



The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society

<https://cincinnatiorchids.org>

May 2022 Newsletter

The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society hopes everyone is staying healthy. Our April meeting will be in person and over Zoom. We meet in person at our new meeting site in the Scout Achievement Center of the Dan Beard Council, Boy Scouts of America, 10078 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241. Meetings start at 6:15 pm with our beginners' class. The main meeting will start at 7:00 pm. We are also sharing members' orchids with an online Show-and-Tell.

President's Message

One of the most effective ways to learn about how other people grow orchids is to visit other grower's growing areas (lights, windows, greenhouse, etc.) There are two parts to this:

- 1) Those willing/able to allow members into their growing spaces
- 2) Those wanting to visit them to observe and learn

If you are available to open up your growing area, please provide a sign-up sheet, or just a sheet with your phone, e-mail, possible times you are available, restrictions (e.g. because of space limitations, member xyz is only able to allow 4 visitors at a particular time). Interested visitors will do the contacting on their own. It's a great way to up your orchid growing game.

After 3 years absence, we are having our popular picnic and plant auction in the comfort of the BSA on June 18th. It's a great way to acquire plants. It's a great way to acquire plants and enjoy great food. There are some new considerations to ponder:

- 1) Do the traditional everybody brings a dish to share with the societies providing grilled meats (veggie burgers) and drinks provided? OR
- 2) Everybody brings their own food (option with people bringing a dessert).



Den. Cream Cascade photo by Rick Noel

Lawn chairs are optional if you wish to sit outside. This year we are having a silent auction (maximum of 5 plants per member) and the regular auction (3-5 plants). We are trying this approach to keep the regular auction to a reasonable length of time. More information will follow.

Reminder for Tuesday's meeting to bring your plants for show and tell.

Roger

GCOS May 10 Meeting

Beginner's Group will start at 6:15 pm in the smaller side room off the large room we met in last month. The topic will be Phalaenopsis Basics and will cover indoor growing culture, potting media/repotting and any questions the group has. It is encouraged to bring in plants you have questions about and we will do our best to give applicable advice. This will be a very informal group setting so come with lots of questions!

The speaker is Russ Vernon of New Vision' Orchids and will be speaking on "What's New at New Vision Orchids". His talk will be at 7 pm.

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, wholesale 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.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

May GCOS meeting	May 10 th	Russ Vernon
Native Orchid Hike	May 7 th	Shawnee State Forest & Wilhelm's
Indoor and Bog growing	May 15 1-5 pm	Rhinehart's jeanws@me.com
Vendor Car Trip & Hike	May 21 st	Kristen Uthus greenhouse, MI and <i>Cyp. candidium</i> , near Toledo
June Board meeting	May 24 th	In person Slats 6:30 pm
GCOS / MVOS picnic	June 18 th 11 - 6	Dan Beard Council BSA
Vendor Car Trip	TBA	Russ Vernon greenhouse, IN

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest	August 26-28	Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Trip to Chicagoland Orchid Festival	September 22 nd – 25 th	Chicago, IL - Natts Orchids, Hauserman Orchids and others

Hospitality for Meetings

May	Roger Miller , Mary Gardner, Deron Willmoth Gary Bunch
June	Joel Mattes & Jan Yates
September	Needed
October	Needed
November	Needed

Visits to Vendors

In the past we have traveled to local vendors to see their greenhouses and to buy plants. We have carpooled in the past to these events. We are planning to have trips to various vendors this year. The first will be to Kristen Uthus' greenhouse May 21st with details following. This will include a visit to a preserve with



hundreds of *Cypripedium candidum* and its hybrid *andrewsii* on the way (near Toledo). For those wishing to spend the night, we will go to the Waterloo Preserve near Ann Arbor to view *Cypripedium acaule* and possibly *Arethusa bulbosa*.



Signup sheets will be at Tuesday's meeting

We also plan trips to Russ Vernon's Greenhouse, possibly Windswept in Time and Chicagoland Orchid Festival. More information will follow.

Orchid of the Month – May

Grammatophyllum scriptum

The Written Grammatophyllum

Jeanne Rhinehart

gram-at-oh-FILL-um (click on the name to hear it spoken)

We picked this plant up at the Indianapolis show and decided to try to grow it as it was quite spectacular in bloom in a display. We had also seen



the plants in the genus growing in the wild in Malaysia but not in bloom. They covered the ground, and everyone just had to almost walk on them.

Grammatophyllum scriptum is native to southeast Asia (Borneo, the Lesser Sunda Islands, the Moluccas, The Philippines, Sulawesi, the Solomon Islands, the Bismark Archipelago, Papua and New Guinea, Fiji, and Santa Cruz Islands) and is found at elevations of sea level to 100 meters always close to the coast,

It grows in hot conditions in bright light (sometimes full sun) producing large pseudobulbs. Native people make a paste from it to heal sores, cure intestinal ailments, and remove worms. In some regions they make a love potion from the seeds.

