

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

## April 2019

President

**Jane Bush**

Vice President

**Barb Ford**

Treasurer

**Paul Bujak**

Secretary

**Lore Yu**

Editor

**Brandon  
Spannbauer**

Trustee

**Dave Miller**

### **Minutes of Mar. 2019 Meeting**

The meeting began with news concerning the show. Our society had 36 new members join during the show. The show yielded a good profit this year.

Brandon announced that if anyone has not received the newsletters, see Brandon to make certain that he has the correct email address.

News can be found on Facebook Facebook—GAOS. The Facebook page can easily be found by googling 'The Greater Akron Orchid Society'

Our website can be found at:

<http://www.thegaos.com/>

Our monthly newsletter needs articles. If anyone has ideas for articles, please email Brandon.

Paul, our treasurer, is ill but our books are in the black.

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**

\* Bring your plants to repot to the April meeting. There will be modest potting charge for each plant to cover expenses for pots and mix \*

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.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, April 8, 2019 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Repotting and Mounting your Orchids**

Speaker: **Edgar Stehli**

There will be two program segments tonight. Edgar Stehli will be showing everyone how to mount orchids on wood or other things instead of potting and several members will help those who come with how to repot orchids. There will be a modest potting charge for each plant to cover expenses for pots and mix.

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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.  
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**Website:** [www.thegaos.com](http://www.thegaos.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/theGAOS](http://www.facebook.com/theGAOS)

## President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our 2019 show a tremendous success! We greatly missed Paul, but others stepped up and the show went smoothly.

Our April 8 meeting will be a fun “make-it and take-it” meeting. Edgar will show us how to successfully mount an orchid and have both mounting materials and orchids suitable for mounting for sale. So, you can take an orchid that you mounted home with you!

Also, at the April meeting, Dave and Barb will demonstrate “how to repot and orchid” using plants that attendees bring to the meeting for repotting. We have pots and potting media available for a modest fee or you can bring your own. This is an excellent time for our newest members to bring in that plant with wild roots or one that looks weak for a chance to find what to do with it.

On notes of concern, Paul Bujak is still in an extended nursing facility receiving physical therapy and continuing with doctors' appointments and scheduled treatments. Also, Dave received a note that GAOS's life member Margaret Hartmann passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 30. Dave has asked her daughter, Cindy Topp, to keep us posted.

**TIDBIT:** Orchids that are grown in a window should be turned periodically except for Phalaenopsis which display best if they are not turned.

## 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.**

Apr 8	Repotting and Mounting your Orchids
May 13	“Orchids of Peru” with Leon Glicenstein
Jun 10	Summer Picnic 1 <sup>st</sup> Member Plant Auction
July 8	How We Grow Orchids with Dave Miller



**Photo of the Month:** Bulbophyllum rothschildianum

**Photo By:** Lusarerec

## WAFL Presentation at March 2019 Meeting

Presentation by Pam, Barb, Darlene, Dave and Jane, Written by Lore Yu

A brief presentation was given by Pam, Barb, Darlene, Dave and Jane on the four most basic needs of orchids;

(W)water, (A)air, (F)food and (L)light:

Pam:

W: Once every two or three weeks for her Cattleyas

A: Overhead fan and side fans

F: Fertilize in summers. Jacks regular and Jack's bloom booster.

L: Grows outside in summer and under lights during cooler weather

Dave:

W: Waters them when needed, hand wipes them after to prevent fungus issues

A: Fans to keep air moving different types of fans, run until they stop (grows in a closet)

F: MSU fertilizer, more often during faster growth

L: Under lights and 2/3 of plants go outside for the summer

Darlene:

W: RO water, water and fertilizer at same time. Water until water run through the pot and roots turn green.

A: PC fans and she maintains space around each plant. Dries off leaves to prevent fungus.

