

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

## November 2019

President

**Jane Bush**

Vice President

**Barb Ford**

Treasurer

**Claudia Englert**

Secretary

**Lore Yu**

Editor

**Brandon  
Spannbauer**

Trustee

**Dave Miller**

### **Minutes of Oct. 2019 Meeting**

Jane announced that we will be having elections in November, the slate of officers to be voted on:

President	Jane Bush
Vice President	Darlene Thompson
Secretary	Lore Yu
Treasurer	Claudia Englert
Newsletter	Brandon Spannbauer

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.

Our November meeting will be the Holiday Banquet and Elections. Please feel free to bring a family member and a potluck dish to share. We will also have our holiday plant giveaway so make sure to come and enjoy the festivities.

**Note our early start time of 6:30pm**

### **Upcoming Business**

Edgar will have an Open House again in 2020 or call for an appointment. Enjoy a fun experience and find some great orchids!

<https://windsweptorchids.com/>

Wayne will not be having an open house but anyone can call Wayne and make an appointment. Wayne has an abundance of supplies for every orchid need and a satisfying variety of orchids.

<http://www.orchidmix.com/>

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, Nov 11, 2019. **Doors open 6:00 pm, and meeting starts 6:30 pm.** Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Holiday Banquet / Elections**

Speaker:

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

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

## President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

This past month brought both bad news and good news for GAOS. I got a call from Rohr's that their greenhouse furnace went out and they would not be able to provide a heated greenhouse for our show in March. So, after 4 months of effort planning for our 2020 show, we were back to square one.

The next day, Jim Bell and I visited Dayton Nursery and found another suitable place for the show. In that meeting, Tom, the owner, said that he had a 2-hour radio show every Saturday morning with 35,000 to 45,000 listeners each week and invited GAOS to do a 15-minute segment with him the week before our show to highlight GAOS and our show. That is great advertising for us! Darlene has agreed to be our voice for this. Thank you both Tom and Darlene.

Our annual end-of-the-year banquet is this coming Monday, November 11. Members are invited to bring spouses and guest to this event. Please bring a dish to share and your own table setting. This is also the time for our member plant giveaway. You must have your name badge on in order to receive a plant. If you are like me and take yours home instead of returning it at the end of a meeting many times by mistake, be sure you bring it to the banquet to get your plant.

2019 has brought us good fun and fellowship and the sad loss of our dear friend and tremendous GAOS supporter Paul Bujak. As we reflect, I want to thank Dave, Barb, Lore, Claudia, and especially Brandon with his great job as newsletter editor for all their hard work that made GAOS's 2019 a success. I am anxiously looking forward to another great year in 2020.

TIDBIT: If you are not sure if those old, dry roots on your orchid plant are good or bad, soak them in hot tap water for a time. If they plump up, then keep them; if they do not plump up, then cut them off.

## 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.**

Nov 11	Holiday Banquet / Elections
Dec 9	<b><u>No Meeting</u></b>
Jan 13	TBD
Feb 10	TBD



**Photo of the Month:** Cattleya trianae 'Okada' FCC/JGP

A beautiful gold medalist in Japan in 2012

## Orchid Diseases Part 2 by Jane Bush, Review

By: Lore Yu

### Calcium Deficiency

Calcium contributes to stronger cell walls of plants. Thick, strong cell walls resist fungal and bacterial infections. When calcium is deficient, new foliage is affected first. Calcium does not move through plants so it must be given steadily to plants, especially during the growth cycle. Phosphorous competes with Calcium so caution must be used with it during the growth cycle of an orchid. There are many products available to deliver calcium to plants.

### Magnesium Deficiency

Chloric coloring and cupped leaves might indicate magnesium deficiency. Magnesium is a mobile nutrient so it can be given whenever the deficiency is noticed as it moves to where it is needed. Old leaves and growth suffer first. Epsom Salts can be added to the water to correct this issue.

### Salt Toxicity

Too much fertilizer or an accumulation of unused fertilizer given to a plant will lead to a toxic environment and burn the roots of plants, thus leading to dehydration. Dilute fertilizer and fully flush pots often to avoid the dangerous build-up of fertilizer.

### Cold Damage/Sun and Heat Damage

If an orchid gets too cold, it might suffer damage from cells that are killed by the cold. Always know the temperatures your orchids can safely tolerate.

Sun damage can be avoided by knowing the light requirements of the plant and always moving them slowly into more light from less.

### Bud Blast

This is a natural defense when anything causes an orchid to be unhappy. Correcting the environment will avoid this from happening in the future.

pH should always be between 5.5 and 6.5 for most orchids to allow for maximum absorption of nutrients.

Edema happens when water is pulled too fast into the plant by the roots and cells are damaged. Avoid watering on cold nights.

