

# The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Page 1 Volume 15: Issue 7 April 2013

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 first week of the month before the next meeting to: [egalson@twcny.rr.com](mailto:egalson@twcny.rr.com)

***Next Meeting: Sunday April 7. There Will Be No Formal Meeting. We Will Meet at 11AM at the Parish Hall for a Brief Business Meeting and Then Car-Pool to Rochester for the GROS Show and Sale.***

**Remember – April 7 at 11AM**

## ***GROS Show***

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The GROS (Genesee Regional Orchid Society) Show will be held from Friday, April 5 through Sunday, April 7, 2013. Setup will take place on Thursday, April 4 from 9AM to 9PM, and teardown on Sunday, April 7, at 4PM. Friday is devoted to judging.

The show is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 5, and 10 to 4 respectively. It is located at the Rochester Museum and Science Center's Eisenhart Auditorium at 657 East Ave, and admission is \$7!! A \$1 discount coupon can be down loaded from the web-site: [www.geneseeorchid.org](http://www.geneseeorchid.org)

**DIRECTIONS: TAKE I-90W TO EXIT 45. MERGE INTO 1-490W  
TAKE EXIT 20 TO MERGE INTO UNIVERSITY AVE  
TURN LEFT AT WINSTON RD. N (400ft)  
TAKE FIRST RIGHT INTO EAST AVE. (1.7mi)  
TURN RIGHT AT GOODMAN ST. N. (430 ft)**

Send plant registration information the weekend ahead of the show or earlier to Iris Cohen for any plants you will be entering in the CNYOS Show Display. Indicate whether plants are windowsill grown or under lights. For Phals. and Cattleyas, also include the color.

Plants can be dropped off at the following locations, but call first. Sue & Jerry Finger's (458-3040), at Judi Witkin's (422-0869), or with Dave Ditz at the church from 9 to 5.

## ***STOS Show***

Our club will also have an exhibit at the Southern Tier Orchid Society (STOS) Show and Sale which will take place at the Oakdale Mall, Center Court, at Exit 70N off Route 17 in Johnson City, April 20 -21. Set-up is on the 20<sup>th</sup> and the Show is on the 21. Set up and take – down will be performed by Sue and Jan. Plant drop-off points are the same as above, but be sure to call first.

**It's time to renew  
your membership !**

**Individual \$20  
Family \$22**

**Send check to:  
Carol Haskell, Treas.  
102 Wythrop Rd  
Syracuse NY 13209**

## President's Message

I hope everyone has prepared their plants for the first show of the spring season. If you have any question about how, please call another member. Then send an email to Iris Cohen to register and please cc me. The showset-up committee has been trying to come up with new ideas for our display table. Let's WOW them all this year!!!

Our next meeting will be the car pool to GROS (04/07/13) so anyone who signed up to go should call me please, or send an email, and we'll get a plan in order. 315-458-3040, [jandsfinger@aol.com](mailto:jandsfinger@aol.com). Andy Warren signed up to go along but I don't have a phone # or email to contact him so if anyone has that info, please pass it along to me so I can contact him.

Thank you all.

Sue Finger

## March Show Table

**Please note** especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or **complete** your records, including parentage and new registrations. Next time you present the plant, include name and parents.

### Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph. sukhakulii</i>	Finger
<i>Paph. sukhakulii</i>	Hasse
<i>Phrag.</i> Paul Eugene Conroy ( <i>longifolium</i> × <i>warszewiczianum</i> )	Capella
<i>Paph.</i> <b>Wallur</b> × <i>primulinum</i>	Burritt

### Cattleya Alliance

<i>Cattlianthe</i> ( <i>Ctt.</i> ) Gold Digger (Red Gold × War Paint)	Hasse
<i>Jackfowlieara</i> ( <i>Jkf.</i> ) <b>Appleblossom</b> ( <i>Cll.</i> Snowflake × <i>Rth.</i> Orange Nuggett)	Hasse
<i>Epi. centropetalum</i>	Coleman
<i>C.</i> Unknown	Goshorn
<i>Ctt.</i> Gold Digger	"
<i>C. amethystoglossa</i>	Woodworth
<i>Lc.</i> Hsin Buu Lady ( <i>L. anceps</i> × <i>C.</i> Wendy's Valentine)	Burritt
<b><i>Cattleya</i> (<i>C.</i>) <i>cernua</i></b>	Witkin