F: K-lite every week, 1/4-1/2 per gallon

Nutra coat pellets for summer

Maxi-crop for more roots

Beneficial microbes

Stop fertilizing plants that rest

L: Lights and windows

Barb:

W: Waters most with city water using a hose. Uses RO water for the Phrags

A: Tight, closed-in room, humidifier, ceiling fan, side Box fan on stands. Large tower fan

F: 10-10-10 growing season, autumn bloom booster for Phals

Nutra Cote —huge improvement in growth, not flowering

Fertilizes when she thinks about it

L: T5HO lights. Keeps the room very warm.

Jane:

W: Flood pots once a week

The rest of her orchids grows in hydroponics. It is important to flush the pots well.

A: Ceiling fans pond—provides humidity

Roots need air. (Pots with holes)

F: Fertilizes every other week

Bloom booster improves quality of flower, does not causes blooms

Calcium, magnesium and other micro-nutrients

L: Red and blue light

Frank reminded everyone how important humidity is and that, if possible, it is best to have enough air movement to move the leaves.



Corybas pictus

By: Brad's Greenhouse

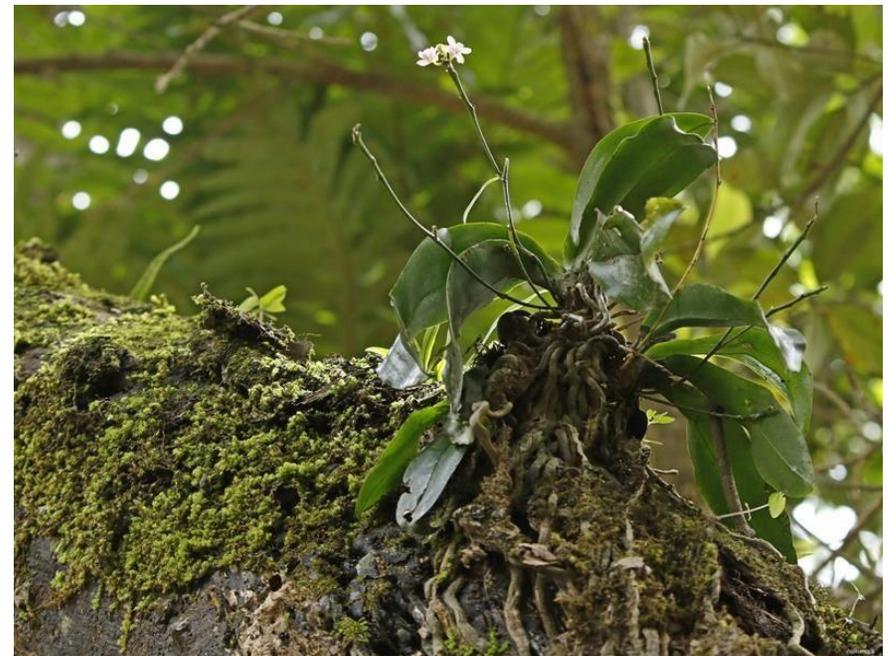
## Phalaenopsis in Nature

By Dustin Miller via a Forum Post

Okay...I just want to clear the air about something. Phals don't always "GROW SIDEWAYS" in nature...they grow on trees, and depending on the angle of the plant on the tree it mayyyy grow sideways...but many phals grow upright on top of branches, or on the ground or on top of rocks.

Water in a phal's crown doesn't cause crown rot...nutrient issues do! Otherwise the entire species would not exist because they are often wet for days or weeks on end during the rainy season!

Here are some photos for yourself...you'll see that in these photos the plants grow upright...and yet they are not dead.



## Mealybugs on Orchids

By: Paul J. Johnson, Ph.D., abbrev to fit



If left untreated, mealybugs can quickly get out of control. Mealybugs are serious pests of orchids and next to scale insects are probably the most difficult to control pests of orchids in homes and greenhouses. Most definitely, they need to be dealt with immediately upon discovery. The damage done to plants by mealybugs is considerable, causing a loss of vigor and a weakening and loss of leaves, buds, and flowers through their feeding. In addition, mealybugs create copious amounts of honeydew which make plant parts sticky, attracts ants, and provides a substrate for sooty mold.

