

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

June 2025

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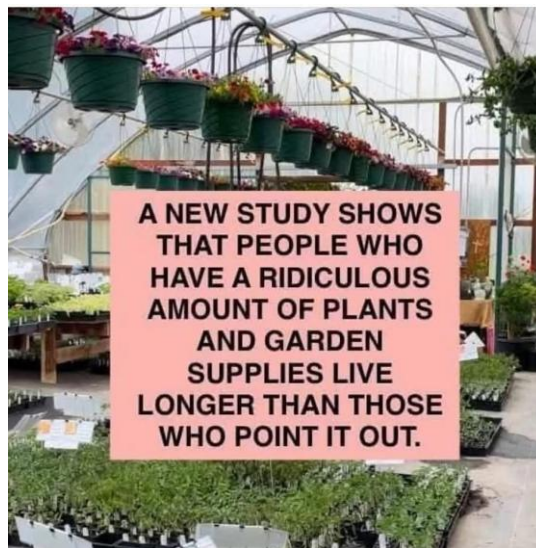
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Previous Meeting Minutes

In our May meeting, we discussed Seeing Spot: Growing Brachypetalum Paphs with Darlene Thompson

Prepare for our July meeting which will be our summer picnic and Member's Plant Auction

Meeting summary below (Page 4):



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

**June 9, 2025
Monday, 6:30pm**

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center

725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Start Time: 6:30pm Doors Open: 6:00pm

Topic

Program: **Compact Vandaceous Species & Hybrids**
Speaker: **Peter Lin**

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

June 9	Compact Vandaceous Species & Hybrids – Peter Lin
July 14	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction – Discussion
Aug 11	Ploidy Level in Orchids, an N-chanting Phenomenon – Ken Mettler
Sept 8	TBD



Photo of the Month: Masdevallia cassia, grows upside down. – Paul Knight

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

June 9 Meeting Info

Peter Lin will be presenting his newest talk: Compact Vandaceous Species and Hybrids. Learn about the many different small growing species and hybrids within the Vanda alliance.

Peter started growing orchids over 30 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 14 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again. He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society and a hybridizer of mini-catts. Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His other interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, as well as in the house under fluorescent lights.

Peter is offering 10% off his website until 06/16/25, email him for orders:

<https://www.diamondorchids.com/>

Topic

Program: **Compact Vandaceous Species & Hybrids**

Speaker: **Peter Lin**

Zoom Meeting Details

For those who would like to join us online please, follow the link below to join the Zoom Meeting

Topic: GAOS Monthly Meeting Time: 06:30 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89277270574?pwd=Ryrh4OhDIbK4zaAn7cHjm7cWDbWpFN.1>

GAOS May Meeting Notes

By Meghan Harper

Member Barb sharing free plant native outdoor orchid (multiply) needs well drained soil (Green)
GAOS Members shared many varieties of beautiful orchids
Our student aged member Hunter shared his Youtube video channel *Hunter the Orchid King* and his beautiful blooming orchid he got at the Akron show.

Darlene Thompson Guest Speaker

Seeing spots Growing Paphiopedilum

Her growing conditions include: Lights are on 12-14 hours a day. Winter growing space; Small radiator heater in a small greenhouse
Summer plants go outside

Presentation included descriptions of several varieties, similarities and differences:

Mottled leaves, thicker leaves, dark underside of leaves

Brachypedium orchid

On or near limestone (like to grow)

Air is constantly buoyant and movement is constant

Mostly warm growers/Roots are brittle/ Roots are slow to produce

Paphiopedilum bellatulum,

Bright indirect light

4-5 months dried less fertilizer 60%/80% humidity

Down to 55 in the winter

Concolor

Very hardy plant

Paphiopedilum godefroyae

3-4 months drier/like it hot 65-70 degree can use heat mat

Paphiopedilum myanmaricum

Primary evergreen forest

Forest floor grower=bright shade

Discovered in 2017

Niveum

Bright light

Water moderately 9-10 mos. /slight dry season

Paphiopedilum thailanum

Mini/ 81% humidity Excellent air movement 88-70F

Small to medium bark/oyster shells/4x a year Calmag liquid form

To Purchase:

Spring water orchids; Austin Creek; or <https://paphparadise.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. 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 which is located at 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105. Activities take place in the Morris Lawrence building, Room 160 but occasionally it is moved to another room in the same 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. Any awards given are subject to AOS Award fees which are presently \$40 for AOS members and \$60 for non-members.

Upcoming Schedule:

June 21 "Red Lycaste Breeding" - Rick Rempel, Toronto Judging Center

July 19 "Phragmipedium kovachii hybrids" - Jill Wood, Great Lakes Judging Center

August 16 TBD

Coming September 20 will be Paphiopedilum expert Harold Koopowitz

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

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	TBD
Oct 13	TBD
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*

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 cues from 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



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.

How Do I Water My Orchid?

By AOS

Avoid overwatering which leads to the demise of many more orchids than underwatering. Constant wetness will cause the roots to rot, which leaves the plant without a means for taking up nourishment which then causes the leaves to droop and will eventually kill the plant. The classic advice is to water the day before the plant dries out. If you have to let the plant go dry to figure out what a dry plant weighs, it will not kill the plant and will make you a better grower. Another measure is to use the pencil trick (the point of a sharpened pencil, when inserted into the medium, will darken with moisture if the plant has enough water). And, there's always the old standby - put your finger in the mix. If it feels wet, it is wet. If you aren't sure whether it is time to water, wait one more day.

"Evenly moist," while the most commonly given advice on watering, is the least easily explained. Because most plants are grown in plastic containers a good diagnosis is the weight of the plant: heavy - does not need watering; light - does require water. With a little practice, one can easily tell the amount of moisture remaining in the container.

