

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

## March 2021

President

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Vice President

**Darlene Thompson**

Treasurer

**Claudia Englert**

Secretary

**Pam Everett**

Editor

**Brandon  
Spannbauer**

Trustee

**Jane Bush**

## **Minutes of Feb Meeting**

We had a Zoom meeting where Ray Barkalow discussed "Understanding Orchid Nutrition"

### **GAOS Meeting Goes Online!**

The GAOS meeting will be online, hosted by Dave Miller and Darlene Thompson. Anyone who is interested will be able to participate in the meeting or just view it from home using your personal computer, smart TV or smart phone

**Monday, March 8:**

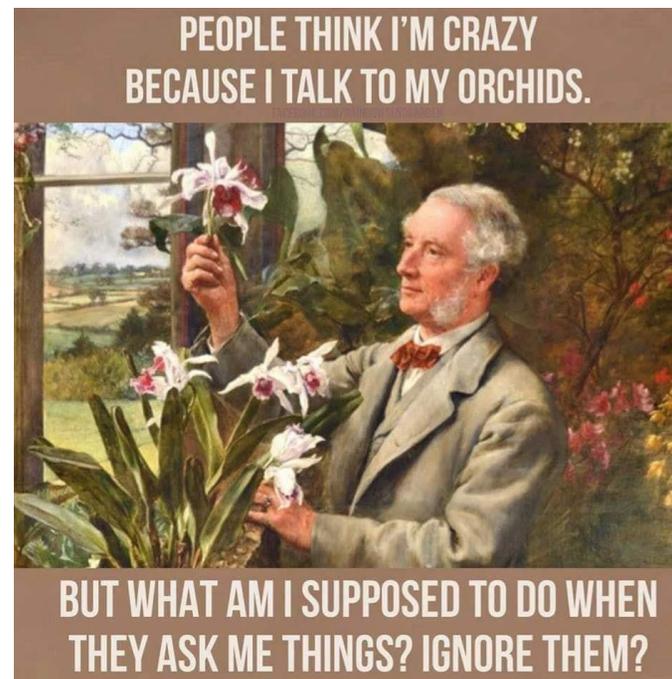
**Our meeting will be from 7:00 to 8:30 pm with people able to join the meeting as early as 6:30 pm where we will chat and answer questions until the meeting starts**

If you have any pictures of your blooming orchids for the show table, please send them to ([darlenejthompson@gmail.com](mailto:darlenejthompson@gmail.com)) by the Saturday before the meeting to be included in the Show Table presentation

**More info below**

## **Upcoming Business**

GAOS yearly dues are now due, details below



## **Next Meeting**

Our March meeting will be online using Zoom where Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids will discuss "Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature"

**Zoom meeting details below**

**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

By Brandon Spannbauer



Greetings!

We are partnering up with nearby societies to promote our online Zoom meetings to members for those interested in checking them out and their interesting speakers. Details on future free online meetings will be periodically emailed out to you with instructions on how you can join and participate if you wish.

### Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

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

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

### West Shore Orchid Society

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

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

## 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.**

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|--------|--|
| Mar 8  | Mini-Catts: Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature<br>Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids |
| Apr 12 | Understanding Light<br>Cheryl Erins  |
| May 10 | Curating an Ever-Blooming Collection<br>Darlene Thompson                         |



**Photo of the Month:** Paph concolor  
Photo © Pichit Srihapoompijit

## Greetings GAOS members!

Our next meeting will be Online. Here are the details on how to enter the meeting (this info will also be emailed to you so you can follow the links that way).

You can use your Windows PC, Mac, iphone or android phone to connect and participate in the meeting. Preferred equipment will be speakers and a microphone but members have connected using only phone or computer screen and no camera attached. People have found it beneficial to test their equipment prior to the meeting so if you have questions contact:

Dave Miller at 330-307-7189 or [dcmjpasml@aol.com](mailto:dcmjpasml@aol.com)  
Darlene Thompson at 901-210-5502 or [darlenejthompson@gmail.com](mailto:darlenejthompson@gmail.com).

