

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

October 2025

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Previous Meeting Minutes

In our September meeting, we had Olga Shostachuk discuss Picking the Right Plant, a presentation by Dave Miller

Meeting summary below (Page 4):



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

**October 13, 2025
Monday, 6:30pm**

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

Topic

Program: Mistakes I've Made and Learned From with Orchids
Speaker: **HC Qianchu**

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

Oct 13	Mistakes I've made and Learned From, With Orchids - HC Qianchu
Nov 10	Holiday Banquet / Officer Elections
December	No Meeting – Winter Break, Happy Holidays!
Jan 12	Welcome to 2026 / Preparing for the Show / TBD



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

October 13 Meeting Info

Our meeting will have speaker, HC Qianchu of HC Orchids, give a presentation on Mistakes I've made and Learned From, With Orchids. He grows and sells a variety of Phalaenopsis species and hybrids and is offering 10% off.

Use code "GAOS" for 10% off, and to pick the plant up during the meeting, use code "Pickup" to waive shipping costs!

Website: <https://hcorchids.com/>

Topic

Program: **Mistakes I've Made and Learned From with Orchids**
Speaker: **HC Qianchu**

Zoom Meeting Details

Topic: GAOS August Monthly Meeting
Time: Oct 13, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83637743424?pwd=tsIYIJeifciOlzeD8qVGWNLVPMI8uI.1>

GAOS May Meeting Notes

By Meghan Harper

An officers meeting was held a week ago and the discussion focused on the position of President and how it can be handled as there are no volunteers to assume the position

Craig will be stepping down as President in November but will remain as a member and assist with the Orchid show.

Suggestion is to have a "President" by committee with other officers stepping up to run meetings and bylaws may need to be adjusted.

Show news: Petitti Garden Center beginning to plan the show and contacting Petittis to have the show included for their bi-annual circular.

Announcement: Speaker Orchid Expert Tim Culbertson will present four topics at area orchid society's dates include October 15th Westshore/October 20 Cleveland

Memoriam check sent to a well-known past Orchid Judge John Dunkelberger who passed away recently

Presentation

Program: *Picking the Right Plant: How, What and Why of Improving Your Orchid Collection*

Speaker: Olga Shostachuk V.P. Cleveland, member West Shore
(Substituting for Dave Miller who developed the presentation)

Presentation highlights and Tips:

Use photo viewfinder to see the orchid to see symmetry of blooms and leaves

Read the plant label

Look at the roots, root tips and foliage

Look at samples, vendors have set out at shows

Better to buy more mature plants

Remember: *Good Roots grow good orchids*

NEWS from the Great Lakes Judging Center

AOS plant judging takes place the 3rd Saturday each month. Judging is always open to the public and anyone is invited to bring plants for the AOS judges to look at them. AOS awards given are the responsibility of the exhibitor.

Sessions begin at 11 AM Eastern Time with any center business and then an educational talk by judges or other featured speakers. AOS judging begins no later than 1 PM Eastern Time. The Great Lakes Judging Center is responsible for AOS judging in the region spanning Michigan, Northern Indiana, and Northern Ohio.

Judging sessions are held at Washtenaw Community College located at 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105. Activities take place in the Morris Lawrence building. Parking is ample and free. Dress is casual and all are welcome to bring lunch or snacks for themselves as no food is provided.

Upcoming Schedule:

October 18 "Judging Dendrobiums" – Carol Klonowski, California-Sierra Nevada JC

November 15 no program due to semiannual business meeting. AOS judging at 1PM

December 20 review of AOS Annual Special Awards finalists.

For more information contact Dave Miller at dcmjpasml@aol.com, especially if you are not familiar with the location or process.

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	"Picking the Right Plant" - Dave Miller
Oct 13	"Mistakes I've made and Learned From, With Orchids" - HC Qianchu He
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*

Nearby Orchid Meetings with Tim Culberston

This month, speaker Tim Culberston, is coming to West Shore and Greater Cleveland. At West Shore he is talking about min-catasetums and at Greater Cleveland he is talking about Masdevallias you can grow. Tim is a wealth of knowledge and a great speaker. Tim keeps a running sales listing here: [Oceanside Orchids](#) and he is taking pre-orders.

Westshore:

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME

6:00 p.m. Conversation, Show Table set up and light Dinner.

