

# 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 5 January 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](mailto: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 January 9, 2 PM, Member Silent Auction

\*Please note that the meeting date is the second Sunday of January due to the fact that New Year weekend interferes with the first Sunday.

## I hope everyone had a Happy New year!!

By this time your orchids should have adjusted to coming inside, and hopefully your cymbidiums and phalaenopsis as well as other winter and spring bloomers are in spi Perhaps you made some divisions that have now settled in but that are taking up needed bench space, or you've had some plants for years without a sign of bloom. Bring them to the auction, and give another orchid club member a chance to enjoy your favorites, or try their hand at getting your recalcitrant plants to bloom. At the same time you'll help the club to make some money and have a chance to pick up something new at a great price!!

You can split the proceeds from the plants you contribute 50/50 with the club, though the club sure could use 100%. There will be a \$5.00 charge for those not binging a plant or other material for auction such as orchid pots or potting material.

The plants you bring should be bug and disease free. If you're bringing divisions, they should have three pseudobulbs or more. Orchids without pseudobulbs, should consist of a decent clump. If you are bringing a division you have made, be sure to give it a new clonal name.

There will also be a show table.

## President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season! I was out of state and unable to make our December meeting, but I heard that those who braved the cold and snow had a good time and enjoyed an excellent presentation by Krum Sotirov. Because there were few in attendance for the December meeting, elections could not be held. However, we still need a President and Vice President/Co-presidents and Show Chair. The job descriptions were listed in last month's newsletter. I am unable to continue on as President this year. Charles would really like to phase out his duties and has been doing the job for several years. We cannot have a show without someone to be the Chair, as well as many volunteers. If we do not have volunteers, then our club is in jeopardy of falling apart. If you have never volunteered or have volunteered in the past, please consider volunteering.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year.  
Lori

## **Minutes – CNYOS Meeting December 5, 2010**

Charles Ufford opened the meeting at 2:38 PM by welcoming the club members and guests to our annual Christmas party meeting:

1. Charles explained that Lori was out of town for this meeting. He asked if there was any old business to discuss. There was none. Charles also noted that there would be no Treasurer's Report as Carol Haskell, our Treasurer, was absent as well.
2. Charles noted that this meeting should be the meeting at which we elect new officers. However, since there were not sufficient members in attendance for a voting quorum, he said the official elections would be held at the January meeting. Currently we are looking for a new president or co-presidents. If anyone is considering volunteering for either of these positions, please contact Charles. Charles reminded the members that if we are to continue as a club, we do need officers.
3. Iris Cohen announced that she had brought the plant lists for the GROS Plant Auction to be held at their December meeting, for anyone interested in going.
4. Charles announced that our meeting program for today would be a talk by new member, Krum Sotirov, on his work with orchids at Kew Gardens, London, England.
5. Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 9; we are meeting on the second Sunday in January because of the New Year's holiday on the first weekend in January. This meeting will be the annual Member Silent Auction. Please bring any plants, orchid supplies, publications and books you would like to auction off. The plants should be clean, with fresh potting medium and in good condition. Iris reminded members, that if they bring a division to auction, to please give it a clone name. Contact Iris if you have any questions on this. Proceeds of the auction will be a minimum of 50% of the plant sale price to the club and 50% to the member. Any member can of course donate a larger portion up to 100% of the sale price of their plant or articles to the club. Next Saturday, December 19, is the STOS Plant Auction. The auction starts at approximately 1:30PM and is held at the Vestal Endicott Public Library.

Pat Cotter, Secretary, 12-10-10

## **December Holiday Covered Dish Party**

We had a sparse attendance for our December Holiday Covered Dish meeting, but those who attended enjoyed a very informative slide show given by our new member, Krum Sotirov. He described the work he did in his younger days in the orchid collection at Kew Gardens in London, and showed pictures of many orchids found there. All of us who attended enjoyed it. We also enjoyed the delicious goodies provided by our members, even though the selections consisted almost exclusively of desserts. Next year, everyone please look more closely at the part of the alphabet bringing main dishes!!

**Refreshment Volunteers** We are missing a second volunteer for many of the dates. Please put your name on the list at the next meeting if you can provide refreshments.

January	1. Honey Goshorn	2. Monica Kot
February	1. Pamela Gotjen	2. ?
March	1. Sue & Jerry Finger	2. ?
April	1. Rick Braue	2. Dale Corey
May	1. Pat Cotter	2. ?
June Spring Picnic	Everyone Contributes	

## December 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

*Paph. barbatum* Cohen  
*Paph.* Hsinying Inspiration × Robert de Veer Finger

### Cattleya Alliance

*Lc.* Angel Heart (Puppy Love × C. Penny Kuroda) Finger  
*Rct.* Chance the Chance (*Ctt.* Alcidor × *Rlc.* Sweet Anniversary) "  
*Rlc.* Husky Boy (Evergreen × C. Orglade's Glow) "

