

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

November 2024

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Previous Meeting Minutes

In our Oct meeting, we had Edgar Stehli give a presentation on "The Future of Orchid Growing"

Meeting summary below (Page 4):



The largest known cattleya on display at Kew Gardens

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, Nov 11, 2024

Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center
725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Topic

Program: **Holiday Banquet / Election of Officers**
Speaker: **Member Plant Giveaway**

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

Nov 11 Holiday Banquet / Officer Elections

December No Meeting

Jan 13 TBD

Feb 10 TBD



Photo of the Month: Strange shape of Paphiopedilum henryanum with no pouch – Toam Rom

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

November 11 Meeting Info

This meeting is our holiday pot luck dinner. The society will provide the main course of glazed ham. Please bring a side dish of your choosing (side, salad, desert). Plates and utensils will be provided.

6:00 Doors open
6:30 Opening comments
6:45 Begin dinner
7:30 Vote for officers / Distribute Member plants - See note below
8:00 Wrap-Up

Orchids will be distributed for members in attendance. We will be going table by table, having each table select the plant of their choosing. Jane or I will be setting aside a plant for anyone who has made prior arrangements.

Topic

Program: **Holiday Banquet / Election of Officers**
Speaker: **Member Plant Giveaway**

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/82296863172?pwd=xamgzkeDenXUR5EtbSt0fVHgHDMjbd.1>

Monthly Checklist for Nov and Dec

By AOS

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium

Cymbidium ensifolium can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails, and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

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

November Catasetum Growing Tips

By Sunset Valley Orchids

Now that winter is knocking at our door steps, most of your *Catasetums* should have matured growths and be mostly done flowering, *Cycnoches* will be finishing their blooming, *Mormodes* should be flowering soon, and *Clowesia* should be starting before too much longer.

Those of you in Florida and southern states may already have dormant plants. Those in other areas like here in California should be seeing good signals indicating the start of dormancy, with the lower leaves starting to turn yellow and brown before they drop off.



These four plants demonstrate the first stages of dormancy, from left to right: 1) no signs, 2) slight leaf tip yellowing, 3) obvious yellowing and beginning of leaf tip die back, 4) several yellow leaves and tip die back clearly evident.

Leaf yellowing and drop signal the beginning of dormancy. This is when you stop fertilizing and cut back on watering frequency increasing the length of the dry interval in between each watering, simulating the end of the wet season as in nature. This important change in irrigation will cause the pseudobulbs to harden off in preparation for the upcoming months of dormancy. When most leaves are yellow/brown and have fallen off, cease watering altogether. This marks the start of the dormant period.

Some Catasetums, *Cycnoches*, *Clowesia* and most *Mormodes* begin their flowering season at the end of the growing season, coinciding with the changing environmental conditions, and onset of leaf yellowing and in dormancy. In these cases, it is natural for the flower inflorescences and blooms to begin while you are reducing irrigation frequency. Some plants don't even start to develop inflorescence until well after all water is stopped and the plant is totally leafless! Generally, it is not necessary but if your plants pseudobulbs shows signs of shriveling during late season flowering usually one or two extra waterings will quickly plump it back up.

Interestingly, not all plants enter dormancy on the same schedule, and it is not uncommon to have plants in several stages of dormancy at the same time. As plants progress toward their dormant period, I organize my Catasetinae into groups at similar stages of leaf loss. Grouping plants this way makes watering easier and assures proper transition into dormancy. Also, not all plants lose all of their green leaves when dormant, and it's not uncommon for some to hold a few leaves well past the point when irrigation has stopped.

We know that dormancy is caused by several factors like the maturity of the pseudobulb and the reduction of root zone moisture. There are 3 other important environmental factors that occur naturally in nature and they play an important role in initiating dormancy: 1) differential between day/night temperatures 2) light intensity 3) day length adjustment.

1) In a Greenhouse the day night temperature differential occurs naturally. When the plants are cultivated in the home or under lights do your best to give at least a 10-15 degree day night differential.

2) It is best to keep the plants at nearly the same light intensity levels as in the growing season, targeting 2000-2500 foot candles. It is easy to download a Foot Candle Reader app for your phone to check what you have.

3) If you're growing under lights, you do need to adjust the day length throughout the year, as all Catasetinae have evolved to experience seasonal daylength changes.

Light level management Indoors

Growing under lights for optimal results:

April – October: day length should be set at 15 hrs.

November: reduce light schedule hour to = 14 hrs.

December: reduce one more hour = 13 hrs.

January: and reduce one more hour = 12 hrs.

February: add one hour = 13 hrs.

March: add one more hour = 14 hrs.

April – October: back to a day length schedule of 15 hrs.

Have you had challenges overwintering your Catasetinae plants? If you are losing plants due to excessive dehydration, this may be caused by long periods of low humidity. Here is a solution that is being used successfully by some ingenious growers.

Set the pot in a jar with several inches of water, making a snug-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water should not touch the bottom of the pot. The reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, even while the plant above remains dry. This innovative technique produces great results! We have had lots of positive feedback from growers who are using this method.

