

Greater Akron Orchid Society

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society & the Mid-American Orchid Congress

March 2026

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Previous Meeting Minutes

In our February meeting, we had Ken Mettler discuss "Native Orchids in Ohio"

Our spring show is March 7-8, 2026.
LOCATION: Petitti Garden Center in Tallmadge. We need help setting up for the show and food donations

Meeting summary below (Page 4):

ME: No serial killer will ever lure me into their van. I am too smart for that.

Serial Killer:



Announcements

In 2026, we will have hybrid meetings (both In-Person & Zoom). In-Person meeting details below and Zoom details will be included in each newsletter and on our Facebook page
Meetings start at 6:30pm, doors open at 6:00pm

Zoom details below (Page 3):

Next Meeting

March 9, 2026
Monday, 6:30pm

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center
725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319
Start Time: 6:30pm Doors Open: 6:00pm

Topic

Program: **How to Grow Orchids / Welcome New Members**
Speaker: **Edgar Stehli**

Each meeting will have a show table in which everyone is invited to bring in their blooming orchids to show off. This is a great way to see what other members are growing and how they do so

New members and visitors are also invited to bring any plants they wish to show or have questions about

Meeting details below (Page 3):

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Email: greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

Letter from the Editor



Greetings,

We are pleased to be providing these newsletters to GAOS members and the public alike! If you'd like to access our current and past issues please visit our website for PDF downloads.

<https://thegaos.com/newsletters>

For access to our most current club news, information and our direct newsletter emails please join our email list by sending us your email address to be added.

Thanks,

Brandon Spannbauer greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/

www.qcos.org

West Shore Orchid Society

www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/

westshoreorchidsociety.org/

Meeting Schedule

GAOS has hybrid meetings (both In-Person and Virtual) and meets the 2nd Monday of each month (except December) at 6:30pm, at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Members are encouraged to bring blooming orchids from their collection for exhibit. **All are welcome; you do not have to be a member to attend**

Virtual meeting invites will be sent out via email the week before the meeting along with the monthly newsletter

Mar 9	How to Grow Orchids / Welcome New Members – Edgar Stehli
Apr 13	Mini Cattleyas – Kristen Urhus
May 11	Repotting Workshop with New Members
Jun 8	Latest Breeding Trends in Phrags – Jim France



2026 GAOS Meeting Information

In 2026, we will continue with our Hybrid Meetings (both In-Person and Virtual.) You can join us either at our normal meeting location or via Zoom where the live meeting will be broadcasted online. Zoom meeting details will be included in the Newsletter before each meeting.

Meeting Location:

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center
725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Doors open: 6:00pm
Main Meeting: 6:30pm

- Remember to bring any orchids in bloom for our Show Table. This is a great way to see what other members are growing and how they do so. New members and visitors are also invited to bring any plants they wish to show or have questions about.

- Virtual portion of the meetings will be conducted via Zoom. It is free to download and use. An email with the invite link will be provided the week before the meeting along with the newsletter for that month. After Zoom is installed on your computer, tablet or phone, all you have to do is click the link to join in.

Please feel free to email any questions or to be added to the email list to receive our newsletter and Zoom meeting links send us a message:

Email: greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Thanks,

Brandon Spannbauer, Editor

GAOS March 9 Meeting Info

We are making our final preparations for our show March 7-8, 2026. Our venue will be Petitti Garden Center in Tallmadge, more details below

Our meeting this month will be all about Orchid basics, how to grow our orchids, and a welcome to New Members. Spring is a great time to acquire new orchids, now we just need the info to keep them alive and thrive. Feel free to bring in any blooming orchids or plants that you have questions about to the meeting.

*** We may have leftover plants from the show that we will bring to the meeting for new members and to new guests. Remainders will be distributed and/or offered for sale ***

Topic

Program: **How to Grow Orchids / Welcome New Members**
Speaker: **Edgar Stehli**

Zoom Meeting Details

Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: GAOS March Monthly Meeting

Time: Mar 9, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86567512350?pwd=mnz1913yhuf6XeNr
d0rbRrza6k1iax.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86567512350?pwd=mnz1913yhuf6XeNr
d0rbRrza6k1iax.1)

GAOS Minutes for February Meeting

Show News!

