

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

September 2025

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Previous Meeting Minutes

In our August meeting, we had Ken Mettler discuss the very interesting topic of Ploidy Levels in Orchids

Meeting summary below (Page 4):

Clay Orchids



Announcements

In 2025, 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 8, 2025

Monday, 6:30pm

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center

725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Topic

Program: **Picking the Right Plant**

Speaker: **Olga Sastachuk**

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.qcos.org

West Shore Orchid Society

www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/

westshoreorchidsociety.org/

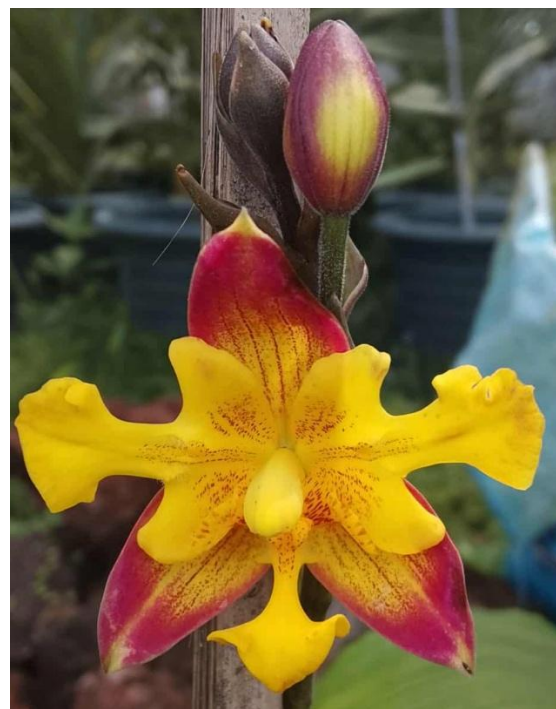
Meeting Schedule

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 8	Picking the Right Plant – Olga Sastachuk
Oct 13	Mistakes I've made and Learned From, With Orchids - HC Qianchu
Nov 10	Holiday Banquet / Officer Elections
December	No Meeting – Winter Break, Happy Holidays!



2025 Meeting Information

In 2025, 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

September 8 Meeting Info

Our meeting will have speaker, Olga Sastachuk, VP of Cleveland Orchid Society, who will be discussing "Picking the Right Plant." She has worked with Dave Miller on this topic to put together a presentation and she will also have orchid sales.

Topic

Program: **Picking the Right Plant**
Speaker: **Olga Sastachuk**

Zoom Meeting Details

Topic: GAOS August Monthly Meeting
Time: Sept 9, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84149621700?pwd=NfUYaEGs0VSFZlUoUwUbgIVimshFsR.1>

Greater Akron Orchid Society



2025 GAOS Program Calendar

Jan 13	"Getting Your Orchids Ready for the Shows" – Dave Miller
Feb 10	"What's Wrong with My Orchid?" *Bring in your problem plants for discussion*
Mar 1-2	GAOS Orchid Show @ Petitti Garden Center – Tallmadge location
Mar 10	"How to Grow Orchids" / Welcome to New Members – Edgar Stehli
Apr 14	"Orchid Nomenclature" – Eric Sauer
May 12	"Seeing Spots: Growing Brachypetalum Paphs" – Darlene Thompson
June 9	"Compact Vandaceous Species & Hybrids" – Peter Lin
July 14	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion
Aug 11	Ploidy Level in Orchids, an N-chanting Phenomenon – Ken Mettler
Aug 23-24	Ohio Valley Orchid Fest @ Kettering Ohio
Sept 8	"Picking the Right Plant" - Dave Miller
Oct 13	"Mistakes I've made and Learned From, With Orchids" - HC Qianchu He
Nov 10	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*

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.

Late Summer Advice from Sunset Valley Orchids

By Fred Clark

Catasetinae plant culture late summer

Your Catasetinae should in full growth by now, with most growers already seeing plants bloom. Watering and fertilizing should be in full swing. This is when your plants really put on their best growth. Be sure you are fertilizing with each watering, use ½ tsp. fertilizer per gallon water.

Remember - no more re-potting at this time, as the roots are well-developed and will resent being disturbed. If you were negligent (how could that be?) and did not get to it in time, it is ok to 'slip-pot' into the next larger pot; just add more moss around the existing moss and roots then and slip the whole thing into the next pot size, being very careful not to damage those important new roots.