It's important to get your Catasetinae into the dormant stage by late December so they receive an adequate rest period, that they will "wake up" early in the spring to a long growing season.



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 4th blooming and has 5 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.



Otra. Hidden Gold / Bc. Walter August

Otra. Hidden Gold (Bl. Richard Mueller '4N' x Ctna. Why Not 'Yellow Kitty')

This little plant just bloomed a few months ago and has already put out another 2 spikes. This cross can potentially have a variety of colors ranging from yellow to orange to peach tones that can be solid or have flares or spots. Mine is a pale peach color but I will see if anything changes in future blooms.

Bc. Walter August (C. Summer Spot x B. nodosa 4N)

This cross is from H&R and its 3rd blooming and has 4 large flowers. The color has become more defined since its first flowering. It has a nice star shape from its nodosa parent with a good distribution of spots on the petals. A vigorous grower, I purchased as a small 2" seedling 2 years ago and it is already overflowing a 5" clay pot.



Lc. Isfield (L. Pacavia x C. warscewiczii)

This is a first-time bloomer with 2 large flowers and deep rich color. The parent, L. Pacavia (tenebrosa x purpurata) seems to be dominant in both shape and color for this cross. The warscewiczii parent is a semi alba and the characteristic yellow 'eyes' on the throat are not present as no yellow is seen at all. Overall, I like this plant and would love to see if anything changes as it blooms in the future.



L. anceps 'SVO Flare' / NoID Phalaenopsis

Laelia anceps are so beautiful but are hard to contain in my basement grow area. They can have a few inches between pseudobulbs leading them to grow right out of their pot and their flower spikes can be up to 6 feet long under good light. I very gently hang a small weight on the stems to keep them from growing into my lights.

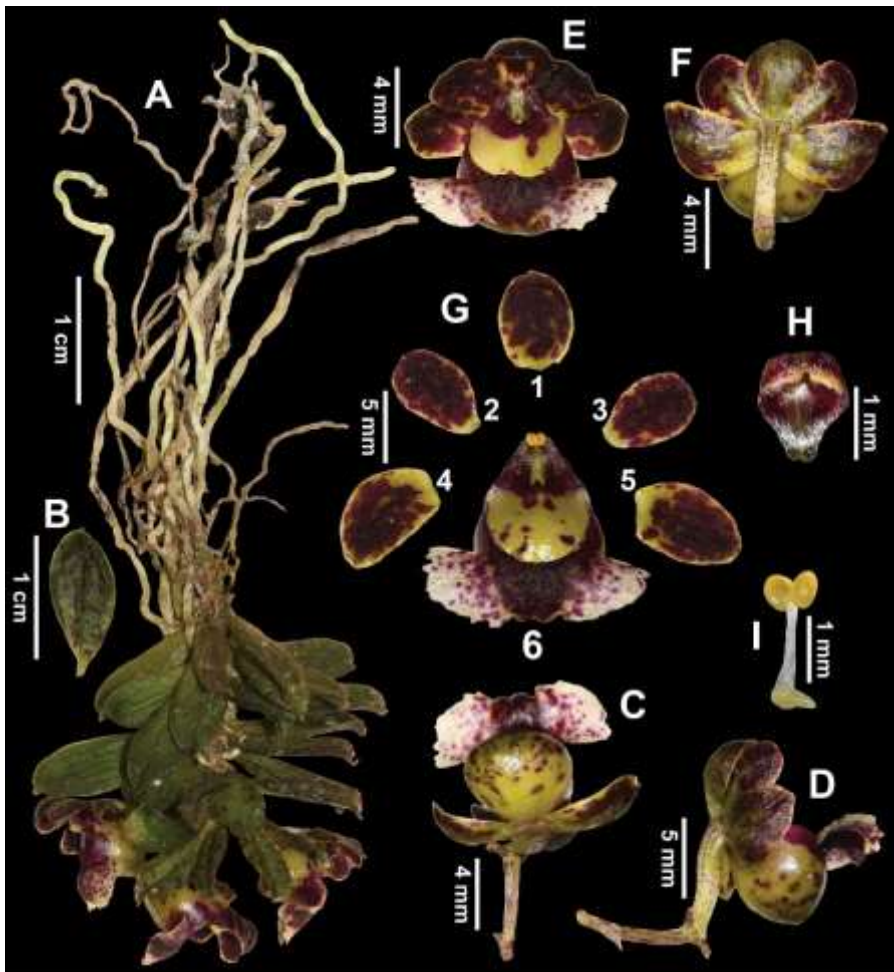


If you have any stubborn orchids that bloom in-between meetings, send in photos to have them included in the newsletter:

greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

New Orchids to Science

Gastrochilus balangshanensis, a new orchid species from the Balang Mountain, Sichuan Province, Southwest China. *Gastrochilus* is a vanda-like genus of epiphytic orchids, consisting of 79 species, widely distributed in Tropical and Subtropical Asia. It is characterized by the enlarged and saccate hypochile, forming a spur, and two subglobose pollinia borne on a slender stipe. The Hengduan Mountains is part of the Tibeto-Himalayan region, which possesses an exceptionally diverse flora. – Novataxa 2023



A very interesting chart that I found showing when different cattleya species bloom so you can have color all year around – Brandon

THE CATTLEYA WHEEL

The *Cattleya Wheel* lets growers know when the different species bloom. In some cases, there are as many as four species in bloom at once.