Sign up to volunteer at the show. We need volunteers to help in all areas of the show: Such as the 1. Membership table 2. Setting up the display 3. Getting stuff from storage

Hospitality (you can sign up to bring specific items such as juice, donuts, cookies, brownies, chips (individually wrapped), water bottles. Feel free to add the quantity (e.g. one dozen pkg of 12 or 24, quart or gallon for juice, tea, or lemonade, pkg. of 24 water bottles). Please note the main dish pasta and salad lunch will be catered on Saturday, but we still need breakfast items, snacks and desserts for Saturday and Sunday.

Presentation: Ken Mettler Native Orchids in Ohio

End of April orchids begin blooming season in Ohio. Ken presented the orchids by when they bloom. Several orchids are on the endangered list.

Ken shared multiple types of native orchids, their habitats, and details about how and when they grow and bloom. The native orchids grow in specific types of soil across Ohio.

Some species bloom annually and some not. Many orchids grow under mountain laurel which has some toxic properties that keep herbivores away from the orchids. Some orchids grow through seed pollination or rhizomes. Some orchids grow shoots but don't bloom every year.

Another species stays evergreen all year. One of the orchids is pollinated by mosquitoes another by rain and some by moths or bees. Cedar Bog is the most diverse area of the state for plants. It is technically not a bog it is a fen. (A fen is a type of groundwater-fed, nutrient-rich peatland wetland characterized by slow-moving, alkaline or neutral water)

Voles are a predator for orchids. Plant the orchids in a basket underground to shield them from voles.

Many native orchids are pollinated by bees. Some orchids flourish in bog gardens in Ohio.

2026 GAOS Dues

2026 GAOS dues will remain at \$25 for membership. Dues allow us to host our annual orchid show as well as bring in amazing speakers to showcase their orchid knowledge. Each membership will receive a free orchid during our holiday party at the November meeting. You can either send in payment to the address on the form provided with this email, on the website, or in person at one of our meetings. Thank you

Greater Akron Orchid Society

Membership Application

To become a GAOS member or to renew your membership, complete the following form and present it or mail it with your payment to the society using the address below.

Dues are \$25 for a single/family membership

Make checks payable to GAOS

Name _____

Additional Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Primary Cell Phone _____

Primary e-mail _____

Check this box if you do not want your contact information on the published member list

Mail to:

GAOS
1110 Woodlawn Ave NW
Canton, OH 44708



Note – At this time, electronic or credit card payment is not available.

Recvd. By _____ Chk # _____ Date: _____

Greater Akron Orchid Society



2026 GAOS Program Calendar

Jan 12	Prepping Your Plants for Show - Dave Miller (short presentation)
Feb 9	Native Orchids in Ohio - Ken Mettler
Mar 7-8	GAOS Orchid Show @ Petitti Garden Center – Tallmadge location
Mar 9	How to Grow Orchids / Welcome to New Members – Edgar Stehli
Mar 14-15	GCOS Orchid Show @ Cleveland Botanical Gardens
Apr 13	Kristen Urhus - Mini Cats
Apr 25-26	WSOS Orchid Show @ Erhnfelt Recreation Center
May 11	Repotting workshop with new members, no speaker
June 8	Jim France - Latest Breeding Trends in Phrags
July 13	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction
Aug 10	Existing Members - How we grow our orchids
Aug	Ohio Valley Orchid Fest @ Kettering, Ohio
Sept 14	Kim Feddersen - topic TBD
Oct 12	TBD
Nov 9	Holiday Banquet / Election of Officers
December	No meeting, Happy Holidays!



IS THIS FOR YOU?

**The American Orchid
Society Judging
Program**

**is seeking highly
motivated orchid
enthusiasts to join the
judging ranks.**

*Work with other such people
and help maintain our
awards programs and
educational efforts.*

*For more information contact us at
judges@aos.org*

2026 GAOS Spring Show

It's official, we are getting ready for our 2026 Spring Show! We'd like to get a head start with our show planning and preparations.

Our spring show will take place on March 7-8, 2026. Our location is:

Petitti Garden Center

**311 West Ave.,
Tallmadge, OH 44278**

Our website is now current and will be updated in the next few weeks, with all the information needed for our upcoming show. All the relevant links below can also be found on the website show page.

