

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- Pete Porciello

Autumn is here, and with it comes a feeling that we should curl up and hibernate....but for GLOS members, this is the beginning of the busiest time of our year. The show season has started and our own show is just four months away.

This is the time to think about getting involved. We still need a couple of committee chairs for the show, and we could use more volunteers to cover daytime activities, information and resources table time, as well as help setting up, and helping our vendors get inside with their plants. Jerrie Nichols, our show manager will be coordinating the volunteer efforts again this year. If you'd like to help out, just let her know.

It's also the time to watch your plants for new bloom spikes so that they can be in top condition for the show season. If you've never shown an orchid plant in a show before, ask someone at our meeting to show you or tell you how to prepare your plants so they can look their best.

There are many current events that could hurt the orchid fancy. Among them are rising gasoline prices, and a lessening vendor presence in our area. We need to find ways to keep our orchid fancy alive and rewarding. As an organization, GLOS is counting on you to share your thoughts and ideas regarding the orchid fancy with our membership and our board. So think about coming to our meeting at 6:30 to network, enjoy good company and a great speaker.

<p>GLOS ROSTER (Please send changes and updates to Dot or Doris.)</p>	<p>These emails are undeliverable, please update us with your current email address::</p>
<p>Renewals since publication of Roster: Linda and Michael Mitchell 578 W. Hidden Lakes Dr., Perry MI 48872 517-675-7619 lindamitch@cablespeed.com</p>	<p>Bushell_Christiane <bushell7@yahoo.com> Henderson_Michael <dochendy@earthlink.net> Hard_Charles <cshard@shianet.org> White_Bill <larri31@aol.com></p> <hr/> <p>Changes: Jerrie Nichols: 517-223-8965 Cindy Ryan: orchidsryan2@toast.net</p>

GLOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

→November 8, 9 - Michiana Orchid Society Show at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame (South Bend), IN. Marilyn Lee will set up and take down GLOS display for the Michiana Orchid Society Show. Plants will be collected at Marilyn's Wednesday, November 5, from noon to 9 pm. Other times by prior arrangement only. Marilyn's address is 3926 E. Sunwind, which is the third street off Bennett from the Presbyterian Church where GLOS meets.

Please have your plants correctly labeled with parents if known.
Phone 517-351-0915, email is lee@msu.edu.

→November 15 - GLOS General Meeting: Speaker: Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids

→November 28, 30 - Saginaw Valley Orchid Society Show in Midland: Bill Cadman & Jim Heilig will collect plants and set-up the display. Bill will collect plants Tuesday evening, Nov. 25 between 6 - 9 pm. Please contact him for other arrangements.

→December 8 - GLOS Board & Show Chair Meeting - 7:00 pm at Bill Cadman's

→January 17 - GLOS General Meeting. Speakers: MDOT staff botanists and endangered species experts Dave Schuen and Ulrika Zay

→February 28 - March 1: Annual GLOS Orchid Show and Sale at MSU

→March 21 - GLOS General Meeting. Speaker: Rachel Olsen from the Entomology Dept. at MSU will present: A Bugs Eye View of an Orchid



→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 let either Dot or Doris know.

If you have not received the .pdf file by two weeks before the General Meeting, please let Dot know.

NEW MEMBERS MEETING



New Members Meeting 19-08

Photos courtesy of Pete Ostlund

GLOS and Porter's Orchids sponsored a New Member meeting on Saturday, Oct. 20th.

It was an opportunity for society members to have a hands-on experience with repotting their own orchids, ask questions, maybe learn a little more about different kinds of potting media, and even have an opportunity to do a little shopping.

Dot demonstrated repotting technique while Pete Ostlund photographed the event.

Many thanks to Bill Porter for accommodating the potting session and furnishing the potting materials.



Photos courtesy of Renate De Zacks

Apologies: To Renate De Zacks. In the September Calypso, the photos of Doris and her Epipactis were wrongly credited to Dot, whereas they were taken and submitted by Renate.

GLOS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES: (9/20/08) Submitted by Emily Tseng

Social-networking Meeting started at 6:30pm with plant sales, refreshments, and meeting set-ups.

President Pete Porciello called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with approximately 30 people present.

