

# 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:

Correction:

The source of the plants for our Dickman Farms sale was incorrectly identified in the last issue of the newsletter. Our thanks and apologies to Black Meadow Orchids.

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## From the Editor:

This will be last Orchid Enthusiast of the season. The next one will be out in late August to announce the first meeting of the new season.

Remember that that meeting will be the second Sunday in September, because of Labor Day.

There will be a special meeting on August 2, with a show table and raffle. Bring as many plants as possible for mini sessions involving everyone in how to set up a display, mock judging, and a talk on how to set up a show and prepare your plants.

**Next Meeting: Sunday, June 7 at 2:00 PM at the church.**

**It's the end of the season picnic !**

Bring a dish to pass. Drinks and utensils will be provided by the club.

There will be a members' auction, so bring all those surplus divisions you have made, and all those plants that don't want to bloom for you. You can split the sales price with the club, or contribute it to the club's meager coffers. Remember that all plants must be pest and disease free.

Unexpectedly, there will be some vendor plants at the auction also. At the May meeting we auctioned off a box supposedly containing a humidifier. However, when it was opened by the purchaser, it contained a number of orchids. The vendor had just used the box as a shipping container.

## President's Message

We had a very successful raffle at our May meeting. I don't have the exact number, but it was good. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Next we have our annual members picnic. It will be held in the usual place, the church at 2PM. Please bring a dish to share. It doesn't have to be anything big but we're trying to see if we can get a more balanced rather than dessert heavy menu. Last names beginning with the letters A-P please bring a main course dish. The remainder should bring a dessert. The club will provide drinks, plates and utensils.

Don't forget to bring the abundance of your orchid beauties for the show table. This is one of the premiere ways to learn about how others are growing their plants. Providing your cultural methods of success to the club gives great practical advice that will help others. It inspires others to try things they might otherwise think is out of their reach to grow.

We will be doing a silent auction for all things orchid related. Remember you can choose to receive up to 50% of the winning bid or you can donate the proceeds to the club. Orchids brought for the auction should be without pest or disease. You wouldn't want a plant with pests or disease neither does anyone else. In addition, plants that are rootless or desiccated should not be brought. It's too much to ask someone to pay for something that's 'iffy' at best. Give it away to someone up for a challenge or turn it into compost. Hopefully you

can provide a nametag that is readable or at least put the name on a piece of tape attached to the pot. Whenever possible flower pictures and cultural requirements should be provided.

We are researching exactly when Jim Marlow's Open House will be so that we can carpool to the event. We'll keep you updated as we get the info.

June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3:30pm will be the Oriskany Herb and Flower Festival. If you'd like to participate in the event please contact Rick Braue by email (orchidmajor@aol.com). Rick has generously given his time at this event for a number of years. We have a couple of volunteers already so jump onboard if you'd like to help.

Hope you can all come to the picnic and silent auction.

Tom Daily

### ***Treasure's Report***

Balance as of 5/3/09	\$2327.41
Net inflows/outflows 1/1/09 –5/3/09	\$ -367.97
Dickman Farms Profit	\$ 34.90

### ***Dues***

It's **overtime** for paying your CNYOS dues for 2009. They are \$20 per person, or \$22 per family. Send your check made out to CNYOS to Carol Haskell, 102 Wynthrop Rd. Syracuse 13209, or pay at the auction.

### ***Events Calendar***

June 7	CNYOS Picnic 2PM at the church
June 13	Jim Marlow Open house
June 27	Oriskany Herb & Flower Festival
July 25-26	Trip to Montreal including the Montreal Botanical Garden sponsored by the Bonsai Society of CNY. For further information call 585-872-0382
August 2	CNYOS Meeting – 2PM at the Church – Everyone will have a chance to set up a practice show display, there will be mock judging, and someone will give a talk on how to set up a display, and groom plants beforehand. Bring your blooming orchids!
September 13	First CNYOS meeting of the new season
October 2-4	CNYOS Show and Sale at Beaver Lake