### Identification

Mealybugs are closely related to the scale insects. Mealybugs can be thought of as a kind of soft scale that does not form the protective. Mealybugs can be found on all plant parts, but especially roots, rhizomes, pseudobulbs, and the underside of leaves. They are adept at hiding on roots and rhizomes deep in the potting media, in crevices and under sheaths. Unlike scales, mealybugs wander in search of feeding places and will leave plants, be sure to check for them in cracks and in joints on benches, under lips of pots and trays, and other hiding places. Orchids become infested with mealybugs in some combination of three methods: purchase of an infested plant, movement from infested to un-infested plants that are in contact with each other, and windblown colonization. Mealybugs are active and will crawl from one plant to another, pot to pot, and across benches.



### Life Cycle

Mealybugs have a three-stage life history: egg, larva (nymph or crawler), and adult. Eggs are laid within a waxy coated egg sac produced by the female. The eggs hatch after about a 10 days into the mobile nymphs, the crawlers, that appear as diminutive adults. The crawlers are the most active stage that can move between plants and will develop through several growth periods before becoming adults.

### Management

Indoors, mealybug management is difficult because of their propensity to move into the potting medium and feed on roots, or for the crawlers to work their way into tight places. Repeated application of any treatment is required to kill the immatures, and treatments are at their greatest effectiveness against the small crawlers. All control efforts must begin immediately following discovery.

Because the life cycle of mealybugs can be so short combined with the overlapping of generations, you will need to do a treatment every 10-14 days in order to bring a serious problem under control. Because mealybugs are such a problem there are few effective "home remedies" available. To deal with an established infestation, the use of an insecticide will likely be necessary. Be aware that non-insecticidal treatments are often not very effective for elimination of mealybugs without diligent application and follow-up treatments.



### **Rubbing Alcohol**

Probably the most popular home remedy against mealybugs is to swab and daub plants with a cotton-tipped swab or ball of cotton dipped in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. The common 70% isopropyl available in stores is satisfactory. Remove all mealybugs, large and small. Spraying the alcohol with a misting bottle or small pump sprayer is effective, but dribbling alcohol into tight areas is necessary. Many home growers will mix with alcohol a small amount of mild liquid dish detergent, and sometimes mineral oil, neem oil, or horticultural oil. One recipe for a 1.5 liter spray bottle is to mix a 50:50 solution of isopropyl and water, with a few drops to about a teaspoon of liquid soap to act as a spreader, and a teaspoon of one of the oils.

### **Repotting**

Even a light to moderate infestation of mealybugs should be of concern. These insects like to move into the potting media and feed on roots, or move off of the plant to find hiding places to lay eggs. Unless the roots are checked and the media changed, removal of mealybugs from only the upper plant portions is not a guarantee of success. The potting medium can harbor eggs and crawlers, so dispose of it in a compost pile or in the garbage. When repotting, a close inspection, and if necessary, a very gentle cleaning and spraying of the roots before repotting is essential.



### **Insecticides**

Persistent populations of mealybugs or infestation in many plants may demand the need for use of synthetic insecticides. There are several common, inexpensive, use pesticides labeled for ornamental plants.

### **Final Considerations**

Heavy infestations of mealybugs, especially on many plants, may require severe control methods using insecticides. On the extreme side if you have a plant showing signs of decline from infestation you may have to seriously consider destroying that plant, as the low likelihood of rejuvenating that plant may not justify the expense and effort of continued treatments. After isolating infested plants give them a thorough application of something different from what you have been using. Whenever using oils, soaps, and insecticides, be thorough, change formulations frequently, and do not use less than the minimum concentration of mixture, or more than normally recommended. Mealybugs are an excellent example of pests that are easily transported and create tremendous problems. Everyone needs to be aware of the great potential of inadvertently dispersing species to new areas, particularly from international originations. There cannot be enough stress placed on the recommendation that all plants come from a reputable and quality grower, and are clean of pests.



