

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

August 2016

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David Miller

Vice President

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

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Frank Skalak

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**Brandon
Spannbauer**

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Minutes of July 2016 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Dave Miller who welcomed the group as well as 7 visitors who heard about us through the library, friends and the Akron Beacon Journal. Dave mentioned that some members had attended Jim Crook's calling hours. Our society had sent a Peace Lily to Carol and Dave showed us a picture of it. Carol hopes to return soon to our meetings.

Allan Lund did his talk 'Picking the Right Orchid.' Part of his presentation had the members of the Greater Akron Orchid Society judge a group of orchids to decide which was the best choice, then discussed the reason why certain orchids were better choices than others.

General Business

Dave received an Email from the Akron Public Library informing him that the Master Gardeners will be having a OSU Master Gardener Program on September 16, 2016 with over three hundred and fifty attending and they have offered to let us supply literature and an auction item to help advertise our Orchid Society. Barb Ford has offered to be in charge of the auction basket.

New Business

From the Editor:

Filling our monthly newsletter is fun and challenging. With so much content available, it can be daunting to decide what would be the most beneficial to GAOS members. I would like your questions that you'd like answered in the newsletters as well as any stories, article or photos that you find interesting and would like them included to be shared with the society. They can be emailed to: braxtonds@gmail.com.

Thanks – Brandon

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, Aug. 8, 2016 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Cloud Forests of Costa Rica**

Speaker: **Leon Glicenstein**

Our featured speaker is Leon Glicenstein. His program will highlight a large number of orchid species as well as plants, animals and great scenery from Costa Rica. I am sure everyone will enjoy meeting and hearing from Leon. He is a recognized international orchid expert known for his orchid exploration, orchid hybridizing and frequent literary contributions. He resides in State College, PA. Please consider contributing a snack or dessert to our food table. Leon does not sell orchids but Windswept in Time Orchids and Roberts Flower Supply will have orchids for sale.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Learning from the Masters

Dave Miller visited The Cincinnati Judging Center's Seminar which had some very good speakers, including Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids (www.goldcountryorchids.com/) and Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids in New York (<http://www.pipingrockorchids.com/>).

From Alan Koch, Dave learned:

1. If roots turn green with watering, they photosynthesize and should be exposed to light. Try using a clear plastic pot or mounting the orchid.
2. Alan Koch is breeding Mini Catts that can easily be grown on a windowsill and is using Cattleya luteola, a lower light orchid, in his breeding.

From Glen Decker, Dave learned

1. Phrags are very sensitive to salt, absorb most of their nutrients in the first twenty-five minutes and their medium should be flushed well after fertilizing with pure water.
2. Cloned Slipper Orchids are not going to be on the market for a while

In addition, he mentioned that good orchid growers have killed many orchids, it can take ten to fifteen years to bloom some orchids and that it isn't worth bothering with a sick orchid.

Meeting Schedule

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.

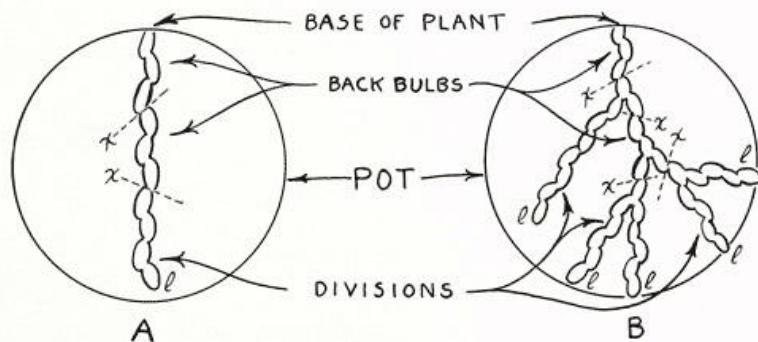
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| Aug 8: | Cloud Forests of Costa Rica
Leon Glicenstein (plant sale) |
| Sept 12: | Topic TBD
Jane Bush (plant sale) |
| Oct 10: | 2 nd Member Auction |
| Nov 14: | Holiday Banquet and Elections |
| Dec 12: | No Meeting |



Bulbophyllum in full bloom at Edgar's open house for the Cleveland Orchid Society meeting. He and Kim also showed off their back property, full of bog plants, a beehive and their blueberry bushes as well as their new solarium which is coming along nicely.

How are Orchids Propagated?

By AOS (Abbrev. to fit)



Like most plants, orchids are able to reproduce themselves in two different ways; the one way sexually by seed, and the other asexually by vegetative propagation. For the beginner, vegetative propagation is commonly used to build up one's orchid collection. Vegetative propagation can be accomplished in three ways; that is, by division, back bulbs and offshoots. The technique of each differs primarily in the means of producing the new individual and in the early care.

