

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

## February 2026

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Open (if you'd like to assist us please email)

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### Trustee

Craig Miller  
[justcraig@sssnet.com](mailto:justcraig@sssnet.com)

### **Previous Meeting Minutes**

In our January meeting, we had Dave Miller discuss 'Preparing your orchids for the shows'

Our spring show is March 7-8, 2026.  
LOCATION: Petitti Garden Center in Tallmadge. We need help setting up for the show and food donations. More info to come

Meeting summary below (Page 4):

### **HEADING TO THE**



### **ORCHID SALES**



### **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**

**February 9, 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: **Native Orchids in Ohio**  
Speaker: **Ken Mettler**

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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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Meeting details below (Page 3):

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

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

**Email:** [greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)

### Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

[www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/)

[www.qcos.org](http://www.qcos.org)

### West Shore Orchid Society

[www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/)

[westshoreorchidsociety.org/](http://westshoreorchidsociety.org/)

## Meeting Schedule

GAOS has hybrid meetings (both In-Person and Virtual) and meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

Feb 9	Native Orchids in Ohio – Ken Mettler
Mar 9	How to Grow Orchids / Welcome New Members – Edgar Stehli
Apr 13	Mini Cattleyas – Kristen Urhus
May 11	Repotting Workshop with New Members



## 2026 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](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)

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

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

Thanks,

Brandon Spannbauer, Editor

## February Meeting Meeting Info

Welcome to 2026. We are right in the middle of preparations for our show March 7-8, 2026. Our venue will be Petitti Garden Center in Tallmadge, more details below

Our speaker is Ken Mettler and he will be talking on "Native Orchids in Ohio." Ken began growing orchids in 1977 and began finding and photographing orchids in the wild in 1981. Currently residing in the Hocking Hills region, Ken has photographed over two dozen species of wild orchids in and around Ohio. He has always been interested in environmental conservation and conservation education. He has worked in the education department of the Columbus Zoo, served as education program coordinator for the International Society for Endangered Cats, and worked on a research project in the Amazon basin in Peru. He is currently the Special Investigations Manager for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. He volunteers for a variety of conservation organizations, including Appalachia Ohio Alliance and the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society.

### Topic

Program: **Preparing Your Orchids for the Shows**

Speaker: **Dave Miller**

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## Zoom Meeting Details

### Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: GAOS Feb. Monthly Meeting

Time: Feb 9, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83532132123?pwd=VBSbfHojYTuqx47>

[CLLnulJHrJ92bVM.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83532132123?pwd=VBSbfHojYTuqx47)

## Call for Help with Local Orchid Shows

Our local shows are set for 2026 and we would love to have you join us for ribbon judging this year. No experience is required, only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. The ribbon judging process is the same at all three shows. We need about 15 to 20 people for each show so let me know if you are willing to commit or send/text any questions to me.

### Greater Akron OS Show

March 7, 2026. Breakfast at 7:30 AM, judging 8-10:30 AM.  
Petitti Garden Center  
311 West Ave. Tallmadge, OH 44278

### Greater Cleveland OS Show

March 14, 2026. Breakfast at 7:30 AM, judging 8-10:30 AM.  
Cleveland Botanic Garden  
11030 East Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44106

### West Shore OS Show

April 25, 2026. Breakfast at 7:30 AM, judging 8-11:00 AM.  
Ehrnfelt Senior Center  
18100 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136

Your participation in making our show judging successful is very much appreciated. Send any questions and commits to me.

Dave Miller  
AOS Head Judge  
[dcmjpasmil@aol.com](mailto:dcmjpasmil@aol.com)  
330-307-7189

## 2026 GAOS Dues

2026 GAOS dues will remain at \$25 for membership. Dues allows 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. Thank you

## Greater Akron Orchid Society

### Membership Application

To become a GAOS member or to renew your membership, complete the following form and present it or mail it with your payment to the society using the address below.