Announcements:

1. Pete Porciello reminded all to get their name tags from Dot Potter Barnett. Pete introduced two guests, Lisa Rechsteiner and her husband from the Magic Bean Cafe, Saginaw. They would like to have some sort of orchid event in their shop maybe partnering with the Saginaw Valley Orchid Society (open to ideas).
2. Pete Porciello thanked Jerrie Nichols, Dea and Julie Bishop, and Pete P. for the refreshments. Heather McLeod, Eva Collakova, and Pete Ostlund offered to bring refreshments for November's Regular Meeting.
3. Lynn O'Shaughnessy reminded the group of the raffle and silent auction rules (i.e. minimum bid of \$1.00 over asking price in increments of \$1.00; anything over the asking price goes to GLOS).
4. Doris Asher mentioned that the membership rosters are now available.
5. Dot P B reminded the group that the 'New Member Meeting' will be at Porter's on 10/18/08 at 2:00pm; both new and old members are welcomed to attend; and bring orchids to pot.
6. Marilyn Lee volunteered to arrange plant table plants during the break.



Organizational Business: The minutes of the July 13th meeting were approved.

Old Business:

1. Doris A. shared information about the summer activities at Williamston Market (outreach and fund raising for GLOS). She thanked Rob Halgren for his help with the financial, educational, and outreach areas. Volunteers are still needed.
2. Marilyn L. shared information regarding conservation efforts, - rescuing orchids, contribution to Nature Conservancy and Michigan Nature Association, demonstration at Harris Nature Center, resource information in 'The Calypso', and emphasized that the concerns are for all gardens and woodlands - not just orchids.

GLOS calender:

- October 11-12/08: Three Rivers OS, October Show; Bill Cadman and Jim Heilig will do the set-up (drop off plants on Wednesday)
- November (2nd week) in Michiana (Marilyn L. will help, pending financial approval)
- Nov. 28-30, in Midland (Bill C. & Jim Heilig will collect plants and set-up the display)

Plant Table:

Jim Heilig gave a very interesting and personal review of several unusual orchids on the table, and recommended culture. Jim thanked those who shared their special plants at the meeting.

New Business:

1. Leslie Behm (Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee), shared updates on the need to review and clarify certain Bylaws. She asked for persons who have interest in this area to contact her by the next Board meeting in October.
2. Jerrie N. asked for help with our show in February. Pete O. has volunteered to set up our Society display. Members' plants are needed for the display. Start thinking about preparations (staking the inflorescence as it develops, etc). The number of available vendors have been affected by the current business clients.

Continued p. 5

→ Thanks to Julie and Andrea Bishop, Jerrie Nichols and Pete Porciello for the great refreshments they brought to our September meeting. Heather McLeod, Eva Collakova, and Pete Ostlund have volunteered for the November meeting.

ORCHIDS AT THE FARMERS' MARKET - Submitted by Doris Asher

This summer the Society did something entirely new! The Greater Lansing Orchid Society in cooperation with Rob Halgren and Littlefrog Farms of Stockbridge sold orchids at the Williamston Farmers' Market. Littlefrog Farms also offered a selection of produce and small tropical plants, which were available at the stand.



Members from GLOS, including Rob Halgren, owner of Littlefrog Farms and Judge in the American Orchid Society (AOS); Doris Asher, GLOS Treasurer, and AOS Judge; Jerrie Nichols, Vice-President of GLOS; and Pete Porciello, President of GLOS, and Chair of the Williamston Economic Development Corporation, sponsor of the Williamston Farmers' Market staffed the sales table. Jerrie's neighbor, Elaine, helped us take down each Market day. We enjoyed chatting with anyone who wanted to know more about the orchid(s) they bought or any they already owned. Each week shoppers brought in orchids for advice on how to care for them. We distributed many culture sheets on the popular genera, GLOS dues forms and business cards for Littlefrog Farms. The Partnership promoted local interest in orchid growing by capitalizing on the Markets' Grand River location. We divided the sales on a 75% - 25% split – for GLOS this resulted in total income for the 7-week project of \$386.50.



The Partnership chose the Williamston Farmers' Market partly because of the Market's mission statement, which closely aligns with that of GLOS, the social atmosphere associated with the Market, and the convenience offered by the Market's rules. The Williamston Farmers' Market, located at 161 E. Grand River Avenue right next to City Hall in downtown Williamston, was open each Thursday from noon until dusk (about 6:00 p.m.).

