

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest
Page 1 Volume 14: Issue 1 September 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:
egalson@twcny.rr.com

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

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

Next Meeting: Sunday June 11, 2011 - Lecture by Jason Fischer, the son of the Proprietor of Orchids Limited of Minnesota

Remember that this meeting is the second Sunday in September because of Labor Day

Orchids Limited began in 1978 as a very small orchid nursery specializing in mail order and retail. They have since expanded to five orchid greenhouses...each with its own special climate. From their continually evolving stud collection they propagate select forms of species, new and old. They strive to create new directions in orchid hybridization.

Plants can be preordered from Jason and will receive a 10% discount, and there is no shipping charge. Preorders must be received by September 7. Go to their website www.orchidweb.com for details and plant lists.

Since Jason will be selling plants, we will not have a raffle table, but be sure to bring your blooming orchids for the show table.

President's Message

Summer's not officially over yet but September sure is getting here quicker than I'm ready for. I hope everyone had a great summer season as it's winding down.

It's time to start watching the night time temps to protect our orchids that are living outside.

Our September meeting is shaping up and looks like a good time to get back in the groove. Bring your flowering plants for the show table or maybe pictures of what we missed that has bloomed earlier.

I hope to see you all there enjoying the return of all your orchid friends.

Sue Finger

Visit to Piping Rock and CNYOS Picnic

Five of our members took the trip to Piping Rock Orchids on June 4, and had an enjoyable time in spite of the heat. There was an informative talk on orchids by Gold Country Orchids, as well as fabulous food and great orchids for sale.

A week later we had our summer picnic at Honey Goshorn's home. Andre and Michel presented a slide show, and good food and good company were enjoyed by

JUNE SHOW TABLE

Please note all names, accent marks, and abbreviations that are in boldface.

Kindly **update your labels** with registered names or parents. Bring the information to the show table next time.

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph.</i> Judge Philip (<i>philippinense</i> × Pinocchio)	Witkin
<i>Phrag. pearcei</i>	Lloyd

Cattleya Alliance

Bc. Keowee (<i>C. Lorraine Shirai</i> × <i>B. nodosa</i>)	Finger
<i>Rct.</i> Haw Yuan Glory (<i>Rlc.</i> Love Call × <i>Ctt.</i> Kauai Starbright)	"

Oncidium Alliance

<i>Mtdm.</i> Goliath's Spire (<i>Onc.</i> Wildwood × <i>Milt. spectabilis</i>)	Witkin
Oncidopsis (<i>Oip.</i>) Nelly Isler (Stefan Isler × <i>Mps.</i> Kensington)	Finger
<i>Pyp.</i> Pisgah Forest (Mendenhall × Memoria Bill Carter)	"
Oncostele (<i>Ons.</i>) Wildcat (Rustic Bridge × Onc. Crowborough)*	

Vandaceous

Micropera thailandica	Witkin
Dtps. Taisuco Micky (<i>Phal.</i> Golden Peoker × <i>pulcherrima</i>)†	Finger
Dtps. Chian Xen Mammon (Chian Xen Pearl × Mount Beauty)†	"
<i>Phal.</i> KV Charmer (Salu Peoker × Taida Pearl)	"

Dendrobium

<i>Den.</i> Pam Tajima (<i>eximium</i> × <i>atroviolaceum</i>)	Finger
<i>Den.</i> Aussie's Chip (<i>aberrans</i> × <i>atroviolaceum</i>)	"
<i>Den. antennatum</i>	"

Miscellaneous

<i>Bcs. kalbreyeri</i>	Witkin
Mormolyca richii	"
Specklinia grobyi	Finger

*Contact me for a full explanation.

†The genus *Doritis* has been eliminated and is now included in *Phalaenopsis*, but the hybrid database has not changed it yet, which will be a monumental undertaking.

Iris Cohen

If you have any questions, you can always call 315-461-9226 or e-mail

[mailto:iriscohen@aol.com?subject=Show Table](mailto:iriscohen@aol.com?subject=Show%20Table)

CNYOS Show and Sale

The CNYOS Show and Sale will be held October 1st and 2d with set-up on Friday, Sept 30. The show committee has been hard at work arranging for the judges, the other clubs, and publicity, but we need the help and participation of all the members to make the show a success. We need volunteers to help Iris with registering the plants, set up and take down the show, clerk for the judges, help vendors bring in their materials,

monitor the show, man the front desk, put up publicity posters in available venues such as libraries and grocery stores, bring food for those working at the show, etc. And of course we need all of you to bring your blooming orchids to win prizes and make out display outstanding.