Bulbophyllum moniliforme growing on a rubber tree. By Moe Zaw

## 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/>

## Orchid Corner at March 2019 Meeting

Presentation by Edgar Stehli, Written by Lore Yu

The Orchid Corner's topic was Orchid Watering and it was presented by Edgar Stehli. Edgar used a sponge to demonstrate how watering orchids work. Water stays at the bottom 35% of potting mix so peanuts, clay shards, etc., placed at the bottom of the pot will help to prevent rotted roots. Edgar advises orchid owners to wet the medium first. Like a dry sponge, the dry medium won't hold any water—it will all run right out. Soak the pot in water for five minutes, then lift it from the water and let the pot drain. When the water drains, fresh air is pulled in.

If roots stick out, water those roots, too. The spongy layer on roots turns green when it has absorbed enough water so always water until the roots turn green.

Different potting mix holds different amounts of water. One can tinker with using different mixes so all one's orchids dry at the same rate. Don't put orchids in a big pot—orchids like to be pot-bound.

New Zealand moss holds lots of water while bark dries quicker.

Don't drastically experiment with medium.

Orchids want water above 32° and prefer the water to be room temperature or higher. (83°F water—Edgar). If water is too cold, it will shock the orchid.

Water quality is important. Rain water is very clean, neutral pH and this is what most orchids get in the wild.

When water dries, the dissolved solids in water are left behind like the residue that remains after boiling water in a pot.

Dissolved solids crystallize and the salt crystals shred the orchid's roots. Fine roots are more sensitive than thicker roots.

Water softener water is very bad for orchids so use rain and distilled water,.

Cleveland water good, Akron water is bad.

Well water is usually bad. Keep total dissolved solids in water low. When fertilizing orchids, rinse the extra fertilizer off after 20 minutes.

RO water is good but needs some minerals added back in.

Everything reaches an equilibrium. Too pure of water will pull nutrients away from the orchid.

Spring water, rain water, RO water, or distilled water is good for watering orchids. With the rain water, one must be wary of pathogens.

# Photo Gallery

March 2019 Meeting



Phrag longifolium alba x manzurii  
Darlene Thompson



Nold Cattleya  
Pam Everett



Cym Sweetheart  
Pam Everett



Onc Irish Mist  
Pam Everett



Bllra Tropic Lily  
Pam Everett



Lc "Lily"  
Pam Everett



Phal Cassandra  
Dave Miller



Brassavola Little Stars  
Pam Everett



Phal cornu-cervi  
Dave Miller



C Roy's Magic  
Shelly Halaby?



Phrag Saint Owen x Andrettea  
Dave Miller



Phrag besseae flavum x mazurii  
Dave Miller



Cattleya Big Ben  
Frank Skalak



Cattleya Mount Hood  
Frank Skalak



Cattleya trianae  
Frank Skalak



Lc Purple Cascade  
Jane Bush



Paph Song of Love  
Jane Bush



Max tenuifolia  
Jane Bush



Cattleya Prism Palette  
Jane Bush



NoID Phal  
Jane Bush



Den Fire Wings  
Jane Bush



Den Fairy Moon Sweetie  
Jane Bush



Den Sea Mary  
Jane Bush



Lc Irene Newman  
Jane Bush



Masdevallia veitchiana  
Brandon Spannbauer



Rlc Lawless Zauberflote  
Shelly Halaby?



Laelia angereri  
Darlene Thompson



Lycaste Laelani's Pink Dust  
Darlene Thompson



Phrag bessea flavum  
Darlene Thompson



Phrag longifolium  
Darlene Thompson



Phrag Sunset Glory x d'alessandroi  
Darlene Thompson