

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

March 2024

President

Craig Miller

justcraig@sssnet.com

Vice President

Darryl Everett

dweverett@aol.com

Treasurer

Jane Bush

bushjj@juno.com

Secretary

Pam Everett

pjoeverett@aol.com

Editor

Brandon Spannbauer

braxtonds@gmail.com

Trustee

Barb Ford

baf67427@sbcglobal.net

Previous Meeting Minutes

In our February meeting we discussed 'Getting Your Orchids Ready for the Show'

We had a great spring show. A big thank you to everyone who donated their, effort and money into making the show a success and a big welcome to our new members!

Meeting summary below (Page 4):



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 6pm

Zoom details below (Page 3):

Next Meeting

Monday, Mar 11, 2024

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

Topic

Program: **How to Grow Orchids**
Speaker: **Welcome to New Members**

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

Meeting details below (Page 3):

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Email: 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

Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/

www.gcos.org

West Shore Orchid Society

www.facebook.com/WestShoreOrchidSociety/

westshoreorchidsociety.org/

Meeting Schedule

GAOS has hybrid meetings (both In-Person and Virtual) and meets the 2nd 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

Mar 11	How to Grow Orchids / Welcome to New Members
Apr 8	How to Grow Slipper Orchids – Darlene Thompson
May 13	1 st Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion
Jun 10	How to Grow Miniatures – Olga Shostachuk



Photo of the Month: One of our display plants - 14 year old Phalaenopsis amabilis in flower. One plant with multiple growths. – Sunnyview 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

Thanks,

Brandon Spannbauer, Editor

March 11 Meeting Info

Our meeting this month will be all about Orchid basics, how to grow our orchids, and a welcome to New Members. Spring is a great time to acquire new orchids, now we just need the info to keep them alive and thrive. Feel free to bring in any blooming orchids or plants that you have questions about to the meeting.

Topic

Program: **How to Grow Orchids**
Speaker: **Welcome to New Members**

Zoom Meeting Details

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

Time: March 11, 2024 06:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86777169999?pwd=MXJtOGVQNHlXUUp1dnR3Q05tcTJlZz09>

GAOS February Meeting Notes

By Pam Everett

GAOS held its regularly scheduled meeting February 12 with 23 people in attendance. Craig Miller called the meeting to order at 6:45 and explained that the society has found a new place to store materials for orchid shows after the current storage facility no longer provides adequate entry times. The new facility is located very near to the Kiwanis Club building and costs \$50 a month.

Craig also congratulated Jane Bush and Darlene Thompson for the AOS awards they received at the January show in Cleveland.

Brandon reminded everyone that ads for our show program book are now due, and we are currently behind last year's ad volume.

There were 17 plants at the show table

After a brief break, Jane explained that GAOS will be registering show plants online; and she explained where to find online presentation on our website. She then explained how the online registration process worked.

Following that, there was a general discussion regarding the March show covering everything from pre-show setup to post-show teardown, including conversation regarding setup for our Society's display.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

2024 GAOS Dues

2024 GAOS dues will remain at \$25 for membership. Dues allows us to host our annual orchid show as well as bring in amazing speakers to showcase their orchid knowledge. Each membership will receive a free orchid during our holiday party at the November meeting. You can either send in payment to the address on the form provided with this email or on the website, or in person at one of our meetings. Thank you

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
728 Apache Run
Macedonia, OH 44056



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 1st Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion
- June 10 "How to Grow Miniatures" – Olga Shostachuk
- July 8 Summer Picnic
- Aug 12 2nd 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*

2024 GAOS Spring Show



Our 22nd annual Greater Akron Orchid Society orchid show is behind us and what a wonderful show it was. The combination of vendors and exhibitors made for a seemingly endless array of plants showing their best colors. Over the two-day show hundreds of guests came to see all that we do and all we enjoy as an orchid society. I personally overheard many conversations about re-potting, watering, lighting, arranging and countless comments about how beautiful the plants were. Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who helped put together the show. It takes a lot hands to pull a show like this off. No matter how small our large your commitment was, it was much appreciated by everyone.

Again, thanks!

Craig Miller



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

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.

Repotting Catasetinae: Feb – May

By Fred Clark, SVO

It's time to repot your Catasetinae! Repotting is fun, laborious and, at times, nerve-wracking. It is an important step in making sure your plants are happy and healthy, and it's the best way to ensure lots of beautiful flowers.

Catasetinae have seasonal growth habits and flowering patterns. To understand how to grow and repot them, it's very useful to learn about the environmental conditions in their natural habitat, where they have adapted to survive and thrive. Catasetinae grow primarily in areas with a warm, wet summer followed by a dry, slightly cooler winter, thus these plants have evolved a very specific seasonal growth habit. In the spring, with the days lengthening and just before the onset of the rainy season, they begin growing and developing a root system. This is all done in anticipation of the summer rains when there is plentiful moisture and nutrients for the plants.

I follow this rule: "The best time to re-pot Catasetinae is with the beginning of new growth in the early spring".

Repotting with the onset of new growth ensures that the new roots, which initiate after the new growth by about 2-3 weeks, will grow directly into the new media. This eliminates the chance of damaging the new roots. This is important as Catasetinae produce just one flush of roots each season, and early damage to the new root system will severely limit the plant's ability to grow and flourish. I can't overemphasize the importance of the timing for repotting. It's like the emphasis I place on waiting to water until after the new roots are 3-6" long.

At Sunset Valley Orchids we use AAA sphagnum moss from New Zealand (offered in 3 kg bales on our website). After trying several types of media we have found that this premium-quality moss produces the best growth. First, we slightly moisten the new moss.