The main hub for all show info:

<https://thegaos.com/show-info>

Show Volunteer info:

<https://thegaos.com/show-volunteers>

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets:

<https://www.timetosignup.com/gaosshow2024/sheet/1354145>

This year we will be returning to good ol' fashioned analog paper tags for our show plant registration. All plant show entries will need to be registered in person Friday, March 6 (the day before the show.) More info will be in future newsletters and on the website.

GAOS Spring Show

Our website has been updated with current information for our spring show. Registration info will follow in the coming weeks

<https://thegaos.com/show-info>

A flyer for the Greater Akron Orchid Society's 24th Orchid Show & Sale. The background features a close-up of a vibrant orange and yellow orchid with a purple center. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says 'GREATER AKRON ORCHID SOCIETY' in a light green font, followed by '24th ORCHID SHOW & SALE' in large, bold, dark green letters. Below that, a dark green box contains the dates 'SAT-SUN March 7-8, 2026'. The location 'PETITTI GARDEN CENTER' is listed, along with the address '311 West Ave. Tallmadge, OH 44278' and 'Free Admission & Parking'. The schedule is split into two days: 'SAT | 10am - 5pm' with activities 'Exhibits Open at 11am', 'AOS Judging at 11am', and 'Repotting 1-4pm'; and 'SUN | 11am - 4pm' with 'Repotting 12-3pm'. A list of activities includes 'Orchid Sales', 'Growing Tips', 'Potting Supplies', and 'Orchid Repotting'. At the bottom, a dark green box provides 'More information:' with links to 'thegaos.com', 'facebook.com/theGAOS', and 'greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com'.

GREATER AKRON ORCHID SOCIETY **24th ORCHID SHOW & SALE**

SAT-SUN March 7-8, 2026

PETITTI GARDEN CENTER

311 West Ave. Tallmadge, OH 44278
Free Admission & Parking

SAT | 10am - 5pm

Exhibits Open at 11am
AOS Judging at 11am
Repotting 1-4pm

SUN | 11am - 4pm

Repotting 12-3pm

Orchid Sales
Growing Tips
Potting Supplies
Orchid Repotting

More information:

thegaos.com
facebook.com/theGAOS
greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

2026 Show Volunteers Needed!



Volunteering is easy and we need all hands on deck. There are many positions that need filled, we really appreciate all the help!

- Setup for the show is Thurs (March 5) - Fri (March 6) 10am - 5pm
- Volunteers are needed during the show as well as setup & tear down. Please consider helping us out in any of the following areas:
 - 1 - General Show & Display Setup
 - 2 - Clerking (Assisting Judges)
 - 3 - Hospitality (Food Setup)
 - 4 - Membership / Welcome Table
 - 5 - Repotting Table
 - 6 - Show Tear Down

Food Donations are also needed. Specifics are online under the volunteer sign-up sheets.

(All online volunteer sign-ups will occur through TimeToSignUp.com, please follow the link below)

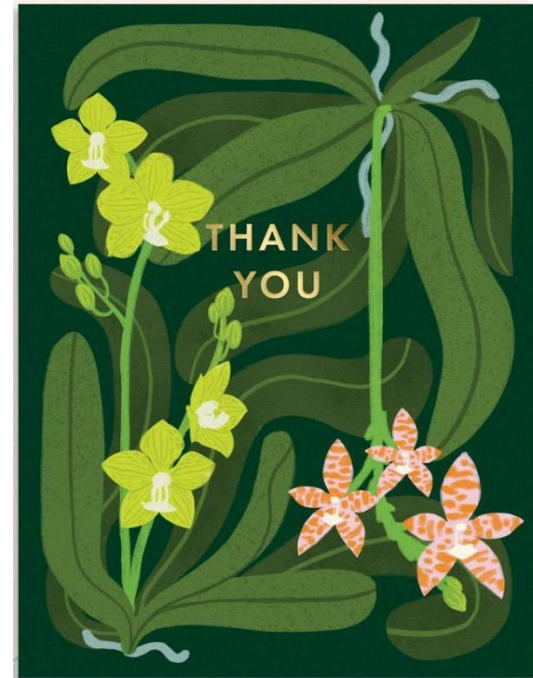
Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets:

<https://www.timetosignup.com/gaosshow2024/sheet/1354145>

This website is easy to use, click on link below to access the spreadsheet. Included are sign-ups for the volunteer positions as well as food donations. To sign up click the box next to the volunteer position and time that suits you. Then click on the pop-up box at the bottom left of your screen. This takes you to the page to fill out your name to sign up

Those who do not wish to or are unable to access online can simply contact Craig Miller with their commitment and he will manually enter them

Craig Miller: justcraig@sssnet.com



Call for Help with Local Orchid Shows

Our local shows are set for 2026 and we would love to have you join us for ribbon judging this year. No experience is required, only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. The ribbon judging process is the same at all three shows. We need about 15 to 20 people for each show so let me know if you are willing to commit or send/text any questions to me.

