



ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5 / V O L U M E 3 2 / I S S U E 4

Our February Program

Rob Halgren of Little Frog Farms is coming to talk about Latouria Dendrobiums. He will be bringing plants for sale.

Rob's Rules

- 1) There is always room for one more orchid
- 2) See Rule 1
- 3) If you have insufficient credit to obtain more orchids, obtain more credit

See Rob's bio on the following page.

PLEASE BRING YOUR PLANTS FOR SHOW AND TELL. ☺ It's always exciting to see all the different plants everyone is growing so bring them to the meeting so we can appreciate the blooms with you!

If you can't make it in person, please join us via Zoom:

<http://tiny.cc/AAOSMeeting>

Meeting ID: 875 9702 0445

Passcode: 199161

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87597020445#,,, *199161# US (Chicago)

(The AAOS meeting starts at 2 pm; discussion will start at 2:30 pm.)

REMINDER

The Greater Lansing Orchid show is on Feb 21-23. The show has been relocated from their usual location to Van Atta's Greenhouses in Haslett, MI.

More info to come on transporting plants for the display.

NEWSLETTER INDEX

February Program	Page 1
Rob Halgren's Bio	Page 2
AAOS Display at GVOS show and ribbon winners	Pages 3-5
Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026	Page 6
AAOS Officers and Volunteers for 2024-25 & AAOS online links	Page 7
AAOS Membership Form	Page 8



Slc. Cosmic Angel 'SVO Candy Stripe x Pot. Mem. Cristina Montero 'Candy Splash' grown by Ayako Kikuchi



ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

ROB HALGREN'S BIO

WE'VE BEEN GROWING ORCHIDS SINCE...

Well, seems like forever. I think I got my first orchid my first year of college, but it started to become an obsession in graduate school. This happens to correspond with the beginnings of the internet as most people know it, so as the internet grew we experimented with selling plants at shows (and online) and became active in many of the online orchid groups. In other words, we've been doing this a very long time, but also at a very hobby level scale.

I keep very busy (two and a half 'real jobs' plus orchids), so the orchid business is designed to be small and flexible. We focus on things that interest me (Dr. Rob) - which is mainly slippers, small species, and a few odd hybrids. We don't try to follow fashions, we grow what we grow and if the public wants it, so be it. We have dabbled in breeding and continue to do so, but again with the same goals - it has to interest me, I don't particularly care what the market wants.

ABOUT LITTLEFROG FARM:

Although I've been selling and showing orchids since near the very beginning, the business did not become formal until approximately 2003. At this point we lived in a more rural area, and I took pity on another commercial grower who was trying to go out of business. I took the greenhouse and moved it 30 miles. All I needed was a name. Fate intervened the night before my first child was born, when I found a little tree frog on the kitchen counter. Hence Littlefrog Farm (note that Littlefrog is one word, not two).

In about 2010, we moved. I now do virtually all of my growing in a converted (and heavily insulated) pole barn, using LED lighting. Some plants go outside in the summer, but otherwise everything is indoors with lights (there are no windows). Although it is difficult to grow some plants (mostly bigger plants), this has greatly reduced my heating expense and allows me to offer plants more inexpensively than many northern growers.

THE FUTURE:

Every grower makes some choices. I have purposely chosen to stay small and not to try to follow the market. One of our primary foci for the next decade will be in creating new hybrids and raising smaller orchids from seed. We are actively looking for stud plants in *Paphiopedilum*, *Phragmipedium*, *Leptotes* (and similar small species in the cattleya alliance), and other miniature to small growing orchids.

ABOUT THE OWNER:

That's me, Rob Halgren. Some of my students call me Dr. Rob but that isn't necessary. My formal training is in cancer biology (Ph.D. from [Northwestern University](#), after a B.S. in Biochemistry from [Michigan State](#)). While I did do research for quite some time, I no longer maintain an active research program. I teach biology at [Lansing Community College](#), manage and run the [Michigan State Science Olympiad](#) tournament, and am a member of the [Holt Public Schools](#) Board of Education. In my copious free time, I am also a long serving accredited judge in the [American Orchid Society](#).



ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

OUR DISPLAY AT THE GRAND VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY

Many thanks to everyone who contributed plants to our display! Many plants won awards and a huge thank you to the set up and tear down crews!!!





ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

OUR DISPLAY AT THE GRAND VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY (continued)

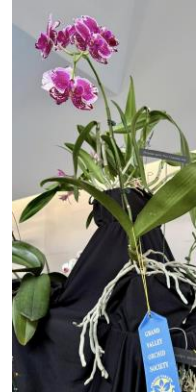




ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

OUR DISPLAY AT THE GRAND VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY (continued)



Congratulations to everyone who won a ribbon! 😊



ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

AAOS Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026

MEETING DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	LOCATION	SPEAKER + TOPIC
January 19, 2025	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	Basics of Growing Orchids
February 16, 2025	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	Rob Halgren - Littlefrog Farm - Latouria Section Dendrobiums and How to Grow Them
March 9, 2025	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	Dennis Steinbeck - Flask and Flora - TBD
April 6, 2025	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	Eric Sauer - River Valley Orchids - Phragmipediums
May 4, 2025	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	John Curtin - Lycastes
Summer 2025	TBD	TBD	Vivian Lin's home	AAOS Summer Picnic
September 21, 2025	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	Harold Koopowitz - Disas
October 19, 2025	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	Carol Klonowski, TBD
November 14-16, 2025	Fri-Sun	See flier	Matthaei Auditorium, Greenhouse, and Room 125	Ann Arbor Orchid Festival
December 2025	TBD	TBD	Paige and George Hartman's home	AAOS Holiday Party

AAOS usually meets September - May of each year.



ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

AAOS Officers and Volunteers for 2025-2026

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Laura Zimmerman	lhzimmerman@gmail.com	(267) 709-1424
Vice President	Michael Weber	meweber@bgsu.edu	(734) 707-5672
Treasurer	Linda Battison	Lcbattison@comcast.net	(810) 599-6529
Secretary	David Malmquist		(734) 604-2149
Director	Kevin Griffin	kahless66@yahoo.com	(248) 761-1272
Director	Brooke Monette	brooke@brookemonette.com	(734) 263-8448
Past President	Shane Ginnard	sginnard@emich.edu	(734) 882-9999
Historian	Dottie Winter		(734) 761-5859
Hospitality	Dave Malmquist		(734) 604-2149
Reception	Dottie Winter & Michael Weber		
Newsletter	Lynn Krawczyk & Vivian Lin	lynnkrawczyk@gmail.com	(734) 673-4822
Webmaster	Lynn Krawczyk & Brooke Monette		
Festival	Michael Weber & Vivian Lin		
Librarian	Brooke Monette		
Shows	Laura Zimmerman & Shane Ginnard		
Programs/Membership	Vivian Lin	vivlin1127@gmail.com	(734) 834-4367
Publicity/Recruitment	Keerthi (Ky) Sreenivasan	ksreeniv@med.umich.edu	(248) 242-0527

Find AAOS online - links below!

Website	https://annarbororchidsociety.org/
Facebook Group	https://www.facebook.com/groups/annarbororchids/
Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/annarbororchidsociety

ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Check the box for each line that you do NOT want published in the Membership Directory.

Address: _____ ☐

City/State/Zip: _____ ☐

Phone (home): _____ ☐

Phone (mobile): _____ ☐

Email: _____ ☐

Please check membership type: ☐ Full-time Student (FREE! electronic newsletter only)
☐ Individual (\$20)
☐ Household (\$25)

☐ Senior* Individual (\$15)
☐ Senior* Household (\$20)
* Senior rates apply to individuals 70 and over

The Newsletter is provided via email to all members at no additional cost. If you would like a printed paper copy (greyscale printed only) mailed to your home, please donate \$20 to help cover costs. Save trees--please only select this option if absolutely necessary.

☐ I would like a printed paper copy of the newsletter mailed to me. (\$20)

Membership form and payment can be brought to any in person meeting or mailed to Vivian Lin at 710 Watershed Drive / Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Payment can be made by check or by Venmo.

- Make checks payable to Ann Arbor Orchid Society. Please include (or email to Vivian) a membership form.
- Venmo payment option: @AnnArborOrchidSociety. Please email your membership information to Vivian at vivlin1127@gmail.com

AAOS MEMBER SURVEY – To help us provide meetings that are of interest to you, please take a moment to let us know your thoughts on the questions below. You can write your responses on the back of this form or email them to Vivian at vivlin1127@gmail.com. Thank you!

- 1) Would you characterize yourself as a beginner grower, an advanced grower or something in between?
- 2) How long have you been growing orchids? What kinds of orchids do you grow?
- 3) Where do you grow most of your orchids? (For example, windowsill, outdoors in summer, greenhouse, under artificial lighting, etc.)
- 4) What types of orchids would you like to hear more about?
- 5) What other orchid-related topics would you like to learn about?