

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

April 2025

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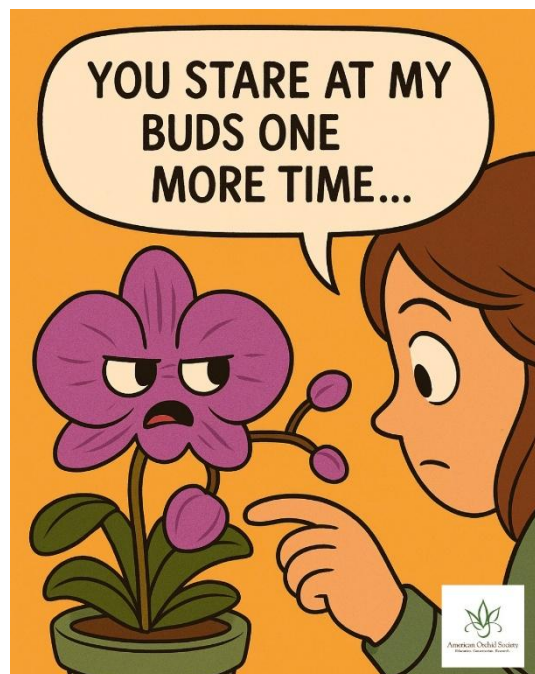
Jane Bush

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Previous Meeting Minutes

In our March meeting, we discussed How to Grow Orchids with Edgar Stehli and welcomed new members.

Meeting summary below (Page 4):



Announcements

In 2025, 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

**April 14, 2025
Monday, 6:30pm**

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center

725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Start Time: 6:30pm Doors Open: 6:00pm

Topic

Mini: **Basics of Repotting for Home Growers**
Program: **Orchid Nomenclature**
Speaker: **Eric Sauer**

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

Apr 14	Orchid Nomenclature – Eric Sauer
May 12	Compact Vandaceous Species & Hybrids – Peter Lin
June 9	Seeing Spots: Growing Brachypetalum Paphs – Darlene Thompson
July 14	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction - Discussion



Photo of the Month: Cattleya Luminosa 'Color Magic' AM/AOS from Orchid Eros by Mike Hamlin

2025 Meeting Information

In 2025, 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

April 14 Meeting Info

Our meeting this month we will have the return of "Beginner's Corner (Mini)" now hosted by Kat Martz. It will occur before our main meeting at 6:30pm and will informally discuss topics of orchid care at home. Our main meeting will be a presentation "Orchid Nomenclature" with Eric Sauer.

Topic

Mini: **Basics of Repotting for Home Growers**
Program: **Orchid Nomenclature**
Speaker: **Eric Sauer**

Zoom Meeting Details

For those who would like to join us online please, follow the link below to join the Zoom Meeting

Topic: GAOS Monthly Meeting Time: 06:30 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82029704728?pwd=K5erHem4SjefNDTxEovR9ELM3bcJGq.1>

GAOS March Meeting Notes

By Meghan Harper

Our GAOS show had new venue at Petitti's Garden Center!

GAOS received Best of Show award and People's Choice awards for the Display!

Thank you to all the members who volunteered their time and energy for the show.

Announcements

Western Pennsylvania show this weekend. GAOS is not putting a display up.

Greater Cleveland is at the Botanical Garden 3/22-23 and Westshore Orchid Show 4/26-27 coming up.

Welcome New Members!

Show table: several blooming beautiful orchids shared by members
Program: *Become a better grower: Basics of How-to grow orchids*
Presentation by Edgar Stehli

Key points

1. Sunlight is the key ingredient to growing
Blue and red spectrum lights are needed for growth; new windows block out UV and Red so you may need to supplement with light
2. Water is the universal solvent; well water and reservoir water is not necessarily good water
3. Fertilizer is essential for orchids: make sure fertilizer contains calcium and magnesium use one that is made for orchids fertilize first then come back 20-30 minutes with water at room temperature and rinse off
Set it in a bucket/coffee can let water come up to the edge

4. Air is not just for gas exchange but for temperature regulation

*Check orchid leaf temperature in West windows get hot sitting in the sun
get fans to cool off and fans mix air drawing air past plants
Make sure plastic pot is not too close to wall of decorative pot e.g. put a small ball to lift pot so air can circulate around pot

5. Orchid growing mix: mixture typically is sphagnum moss, bark
Choose pot carefully; learn what your plant needs put gravel, small pebbles, Styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of the pot for good drainage.