DIVISION

After a mature orchid plant has grown and flowered for several years the beginner finds the plant is too large for the size pot in which it is growing, and he faces two choices. He can either repot the plant into a larger container, or he can divide the plant into two or more separate individuals. If the plant has but one lead (that is, a new growth) it can be divided by cutting the plant into groups of three or four pseudobulbs. The front group with the lead pseudobulb would be known as a "division." The other group or groups of pseudobulbs without any active lead would be termed back bulbs. If a plant has several leads it can be divided in such a way that there will be one or more divisions and one or more back bulbs. In other words, a division is a group of pseudobulbs which contains an active lead or new growth after the plant is broken up; whereas, the back bulbs are a group of old pseudobulbs that have no active lead, but on which there are one or more dormant "eyes" which may be forced into active growth.



Although large, overgrown orchids can be challenging to divide, spending a few minutes examining the plant before cutting can go a long way toward making the job easier and assuring strong divisions that will produce vigorous growth quickly.

The illustration in Figure A shows the arrangement of the rhizomes and pseudo-bulbs of a Cattleya plant with but a single lead. Such a plant may be divided by cutting through the rhizomes or root stock at the point indicated by the letter x. This will produce one division and two back bulbs as indicated.

In Figure B a Cattleya plant with several leads is cut as indicated, producing three divisions and several back bulbs. The actual cutting of the rhizome is commonly done after the plant has flowered, but previous to repotting. Usually a V-shaped notch is cut more than half way through the rhizome. The plant then is not disturbed until the dormant "eyes" on the back bulbs begin to break. As soon as the new growths are started the plant can be taken from its pot, broken up and repotted.

After the division has been repotted, the plant should be carefully sprayed but not watered until root growth has become quite evident. Plants may then be given more water and treated as established plants.



Backbulbs can be placed in a clay pot with a pad of sphagnum moss in the bottom. Spray with water daily to keep plant and moss hydrated.

BACK BULBS

Back bulbs, if obtained in the way outlined above, may have an active growth beginning, in which case they can be repotted and treated similarly to a division; however, if they do not possess an active "eye" they may be potted in a small pot, two and one-half to three inches in size, making sure that the "eyes" are above the potting media.

The potted back bulbs can then be placed in the poorest growing corner of the greenhouse. The bulbs and leaves should be sprayed frequently, but the pot should not be soaked. In some cases, "eyes" will begin to break within a few weeks. In other cases, they may remain dormant for two years, suddenly bursting into activity. As long as the leaf and bulb are green there is hope for their eventual development.

Another way of handling back bulbs is to fill six-inch pots with sphagnum moss and place the back bulbs on the live moss. Keep the plants in a fairly humid atmos-sphere and the "eyes" will soon develop.

Still another way to save the back bulbs is to take a wooden flat or tray and line it with a layer of sphagnum moss, stack the back bulbs in the flat and keep them in a warm, moist section of the greenhouse. Spray the bulbs and leaves every day or so and watch the back bulbs carefully. As soon as one gets under way it should be potted. Any bulbs found developing wet rot should be removed at once and destroyed.

OFFSHOOTs

Some types of orchids, such as Dendrobiums, will develop offshoots along the stem. They appear to be, and are, small but individual plants. These may be allowed to grow to maturity and then carefully cut from the parent plant. The young offshoot, or "keiki" as it is often called, can be potted up similarly to a back bulb. See our Video Library for demonstrations on removing a keiki and potting a keiki as well as an explanation of keikis and air roots.