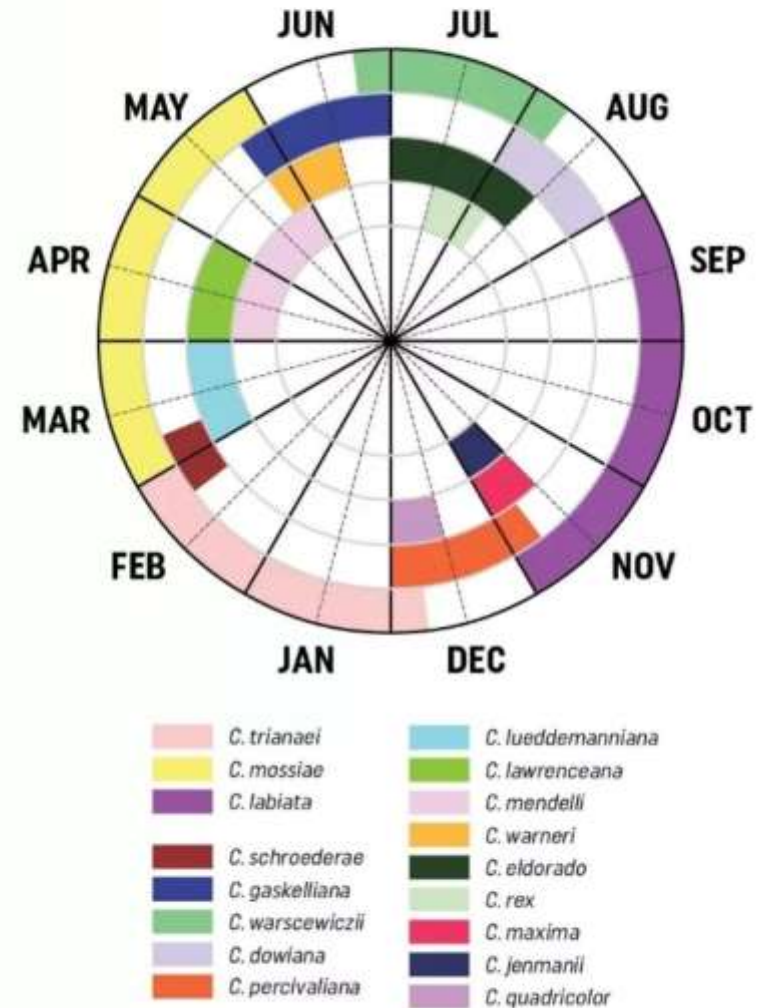
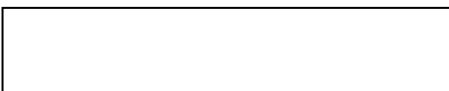
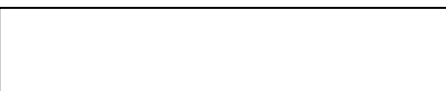
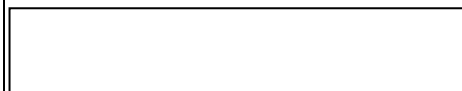
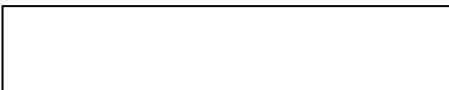
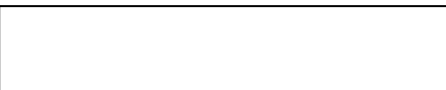
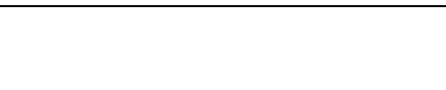
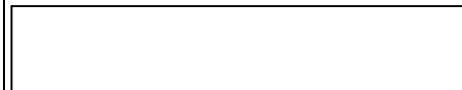


Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table

October 2024





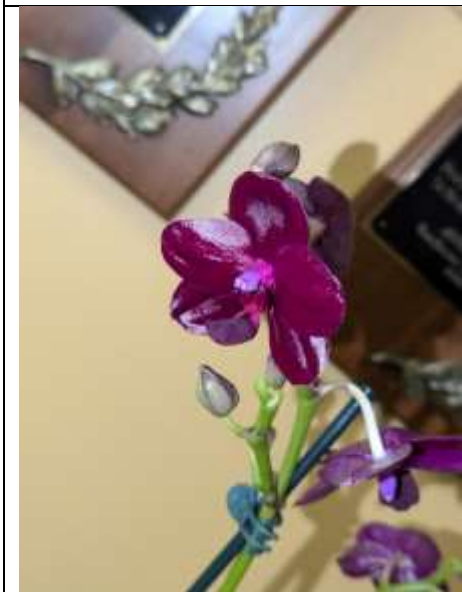


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