

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society
affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Volume 10: Issue 3 March 2008

Editor's Note

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Eva Galson will be the next editor of the *Orchid Enthusiast*. This issue is a joint effort of Charles and Eva, but with the April issue Eva will fly solo. Any suggestions for improvement of the newsletter, ideas for articles, or pictures and graphics should be sent to Eva at egalson@twcny.ny.com, or phoned in at 315/446-0224

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Next Meeting: Sunday March 2 at 2 PM. This will be our Biennial Mounted Orchid Clinic.

By this time, members have had a chance to contact Charles Ufford to pre-order from a number of orchids provided by Andy's Orchids of Encinitas, CA. As for past clinics he has sponsored, Andy is providing us with a wide selection of orchids at reasonable prices.

When you get to the meeting, you must pay for your plants by seeing the treasurer, Carol Haskell, before you pick up your plants. If you have ordered plants and cannot attend the meeting, get in touch with Carol to make payment and pick-up arrangements.

During the meeting, experienced CNYOS members will teach the rest of us the basics of mounting orchids. Mounts, wire, and moss will be provided, and tools will be available, but bring any extra pliers, twine, filament etc which you may have.

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Jeff Stuart in the April 2004 *Orchid Enthusiast* on the occasion of that year's Mounted Orchid Clinic:

Why mount orchids in the first place? Most orchids are epiphytes –they are air plants, deriving their nutrients and water from rain, mist, the air, and dust. In nature they are found clinging from trees, growing atop rocks, hanging from cliffs, and on occasion, growing terrestrially. Orchids are often found covering trees along with bromeliads and other epiphytes to such an extent that the branches are barely visible. *As amazing as this may seem, they are seldom, if ever, found growing in pots!* How orchids grow in nature gives us clues as to how to grow them in our homes; epiphytes need a nice buoyant atmosphere with plenty of light and air circulation that allows the roots to dry. So, in a sense we are growing many of our orchids in a very un-naturalistic manner. Most orchids like to get wet and to dry off quickly, otherwise rot may occur. The convenience of growing in pots is balanced by the need to repot them once the medium starts to sour which can adversely affect the roots by cutting off their air supply. This problem is eliminated by mounting. Furthermore, they are displayed much more naturalistically, and never need to be repotted!

In another article in the April 2004 *Orchid Enthusiast* (which can be accessed from the CNYOS website), Jeff describes a light box that he built to keep his mounted orchids hydrated and illuminated.

Minutes of the CNYOS Meeting of February 3

First thing - a correction to the January 6, 2008, minutes: John

Bradley, not Monica Kot, conducted the January business meeting. My apologies to both John and Monica. I didn't confuse you. I just take bad notes!

Secondly - before the business meeting began, Dolores Capella told me she had volunteered to serve as co-vice president with Charles. Thanks to Dolores. Monica opened the meeting at 2:12 PM by welcoming two new visitors to our meeting.

1. Monica reminded all that the 2008 club dues are now past due. She noted that Carol Haskell, our Treasurer, would be glad to accept everyone's check.
2. Our club is planning a field trip to Bloomfield's Orchids on either March 15 or March 16. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the meeting and members interested in the trip were asked to indicate which date they preferred. We need a minimum of six members total for the trip to be scheduled. Whichever day is chosen, interested members would meet at St. Augustine's Church at 10AM on the chosen day to car pool to Rochester.
3. Charles Ufford is looking for a volunteer to handle the printing of the hard-copy newsletters that are sent through the mail. Please contact him if you are interested.
4. Refreshments for the club meetings are covered until September 2008. Monica sent a sign-up sheet around for the fall meeting refreshments. Barbara Weller noted that she was mistakenly listed as "Barbara Wheeler" for the May refreshments.
5. Carol Haskell presented the secretary with her Treasurer's Report. The club's balance as of February 3, 2008, is \$3,373.18. The January Silent Auction brought in \$192.00.
6. Charles asked that members think about fund-raising activities to help with program expenses. With the rising cost of gasoline, finding good speakers has become more difficult.
7. Monica reviewed upcoming show and gardening events:
 - GROS (Genesee Region Orchid Society) will be holding their show on April 4, 5 and 6. Show setup will be Thursday, April 3. We need a volunteer to setup our club display at this show, as Judi cannot take that day off from work this year. We also need volunteers to help with setup and with teardown (on Sunday, April 6).
 - The STOS (Southern Tier Orchid Society) is scheduled for April 25, 26 and 27, with setup on Thursday, April 24. We need a volunteer to set up the club display at this show as well. The show will be held at the Oakdale Mall in

- Johnson City. Sign-up sheets for volunteers to set up the club display and help with setup and teardown for both the GROS and STOS show were circulated.
- Iris reminded everyone to pre-register their plants with her for both the GROS and the STOS show.
 - Finally, there will be an Orchid Show at the Sonnenberg Gardens, Canandaigua, New York, on March 7 through 9. Information can be found on Sonnenberg's website at <http://www.sonnenberg.org>.
 - Dickman Farms Greenhouse and Garden Center will be holding their Va Va Bloom Garden Show March 28 through 30. Judi will be at the show, selling plants for the club. Kim has ordered the sales plants but will not be at the show due to a prior commitment. Cheryl Lloyd said she would help Judi at the sales table that weekend. The show is described on the Dickman Farms website at <http://www.dickmanfarms.com>.
8. Monica closed the meeting by thanking Dorothy Brock and Lori Hoffman for the great meeting refreshments and welcoming our guest speaker, Gary Stensland, who described how he creates his beautiful, award-winning miniature displays

Pat Cotter, Secretary, 2-5-08

Miscellaneous Business

2007 and 2008 CNYOS dues are now due, and should be paid to treasurer Carol Haskell. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual or \$17.00 per family. Anyone who has not paid their 2007 dues has been dropped from the mailing list.

