

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

February 2016

Minutes of the January 2016 Meeting

President

David Miller

Vice President

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Treasurer

Frank Skalak

Secretary

Lore Yu

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Barbara Ford

Dave Miller presented a delightful and enlightening talk and slide show on the judging of displays at Orchid Shows. Those present were given the opportunity to understand the elements that make a winning display. Dave showed us slides of some truly wonderful and amazing displays arranged by societies, vendors and even professionals. Hopefully, what we have learned will help us win a gold or silver certificate at our next show!

General Business

Dues for 2016 need to be paid. The membership costs are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family. This amount helps to pay for speakers, refreshments, the holiday party, the picnic and, best of all, the free orchids at the holiday party! Beside the free orchid(s) at the holiday party, you also get the newsletter delivered through your email so you can keep up with the happenings of the GAOS, even if you cannot attend the meetings.

Checks should be made payable to the Greater Akron Orchid Society and can be given to Frank Skalak, Treasurer, at the next meeting or mailed to: Frank Skalak, 9258 Seneca St. NW, Massillon, OH 44646.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

New Business

Advertisements for the Show Booklet:

The deadline is February 15, 2016 for the advertisements for the show booklet. The forms can be found on our website. You can also submit the information via email. These advertisements help keep our show free so that everyone has the opportunity to learn about and enjoy the orchids.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, February 8, 2016 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319. We will finalize all the plans for our show. This is a great chance to ask any questions you might have about entering your orchids in the show. We hope to see everyone there! You do not have to be a member to attend!

Program: **Preparing Plants for Show**

Speaker: **Dave Miller**

The GAOS Orchid Show is March 5th and 6th. Are your plants ready for exhibition? Dave will present a slide show and speak on how to get your plants ready for competition. He'll share lots of photos from regional and national orchid shows where exhibit preparation ranged from exceptional to less than exceptional.

From the Editor

We are now on Facebook! Get all our up to date info and pics. You can find us at www.facebook.com/theGAOS. Also, please feel free to send me any articles or photos to be included in future newsletters to me:

Thanks,
Brandon Spannbauer
braxtons@gmail.com

Spring Show . . . we still need a few things

Trophies:

If you would like to honor a friend or family member, we still need a few more sponsors for the trophies that are given out as awards at the shows. Each one costs \$20 and the name will be included with the trophy. If you would like to know which trophies still need a sponsor, please contact Andrea Altvater. Checks are payable to the Greater Akron Orchid Society.

Hospitality:

Cheryl Paul has generously volunteered to organize the hospitality for the show. While we do not need plate, cups, plastic-ware or bowls, there are many other things that we do need to help feed our vendors, judges and volunteers. Please contact Cheryl Paul if you are interested in donating food, beverages, or a covered dish. To make set-up less stressful, she asks that all non-perishables be brought to the next meeting. She is also asking for volunteers to donate 3 hours of time help serve.

Clerks:

One of the more educational aspects of helping with the show is clerking. It involves accompanying the judges during judging. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn how judges evaluate whether or not to make an award. The judging begins on Saturday at 7:00 am. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Barb Ford.

Leave a message for Andrea, Cheryl, or Barb at gaos@the_gaos.com

Winter Seminar Series to Feature GAOS member, Barb Ford

Donzell's Garden Center is starting its annual Winter Seminar Series on February 8. Classes will be held each Saturday at 11 am. Admission is free. Those who wish to attend are asked to reserve a place by calling 330-724-0505.

The guest speaker for the February 13 seminar is Barb Ford, who serves on the GAOS Board as Trustee, and will speak on "How to Grow Orchids." Her talks are always lively and informative!

Information on other classes in the series is available at info@donzells.com

From the January Member Survey...

The newest member joined GAOS in July, 2015 and the most senior members joined more than 20 years ago. The average membership of those who responded is 8 years.

The number of years members have owned orchids ranges from 1 year to more than 40 years. Nearly everyone started with a phalaenopsis. The most frequently grown are (equal responses) cattleyas and hybrids, dendrobiums, and oncidiums, followed by paphiopedulums.

No one is growing only one orchid. Orchid counts range from 12 to more than 10,000. Some admit "too many to count."

