Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

June 2026

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

Vice President
Kathleen Martz
catpowell11@gmail.com

Treasurer
Jennifer Pritt
jlpritt@yahoo.com

Secretary
Meghan Harper
sharper1@kent.edu

Editor
Brandon Spannbauer
braxtonds@gmail.com

Trustee
Craig Miller
justcraig@sssnet.com

Previous Meeting Minutes

In our May meeting, we had an Orchid Repotting Workshop where we had live demonstrations and hands on examples

Meeting summary below (Page 4):

I am not hard to please. All I need is this;

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

June 8, 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: **Latest Breeding Trends in Phrags**
Speaker: **Jim France (Plants for Sale!)**

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.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

Jun 8	Latest Breeding Trends in Phrags – Jim France
July 13	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction
Aug 10	Existing Members – How We Grow Our Orchids
Sept 14	Topic TBD – Kim Feddersen

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 June 8 Meeting Info

This month we will be having guest speaker, Jim France of Oakwood Orchids out of Dayton, discussing the latest breeding trends in phragmipediums. He will also be bringing many orchids for sale!

Oakwood Orchids Socials:

https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodOrchids/

https://www.instagram.com/oakwoodorchids/

Email: oakwoodorchids@gmail.com

Topic

Program: **Latest Breeding Trends in Phrags**
Speaker**:** **Jim France (Plants for Sale!)**

Zoom Meeting Details

Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: GAOS June Monthly Meeting

Time: June 8, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86108768439?pwd=YNFECxpHPuTG6ebvSaasDz139UnIWb.1

Habenaria Care

By Windswept in Time Orchids

Habenaria are a pantropical group of orchids with about eight hundred described species. Most of the ones in cultivation have a wet and dry season in their native environment. To survive the dry season the Habenaria go dormant and seem to die back to the root system, until the next rainy season. Because they are tropical plants, they like to be warm for the most part. They seem to enjoy bright light, but not hot sunshine (with a few exceptions). Light similar to what you might give an Oncidium orchid seems to work well. As these plants are dormant part of the year, it is important to fertilize the plants when they are in the growth phase.

A year in the life of Habenaria and Pecteilis.

We plant the tuberoid (similar to a little potato, but usually with only one eye) in a potting mix that will hold a fair amount of moisture, but still drain well. Generally, we put the end of the tuberoid with the eye about one half inch below the surface of the potting mix and leave room in the pot to add additional mix later on if needed. Once the tuberoid begins to grow and sends up a rosette of leaves the plant wants regular waterings and feeding. (We are now in the rainy season, and the plants don't generally dry out for about 6-9 months)

The rosette of leaves will mature and begin to send up a flower stem from the middle. The plant will develop flower buds which open from the bottom up. After all the flowers have done their thing, the plant will begin to die back, starting from the top down, and the leaf tips towards the center. During this die-back period, the plant is putting all its available energy into the root system where it will form new tuberoids to get it through the upcoming dry season.

After the plant has died back, and the leaves are a crunchy brown, water sparingly. Remember dry season does not mean a desert. The plant should get small amounts of water from time to time. Repotting should be done about three weeks after the leaves are crunchy brown. Do not repot once the leaves are up, as you will damage the tender root tips and may jeopardize the formation of new tuberoids.

Some Habenaria grow to be quite tall. Should your plant need a stake to support the flower stem, tape it to the outside of the pot to avoid damage to the developing tuberoids. Different Habenaria have different lengths of dormancy often depending on temperature and moisture. Generally, the plants have an annual cycle lasting twelve months. Some of the Hybrids I grow will go through a complete cycle in as little as eight months, but I grow very warm. Remember everyone does things a little differently depending on their own conditions, your Habenaria has never read the instructions book, so you must be observant and take your ques form the plants you are growing. I'm happy to answer questions if you have them. You can reach me through my website at windsweptorchids.com

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	**Existing Members - How we grow our orchids**
Aug 22-23	Ohio Valley Orchid Fest @ Kettering, Ohio
Sept 14	**Kim Feddersen - topic TBD**
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

Outdoor Orchid Care

By AOS

Outdoor Orchid Care

Anyone can grow orchids outdoors if the weather is good enough! For folks who live south of the 37th parallel, the weather is more likely favorable for the larger part of the year. For the rest of us, growing orchids outside is restricted from late spring through summer to early fall. Unless you are placing orchids outdoors when it is raining daily, for every day that it does not rain, you will have to water, regardless of where you are. Orchids grown in climates with lower humidities may need to water twice a day. Though beware, pests and critters can be of concern, do check-in on your orchids regularly.