Overall:

Keep your plants separated from one another
Budget time to take care of plants
Water, light, air, temperature, nutrients and humidity
During the day, the leaves warm up and the chemical reactions occur more quickly

2025 GAOS Dues

2025 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.

NEW We now have the option to pay online: <https://thegaos.com/paypal>

Greater Akron Orchid Society



2025 GAOS Program Calendar

Jan 13	"Getting Your Orchids Ready for the Shows" – Dave Miller
Feb 10	"What's Wrong with My Orchid?" *Bring in your problem plants for discussion*
Mar 1-2	GAOS Orchid Show @ Petitti Garden Center – Tallmadge location
Mar 10	"How to Grow Orchids" / Welcome to New Members – Edgar Stehli
Mar 22-23	GCOS Orchid Show @ Cleveland Botanical Gardens
Apr 14	"Orchid Nomenclature" – Eric Sauer
Apr 26-27	WSOS Orchid Show @ Erhnfelt Recreation Center
May 12	"Compact Vandaceous Species & Hybrids" – Peter Lin
June 9	"Seeing Spots: Growing Brachypetalum Paphs" – Darlene Thompson
July 14	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion
Aug 11	TBD
Sept 8	TBD
Oct 13	TBD
Nov 10	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*

Orchids 101

By AOS,



Yellow leaves?

Diagnosis: Old potting mix is breaking down and choking the roots.

Quick Fix: Stick a finger deep into the pot if it feels like dirt, it's time to repot. >



Yellow + Black/Brown Blotches?

Likely Cause: In the absence of recent temperature extremes, suggest a disease

Quick Fix: Cut off damaged areas, sanitize, and treat with fungicide or hydrogen peroxide. >



Temperature shock

Likely Cause : freezing nights or scorching sun can burn leaves.

Quick Fix : Trim damaged leaves. Shade, mist, and ventilate to protect from extremes. >

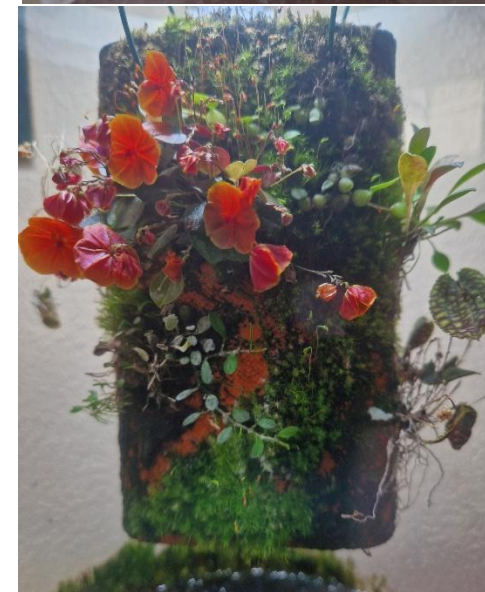


Chlorotic Spots on Leaves?

Likely Cause: Scale insects feeding and injecting toxins.

Quick Fix: Check under leaves for white or cottony spots. Blast with water, dab with alcohol, or use > insecticide fast.

Exactly one year ago I tried an experiment. Putting a semiporous small container in a glass vase. It is in the living room, and it has a small light above it, the one you would use for a fishbowl. On the container I put some seedlings and partitions with glue... yes.. glue. Here is the result after one year, I might say it is a success. – Wiel Dreissen



Black Rot

By AOS, Abbrev. for space

A danger to orchids any time the weather is rainy or damp for extended periods, black rot can quickly destroy an entire plant if left unchecked. Caused by one or both of the fungi *Pythium ultimum* and *Phytophthora cactorum*, black rot affects a wide variety of orchids. Cattleyas seem to be particularly susceptible.