Dues are \$25 for a single/family membership

Make checks payable to GAOS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if you do not want your contact information on the published member list

Mail to:

**GAOS**  
1110 Woodlawn Ave NW  
Canton, OH 44708



*Note – At this time, electronic or credit card payment is not available.*

Recvd. By \_\_\_\_\_ Chk # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Greater Akron Orchid Society

# 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	Kristen Urhus - Mini Cats
Apr 25-26	WSOS Orchid Show @ Erhnfelt Recreation Center
May 11	Repotting workshop with new members, no speaker
June 8	Jim France - Latest Breeding Trends in Phrags
July 13	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction
Aug 10	Existing Members - How we grow our orchids
Aug	Ohio Valley Orchid Fest @ Kettering, Ohio
Sept 14	Kim Feddersen - topic TBD
Oct 12	TBD
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](mailto:judges@aos.org)*

## 2026 GAOS Spring Show

It's official, we are getting ready for our 2026 Spring Show! We'd like to get a head start with our show planning and preparations.

Our spring show will take place on March 7-8, 2026. Our location is:

### Petitti Garden Center

311 West Ave.,  
Tallmadge, OH 44278

Our website is now current and will be updated in the next few weeks, with all the information needed for our upcoming show. All the relevant links below can also be found on the website show page.

The main hub for all show info:

<https://thegaos.com/show-info>

Show Volunteer info:

<https://thegaos.com/show-volunteers>

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets:

<https://www.timetosignup.com/gaosshow2024/sheet/1354145>

This year we will be returning to good ol' fashioned analog paper tags for our show plant registration. All plant show entries will need to be registered in person Friday, March 6 (the day before the show.) More info will be in future newsletters and on the website.

## GAOS Spring Show

Our website has been updated with current information for our spring show. Registration info will follow in the coming weeks

<https://thegaos.com/show-info>

A flyer for the Greater Akron Orchid Society's 24th Orchid Show & Sale. The background features a close-up of a vibrant orange and yellow orchid with a purple center. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it reads 'GREATER AKRON ORCHID SOCIETY' in a light green font, followed by '24th ORCHID SHOW & SALE' in large, bold, dark green letters. Below that, a dark green box contains the dates 'SAT-SUN March 7-8, 2026'. The location 'PETITTI GARDEN CENTER' is listed, along with the address '311 West Ave. Tallmadge, OH 44278' and 'Free Admission & Parking'. The schedule is detailed for both days: Saturday from 10am to 5pm (with exhibits open at 11am, judging at 11am, and repotting from 1-4pm) and Sunday from 11am to 4pm (with repotting from 12-3pm). A list of activities includes Orchid Sales, Growing Tips, Potting Supplies, and Orchid Repotting. At the bottom, a dark green box provides more information, including the website 'thegaos.com', Facebook page 'facebook.com/theGAOS', and email 'greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com'.

GREATER AKRON ORCHID SOCIETY  
**24th ORCHID SHOW & SALE**  
SAT-SUN March 7-8, 2026  
**PETITTI GARDEN CENTER**  
311 West Ave. Tallmadge, OH 44278  
Free Admission & Parking  
**SAT | 10am - 5pm**  
Exhibits Open at 11am  
AOS Judging at 11am  
Repotting 1-4pm  
**SUN | 11am - 4pm**  
Repotting 12-3pm  
**Orchid Sales**  
**Growing Tips**  
**Potting Supplies**  
**Orchid Repotting**  
**More information:**  
thegaos.com  
facebook.com/theGAOS  
greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

## 2026 Show Volunteers Needed!



Volunteering is easy and we need all hands on deck. There are many positions that need filled, we really appreciate all the help!

