

# *Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter*

**Speaker: Bill Overton  
Everything about Mounting  
Orchids  
Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020  
1:30 p.m. set up**

Bill will discuss and show us how to mount orchids on Cork and Tree Fern mounts. He will show us how to attach a hanging wire onto the mount. Different attachment methods will be reviewed. Watering mounted orchids will be covered, too.

Bill's beginner class will discuss potting orchids in sphagnum moss.

Denise will be bringing plants to sell, profits to benefit the AAOS.

## **President's Message**

Happy New Year! We wrapped up 2019 for AAOS with a lovely pot-luck holiday party at Riki's house. There was lots of good food – we are blessed with lots of good cooks in our organization! – and good company. We all enjoyed seeing Riki's many blooming plants, and were impressed by her ability produce so many in a relatively small growing space. Thanks to Riki and Denny for hosting.

With the calendar turning to 2020, our attention must turn to the Festival, scheduled for March 21-22 (with set-up on March 20). We will need everyone to pitch in to have a good, smooth-running Festival. We have discovered in recent years is that our biggest problem is that we need more people to be at the Festival to answer questions, manage the

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## Upcoming Orchid Shows

There are two orchid shows before our show in March. January 24 is set-up time for our orchid display at the Grand Valley show at Meijer Gardens. We would LOVE to include your clean, flowering, orchid plants in our display!

Right now, I am planning on going for set-up and for take down. If you want your plant to be a part of our display, please let me know! [realdenisenash@att.net](mailto:realdenisenash@att.net) We can arrange a place and time for me to pick up your plants and return them to you.

The GVOS Show is a fantastic show every year. They have a lovely, large area for displays and there are always many great orchids to see and purchase! So even if you don't have plants in flower, or you can't get off work on Friday, I hope you take the drive to Grand Rapids to see the fabulous plants!

The Greater Lansing show is on February 22 and 23 this year. It is held in the Plant and Soil Science building on the Michigan State campus in East Lansing. This show has the benefit of having a LOT of beautiful flowering plants! It's the best time of year for orchid flowers, and it's only about an hour's drive from Ann Arbor. I will be on vacation for this show so I hope someone volunteers to put a display up for this wonderful show!

President's message, continued:

crowds, enforce the rules (no touching the plants!), etc. So please try to free up the weekend so that you can be around to help for as much of the weekend as possible. We will begin planning at our January meeting, and dedicate our February meeting exclusively to planning and preparation. The Festival is our major opportunity for "public outreach", and therefore for recruiting new members. Building our membership base is crucial to the maintenance and flourishing of our organization. So let's do all we can to put on a great show!



## AOS Calendar



**January 12 2020**— Bill Overton, Everything about Mounting Orchids  
**1:30—Beginner's Class:** Potting in Sphagnum moss

**January 25-26th, 2020** - GVOS orchid show, Meijer Gardens

**February 16 2020**—Planning for the Festival and the Beginner's class- TBD

**March 20** Festival Set up

**March 21-22** AAOS Orchid Festival

**March 28-29** MOS Show, Madison Hgts.

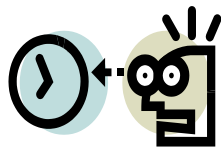
**April 19, 2020** - How to Grow your new orchid. Various stations will help you learn how to repot, mount, and grow your new orchid.

### NOTE NEW DATE!

**May 17, 2020**— Bill Overton—to be determined

Please email Denise with any suggestions for speakers! If there is a grower you particularly like, let me know and we'll try to book them as speakers! My email address is:

[realdenisenash@att.net](mailto:realdenisenash@att.net)



## Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter deadline is February 8, 2019. Please email submissions to Denise Nash at

[realdenisenash@att.net](mailto:realdenisenash@att.net)