The Society sold each of seven Thursdays from August 14th through September 25th – remarkably, the weather was wonderful on each of these Market days – no rain and no chilly temperatures. We were using Rob's EZ Up awning until a support piece broke on its third outing; Jim Heilig came to our rescue with the loan of his EZ Up for the balance of the summer. We really needed a canopy to protect our plants as well as ourselves from the punishing summer sun. Rob provided a beautiful, large banner advertising Littlefrog Farms – Dot Potter Barnett lent her expertise in designing the colorful banner.

**General Meeting Minutes, continued:**

Speaker Presentation: Topic: "Enlightened Orchids" by Ernie Gemeinhardt.

Dr. Gemeinhardt has a background in Marine Biology and Aquaculture, and currently works in Biomedical Polymer Science Laboratory (Biopharmaceutical Sciences, University of Illinois, Chicago). He has been growing orchids under lights since 1997, and is interested in a wide variety of orchids (Paphs, Phrags, Phals, Catt. alliance, etc). He gave an interesting presentation on using fluorescent lights for different orchids, and sharing his personal experiences with different orchids. Plants were available for sale during the break.

Table display (Marilyn Lee): Marilyn focused on the rationale for the arrangements, according to the nature of the orchids, colors and focal points, - remembering, too, the small plants.

Member Comments:

Carol shared photos of the wild orchids growing around their cabin without any extra care; and also of her beautiful large Phrag in full bloom.

Pete P. thanked Doris A. and Jim H. for their help.

Silent Auction and Raffle: Lynn and Doris handled the silent auction and raffle.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

GLOS FINANCIAL REPORT - 10/9/08 Covering Period from 08/03/2008 - October 09, 2008

Submitted by Doris Asher

INCOME				\$1,117.75
Sell at Williamston Farmers' Market	839.00			
Interest	99.55			
CD 112-0650794594 cashed 8/30/2008			66.53	
CD 110-0651289944 cashed 8/30/2008			22.44	
CD 110-0651007329 cashed 10/2/08			10.58	
Dues -- Renewals	92.00			
September Meeting	84.00			
Raffle		48.00		
Sale of Plant Labels		18.00		
Silent Auction		18.00		
Reimbursement for Calypso postage (G Kienitz)	2.20			
Donation (Anonymous)	1.00			

EXPENSES				\$1,153.88
Sell at Williamston Farmers' Market	452.50			
Littlefrog Farm for Plants, etc. Sold		382.50		
Table fee (\$10/week x 7 weeks)		70.00		
Administrative Expense	344.88			
Meeting Room Rent - Jan, Mar, May 2009		150.00		
Copying - Members Rosters, General		91.75		
Postage - Members Rosters, General		55.31		
Painting Exhibit Staging		47.82		
Programs - September Speaker (E Gemeinhardt)	205.94			
2009 Show - AOS Judging	110.00			
Calypso -- Copying -- September issue	40.56			
NET EXPENSE				\$36.13

Balance on hand October 10, 2008			\$12,781.09
Checking		\$1,687.63	
Saving		5.00	
Subtotal CD's		11,088.46	
*CD 110-0651501749 (matures 01/27/2009) 2.81%		\$1,142.72	
CD1 (matures 1/31/2009) 2.70%		\$1,023.77	
*CD 112-0650706806 (matures 06/09/2009) 5.02%		\$1,143.30	
CD0 (matures 7/31/2009) 3.35%		\$1,411.58	
CD3 (matures 08/30/2009) 3.4%		\$1,254.16	
CD5 (matures 10/03/2009) 3.4%		\$1,257.69	
*CD 003-0650092373 (matures 10/23/2009) 4.02%		\$1,137.87	
CD2 (matures 1/31/2010) 3.35%		\$1,420.60	
CD4 (matures 02/28/2010) 3.43%		\$1,296.77	
Subtotal CD's			\$11,088.46

*These CD's are from Fifth Third Bank; the others are from the MSU Federal Credit Union.

Nb: As of October 10, 2008, conservation fund is \$193.10

Fred Clarke, continued from p.1:

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 29 years and has been hybridizing for 19 of those years. With over 22 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new *Bulbophyllum* and *Paphiopedilum* hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, *Fredclarkera* After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has received five FCC's and three AM's on the first flowers shown for judging!

Fred is a Probationary Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

CONGRATULATIONS: (Be sure to read these articles.)

RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN *ORCHIDS AND ORCHID DIGEST*:

AOS *Orchids*, Volume 77 #7; July 2008, p. 544: "Treasured Gift" by Doris H. Asher. A History of Siegart and Slotter Orchid Growers Comes to the AOS.

