

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

August 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

braxtonds@gmail.com

Trustee

Jane Bush

janebush11@gmail.com

Previous Meeting Minutes

In our July meeting, we had our summer potluck and Member's Plant Auction.

Meeting summary below (Page 4):

**What my plants see every
30 minutes.**



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

**August 11, 2025
Monday, 6:30pm**

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

Topic

Program: **Ploidy Level in Orchids, an N-chanting Phenomenon**

Speaker: **Ken Mettler**

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

Aug 11	Ploidy Level in Orchids, an N-chanting Phenomenon – Ken Mettler
Sept 8	Picking the Right Plant - Dave Miller
Oct 13	Mistakes I've made and Learned From, With Orchids - HC Qianchu
Nov 10	Holiday Banquet / Officer Elections



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

August 11 Meeting Info

Topic

Program: **Ploidy Level in Orchids, an N-chanting Phenomenon**
Speaker: **Ken Mettler**

Zoom Meeting Details

Topic: GAOS August Monthly Meeting
Time: Aug 11, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83504912470?pwd=SXU0VGfXmH3KNoZBYPNlcb8KW12xY.1>

OHIO VALLEY ORCHID FEST

AUGUST 23 (9-5) & AUGUST 24 (11-3) 2025

www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com

**Miami Valley Orchid Society &
Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

4865 WILMINGTON PIKE
KETTERING, OHIO

\$3

**SUGGESTED
ADMISSION**

ALL ADMISSION PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:
DAYTON DREAM CENTER
LIFEWISE ACADEMY

PLANT SALES
**ORCHIDS, CERAMICS
& AROIDS**
LOCAL, REGIONAL &
INTERNATIONAL VENDORS

ANYTHING ORCHIDS
KAREN EBERHART
ECUAGENERA
FLASK AND FLORA
HC ORCHIDS
LITTLEFROG FARM
MEI'S CREATIONS
NATTS ORCHIDS
OAKWOOD ORCHIDS
TEN SHIN GARDENS
WINDSWEEP IN TIME ORCHIDS
WINDY HILL ORCHIDS
*Vendors subject to change.

FUN

FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

LEARNING

BEGINNER LECTURES,
REPOTTING HELP &
DEMONSTRATIONS

ORCHID SHOW

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY JUDGING
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
**AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY AND
MID AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS**

Phalaenopsis Summer Girl 'Plum Crazy' HCC/AOS



Ohio Valley Orchid Fest Details

This is the fifth annual Ohio Valley Orchid Fest. The goal of the event is to bring high quality orchids, both for sale and display as well as quality information about how to grow orchids to the general public and the orchid hobbyist in a fun, family friendly environment!

The event is a partnership between Emmanuel Lutheran Church, the Miami Valley Orchid Society, the Mid America Orchid Congress and the American Orchid Society.

The Ohio Valley Orchid Fest is open to the public including:

- Orchid Sales Area
- Repotting Demos and Q&A with Orchid Experts
- Orchid Show
- and fun activities for the entire family all weekend!

A suggested donation of \$3 per person is requested for the event
100% of all donations will go towards local missions work!

[Dayton Dream Center](#) and [Lifewise Academy](#)

Full Registration is available for the weekend which includes all special events and speakers - See the Registration & Hotel Page for full details

There will be two internationally known Mid America Orchid Congress (MAOC) Sponsored Keynote Speaker during the weekend:

[Ron Kaufmann](#)- American Orchid Society Conservation Committee Chair

[Ron McHatton](#)- American Orchid Society Chief Education and Science Officer

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*

Outdoor Orchid Care

By AOS

Outdoor Orchid Care

Anyone can grow orchids outdoors if the weather is good enough! For folks who live south of the 37th parallel, the weather is more likely favorable for the larger part of the year. For the rest of us, growing orchids outside is restricted from late spring through summer to early fall. Unless you are placing orchids outdoors when it is raining daily, for every day that it does not rain, you will have to water, regardless of where you are. Orchids grown in climates with lower humidities may need to water twice a day. Though beware, pests and critters can be of concern, do check-in on your orchids regularly.

Which Orchids Should Be Grown Outside?

Any orchid can be grown outside, depending on your conditions and your commitment to care. Though, it is advisable to not grow miniature orchids or orchids that cannot dry out outdoors. Instead, try to grow orchids that are more bulky or succulent-y, such as Cattleya, Dendrobium or Cymbidium, which are more hardy anyway. In more tropical climates (or climates that rain daily), you can put almost any orchid outside, as long as it's in the right space.