Water your orchid early in the morning. This insures complete water evaporation on the foliage as well as the crown by nightfall. If your home is very warm or has low humidity you will most likely need to water more often. The best place to water your plant is in the kitchen sink. Use lukewarm water (do not use salt softened or distilled water) and water your plant for about 15 seconds and be sure to thoroughly wet the media. Then allow the plant to drain for about 15 minutes. It may appear dry but it has had enough water. After the plants are watered, they should be placed so that the pots do not stand in water. Some people like to place the pots on "humidity trays" or in trays or saucers of gravel or pebbles and water. The pot is placed on the pebbles above the water line. This helps to ensure that the base of the pot is not immersed in water, increases humidity for the plant, and provides some air circulation under the pot.

When Should I Repot?

By AOS



When an orchid plant starts to grow over the edge of the pot, it is time to repot it!

Orchid plants need repotting for one or a combination of two main factors: Potting mix breaks down, often evidenced by dead roots, or the plant outgrowing the container. In the first case, a larger pot may not be required, simply replace the growing medium. In the second case, the plant may need dividing or may be shifted into a larger pot. Fresh media should always be used. A good general rule of thumb is to pot for the bottom of the plant, the root system, and not for the top, the foliage.

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



C. Small World 4N x C. Triumphans 4N

This is a new, unregistered cross from H&R between a popular mini catt and a historic primary hybrid. The result is this first bloomer, a rather large plant with large flowers is thick substance and a nice fragrance. I am pleasantly surprised with the great coloration of the lip. I am interested to see if future bloomings will produce more flowers or will they be lower in count per spike.



Blc. Copper Queen (Rlc. Toshi Aoki x Bl. Richard Mueller 4N)

This cross is from H&R and blooms reliably twice a year and has 5 large flowers. I'm very happy with the size and shape and the deep, rich yellow color. Like some Richard Mueller crosses, it has a very slight color change from a pastel orange to yellow as the flowers age.

Phalaenopsis tetraspis

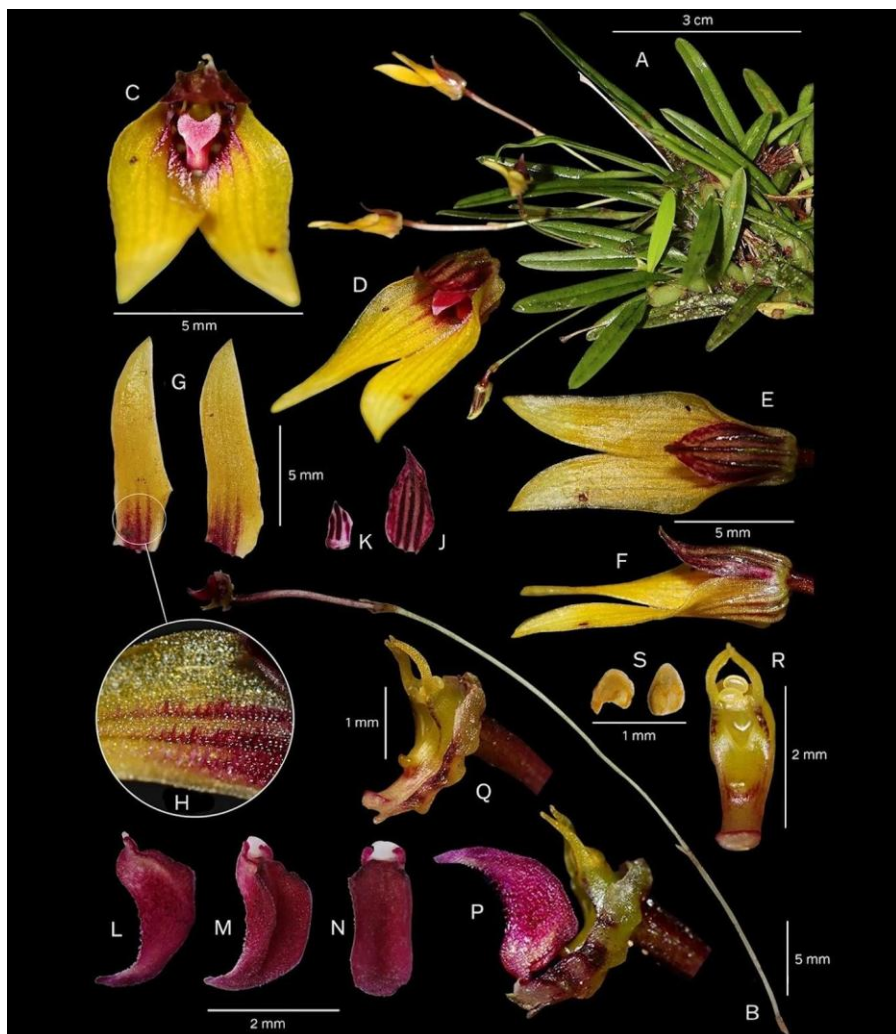
This is a first bloom for me and is from Windswept in Time Orchids. It is a very interesting species with genetics that have different color patterns of red and white that vary per flower. It is also a sequential bloomer so don't cut off the flower spikes until they are brown as they can last months to over a year, producing more and more flowers.

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

[#Bulbophyllum](#) sandfordiorum (Orchidaceae: Epidendroideae: Bulbophyllinae) • A [#NewSpecies](#) of section [#Papulipetalum](#) from West Papua Province, Indonesia – Novataxa 2025



Upcoming 2025 Orchid Events

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest

Aug 23-24 Kettering Ohio

<https://www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com/>

Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table

May 2025



