

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter for the Central New York Orchid Society

Volume 10: Issue 9 December 2nd, 2007 CNYOS is affiliated with the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest

December meeting: Sunday Dec. 2nd Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner Party at St. Augustine's Church

Hello everyone,

We are back at St. Augustine's Church in Baldwinsville, NY at our regular place and time. We are also having our regular Show Table again at the meeting. For the dinner, tradition allows that Members with last names beginning with A-M bring main course items and those with names beginning with letters N-Z bring dessert/appetizer items. Please note that we don't need a whole lot of dessert items and a few appetizers are a good idea. Also please consider that we have Members who have dietary restrictions (low sugar and low fat) and if a few people (maybe Members with dietary restrictions?) could bring food/drink items that are either low or non-sugared that would be a great help. If you would like to bring a special item that doesn't match

the last name/food item plan above, feel free to be a 'free-spirit' and bring whatever you like, it's just a general guideline to prevent everyone from bringing brownies (though that wouldn't be all bad,..... ;)). Plates, table ware and basic drinks will be supplied by the club. We will again be having our Beginner's Session at 1:30pm and possibly will have a speaker or presentation during the main part of the meeting. We will be having our Officer elections this month as well. Tom Daily is our Officer Nominating Committee this year. We need to elect a new President and Vice-President in December, as the maximum terms are up for Judi and Kim. Please consider becoming an officer or at least a co-officer with someone else. If we can't find officers, we can no longer have a club. Obviously, this is not an option that any of us wants.

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Meeting/Event Calendar

December meeting Christmas party, Officer Elections
All other meetings are tbd

Misc. Business

2008 CNYOS Dues will be due at our December Meeting/Party and should be paid to our Treasurer Carol Haskell at 102 Wynthrop Rd. Syracuse, NY 13209 315/468-0811 chaskell33@earthlink.net. If any of your contact info has changed, then please let Carol know asap. Please keep your membership up-to-date! We don't want anyone to miss out on all of the activities happening this year. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual, or \$17.00 per family. Club Vice-President Kim Boronczyk has orchid 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 an orchid book library at our meeting location. Please contact Judi or Tom to find out what is available and to sign out a book. Anyone who has ideas for Beginner's Session topics please feel free to contact Tom D. by phone at 315-687-3449

Volunteer Schedules

Meeting Refreshments

Dec. 2nd Christmas Dinner Members with last name beginning with A-M bring main course items and those with names beginning with N-Z can bring dessert/appetizer items.

Jan. 13th Liz McCormick and Charles Ufford

Feb 3rd Dorothy Brock and Lori Hoffman

March 2nd ? and ?

April 6th ? and ?

May 4th ? and ?

June meeting Spring picnic details tbd



CHRISTMAS STINKS

A short (very) short story (originally printed in the Orchid Enthusiast Dec 2000 edition)

by G. Jack Sakilla

illustrations by David Willson

DECEMBER 23, 1910 - MAMARONECK, NEW YORK

Stewart Everson was doubly upset this afternoon. Not only was he being tested with an insurmountable problem, but he had been requested to stay at work until he solved it. This close to Christmas, extra hours were not in Stewart's plans. He had hoped to leave work a few minutes early and stop by the sweet shop to pick up a few goodies for his family's holiday celebration. Stewart was the assistant clerk in charge of store display at Healey Mercantile and he had been told by Mr. Healey the tightwad, Mr. Healey the slave driver, Mr. Healey...the owner, to rearrange the front window display. It seems that several inches of snow were expected by morning and Mr. Healey wished to have all manner of appropriate items prominently displayed where the casual passersby might be tempted to part with a few Christmas dollars for something useful such as galoshes or a snow shovel. Of course, Healey expected the practical items to be incorporated into the already existing Christmas display. How in the world does one display a pair of galoshes next to a singing angel?



As he sat looking blankly at the window with one lone Christmas tree and singing angels, Stewart wondered how he could possibly incorporate snow shovels and galoshes into it.

Everyone else had been granted an early afternoon to prepare for the holiday. Stewart was beside himself as he sat in the empty store pondering his dilemma. On his way to work that morning he had passed by the