### Vandaceous

<i>Ame. philippinensis</i> × <i>Tblm. kotoense</i>	Coleman
<i>Phal.</i> Unknown	Capella
<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	"
<i>Phal.</i> Timothy Christopher (Cassandra × <i>aphrodite</i> <b>subsp.</b> <i>formosana</i> )*	"
<i>Phal.</i> Unknown† Burritt	"
<i>Phal.</i> Sogo Gotris (Be Tris × Sogo Manager)	Galson
<i>Phal.</i> Paradise Stephenstar (Tropical Ruby × Carmela's Brite Lites)	"
<i>Phal.</i> Sogo Plum (Sogo Manager × Leopard Prince)	Hasse
<i>Phal.</i> Unknown	"
<i>Asctm. pumilum</i>	Witkin
<i>Chsch. segawai</i>	"

### Oncidium Alliance

<i>Onc. maculatum</i>	Finger
<i>Gomesa (Gom.) croesus</i>	"
<i>Onc. Pupukea Sunset (fuscatum × cheirophorum)</i>	Coleman
<i>Mtdm. Pacific Ripple (Far Side × Onc. Ron's Rippling Delight)</i>	Burritt

### Dendrobium Alliance

<i>Den. Aussie's Chip (aberrans × atrovioleaceum)</i>	Burritt
<i>Den. senile</i>	Capella

### Miscellaneous

<i>Liparis condylobulbon</i> ‡	Capella
<i>Cnths. amazonica</i>	Woodworth
<i>Maxillariella (Mxl.) variabilis</i>	Burritt
<i>Mxl. tenuifolia</i>	"
<i>Pls. stenostachya</i>	Ditz
<i>Bulb. orthoglossum</i>	Woodworth

\*The term subspecies is usually given to a group of plants that is geographically removed from the main population of the species.

†“Sweet Jenny” is an unregistered trade name. You can contact the wholesaler in Taiwan at [milly\\_liu@onflora.com](mailto:milly_liu@onflora.com), to see if they can provide you with the parents & a clone number.

‡This seesaw syndrome usually occurs when two species are thought to be synonymous, then on further study are found to be two separate species. Your compiler is not responsible.

**Dendrobium alert:** At last, the taxonomists have finally accepted the miniature species long known as *Dendrobium bigibbum* “subvar. *compactum*” as a separate species, *Dendrobium lithocola*. The old registrations have not been changed, but you can change your label, for example on *D. Baby Pink*. If AOS follows this change, the miniature *Dendrobium* may no longer have to compete directly with the standard *D. bigibbum* hybrids. By the way, the other parent of *Baby Pink* et al. has been changed back to *D. dicuphum*. See above note.

Iris Cohen

## Minutes – CNYOS Meeting March 3, 2013

( No formal minutes were taken since the secretary was absent. Minutes are from notes taken by Honey Goshorn and Eva Galson)

Sue Finger opened the meeting at 2:20 PM by welcoming the club members and two visitors, Andy Warren and Jackie Parker.

1. We gave our condolences to Carol, whose brother has just passed away after a long illness. A condolence card was passed by Monica Kott, and signed by those present.
2. Old business was reviewed: Last month's program was a talk by Jim Marlow on Dendrobiums. Sue attended a program at the Carol Watson Greenhouse where all kinds of plants were on exhibit. There was a discussion of the orchid show in NYC which is not that easy to get to from Syracuse by public transportation
3. Instead of a formal meeting in April, we will meet at the church to car-pool to the GROS (Genesee Regional Orchid Society) Show. A sheet was passed around so the people who plan to drive or who desire a ride can list their phone numbers, so that no-one is left behind. We will meet at the church at 11AM on Sunday April 7 to carpool to Rochester.
4. Iris Cohen will handle plant registration for any CNYOS member sending plants to the GROS Show. She asked that everyone sends their plant list to her by the weekend before the show. Judy will make plant labels for registered plants to make set-up easier.