Which Orchids Should Be Grown Outside?

Any orchid can be grown outside, depending on your conditions and your commitment to care. Though, it is advisable to not grow miniature orchids or orchids that cannot dry out outdoors. Instead, try to grow orchids that are more bulky or succulent-y, such as Cattleya, Dendrobium or Cymbidium, which are more hardy anyway. In more tropical climates (or climates that rain daily), you can put almost any orchid outside, as long as it's in the right space.

Where Outside Should They Be Grown?

Nearly all orchids should be grown in half to full shade. If moving from a greenhouse, give them one step down for sun exposure. If they are full sun plants in the greenhouse, put them outside in part-shade. If they are part shade (or a few hours of direct sun) plants, put them in full shade, and if they are full shade plants in the greenhouse, they should remain in full shade outdoors. Ensure that they are in an area that can be easily watered when it does not rain, and where creatures, like squirrels, can't get to them. If you can set up an automated sprinkler system, that will greatly reduce the watering work you will have to do. Outdoor plants should be watered daily, regardless of region. If in drier climates, consider watering twice a day.

When Should They Go Outdoors?

Orchids can go outside depending on the cold hardiness of the species. Knowing which species or hybrid you have is the best, but generally, Cymbidium are the most cold-hardy of the cultivated orchids, followed by Pleurothallids, followed by everything else. The most important sign of when to place your plants outdoors is the nighttime low temperature. You can put Cymbidiums outside when the lows are 40F/4.4C or higher consistently. For everything else, wait until the nighttime lows are 55F/12.7C or higher to bring them outside. In the fall, start bringing all plants indoors or in greenhouses when the nighttime low reaches 55F/12.7C for the first time. It's better to be more cautious in the fall – frost damage can never be repaired, and may kill the plant.

Why bring an orchid outdoors?

Bringing orchids outdoors can be a "shot in the arm" or a breath of new life to them. Orchids that may not have bloomed indoors can sometimes be found blooming if spending a few months outside. Others may grow larger or recover from ailments faster if brought outdoors.

Air Movement

By AOS

While air movement is not really a concern when growing plants indoors, it most definitely is a concern in high humidity environments such as a greenhouse or vivarium. Air movement is directly correlated to water loss in plants, and regulating humidity, and can even influence plant pests and diseases.

Air Movement, Humidity, and Watering

Air movement directly affects watering. The more air movement you have, the more frequently you will want to water. While this may sound bad, air movement is imperative in environments that have trouble drying out, or don't need watering as often. In areas with frequent rains, air movement helps dry off plants so that they don't get infected. When plants or media are too wet for too long, it sets up the perfect conditions for fungi to infect the plants. Additionally, if it's not particularly wet, but the humidity is too high, then light condensation can form on the plants, also encouraging an infection. Even in high humidity environments, air movement prevents fungal spores from settling on and infecting your plants, as the air keeps moving the spores along.

How Should I Increase Air Movement?

If growing in an enclosed space like a vivarium, any waterproof fan will do. Most folks use computer fans for enclosed spaces. If in a greenhouse, further up towards the roof should be powerful waterproof fans that run fast during the day, and slowly at night.

What If There's Too Much Air Movement?

Indoors, this is rarely a problem unless you are using too powerful of a fan, or are putting a miniature, easy-to-dry-out species in front of a fan (such as a Pleurothallis in front of a fan which may knock around the leaves and dry it out too much).

In greenhouses, this is of concern by vents or by fans. It's ideal to have the fans blow in a void direction – i.e. not on your plants, but nearby them. When plants get too fast of air movement on them, they run the risk of drying out too fast. If you water less, you'll dry the plant to death. If your greenhouse is more humid, this is tolerated for a short while, but the plant should be moved or the fan be redirected.

Outdoors, winds can be a problem from time to time, but especially during storms or cooler weather. Storms can blow debris that can damage your orchids, and constant winds can dry out your orchids faster than you can water them. Additionally, the lower the humidity, the more harmful wind can be. When cooler or drier humidity, try to shelter the orchids from airflow by placing them next to walls or fences. Also consider placing them in the shade to help them from drying out.

