

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

April 2020

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Jane Bush

Vice President

Darlene Thompson

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**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Dave Miller

Minutes of March Meeting

Greetings!

Due to the corona virus and our need for social distancing, the April meeting of GAOS is cancelled. I am personally going to miss seeing all of your lovely, blooming orchids and sharing information with everyone. Until this situation is over, please stay safe and healthy.

To keep up sharing with each other during the time when we cannot meet together, Darlene and Brandon are working to create some virtual sharing experiences. Watch the newsletter, thegaos.com website, and the GAOS Facebook page for more information on this exciting new venture.

Please keep in touch, check on other members of GAOS, and check our social media regularly until we can meet again.

TIDBIT: This is a good time to check your orchids for new growth. If there is new growth and the plant needs a bigger pot or the media is dark and mushy, then, now is the time to repot.

- Jane

Upcoming Business

Social Distancing Guide For Orchid People



Next Meeting

Due to the corona virus outbreak, GAOS meetings will be CANCELLED until further notice. We will keep you informed about our schedule and future meetings but the timetable is unknown on how long social distancing will be advised. Thank you for your understanding and stay safe and healthy!

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Email: greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

I hope that everyone is healthy and enjoying their orchids as a diversion to boredom in our time of social distancing.

I will use the President's Corner for a brief April business meeting. Dave Miller speaking on "Orchids Under Glass," which details growing orchids in a terrarium is the scheduled program for our May meeting. If conditions are safe, we will meet again in May. If not, then the next newsletter will update you on the changes. In the meantime, I am not making any decision on the May meeting until after the current restrictions are modified or ended. The current financial balance is \$7,610.53. Our 2020 membership list has been compiled and will be emailed to you in a separate email. Our membership numbers are down because many who joined in 2019 never came to a meeting and did not rejoin. We did however, have the honor of welcoming 21 new members at our show in March.

Our April "Show Table" will be included in the next newsletter. Please feel free to contribute photos of your blooming orchids by sending photos to Brandon, braxtonds@gmail.com and/or submitting them on our Facebook page, instructions below on the next page. For our "April Program" go to www.thegaos.com/education and pick any presentation or article on the page and enjoy its contents.

I miss socializing with all of you but this will have to fill the void during this pandemic infection.

TIDBIT: Spring is not only the time for new orchid growth but also for the surge of insects. Check your plants often and carefully.

Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) Beginner's Corner starts at 6:45pm and the meeting at 7:15pm, 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.**

Apr 13	CANCELLED
May 11	"Orchids Under Glass" Dave Miller
Jun 8	Summer Picnic & 1 st Member Plant Auction



Photo of the Month: Cymbidium Geno's Gem 'Emerald Fire' FCC/AOS (Cymbidium Mad Hatter x Cymbidium Kalimpong) Grown by Frank Smith, when awarded the First Class Certificate (FCC) the plant had 680 flowers and 132 buds on 30 inflorescences. Photo © Kay Clark

Website Revamp and Virtual Orchid Tours

With our meeting(s) cancelled until further notice we have been working on improving our website with education, presentations and articles to give us something to tide us over until we can all meet again. If you have anything interesting of that nature, or find it online, please send it to me to be added, braxtonds@gmail.com. I'm acquiring presentations from members as well as scouring the internet for useful and helpful orchid related information and have added them to the website. I have also added a Resources tab which contains links to many great orchid websites and vendors.

<https://thegaos.com/education>

(Check out Dave's Plant Stand setup presentation for inspiration)

<https://thegaos.com/resources>

If you have other ideas for staying connected, reach out the Brandon (braxtonds@gmail.com) or me (Darlenejthompson@gmail.com). We would like to hear how you want to stay connected.

You can also do a little safe shopping. Contact Kim and Edgar at Windswept in Time (<https://windsweptorchids.com/>) and Wayne and Nancy at Robert's Flowers Supply (<http://www.orchidmix.com/>). They are both full stocked and can figure out the best way options to shop safely and in compliance with our local regulations.

New York Garden's Virtual Orchid Show:

<https://www.nybg.org/take-a-virtual-tour-of-the-orchid-show-jeff-leathams-kaleidoscope/>

Visit the virtual orchid show table on Facebook! We invite you to post pictures of your blooming plants or growing areas on Facebook at any time.

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

Make a post our page, feel free to add photos and a description of your orchid. To view other's flowers, click the 'Community' tab on the left of the screen or follow the link below. Here, you can view what others are posting, ask questions or strike up a conversation.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/theGAOS/community/>

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for the Greater Akron Orchid Society (@theGAOS). The page features a profile picture of a pink orchid and a cover photo of a large purple orchid. The main content area displays a grid of photos, including a large purple orchid and a display of various orchids. The right sidebar shows a 5.0 rating, community information, and location details for 725 Portage Lakes Dr, Akron, Ohio 44319.

Monthly Orchid Checklist for March & April

By AOS, Abbrev. for space

CATTLEYA

Although March is, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weaken owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

CYMBIDIUM

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

DENDROBIUM (AUSTRALIAN)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

LYCASTE

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

MILTONIOPSIS

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

PAPHIOPEDILUM

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

PHALAENOPSIS

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the lookout for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

PLEUROTHALLIDS

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

Grow Setup by Scott Laskowski



Oriental Cymbidiums Grown by Um Sung Wook

The Oriental cymbidiums have been in cultivation for centuries in China, Japan and Korea where they have been prized for their graceful leaves, dainty flowers and delicate fragrances. Most of the Oriental cymbidium require shaded areas or low light and constant moist surrounding. They may be a bit more expensive but they will adapt quicker and will bloom quicker compared to a 1 or 2 growth plants.

