



THE GREATER CINCINNATI ORCHID SOCIETY

January 2026 Newsletter

CincinnatiOrchids.org

7:00 pm January 13, 2026: Russ Vernon: *"Pansy-Miltoniopsis Judging and Culture"*

Russ Vernon will be speaking on his specialty, Miltoniopsis!

He will present in person, and will bring a few orchids for sale.

Russ grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Early on he had an interest in plants, helping in the yard and growing cacti purchased with his allowance. His parents and grandparents were all interested in various aspects of horticulture. When Russ was 12 years old, his uncle arrived with 6 orchids saying, "If you can grow those darned cacti, you ought to be able to grow these." And a career was launched.

Russ is a graduate of Ohio State University majoring in horticulture/floriculture. He has worked for Orchid by Hausermann, A&P Orchids, Ball State University's Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank, and Jim Davis, the creator of Garfield the Cat.

In 2004, Russ and his wife Anita started New Vision Orchids. The company specializes in Phalaenopsis, Odontoglossums and their intergenerics, Miltoniopsis, Cattleyas, and Lycastes. The biggest area of focus is hybridizing, and retail sales. Russ also lectures to various orchid societies across the country and conducts workshops on orchid culture.

Russ is a judge of the American Orchid Society and is past President of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, and Past President of the Mid-America Orchid Congress and serves on their Conservation Committee. He and Anita have two daughters.

6:00 pm January 13 Beginner's Conversation

Stephanie will lead with the topic "Spiking Phalaenopsis" with tips on how to encourage a Phal to produce a spike.
As always, bring your plants, knowledge and questions.



Orchid Culture Day **"Step into the World of Slippers"**

Join us virtually on Sunday, January 25th, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM EDT to enjoy four great talks in one day from the comfort of your home. We can always learn more about Orchids! Spend the day with four outstanding speakers and "Step into the World of Slippers."

This event will be streamed through our GotoWebinar platform. Fee: \$40.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar on January 25th.

There will be a Q&A period after each talk and door prizes. *Open to All.*

For more information, please visit [AOS Culture Day](#) - [American Orchid Society](#).



CHANGE OF DATE: Ron Parsons "Orchids of Madagascar, a Land of Many Contrasts" will be on February 1, 2026 at 7:30 EST.

Since Orchid Culture Day (See the AOS sidebar) is scheduled for January 25th, Ron's lecture will change to February 1st to avoid conflict.

Note that GCOS is a dues-paying member of MAOC. Therefore each of us is also a member of MAOC. One of the privileges of MAOC Membership is a yearly Zoom presentation by a renowned speaker. A small fee paid by the society allows all members access to view the presentation at no cost!

A Zoom link and exact time of airing will be sent the week before the presentation.

Affiliated Societies Meeting Presentations



Photo and Bio from AOS

On Sunday February 1st at 7:30 pm EST, Ron Parsons, a noted world traveler, lecturer and author will showcase information and tales of orchids in exotic Madagascar.

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for nearly 49 years. He loves to photograph orchids and other flowers whenever he can, and does so as often as possible. Ron has more than 100,000 digital images, most of which are of orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. He has given more than 500 talks on various botanical topics, and has nearly 6500 published photos. Ron has co-authored books on botanical subjects, all with Mary E. Gerritsen. In 2019 The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture was released, and is on its third printing. In 2021 they released a much-revised second edition of their book A Compendium of Miniature Orchids Species. It is now in four volumes with 3100 photos (1800 of those are new), including those of more than 500 species not in the first edition.

GCOS Holiday Potluck Report

The Holiday Potluck was held at our familiar Scout Center this year. At least 24 participants brought an abundance of fabulous food!

After eating, and social time, bids were placed on silent Auction plants.



Spencer reviews silent auction plants.

The highlight of the Event was Orchid Bingo! Kris produced homemade bingo cards tailored for orchid enthusiasts. Markers were candy kisses. Orchid prizes, including several hibernating Habenarias, were given out for the numerous Bingos!



