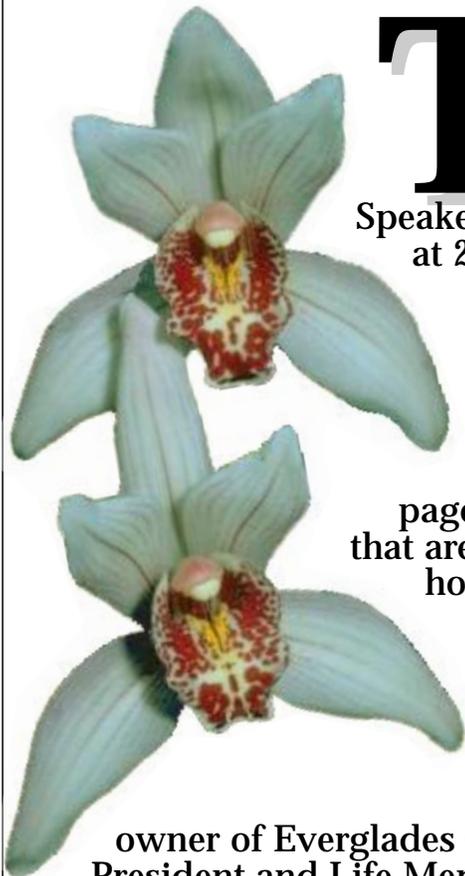


**AOS PAST PRESIDENT MILTON CARPENTER TO SPEAK ON CYMBIDIUMS FOR EVERY CLIMATE**



**T**he Central New York Orchid Society is fortunate this month to have Milton Carpenter, the Immediate Past President of the American Orchid Society and proprietor of Everglades Orchids, as its Guest Speaker for our monthly meeting on Sunday, May 6<sup>TH</sup>, at 2:00<sup>PM</sup>. His presentation, entitled "Cymbidiums for Every Climate," will focus on his efforts to introduce warmth tolerance to a group of orchids that is usually associated with needing cold fall evenings in order to initiate blooming. By hybridizing with some of the warmer-growing Chinese Cymbidiums (see article on page 8), a new group of hybrids is being developed that are more adaptable to conditions in most peoples' homes. Milton will be bringing plants to sell, and members are encouraged to pre-order from his web site: [www.evergladesorchids.com](http://www.evergladesorchids.com).

**A** native of the Florida Everglades, Milton has been growing orchids for 40 years and is the owner of Everglades Orchids, Inc. in Belle Glade, Florida. He is Past President and Life Member of the Orchid Society of the Palm Beaches. He is also Immediate Past President, Trustee, Life member, and accredited judge of the American Orchid Society. Milton is a world-renowned speaker, author, hybridizer, grower, photographer and explorer, having made many trips to different countries of the world to study and photograph orchids in their habitat. His quest in hybridizing has been to "take the road less traveled" and he has developed new types of hybrids within the Oncidiinae and Cymbidiinae which will thrive in warm as well as cool conditions.

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His quest in hybridizing has been to "take the road less traveled" and he has developed new types of hybrids within the Oncidiinae and Cymbidiinae which will thrive in warm as well as cool conditions.

**C**NYOS will be taking Milton and his wife Nancy out to dinner at **Tassone's Wine Garden** after the meeting. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dave Ditz (635-8148) no later than Sunday, May 5<sup>TH</sup>.

## APRIL MEETING: JANICE HANSON OF WHITE RIVER ORCHIDS

CNYOS hosted Janice Hanson of White River Orchids at our meeting on April 1<sup>ST</sup>, where we were introduced to the fascinating orchid genera of *Bulbophyllum* and *Cirrhopetalum*. Janice's slide show illustrated the incredible diversity of these orchids, from flowers that ranged from the gorgeous to the grotesque! Most *Bulbophyllums* and *Cirrhopetalums* are pollinated by flies, and can smell almost rancid. Nearly all of them are characterized by a hinged lip that literally shoves the fly up against the pollinea—when the fly struggles to free itself, the pollinea become stuck to the fly's back. The not-to-bright fly proceeds to the next flower where the process starts all over again, but this time the pollinea from the first flower is transferred to the second, thereby assuring pollination.

Janice had a number of orchids for sale, including both *Bulbophyllums* and *Cirrhopetalums*, as well as a nice selection of



Paphs and Phrags (her own hybrids). After the meeting several members took Janice out to dinner at Lock 24. Thanks go out to Iris Cohen for hosting our speaker during her brief visit to Central New York.

