

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Page 1 Volume 13: Issue 6 February 2011

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:

egalson756@gmail.com

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It's time to renew your membership!
Individuals \$20
Family \$22

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

Next Meeting: Sunday February 6, 2 PM, De – Compotting Clinic

What is De-Compotting ?

After new plantlets are removed from flasks, they are planted in communal Pots (compots). When they are big enough, it's time to transfer them to individual pots. It's this transfer that we will be doing. Everyone will go home with at least one new little plant to nurture and watch develop.

Charles Ufford will obtain the compots from growers he knows. He plans to have some hybrids, some species, some slippers, and some other things. He will also provide pots, media and tags, and some of the club members will demonstrate how to pot up the seedlings. Plans will be sold at cost, which should be \$5 or less, so members can get a few different things.



Here is the plant I potted at the de-compotting clinic 1 1/2 years ago:

Den. Andree Millar

(The other little plant I potted died an early death)

President's Message

Hello to all members! My name is Sue Finger and I volunteered at the last meeting to be the President of CNYOS. In the early 1980's I was also President for a couple of years and then let my membership lapse while we were busy raising our children and growing African Violets. My husband Jerry and I have just gotten back into the club about 2 years ago and currently have about 125 to 150 orchids grown under lights and whatever we can put out goes under trees during the summer. We grow mostly Catts and Phals but have a few odd things here and there. I see my membership in CNYOS as the incentive to learn more about culture, acquire new plants and interact with people who share my interests. Our meetings are such a great social time and the snacks are good too! So brave the cold weather, bring your blooms for the show table and come out to play!

Not Exactly Minutes – CNYOS January 9, 2011

Official minutes were not available as this newsletter was completed. Below are Charles Ufford’s best recollections of what occurred at the business meeting:

1. Our present and now former president, Lori Hoffman, told us that she wasn’t able to continue as president for another year due to extreme time constraint.
2. Sue Finger who was a member some time ago and former multi-officer volunteered and was elected as president.
3. It was also asked if anyone was interested in the vice-president job. Krum Sotirov and Holly Goshorn both mentioned interest in helping, and I’m not sure whether they were ‘elected’ assistants or not.
4. It was asked if anyone was interested in being Show chairperson. Someone said that our most recent chairperson, other than Dave Ditz or Nancy Loveland, had mentioned some sort of interest. There was a question of whether the paperwork for our show date had been sent to the AOS. Someone said they would look into it or try to contact Nancy. Charles is still willing to be the judge caretaker, and I don’t know whether Sue is still interested in being the floor set-up and vendors liaison person.
5. It was asked if there was any interest in a club visit to Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids. A number of people said yes. A questionnaire will be in the newsletter (see Visit to Piping Rock Orchids) to ask which date and format is desired for the visit and our June picnic.
6. Holly Goshorn volunteered to have the June picnic at her house.
7. If the weather cooperates, Leon Glicenstein will be the March speaker. He will probably not bring plants to sell, so people can bring plants for the raffle table.
8. It was decided that our April meeting would be a road trip to the Rochester Orchid Show
9. It was mentioned that the Binghamton Show was going to be on Mother’s Day weekend, which is the same date as our May Orchid Auction. We need someone to head up the Rochester Show (our table and takedown), and then on Mother’s Day someone will have to be at the Show during our auction to take down the display and plants.

Refreshment Volunteers Please note that there are some changes from the list published last month.

January	1. Honey Goshorn	2. Monica Kot
February	1. Rick Braue, Dale Corey	2. Lori Burritt, Deb Hesse
March	1. Sue & Jerry Finger	2. Pamela Gotjen
April	1. No refreshments needed. Trip to Rochester for GROS	
May	1. Pat Cotter	2. Barbara Weller
June Spring Picnic	Everyone Contributes	
July & August	No Meetings	
September	1. David Ditz	2 ?

January Show Table

Please note all names, accent marks, and abbreviations that are in boldface.
Kindly update your labels with registered names or parents. Bring the information to the show table next time.

