

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

May 2025

President

Craig Miller

justcraig@sssnet.com

Vice President

Kathleen Martz

catpowell11@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jennifer Pritt

jlpritt@yahoo.com

Secretary

Meghan Harper

sharper1@kent.edu

Editor

Brandon Spannbauer

braxtons@gmail.com

Trustee

Jane Bush

janebush11@gmail.com

Previous Meeting Minutes

In our April meeting, we discussed Orchid Nomenclature with Eric Sauer and Basics of Repotting for Home Growers.

Meeting summary below (Page 4):

**I WALK AROUND
LIKE I AM DOING OK**



**BUT DEEP DOWN I WANT
TO BUY ANOTHER ORCHID**



Announcements

In 2025, we will have hybrid meetings (both In-Person & Zoom). In-Person meeting details below and Zoom details will be included in each newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Meetings start at 6:30pm, doors open at 6:00pm

Zoom details below (Page 3):

Next Meeting

**May 12, 2025
Monday, 6:30pm**

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center

725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Start Time: 6:30pm Doors Open: 6:00pm

Topic

Program: **Seeing Spots: Growing Brachypetalum Paphs**
Speaker: **Darlene Thompson**

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.

Thanks,

Brandon Spannbauer greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

www.facebook.com/GreaterClevelandOrchidSociety/

www.qcos.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 12	Seeing Spots: Growing Brachypetalum Paphs – Darlene Thompson
June 9	Compact Vandaceous Species & Hybrids – Peter Lin
July 14	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction – Discussion
Aug 11	Ploidy Level in Orchids, an N-chanting Phenomenon – Ken Mettler



Photo of the Month: Behold the breathtaking beauty of the Cattleya dowiana aurea cuencanita! Its vibrant hues and delicate petals truly captivate the senses. Nature's masterpiece in full bloom - Ecuagenera

2025 Meeting Information

In 2025, 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 receive our newsletter and Zoom meeting links send us a message:

Email: greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Thanks,

Brandon Spannbauer, Editor

May 12 Meeting Info

Join award-winning orchid grower Dr. Darlene Thompson for an in-depth exploration of the *Brachypetalum* section of *Paphiopedilum*. *Seeing Spots: Growing Brachypetalum Paphiopedilum* will cover key cultivation best practices to keep these stunning slipper orchids thriving and common pitfalls and how to troubleshoot them. Along the way, Darlene will share pictures of these stunning species and fascinating hybrids. Whether you are a novice grower or a seasoned collector, you will gain practical insights and inspiration for growing this amazing section of *Paphiopedilum*.

Darlene will also have plants to sell from her private collection. She can take cash, checks, and electronic payments (Venmo, PayPal, Zell).

Topic

Program: **Seeing Spots: Growing Brachypetalum Paphs**
Speaker: **Darlene Thompson**

Zoom Meeting Details

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

Topic: GAOS Monthly Meeting Time: 06:30 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85471675611?pwd=4w1QyBvKJhBVmZEN6On9ap6BEGDRkX.1>

GAOS April Meeting Notes

By Meghan Harper

Announcements:

Westshore Orchid Society April 26-27th Strongsville Recreation and Senior Center

The GAOS Display at the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society was awarded the Presidents Choice Award (Appreciation to GAOS Member, Jane, who set up the display)

Show table: there were many beautiful plants shared by members

Guest Presenter: Eric Sauer

Expanding Your Orchid collection-You can Know what you're Gonna Get

Family Orchidaceae

Genus 850 Different genera

Epithet or species or Hybrid Cultivar or Variety

Genus: geographic region or common characteristic

Begin learning about genus Orchids Magazine/does genus match growing conditions

Need to verify authority of information

American Orchid Society/

Recommends buying the books for Reference

Maxillaria

The Genus Phragmidium

Capital letter is Genus

Small letter is variety/hybrid

Earlier plant name is always the preferred name

Conservation

Basis for all Hybrids

Come from Habitats with documented Climate

CITES: Restricts Trade Across Borders not Habitats

Federal Restrictions about Movement of Plants /Seeds

Customs-Enforcement-lack of knowledge

International Code of Botanical Nomenclature

Descriptive Names

Orchid Species Taxonomy

Hidden Locations Nafarious Reasons

Put on boats Not documented

Not necessarily correct

Descriptive terms

Tropicos.org

Ipml.org

Synonyms

Name Changes

Herbarium Specimens Alcohol Specimens

High Res Photos

Orchid Species Identification Task Force (AOS)

Variety or forma

Natural hybrids occurring in the wild

Shopping New plants

Mail order

Vendors

Flask /community pots multiple seedlings

What to look for:

Wide leaves

Vigorousness

Multiples

Greater Akron Orchid Society



2025 GAOS Program Calendar

Jan 13	"Getting Your Orchids Ready for the Shows" – Dave Miller
Feb 10	"What's Wrong with My Orchid?" *Bring in your problem plants for discussion*
Mar 1-2	GAOS Orchid Show @ Petitti Garden Center – Tallmadge location
Mar 10	"How to Grow Orchids" / Welcome to New Members – Edgar Stehli
Apr 14	"Orchid Nomenclature" – Eric Sauer
May 12	"Seeing Spots: Growing Brachypetalum Paphs" – Darlene Thompson
June 9	"Compact Vandaceous Species & Hybrids" – Peter Lin
July 14	Summer Picnic & Member Plant Auction / Member Discussion
Aug 11	Ploidy Level in Orchids, an N-changing Phenomenon – Ken Mettler
Aug 23-24	Ohio Valley Orchid Fest @ Kettering Ohio
Sept 8	TBD
Oct 13	TBD
Nov 10	Holiday Banquet / Election of Officers
December	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*

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.

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.



