



**Board Meeting -** Wednesday, May 11, 2005  
7:00 p.m., Franklin Park Conservatory

**May Meeting –** *The Genus Cycnoches*  
Thursday, May 19, 2005  
7:30 p.m., Franklin Park Conservatory Classrooms  
7:30 – 8:00 p.m., Beginners' Corner in the Library

**Let's get ambitious.** What do you say we consider something exotic, something quite unusual in several ways? Let's pay a visit to the genus **Cycnoches**.

This small genus, comprised of about 23 species, is widespread throughout Central and South America. Why unusual? Well, for starters, the flowers are not hermaphroditic like almost all other orchids. They're unisexual and a single inflorescence on a vigorous plant will sometimes carry both male and female flowers. How strange is that? Add to that the fact that the flowers are non-resupinate (and that?) and the casual observer is likely to raise an eyebrow. Then there's the male flowers equipped with spring-loaded mechanisms to fire their pollinia at likely pollinators (and that?). But are they pretty and are they possible to grow? Yes and yes!

See for yourself at the May 19th meeting. Our guided tour will be led by Rob Halgren, a noted grower, apprentice AOS judge, and now proprietor of the fledgling orchid nursery, Littlefrog Farm (<http://littlefrogfarm.com/>).

When I first met Rob he was finishing up his Ph.D. at that noted football powerhouse, Northwestern (and that?). Now he's at Michigan State working on animal genomics (huh?). Rob has two orchid loves: one is Cycnoches and the other isn't. (Hint: the other has a pouch.) He'll be bringing some of each for the sales table.

Join us for a bite to eat around 6-ish at the Old Bag O' Nails restaurant. Alumni of football factories and commuter colleges alike are invited. We'll also be welcoming back Ken Mettler to moderate the Beginner's Corner workshop. Ken and Dawn attended the Spring MAOC Show in Minnesota and may have an anecdote or two to share. Tom Bell-Games ably filled in for Ken at the April meeting and we thank him for that. - Tom Franczak

**Hospitality -** Thank you to all for bringing treats for our hospitality table at the last meeting. We don't have the names of the people who have volunteered to bring treats for the May meeting, but thank you in advance!

**New Members –**  
Please take a moment during upcoming meetings to welcome these new members:

**Carisa Parsons-Moore**  
**Ed Pfeiffer**  
**Thom Weiland**

**COOS OFFICERS**

President	Tom Lochner	614-487-8197
Vice President	Tom Franczak	614-868-5636
Treasurer	Chuck Hill	614-442-6995
Secretary	Jennelle Szczepanski	614-868-7309

**COOS TRUSTEES**

Tom Bell-Games	614-487-1623
Sue Dervin	614-866-4059
Jim Harper	614-965-1921
Matina Ross	614-263-4819
Don Weber	614-846-7712
Cathy Willis	614-847-0676

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Membership	Tom James	614-231-9046
Chair, Mini-shows	Jon Young	614-272-5256
Guest Speaker/Programs	Tom Franczak	614-868-5636

## NOTES FROM THE APRIL MEETING

Once again, we had a huge turnout – so good to see so many of our members coming to the meetings! We had a very interesting talk by Leo Schordje on *Lycaste* and related genera such as *Anguloa*. Leo brought a wide variety of *Lycaste* and other plants for sale. Leo has kindly provided us with a copy of his culture sheet for *Lycaste* which we have reprinted in this newsletter.

Among some of the plants noted on the show table were the following.

