

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

## April 2024

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## Previous Meeting Minutes

In our March meeting we discussed 'How to Grow Orchids' & Welcomed New Members

**April Meeting is 100% Virtual**

Meeting summary below (Page 4):

Cattleya gargantua, the lost to time, 10-foot-tall orchid with 3-foot blooms! Featured in this AOS magazine



Happy April 1st

## Announcements

In 2024, we will continue our hybrid meetings (both In-Person & Zoom). In-Person meeting details directly below and Zoom details will be included in each newsletter and our Facebook page. We will also continue with our earlier 6:30pm start time, doors open at 6:00pm

Zoom details below (Page 3):

## Next Meeting

**Monday, April 8, 2024**

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center  
725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319  
Meeting starts 6:30pm. Doors open 6:00pm

**\*\*100% Virtual This Month\*\***

### Topic

Program: **How to Grow Slipper Orchids**  
Speaker: **Darlene Thompson**

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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  
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Meeting details below (Page 3):

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

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

**Email:** [greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto: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 to the list.

Thanks,

Brandon Spannbauer      [greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)

### Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

[www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/)

[www.gcos.org](http://www.gcos.org)

### West Shore Orchid Society

[www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/](http://www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/)

[westshoreorchidsociety.org/](http://westshoreorchidsociety.org/)

## Meeting Schedule

GAOS has hybrid meetings (both In-Person and Virtual) and meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

Apr 8 **\*\*Virtual\*\*** How to Grow Slipper Orchids – Darlene Thompson

May 13            1<sup>st</sup> Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion

June 10           How to Grow Miniatures – Olga Shostachuk

July 8             Summer Potluck Picnic – **\*\*\*Bring a Dish\*\*\***



**Photo of the Month:** A beautiful display for this Award of Quality (AQ/AOS) on *Paphiopedilum delenatii* f. *albinum* – Krull-Smith Orchids

## 2024 Meeting Information

In 2024, 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: [greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)

Thanks,  
Brandon Spannbauer, Editor

## April 8 Meeting Info

**\*\*100% Virtual This Month\*\***

Due to the eclipse, our April 8 meeting has been changed to be 100% virtual this month. There have been numerous reports that traffic will probably still be pretty bad in the totality areas and we want everyone to be safe.

Our meeting this month will be all about How to Grow Slipper Orchids with Darlene Thompson. Please feel free to send in any blooming orchid photos to Craig to be included in the virtual show table for the meeting. Please send them to the following address by Sunday night, thanks

Craig Miller: [justcraig@sssnet.com](mailto:justcraig@sssnet.com)

### Topic

Program: **How to Grow Slipper Orchids**  
Speaker: **Darlene Thompson**

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## Zoom Meeting Details

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

Topic: GAOS April Monthly Meeting  
Time: Apr 8, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88519987082?pwd=Z0dScVZna2RsYitXN29ycVY1am5wdz09>

## GAOS March Meeting Notes

By Pam Everett

GAOS held its regularly scheduled meeting March 11 with 36 people in attendance. This was the new member welcome meeting, and it was great to see so many new members come out. The meeting began with Craig Miller welcoming them and explaining how meetings normally proceed. He also explained how each meeting is hybrid in that meetings are also conducted on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. He then asked each officer to introduce themselves and briefly explain their duties.

During the business portion of the meeting Jane Bush reported that this year's orchid show generated \$2,579 against \$2,072 in expenses for a profit of \$507 with a few details still out. Kudos went to Meghan for a successful food operation; to Chester, Sally, and Pam for repotting; Barb for overseeing clerking; and Jane for online registration.

Barb thanked everyone involved in setting up our display and shared that we received a Silver Certificate from AOS. This was the best "grade" GAOS had ever received, with a score of 85. The Show Trophy went to Pittsburg, who beat us by only one point, so this was a truly big deal for our society.

