

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

January 2016

November 2015 Meeting

The November meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis by Dave Miller, President.

General Business

Dave presented the proposal from the Executive Board to honor those members who in 1988 participated in the founding of the Stan Hywet Orchid Society, our original organization. Previously, Barb Ford and Margaret Hartmann, Stan Hywet Orchid Society members, had been awarded with Life Membership in the Greater Akron Orchid Society. GAOS awarded Life Membership to Jackie Muster, Georgia Knowles, and Warren Stoutamire as a thank you.

New Business

Show Chair, Jim Bell, called for volunteers for the 2016 Spring Show, scheduled for March 5th and 6th at Donzell's Garden Center in Akron. There are many positions that need filled, including help with set-up, tear down, welcoming attendees, donating food, assisting judges, and many other tasks. Time commitment can be as little as 2 hours. Please consider helping in order to keep our shows fantastic. To volunteer, contact Jim via email: gaos@thegaos.com

Program

The annual holiday dinner and members orchid gift was the highlight of the November meeting. Members and their families shared a ham and potluck feast followed by choosing a beautiful new orchid. Thanks to everyone for a great 2015 year!

Board positions were filled for the 2016 year with Lore Yu taking over as Secretary and Brandon Spannbauer as Newsletter Editor. Thank you to Janet Neyrinck, Secretary and to Paul Bujak, Newsletter Editor; the chapter is very appreciative of your contributions!

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, January 11, 2016 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

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

Program: **Judging Orchid Exhibits**

Speaker: **Dave Miller**

Learn what judges look for in awarding a ribbon. Dave will give a slide presentation on how an exhibit is judged. He will talk about how the principles of design are used in scoring displays, along with quality, variety and labeling. HE'LL SHARE LOTS OF EXHIBIT PHOTOS.



***Lc. Sunset Glory
Brandon Spannbauer***

President

David Miller

Vice President

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Treasurer

Frank Skalak

Secretary

Lore Yu

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Barbara Ford

From the Editor

Paul Bujak has done an amazing job producing the newsletter for the past 6 years. I would like to continue the tradition of sharing knowledge and stories by asking members to submit any stories, guides, resources, tips and tricks, and photos that you have found interesting and helpful on your orchid growing journey. The topics can be anything from useful information to showing off your bloom successes, your grow spaces and anything in between. I'd love to make this newsletter as broad and inclusive as possible to showcase the incredible amount of ways that orchids can be successfully grown and displayed.

Please feel free to send me any articles or photos to be included in future newsletters to:

braxtonds@gmail.com

Thanks,
Brandon Spannbauer

Visit the Greater Akron Orchid Society website www.thegaos.com



Orchid gift table

Confessions of a New Orchid Owner

by Cheryl Paul

My love affair with orchids started when I was 4 years old. Mom and Grandma took me to a Safeway Supermarket opening. At the entrance, the Manager took a beautiful pink orchid from a see-through box and pinned it to my grandma's sweater. He did the same for my mom. I stood there expectantly until I realized I'd become invisible.

"Excuse me, Sir." I said politely, "I would like one, too."

He laughed. "These are for *ladies*."

"I'm a lady!"

I stood there, cheeks colored with the first flush of indignation in my young life. He went back to ignoring me. I studied the orchids. I'd never seen anything so delicate, so beautiful! Even the condensation inside the plastic box was fascinating. These flowers were alive and they were *breathing*.

The Manager looked my way again - his "welcome to the store" smile was gone. When I realized he wasn't going to change his mind, I looked him right in the eye, picked up the most beautiful flower, and walked off to find Mom and Grandma. I figured he'd make me give it back, but he didn't.

Fast-forward to adulthood. Although I had a green thumb with houseplants, I felt intimidated by orchid culture. Orchid myths clouded my brain. They're difficult to grow. They need exacting conditions you can't reproduce at home. They're prohibitively expensive and no matter what you do, they die. I went to plenty of orchid shows but always left empty-handed.

Then came retirement. My officemate gifted me a "Just Add Ice" beauty with 25 perfect, mauve blooms. Phalaenopsis? Yikes! I wasn't even sure how to pronounce it. Ready or not, I was an orchid owner. Three ice cubes a week? I can do this. "Like a fresh flower arrangement" I reasoned "when it dies I'll throw it out."

Except it didn't die.

I went to a lecture and learned the correct way to water. To fertilize. To repot. When the blooms faded, this newly pampered fal-en-op-sis put out another spike and more blooms. All in all, it flowered for 6 months! I could barely believe it! Accident? Beginner's luck? It didn't matter - I was ready for a second plant! Then a third and now, 35. The 4 year old who still lives inside of me is very happy!

A Message from the President . . .

How Do You Enter an Orchid in Our Show?

It's very simple! A person or group interested in exhibiting in our 2016 show needs to contact Show Chairperson, Jim Bell, at gaos@thegaos.com by February 15, 2016.