- Setup for the show is Thurs (March 5) - Fri (March 6) 10am - 5pm
- Volunteers are needed during the show as well as setup & tear down. Please consider helping us out in any of the following areas:
  - 1 - General Show & Display Setup
  - 2 - Clerking (Assisting Judges)
  - 3 - Hospitality (Food Setup)
  - 4 - Membership / Welcome Table
  - 5 - Repotting Table
  - 6 - Show Tear Down

Food Donations are also needed. Specifics are online under the volunteer sign-up sheets.

(All online volunteer sign-ups will occur through TimeToSignUp.com, please follow the link below)

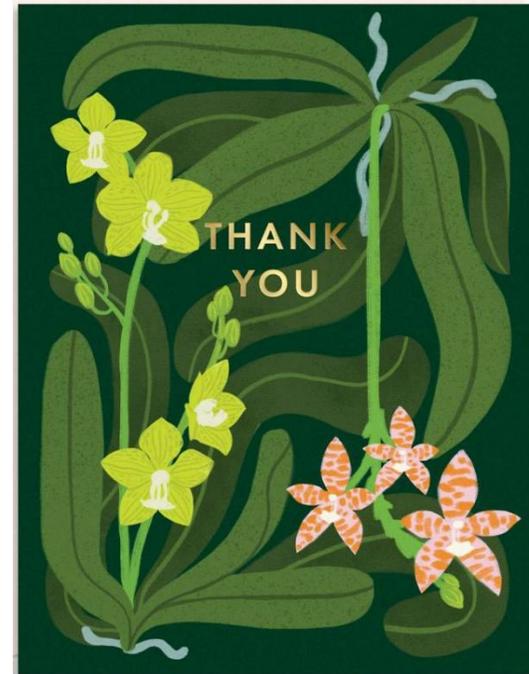
Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets:

<https://www.timetosignup.com/gaosshow2024/sheet/1354145>

This website is easy to use, click on link below to access the spreadsheet. Included are sign-ups for the volunteer positions as well as food donations. To sign up click the box next to the volunteer position and time that suits you. Then click on the pop-up box at the bottom left of your screen. This takes you to the page to fill out your name to sign up

Those who do not wish to or are unable to access online can simply contact Craig Miller with their commitment and he will manually enter them

**Craig Miller:** [justcraig@sssnet.com](mailto:justcraig@sssnet.com)



Minipet madness!! These are all Sophrolaelia Minipet, Sl. Orpetii x Sophronitis coccinea, from three different grexes from the 2026 Cattleya list at SVO, to be released in a week. Are you excited??!! From camera-breaking reds, to beautiful yellow throats, to even pink Minipets (who ever heard of pink Minipets?), some lovely examples of this grex, like east-to-grow coccineas! – Tim Culbertson



## ***NEWS from the Great Lakes Judging Center***

AOS plant judging takes place the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

For 2026, our meetings begin at 10:30 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.

Find more information dates and locations for other Judging Centers at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) under *Awards and Judging*.

### ***Upcoming Schedule:***

**February 21** “TBD” with Cat Schmitt-Sands.

**March 21** There is no judging at our normal Washtenaw CC location. AOS judging will be held at the Michigan OS Show at Plumbers Local 98 Union Hall located at 555 Horace Brown Dr Madison Heights, Michigan and will start no later than 1 pm EST.

**April 18** There will be a date change for April. Monthly AOS judging will be held on April 25 at the West Shore OS Show in Ohio (Cleveland) located at the Ehrnfelt Senior Center 18100 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136. Judging will begin no later than 1:00 PM EDT. For judging information contact Dave Miller.

For more information contact Dave Miller at [demjpasmil@aol.com](mailto:demjpasmil@aol.com), especially if you are not familiar with the location or process.