The majority grow their plants under lights, primarily in a basement. About half rely on windowsills or in front of patio doors. Only a handful grow in a sunroom or greenhouse. About 2/3 summer their plants outdoors.

Members most often listed three challenges: getting plants to re-bloom, repotting, and "not killing them."

Greatest accomplishments included: reblooming, winning awards in shows, and "not killing them."

A Message from the President . . .

Deadline for Entries for the 2016 GAOS Orchid Show is Near

February 15 is the deadline for entering an exhibit in our 2016 show. Contact Show Chairperson, Jim Bell, at gaos@thegaos.com to register your entry and visit www.thegaos.com for more information.

Exhibits may range from a single plant up to a collection that can be displayed in 25 square feet. All exhibits are governed by AOS exhibit rules and the committee always reserves the right to screen those requesting space. Let's make it another fabulous show!

Dave Miller



Bring a family member, friend, or neighbor!

Free Admission

Free Parking

Wheelchair and
walker friendly

Convenient
Restrooms

Handouts on "How to
Grow Orchids"

"Ask an Expert" -
answers for your
orchid questions

Meeting Schedule Through July 2016

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Members are encouraged to bring orchids from their collection for exhibit.

All are welcome; you do not have to be a member to attend.

February 8: Preparing Plants for Show (plant sale)
Dave Miller

March 14: How to Repot Your Orchid and Repotting Clinic
(repotting supplies will be available for purchase)

April 11: Neofinetias and Other Orchid Gems
Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids (plant sale)

May 9: Growing Phalaenopsis from Seed
Russ Vernon, New Vision Orchids (plant sale)

June 13: Summer Picnic and 1st Member Auction

July 11: Choosing the Right Orchid
Allen Lund, West Shore Orchid Society (plant sale)

How Can You Help?

GAOS needs volunteers to help make the Spring Show a success! Here's how you can help:

- ◇ contact businesses to sell ad space in the Show program (deadline for submission is February 15)
- ◇ set up tables and displays Friday morning, March 4, at Donzell's.
- ◇ help clean up/ take down tables Sunday afternoon, March 6
- ◇ donate cash to help cover Show expenses

Contact Jim Bell at gaos@thegaos.com to volunteer!

Growing Hydroponic Orchids

by Jane Bush

Hydroponics is growing plants in water with added nutrients. In the hydroponic method, plants are grown without traditional media (such as bark, perlite, or spagnum). Bare-rooted plants are placed in a container of inert media (special clay "marbles" called hydroton or leca). This media wicks moisture by osmosis, providing water and nutrients to the plants. Multiple pots of plants can be set up in a flood tray, where in an electric pump fills the tray with water for 15 minutes per day, then drains/recycles it.

There are many advantages to growing orchids by this method, including less chance of over/ under-watering, better air flow to the roots, and less-frequent need for repotting. The method requires less water and nutrients, as the fertilizer/water solution is reused for up to a month. It is a real time-saver for the grower.

Disadvantages to hydroponic growing include an initial monetary investment for supplies and the potential for rapid loss of plants if the electric pump system fails.

Supplies and materials required include containers (commercial or home-made with holes about an inch from the bottom), inert media (e.g. Hydroton), liquid fertilizer or crystals that are dissolved in water (thick liquids do not work.) In addition, for a multiple plant system, you need a flood tray to collect water and a collection container to hold the recycled water.

Orchids such as cattleya, cymbidium, oncidium, paphiopedilum, dendrobium and miltoniopsis are the most suited to hydroponic culture. Others report success with phragmipedium, epidendrum, masdevallia, zygopetalum, coelogyne, bulbophyllum, and some gongoro. Experienced hydroponic growers have advised not to try: vanda, tolumnia, acineta, stanhopea, and some gongoria with their downward inflorescences.

The most difficult part of hydroponics is transferring a plant from soil/bark media to hydroponics. You need to **completely** clean the roots, as well as remove the dead roots.