### Oncidium Alliance

*Vuyl.* Saint Sand (*Milt.* Sand Cut × *Oda.* Saint Clement) Galson  
*Tolu.* Jairak Rainbow × Catherine Wilson Sotirov  
*Bllra.* Lunatic Fringe (*Oda.* Helen Perlite × Tropic Splendor) Finger  
*Onc.* Twinkle (*cheirophorum* × *sotoanum*) "  
*Onc. sotoanum* Ufford

### Dendrobium

*Den.* Baby Pink (*affine* × *bigibbum* subvar. *compactum*) Cohen

### Miscellaneous

*Christensonella (Chnl.) uncata* Finger  
*Coel. salmonicolor* "  
*Coel. speciosa* "  
*Cym.* Without Peer (Kurun × Pendragon) Sotirov  
*Brasiliorchis (Bch.) picta\** Corey

\*According to Rafael Govaerts, the Kew Checklist is not just a Kew project. It is a global cooperation of 135 botanists from 25 countries.

Iris Cohen

If you have any questions, you can always call 315-461-9226 or e-mail

<mailto:iriscohen@aol.com?subject>Show Table>

## Talking to Your Orchids

For those of you old enough to remember the 1973 best seller, *The Secret Life of Plants* by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird, the concept of "talking" to your plants is probably as natural as talking to your dog. The main difference is that you may practice the former only in private. Even your best friend might think you a little touched if they found you carrying on a conversation with your favorite *Phalaenopsis*. Today the idea of talking to our orchids has a broader connotation. More correctly, our orchids "talk" to us. We just have to understand what they are saying. Below are examples of some of the signals our orchids may be sending us if we are paying attention.

Diagnosing orchid symptoms is a mixed bag. Because they are slow growing plants, it often takes some time before the symptoms of an ailment are actually evident enough to alert the grower to the problem. On one hand, this can be an advantage: due to the slow growth, the grower has time to remedy the problem. On the other hand, sometimes the problem may be too far along to cure when the grower finally notices. As if that were not confusing enough, some orchid ailments move very quickly, such as Black Rot (caused by *Pythium ultimum* and *Phytophthora cactorum*). By the time you notice Black Rot on a *Cattleya*, it has already infected the plant and only surgery may save what has not been already destroyed.

Shriveled, desiccated leaves can indicate both overwatering, and underwatering. The plant is not able to take up



sufficient water and so the leaves take on a shriveled appearance. This may simply be due to the fact that you are not providing enough water for the orchid-pot-media combination such as this bare-basket *Cattleya* shown at left. This is easy to solve: water the plant more frequently or switch to a different medium and pot. An orchid can also be water-starved because its roots are in poor condition, or absent, and cannot take up water. This is usually the result of overwatering, or old, spent potting media that has broken down and compacted around the roots. You can determine the condition of the roots and media by leveraging the plant out of the pot on one side with a tool such as an oyster knife or dull chisel. With experience, working your index finger into the pot can

also tell you a lot about the condition of the media.

If root loss is the cause of shriveled leaves, such as this overwatered orchid at left, remove the plant from the pot, and using a pair of sterilized garden shears or scissors, cut off all of the dead roots. It's a good idea to spray the remaining root mass (if any) with a broad spectrum fungicide or algaecide such as Captan or Physan. We then like to place the orchid into an empty clay pot, or a pot with a small wad of sphagnum in the bottom. The orchid is kept shadier than normal (but watered along with the other orchids) until roots begin to emerge. When they are a half-inch long, the plant can be repotted in fresh media. There are a few "tricks" that may help encourage growth, Spraying the plant every other day with liquid seaweed (1tsp per quart of water) does not hurt and can provide organic nutrients and hormones for a weak plant. We have had some



success getting *Cattleyas* to push growth from dormant eyes by applying a film of a cytokinin growth hormone like Keikigrow Plus.



Although these shriveled leaves resemble the symptoms above, the bleached color of the leaves indicates that the plant is heat-stressed because of too much light. The fact that the orchid was mounted made the problem worse. Other problems can create symptoms that look similar. Heat stress can cause orchid leaves to shrivel. Heat stress is due to excessive temperatures as the name suggests. Usually though, shriveled leaves are accompanied by bleaching and often, sun burn. Although orchids can show signs of heat stress just by being in an enclosed area of high temperatures for an extended period of time, the usual cause of the problem is too much light. If you suspect that an orchid is suffering from heat stress, hold a leaf on a sunny day. If the leaf is much warmer than your other hand, you need to give the plant more shade. If it is close to a greenhouse

roof, move it lower. Putting an electric fan nearby will also help keep leaf temperatures down.

### **Orchid Profile - *Cynoches* - The Swan Neck Orchid**

**Cynoches** are one of the most graceful and elegant of the orchids. They are named the Swan-Necked orchid from the long column on the male flowers which resembles a stretched out swan neck and the sepals and petals which remind one of a bird in flight. They produce pendulous inflorescences of either male or female flowers with up to 20 flowers per male inflorescence -- fewer on the female spikes. See the difference in the flowers below:



**Female flower *Cyn. cooperii***



**Male flower *Cyn. cooperii***

One interesting fact about the male flowers is that they are built to eject their pollen sacs on pollinators and can do so to anything which brushes against the flowers. Many growers have been pollinated while leaning down to smell the flowers!