PHALAEOPSIS

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 Set-up

By Daryl Yerdon

I finally have my grow tent for cool to intermediate orchids set up properly. I replaced the corroded metal table with a table that I easily made myself using PVC pipe. I replaced the rusty shelving I was using to hang mounted plants with plastic fencing strapped to a PVC frame backed by aluminum faced insulation to reflect the light right back into the room again. I water the mounted plants using a sprayer powered by a lithium battery and the water now drops down into a vinyl rain gutter that empties into a bucket. The humidity mister is automatically filled using a 5 gallon bucket and it's on a timer to turn on and off periodically through the day.



Stubborn Orchids

By Brandon Spannbaauer

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



C. mossiae var *coerulea*

This species cattleya is a first-time bloomer for me. It is a division of a plant from Orchid Inn's closing in 2023. It has 3 large blooms on a relatively small plant that are relatively nicely shaped with a very pale, almost white blooms and a lavender colored lip. I am excited to see what this plant becomes as it grows larger.



Vaughnara Golden Spice (Bl. Richard Mueller x Epi. stamfordianum)

This is a great little hybrid from SVO's 2024 spring release, that has already bloomed several times. The Richard Mueller is a brassavola nodosa hybrid that is great in breeding a smaller more compact plant and in this case, nice spots. These open a pale purple, almost red and finished a bright yellow.

NoID Phalaenopsis

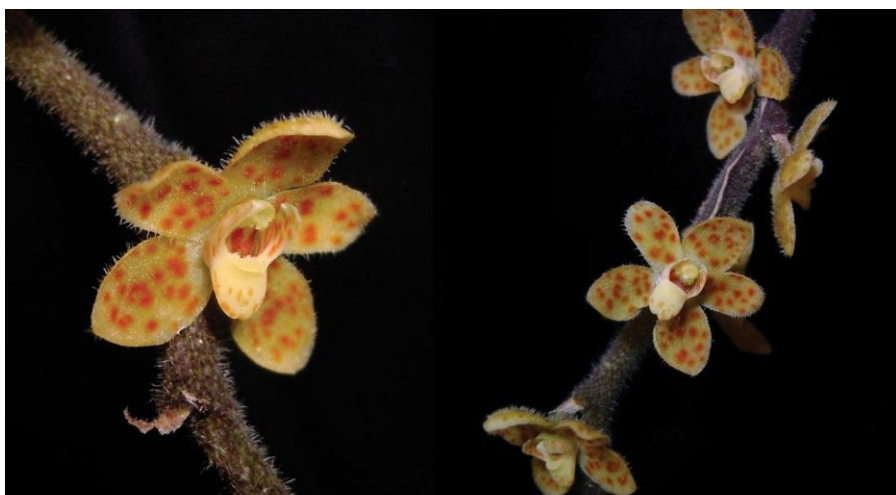
I, like many people started my orchid collecting with a phalaenopsis orchid. Over the years I collected a few more but they were then overrun by mealy bugs and I decided to get rid of them because I couldn't get it under control. I have since learned proper pest control and have decided to try them again and am having a great time. I currently, have a phalaenopsis wall in my grow space that has blooms every day of the year thanks to these long lasting flowers.

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

Chiloschista tjiasmantoi, a new species of epiphytic leafless orchid from the northernmost region of Sumatra Island, [#Indonesia](#), is described and illustrated. The flower of this new species is morphologically close to *C. javanica*, but differs in having oblong-ovovate petals, narrowly oblique oblong side lobes with truncate to obtuse apex, and a different shape of lip sac.— Novataxa 2025



Upcoming 2025 Orchid Events

Windswept in Time Orchids Open House

May 24-25: 11am – 5pm

8066 Skyline Dr
Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147
<https://windsweptorchids.com/>

Ohio Valley Orchid Fest

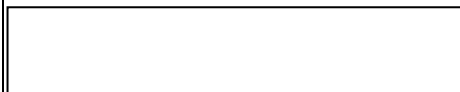
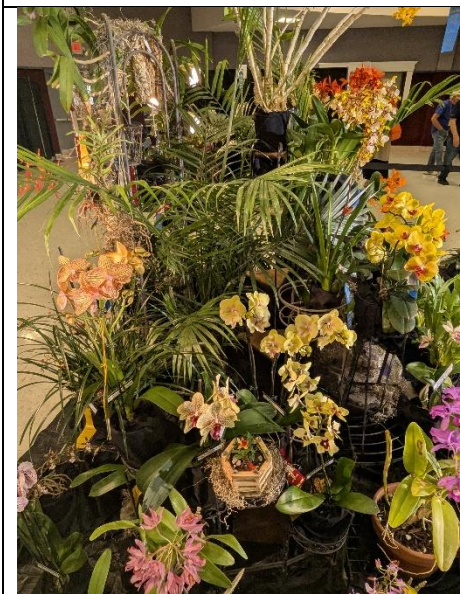
Aug 23-24 Kettering Ohio

<https://www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com/>

Photo Gallery

WSOS Orchid Show
April 26-27, 2025





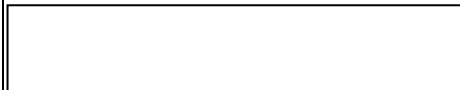
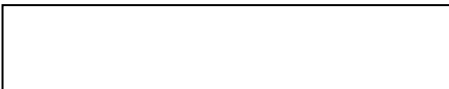
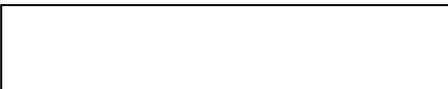
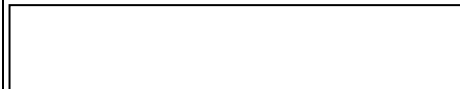


Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table

April 2025



