

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

March 2020

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Minutes of Feb. Meeting

Our orchid show is at Dayton Nursery on March 7&8. Please keep this weekend open so you can join us in making the show in our new location as fantastic as possible. Volunteering for the show is a great way to get to know the other members of the society and orchid venders better. You can even invite friends and family to volunteer.

Volunteering is very easy and there are many different jobs that need to be filled and/or food to be donated to help feed helpers.

Dues for 2020 GAOS membership are now due. Individual memberships are \$20 and Family memberships, \$30. Individual members can receive one free plant at the November meeting while family members can get two.

Upcoming Business

Welcome new members! We hope you enjoyed our Spring Show and would love to see you at a meeting. Meetings are free and open to the public, so come stop by. Details are below.

Thank you to everyone who donated your time, money, effort and energy into making this show a great success. We cannot do it without an outstanding membership and diligent leadership. We hope that everyone had a great time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, Mar 9, 2020. Doors open 6:45 pm, and meeting starts 7:15 pm. Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Getting Acquainted with New Members & "Orchids 101"**

Speaker:

We will be discussing many tips and tricks on how to grow orchids as well as the general basics from keeping them alive through getting them to flower.

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.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Email: greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

This is a big week for GAOS as our show is March 7 and 8 and our next meeting is Monday. We still need your help for the show. Our snack table needs more contributions such as fruit, chips, cookies, and other desserts. There is always a need for more workers if you are willing to lend a helping hand.

Then, our March meeting is especially important as we welcome many of the new members who joined during the show. We need to give them a warm welcome and help them get to know orchids better.

This is a very short note, as I am very busy with pre-show preparations.

TIDBIT: If you grow under lights, March is a good time to start increasing the length of light that your plants receive.

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.**

Mar 9	Get Acquainted with New Members & "Orchids 101"
Apr 13	"Orchids of China" Tom Sampliner
May 11	"Orchids Under Glass" Dave Miller



Photo of the Month: Species in this picture: *Masdevallia veitchiana*, *Masdevallia decumana* and *Masdevallia juan-albertoi*. All the rest are hybrids. By Perufflora Peruvian Orchids

Good root growth on this plant. Contrary to popular belief catasetum roots can stay alive during their rest period and begin to send out new growing tips once they come out of dormancy.
-Reid Sueyoshi



Brassavola cucullata 'Julissa Demorizi' HCC/AOS

Brassavola cucullata is a warm to cool growing epiphyte or lithophyte from Mexico to N. South America and Caribbean at elevations of up to around 1800 metres.

-Gawler Orchids, Photo: Tom Kuligowski



Orchids 101

By AOS, Abbrev. for space

Knowing which orchid you are trying to grow is your key to its cultural requirements. Orchids, like all plants, need a balance of light, air, water and food to grow and flower well.

Light

Without enough light, orchids may produce lush looking growths but no flowers. Not giving orchids enough light is the most common reason for failure to bloom. The old notion of orchids growing in dark jungles still persists and it couldn't be further from the truth. In reality, many have evolved as epiphytes to take advantage of brighter light available in the upper forest canopy.

How much light is enough? The answer to this seemingly simple question is "as much as they will take without burning." Orchids grown under sufficient light will have lighter, somewhat yellow-green foliage and strong upright growths.

Air

Orchids roots will die if they do not get air and this is the reason that, with the exception of a few terrestrial varieties, orchids do not grow in soil. Orchid potting media should be open, with exceptionally good drainage, yet capable of holding sufficient moisture to support the plant's needs. You should provide gentle air movement. For orchids grown in the home, this can be provided by an overhead paddle fan set on its lowest setting or a portable oscillating fan directed AWAY from the plants.

Water

Without question, more orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. Proper watering consists of two separate components; quantity and frequency. Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. Humidity, air movement, potting medium and light levels all play a role. There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) the surface of the potting mix will appear dry; 2) dry pots will feel lighter; 3) clay pots feel dry; 4) a wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry

Upcoming Shows

Greater Akron Orchid Society

March 7-8 at Dayton Nursery
3459 S Cleveland Massillon Rd, Norton, OH 44203
<https://www.facebook.com/theGAOS/>
<http://www.thegaos.com/>

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

March 14-15 at Crowne Plaza Suites
164 Fort Couch Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15241
<https://www.oswp.org/>

West Shore Orchid Society

April 25-26 at Strongsville, Ohio Rec Center
18100 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136
<http://www.westshoreorchidsociety.org/>

When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. Not only does this soak the potting medium but it also flushes salts that naturally accumulate.

