

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter for the Central New York Orchid Society

Volume 8: Issue 11 Dec. 2006 CNYOS is affiliated with the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest

December Meeting(s): Dec. 3rd. - Our speaker this month will be our own Tom Daily who will be presenting on IPM for Orchid Growers. Tom will explain how to use Integrated Pest Management to best protect our plants from insects and disease.

Judi Witkin will be hosting our Beginner's Meeting and discussing "What kinds of plants should or shouldn't I buy?" (Knowing your growing conditions and vendors).

Our November speaker's presentation was rescheduled for December's meeting along with the Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner party. There were so many plants to be auctioned off that it was felt that the whole meeting time needed to be devoted to the auction. Many plants were sold at reasonable prices, and everybody went home happy!

The original main event for our December meeting is our Christmas Party. This year we will be having a dish-to-pass dinner at our usual meeting location and time. There will be a beginner's meeting before the dinner as well. The club will provide table service and drinks. Usually we ask members whose last name begins with letters A-M to bring a main course/appetizer item and members whose last names begin with letters N-Z to bring a dessert item. This is just a guideline to help balance the menu and to help those who may not be sure of what type of item they should bring. If you have a specialty that you like to make, or are just dying to have a special item that you would like to bring and it doesn't match the 'last name' suggestion, feel free to bring what you would like. It might be helpful if one or two people were to bring a sugar-free dessert item for those who are on a sugar-restrictive diet. Most important of all, bring your appetite and any guests if you would like them to meet the club! This event is open to people with interest in orchids, club member's families and other such people who would like to attend.

The trip to Marlow's Orchids was also a successful event for the club. Quite a few members went along to Rochester to buy orchids and enjoy the wonderful food that Jim Marlow has to offer at his open house events. Many orchids were in flower and it was warm and comfortable in the greenhouse.

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| Orchid Speak: pg. 3 | Show. It's April 21, 2007, and \$49.00 for a one day trip. |
| IPM Websites pg. 3-4 | Their web site is < http://www.onondagacoach.com > |
| Book review: pg. 4 | www.onondagacoach.com click on One Day Trips, or |
| Show Table pg. 4-5 | New York City. |
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Please remember to bring your flowering orchids to display on our Show Table!

Minutes – CNYOS Meeting November 5th, 2006

Meeting minutes weren't available due to Pat Cotter's car breaking down on her way to the last meeting!

Misc. business

Club Vice-President Kim Boronczyk has many orchid-related supplies for sale. Please contact Kim at 315-455-7587 before regular meetings to discuss what she has available and can bring to the next meeting.

The club has a good selection of orchid-related books available to sign out. Please contact Judi or Tom to find out what is available and to sign out a book. A list will soon be posted showing what is available.

The Wolles are still collecting clothing, household items, baby supplies and other food and paper stores for the Living Hope Christian Center in Syracuse. Members can bring their donations to the meeting to give to the Wolles.

Onondaga Coach Bus tours has a bus going to New York City on the Saturday of the Greater New York Orchid Show.

It's April 21, 2007, and \$49.00 for a one day trip. Their web site is <<http://www.onondagacoach.com>>

www.onondagacoach.com click on One Day Trips, or New York City. Call Donna for information 633-2437.

Anyone who has ideas for Beginner's Session topics please feel free to contact Tom D. by phone at 315-687-3449

Volunteer Schedules - Refreshment List for Fall/Winter 2006

December 3rd - Christmas Pot-luck Dinner

January 7th - Barbara Weller and Judi Witkin

February 4th - Diane Bordoni, Deb Coyle and Dolores Capella

March 4th - Maxine Weibel

Please remember to bring your flowering orchids to the meeting for our show table!

REFLECTIONS ON WATER

There are few experiences that are as stimulating to the senses as entering the tropical atmosphere of a greenhouse in January. The bone chilling dry air is replaced with warm, richly-thick moisture-laden air. Not like being suffocated, but rather, the buoyant atmosphere is comforting. You take a deep breath and you can feel yourself relax. Now that we know how we respond to water, let's see how plants respond.

Watering your plants should begin with some basic understanding of the effects of water on plants. Without going into detail, the quantity of water available to the plant greatly affects photosynthesis. Under-watering causes the plant to wilt, thus retarding photosynthesis and slowing growth. Without sufficient water young growing cells do not stretch out resulting in smaller leaves and smaller spaces between leaves on the stem. In extreme cases the leaves fall off and the plant dies. Over-watering creates a situation where the new growth may become large and soft, easily wilting in bright light or dry conditions. If water is supplied even more often, the oxygen levels at the roots drop; the roots become damaged and lose the ability to absorb water and/or nutrients.

Ok, that's the science. The rest of what I want to talk about needs to be understood in the context of your specific growing conditions. Let's look at three watering rules.

