

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

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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

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Remember to pay your 2013 dues if you haven't already done so, and by the time you get this newsletter it will be time to renew your 2014 membership. Dues are \$20 for individuals and \$22 for families.

Send to: Carol Haskell,
Treasurer

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Next Meeting: Sunday January 5, 2 PM, at the Church. Member Silent Auction

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas And will have A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!!

By this time your orchids should have adjusted to coming inside, and hopefully your cymbidiums and phalaenopsis as well as other winter bloomers are in spike. 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 would appreciate your 100% donation. There will be a \$5.00 charge for those not bringing a plant.

The plants you bring should be bug and disease free. Bring a picture of your plant in bloom if you have taken one, or download one from the web. Knowing what the flowers will look like will increase the bid price. If you're bringing divisions, they should have three pseudobulbs or more. Orchids without pseudobulbs, should consist of a decent clump. Iris reminds everyone that if you have made a division, please give it a new clonal name.

There will be no raffle table, but we will have a Show Table, so bring your beautiful bloomers to show off!!

President's Message

It's almost Christmas. We look forward to family coming over on Christmas day and having the serenity shattered by a 3 year old!

Orchids make a great gift for the grower in your family since you can give a gift certificate for a later shipment when weather allows (and not just for Christmas!).

The January meeting is always fun with plants to do the silent auction.

Be sure to bring anything extra that you have to add to the fun! Due to the auction, we won't be doing a raffle table. See you at the meeting!!

Sue Finger

CNYOS Meeting December 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order a little after 2:00PM

December was our annual Holiday Party. Not much business was conducted, but the bus trip to Philadelphia on April 12 was discussed:

We will be going in a bigger bus with bathrooms. There are still a few openings, so call Sue Finger if you plan on going.

Those present voted on the slate of offices nominated at the November meeting:

President:	Sue Finger
Vice President and program Chair:	Honey Goshorn
Secretary:	Monica Kot
Treasurer:	Carol Haskell

Financially, we are starting the new year well. We are \$800 ahead of last year at this time.

Holly Goshorn's daughter passed away from cancer on November 23. A card was passed around so our members could sign it. It is in the mail, and I hope it will help her and her husband during this hard time just before the holidays.

Submitted by Monica Kot, Secretary

December 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

Paph. Vanda M. Pearman (*bellatulum* × *delenatii*) Cohen

Cattleya Alliance

Jackfowlieara (*Jkf.*) **Appleblossom** (*Cll.* Snowflake × *Rth.* Orange Nuggett)* Hasse
Rth. **Melinda** Rose Funke (Afternoon Delight × *Rlc.* Salmon Splendor) "
Lc. Angel Heart (Puppy Love × Penny Kuroda)* Fingers

Vandaceous

Phal. Formosa Cranberry (Sogo Yenlin × Happy Mark) Cohen
V. falcata var. Gojo Fukurin "
Vandachostylis (*Van.*) Lou Sneary (*V. falcata* × *Rhy. coelestis*) ?

Dendrobium Alliance

<i>Den.</i> Maiden Charlotte (<i>aberrans</i> × <i>rhodostictum</i>)	Lloyd
<i>Den.</i> Baby Pink (2 clones) (<i>dicuphum</i> × <i>lithocola</i>)	Cohen
<i>Den.</i> Enobi Purple (Enobi Komachi × Laguna Princess)	"

Pleurothallids

<i>Acianthera (Acia.) leptotifolia</i>	Weller
<i>Rstp. cuprea</i>	"
<i>Masd.</i> Elven Magic (<i>davisii</i> × <i>infracta</i>)	Capella
<i>Pths. rubella</i>	Ditz

Miscellaneous

<i>Hab. medusa</i>	Witkin
<i>Ddc. cobbianum</i>	Capella
<i>Ddc. saccolabium</i>	"
<i>Ddc. bicallosum</i>	Fingers
<i>Stenorrhynchos speciosum</i>	"
<i>Ddc. cobbianum</i>	Ditz
<i>Aërgs. luteo-alba</i> var. <i>rhodosticta</i> †	"

*One parent of Puppy Love is *Laelia anceps*, an established species from Mexico. One parent of *Caulaelia* Snowflake is *L. albida*, also from Mexico. Only the Brazilian laelias were transferred to *Cattleya*.

