

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

October 2025

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Previous Meeting Minutes

In our November meeting, we had HC Qianchu discuss 'Mistakes I've Made and Learned From with Orchids

Please bring a side dish or dessert to the Nov banquet meeting

Meeting summary below (Page 4):

Me: I shouldn't buy any more orchids

Me to me: it doesn't count if it's a wishlist orchid

Me: that makes sense



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

**November 10, 2025
Monday, 6:30pm**

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

Topic

Program: **Holiday Banquet / Member Plant Giveaway**
Speaker: **Officer Elections**

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

Nov 10	Holiday Banquet / Officer Elections
December	No Meeting – Winter Break, Happy Holidays!
Jan 12	Welcome to 2026 / Preparing for the Show / TBD
Feb 9	Preparing for the Show / TBD



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

November 10 Meeting Info

This meeting is our holiday potluck dinner. The society will provide the main course of glazed ham. Please bring a side dish of your choosing (side, salad, desert). Plates and utensils will be provided.

6:00 Doors open
6:30 Opening comments
6:45 Begin dinner
7:30 Vote for officers / Distribute Member plants - See note below
8:00 Wrap-Up

Orchids will be distributed for members in attendance. We will be going table by table, having each table select the plant of their choosing. Jane or I will be setting aside a plant for anyone who has made prior arrangements.

Topic

Program: **Holiday Banquet / Election of Officers**
Speaker: **Member Plant Giveaway**

Zoom Meeting Details

Topic: GAOS November Monthly Meeting
Time: Nov 10, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83962842327?pwd=9chshrkkDFJXBHxmadgwkrHneFoZoU.1>

GAOS Oct Meeting Notes

By Meghan Harper

Meeting Reminder:

The November meeting will be a POTLUCK, meat, table service and drinks will be provided. Members are asked to please bring desserts, salads or side dishes.

GAOS members will receive a free plant at the meeting. You must be present to receive a free plant.

Change to Bylaws:

A slight modification will be made to the Bylaws regarding the President position if no president is elected, the office will be shifted to a committee responsibility. A first reading was shared at this meeting: *Section C Executive Committee In case no one is willing to serve as President, a three-person executive committee shall be formed to assume the duties of the President and Vice President. The three-person committee shall then be part of the Executive Board along with the Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Trustee.*

Change to the monthly meeting:

Hospitality (coffee and tea) will no longer be provided. Members are welcome to bring treats.

President Craig warned folks that his email was hacked, and random GAOS members are getting requests for money from an unknown person. DO NOT RESPOND to the email Notify Craig if you receive fraudulent email request. Craig's email is justcraig@sssnet.com

Show News:

President Craig has reached out to Petittis Garden Center. Show meetings will be held via Zoom. Brandon will send out an invitation link to attend. All GAOS members are welcome to attend the show planning meetings. Petitti's will help with creating marketing messages, postcards etc. Suggestion from a GAOS member was to distribute postcards at the November GAOS meeting.

HC Orchids Presenter

Care For Phalaenopsis

Key Factors: Temperature, Light, Water, Media and Pot, Fertilizer, Air Flow, Pest

Highlights from the presentation:

Best Growth occurs around 75 degree F

Indirect sunlight and good airflow help phals withstand extreme temp

Graduate changes vs sudden shifts in temperature sharp shift is not good for the plants

Natural Light always best; foliage gets yellow if there is too strong; leaves broader and more floppy, leaves become bigger

When there is not enough light, flowers produced are minimized.

Be careful with grow lights, some can be quite hot.

Water rainwater is the best; minerals micronutrients

RO water has nothing in it

Flush mineral buildup every two times; tap water is ok. Find the fertilizer that works with the type of water.

Flush the media so oxygen can get in.

If sphagnum moss gets too dry, then soak the moss to get fully wet

Never use ice to water

Fertilizer: Frequency and Concentration when orchid is growing actively, see green root tips, new foliage then fertilize 1/3 or 1/4 if what is recommended. Feed 2x then flush. Use fertilizer made for phalaenopsis. Choose fertilizer that works with the type of water you are using

Phalaenopsis grow in many different types of media. Choose the media that aligns with your environment.

