal to plant them, so the one stipulation they have put in place is shipment must be scheduled no later than for the week of December 2.

For information on growing cyps and descriptions, as well as photos, of many species and hybrids that can be grown in gardens, refer to Tony Avent's article in *Slipper Orchids*, Volume 20, Summer, 2019. The following issue, Volume 20, Fall, 2019, contains an extensive list of cyp hybrids.

Also, the Paph Guild meeting is coming up in January. This year's event will be held at the Huntington Botanical Gardens and Library in San Marino, and features an incredible list of speakers, a tour of the collection there, and fun times with other slipper lovers. A flier is attached (Ask for it from Dot, if you are interested); I hope to see you all there!

Regards,

Tim Culbertson, Membership Secretary  
 159 Sands Place  
 Oceanside CA 92054

*The End Page*

**GLOS AT MICHIANA**

GLOS Display	1		
Julie Bishop			
Paph. Little Trouble	2		
Paph. Little Trouble	1		
Paph. niveum	2		
Phrag. Twilight x Acker's Ballerina	2		
Guaricyclia Carol Wood's SunCoast	1		
<b>Tammy Scherer</b>			
Bratonia Charles M. Fitch 'Izumi' AM/AOS	2		
Den. Hawaiian Punch	3		
<b>Pete Ostlund</b>			
Habenaria carnea	1		
Habenaria Regnieri	1		
Rlc. Circle of Nine	1	Best of Class	AM/AOS
<b>Dot Potter Barnett</b>			
Maxillaria caespitiferii	1		
Cattleya cernua	1		
Grassostele Tarantula 'Sweet Orange'	3		
Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Dalmatian'	2		
Phrag Misty Run Sunrise	1		AM/AOS
Paph. helenae	1	Best of Class	



Phrag. Misty Run Sunrise  
'Wacousta' AM/AOS



Rlc. Circle of  
Nine 'Syzygy'  
AM/AOS



Paph.  
Spring Wolf  
'Littlefrog  
Immense'  
AM/AOS



Paph.  
Leyburnense  
'Littlefrog  
Heritage'  
AM/AOS