

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

June 2015

May 2015 Meeting

The May meeting, held at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, Akron, Ohio, was called to order by Dave Miller, President. There were 33 people in attendance. The agenda included final financials for the GAOS March Show and planning for the next meeting which is the first of twice-yearly member plant sales and picnic.

We welcomed guests Al Lund of the West Shore Orchid Society, Janet Greenburg from the Western Pennsylvania Orchid Society and Joe Lybarger, an interested local orchid grower.

General Business

If you did not receive the May Newsletter, please check with Frank Skalak to be sure your dues were paid and with Paul Bujak for the mailing list for the newsletter.

Thanks go out to Vice President Brandon Spannauer for his diligent work on the Society's Face Book page.

Frank Skalak, our treasurer, reported that all transactions with regard to the March show are now complete and show a healthy profit to add to the Society's treasury.

May's Program

Edgar Stehli was our program speaker and, as usual, provided us with a geography lesson along with education about types of orchids called Angraecoids which include the genera, Angraecum and Aerangis. These orchids are generally from Africa and the Island of Madagascar. The various climatologic and terrain requirements for these orchids were explained in depth and kept us very interested. This group contains the Darwin orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale*, which requires a pollinator moth with very specific attributes, mainly

an 18 inch tongue. As a general rule, the Angraecoid orchids are pollinated by moths. These orchids are very easy to grow and adapt nicely to indoor growing conditions so are of great interest to hobby growers.

Next Meeting – Summer Picnic

The next meeting of the Greater Akron Orchid Society will be held on June 8, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center. June's meeting will be the semi-annual members' plant sale and our annual members' carry-in picnic. Chicken and cold beverages will be provided by the GAOS. Members are asked to bring a salad, a side dish or a dessert to share with all. From past experience, it is well known that the GAOS has some pretty good cooks so expect this picnic to be a real feast. Of course, we hope that not everyone will bring a dessert but let that creativity loose and let's eat! Please note the earlier starting time.

There will be no program for June, as the GAOS will hold this year's first members' silent plant auction. Members may bring divisions from their own plants, plants that are not thriving in their care or plants that just aren't wanted anymore. Please make sure plants are pest and disease free. Owners of the plants will donate 25% of the sale to the GAOS and members will receive 75% of the selling price. Be sure to register your name before filling out the auction slips. This is a great chance to obtain that special plant you want at a very good price.

President

David Miller

Vice President

**Brandon
Spannauer**

Treasurer

Frank Skalak

Secretary

Janet Neyrinck

Editor

Paul Bujak

Trustee

Barbara Ford

The following article was previously published in the May 2012 GAOS Newsletter. It is good advice for new growers as well as a refresher for the more experienced.

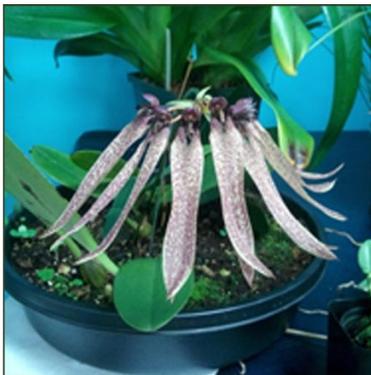
Summering Orchids Outside

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.

According to the 2012 Farmer's Almanac, the last spring frost date for Cleveland this year is April 30th. As exciting as this is, it does not give you the all-clear for placing your orchids outside. 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.



Cirrhopetalum (Cirr.) dolichoblepharon –
Wayne Roberts

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.

In addition to my limited personal experience, the following references were used in creating this article:

- Frowine, Steven, A. (2005). Orchids for Dummies.
- Ortho Books. (1999). Ortho's All About Orchid.

The Gallery

Some of the fine flowers displayed at the May 2015 meeting. (All photos by Mary Jo Miller.)



Paphiopedilum (Paph.) Song of Love
– Bernadette Skalak



Cymbidium (Cym.) Nancy Brown
'Elizabeth' – Dave Miller



Dendrobium (Den.) wassillii
'Windswept's Blizzard' CCM/AOS –
Edgar Stehli



Paphiopedilum (Paph.) Prime Child
'Roberts' AM/AOS – Wayne Roberts



Potinara (Pot.) Love Passion –
Dave Miller



Dendrobium (Den.) Red Flame –
Jane Bush



Paphiopedilum (Paph.) Hisae's Royal
Duck – Sharon Harper