## How to Register Plants for the Show

Show Plant Registration \*In Person Only\*

In-Person Plant Registration

Friday March 6 10 am - 5 pm

Petitti Garden Center

311 West Ave., Tallmadge, OH 44278

Location: Greenhouse Show Setup Area

\*Instructions and all necessary documents are found on our website\*

<https://thegaos.com/show-registration>

### Registration Instructions

Below are instructions on how to register your plants for entry into the show. Please read them over and have the necessary information ready to fill out the forms on Friday. If you are confused on any part of this procedure Don't Worry, there will be a team of people there to help guide you through the process

### Instructions on how to register your plants:

(Documents needed for this section under 'Show Registration Documents' below)

1. Look over the GAOS Show Rules
2. Go to Exhibits Numbers doc and find the number for your exhibit
3. Go to Exhibitor Numbers doc and find your exhibitor number (if your name is not on the list call/text)
4. Go to MAOC Orchid Classes to identify the class for each plant you are entering.

Be sure to use the MAOC document dated July, 2020. Refer to the 'DOCUMENTS

TO HELP YOU IDENTIFY YOUR PLANT'S CLASS' for help in determining the correct class.

## PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY OF PLANTS AND EXHIBITS

1. A separate entry must be made for each plant, cut flower and exhibit.
2. Print legibly on the entry tags.
3. Obtain a sufficient supply of entry tags from the entry desk.
4. Also obtain an EXHIBIT and OWNER NUMBER at the desk. These numbers should appear on each entry tag. They assist the clerks and judges to locate plants and exhibits while judging.
5. On each entry tag, indicate the CLASS NUMBER for each entry. Check show schedule for the correct class. **It is your responsibility to classify your entries correctly. Incorrect entries may be disqualified.**
6. Under NAME, indicate the name of the plant, flower, or exhibit followed by the parentage, if a hybrid. If the plant is a species, write "**species**" in the space for the cross. Do not write in the AWARD section.
7. Return **both** copies of the completed entry tags to the entry desk in numerical order, according to CLASS NUMBER. Do not separate the entry tags. Each entry will be assigned a TAG NUMBER. The **original** stays at the entry desk to be used by the judging teams. The **copy** is to be placed on the plant, flower or exhibit

## Stubborn Orchids

By Brandon Spannbauer

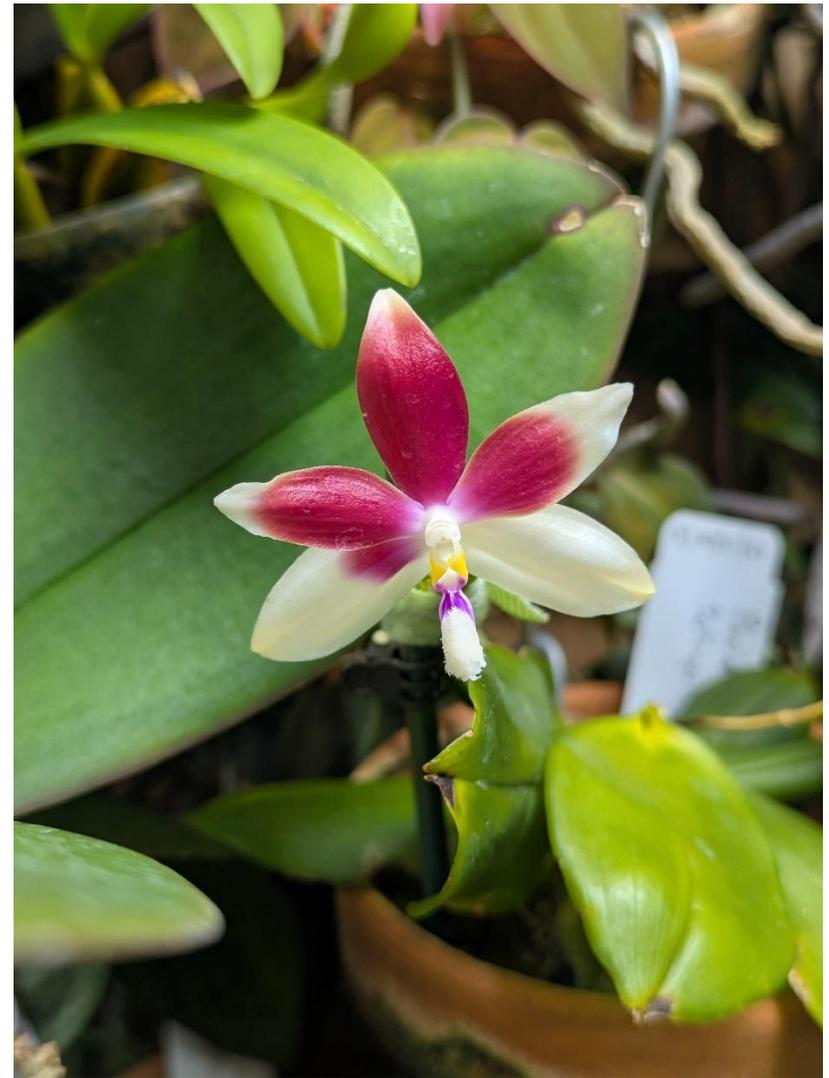
This series is dedicated to showing off blooms that never make it to a meeting. If you have any stubborn orchids, send photos to be included in a future newsletter: [greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)



