

# THE ORCHID ENTHUSIAST

## The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

### 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 **two weeks** before the next meeting to: csmith23@twcny.rr.com

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### Membership Renewal Reminder

2022 Memberships - Dues are \$20 for individuals and \$22 for families.

Sue Finger  
CNYOS Treasurer  
127 Wadsworth Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

### ~ CNYOS 2022 Meetings ~

**Jan 9th - ZOOM** Speaker: Sarah Hurdel  
Topic: Habenarias

**Feb 6th - ZOOM** Speaker: Dr Leslie Ee  
Topic: Paph. venustum

**Mar 6th - In Person** Sue Finger will be getting assorted plugs and we will pot them up at the meeting. Bring appropriate pot. Variety TBA. Orchid bark will be provided (donated by Marlow's Orchids)

**April 3rd - NO MEETING** The GROS are planning to have their show on this weekend. Claudio Rossi of Cloud's Orchids will be speaking on Sunday the 3rd. Our Club members may attend.

**May 8th - In Person** Speaker: Art Chadwick  
Topic: TBA

Likely to be large-flowered Cattleya species. *He will be selling plants.* This is a date change from our usual so that we can share this speaker with our group of Thruway Societies.

**June 5th - In Person** Annual Picnic and Annual Auction of Member Plants and whatever we can get in donations from vendors.

**July or August** - No meetings as usual.

### REMINDERS:

~ Please mark your calendars so you don't miss out.

~ Updates will be done if needed in each newsletter.

~ There will be a *Show Table* in March, May, and June.

~ *Raffle Table* will only be in March.

~ Divide your plants in the spring or set aside any that you can donate for the June auction.

**Vendor List:**

Our auctions and shows have benefited greatly from the generosity of the following vendors. When shopping for new orchids and supplies, please check them out first!

- <http://www.andysorchids.com>
- <http://marlowsorchids.com> \*\*
- <https://www.kkorchid.com> \*\*
- <http://www.jlorchids.com>
- <https://www.mountainorchids.com>
- <http://www.fairorchids.com>

To contact OrchidPhile

[www.facebook.com/orchidphile](http://www.facebook.com/orchidphile) or  
[orchidphile@optimum.net](mailto:orchidphile@optimum.net) \*\*

[edgarstehli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edgarstehli@sbcglobal.net)

To contact Windswept in Time Orchids

<https://www.msorchids.net> \*\*

<https://carter-and-holmes.com>

<https://www.kalapanatropicals.com>

**\*\* denotes vendors at our show**

**Upcoming Webinars:**

*American Orchid Society: Register at [aos.org](http://aos.org)*

January 11, 2022 - 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

*Miltoniopsis - Judging the Pansy Orchid*

*Mark Whelan*

**(Member Only Webinar)**

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January 18, 2022 - 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

**Greenhouse Chat January 2022**

Ron McHatton

**(Open to All; submit questions by Jan 8th)**

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February 15, 2022 - 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

**Evolution of LED Lighting**

*Kelly McCracken*

**(Member Only Webinar)**

**Minutes:**

~ The meeting started with eating and socializing.

~ About 2:45 Jerry Finger called the meeting to order. He suggested that, since we don't have a President or VP, we should have an Executive Committee to oversee things. Jan Woodworth and Judi Witkin volunteered to join Jerry to form that committee. Ideas, questions, and suggestions can be submitted to them.

~ Treasurer's report read by Sue Finger and accepted:

Key Bank: \$4,689.06

Cash: \$416.50

Total Assets: \$5,105.56

~ Most of the speakers and programs are planned till next summer. This schedule was worked up by Sue Finger and Sarah Kelly. Sarah may be out of town at the beginning of 2022 and will not be continuing as VP so we need someone to take this over.

January: Zoom meeting 2pm - Speaker Sarah Hurdle will talk on Habenarias

February: Zoom meeting 2pm - Speaker Dr. Leslie Ee will speak on Paph. venustum

March: Repotting clinic using plant plugs

April: GROS orchid show - NO CNYOS MEETING. Members are invited to attend the show. (Claudio Rossi of Cloud's Orchids will be speaking on Sunday.)

May: Speaker - Art Chadwick on Cattleyas (coordinating with 3 other clubs so our date is not our usual)

June: Picnic/Member's auction

~ We presented our very lovely show table.

~ We finished the meeting with the raffle table.

~ Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Judi Witkin,  
Recording Secretary

## CNYOS Show Table: December 2021

### DAVID DITZ

Zygolum **Louisendorf grex** G  
 (Zygosepalum labiosum x Zygopetalum Artur Elle)  
 Cattleya cernua (Taiwan strain) G

### ANA FRANCO

Dendrobium Mini Snowflake  
 (aberrans x johnsoniae)  
 Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite 'Parkside' HCC/AOS  
 (Cal. Rozel x Phaius. tankervilleae)

### SUE & JERRY FINGER

Vanda garayi L/O  
 Vanda miniata L/O  
 Pleurothallis stricta L/Terrarium  
 Brassosteles Tarantula 'Sweet Orange' L/O  
 (Brs. aurantiaca x Bst. Summit)  
 Cattleya Crystelle Smith 'Gold Throat' AM/AOS L/O  
 (C. Beaufort x C. loddigesii)  
 Rhyncholaeliocattleya Little Circle L/O  
 (Rlc. Little Toshie x Rlc. Golden Circle)  
 Rhyncholaeliocattleya Doug George L/O  
 (C. Horace x Rlc. Delta King)  
 Rhyncattleanthe Martha Clarke L/O  
 (C. Circle of Life x Rth. Love Sound)  
 Rhyncattleanthe Love Avenue L/O  
 (Rlc. Waikiki Gold x Ctt. Rajah's Ruby)  
 Cattleytonia Sacramento Splash L/O  
 (C. Little Dipper x Ctna. Peggy San)

### DONNA COLEMAN

**Maxillaria** praestans  
 Goodyera pusilla  
 Dendrobium Lady Moon  
 (Swannie x Bellissima)  
 Bratonia **Charles M. Fitch**  
 (Brs. verrucosa x Milt. spectabilis)  
 Oncidium Kendrick Williams  
 (Onc. Autumn x Onc. Ray Buckman)  
 Brassidium Nittany Gold 'Dr. John' AM/AOS  
 (Brs. verrucosa x Onc. ghiesbreghtianum)  
 Rhyncattleanthe Burana Beauty 'Burana' HCC/AOS  
 (Rth. Netrasiri Starbright x C. Netrasiri Beauty)  
 Cattlianthe Big Time 'NN'  
 (Ctt. Loog Tone x Ctt. White Bridal)

### JAN WOODWORTH

Rhyncholaeliocattleya **Exotic Pink Sapphire** L  
 (Rlc. Loud Nine x C. Pat Thrall)  
 Cattleya Amethyst Star L  
 (C. Mini Purple x C. longipes)  
 Rhyncattleanthe Burana Beauty L  
 (Rth. Netrasiri Starbright x C. Netrasiri Beauty)  
 Rhyncholaeliocattleya Young Kong 'Sun' L  
 (Rlc. Green Fantasy x Rlc. Tassie Barbero)  
 Cattleya walkeriana L  
 Phragmipedium QF Maria L  
 (lindleyanum x dalessandroi)

Any changes in the names are in **BOLD** type.

Great plants for the show table!  
 Submitted by Susan Finger, Registrar

### Treasurer's Report: December 2022

Key Bank	\$ 4,697.51	includes dues deposited
Petty Cash	\$ <u>433.50</u>	includes donations & raffle table
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,131.01</b>	

~ Respectfully submitted,  
 Sue Finger, Treasurer CNYOS

~ Monthly Checklist ~  
**Orchid Care**

**AOS Monthly Checklist for  
 Jan/Feb**



## Noteworthy

Recently *Orchids* magazine has reinstated a **Question and Answer** column. It contains excerpts from the Greenhouse Chat webinars. Greenhouse Chat webinars address everything orchids, from culture to pests and diseases.

### *Habenaria rhodocheila*

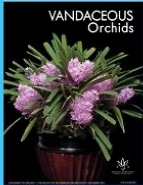
#### Question

I was given a plant of *Habenaria rhodocheila* in full bloom. It is a really beautiful orchid and I would like to see it bloom again next year. Now that the flowers have faded, how do I care for it? — **Captain G.P. Woodward**

#### Answer

Habenarias have been promoted as being among the most difficult orchids to grow. Yet if one pays particular attention to their general needs, they are actually one of the easiest. The most important key to their culture is watering. Asian species of *Habenaria* go through a definite monsoon-type growing season. They are developed from corms that go totally dormant in the parched soil of their native habitat, so parched that the soil is rock-hard and cracked. In the early spring, the rains soften the soil and spark the *Habenaria* into new growth. The plants are now kept in a constant state of wetness, growing at amazing rates until midsummer. At the point when the rosettes of leaves seem to be slowing down, this is the time to watch for emerging flower spikes from the center of the rosette. The plant should still be kept continuously moist until the last flower has fallen off. At this point, the plant must still be watered, but allowed to dry slightly between waterings. This is done because the plant is now producing new corms for next year's growth under the soil.