## Ann Arbor Orchid Society 2019-2020 Officers

**President** - Michael Weber— 734-707-5627 - [meweber@bgsu.edu](mailto:meweber@bgsu.edu)

**Vice President**— Bill Overton is filling in.

**Treasurer** - Abby Skinner, 517-816-7979, [skinne11@msu.edu](mailto:skinne11@msu.edu)

**Secretary** - Paige Hartman—734-846-7864— [gehartman1@msn.com](mailto:gehartman1@msn.com)

**Director** - Cynthia Yao- [cyao4742@gmail.com](mailto:cyao4742@gmail.com)

**Director** - Emma Edge (734) 753-9557 [epedge@yahoo.com](mailto:epedge@yahoo.com)

**Past President** - Vivian Lin 734-834-4367, [VHL@umich.edu](mailto:VHL@umich.edu)

**Hospitality** Michael Weber

**Reception Committee** - Dottie Winter, 734-761-5859

**Library** - OPEN! Please Help!

**Membership** - Paige Hartman, 734-846-7864, [gehartman1@msn.com](mailto:gehartman1@msn.com)

**Newsletter Editor** - Denise Nash 248-349-5482, [realdenisenash@att.net](mailto:realdenisenash@att.net)

**Webmaster** — Laura Zimmerman— [lhzimmerman@gmail.com](mailto:lhzimmerman@gmail.com)—267-709-1424

**Orchid Festival** - Abby Skinner, 517-816-7979, [skinne11@msu.edu](mailto:skinne11@msu.edu)

**Orchid Shows** - Dottie Winter - 734-761-5859

**Programs** - Denise Nash, Vivian Lin

**Publicity** - Please volunteer!

**Ann Arbor Orchid Society Newsletter** - The AAOS meets monthly from September through May (excluding December) at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI. at 2:00 p.m., set up at 1:30. The AAOS Newsletter is published 8-9 times throughout the year, and is sent to all AAOS members. AAOS members and others are invited to submit articles or other information relating to orchids. The Ann Arbor Orchid Society is a 501(C)(3) educational and scientific organization, affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and with the Orchid Digest Corporation.

## CULTURE CONNECTION

**transitive verb: CULTIVATE, to grow in a prepared medium**

For The Novice

Why Orchids Need a Drop in Nighttime Temperature

By Sue Bottom

Have you ever wondered why all the books say that many orchids need a 10 to 20 F (about 5.5–11 C) drop in temperature from day to night? Lower nighttime temperatures are critical for good growth and flowering because there must be a proper balance between photosynthesis and respiration for a plant to grow and bloom well.

**ORCHIDS BY DAY** During the day, your plants are busy:

- **Making Food.** Your plants are busy using solar energy in a process called photosynthesis. Light is absorbed by the chlorophyll in the chloroplasts and the carbon dioxide absorbed by the plant is converted into chemical energy in the form of sugars and starches.
- **Using Food.** Your plants consume their energy reserves in a process known as respiration. The food reserves of sugars and starches are used to maintain existing tissue as well as produce new growths, flowers and seeds.

**ORCHIDS BY NIGHT** At night, photosynthesis stops but growth and respiration continue drawing on the energy reserves created during the day. Respiration occurs more quickly at higher temperatures than at lower temperatures. At lower temperatures, it is possible for the energy consumption to be less than energy production, allowing the plant to store energy for future use, including flowering. If night temperatures are too high, food is used faster than it can be made so growth is poor and orchids do not flower or they flower poorly.

**PROVIDING LOWER NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURES** Providing cooler nighttime temperatures can be problematic if you are growing indoors in a climate-controlled environment. Perhaps the best alternative is a programmable thermostat or manually turning the thermostat down at night. Orchids growing by a bright window will be a few degrees warmer during the day from solar gain and orchids growing by an open window may be a few degrees cooler at night in winter. Where possible, you can provide lower nighttime temperatures if you grow your orchids outdoors or on a screened porch during the warm season.