†In this particular case, the variety is always included as part of the name.

Iris Cohen

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me, iriscohen@aol.com, or 315-461-9226

Refreshment Volunteers

January	1. Sue and Jerry Finger	2. Jan Woodwoth
February	1. TBA	2. TBA
March	1. TBA	2. TBA
April	(May coincide with Trip to GROS)	
May	1. TBA	2. TBA
June	Spring Picnic	Everyone Contributes

Events Calendar

January 5	CNYOS Member Orchid Auction
February 2	TBA
March 2	TBA
April 6	Possible car pool to Rochester for the GROS Show
April 12	Bus trip to SEPOS
May 4	Club auction
June 1 or later	Picnic
July & August	No Meetings
September 7	TBA
October 4-5	CNYOS Show and Sale at Beaver Lake (Set-up Oct 3)

Show Review Meeting

Better Late than Never! The Show Committee will finally have its Show Review Meeting at 1:30 before the January meeting. Anyone who wants to join in the discussion or has comments on the past or next show is welcome to attend. Show Committee members remember to come with a list of exactly what you have been doing for the show for inclusion in the Show Manual.

***A Ghostly Success in a Most Unlikely Place* text and photos by Jeff Hale**

I am not a savant. I have killed Geraniums. I am not even particularly lucky (the casinos love me)! This being said, surprisingly, I have been successful in growing and blooming the "Ghost Orchid" *Dendrophylax lindenii*. This year, to my amazement, seven flowers opened simultaneously. The nighttime fragrance is intoxicating.

I wanted to share what I have found works for me, as well as encourage others to not be afraid to grow these rare, endangered treasures. My ultimate goal is to see these reintroduced into the wild, and who knows, maybe someday we will see them get off the endangered species list.



Horticulture, like Medicine, is not an exact science. There are certainly many methods and techniques that will work based on your location and growing conditions. This is simply mine, and how I arrived at it.

FIRST A LITTLE HISTORYI was a geek in the "Botany Club" in junior high, and our guest speaker was the local school superintendant. He spoke about his orchid growing hobby and brought a few blooming plants. This was in the early seventies. I was hooked. I acquired and grew my first orchid, a white Phaleonopsis, under shop lights in my parent's basement. This progressed as I grew into adulthood, eventually growing on my own windowsills and under lights as I moved from place to place. I got my own home and my obsession escalated. I decided the three tier light carts I had rigged up were making it difficult to fit guests into my dining room. Though I had no problem with it, most guests found the glare of the fluorescent lights distracting.

I needed a greenhouse. The problem was I did not have much space. You have to understand, I live only a few miles from downtown Chicago, on a small lot with the elevated train running just a few yards behind my home. I can wave to the passengers on the train from my second floor office - I no longer work in my underwear.

Eight years ago, I made a decision. I built a small 6' by 8' polycarbonate lean-to green house on my tiny side deck. This was an easy decision, since the roar of the train made it unsuitable for entertaining, not to mention the scent from the alley in the summer. It faces south, and gets direct sun for 6-8 hours depending on the season, and then the sun disappears behind the elevated tracks.

At first, the humidity (or lack of it) was a problem. Working out of a home office can be a blessing or a curse. I was a misting "junkie." Home most of the day, I could not keep my hand off the spray wand whenever I peeked into the greenhouse. I kept a wireless hygrometer in the greenhouse, with the receiver on my desk so I could run down whenever I saw that the humidity was dropping. I set up a mist system on top of that. It was disastrous. I rotted more plants than I would like to talk about. Controlling humidity in a small space can be perplexing.

Living in Chicago, you have about 4 months of particularly grey sunless days, often with several feet of snow. My

winter experiment with a supplemental 400W high-pressure sodium light (on a moving light rail no less) was another catastrophe. I learned you couldn't grow orchids in an oven.