### *CIRRHOPETALUM*

*MEDUSAE: A FACE ONLY  
A FLY COULD LOVE?*

Photo courtesy of  
<http://www.jemorchids.com>

1. The profit from the CNY Flower and Garden Show is approximately \$600.
2. For the two upcoming shows; the contact persons are: Genesee Region: Dolores Capella, Southern Tie, Dianne Bordoni. Please get lists of plants you might want to send to each show to the appropriate contact person. Please put your name on the box containing your plants, and include a listing of your plant's names. Label each plant with your name and plant name, remove the tag so it doesn't get lost. Jeff Stuart will assist the Rochester group in taking down our display
3. Newsletter issues- the April issue will be the last mailing for the folks who have not yet paid their dues. Courtesy mailings stop after 3 mailings. There was discussion raised about people who are unable to attend the meetings but want to keep informed of the club's activities by receiving the newsletter without paying membership dues. As a large portion of the dues supports the newsletter, this request was denied.
4. For our Show Table; Iris has requested that if we don't know the name of our plant, we indicate our name on the identifying slip.
5. Charles Ufford and Rich Braue have graciously agreed to bring the June refreshments for our wonderful auction.
6. Electronic newsletters: Newsletter can be downloaded directly from the GROS website. Jeff Stuart and Charles Ufford are working on a club website. There is the possibility of sending newsletters out by e-mail to those who would rather receive it that way. The newsletter might be available from the web-site which is hoped to be ready this coming fall/winter.
7. Iris stated the new AOS facility has an official archive room to which clubs may contribute.
8. Refreshments- thanks to Jennifer Wilson and Dave and Jackie Churchill.
9. Our speaker, Janice Hanson of White River Orchids, came all the way from the Pacific Northwest to speak to us about *Bulbophyllums* and *Cirrhopetalums*.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Weller  
CNYOS Secretary

Misc. Photo Credits: Cover page: *Cym. Buttons and Bows*, © Milton Carpenter with digital retouch by Jeff Stuart. Page 6 (*Chysis bractescens*, *Galeandra baueri*): © 1996, 1998, Greg Allikas. The Orchid Photo Page, maintained by Greg Allikas, <http://www.orchidworks.com/>

On Saturday, March 31<sup>ST</sup>, over 15 CNYOS members made the drive out to visit **Marlow Orchids**, in Scottsville, NY, just outside Rochester. Jim's greenhouse was filled with a large variety of very well grown orchids. If members needed a break from the temptations in the greenhouse, Jim opened his beautiful home for members to relax and watch a program on orchids while enjoying a nice lunch. In the future, CNYOS is tentatively planning on making this trip to visit Jim on an annual basis each fall, while continuing to visit Bloomfield Orchids each Spring.

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## **CNYOS CALENDAR**

- May 6**                    **Special Guest Speaker, Milton Carpenter, Past President of the American Orchid Society** and proprietor of Everglades Orchids (<http://www.evergladesorchids.com/>). Milton will be speaking on warmth-tolerant Cymbidiums and will have orchids for sale. After the meeting, the club will take Milton and his wife out for dinner.
- June 10**                **Annual CNYOS Spring Auction.** Note change of Month!
- July ???**                **Annual CNYOS Summer Picnic**—Details to be announced!
- July 28-29**            **Parkside Orchids' 2001 Summer Orchid Fest:** Visit historic Bucks County in 2001 and attend the fourth annual Summer Orchid Fest: An event featuring orchid sales, and summer fun! Presentations will cover basic and advanced topics. A total of 18 vendors are expected to participate. For more information, call 610-847-8039. Web site: <http://www.parksideorchids.com/>
- August 25-26**        **The Great New York State Fair.** Just as last year, CNYOS will again participate in the NY State Fair, in the Horticultural Building. We will set up a small display and hand out literature on both growing orchids and the club. Hopefully this will be a good opportunity to boost membership. Details to be announced.
- September 11**        **Guest speaker, Howard Ginsburg:** Proprietor of **Bedford Orchids** (Montreal, Quebec, <http://www.bedfordorchids.com/>) and AOS Judge (regular at the CNYOS Show). Howard specializes in *Phalaenopsis* hybrids and will discuss new trends in hybridization of perhaps the most popular of all orchids. **Meeting will be on a Tuesday evening!**

