

# The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the 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: [egalson756@gmail.com](mailto:egalson756@gmail.com)

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## Dues

Remember to pay your 2014 dues if you haven't already done so, and by the time you get this newsletter it will be time to renew your 2015 membership. Dues are \$20 for individuals and \$22 for families. Send to: Carol Haskell, Treasurer  
102 Withrop Rd.  
Syracuse, NY 13209

## Next Meeting: Sunday January 4, 2 PM, Member Silent Auction\*



**\*Please note that the meeting will be held in the social hall across the parking lot from the church.**

I hope everyone had a good holiday!!

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. If not blooming, 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. We will have a Show Table, so bring your beautiful bloomers to show off!!

## President's Message

The holidays are in full swing for December, including crazy weather. Hope none of you had problems with the snow storm on the 10th. Hot chocolate, warm afghans to cuddle in, a good book or holiday movie to watch, take the time to get relaxed during the chaos. If you go out of town make sure to provide care for your greenhouses or windowsills or light set-ups. Keep an eye out for open houses or other events during the coming year and surprise your favorite orchid grower with a gift that's out of the ordinary.

Happy Holidays To All! Sue Finger

## *CNYOS Meeting December 2, 2014*

December was our annual Holiday Party. No business was conducted, so there are no minutes, but delicious food was enjoyed by all who attended, and the food was well balanced between main dishes and desserts.

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

President:	Sue Finger
Vice President and program Chair:	Honey Goshorn
Secretary:	Dolores Capella
Treasurer:	Carol Haskell

All were elected.

We had a great show table as usual, and members had a chance to describe their plants and the cultural practices they used. The sharing of orchid experiences by means of the show table is really one of the more valuable learning experiences the club provides.

## *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

<i>Paph.</i> Magic Mood × Stone Lovely	Ditz
<i>Paph. helenae</i>	"
<i>Paph. spicerianum</i>	"
<i>Paph.</i> Fairly Sauced (Sorcerer's Stone × <i>fairrieianum</i> )	"
<i>Paph.</i> Angel <b>Hair</b> (Saint Swithin × <i>sanderianum</i> )	"
<i>Paph.</i> Hsinying Alien (Raisin Pie × Supersuk) 2 plants	Finger
<i>Paph. fairrieianum</i> × Magic Leopard	"
<i>Phrag.</i> Peruflora's Spirit (Eric Young × <i>kovachii</i> )	"
<i>Paph.</i> Fairly Sauced	"
<i>Paph.</i> Spring Fantasy (Memoria Nicholas Hamann × Spring Moonbeam)Sotirov	
<i>Phrag.</i> <b>After-Glo</b> (Eric Young × Sorcerer's Apprentice)	Galson

### CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

<i>Oe. centradenia</i>	Finger
<i>Lc.</i> Angel Heart (Puppy Love × <i>C. Penny Kuroda</i> [Penny Kuroda Group])*	"
<i>Epi. porpax</i>	"
<i>C.</i> Hausermann's Sultan (Kencolor × <i>guttata</i> )	Hasse
<i>Epi. porpax</i>	"
<i>Rth.</i> Cherub ( <i>Gur. aurantiaca</i> × <i>Rlc.</i> Trinket)	Cohen
<i>C.</i> Mini Song (Mini Purple × Mari's Song)	"
<i>Rlc.</i> Leopard Gem (Waianae Leopard × <i>C.</i> Jungle Gem)	"
<i>C. jenmanii</i> (?)	Lloyd
<i>Isabelia pulchella</i>	Sotirov

**ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE**

<i>Oncostele (Ons.)</i> Romance ( <i>Onc.</i> Petite Shine × <i>Ons.</i> Catatante)	Galson
<i>Trpla. suavis</i>	Capella
<i>Cmd. praestans</i>	"
<i>Onc.</i> Two Alarm Fire (Starlings × Pacific Star)	Hasse

**VANDACEOUS**

<i>Aranda</i> Chao Praya Boy (Christine × V. Prapin Blue)	Finger
<i>Phal. wilsonii</i>	"
<i>Phal.</i> Barracuda (unknown, contact your supplier)	Hasse
<i>Trgl. pusilla</i>	"

