

Greater Akron Orchid Society

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

October 2016

President

David Miller

Vice President

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Treasurer

Frank Skalac

Secretary

Lore Yu

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Barbara Ford

Minutes of Sept. 2016 Meeting

Dave began the meeting by introducing himself and announcing that he would be filling in for Darlene who had a last minute work meeting. He gave an educational presentation on Tolumnias that explained culture, hybridization, and types for these smaller members of the Oncidium Family.

Jane gave the Spring Show Report and explained about the show for those members who are new. She explained that we are the hosts and our guests are the Vendors, other orchid societies, and the public. She reminded everyone that we need people to volunteer for about one hundred and fifty meals. (Volunteer positions and descriptions on page 4 as well as contact info)

General Business

-Fall Festival will be on October 15 and 16 in Pittsburgh <http://www.oswp.org/>

-A judged show will take place in Cincinnati the third weekend of October <http://www.cincinnatiorchids.org/>

-Mid-America will take place in Buffalo, NY starting on November 12th at the Botanical Gardens: <http://midamericanorchids.org/>

New Business

The next board meeting will take place on October 3, 2016 at 6pm at the Waterloo Restaurant (423 East Waterloo Road, Akron Ohio, 44319). Members were asked to contact Lore Yu if they plan to come. Our agenda will be focused on officer nominations and preparing for the spring show.

Dave asked for a volunteer to take over the publicity for the show, noting that much of our advertising comes from announcing the show on websites.

Jenny Ross has reported that she has lost her Dendrobium pendulum in the brutal Texas heat and wondered if anyone in the society has one available for her to purchase. She can be contacted at: ean5cj@gmail.com

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GAOS will be Monday, Sept. 12, 2016 at 6:45 pm at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319.

Program: 2nd Member's Silent Auction

Come and enjoy our 2nd Member's Silent Auction. Bring any stubborn or unwanted orchids to sell at the silent auction and bid on other's that tickle your fancy.

How it works: Bring in any orchid or division plant that you wish to sell (clean from pests and disease please.) When you come in that night, you will need to fill out a slip with your name, name of the orchid and opening bid and set it out on the auction table. After the auction is over 25% of the sale goes to the club and you keep 75%. Feel free to bid on any of the other plants. It's great fun!

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Autumn Pleiones and their Care

By Brandon Spannbauer



In situ Pleione maculata. Photo © Max Antheunisse & Naresh Swami

Few people in the United States know of or even have heard about the eastern semi-terrestrial orchids, pleione. Those that do are generally only familiar with the spring blooming pink and lavender varieties. There are a few lesser known species that bloom in the fall when their spring counterparts are just beginning their dormancy.

Known autumn Pleione species are *Pleione maculata*, *praecox*, *x lagenaria* (their natural hybrid), and *saxicola*. There are very little number of hybrids of the autumn pleione because they are so difficult to hybridize. They, in general, are warm growers and cannot tolerate being cold even while dormant (>50F), contrary to the spring bloomers. The notable exception is *saxicola* which appears to need a cooler dormant period.

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.**

Oct 10:	2 nd Member Auction
Nov 14:	Holiday Banquet and Officer Elections
Dec 12:	No Meeting
Jan 9:	Orchid Culture: One Size Doesn't Fit All Darlene Thompson

Great Growing Tips from Experienced Members

By Cheryl Paul

How do you know when to remove a leaf? Ask yourself: Is it helping the plant or not? If it's not helping, remove it. *Dave Miller*

When a plant loses all its leaves, does that mean it's dead and needs thrown away? Not necessarily. Some plants go dormant and look dead, but will begin to grow after a dry rest. Some examples include *catasetum* and *pleione*. Know what you're growing. *Wayne Roberts*

Invest in a high-low temperature thermometer and humidity meter so you don't have to guess if your growing area is too hot, cold, or dry. A meter that measures both costs less than \$20. *Cheryl Paul*

If a plant doesn't appear to be doing well, promptly isolate it from the rest of your collection to prevent spreading disease. *Bernie Skalak*

Busy growers should consider the semi-hydroponic method. It requires much less time in watering and greatly reduces the need for repotting. *Jane Bush*

Autumn Pleiones cont.