**September 14-16 CNYOS Fall Show & Sale** at Shoppingtown Mall in DeWitt.

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**Cypripedium Alliance**

<i>Paph. villosum</i>	Wilson
<i>Phrag. besseae</i>	Stuart
<i>Paph. lowii</i>	"
<i>Paph. haynaldianum</i>	"
<i>Paph. villosum</i>	"
<i>Paph. spicerianum</i>	Cohen
<i>Paph. callosum</i>	Ditz
<i>Phrag. caudatum</i>	"
<i>Paph. Landmark (glaucophyllum x sanderianum)</i>	"
<i>Phrag. Sedenii (schlimii x longifolium)</i>	(Myers) Capella
<i>Phrag. Carol Kanzer (schlimii x pearcei)</i>	Coleman
<i>Phrag. kaieteurum</i>	"
<i>Paph. hirsutissimum</i>	Powell
<i>Paph. Alma Gavaert x Tuxedo Junction</i>	Introne

**Cattleya Alliance**

<i>Bl. Yellow Bird (Richard Mueller x B. nodosa)</i>	Kot
<i>Bl. Morning Glory (L. purpurata x B. nodosa)</i>	"
<i>C. Wilsoniana (bicolor x harrisoniana)</i>	Capella
<i>Lpt. bicolor</i>	"
<i>Pot. Douglass North (Slc. Helen Veliz x Blc. Orange Nuggett)</i>	Ditz
<i>C. Helen Jarzab (aurantiaca x luteola)</i>	Weller

**Vandaceous**

<i>Ascf. Cherry Blossom (Neof. falcata x Asctm. ampulaceum)</i>	(Myers) Capella
<i>Kgw. Red Lava (Ren. imschootiana [sic] x Ascda. Meda Arnold)</i>	Capella
<i>Phal. stuartiana</i>	Ufford
<i>Phal. unknown</i>	Powell
<i>Phal. Nantai x Malibu Castle</i>	"

<i>Phal. Golden Wish x Kaula</i>	Kot
<i>Phal. Ken Peterson x Mama Cass (sic)</i>	Introne
<i>Phal. (Golden Buddha x ?*) x (Allspice x Deventeriana)</i>	"

**Oncidium Alliance**

<i>Onc. crista-galli</i>	Coleman
<i>Wils. Calico Candy (Oda. Cranberry Leopard x Onc. onustum)</i>	Capella
<i>Milt. Alger x Mount Hood</i>	Stensland
<i>Trpla. marginata</i>	Stuart
<i>Brs. Rising Star (Rex x verrucosa)</i>	Ditz

**Pleurothallid Alliance**

<i>Lths. cascajalensis</i>	Stuart
<i>Pths. racemiflora</i>	Ditz

**Miscellaneous**

<i>Dendrochilum glumaceum</i>	Capella
<i>Den. (Dockrillia) linguiforme</i>	"
<i>Den. victoria-reginae</i>	Coleman
<i>Den. Nora Tokunaga (atroviolaceum x rhodostictum)</i>	"
<i>Aërgs. curnowiana</i>	Ditz
<i>Bulb. picturatum</i>	"
<i>Bulb. (sic) putidum</i>	Stuart
<i>Jum. arachnanthe</i>	Lloyd

\*There is no such name as Rori, or anything like it. Contact your supplier.

Iris Cohen

**THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE ...**

...Will be having its **Annual Show**, Saturday, May 5<sup>TH</sup> (2:00<sup>PM</sup> - 9:30<sup>PM</sup>) through Sunday, May 6<sup>TH</sup> (11:00<sup>AM</sup> - 6:00<sup>PM</sup>), in Shoppingtown Mall, DeWitt. **Sale Hours**

are Friday, 5/4, Noon -9:30<sup>PM</sup>, Saturday, 5/5, 9:30<sup>AM</sup>-9:30<sup>PM</sup>, and Sunday, 5/6, 11:00<sup>AM</sup> - 6:00<sup>PM</sup>. African Violets and their relatives (*Gesneriads*) often make great companion plants to orchids. You

all know the old adage, "If you can bloom a Phalaenopsis, you can bloom an African Violet!" Or something like that... Anyway, stop by and see what this wonderful and diverse family of plants has to offer!



# MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS...

## CLUB REMINDERS

**Orchid-Growing Supplies** are now available, including fir bark, sphagnum, sponge rock, charcoal, and 40W fluorescent tubes. Call Rich Groll for details on pricing and availability.

The **CNYOS Club Library** is now located at St. Augustine's church. Make arrangements with Dianne Bordoni if you want to borrow an item from the Library.

***DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BLOOMING ORCHIDS FOR THE MONTHLY SHOW TABLE!!!***



*Phalaenopsis bellina* (violacea), photograph by Vagisha Sharma, with digital enhancement by J. Stuart.

## **FROM THE APRIL 2001 ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE:**

HGTV will present a one-hour special titled "The Orchid Mystique" on Mother's Day, May 13<sup>TH</sup>, at 8:00<sup>PM</sup>. Having gathered information on orchids from around the world, the special will include information on the American Orchid Society, whose Director of Education, Andy Easton, helped with taping the show.

