

Judges Viewpoint by Dave Miller

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I get a lot of questions about the judging process and how to pick the right plant from the sales table as well. Hopefully over the next few months, I can demystify some of that and pass along information as well.

First things first though.

Congratulations are in order to Wayne and Nancy Roberts on receiving an orchid award for their beautiful Laelia orchid at the Great Lakes Judging Center in Michigan October monthly AOS judging.

Laelia Finckeniana 'Roberts' HCC/AOS

This was a stately 40" tall Cattleya Alliance plant with two spikes and a number of flowers on each. Be sure to give them a congrats next time you see them or go for a visit to Roberts Flower Supply while the flowers are still fresh.

Let us take a quick look at this name. Firstly, it IS still a Laelia and Finckeniana is the hybrid name. It is a primary hybrid of Laelia albido x Laelia anceps. Because they received this award, they have the right to give this what is called a clonal or cultivar name, always enclosed in single quotes, by which this plant and all divisions and clones will be known. They chose 'Roberts'. At the end is the award type and awarding authority and is now always part of the name. So, HCC/AOS

means a Highly Commendable Certificate given by the American Orchid Society. This was an award for the quality of the flowers as compared to all other L. Finckeniana's in all recorded orchid history. It is quite good achievement. HCC is the flower quality award for a flowering orchid which scored in the range of 75-79 points out of 100 on the AOS Quality Scoresheet. This plant received HCC-77. More information about AOS awards can be found in the "Judging Handbook" which is publicly available on the AOS website.



How to Get Your Orchid Judged

Great question and perhaps not as well known as I would want. The AOS conducts "sanctioned" judging sessions during AOS-registered shows and also at what are called "monthly" judging sessions conducted by all AOS Judging Centers.

Around our areas, there are regional JC's located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Cincinnati, Ohio, Washington D.C., Toronto Canada and Chicago, Illinois. Each JC conducts an official judging session every month on the same day of the month. Each of these sessions are published on the AOS website (www.aos.org) and also in the Orchids magazine. I am a member of Great Lakes Judging Center so we hold our sessions the 3rd Saturday of every month at 1 pm. The public is welcome to observe but may also submit orchids to be judged by the AOS team.

I am always happy to carry your plants for judging if you cannot attend but you can make arrangements for me to get your plant(s). During non-COVID times, I have been known to select plants off the show table but there are no in-person society meetings or shows at this time.

AOS judging at shows is similar except the AOS judging team is right onsite and it occurs as soon as ribbon judging ends. The judges will select plants from the displays they deem possibly awardable and enter them into the AOS judging process at the show. Exhibitors may also submit their own plants for judging; usually it is wise to ask one of the judges for a quick review prior to doing so.

There are fees for AOS awards and the fee is less if the recipient is a current AOS member. For more information about this, contact Dave.

Contact Dave at dcmjpasmil@aol.com or call /text to 330-307-7189.