Fertilizer

Orchids will grow and flower, given that their other requirements are met, for fairly long periods without fertilizer but you'll get better results with some level of feeding. Typically, plants are fertilized once a week during the summer and every two weeks in the fall and winter. Regardless of the fertilizer that you chose to use, most experienced growers use no more than ½ the label-recommended strength.

Fertilizers used on orchids should contain little or no urea. This is because soil organisms must first convert the nitrogen in urea to a form useable by plants, and since orchids do not grow in soil, this conversion does not occur efficiently.

Missoula's 'best kept secret' helps conserve endangered orchids

By Cameron Evans, abbrev for space

For about 25 years, Brenda Oviatt and Bill Nerison have been involved with what they like to call one of Missoula's (Montana) best kept secrets.

The couple run Botanica Ltd., an appointment-only business containing more than 8,000 plants and about 500 species of orchids that grow on maze-like structures covered in Spanish moss. Stepping into their humid greenhouse on a snowy winter day feels like escaping into a subtropical jungle. Plants grow from nearly every surface and in every direction.

The couple has gained national recognition within the world of orchid lovers, collectors and conservationists for their work growing and conserving rare and endangered species of orchids.

When most people think of orchids, they picture Cattleyas with long branch-like stems and petals that range in color from yellow to lavender. Cattleyas are one of the easiest genera, or subfamilies, of orchids to care for and are among the most common orchids sold in grocery stores and gift shops, along with Phalaenopsis, Oncidium, Dendrobium, Vanda and Cymbidium.

However, the orchid family, known as Orchidaceae, is the largest flowering plant family on earth, with more than 20,000 species. Orchids grow everywhere, from Montana to the tropics and subtropics of Asia, Africa, Oceania, the North, Central and South Americas, and temperate regions of Asia and Europe.

Habitat destruction, pollution, invasive species, overpopulation of humans and over-harvesting are causing many species to become endangered or extinct. Oviatt and Nerison are trying to do their part to make sure that doesn't happen to all species.

The couple not only specializes in growing and selling Angraecoids and other species of orchids, but also in conserving orchids that face extinction, such as a species they obtained from Madagascar called *Erasanthe henrici*. When in bloom, the plant produces long white petals and a translucent back lip that, when held up against a light, reveals intricate thread-like plant fibers.

Oviatt guesses that the couple are among a small handful of growers in the world who have *Erasanthe henrici* in their greenhouse, and estimates that they have about 100 endangered species from Madagascar in their current collection.

Like poachers who target endangered animal species, there are some people who illegally remove orchids from their natural environment. The practice began in the mid-1800s to the early 1900s in Victorian England, when the wealthy hired people to travel the world — and brave extreme climates — to find and bring back rare species. Orchid hunters have contributed to the extinction and endangerment of countless species, but legal practitioners have increased awareness about conservation.



Nerison and Oviatt's orchid obsession began in college at Montana State University. When the two met, they each owned a few plants, including an orchid Oviatt had at her apartment. But they hadn't favored the species over their other houseplants.

That changed one winter night when Nerison was walking past the MSU greenhouse and spotted a purple flower out of the corner of his eye. "I went to scrape the frost off the window and it was this big purple *Cattleya*," Nerison said. Nerison started working at the greenhouse on campus and as the couple's relationship grew, so too did their interest in orchids.

Orchids have long attracted a group of dedicated collectors and growers like Oviatt and Nerison obsessed with finding and growing thousands of different species. Collectors say the hobby often starts with one or two houseplants and blossoms into a greenhouse.

After college, Nerison and Oviatt moved to Seattle with a few orchids they owned and became involved with the local orchid society.

The couple's plant collection grew and by the time they relocated to Missoula, they had an entire truck full of orchids to bring with them. They spent their evenings building the greenhouse and continued to educate themselves on ways to propagate, or reproduce, orchids. They eventually decided to turn their hobby to a business and opened Botanica Ltd., which mostly ships orchids to other collectors around the country.