Try to mimic the orchid's native environment

Air Flow is super important (Dragon blood will save a plant from crown rot)

Good airflow will prevent water from sitting and growing bacteria

Airflow will dry the media more quickly

Lower fan speed if it is cold because the air speed affects temperature

Bacteria grows when it is wet and warm

Tristar/Permetrol/Physan 20 all are helpful for various pests and diseases

Know the life cycle of pests; multiple treatments may be necessary

Cinnamon powder is good to treat brown and crown rot

Physan 20 fungicide; takes care of algae

Read labels for treatments; these products can be used as a good preventive measure;

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
Apr 14	"Orchid Nomenclature" – Eric Sauer
May 12	"Seeing Spots: Growing Brachypetalum Paphs" – Darlene Thompson
June 9	"Compact Vandaceous Species & Hybrids" – Peter Lin
July 14	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion
Aug 11	Ploidy Level in Orchids, an N-changing Phenomenon – Ken Mettler
Aug 23-24	Ohio Valley Orchid Fest @ Kettering Ohio
Sept 8	"Picking the Right Plant" - Dave Miller
Oct 13	"Mistakes I've made and Learned From, With Orchids" - HC Qianchu He
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*

Monthly Checklist for Nov and Dec

By AOS

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium

Cymbidium ensifolium can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails, and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

November Catasetum Growing Tips

By Sunset Valley Orchids

Now that winter is knocking at our door steps, most of your *Catasetums* should have matured growths and be mostly done flowering, *Cycnoches* will be finishing their blooming, *Mormodes* should be flowering soon, and *Clowesia* should be starting before too much longer.

Those of you in Florida and southern states may already have dormant plants. Those in other areas like here in California should be seeing good signals indicating the start of dormancy, with the lower leaves starting to turn yellow and brown before they drop off.



These four plants demonstrate the first stages of dormancy, from left to right: 1) no signs, 2) slight leaf tip yellowing, 3) obvious yellowing and beginning of leaf tip die back, 4) several yellow leaves and tip die back clearly evident.

Leaf yellowing and drop signal the beginning of dormancy. This is when you stop fertilizing and cut back on watering frequency increasing the length of the dry interval in between each watering, simulating the end of the wet season as in nature. This important change in irrigation will cause the pseudobulbs to harden off in preparation for the upcoming months of dormancy. When most leaves are yellow/brown and have fallen off, cease watering altogether. This marks the start of the dormant period.

Some *Catasetums*, *Cycnoches*, *Clowesia* and most *Mormodes* begin their flowering season at the end of the growing season, coinciding with the changing environmental conditions, and onset of leaf yellowing and in dormancy. In these cases, it is natural for the flower inflorescences and blooms to begin while you are reducing irrigation frequency. Some plants don't even start to develop inflorescence until well after all water is stopped and the plant is totally leafless! Generally, it is not necessary but if your plants pseudobulbs shows signs of shriveling during late season flowering usually one or two extra waterings will quickly plump it back up.

Interestingly, not all plants enter dormancy on the same schedule, and it is not uncommon to have plants in several stages of dormancy at the same time. As plants progress toward their dormant period, I organize my *Catasetinae* into groups at similar stages of leaf loss. Grouping plants this way makes watering easier and assures proper transition into dormancy. Also, not all plants lose all of their green leaves when dormant, and it's not uncommon for some to hold a few leaves well past the point when irrigation has stopped.

We know that dormancy is caused by several factors like the maturity of the pseudobulb and the reduction of root zone moisture. There are 3 other important environmental factors that occur naturally in nature and they play an important role in initiating dormancy: 1) differential between day/night temperatures 2) light intensity 3) day length adjustment.

1) In a Greenhouse the day night temperature differential occurs naturally. When the plants are cultivated in the home or under lights do your best to give at least a 10-15 degree day night differential.

2) It is best to keep the plants at nearly the same light intensity levels as in the growing season, targeting 2000-2500 foot candles. It is easy to download a Foot Candle Reader app for your phone to check what you have.