5. Judi Witkin and Sue Finger will accept plants; contact them to arrange a drop-off time. Plants may also be dropped off at St. Augustine's Church, 9AM to 5PM.
6. For the bus trip to Philadelphia on April 13, cars should use the Shoppingtown entrance from Kinney road near Helping Hounds, and park in the lot to the left. The bus will leave at 7AM, so be there by 6:50. The bus is full. One person from Rochester is on the waiting list. Price for the trip is \$62.20.
7. CNYOS 2013 Show – Eva gave a short report of the progress of the Show committee: Nancy Loveland has agreed to contact the judges and pay the fees to the AOS, as well as finalize the date and space with Beaver Lake. Dave Ditz will take care of ribbons and trophies and also work on publicity. He asked for help from computer savvy members to incorporate social media into our publicity. Honey Goshorn is contacting the vendors and clubs which will be at our show with help from Sarah Kelly.
8. The CNYOS Auction will be held at the May meeting on May 5. Plants will be mailed to Laurie Burrit.
9. June will be the picnic. We do not yet know whether we will join with NENYOS at Piping Rock again.
10. Sue closed the business meeting and we proceeded to the "Show and Tell" of the Show Table, followed by a composting clinic led by Charles Ufford.
11. The winner of the Gomer Pyle box was Donna Coleman
12. Thanks to I.S. Ikuta and Honey Goshorn for providing refreshments for the March meeting!

*Honey Goshorn & Eva Galson, 3/3/13*

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Assets as of 3/3/13

Cash Account	\$ 2,272.30
Key Bank	<u>\$ 1,748.67</u>
Total	\$ 4,020.97

Summary Report 1/1/13 – 3/3/13

Total Inflows	\$2,157.30
Total Outflows	<u>\$ 533.65</u>
Net Inflows/Outflows	\$ 1,623.65

### ***Refreshment Volunteers***

April	No refreshments necessary. GROS trip	
May	1. Sarah Kelly	2. Donna Coleman
June	Spring Picnic	Everyone Contributes
July & August	Summer Recess, No Meetings	
September 2013	1. Pam Reeve	2. Cheryl & Tom Lloyd
October	Show	
November	1. ?	2. ?

### ***Events Calendar***

April 7	Car Pool to Rochester for GROS Show (download \$1 off coupon from their website)
April 13	CNYOS Bus trip to Philadelphia for SEPOS Show
April 20-21	STOS Show and Sale
April 27	African Violet Soc. Show & Sale Beaver Lake, Sale 10-6, Show 1-6
April 28	African Violet Soc. Show & Sale Beaver Lake 10 - 4

May 5	Club auction
June 3 or later	CNYOS Picnic
July & August	No Meetings
September 8	?
October 5-6	CNYOS Show and Sale at Beaver Lake (Set-up Oct 4)
November 3	Fred Clark of Sunset Valley Orchids

## ***Growing Cymbidium Orchids***



In their natural habitats, cymbidiums grow at the higher altitudes in the temperate zone of mid-Asia (China, Japan) down through southeast Asia and extending south of the equator with a number of species in Australia. The climatic conditions found there are also found at sea level in the coastal regions of California (USA), along the coast in the Mediterranean and in part of New Zealand and Australia as well as South Africa. They are also grown under greenhouse conditions in many other parts of the world. The cycle of cool nights and warm days during the spring months in these regions is necessary for flower spike bud formation. Warmer weather in the summer enhances the growth and development of the flower spikes for the following season (winter into spring). Although they grow out-of-doors very successfully in these areas alluded to above, most commercial nurseries producing cut flowers grow in cool greenhouses to protect flowers from inclement weather.

### **TEMPERATURE**

Cymbidiums can tolerate considerable summer heat and winter chill. Lows of 29 degrees F and highs up to 100 degrees can be handled for short periods. Plant foliage usually will not freeze at 27 degrees if the weather includes some moisture and air movement. Flower spikes which are soft and tender will suffer damage if exposed. With extreme heat (90-100 degrees) attempts should be made to cool plants with misting or syringing mid-day. Although flower spike buds are visible often as early as summer through fall, the initiation of these buds is believed by many to be several months earlier when there are a series of 55 degree F nights and warm days along with or in addition to a 25 degree difference between day and night temperatures.

