

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

March 2019

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Dave Miller

Minutes of Feb. 2019 Meeting

Dave did an enjoyable presentation on Vandas. Some relatives of Vandas include Aerangis, Angraecums, Rhynchostylis, Phalaenopsis, Neofinetia, and Renanthera. Vandas are monopodial which means that they grow upward from 'one' (mono) 'foot' (podial). They usually have firm, fleshy, rigid leaves and long, brittle roots. A large, chunky medium, such as lava rock, works well for most Vandas. Sometimes, they are grown in baskets and the roots will need watered or misted often. Vandas tend to need high light, good humidity, and warm temperatures. The biggest problems that afflict these is too much medium and low humidity. Some examples Dave showed of his own were a Neostylis Lou Sneary, Rhynchostylis gigantea, Ascocentrum miniatum, and Aerangis mystacidii.

Dues for 2019 GAOS membership are now due. Individual memberships are \$20 and Family memberships, \$30.

Individual members can receive one free plant at the November meeting while family members can get two. Please bring your dues payment to a meeting or contact Paul Bujak.

Upcoming Business

Welcome new members! We hope you enjoyed our Spring Show and would love to see you at a meeting. Meetings are free and open to the public, so come stop by. Details are below.

Thank you to everyone who donated your time, money, effort and energy into making this show a great success. We cannot do it without an outstanding membership and diligent leadership. We hope that everyone had a great time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, March 11, 2019 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Getting Acquainted with New Members & "Orchids 101"**

Speaker:

We will be discussing many tips and tricks on how to grow orchids as well as the general basics from keeping them alive through getting them to flower.

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.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

Our show is proving to be a huge success. On Saturday over 20 people signed up as new members. I lost count after all 20-member packets that I had made were distributed. Our display won Best in Class and several of our members earned Best in Class for their individual plants and Darlene out did us all by earning an AOS award.

Since we have more than twenty new members, YOU, our current members need to be at our March meeting to greet these new friends and help them with their orchids. Please make plans to come!!! We have a program planned to help everyone get acquainted.

TIDBIT: As new growth begins in the spring, it is time to check to see if a plant has outgrown its current pot. This is a good time to repot and give the new growth room.

Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) Beginner's Corner starts at 6:45pm and the meeting at 7:10pm, at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

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

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|--------|---|
| Mar 11 | Get Acquainted with New Members & "Orchids 101" |
| Apr 8 | Repotting and Mounting your Orchids |
| May 13 | "Orchids of Peru" with Leon Glicenstein |
| Jun 10 | Summer Picnic
1 st Member Plant Auction |



Photo of the Month: Angcm. Crestwood (Angcm. Veitchii x sequipedale) Grown in a milkcrate. Each flower is about the size of a hand.

Photo By: Frank Zachariah

Miniature Orchids Presentation at Feb. Meeting

Presentation by Edgar Stehli, Written by Lore Yu

The mid-American congress defines miniature orchids as orchids not exceeding six inches in growth, excluding inflorescence. Some forms have 'miniature version' which are much larger than six inches but much smaller than typical class of orchids. An example might be 'miniature' *Phalaenopsis*, which would refer to a *Phalaenopsis* that is smaller than the typical *Phalaenopsis*.

Another example is the *Phragmipedium* 'miniatures' which are larger than true miniatures but diminutive compared to larger 2 footers. The very small *Mexipedium xerophyticum* is an example.

Many miniature *Angraecoids* (subtribe *Angraecinae*) can make delightful additions to an orchid collection. *Angraecum distichum*, *Angraecum didieri*, *Angraecum urschianum*, *Angraecum Punctulata* and *Angraecum fastuosa* are all miniatures.

Aerangis citrata, another member of the *Angraecinae* grows just like a *Phalaenopsis* but it prefers to be mounted. *Aerangis luteoalba* is another popular *Aerangis*. Many *Angraecums* have warty roots to help them gather night condensation.

Some nice miniatures of the *Cattleya* family include *Cattleya luteola* (mounted, low light), *Laelia longpipes*, *Sophronitis cernua*, *Sophronitis coccinea*, *Epidendrum porpax*, *Epidendrum gnomus*, *Leptotes bicolor* and *Leptotes pohlitinocoi*.