Although Nerison pollinates and helps grow the plants, he said Oviatt is really the one behind a lot of their conservation efforts. Oviatt gives talks about conservation and endangered orchid species all over the world and has written articles for the American Orchid Society, and the couple shares their knowledge with fellow members of the local Five Valleys Orchid Society.

Over the years, they have been involved in numerous groups, even sending seed capsules to labs participating in a breeding program to acquire correctly identified species of orchids.

That's why Oviatt said she thinks it's important that they took on conservation headfirst. As she walked through a greenhouse in their backyard, she explained that orchids are often the first to go when an environment is in danger. For this same reason, scientists see orchids as red flags for extinction and therefore key to saving ecosystems.

"Having those species still available is important because there's a connection to conserving plants and the other animals and insects that pollinate those orchids, and those insects and animals are then part of the food chain," said Smith, of the local orchid society.

Oviatt and Nerison have grown orchids for almost 37 years, focusing the past 15 years on saving certain species of endangered Angraecoids from extinction by propagating and growing them in their greenhouse — far from their natural habitats in places like Madagascar.

After obtaining a plant, Nerison stabilizes the plant, waits for it to bloom and then pollinates it.

"We found that seedlings have a better tolerance and that's potentially the best way to save plants in their natural environment because you're not taking any more out of nature," Oviatt said.

Oviatt said that strategy also allows for the potential to reintroduce plants back into their natural environment, but she's not sure if that will happen given habitat loss caused by things like mining and logging. For now, she said, they're just trying to make sure that endangered species in nature won't go extinct because there will at least be some alive in protected areas, like their greenhouse.

Detection dogs track down rare orchid

By Australian Environmental Dept

Two English Springer Spaniels are helping find a very rare underground orchid called *Rhizanthella*, first discovered in 2016 in Barrington Tops National Park.



Detection dogs Missy and Taz were brought in by NSW Government's Saving our Species (SoS) program and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) after staff spent fruitless days searching for new orchid populations.

Discovered by a member of the public, the orchid is being investigated as a potential new species – and like other underground orchids, it's difficult to track down.

Most of the plant grows underground, and only the flower is visible above ground – but even this is nearly always covered by leaf litter.

The clever canines – who usually search for koalas and quolls – were given just four flowers to learn to identify the scent during training.

Although Barrington Tops National Park was recently impacted by bushfires, the area with the *Rhizanthella* was unaffected.



Rhizanthella gardneri

Photos: R. Butler, A.S. George & I. & M. Greeve

Field trials took place in early January, when Missy and Taz found remnants of the season's last flowers hidden under leaf litter.

“This is the first-time detection dogs have been used to find underground orchids, and it was a resounding success,” said Paul Hillier, Senior Project Officer, SoS. “On top of both dogs locating the orchids in the known location, Missy may have also found the orchids growing in a new location.”

The dynamic duo will return in winter when *Rhizanthella* flowers start emerging again, and search across more locations. The exercise is laying groundwork for finding other elusive species such as the threatened eastern underground orchid. “This work opens up a doorway for us to come out and find other species that are also proving a challenge to work with and conserve.”

The SoS program is the NSW Government's commitment to secure the future of NSW threatened plants and animals, with \$100 million being invested in it over five years (2016 – 2021).

Photo Gallery

Show Displays Cleveland Orchid Society Show 2020



Photo Gallery

Feb 2020 Meeting



Rlc Mem Shirley Bynes
Jane Bush



Cymbidium
Jane Bush



Lc Purple Cascade
Jane Bush



Den Sea Mary
Jane Bush



Den Fairly Moon Sweetie
Jane Bush



Den Love Memory Fizz
Jane Bush



Milt Rouge
Jane Bush



Lc Blazing Sun
Carolyn Lauer



Onc Tahitian Dancer
Pam Everett



Bc Makai
Pam Everett



Laelia anceps var lineata
Brandon Spannbauer



Bc Binosa x Little Stars
Brandon Spannbauer



Den Sea Mary
Dave Miller



Phal Magic Art
Dave Miller



Paph Fairly Dreamy
Dave Miller



Maxillaria
Dave Miller



Den Rainbow Dance
Dave Miller



Paph Shun-Fa Golden
Dave Miller



Lc Blazing Sun
Carolyn Lauer



Cleve Orchid Show



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