### **SUNLIGHT**

During the spring, summer and fall growing season, plants should have as many hours of filtered sunlight as possible (approximately 50% or, if measured, 3000-4000 foot candles). The color of the foliage should be golden-green (plants with rich, dark green leaves are very likely not receiving sufficient light). As flower spikes break sheath showing the buds, many of the pastels, whites and greens will profit from shading to avoid "staining" of the sepals from dark pigments created by exposure to sunlight. This will improve the clarity of flower color. Polypropylene shade cloth of 55% density has proven to be ideal as a shade cover for cymbidium growing areas.

### **GROWING MEDIA**

Cymbidiums are most frequently seen growing as pot plants (from small to large containers) although they can be grown in raised beds in the ground. In either case, the growing medium must be free-draining and acidic in reaction. Many combinations of both organic and mineral materials have been used through the years. Currently, potting composts contain one or more of the following in varying proportions: small bark pieces (Fir or Pinus perlite (Spongerok), redwood compost, coarse peat moss, sand, crushed volcanic rock, oak leaf mold, dolomite as

buffer for acidity and some nutrient material. Any potting mix should always be moistened ahead of use. Plastic pots of various sizes are now the containers of choice for most commercial growers and hobbyists.

## WATERING

During the warmer months when actively growing, cymbidiums can handle copious amounts of water - the purer the better. One of the reasons for heavy watering in most areas is the need to leach out salts which accumulate. With purer water, much less leaching is required. Plants can and should be kept drier during the colder months but never "bone dry". The fact remains that they are very sensitive to more than traces of the natural salts found in water. They will exhibit "leaf tip dieback" with continued use of "salty" tap water (defined as containing in excess of 500ppm of dissolved salts) if not leached out. In the summer, watering 2-3 times per week is typical; once per week or less in the winter.

## REPOTTING

It is generally true that larger plants produce more flowers proportionately than smaller ones but at some point it is necessary to divide the plant into pieces and repot usually for one or more of the following reasons: (1) the pot and plant are too big to be handled or housed properly; (2) there are too many "back bulbs" taking up too much space; and/or (3) the potting mix has been exhausted and the plant may be living on its old, decaying roots (three years is often considered an average limit). When dividing, an attempt should be made to create divisions of 2-3 green bulbs with one "back bulb" left for water and food storage. Removing the plant from its present pot requires a knock or tap or two to dislodge the root mass. Most hobbyists and commercial growers remove the lower 1/3 to 1/2 of the root ball using a sterile cutting tool. The plant mass usually can be broken apart at natural splitting points. Healthy roots should be shortened to 3-4 inches; all roots should be removed from back bulbs kept with a division. It is common practice to wash off the division with a brisk stream of water thus allowing a better view of the overall health of the root system. Dead or withered roots should be removed. Again, potting mix should be moist at the time of use. Also, since there are always many cut exposed root tips, it is a good practice to allow the divisions to air dry for a period of time to allow the root tissue to heal over (not in the sun). Choose a container that best fits each division being careful not to overpot. Press the mix firmly around the root mass up to and around the first 1/3 of the green bulbs. Some growers do not water the potted divisions immediately allowing healing to take place at the root level; others water immediately until drainage water comes out clear from the container. In either case, fresh potted divisions are placed in a cool, shady protected area for about two weeks with occasional misting. They are then returned to a regular growing area and normal light and watering.

From the website of the Cymbidium Society of America

## *Professional Grower's Notes on Blooming Phalaenopsis*

The production of phalaenopsis orchids can be divided into three phases:

Phase 1. Vegetative cultivation at high temperatures of 82 to 90 F (28 to 32 C)

Phase 2. Spike induction at low day temperatures of 63 to 77 F (17 to 25 C)

Phase 3. Finishing at 63 to 79 F (17 to 26 C)

**PHASE 1: VEGETATIVE GROWTH** A grower who purchases young immature plants will begin production of phalaenopsis with vegetative cultivation. For the large-flowered hybrids and clones, this plant material generally will not flower uniformly until plants have an average leaf-span of 10 inches (25 cm) or greater. Therefore, plants are grown at high temperatures to promote leaf development and inhibit flowering. Plants purchased in flasks are often transplanted into square or rectangular community pots, with about 40 or 50 plants per tray. After approximately 20 to 25 weeks of growth at high temperatures, plants are then transplanted into individual containers for the next stage of vegetative growth. Plant material with an





average leaf-span of 8 inches (20 cm) is often transplanted into 5-inch (12-cm) pots. Spacing depends on plant size and grower preference, but early in the production phase, plants can be spaced pot-to-pot.