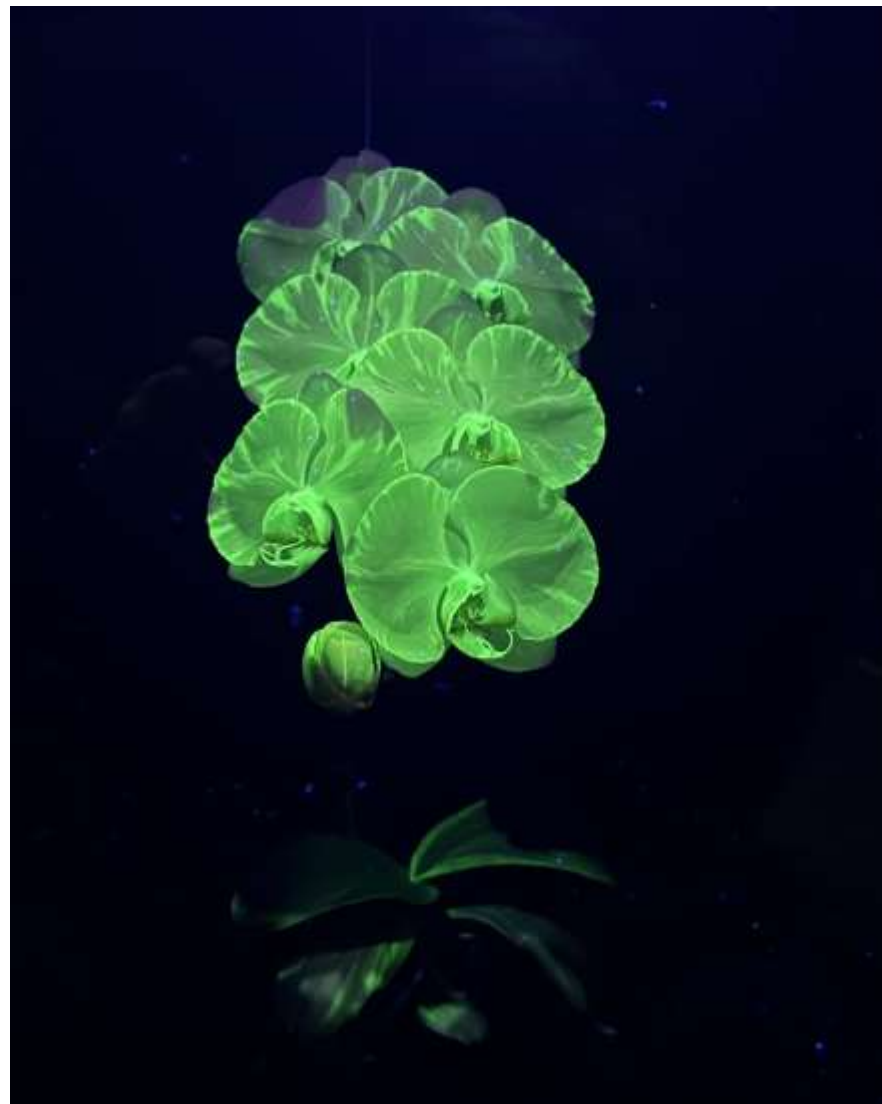
GAOS was also commended for the quality of plants presented throughout the show, with judges pulling many plants for AOS judging. Some of the judges remarked that they would have pulled even more plants, but they just ran out of time.

Perhaps because our Show was just the previous week, there were only 9 plants on the show table.

After a short break, Craig discussed how to grow Phalaenopsis, inasmuch as new members each received a plant for joining. A few plants left over from the show were raffled off, and the meeting adjourned at 8:30.

## The Japanese Just Got a Glow Up, Literally

By Tokyo Weekender



Continued on Page 9

# Greater Akron Orchid Society



## 2024 GAOS Program Calendar

- Jan 8 "Picking the Right Orchid" – Dave Miller
- Feb 12 Getting Your Orchids Ready for the Show
- Mar 11 How to Grow Orchids / Welcome to New Members
- Apr 8 "How to Grow Slipper Orchids" – Darlene Thompson
- May 13 1<sup>st</sup> Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion
- June 10 "How to Grow Miniatures" – Olga Shostachuk
- July 8 Summer Picnic
- Aug 12 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion
- Sept 9 "What's Wrong with My Orchid?" \*Bring in your problem plants for discussion\*
- Oct 14 "The Future of Orchid Growing" – Edgar Stehli
- Nov 11 Holiday Banquet / Election of Officers
- Dec 9 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](mailto:judges@aos.org)*

## How Do You Grow? Grow Space Spotlight

By Brandon Spannbauer

We all grow orchids in many different ways: different locations, temperatures, lighting, watering schedules, potting media, etc. Practically every aspect of growing orchids is different for each person and what may work for one may not work for another. This is a new series dedicated to members' grow spaces and showing all the different ways we've engineered to growing our favorite plants.



I currently grow my orchids in the basement under lights for most of the year. In the summer, I will transport some of my collection outside to a deck covered with a shade cloth.

Over the years, I've progressed from growing orchids in windowsills to having just one dedicated space in my house where it is much easier to care for and water them.



## Setup

I have one main 8x3 foot table surrounded on 3 sides with wire grating for hanging plants. This table is exclusively for orchids. I also have another table with lower lighting for houseplants and orchids in rehab. The tables have light egg crate paneling on the bottom and the whole table is slightly angled with a hole at one end to allow for water drainage.