## **REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE**

<b>May</b>	<b>Dolores Capella &amp; Ken Renno</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Rick Braue &amp; Charles Ufford</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Donna Coleman &amp; Monica Kot</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Dave Ditz</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Cheryl &amp; Tom Lloyd</b>
<b>January 2002</b>	<b>Judi Witkin</b>

## **GROS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE GENESEE REGION ORCHID SOCIETY**

After a successful Spring Show, GROS will host Milton Carpenter, AOS Immediate Past President and owner of Everglades Orchids in Belle Glade, Florida for their meeting, on May 7 at 7:00<sup>PM</sup>. Milton will be speaking on "The New Oncidiinae Intergenerics," and will be selling orchids as well. Everglades Orchids specializes in the hybridization of warmth-tolerant Cymbidium and Oncidium orchids.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 23, No. 9, May 2001, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

## **STOS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY**

Our May meeting is on May 20 at 2:00<sup>PM</sup> in the Vestal Library. There will be a potting demonstration and discussion of various aspects of orchid culture (pest control, watering, etc.)

June 17 is our annual pot luck picnic at Fernwood Manor. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy a beautiful spot in the country as well as an outstanding orchid greenhouse.

Monthly meetings begin at 2:00<sup>PM</sup> in the Vestal Public Library. For directions, etc. call STOS president Dave Clemens at 570-879-4244 or e-mail him at <clemens@epix.net>.

**CHYSIS BRACTESCENS AND GALEANDRA BAUERI**

**C**HYSIS BRACTESCENS is found throughout much of Central America featuring glistening creamy or white flowers or pink and tawny flowers in its aurea variety. Its genus name alludes to the self-fertilizing ability of the flowers. In the Horticultural Society Journal of 1849 it was touted as "the best for decorating ladies' hair. Its flowers may be used once, twice, thrice and even four times..." Because of the pendant nature of the deciduous pseudobulbs, grow *Chysis* in a basket or mounted on a tree fern or a cork slab. Provide ample water and fertilizer when in active growth and withhold both during winter months. Moderate light and intermediate temperatures are called for. Spring flowering.



**G**ALEANDRA BAUERI: Galeandra is a tropical American genus consisting of about twenty or so species. Several of these species are similar enough to cause confusion among collectors and are often all sold as *Galeandra baueri*. *Gal. baueri*, the type for the genus, is found throughout Central America and into northern South America. The pseudobulbs, which resemble an elongated Catasetum, can be a foot tall and are topped with beautiful silvery blue-green leaves from which emerge the inflorescence in late spring. New buds are produced continually from the apex of the inflorescence extending the blooming period for several months. The tan & rose colored flowers often have a curious leather like scent. We have seen these lowland orchids growing in the tops of Paurotis palms in Belize suggesting that coconut chunks or fiber and bright light might be a key to successful culture. They can be grown under the same conditions as Cattleyas, in an open, fast draining potting mix. These beautiful rewarding orchids belong in every collection.



BY - MILTON O. CARPENTER

(an acknowledged expert on the subject)

I have been growing, and killing, orchids for 35 years now and it occurred to me that I should pass on to others some of the more basic, as well as advanced methods I have discovered, and in some cases “stumbled upon” to accomplish this purpose!

**BASIC RULES:** (1) Never seek information on how to keep them alive. For example, (a) don't try to distinguish what KIND of orchid you have, (b) don't ask for help from other orchid growers, (c) don't subscribe to the AOS Bulletin, (c) don't go to local orchid society meetings, (d) don't purchase the AOS handbook on orchid pests and diseases and (e) don't call the AOS Director of Information Services.

**RATHER OBVIOUS FUNDAMENTAL METHODS:** Aside from pouring on gasoline and striking a match, consider the following: (1) Give the orchid far too little or too much light. (2) As most orchids like fairly good air movement, either give them none at all or a veritable hurricane. (3) Don't worry about what particular temperature your orchids like—a good “rule of thumb” is to treat them all alike. (4) Forget that most orchids like rather high humidity and let the humidity drop as low as it will. Never “damp down” the benches and floors on really hot days. (5) Remember to water every orchid every day (drench thoroughly) regardless of what kind of media or pots they are in—or very seldom water the orchids at all, allowing the pseudobulbs (those things between the top of the pot and the base of the leaves) to become very shriveled and wrinkled. (6) Never be concerned about the quality of the water you are using—whether it's loaded with chlorines, sulfides, or whatever. (7) Repot your orchids only when you have to and only “when you have spare time.” (8) Use just about anything handy to pot your orchids in, it really doesn't matter and there is no truth to the thinking that certain types like different potting media (that's the stuff you put in the pot). Potting in plain old dirt from your garden is a good idea. (9) Fertilize only once or twice a year, but when you do—really pour it on, perhaps triple or quadruple the formula. (10) Try to never be concerned about insects or diseases—just let nature take its course.