Now comes the hard part. When the foliage starts to become spotted and looks as if it is dying, stop watering the plant. Give no water at all. We put our awarded plants on top of an electrical service panel where it is guaranteed they will not receive any water, even accidentally. Repot in dry mix at this time. Then around February to March, take a look every week and see if anything is poking up through the top of the soil. If it is, water it. If not, put it back. An occasional misting by the middle of April can spark the plant if no signs of growth are present. *Habenarias* purchased as bare-root corms should not be planted until April, as the damp soil mixes will start growth and alter their growth cycle unfavorably. The preferred mixes are any of the soilless blends, such as Pro-Mix HP. — **Joe Palermo**



## AOS Orchid Culture Day

Pour Your Coffee and Prepare Brunch!  
Enjoy a Day with these Delightful Speakers

Explore the Virtual World of Vandaceous Orchids

SATURDAY, January 29, 2022  
Start Time 10 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)  
\$30 USD

Building on the 2021 Bodacious Vandaceous Orchids Magazine Supplement, this is an opportunity to learn more about the VANDA family of orchids. Tune in to presentations by four distinguished speakers.

- 1) **Kim Fedderson** from *Fair Orchids*: Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids at Home
- 2) **Jason Fischer** from *Orchids Limited*: The Culture & History of *Vanda falcata* (formerly *Neofinetia*)
- 3) **Bob Fuchs** Pres. of *RF Orchids*: The Latest Trends in Vanda Hybridizing
- 4) **Brenda Oviatt** from *Botanica Ltd.*: Angraecoids - Conservation and Culture

**ORCHIDPRO** the AOS awards database, is available at no extra cost to members. A digital version is included with every AOS membership. You have access to the same program that the judges use at monthly orchid judging. Visit often to view quality and outstanding culture in orchid awarded orchids. **AOS Awards & Judging**

~ For the Novice... Why Do You Grow the Orchids You Grow? ~  
~ by Sue Bottom

### Now It's Habenarias

Has your taste in orchids changed over time? When you first start growing orchids, you buy everything in sight, all you know is that you need more, more! Cattleyas are my enduring favorite, the incredible flowers, the fragrance, perhaps that's why most of the benches and overhead poles are filled with them. But then you go to an orchid show and see something that you simply can't live without.

In the beginning it was phalaenopsis. When we were living in Houston, the Houston Orchid Society was a phalaenopsis club thanks in part to Bill Tippitt's breeding of multifloral phals. It was an exciting time for phalaenopsis, the hybridizing for yellows was in its heyday and the harlequin phals had just been introduced. How can you not love phals with their long lived graceful blooms?

Then one day Stephen Moffitt gave a presentation to the Galveston club about catasetums, so naturally I started growing them. What is easier than a plant that requires no winter care during its dormancy but grows like mad in the summer? Add Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids into the mix with all his beautiful and fascinating hybrids and there are new wows to tempt you every year.

Next there was the vanda phase, so many colors, sizes and shapes! After that it was the ephemeral stanhopeas. That addiction started with a *Stanhopea grandiflora* that bloomed 8 times in one year, can you spell hooked? It took a bit of observing how others succeeded with theirs and some trial and error until I could reliably rebloom them and by then I had almost two dozen different varieties. After that came the African angraecoids in their white and green glory, the dendrochilums with their chains of miniature flowers and... well, you get the idea.

Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries had some *Habenaria medusa* seedlings for sale when he came to talk to our club and I had seen pictures of this oddity and thought, why not? When it bloomed, it was love at first sight and the hunt was on for more. There have been many enablers along the way, including Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids on the east coast and Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids on the west coast and several in between. Before the year was over, there were about two dozen habenarias in the greenhouse, orchids that grow from tubers and require a dry dormant winter.

