

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

October 2015

September 2015 Meeting

The September 2015 meeting of the Greater Akron Orchid Society was called to order by Dave Miller, President. The meeting was held at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, Akron, Ohio. The agenda involved discussion of the bylaws amendments.

General Business

Treasurer Frank Skalak reported on the state of the Society treasury. President Dave Miller pointed out that it is necessary to keep a healthy balance in the account to ensure being able to meet expenses for the show and in case of an unforeseen event.

It was decided that as the weather in the fall cools, there should be a work party to organize and catalogue the items at the storage facility. Members should contact Barb Ford to help with this project.

A bylaw amendment was delivered to the members at the August meeting. Since there has been sufficient time to review and request any changes, a motion to accept the amendments as written was made by Wayne Roberts and seconded by Mary Jo Miller. Members voted unanimously to adopt the amendments as written.

New Business

Kurt Nestel and Lore Yu proposed that the Society have a presence at the Louisville craft fair, a very popular and well-attended event, on November 14th. It was agreed that this is a good opportunity to increase awareness of GAOS and promote joining the Society. Dave Miller will complete the 2016 show flier in time to use at the event. Culture sheets, orchid magazines, potting supplies and 2016 membership applications will be made available at the show. It was also discussed that having plants available at the show could be coordinated with annual purchase for the member-gift plants. Barb Ford will research this.

President

David Miller

Vice President

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Treasurer

Frank Skalak

Secretary

Janet Neyrinck

Editor

Paul Bujak

Trustee

Barbara Ford

Program

John Dunkelberger was our guest speaker on the subject "*Growing Miniature Cymbidiums*". John is a longtime Pennsylvania resident and has been accredited as an American Orchid Society judge since 1972. 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.

He shared a beautiful slide show highlighting his many successful and some, self-admittedly, not-so-successful breeding efforts in the Oncidium Alliance. John was generous in explaining his particular efforts as well as delving into some more general explanations of plant genetics. He explained the more desirable traits he searches out such as color and plant vigor.



***Cattleya (C.) gaskelliana* – Paul Bujak**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of GAOS on October 12, 2015 will be the nomination of officers for the 2016 year and the second member plant auction. Society members bring orchids they no longer want or cannot grow or extra orchid divisions and sell them to other members using a silent auction format. The orchid society keeps 25% of the selling price and the seller keeps 75% of money received. It is a very good way to get inexpensive orchids for a very low price which reduces the risk if the plant doesn't work out down the road. It also helps the society as a fund raiser.

Executive Board Meeting

There will be a GAOS Executive Board meeting on Monday October 5, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Waterloo Restaurant on Waterloo Road in Akron, just west of I-77. All members are welcome to attend and contribute. All non-board members need an RSVP to Dave Miller at dcmjpasmil@aol.com or 330-307-7189 in order to plan for space and food service. We will be having dinner but it isn't a requirement for attendance.

Open Houses and Other Societies

Roberts Flower Supply will be having an open house on Friday, October 2, from 1 to 7 pm and Saturday, October 3, from 10 to 4 pm. Over 2000 new orchid plants are available and there is an offer of \$5.00 off a second plant when a blooming-size plant is purchased. Details can be found at www.orchidmix.com or 440-236-5571.

The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh) is holding its annual Fall Orchid Fest on Saturday October 17 and Sunday October 18. Details can be found at www.oswp.org.



Brassavola (B.) nodosa – Dave Miller

Growing Orchids in Jars

By Lore Yu

Many of us have had the experience, at one time or another as children, of making terrariums in jars. If the plants were carefully selected, they would thrive for a long time in the jars set on a windowsill, with almost no care at all. Jars are a nice setup for those who wish to grow plants without spending much time, space or the cost and effort that a large terrarium might require.