**ADVANCED RULES:** (1) Because orchids prefer the full light spectrum, put them under heavily colored fiberglass. (2) Arrange your greenhouse or growing area near a brightly illuminated city street lamp so they won't know the difference between night and day. (3) Try to locate your orchids as near as possible to heavily traveled roads—the carbon monoxide (and other goodies) will help with your job. (4) Keep turning each pot around about one quarter turn each day so they will become thoroughly disoriented. (5) If it gets cold, put an unvented kerosene heater in your greenhouse—the fumes can work wonders. (6) If it gets cold, don't do anything—perhaps they will just go into hibernation. (7) When you water, always try to water late in the afternoon or (preferably) at night. the water standing in the new leads creates unusual effects. (8) When potting your plants always use a pot about four times as large as the plants roots, remembering that that's the way they grow in nature. (9) If your plant starts to look sick, NEVER take it out of the pot to see what's happening with the roots; after all, what you can't see can't hurt you, can it? (10) Should you notice some kind of insect on a plant, just put it under the faucet and wash the critters off—don't bother to check the other plants in its vicinity and don't worry about some kind of pesticide, that stuff's hard to handle properly and besides it leaves the greenhouse smelling poorly for days. (11) Keep your leaves nice and clean—never spray a preventive fungicide as it leaves an ugly residue. (12) Always use the same knife or plant shears when cutting from one plant to another and don't bother to sterilize—this is the democratic way, whatever malady one has, soon they will all share!

I am sure there are those of you who have discovered more unusual ways to kill your orchids but I have only been growing these plants for 35 years and I am still a' learnin'!!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Another method which I have found to be quite successful can also be found in instructions on how to destroy sunglasses or camera equipment. You simply set the orchid on the roof of your car and drive away....very effective.

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Reference: The O Zone, Volume - 3, #4-1/2 oct. - dec., an on-line magazine maintained by Greg Allikas, found at <http://www.orchid-works.com/ozone/index.html>. © Greg Allikas.

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## CHINESE CYMBIDIUM CULTURE

This month's speaker, Milton Carpenter, specializes in the hybridization of warmth-tolerant orchids. The Chinese Cymbidiums are often used as introduce this quality to Cymbidium hybrids. Here are a few notes on growing them.

**T**hese orchids are prized for the graceful shape of their leaves and delightful fragrance of the flowers. There are three main Chinese Cymbidium species: *Cym. ensifolium*, *Cym. sinense*, and *Cym. kanran makino*. *Cymbidium ensifolium* is a smaller plant with small, thick leaves that blooms in the summer. Some of its varieties or forms will flower three or more times during the summer months. *Cymbidium sinense* is a slightly larger plant and always has dark green leaves. It flowers in winter. Both *Cym. ensifolium* and *Cym. sinense* have variegated forms. The most common forms have a gold line on both sides of the leaves or have the variegation running down the veins of the leaves.

**Temperature:** Most of the Chinese Cymbidiums are found at 1000 meter altitude (frost 7). Growing temperature is the most critical factor in blooming Chinese



**CYMBIDIUM ENSIFOLIUM**



**CYMBIDIUM SINENSE**

Cymbidiums. During the summer, Chinese Cymbidiums should be grown under 90-95% shade (editor's note—perhaps a bit less shade here in sunny Central NY!), with temperatures from 75-85°F. Higher temperatures may be maintained if increased air movement is provided. Night temperatures in late summer and early fall (August to October) must be 50-60°F to initiate flower spikes. Optimum temperatures in winter are 45-50°F at night and 65-75°F during the day. Most Chinese Cymbidiums can withstand a light frost and survive, but this is not recommended, so do not allow the temperatures to drop below 40°F. In mild climates they can be grown outside all year.

**Light:** Shade more heavily during the summer months (about 95%) and increase the air movement. Keep about 90% during the winter. The leaves should be a dark green color, not medium green or golden green. Regional variations in the accessibility to sunny weather may need to be considered.