Greater Akron OS Show

March 7, 2026. Breakfast at 7:30 AM, judging 8-10:30 AM.
Petitti Garden Center
311 West Ave. Tallmadge, OH 44278

Greater Cleveland OS Show

March 14, 2026. Breakfast at 7:30 AM, judging 8-10:30 AM.
Cleveland Botanic Garden
11030 East Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44106

West Shore OS Show

April 25, 2026. Breakfast at 7:30 AM, judging 8-11:00 AM.
Ehrnfelt Senior Center
18100 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136

Your participation in making our show judging successful is very much appreciated. Send any questions and commits to me.

Dave Miller
AOS Head Judge
dcmjpsmil@aol.com
330-307-7189

NEWS from the Great Lakes Judging Center

AOS plant judging takes place the 3rd Saturday each month. Judging is always open to the public and anyone is invited to bring plants for the AOS judges to look at them. AOS awards given are the responsibility of the exhibitor.

For 2026, our meetings begin at 10:30 AM Eastern Time with any center business and then an educational talk by judges or other featured speakers. AOS judging begins no later than 1 PM Eastern Time. The Great Lakes Judging Center is responsible for AOS judging in the region spanning Michigan, Northern Indiana, and Northern Ohio.

Judging sessions are held at Washtenaw Community College located at 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105. Activities take place in the Morris Lawrence building. Parking is ample and free. Dress is casual and all are welcome to bring lunch or snacks for themselves as no food is provided.

Find more information dates and locations for other Judging Centers at www.aos.org under *Awards and Judging*.

Upcoming Schedule:

February 21 “TBD” with Cat Schmitt-Sands.

March 21 There is no judging at our normal Washtenaw CC location. AOS judging will be held at the Michigan OS Show at Plumbers Local 98 Union Hall located at 555 Horace Brown Dr Madison Heights, Michigan and will start no later than 1 pm EST.

April 18 There will be a date change for April. Monthly AOS judging will be held on April 25 at the West Shore OS Show in Ohio (Cleveland) located at the Ehrnfelt Senior Center 18100 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136. Judging will begin no later than 1:00 PM EDT. For judging information contact Dave Miller.

For more information contact Dave Miller at dcmjpsmil@aol.com, especially if you are not familiar with the location or process.

How to Register Plants for the Show

Show Plant Registration *In Person Only*

In-Person Plant Registration

Friday March 6 10 am - 3 pm

Petitti Garden Center

311 West Ave., Tallmadge, OH 44278

Location: Greenhouse Show Setup Area

Instructions and all necessary documents are found on our website

<https://thegaos.com/show-registration>

Registration Instructions

Below are instructions on how to register your plants for entry into the show. Please read them over and have the necessary information ready to fill out the forms on Friday. If you are confused on any part of this procedure Don't Worry, there will be a team of people there to help guide you through the process

Instructions on how to register your plants:

(Documents needed for this section under 'Show Registration Documents' below)

1. Look over the GAOS Show Rules
2. Go to Exhibits Numbers doc and find the number for your exhibit
3. Go to Exhibitor Numbers doc and find your exhibitor number (if your name is not on the list call/text)
4. Go to MAOC Orchid Classes to identify the class for each plant you are entering.

Be sure to use the MAOC document dated July, 2020. Refer to the 'DOCUMENTS

TO HELP YOU IDENTIFY YOUR PLANT'S CLASS' for help in determining the correct class.

PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY OF PLANTS AND EXHIBITS

1. A separate entry must be made for each plant, cut flower and exhibit.
2. Print legibly on the entry tags.
3. Obtain a sufficient supply of entry tags from the entry desk.
4. Also obtain an EXHIBIT and OWNER NUMBER at the desk. These numbers should appear on each entry tag. They assist the clerks and judges to locate plants and exhibits while judging.
5. On each entry tag, indicate the CLASS NUMBER for each entry. Check show schedule for the correct class. **It is your responsibility to classify your entries correctly. Incorrect entries may be disqualified.**
6. Under NAME, indicate the name of the plant, flower, or exhibit followed by the parentage, if a hybrid. If the plant is a species, write "**species**" in the space for the cross. Do not write in the AWARD section.
7. Return **both** copies of the completed entry tags to the entry desk in numerical order, according to CLASS NUMBER. Do not separate the entry tags. Each entry will be assigned a TAG NUMBER. The **original** stays at the entry desk to be used by the judging teams. The **copy** is to be placed on the plant, flower or exhibit

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary's prolific 'super' ghost orchid fails to bloom for once

By Tom Bayles – WUSF.org



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary's "super" ghost orchid has not only bloomed every year except last since it was discovered, it's bloomed multiple times some years. And over the years, it bloomed during all 12 months.

For the first time since the "super" ghost orchid was discovered at Audubon Florida's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary nearly 20 years ago, the plant failed to flower. But, no worries, yet. "The fact that it didn't bloom last year doesn't mean too much," Keith Laakkonen, director of Corkscrew Swamp, said of the flower's 2025 inactivity. "It's something we'll keep an eye on, we're not really concerned." Laakkonen said the "super" ghost orchid has not only bloomed every year since it was discovered — except last — it has also bloomed multiple times most years. And over the years, it has bloomed during all 12 months. "It's really hard to predict when these things are going to bloom," Laakkonen said. "There's still a lot we don't know about the ecology of the species and how it responds to the environment."

On the many other occasions Corkscrew's "super" ghost orchid has bloomed, it draws folks with "Ghost Orchid Fever" time and again. Admissions spike. People from as far away as Germany fly to Southwest Florida to marvel at it.

When they arrive it's to end up staring at the flower barely larger than a man's hand, high up in a tree, hundreds of feet from the nearest boardwalk, under the dark canopy of the trees. All but the strongest camera lenses and binoculars provide but a blurry white image on dark grey-brown bark.

Few ghost orchids regularly bloom annually. A healthy plant might bloom one summer, then skip the next two or three years entirely.

Some plants may go five years or more without flowering. When conditions align — typically involving adequate rainfall, humidity, and temperature during spring and early summer — a robust specimen may bloom twice in a single season.

Think of most ghost orchids as a temperamental model with stage fright. When everything's perfect — humidity, temperature, and nutrients — it spreads its solid white petals for a magical display of its assets.

A week or two later its corolla — the formal name for the collection of orchid petals — starts to yellow, its petals fall off, and all that's left is a naked clump of roots. The flower then has an orchid version of a hissy fit and tucks back into its much larger host tree to hide until it gets prepared to perform again.

Ghost orchids where conditions aren't as adequate may only bloom once every five years. This sporadic pattern is why seeing a ghost orchid in bloom is considered a rare event.

What happened to Corkscrew's "super" ghost orchid last year very possibly belongs to the category of things known to suppress blooming.

Because ghost orchids need consistent moisture from rainfall, the drought gripping Southwest Florida since this time last year is considered a primary culprit in the non-bloom.

But — for the opposite effect — several times, Corkscrew's famous "super" ghost orchid has bloomed during every month of the year, or more than a half-dozen times in certain years -- that's super unusual.