Orchid Bingo card example

Orchid Show March 21 and 22, 2026; Setup March 20

The SignUpGenius for the GCOS Orchid Show is ready!

Use this link to sign up for your favorite volunteer activities and hospitality items to provide!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948AEAC2AA7FFC16-61359945-copy>

Prefer to sign up on paper? Come to the January 13, February 10 or March 10 meetings. An updated paper copy will be available.

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

GCOS Annual Members Meeting Minutes November 11, 2025

Joel Mattes called the GCOS Annual Members Meeting to order at 7:00 pm November 11, 2025. About 25 GCOS members were present at the Scout Achievement Building, 10078 Reading Road. The slate of Officers and the Budget for 2026 were presented, voted on with voice vote and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20.

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Tsui, Secretary

Proposed Candidates for 2026 and 2027

Treasurer	Jeanne Rhinehart
Director	Mary Gardner
Director	Stephanie Kimberlin
Director	(Open)

2026 Officers and Directors

President	Joel Mattes
Vice President	Lindsey Pertuset
Treasurer	Jeanne Rhinehart
Secretary	Ann Tsui
Director	Kris Mason
Director	Mary Gardner
Director	Shirley Holt
Director	Jennifer Depillo
Director	Stephanie Kimberlin

Continuing Officers/Directors During 2026

President	Joel Mattes
Vice President	Lindsey Pertuset
Secretary	Ann Tsui
Director	Kris Mason
Director	Shirley Holt
Director	Jennifer DePillo

GCOS 2026 Budget Planning													
2025 Budget Income Programs	2024 Auctual			2025 Budget			2025 Actual			2026 Budget			
				Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net	
	Speakers	(2,573.67)	(2,573.67)	0.00	2500.00	2500.00		(1374.00)	(1,374.00)		(2,500.00)	(2,500.00)	
	Spring Show	6,290.17	(2,810.42)	3,479.75	6212.00	(2951.00)	3261.00	7,103.08	(4573.03)	2,530.05	7,500.00	(3,500.00)	4,000.00
	Banking	80.00		80.00					(73.75)	(73.75)		(150.00)	(150.00)
	Picnic	2,318.49	(341.80)	1,976.69		(422.00)	(422.00)	39.40	(108.08)	(68.68)	250.00	(400.00)	(150.00)
	Holiday Party	710.00	(368.40)	341.60	0.00	100.00	(100.00)				500.00	(400.00)	100.00
	Conservation		(200.00)	(200.00)	0.00	(200.00)	(200.00)			0.00		(300.00)	(300.00)
	OVOF	785.01		785.01									
Membership													
	GCOS	1,621.38		1,621.38	1200.00	0.00	1200.00	748.91		748.91	900.00		900.00
	MAOC		(66.00)	(66.00)	(35.00)	(35.00)	0.00		(43.50)	(43.50)		(45.00)	(45.00)
	AOS		(168.00)	(168.00)	(168.00)	168.00	(168.00)			0.00		(170.00)	(170.00)
	AOS & MAOC 2 yr												
General													
	BSA/CGC Rent		(2,500.00)	(2,500.00)	(1750.00)	(2500.00)	(2500.00)		(150.00)	(150.00)		(2,650.00)	(2,650.00)
	Meeting	106.91	(33.49)	73.42					(333.85)	(333.85)		(400.00)	(400.00)
	Insurance		(1,797.00)	(1,797.00)	0.00	(1797.00)	(1797.00)		(1,823.00)	(1,823.00)		(2,000.00)	(2,000.00)
	US and Ohio Fees		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	100.00			0.00		(50.00)	(50.00)
	Recognition Gifts				(200.00)	(200.00)	200.00			0.00		(200.00)	(200.00)
	Donations	2,210.75		2,210.75	500.00	0.00	500.00	2,380.00		2,380.00	2,500.00		2,500.00
	Plant sales							885.96		885.96	1,000.00		1,000.00
	Equipment								1,894.42	(1,894.42)		(300.00)	(300.00)
	Software								(106.74)	(106.74)		(200.00)	(200.00)
	Officer Epensess		(346.76)	(346.76)					(86.14)	(86.14)		(300.00)	(300.00)
	Storage	223.50	(1,320.94)	(1,097.44)	0.00	(1300.00)	1300.00	447.00	(1425.52)	(978.52)	550.00	(1,600.00)	(1,050.00)
	Website		(156.44)	(156.44)		(80.00)	(80.00)			0.00		(160.00)	(160.00)
	Interest Income	832.71		832.71									0.00
	Restricted Funds	2,894.67		2,894.67				1,242.00			1,242.00		3,000.00
	Totals:	18,073.59	(12,782.92)	5,290.67	5,659.00	(6,817.00)	3,794.00	12,846.35	(11,992.03)	(387.68)	14,442.00	(15,325.00)	875.00
					2022	2,023.00		2024	2025				
Ending Total Assets:					31,505.00	28,979.00		31,449.21	32,856.00				
CD Interest					695.00			608.33	1,406.79				
CD's					15,000.00	15,725.26		21,512.67	21,980.81				

