

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Page 1 Volume 11: Issue 4 April 2009

Editor's Note:

Contributions to the Orchid Enthusiast by members of the CNYOS are welcome. Articles, pictures, or ideas for discussion subjects should be submitted by the second week of the month before the next meeting to:

egalson@twcny.rr.com

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To exhibit your blooming orchids at the GROS show, register them with Iris the week before April 2. Specify whether the plant was owned for less than 6 months, or whether it's a miniature. If it is a Cattleya or Phal. Specify the color.

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 5 at 1:30 PM (note earlier time)

The speaker will be Dr. Glen Lehr of New World Orchids of Michigan. He specializes in orchids from Japan. The talk he gives to orchid societies is a combination of Orchid Shows in Japan, Japanese Orchids, and a tour of the people, cities and culture of Japan. He traveled to Japan in February for the Grand Prix, where he has been a vendor and judge for 11 years, and to scout several nurseries looking for Neofietias, Sedirea japonica, Dendrobium



moliforme, and Sophronites species. We sent around an e-mail in January, so that those interested in specific plants could put in an order. For those who were not so proactive, he will have an assortment of plants for sale.

Beginners' Meeting (after the speaker)

This month's beginner's class will be given by Rick Braue and will be on growing plants semi-hydroponically and in other media.

President's Message

Logo of New World Orchids

If you weren't able to attend our March meeting you missed an excellent program on Disa orchids by Wally Orchard. I want to thank Charles for bringing in such a high quality speaker for us.

As we look toward April we are already thinking about who will set up for the GROS (Greater Rochester) orchid show and who will be willing to give up their monthly meeting time to help take the show down. Please contact me and I'll point you in the right direction to help with either the set-up or break down of the show.

At the board meeting we decided that the January silent auction is the time for members to auction plants they no longer want or have the space for. The upcoming May auction is for Vendor plants only. No member plants will be put into the auction. It will lessen the number of plants and increase demand. Last year we had so many plants that the auction lasted way too long and we were just about giving orchids away at the end. Financially, it wasn't good for the club.

April 18th & 19 we will be at Dickman Farms. Judi, Eva and I will be there and if you're interested, speak with Judi.

The last thing discussed was the need for someone to host the June picnic. If there are no volunteers we'll likely just have it at our regular meeting.

A final reminder, if we have a speaker we won't be having a raffle table. We really want to support the speaker. Typically the sales they make offsets what their program cost is to the club.

Tom Daily

Treasure's Report

Balance as of 3/1/09	\$3205.88
Net inflows/outflows 1/1/09 – 3/1/09	\$ 510.50

Dues

It's time to pay your CNYOS dues for 2009. They are \$20 per person, or \$22 per family. Send your check made out to CNYOS to Carol Haskell, 102 Wythrop Rd. Syracuse 13209.

Refreshment Volunteers

April - Charles Ufford & Dolores Capella
May - Rick Braue, Dale Corey, and Barbara Weller
June - Picnic details TBA

Events Calendar

Jan. 24-April 26 Smithsonian, Washington, DC – Orchids Through Darwin's Eyes
Feb. 28-April 12 NY Botanical Garden Orchid Show "Brazilian Modern" at the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory at the Bronx Botanical Garden. Tickets at 718 817 8700, or NYBG.org
April 2-5 GROS Spring Show & Sale
April 5 CNYOS meeting - Glen Lehr of New World Orchids, a specialist in orchids of Japan
April 18-19 Dickman Farms Open House
April 24-26 STOS Spring Show & Sale- Set-up on the 23, Judging on the 24, show open 24-26
May 2&3 African Violet Society of Syracuse Show & Sale. May 2-Sale 10-6, Show 1-6; May 3- Sale and Show 1-6. Beaver lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville. See the show before the CNYOS auction.
May 3 CNYOS meeting Orchid Auction 2 PM
June ? CNYOS Picnic Details TBA
October 2-4 CNYOS Show and Sale at Beaver Lake