Published in the *Orchid Digest*, Volume 72-3; July, Aug., Sept. 2008, p.183: Orchid Digest Diamond Award Winners! Greater Lansing Orchid Society Recipient: Carol Stuht.

Orchid Digest, Volume 72-4; Oct, Nov., Dec. 2008, p.232: Article by Lynn O'Shaughnessy entitled, Culture of Masdevallias.

RESCUING NATIVE ORCHIDS by Marilyn Lee, October 17, 2008

Part III Local Nature Centers

A few clumps of *Cypripedium reginae* from the Mary 15, 2007 U.P. roadside rescue were transplanted to Harris Nature Center in Meridian Township and Fenner Arboretum in Lansing. A demonstration orchid bed was planted in each of these centers a couple of years ago. Since then, Fenner lost their full-time naturalist in 2008 due to retirement, City economic problems, and possible city disinterest. As the Arboretum has declined, so have the orchid beds. Vandals girdled and killed the Cornus Florida tree that provided shade to the beds, deer took the top of the emerging orchid plants and burrowing animals left two plants above the ground. I was too late in rescuing them. A fence I put up is now protecting the few remaining orchid plants. I try to monitor the orchids at least monthly.

The rescued and other orchid plants at Harris Nature Center are doing very well. Harris has demonstrated the keys to growing orchids and other wildflowers in a public space. They include a staff that has taken stewardship of the land seriously, nature programming for young children, and teaching protection of all of Nature's wonders. It has been a privilege to work with the dedicated staff as a GLOS volunteer. I plan to work with Harris volunteers in 2009 planting more wildflowers including orchids.

Arachnorchis (Caladenia) rosella Conservation Effort

text and photo by Dr. Randall W. Robinson

Reprinted from the Orchid Conservation Coalition:

<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/pr/arosella.html>

There are only about 140 known *Arachnorchis (Caladenia) rosella* in the wild. They are found in two areas in the world near Melbourne, Australia. One of those habitats was slated for development. The conditions on the developer have proved too great for him to meet and he is in the process of selling the block of land. Local residents, the Dunmoochin Foundation and the Trust for Nature have expressed interest in purchasing the land. Subsequently, there is a proposal to form a consortium of people and groups to purchase the land. Even with all the pooled resources, there is not enough money to make the purchase and manage the plants. We are dedicated to save this special wild orchid species, but we need financial help. Both the Trust for Nature <http://www.trustfornature.org.au/> and the Dunmoochin Foundation <http://www.dunmoochin.org/> are charitable trusts. You can contact either one.

Cam Beardsell is a very strong advocate for this beautiful species. Over the past 25 years, Cam has been the lone caretaker of this precious orchid. He has protected most of the plants from the Cloughs' and rabbits' diets. The weeds that appear near the plants have been meticulously removed by hand. To read and explore more about *Arachnorchis (Caladenia) rosella* and the people trying to save it visit <http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/pr/arosella.html>



The Orchid Conservation Coalition (OCC) is a grassroots organization made up of people, orchid societies, and orchid businesses dedicated to raising awareness and money for orchid conservation.

MINUTES OF THE GLOS BOARD MEETING August 11, 2008 -- Submitted by Emily Tseng (9/20/08)

Present: Pete Porciello, Leslie Behm, Doris Asher, Jerrie Nichols, Pete Ostlund, Dot Potter Barnett, and Emily Tseng.
The meeting was held at Doris Asher's house: Pete Porciello (President) called the meeting to order at 7:15PM.

Organizational Business:

1. Minutes of the June 9th Board meeting were approved as corrected.
2. Treasurer's report: Doris reviewed the Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2007-8 showing a net expense of \$141.46; the Financial Report covering the period July 1 – August 3, 2008 – net income of \$752.67; and also the Budget Reconciliation for the entire 2007-8 fiscal year. Although expenses were 7.5% higher than budget, this was partially offset by effective fund-raising and higher-than-expected income from interest and from dues.
3. Budget for 2008-9: Doris presented proposed budget, which showed income of \$9,000 balanced against expenses of \$9,000. Motion to accept 2008-9 Budget – passed.
4. **Committee Meeting reports:**
 - Pete Ostlund (Member Relations) suggested that we move the Board Meeting to coincide with the October Meeting (with new members) and having a list of new members' names. The date and place for a new member meeting have been arranged.
 - Dot noted that the number of orchid vendors are decreasing due to the poor business climate and inability to compete with The Home Depot and Taiwan's mass hybrids.
 - The article from Marilyn Lee (Conservation Committee) is pending.

