Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

September 2026

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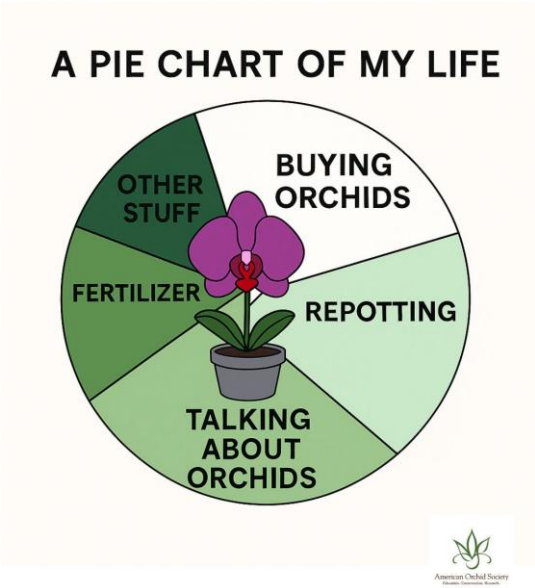
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Previous Meeting Minutes

In our August meeting, we had several members give mini presentations on 'How We Grow Our Orchids'

Meeting summary below (Page 4):



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

September 14, 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: **Orchid Culture 101**
Speaker: **Kim Feddersen (Plants for Sale & Pre Order)**

Each meeting will have a show table, 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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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.gcos.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

Sept 14	Orchid Culture 101 – Kim Feddersen
Oct 12	Orchid Expedition on the Rio Negro – Deborah Boersma
Nov 9	Holiday Banquet / Election of Officers
December	No Meeting



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 September 14 Meeting Info

This month we will be having guest speaker Kim Feddersen of Fair Orchids in New Jersey. Full bio next page.

973-495-4863 website: fairorchids.us fairorchids@aol.com

He will be bringing in plants for sale and is offer a discount for preorders (please contact him through email: fairorchids@aol.com) 5% off for CC & 10% off for Cash. Let him know to bring plants to GAOS meeting.

** Kim will also be at West Shore on Wednesday, Sept. 16th. He will be talking about 'Cool Growing Orchids, outdoors 6 plus months in New Jersey'. Everyone at GAOS is welcome to attend the presentation. WSOS Meetings are held at the North Olmsted Community Cabin, 28114 Lorain Road, North Olmsted

Topic

Program: **Orchid Culture 101**
Speaker**:** **Kim Feddersen (Plants for Sale & Pre Order)**

Zoom Meeting Details

Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: GAOS September Monthly Meeting

Time: Sep 14, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89392570681?pwd=Ld2l7qOfswnVsu74FC9f7BjEsAlflS.1

Kim Feddersen
North Plainfield, NJ
973-495-4863 fairorchids.us fairorchids@aol.com

I am a third generation orchidholic; I am a member of the American Orchid Society, and several local societies.

My grandfather spent 8 years in Malaysia, where he indulged his botanical interests. My dad had a retail orchid nursery (Orkidé Kultur) in Denmark; I started working in his nursery after school when I was 15, and continued till I left for the US 9 years later. My dad's first love was Paphiopedilums (Cypripediums to him), and that bug turned out to be infectious. Those were the days of wild collected plants, but my dad did some hybridizing also, including in Vandas, which kindled my second orchid passion.

I have grown Orchids as a hobby grower for about 25 years, starting in windows, moving to lights in the basement, and finally into a shared greenhouse, where my collection numbered some 1500+ plants, mostly Paphiopedilum and Vandaceous, but also ranging into Cattleyas, Aussie Dendrobiums, pendulous Cymbidiums & Lycastes. I have done a little breeding in Paphs, miniature Vandaceous and more recently Cymbidium & Cattleyas.