Exhibits are divided into Open (commercial grower), Societies, and Amateur. There are a total of ten entry classes. Since our show is a sanctioned AOS show, all exhibits are governed by AOS exhibit rules.

A single plant is all that's needed to enter our smallest personal exhibit; the largest is a collection that can be displayed in 25 square feet. We started the personal exhibits in 2015 and had great response. The committee always reserves the right to screen those requesting space, but individual members are encouraged to have their own exhibit. It is up to the discretion of the Show Committee as to whether a request for exhibit space will be awarded.

In addition to live plant displays, our show also offers entry classes for orchid photography, both black/white and color, as well as "Orchids In Use" which are orchid-related items made by the exhibitor. These are usually drawings, paintings, ceramics, jewelry, or textiles.

An explanation of classes/ categories, space requirements/ limitations, and other information is available at www.thegaos.com. GAOS will provide advisory assistance and even some setup supplies to help members. I have a photo album of small, personal orchid exhibits which I have been compiling for a few years. I created it to give prospective exhibitors ideas on how to set up little displays.

Our 2016 show will be March 5th and 6th at Donzell's Garden Center in Akron. It's not too soon to start planning your exhibit.

Dave Miller

SAT.-SUN. MARCH 5 & 6, 2016

15th ANNUAL

ORCHID SHOW & SALE

Sponsored by
Greater Akron Orchid Society

FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING

Exhibits
Orchid Sales
Growing Tips
Potting Supplies

HOURS
Saturday
10am to 5pm
&
Sunday
11am to 4pm

AOS
JUDGING
SAT. 11AM

DONZELL'S FLOWER & GARDEN CENTER
937 E. WATERLOO RD
AKRON, OH 44306

For more information visit us at www.thegaos.com
also Jim at 330-644-6867 or Dave at gaos@thegaos.com

**IT'S TIME TO
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**

Frank Skalak, Treasurer, will be collecting dues for 2016 at the January 11th meeting. Individual membership is \$20; Family membership is \$30. Payment may be made by cash or check.

For those who are unable to attend the January meeting, please download the membership application from www.thegaos.com and mail your dues to the address listed there.

BUILDING AN ORCHID COLLECTION

Six Common Mistakes Beginners Make

1. **Ignoring resources that will help you succeed...** Your local library is a treasure-trove of good information on choosing orchid species, and their culture, light requirements, watering, fertilizing, repotting, and pest control needs. Your local orchid society has experienced members who are happy to share information. A subscription to the American Orchid Society provides countless benefits (www.aos.org) including a gorgeous, full-color monthly magazine chock full of tips to help you succeed.
2. **Collecting "one of each kind"...** Don't fall for every pretty face you see! Different species need different conditions. Determine the environment you can provide and collect only groups of plants that match your growing conditions. Phalaenopsis (moth orchids) and paphiopedilum (slipper orchids) are good for beginners as they thrive in average household conditions.
3. **Choosing mostly small immature plants or those that are very inexpensive...** Beware of small, inexpensive orchids on sale, particularly online. Most, if not all, are YEARS from blooming. Some are geriatric backbulbs. Bargains? Not so much.
4. **Falling for plant designation abbreviations...** Some orchid sellers use abbreviations to indicate the size of an orchid they are selling. These abbreviations can sometimes be very deceptive. While the abbreviation, BS, is used to identify a plant of "blooming size", many plants may be a year or more from blooming. NBS is used to describe a plant "near blooming size." Some NBS-labeled plants may be 2-3 years from blooming or may actually be seedlings that are 5 or more years from blooming.
5. **Using pot size to determine plant size and price ...** Pot size designations are misleading. There are sellers who routinely purchase plants in small pots to repot into larger pots for resale at a higher price. Conversely, some specimen plants may seem very costly for the small size of the pot. As an example, *Miltoniopsis* prefers to be under-potted; a huge, mature plant will flourish in a 4" pot and be well worth a higher price.
6. **Under-estimating the time it takes to manage a collection...** It's exciting to add new orchids, especially from an orchid show or member auction! It's addictive at times, but when a collection overwhelms the amount of time and attention a collector has, the health of the collection suffers. Be realistic! Sometimes you have to say NO to 'just one more'.

adapted from a blog on the web: "121715143@deleted"

Meeting Schedule for 2016

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (no December meeting) 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 to display.

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

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| January 11: | Judging Orchid Exhibits
Dave Miller |
| February 8: | Preparing Plants for Show (plant sale) |
| March 14: | AOS Slide Presentation (plant sale) |
| 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: | Picking the Right Orchid
Allen Lund, West Shore Orchid Society (plant sale) |
| August 8: | Topic To Be Announced
Leon Glicestein (plant sale) |
| September 12: | Program To Be Announced (plant sale) |
| October 10: | 2nd Member Auction |
| November 14: | Holiday Banquet and Orchid Give-away |
| December: | No meeting. Happy holidays! |

The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the
November 2015 meeting