Bulbophyllum has many nice miniatures which include *Bulbophyllum fuscum*, *Bulbophyllum auratum*, *Bulbophyllum pardolotum*, *Bulbophyllum coroliferum*, *Bulbophyllum vaginatum*, *Bulbophyllum Medusae*, *Bulbophyllum tingabarinum*, *Bulbophyllum taiwanense*, and *Bulbophyllum hirundinis*.

Some popular miniature *Dendrobium* include *Dendrobium prenticei*, *Dendrobium cucumerinum*, *Dendrobium lichenastrum*, *Dendrobium wassellii*, *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*, *Dendrobium laevifolium*, and *Dendrobium tarantula*.

Another subtribe that contains many miniature orchids include *Pleurothallidinae*. Some popular ones include the easy to grow *Restrepia trichoglossa*, *Stellis*, and *Lepanthes*. A common *Lepanthes* is *Lepanthes calodictyon*. These do well in evenly moist moss and low light.

The *Oncidium* group has *Oncidium cheirophorum* and *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* which have been crossed to make the famous *Oncidium Twinkle*. Yellow crossed with pink make white so *Twinkles* have been crossed with each other to get the many colors commonly sold.

The *Oncidium* group also contains *Tolumnia* which are miniature and have a huge variety of colors and patterns.

Neofinetia falcata come in many varieties as well and are often prized for both their leaves and flowers. Cooler temperatures set the flowers. When these little orchids are crossed with other orchids, the flower shape is retained.

Most miniatures grow on twigs and small branches and are best grown mounted. Many have pendulant flower stems. Most do well in terrariums that provide extra humidity, prefer medium light, and to be watered with pure water. A fogger and fan can easily be set up for a terrarium.



Information on the orchids Edgar mentioned can be found on the IOSPE site:

<http://www.orchid-species.com/>

Platystele
ortiziana

Photo by: Kelly
McCracken

Orchids 101

By AOS, Abbrev. for space

Knowing which orchid you are trying to grow is your key to its cultural requirements. Orchids, like all plants, need a balance of light, air, water and food to grow and flower well.

Light

Without enough light, orchids may produce lush looking growths but no flowers. Not giving orchids enough light is the most common reason for failure to bloom. The old notion of orchids growing in dark jungles still persists and it couldn't be further from the truth. In reality, many have evolved as epiphytes to take advantage of brighter light available in the upper forest canopy.

How much light is enough? The answer to this seemingly simple question is "as much as they will take without burning." Orchids grown under sufficient light will have lighter, somewhat yellow-green foliage and strong upright growths.

Air

Orchids roots will die if they do not get air and this is the reason that, with the exception of a few terrestrial varieties, orchids do not grow in soil. Orchid potting media should be open, with exceptionally good drainage, yet capable of holding sufficient moisture to support the plant's needs. You should provide gentle air movement. For orchids grown in the home, this can be provided by an overhead paddle fan set on its lowest setting or a portable oscillating fan directed AWAY from the plants.

Water

Without question, more orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. Proper watering consists of two separate components; quantity and frequency. Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. Humidity, air movement, potting medium and light levels all play a role. There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) the surface of the potting mix will appear dry; 2) dry pots will feel lighter; 3) clay pots feel dry; 4) a wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry

When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. Not only does this soak the potting medium but it also flushes salts that naturally accumulate.

Fertilizer

Orchids will grow and flower, given that their other requirements are met, for fairly long periods without fertilizer but you'll get better results with some level of feeding. Typically, plants are fertilized once a week during the summer and every two weeks in the fall and winter. Regardless of the fertilizer that you chose to use, most experienced growers use no more than ½ the label-recommended strength.

Fertilizers used on orchids should contain little or no urea. This is because soil organisms must first convert the nitrogen in urea to a form useable by plants, and since orchids do not grow in soil, this conversion does not occur efficiently.



Bulbophyllum polliculosum

Leafless orchid growing
on a log mount at
Jiaho Orchids Nursery

Photo By: Norman Fang

Rupicolous Laelia Culture

By: Sonoma Orchids

Last month, Edgar discussed growing miniature orchids. I found this article very interesting since it pertained to a group that he discussed. -Brandon



Laelia milleri

If you ask just a few orchid growers how to grow Brazil's rupicolous laelias, you're sure to hear stories of failure. This is ironic, because, compared with other small-growing orchids such as pleurothallids, these orchids are remarkably rugged. Their space-saving stature and colorful flowers make them worth growing.