3) If you're growing under lights, you do need to adjust the day length throughout the year, as all *Catasetinae* have evolved to experience seasonal daylength changes.

Light level management Indoors

Growing under lights for optimal results:

April – October: day length should be set at 15 hrs.

November: reduce light schedule hour to = 14 hrs.

December: reduce one more hour = 13 hrs.

January: and reduce one more hour = 12 hrs.

February: add one hour = 13 hrs.

March: add one more hour = 14 hrs.

April – October: back to a day length schedule of 15 hrs.

Have you had challenges overwintering your Catasetinae plants? If you are losing plants due to excessive dehydration, this may be caused by long periods of low humidity. Here is a solution that is being used successfully by some ingenious growers.

Set the pot in a jar with several inches of water, making a snug-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water should not touch the bottom of the pot. The reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, even while the plant above remains dry. This innovative technique produces great results! We have had lots of positive feedback from growers who are using this method.

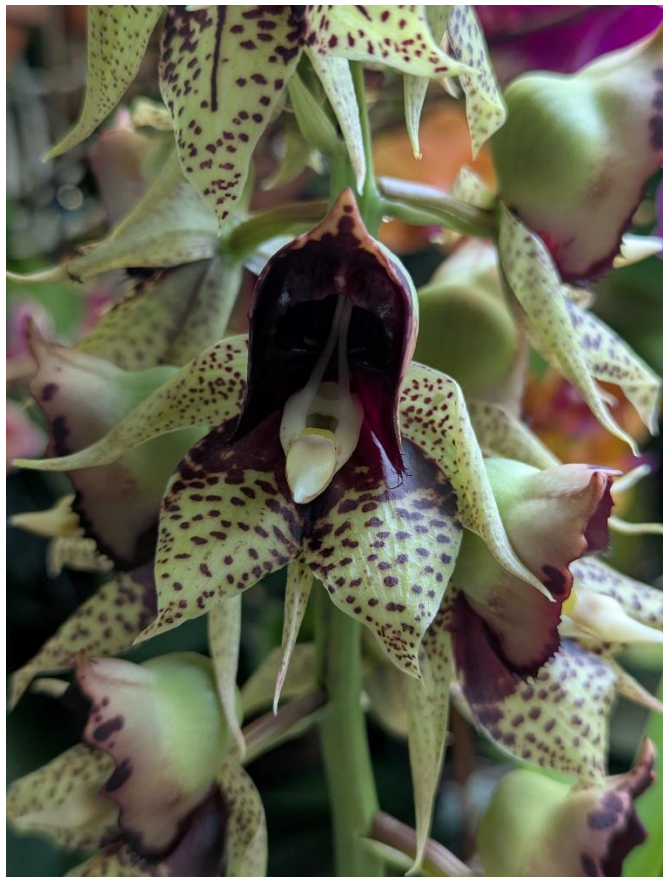
It's important to get your Catasetinae into the dormant stage by late December so they receive an adequate rest period, that they will "wake up" early in the spring to a long growing season.



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



Ctsm. José Abalo

I'm still new to the world of catasetums and this one I bought from Dave Miller 2 years year at the member's sale. It was already a large plant and put out 29 blooms for me on 4 stalks. It smells like moth balls though, so I don't necessarily recommend it in the main part of your house.



B. Little Stars (*B. nodosa* x *cordata*)

This hybrid is from H&R and is the 2nd time blooming for me. It put on some nice size this year will many more blooms than last year. I have a feeling that it will overtake the neighboring pots if I don't contain its root growth.



B. cordata

This is a smaller bloomed brassavola species also from H&R and is used to create the popular hybrid *B. Little Stars*. To me the blooms seem alittle misshaped, or is this normal? It does put out many blooms per spike though which is nice.