That's how I found myself outdoors on a cold January afternoon with all these dead looking plants figuring out how I was going to repot them so they'd come back to life in the spring. The trickiest part is keeping the tuber oriented so the shoot end is pointing up and the root end is pointing down, easier said than done in that one end looks pretty much like the other. I think I made the wrong decision on one or two of them last year. For the similarly afflicted, this is what I have gleaned from reading about them and talking with other orchid growers.

**Pot Selection.** First, look for deeper standard size pots rather than azalea or bulb type pots. Don't use peanuts at the bottom of the pot because that's where the tubers will want to form. Use smallish pots, if you think you're slightly underpotting, you've probably chosen the right pot.

Continued on page 6...

...**Why Do You Grow the Orchids You Grow?** Continued from Page 5

**Potting Mix.** Most folks suggest using either sphagnum moss or Pro-Mix HP as your potting mix. I opted for a Pro-Mix HP/sponge rock mix and top dressed with a little sphagnum moss so the soilless mix wouldn't wash out of the pot. If you use sphagnum, make sure you have the AAA grade, otherwise find a good soilless mix. Next year I may try a few in straight sphagnum moss packed tightly enough that the plants will stand up without support.

**When to Repot.** After flowering, the vegetation starts to brown and the plant begins to enter dormancy. The tubers are still growing and storing energy for next year's growth so just limit your watering until the plant dies back. Don't be in any hurry to remove the dead top vegetation from the pot because that will help you orient the tubers properly during the repotting process.

**Tuber Orientation.** If you just knock the plant out of the pot and clean away the old potting mix like you would with other orchids, you'll find yourself saying oops, which end is up? The first time repotting, I held the tubers in my hand oriented top to bottom from depotting through repotting, to make sure they didn't get turned around. Often you can tell there is a pointy end from which the shoot grows that should be oriented up when you repot. But if you can't tell which end should be up, hedge your bets and lay the tuber sideways.

**Then You Wait.** Once your tuber is happily ensconced in its dry new home, put the pot someplace where it won't accidentally get watered. You have to wait until the tuber breaks dormancy and sends up a new shoot and then you can begin watering. If there is no new growth when all your other orchids have spring fever, you can give your *Habenaria* an occasional sip to encourage it to start growing. Once it has a few inches of height, give it copious amounts of water and fertilizer during the growing season because like your other winter dormant orchids, it has to cram 12 months of growing into 7 or 8 months. In the fall the bloom spikes will emerge from the center of the plant, get ready for the show!

Orchid growers go through all sorts of trials and tribulations learning how to grow one type of orchid and then when they finally figure it out, they decide to start growing a different type of orchid. It is probably natural that our taste in orchids evolves over time. After all, if you look back at your recipes from several years ago you realize your ingredients and techniques have morphed over time... though you must be careful not to admit to a Louisiana native that you are now adding beans to the gumbo!

*Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera. They are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society's website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Editorial Board.*  
[sbottom15@hotmail.com](mailto:sbottom15@hotmail.com)

The original article with complete photo layout can be found here: [ORCHIDS Magazine](#)

### **Central New York Orchid Society**

The Central New York Orchid Society meets at St. Augustine’s Church, 7333 O’Brien Rd, Baldwinsville, at 2:00PM on the first Sunday of each month from September through June except for January and September (date moved to second Sunday because of national holiday weekends).

Website: <http://cnyos.org>

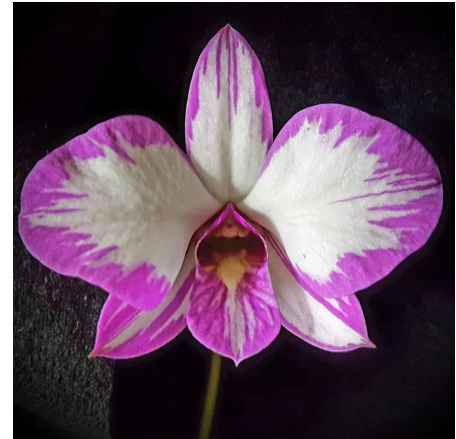
#### **Directions to St. Augustine’s Church:**

<http://www.cnyos.org/directions.html>

### **CNYOS Facebook Page:**

If you have not checked out our Facebook Page, you can search “Central NY Orchid Society” on Facebook or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/CNYOS/>



**Reminder: Be sure to “Like” our page!**

### **Central New York Orchid Society**

#### **Executive Committee:**

*Jerry Finger*

*Jan Woodworth*

*Judi Witkin*

#### **Treasurer:**

Sue Finger (315) 247-8980

### **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.

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