### Cattleya and Related Hybrids

Tennis Maynard	Lc Chit Chat 'Tangerine'	1 <sup>st</sup>
[unidentified]	<i>Cattleya</i> Crystella	2 <sup>nd</sup>
James Fagan	<i>Cattleya</i> [unidentified hybrid]	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### Cymbidium

Jon Young	<i>Cymbidium</i> Cracker Jack	1 <sup>st</sup>
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### Dendrobium

Screll Jones	<i>Dendrobium pierardii</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>
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### Oncidium Alliance

Tom Stinson	<i>Brassia</i> Rex 'Tahoma' AM/AOS	1 <sup>st</sup>
Tom Stinson	<i>Miltonia</i> Celle Rainier	1 <sup>st</sup>
Tom Stinson	<i>Miltonia</i> Hajime Ono 'Maui Jewel' AM/AOS x Hajime Ono 'Maui Falls' AM/AOS	2 <sup>nd</sup>

### Paphiopedilum

Tom Stinson	<i>Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Tom Stinson	<i>Paph. sukhakulii</i> 'Candor Conundrum AM/AOS x James Bacon 'PR11' AM/AOS	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Tom Stinson	<i>Paph. Lynleigh</i> Koopowitz	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### Phalaenopsis, Solid Color

Sue Dervin	<i>Phal.</i> Taipei Gold 'Gold Star' x Empress 'Maryland' AM/AOS	1 <sup>st</sup>
Bill & Ruth Cavanaugh	<i>Phal.</i> Sierra Buddha 'Leucadin' x Sogo Kat 'Kurt'	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Margaret Borden	<i>Doritaenopsis</i> Lava Glow ( <i>Phal.</i> Buddha's Treasure x <i>Doritis pulcherima</i> )	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### Phalaenopsis, Striped

Margaret Borden	<i>Phal.</i> Malibu Bistro '088'	2 <sup>nd</sup>
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### Phalaenopsis, White

Sue Dervin	<i>Phal.</i> Queen of Diamonds	1 <sup>st</sup>
Tennis Maynard	<i>Phal.</i> [unidentified]	2 <sup>nd</sup>

### Phragmipedium

Tennis Maynard	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Lutz Rollke	1 <sup>st</sup>
Tennis Maynard	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Saint Peter	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Tennis Maynard	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Longveville (sp?)	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### Pleurothallid Alliance

Tom Bell-Games	<i>Masdevallia xanthina-mandarina</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Tom Bell-Games	<i>Masdevallia</i> Angelita	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Tom Bell-Games	<i>Restrepia serrilabia</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### Vanda

Phil Boyle	<i>Ascofinetia</i> Cherry Blossom 'Pink Bouquet'	1 <sup>st</sup>
Tennis Maynard	<i>Vanda coerulea</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>

**GROWING TIPS** – If you are growing indoors under lights, now is a good time to change your fluorescent light bulbs. Replacement of bulbs once a year helps ensure you are giving your plants the light they need. By replacing these in the spring, the increase in light will help stimulate new growth. You might also consider a slight increase in day length to mimic natural changes in light. Even very small changes in day-length and intensity can be favorable for many species.

If you didn't get a copy of Leo Schordje's culture sheet on *Lycastes* at the April meeting, here it is:

## Some Notes on Growing *Lycaste*, *Anguloa* and *Ida*

The genus *Lycaste* has a number of members that are delightful orchids for the home orchid grower. They have very showy flowers that are often pleasantly fragrant. Generally the group are mostly medium sized plants, with some robust members and a few delightful dwarfs. *Lycaste campbellii* will bloom in a 2.5 inch pot. *Lycaste* (*Ida*) *denningiana* matures out as a plant with 3 foot leaves and 2 pound pseudobulbs, a real behemoth. The majority will bloom in 4 inch pots and form nice specimen plants in 6 inch pots. The genus was first described back in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the species *Lycaste skinneri* was one of the darlings of the Victorian era. The taxonomy for the genus is fairly well organized as orchids go, which means it is quite botched up to the general layman's eye. Two closely related genera are *Anguloa* and *Ida*. *Anguloa*, the tulip orchid, is a concept that has been around since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The genus *Ida* is a recent concept, created from the "Fimbriatae" section of the genus *Lycaste*. All *Ida* have fringe on at least part of the margin of the flower's labellum and are evergreen, growing continuously all year without a sharp seasonal rest.