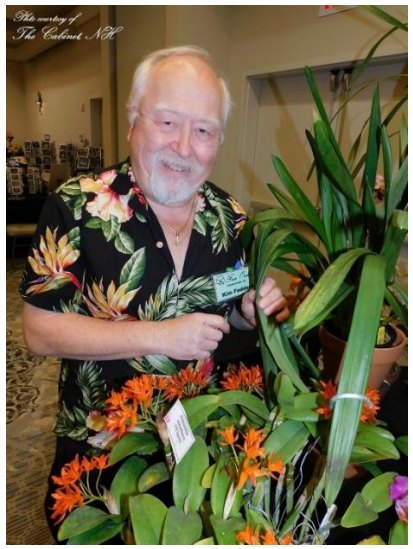
A December 2017 a freeze at the old Tewkesbury Orchids wiped out my entire intermediate/warm collection. Due to space constraints, I had moved my cool growing plants to a different location, so my Cymbidiums, Laelia anceps & Aussie Dendrobiums were not affected. I now have a full 2500 sqft greenhouse at my disposal at Flemington Orchids, so my collection has somehow grown accordingly – with heavy emphasis on Cattleyas (especially *L. anceps* and *B. nodosa* hybrids). In addition to the orchids, I am also dabbling in Hoyas, Clivia miniata, and assorted succulents.

I started to exhibit at NJ shows in 2013. Following the end of my corporate career, I have expanded my orchid activities significantly. I am participate in regional shows in NJ, PA, NY, CT, MA, MD & NH under the ***Fair Orchids*** identity, and I have so far collected 19 AOS awards (mix of flower quality & cultural).

In 2022 Carolyn and I moved from Maplewood to North Plainfield, NJ. We are now working on the design & planting of a property that is more than twice as large as our old one. Considering that we left a perpetually flowering yard, and there are only 3 Peonies in our new garden, we have some work cut out for us.

I continue to do speaking engagements for garden clubs, master gardeners and orchid societies on a variety of subjects related to orchids.





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	**Cattleya Relatives – Kristen Uthus, owner of New World Orchids**
Apr 25-26	WSOS Orchid Show @ Erhnfelt Recreation Center
May 11	**Repotting workshop with new members –No speaker**
June 8	**Latest Breeding Trends in Phrags – Jim France**
July 13	**Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction**
Aug 10	**How We Grow Our Orchids – Members**
Aug 22-23	Ohio Valley Orchid Fest @ Kettering, Ohio
Sept 14	**Orchid Culture 101 – Kim Feddersen**
Oct 12	**Orchid Expedition on the Rio Negro, Brazil – Deborah Boersma**
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

Give Your Orchids Time to be Their Best

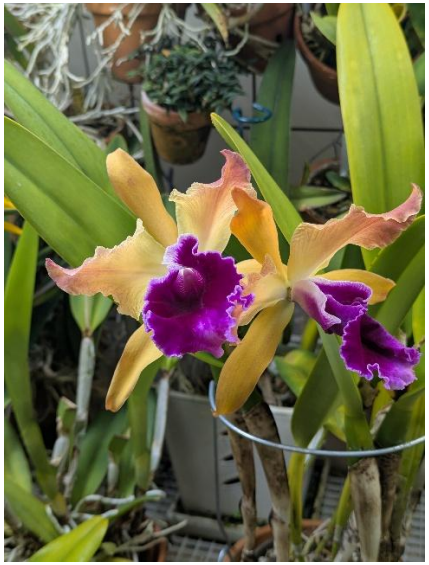
By Brandon Spannbauer

You buy a new orchid, bring it home, maybe repot it and spend time caring for it, sometimes years, and it finally blooms! Just for the blooms to be, just ok, and you're alittle disappointed: Has this ever happened to you? Orchids are notorious for this, their first blooms are often misshapen, smaller, or dull in color. Fear not, orchid blooms often improve in size, quantity, and vigor as the plant matures and establishes a stronger root system over the years.

Why Orchid Blooms Improve

- **Mature root systems:** Older plants develop larger root networks that absorb water and nutrients much more efficiently.
- **Increased energy reserves:** Established pseudobulbs or bigger crowns store more energy to fuel larger flower spikes.
- **Better acclimation:** Plants adapted to your home's specific light and temperature patterns face less stress during budding.

Personally, some of my plants take several bloomings over a couple years to start to look their best. Here are some examples from my own collection.





Lc. Glenarun (C. Triumphans x L. tenebrosa)
This first photo is an early bloom with a misshapen lip and petals that don't fully open and fall forward. Second photo is a more current bloom, 2 years later, where the lip and petals are more full and fully open.