Humidity

Humidity is one of the least understood factors about plant growing. You will see many online articles that espouse that you should "mist your plants every day", but that's not really the case for most other tropical plants, or even some orchids. Spritzing your plants is an added bonus – something that keeps the plant from losing water temporarily. Spritzing your plants does NOT raise humidity; if it does, it's temporary, maybe for 20 min until it dries out. The volume of air around a plant is too big to have the humidity go up from simply spritzing.

Most orchids are epiphytes, and as epiphytes, will respond to spritzing – spritzing can be used as a tool for yielding certain results. Lithophytes will respond to spritzing too, but terrestrial orchids will not respond to spritzing. This is because of the mechanisms that each habit (growth form) has developed. Epiphytes and lithophytes do not know when their next drink is coming, and have no media to draw water from. If the mist hits their exposed roots, they will absorb that water. Terrestrials have a supply of groundwater, so they never really evolved a way to utilize mist. It's pointless to mist terrestrial plants in general because they have no mechanism to absorb the water on their leaves.

Raising the humidity lowers the rate of transpiration (water loss) from the plant. For outdoor and greenhouse growers, the higher the humidity is in your greenhouse, the less frequently you will have to water your plants. The caveat to that is, is that you lose your leverage to cool the greenhouse if the humidity is too high, and that fungi, pests, etc. also like moist conditions. The catch-22 to recreating the natural environment for your plants is that you also are creating an environment that is favorable to all the other organisms that would live with the orchids too, both good and bad! That requires diligence that we will discuss later, but for now, just know that if the humidity is high, you water less; if the humidity is low, you water more.

Indoors, humidity is typically low, and that is especially challenging when growing mounted orchids. We generally recommend not growing mounted orchids indoors unless they are in a vivarium/terrarium. For folks who want to raise humidity indoors, the only effective way to raise humidity indoors is through a humidifier – one that can push several quarts per hour into the air. The smaller humidifiers have a negligible impact on the humidity of a room. Humidity trays barely raise the humidity at all, and are terribly ineffective. Remember that most of the water that a plant absorbs is through its roots – the humidity only affects the time that any one plant will dry out. For many of the more succulent species like Cattleya, growing in low humidity is not a problem – provided they are watered frequently enough. However, for thin-leafed species, and smaller orchids, humidity is essential, and humidity must be maintained at higher than average levels.

In the picturesque Jiuzhaigou National Park, accompanied by park rangers, we rediscovered and newly discovered some fantastic orchids in their natural habitats. Unfortunately, the colony of Cypripedium palanshanense was destroyed during the 2017 earthquake. Cypripedium fargesii plectrochilum flavum were stunning to see in the wild, and Calypso bulbosa was a completely new species for me to encounter. – Wequing Perner

Orchid Propagation

By Brevard County Orchid Society

Orchid propagation can be very different depending on the type of orchid. Understanding how your orchid grows is the key to successful propagation.

Phalaenopsis orchids are monopodial orchids, meaning they grow from one central stem. The most common way to propagate them is by producing **keikis** (baby plants) on flower spikes or occasionally at the base of the plant. Once the keiki develops several roots about 2–3 inches long, it can be carefully separated and potted on its own.

Cattleyas are sympodial orchids and grow by producing pseudobulbs along a rhizome. The best way to propagate them is by **division**. When the plant becomes large and crowded, divide it into sections with at least 3–4 healthy pseudobulbs each.