Generally in nature *Lycastes* are found growing as epiphytes on trees or occasionally as lithophytes on rocky cliffs and ledges. When in active growth all *Lycastes*, *Ida* & *Anguloa* do best when grown rather wet. Never dry out a *Lycaste* in active growth. Choose a potting mix that retains moisture, yet allows air to penetrate to the roots. Most of the popular mixes will work quite well. Use the same mix you use for most of your orchids, don't make an exception for the *Lycastes*. I prefer either a standard bark based potting mix or Chilean long fiber sphagnum. I have also seen good results with coconut husk chunk based mixes. Choose coarse, medium or fine grade mixes based on pot size. The *Lycastes* have fine, small diameter roots, so I would choose a fine grade mix right up through the 4 inch pot size, medium mix for 5 through 8 inch pot size, and use the coarse mix only for the largest pot sizes.

*Lycastes* will perform well in a wide range of light conditions, but they do best with bright light. With good air movement to keep leaf temperatures down, they can take direct sun for several hours a day. If you can not keep the air moving during the heat of the day, give them some shade. Baking in the hot sun is what must be avoided. Bright enough for *Cattleya* is ideal, they will grow and occasionally bloom in lower light conditions, at the low end you can get by with *Phalaenopsis* bright. On the high end, with air moving so the leaves wave in the breeze, you can go to *Cymbidium* bright.

For temperature preference, the *Lycastes* are reasonably forgiving. As a group they are intermediate to cool growers. It is more important to have a sharp day-night temperature change than it is to get down to a specific temperature. *Lycastes* seem to do quite well coping with the heat of my Illinois summers and the cool winters in my basement under lights. Do protect your *Lycastes* from temperatures below 40 F (4 C). I killed the new growth on an *Ida* (*Lycaste*) *barringtoniae* by leaving it outside when nights went down to the middle 30's. The old growths survived, but I lost one year's progress on this rare Jamaican species.

*Lycaste* will tolerate a wide range of water quality. If kept fairly wet during active growth you can grow them using municipal water. The references that refer to the need for very pure water were written by people who grow their plants too dry. It is important to feed the *Lycastes* frequently during active growth. They are heavy feeders. I recommend the MSU formula, or similar high nitrogen formulations all year. Personally, I feed continuously at 250 ppm nitrogen, MSU formula, every watering. With good light, plenty of water and fertilizer available, the *Lycastes* will rapidly develop the large pseudobulbs needed to put out good floral displays.

The genus *Lycaste* is divided into several sections, each tend to share common growing requirements. The first is section *Macrophyllae*, which means "big leaves" and is typified by *Lycaste skinneri*. *Lycaste skinneri* is the most popular of the genus and rightly so, it has large flowers, normally a soft pink with darker petals. There is a wide range in colors, from pure white albinos, to deep purple reds. Most have a light floral fragrances, *L. skinneri* smells almost like roses. They tend to flower over a longer season than the more sharply deciduous species.

*Lycaste skinneri* is easy to grow, if you keep in mind that its native range is from Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras & El Salvador. All of these areas have wet and dry seasons, with a 2 or 3 month dry season coming in late winter or early spring. How dramatic the difference between wet & dry seasons depends on local geography. This group of *Lycastes* is not as sharply seasonal as the *Deciduosae* section. I used to agonize over when to water and when to dry out a *Lycaste*. Let the plant tell you what it wants. When the new growth is mature, the leaves will yellow and begin to drop. This is when you stop regular watering, dry the plant out completely. Typically, the plant will drop most of the leaves, and appear to be dormant for about 2 months, (possibly about February, March & early April). During this dormancy, if you see the pseudobulbs shriveling, it is okay to water. Just keep the frequency of watering at about half or less of the normal pattern. When you see new growth start it is time to resume normal watering. It is really that simple. Let the plant tell you what it wants. Seedlings and young plants should not be dried out very hard or long if you want to put on size quickly. Once new growth starts it is important to not dry out the *Lycaste* if you want to get full size pseudobulbs. If the adult plants show no sign of wanting to drop their leaves, don't worry about it. They will often do just fine with little change in watering pattern, if they want to grow all year round for you, let them. Our seasonal changes in relative humidity and light intensity are often adequate change for *Lycaste skinneri* and other members of the section *Macrophyllae*. Other members

of this section should be treated roughly the same. They include: skinneri, macrophylla, dowiana, leucantha, powelii, virginialis (a synonym of skinneri) and xytriophora.