Lc. Isfield (C. warscewiczii x L. Pacavia)
First blooming photo with a top petal that falls forward and this year's blooms which is its 3rd time blooming with full open flowers. I'm glad I waited on this one because it was on the chopping block. I hope future flowers open up fully.

Tips for Better Blooms Each Year

- **Provide bright, indirect light:** Adequate light is the main trigger for reflowering.
- **Allow a rest period:** Let the plant rest after flowering so it can rebuild energy.
- **Fertilize gently:** Feed with diluted, potassium-rich nutrients during active growth and bud development.
- **Repot regularly:** Refresh old potting mix every one to two years to prevent root suffocation.

Note: Not all orchids are like this, many of my orchids have bloomed beautifully the first time and have remained consistent. I have noticed that many of my seed grown crosses need a few bloomings for me to fully understand an orchid's potential. Whereas meristem clones of awarded plants seem to be better, but your experience may vary.



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

This is probably my best example of waiting to see your orchid's true potential. First bloom with very curved flowers, the next two photos are later bloomings with most of the petals straightening out. The last photo was taken this year, with a much fuller, flatter form. This plant blooms 3-4 times a year and it took almost 3 years after its 1st bloom to improve its form.

Things to do in the Fall

By AOS

Like spring, fall is an important transitional season and orchid growers should be making preparations for the coming winter. As days get shorter and cooler, orchid growth will slow and, in some cases, cease altogether. Unless a plant is in a crisis situation, put off any repotting until the lengthening days of spring. For many orchids, it is this change of seasonal conditions that begins flower initiation.

As we move into November, be on the lookout for developing inflorescences on *Phalaenopsis, Cymbidium* and certain hybrids and species in other genera, and begin staking when spikes reach 6-8 inches.

If you have been summering some or all of your orchids outside, now is a good time to get your indoor growing area cleaned up and ready to welcome the returning orchids. Whether it is windowsill carts, a basement light setup or greenhouse, use diluted chlorine bleach (1:10) or Physan to clean off any accumulated algae. It is easier to make repairs when there are no plants, so make sure that your growing area is in top condition for the trying conditions of winter.

Make sure that heaters are working and that you have plenty of fuel. If you use backup devices or alarms, test them too. Be sure to check plants thoroughly for pests before returning them to the close quarters of your indoor growing area or greenhouse.

GAOS August Meeting Notes

By Meghan Harper

Announcements:

Next year's GAOS Show will be held at Petitti's March 6-7, 2027!
There will be a show meeting this month on zoom. All are welcome to attend.

Hospitality chair is needed to run hospitality at the show. Past hospitality chair (Meghan Harper) will assist whomever is willing to step-up but will be out of town the weekend of the show.
Welcome new members who attended this evening.
Memberships will be 25$ if it is an individual or a family membership and all memberships will receive one plant per year.

Members should check their contact information on the sheets to make corrections or additions.

Show table:

Chester shared some beautiful phalenopsis, bulbophyllum with growing tips for each.
Pam shared an award winning best of class 10 year old orchid.
Frank shared an older orchid cross
Edgar oncidium lava burst with tips for blooming. And a species from Africa easy to grow smaller orchid; dendrobium miniature long lasting blooms, cool and tons of water
Darlene hybrid of two species 12 years orchid that has been divided 8x; phragmipedium sequential bloomers; cattleyas tiny plants big flowers
Kara hybrid; use terracotta planters
Brandon Cattleyas blooms change colors as they bloom;
Sally started as a seedling, has grown into a large plant
Craig brought in several plants bought from members sales and one miniature
Kat oncidium and phalaenopsis shared how to deal with stem rot, put cinnamon on the wound, used a scalpel to cut out the rot

Presentation: Member growing spaces
Kat: use plant stands, lighting from Amazon, flexible light panels, west side, living room clusters of stands, octopus style lights, brassavolas, oncidiums under the octopus light, glass plant stand Ikea, Berena lights attached under each shelf 350$

Dave: presentation of member grow spaces East or South is best protect against direct sunlight somewhat shady, up off the ground, under the overhang outside protect against rodents on the ground, under a tree, hanging from trees, shade cloth, grows under lights inside, basement under lights, mounted or hanging; grow under lights all year round;

