

# ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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This is a combination newsletter for October & November.



In October 2022, the Ann Arbor Orchid Society celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> year!

Neal Foster has kindly written a history of the club. You can find it on the next several pages. Many thanks to Neal for conveying the club history!



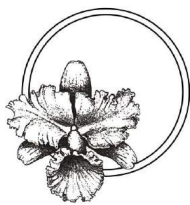
Phrag Yelva Myhre grown by Riki Marquis

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Happy Thanksgiving!!! ☺



# ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

## A Brief History of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society

by Neal R. Foster, Ph.D

In October 2022, our Ann Arbor Orchid Society celebrated its 30th Anniversary!

Things all started back in the mid-1980s. My wife Meredith Spencer Foster and I both loved flowers and gardens, and five years after we were married in 1980, we bought our first few blooming orchid plants at the Michigan Orchid Society's annual Palm Sunday Orchid Show at Laurel Park Mall in Livonia.

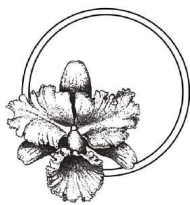
You can guess what happened next.

We had many sunny windows at our home in northeast Ann Arbor, and as the years passed, they gradually became crowded with orchids and other flowering plants. We joined the Greater Lansing Orchid Society and the Michigan Orchid Society, attended their monthly meetings, bought more orchids, won plants in raffles, and learned about their immense variety and the idiosyncrasies of their care. It was about an hour's drive to drive to the GLOS meetings at MSU in East Lansing, and a slightly shorter drive to MOS meetings in Birmingham. Warm friendships developed with members of both societies and soon we began volunteering to help set up orchid displays at their respective orchid shows. In 1988, we took weekly classes about orchids and orchid growing from Rodger Keller at Matthaei. We were pleasantly surprised at how many people in the class lived within about 30 minutes from Ann Arbor and we took down names, addresses and phone numbers of anyone who might interested in starting a local orchid club.

We were having lots of fun growing our orchids but our windowsills soon started overflowing, so I began using fluorescent shop lights to grow plants elsewhere in our house, including the basement. We had more than 250 plants at this point. Open houses at various MOS and GLOS members' greenhouses and under-lights setups started us thinking about having our own greenhouse. In 1990 we built a 16' x 22' Janco lean-to greenhouse on the southwest corner of our home.

Meredith and I began wondering anew whether there were enough orchid growers within a reasonable distance from AA for an orchid society to be successful here. I had been in other special-interest clubs in the area, such as Antiquarian Booklovers of Ann Arbor and a local aquarium (tropical fish) club, but those groups had died out after a few years. In 1992 we resumed a low-key effort to begin a local orchid club. We scanned membership directories of GLOS, MOS, and the American Orchid Society and handed out information fliers at local florist shops, the GLOS show, the AA Flower and Garden Show and the MOS show to get additional

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## A Brief History of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society (continued)

by Neal R. Foster, Ph.D

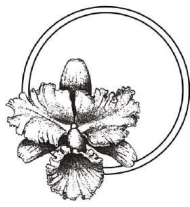
names and addresses vis-à-vis starting a local club. We also got much helpful advice from Ray McCullough, Prof. Warren H. Wagner, Jr., Ron Ciesinski, Doris Asher, Georgian Franczyk, Cynthia Yao, Connie Bailie, Barb Larime, Harry and Dottie Winter, Don Garling, Jr., Duane and Laura Duman, and many other MOS and GLOS members. Our first meeting was held in the evening of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1992, when about three dozen local orchid enthusiasts finally met together for the first time. By October 1994 we had developed our bylaws (amended January 13, 1997). Thanks to the work of Jim Rasmussen, we obtained a 501 c (3) status from the IRS and became affiliated with the AOS, the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and the Orchid Digest Corporation. Bill Brudon, a local artist who was one of our members, submitted various logo designs for our fledgling society, and our members voted to use his Cattleya design.

