

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

## September 2015

### ***August 2015 Meeting***

The August 11, 2015 meeting of the Greater Akron Orchid Society was called to order by Dave Miller, President at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, Akron, Ohio . The agenda involved reporting to the general membership regarding the recent executive board meeting held August 3.

### ***General Business***

Treasurer Frank Skalak gave a report on the state of the treasury of the Society. A healthy bank balance will enable the Society to continue its operations.

A new volunteer position of "Historian" was proposed by the executive board, but will not be on the board. The society has a number of documents and properties spread over members' homes and our storage location in Akron. The first job will be to setup a permanent filing system with Barb Ford's help. It was decided that in the fall as the weather cools, there will need to be a work party to organize and catalogue the items at the storage facility.

A bylaw amendment was delivered to the members with a final vote to come at the September meeting. Standardizing all references to the "Executive Board" and "Bylaw" along with a clause assigning the past-president as trustee were proposed. This will amend the current bylaws of November 2014. As a continuation and clarification to the Society bylaws that were amended last November, there needs to be a description of the duties of president and vice president.

The dates for the 2016 show will be March 5 & 6 with set-up on Friday, March 4. Jim Bell will continue as show chairman with support from Mary Bell. To add continuity to show planning in future years, it is suggested that anyone interested in learning the 'ins and outs' of show planning should volunteer to help Jim with this year's planning. Additionally, we have a goal of documenting the various positions responsibilities to help ensure continuity

#### President

**David Miller**

#### Vice President

**Brandon  
Spannbauer**

#### Treasurer

**Frank Skalak**

#### Secretary

**Janet Neyrinck**

#### Editor

**Paul Bujak**

#### Trustee

**Barbara Ford**



***Coelogyne (Coel.) Bird in Flight 'Raven'***  
CCM/AOS – Dave Miller

Brandon Spannbauer mentioned that Gary Meyer will be importing plants from Colombia. Contact Brandon for further information.

### ***Other Shows***

Wayne Roberts reported that West Shore Orchid Society has applied for and is likely to host the 2018 Mid-American Orchid Congress. With that in mind, they have decided to move their annual show to the fourth week of April to allow for the needed dates in 2018.



***Phalaenopsis (Phal.) Hybrid*** – Roger Bispeck

## ***Plant Problems***

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Greater Akron Orchid Society will be held on Monday, September 14, 2015 at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center on Portage lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio at 6:45 p.m.

The September GAOS meeting will feature a program on "Growing Miniature Cymbidiums" presented by John Dunkelberger. John is a longtime Pennsylvania resident and has been accredited as an American Orchid Society judge for over forty years. He specializes in breeding orchids in the Oncidium Alliance and holds numerous AOS awards for his hybrid orchids. He is a frequent speaker to orchid societies and judges at our spring orchid show every year. John will be bringing orchid plants to sell.

### ***Bylaw Amendments***

A bylaw amendment was presented by Dave Miller, president, to all members in attendance at the August meeting. Discussion from the floor presented no necessary changes to the recommendations from the Executive Board so the vote on this amendment will take place at the September meeting. Passage will require a two-thirds affirmative vote of attending members at this meeting. A printed copy of the proposed amendment will be available at the meeting and is also available to view on the society website at [www.thegaos.com](http://www.thegaos.com) by going to the "Members" tab. In summary, it is proposed to a). standardize all references to "executive committee", "board", "board of officers" to "executive board" which standardizes terminology with Roberts Rules of Order, b) standardize all references to "by laws" and "by-laws" to "bylaws" and c) insert a clarification to members of the executive board specifying the past-president is "currently assigned as trustee".

### ***Editor Plans Retirement***

GAOS Newsletter editor, Paul Bujak, has announced plans to leave his post as editor and retire to regular membership. Citing five years on the job, Paul says that he feels a bit of burn-out and wishes to spend more time at meetings just talking about orchid growing with other members. He will continue to publish the newsletter through the end of 2015.

If any member would like to express their journalistic and publishing talents and take over publishing the newsletter, please let an officer know.

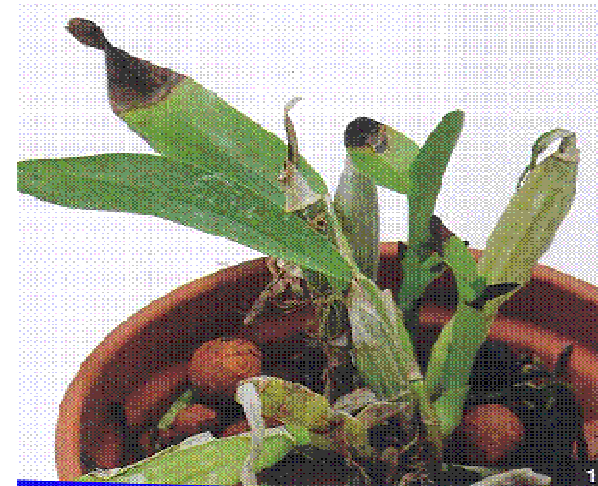
Wayne Roberts gave last month's presentation on what signs your plants might give you when they are not doing well. Some of these signs are merely a manifestation of the plant's natural cycle and are not of concern. For instance, dendrobiums lose leaves as part of this natural cycle. If a plant has developed rot however, it is advised to just cut out the bad area and allow the plant to recover on its own. One instance when plants should be discarded is when they have been infected with virus. Viruses are not curable, can spread and often any remedy would kill the plant.