The meeting will open early at 6:30 pm to allow everyone plenty of time to connect to the Zoom Conference room we are using. You can text or email either of us if you have trouble connecting using the information below. The actual meeting content will start at 7 pm and end at approximately than 8:30 pm.

### Agenda

**6:30pm – Virtual Doors Open for Member Mingle**

**7:00pm – Meeting Starts with Society Updates**

**7:15pm – Virtual Show Table**

**7:30pm – Presentation**

If you have any pictures of your blooming orchids for the show table, please send them to me ([darlenejthompson@gmail.com](mailto:darlenejthompson@gmail.com)) by Saturday before the meeting. I would love to showcase your beautiful orchids. (Darlene Thompson)

## March 2021 Zoom Online Meeting Info

On Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, **Peter T. Lin** of [Diamond Orchids](#) will be joining us to discuss miniature cattleya in his talk **Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature**. Peter started growing orchids over 35 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 15 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 specializes in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He is also known as "Mr Sophronitis" as he has a passion for growing and collecting them. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, outdoors, as well as an offsite greenhouse.

Peter's price list is attached and can be found on this website here: [Diamond Orchids](#). Peter is offering a 10% discount on orders for the GAOS members. To place an order, reach out to Peter via email ([lin.petert@yahoo.com](mailto:lin.petert@yahoo.com)) or phone (909-573-6751).

Looking forward to seeing all of you!

Darlene

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Meeting opens at 6:30 pm for social time. Meeting starts at 7 pm.

Dave Miller is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: GAOS March monthly meeting  
Time: Mar 8, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84585597146?pwd=NWxZdXFoQW5pRFZpZkYpYkY5oZllYdz09>

## GAOS February Meeting Notes

By Pam Everett

On February 8, GAOS conducted its monthly meeting on Zoom. 34 individuals attended. Darlene called the meeting to order at 7:00. She noted that GAOS, as well as all other orchid societies in the region, have canceled their annual orchid shows this spring. As a result, it is very important that we pay our dues as quickly as possible. Dave noted that GAOS does have continuing obligations such as liability insurance, Kiwanis Club facility rental, and more. Members should include a copy of the current membership application with dues.

Following the business meeting, Darlene presented the virtual show table, which this month included 41 orchids from several members.

Ray Barkalow, from FirstRay in North Carolina, was guest speaker. His presentation, Understanding Orchid Nutrition, covered several topics:

- What are orchids made of?
- What do nutrients do?
- Where do nutrients come from?
- How much do orchids need?
- How much are they really getting?
- How should plants be fed?

According to Ray, nitrogen is the most important consideration when fertilization, and he recommended a 12-1-1 formula. He also reminded us that it is most important to fertilize first before watering. But in watering, it is also important to "flood" plants each time, not letting the potting medium to dry completely. His advice...use a lower concentration of fertilizer, but fertilize more frequently.

Ray also discussed plant boosters, saying there really is no such thing, and plant stimulants, which he believes are real but much over-hyped. However, plant pro-biotics can be very effective, and Ray recommended a product called Quantum Total.

For those who want more details, Ray has his presentation on his website – [firstrays.com](http://firstrays.com)

The meeting concluded approximately 8:30.



## 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)*

# Greater Akron Orchid Society



## 2021 GAOS Program Calendar

- Jan 11 Managing an Orchid Collection – David Miller
- Feb 8 Understanding Orchid Nutrition - Ray Barlow
- Mar 8 Mini-Catts: Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature – Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids
- Apr 12 Understanding Light – Cheryl Erins
- May 10 Curating an Ever-Blooming Collection – Darlene Thompson
- Jun 14 Summer Picnic  
1<sup>st</sup> Member Plant Auction
- Jul 12 “Tolumnia Species and Hybrids” with Edgar Stehli
- Aug 9 TBD
- Sep 13 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Plant Auction
- Oct 11 TBD
- Nov 8 Holiday banquet / Elections
- Dec 13 No meeting

Cut Paphs from Cleveland Orchid Society's Anna Melaragno



## GAOS 2021 Dues

By Jane Bush

Greetings GAOS members and friends,

GAOS membership dues are **now due**. Dues are our biggest income and determine how much financially we can do as a society.