Black rot moves quickly through a plant and can decimate an orchid collection if not treated

LIFE CYCLE

The fungi that cause black rot in orchids can live only in environments where water is available to them. They consist of spores capable of independent movement, called zoospores, which swim through the water. If that water happens to be sitting on an orchid leaf, the zoospores can penetrate the plant tissue and begin the next stage in their life cycle. At this point, the fungus develops a vegetative part or mycelium consisting of hyphae (thin, thread-like tubes), which spread quickly through the affected plant tissues. Once this occurs, the visible signs of infection - small, watery, translucent spots - expand quickly and change to brown and then black. Left untreated, the affected plant or plants may infect others and will probably die themselves.

SYMPTOMS

When the fungus attacks seedlings, it is usually at the soil line. This can cause the little plants to topple and die, and is referred to as damping off. In mature plants, the disease can strike at any point on the plant (leaves, pseudobulbs or roots), but often starts in new leaves or growing leads, and progresses downward through the plant until reaching the roots. As the name implies, black rot shows up as dark blackish spots or lesions on the affected plant part. The black spot or spots enlarge rapidly and can spread throughout the plant. If allowed to reach the crown of a monopodial (single-stemmed) orchid, the rot will kill the plant. Affected leaves may turn yellow around the infected area, and the lesions themselves will be soft and exude water when pressure is applied.

PREVENTION

Unsterilized pots, media or water sources, as well as water splashed from affected plants nearby, are all excellent means of spreading the fungus. In addition, plants that spend time outdoors should be elevated 3 to 4 feet (90 to 120 cm) above the ground to avoid splash contamination. Do not allow your orchids' leaves to remain wet for any extended periods. Good air circulation in the growing area is key, and can help plants dry quickly after watering or rains. The addition of a fan or fans to the growing area can improve the airflow and help prevent rots. At first signs of infection, segregate all affected plants to avoid contaminating healthy plants. Finally, some growers recommend the use of a high-calcium fertilizer in the spring to help avoid black rot in new growth.



MECHANICAL TREATMENT

To stop the spread of black rot in your orchid, begin with a sterile knife and cut out the diseased portion of the plant. Remove all infected plant material, taking out a small amount of healthy tissue bordering the infected area as a safety precaution. Examine the cut portion carefully. It is sometimes possible, especially in pseudobulbs, to see a brownish discoloration extending into the interior of tissue that appears healthy on the surface. In sympodial (many-stemmed) plants such as a cattleya, it may be necessary to cut below the leaves and into the pseudobulb to stop the spread of the disease. If the plant is badly infected, cut into the rhizome, growth by growth, until you reach healthy tissue. For a monopodial orchid such as a vanda or phalaenopsis, remove the infected portion of the leaf, or the entire leaf if necessary, to halt the spread of the fungus before it reaches the crown. Place the plant in an area that receives good air circulation to allow the cut to dry.

CHEMICAL TREATMENT

Once the infected plant parts have been removed, a fungicide should be applied to protect the remaining healthy tissue. Cinnamon is an excellent fungicide, and ground cinnamon may be applied straight from the spice jar directly to the exposed area where infected portions of the plant have been excised. First Rays Orchids also recommends mixing cinnamon with either casein-based glue (such as Elmer's) or cooking oil to form a thick paste. This paste is fairly waterproof and can be used to cover the wound. Another poultice that was developed specifically for use on orchids is StopRot. The product contains a Bordeaux mixture in lanolin. The Bordeaux, a mixture of copper sulfate and lime, has fungicidal properties. The lanolin seals the wound to keep moisture out.

Whatever method is chosen, be sure to cover all of the exposed (cut) area with the fungicide or sealant, so that no new infection can be introduced to the open wound.

Drenching the affected plant with fungicide is also an option. Drenches of a protectant fungicide such as Truban or Terrazole are recommended if the disease is diagnosed early. For more advanced cases, a systemic fungicide such as Aliette or Subdue is more effective. Captan, Dithane M-45 and Physan 20 have also been recommended by some growers for control of black rot.

Monthly Orchid Checklist for March & April

By AOS, Abbrev. for space

CATTLEYA

Although March is, 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. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, 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 your 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.