More information can be found here:

<https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/OrchidPestsandDiseasesbySueBottom.pdf>

Some pests that cause trouble with orchids are scale, mealy bugs, thripes, mites, aphids, white fly, slugs, snails, and chewing insects. Inspect plants often, keep plants clean, treat plants immediately when a pest is found, and keep the growing area clean.

## So, you've been told you can't grow Masdevallias!

By Lehua Orchids

We get the "I can't grow Masds" comment all the time. Here's our answer to that "No you can't grow every Masdevallia, but in all probability you can grow some of them. It is just a question of figuring out which ones". Our article is designed to help you do just that. Hopefully this will help you enjoy these wonderful, free blooming, colorful orchids.

You've been told Masdevallias can only be grown in San Francisco and the Northwest in the cool damp climates of those regions. Whoever told you this was right, but not completely correct. The true answer is you can only grow some of the plants in this wonderful, colorful, floriferous genus in any particular location. There is nowhere, including San Francisco and the Northwest, where every Masdevallia can be grown. Think about it. There are at least 360 species in the genus, depending upon what the taxonomists have done this week. It stands to reason that there is going to be significant diversity in the growth habits of this many species. And when you add the vigor of the hybrid lots of different plants will adapt to your local conditions. So let's get growing.

So where do I begin, you are asking yourself? How do I ever find something that has a chance of growing where I live and grow my orchids? Our suggestion, go to your local and regional shows. We have many show vendors who have experience growing in our region. Don't get tense about a few degrees difference in regional temperatures; almost all orchids will adapt to small variations with no ill effects.

What should be my first Masdevallia, you wonder? Our recommendation is to begin with a smaller flowering hybrid. These are more floriferous and seem to us to be more adaptable to different climates. If you do start with a larger flowering plant, again the recommendation is to start with a hybrid. Our observation is that if the plant moves to a warmer area it will flower but the flowers will tend to be smaller (judges please note). The offsetting benefit is the colors become more intense. If you are a species grower, our recommendation is to proceed cautiously. These will adapt but not as readily as the hybrids. For example, in Hawaii we have killed too many *Masd. ignea* to count. It truly requires a cool temperature and really does belong in the Northwest.

But its primary hybrid *Heathii* (x *veitchiana*) grows vigorously and flowers in profusion for us. At the same time, we can grow and flower *coccinea*, but its hybrids do very poorly for us. Go figure. If you aren't patient, why are you growing orchids at all? A suggestion for species growers – the natural growing conditions of species can be found in the *OrchidWiz* database. Review these and see if you can approximate these conditions in your circumstances.

These are things that work for us in our circumstances, together with some thoughts that might work in different areas.

Potting: we use plastic pots to save weight. If we did not have to ship, we would use clay pots. Unglazed, these pots provide wicking evaporative cooling. If you want to go to the next level, try CoolPots created by The Orchid Gallery in Chattanooga. These are designed to have a much higher evaporative area and a drainage system that allows the pot to retain water in the bottom. They also look good. We have tried some and actually for the first time ever, kept an *ignea* alive and growing; not flowering, but we can't have everything. Other Masdevallias that we have tried in the CoolPots have flourished and flowered freely.

Media: we use a mix of Orchinata, the New Zealand pine bark, 5A size (3/4"), and large Perlite, 4 parts to 1 part. This gives great drainage and allows air to get to the roots. We tried adding coir to retain moisture but found it breaks down too quickly leading to the need to repot to avoid root rot.

Watering: at an absolute minimum, we water once a week, more often if the weather is warm and dry. We water by hand, filling the pot and allowing the water to drain out and bring fresh air to the roots. Remember these are epiphytic, growing on high tree branches in tropical rain forests. They are used to a daily supply of water. Masds have no ability to retain moisture; the roots are thin; there are no pseudo-bulbs; and the leaves are not particularly thick. So frequent watering is vital.

Fertilizer: as with most orchids, the mantra is "weekly, weakly". We fertilize once a week at a low rate of 100 parts per million nitrogen. We use 14-4-14 Calcium Magnesium (CalMag). It has 5% calcium and 2% magnesium. Because we have no minerals in our water we use a supplement to increase the calcium to 7.5%. Find out how much calcium your water contains before you follow this approach. However the orchids we grow do seem to benefit significantly from high levels of calcium.

We add a seaweed supplement to our fertilizer simply to ensure there are adequate trace elements in our application. We believe this is over-kill; modern fertilizers all have good trace elements. However, we have been doing it for years and it works. We hate to change a process that clearly works. An observation on our part, weekly may be too often. We fertilize weekly as we are trying to get plants ready for market, so we encourage growth. When we remember, we only fertilize our keeper bench every other week. This seems adequate.