**FLOWER INDUCTION BY NIGHTTIME CHILLING** Many orchids require a significant day–night temperature difference to induce flowering. Winter-blooming phalaenopsis require a 15 F (8.3 C) drop in nighttime temperature for two or three weeks to initiate their flower spikes. Cymbidiums and dendrobiums can require an even larger temperature difference. *Dendrobium crumenatum* is an

interesting species that opens all its blooms simultaneously eight or nine days after a thunderstorm; some believe this is a result of the cooling effect of the evaporation of rainwater.

**ZYGOPETALUMS CRAVE COOLER NIGHTS** I have long loved zygopetalums with their bluish purple, green and bronze flowers and incredible fragrance, although they have tended to be very short-lived in my care. I have tried growing them in a wide variety of light conditions and potting mixes. Knowing that they like cooler conditions than we have in St. Augustine, I tried the old grower's trick of growing them in sphagnum moss in a clay pot dropped in a second clay pot to keep them a little cooler from the water evaporating from the porous clay. They grew better, but still struggled. I was telling Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids my tale of woe and he told me to get them out of the greenhouse and under the shade of a tree. That provided a few extra degrees of nighttime cooling and the growth rate exploded over the summer. I was treated to more zygo blooms than ever before.

Understanding your plant's metabolism gives insight into how best to grow it. Cooler nighttime temperatures allow your orchid to store, rather than consume the food it manufactured during the day. This stored energy can then be used by the plant to produce flowers. Next to insufficient light, insufficient day to night temperature change is the most likely cause of your orchid failing to bloom. If your plants are growing well and you are sure they are getting enough of the right kind of light, try dropping your night temperatures by a few degrees. You may be pleasantly surprised by the increase in flowers your plants produce. (November 2014, ORCHIDS, page 654.Reprinted with permission).



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January 2020



# Saginaw Valley Show Report

by Denise Nash

I found the registration tickets, but I'm not sure I have them all. That would be my fault. Time is an enemy of mine and the lack of organization skills mixed with a major holiday really messed this up. Right now, I miss Harry's timely reports very much! But here goes.

Paige picked up Dottie, and then met me at the Park and Ride on US23. We then met Deb Heckler at the show. Deb did a super job registering the plants, I did some staking, and Dottie did the placement. Paige did her usual excellent job writing all the labels. We managed to squeeze in some shopping, too!

With Dottie's excellent design, we ended up with a second for the display. Thanks to Paige and Deb for contributing plants! And Thanks to Saginaw Valley for a lovely show.

Ribbon	Plant	Exhibitor
Trophy – Best in Class	Vanda John De Biase	Denise Nash
Blue	Paphiopedilum villosum	Denise Nash
Red	Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory	Denise Nash
Red	LC. Cat's Meow	Denise Nash
Red	Oncsa. Jiubao Gold	Denise Nash
Red	Paphiopedilum Bloodline	Denise Nash
Red	Paphiopedilum Fairly Dreamy	Denise Nash
Red	Phragmipedium Pink Panther	Deb Heckler
White	Cattlianthe Secret Love	Denise Nash
White	Paphiopedilum Papa Rohl	Denise Nash

Denise and Deb tore the display down in record time. Next show is Grand Valley! I hope to see you and your plants there! Below on the left is the AAOS display, and on the right you'll see Sally Heinlein's INDIVIDUAL display, that won the trophy.



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## Ann Arbor Orchid Society Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip

Phone (Home)

Phone (Work)

E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$20)

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Individual (\$15)

\_\_\_\_\_ Household (\$25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Household (\$20)      Senior rates apply for those 70 and over.

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

☐ New Address

☐ Beginner

☐ Advanced Grower

☐ Commercial Grower

What is your growing environment?

☐ Greenhouse

☐ Artificial lights

☐ Windowsill

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive your newsletter via email only? ☐ Yes      ☐ No

Member of the American Orchid Society? ☐ Yes      ☐ No

Orchid Digest Corporation? ☐ Yes      ☐ No

Please make checks payable to the Ann Arbor Orchid Society. You may bring this application to any meeting, or mail it to: AAOS Membership, P.O. Box 3006, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3006

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