This is when your Catasetinae can really take advantage of lots of light and air movement to help push and develop large new growth. Ideal temperatures in summer are 85-95 degree days and 60-80 degree nights, with humidity between 40% and 80%.

Keep an eye out for the spider mites, which can get a foothold on your plants (and they have 8 feet!). Be diligent and check the undersides of the new leaves regularly. If mites are detected, spray immediately. They can quickly get out of control if early action is not taken!

Aussie Dendrobium plant culture

Watering and Fertilizing are related as water carries fertilizer into the root zone. Important for good Aussie Dendrobium growth is to have their roots dry down between watering. In the summer fertilize with every watering using a fertilizer solution of 100 PPM nitrogen, this equates to ½ tsp. in a gallon of water. In the summer when days are long and warm, the plants are in active growth and photosynthesis is at a high rate. As a result, you water and thus fertilize more, usually 2 times a week, however during the hottest period watering may be 3 times a week. During the winter months, November-February allows the plants potting media and roots to be totally dry before watering generally every 10-12 days. The key to good Aussie Den. culture is always check that the potting media has dried out sufficiently depending on season before watering.

Light levels and Temperature: Aussie Dendrobiums like light levels of about 2500-3500 foot candles (fc), like most Cattleyas. For optimal growth I suggest growing under 65 % shade. A southern exposure where the plants will receive plenty of bright, filtered light works well. The plants prefer summer day temperatures of 75-90 F. and for winter nights of 45-55 F. Aussie Dens. are quite adaptable and short periods of higher or lower temperature.

Re-potting: Aussie Dendrobiums start their growth cycle in the spring, new roots start to develop about a month after the new growths have begun. This is the best time to re-pot. Please don't underestimate the importance of re-potting when new roots are starting to show, the new roots will quickly reestablish the plant and reduce the stress of re-potting.

Aussie Dens. are hardy and adaptability to a wide range of growing conditions. Their fragrance, variety of flower color, shape and sizes make these an excellent hobby plant. We believe everyone should have some in their collection!

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.

Phalaenopsis Tetraspis 'Red'

I struggle to grow this one at its full potential but I'm slowly learning how to make it happy. This round of blooms is a definite win for me, looking forward to seeing it in the future – Ray Paradis



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



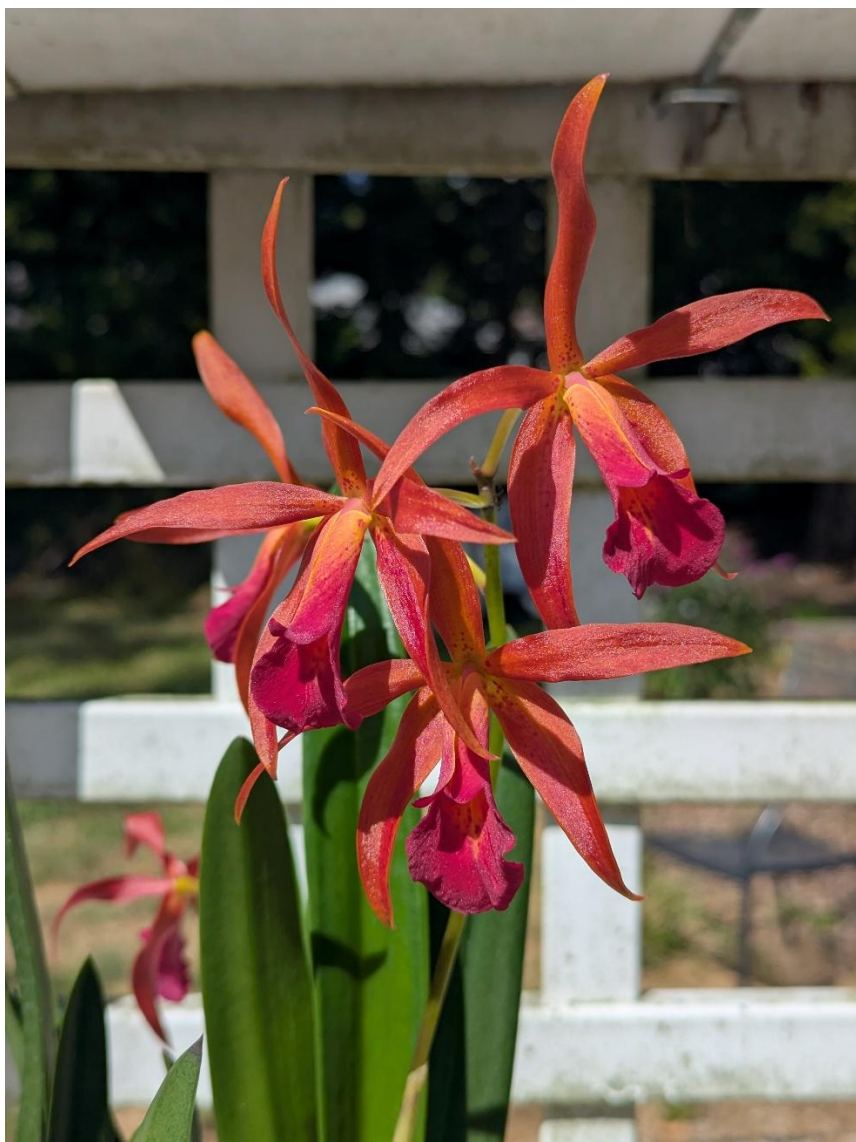
Lc. Isfield (L. Pacavia x C. warscewiczii)