The most common cultural requirement you'll hear regarding these laelias is, "They need plenty of light to flower, and, while they may grow under normal cattleya conditions, you might never see a flower." This is probably due to the harsh environment in which they grow in nature; often on rock outcrops in full sun with nothing more than grasses and detritus to protect the plants, and nightly mist as the main source of moisture.

Light: "I have found that they (rupicolous laelias) will bloom with light levels adequate for most standard cattleya hybrids. If grown in full sun they will eventually die." He goes on to say that under-light growers should place them close to the tubes for maximum exposure. These orchids come from mountainous areas and benefit from a drop-in temperature at night.



Laelia harpophylla

Rupicolous laelias are often shy root producers and imported bare-root plants are slow to reestablish. If you repeatedly have problems getting these laelias going, look for artificially propagated seedlings rather than mature plants. Seedlings' constant growth is often a solution to establishing species that may otherwise be marginal growers for us. Because these plants resent being disturbed, avoid repotting them every year. When you do have to repot them, be gentle with the root pruning, cutting away only those roots that are dead.



Laelia ghillanyi var. flamma.

Media: Although I have seen people successfully growing rupicolous laelias on driftwood (watered every day) and in organic media such as tree fern, fir bark, and even sphagnum moss, the inorganic media are the best choice by a wide margin. Nickou suggested graded aquarium gravel about the size of a pea. Other expanded clay products, i.e., Aliflor, Turface, sponge rock, Solite, pumice rock, and fine charcoal. I have now settled on a combination of red lava rock and small-grade Aliflor and have had wonderful results.

The fact that these orchids do not like being disturbed does not mean *that* you should overpot; rarely is more than a 5-inch pot necessary, with 3 inches being just about right for most of the smaller species. Clay seems preferable to plastic. It allows more air to the roots and the evaporation of moisture from the clay provides a cooler environment for the roots during the hot summer. A major advantage of using the inorganic media is that they do not break down. When repotting time comes, it is not necessary to remove every piece of the old medium; allow any bits of material that cling to the roots to stay. Indeed, some growers move the whole plant, lava rock and all, into the new pot and simply fill in with fresh medium. The best rule of thumb for these orchids is to repot only when necessary and do it in such a way as to cause minimal trauma to the plant.

Upcoming Orchid Shows

West Shore Orchid Society

April 27-28 at Strongsville, Ehrnfelt Recreation Center

18100 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136

<http://www.westshoreorchidsociety.org/>

Catasetum Andréa Leão variegada

By: Catasetum Brazil



Photo Gallery

GCOS Show
Cleve Botanical Gardens
Feb. 2019



Cleve Botanical Gardens
Main Entrance Display



GCOS Show



Cleve Botanical Gardens
Greenhouse Stanhopea



GCOS Display



GAOS Display



WSOS Display



Windswept in Time Display

Photo Gallery

GAOS Show
Donzell's Garden Center
March 2019



GAOS Display



GAOS Display



Photo Gallery

GAOS Show
Donzell's Garden Center
March 2019



Photo Gallery

February 2019 Meeting



Paph Bernice x armeniacum
Dave Miller



Maxillaria sanguinea
Dave Miller



Maxillaria sanguinea
Dave Miller



Den Mini Snowflake
Pam Everett



Den Nano Chip
Pam Everett



Phrag Jersey
Dave Miller



Lc Blazing Sun
Carolyn Lauer



Brassavola Little Stars
Pam Everett



Maxillaria sanguinea
Pam Everett



Ctna Beverly Blush
Pam Everett



Blc George King
Frank Skalak



Epi polybulbon
Frank Skalak



Den Ise x Angel Baby
Bernie Skalak



Phrag longifolium
Bernie Skalak



Paph Supersuk x Raisin Pie
Jane Bush



Dendrobium Spring Dream
Jane Bush



Dendrobium Spring Dream
Jane Bush



Dendrobium Spring Dream
Jane Bush



Stenosarcos vanguard
Kurt Nestle



NoID Phalaenopsis
Jane Bush



NoID Phalaenopsis
Jane Bush



GCOS Show



GCOS Show