Surprisingly, there are some wonderful miniature orchids that also fare very well growing in jars. The orchids that are good choices for growing in jars stay small, prefer high humidity, tend to grow well in stagnant conditions and do not need to have their roots dry between watering. Some examples of orchids that do well in jars are *Haraella rectrocalla*, *Platystele stenostachya*, *Cirrhopetalum tingabarinum*, and *Lepanthes telipogoniflora*. These are just a few of the many orchids that one can find available that meet the necessary qualifications

Actually setting up the miniature terrarium in a jar is quite easy. Jars of all sizes and styles, with and without lids, can be found cheaply at Goodwill stores. The orchids that need more air around their roots can be mounted bare-rooted on a support that will wick up water to the roots and the mount can be placed in the jar with a little water added to the bottom. This is a good setup for the *Haraella rectrocalla*. For those orchids that do not need as much air around their roots, an easy setup is to put a layer of LECA (clay pellets) on the bottom of the jar and then top it with a thin layer of New Zealand sphagnum moss and plant the orchid in the moss. Water, again, is left in the bottom of the jar to be wicked up to the moss and roots of the orchid. This is a good set up for the other orchids mentioned.

The advantage of growing orchids in this manner is that, in a jar with a lid, there is very little care involved. The orchid might need a dose of a slow-release fertilizer and the addition of distilled water a few times a year but, otherwise, they require little effort. Because the orchid is sealed in the jar, pests are prevented from attacking it so growing in a jar is an essentially worry-free way of growing an orchid as long as the temperatures and lighting are appropriate.

Not all orchids are suitable for growing in jars but there is a surprising number that are. When selecting orchids for growing in a jar, it is best to search for those that are specifically marked for a vivarium or to ask the vendor if the orchid is suitable for growing in a small terrarium and to make certain that the light and temperature conditions of your home are suitable for the orchid. The easiest orchids to grow are the ones that will be happy in their new environment.

JUDGES CORNER – AOS Awards - part 2 of 3 "Quality Awards"

By Dave Miller

Continuing on from where we ended in part 1, we look in detail at the AOS Quality Awards. The purpose of judging quality is to reward superiority and extraordinary orchid flowers rather than recognizing commonplace characteristics. There are three quality awards but each are judged by the same rules. The AOS has a "Quality Scoresheet" based on 100 total points for perfection.

Plants are evaluated by a judging team both at monthly judging center meetings and at any AOS sanctioned orchid show. Judges examine nominated plants for their prominent characteristics and if deemed significant, a plant will be scored. A plant may be judged for more than one type of award. Once judged, nominated, or displayed at a show, no plant can be re-judged until a new flowering. All plants exhibited at a show are deemed "been judged" by the AOS once judging has ended even if never pulled for judging. At any time an exhibitor may ask to have their plant judged.

The AOS quality scoresheet is divided roughly into thirds then subdivided into individual attributes. Points in the scoresheet do vary from orchid alliance to another and there is a "General" category with no attributes which allows the most flexible point distribution between the three main sections. Plants are scored on "Flower Form", "Color of Flower", and "Other Characteristics". Even a plant which is scored based on superior flowers will be evaluated for overall plant quality under the "Other Characteristics" section.

Once awarded, the quality award designation is carried forever with that plant. It is a permanent part of its name. For example: *Brassocattleya* Sunset Glory 'MoJo' HCC/AOS is the official name of a plant which has received an Highly Commended Certificate from the AOS. That is not to say that all *Brassocattleya* Sunset Glory 'MoJo' have this designation, only the awarded plant, its divisions or its clones own this name.

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.

Next month in part 3 we will take a closer look at the AOS Cultural awards.

HAPPY ORCHIDING



***Masdevallia (Masd.) Maui Gold* -
BrandonSpannbauer**

The Gallery

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



***Gombrossiltonia (Gbt.)* Hilo Ablaze
'Hilo Gold' AM/AOS – Paul Bujak**



***Rhynthonleya (Rly.)* Island Flare
'Fragrant' HCC/AOS – Andrea Altvater**



***Cattleya (C.) aelandiae* –
Lore Yu**



***Oncostele (Ons.)* Everglades Elegance
'Nancy Lee' HCC/AOS – Janet Neyrinck**



***Bratonia (Brat.)* Shelob 'Tolkien'
AM/AOS – Janet Neyrinck**



***Laeliocattleya (Lc.)* C. G. Roebling
'Beachview' AM/AOS – Barbara Ford**



***Habenaria (Hab.) rhodocheila* –
Dave Miller**



***Cattlianthe (Ctt.)* Stonewall Rebellion –
Jane Bush**