It can grow in medium to warm conditions and likes to be fertilized and kept well-watered during the growing season along with high humidity. Misting the leaves is recommended. Both can be reduced in cooler months. It should be planted in a moisture retaining mix. The larger the pot the faster it grows.



Flowers last a long time sometimes up to 5 months. Flower spikes can get 2 to 3 feet. This plant is the Leopard Variety based on its spotting.

Carl Blume named this genus in 1825 the name comes from the Greek *gramma* meaning letter and *phyllon* meaning leaf and refers to the distinctive markings on the flowers.



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Interested in seeing native orchids growing and blooming in Nature? Cedar Bog June 11.

If you have never seen native orchids growing in Ohio, be sure to visit Cedar Bog in early June. Our Society is meeting there at 10:00 on June 11, the perfect time to see multiple blooms on the same plant of the Showy Lady Slipper, the royal (*Cypripedium reginae*). There is a \$5 admission fee to the park. We walk on a boardwalk and view more than the orchid; dragonflies, sundews and whatever pops into view.

Driving time: One hour 14 minutes north of

If interested, please sign your name, email and phone and we will keep you informed about when and where to meet, possible carpools or possible changes due to weather.

There will be Signup sheets for anyone interested at the Beginner and the Regular meetings this Tuesday, May 10th. More information about each will be provided on the sheets. All will be notified if the trip goes or may have to be changed due to fickle blooming of orchids or weather.

GCOS Board Meeting

The next in person board meeting will be 7:00 pm Tuesday, May 31 Anyone can attend board meetings. If interested in attending contact Jeanne Rhinehart at jeanws@me.com.

Your Orchid Photos on Our Web

If you want to send your photos with a short description and the name of the plant and your name to Jeanne Rhinehart jeanws@me.com.

Cincinnati Judging Center

There will be a meeting on the second Sunday of each month at 11 am. For information, contact Glenn Evans at glenn.f.evans.09@gmail.com.

American Orchid Society <https://www.aos.org>

The American Orchid Society's website is a great resource for orchid growers. We want to encourage membership. Even nonmembers can find information to help them become better orchid growers.

From the last published AOS Corner:



Webinars-Coming Attractions!






When	May 04, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday	May 17, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	June 07, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	June 28, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday
Topic	The Birds, the Bees and the Orchids Pollination in the Orchid World	Greenhouse Focus Everything You Wanted to Know: Pots and Potting Media	Bulbophyllums of the Philippines A Survey of Endemic Species	Greenhouse Focus Mounting Orchids Made Easy
Presenter	Doug Martin AOS Accredited Judge, Member- Native Orchid Conference	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Jim Cootes Australia-based Botanist, Author, Lecturer and Orchidologist	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>
 Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!
 Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook,
 Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.
 We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure.
 GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are Indexed by topic for future viewing.

We encourage use of the [AOS website](http://www.aos.org) by ALL orchid growers.

Spring is busting out all over – in some parts of the country anyway...As much as we have moved forward during the last two years under this very unpopular pandemic, there are still areas where

holding a major group function is a concern. If you are in one of those areas, don't despair. Be sure to check in frequently with your society members and let them know brighter days are ahead.

Meanwhile, take [expert care](#) of your orchid collections. Tune into [webinars](#) and orchid study groups. Make new orchid friends. Join presentations offered remotely by neighboring or distant orchid societies. Read [ORCHIDS magazine](#) (exclusive AOS individual member benefit) from cover to cover. Dive into the magazine archives and experience orchids through the ages. Discover the world of AOS awards through [OrchidPro](#) (exclusive AOS member benefit). Browse the AOS website for [pronunciation guides](#), [pest control](#), [care and culture information](#), book reviews, and more. There are many benefits of membership in the AOS and [loads of resources](#) for all levels of orchid growers.

Be hopeful that a new season of orchids is just around the corner.

Monthly Checklist for March and April

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay. Articles like this can be [found on the AOS website](#) and in the archived issues of [ORCHIDS](#).

Cattleya Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert

for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weaken owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs, and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian) These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer, and light during the growing season.

Lycaste This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents you doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding"

stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the lookout for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

GCOS Social Media

GCOS Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/687922501752919/>

GCOS Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=greater%20cincinnati%20orchid%20society&epa=SEARCH_BOX

Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Board of Directors

President	Roger Miller	Director	Syndi Wilhelm
Vice President	Joel Mattes	Director	Pat O'Connor
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Treasurer	David Allen	Director	Christa Speights
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Please note that the Zoom meetings will many times be low volume especially questions from membership. These will be in person meetings and a hybrid with Zoom.