Lore: terrariums, distilled water, sprays jar terrariums once a week, 12-hour light schedule, lower-level media is lava rock, top layer moss, fertilizes once every 18 mos. Grows ferns alongside orchids and uses carnivorous plants to keep bugs down uses kitchen window with mounted baskets

Brandon: exclusively uses clay because of watering with a hose, southern windows shaded by trees, front porch is covered two ten-foot tables with cinder block, led lights, fluorescent lights, hanging wire system growing in the basement for 11 years. Wire racks to get closer to the lights, clear light panels protect from spraying water, led lights are strong lights; smaller plants get more water retentive materials; use tap water with different wands; smaller pots are topped with moss to retain water; fan to create air movement, grow vertically with wire system; fans run 24/7 so no mildew, slanted to floor with floor drain, slightly tilted and phals are planted at an angle

Darlene: 4 fans for air circulation; humidifier/keep it clean; outside north side 3-4 hours of morning sun under trees; influx of squirrels causing issues; tree needs trimming, if it rains heavily, know your plants; touch your plants your perception is best, greenhouse from harbor freight 6x8 get plants out earlier in spring and stay out later in the fall, minimum temperature only 50-degree plants High 68 low 50 October-January, wrap it in bubble wrap to keep it more temperature regulated in the winter hydrogen peroxide 12/percent diluted to 3 percent; Dragon's blood stops crown rot; low pesticides; sugar-based pesticide; electrical in greenhouse runs fan and heater, orchid room has tile
Water in the morning, air movement, dab crown, use can of compressed air, makeup puffer to blow out water in crown.

Craig: grow on wire shelving rack for self-containment large wheels for easy moving; mounted electrical to plug in lights, led on two levels, rack needs one outlet, one timer per rack, shoe tray fill with gravel to water and not get water on the floor, small fans 6- inch usb low voltage one on each end of the shelf to keep air moving.

Monthly Checklist for Sept & Oct

By AOS

Cattleya

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from Cattleya labiata breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

Dendrobium

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium* canaliculatum types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. Dendrobium phalaenopsis can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Rhynchostele bictoniensis

Both *Rhynchostele bictoniensis* and its *hybrids* bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele bictoniensis*, formerly known as *Lemboglossum, Odontoglossum*) is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: sulphureum (green with white lip), album (brown with white lip) and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in Odcdm. Bittersweet and Odm. bicross) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for odontoglossum beginners and advanced alike.

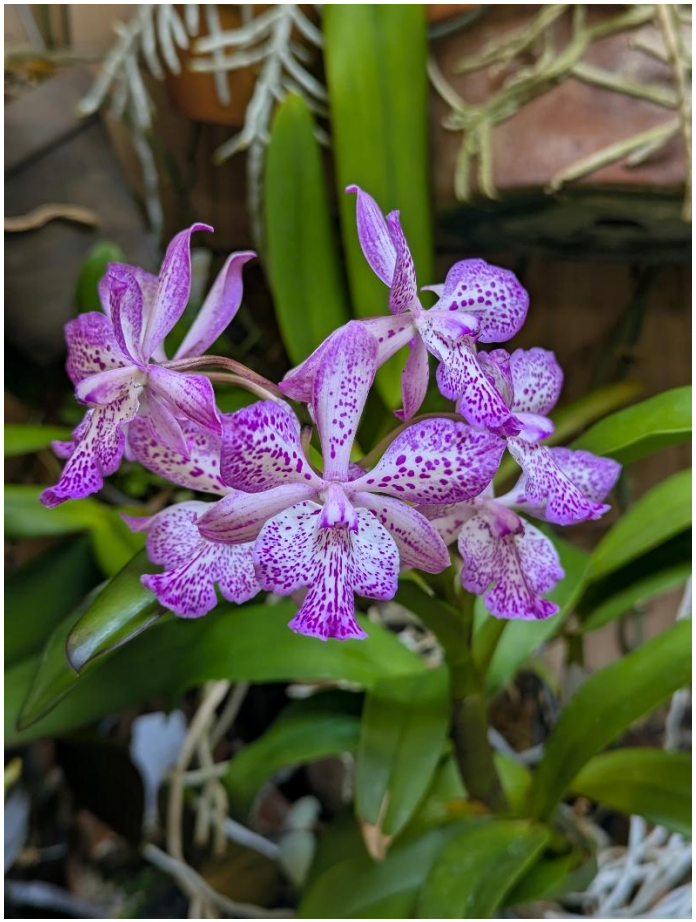
Paphiopedilum

Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

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



Tuckerara Hilo Adventure 'Pinkie'

This was a Christmas gift last year and its first bloom for me. I was very pleasantly surprised at the intensity of the color.



