



ORCHIDS

GVOS Online

Keep up with the latest news.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GrandValleyOrchidSociety>

Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/543471410009131>

Email

grandvalleyorchidsociety@gmail.com

Instagram

<https://instagram.com/grandvalleyorchidsociety>

#gvos_mi

Calendar

July 17th

Bulbophyllum Culture

July 19th

FMG Volunteer Day

August

Member Q&A and Silent Auction

September

Tim Culbertson

GVOS Board

President

Kenesha Verbeek

Vice-President

Jen Myaard

Secretary

Tara Rietberg

Treasurer

Joan Shipaila

Communication

Alison Maczka

Members-At-Large

Jill Woods

Thomas Langschied



There were a lot of really great and insightful responses to the questions that were sent out. Thank you for everyone who took the time to answer the questions. We will be looking at ways we can incorporate the feedback into our meetings.

We are going to do something a little different this month. We are going to feature a member question and answer session. If you have had any questions about culture, volunteer opportunities, judging, shows, anything at all relating to orchids and the society make sure to bring them along. Kenesha also had a pile of orchids land in her lap from a friend. She will be setting them up at the meeting and a silent auction will be running. Any members are welcome to sell plants at meetings using the silent auction format. 10% of the proceeds will go to the society.

Society News

A Letter from the President

Dear GVOS Members,

Please be aware of the date change for this month's meeting. We will be meeting on Wednesday, August 20th at our normal time. This month we are having a Question & Answer session, and a large silent auction. A bid sheet will be placed by each orchid. Each plant will have a sticker with a recommended starting bid. Highest bid wins the plant. All funds raised will go directly to our society.

Please treat these orchids like you would any other new acquisition. They should be isolated and treated for pests. Many of them need repots and a good cleaning up. Most of the larger cattleya arrived bareroot. For convenience, I used my own pots to place them in. Please bring boxes and or pots to put them as my pots are not included. My pots will be clearly marked on the bottom.

I'm very excited about this opportunity. I will be bringing a thank you card that I'd like all of us to sign that I will be sending to our amazing donor.

Looking forward to seeing everyone,
Kenesha Verbeek
President, GVOS

A Word of Thanks

GVOS would not exist without active members that are willing to participate in meetings and at shows. Thank you to the following people for your contributions.

Snacks – July

Jenn M.
Dan D.

Suggestions – July

Erik K.



Society News

Bio for Tim Culbertson

Since I was young, one of my passions has always been plants. I began growing orchids in high school, and expanded my collection as an offshoot from working at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia just after college. From the very beginning it was all about Paphs, particularly awarded and select clones of historic importance, of which my collection numbers in the thousands. While I love finding old, rare stepping stones in paph breeding, I also do a little hybridizing of my own, and growing and flowering my hybrids is very exciting. I was once the youngest accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and have been a judge now for 20 years; I have served in various capacities with various orchid societies in California and on the East Coast. Recently, I've partnered with Fred Clarke to greatly expand the selection of paphs at Sunset Valley Orchids through the acquisition of significant parts of Sam Tsui's collection at Orchid Inn. I currently manage the Paphs at SVO, and do hybridizing in a wide range of genera including Cattleya, Catasetinae and Masdevallia. I love meeting other people who like orchids too, and doing so often finds me traveling to shows, vendors, and peoples' greenhouses to see the latest and greatest in new hybrids and species. I like to be involved in plants as much as possible: in addition to Longwood, I've worked at the Smithsonian Institution tending to their orchids, and for years for the United States National Arboretum, collecting rare non-orchid plants and documenting cultivated species and hybrids for their herbarium. In short, I really like plants of all kinds.

I love Catasetums! They are fantastic plants, with an incredible diversity in colors and forms. At SVO, we understand that growing space is limited, so we are working hard to produce the best miniature Catasetums available. This presentation includes some of the important parents in miniature Catasetum breeding, interesting directions for intergenerics, wonderful photos of the pathway we've taken to achieve miniature results, some natural history of this incredible alliance, and lots of information on Catasetum culture! By the end of this presentation, you will have a new appreciation of their beautiful flowers and ease-of-growth. I will have lots of plants of this alliance for sale.