### ***STOS Show***

The Southern Tier Orchid Society held its Spring Show and Sales on April 24-26 and CNYOS was well represented. Thanks to Jan Woodward and Donna Coleman for setting up our display. Congratulations to Iris Cohen for winning "Best in Show" and being awarded 85 points for her Paph. venustum 'Expose Yourself' AM/AOS (Picture and cultural notes are at end of Entry listings)

Congratulations also to Tom Daily for winning another award for Den. senile 'Mary Ann' AM/AOS – the Jim Kee Award for Best Plant Grown Under Lights

<i>Entry</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Award(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
<i>Paph venustum fma measuresianum 'Expose Yourself' AM/AOS</i>	<i>Iris Cohen</i>	<i>AM/AOS 85 points</i>	<i>CNYOS</i>
		<i>Best Species in Show</i>	
		<i>Best in Paphiopedilum Alliance #1 - 017</i>	
<i>Exhibit</i>	<i>STOS</i>	<i>AOS Show Trophy</i>	<i>STOS</i>
		<i>Best Exhibit</i>	
<i>Lpt bicolor</i>	<i>Dave Clemens</i>	<i>Best in Cattleya Alliance #1 - 006</i>	<i>STOS</i>
<i>Zns Cynosure 'Blue Birds'</i>	<i>Mariane Garceau</i>	<i>Best Hybrid in Show</i>	<i>Black Meadow</i>
		<i>Best in Cymbidium Alliance #1 - 014</i>	
<i>Paph Xanthophyllum 'Paula' AM/AOS</i>	<i>Luis Matienzo</i>	<i>AM/AOS 83 points #1 - 019</i>	<i>STOS</i>
<i>Phal Spring Silk</i>	<i>Michael Kauffman</i>	<i>Best in Phalaenopsis/Vanda Alliance #1 - 033</i>	<i>Main Street Orchids</i>
<i>Den senile 'Mary Ann' AM/AOS</i>	<i>Tom Daily</i>	<i>Jim Kie Award - Best Plant Grown Under Lights #1 - 043</i>	<i>CNYOS</i>
<i>Den Roy Tokunaga</i>	<i>Paul Sheetz</i>	<i>Best in Dendrobium Alliance #1 - 042</i>	<i>Just Pat Orchids</i>
		<i>Best Plant Grown in a Greenhouse</i>	
<i>Onc Issaku Nagata</i>	<i>Mariane Garceau</i>	<i>Best in Oncidium Alliance #1 - 045</i>	<i>Black Meadow</i>
<i>Masd coccinea 'San Bar's Carmine Beauty' HCC/AOS</i>	<i>Pete O'Connell</i>	<i>Best in Pleurothallid Alliance #1 - 052</i>	<i>STOS</i>
<i>Stereochilus dalatensis</i>	<i>Paul Sheetz</i>	<i>Best in Botanicals #1 - 062</i>	<i>Just Pat Orchids</i>
<b>Other Blue Ribbon Winners (all above won 1<sup>st</sup> in class)</b>			
<i>Exhibit</i>	<i>Paul Sheetz</i>	<i>Class 004</i>	<i>Just Pat Orchids</i>