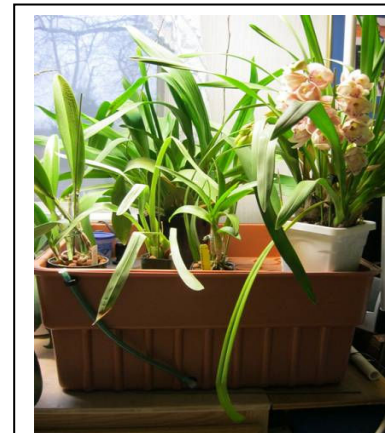
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Various size commercial pots with Hydroton and water level indicator. The outer container holds water; the inner container holds the inert media and plant.



Home-made container; note hole 1 inch from bottom. Water remains below the hole, out of reach of the roots. Water wicks up by osmosis to the media above.



The Megagarden is a commercially available system for multiple plants. Plants are flooded via a submersible pump for 15 minutes per day. Put the pump on a timer and save hours of work watering.



Above are the components of a Megagarden. Pots, a flood tray, a collection tray and a submersible pump allow many plants to be grown together hydroponically.

(Hydroponics...continued from previous page)

Steps for commercial containers for individual plants:

- ◇ Prepare plants.
- ◇ Insert plants into inner container and gently fill with inert media.
- ◇ Prepare water/fertilizer mix.
- ◇ Fill the outer container with water/fertilizer mix to the "optimal" mark.
- ◇ Once per month (after discarding solution) flush the media with plain water to remove excess nutrients.

Steps for home-made containers for individual plants:

- ◇ Prepare plants.
- ◇ Insert plants into containers and gently fill with inert media.
- ◇ Prepare water/fertilizer mix.
- ◇ Fill container until water comes out of the hole 1" from the bottom.
- ◇ Always set the pot on a saucer to collect over-flow.

Steps for a multi-plant system:

- ◇ Follow manufacturer's instructions.



Advice for Newbies from GAOS Members . . .

"Start with a mature plant." Wayne Roberts

"Try many types. You might be surprised at what you're good at growing." Brandon Spannbauer

"Start with a phal or paph. They require less light and adapt to home conditions." Barb Ford

"Be patient and filter advice." Frank Skalak

"Come to the meetings, ask questions, rely on the experience of others and don't be afraid to try something new." Bernie Skalak

"Read everything you can about orchid culture and match what you collect to the conditions you can provide." Cheryl Paul

"Start with hydroponics." Jane Bush

"Try everything and go with what works." Doris Gay

"They're easier than you think. If I can do it, you can!" Larry Ball

"Don't give up!" James and Carol Crook



Phalaenopsis in a commercial container (right) and in a home-made container (left)



Jane Bush has been a member for 2 years and cymbidiums are her favorite orchids to grow.

The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the
January 2016 meeting



Wayne Roberts



Brandon Spannbauer



Paul Bujak



Jane Bush



Dave Miller



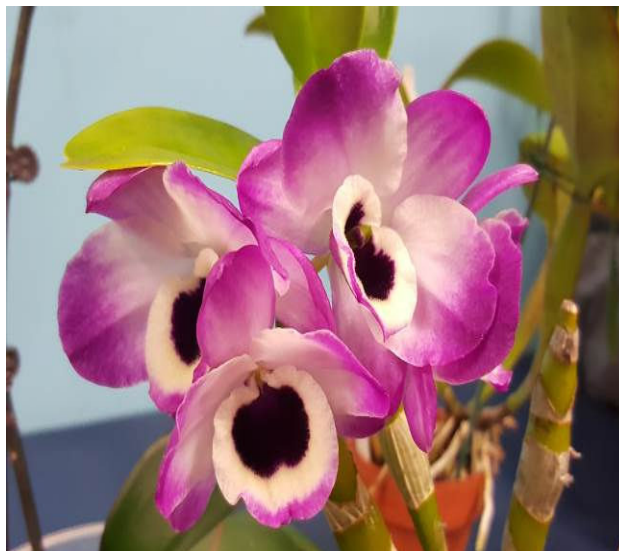
Paul Bujak

The Photo Gallery (cont.)

Member exhibits from the
January 2016 meeting



Jane Bush



Paul Bujak



Jenny Ross



Lore Yu



Jane Bush



Jane Bush