Section Deciduosae is the group of mostly yellow flowered Lycastes. Many of the species are quite similar, hard to tell apart, sometimes fragrance differences are your best clue. Lycaste aromatica is a well known member of this group, with many small yellow flowers and a spicy cinnamon fragrance. Lycaste crinita is similar, but lacks the spicy cinnamon in its fragrance. These yellow flowered species are sharply deciduous, coming from areas where the dry season is more pronounced. In active growth the comments above apply. When the leaves start to yellow in winter, dry these species out completely. I give L. aromatica no water at all for 4 months, from Christmas until April. I resume watering when I see the new growth emerge, after the flower buds are up and starting to open. Members of this group are very floriferous, often 6 to 10 or more flowers per pseudobulb. This group has a number of dwarf species, ideal for windowsill or under lights culture. Favorite of these is the very floriferous Lycaste campbellii, which can bloom in a 2 inch pot. Even the tiny campbellii needs to be kept quite dry during winter dormancy. Other species in section Deciduosae include: aromatica, bradeora, brevispatha, campbellii, candida, cochleata, consobrina, crinita, cruenta, deppei, lasioglossa, luminosa, macrobulbon, saccata, suaveolens, sulphurea, and tricolor.

The next group is the evergreen, always growing Lycastes. This is the Fimbriatae section, now have genus status, called Ida. These are characterized by the big green monsters, denningiana, ciliata, fimbriata, locusta & peruviana. These are large growing plants, with large green flowers, fringed lips, and exotic nocturnal fragrances. There are many species, it is often difficult to tell them apart. Grow them all as one would for a Lycaste skinneri in active growth, all year long. Keep them reasonably wet, water them frequently, not as much as a Phragmipedium, but more often than you would water a Phalaenopsis. There are a few mid-size and dwarf species in this group. My favorite is Ida (Lycaste) andretteae. Its flowers face downward, like bells. The color starts out green, but changes to an interesting copper color after the flowers are open a few days. The fragrance is an exotic, musky odor, with cloves and spice and something less than agreeable. Another delightful compact Ida is Ida linguella. The flowers are icy green, almost white. The presentation is good, and the fragrance is pleasant. Another dwarf is Ida portilliae, it has many cupped flowers and a nice fragrance. Medium size is Ida locusta, nana, trifoliata, fowlei, and barringtoniae. Ida reichenbachia is a medium size Ida with orange flowers, unusual for the group. The largest Ida I know is Ida denningiana, a massive plant with heavy psuedobulbs. Ida fimbriata, ciliata, peruviana, and longipetala all become large specimens. The Ida are the easiest of the Lycastes to grow because they need no special treatment, grow them the same year round, and they will thrive.

Anguloa is the third group. Known as the tulip orchids, they have many 3 to 4 inch cupped flowers per pseudobulb. They tend to be robust growers, forming large specimen plants. Grow them as you would Lycaste skinneri, their growth behavior is nearly the same. There are only a dozen or so species in this group, with clowesi being the most commonly seen.

All three groups hybridize freely. Most of the hybrids involve Lycaste skinneri somewhere in the ancestry, for good reason. Hybrids between different sections will have intermediate requirements for a late winter or early spring dry season. Let the plant tell you what it wants. When the leaves start to yellow, dry the plant out. When new growth is up 1/4 inch out of the potting mix, resume watering. Keep them wet, bright and fertilize regularly and you will have wonderful flowers.

As a group, Lycastes deserve to be more popular than they are these days. Give one a try, you won't be disappointed.

- Leo Schordje

www.Schordje.com

Leo Schordje

Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium and other fine orchids

## ORCHID HIKE IN THE HOCKING HILLS – THIS WEEKEND

Ken and Dawn Mettler will host the annual orchid hike over hill and dale on **Saturday, May 7, 2005.**

They write:

"We will limit the hike to 10-12 people. We will try to give preference to people who haven't been on the hike before. Other than that, the first people who reply get to go. We will email (or call) participants with specifics and directions."