**DENDROBIUM ALLIANCE**

<i>Den.</i> Pink Klang (? × ?)†	Finger
<i>Den.</i> Thailand (Busaba × Hickam Deb)	"
<i>Den. eriiflorum</i>	"
<i>Den.</i> Memoria Margery Ummer (Nagasaki × Yukidaruma)	Cohen

**PLEUROTHALLIDS**

<i>Ste. quadrifida</i>	Finger
<i>Ddo. erinacea</i>	"
<i>Sppm. verrucosum</i>	"
<i>Masd. ludibunda</i>	"
<i>Rstp. sanguinea</i>	"
<i>Rstp. elegans</i>	Capella
<i>Masd. striatella</i>	"
<i>Masd. Redwing</i> ( <i>infracta</i> × <i>coccinea</i> )	Sotirov
<i>Tsx. orbicularis</i>	Witkin
<i>Pths. condorensis</i>	"
<i>Dda. elata</i>	"

**MISCELLANEOUS**

<i>Angcm. comorense</i>	Finger
<i>Ddc. bicallosum</i>	"
<i>Lip. rhombea</i>	"
<i>Anc. rothschildianus</i>	Capella
<i>Ddc. glumaceum</i>	"
<i>Ddc. glumaceum</i> ‡	Lloyd
<i>Css. retisquama</i>	Witkin
<i>Hab. rodocheila</i> subsp. <i>rodocheila</i>	"
<i>Aërgs. luteoalba</i>	"
<i>Tct.</i> Hsinying Girl ( <i>Crtn. fessellii</i> × Niu Girl)	"
<i>Brasiliorchis (Bch.) picta</i>	Ditz

\*There was a big flap over *C. Penny Kuroda* because it was originally registered with a wrong parent, and was subsequently used in hybridizing. There are now three Penny Kurodas, so the Group is part of the name.

†Registered with unknown parentage.

‡Every orchid genus has an official abbreviation. Please use it to improve communication. Contact me if you would like a copy of the list.

The RHS site makes no provision for reciprocal crosses. If you can't find a grex, reverse the parents.

Please note: This month the list was compiled using the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia.

<http://www.orchidspecies.com> It is an incomparable voluntary operation. Kindly send a contribution to Jay Pfahl, 301 Duval St, Key West Fl 33040. You can be a permanent subscriber for \$10 a year.

Iris Cohen If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me, [iriscohen@aol.com](mailto:iriscohen@aol.com) or 315-461-9226.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Assets as of 11/12/14	
Cash Account1	115.00
Key Bank	<u>3470.82</u>
Total	3585.82

Summary Report 1/1/14 – 11/2/14	
Inflows	5,368.64
Outflows	<u>5493.76</u>
Net Inflows/Outflows	- 125.12

### *Refreshment Volunteers*

January	1. Sue and Jerry Finger	2. Barbara Weller
February	1. Jan Woodworth	2. Donna Coleman
March	1. ?	2. ?
April		
June	Spring Picnic	Everyone Contributes
September	1. ?	2.
October	1. ?	2. ?
November	1. ?	2. ?

### *Events Calendar*

January 4	CNYOS Member Orchid Auction
February 1	Jim Marlow will talk on How to Care for your Orchids
March 1	TBA
April 5	
May 3	
June 7 or later	Picnic & Club auction
July & August	No Meetings
September 6	TBA
October	CNYOS Show and Sale at Beaver Lake
November 1	TBA



### *Scale Insects-Infestation and Control*

Now that our orchids are inside and close together, insect pests, especially scale insects can become a problem. High temperatures and humidity are congenial conditions for pests to multiply.

Out of all the pests of orchids, scale insects are probably the most

persistent and hence destructive. These insects infect orchids groups like Angraecums, Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, Oncidiums, Stanhopeas etc. Once any orchid gets infected, it is quite an uphill task to get rid of the pests.