One: Use a well-drained medium. Your choice should be dictated by a number of factors. The most obvious is how often you normally water. Other variables such as low humidity, insufficient or excess light, temperatures too warm or too cool, too much or too little air movement, should all be considered. You need to know how and where the plant typically grows. Is it terrestrial or epiphytic? Does it live in a cloud forest constantly wet, or does it grow on a tree where it gets moisture periodically? Don't forget to consider semi-hydroponics. For many of us this medium solves a multitude of watering issues for certain orchids.

Two: Water thoroughly each time you water. Some people say, it's more important to have quantity rather than quality. However, as orchid growers, both factors are very important. When you are watering plants growing in pots, at least 10% of the water you use should run out of the pot to flush the excess salts out of the medium. You don't want to partially water the plant, just giving it a little water everyday. This is a bad habit, as you are most likely not watering the total mix. This leads to roots drying out and can also cause an excess of salts to build-up in the pot. If these conditions are prolonged, your stressed plant will die. When it rains in a rainforest, it comes down in buckets for an extended period of time. The best advice is use good quality water; provide it at the correct time and in sufficient quantity.

Three: Water just before moisture stress occurs. This is where familiarity with the medium you have chosen comes in. How much does the plant/pot weigh when well-watered? What does the medium look like when it's dry? What does it feel like when it's dry? Get a 'feel' for this technique and you will take a lot of the mystery out of when you need to water.

Another factor touched on above, is water quality. Use the highest quality you can. If your water is hard, consider collecting rainwater. Water purifiers such as reverse osmosis (RO) and de-ionization work well but can be expensive. If you are trying to grow plants known to be very sensitive to water quality make sure you can provide the necessary quality or you will not be happy with the results.

Sometimes new orchid growers are disappointed by the responses they get to the question of how to water this or that particular orchid. This seeming lack of absolutes can take on an almost mystical air. But as you can see, your specific conditions combined with learning to 'read' your plants needs, are not easily conveyed to a new grower. It is largely a function of how long it takes you to learn to 'see' and associate your observations with what your plant is telling you. That means understanding your observations of both the over-watered as well as under-watered condition. When you get good at it, you will be on the right track to knowing how and when to water virtually any plant.

Tom Daily

Orchid Speak

Water Quality- the properties of water such as hardness and alkalinity.

Hardness of Water- is a measure of the combined content of calcium and magnesium in water.

Salts- mineral impurities in the water; excess fertilizer compounds unused by a plant that remain in or on the medium or pot.

Semi-Hydroponics- the use of fired clay spheres in pots that have a water reservoir at the bottom created with holes that allow excess water above the holes to run out. This reservoir keeps the medium constantly moist.

Editor's Note: Tom Daily asked me to put a list of IPM web sites on the club web page, and since we have some space in this newsletter, I'm including them here to supplement the presentation he will give at our December meeting.

IPM web sites

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/IPM/greenhs/htms/ysc3.htm>

<http://nathist.sdstate.edu/orchids/Pests/Aphids.htm>

<http://nathist.sdstate.edu/orchids/pests/mealybugs.htm>

<http://nathist.sdstate.edu/orchids/Pests/mites.htm>

<http://nathist.sdstate.edu/orchids/pests/scales.htm>

http://nathist.sdstate.edu/orchids/Pests/fungus_gnats.htm

Expanding Horizons: Books of Interest

“Prior to 1978, only about 100 valid *Masdevallia* species were in existence. However, modern highways and roads into formerly isolated locales enabled new regions to be readily explored, leading to the discovery of hundreds of new orchid species and the rediscovery of old ‘lost’ species as well.”

Masdevallias Gems of the Orchid World by Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons.

As a somewhat reluctant grower of this very interesting group of orchids I welcome such a beautiful book. Why reluctant you ask? I hesitate to buy plants if I can’t find sufficient information to lead me to know if I can grow and bloom them. Until now there has not been much information on the culture of *Masdevallias* for the non-taxonomist, much less put together into one book. The book, although thoroughly covering the history of *Masdevallia*, current taxonomy and culture, is eminently approachable. Few books so comfortably draw you in and move you along. With the aid of drawings and photographs the authors create a visual structure for the information. Most of us can’t get enough information on how to grow an orchid. The backbone of the book for me is a substantial section on *Masdevallia* species. Each contains a photograph, brief description, and pertinent habitat and cultural requirements. The final section is about hybrids; why cross two plants, and some of the most important parents used in hybridization. Lastly, even the glossary was put together with care. The definitions are well crafted, making the terms easier to understand. Combined with the multitude of beautiful photographs taken by Ron Parsons, this is a ‘must have’ for the *Masdevallia* grower. There is a wonderful clarity to finding the right group of species for your growing conditions. In this book *Masdevallia* culture comes across in a warm and friendly manner quelling any fears about trying some of these beauties.