GROS Show

We will have an exhibit at the GROS Spring Show and Sale at the Rochester Museum and Science Center Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Ave, Rochester, NY. Set-up is on April 2, judging on April 3, and the exhibit is open to the public on April 4&5. Go to their website, www.geneseeorchid.org for details and to download a coupon for \$1 off the admission price of \$5. If you have blooming orchids to enter, they may be dropped off at Judi Witkin's house from March 26 to April 1. Call her at 422-0869 to make arrangements. Be sure to register your plants with Iris Cohen the week before by phone or e-mail: 461-9226, iriscohen@aol.com. Make sure you have the correct name and parents for your plant. To help you in the search, here are some

websites to consult: To find the name of a hybrid orchid if you know the parents, or find the parents if you know the name, go to the Royal Horticultural Orchid registration data base:

http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration_orchids.asp

To find the correct name of a species, go to the Kew World Checklist of Monocotyledons:

<http://www.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>

For pictures or other information about your species orchid, go to the Internet Species Photo Encyclopedia:

<http://www.orchidspecies.com>

March Show Table

Please note all names and abbreviations in boldface.

Each exhibitor who has at least one complete and correct show table slip will receive a free raffle ticket.

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph. venustum</i>	Witkin
<i>Phrag. Memoria Dick Clements (lindleyanum × besseae)*</i>	Coleman
<i>Phrag. Rosalie Dixler (besseae × lindleyanum [syn. kaieteurum])*</i>	Woodworth

Cattleya Alliance

<i>Cattlianthe (Ctt.) Trick or Treat × C. lawrenceana†</i>	Corey
<i>Epi. unknown</i>	Braue
<i>Cattlianthe (Ctt.) Betty von Paulsen (C. Hazel Abel × Gur. aurantiaca)†</i>	"
<i>Bc. Morning Glory (B. nodosa × C. purpurata)†</i>	Coleman
<i>Rc. (?) Jake Adam (Hausermann's Symphony × Hausermann's Treasure)</i>	Woodworth

Vandaceous

<i>Phal. unknown</i>	Braue
<i>Tblm. kotoense</i>	Coleman
<i>Phal. Timothy Christopher (Cassandra × aphrodite)</i>	"
<i>Dtps. Shih Hua Gold (Phal. Brother Passat × Dtps. City Girl)</i>	Woodworth
<i>Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope (Hausermann's Candy × Daryl Lockhart)</i>	"
<i>Dtps. Fangtastic Mariana Myers (Phal. Golden Peoker‡ × Dtps. New Candy)</i>	"
<i>Phal. Fortune Saltzman (Liu Tuen-Shen × Barbara Freed Saltzman)</i>	"
<i>Phal. Brother Girl (Brother Canary × Cindy Danseuse)</i>	"
<i>Phal. La Paloma (?) (Cindy Brandt × White Sails)</i>	Galson

Oncidium Alliance

<i>Onc. Twinkle (cheirophorum × ornithorhynchum)</i>	Coleman
<i>Mcm. bicolor</i>	Cohen

Pleurothallid Alliance

<i>Scaphosepalum§ bicristatum</i>	Witkin
<i>Masd. caesia</i>	"

Miscellaneous

<i>Den. kingianum</i>	Lloyd
<i>Ddc. glumaceum</i>	Capella
<i>Ddc. cootesii</i>	"
<i>Cym. Sweetheart (?) (floribundum × Alexanderi)</i>	Galson

*Since hybrids and species are named according to two different botanical codes, occasionally the hybrid registration authority uses a name that is not recognized by taxonomic authorities. Botanically, these two Phragmipediums are actually the same cross.

†Finally, the Brazilian Laelias and several other genera have been settled in the genus *Cattleya*, which will greatly simplify nomenclature in the long run. These changes will be implemented gradually in the RHS database.

‡The story goes that the intended name of this parent grex was Golden Peacock, but the registration application was filled out by an employee who did not know much English.

§Genus names that do not have an official abbreviation preferably should be spelled out in full.

Iris Cohen

If you have any questions, you can always call 461-9226 or e-mail iriscohen@aol.com.