GLOS Calendar:

- August 14 - October 16: Littlefrog & GLOS selling at the Williamston Farmers' Market. Will be an article in the Calypso.
- September 6 -7: Mid-America Orchid Congress, Mason, Ohio .
- October 11 - 12: Three Rivers Orchid Show, Fort Wayne. Invitation to our first show there; Pete will contact Don or Lynn to set up a basket for the show.

Old Business:

1. Doris gave update on trophies (six examples shown, including for the "Best of Show"). Decision given to split the budget in half, for the trophies (to include Larry's and Joy's); and to give Doris the discretion to make the choice.
2. Need volunteer to arrange plants at the next meeting during the break. Suggestions to ask Jim Heilig or Bill Cadman.
3. Pete Ostlund showed the latex-painted display staging and black pots. The display staging is taking over 30 days to dry. It has all been painted (around 100 pieces). If we use black pots to help out with setting up displays, he suggested getting about 200 (small to 12" size).

New Business:

1. Bylaws regarding quorum, general meeting in May, and voting: a Committee was establish under the leadership of Leslie Behm (+ members) to deal with these long overdue issues. The Committee can review the 'Operational Guidelines', too. The Board will vote on the names of potential Committee members. Action will be noted in the 'Calypso.'
2. Pete Ostlund urged a bylaws amendment re. the May Annual Business Meeting to avoid Mother's Day weekend.
3. Clarification of timing for refreshments at the General GLOS Meeting: "refreshments will be in place prior to the Meeting."

Other:

Jerrie mentioned the concerns about the diminishing number of vendors. She'll invite everyone - returning and new ones.

Next GLOS Board Meeting: Monday, October 13, 2008 (at Leslie Behm's, 6108 Shoeman Road , Haslett).

NEW BOOK:

Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins, PhD co-authors of *The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens Illustrated Dictionary* of Orchid Genera are proud to introduce this extraordinary work of 10 years in the making.

This 512 page full-color dictionary is the most comprehensive collection of orchid genera published to date with more than 3,800 names. The dictionary is an invaluable reference that presents the current status of orchid taxonomy and the history of generic names, making it an important reference for botanists, taxonomists, orchid lovers and horticultural specialists. Easy to read and understand, its color-coded, fact-filled pages are complete with color illustrations or line drawings for each genus.

Each genus description includes the author(s) name and publication name, as well as page number and year of publication. Accepted genera include subfamily, tribe, and subtribe placement. The etymologies have been carefully researched and greatly expanded from other listings. Each entry lists the genus' type species or lectotype, the number of species credited to the genus, and the species distribution. Also included is a brief description of the plants and flowers of the genus. Additionally, the dictionary includes an introductory overview of the orchid family by David Benzing, the well-known epiphyte ecologist.

The appendices include a list of the taxonomists along with their birth/death dates and genera authored, a listing of the standardized publication abbreviations used in literature, and a listing of species illustrations used.

Supplementary Material:

A list of book/periodical abbreviations used in the dictionary

A glossary of technical terms used to describe orchids

The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) rules for naming genera (reprinted with permission)

A list of illustrations by species name

A classification of Orchidaceae that accords with the most recent findings from phylogenetic studies

An index of taxonomic authorities

A list of selected reading on Orchidaceae

The dictionary is now available for purchase at Banyan Treasures and The Garden Shop at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. You can also order online at www.selby.org.

Editor's note: I purchased this at amazon.com for much less than Selby's price.

AOS CORNER - By Melba Butler, AOS Representative

Orchid Trivia: "Long before the beginning of the Christian era orchids had been popular flowers in the Chinese floral kingdom. Many books were written by the ancient Chinese naturalists and poets, descriptive of these rare and beautiful flowers and they named the orchid the "Queenly Flower" throughout the floral empire of China.

The year 1938 marked the Centennial of orchid culture in the United States for during the summer of 1838 the first exotic orchid plants were imported by Mr. John Wright Boott of Boston, Massachusetts, from Messrs. Loddiges of Hackney, near London, through his brother, Mr. James Boott, then residing in England. These first orchids were grown in a small greenhouse in the yard of Mr. Boott's house, Bowdoin Square, Boston, the site being later occupied by the Revere House." Ref.: American orchid Society Bulletin, Vol. 17, September, 1948, No. 9; Beginners' Corner, Synopsis of Orchid Culture, p. 531.