When the Pleione leaves have detached in Autumn the bulbs should be allowed to air dry in a cool place. This is the perfect time to treat all bulbs for pests and fungus before placing in storage. Pleione pseudobulbs and bulbils of Spring flowering species should be placed in paper (not plastic) bags and stored in a dry, dark and cold (but frost free) place until the new growth buds at the base show signs of growth the following Spring (keep checking from Jan onwards). I personally use the fridge.

Autumn flowering species do not go completely dormant need overwintering potted up and slightly moist at higher temperatures and in natural periods of daylight/darkness. You should begin to see their buds around this time (September). They will flower with or without leaves present depending on the variety. It's important to remember to water only sparingly until you see root growth of around 2-3 inches. This is generally after the leaves start to grow. I like to water from below, set the pot in a tray of water and allow the media to wick up moisture, because any water on the new buds or leaves could easily cause rot. This is true for all pleiones, not just the autumn blooming ones.



Pleione saxicola. Photo © Steve Garvie



← *Pleione praecox*
Photo © in situ
Naresh Swami

Pleione praecox →
var. *reichenbachiana*
Photo © in situ Max
Antheunisse & Naresh Swami



Pleione x lagenaria
Photo © Alpine Garden
Society



Committees for the 2017 Spring Show

By Cheryl Paul



It's time to start preparing for the 2017 March orchid show! This is your show and success depends on your contributions of time, food/supplies for food service, as well as monetary donations.

Committees include: Welcome Table; Membership Table; Set Up; Judging/ Clerks; Publicity; Advertisements/ Program; Hospitality (food service); Awards/ Gifts; and Returning Equipment to Storage. **Chairpersons are needed to head each committee and volunteers are needed to serve.**

Information on the duties and time commitment are available from Jane Bush, the 2017 Show Chairperson, at bushjj@juno.com . Sign-up sheets will be circulated at the November meeting.

As a special thanks, those who volunteer will be given first choice of gift orchids at the November 2017 meeting.

Help make your 2017 show the best yet!

AOS Photo of the Week



Grouping of Cattleya purpurata (Laelia) Photo © Matt Bond

A Cattleya by Any Other Name

By A.A. Chadwick - Chadwick Orchids (Abbrev. to fit)

The large-flowered Brazilian Laelias are a distinct group within the present genus *Laelia*. They occur only in Brazil. There are none in Mexico or anywhere else in the Americas. They include *purpurata*, *crispa*, *lobata*, *grandis* and *tenebrosa* and are usually referred to as the "Cattleyode" or Cattleya-like Laelias. Recent DNA studies have confirmed what has been clear for more than 100 years, that these Cattleyode Laelias are quite different from the Mexican Laelias and they do not belong in the genus *Laelia*. It is now time to look at these large-flowered Brazilian Laelias for what they are — large-flowered *Cattleya* species.

One of the most compelling arguments for including the large-flowered Brazilian Laelias in the genus *Cattleya* is the ease with which they breed with the large-flowered *Cattleya* species, and the normal character of the flowers of the resulting hybrids

Laelia purpurata is without doubt one of the finest of all cultivated orchids. In addition to its large showy flowers, it has one of the widest ranges of color forms.

Laelia purpurata has large flowers, 6 to 8 inches across, and four or five flowers on a spike. The lavender color in the lip can be a brilliant royal purple often mixed with tones of red. This color can even appear in the sepals and petals to produce a flame-colored flower in flammea types. Semialba forms also include flowers with pink to reddish lips, and lips that are dark slate-blue. There are a number of pale lavender albescens forms and a few true albas that are quite beautiful.



Laelia purpurata is native to Santa Caterina in southern Brazil where it is the state flower. It is extremely popular with local Brazilian orchid growers and rare clones garner handsome prices — in the thousands of dollars. Whole orchid shows are dedicated to *L. purpurata* and, with its many color forms, it is a collector's dream.

Should we change the name *Laelia purpurata* to *Cattleya purpurata* now? The genus *Laelia* was established based on a Mexican orchid, since it is now clear that the Brazilian large-flowered Laelias do not belong in the same genus as the Mexican Laelias, the Brazilian Laelias are in a botanical wilderness in need of a home.