Our modest but highly successful Orchid Festival (which began in 1996, incidentally, as a suggestion by AOS judge Ed Barber) attracts about 1500-2000 people to MBG annually (except during the pandemic). The AAOS has set up displays of our members' blooming orchids at shows sponsored by our sister societies, the Northwest Michigan Orchid Society (Traverse City), Saginaw Valley Orchid Society, GLOS, MOS, Grand Valley Orchid Society, and the Mid-America Orchid Congress. We even set up a month-long display about orchid collectibles (stamps, art, rare colored prints, ceramics, books, vanilla lore, color photographs) in the illuminated glass display cases in the lower lobby of the AA District Library. Our meetings are much like those of other orchid clubs: a (brief) business meeting, a program by a member or invited speaker, a plant table, a raffle of plants or orchid-related items, sometimes a silent auction or sale of plants by a guest vendor. Once a year we usually have a workshop on dividing and repotting. Our fine newsletter, ably edited by Lynn Krawczyk, keeps everyone up to date on local orchid happenings.

Meredith developed early-onset Alzheimer's disease in about 2000 (her father and her paternal grandmother had it as well) and after a 15-year struggle, died at Huron Woods, a marvelous dementia care facility which unfortunately was closed down a few years ago.

Our orchid society has benefitted greatly from many wonderful people served the AAOS as officers and in various other ways. Then there are those good folks who are now gone from our midst: Alex Challis, Harry Winter, Glen and Maria Lehr, Bill Brudon, Cal Zuck, Christa Janecke, Dick Crane, Heidi Jacobus, Jim Cather, Don Garling, Jr., John Lewis, Joe Lum, Ray McCullough, and others. I apologize for those whose names I have missed.

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## A Brief History of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society (continued)

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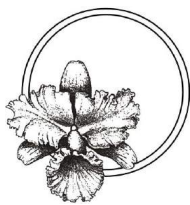
Meredith's and my experience with founding and helping build the AAOS was extremely rewarding. Yet I think anyone can start an orchid society (or other hobby club) where none now exists as long as there are, say, at least 15 or 20 people who are willing to drive to the meetings and at least half that many to volunteer to work together to further the club's purpose and goals.

Here are some lessons we learned the hard way while AAOS developed and grew:

- (1) Avoid making key decisions unilaterally or trying to do everything yourself; as early as possible ask other members ("stakeholders") to help form a board or executive committee to make decisions and to volunteer to do the jobs that need to be done.
- (2) Don't be overly perfectionistic about how various tasks are done by others, yet at the same time be wary of otherwise well-intentioned people who overcommit themselves and then cannot follow through on what they said they would do and when.
- (3) Make sure people fully understand what the jobs entail and that they have the necessary skill sets or experience to do them.
- (4) Make members and guests feel welcome at meetings and go out of your way to acknowledge specific members during the meeting and/or in the newsletter whenever they help the club in any way, including for bringing in plants for the plant table.
- (5) Don't take things so seriously and obsessively that it takes all the joy out of your orchid growing; it is just a fun and relaxing hobby for most people. Everyone, even the experts, were beginners at some point.



From Shane Ginnard:  
Phragmipedium longifolium bloom #14 with #15 on the way. This spike has been sequentially blooming since January! Nine months and counting!



# ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

## November 2022 Meeting Topic

- MEETING TOPIC + SPEAKER: Kim Feddersen will speak about Cool Orchids
- MEETING LOCATION: Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
1800 Dixboro Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
<https://mbgna.umich.edu/>  
Room 125
- MEETING DATE & TIME: November 13, 2022 from 2pm-4pm
- \*\* Food and drink are now allowed! There will be refreshments at the meeting
- Please bring plants you wish to re-home for the raffle table.
- Please bring plants for Show + Tell.

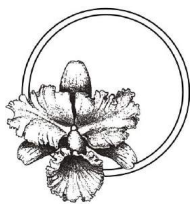
### About Kim:

I was genetically imprinted on all things botanical in my fathers retail orchid / tropicals nursery. I elected not to go into the family business full time, but have always maintained my interest and a large collection of 'this and that'.