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Speaker/Event	Date	Speaker/Place	Topic/Information
Judging Center	January 11	Civic Garden Center	Judging Starts at 1 pm
GCOS Members Meeting	January 13	Russ Vernon in Person, Scout Building	<i>"Pansy-Miltoniopsis Judging and Culture"</i>
MAOC Zoom Lecture	February 1	Ron Parsons In Your Home over Zoom	<i>"Orchids in Madagascar, a Land of Many Contrasts"</i>
Board Annual Meeting and January BOD Mtg	February 9	Blue Ash Library	6:00-8:30 and on Zoom
February GCOS Meeting	February 10	Scout Building	TBA
Board Meeting	February 24	Madeira Library	6:00-8:30 and on Zoom
March GCOS Meeting	March 10	Scout Building	
<i>GCOS ORCHID SHOW</i>	<i>March 21 and 22, 2026</i>	<i>Setup March 20</i>	<i>SignUpGenius is available. Help is appreciated!</i>
GCOS Picnic	June 20	GCOS Hosts MVOS at the Scout Building	



Ctsm. Ivaneae "Purple Fantasy" x
Ctsm. Orchidglade 'Davey Ranches' AM/AOS

Grown and Photo by Lindsey Pertuset

Membership Renewal for 2026 is appreciated. Our finances depend largely on membership fees. Since emails, addresses and other information change at times, please fill out a membership form when renewing, even though your data is current. Checks, credit cards, cash or PayPal accepted.

THE GREATER CINCINNATI ORCHID SOCIETY

2026 Membership Application

Please Print

Your Board has decided to offer a two (2) year enrollment option. Get \$5 off a year membership.

DATE	
NAME	
Names in family membership	
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
PHONE Primary	
PHONE Secondary	
E-MAIL ADDRESS PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY	

Unless you ask us not to, we include your information on a membership roster that is sent to other GCOS members and to the American Orchid Society (AOS). This chapter is an affiliate of AOS.

	1 Year RATE	2 Year RATE	YOUR PAYMENT
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$30	\$55	
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$35	\$65	
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP	\$15	\$25	
DONATIONS, to support GCOS (identify any restrictions)			
YOUR TOTAL:			

You may join/renew your membership in one of two ways:

- 1) **Mail the form to: Jeanne Rhinehart, 6222 Le Roy Place, Cincinnati, OH 45230**
- 2) Take a photo of the form and email to jeanws@me.com

If you want to make a donation or pay for membership, you can send a check to Jeanne Rhinehart or pay online via PayPal at the society's website: <http://www.cincinnatiorchids.org>

Our mission is to create and stimulate knowledge and interest in orchids and their culture, to demonstrate orchid culture to the public, and to preserve orchid biodiversity both in nature and cultivation by enthusiasts.

The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society is a 501(C)(3) tax exempt organization. Dues and donations to us are tax deductible for those people who itemize their deductions.