

2021 Virtual Symposium Records

This Pennsylvania Botany Symposium was produced in partnership with the Natural Areas Association.

Watch the 2021 Virtual Symposium on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mU85bdk6DI&t=2s>

[Student ePoster Session Entries](#)

[ePoster Codes](#) — Use them to locate individual poster entries at the site linked above.

[Cool Finds in 2019, 2020 and 2021](#)

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2021 Student Poster Session Winners:

Undergraduate

1st: Diamanda Zizis, Bucknell University, “What happens when you cross plant species with two distinct sexual systems? An ex situ hybridization approach”

2nd: Sarah White, University of Scranton, “Quantifying geographic variation in flower color in *Mimulus ringens* using citizen science data”

Graduate

1st: Cheyenne Moore, University of Pittsburgh, “Invasive hybrid vigor? Niche and trait variance between three knotweed taxa”

2nd: Cassie Stark, Penn State University, “A habitat comparison between two ramp species, *Allium tricoccum* and *Allium burdickii*, in Pennsylvania”

TIME	SESSION	PRESENTER
1:00– 1:05	Welcome	The PA Botany Planning Committee
1:05– 1:50	Native Orchid Conservation Efforts at Longwood Gardens	Peter Zale, Ph.D. , Associate Director, Plant Breeding and Collections, Longwood Gardens
1:50– 2:00	Transition Break	
2:00– 3:00	Student Poster Session and Live Judging. Participants are invited to visit the PA Botany Virtual Poster Session. Support the next generation of botanists! High school through graduate school students compete for cash prizes. Students will be available to answer questions about their work via chat.	
3:00– 3:40	Cool Finds! It has been a long time, and we cannot wait to share your Cool Finds from 2019, 2020 and 2021. Curated and presented by Chris Firestone, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	
3:40– 3:50	Student Poster Awards. Join us to see who wins first and second prizes in two categories: High School/Undergrad and Grad Student.	
3:50– 4:00	Conclusion	

2021 Virtual Symposium Opening Session

Native Orchid Conservation Efforts at Longwood Gardens

Speaker

Peter Zale, Ph.D. Associate Director, Plant Breeding, and Collections, Longwood Gardens

Successful orchid conservation requires a multidisciplinary approach that supports in situ and ex situ conservation. Public gardens are expected to play a key role in supporting these efforts. Longwood Gardens initiated a native orchid conservation program in 2015 that focuses on horticultural aspects of ex situ orchid conservation including seed propagation, seedling establishment, and collections development, that is balanced with in situ restoration, population assessments of rare species, and field work to catalogue previously unknown orchid occurrences. Peter will present on the development, successful outcomes, and future aspirations of the program to date with specific attention paid to projects and partnerships in Pennsylvania.

Biography

Peter Zale, Ph.D. holds a Master's degree and Ph.D in plant breeding and genetics (2009, 2014) from The Ohio State University and is currently Associate Director, Conservation, Plant Breeding, and Collections, at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. In this position he leads curatorial activities, the plant breeding programs, the plant exploration program, and the plant conservation program. His main efforts at Longwood have centered around development of a comprehensive conservation horticulture program focused on native orchids of the U.S. and temperate terrestrial orchids from around the world. In his spare time, he has been building his own "private botanical garden" with extensive collections of native plants, hardy orchids, geophytes, woodland plants, trees, shrubs, and a variety of other plants that reflect personal interests and the idea that gardens serve as a tool for ex situ plant conservation.