Where Outside Should They Be Grown?

Nearly all orchids should be grown in half to full shade. If moving from a greenhouse, give them one step down for sun exposure. If they are full sun plants in the greenhouse, put them outside in part-shade. If they are part shade (or a few hours of direct sun) plants, put them in full shade, and if they are full shade plants in the greenhouse, they should remain in full shade outdoors. Ensure that they are in an area that can be easily watered when it does not rain, and where creatures, like squirrels, can't get to them. If you can set up an automated sprinkler system, that will greatly reduce the watering work you will have to do. Outdoor plants should be watered daily, regardless of region. If in drier climates, consider watering twice a day.

When Should They Go Outdoors?

Orchids can go outside depending on the cold hardiness of the species. Knowing which species or hybrid you have is the best, but generally, Cymbidium are the most cold-hardy of the cultivated orchids, followed by Pleurothallids, followed by everything else. The most important sign of when to place your plants outdoors is the nighttime low temperature. You can put Cymbidiums outside when the lows are 40F/4.4C or higher consistently. For everything else, wait until the nighttime lows are 55F/12.7C or higher to bring them outside. In the fall, start bringing all plants indoors or in greenhouses when the nighttime low reaches 55F/12.7C for the first time. It's better to be more cautious in the fall – frost damage can never be repaired, and may kill the plant.

Why bring an orchid outdoors?

Bringing orchids outdoors can be a “shot in the arm” or a breath of new life to them. Orchids that may not have bloomed indoors can sometimes be found blooming if spending a few months outside. Others may grow larger or recover from ailments faster if brought outdoors.

Cattleya Culture Guide

By AOS

LIGHT

Light is the most important factor in growing and flowering Cattleyas, whether in a greenhouse or in the home. They can receive direct sun indoors in a South, East, or West window, or direct sun in a greenhouse. Leaves should be a chartreuse-green color; pseudobulbs erect and require no staking.

- In a greenhouse, 50%-70% full sun or about 32,250-53,750 lumens (3,000-5,000 foot-candles) is ideal. Southern climates below the 37th parallel will need to use shade cloth. Northern growers can expose some species to full sun
- Indoors, *Cattleya* should be placed in any window (ideally south-facing) that gets more than 4 hours of direct sunlight to bloom. You cannot sunburn a Cattleya indoors.
- If grown under lights, *Cattleya* should receive more than 3000 lumens of light to bloom and grow.

TEMPERATURE

Temperature depends on the hybrid/species, but in general, *Cattleya* are happy with 55F-72F (12.7C-22.2C) nights and 70F-85F (21.1C-29.4C) days. Seedlings should have night temperatures a few degrees higher. Higher day temperatures can be tolerated (up to 95F (35C) if humidity, water, air circulation, and shading are increased.

- If growing indoors, there is no need to worry about temperature; room temperature all the time is fine.

WATER

When thinking about water for epiphytes like *Cattleya*, you must keep in mind that they like to have quick wet/dry cycles. *Cattleya* like to go dry in between waterings but like to be immediately watered when their media hits dryness. Always use lukewarm water, as water temperature below 50F (10C) may injure plants, as will hard water or water softened by the addition of salts.

- If growing in a greenhouse, you can/should water daily regardless of whether or not it is potted or mounted.
- Indoors, *Cattleya* should be grown potted, and after watering from the top, be allowed to sit in about ½ inch (1.27 cm) of their own flow-through for a day or two. Otherwise, indoor *Cattleya* can be taken to the shower or sink and be watered, drip dry, then be placed back. The frequency will depend on how fast it takes for the media to dry in your conditions. Indoors, you can get away with watering less frequently by letting them sit in their own flow-through.

HUMIDITY

Humidity for *Cattleya* is a bonus but is not necessary for growing these well. Remember that humidity is an anti-dryness factor. If you raise the humidity, the plant will be slightly more robust, but not incredibly so.

- In a greenhouse, air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity or cool temperatures exist.
- Indoors, as long as the *Cattleya* are well-watered and frequently watered, you do not need to worry about humidity.

FERTILIZE

Fertilize on a regular schedule. Use ½ to ¼ strength of a normal dose regularly when plants are actively growing. A higher nitrogen formulation (such as 30-10-10) is recommended during active growth. In autumn, or after growth slows, fertilizer should be reduced or eliminated for the winter. Some growers use a high-phosphorus formula in the spring to promote flowering.