Attached (to the email along with this newsletter) is the correct **application for 2021**. **An application must accompany dues money**. The application is GAOS's record of your membership.

Because we are not meeting in person, you **must mail** your application and check to our treasurer Claudia.

Please note that there are some old forms of membership applications in cyber space. If you have not refreshed your browser, you may get one of these old forms. Please be sure to use the form attached to this email or the internet form that has **January 2021 (21-03)** in the bottom right corner.

Thank you for your support of GAOS through membership dues,

Jane Bush, Trustee

## Greater Akron Orchid Society Membership Application

To become a GAOS member or to renew your membership, complete the following form and present it or mail it with your payment to the society using the address below.

Dues are \$25 for a single/family membership

Make checks payable to GAOS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if you do not want your contact information on the published member list

Mail to:

**GAOS**  
830 Zeletta Dr.  
New Franklin, OH 44319



*Note – At this time, electronic or credit card payment is not available.*

## Cypripediums Q&A

By Michael Weinart



A few questions about Cypripedium cultivation came up in the group "Hardy Terrestrial Orchids". I would like to share the questions and my answers because this is interesting for all who want to grow hardy lady's slippers (Cypripedium).

Q: "What is the best type of Osmocote to feed Cypripediums?"

A: "I would use the easiest available type. The usage of fertilizer itself and an early application (March) is more important than the NPK ratio or the duration. The colouration of the leaves tells you if all is right. They should always be bright green. A yellowish green indicates nutrient deficiency (or too much sun or bad roots)."

Q: "Does the sort of fertilizer (more N... more P... or more K) have any effect on the darkness of color of the flower?"

A: "The temperature at the last stages of flower bud formation has an enormous effect, not the NPK ratio. Cool temperatures make intense colours. If you want best colouration of the flowers, control the temperature, not the NPK ratio."

Q: "The ratio of N P & K might have an effect too on underground growth. When leaves and flowers are formed at the start of the growth season, nitrogen would be more needed. While for the forming of roots and underground shoots for next season, phosphorus and potassium could be more needed."

A: "Nice theories about best NPK ratio. But who knows what your individual garden soil delivers to the plants at which time of year and which plant at which stage needs which NPK ratio. Forget about it, optimize your dosage with any normal garden fertilizer and you will have best growth in the garden. The soil mix has a much bigger effect on underground growth than the NPK ratio. If you want to have the best root system, go for the best soil mix under your(!) conditions. There is no perfect soil mix for all of us. Having said this, I would still say that any normal garden soil is good enough for cypripediums. Don't make it too complicated, enjoy the plants! The last 20% of improvements are only important for professional producers like me, but not for a hobbyist. Be content with 80% success, then you will only have 20% effort. The last 20% of improvements are the hard part, not recommended if you want to have fun..."

Q: "Because I grow in pots, albeit large shallow ones, application of fertilizer is more of an issue than when growing them in garden beds. There is too much risk of slug and snail damage here, and of root rot due to wet weather in winter, and heatwave damage in summer. A pot can be moved easily to a more suitable place. A snail and root rot resistant hybrid would be a big hit in regions with a coastal climate such as the Netherlands and UK."

A: "In pots the soil mix (mostly mineral) and soil life (low activity but not sterile) is most decisive for success, still not the exact NPK ratio. Secondly keep the pots cool by plunging them into sand beds with 1cm bigger empty pots. Thirdly keep slugs away with a barrier consisting of a vertically mounted copper plate (a few centimetres high). It's very effective (if no grass leans over). Still bed cultivation is easier and safer. Protection from excess rain can be made by a well aerated plastic shelter and the best spot during summer is the best spot whole year round. Cyps love to spread their roots horizontally in cool soil. Forget about a slug and root rot resistant hybrid. There are some which are less prone to root rot but still this is their typical way to react on stress and suboptimal conditions."

Please also see my planting advice:

[www.cypripedium.de/English/planting/planting.html](http://www.cypripedium.de/English/planting/planting.html)

## Student works to save endangered orchids with friendly fungi

By Candice Allouch, CASE News



Friendly fungi may be the key to helping vulnerable Florida orchid populations rebound.