**Water:** The plants should be watered about every three days. In very dry climates, water about every two

days. The plants should remain slightly moist, but not wet. During the summer, avoid watering during the hottest part of the day. Use a potting medium that dries out quickly (like rock and tree fern fiber). Some sphagnum may be placed on top of the medium to keep the plant moist but not too wet (we use seaweed, but understand that this is not readily available in most other countries).

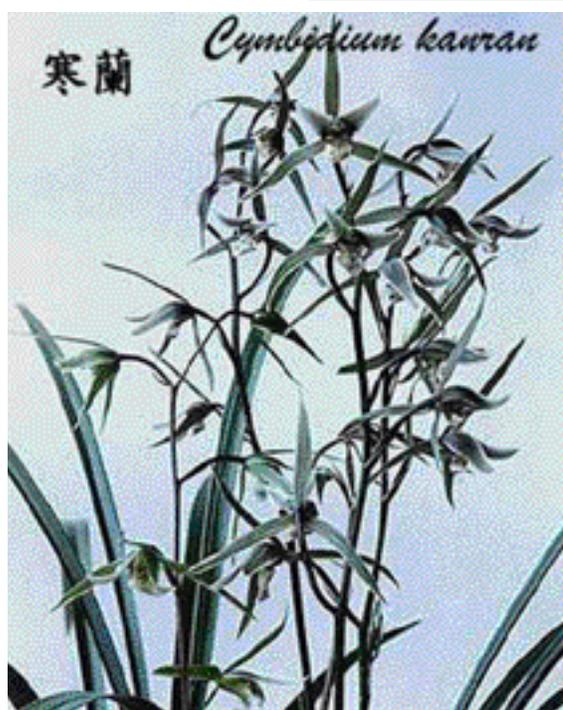
**Humidity:** Humidity where Chinese Cymbidiums grow is usually high. For best results, keep the humidity at 40-60% during winter. Higher humidity is recommended during the summer, if possible.

**Fertilizer:** We recommend a 15/15/30 Albion Laboratories (a USA firm) fertilizer, applied by spray, three times per month. Increased phosphate may be provided during the summer months.

**Potting:** Chinese Cymbidiums have very long roots, so deep containers are recommended. Slim deep containers are best as they restrict the roots. The medium we recommend was discussed previously. However, if tree fern fiber is not available, fir bark is recommended, but a lighter watering schedule may be necessary. Potting should be done about every two years, as the potting medium begins to break down and turn sour. Repotting should be done in the spring after flowering. Select a container that will allow for two to three years of growth before the plant becomes crowded.



**MATURE PLANT OF *CYMBIDIUM SINENSE***



***CYMBIDIUM KANRAN***

Carefully remove all the old potting medium from the roots. If you wish to divide the plant, maintain 2-3 bulbs with leaves on each division. Place the active growing bulb furthest from the side of the container. Spread the roots over a cone of the mix in the bottom of the container. Fill the remainder of the container with mix, working it carefully around the roots while tapping the container to firmly so that it settles. The rhizome should be about 1/2" to 1" below the surface of the medium. Supply limited amounts of water and keep shaded until new growth starts.

Thanks are extended to Michael Hsu for permission to print these cultural notes. East Seas Orchids, Unit Star Int. Co. Ltd., 1F4 No. 58 Ming Chuang East Road, Taipei, 104 Taiwan.

**Reference:** This article, originally published in the Queensland Orchid Society Bulletin in March 1999, Vol. 38 #3, was reprinted from the Kingston Orchid News, the newsletter of the Kingston Orchid Society, November 2000.

**Photo Reference:** All photos from the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia, compiled and maintained by Jay Pfahl, found at <http://www.orchidspecies.com/>



BY MILTON O. CARPENTER

Everglades Orchids also specializes in Oncidiinae intergeneric Hybrids, and no doubt some of our members have plants from this unique group. This article, also found on the Everglades Orchids website, discusses some of the important cultural needs of these popular orchids.

**PREFACE:** Because of the diversity of habitat among the genera and species of this family, it is important to know something of the climatic requirements of the species involved in these hybrids. For example, *Oncidium onustum* occurs at sea level at the Equator in South America, often in full light and on fence posts, while *Odontoglossum crispum* is found at 9,000+ feet in the Andes mountains where it is continually cool and moist. What follows then are recommendations for culture of the "Temperature Tolerant" Oncidiinae which we have created at Everglades Orchids. These special plants are created to perform well in temperatures from 55F to 100F without the necessity for a wide temperature variance between day and night temperatures. In most cases we have incorporated a warm and a cool parent to produce the required tolerance of temperatures at either extreme. While the various cultural factors will be discussed individually, it is important to remember that they are all closely interrelated. For example, when temperatures and wind movement are high, additional humidity and moisture is required.

