

# Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

**May 2016**

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## **Minutes of April 2016 Meeting**

Dave Miller began the meeting by welcoming our new members and New members were again welcomed as were our guests from West Shore and Cleveland Orchid Societies. He thanked Brandon and Cheryl for our wonderful newsletters and introduced our speaker from New World Orchids, Kristen Uthus. Margaret and her granddaughter celebrated Margret's birthday by bringing a cake for the entire society to share. We wish her many more!

Kristen gave us a wonderful presentation on some of Japan's Small and Might Orchids: Vanda (Neofinetia) falcate, Sedirea japonica, goeringii cymbidiums and Dendrobium monoliforme. In the presentation were facts about the orchids, cultural information and interesting tidbits about plants and orchids in general. We especially learned about the many types of the single species Neofinetia falcata.

## **General Business**

Windswept in Time Orchids and Robert's Flower Supply are both having open houses on Labor Day Weekend, May 28-29. See next page for details.

## **New Business**

A New Member Contest has been announced. The member that brings in the most new members will receive a fabulous orchid bundle prize! Contact Frank with your new member name so they can be added to your count.

Memberships, costing a mere \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family, would make a wonderful gift for a plant-lover that lives in this area. If you notice a friend or family member that has a few houseplants, especially an orchid, perhaps the additional gift of a Greater Akron Orchid Society Membership might lead to a shared interest and quality time together.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, May 9, 2016 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: **Growing Phalaenopsis from Seed**

Speaker: **Russ Vernon, New Vision Orchids**

Russ will be talking about his orchid hybridizing process and explaining what it takes to create and grow your very own creation. He will have plants for sale.

[www.newvisionorchids.com](http://www.newvisionorchids.com)

**Website:** [www.thegaos.com](http://www.thegaos.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/theGAOS](http://www.facebook.com/theGAOS)

## Windswept in Time Orchids

Kim & Edgar Stehli

8066 Skyline Drive

Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147

(440) 838-5757 – Call first for an Appt.

2016 Open House Events

Spring – May 28 & 29 (Sat & Sun) 11am – 5pm

Fall - Nov 5 & 6 (Sat & Sun) 11am – 5pm

## Roberts Flower Supply

12390 Root Rd.

Columbia Station, Ohio 44028

(440) 236-5571 – Call first for an Appt.

2016 Open House 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

May 28 & 29 (Sat & Sun) 10am – 5pm

See our Facebook page for other deals through the summer: [www.facebook.com/robertsflower](http://www.facebook.com/robertsflower)

10% off potting supplies for orchid society members!

## 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.**

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)

Aug 11: Jewel Orchids  
Leon Glicenstein (plant sale)

Sept 12: Orchid Culture  
Dave Miller (plant sale)

Oct 10: 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Auction

## Orchid Checklists for Late Spring

Cattleya - The last of the spring-flowering types will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix.

Paphiopedilum - Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. For staking, the best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation.

Phalaenopsis - should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant.

## A Newbie's Progress . . .

By Cheryl Paul

In January, I wrote about the “pit of my stomach” fear I felt at receiving an orchid as a gift. When months passed and I hadn't killed it, I bravely bought my first one. It was an exquisite *miltoniopsis* and I loved how the flowers looked! What I didn't know is they are generally not considered an orchid for beginners, as they require cool nights and cloud-forest humidity. First orchid and already a major rookie mistake!

I was determined not to fail. I bought an ultrasonic nebulizer and created my own cloud forest. I endured lectures from the Hubs about potential damage to the drywall. I found a spot with a cool “mini-climate” in a sunroom where humidity of 70% does no harm. It's become a magnificent plant with more than a dozen new growths and I have confidently added other *miltoniopsis* to my collection.

With about a year's experience, here is a list of 5 things I did wrong in building a collection and 5 things I did right. Maybe it can help another Newbie:

### 5 things I did wrong the first year:

1. Didn't do any research and didn't have a plan before buying. Learned: choose orchids that match the conditions you can easily provide.
2. Bought (and killed off) several \$8 - \$10 - \$12 plants from E-bay vendors. One was rootless and covered in spider mites. Another was a geriatric backbulb with no hope of ever producing a new growth. Several were (and are) healthy, but YEARS away from blooming. This goes for some marked-down “bargains” from the big box stores – their months of captivity in old medium and indifferent care by “the kid assigned to water

the plants” may have stunted them forever. Learned: Buy mature plants from a reputable seller.

3. Over-potted. Even if you're a careful waterer, over-potting leads to root and crown rot. Learned: carefully match the size of the pot to the needs of the species. Many species *prefer* “tight shoes” (to be root bound).
4. Hung on to failing plants too long. Should have pitched them before they needed ICU-level care. Lesson: focus your time and energy on the plants you CAN grow, not the ones you can't.
5. Took it personally when a plant died. Learned: even the pro's kill a plant now and then. Learn from it and move on.