The genus of approximately 24 species occurs throughout South and Central America mainly in warm tropical forests as epiphytes, although they are occasionally found on dead logs. They are found in environments up to 1000 meters although most grow below 600 meters in elevation. The flowers appear in shades of green through

maroons many with interesting spotted petals and sepals and in general produce flowers during the summer and fall months. Their pseudobulbs are generally cigar shaped and can grow quite tall in most species. Hybrids are generally bred to be smaller than the larger species for ease in growing.

They require warm to hot conditions during the growing season and high humidity to grow well. They must be located so that the long pendulous inflorescence can hang freely and so that the flowers do not touch at the bottom. These orchids are deciduous in nature and lose all their leaves after flowering. Most growers take the plants out of their pots when the leaves have all fallen off and put them in a bright light situation for the winter with no water until new growth appears in the spring. The plants then should be repotted, still with no water, until the growth is approximately 2 to 3 inches, or 5 to 8 centimeters, tall. Then watering and fertilizing are resumed. It is extremely important to only water the media and not get any water on the new growth as they are subject to rots until the growth has matured. During their growth period they require lots of water and extra fertilizer to complete their short growth cycle.

This article comes from the Orchids section of [Bellaonline](#)

## ***OrchidWiz***

Last year, we received a free copy of OrchidWiz, the Orchid Encyclopedia and Journal, to raffle off at our auction in May. This was part of OrchidWiz's Orchid Swap program to help orchid clubs raise money for their activities. This year, we have again received a copy, which we will raffle off in May. OrchidWiz currently has a dispute with AOS, which I hope will be settled soon to everyone's satisfaction. Part of the requirements of participating in Orchid Swap is that the club membership be informed about what Orchidwiz is:

OrchidWiz is a database software tool that runs on any Windows operating system XP or later.

The current list price for a single copy is \$295

The software can be used to organize your collection, maintain a journal record of each plant, and to generate custom reports.

•Contains detailed information on orchids from files of AOS, AOC, NZOC, SAOC, CCA, RHS, Charles Baker, and others in one location Examples of information:

•Cultural requirements

•Photos of many orchids

•Genealogy, Pedigree and Image Tree of most hybrids,

•Geographical distribution and habitats of species, such as local annual and diurnal climatic conditions, light levels, growth conditions (epiphyte, lithophyte and terrestrial), etc

•Physical description of plants: flowers, inflorescence, leaves, pseudobulbs, size

•Awards received and descriptions of awarded plants

•Progeny (registered hybrids from each plant)

Image Gallery



OrchidWiz is an easy-to-use software application for orchid research, discovery and to help growers keep track of their orchids. The program contains extensive information on approximately 138,000 hybrids and 29,000 species. It was designed with three primary goals in mind: (1) Ease-of-use; (2) Accuracy; and (3) Completeness

Start Page

The program is so intuitive that anyone who can use a computer mouse can benefit from it. Currently there are thousands of OrchidWiz aficionados in six continents and 45 countries.

Many world-class institutions use OrchidWiz for their basic research needs, including Selby Gardens, the U.S. Botanic Garden, the Smithsonian Greenhouse and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. More than 200 orchid nurseries and 330 American Orchid Society judges have licensed OrchidWiz, another testimony to its breadth and accuracy.

Group Name	Total	Species
Angraecums, Aerangis	929	776
Bulbophyllums	2,247	1,983
Calanthes, Spathoglottis	1,075	502
Cattleyas, etc. (Laeliinae)	40,007	2,157
Coelogynes, Pleiones	948	591
Cymbidiums, Catasetums, etc.	15,176	912
Dendrobiums	12,516	1,609
Disas, Habenarias, etc.	4,536	3,960
Ludisias	643	619
Masdevallias, Pleuros	5,804	4,517
Oncidiums, etc. (Oncidiinae)	16,435	1,375
Paphs, Phrags, Cyripediums	22,573	220
Phalaenopsis, Doritis	29,341	76
Polystachyas	305	251
Vandaceous (excluding Phals)	9,712	1,380
Zygos, Lycastes, Stanhopeas	4,190	2,634

Founded a little over five years ago, OrchidWiz is already in its 7<sup>th</sup> version. A new version comes out every year and volunteers have a big say over what features go in. The program has become the primary reference work for orchid aficionados, from orchid experts to hobbyists.

Learn more at [www.orchidwiz.com](http://www.orchidwiz.com)

Dendrobium aberrans Profile page

Flowering in Northern Hemisphere

Month	Frequency
Feb	1
Mar	4
Apr	3
May	1
Jun	1
Jul	0
Aug	1
Sep	0
Oct	0
Nov	0
Dec	1

Based on 12 recorded plant bloomings.

## ***The Orchid Enthusiast***

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.

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Your local AOS and Orchid Digest Affiliate  
236 Lockwood Road  
Syracuse, NY 13214

***January 2011 Issue – CNYOS Orchid Meeting January 9, 2 PM at the Church  
Member Silent Auction***