**LIGHT:** Seedlings prefer filtered or diffused light of approximately 1,500 to 2,500 foot candles while mature plants will enjoy from 1,500 to 4,000 foot candles. In Florida, 60% shade will result in about 4,000 foot candles of illumination on a bright Summer day. A good indication of proper light is the color of the leaves; they should be bright green as opposed to dark green (too much shade) or reddish green (too much light). I have often moved a plant which was large and strong, but which had not bloomed, and after putting it into brighter light conditions watched as it responded almost immediately by sending up bloom spikes. Care must be taken when doing this, however, that the increased light is not too great or injury to the leaves will result. Once spikes are initiated, it is important to leave the plant stationary in its relationship to the light source, else crooked spikes and erratic flower presentation may result.

**TEMPERATURE:** If your temperatures are seldom above 100F



Aliceara Sweetheart  
Jones 'Stellar  
Attraction' AM/AOS  
is an example of  
how complex these  
hybrids can become:  
Aliceara [Alcra.] =  
(*Brassia* x *Miltonia* x  
*Oncidium*)

Photograph © Milton  
Carpenter

or below 55F then our "Temperature Tolerant" hybrids should perform well, however if you are really HOT or very COLD and can't do anything about it then a little research is suggested. For example if you live in the "Sunny South", *Odontocidium*s which have *Oncidium maculatum*, *sphacelatum*, *wydlery*, or *hyphaematicum* will probably perform well, whereas those with *Oncidium macranthum*, *incurvum*, or *tigrinum* will probably not do so well. Our "Temperature Tolerant" hybrids regularly withstand daily high temperatures of 100 F. for five months in our Summertime. See our article in the AOS Bulletin, January 1994.

**HUMIDITY:** The species utilized in these hybrids generally enjoy relatively high humidity in their native habitat during most of the year. In cultivation, a range from 50 to 90% is considered favorable, with seedlings usually preferring 70% or higher. Generally, humidity should be increased as temperature, light intensity and air movement increase. This can be accomplished by misting the plants and "damping down" the greenhouse floor periodically. Do not mist the plants late in the afternoon however, as the foliage is more susceptible to fungus and bacterial infection if not dry by nightfall. During winter months, if artificial heat is employed, maintenance of proper humidity levels should be considered. If plants are kept in the home, they will benefit from being placed on a saucer filled with small pebbles and water (in bottom of saucer); this will increase humidity around the plants as the water evaporates.

**AIR MOVEMENT:** Good air movement around the leaves and the bottom of the pot seems a good rule to observe as long as the humidity requirements are met, thus preventing the possible desiccation of the plants. Adequate air movement reduces leaf temperature allowing higher light intensity and more vigorous growth. An additional advantage is the reduction of fungal and bacterial infections which high humidity alone might otherwise cause.

**WATER (Quantity):** Oncidiinae intergeneric hybrids should generally be kept somewhat moist. Never allow them to dry out completely but be sure to allow for excellent drainage as they do not appreciate soggy or waterlogged conditions. Generally, they require more water when making new growth and less once the bulb has formed. When watering be sure to water copiously, to ensure a thorough wetting of the potting medium and reduce the build-up of toxic minerals.

**WATER (Quality):** This is a factor often overlooked and of prime importance. City water and well water will many times be found to contain an unusually high total soluble salts content (the relative amount of all minerals dissolved in the water). Ideally the total salts content of your water should be 50 P.P.M. (parts per million) or less and not more than 100 P.P.M. If you are not sure what your water contains ask your county agricultural agent for guidance. If your water supply is poor, consider catching rainwater (provided there's no acid rain in your area).

**POTTING:** Repotting every two years seems to be a good rule

(sooner where water quality is poor) except for those plants in "rock wool" or mounted on tree fern slabs, or cork bark, which should be repotted only when the media starts to break down or the plant has outgrown the slab. If plants are potted in sphagnum moss they may need to be repotted each 12 to 18 months. Plastic pots offer these advantages: economical, the potting media stays moist longer, "salts" do not build up on the inside of the pots, and they are easy to clean and sterilize for reuse. Clay pots offer these advantages: better air movement around the roots, heavier "base" for plants with tall spikes, and evaporation to create a cooler root atmosphere. Usually, these plants should be repotted when the new growth is two or three inches tall or when the new roots first appear. Remove any organic mix and trim off all dead roots. If it is necessary to divide, keep at least three to five mature bulbs together. Water the newly repotted plants lightly until the new roots have penetrated the media, then resume normal watering. Pot size will depend upon the size of the plant and its root system. We generally use small, shallow pots allowing room for an anticipated one or two year's growth.