THE STORY OF MY SUCCESS I realized that my small stand alone humidifier was insufficient. When the temperature rises, humidity drops. As the vent opens (at 85 degrees) and the exhaust fan goes on, the humidity went out with the air. It dropped to 25% at times. I wanted high humidity without having to mist constantly. I had a bright idea. I purchased the largest stand-alone home humidifier I could from my local hardware store. I purchased a model that you can set for humidity in the upper ranges, as many models cut off at 50%. I drilled a hole and put a float valve in the reservoir. I then connected it to my water supply so I would not have to fill the 3-gallon reservoir every day. I set it for 65-70%. It is an evaporative model since the "ultrasonic" ones, when used with tap water, produces a fine mineral powder that covers everything.

I started using 35% shade cloth from March to October to help control the temperature. The Chicago summer can have temperatures of 50° F to 100° F plus. I added a small rotating fan at waist level to equalize the temperature and humidity.

I limited my misting to only two (okay, sometimes three) times per day, morning and afternoon. However, occasional trips for 4-5 days away from home with no misting do not seem to be detrimental. I started to mount more orchids on bark since I had good humidity and the temperature under control. I started to have success with many species that had previously languished. Vandas hung at the apex of the greenhouse bloomed and thrived. Brassavolas and *Rhynchochloa digbyana* on mounts flourished.

Supplies and Materials for mounting *Dendrophylax lindenii*

I am fortunate to live near Oak Hill Gardens, one of the leading suppliers of *Dendrophylax lindenii*, as well as other hard to find species. Owners Greg Butler and his wife Liese are involved in day-to-day running of the business, and her father and founder, Hermann Pigors is involved mostly in the laboratory. They were one of the first to be successful in the pollination and cultivation of this rare plant, and making available to the public over ten years ago. Liese estimates they have sold "thousands." Liese also acknowledges there has been some success "mostly in Florida and the South."

On one of my trips there in 2003 to restock my greenhouse, (after one of the previously mentioned catastrophes), I purchased a small "plantlet" of *Dendrophylax lindenii* tied with fishing line to sphagnum moss. It was mounted on a stick. When I got it home, and untied it (I have a hard time with self-control), I discovered to my surprise there were three small plants, ranging in size from ¾ inch to 1 inch, each with two to three roots.

I read the blogs and discovered some information now I know to be erroneous (grow in the shade, dilute fertilizer, use only RO water, must be mounted on Madagascar magic wood, etc.). I tried a variety of methods over the years, some with not so great results. Growing in an aquarium with high humidity resulted in an algae covered mess. Cork bark did not give me good results either. I have RO/DI water due to one of my other obsessions, (Amazonian Soft Water Fish breeding, but that is another discussion). Its use proved uneventful.

It seems most people fail due to the inability of the plantlet to get established and grow. I discovered, as brought up in Keith Davis's excellent article on the growth of his *Dendrophylax lindenii* 'Glade Spirit' FCC/AOS, "A Ghostly Pursuit" (*Orchids* Vol. 78 NO.7 July 2009), that the choice of a suitable substrate is key, as well as high light levels. A couple of years ago I had the good fortune that my neighbor's Bradford Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) split and fell during a storm. I peeled off several nice large furrowed pieces of bark.

Mounting a small plant of *Dendrophylax lindenii*

I drew on my experience from other obsessions, Bonsai and stony coral aquaculture (I know where I find the time). I realized adherence to the substrate was key, and where the majority of failures seemed to occur. Simple tying was not always reliable. I had a bright idea. Cyanoacrylate glue, actually an acrylic resin (i.e. Krazy Glue™ , Super Glue™), long used in the propagation of stony corals for adherence to substrates and now even in some medical procedures, seemed like a good option.