Sue Finger will pass around the sign-up sheets for the show at the September meeting, so please sign-up and help to make our show a success. If you won't be at the meeting and want to volunteer for a task, e-mail or call Nancy Loveland: (315) 638-4741, nloveland@twcny.rr.com

Events Calendar

September 11	CNYOS Meeting Jerry Fisher of Orchids Ltd. Of Minnesota
October 1-2	CNYOS Show and Sale (Set-up Sept 30)
November 6	TBA
December 4	Holiday Covered Dish Party – Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids will give a talk
January 8	Member Auction

Collector's Item: Cattleya maxima Lindl.

the late Isaias M. Rolando, PhD, unravels the history of *Cattleya maxima*



Cattleya maxima 'Crownfox Delicado' AM/AOS

During the Virreynato del Peru expedition, Hipolito Ruiz, Jose Pavon and Joseph Dombey collected *Cattleya maxima*. This trio comprised the first botanical group assembled to document the native plants for the famous Flora Peruviana et Chilensis and arrived in Lima April 8, 1778. For 10 years they traversed the surroundings of Tarma, Huanuco, Cuchero and Pozuzo in the rainforests of central Peru. However, they never explored the areas of Quito and Loja, in Ecuador. While in Peru, Ruiz and Pavon started to train a third Spanish botanist, Juan Jose Tafalla, to carry on their exploration. Beginning in June 1785, and continuing until his death in 1811, Tafalla followed in Ruiz and Pavon's footsteps, collecting plant material and sending it to Spain. In May 1799 Tafalla set off to explore Loja, where he remained and collected for 10 years. After the French occupation in 1816, Ruiz died in Madrid, and difficult times forced Pavon to start mailing drawings and plant herbaria of the Peruvian expeditions to London. .

As stated in *Lindenia*, Aylmer B. Lambert acquired this botanical material and showed the herbaria to Dr. John Lindley, who concluded that a plant collected by Juan Tafalla in the Andes near Guayaquil, Ecuador, was a new

Cattleya. Lindley had established the genus *Cattleya* in honor of Sir William Cattley in 1821, and described three species - *Cattleya labiata* (1821), *Cattleya loddigesii* (1823) and *Cattleya forbesii* (1823) - before

publishing *Cattleya maxima* in 1831.

By 1842 explorer Hartweg had sent live plants of *C. maxima* to the Royal Horticultural Society in London. In 1866 the search for this species was resumed when Linden dispatched explorer Gustav Wallis to the region between Rio Tumbes and Rio Huancabamba. Wallis obtained plants that were sent to Linden's nursery in Brussels.

Two distinct forms of *C. maxima* - the "lowland type" and the "upland type" - occur (Withner, 1988). The elevations of the habitats range from 330 to 6,000 feet (100 to 1,800 meters) above sea level. The lowland type occurs near Guayaquil in the Pacific Coastal areas near this Ecuadorian port. Vegetatively it is "...gigantic compared to other cattleyas" (Withner, 1988). It stands 28 inches (70 cm) tall and is larger than any of the *Cattleya labiata* group. The number of quite-floppy-and-small flowers rendered in soft colors ranges from 12 to 25. In contrast, the upland form is similar in size to members of the *Cattleya labiata* complex. Four to six very dark 6-inch (15-cm) flowers are borne in a cluster.

Except for *Cattleya aurea*, *C. maxima* is the only *Cattleya* that grows on the Pacific side of the western slopes of the Andes in an extended area ranging from Peru northward through Ecuador and Colombia; it also occurs in Venezuela. In Peru it is called Flor de Navidad, Christmas Flower (Withner, 1988).

