

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

May 2024

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Previous Meeting Minutes

Because of the solar eclipse, our April meeting was conducted on Zoom. We discussed 'How to Grow Slipper Orchids' with Darlene Thompson

Her entire presentation can be found here on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3P066fRsg>

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 6:00pm

Zoom details below (Page 3):

Next Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2024

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

Topic

Program: **1st Member Plant Auction**
Speaker: **'How I Grow Orchids' – Kat Martz**

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

May 13 1st Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion

June 10 How to Grow Miniatures – Olga Shostachuk

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

Aug 12 2nd Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion



Photo of the Month: L. sincorana var coerulea – Sunset Valley 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

May 13 Meeting Info

Our program for the May meeting is our 1st member plant auction. All are invited to bring any orchid plants or orchid related items they want to sell for the auction. This is a silent auction where buyers pencil their bid on an auction slip and the next buyer then comes along and pencils in a higher bid. The highest bidder at the end of the night wins the plant and pays the treasurer what he bid. 25% of the winning bid price goes to GAOS and 75% goes to the seller. Buyers and sellers are responsible for checking with the treasurer that night for payments. We do not accept credit cards so please bring cash or check with you for the auction.

Topic

Program: **1st Member Plant Auction**
Speaker: **Member Discussion**

'How I Grow Orchids' – Mini Presentation by Kat Martz

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: May 13, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85648526010?pwd=TU9pYmhJeUhsU2ppNEEzVkFjdWxpQT09>

Summering Orchids Outside

By Darlene Thompson

Whether you are a windowsill or greenhouse grower, the summer presents a great opportunity to let your orchids enjoy the natural light, air movement, and humidity. Plus, it gives you a chance to clean your growing area and save on energy. In this brief article, I suggest some things to consider when placing your orchids in their new summer homes.

Before taking your plants outside, you should monitor the temperature by checking the Weather Channel or using a min/max thermometer in your growing area. Regardless of the method you chose, you want to make sure the minimum night temperatures outside do not go below the suggested temperatures for your orchids. If you have a variety of orchids, they may not be able to all go outside at once. A good rule of thumb is to not put out your warm growers, like phalaenopsis, until you can plant tomatoes, which is between 50°F and 55°F.

Just as you do anywhere else, you want to make sure your growing area has the right balance of shade and sun. Some outside growers have shade houses for their orchids. For the rest of us, we have to find an alternate way of providing our plants with the right amount of shade. Placing orchids under a shade tree or hanging the orchids from the tree is a great option. Last year, I covered a wire shelving rack with a sheer curtain to protect my orchids from the direct sunlight on my balcony. Be creative and resourceful when finding a safe summer home for your orchids. Avoid placing them directly on the ground as this is an open invitation for creepy critters to invade your pots.

The higher summer temperatures mean more watering. Thankfully, rainfall will help you out a little here. While your orchids will love the occasional shower of fresh, clean rain water, Mother Nature can also over water. When there is heavy rainfall, orchids can become waterlogged, especially if you have potted plants. Waterlogged pots increase the probability for roots and new growth to rot. This is especially true when the rain is accompanied by a cool front. To protect orchids, you can simply place something made of water proof material over your plants when the rains are heavy. This could be a piece of fiberglass or a small tarp. If you have saucers under your pots, empty them after each rainfall or you risk rotting the roots.

Some heat loving plants appreciate the higher summer temperatures. However, those that tend to grow in cool conditions will not. To give my cooler-growing Colmanara (*Odontocidium*) some heat relief, a friendly local grower suggested that I place it inside a large clay pot. I then put the clay pot in a saucer of water. The clay pot wicks up the water from the saucer to help keep the Colmanara cooler on warm days. If you do this, be sure to put stones or packing peanuts between the clay pot and the plastic pot. I found this technique very helpful and plan to repeat it this summer.

Finally, you want to watch out for pests. Make sure you are checking your plants and your growing area ever so often for pests. This includes checking under pots where snails like to hide. Remember the best defense against pests is a healthy plant. Pests target stressed plants, so monitor the condition of your plants. Make sure they are getting the right amount of water, fertilizer, light, and shade.

I hope that you find the article helpful in preparing for summer growing. In addition to these suggestions, be sure to talk to other society members to get additional advice and more specifics about summering your orchids outside in northeast Ohio. Your orchids will love you for it.

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*

Monthly Checklist for May and June

By AOS

CATTLEYA

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

PAPHIOPEDILUM

The *Paphiopedilum* Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in *Paphiopedilum* fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.



PHALAENOPSIS

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.



When Can I Put My Orchids Outside?