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph. barbatum</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
<i>Paph. Macabre f₂</i> (Voodoo Magic × <i>sukhakulii</i>)	"
<i>Paph. Chou-Yi Yuki</i> (<i>hangianum</i> × <i>niveum</i>)	"

<i>Paph. Charlene</i> (<i>haynaldianum</i> × <i>liemianum</i>)	"
<i>Paph. spicerianum</i>	Ufford
<i>Paph. spicerianum</i>	Galson
<i>Paph. Barbilight</i> (Barbi Playmate × Nulight)	Coleman
<i>Paph. fairieanum</i>	Capella
<i>Paph. Merce-Lou</i> Audino (Greenvale × Lambert Day)	"
<i>Paph. Hsinying</i> Inspiration × Robert de Veer	Finger

Cattleya Alliance

<i>Rlc. Shin Shiang</i> Diamond (Kat E-Sun × Tzeng-Wen Beauty)	Finger
<i>Ctt. Hazel</i> Boyd (C. California Apricot × Jewel Box)	"
<i>Ctt. Exotic</i> Mini Treat (Trick or Treat × C. Seagulls Minicat Heaven)	Braue
<i>Lc. Angel</i> Love × <i>Gur. skinneri</i>	Coleman
<i>Cattlianthe</i> (<i>Ctt.</i>) Rajah's Angel (Rajah's Ruby × C. Bright Angel)	"

Oncidium Alliance

<i>Wils. Kendrick</i> Williams (Autumn × Oda. Ray Buckman)	Coleman
<i>Hwra. Lava</i> Burst (Mini Primi × <i>Rdza. lanceolata</i>)	"
<i>Tolu.</i> "Genting Sunshine" unknown*	"
<i>Onc. Pupukea</i> Sunset (<i>cheirophorum</i> × <i>fuscatum</i>)	"
<i>Onc. Twinkle</i> (<i>cheirophorum</i> × <i>sotoanum</i>) 2 plants	Finger
<i>Onc. cheirophorum</i>	"
<i>Odcdm. Tiger</i> Crow (Tiger Hambühren × Crowborough)	Lloyd

Vandaceous

<i>Phal. Brother Green</i> Bamboo × Brother Sara Gold	Finger
<i>Dtps. Yu</i> Pin Lady (Yu Pin Lover × Chian Xen Pearl)	Finger
<i>Phal.</i> unknown	Sotirov

Dendrobium

<i>Den.</i> "Lai Klang" unknown*	Finger
<i>Den. speciosum</i> <u>var.</u> <i>pedunculatum</i>	Lloyd
<i>Den. aberrans</i>	"
<i>Den. kingianum</i>	"
<i>Den. Maiden</i> Charlotte (<i>rhodostictum</i> × <i>aberrans</i>)	"
<i>Den. Nora</i> Tokunaga (<i>atroviolaceum</i> × <i>rhodostictum</i>)	Coleman

Miscellaneous

<i>Ornithidium</i> (<i>Otm.</i>) <i>Sophronitis</i>	Ufford
<i>Lus. discolor</i>	"
<i>Masd.</i> Peach Melba (Peach Fuzz × Angel Tang)	Capella
<i>Bulb. maxillare</i> (<i>syn. blumei</i>)	"
<i>Stichorkis</i> (<i>Sck.</i>) <i>condylobulbon</i>	

"*These are unregistered trade names with no recognized standing.

Iris Cohen

If you have any questions, you can always call 315-461-9226 or e-mail
<mailto:iriscohen@aol.com?subject=Show Table>

Events Calendar

February 6	CNYOS Meeting: De-Compotting Clinic
March 6	CNYOS Meeting: Leon Glicenstein (Formerly of Hoosier Orchids) Topic not finalized.
March 11	Mid-Hudson Orchid Society Show and Sale 11Am – 3PM
April 3	CNYOS Meeting: Car pool to Rochester for GROS
May 7&8	STOS Show and Sale
May 8	CNYOS Auction,
June 4	Possible Trip to Piping Rock Orchids
June 5	CNYOS Picnic (see below, options for combining picnic with trip to Piping Rock Orchids)
July & August	No Meetings
September 11	CNYOS Meeting: Jerry Fischer of Orchids Ltd. Of Minnesota
October	CNYOS Show and Sale
November 6	??
December 4	Holiday Covered Dish Party- Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids will give a talk

Visit To Piping Rock Orchids

The Northeastern NY Orchid Society (NENYOS) is having their spring picnic on Saturday, June 4, at Piping Rock Orchids, north of Albany. They will have a speaker on orchid culture, and Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids will be there to sell plants in addition to the plants available from Piping Rock.