**POTTING MEDIA:** Basically, any mix which has good water retentive qualities while still open and allowing good air movement through the media can be used. Our preferred media is "Rock Wool", an inert material made from molten, spun, rock. We are using Grodan "Stone Wool" with 1/3 expanded perlite added and have had excellent results. The obvious advantage to this material is that it will not "break down" and thus can be left on the root system indefinitely if particular attention is paid to "flushing" with pure water routinely for accumulated salts. I have observed

these intergeneric hybrids growing well in New Zealand sphagnum moss, straight tree fern, straight fir bark, and all sorts of combination mixes! The key is that they do not want to become completely dry between waterings, preferring instead to remain at least slightly moist at all times, and yet must have good drainage. Recent experience has shown that the Brazilian Miltonias and primary hybrids with them do best for us in straight charcoal (fingernail size).

**FERTILIZER:** Moderate feeders, these plants will respond to a balanced fertilizer (such as 20-20-20) at one half strength, every second or third watering. If potted in fir bark, a high nitrogen fertilizer (such as 30-10-10) will be required. Feeding can be generally increased during warmer weather and when plants are in active growth, while the reverse is true in cooler months.

**PESTS & DISEASES:** In Florida, scale and mealybug will occasionally attack these plants. We have found that Cygon-2E, Isotox, Malathion, and Orthene give good control. We do not use Cygon more frequently than once every 120 days however, and generally try to rotate the insecticide. After spraying, wash off all buds and flowers with plain water to prevent damage—the same applies to your person (and of course, avoid inhalation of the fumes). Fungal and bacterial infections can be a problem because of the desired high humidity conditions. Good air movement is a big help in prevention. Some preventive fungicides are—Captan, Truban, Tersan, Physan, and Kocide, while remedial fungicides such as Subdue and Aliette are available in the USA.



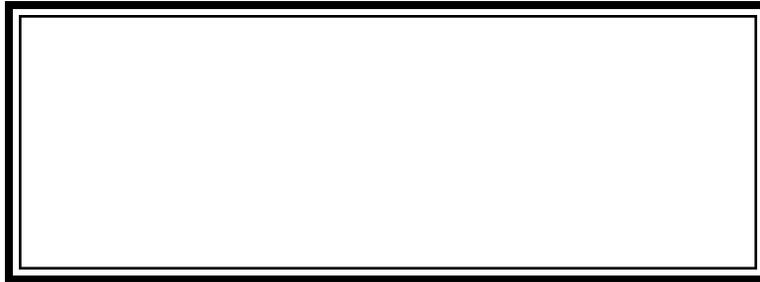
## FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW ORCHID PICTURES ON THE WEB!

**W**hile at the Central New York Flower & Garden Show, Photographer Alex Ottaviano of SYRACUSEVOICE.COM stopped by the CNYOS display to snap a few pics. Many of those photographs are now on-line at [http://www.syracusevoice.com/cards/cnyorchid\\_card.htm](http://www.syracusevoice.com/cards/cnyorchid_card.htm), where they can be sent as electronic postcards to your friends on-line! SyracuseVoice.com is a web site dedicated to local events, news, entertainment, and Central New York in general. So if you displayed one of your orchids at the Flower & Garden Show, there's a good chance it's on their site! There are also a few sentences about our club and its activities, as well as contact information for anyone interested in joining.

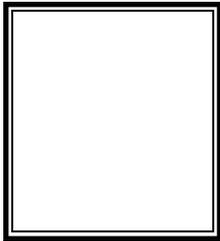


Right: Dolores Capella's Slc. Whodunit, photographed by Alex Ottaviano, <http://www.syracusevoice.com/>

Next regular meeting: Sunday, May 6th at 2:00pm  
Special Guest Speaker: American Orchid Society Past  
President Milton Carpenter of Everglades Orchids



June 10th: CNYOS Annual Orchid Auction!



THE CENTRAL NEW YORK ORCHID SOCIETY  
Your local AOS & Orchid Digest Affiliate  
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## Central New York Orchid Society

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The Central New York Orchid Society meets at St. Augustine's Church, 7333 O'Brien Rd, Baldwinsville, at 2:00<sup>PM</sup> on the first Sunday of each month from September through June. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual, or \$17.00 family. Dues should be paid to the CNYOS Treasurer, Elinor Burton.

## THE ORCHID ENTHUSIAST

The CNYOS Newsletter, *The Orchid Enthusiast*, is a publication of the Central New York Orchid Society and is distributed to the Society's members ten times per year, prior to all club meetings, events, or functions.

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