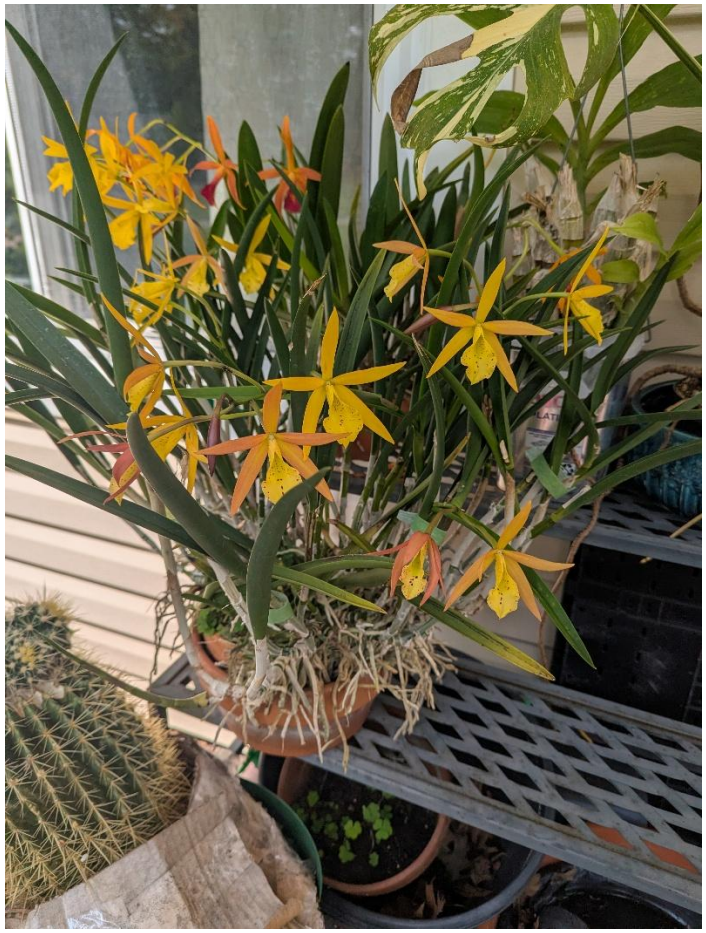
Lc. Isfield (L. Pacavia x C. warscewiczii)

I wrote about this plant in an article above, but I am very happy with how this orchid has flowered. It has 2 large flowers, nice shape and deep rich color. The parent, L. Pacavia (tenebrosa x purpurata) seems to be dominant in both shape and color for this cross. The warscewiczii parent is a semi alba and the characteristic yellow ‘eyes’ on the throat are not present as no yellow is seen at all.



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

This is a story of survival. I've had this plant for 10 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. 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.