Charles Ufford sent around an e-mail suggesting possible ways in which we could or could not combine our planned visit to Piping Rock and our picnic with the NENYOS club's. He asked for input, but didn't get many responses, so I am outlining the possibilities again:

1. Change our picnic date from June 5 to June 4, and hold out picnic at Piping Rock with NENYOS.
2. Go to Piping Rock on June 4, and have our own picnic on June 5 as scheduled (perhaps with someone making an informal presentation and also selling plants).
3. Go to Piping Rock on the 4th, and move the date of our picnic to the next Sunday, June 12, with a possible informal presentation and plant sale)
4. Have our picnic as scheduled on June 5, and go to Piping Rock on our own on a date in April or May to be decided by the membership.

Let's discuss the options at the February meeting. If you won't be there and have a choice, e-mail Charles at uffnet@surfbest.net or call him at 315/ 768-746

Growing Orchids Semi-Hydroponically

At the January auction, I won a plant that had been grown semi-hydroponically by Rick Braue. This sparked my interest in the technique, and I remembered that Rick gave a talk on this method last year. In this article, I'm

using his notes supplemented by information from firstrays.com, a website that contains all you want to know about semi-hydroponics, plus other internet sources.

What is semi-hydroponics (S-H)?

It is a technique of growing plants “Partly in Water”, that is, growing plants in a pot containing a porous medium with a reservoir of water at the bottom. The porous medium acts as a wick, bringing water up to the plant roots.

The technique was invented by Ray Barkalow (www.firstrays.com), in an attempt to find a growing method simpler, more economical and better suited to orchids than classical hydroponics.

Containers



Any sturdy plastic container will do. Containers should be sealed at the bottom and have two or three ¼-1/2” holes parallel to the bottom and spaced one inch up. Rick uses a spade shaped wood drill bit to drill the holes, and recommends used peanut butter or mayonnaise containers, though first Rays has custom made plastic pots. When cutting off the tops of plastic food containers make sure to cut below the rounded top, or it will be hard to get the plant out of the pot.

Medium



The medium must be inert so it won't decompose, fairly uniform in particle size so it provides lots of free air space, and must provide good capillary (wicking) action to keep it uniformly moist. Round clay balls 3/16 to ½“ in diameter are a good choice. They are sold by the Hydroponics Shop, 2606

Erie Blvd E. as Hydraton. They can also be found as Aliflor, PrimeAgra at First Rays, or generically as lightweight expanded clay aggregate (LECA). The clay pellets must be thoroughly rinsed to remove dust, and should be soaked overnight before use. First Rays recommends adding Dyna-Gro K-L-

N to the soaking liquid.

Potting



Prepare the plant by washing off the old medium and cutting off any dead roots. Pour some of the medium into the bottom of the container, and then insert the plant to its normal depth. Pour the medium around the roots while shaking the pot to get it into the spaces around the root ball. Only transplant to S-H when new roots have started to grow. If the old roots which are used to growing in bark extend into the liquid at the bottom, they will die, but new roots which grow down to the bottom seem to do fine.

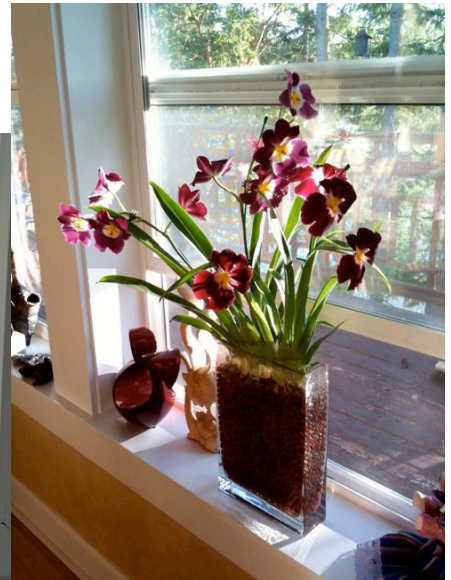
Watering



Some of the advantages of the technique are that once plants are established, they literally can't be overwatered, and on the other hand, plants can be watered much less frequently, saving time in busy schedules. At a bare minimum, water before the pot dries out, except for cattleyas, which like to dry between waterings. Fertilize at every watering with a dilute fertilizer solution. When watering, fill the pot to the top. To make the water reach the top of the container, it may be necessary to plug the holes with your fingers. Filling to the top saturates the mix. The water then drains down to the level of the holes, which leaves the mix nice and airy while providing a reservoir to keep it moist by capillary action.