<i>Epi hybrid</i>	<i>Mariane Garceau</i>	<i>Class 007</i>	<i>Black Meadow</i>
<i>C. schilleriana 'Anyara' HCC/AOS</i>	<i>Paul Sheetz</i>	<i>Class 008</i>	<i>Just Pat Orchids</i>
<i>Sc Park Ridge</i>	<i>Mariane Garceau</i>	<i>Class 009</i>	<i>Black Meadow</i>
<i>Sc Irene Finney</i>	<i>Mariane Garceau</i>	<i>Class 010</i>	<i>Black Meadow</i>
<i>Slc Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'</i>	<i>Pete O'Connell</i>	<i>Class 011</i>	<i>STOS</i>
<i>Lc Fire Dance 'Patricia'</i>	<i>Greta De Rocher</i>	<i>Class 012</i>	<i>STOS</i>
<i>Epi congestioides</i>	<i>Paul Sheetz</i>	<i>Class 013</i>	<i>Just Pat Orchids</i>
<i>Cym Dancing Mother 'Kotone' AM/AOS</i>	<i>Paul Sheetz</i>	<i>Class 016</i>	<i>Just Pat Orchids</i>
<i>Paph Night Wing 'Gordon's Black Night' AM/AOS</i>	<i>Paul Sheetz</i>	<i>Class 020</i>	<i>Just Pat Orchids</i>
<i>Paph Russian River</i>	<i>Paul Sheetz</i>	<i>Class 022</i>	<i>Just Pat Orchids</i>
<i>Phrag (Grande x caudatum)</i>	<i>Michael Kauffman</i>	<i>Class 024</i>	<i>Main Street Orchids</i>
<i>Phrag Jason Fischer</i>	<i>Judi Witkin</i>	<i>Class 025</i>	<i>CNYOS</i>
<i>Aergs articulata</i>	<i>Tom Daily</i>	<i>Class 027</i>	<i>CNYOS</i>
<i>Phal bastianii</i>	<i>Charles Ufford</i>	<i>Class 028</i>	<i>CNYOS</i>
<i>Phal Timothy Christopher</i>	<i>Donna Coleman</i>	<i>Class 030</i>	<i>CNYOS</i>
<i>Phal Hybrid</i>	<i>John Zygmunt</i>	<i>Class 032</i>	<i>STOS</i>
<i>Phal Lawless Trovatore</i>	<i>LuAnn Myers</i>	<i>Class 035</i>	<i>STOS</i>
<i>Dtps Abed-nego</i>	<i>Greta De Rocher</i>	<i>Class 036</i>	<i>STOS</i>
<i>Phal Maysang Black Boy 'Peng-Bo Little Panda'</i>	<i>Iris Cohen</i>	<i>Class 039</i>	<i>CNYOS</i>
<i>Brassia Rex 'Christine' AM/AOS</i>	<i>Ken Lattimore</i>	<i>Class 046</i>	<i>STOS</i>
<i>Oda Irene 'Mamaw'</i>	<i>Mariane Garceau</i>	<i>Class 047</i>	<i>Black Meadow</i>
<i>Milt In the Pink 'Veluptuous'</i>	<i>Mariane Garceau</i>	<i>Class 048</i>	<i>Black Meadow</i>
<i>Trpla marginata</i>	<i>Charles Ufford</i>	<i>Class 049</i>	<i>CNYOS</i>
<i>Mclna Pagan Love Song 'Chocolate Thunder'</i>	<i>Mariane Garceau</i>	<i>Class 050</i>	<i>Black Meadow</i>
<i>Specklinia tribuloides</i>	<i>Donna Coleman</i>	<i>Class 056, 057</i>	<i>CNYOS</i>
<i>Lyc comballii</i>	<i>Paul Sheetz</i>	<i>Class 058</i>	<i>Just Pat Orchids</i>