Growing temperature is the most critical factor in blooming the oriental cymbidiums. During the height of summer, Oriental cymbidiums should be grown under 80% to 95% shade, with temperatures from 75 to 85 deg F.

Oriental cymbidiums are **miniature** and have very long roots, so deep containers are recommended. The growers from mainland china typically use the big large pots and use big rocks at the bottom, medium rocks in the middle and small porous stones at the top. These mix enables me to water the plants once a week.



Photo Gallery

Displays at our GAOS Show 2020



Photo Gallery

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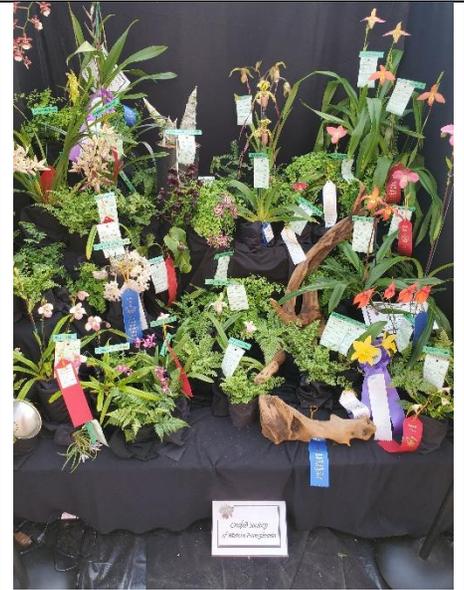




Photo Gallery

March 2020 Meeting



NoID Paph
Pam Everett



Phrag Mary Beth
Pam Everett



Lc Fire Dance
Chester Kieliszek



Slc Jewel Box
Chester Kieliszek



Blc Haw Yuan Rose
Brandon Spannbauser



NoID Phal
Sandra Raines



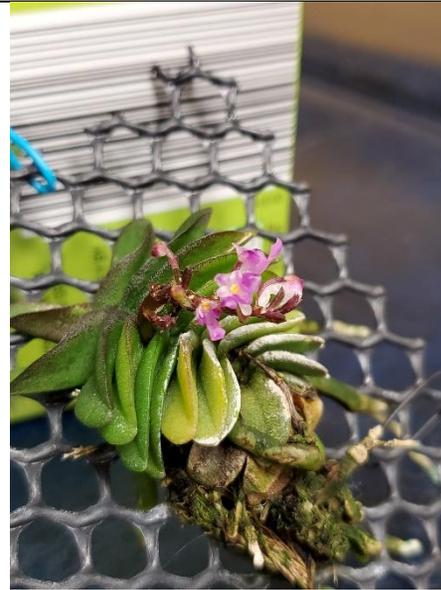
NoID Phal
Mindy Fortune



Tsubotaara Melinda Marie
Jane Bush



C Prism Palette
Jane Bush



Schoenorchis fragrans
Lore Yu



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Frank Skalak



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Mary Beth Rollick



Paph haynaldianum
Darlene Thompson



Phrag Walter Schereen
Darlene Thompson



Phrag humboltii
Darlene Thompson



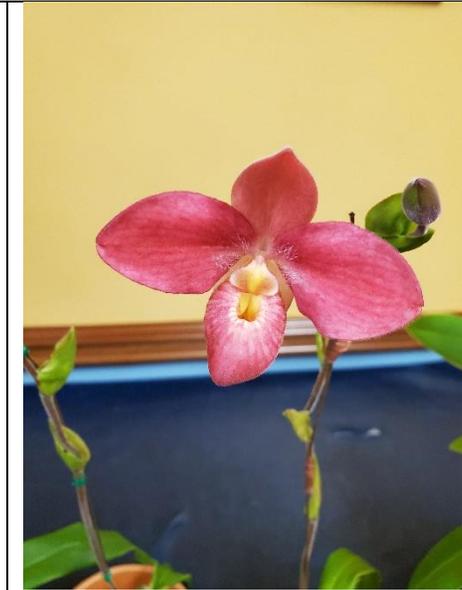
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Phrag Petit Queillette
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Phrag Petit Queillette
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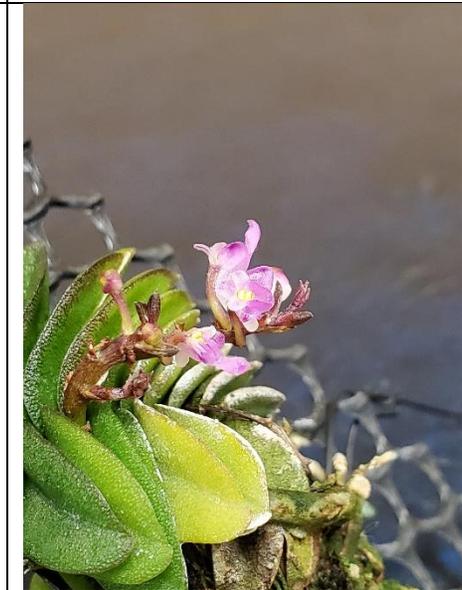
Phrag Petit Queillette
Darlene Thompson



Phrag Early Surprise
Darlene Thompson



C luteola
Frank Skalak



Schoenorchis fragrans
Lore Yu