POTTING

Potting is necessary when you first get the plant, if the rhizome of the plant protrudes over the edge of the pot, or if the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after 2 to 3 years). If you see new roots or shoots just starting to grow, that is the best time to repot. Otherwise, you will have to wait until after flowering. Mature *Cattleya* are usually potted in coarser potting material than are seedlings. Until a plant has at least six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be repotted into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, three to five pseudobulbs per division are required. Select a pot that will allow for approximately two years of growth (usually a 2-3 inch (5–8 cm) larger diameter pot) before crowding the pot.

- If growing in a greenhouse, use medium to coarse orchid bark mix. No sphagnum is necessary, except for perhaps the smallest of seedlings.
- If growing indoors, you will want to mix about ¼- 1/3 of sphagnum to either fine or medium grade orchid bark mix (which is bark+perlite+charcoal). Alternatively, planting into 100% treefern fiber works well with plastic pots indoors.

Grammatophyllum of the Philippines

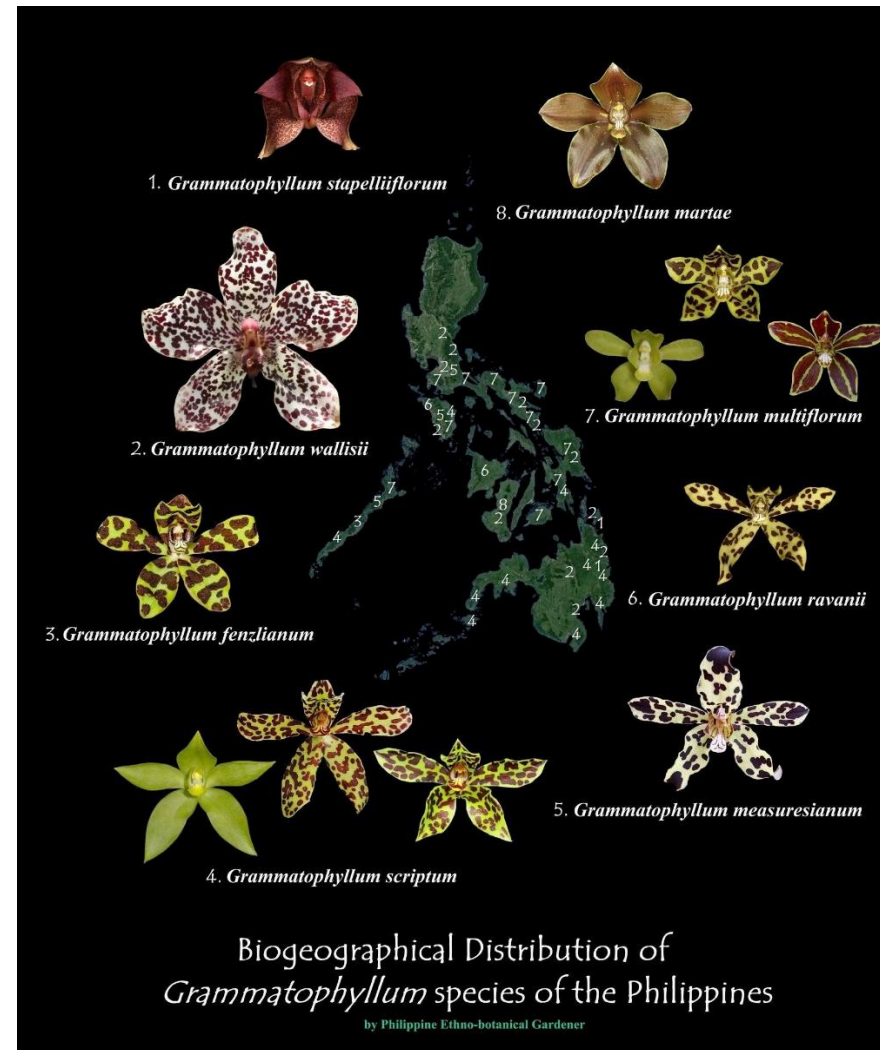
By AquaVerde Orchids

Among the world's most captivating botanical wonders, few orchids command as much awe and admiration as those belonging to the genus *Grammatophyllum* more commonly referred to as tiger orchids. Celebrated for their remarkable size, dramatic floral displays, and enduring beauty, these orchids are treasured by collectors, botanists, and nature enthusiasts alike.

The Philippines, in fact, serves as a vital hotspot for *Grammatophyllum* diversity. Of the 13 currently accepted species in the genus, eight are known to occur naturally across the Philippine archipelago. With its complex geography and rich biodiversity, the country continues to offer untapped potential for further discoveries, raising the possibility of even more endemic species awaiting classification.