I live in Akron and water all my plants with city water straight from a hose with a shower nozzle, always lukewarm, never cold. Yes, water does get all over the floor but it is extremely important to me that watering be easy and not a chore. There is also an oscillating floor fan moving air 24/7. My orchid table is lit with 3 LED panel lights and the houseplant table is lit with fluorescent lights. The upgrade to LED panels a few years ago allows to finally bloom most cattleyas which has been my goal for years. All the lights are on a 14-hour timer.

The newest change was extending the steel wire mesh along the back wall which allows me to experiment with hanging more orchids. I am able to reach them with a long handle clothes hook.

## Plants

I have grown many genera over the years, but my favorite by far is cattleya and I have found it much easier to tailor my conditions as best I can to orchids with similar growing requirements. This reduces my losses over trying to keep plants with vastly different needs happy.

You may have noticed that I pot almost exclusively in clay pots with a bark mix which provides better root aeration. Watering with a hose means most or all my collection gets watered at the same time. I want the plants to be dry around the same time, so I top smaller pots and plants needing more moisture with moss and all get crushed oyster shells added. I use plastic pots only for those that need even more moisture.

**How Do You Grow? We would love to showcase your grow space. If you would like to be featured, please send in photos with a little description of how you grow to have them included in the newsletter:**

[greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)



## Black Rot

By AOS, Abbrev. for space

A danger to orchids any time the weather is rainy or damp for extended periods, black rot can quickly destroy an entire plant if left unchecked. Caused by one or both of the fungi *Pythium ultimum* and *Phytophthora cactorum*, black rot affects a wide variety of orchids. Cattleyas seem to be particularly susceptible.



Black rot moves quickly through a plant and can decimate an orchid collection if not treated

### LIFE CYCLE

The fungi that cause black rot in orchids can live only in environments where water is available to them. They consist of spores capable of independent movement, called zoospores, which swim through the water. If that water happens to be sitting on an orchid leaf, the zoospores can penetrate the plant tissue and begin the next stage in their life cycle. At this point, the fungus develops a vegetative part or mycelium consisting of hyphae (thin, thread-like tubes), which spread quickly through the affected plant tissues. Once this occurs, the visible signs of infection - small, watery, translucent spots - expand quickly and change to brown and then black. Left untreated, the affected plant or plants may infect others and will probably die themselves.

### SYMPTOMS

When the fungus attacks seedlings, it is usually at the soil line. This can cause the little plants to topple and die, and is referred to as damping off. In mature plants, the disease can strike at any point on the plant (leaves, pseudobulbs or roots), but often starts in new leaves or growing leads, and progresses downward through the plant until reaching the roots. As the name implies, black rot shows up as dark blackish spots or lesions on the affected plant part. The black spot or spots enlarge rapidly and can spread throughout the plant. If allowed to reach the crown of a monopodial (single-stemmed) orchid, the rot will kill the plant. Affected leaves may turn yellow around the infected area, and the lesions themselves will be soft and exude water when pressure is applied.

### PREVENTION

Unsterilized pots, media or water sources, as well as water splashed from affected plants nearby, are all excellent means of spreading the fungus. In addition, plants that spend time outdoors should be elevated 3 to 4 feet (90 to 120 cm) above the ground to avoid splash contamination. Do not allow your orchids' leaves to remain wet for any extended periods. Good air circulation in the growing area is key, and can help plants dry quickly after watering or rains. The addition of a fan or fans to the growing area can improve the airflow and help prevent rots. At first signs of infection, segregate all affected plants to avoid contaminating healthy plants. Finally, some growers recommend the use of a high-calcium fertilizer in the spring to help avoid black rot in new growth.





## MECHANICAL TREATMENT

To stop the spread of black rot in your orchid, begin with a sterile knife and cut out the diseased portion of the plant. Remove all infected plant material, taking out a small amount of healthy tissue bordering the infected area as a safety precaution. Examine the cut portion carefully. It is sometimes possible, especially in pseudobulbs, to see a brownish discoloration extending into the interior of tissue that appears healthy on the surface. In sympodial (many-stemmed) plants such as a cattleya, it may be necessary to cut below the leaves and into the pseudobulb to stop the spread of the disease. If the plant is badly infected, cut into the rhizome, growth by growth, until you reach healthy tissue. For a monopodial orchid such as a vanda or phalaenopsis, remove the infected portion of the leaf, or the entire leaf if necessary, to halt the spread of the fungus before it reaches the crown. Place the plant in an area that receives good air circulation to allow the cut to dry.