Stubborn Orchids

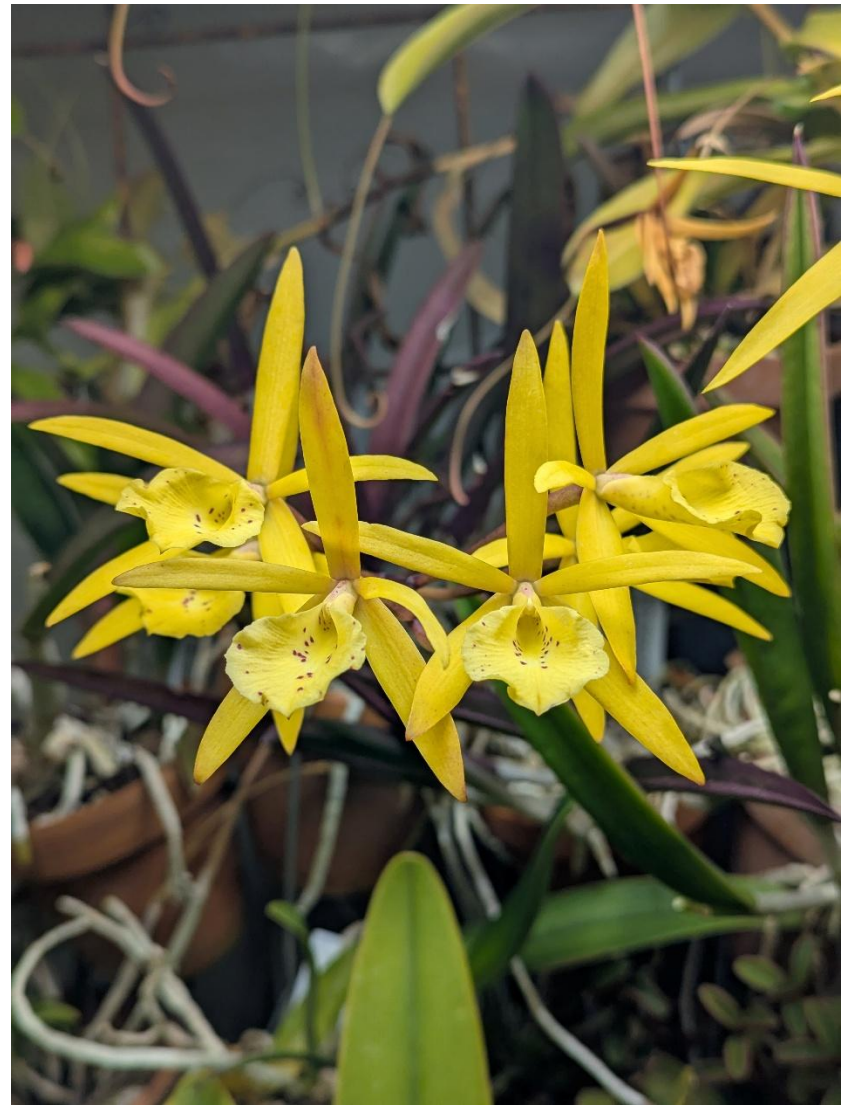
By Brandon Spannbauer

This series is dedicated to showing off blooms that never make it to a meeting. If you have any stubborn orchids, send photos to be included in a future newsletter: greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com



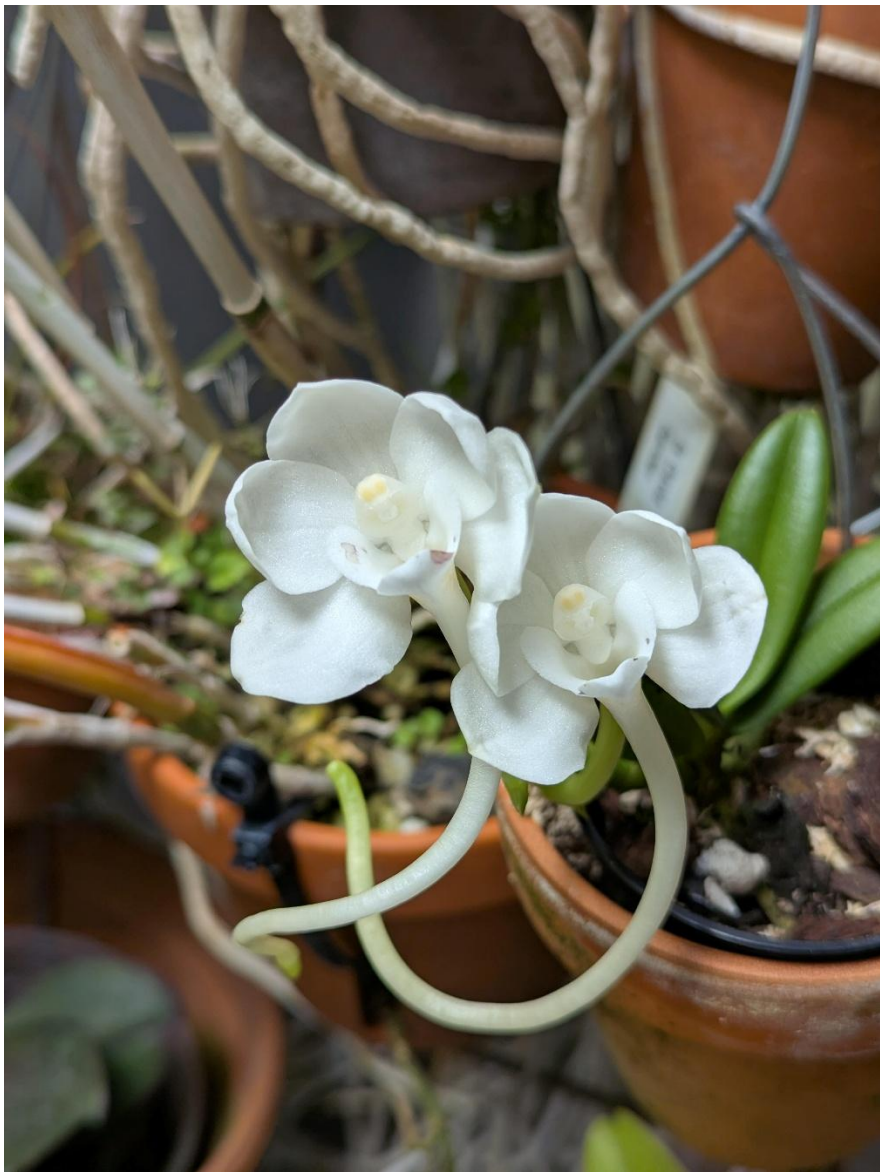
Bl. Yellow Bird (Bl. Richard Mueller x *B. nodosa*)