*Cattleya Glenarun* (C. *Triumphans* x L. *tenebrosa*):

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> blooming of a new hybrid that is from Diamond Orchids. This is the first of 4 spikes, but I don't have high hopes for it this year, I've been dealing with pests and low humidity this winter.

Looking online, it is very similar to C. *Luminosa* (*dowiana* x *tenebrosa*). It seems to me that results on petal color are very dependent on the *tenebrosa* parent used since there are many color variants available (from dark maroon, to bronze, to a yellow aurea.)



*Phalaenopsis tetraspis*

This is a becoming a reliable bloomer for me, it is from Windswept in Time Orchids, but so far only puts out 1-2 flowers at a time. It is a very interesting species with genetics that have different color patterns of red and white that vary per flower. It is also a sequential bloomer so don't cut off the flower spikes until they are brown as they can last months to over a year, producing more and more flowers.



Epc. Kyoguchi x C. Orchidglade

This is a 1<sup>st</sup> bloom of an unnamed hybrid from SVO. I have a couple Kyoguchi hybrids and I'm finding that the shape and lip pattern is usually carried to its offspring with the color changing depending on the other parent. It also imparts its fat pseudobulbs which I also like. I am really looking forward to the future with this one.



Epc. Renee Marques 'Tyler' (Epi. pseudopidendrum x C. Claesiana)

This is my oldest 'surviving' orchid. Purchased in 2013 makes this plant 13 years old and it blooms every year in January - February time. I remember seeing this plant in an exhibit at the Cleveland Orchid show and needed to find one for myself. The green petals and magenta and yellow lip makes a great show.

**If you have any stubborn orchids that bloom in-between meetings, send in photos to have them included in the newsletter:**

[greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)

## New Orchids to Science

Lepanthes is the second most diverse orchid genus in Costa Rica, with 165 recorded species, 31.5% of which are endemic. Several new species have recently been described. However, the taxonomy of Lepanthes still presents historical gaps, particularly regarding collections made by botanist A. R. Endrés between 1866 and 1870, some of which remain poorly documented. *Lepanthes vespertina*, a species originally collected and illustrated by Endrés in 1867 and described by C. Luer in 1995.— *Novataxa* 2025



## Upcoming 2026 Orchid Shows

### Greater Akron Orchid Society

March 7-8 at Petitti Garden Center  
311 West Ave, Tallmadge, OH 44278

<https://www.facebook.com/theGAOS/>  
<http://www.thegaos.com/>

### Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

March 14-15 at Cleveland Botanical Gardens  
11030 East Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44106

<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety>  
<http://www.gcos.org/>

### West Shore Orchid Society

April 25-26 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

Meeting Show Table

January 2026



