

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

## April 2018

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**Jane Bush**

Vice President

**Darlene Thompson**

Treasurer

**Frank Skalak**

Secretary

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**Brandon  
Spannbauer**

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**Dave Miller**

### **Minutes of March 2018 Meeting**

Jane opened the meeting and went over our spring show review. We have 17 new members as a direct result of our show and had a great turnout.

April 28-29 will be the Mid-America Orchid Congress hosted by West Shore Orchid Society. There will be 20 vendors from around the world and many amazing speakers.

They are asking for help to work the show. As a thank you for working 4-5 hours you will receive free admission to the show. Please come the meeting to speak with their rep for more details.

Jane had a short presentation on Orchids 101 and we then broke into small groups for a Q&A where we asked the group about any problems or issues that we've faced and received advice for orchid growing.

### **Upcoming Business**

Welcome new members! Thank you for visiting our spring show, we hope you enjoyed yourselves and will come to a meeting with plenty of questions. We look forward to seeing you.

Each meeting we have a show table of plants in bloom so please feel free to bring in your flowering plants to show off to the group.

2018 GAOS membership dues are now due: \$20 Individual, \$30 family. This entitles you to a free plant at our Nov. holiday banquet meeting and two plants for a family membership. Checks can be made out to GAOS. Thanks

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Good Roots Grow Good Orchids**

Speaker: **Dave Miller**

Dave Miller will have a slide presentation on why looking at orchid roots is a good way to know if you are growing them well. The talk "Good Roots Grow Good Orchids" has a lot of close-up photos of the roots of well grown and ailing orchids to understand the difference.

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

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

## President's Corner

By Jane Bush

Greetings!

April provides us with a unique opportunity to experience a special event right in our own backyard. The Mid-America Orchid Congress in conjunction with the West Shore Orchid Society will present the largest orchid show in Ohio on April 28 and 29. The show will include 6 orchid talks, 18 vendors including ones from China and Ecuador, an auction, a banquet Saturday evening, and about 400 plants expected on display.

Such a big event requires lots of help. West Shore has asked for helpers from GAOS. It would be great if GAOS members would sign up as teams to help and then have free admission to the show and 3 paid speakers on Saturday. More information will be available at our meeting on April 9.

TIDBIT: If you are treating for bugs, kept treated plants in low light for 12 hours and repeat treatment every 5 days for 3 treatments to break the pests' life cycle.



A very rare rose type Phalaenopsis mutant with column converting to multilayer petals. -Symposium at Huntington Botanical Garden

## Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) at 6:45pm, impromptu Q&A start at 6:30pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Members are encouraged to bring orchids from their collection for exhibit. **All are welcome; you do not have to be a member to attend.**

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|----------|--|
| Apr. 9:  | Good Roots Grow Good Orchids<br>Dave Miller              |
| May 14:  | Enjoying Encyclia and Epidendrum Orchids<br>Edgar Stehli |
| June 11: | Summer Picnic / 1 <sup>st</sup> Member Plant Auction     |



**Photo of the Month:** *Phalaenopsis philippinensis* is a warm growing epiphyte from the Philippines, at elevation up to around 1200 metres.

Photo © Javier Martin

# Sunset Valley Orchids 2018 Spring Newsletter

By SVO

When to water your Catasetinae:

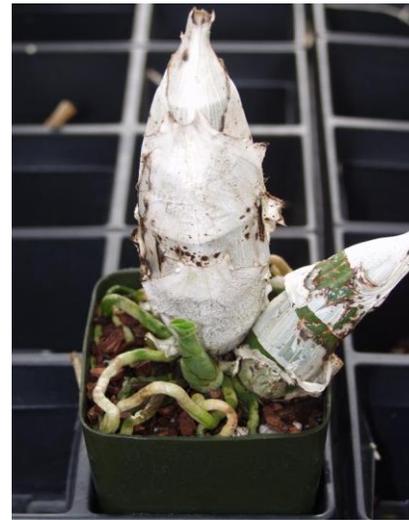
For most parts of the country it's finally spring! Your Catasetinae should be or are just starting to grow. Most of you along the southern edge of the country already have started watering and fertilizing. I am hearing reports from many Southern growers that most of the new growths are 6"-12" tall with new roots 3"-6" long. This is the time to start watering! The growers farther north (myself included) may still have a few weeks until the new roots are 3"-6" long. Remember: not all Catasetinae come out of dormancy at the same time, so some plants may be showing well-developed roots while others will be just starting to root. Begin watering and fertilizing the plants that are ready and hold off on the ones still needing more time; this is very important and a good practice to develop.

Catasetinae like lots of light and air movement. Be sure your plants are getting the correct amount now, as this will really help them get a good start on their seasonal growth. I keep mine under 40% shade with lots of air movement day and night. Ideal temperatures in early spring are 75-85 degree days and 60 degree nights. Humidity should be 50% or higher - this is a great help to the plants and supports new roots.

I start the watering season using ½ tsp fertilizer per gallon of water, and then, as the days get longer and the temperatures warm up in late June and early July, I increase the fertilizer to 1 tsp per gallon through August, before switching back to ½ tsp from September through October.

Don't forget that Catasetinae prefer to be re-potted or divided with the onset of new growth, just before the new roots start to show.