When it's just right, it feels moist, but when you squeeze it tightly, water does not drip out. When using sphagnum moss for potting, we like to leave an air space beneath the moss and the bottom of the pot. This assures excellent drainage. It takes a little trial and error to get the air space right, but you will master it with a little practice. Styrofoam peanuts or similar inert material can also be used under the moss to provide this extra air space and drainage.

Repotting:

In the early spring, with the first signs of new growth, Catasetinae plants are still dormant and dry. Repotting should occur with the old media still dry. We use sterile clippers to cut away the old, unneeded moss. With larger plants, we usually trim away the moss farthest away from the newest growth. This trimming process cuts through the old moss and roots. We like to form a 2-3" long tapered (carrot-shaped) stump from the old moss and roots. This provides a form around which the new moss can be wrapped. It helps to hold the plant steady in its pot until new roots are produced and re-established. We orient the plant, so the new growth has room for 2 years of space for the growth. As with all orchids Catasetums don't like to be over potted either. It's better to under pot than over pot.

For plants purchased from SVO last year that are still in 3" pots, I recommend the "slip-potting" method of repotting. Just wrap new moss around the existing moss and slip into a slightly larger pot.

Dividing:

The best time to divide Catasetinae is also with the onset of new growth. They do well when divided into pieces no smaller than two or three pseudobulbs. Divisions are made by cutting with a sterile tool or by carefully pulling the pseudobulbs apart.

Watering:

Watering should begin when the new roots are 3-6" long. It will take the plants 4-6 weeks after the onset of new vegetative growth for the new roots to grow to the desired length. Waiting for the beginning of watering is not easy, but we have learned through trial and error that it is much better to wait to water than it is to start watering too soon.

GAOS and Welcome to New Members!

On March 2-3, we had our 2024 spring show at Dayton Nursery to much success! Thank you to everyone who visited, participated and who helped put the show together!

We kicked off the spring season with a bang. It was a beautiful weekend to come out and enjoy our orchid show. Thank you to Dayton Nursery for helping us make a seamless transition to our new location for the second year.

Thank you to especially to everyone who helped donate their time, money, resources and knowledge to making this show a success. It takes a staggering amount of time and effort for this undertaking and many hands make light work. Most of our show committee have been doing this for many, many years so please consider lending a hand next year. There are many jobs with tasks large and small, all are welcome and encouraged to help out in the future.

To the new members, our 2024 meetings will have a combination of in person and Zoom meetings. Details are provided in our Program Calendar, as well as in our monthly newsletters and on our website and Facebook page. If you are not receiving our newsletters, please email us to be added to the list.

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

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania's spring show is March 16-17. Their full flyer is included as an attachment to the email with this newsletter



The flyer features a vibrant image of yellow and purple orchids with dark spots. In the top right corner, a pink box contains the text "MARCH 16 & 17 2024". The main title "Orchid SPRING SHOW" is written in a mix of cursive and bold pink fonts. Below this, it says "THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS Orchid Obsession". The event details are organized into three columns: Saturday March 16 (Exhibits 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., Vendors 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.), Sunday March 17 (Exhibits 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., Vendors 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.), and the location (Crowne Plaza Suites, Pittsburgh South, 164 Fort Couch Rd., Pittsburgh PA 15241, across from South Hills Village). The flyer also lists "EXHIBITS", "CLASSES", "REPOTTING", and "SALES". At the bottom, it states "ADMISSION \$5 (MEMBERS & UNDER 18 FREE)" and the website "WWW.OSWP.ORG".

MARCH 16 & 17 2024

Orchid SPRING SHOW
THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS
Orchid Obsession

SATURDAY MARCH 16 EXHIBITS 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M. VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.	CROWNE PLAZA SUITES PITTSBURGH SOUTH 164 FORT COUCH RD. PITTSBURGH PA 15241 (ACROSS FROM SOUTH HILLS VILLAGE)	EXHIBITS CLASSES REPOTTING SALES
SUNDAY MARCH 17 EXHIBITS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M. VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.		

ADMISSION \$5 (MEMBERS & UNDER 18 FREE)
WWW.OSWP.ORG

Stubborn Orchids

By Brandon Spannbauer

A post dedicated to showing off blooms that never make it to a meeting.



Bc. Keowee 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS

This is supposed to be a Bc. Keowee, which is a medium/large cattleya with bright yellow flowers with a red spotted lip. I purchased this plant online last spring and it clearly is mislabeled which is always disappointing. This flower has pretty thick substance to it and the lip in particular is hard almost like a plastic. So far, the blooms have lasted 6 weeks. If anyone knows the ID of this plant, I would be grateful.



Pleurothallis grobyi

This plant is another one that has a questionable ID. I acquired it in 2014 from Dr. Eren when he closed his greenhouse in Amhurst, Ohio. I spent years trying to figure out what it needs and it has only started blooming this past year. It was kept too dry; it is now still mounted on its original mount but sitting in a clay pot with a bed of moss to keep it more moist. The blooms are incredibly tiny, just the size of a pen tip, and only last about a week or so. If you could confirm or deny this ID that would be helpful too.

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

greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

New Orchids to Science

There are about 11 species of *Kuhlhasseltia* around the world, including two species found in China. The difference between *Kuhlhasseltia* [#motuoensis](#) and other species of *Kuhlhasseltia* is obvious. The middle part of the lip of the new one is yellow, with two rows of toothed protrusions on each side of its outer edge. Small lobes on the front lip are nearly circular, and there are green spots between the two lobes. – Novataxa 2023



Upcoming Orchid Events

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

March 16-17 at Crowne Plaza Suites Hotel
164 Fort Couch Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

<https://www.oswp.org/>

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

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



Photo Gallery

GAOS Show

Mar 2024







Photo Gallery

Show Table

Feb 2024



