

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

April 2016

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David Miller

Vice President

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

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Frank Skalak

Secretary

Lore Yu

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

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Minutes of the March 2016 Meeting

Dave Miller began the meeting by welcoming our new members and having them introduce themselves. This year at our show we had record attendance. He thanked all those who volunteered their efforts and those that lent their plants in bloom for making our display a success. Cheryl Paul and her sister were again thanked for all the delicious food they provided during the show.

We had an orchid potting clinic led by Barb Ford with assistance from Dave Miller. Orchids were brought in that needed repotted and they showed us the proper way to make our orchids happy for another year while giving us tips and advice.

General Business

It was announced that the membership and welcome tables could use more volunteers next year.

Shows – Our displays won a blue ribbon in both Cleveland and West Shore. Many of our members took home ribbons from West Show, including thirteen blue, eight red and eleven yellow. Brandon took home a Best in Class for his Pleione display and Dave also had a Best in Class.

New Business

Our first board meeting of the year has been rescheduled to Monday April 18 from 6pm – 7:30pm. We will meet at Fa-Ray restaurant located at 1115 Wooster Rd. N. Barberton, OH 44203. It is off of I-76 at the Wooster Rd. N exit. Turn right towards Barberton. If you have anything to add to the agenda, please contact Dave.

If you are interested in a good meal, fellowship and expressing your ideas on how to make the Orchid Society meetings the most popular events in Akron, please make your reservation to Lore Yu at Plantmite@gmail.com by Saturday, April 16, 2016.

Next Meeting

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

Program: **Neofinetias and Other Orchid Gems**

Speaker: **Dr. Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids**

Kristen will showcase Neofinetia falcata and Dendrobium moniliforme orchids as well as other smaller gems of the orchid world. New World Orchids specializes in many orchids easily grown at home.

Plant Sales: 10% discount available for all pre-orders.. Contact Kristen directly at kristen@newworldorchids.com to pre-order.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Brandon Achieves First AOS Award

by Dave Miller

At the GAOS spring show, Brandon Spannbauer was awarded his very first American Orchid Society award for his eye-popping display of over 100 Pleiones. The flowers were all pink so it was quite the mass display. His award was a JC (Judge's Commendation) for the interesting and voluminous way he displayed three species and three hybrids of the Genus Pleiones. One of the factors in influencing the judges was the difficulty most of us have in growing and cultivating Pleiones, let alone having so many in flower at one time. A JC is a way for the American Orchid Society to recognize a group or collection of plants with historic or other noteworthy attributes. In this case, Brandon was able to expose the audience to species and some hybrids comprised of those species, all in flower at the same time. Way to go Brandon.



Membership Challenge!

In addition to growing orchids, GAOS members need to help “grow” our membership! To maintain our tradition of outstanding lectures at meetings and to expand our activities and community events (like our annual show), we need to continually increase our membership.

We are challenging each member to recruit one paid member in 2016! GAOS (thanks to anonymous donors) will present an orchid-filled prize pack to the person who signs up the most new members between April 10th and the November meeting. Membership would make a great gift for birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays!

Be sure to provide our Treasurer, Frank Skalak, with the name of the person you recruit. He will determine the winner and award the prize at the November meeting.

We are pleased to welcome our newest members: Brett Davidson, Alice Edwards, Claudia Englert, Richard Gunning, Leo Knapp, Pam Mayer, and Cora Perez!



Pleione Cultivation

by Brandon Spannbauer

Pleione can be easy or hard to grow depending on the grower you're talking to. They are still relatively uncommon in the states while being very popular in other areas around the world. They come from areas with distinct seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter and we need to replicate this effect in order to grow and bloom them properly.

Temperature – Pleione are considered cool growing with summer highs of 75 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit. I combat this with Ohio's summers by growing in nearly full shade (outside) and allowing them to cool at night. In winter they need to achieve cold temps just above frost. I keep them in the fridge all winter (they are dormant), they can also be kept in a frost free garage, basement or cold frame

Pots and Media – Plastic or clay can be used, they need to be carefully watered before flowering is complete and kept moist when in full growth. The media needs to be very open and free draining yet able to retain moisture. I use a 1:1 bark and sphagnum moss mix yet many mixes are suitable from pure moss to mixes with pine needles, coarse peat, perlite and leaf mould.

Winter – The dormant period of all Pleione. This is the correct time to repot. Usually around September (for spring flowering Pleione) and a few months later for winter flowering. If you're starting with an old pot of Pleione, remove everything and cut the roots off leaving around 1 inch to use as an anchor for the bulbs. Bulbs only last one season and old ones can also be removed. The bulbs can either be potted up in new mix now or can be kept in cold storage like a fridge (in paper bags) until spring growth occurs.

Spring – When you start to see new growth (Feb – March) remove the bulbs and pot them up. They should be planted approx. 1/3 deep and spaced about 1 inch apart and a top dressing of bark added, keeping at least half the bulb above the media. Most will flower in the spring.