I took my languishing remaining plant and glued it to a nice piece of deeply furrowed bark I had salvaged. This is where the Bonsai comes in. Rapeseed cakes, an organic fertilizer made from the seed of *Brassica napus* has



been used for centuries in China and Japan as an organic fertilizer. The seeds, processed and sun-dried, are molded to small pellets. They are available from any good bonsai supply source (5-2-1, or 5-4-1 if bone meal has been added). We place them on the soil of the Bonsai in the summer to allow a constant slow organic fertilizer source. They are generally replaced every 50-100 days. I glued a few of these to the top of the mount so the water would run over them; I tucked a few of them into the roots, as the plant grew larger. Easily hidden by the Spanish moss draped over the plant, I found spectacular results.

I moved my plant to the apex of my greenhouse near the Vandas being that it was a member of the Tribe Vandaeae. I took an old compact fluorescent light fixture, from my now abandoned coral hobby, and mounted the (2) 21" 55W dual spectrum compact fluorescent reef lamps (True Actinic & 10000°K Super Daylight) at the top of the greenhouse, mostly so I could see in the dark months. While the bulbs are supposedly much too old to be of benefit to plants any longer (it is recommended they be replaced yearly), I run them 16 hours a day in summer and 14 hours a day in winter. I hung the Ghost a few inches under this for supplemental light. I did set up a thermal cut off so if the temperature goes above 90 °F, the lights turn off. These simple devices are available inexpensively at most pet supply stores for control of temperature for reptiles.



Last year I was thrilled to see a spike emerging in May. It bloomed with a single beautiful flower. I was overjoyed.

Over the past year, the growth has almost doubled with the roots reaching 30" tip to tip vertically and about 8" across. The Spanish moss is thriving as well. As mentioned, in late March this year, seven spikes emerged. They opened in mid-May. I took it to my local IOS meeting and caused quite a stir. Maybe someday I will have it judged.

Since I maintain optimal growing conditions year round to maximize growth, I do not utilize the dry and cold (45 °F) dormancy some growers have successfully used to flower. Here is what I refer to as the "Hale Method" to those who ask:

What the finished mounted plant of *Dendrophylax lindenii* looks like.

1. Plants must have firm adherence to a suitable bark mount with a good quality cyanoacrylate glue. I recommend the gel version.
2. Minimum humidity of 65%. Don't worry if this dips in mid-day when the temperature sometimes approaches the high 90's. Alternating moist and dry conditions are key and normal in its natural environment. I do not move the plant around once established in a greenhouse location.
3. Rapeseed cakes glued or wired to the mount.
4. Year round full strength fertilizer weekly. I use 1 tsp. gal. of 7-9-5, 3-12-6, or 15-5-5 depending on the season, using Chicago tap water. I find my average water pH is 7.6, and general hardness (GH) is 120-150 ppm. This is considered moderately hard, but I find I still get excellent results. Again, I do this year round with no dormancy.
5. Winter minimum daytime temperature of 75° F. With sun, this often rises to the 80's. Nighttime minimum of 60° F.
6. Summer venting at 90° F with 35% shade cloth applied March-October (for my latitude). Small circulating fan helps equalize temperature and humidity preventing "hot-spots."
7. A bright sunny spot in your greenhouse, as Keith Davis has mentioned, i.e., where *Cattleya* will grow.
8. Live Spanish moss, though no one seems quite sure why this helps, is also an excellent "indicator" plant of your culture conditions. If your moss does not flourish, your plants will not either. I leave it on year round.
9. Anecdotally, supplemental lighting has seemed to help me. This may be due to the short day length during the winter in Chicago. I also do not grow any orchids dependent on day length for flowering, which may be of concern to some.

AcknowledgementsI want to recognize the AOS for their education and conservation efforts, and encourage all enthusiasts to speak about your passion to our young people. You never know whom you may inspire! I also wanted to thank Herman, Greg and Liese at Oak Hill for making this plant available to us.

ReferenceKeith Davis. "A Ghostly Pursuit". *Orchids*. 78, No. 7 (July 2009): p408



Author Jeff Hale with his beautifully-bloomed plant of *Dendrophylax lindenii*

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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.

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