Ellen Garcia, a graduate student in the [Department of Earth and Environment](#) and the [Agroecology program](#) in the [FIU Institute of Environment](#), knows all too well the struggle native Floridian orchids face. Of the nearly 100 species of orchids in Florida, many are considered threatened or endangered because of poaching, over-harvesting and habitat loss.

Garcia has focused her research on the relationship that orchids have with mycorrhizal fungi. Orchids rely on the fungi for germination and nutrient absorption. Orchids that are less choosy and are willing to pair with a variety of fungi species stand a better chance at beating extinction than orchids who want to pair up with a certain type of fungi.

The data she collected is used to determine optimal growing conditions for the threatened plants, as well as for gene-banking of the paired mycorrhizal fungi. The next phase of the project will include cryopreservation of the fungi for long-term storage and conservation. The goal is to inform orchid breeding programs and encourage reintroduction of these threatened plants from the lab back into their native habitats.

“Not only are orchids beautiful, but they are also part of our ecosystems in south Florida that are imperative to preserve for future generations,” Garcia said.

Garcia recently presented her research at the virtual Annual American Society for Horticultural Science [conference](#). She is also a recipient of the summer 2020 FIU Institute of Environment Graduate Student Project and Travel Grant.

“Working in science is fueled by collaboration, curiosity, perseverance, critical thinking, creativity, and experimentation,” she said. “It is challenging and very rewarding to problem solve and obtain results to be able to give back to the scientific community.”

*Garcia’s research is a part of a comprehensive study on mycorrhizal fungi, in-vitro micropropagation, gene-banking and acclimatization of endangered orchids under Assistant Teaching Professor Amir Khoddamzadeh and supported by the [United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s Innovation Curriculum for Agriculture Training and Career for Hispanics grant](#) and the [FIU Institute of Environment](#).*

## Judges Viewpoint

by Dave Miller, Great Lakes Judging Center



## Cut Orchid Flowers

For this issue, I am departing from the “judgy” stuff you might normally expect every month. It occurred to me as I cut the spike from my Phrag. Sorcerer’s Apprentice that you may enjoy a part of orchid growing that many do not know or even talk about and that is “Displaying Cut Orchids”. In the end, I was tired of five months of slipper flowers and so was my plant, so after forty-some flowers, I cut off the spike. I have done this in the past, just to let the plant recuperate. Besides, the plant was five feet tall and I do not have a lot of that kind of space indoors with good light.

Did you know that cut flowers may be exhibited in an AOS-sanctioned orchid show? Or did you know that cut orchid flowers can be AOS judged as well? Some of you may say “Yes Dave, I did know that cut orchids can be displayed in exhibits because I create orchid arrangements and have exhibited my arrangements at past shows”.

## Showing Cut Orchids

Well, the previous statement is probably the most generally utilized rule of orchid exhibition at sanctioned shows but it isn’t the only rule in play.

The AOS Handbook for Judging is very clear on the exhibition of cut orchid flowers.

Section 6.1 in the Handbook declares this in a very straight forward manner, I think. It states “AOS awards are designed to encourage and to recognize meritorious achievement in all fields of orchid endeavor. To accomplish this, awards are granted to individual persons, individual orchid plants, groups of orchid plants, cut flowers and orchid arrangements, all in accordance with established rules.” So, you see, cut orchid flower spikes are held in the same status as individual plants, groups of plants and orchid arrangements.

In addition to AOS rules of exhibition, most local orchid societies also publish exhibition rules for their shows. In most cases, the important rules pertaining to cut orchids would be simply described as a) no cut orchids in live orchid displays, b) no live orchids in cut orchid displays, and c) no orchid arrangements in either kind of display. There are several ways to handle these rules. First, most societies will designate an exhibit space named “Overflow” for such items that aren’t in a themed exhibit but the owner still wants to show it off. The Overflow table is a great place for individual cut orchid sprays.

If more than one plant’s flowers are to be exhibited then I would recommend a personal exhibit space if your society allocates space for personal displays. Most societies also offer exhibit space for orchid arrangements. Although orchid arrangements are quite artistic, we are done talking about them.