Zga Dynamite 'Robyn' x Dynamo 'Splasher'	Pat Bonamo	Class 063	STOS
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## *Paph. venustum* 'Expose Yourself' AM/AOS



*Paph. venustum* is one of the easiest orchids to grow and is recommended for beginners. I have had a jungle collected specimen for 35 years, but it is sometimes touchy & hard to bloom. The awarded plant is the result of line-breeding and is much better behaved. However, I can't grow it into a large specimen. Every time I repot it, pieces detach themselves. There are several owners of divisions in CNYOS. Be sure you add AM/AOS to your label.

This strain was bred by the Wellensteins of Antec Laboratory. I was fortunate to acquire it in trade in 1995. It blooms almost every year.

*P. venustum* is a low-light plant from the Himalayan foothills. It grows cool to intermediate and may require a winter rest. My line-bred plant does not require a rest. These plants grow under fluorescent lights in the winter & outdoors in the summer. This species may do well on a windowsill but I have never tried it. Although they like being outdoors, they must be kept in the shade. They are very susceptible to sunburn. They do not like tapwater. During the winter, I use only water from the dehumidifier or rain water. If there is not enough rain during the summer & they are watered too much from the hose, the roots suffer.

I grow orchids in an old-fashioned bark mix with charcoal, perlite (pumice), and tree fern when I can get it. Watch out for soggy growing medium. I repot every other year.

It is very important to lower the light level when buds are forming in these Paphs. Crippled flowers or excessively short stems are caused by too much light. When I see buds starting in the center of the plant, I move it to the outer corner of the shelf with the highest fixture.

I try to fertilize weekly. Paphs. require very dilute fertilizer. I rotate among several different kinds, including a fish emulsion-seaweed mix, but I usually feed the Paphs. & similar orchids with the leftover, highly diluted food from last week with a lot of water added. Essentially, they often get diluted fertilizer with every watering.

*Iris*

## MAY SHOW TABLE

Please note all names and abbreviations in boldface. Kindly update your records with registered names or parents.

### Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Phrag.</i> Ecu-Bess ( <i>ecuadorensis</i> × <i>besseae</i> )*	Lloyd
<i>Paph.</i> Doctor Jack ( <i>concolor</i> × <i>niveum</i> )	Witkin
<i>Paph.</i> Marilyn Hanson ( <b><i>delenatii</i></b> × <i>stonei</i> ) (see OrchidWiz screensaver)	Woodworth
<i>Paph.</i> <i>haynaldianum</i>	Capella
<i>Paph.</i> Limelight ( <i>Maudiae</i> × <i>Chiara</i> )	Cohen
<i>Paph.</i> <i>venustum</i> fma. <i>measuresianum</i>	"

### Cattleya Alliance

<b><i>Guaritanthe</i> (<i>Gur.</i>) <i>aurantiaca</i></b>	Witkin
<b><i>Guaricattonia</i> (<i>Gct.</i>) <i>Renate</i></b> ( <i>C.</i> Frenchy's Cheek-La × <i>Guaritonia</i> Why Not)†	Braue
<i>C.</i> Bonanza ( <i>Bracey</i> ) × <i>Orglade's</i> Glow (?)§	Woodworth
<i>Rl. glauca</i>	Capella

### Vandaceous

<i>Dvra.</i> Hawaiian Delight ( <i>Phal.</i> Barbara Moler × <i>Dvra.</i> Hawaiian Rainbow)	Woodworth
<i>Phal.</i> Sogo Champion (Golden Sun × Super Stupid)	"
<i>Dtps.</i> I-Hsin Wild Fancy ( <i>Phal.</i> Chimei Buddha × <i>Dtps.</i> Leopard Prince)	"
<i>Phal.</i> Ming-Hsing Yellow Boy (Brother Lawrence × Sogo David)	"
<i>Phal.</i> Maysang Black Boy (Sunrise Red Peoker × Timothy Christopher)	Cohen
<i>Sed. japonica</i> ‡	Ditz

### Oncidium Alliance

<i>Onc.</i> Twinkle ( <i>ornithorhynchum</i> × <i>cheirophorum</i> )	Cohen
<i>Brsdm.</i> Longlen ( <i>Brs. arcuigera</i> × <i>Onc. leucochilum</i> )	Capella

### Miscellaneous

<i>Masd.</i> Angel Fuzz (Peach Fuzz × Copper Angel)	Weller
<i>Masd.</i> Angel Tang ( <i>veitchiana</i> × <i>tonduzii</i> )	Leet
<i>Pol. pubescens</i>	Witkin
<i>Pelexia decorata</i> (?)	"
<b><i>Pths.</i> <i>scurrula</i></b>	"
<i>Cym.</i> unknown§	Capella
<i>Max. variabilis</i>	Braue (?)
<i>Den. oligophyllum</i>	Braue