### 5 things I did right the first year:

1. Joined GAOS, faithfully attended meetings and networked with more experienced members; joined the American Orchid Society.
2. Read everything I could get my hands on about orchid culture.
3. Didn't buy “one of each kind.” Chose only 5 species of plants. Am mastering their care before moving on to more challenging species.
4. Paid meticulous attention to sanitation. (Am an RN, certified in Infection Prevention and Epidemiology, so this was easy.)
5. Developed a consistent care routine and the habit of constant observation to catch problems early.

Growing orchids is challenging and it's fun! It's the perfect hobby for someone who loves lifelong learning. I've been rewarded with new blooms from plants tended for a year. Every new growth, every new flower is cause for celebration.

I can't wait to see what the second year brings!

## My Orchid's Field Trip to the AOS Judging Center

By Katherine Binder, West Shore Orchid Society (Submitted by Dave Miller)

Judges do more than just come to our annual spring shows showing up at the crack of dawn in usually bleary weather to judge our plants. They also meet monthly at the Great Lakes Judging Center to judge more plants.

As any orchid grower knows, the plant you want to bring to a show to be judged usually falls out of bloom a few days before the show or blooms the week after the show. Some plants of ours just never want to go to a show. Then there are those summer and fall bloomers when shows are scarce. The Great Lakes Judging Center is a great opportunity to take those show shy plants in for judging.

Just last year, I asked Dave Miller what he thought of one of my vini paphs (unnamed hybrid Paphiopedilum (Hilo Glory x sukhakulii)) that I brought in for the show table. He looked at it and felt that the plant had potential for an award and encouraged me to have it taken up to the Great Lakes Judging Center. I agreed and he took it up to the judging center. Although it was agreed upon by the Judges looking at the plant that it was a very nice bloom, it had some faults that just were not award worthy. So they passed on an award. Potential does not always mean it is going to get an award. However, the faults were fairly minor and Dave Miller encouraged me to see if perhaps the next bloom might be better and then try again.

So, when it bloomed again in time for this last December Great Lakes Judging Center meeting, I contacted Dave Miller again and asked him to take a look at it. Once again he felt that it had potential and the bloom did indeed seem better this time around. I also decided to take the plant up to the Great Lakes Judging Center myself so that I could better observe and understand the good and bad points of my orchid when it was being judged along with the judging process itself. The December meeting is also one with lots of good food and a fun auction so I am sure that played a part of me wanting to go.

Like any good story, this one had a happy ending. My plant got an AM/AOS this time. It just goes to prove that if an orchid does not get an award the first time around, it is worth trying again because blooms do vary in quality from bloom to bloom. In addition, this story has a bit of a fairy tale ending in that it was an orchid I had purchased on Ebay some years ago for about \$12. The bargain paphiopedilum I got ended up with an AM/AOS.

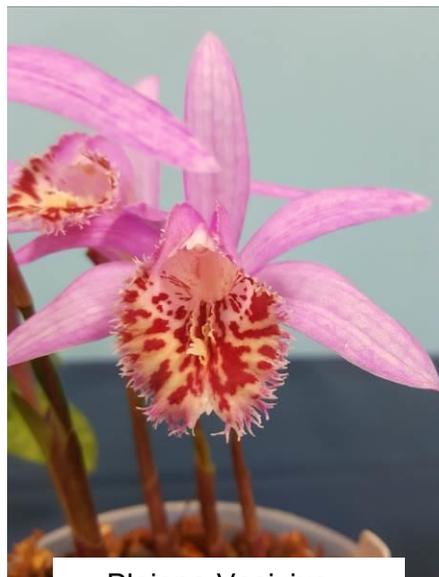
I would like to encourage all of our society members to talk to Dave Miller about having plants taken up to the Great Lakes Judging Center to be judged. It is a great opportunity to get a plants judged when they refuse to bloom for a show. Also, you never know, your plant may also get an AOS award in the process!

Addendum: Katherine received written permission from the grower for her to determine the hybrid name. She has started the registration paperwork with the Royal Botanic Garden who is the registrar for the AOS. She has one year from the award date to get all of the formal paperwork done in order for the award to be official. (Dave Miller)



# The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the  
April 2016 meeting



Pleione Vesivius  
Brandon Spannbauer



Paph Dieu Tang Truong 'Mojo' – Dave Miller



Phrag Bird's Delight –  
Darlene Thompson



NoID Phal – Paul Bujak

Trichopilia suavis – Edgar Stehli



Onc. Chrome Leopard  
'Brown Blush' - Barb Ford

## The Photo Gallery (cont.)

Member exhibits from the  
March 2016 meeting



*Bulbophyllum purpureorachis*  
Edgar Stehli



*Pleione x barbarae* – Brandon Spannbauer



*Phragmipedium Qf Hazel*  
Darlene Thompson



*Phal. I-Hsin Venus 'Sweet Fragrant'* – Dave Miller



*Blc. Yellow Delicious x Jiminy Cricket* – Cheryl Paul