Darwin Week (from the AOS website)

February 12 marked the 200th birthday of a man whose theories would profoundly affect the future of natural science. This week honors the contributions of the 19th-century naturalist, Charles Darwin. At 23, Darwin set out on a five year expedition as naturalist for the HMS Beagle. The brig was sent on a surveying voyage and visited Brazil, Argentina, Tierra del Fuego, Chile, Peru the Galapagos Islands, Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia and other countries and islands on the way (Darwin and the Beagle, Moorehead, 1969). On these travels, he developed his theory of evolution.



Orchids were the focus of many of Darwin's botany experiments conducted on his travels as well as at home. He regarded the great variety of orchid flowers as a result of the adaptation to their pollinators. He visited the Devon Coast and spent hours on his hands and knees, watching insects visit wild orchids. These were the days when orchid fancy had taken hold in Victorian England and he received many rare specimens from these orchid growers. He determined that orchid petals were exquisite devices for guiding pollinators to

Angraecum sesquipedale. Photographed at the Fuqua Conservatory, Atlanta

particular places for docking pollen. Every ridge served this end. He was fascinated by the Catasetums that fired sticky pollen masses at visiting bees.

He published, in 1862, a book entitled: *On the Various Contrivances by which British and Foreign Orchids are Fertilised by Insects*. He showed that an orchid's beauty was not to please humans but evolved by natural selection to attract insect cross-pollinators. He believed that cross-pollinated plants would produce fitter offspring than self-pollinators.

Darwin first saw *Angraecum sesquipedale* in 1862. Its foot-long spur holds nectar at its very tip. "Astounding," Darwin wrote, of this strange adaptation. "What insect could suck it?" He predicted that Madagascar must be home to an insect with an incredibly long feeding tube. No such insect had ever been found. More than 60 years later, a naturalist in Madagascar discovered the giant hawk moth (*Xanthopan morgani*), which hovering like a hummingbird uses its long proboscis to reach the distant nectar. (Darwin by Adrian Desmond & James Moore) Communities across the country will be celebrating with many varied activities. The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History has an exhibit, January 24, 2009 - April 26, 2009, *Orchids Through Darwin's Eyes*. Website: www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/. The American Museum of Natural History 2005-2006 Darwin exhibit is now on their website at www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/.

Monthly Checklist for March and April

(the last two items were omitted from the checklist published last month)

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis

spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay .

Cymbidiums – Cool Climate Beauties

Cymbidium Highland Mist 'Dillabara', FCC/AOS (92 pts., April 1978)

Cymbidium (Mary Ann x Miretta)



Grower: Sequoia Orchids

Literature references to orchid cultivation in China date back to before the time of Confucius (551-479BC) and it is clear that *Cymbidium* species were among the earliest cultivated orchids. In China, cymbidiums have come to epitomize elegance, refinement and nobility. The earliest record of the genus in cultivation in Europe dates to August 1780 but it wasn't until the introduction of *Cym. insigne* that *Cymbidium* breeding exploded onto the world scene. This species produces extremely desirable characteristics in its offspring; tall erect inflorescences with many flowers held well above the foliage and large long-lasting flowers in shades of white to pastel pink. Selective breeding using this species and the other large-flowered Himalayan, Southeast Asian and Southwest Chinese species has made great strides possible in improving flower count, form, size, extension of color range and blooming season such that these beauties are now generally available from late October through May in virtually the entire rainbow of colors other than purple and blue. However, except for fairly recent strides in warmth tolerance, cool nights (maximum about 55F) are required to set flower spikes limiting successful flowering of these plants to the cooler parts of the country.

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The CNYOS Newsletter, 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 and functions.

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The Central NY Orchid Society usually meets at St. Augustine's Church 7333 O'Brien Rd, Baldwinsville on the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm, with beginner's session at 1:30 pm, right before the regular meeting.

The Central New York Orchid Society
Your local AOS and Orchid Digest Affiliate
236 Lockwood Road,
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***April 09 Issue - Meeting: Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 1:30 PM, Speaker,
Glen Lehr of New World Orchids
Beginner's Meeting after the speaker***