### Correction from April

<i>Aërgs.</i> <i>Rhodotrata</i> ( <i>citrata</i> × <i>luteoalba</i> [var. <i>rhodosticta</i> ])	Galson (?)
<i>Aërgs. luteoalba</i> × <i>punctata</i> (unregistered)§	Capella

\*Although the taxonomists consider *ecuadorensis* a synonym of *P. pearcei*, the RHS registrar prefers to keep it separate at present. There are subtle differences between *Phrag.* Ecu-Bess and Olaf Gruss (*besseae* × *pearcei*).

†See previous entry.

‡The genus name *Sedirea* is an anagram of *Aërides*, from which it was segregated. This is a common device of taxonomists.

§There is no registered grex by the name you gave, or the grex name does not match the parents. Contact your supplier.

Note: Because of recent taxonomic changes, especially in the *Cattleya* alliance, many grexes have been moved from one genus to another, resulting in a flood of duplicates. To distinguish them, the hybridizer's name or year of registration is added as part of the grex name. See *Cattleya* Bonanza (*Bracey*) above.

Iris Cohen

If you have any questions, you can always call 461-9226 or e-mail [iriscohen@aol.com](mailto:iriscohen@aol.com).

## ***May - Finally!***

Ron McHatton – AOS Director of Education

I've titled this May – Finally! for two reasons. First, the obvious, it's finally May, now actually late May, and in virtually all parts of the country the weather by now has stabilized and it's safe to summer your orchids out-of-doors. If you don't and grow in windowsills and under lights, I strongly urge you to try it. There's something clearly rejuvenating about the natural humidity and air movement you get outside that can't really be simulated indoors (see more below in Orchid Basics: Humidity and Air Movement). The other reason for the title is that this newsletter is finally out! A tight travel schedule and significant technical problems have made for a trying month.

I have a couple of things I'd like to discuss this month. First, take advantage of the summer growing season. This is the time of the year to really push your plants to put on the best possible growth they can manage. Fertilize regularly and give plants plenty of light. Move plants outside and let them take advantage of the natural humidity and air movement. I know many greenhouse growers who actually almost empty out the greenhouse this time of the year – just remember that it all has to go back inside at some point and the natural tendency is to accumulate plants. While fertilizer is one of those subjects best not discussed in polite company (we'll have more in a later newsletter), it is true that the more dilute your fertilizer, the more often you can apply it. Many of the most successful growers apply a very dilute (1/8 strength or even lower) fertilizer solution every time they water with only an occasional pure water flush.

Don't worry about afternoon and evening rain when your plants are outside. It won't, unless really excessive, hurt them. If you think about it, it makes sense. When does it rain in the tropics? Not in the morning unless it's been raining all night. The natural cycle is much like the summer pattern in much of the country. The mornings are clear, humid and relatively cool and as the day progresses and heats up, the air becomes more unstable until the afternoon rains come and cool it down again. Even if it doesn't rain, clouds or fog in the late afternoon and evening hours are common. Since most of the orchids we grow are really tropical, it's this cycle they are adapted to. When it rains in the late afternoon and evening, the roots stay moist longer allowing them to absorb more of the available moisture. So why do all the books say water early in the day so plants are dry by evening? Because the books are written for greenhouse and indoor culture and that's remarkably different. Under closed conditions, air movement is restricted and fresh air is less available and wet plants are then more susceptible to disease. The bottom line is, if you grow outside, watering in the late afternoon and evening is beneficial and you'll see the difference in your plants.