7:00 p.m. Tim Culbertson will be speaking on - Miniature Catasetums: Tough Little Treasures, on recent developments in miniature, windowsill-growing Catasetums at Sunset Valley Orchids.

PLACE

North Olmsted Community Cabin, 28114 Lorain Road, North Olmsted

Cleveland:

Monday, 10/20/25, Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

Location: 1370 Victory Drive, Cleveland, OH 44121

Time: Doors open at 6:00 pm; Presentation at 7:00 pm

Topic: Masdevallias You Can Actually Grow

New Orchids to Science

The newly described *Stigmatodactylus maraiparaiensis* was spotted on Mt Kinabalu, one of Borneo's most botanised mountains, where it is known from a remote plateau visited by many researchers over the last century. *Stigmatodactylus* is widespread from eastern Asia into Oceania, but infrequently documented in tropical Asia. This is because they're diminutive, have short and irregular flowering periods, and produce cryptic blooms that blend into the leaf litter of their deep shade habitats. Many also only grow in remote, high-elevation forests that few ever reach. Clearly, botanical surprises still lurk in the shadows!

The description of *Stigmatodactylus maraiparaiensis* brings the total number of *Stigmatodactylus* species for [#Malaysia](#) to three and the total number of accepted species in the genus to 29.— Novataxa 2025



Why You Should NOT Just Add Ice

By Carter and Holmes

By now, many orchid growers, beginners and experienced alike, have heard the theory about watering orchids with ice cubes. In case you haven't, it goes something like this.

"Water your Orchid with three ice cubes a week and it will be happy as can be!"

Sadly, though it may be given with the best of intentions, this advice is problematic and has caused a lot of misinformation to be spread online and through social media. The kernel of truth in the "Just Add Ice" myth/marketing gimmick is that most people who kill orchids do so by over-watering them. But it's not the amount of water people use when watering orchids that leads to over-watering, it's how long the roots stay wet.

Remember where your orchid is from. Plants known as "Ice Orchids" are simply Phalaenopsis Orchids or 'Moth Orchids' that originated in tropical Southeast Asia. They are intermediate to warm growing, which means their native environment is usually a minimum of 60 degrees any time of year. Not really 'ice cube' type weather.

Phalaenopsis in nature grow attached to trees, shrubs or outcroppings with their roots exposed. They are watered frequently by rainfall, but because their roots don't have much around them to hold water, they dry out between waterings. Their roots need humidity but should not stay soggy.

We always suggest watering potted orchids thoroughly from the top of the pot, with room temperature or tepid water. Water well enough to saturate the media so that it stays damp for a minimum of 4-5 days or as long as 7-10 days.

This number won't be exact because it varies with the amount of light, humidity and airflow and with the temperature where they are grown. If your plant is staying wet for longer than 10-14 days, then additional airflow may be needed. If your potted orchid needs water more than twice per week, then not enough water is being given or it's time to consider repotting (see our Repotting Information here). If the mix is very dry on watering day, water well and come back twenty minutes later and water again. This helps the outer layer of bark, mulch or moss absorb the moisture better. Plus, it flushes free any water impurities or fertilizer salts that collect in the pot.

This wet-dry cycle is needed in one form or another for many of the most commonly found orchids. Adding a few cubes to the top of the media does not address the need to thoroughly water the roots and potting media. As the ice melts, some water trickles into the pots, but not enough to really provide humidity or flush the potting mix of any water impurities or fertilizer salts. Also, remember, these are tropical plants. The ice is likely to cause damage to the roots and foliage it comes in contact with.

Ice cubes may work for some growers for a while, but they are not what your Phalaenopsis needs long term. "Ice Orchids" fit with the marketing strategy of box stores, grocery stores and hardware stores today that sell orchids as a 'disposable' alternative to cut flowers. The flowers last longer than a bouquet of cut flowers, and since they are usually very cost friendly, if they die in 6-12 months many people are okay with replacing them. We teach our visitors and new customers how to care for Orchids with an eye to the future. Orchids can be a long-term investment that produce a lot of joy. Bringing your well-grown orchid into bloom year after year can be extremely rewarding.

So just remember, your orchid doesn't like taking an ice bath any more than you do!