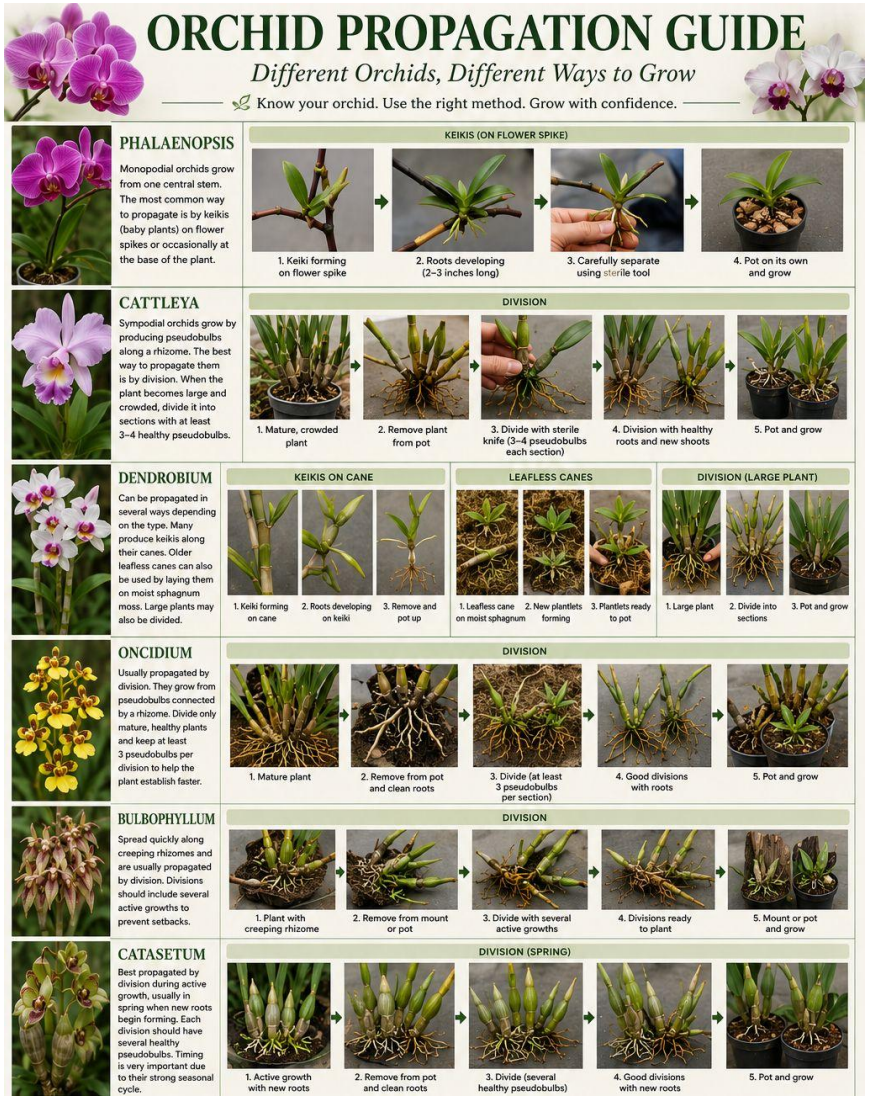
Dendrobiums can be propagated in several ways depending on the type. Many produce **keikis** along their canes, especially when grown in warm and humid conditions. Older leafless canes can also be used for propagation by laying them on moist sphagnum moss to encourage new plantlets. Large plants may also be divided.

Oncidiums are usually propagated by **division**. Like Cattleyas, they grow from pseudobulbs connected by a rhizome. Divide only mature, healthy plants and keep at least 3 pseudobulbs per division to help the plant establish faster.

Bulbophyllums spread quickly along creeping rhizomes and are usually propagated by **division**. Because many species like to spread freely, they are often grown mounted or in shallow baskets. Divisions should include several active growths to prevent setbacks.

Catasetums are best propagated by **division** during active growth, usually in spring when new roots begin forming. Each division should have several healthy pseudobulbs. These orchids have a strong seasonal cycle, so timing is very important for successful propagation.

Always use sterile tools when cutting orchids to help prevent spreading diseases and avoid dividing weak or unhealthy plants. Freshly divided orchids often need time to recover before they begin active growth again. And remember — don't divide an orchid randomly. Most orchids naturally show you the best place for division through the way they grow and spread. Learning to recognize those natural division points is one of the keys to successful propagation.