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

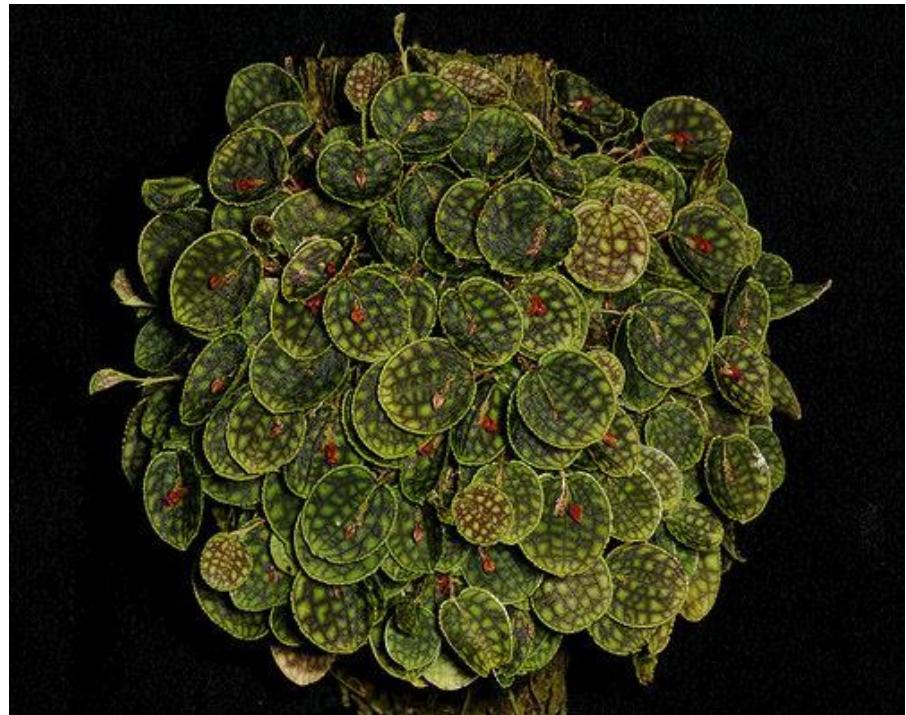


New HCC/AOS Award

By Dave Miller

Congratulations to Brandon Spannbauer for receiving an AOS Quality Award of HCC-77 at the Ann Arbor monthly judging for his *Cypripedium Sabine 'Brax'* HCC/AOS. Brandon displayed this plant on the July meeting show table. His flower was awarded based on its raspberry spots and stripes on the sepals, petals and pouch and for its good overall form and size.

AOS Photo of the Day



LEPANTHES CALODICTYON 'VISTAMONT' CCE/AOS

PHOTO © STEVE BECKENDORF

This wonderful miniature with the vividly marked leaves grows well mounted in my cool greenhouse. The tiny red flowers mimic female fungus gnats perched on the leaves. They fool the male gnats who try to mate with the flowers, thereby pollinating them.

The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the July 2016 meeting



Blc. Amy Wakasugi 'NN'
Jane Bush



NOID Phalaenopsis – Jane Bush



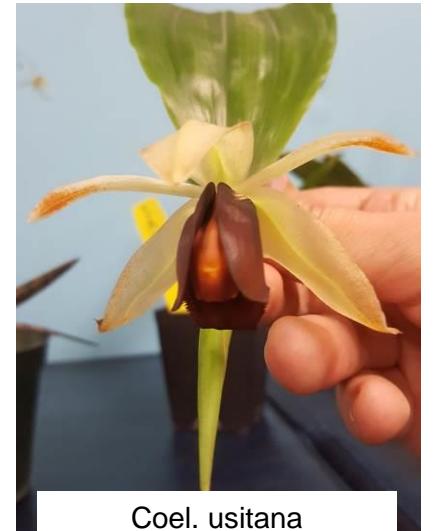
Masdevallia nidifica
Brandon Spannbauer



Den. Sea Mary 'Snow King'
Dave Miller



NOID Phalaenopsis – Mary Lou



Coel. usitana
Edgar Stehli



Den. Oriental Smile 'Fantasy'
Dave Miller



Rhy. digbyana
Frank Skalak



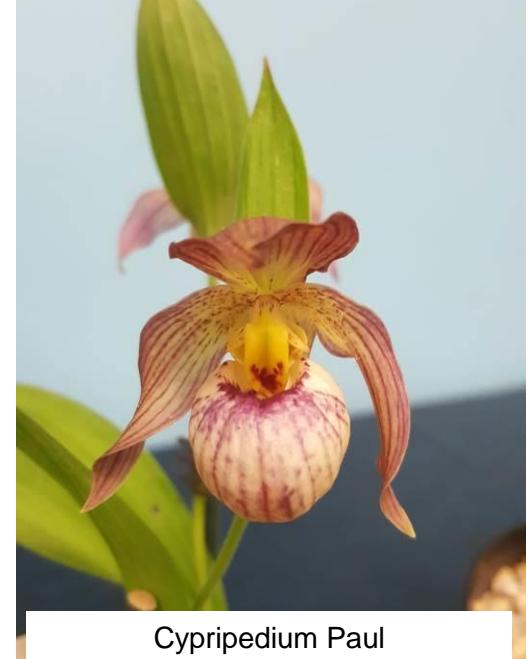
Paph. Magic Lantern
Bernie Skalak



Lc. Love Passion
Brandon Spannbauer



Cypripedium Sabine
Brandon Spannbauer



Cypripedium Paul
Brandon Spannbauer

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