

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

May 2011

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April Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Barb Ford, President at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center in Akron, Ohio on Monday April 11, 2011 at 7:00 pm. The minutes were recorded by Sharon Harper, secretary.

General Business

Barb Ford opened the meeting by greeting one new member and several returning new members who joined in March at the Spring Show. Welcome again, all new members! Barb mentioned that all new members would receive a copy of the AOS (American Orchid Society) *Orchids* magazine, as part of new membership benefits to our society.

The last orchid show in our area for this year is the Orchid Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania's show in Erie, PA on May 7-8, 2011. All are invited to attend.

There are several open houses at nearby orchid growers coming up. These are at Roberts Flower Supply, Windswept in Time Orchids and Porter's Orchids. More details are in another article below.

Barb Ford adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be Monday May 9th at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Community Center.

April Program

Dave Miller, Vice President and Program Director, gave a very informative talk called "*Taking care of your Orchids*". This included a very in depth video by the 'Orchid Doctor' showing how to unpot, clean, divide, and repot cattleya orchids. This video also included size and type of pots that may be used and different media used for one's particular growing conditions. "The Orchid Doctor" also showed how to make your own rhizome clips from 12 gauge wire to hold your plant in place while new roots stabilize the plant in the pot.

Dave also had a video clip that discussed spider mite damage and how to control these pests. This video gave practical advice to determine if you have a spider mite infestation, and what course of action you then need to take to eradicate this pest from your plant and or plants.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of GAOS will be held on Monday, May 9, 2011 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis. Dave Miller will present an American Orchid Society talk, "Unusual Orchids Visible with the Naked Eye."

Coming Up

June 13 - GAOS Summer Picnic banquet and the first member plant sale of 2011.

July 11 - Wayne Roberts will be giving a talk on '*Gardening under Lights*'.

Open Houses Ahead

Roberts Flower Supply, 12390 Root Rd, Columbia Station, OH 44028 is holding two open house sales dates. May 21, 2011 is for Cypripediums only. May 27-29, 2011 is an Open House at the greenhouse with orchid plant specials, supplies and a large selection of species plants for sale. Times are 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for all dates. Lunches and snacks will be available from 11:00 -2:00 on Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29. A free plant will be given away with every purchase. For a map see www.orchidmix.com.

Windswept in Time Orchids is having their spring open house Memorial Day weekend. The hours will be from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., both Saturday and Sunday, the 28th and 29th of May. Kim and Edgar Stehli invite you to come and visit with them at their greenhouse. There will be bargain tables of plants looking for new homes as well as lots of things in the greenhouse you may not have seen on the sales tables at the shows. There will also be a few divisions of their show plants available.

Windswept in Time Orchids is located at Kim and Edgar's house at 8066 Skyline Drive, Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147. The phone number is (440)-838-5757 if you have any questions. To get to the house, travel Route I-77 (north-south highway connecting Cleveland, Akron and points south). Get off the highway at exit 151, Wallings Rd. Wallings Rd is north of the Ohio Turnpike (Rt.I-80) and south of Route I-480. From the exit, go west on Wallings. There will be a flashing yellow light at the top of the hill just a thousand feet or so from the highway. This is Skyline Drive, turn right. Windswept in Time is the fifth house on the left side of the street. Kim and Edgar (along with their three French Bulldogs) look forward to seeing you.

Porter's Orchids, one of our vendors at our Spring Show, has invited members of GAOS to attend an open house which will be held August 20, 2011. Porter's Orchids is located in Grand Ledge, Michigan. Bill Porter is offering each carload of 4 persons, \$50.00 for gas money, to help defray their cost of driving to his place of business. There will be more details on this event in future newsletters.

Growing Orchids Outside in Summer

Even in northeast Ohio, although it may not seem like it, warm summer weather will arrive. After being house-bound for so many months, your orchids will really appreciate a summering outside. Of course, those who grow plants in greenhouses already have ideal conditions and can ignore the rest of this article. For the others, less fortunate, start planning now for summer growing conditions.

When night-time temperatures can be reliably expected to be above 50°F, around the last week of May or first week of June, your plants can be taken outside. We do have sunny days in Ohio and that sunlight can be quite intense. So don't just dump them out in the sun. Gradually acclimatize them to the brighter light. Start with a few days on a sun porch, perhaps, or deeply shaded under a tree. As they become accustomed to the light, move them to less shaded areas. Do not put them into direct sunlight, especially during midday. Remember, most epiphytic orchids are shaded by their host trees. Early morning and late afternoon sun is welcomed but do not cook your plants. Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum are less tolerant of high temperature and light levels and are best, perhaps, kept inside.

Some plants, like cymbidiums, can tolerate more sun. Be sure to fully acclimate them first. Some oncidiums and cattleyas also can take more intense light but not as much as the cymbidium.

It rains often in Ohio but there can also be long dry spells. Water your plants when the rains fail to do the job for you. In very hot conditions, your orchids will appreciate a spraying to cool the leaves. This might be necessary more than once a day. Do not forget to feed your plants. This is growing season and they like to eat, too. If you fertilize weekly, use a weak solution of fertilizer, about ¼ strength. Apply after you or the rain has wet the plants.

Keep an eye out for bugs like aphids, scale or even snails and slugs. Early discovery will avoid potentially serious problems later.

When the nightly temperatures again get to the 50° level, it is time to take your plants back inside. Cymbidiums are happy down to 40°F which will help to initiate spiking. This is the time to again look carefully for those hungry hitch-hikers who would welcome the benign climate of your house. Your orchids can now show their appreciation of your fine care by producing those beautiful flowers, the reasons why we all love orchids.

The Gallery

Some of the fine flowers displayed at
the April, 2011 meeting.