Kim Boronczyk has orchid supplies for sale. Please contact Kim at 315/455-7587 to find out what she has available and can bring to the next meeting

FEBRUARY SHOW TABLE

Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or **complete** records, including parentage and new registrations. Next time you present the plant, include name and parents.

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph. venustum</i>	Coleman
<i>Phrag. besseae</i> 2 plants	Ufford
<i>Paph.</i> World Exile x Parsifal	Bradley
<i>Paph.</i> Greensuds (Susan Tucker x F.C. Puddle)*	Witkin

Cattleya Alliance

<i>C. intermedia</i> forma alba	Capella
Brassophronitis (Bnts.) Morning Glory (<i>B. nodosa</i> x <i>S. purpurata</i>)	Coleman
Bnts. Yellow Bird (<i>B. nodosa</i> x Richard Mueller)	"
Epi. centropetalum	"
<i>Rhynitanthe</i> Cherub (<i>Gur. aurantiaca</i> x <i>Rhn.</i> Trinket)	Cohen
<i>Nla. pulchella</i>	Lloyd

Vandaceous

<i>Phal. tetraspsis</i>	Ufford
<i>Phal. schilleriana</i>	
<i>Dtps.</i> Fusheng's Glad Lip (<i>Phal.</i> Be Glad x <i>Dtps.</i> Mount Lip)	Cohen

Oncidium Alliance

<i>Wils. Kendrick Williams</i> (<i>Autumn</i> x <i>Oda. Ray Buckman</i>)	Coleman
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Pleurothallid Alliance

<i>Stelis trichostoma</i>	Witkin
<i>Stelis</i> <i>cyripedioides</i>	"
<i>Platystele ovalifolia</i>	"
<i>Rstp. chocoensis</i>	Daily
<i>Pths. eumecocaulon</i>	"
<i>Masd.</i> sp.	Coleman

Dendrobium Alliance

<i>Den. aberrans</i>	Capella
<i>Den.</i> Hiroshi Tokunaga (<i>Dawn Marie</i> x <i>infundibulum</i>)	Coleman
<i>Den. speciosum</i> var. pedunculatum	Lloyd
<i>Den.</i> Pixie Charm (<i>Yellow Chinsai</i> x <i>unucum</i>)	Cohen
<i>Den. senile</i>	Daily

Miscellaneous

<i>Smithiantha</i> 'Mellow Yellow' (Gesneriaceae)	Coleman
<i>Ddc. ecallosum</i>	Braue
<i>Ddc. exile</i>	Capella
<i>Stenia calceolaris</i>	Witkin
<i>Coel.</i> sp.	"

Miniature conservatory

Arpo. giganteum

*In plant hybrids, the opposite of animals, the seed parent is always given first.

Iris Cohen

Stensland

Ditz

March Cultural Calendar – Phalaenopsis

(the following is abstracted from an article by Ned Nash in the AOS Bulletin of March 1995)

The orchid type voted most popular in the 1993 AOS demographic survey was phalaenopsis. No doubt the vast proliferation of plants available in easily accessible venues at reasonable prices has caused these orchids to eclipse the once ubiquitous cattleya. There are more phalaenopsis available than before, and the numbers are growing. This has led to many hobbyists being introduced to the world of orchids by phalaenopsis.

It goes beyond their simple availability, though. Unless the group had an intrinsic worth as a potted plant, if it were not quick and easy to grow, bloom and distribute, commercial growers would not grow them. The same attributes that make these an attractive product for the commercial grower, make them popular for the home grower. They thrive in typical home conditions, are lovely in bloom, last for weeks, and are relatively easy to rebloom. When people find out how easy phalaenopsis are to maintain, the word “orchid” no longer frightens them.

Enjoy phalaenopsis which will be at the height of their blooming season in March. Spikes will need staking. For best display stakes should be no longer than the first flower, so the natural curve of the stem shows to best advantage. Feeding is necessary when plants are in flower. Watering needs will begin to increase with the lengthening days, as well as the extra demands placed on the plants by their mass of blooms.

Quickly growing spikes and flower buds attract sucking pests. By the time flowers open infestation is difficult to treat without damaging blooms. Be on the alert for pests and treat early as needed. Flowers that have been on the plant for a long time are especially prone to pest problems. If there are any scale or mealy bugs hidden on the plant, they will eventually find their way to the succulent blooms. Examine those flowers carefully, and remove if necessary, before treating the plant.

Bud drop is sometimes a problem on developing spikes. Bob Gordon of Laid-Back Publications answered a question about this problem as follows:

More than likely, the plant was not strong enough to maintain several flowers in bloom at once. Sometimes an immature plant will maintain several flowers in bloom at once, and not having the strength to do so, will have the whole flower spike wilt. In this case, when other things are normal, the plant will bloom near its full potential during the next blooming cycle. Flowering is enormously taxing for a plant. It requires nearly all the plant’s energy potential, and for this reason, should be terminated when half the flowers have come and gone. Cut the spike off above an undeveloped node, and enjoy it in a vase while the plant is resting up for the next flowering effort.

Though last year’s spikes can rebloom, some experts recommend removing all old spikes immediately after bloom to conserve the plant’s energy.



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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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CNYOS website: <http://www.cnyos.org>

,The Central NY Orchid Society 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

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March Issue – Meeting Sunday , March 2d

March Meeting: 1:30 pm Beginner's Session – Open

Regular Meeting: 2:00 pm Mounted Orchid Clinic