Plant Pre-orders

Below is a link to the Google Doc that has plants available for pre-order and their pricing. To order email Tim at twculber@gmail.com and include GVOS along with your name in the order. There will be catesetum for sale at the meeting. **Pre-orders must be sent to Tim by September 14.**

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MwDe_09Cq0VY_NqmnongVw4H4pBBzWIhDziU0IOXqCg/edit?usp=sharing

Upcoming Orchid Events

8/22 - 8/24 - Ohio Valley Orchid Fest - 4865 Wilmington Pike, Dayton, OH 45440
 9/6 - 9/7 - Kentucky Orchid Society Show - 330 N Hubbards Ln, St Matthews, KY 40207
 9/13 - 9/14 - Wisconsin Orchid Show - 524 S Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53215
 9/19 - 9/21 - Chicagoland Orchid Festival - Natt's Orchids and Hauserman's Orchids
 10/11 - 10/12 - Illinois Orchid Society Show - Chicago Botanic Garden
 11/1-2nd 2025 - Central Ohio Orchid Show - 1500 Polaris Pkwy, Columbus, OH 43240

FMG Volunteer opportunity

Saturday August 23rd 2025 **Canceled due to heat**

Saturday September 13th 2025

Saturday October 18th 2025

Saturday December 13th 2025

Volunteer shifts start at 9am and end at 3pm. Show up when you are able.

Wear light clothes that you will be comfortable in. This is a great opportunity to test new ideas and learn new skills.

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest has a zoom option for their speakers this year. The society has purchased a "ticket" for our members to attend the zoom presentations. The speakers will be live in Dayton, Ohio. The link will be shared via email as soon as it is available.

Friday 8/22

1:15 - 2:30 PM Speaker Sessions - Ron McHatton Topic: Effective Pest and Disease Management

3:00 - 4:15 PM Speaker Sessions - Ron Kaufmann Topic: Conserving Orchids with the AOS

Saturday 8/23

1:45 - 3:00 PM- Keynote Lecture - Ron Kaufmann- Topic: 101 Ways to Kill and Orchid

3:30 - 4:45 PM- Keynote Lecture - Ron McHatton- Topic: Orchids of Madagascar

Ron Kaufmann is chair of the American Orchid Society Conservation Committee and a founding director of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Ron has been growing orchids for more than 25 years and has travelled extensively to view orchids in the wild in Asia and South America, particularly Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. His orchid collection began with a reedstem Epidendrum and progressed to a diverse assemblage that contains mostly species orchids. Ron has a long-standing interest in conservation. He joined the San

Diego County Orchid Society's Conservation Committee in 1999 and became chair in 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded over \$285,000 to support projects in 24 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, Orchid Digest, and Fundación EcoMinga (an Ecuadorian conservation organization). Most of Ron's orchids are grown in a 36 x 24 foot greenhouse and several outdoor shade-covered areas around his house in San Diego. Friends have suggested that he build a second, much larger greenhouse to accommodate the many plants that often make walking through his greenhouse an exercise requiring extensive training in gymnastics and yoga to avoid serious injury. Thus far, this recommendation hasn't been followed, although the temptation is always there.

Ron McHatton is currently the organization's Chief Education and Science Officer. He started growing orchids in Northern California about 60 years ago at the age of eight with a cattleya purchased from a local grower. This single plant quickly became a collection occupying every window facing east or south and his fascination with orchids has never waned. Over the years his private collection has numbered in excess of 2,500 plants; a direct result of no willpower or common sense.

Ron's growing experience spans lights while a graduate student in Iowa, out-of-doors in Southern California as a postdoc at Cal Tech, a northern greenhouse in upstate New York, a temperate greenhouse in Atlanta and a shade house in Central Florida. He even has experience on the mass-market side of the orchid work (he calls it the dark side of the Force).

Ron is a PhD Chemist by training, receiving his degree from Iowa State University and spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Caltech in Pasadena, California. He is responsible for the editorial content and layout of the Society's monthly magazine, Orchids and holds a monthly orchid Q&A webinar (Greenhouse Chat). Don't let that name scare you off. If you haven't registered for one, you should. In addition to the magazine, Ron represents the Society on the Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group, an international group that advises the Royal Horticultural Society on matters of hybrid registration and nomenclature. In addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Society judge with 35 years under his belt. Prior to joining the AOS staff in 2007, he volunteered for over 25 years; chairing several national committees, twice holding a seat on the Society's Board of Trustees and briefly serving as a vice-president. If this weren't enough, Ron has also been a long-time supporter of the Orchid Digest. In this role, he has served (and currently serves again) on its Board of Directors and its Executive Committee for many years and as its President for three consecutive terms.