Know the conditions you have to offer and choose plants that will thrive under those conditions. It's usually much easier to find plants adaptable to what you have to offer than to modify your available growing space to grow particular plants, especially if you are growing in the home. That's not to say that you can't successfully grow cool-growing orchids in the hot parts of the country – people do it all the time, but it's certainly more difficult. It's like the sign on the road alerting you to a 25mph curve ahead. Can you take that curve at 50mph – maybe, but you'll work a lot harder than you would at the posted speed. I know one particular grower who grows *Miltoniopsis* in Tucson, cooling the growing area with heat pumps and another who successfully grows vandas in Washington state. That's like growing *masdevallias* in Florida. The further from optimum conditions for a particular plant, the greater the stresses will be and just because you find something for sale in the marketplace doesn't mean it's easy to grow or flower in your area. As an example, if you like cymbidiums and live in a place where you can't easily provide the cool late-summer and early-fall nights the large-flowered group need to flower well, chose plants derived from the smaller flowered species which have more warmth tolerance. If you have difficulty maintaining humidity or not a lot of room, traditional vandas may not be the best choice (note I didn't say "don't grow vandas" – don't let anyone tell you that you can't grow something,

just keep your eyes open) but smaller-growing ascocendas you can grow in pots might be a good substitute. One of the Collector's Items below is *Dendrobium kingianum*, an Australian species with the need for dry, cool winters. If you can't provide that, you'll grow a beautiful shrub but never see it flower.

Don't let your failures get you down. We all learn by our failures and don't forget that, no matter how long we may have been growing orchids, we are all in some way or another, beginners. If you've been successfully growing under lights and have a new greenhouse – you're a beginner. If you've been a phal kind of person and are now trying cattleyas – you're a beginner and so forth. Find and join your local orchid society. There's no better way to meet and talk with growers who share your local growing conditions.

***Dendrobium kingianum*** (Grower Todd's experience, as reported on orchidboard.com)



Orchid culture books often state that *Dendrobium kingianum* (recently re-classified as *Thelychiton kingianum*) is an easy orchid for beginners. Many orchid growers would disagree. Any orchid is easy if given the proper conditions, but the proper conditions for *D. kingianum* are not our typical household or greenhouse conditions.

*Dendrobium kingianum* was my very first orchid, given to me in 1988 by a local orchid grower. This grower got little from the plant in terms of flowers but did get plenty of keikeis. So a few keikeis were passed to me. At the time I was having great success with African Violets and this gardening friend said I should have no

problems growing orchids. And thus the addiction began!

My keikeis grew gang-busters and by the following fall the plant was in a 3.5" pot. I grew the plant in an unobstructed east window.

The minimum winter temperature was about 60 F with days around 70 F. The fall and winter came and went, but no flowers. Not to worry, many orchids take a year or two to settle down and start blooming. The next fall, the plant, now in a 5" pot, produced 7 spikes! However, when the spikes were 2" long, the buds started to drop. In the end I had only 4 individual blooms. The flowers remained open for 2 months and were delightfully fragrant, smelling to me like Johnson's Baby Powder.

I later read that in their native habitat of eastern Australia, this orchid blooms mid-winter after a cool, dry autumn season and during this rest they may actually be exposed to near freezing temperatures! So perhaps my growing area was too warm. The following late September I placed my plant in a sunny, west-facing basement window. My basement is unheated and is the area where I grow my cool-loving Cyclamen. The night temperature in that window was about 50 F with days under 65 F. At this stage I only watered my plant every 2-3 weeks. By mid-December the night temperatures were down to 38 F and the days were only 50 F. I lost 3 leaves to frost where the leaves were touching the glass! However, at this stage, the plant had the beginnings of 15 spikes! I then brought the plant back upstairs and placed it an east window where the night temperatures were about 55 F and days about 65 F. Regular weekly watering resumed. The spikes rapidly elongated and by late January I had a total of 54 blossoms. The fragrance filled the entire living room each afternoon.

## *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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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, with beginner's session at 1:30 pm, right before the regular meeting.

**The Central New York Orchid Society**  
**Your local AOS and Orchid Digest Affiliate**  
**236 Lockwood Road,**  
**Syracuse, NY 13214**

***June 09 Issue - Picnic: Sunday, June 7, 2009 at 2:00 PM***  
***At the Church***