By Dave Miller

Now that spring is approaching, we want to get our orchids outside as quickly as possible. It is now late April approaching May and we are at the height of desire to get our orchids jump started for the Summer. Well, nice plan, and in past years, a good plan. But, Mother Nature has her ways and not always fitting our ways. I generally put half of my orchid collection outside for the Summer (notice I did not say Spring). Keep in mind that most of our orchids are tropical and do not like extended periods of temperatures below 60 degrees. I use the general rule of "orchids outside between Memorial Day and Labor Day". In some years I am lucky to put them out May 15 and keep many out past September 15 approaching October 1. However, I have damaged some of my orchids staying out till October.

I know of other orchidists who are willing to move their plants in and out each day and night to get that early breath of warm weather but I am not one of those. Where others are willing to carry them to the garage each night, I am not. When I put my plants out, they stay out. About two weeks ago when the weather was routinely in the 40-50's overnight, I put out my cold-loving orchids. Cymbidiums, nobile Dendrobiums, Dendrobium moniliforme and Neofinetia (Vanda) falcata all tolerate very cold temperatures so some years they go out in late March. As you can see by the photos, Mother Nature tricked me and the overnight temps went back down to the 20's and snowed. Oops. Now, these plants will tolerate snow but not frost so a game of risk is in play. As I awoke that morning several weeks ago, they were snowbound. So, in they came and have remained so ever since. They are just fine.

On April 20th, we had a hard frost and even my *Bletilla striata* clumps got frost-bitten. These are hardy perennial orchids that grow in my flower garden. I have had these clumps for several years but as you can see in the photo, the frost killed all of the tender growth. I don't know the extent of damage yet, perhaps losing only recent growth but possibly losing all of the flowers. Yikes. Even Carolyn Bolton in Pittsburgh has suffered the same fate on her *Bletilla* clumps.

I have found that four months of Ohio Summer is enough time to encourage strong flowering of most of my orchids. Be patient and you will be rewarded with blooms in time for show season next year.

Orchid Tent (Inspiration)

By Mitchell Edwards via Facebook

Thought I would go ahead and brave posting my orchid tent setup. It took about 8 months to fine tune but everything seems happy, no recent losses and the flowers are poppin!



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



Blc. Copper Queen (Rlc. Toshi Aoki x Bl. Richard Mueller 4N)

This cross is from H&R and its 3rd blooming and has 4 large flowers. I'm very happy with the size and shape and the deep, rich yellow color. Like some Richard Mueller crosses, it has a very slight color change from a pastel orange to yellow as the flowers age.



Bl. Yellow Bird / Phalaenopsis Wall

Bl. Yellow Bird (Bl. Richard Mueller 4N x B. nodosa)

I bought a community pot of Bl. Yellow Bird almost 2 years ago from H&R Nurseries and this is the first to bloom from the batch. I was quite surprised at how quickly these have grown, I kept 2 plants from the compot and both are spilling over their 4-inch pots. This is a favorite and vigorous grower and bloomer amongst many hobbyists.

Phalaenopsis Wall

Last month, I shared the problems with pests that I've had with Phalaenopsis in the past. In the last couple of years, I have begun trying my hand with them again and they seem to be responding well. I have them hanging on the wall with lights above them. They provide color and blooms for months at a time.

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

A new species, *Bulbophyllum* [#gopalianum](#), is described from the [#montane](#) sub-tropical forest of Mizoram (India) in the westernmost area of the Indo-Myanmar [#biodiversityhotspot](#). The new species belongs to the section Lemniscata and shows close morphological affinity to *B. suavissimum* and *B. shanicum*. The new species is assessed as [#criticallyendangered](#) (CR) based on its very small and restricted population size.– Novataxa 2024



Upcoming Orchid Events

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>

A beautiful grouping of *Cattleya mossiae* var. *semi alba* presented at the Cartago Show. This amazing selection of plants was bred by the talented Alejandro Rodríguez Cheung, who is a top breeder of high-quality orchids in Costa Rica. - Photo captured by Jorge Enrique Céspedes Trigueros



Photo Gallery – April Zoom Show Table



Lc, Love Passion 'Orange Beauty'
x Spring Fires 'Lenette #3'



Lc, Aussie Sunset 'Cosmic Fire' HCC/AOS



Paph. (Arafura Sea x Lippowunder) 'Full Sun'
x (Arafura Sea x Lippowunder) 'Red Sea'



Prag. Memoria Estelle Getty



Lc, Bonanza Queen x Lc Liptonia



Lc. Cariad's Mini-Quinee 'Angel Kiss' HCC/AOS



Slc. World Vacation '5th Avenue'



C. walkeriiana coerulea



C. lueddemanniana



Lc, Dorothy Warne 'Favorite' AM/AOS
— a poor picture but the plant deserves recognition
as it has 6 spikes with 3-5 flowers on each spike.

Photo Gallery

WSOS Spring Show

April 27-28, 2024