### Indications of infection

- Presence of whitish, circular and translucent scales on the plant. There are three stages of development of the insect; egg, larva and adult. Eggs are protected under the scale covering formed by the female. Adult females are recognised by tiny whitish circular waxy scales. Immature males are white, while adult males are orange in colour.
- Male insects aggregate together to form a white cottony mass, which looks similar to an infection by mealy bugs.

### How do they spread?

- Crawling insects are blown by wind to healthy orchids. Closed environments like greenhouses, make orchids more susceptible. Sometimes, these insects fall down from overhanging infected orchids.
- Buying an infected plant.
- When an infected plant comes into physical contact with a healthy plant. If the orchids are kept in close proximity to each other, the insects can easily crawl from one orchid to another.

### Damaged caused by the insects

- Scale insects feed on cell sap.
- Scales cause circular patches of damaged tissue, forming necrotic (yellowish) spots on various parts of orchids.
- These can be quite damaging in seedlings and young plants; adult plants become weak and unstable. It takes orchids several growing seasons to recover. In case of serious infection, scales can even kill a fully grown plant.

### Controlling the insect infestation

- Prevention is always better than cure, so *regular inspection of the orchids* is an important step to keep these insects in check. As the name suggests, scales can occur anywhere on the infected orchid; from leaves to the roots. Check along the leaf veins, ridges/crevices on the stem or the pseudobulb. Sometimes, these insects hide away under the leaf sheaths.
- When buying, *always inspect the new plant thoroughly*. When you bring it home, keep it in isolation for sometimes. This period of quarantine is necessary to confirm whether the new plant is free of pests, or not.
- After emerging out from the protective white covering, scale insects are *effectively controlled when they start crawling*.
- You can manually remove the insects, by *rubbing with isopropyl alcohol*. Check the whole plant carefully, especially hidden or covered areas. Scales contain eggs, so remove each and every scale as well as female insects, where ever found.
- You can also *use the dishwashing detergent to wash out the insects*.
- Commercially available *insecticides* is another option. Before using the insecticide, check the usage instructions. Also check whether it can be used on orchids (ornamental plant) or not. Please be judicious in use of pesticide. Heavy application of pesticide is not only ineffective; it can also be harmful to insect populations which eat these scale insects.
- *Limonene*, a safe natural insecticide, is also effective in controlling scale insects. Recommended dosage is 1% full strength.
- It is better to *isolate or destroy* a highly infected orchid or an orchid which does not show improvement despite repeated applications of insecticides.

### Precautions

- When using alcohol, use only isopropyl alcohol, as other alcohols can do more damage than good to the orchid.
- After removing the insects, with any of the above methods, wash (to remove the chemicals) and dry the orchid and plant it in a *new potting medium*.

Sources: • Johnson, P.J. 2010. Biosduval scale on orchids. *Orchid Digest*, (July, Aug, Sept), 74(3): 170-177.

• Hollingsworth, Robert G. 2005. *Limonene, a Citrus Extract, for Control of Mealybugs and Scale Insects*. *Journal of Economic Entomology* 98(3):772-779. **Scent to Attract:**

### *Questions and Answers from the AOS Website*

**Q. Coconut Chips** I am having good luck growing my orchids in coconut chips. Should I be using a balanced (with a 1-1-1 ratio) fertilizer or a high-nitrogen fertilizer (3-1-1 ratio) as for fir bark? — **J. Jameson**

**A.** Coconut products are being used, both as chips and as a ground material that has a consistency like peat moss, as potting media for many genera. In discussions with several growers, notably Terry Root of The Orchid Zone, it seems that coconut-husk products are composed mainly, if not entirely, of lignin, rather than cellulose. Lignin requires many more steps to break down than cellulose, the main constituent of wood and bark products, and so would not appear to be subject to the same wood-rot bacterial action that is the reason higher-nitrogen formulas are required for bark culture. In other words, a balanced formula will be best. Coconut products have the added benefits of being a renewable resource as well as being the last remaining unused portion of the coconut. — **Ned Nash**