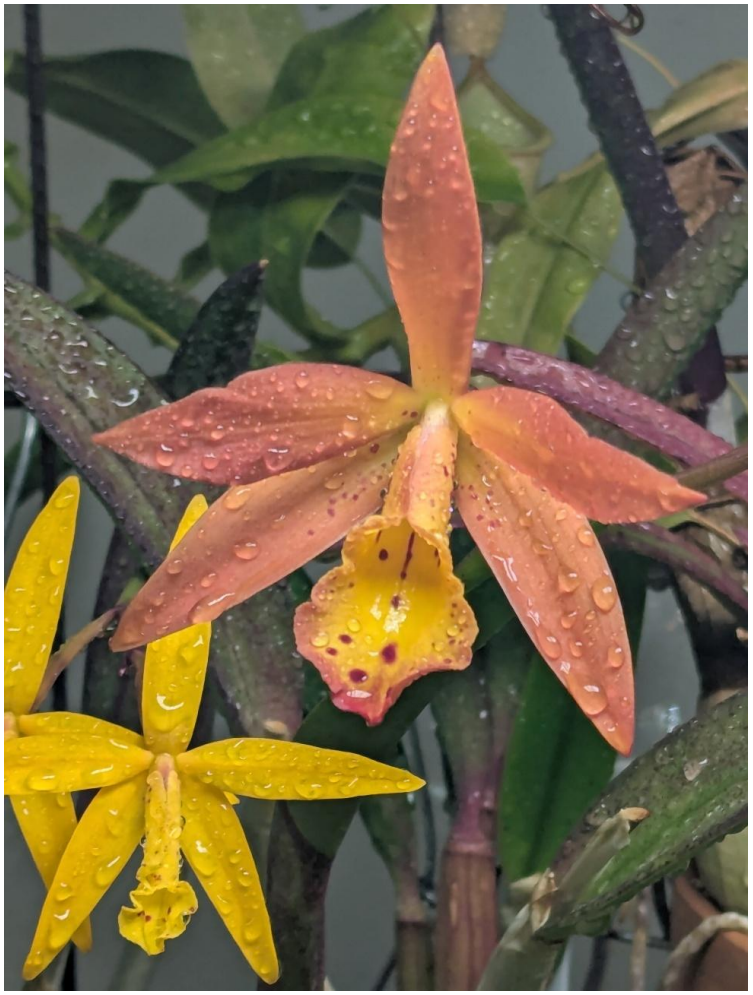
Stubborn Orchids

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

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.



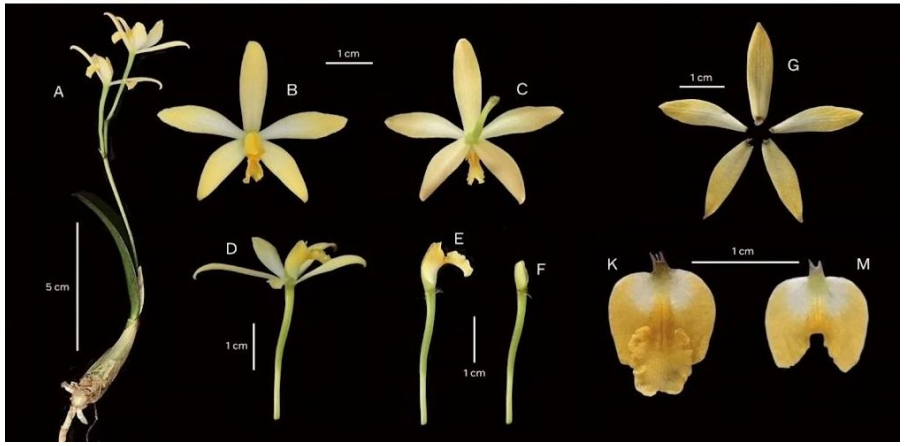
Bl. Richard Mueller x C. Orchidglade

This is a new unnamed brassavola hybrid from SVO and has been quite a vigorous little plant. It blooms a lovely peach and fades to a strong yellow. I grow it close to the lights with all my other brassavola hybrids. You can see the purple leaves in the background.

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 species of Cattleya ser. Parviflorae is described from the #camposrupestres of the Diamantina Plateau, part of the Espinhaço Range, #MinasGerais, SE Brazil. The new species is named Cattleya attenboroughiana. The new species is likely a microendemic but the available data is insufficient for a precise conservation status assessment, so we consider it Data Deficient (DD), reinforcing the need for further exploration in the Diamantina Plateau..– Novataxa 2024



Upcoming 2026 Orchid Events

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest
Aug 22-23 Kettering Ohio
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
4865 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio
https://www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com/

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.

For 2026, our meetings begin at 10:30 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.

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:

GOOD NEWS !!! Our website is now up to date with the speaker schedule and locations at www.gljc.org

June 20 Steve Gonzalez-Costa from Minnesota will be our speaker. His topic will be "Keeping Your Center Active and Growing". AOS Judging will begin no later than 12:30 PM EDT.

July 18 Daniel Mok of the GLJC will be our speaker on "Leafless Orchids". AOS Judging will begin no later than 12:30 PM EDT. **NOTE: room changed to Rm 150**

August 15 Dave Sorokowsky of Paph Paradise will be our special speaker on "Judging Maudiae Paphs". Dave will take pre-paid pre-orders via their website at www.paphparadise.com. AOS Judging will begin no later than 12:30 PM EDT.

Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table

May 2026