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



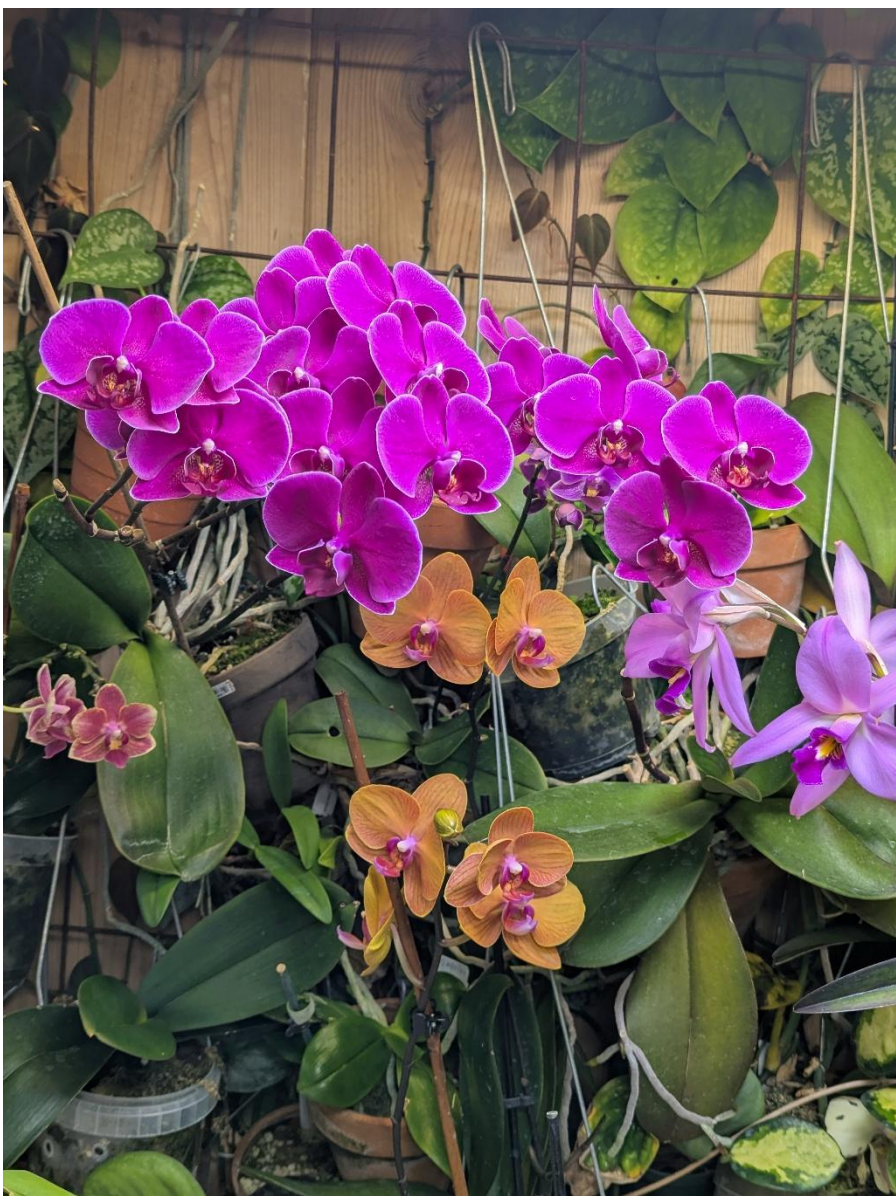
B. Adrian Hamilton (B. perrinii x B. nodosa)

This Brassavola is a very reliable bloomer for me that looks like a nicely shaped nodosa. I grow this in a hanging clay pot very close to the lights on my hanging wall. Here it gets bright light and dries quickly. It only has 3-4 blooms per inflorescence it is a large enough size that nearly every new growth sends out flowers.



L. anceps 'SVO Flare'

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. This year was very good with 4 spikes and 12 flowers.



Phalaenopsis Wall

Sometimes it's nice to just have a wall of color in your grow space and phalaenopsis are a great way to achieve that, even NoIDs from the grocery store still have a place in many of our collections