Following transplanting, several irrigations may be necessary to sufficiently moisten the substrate, depending on the environmental conditions and medium composition, newly transplanted material will need to be frequently checked for watering until the medium begins to hold more moisture. Alternatively, the addition of a surfactant or a few drops of dish-washing liquid) to the water can reduce the surface tension of the media and improve water absorption. Media with high water-holding capacities need less frequent watering. If bare-root plants are planted in moist sphagnum moss, no watering is needed until the moss has become nearly dry. Light sprinkling daily also helps plant recovery during the first few weeks after transplant. Some growers place a thin layer of polyethylene fabric (e.g., Remay cloth) over benches for one to two weeks after planting bare-root plants to diffuse light levels less than 1,000 foot-candles ( $200 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) and to increase humidity. This strategy helps minimize plant stress and reduce plant loss after planting.

Young plants are grown at high temperatures in the range of 82 to 90 F (28 to 32 C), at least during the day, to promote vegetative growth and inhibit flowering. If environmental conditions are favorable, plants with a leaf-span of 4 to 5 inches (10 to 12.5 cm) require approximately 22 to 27 weeks to reach flowering size. This duration depends on temperature, the initial leaf-span, fertility and the size desired before the induction of flowering. On average, a new leaf will emerge every six weeks and will reach maturity after 10 weeks when using high temperatures. As the growing temperature decreases, the rate of leaf development slows. When importing mature bare-root plant material from overseas, providing four to six weeks of growth in a warm environment after planting will be beneficial for rooting and subsequent flowering.

Growers should monitor light levels with a light meter and adjust shading to provide between 500 and 1,500 foot-candles ( $100$  to  $300 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) of diffused light at canopy level. Plants should be spaced as necessary to minimize leaf overlap and allow for adequate air circulation. During spacing, it is also a good idea to sort plants according to leaf-span. Plants with a small leaf-span will require additional time before the onset of cooling.

**PHASE 2: COOLING** When plants have five to seven leaves and a minimum leaf-span of 10 inches (25 cm), the cooling phase can begin to induce spiking. A grower that purchases mature potted plants may begin with this phase of production. Plants can be cooled at temperatures in the range of 63 to 77 F (17 to 25 C) for approximately four to six weeks. At the lower end of this temperature range, plants may produce two or more spikes. In most phalaenopsis hybrids, a spike (the potentially flowering stem) will usually become visible after three or four weeks of cooling. However, longer durations may be required for some hybrids or when plant material is smaller. Cooling may take place in the same greenhouse section as the vegetative phase if all plants in that section are to be induced into flower. When only a portion of plants are to be induced into flower, a separate greenhouse section is needed for cooling. Providing low temperatures to young plants can induce variable premature spiking and slow down vegetative growth, both of which are undesirable.

**PHASE 3: FINISHING** The finishing phase describes the period from spike emergence through spike development and flowering. After cooling, plants may either be transferred to a separate finishing area for flowering or remain in the same greenhouse section used during the cooling phase. Plant spacing can be the same as during the cooling phase. Temperatures in the range of 63 to 79 F (17 to 26 C) are used during finishing. Since flower bud initiation begins when the spike has reached about 2 inches (5 cm) in length, maintaining temperatures between 63 and 68 F (17 to 20C) until the spikes are 12 inches (30 cm) or longer can increase the number of flowers. Some hybrids grown at a cooler temperature may also have increased lateral branching of the inflorescence. It is important to avoid extended exposure to temperatures above 79 F (26 C) during this final phase. High temperature can reduce flower bud number and flower size, and flower buds may abort. In addition, prolonged exposure to high temperatures can induce a vegetative air plantlet to form on the spike (referred to as a "keiki") rather than flower buds.

Abstracted from an article by Matthew Blanchard, Roberto Lopez, Erik Runkle, PhD, and Yin-Tung Wang, PhD in Orchids 2007

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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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***Central New York Orchid Society***

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Treasurer:  
Carol Haskell 315/468-0811  
Secretary: Pat Cotter

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.

*The Central New York Orchid Society  
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Syracuse, NY 13214*

April 2013 Issue – CNYOS Meeting April 7, 11AM at the Parish Hall  
Car Pool to GROS Show in Rochester After Brief Business Meeting