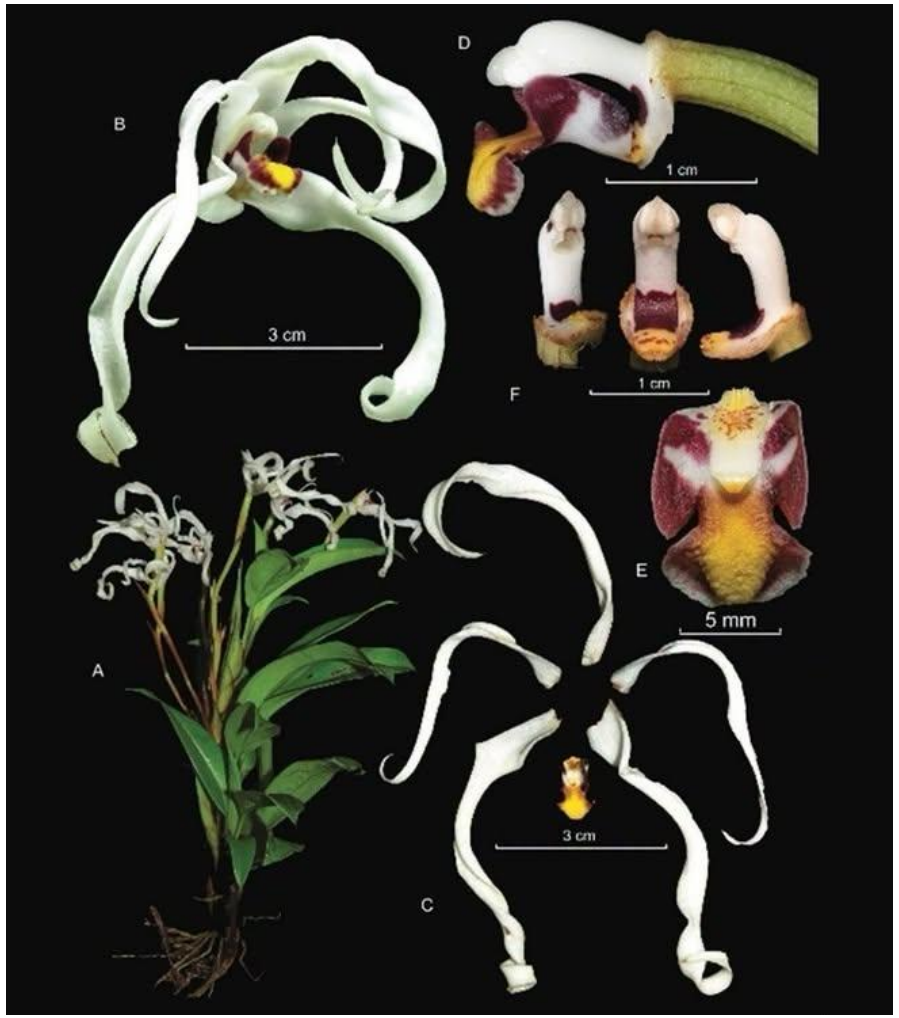
Bl. Claudia Cotarelo (Bl. Sunny Delight x Bl. Richard Mueller)

This is one of my oldest 'surviving' orchids that I bought 10 years ago from Sunset Valley Orchids (SVO). It has since become my most reliable bloomer with flowers most months of the year. I find it hard not to bring it in every month because its display is so good. The flowers open a deep orange and finish is bright yellow color. This summer it is responding to the sun outside on my porch and has more spikes and flowers than I care to cound.

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

Maxillaria andina, a new orchid species from high-Andean ecosystems of southwestern #Colombia and northern #Ecuador. The new species is distinguished by having long and narrowly linear white sepals and petals with revolute margins, lip with mucronate epichile, and callus without hairs or trichomes.– Novataxa 2024



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. Please note we are asking plants brought in for judging to arrive by 12:30.

Our meeting has reverted back to 11:00 AM Eastern Time with any judging center business and then an educational talk by judges or other featured speakers. AOS judging begins no later than 12:30 PM Eastern Time. The Great Lakes Judging Center is responsible for AOS judging in the region spanning Michigan, Northern Indiana, and Northern Ohio. Room 130 will be our default room for the remainder of 2026.

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*.

PLEASE NOTE: *Washtenaw CC has become very busy with seminars and events. Some months our meetings have moved to other rooms in the Morris Lawrence Center. The best way to find our room for the month is to check the event listings near the front desk as you enter the building.*

Upcoming Schedule:

View our calendar, location and times at www.gljc.org

September 19 "Rhyncholaelia digbyana – A Beautiful and an Exceptional Parent" with Sandra Micucci from GLJC. AOS Judging will begin no later than 12:30 PM EDT.

October 17 Jill Wood from GLJC will speak on "Current Development of Mini-Phrag Hybrids". AOS Judging will begin no later than 12:30 PM EDT.

November 21 There is no AOS judging at Washtenaw. AOS Judging will take place at the Ann Arbor OS Show at Matthei Botanic Garden located at 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105; AOS judging will begin no later than 12:30 PM EDT.

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

Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table

August 2026