I have grown orchids since 1968, specializing in 'slippers' (primarily Paphiopedilum), with Paph fairrianum my favorite species, smaller Vandaceous plants (such as Neofinetia falcata 'Maplewood') and a sprinkling of Cattleyas (such as RLC Maui's Golden Charm below), Aussie Dendrobiums & Cymbidiums.

I do a little breeding in several genera, so I often have a variety of extra plants, seedlings and occasionally flasks for sale.

Fair Orchids website: <https://www.fairorchids.com/>



# ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

## Catasetinae Plant Culture

by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids

*The following information was copied from an email that Fred Clarke sends out to his mailing list. If you'd like to keep up with his growing tips and new releases, consider subscribing to his newsletter:*

<https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/htm/maillinglist.html>

As we can tell, the weather is changing and your Catasetinae should now be in their final stages of growth. This was an excellent year for Catasetinae; many growers from around the country reported a fantastic flowering season.

The first signs of dormancy will soon be evident, with some areas of the country already seeing the start of the dormancy. Soon, it will be time to stop fertilizing and begin to decrease irrigation frequency.

In nature three important changes are occurring: 1) the rainy season is nearing its end with less frequent rain, 2) nights and days are cooler and 3) day length is shortening. These are the environmental factors that start the dormancy process.

With less rain fall fewer nutrients are moved to the root system (thus stop fertilizing) and the roots stay dryer longer (thus reduce irrigation frequency). This increasing dryness between irrigations is an indicator to the plant to harden off their pseudobulbs in preparation for the 2-4 month winter dry period. Hardened off bulbs are better at storing water through dormancy.

Humidity should be maintained at 40-60% however brief periods outside this range is not a problem. Maintain light levels and keep night temperatures at or above 55 degrees.

No re-potting at this time, the roots are well-developed and will resent being disturbed. If you were negligent, it is better to wait until next spring.

One of the great attributes of the Catasetinae is their deciduous nature. If you experienced some leaf damage this summer don't worry those leaves are going to drop off soon and next spring your plant will grow a new set. How many orchids are that forgiving when the leaves are damaged?

This is my favorite time of year, as walking through the greenhouses it looks like almost everything is blooming! There are Catasetums in flower, the Cynoches are blooming, and the first of the Mormodes are in spike! But there is still more to look forward to as the blooming season for Clowesia rosea hybrids begins in December and January.

If you haven't done so, please post your pictures to these Facebook group pages:

Catasetinae Canada:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/Catasetinaecanada/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/groups/Catasetinaecanada/?ref=br_rs)

Catasetum Fever:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/Catasetinae.Fever/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/groups/Catasetinae.Fever/?ref=br_rs)

Good growing,

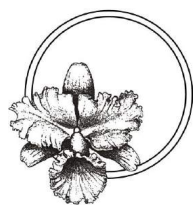
Fred Clarke and Carlos Lopez

Sunset Valley Orchids Inc.

(760) 310-0778

[fred.clarke@att.net](mailto:fred.clarke@att.net)

[www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)



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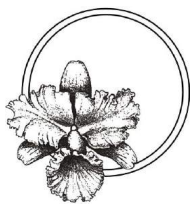
OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

## AAOS Meeting Schedule for 2022-2023

MEETING/SHOW DATE	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	LOCATION	SPEAKER + TOPIC
November 13, 2022	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	Kim Feddersen of Fair Orchids will speak about Cool Orchids
December 11, 2022	AAOS Holiday Party	2pm- 5pm	Riki and Denny Marquis's home 13512 West Wind Ct. South Lyon, MI 48171	
January 15, 2023	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 139	Shane Ginnard – Building Your Own Greenhouse
February 12, 2023	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 139	Edgar Stehli of Windswept in Time will speak about Habenarias
March 12, 2023	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 139	Russ Vernon – Topic TBD-- Odontoglossums?
April 16 , 2023	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	Orchids 101
May 7, 2023	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 125	Rob Halgren of Littlefrog Farms – Topic TBD--Dendrobiums?
August 13, 2023-- extra meeting!	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei Room 139	Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids - Paphiopedilums
September 17, 2023	Sunday	2pm	Matthaei – Room 139	TBD

AAOS meets September – May of each year, excluding December.