Lc. Sunset Glory (Bl. Richard Mueller x *L. purpurata*) &
Lc. Golden Glory (Bl. Richard Mueller x *L. tenebrosa*)

I have been waiting patiently for Lc. Golden Glory to bloom to compare it to Lc. Sunset Glory. I raised them from a community pot from H&R and this is the first seedling to bloom. They both share the parent Richard Mueller and their 2nd parent is *purpurata* and *tenebrosa*, both are very similar in shape, size and growth but *purpurata* is purple and *tenebrosa* is a brown to bronze.

The colors are evident in their offspring with Sunset Glory opening a nice purple/ pink and aging to a pale yellow/bronze and Golden Glory opening a golden bronze and aging to a strong yellow/orange. Both are a great choice if you're looking for a compact vigorous, color-changing orchid.

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

A new mycotrophic species of the genus *Gastrodia* (Orchidaceae), is described and illustrated from [#ArunachalPradesh](#), India. The species is unique within the genus in having two oblong-linear calli which are parallelly arranged along the margins of the claw of the labellum, and white flowers. The new species is assessed as 'Endangered' according to the IUCN red list criteria.– Novataxa 2025



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.

Sessions begin at 11 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.

Upcoming Schedule:

November 15 AOS judging at 1PM at the Ann Arbor OS Show at Matthaei Botanical Garden located at 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105

December 20 review of AOS Annual Special Awards finalists.

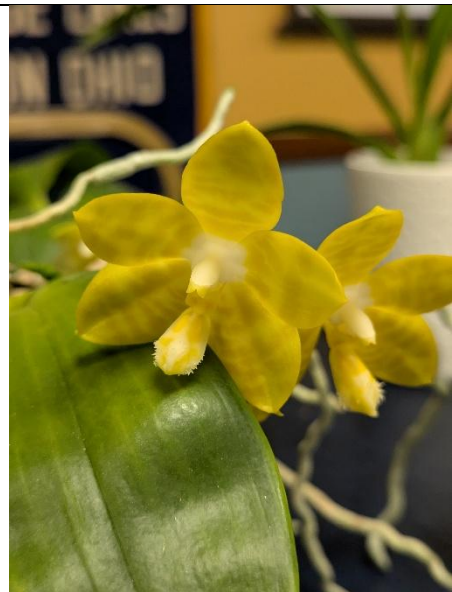
January 17 TBD

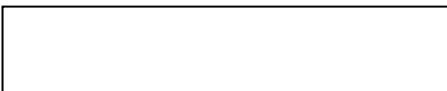
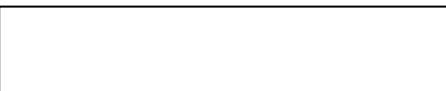
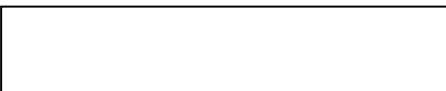
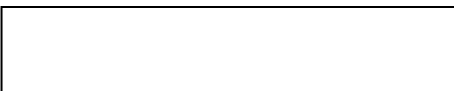
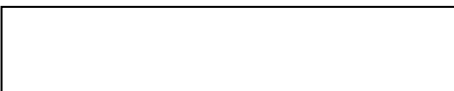
For more information contact Dave Miller at dcmjpsmil@aol.com, especially if you are not familiar with the location or process.

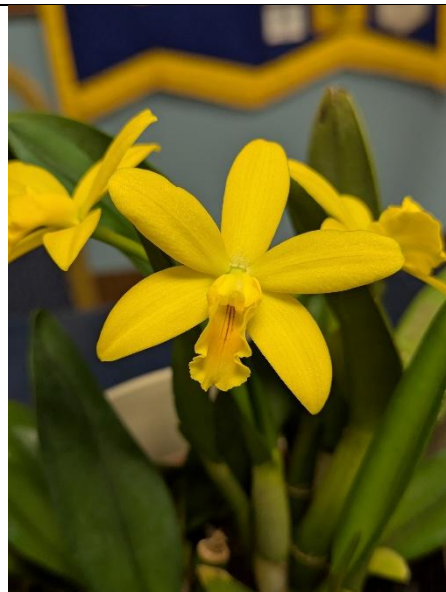
Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table

October 2025







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