Orchids mean beauty!

Orchids mean beauty to most of us and to some of us, the unusual and bazaar also have appeal. Most of us who love orchids also appreciate plants and flowers of all kinds. The grounds of the AOS are proof as more and more plants, flowers and orchids have taken root there with plans for more to come. We are fortunate to have seen the home of the AOS a couple of times in the past, but photos do recall the beauty for us. We had already seen the virtual tour of the gardens at the AOS, but not the greenhouse. When wandering around on the AOS Website, a virtual tour of the AOS display greenhouse was discovered.

More touring at the AOS Website:

The greenhouse tour is made up of some very nice photos of orchids and other plants on display at the AOS. You can get there by clicking on this link: <http://www.webbuild.net/greenhouse/Home.htm>, prepared by Alan L. Kaitz, MD, AOS Volunteer, with the assistance of Nick Ewy, Director of Botanical Garden and Greenhouses. The tour includes photos of multiple walls and backdrops where wonderful plants and materials are displayed. Then the orchids that reside in the greenhouse can be viewed as photos by each month of their bloom season. You will enjoy it!

Previously, the link was given for the virtual tour of the gardens at the AOS, but if you didn't go there then, be sure to try again now because it is really worthwhile. It is located at: <http://www.webbuild.net/AOSgarden/>, also prepared by Alan L. Kaitz, MD, AOS Volunteer, with the assistance of Nick Ewy, Director of Botanical Garden and Greenhouses and Pat Jennings, Head Gardener.

ORCHID CONSERVATION NEWS

Rescuing Crane-fly Orchids From English Ivy By Ken Moore

Reprinted with permission from Kirk Ross, Editor, The Carrboro Citizen Aug. 14, 2008

<http://www.carrborocitizen.com/main/2008/08/14/rescuing-cranefly-orchids-from-english-ivy/>

Last summer, I described the elusive crane-fly orchid, *Tipularia discolor* (see Flora in the Aug. 2, 2007 issue of The Carrboro Citizen). I'm as excited about its once-a-year flowering recurrence now as last summer. If you didn't catch them last year, I encourage you to search for them now while they're in peak bloom. This beautiful little native terrestrial orchid is common in both piney woods and deciduous forests. You'll need your keen eyes to spot them. The single two-to-four-inch leaf – green above, burgundy below – grows close to the ground from September through March. It captures the winter sunlight. Without that leaf showing, the 12-to-18-inch-tall stem of 20 to 40 tiny greenish-brown orchid flowers are even more difficult to spot. The discovery is definitely worth lying on the ground with a hand lens for a closer look. Last week, I was thrilled to discover 37 plants in a shady front yard under my care. They were emerging from a dense cover of poison ivy and English ivy. The poison ivy I respect and try to avoid, but am content to live with since it is a beneficial wildlife food plant and it goes dormant during the winter. The English ivy, however, is an evergreen, non-native plant that eventually smothers all vegetation beneath it, even covering and breaking tree limbs and shrubs.

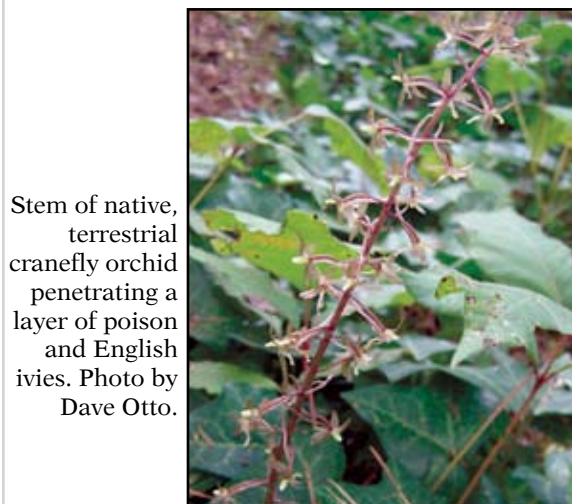
Several years ago, in this yard now full of crane-fly orchids, I made a deliberate effort to eliminate the English ivy. English ivy only bears flowers and fruit when it is allowed to climb high in trees. Otherwise, it spreads along the ground smothering every plant in its forward crawl. I stopped the production of seed by severing all the high-climbing vines on the trees. I thought I had effectively smothered most of the ivy on the ground by laying down cardboard and covering it with several inches of wood chips. I deliberately left a few openings, hand pulling the ivy in those spots, where there were a couple of winter leaves of the crane-fly orchid.