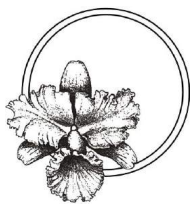
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## Upcoming Show Schedule for 2023

ORCHID SOCIETY	DATES & TIMES OF SHOW	LOCATION	SOCIETY'S WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
Grand Valley Orchid Society	Saturday January 29, 2023 / 10am-5pm Sunday January 30, 2023 / 11am-4:30pm	Frederik Meijer Garden & Sculpture Park 1000 E. Beltline Ave. Grand Rapid, MI 49525	<a href="https://grandvalleyorchidsociety.org/">https://grandvalleyorchidsociety.org/</a>
Greater Lansing Orchid Society	Saturday February 25, 2023 / 11am-4pm Sunday February 26, 2023 / 11am-4pm	Plant & Soil Conservatory Michigan State University  * See the GLOS website for map to the show location	<a href="https://www.greaterlansingorchidsociety.com/GLOSShow.html">https://www.greaterlansingorchidsociety.com/GLOSShow.html</a>
Ann Arbor Orchid Society	Friday March 17, 2023 Saturday March 18, 2023 Sunday March 19, 2023	Matthaei Botanical Gardens	More details on show set up times and show day times coming soon!
Michigan Orchid Society Show	Friday March 24, 2023 – Sunday March 26, 2023	Madison Heights	More details on time and location address coming soon.





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## CALL FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Have something interesting to tell the group? It can be anything orchid related!

- Learn something new?
- Have a tip or trick that has improved your orchid growing?
- Have a favorite orchid you are proud of and want to share?
- Know of an orchid event that the group would like to know about?
- Have you finally bloomed an orchid that has been taking up space for years without doing anything?
- Need advice about an orchid?

All of these are great items to include in our newsletter. 😊

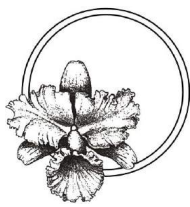
Send your information to me by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month and I will include it in the newsletter! You can email me directly at [lynnkrawczyk@gmail.com](mailto:lynnkrawczyk@gmail.com)

## AAOS ONLINE

Find the Ann Arbor Orchid Society online! Links below:

Website	<a href="http://www.aaosonline.org/">http://www.aaosonline.org/</a>
Facebook Group	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/annarbororchids/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/annarbororchids/</a>
Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/annarbororchidsociety">https://www.facebook.com/annarbororchidsociety</a>

Please note: The Facebook Group is private. This means that you will have to request to join it.



# ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

## AAOS Officers and Volunteers for 2022 - 2023

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Shane Ginnard	sginnard@emich.edu	(734) 882-9999
Vice President	Laura Zimmerman	<a href="mailto:lhzimmerman@gmail.com">lhzimmerman@gmail.com</a>	(267) 709-1424
Treasurer / Membership	Vivian Lin	vivlin1127@gmail.com	(734) 834-4367
Secretary	Paige Hartman	GEHartman1@msn.com	(734) 846-7864
Past President	Michael Weber	meweber@bgsu.edu	(734) 429-2034
Director	David Malmquist	dcmalmquist@gmail.com	
Director	Cynthia Yao	cyao4742@gmail.com	
Hospitality	Michael Weber		
Reception	Dottie Winter & Michael Weber		Dottie: (734) 761-5859
Newsletter	Lynn Krawczyk	lynnkrawczyk@gmail.com	(734) 673 -4822
Webmaster	Shane Ginnard		
Festival	Michael Weber & Kristen Uthus		
Shows	Shane Ginnard & Laura Zimmerman		
Programs	Vivian Lin		
Publicity/Recruitment	---		

# ANN ARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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: ☐ 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 mailed to your home, please donate \$10 to help cover costs.

☐ I would like a printed paper copy of the newsletter mailed to me. (\$10)

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 a printed membership form.
- Venmo payment option: @AnnArborOrchidSociety. Please email your membership information to Vivian at [vivlin1127@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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?