Stubborn Orchids

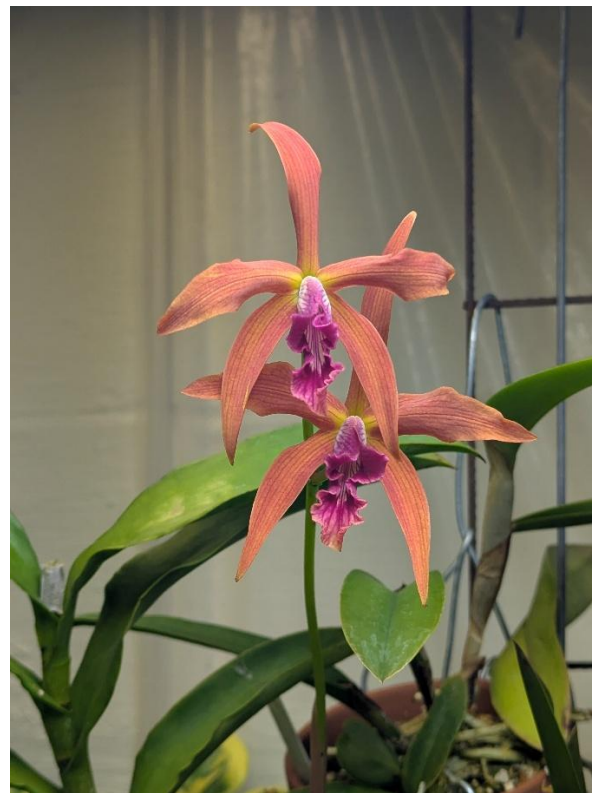
By Brandon Spannbauer

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



C. maxima var *coerulea*

I was both surprised and disappointed with this plant. It is the first to bloom from a community pot that I received 3 years ago. It was supposed to be *C. hardyana*, a white flower with a red and yellow veined lip but was mislabeled. Still, the color is quite nice and has 5 flowers. I now have 6 plants from this compot that are not what I was expecting, a gamble when buying plants not in bloom.



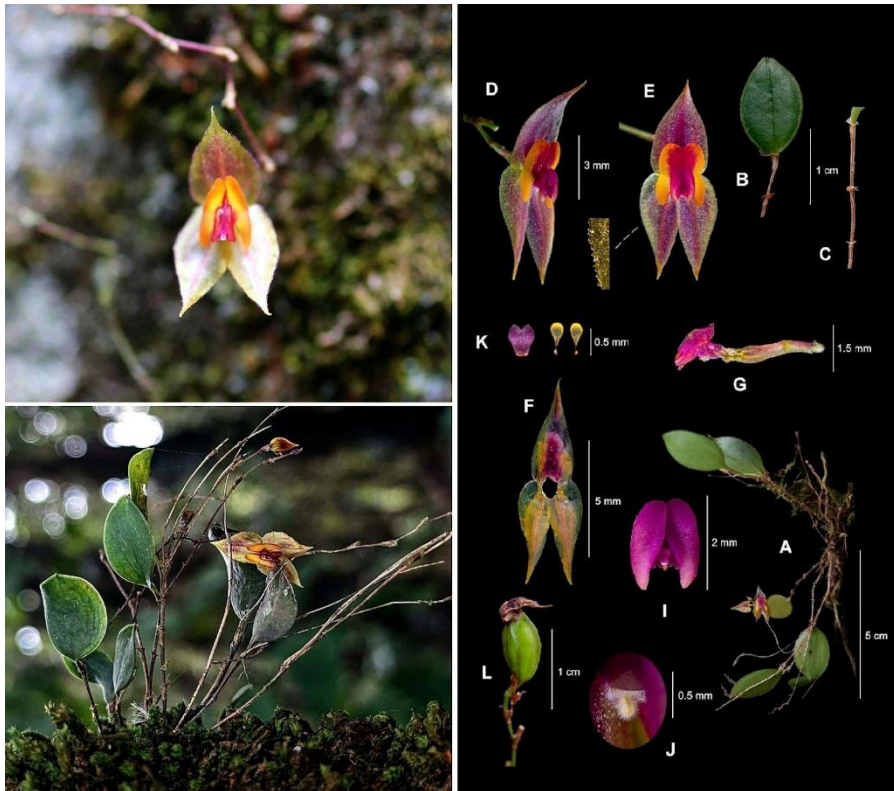
L. Giselle Margarita (*L. sanguiloba* x *L. tenebrosa*)