July Plant Table

Alliance	Place	Name	Owner
Cattleya - lg Classes 11-27	1	Epicattleya Golden Sunburst	Kenesha Verbeek
	2	Epidendrum atropurpureum	Joel Borst
	3	LC Cahlemiena coerulea 'Azure Skies'	Joel Borst
Cattleya/ Brassavola Classes 11-27	1	Brassavola nodosa x walkeriana	Joel Borst
	2	Encyvola Jairak Treasure 'Kakapu Bird'	Thomas Langshied
	3	Rby Copper Queen	Kenesha Verbeek
Cypripedium Classes 28-47	1	Paph Wood Wonder 'Colorful' x Vogue Woner 'Tabby'	Tom Glover
Phalaenopsis - large Classes 48-62	1	Phal NOID - Yellow w/spots, magenta lip	Debbie Smith
	2	Phal NOID - Imposter (yellow w/ magenta lip)	Debbie Smith
	3	Phal amabilis fma Irian Java 24hr fragrance Princess	Joel Borst
Phalaenopsis - novelty Classed 48-62	1	Phal Yaphon Yellow Bomb	Quinton Lohman
Phalaenopsis - small Classed 48-62	1	Phal stobartiana	Jen Myaard
Oncidium - large Classes 79-86	1	Ons Catante 'Orange Kis'	Jen Myaard
	2	Onc spacelatum	Mei Ling Clemens
	3	Odontocidium Parquet	Jen Myaard
Miltonia Classes 79-86	1	Milt Bert Field 'Leash' AM/AOS	Kenesha Verbeek
	2	Milt Karl Gottling 'Red Rim'	Kenesha Verbeek
	1	Den Hibiki	Quinton Lohman

Dendrobium - small Classes 90-96	2	Den cruentum	Jessica Driessenga
	1	Den Burama Emerald Jade #30	Mei Ling Clemens
Dendrobium - large Classes 90-96	2	Den Norma Jackson x lasianthera	Mei Ling Clemens
	3	Den Chocolate Antlers	Mei Ling Clemens
Zygopetalum Class 106	1	Zga Sweet Jade 'Sweet Cheyenne'	Joel Borst
Miscellaneous - med Classes 97- 110	1	Dracula posadarum	Jill Wood
	2	Masdevallia Paulina Villena	Jill Wood
Miscellaneous - small Classes 97- 110	1	Lockhartia lepticaula	Debbie Smith
	2	Masdevallia nidifica	Jill Wood
Plant of the Month			Mei Ling Clemens
		Onc spacelatum	

Culture Corner

Phragmipedium Culture – Jill Wood

Ready to expand beyond Phalaenopsis, but don't know what to try next. Phragmipediums can be great windowsill/under light plants if you select the right plants for your space.

Phragmipedium are slipper orchids native to southern Mexico to the northern half of South America. There are currently 18 accepted species (several with multiple accepted forms). Since hybridizers have been playing with their toothpicks since the 1800's, there are many hybrids available. They are mainly terrestrial or lithophytic (grow in the ground or rocks) near water sources.

Phrags generally want a little more light than phalaenopsis. This can be accomplished on a South or West windowsill or under LED lights. The growths of phrags are generally taller than phals so they will naturally be closer to the light. Observing the leaves is one of the best ways to judge if the plant is happy with the light it is receiving – dark green leaves need more light and pale green leaves are receiving too much light, look for that happy medium green leaf.

Phrags like intermediate to warm temperatures. Highs up to the low 80s in the summer and night temperatures as low as 55. While your thermostat keeps the center of the house at a controlled temperature, the area near the windows will vary more. Lights will also bring up the temperature in your growing area. A summer vacation to the great outdoors can also be appreciated.

As a general rule (there are always exceptions), they want to be kept moist year round and do not want to dry out. They also like to be fertilized sparingly year-round. Water quality is important; they prefer a TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) of less than 200 ppm. Rain water is typically 20–25 ppm, municipal water can vary significantly (check to see if your water department publishes an annual report or invest in a TDS meter). If the leaf tips are turning brown/crunchy, then it may be time to improve the water. Many growers keep phrags sitting in a shallow dish of water – the plant will keep drinking between waterings.

Phrags like humidity and air movement. While they are VERY happy in 80+% humidity, most are also happy at a more normal 50% humidity level. Grouping your orchids together locally increases the humidity, a humidity tray will also help. In their natural habitat they have constant air movement, but will be happy with the normal air flow from the furnace/AC. Higher humidity will result in larger/longer lasting flowers. For varieties with long sepals, high humidity is required to reach their full potential.

To keep the roots happy, most phrags like plastic pots with a moisture retaining media. Sphagnum moss, small bark, and coconut core are popular mix contents. Charcoal, and perlite also keep the media fresh and allow more air to the roots. Unfortunately with the high moisture content, media breaks down faster and phrags need to be re-potted every 1-2 years in the spring or fall (after blooming is complete if possible). Phrags have a lot of roots, so a taller pot is preferred if possible. Adding a little

limestone to the mix or as a top dressing is usually appreciated as well. For those that grow semi-hydroponically, phrags can grow in leca.