The decaying cardboard and wood chip mulch must have been good for the orchids. I have enjoyed watching the orchid population increase during the past couple of years. I was only casually aware that the evergreen ivy was slowly creeping back from the edges where it had not been covered. Accompanying my delight with this season's abundance of orchids was a realization that last year's sparse covering of ivy had, just within the current growing season, reclaimed the entire ground with a thick layer of foliage ready to smother all those orchid leaves that will emerge at summer's end to search in vain for winter sunlight.

Never turn your back on English ivy. I have already renewed my assault on that ivy patch. This time, I will persist, knowing that my reward will be the rescuing of a robust population of that beautiful little orchid.

The intent of The Citizen's Flora column is to feature the diversity and heritage of our native plants. All too often, it seems appropriate to feature some of the invasive, non-native plants that threaten the natives.

Note: Good resources are the North Carolina Botanical Garden's "Controlling Invasive Plants" (free) and the garden's website, www.ncbg.unc.edu for more images of the crane-fly orchid.



Stem of native, terrestrial crane-fly orchid penetrating a layer of poison ivy and English ivies. Photo by Dave Otto.



You'll have to lie on the ground with a hand lens to get a closer look at a single crane-fly orchid flower. Photo by Dave Otto.



Littlefrog Farm

Rob Halgren, PhD

P.O. Box 261
Stockbridge, MI 49285

<http://littlefrogfarm.com>
rob@littlefrogfarm.com

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www.hoosiororchid.com

SELLING ORCHIDS AT GLOS MEETINGS:

Perhaps a plant has outgrown its home, maybe you have a division to share, occasionally you may find a plant doesn't bloom for you or like your conditions, possibly you need to make room for something new, or you just no longer want a certain plant. Whatever the reason, the Raffle and the Silent Auction Tables are great places to share your no-longer wanted orchids with fellow society members.

Please keep in mind, however, that shared plants should be healthy, free of diseases and insects, and be generally well-cared for. Just as you wouldn't want to take home a sick plant, neither should you expect others to accept one. Such plants are better off becoming a part of a compost pile than potentially passing on its ailment(s) to another's collection.

The Society does have a responsibility to not allow diseased or insect-infested plants to be distributed at our meetings.

However, we all take great pleasure in finding, growing and blooming treasures from the Raffle and Silent Auction Tables.

GLOS Advertising Policy

Commercial members may advertise their orchid businesses in the Calypso at no extra charge. Ads will appear as space is available and in the order they are received. Advertisers are responsible for preparing their ads. Standing Ads size should normally be 2" x 3" but exceptions may be made for special events. Submissions will be considered a one-time-only unless designated as standing ads. Please check the stated deadline for submission to any Calypso issue. Submissions may be made via email or regular mail.

Non-commercial members may also advertise orchid related items in the Calypso under the above conditions.

ORCHIDS IN CYBERSPACE

Excerpts from other Orchid Conservation Coalition articles posted here:

<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/articles.html>

Fifteen years ago I received a notice looking for volunteers to participate in a unique project to restore a native orchid in northeast Illinois. WOW, since I freely admit to having an orchid addiction, this project was made for me! I attended the first training session and learned we would be working to restore the federally threatened *Platanthera leucophaea*, the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid. I had found lady slippers orchids on many camping trips but my true fascination with the family until then had been with tropical orchids. Before that day I had never heard of, let alone seen, this species.



Natural area restoration has been ongoing in the Chicago area since the mid-1970's due mainly to one man's curiosity, Steve Packard. In 1975 Packard discovered prairie remnants within the forest preserves of Cook County. Although they were strewn with garbage and overgrown with weeds, some prairie plants still survived. After doing much research, he was given permission by Forest Preserve management to begin restoration at one area using volunteers. In fact a book has been written about the early years of his restoration efforts, *Miracle Under the Oaks* by William Stevens. The recovery project for *P. leucophaea* is a by-product of that restoration movement.

See the rest of the article: <http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/pdf/articles/citizenscientist.pdf>