Some measures for prevention of the spread of disease are to always use a sterile or new blade when trimming plants, get rid of used wooden stakes, and be sure to wash your hands when caring for plants.

Cheap generic fertilizers are a no-no. Some of the identifiable problems are caused by various deficiencies, such as of calcium, making leaf tips brown, and magnesium, causing brown leaves on cattleyas. Simple Epsom salts can be used for paphiopedilums to provide magnesium. A lack of phosphorus will cause poor flowering and purple leaves.

The back of the leaves is a good place to look to learn what is ailing your plants. For example, a white haze is generally caused by fungus. Too cold a temperature will cause brown spots.

Please see **Problems** on Page 5



**Calcium Deficiency – New growth affected most**

## ***JUDGES CORNER – AOS Awards***

By Dave Miller

I know how confusing the American Orchid Society award system seems to be. Add the Taiwan Orchid Growers Association (TOGA), Australian Orchid Society (AOC) and other countries as well and the label on your new orchid can look like a well-used passport.

Let's focus just on the AOS award system. Explanations of AOS awards can be found on its website at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). From there, click on the "Judging" link, then click on "Judging Handbook". The entire handbook is public information. Once there, sections VI and VII explain all of the awards and then explain the point system which is used by all judges at AOS sanctioned events. It even shows all of the scoresheets.

AOS awards are divided into "Awards for Individual Plants", "Awards for Display of Plants, Flowers and Educational Material" and "Special Annual Awards". If there a point count required for an award, it will be 100-points. Some awards do not require pointing and are awarded based on the judging team agreement.

### **PLANT AWARDS**

**HCC (Highly Commended Certificate)** - 75 to 79 points on the Flower Quality Scoresheet.

**AM (Award of Merit)** - 80 to 89 points on the Flower Quality Scoresheet.

**FCC (First Class Certificate)** - 90 to 100 points on the Flower Quality Scoresheet.

**CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit)** - 80 to 89 points on the Cultural Merit Scoresheet.

**CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence)** - 90 to 100 points on the Cultural Merit Scoresheet.

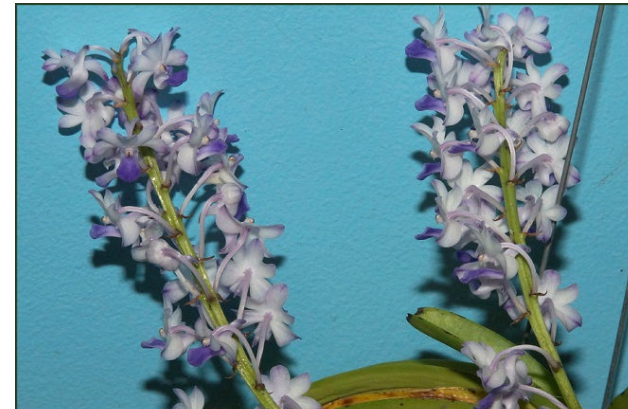
**CHM (Certificate of Horticultural Merit)** - 80 to 100 points on the Horticultural Merit Scoresheet.

**CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition)** – no scoring; two-thirds affirmative of the judging team.

**JC (Judges' Commendation)** – no scoring; 75% affirmative of the judging team.

**AD (Award of Distinction)** – no scoring; awarded unanimously by the judging team.

**AQ (Award of Quality)** - no scoring; awarded unanimously by the judging team.



***Rhynchosstylis (Rhy.) Coelestis* – Wayne Roberts**

### **EXHIBIT AWARDS**

**AOS Show Trophy** - 80 to 100 points on the Show Trophy Scoresheet.

**Silver Certificate** - 85 to 89 points on the Show Trophy Scoresheet.

**Gold Certificate** - 90 to 100 points on the Show Trophy Scoresheet.

**Educational Exhibit Certificate** - 80 to 100 points on the Educational Scoresheet.

**Artistic Certificate** - no scoring; awarded unanimously by the judging team.

**Next month:** A closer look at the AOS Flower Quality awards.

HAPPY ORCHIDING

## **Problems** – continued from Page 3

Your orchids might need a good fertilizer with the following ingredients and contents:

Total nitrogen 12% - Nitrate nitrogen 11.4%, Ammoniacal nitrogen 0.6%

Phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) 0.88%  
Potash (K<sub>2</sub>O) 13%

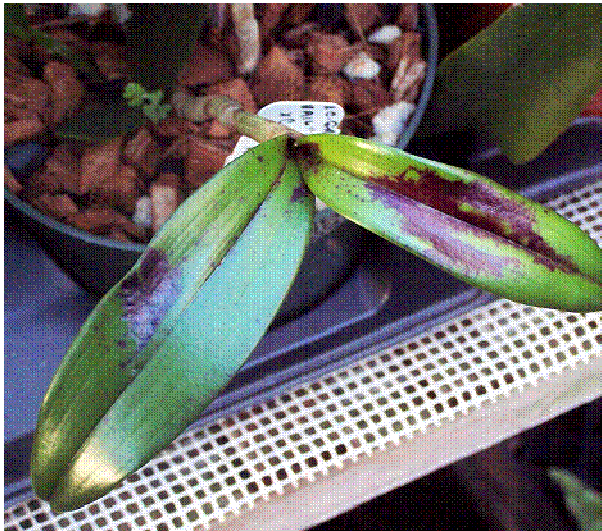
Calcium (Ca) 7%  
Magnesium (Mg) 2%

Iron (Fe) 12%  
Zinc (Zn) 0.03  
Boron (B) 0.01%

Manganese (Mn) 0.088  
Copper (Cu) 0.03%  
Molybdenum (Mo) 0.01%

### Other fertilizer deficiencies

- Potassium: mottled, spotted or curled leaves, may look burnt
- Iron: dying roots
- Manganese: Dark spotting near veins, white spots
- Boron: stunted growth, roots discolored cracked & brown spot
- Copper: die back of new growths
- Chlorine: wilting, stubby roots, yellowing, loss of scent



**Magnesium Deficiency – Old growth affected most**

## **Safely Overpotting a Cattleya Seedling**

by Charles Marden Fitch

The following article first appeared in the American Orchid Society BULLETIN Vol. 53, No. 5, May 1984. It describes a safe method of containing actively growing vigorous seedlings. While an Aircone pot is used for the demonstration, slotted so-called "Orchid Pots" will also work effectively.

ACTIVE SEEDLINGS sometimes send roots out of their pots, which in turn often fasten to nearby objects, making the plants difficult to handle. Giving these vigorous roots a confined but suitable place to grow is sometimes possible if the potting medium is very loose, thus avoiding the danger of wet or soggy conditions. The main danger of using an unusually large pot, called overpotting, is that the potting ingredients will remain so wet for so long a time that roots of epiphytic orchids contained within will rot.

To confine the roots of bench-grown seedlings, without causing them to rot, I provide a very well-drained container. For example, consider a Cattleya hybrid seedling sending out healthy new roots in all directions. The new growth of this plant is just beginning, indicating that now is a good time to repot. I pot the plant into a plastic pot about one inch (2.5 cm) large than usually recommended for a plant of this size.

The new pot is a Rand Aircone type, designed by orchid grower Ray Rand to provide extra air circulation around roots. The potting mixture includes coarse pebbles, hardwood charcoal, wine corks, and some coconut fiber. By putting an inch of pebbles in the bottom of the pot, then using charcoal and wine corks to give roots something to grip, I am sure that air circulation is adequate. Some coconut (Husky) fiber used very loosely around the top section of the pot gives some water-retaining material for roots to encounter as they are sprouting from the new growth.

- *Talisman Cove, 1120 Cove Road, Mamaroneck, New York 10543.*

This article, edited for this publication, appears on the American Orchid Society website, [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).





***Cattleya (C.)* White Bridal x Hawaiian Wedding Song – Sharon Harper**



***Maxillaria (Max.) tenuifolia* – Lore Yu**



***Paphiopedilum (Paph.)* Norito Hasegawa – Sharon Harper**

## ***The Gallery***

Some of the fine flowers displayed at the August 2015 meeting.



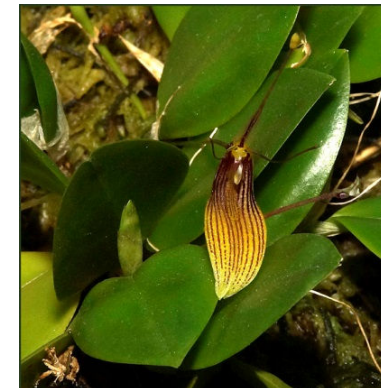
***Paphiopedilum (Paph.) concolor* – Sharon Harper**



***Paphiopedilum (Paph.)* Transvaal – Wayne Roberts**



***Paphiopedilum (Paph.)* Senne Aurum – Wayne Roberts**



***Restrepia (Rstp.) trichoglossa* – Brandon Spannbaauer**



***Phalaenopsis (Phal.)* Hybrid – Claudia Englert**