Masdevallias Gems of The Orchid World would make someone a great gift, especially if that someone is you!

Tom Daily

NOVEMBER SHOW TABLE

Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or **complete** your records, including parentage and new registrations.

Cypripedium Alliance

| | |
|--|---------|
| <i>Phrag.</i> Memoria Dick Clements (<i>lindleyanum</i> x <i>besseae</i>) | Coleman |
| <i>Paph.</i> Barbi-Doll (<i>barbigerum</i> x <i>fairrieanum</i>) | “ |
| <i>Phrag.</i> <i>pearcei</i> | Witkin |
| <i>Paph.</i> Chrysippus (<i>Psyche</i> x <i>rothschildianum</i>) | Ditz |
| <i>Paph.</i> Charles Sladden (<i>bellatulum</i> x <i>glaucophyllum</i>) | “ |
| <i>Paph.</i> Onkuli (Makuli x Onyx) | Galson |
| <i>Paph.</i> <i>godefroyae</i> | Dimon |

Cattleya Alliance

| | |
|---|---------|
| <i>Bc.</i> Hippodamia (<i>C. aclandiae</i> x <i>B. nodosa</i>) | Frost |
| <i>Lc.</i> Rosie’s Surprise x <i>Bc.</i> Donna Kimura | Olney |
| <i>Blc.</i> Taida Eagle Eye (Meditation x <i>C. Madeleine</i> Knowlton) | “ |
| <i>Slc.</i> Petite Elf (<i>Sc.</i> Petite Pride x <i>Lc.</i> Jungle Elf) | Coleman |
| <i>Slc.</i> Rajah’s Angel (Rajah’s Ruby x Bright Angel) | “ |
| <i>Slc.</i> Lone Star Blonde (Tangerine Imp x <i>Sc.</i> Petite Pride) | “ |
| <i>Slc.</i> Exotic Mini Treat (<i>Lc.</i> Trick or Treat x <i>Slc.</i> Seagulls Mini-Cat Heaven)Lloyd | |

Lc. Haw Yuan Angel (Orglade's Glow x Janet) Cohen
Psh. (Prosthechea) cochleata
Psh. (Prosthechea) cochleata

Vandaceous

Neost. Lou Sneary (*Neof. falcata* x *Rhy. coelestis*) Braue
Vnd. (**Vandirea**) Newberry Jasmine (*Sed. japonica* x *V. amesiana*) "
Phal. cornu-cervi Witkin
Phal. pallens Ufford
Phal. celebensis "
Phal. Zuma's Pixie x Red Lites Cohen
V. (**Pimporn** [?] x **Robert's** Delight) x *Ascda.* **Guo** Chia Long Olney

Oncidium Alliance

Mtssa. Shelob (Olmec x *Brs.* Edvah Loo) Coleman
Oda. Charlesworthii (*Cda. noezliana* x *Odm. harryanum*) Galson
Onc. Rosy Sunset (Pupukea Sunset x *ornithorhynchum*) Braue
Mtssa. Royal Robe (Erachne x *Milt.* Seminole Blood) Olney

Pleurothallid Alliance

Pths. **nuda** Witkin
Pths. allenii "
Pths. dilemma "
Masd. veitchiana x *bicornis* "
Tris. cordeliae "
Stelis *cyripedioides* "

Dendrobium

Den. loddigesii Witkin

Miscellaneous

Psnth. Raspberry Delight (*Cnth. discolor* x *Pes. coronaria*) Braue
Cym. Golden Elf (*ensifolium* x Enid Haupt) "
Gga. **galeata*** "
Kfst. ocellata "
Med. decoratum Witkin
Eria coronaria "
Gga. galeata Coleman
Max. praestans "
Bulb. putidum Capella

*This word is frequently misspelled. To help you remember, galea means helmet; the name galeata refers to a helmet-shaped flower.

Iris Cohen

Orchid Trading Post

Club Member Mike Candella would like to close down his personal greenhouse for the Winter, and is thinking of selling his orchids. Anyone who has interest should contact Mike at his home in Marcy, NY or at the family business Candella's Greenhouses also in Marcy

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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The Central New York Orchid Society meets at St. Augustine's Church, 7333 O'Brien Rd., Baldwinsville, at 2:00^{pm} on the first Sunday of each month from September through June, with Beginner's Sessions at 1:30p.m. right before the regular meetings. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual, or \$17.00 per family. Dues should be paid to the CNYOS Treasurer, Carol Haskell

The Central New York Orchid Society
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December Issue - Meeting date Dec. 3rd, 1:30p.m.

December Meeting: Tom Daily - IPM for Orchid Growers
Beginner's Session: (at 1:30pm) Judi Witkin - Knowing Orchids, Growing
Conditions and Vendors