Back to the Sorcerer's Apprentice. Off with his head, I believe someone in history said and so it was. There were three really good flowers remaining on the branched inflorescence so I trimmed the growing tips and put them in a small vase (really a champagne bottle but that too is another story). You can see how nice these look in their tiny vase and the good news is the flowers lasted eight days, almost ten for one.

Take off any leaves that might be in the water as they will rot. I like to add a teaspoon of Hydrogen Peroxide for good measure and I also like to put a cotton ball to plug the top. The plug dramatically reduces evaporation. And I use good quality water, seldom tap water.

This kind of mini-display could not be judged however, as judging requires that a "complete inflorescence including the first leaf" be included when judging cut orchids. The purpose is that even though we may be judging orchid flowers, they are always in the context of a complete inflorescence.

There are a number of orchid flowers that hold well after being cut, the best coming to mind are many Dendrobiums, the Phalaenopsis section, and Phalaenopsis flower spikes. Surprisingly, slipper orchids are good candidates including Cypripediums.

I will close with a little story. About five years ago when I started growing Cyps in my garden, I had a stunning little clump in late bud two weeks before judging. I watched it every day and only four days from judging, when I inspected in the morning there was a nibbled hole in the pouch made overnight by a pesky rabbit. So, the next year, I put a huge pot around the clump starting two weeks before judging. Five days before judging I cut the inflorescences and "vased" them. And sure enough, the flowers held beautifully and on the right you see Cypripedium Philipp 'Mevad' HCC/AOS proudly displayed and judged in its mini-vase which was formerly holding soy sauce.

I have used this method a number of times and also have other Cyps that were awarded having been judged as cut flowers and they remained grandly displayed in the show's Overflow exhibit.

Contact Dave at [dcmjpasmil@aol.com](mailto:dcmjpasmil@aol.com) or call or text to 330-307-7189.



# Photo Gallery

Home Displays  
Feb 2021



Angraecum sesquipedale  
Wayne R.



Angraecum sesquipedale  
Frank S.



Dendrobium Little Sweet Scent 'NN'  
Susan Bartholomew



Blc Mem Grant Eichler Lennette  
HCC/AOS  
Bernie S.



Bulbo. brevibrachiatum  
Wayne R.



Dendrobium auriculatum  
Lore Y.



*Bulbophyllum breviscarpum*  
Pam E.



*C. Big Ben Blue Mountain* BCC/SOS  
Frank S.



*Cattleya trianae 'Hope'*  
Frank S.



*Cattleya gaskelliana* var. semi-concolor  
Wayne R.



*Cattleya Gaskelliana*  
Andrea A.



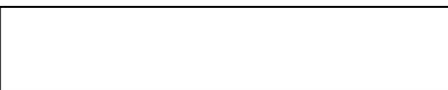
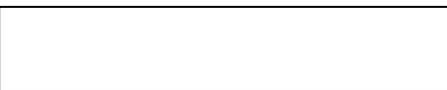
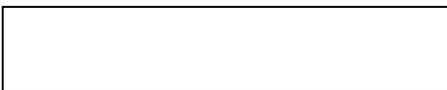
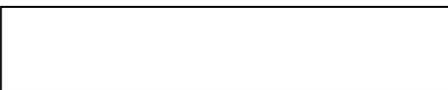
*Cattleya intermedia*  
Darlene T.



*Ctt. Dal's Buddy* (C. Beaufort x Ctt. Aussie Sunset)  
Andrea A.



*Den Yellow Magic 'Festival'*  
Chester





Den. Stardust 'Firebird'  
Dave



Dendrobium Merlin  
Wayne R.



Laelia lundii  
Edgar S.



Bc. Nakornpathome Silver  
Pam E.



Paph. Honey Dew  
x  
Paph. liemianum  
Bernie S.



Phaius Dan Rosenberg 'Tropical Ice' HCC/AOS  
Lore Y.



Stelis superbiens  
Edgar S.



Tubecentron Hsinying Girl X sibling  
Edgar S.