Phrag blooms are triggered by the nightly temperature drop (similar to phalaenopsis). For some species, the night time temperature will affect the bloom color – *besseae* will be more red in cooler temperatures and more orange in warmer temperatures. Phrags are sequential bloomers and can have several flowers open at a time. Spring is the usual start of the blooming cycle (but they can bloom anytime) and spikes can bloom for 6-11 months (I personally have one that has been blooming over a year on 4 spikes). Individual flowers can last around 2 weeks.

Overall plant size can vary depending on the parentage. Small parents like *fischeri*, *besseae*, and *pearcei* result in smaller plants. Larger parents like *longifolium*, *kovachii*, and *caudatum* will result in larger plants. Flower sizes vary from around 2 inches wide x 1.5 inches tall for *schlimii* and *fisheri* to 2.7 inches x 23 inches for *caudatum* and 15.3 x 11.5 inches for *kovachii*. Hybrids offer hybrid vigor and wider growing conditions than some species. Flowers can be small and round to long and twisty. Colors are red, pinks, creams, greens, browns, and combinations.

Phragmipedium Hanne Popow



Phragmipedium *pearcei*



Where to look at shows

- Little Frog
- Natt's Orchids
- Oakwood Orchids
- Everything Orchids
- Dr Bill's Orchids

Where to look online

- Ecuagenera
- www.orchidweb.com
- Woodstream orchids – get on their mailing list
-

My personal setup is a series of 2x2x4 foot grow tents in my living room and office. I have (2) 2-foot 5000K LED lights in each tent that are controlled by timers and vary the duration seasonally. I have a 9-inch fan in each tent that is on 100% of the time. All of the plants are in trays that I fill to about ½-inch deep weekly. Most of my plants are in net pots with a primarily sphagnum mix.



Current Point Standings

Last Name	First Name	Total Points
Verbeek	Kenesha	54
Borst	Joel	38
Wood	Jill	38
Lohman	Quintin	36
Myaard	Jen	27
Glover	Tom	22
Clemens	Mei Ling	20
Langschied	Thomas	17
Driesenga	Jessica	16
Smith	Debbie	15
Rietberg	Tara	13
Maczka	Alison	7
Krenselewski	Justin	7
Korseval	Eric	7
Olson	Denise	5
Leonard	Josh	5
Hofer	Rachael	5
Loeper	Matt	5
DeLano	Dan	3
Ambrose	Jerry	2
Griffin	Gordon	1
VanderVelde	Jade	1
Miller	Kathy	1
Kopec	John	1
Schaafsma	Hannah	1
Albin	Brittany	1

GVOS REWARDS

Plant Table

Bring a blooming orchid- 1 point
 Plant of the month – 5 points
 1st place – 5 points
 2nd place – 3 points
 3rd place -2 points

Participation in Meetings

Attend GVOS meeting – 1 point
 Attend another society meeting – 2 points
 Attend away show – 2 points
 Give a presentation – 10 points
 Bring Treats to meeting – 1 point

Participation in Shows

GVOS show participation – 5 points per day
 GVOS Bring food – 3 points
 Plants in any show – 5 points
 Clerking in any show – 5 points
 Set up away show – 10 Points
 Tear down away show – 20 points
 Attend an away show – 2 points
 Plant pulled for AOS judging – 10 points
 Plant awarded by AOS – 10 points
 Awarded a trophy – 10 points

If you are interested in leading a talk or doing a presentation for one of the meetings, please email the newsletter editor at maczkaal@gmail.com with your topic and the date you would like to do it. She will make sure it is added to the event calendar.

2025 Schedule



2025 Meeting Schedule

Learn, Grow and Bloom With Us!

GVOS usually meets the third Thursday of the month in a Frederick Meijer Garden classroom

January Topic: GVOS show prep Plant table	Febraury Topic: GLOS show prep Plant table
March Topic: MIOS show prep Webinar Plant table	April Topic: Native Orchids Jeanne Rhinehart live speaker Plant table
May Topic: Orchid Auction All proceeds benefit the society Plant table	June Topic: Board Elections Plant table
July Topic: Bulbophyllums Bill Thoms via live Zoom Plant table	August Topic: Member Q&A Expanded plant table
September Topic: Tim Culbertson Plant table	October Topic: AOS display presentation Orchid Auction All proceeds benefit the society Plant table
November Topic: TBD Plant table	December Topic: Show talk Potluck-bring a dish to pass Plant table