Bl. Richard Mueller (top-center) and 3 of its hybrids

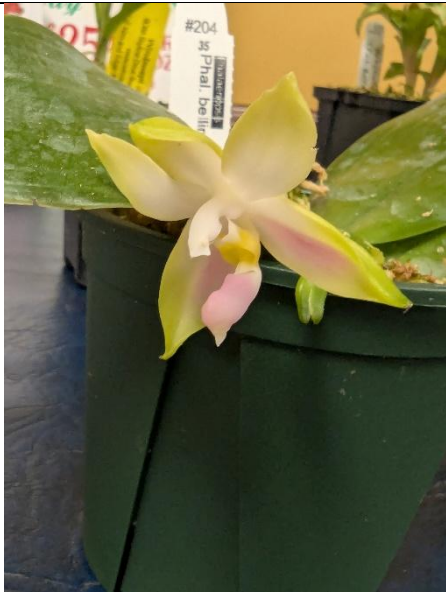
I have a fair amount of Richard Mueller (*B. nodosa* x *L. milleri*) hybrids in my collections, it adds color, shape, compact growth and ever growing to its offspring. Many of its progeny do end up in the yellows but that happens to be one of my favorite flower colors.

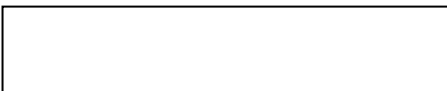
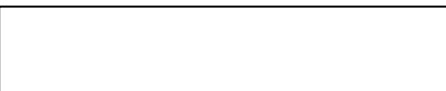
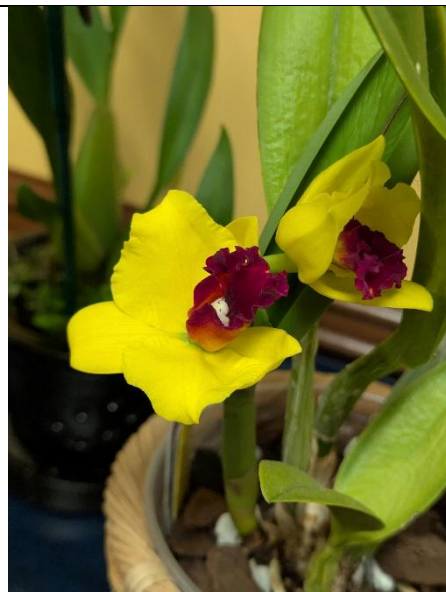
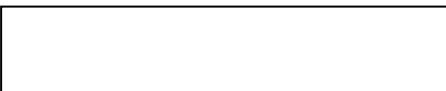
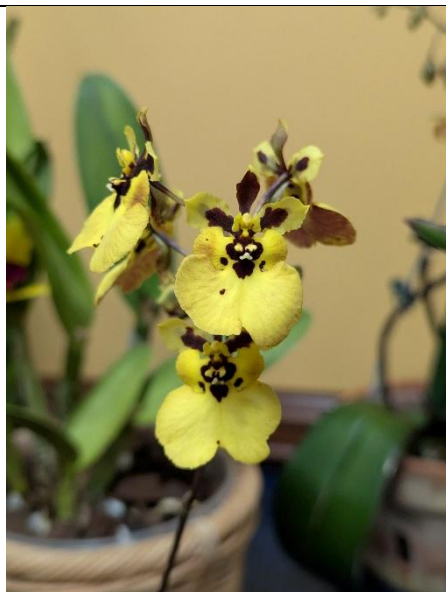
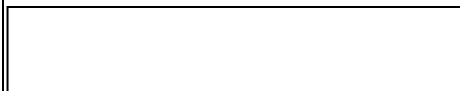
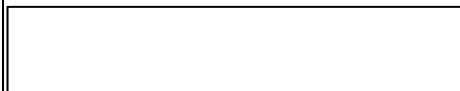
If you have any stubborn orchids that bloom in-between meetings, send in photos to have them included in the newsletter:

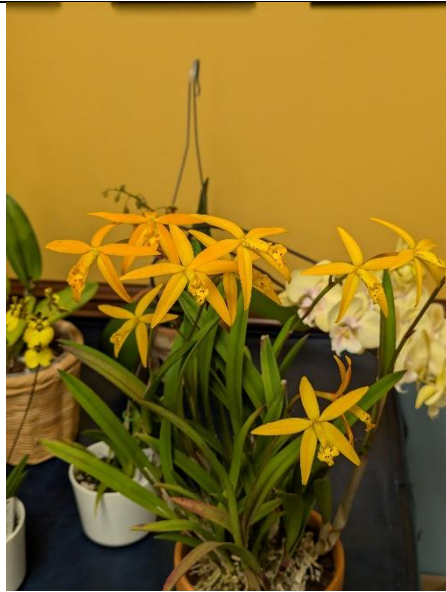
greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table
September 2025







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