Early in the growing season is when spider mites can get a foothold on your plants. 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!



No water, growth just started



No water, roots too short



Fully rooted plant, top growth 10" water and fertilize regularly

Water at this last stage



## Genetic Modification Produces True Blue Orchid

By Yao-Chien Alex Chang & Yin-Tung Wang Via Gawler Districts Orchid Club

Decades ago, research on creating a blue rose was a hot topic around the world. After years of tireless efforts and millions in research spending, it became a reality. What happened after its creation is still a mystery to me. We have yet to see a single blue rose cut flower for sale in a floral shop or at grocery stores. "Blue roses are not popular in Japan, not only due to the high price, but also for the reason that many people think roses must be red or pink because roses mean love," says Dr. Weiting Tsai, a phalaenopsis breeder and researcher at the Floriculture Research Center in Taiwan.

### Dyed Orchids Will Rebloom White

Over the last several decades, a blue orchid has been the dream of many orchid hobbyists. At orchid shows around the world, one would often hear people admiring some orchids and saying, "This is really blue!" However, what orchid hobbyists call "blue" is always a shade of purple or lavender. Doritaenopsis 'Kenneth Shubert' is a good example. There is a blue vanda, but there was no true blue phalaenopsis.

Then, there came the 'Blue Mystique' phalaenopsis. The blue flowers are the result of dyeing. Dyeing can be done easily with the cut phalaenopsis flowers, which can be made into any solid color of choice. It is more difficult with flowers on intact plants.

Phalaenopsis roots do not absorb dye that is added to the growing medium. The dye can be sent to the flowers and buds through a passive or an active process. If one would take a close look at the lower end of a spike on an intact, dyed phalaenopsis, one would see a hole where a water solution containing the dye was infused into the flowering stem (the passive process). If one uses the active process, the dye is taken up more quickly by the unopened flower buds than the flowers that are already opened, but dyeing the vascular tissues in the flowers creates a "striping" effect.

By either means, the water-soluble dye goes up with the water stream in the xylem tissues. The shortcoming of the dyed live phalaenopsis is that, when the remaining buds open, the new flowers are often much lighter in color or may even be a solid white. Of course, when the plants re-bloom from the new spikes, all flowers are white.



### Truly Blue Orchids Are On Their Way To The Market

At the 11th Asian Pacific Orchid Conference held in Okinawa, Japan, in early February 2013, several blooming phalaenopsis plants with solid blue flowers were on exhibit, secured inside Plexiglas boxes. These are the real true blue orchids that were created by the research team of Dr. Masahiro Mii at Chiba University, Japan, using a gene that is discovered in *Commelina communis* and patented by Ichihara Sangyo Co.

### For Plant Enthusiasts, Blue Orchids Are The New Blue Rose

To the consumers, blue flowers are something that is unique and uncommon. We need to learn whether there will be a sustained interest in purchasing the true blue phalaenopsis. Cut phalaenopsis sprays that are dyed into a solid blue or yellow only last for about one week. But, florists who do weddings and events say that is long enough. Hopefully, if and when this new blue phalaenopsis hits the market, consumers would find its flowers lasting for months.

# Photo Gallery

Member's Show Table  
March 2018



Paph lowii  
Dave Miller



Den. Super Ise  
Darlene Thompson



Phalaenopsis  
Lore Yu



Lc. Kathleen Clark  
Frank Skalak



Phalaenopsis  
Paul Bujak





Phrag QF Walter  
Dave Miller



Mo. Jumbo  
Darlene Thompson



Phrag. Don Wimber  
Darlene Thompson



Paph. delenatii  
Darlene Thompson



Masd. Pixie Shadow  
Brandon Spannbauer



Masd. murex  
Brandon Spannbauer



Masd. veitchiana  
Brandon Spannbauer



Cymbidium  
Paul Bujak



D. Rosy Cluster



Miltoniopsis  
Paul Bujak



Lc. Orange Tower  
Paul Bujak



Den. Love Memory  
Jane Bush



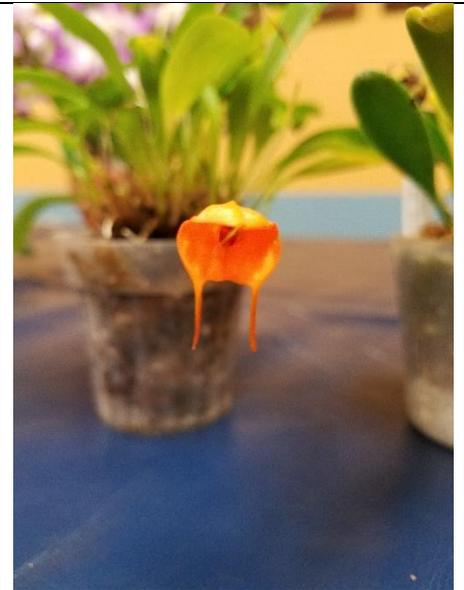
Phal. Brother Goldsmith  
Jane Bush



Blc. Mystic Lady  
Jane Bush



Den. Ise x Angel Baby  
Frank Skalac



Masd. Jelly Belly  
Brandon Spannbaauer