This is a beloved hybrid that was recreated by H&R that I received as a community pot. I have kept only 2 plants and both are growing rather large and bloom constantly. If you want a very reliable plant that is always growing, blooming and is very tolerant of many conditions, this is it.



Bl. Richard Mueller '4N' x *B. perrinii* 'Ruben'

Unnamed hybrid from SVO that greatly resembles Bl. Yellow Bird. *B. perrinii* has slightly smaller flowers with a flatter lip but more per inflorescence, which is has passed onto this hybrid. This is still a young plant, but blooms a few times a year on each new growth. I've noticed there is less of a color change on this hybrid vs Yellow Bird. The blooms almost immediate are a bright yellow and stays throughout.



Amesiella monticola

This tiny plant is new to me and it's first time blooming. The flowers are as big as the entire plant which is quite a sight. Currently, I have it hanging with my brassavolas but it's too early for me to recommend any culture tips.



Bc. Robert Bauman 4N (Bl. Richard Mueller 4N x Lc. Jalapa 4N)

Quickly becoming a favorite by blooming every 2-3 months is yet another reason why I love the Richard Mueller brassavola crosses. They are consistently pushing out new growths and blooms all year round. Richard Mueller also lends its color changing to its offspring, here, flowers start as a deep red maroon and fade to a strong orange over the course of a few weeks.

If you have any stubborn orchids that bloom in-between meetings, send in photos to have them included in the newsletter:
greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

New Orchids to Science

The newly discovered orchid, *Gastrochilus wenchuanensis*, found in Wenchuan, [#Sichuan](#) of China, This entity bears resemblance to *G. formosanus*, *G. wolongensis*, *G. nanchuanensis*, *G. sinensis*, *G. minjiangensis* and *G. armeniacus*, but can be distinguished by a distinctive vein on both the petals and sepals, as well as an epichile and hypochile that are devoid of spots or stripes. The molecular phylogenetic analysis, supports the conclusion that *Gastrochilus wenchuanensis* is a new species and is sister to *G. formosanus*.—*Novataxa* 2025



Upcoming 2026 Orchid Shows

Greater Akron Orchid Society

March 7-8 at Petitti Garden Center
311 West Ave, Tallmadge, OH 44278

<https://www.facebook.com/theGAOS/>
<http://www.thegaos.com/>

Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

March 14-15 at Cleveland Botanical Gardens
11030 East Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44106

<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety>
<http://www.gcos.org/>

West Shore Orchid Society

April 25-26 at Strongsville, Ohio Rec Center
18100 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136

<http://www.westshoreorchidsociety.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100072143500531>

Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table

February 2026