## CHEMICAL TREATMENT

Once the infected plant parts have been removed, a fungicide should be applied to protect the remaining healthy tissue. Cinnamon is an excellent fungicide, and ground cinnamon may be applied straight from the spice jar directly to the exposed area where infected portions of the plant have been excised. First Rays Orchids also recommends mixing cinnamon with either casein-based glue (such as Elmer's) or cooking oil to form a thick paste. This paste is fairly waterproof and can be used to cover the wound. Another poultice that was developed specifically for use on orchids is StopRot. The product contains a Bordeaux mixture in lanolin. The Bordeaux, a mixture of copper sulfate and lime, has fungicidal properties. The lanolin seals the wound to keep moisture out.

Whatever method is chosen, be sure to cover all of the exposed (cut) area with the fungicide or sealant, so that no new infection can be introduced to the open wound.

Drenching the affected plant with fungicide is also an option. Drenches of a protectant fungicide such as Truban or Terrazole are recommended if the disease is diagnosed early. For more advanced cases, a systemic fungicide such as Aliette or Subdue is more effective. Captan, Dithane M-45 and Physan 20 have also been recommended by some growers for control of black rot.

## Japanese Glow Up Continued from Page 4:

A research group at Chiba University, led by Professor Emeritus Masahiro Mii and researcher Dong Poh Chin, has developed the world's first fluorescent orchid. The Glowing Phalaenopsis Orchid emits yellow-green fluorescence under black light. Not only the petals, but the entire plant body glows.

### ***How to Create A Fluorescent Orchid***

This was achieved by introducing a gene for a fluorescent protein that was successfully isolated from *Cyridius poppei*, a type of marine plankton. The fluorescent protein was developed by NEC Solution Innovators and Nara Institute of Science and Technology. The Chiba University team used this and genetically modified a white-flowered Phalaenopsis variety.

The Phalaenopsis orchid, also known as a moth orchid, is one of the most popular varieties used as a decorative plant for homes and public spaces.

### ***Where to See the Glowing Orchid***

This "Glowing Phalaenopsis Orchid" will be exhibited for the first time at the [World Orchid Show 2024](#), which will be held at Tokyo Dome City Prism Hall from February 7 to 14. It is the 34th iteration of one of Japan's largest flower festivals.

This year's exhibition will feature more than 1,000 orchid species and will have a welcome gate made up of 100,000 orchids at the entrance. As you pass through the entrance gate, you'll find the "Flower Garden in the Sky," which has walls over 4 meters high filled with orchids. There's also the jet-black "Fantasy Orchid Night" with innovative decorations.

## 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](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)



NoID Phalaenopsis

Phalaenopsis have been dubbed as easier to grow and bloom. Like with many growers, it is the genera that I started my collection with. Around 8-9 years ago I had to let go of all 15 of mine because I couldn't get a handle on a rampant mealy bug infestation and was so discouraged. I have since then learned how to control pests and have reintroduced a phals back into my collection. I grow them hanging in clay pots with a mixture of bark and moss.



Bc. Robert Bauman 4N (Bl. Richard Mueller 4N x Lc. Jalapa 4N 'Ruben's Pick')

This is a seedling from SVO (Sunset Valley Orchids) that I bought 6/23. It first bloomed 10/23 and has since bloomed 3 times in 6 months. Richard Mueller crosses is one group that I like to collect because I like that it adds a compact, fast growth habit and free blooming to its offspring. This cross is very interesting so far, it opens a deep almost maroon red and lightens with age to a bright orange. The petals are still curled but have noticeably been less curly with each blooming and the flowers are getting larger. Hopefully, this improves in the future.

**If you have any stubborn orchids that bloom in-between meetings, send in photos to have them included in the newsletter:**

[greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com)

## New Orchids to Science

A new species of *Holcoglossum* is described and illustrated from Myanmar. The comparison and differentiation are made with *H. semiteretifolium* and *H. himalaicum*. *Holcoglossum clausum* is allied to *H. himalaicum* owing to the similar coloration and the long spur. From *H. semiteretifolium* the new species can be distinguished by its growth (pendant vs. upright), the much longer leaves (45 cm vs. 15 cm) and the longer spur (1.3 cm vs. 6.4 mm). It is found in the subtropical highland climate. – Novataxa 2024



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### West Shore Orchid Society Show

April 27-28 at Strongsville, Ohio Rec Center  
18100 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136

<http://www.westshoreorchidsociety.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100072143500531>

### Windswept in Time Orchids Open House

May 25 & 26 11am – 5pm

8066 Skyline Dr. Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147

[www.windsweptorchids.com](http://www.windsweptorchids.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057748685808>



# Photo Gallery

Show Table

March 2024