**Q. Psychopsis papilio** We have a beautiful *Psychopsis papilio* that we have owned for more than four years. It has six beautiful spikes and some are in bloom. I am concerned that it needs repotting but I am afraid I could damage or kill the plant. When would it be best to repot and what are the signs that *Pyp. papilio* needs repotting? — **Celine Migyanka**

**A.** I am not sure that there is one good answer for this particular plant. It is not the easiest to grow for most, but those who do well with it seem to do very well indeed, so you may be one of the lucky ones. The plants of this species that I see do best are disturbed least. Smallish pots with a long-lasting medium is the answer. Nor do you want to cut the old spikes, as they will continue to bloom. I would pot in the spring, through June, taking care not to damage the roots any more than is necessary. Keep on the dry side in a humid atmosphere for a week or two, or until new root growth is seen, then simply treat as you have been doing. Clearly, if you have been successful to this point, you have the right conditions for this plant. — **Ned Nash**

**Q. Meristemming Monopodials** Can a monopodial (vandaceous) orchid be meristemmed? If so, does it destroy the main lead? How do they perform the process for a prized or awarded vanda or renanthera with only one main stem? - **Randy Peterson**

**A.** Monopodial orchids are more difficult to meristem than sympodial ones and your chances of success are limited. You are correct that you would need the actively growing apical bud and, in most cases using vanda or renanthera, there is only one. If you remove that bud, there will be no new growth from that area. However, vigorously growing vandas and renantheras will often produce one or more keikis on the lower part of the stem. In six months or so, the keikis are usually large enough to remove and pot up. This is no different from taking an old, tall vanda and cutting the top 18 to 24 inches and potting it up. The remaining basal portion if left undisturbed in the original container will often produce keikis. This is an important way of propagating important cultivars. - **Tom Sheehan, PhD**

## Q. *Why are my orchid's leaves wrinkled and leathery?*



### A.

**This orchid has lost its roots, probably due to overwatering, and cannot take up water.**

Shriveled leaves indicate a lack of water to plant tissue. The next step is to determine why the plant is not getting sufficient water. First, look at the roots. If they appear a healthy white or green and are plump, and the medium is in good shape, suspect under watering, especially if the roots are white and

the pot is very light. If, on the other hand, the roots are in poor condition, suspect root loss. If the plant has no roots, it cannot take up any water, no matter how much you give it. In this case, the cause may be root loss owing to overwatering or medium deterioration, or a recently repotted and poorly established plant. The immediate solution is to raise humidity in the plants' vicinity to reduce stress on whatever roots there may be, and then deal with whether to repot or to simply wait until the plant establishes in the fresh medium.

## *Did You Know?*



Left: *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* 'Holly' HCC/AOS (syn. *Den. biggibum*)

In 1890 Frederick Sander ordered orchid hunter William Micholitz to New Guinea in search of a variety of *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* (then known as *Den. schroderianum*, now known as *Den. biggibum*) which was very coveted at he time. After suffering many difficulties he found himself a guest in a native village and was invited to watch a war dance. After awhile, he became bored and while walking about, stumbled across some ritual sacrifices. Feeling horrified and sick, he rushed towards the jungle where perched on the boughs of trees, *Den. phalaenopsis* was rediscovered. Large quantities were removed and readied for shipment to England. While en route, fire broke out on the ship and the precious cargo was lost. Ordered back to find more plants, Micholitz grudgingly returned to New Guinea and in June of the following year on some rocks in a small village, he once again found plants growing on bare limestone between a large number of human skulls and bones. After bribing the reluctant natives with trinkets he had brought from England for this purpose, every plant in the area was collected. Despite his promise

to Sander to not send any bones or skulls with his precious cargo, one plant attached to a skull arrived in England where it created quite a sensation when it was put up for auction.

Swinson, Arthur, Frederick Sander: *The Orchid King*, Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1970, pp. 103-106.

### *The Orchid Enthusiast*

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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  
Your local AOS and Orchid Digest Affiliate  
236 Lockwood Road  
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***January 2015 Issue – CNYOS Orchid Meeting January 4, 2 PM at the Church - Member Silent Auction***