As climate challenges and habitat loss threaten delicate ecosystems, the presence of such botanical giants highlights the importance of conservation, not only for the orchids themselves but for the intricate web of life they support. The *Grammatophyllum* is more than just a floral marvel. It is a symbol of the Philippines' extraordinary natural heritage, one whose value extends far beyond its visual splendor.

Biogeographical Distribution of *Grammatophyllum* species of the Philippines



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



L. anceps v. lineata

I've had this laelia for 9 years and it took at least 5 years to start producing show stopping blooms. The striations took years to really develop a nice pattern. For years it was barely there strips of color. I've found that anceps have really sticky blooms that have a hard time to open on their own. I spray the buds with a spray bottle of water everyday as they open and higher humidity has helped with the problem.



L. tenebrosa ('SVO Vinicolor' x 'Windflower')

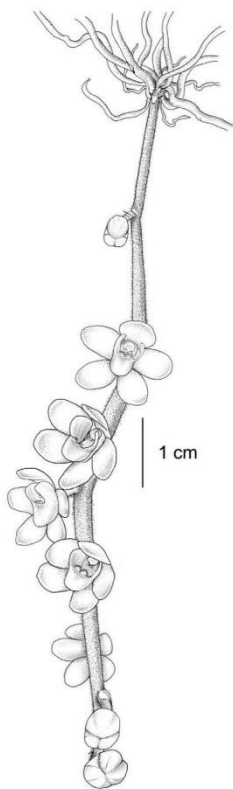
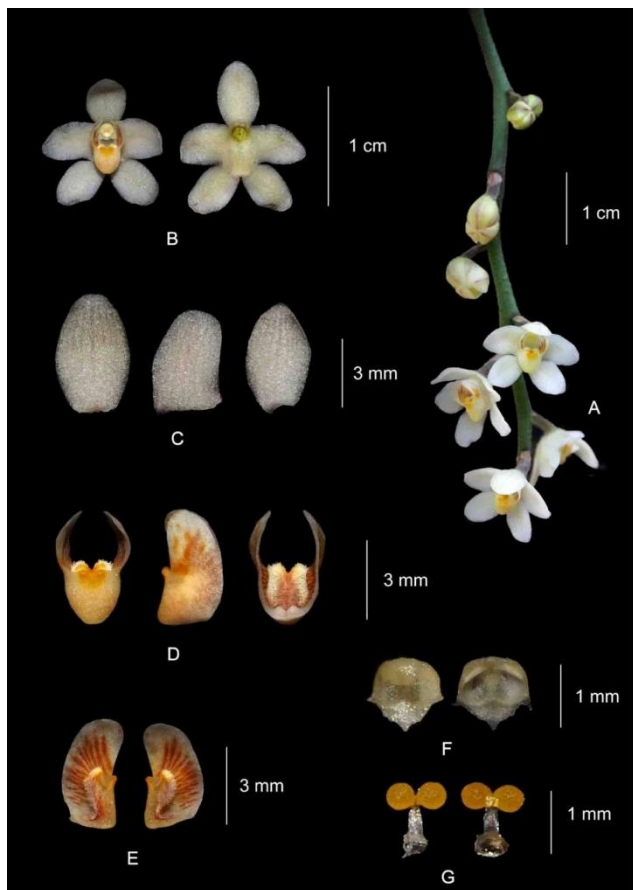
This is a 2nd blooming from SVO and has 3 large flowers. I was very happy with the rich color of the petals and the deep rich purple throat. The color has deepened a bit and the petals are flatter than last year. A very vigorous grower, I purchased this plant as a small 3" seedling 3.5 years ago and it has already filled in an 8" clay pot.

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, *Chiloschista breviseta* from Northern Thailand. *Chiloschista breviseta* is morphologically similar to *C. usneoides* but differs in having much shorter seta on each side of the anther cap. – Novataxa 2024



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. 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 which is located at 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105. Activities take place in the Morris Lawrence building, Room 160 but occasionally it is moved to another room in the same 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. Any awards given are subject to AOS Award fees which are presently \$40 for AOS members and \$60 for non-members.

Upcoming Schedule:

August 16 “Angraecums” – Kristin Stepanek, GLJC & “Geometric Mean and Other Judging Tools” – Dave Miller GLJC

September 20 Paphiopedilum expert Harold Koopowitz “Who Decided Round and Flat Was Desirable and Why” no charge for the lecture (Room 160 as normal)

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

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

Photo Gallery

Meeting Show Table
July 2025