This is a second-time bloomer with 4 large flowers and deep rich color with slight flaring on the tips of the petals. 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. Overall, the shaped has improved since last year and it has a lovely scent.



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

This is one of my oldest 'surviving' orchids that I bought 9 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 30 flowers on 7 spikes in a 10 inch pot.



Bc. Robert Bauman 4N (Bl. Richard Mueller 4N x Lc. Jalapa 4N)

Quickly becoming a favorite by blooming every 2-3 months is yet another reason why I love the Richard Mueller brassavola crosses. They are consistently pushing out new growths and blooms all year round. Richard Mueller also lends its color changing to its offspring, here, flowers start as a deep red maroon and fade to a strong orange over the course of a few weeks.



Rlc. Amazing Thailand (Rlc. Haadyai Delight x C. Brazilian Treasure)

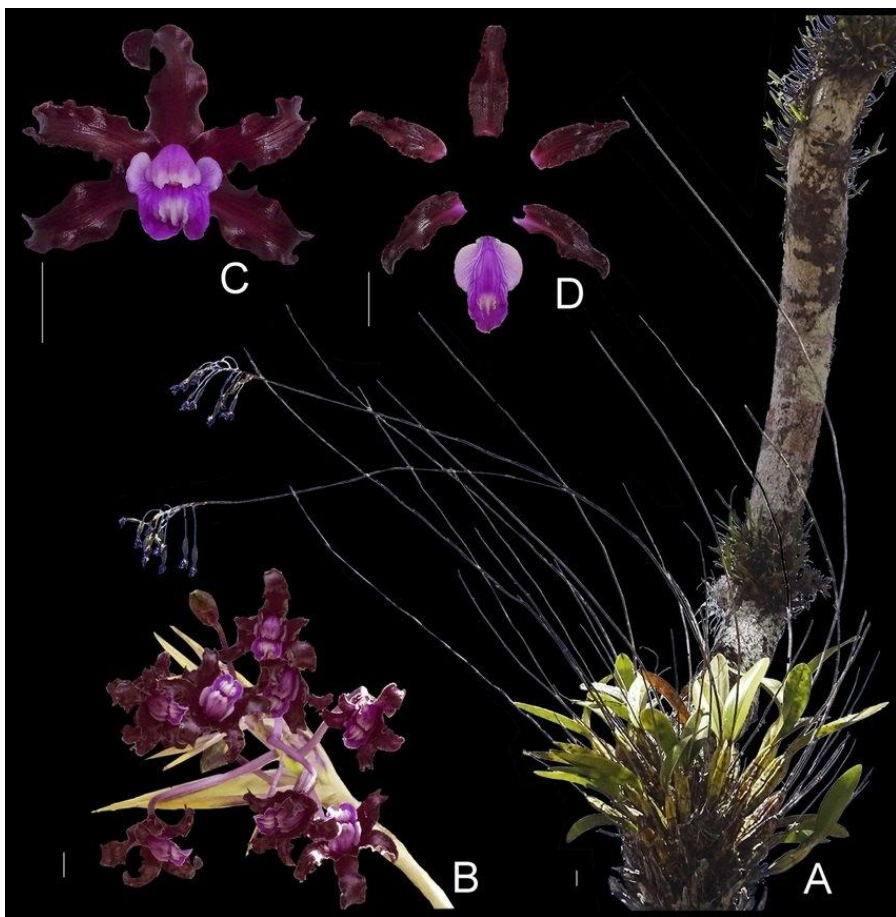
This is a first-time bloomer for me that I picked up this spring at our show. I believe it a clone of a famous variety. I tend to prefer seed grown plants over clones personally, but every once in awhile its nice to know you're getting a great plant without waiting to know how genetics have affected your plant.