This is a story of survival. I've had this plant for 9 years. Originally from SVO, I grew it to blooming size and after a few years it suffered from root rot from a very wet summer 5-6 years ago. After limping along for a few years, I decided to try the sphag-and-bag method on it. I cut off all dead roots and pseudobulbs and was left with only 1-2 healthy bulbs and no roots. I potted it in barely damp sphagnum and sealed it in a large ziplock bag with more damp sphagnum at the bottom to keep in humidity and placed it in the back corner of my grow table. It took 12-18 months, but it started a new growth and roots and was able to be put with the rest of my cattleyas. If you have patience, it is possible to revive plants near the brink of death. It takes a very long time but can be very rewarding.

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

Two new orchid species from Mexico *Lepanthes luicitae*, from the mountains of northern [#Oaxaca](#), and *Lepanthes salvaterrae*, from central [#Veracruz](#). *Lepanthes luicitae* is similar to *L. thurstoniorum* from which differs by its flexuous rachis (vs. zigzag), dorsal sepal as wide as the lateral ones (vs. lateral sepals almost 2/3 the width of the dorsal one), lateral sepals obliquely ovate and diverging from each other towards their apices (vs. obliquely triangular-ovate and subparallel to each other towards their apices), and petals forming butterfly wing-like blades (vs. forming oblong and oblique blades). Meanwhile, *L. salvaterrae* is similar to *L. gabriellae* but differs in having a peduncle shorter than the leaf (vs. equal or longer than the leaf), orbicular to orbicular-elliptic leaves (vs. narrowly elliptic), marginally glabrous sepals (vs. with reddish cilia). The richness of *Lepanthes* in Mexico has increased to 68 species, 39 of which have a distribution restricted to the country. Finally, an updated checklist, including accepted and synonym names for *Lepanthes* of Mexico, is present here. – Novataxa 2025



Upcoming 2025 Orchid Shows

West Shore Orchid Society

April 26-27 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

GCOS Orchid Show
Mar 22-23, 2025



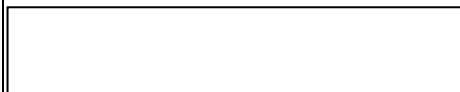
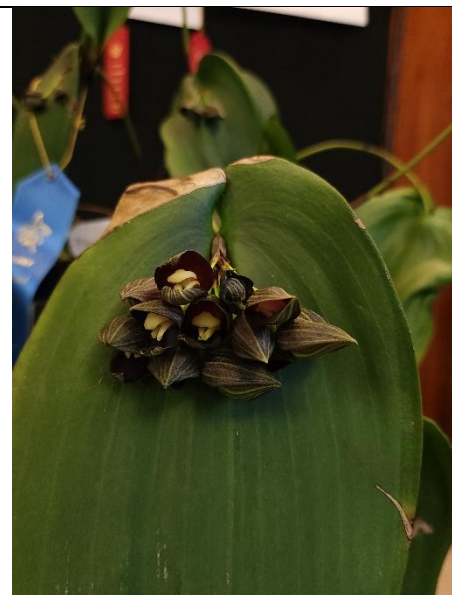
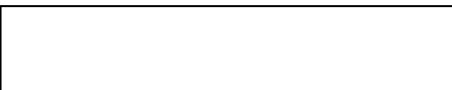
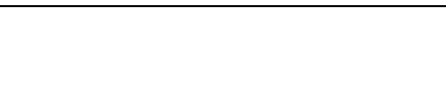
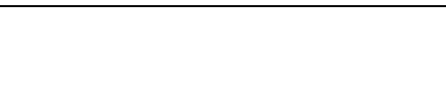
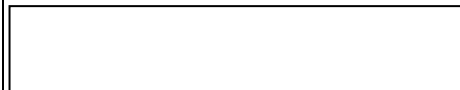


Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table

March 2025