What plants can be grown using S-H?

Opinions differ, but there is no doubt that the method works for Phals and Cats, and is not good for plants that like their roots hanging in the air like vandas and toolumnias. People claim success with all kinds of orchids, and even grow vegetables by this method. So any plant is fair game for anyone who wants to try.



Treasurer's Report

Assets as of 1/9/11

Cash & Bank Accounts		
Key Bank	\$	2,945.79
Cash Account		<u>360.00</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts		3,305.79

Summary Report 1/1/10 – 12/31/10

Inflows	4,516.35
Outflows	<u>4,404.06</u>
Net Inflows/Outflows	112.29

Carol Haskell, Treasurer

Low Humidity

Here is a question from the AOS website relevant to our Central NY growing conditions

Q.

In January, in Ontario, my furnace is running almost constantly and the air in my home is extremely dry. Although I struggle to keep the humidity up using all the normally recommended methods, there are times when it drops below 40 percent. Can you recommend species, entire genera or hybrids that will do well under my conditions (which surely must be shared by many others)? ' **Gerard Brender**

A.

First, if you are managing to keep your humidity in the 40 percent or higher range, you will be able to satisfactorily grow all but real cloud-forest types. Second, a good place to look for such plants is your local AOS Affiliated Society, where you will meet other local growers who have discovered some of the best solutions to similar problems. I am sure that you will understand, though, that it is nearly an impossible task to list all satisfactory orchid plants for windowsill conditions. That would both be limiting and a disservice to plants that may be good, but were, for whatever reason, not on the list. A much better solution is to look at your conditions and try to match them with orchids that might naturally grow in such seasonally dry conditions. There are many. Quite a few orchids come from areas where rainfall is quite seasonal, and the winter is normally a dry resting time. Look for plants from monsoonal regions or plants that grow in drier climates. For example, I have seen *Aerangis verdickii* growing in open woodlands in Africa where it might not get any moisture but nightly dew for more than six months. *Brassavola nodosa* and various *Schomburgkia* species grow in dry areas. Plants with seasonal growth, pseudobulbs and hard foliage are better candidates than those without one or more those features. Just a few of the types that would do well for you are Indian dendrobiums, hard-leaved oncidiums, many cattleyas and some of the African angraecoids from drier areas. - **Ned Nash**

Maintaining Humidity

Growers can make use of the cooling ability of evaporating water by "syringing", or misting, their orchids. In the process of evaporating, water will momentarily cool the leaves and raise the humidity. But unless done under conditions which will lead to rapid evaporation (high light, warm temperatures, some air movement), and done frequently, the rather fleeting beneficial effects are perhaps not worth the greater risk of spreading disease, and the nuisance of mineral residues accumulating on the leaves

Maintaining humidity indoors can be greatly simplified by using a good humidifier operated on a humidistat. Nevertheless, all growers should be aware of things which tend to deplete the air of humidity. Heated or air-conditioned air is low in humidity and can quickly dry the air of a growing area. Humidifiers work overtime during cold weather when the heat is on frequently. The cold surface of window glass in the winter time will draw water out of the air by the reverse of evaporation, condensation. Double-glazing (with polyethylene, for example) will reduce this occurrence by moderating the surface temperature. And humidity levels lower spontaneously as temperatures rise, unless additional moisture is added to the air. Conversely, relative humidity rises as the temperature drops, as it typically does during the nighttime hours. So most efforts towards increasing humidity need be taken during warmer and bright daylight hours, especially indoors when the heat or air-conditioning is on.

Hobbyists should strive for the gentle movement of clean, moist air around their orchids. Such a practice helps eliminate, or at least moderate, any extremes that may develop in the growing conditions. Particularly in the case of high light and accompanying warm temperatures, humid, moving air can lower leaf temperatures and reduce transpiration and water stress. Light, temperature, air movement and humidity ultimately determine the water and nutrient needs of orchids, and therefore watering and fertilizing practices.

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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.

The Central New York Orchid Society
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February 2011 Issue – CNYOS Orchid Meeting February 6, 2 PM at the Church
De – Compotting Clinic