

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Page 1 Volume 13: Issue 9 May 2011

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

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It's time to renew your membership!
Individuals \$20
Family \$22

Send check to:
Carol Haskell, Treas.
102 Wythrop Rd
Syracuse NY 13209

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 1 at 2:00 PM at the Church.

It's time for our fabulous orchid auction again!

Here is your chance to pick up some great orchids at bargain prices.

A special items will be included in the main auction:

The latest version of OrchidWiz, the orchid encyclopedia and data base, which ordinarily retails for more than \$250. We successfully raffled off a copy of this software last year, and we have a new copy this year.

There will be no show table or raffle table at this meeting. Guests are welcome, but will be charged \$5.00, unless they join the club at the meeting.

Come early to pick up your bidder number and look over the available plants, so we can start on time!

Show Committee

Since this is the last formal meeting of the year (except for the picnic), there will be a meeting of the Show Committee to discuss what has been accomplished so far and what needs to be done over the summer to get ready for our Show and Sale in October. The meeting will be at 1:30 before the regular meeting. I will bring some sign-up sheets so members can sign up for some of the volunteer duties required for a successful show.

President's Message

Exciting times now for everyone. Looks like soon we'll be getting our plants outside, at least some of the cool growers. Even though it did snow today that doesn't depress me because it will disappear faster than ever.

A great time was had by all who attended the Rochester show. Personally, we came back with about 20 plants I think and quite a few are species. Some species have a certain intrigue for me but mostly I like the hybrids since so many great crosses are out there and the requirements for culture can be a little less daunting.

We've been very busy getting ready for our auction on May 1st. Some plants are in my hot little hands already. We hope to have a list of the plants available in the auction at least a few days ahead of time but most certainly on the day of. This holds a lot of promise for a great day with orchids, so be sure to put it on your calendar and bring a friend.

Sue

GROS Show



CNYOS Exhibit at GROS

The GROS show was a success for CNYOS. Many thanks go to the dedicated members who contributed their plants, and to Jan, Judi, and their helpers who set up our display which won:

2d Place for Best Orchid Society Exhibit of more than 15 plants. (The Niagara Frontier Orchid Society got 1st place this year)

In addition, the following members won ribbons for their plants:

Iris Cohen

Paph. barbatum 3d

Sue & Jerry Finger

Ret. Haw Yuan Glory 2d

C. Lory Ann 2d

Den. Pink Klang 3d

Phal. Brother Gemstone 2d

Phal. Brother Green Bamboo x Brother Sara Gold 3d

Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' 1st

Pyp. Pisgah Forest 1st

Msd. variabilis 'Dick Stone' 3d

Jan Woodworth

Bc. Hoku Gem 3d

Paph. Lyro Blackhawk 3d

Paph. Warmest Regards 3d

Dtps. Unknown 3d

Dtps. KV Charmer 2d

Phal. Laurel Blau 2d

Judi Witkin

Cyp. parviflorum var. pubescens 2d

Donna Coleman

Den. Nora Tokunaga 3d
Den. Aussie's Chip 1st
Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 3d
Dtps. Fangtastic Mariana Myers 'Sweetheart' 1st
Phal. Isis 2d
Phal. Timothy Christopher 'Snowflake' 3d
Ots. (syn. Odm.) Geyser Gold 1st
Msd. variabilis 'Dick Stone' 2d
Macodes petula 1st

Eva Galson

Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 3d

Charles Ufford

Mexipedium xerophyticum 1st
Phal. stuartiana 2d

Congratulations to all the winners!

STOS Show

Our club will also have a display at the Southern Tier Orchid Society (STOS) which will take place at the Oakdale Mall, Center Court, at Exit 70N off Route 17 in Johnson City. Set up is Thursday, May 5 starting at 2PM. Judging will be on Friday morning, and the show is open to the public on Friday, Saturday 10AM to 9PM and Sunday starting at 11AM, with take down at 4PM. Register your plants a week before the show with Iris Cohen iriscohen@aol.com or 461-9226. If you have paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture or other media they are welcome at the show. Our display will be set up by Jan Woodworth and Judi Witkin. Plants can be dropped off at Judi's or at my house 236 Lockwood Road, Syracuse

CNYOS Meeting April 3, 2011

There was no meeting, since only a few of us met in the sunshine in the parking lot of the church before car pooling to GROS in Rochester.

Refreshment Volunteers

May	1. Pat Cotter	2. Barbara Weller
June	Spring Picnic	Everyone Contributes
July & August	No Meetings	
September	1. David Ditz	2. ??

Events Calendar

May 1 CNYOS Meeting: Orchid Auction
May 1 African Violet Society Show & Sale 10-4, Beaver Lake Nature Center
May 6,7,8 STOS(Southern Tier Orchid Society) Show & Sale (set-up May 5)
June 4 Trip to Piping Rock Orchids
June 12 CNYOS Picnic
July & August No Meeting
September 11 CNYOS Meeting: Jerry Fischer of Orchids Ltd. Of Minnesota
October 1-3 CNYOS Show and Sale
November 6 ??
December 4 Holiday Covered Dish Party- Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids will give a talk

Treasurer's Report

Assets	
Cash Account	137.00
Key Bank	3197.31
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$ 3334.31
Year to Date Net Inflows Outflows 1/1/11 – 4/3/11	\$ 28.52

Carol Haskell, Treasurer

May - Finally!

Ron McHatton - Director of Education AOL (2009)

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 on 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.

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, 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 *phalaenopsis* 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.

Collector's Item



Dendrobium kingianum

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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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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***May 2011 Issue – CNYOS Meeting May 1 at the Church.
Vendor Orchid Auction***