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

We describe a new species of [#Schomburgkia](#), *S. vandenbergiana*, from north-eastern Brazil. Our phylogenetic analyses indicate that *S. vandenbergiana* is most likely related to *S. undulata* and *S. gloriosa*. Based on small flower size and number of keels on the disc of the lip, the new species is morphologically more similar to *S. heidii*, a species native to Colombia and Venezuela, but it differs in the shorter sepals and lip and erose clinandrium margin. The new species should be classified as [#endangered](#). – Novataxa 2022



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.

Sessions begin at 11 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.

Upcoming Schedule:

September 20 Paphiopedilum expert Harold Koopowitz “Who Decided Round and Flat Was Desirable and Why” no charge for the lecture (Room 160 as normal)

October 18 “Judging Dendrobiums” – Carol Klonowski, California-Sierra Nevada JC

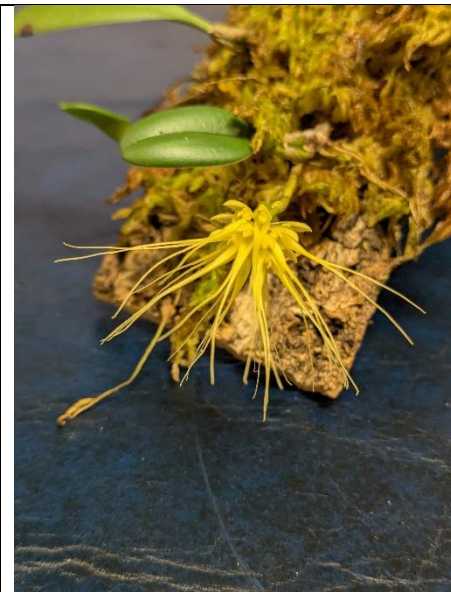
November 15 no program due to semiannual business meeting. AOS judging at 1PM

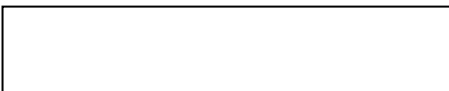
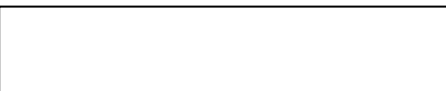
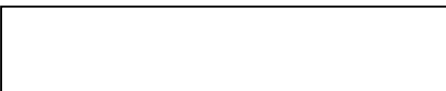
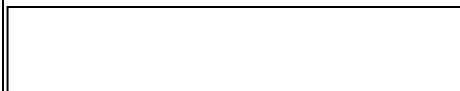
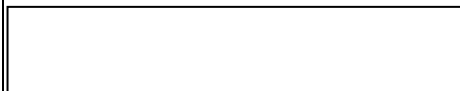
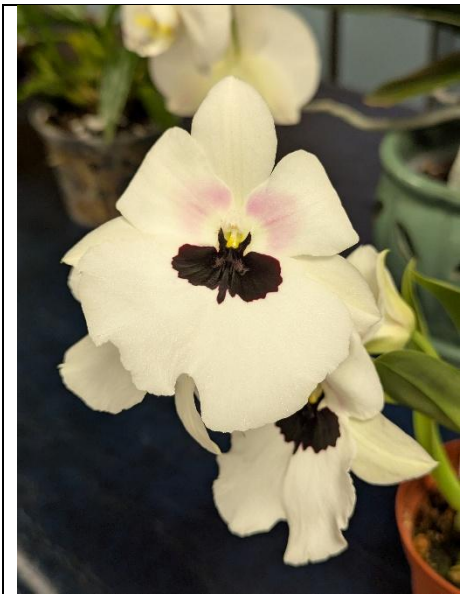
For more information contact Dave Miller at dcjmpasmil@aol.com, especially if you are not familiar with the location or process.

Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table

August 2025







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