If you want to accept this gracious invitation, email them at [rockbridge@hocking.net](mailto:rockbridge@hocking.net). If you don't have email, you can call them at 740-380-3023. (These are both in the COOS directory.) Don't miss this great opportunity to see some of our native orchid species.

## CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY – 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW

Tom Lochner, Show Chair for our big annual AOS-sanctioned show has provided the following update on where things stand. The show will be held at the Franklin Park Conservatory, June 4 and 5; show set-up will be all day Friday, June 3.

**Exhibitors:** Space is sold out. Currently scheduled exhibitors include the following.

Cat Orchids	New Vision Orchids
Fox Valley Orchids	Oak Knob Orchids
Gypsy Glen Orchids	Orchid Inn
Hilltop Orchids	Orchid Outlet
Hoosier Orchid Company	Porter's Orchids
Natt's Orchids	Roberts Flower Supply

**Judges:** We are anticipating 20 AOS judges for this show.

**Clerks:** We need a good number of clerks to help during ribbon judging. Please contact Tom Lochner if you would be interested in helping. He can be reached at: 614-487-8197. If you haven't clerked before, it is fairly easy and is a great way to learn more about judging. Ribbon judging will last about 2 hours and will start early Saturday morning, June 4.

**Additional Help:** In addition to clerks, we still need help with the following activities.

Hospitality – Please bring a covered dish to help stock our hospitality room which is provided for judges and show volunteers.

Publicity / Advertising – If you have ideas about helping to promote the show with the general public, please step up NOW. We need to take care of this as soon as possible.

Set-up – Show set-up will start Thursday evening (June 2) when we will need to set-up stanchions and tables so we are ready for vendors and exhibitors who will be arriving Friday (June 3). All day Friday, we can use your help in assisting vendors and exhibitors in bringing in their plants. If you can spare an hour or two any time, especially in the afternoon and early evening, we could really use your help.

PLANTS! – We definitely need blooming plants. Please plan on bringing your plants to the Conservatory on Friday so we can incorporate them into our society exhibit. Plants should be properly groomed. Please be sure your entries are clean and pest/disease free.

Tear-down – We will need people to help clean-up after the end of the show on Sunday afternoon. This usually starts around 4:30 to 5:00, depending on show attendance. The more people we have, the faster this goes.

Demonstration/Talks – If we can, we would like to have a few of our more experienced growers available to provide short talks or hands-on demonstration of potting and growing techniques.

General Help, Host/Hostess – We can always use a few folks to help our vendors throughout the show as well as to answer questions of the general public. We will likely have a Society table where we will have information about joining the Central Ohio Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society, in addition to orchid culture sheets.

**If you are interested in helping out with the show, please call Tom Lochner today to volunteer. He can be reached at 614-487-8197.**

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**ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY YET?** If not, consider joining today. One of the primary benefits includes the monthly magazine of the AOS, *Orchids*. This is THE organization for orchids in the U.S. Each issue is filled with informative articles and many interesting advertisers of all things orchid related. Current dues are \$46.50 per year, individual. Mail your dues in today to: AOS, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351. Visit the AOS web site at: [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

## UPCOMING SHOWS

The following are upcoming shows well within driving distance of the central Ohio area.

**May 21-22** Kentucky Orchid Society Show, Executive Inn, 978 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY. Contact: Jo Boudinot, 1576 Beech St., Radcliff, KY 40160. 207-351-1767; boud92773@aol.com

**June 4-5** Central Ohio Orchid Society Show, Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus, Ohio (10am-5pm both days)

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: We need your input - please contact Tom Bell-Games at: [tbellgames@burnip.com](mailto:tbellgames@burnip.com) if you want to contribute an article to the newsletter or have an announcement to be included in the newsletter.

THE CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY  
c/o TOM BELL-GAMES  
1615 ANDOVER ROAD  
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IMPORTANT NOTE: SEE DETAILS INSIDE FOR THIS WEEKEND'S ORCHID HIKE

CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