Water – Pleione cultivation is considered difficult mainly because of the confusion of when to water. When they are dormant they receive no water at all. In spring growth we will be tempted to water the Pleione and this is where many will rot and die. The roots usually start to grow as the flowers fade. It is important to keep the media just damp. I water from the bottom at this time because water on the buds or flowers will rot them almost overnight. However, once the roots are established and the leaves start to grow then watering can increase substantially and normal feeding can begin.

Autumn – Pleione enjoy being grown outdoors because they get the natural drop in temperature. Continue watering as normal until the leaves start to turn yellow and fall off, usually around September. At this time stop all water and wait a few weeks for the bulbs to become fully dormant before being moved into cold storage.

This is the best Pleione website out there, good luck growing!

<http://www.pleione.info/>



Pleione bulb beginning its new growth. It should have been planted a few weeks before this step but I caught it too late, oops. Aim for a growth 'nubbin' as the cue to plant.



Pleione at the beginning of growth. Some will start with leaves and the largest ones will start with flowers.



Flowers will open around a month after planting



Baby Pleione, called bulbils, can grow from either the top of the base of the parent bulbs. They can be removed during the dormant phase and grown alongside the larger bulbs and will take 2-3 years to bloom.



Once the flowers have faded, full watering and feeding can begin.

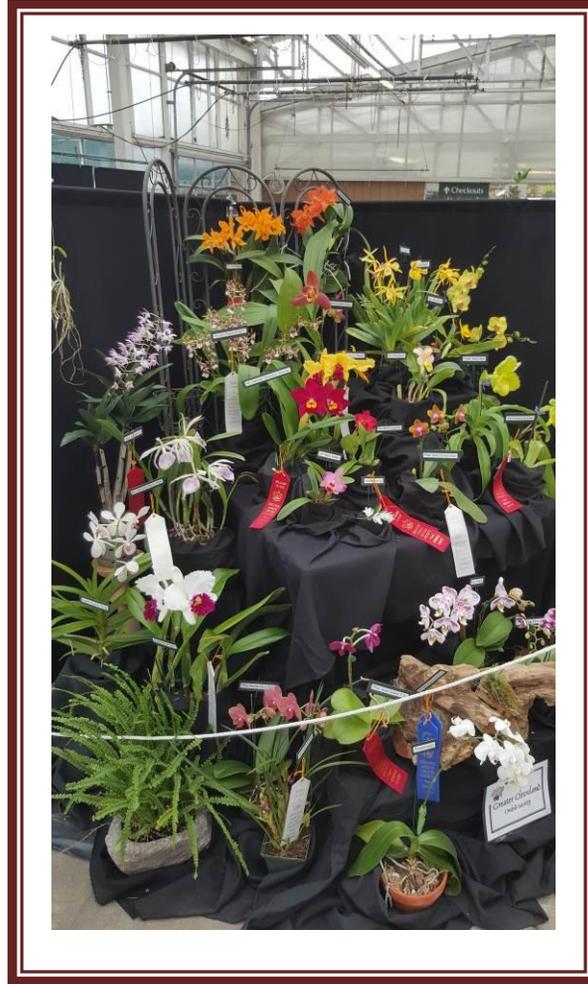
Akron Orchid Society Show

Exhibits from GAOS Show at Donzell's
March 5-6, 2016



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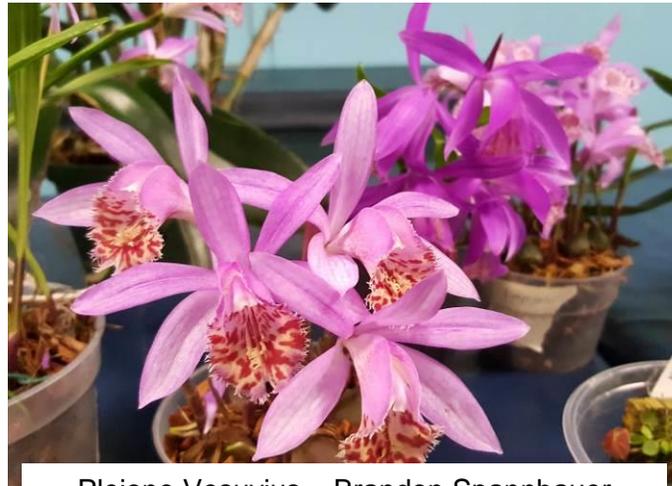


The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the
March 2016 meeting



Phrag. Nicholle Tower
Darlene Thompson



Pleione Vesuvius – Brandon Spannbauer



Phal Hybrid - Jane Bush



Cym. Bengal Bay 'Dee' - Jane



Paph. Storm Center – Darlene Thompson



Pot. Edith North
'Danny Adams'
Jane Bush

The Photo Gallery (cont.)

Member exhibits from the
March 2016 meeting



Paph. White King
Darlene Thompson



Paph. Glaucophyllum
Darlene Thompson



Masdevallia Ayabacana
Brandon Spannbauer



Lc. Love Passion x Spring Fires
Paul Bujak



Zygopetalum - Barb Ford