notable nursery of G.E. Baldwin & Co. and noticed a pile of discarded plants destined to die in the winter cold. He gathered up as much as his arms could carry and stashed them in the basement of the store, intending to bring any living thing home to his beloved wife Caroline as a Christmas treat. As he sat looking blankly at the window with one lone Christmas tree and singing angels, he wondered how he could possibly incorporate snow shovels and galoshes into it. Then he remembered the stash of plants in the basement and fetched them to the showroom. They all looked very sad and worthless indeed. The sooner Stewart got started the sooner he would finish, so he began rearranging the showroom window. He removed the empty wrapped packages below the Christmas tree. Dismantled the single oval of track with the railroad train on it. Removed the miniature stuffed reindeer and teddy bears. Removed the lacquered music boxes...the shiny new cookware, the mantle clock, the picture frames, the singing angels, and the two colorful poinsettias. Stewart removed everything but the Christmas tree. Then he went about the store and gathered snow shovels, galoshes, candles, a kerosene stove, lanterns, and set them all next to his pile of wilted plants rescued from Baldwin & Co. Could he ever make a display of this window? After an hour of work Stewart was feeling better. Although in his mind this display did not make any sense whatsoever, at least it had balance! So it goes with the artistic types. The galoshes - two pair - were set beneath the tree as if Santa had left them. The two snow shovels were propped against the tree somewhat toward the rear. And the kerosene stove featured an assortment of candles and holders atop it. A few pair of mittens and some wool scarves were draped here and there. As he sat admiring his work he felt that it was still lacking something. There was certainly no room for the two poinsettias that he had removed. He glanced wistfully at the pile of rescued plants, then had an idea. He set a tin cup with some water into each of the pair of red ladies galoshes and stuck a piece of plant - what appeared to be philodendron - into each cup. There were two plants in the pile unlike any he had ever seen before. As he studied their stiff leathery leaves and wrinkled stems he noticed that they appeared to have several flower buds at the tops. He didn't quite know what to do with these plants that seemed dead, but had flower buds. The thick wiry roots were totally unlike the supple roots of the philodendron. Partly in jest and partly just to add a little more greenery, he stuck one each into the pair of men's galoshes. He stepped outside to consider the new display, went back and made a few adjustments and feeling satisfied, locked up for the night. The next day, Mr. Healey expressed admiration for the young clerk's dedicated work and rewarded the whole staff by closing an hour early. After all, it was Christmas Eve! Christmas came and went and, despite having to make a last minute dash for sweets, Stewart enjoyed it immensely. Christmas fell on a Saturday so Healey Mercantile was closed until Monday. This was good because the Christmas rush always puts a strain on retail workers. On Monday morning things were as back to as normal as could be expected after a holiday. The employees were all buoyant after a well-deserved rest with family. Even Mr. Healey the tightwad was happy. It seems that he sold a record number of pairs of galoshes on Christmas Eve day. And only two inches of snow fell! There was, however, a peculiar aroma about the store that nobody could seem to trace. Mr. Healey suspected that a rat had died in the basement and sent the shipping clerk to find it. By late morning the smell was overpowering and plans were underway to close the store until the source could be found. About that time, a Mrs. L. Sherman Adams of Wellsley, Massachusetts entered the store. She was visiting her sister in Mamaroneck for the holidays. Mrs. Adams was looking through the yard

goods when a clerk asked if he could help her find anything and apologized for the somewhat foul odor wafting through the store. Mrs. Adams replied, “Now that you mention it young man, I do smell something unusual. But that is not a dead rat, that is an orchid!” “A what?” he asked. As Mrs. Adams followed her nose to the front window of the store a parade of employees, including Stewart and Mr. Healey joined in the procession. “There” she said, “Look at those beautiful *Cattleya percivaliana*. How did they get there?”

As Mrs. Adams followed her nose to the front window of the store. A parade of employees, including Stewart and Mr. Healey, joined in the procession.



There in the mens’ galoshes were a total of seven of the most beautiful and exotic rich lavender flowers anybody in the store had ever seen. Of course, they did not smell very nice, they were *Cattleya percivaliana*. Stewart told his story of how he had found the discarded plants in front of Baldwin’s. Mr. Healey then knew why he had sold so many pairs of galoshes and promised Stewart a promotion. Mrs. Adams confessed to being an orchid grower of some years and buying plants from Baldwin & Co. on many occasions. She encouraged Stewart to take one of the two plants home and told him how to care for it. Of course, Mr. Healey being the boss, took the other. To put a rather right ending to this story, we would like to report that Stewart had such success with his *Cattleya percivaliana* that he went back to Baldwin’s for another orchid in spring—and many more thereafter—and became a noted orchid nurseryman. This story takes a somewhat different twist however. Stewart did indeed visit Baldwin again, he was quite

fascinated with these unusual plants with the exotic flowers. His next visit he took his sketchpad. Not only was Stewart artistic with showroom displays, his natural talent gave him quite a propensity with pen and paper as well as watercolor. Over the next few years he would visit Baldwin's often and always take his sketchpad. George Baldwin was so impressed with the sensitive interpretations Stewart rendered of his orchids, that he displayed many of them in his showroom and promotional materials and paid Stewart quite well for them. We have no record of how far his talents took him because he signed his work with a pseudonym, actually several different ones. Perhaps it was his intent to remain obscure. I can say that if you have looked through any old orchid literature you very well may have seen work done by one Stewart Everson, a man whose love of orchids began with one ill-smelling *Cattleya percivaliana*—a man who knew from first-hand experience that...Christmas stinks

Please remember to bring your flowering orchids to the meeting for the Show Table!!!

Here is a reminder about our new Virtual Showtable, CNYOS Member Growing Areas pages and our new Orchid Show Pictures pages.

The new Orchid Show Picture Display page can be found at <http://cnyos.org/showpics>

Pictures can be viewed and you can leave comments or vote on your favorite picture.

Our new Virtual Showtable is much-improved and Members can now upload their prized flowering orchid photos! (no need to rely on Charles to get your picture, scan it and upload to a site) The new site can be found at

<http://cnyos.org/virtualshowtable>

Digital images can be directly uploaded to the site. Instructions can be found on the gallery page. CNYOS Members can upload into the 'CNYOS Member' gallery; if you need the username and password again, please contact Charles Ufford for details. If you have lots of pictures and want to have your own page, you can follow the directions and register your own account.

There is a new site for native orchids, but it has been revamped and is currently under construction (empty). The old native orchids info and pictures can still be viewed at

<http://www.cnyos.org/nativeorchids>

November Meeting Minutes

Will be either posted on the website or in the January '08 newsletter

Orchid Trading Post

Phragmipedium richteri x Sorcerer's Apprentice '4N' I-C green-brown-maroon,

I am open to offers...

Barbara Bessette

The Orchid Enthusiast

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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 Sunday December 2nd

**December Meeting: 2pm at St. Augustine's Church, 1:30 for Beginner's Session
Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner and Officer elections**