How to Grow *Laelia purpurata*

Laelia purpurata has the same cultural requirements as the other large-flowered *Cattleya* species. It benefits from lots of sun and moving air and a temperature between 58–60 F at night and 80–85 F during the day. It usually begins sending up new growths in late summer and early autumn. These growths will be completed by mid-January or early February and buds will begin to form in the sheath after a short rest period. The plants will flower from late May into June.

Give *L. purpurata* a few weeks' rest after it flowers by minimizing the watering, but do not let the pseudobulbs shrivel too much. Once the plant begins to grow, it requires lots of water, particularly as the growth elongates beyond 6 inches. *Laelia purpurata* can develop some really large pseudobulbs, often exceeding 20 inches from the base of the pseudobulb to the tip of the leaf, if grown well.

— A.A. Chadwick.

The Photo Gallery

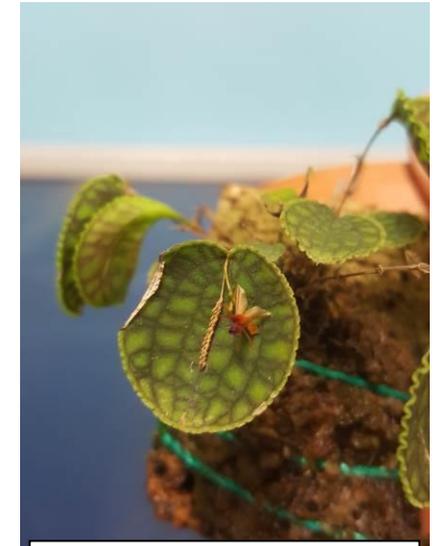
Member exhibits from the July 2016 meeting



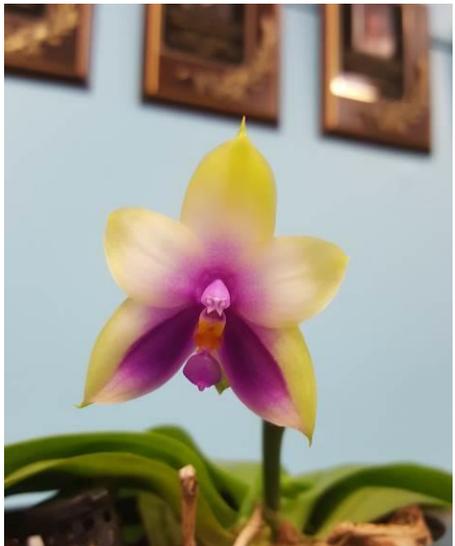
Phrag China Dragon
Wayne Roberts



Bulbophyllum grandiflora
Wayne Roberts



Lepanthes calodictyon
Brandon Spannbauer



Phal violacea var. Borneo
Lore Yu



Masdevallia erinacea – Dave Miller



Paph. Maudiae
Cheryl Paul

The Photo Gallery

Member exhibits from the July 2016 meeting



Epidendrum cillare
Wayne Roberts



City. Haddie Notch 'Paradise'
Jane Bush



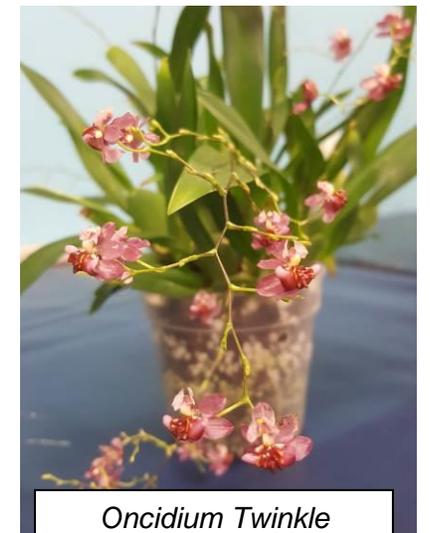
Ornithocephalus syrticola
Dave Miller



C. Bactia 'Grape Wax'
Jane Bush



Paph. niveum cross – Brett Winkler



Oncidium Twinkle
Cheryl Paul