Planting: our observation is that Masds like to be over-potted. They grow rapidly and when they fill the pot completely, they seem more reluctant to flower. Our belief is that the dense growth does not allow light to the base of the leaf where the flower spike originates. When we transplant, we only half-fill the pot, leaving plenty of room for growth.

Pests: the biggest problem for us is snails, tiny bush snails that get down into the media and eat the roots. Also we have seen large slugs in the media. We find the problem when we lift the plants by the leaves and the plant exits the pot with very short roots. Methaldehyde works well, especially when drenched into the media. We have aphid infestations when the weather warms and the buds are developing. Almost every chemical rated for aphids is effective. Just remember to use more than one mode of action chemical so that the insect does not develop a tolerance to the chemical. We have seen an occasional mealy bug and scale once. We attribute both instances to the same problem, plants that are too crowded creating an inviting environment for these pests.

Fungal problems: In Hawaii we have many fungal issues that are worse when the weather is cool and damp. We have encountered anthracnose on one hybrid. We had this diagnosed by our agricultural extension service and applied a drench of the appropriate chemical. It solved the problem very quickly. When we say drench, we mean getting the chemical down into the roots like a good watering

Air Movement: we believe the plants benefit from good air movement; that includes below the bench as well as above.

Temperatures: here (in Hawai'i) we experience typical summer daytime highs of 85°F and lows of around 70°F. When it gets too warm, more shade, more air movement and lots and lots of water. Your plant will survive and will bounce right back when your weather cools down.

Our recommendation is go out and find a Masdevallia that you think will grow compatibly with the way you grow your other orchid genera. Treat it the same way as you treat your other orchids and watch it. Observation of any Masd will tell you very quickly whether it is happy or not. If you plant seems to be deteriorating, try something a little different. Masds are very responsive. You will know very quickly whether you have improved the circumstance or have worsened the problem. The chances are you will be rewarded with a very happy plant that will provide you with cheerful, colorful flowers several times a year. Before you know it, you will have an exhibit quality plant that will be the envy of all your fellow orchidists.



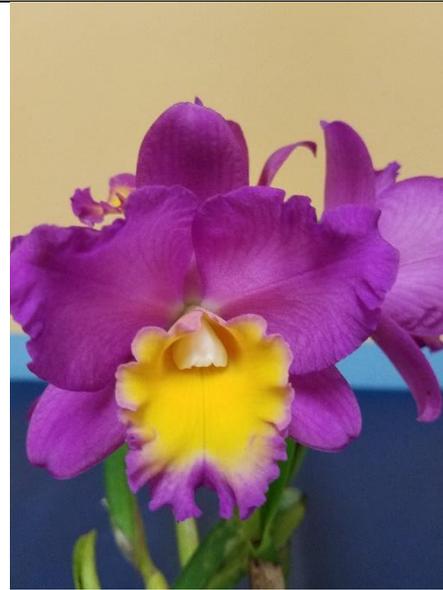
Masd Steve Vance (Copper Angel x princeps) - By Brandon Spannbauer

# Photo Gallery

Oct 2019 Meeting



Bc Sunny Delight x Richard Muller  
Brandon Spannbauer



Blc Sweet Treat  
Wayne Roberts



Paph Herbert Bernhart  
Wayne Roberts



Neo Lou Sneary  
Pam Everett



Lc Renate  
Pam Everett



NoID Phal  
Kurt Nestel



Haraella retrocalla  
Lore Yu



Phal bellina  
Lore Yu



Lc Mary Elizabeth Bolin  
Mary Bell



NoID Cattleya  
Mary Bell



Cattleya 'Hot Pink' cross  
Mary Bell



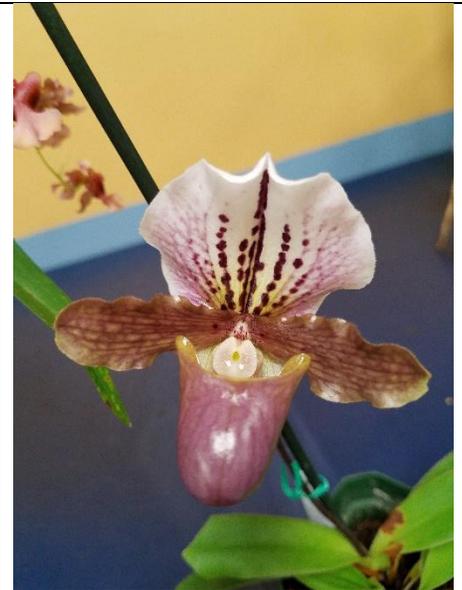
Onc Rosy Sunset  
Bernie Skalak



Blc Oconee x Chocolate Drop  
Frank Skalak



Lyc Nagai International  
Frank Skalak



Paph Nikes Sunset Delight  
Bernie Skalak