HYBRIDS



Cattleya maxima 'Crownfox' AM/AOS

In 1859 the famous orchid firm of Veitch and Sons registered the first *Cattleya* hybrid, and one of its parents was *C. maxima*. Named *Cattleya Dominiana* (*maxima* x *intermedia*), it honored John Dominy who first obtained orchid hybrids from seeds. This same firm registered other *C. maxima* hybrids in the last decades of the 19th century: *Laeliocattleya Amesiana* in 1884 (x *Laelia crispa*), *Cattleya Chlois* in 1893 (x *bowringiana*) and *Cattleya Vestalis* in 1899 (x *C. dowiana*). According to Sander's List of Registered Orchid Hybrids, there were 22 primary and three secondary *C. maxima* hybrids registered prior to 1925. No *C. maxima* hybrids were registered between 1925 and 1960. Since then through 1990, however, 15 *C. maxima* hybrids were registered.

According to Ernest Hetherington (1985), bifoliate cattleyas impart the shape of their lips to their progeny when hybridized with unifoliate cattleyas. However, it seems this is not the case with the monofoliate *C. maxima*. Hybrids within the genus *Cattleya*, such as *Cattleya Coloramax* (x *bicolor*), possess a *C. maxima*-like lip, as do intergeneric hybrids, such as *Brassocattleya Fuchs Star* (x *Brassavola nodosa*).

There are special horticultural characteristics to anticipate in future hybrids. *Cattleya maxima* (upland type) has been observed growing outdoors in California, Florida, Guayaquil and Lima, sometimes in full sun. We have grown *C. maxima* where it receives cool nights 40 F (5 C) and full sunshine, which suggests *C. maxima* possesses the ability to adapt to many climates, and, therefore, can be cultivated in a diversity of environments.

Well-grown plants produce two growths each year. Combining *Laelia anceps* hybrids with *Cattleya maxima* might yield improved orchids for growing outdoors where temperatures dip to freezing. Although the fragrance of *C. maxima*'s flowers is unremarkable, there are a few clones of the upland type that do perfume the air of a small greenhouse in the morning.

COLOR FORMS

- var. *alba* There are two Ecuadorian forms. One was exhibited at the Guayaquil International Orchid Show in 1988. There is a Peruvian variety not yet presented at any show, but we have a previous record of another Peruvian alba form at the Botanical Garden of Heidelberg (Dr. Senghas, personal communication).
- var. *coerulea* One of the most beautiful *coerulea* forms was exhibited at the 1991 Guayaquil, Ecuador orchid show where it received an AM/AOS (86 pts.). This *C. maxima* 'Hector', AM/AOS, was raised by Padre Angel M. Andreetta. The flowers are spaced for an attractive presentation.
- var. *concolor* An Ecuadorian form with a lovely pure soft rose color and no veins in the lip, but with the usual yellow vein in the middle of the lip. white sepals and petals. There are no colored veins inside the lip, which is pigmented a soft rose color.
- var. *semi-alba* From the highlands of Ayabaca, this form is published here in color for the first time. There is one division of the plant in Dr. Sergio Oliveria's collection (Sao Paulo, Brazil), from which he will prepare the botanical description.
- var. *superba* From the uplands of Northern Peru. The shape of the flower is similar to the upland type but the flower reaches 9 inches (22 cm) in good growing conditions. This cultivar has been selfed and the seedlings are healthy.
- var. *venosa* This has the type colors of the upland variety, but with dark venation in the petals. Without a doubt, the future appears bright for *C. maxima* - the greatest cattleya - whose true beauty is only now beginning to be appreciated.

ReferencesHetherington, Ernest. 1985. The bifoliate cattleyas - 1 - purples, pinks, and whites. *Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull.* 54(10): 1210-1219. Withner, Carl. 1988. *The Cattleyas and Their Relatives: Volume I, The Cattleyas*. Timber Press, Portland.

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Tobacco Mosaic Virus and Orchids

Unlike bacteria or fungus infection, a virus attack on an orchid plant can be deadly. One of the viruses that can infect your orchids includes the Tobacco Mosaic Virus Disease (TMV). Found on about 150 different kinds of plants, the TMV can enter your orchid's system and hinders its metabolic process. It can lead to your plant not being able to grow normally because its process of utilizing the nutrients has been compromised. As the name indicated, once your plant is infected with this virus, it can create leaf wilting and formation of mosaic patterns on the leaf and can sometimes create blisters.

Smokers are advised to carefully wash their hands before handling plants in green house or in home environment. Once a plant is suspected of being infected, it is best to isolate the plant or to destroy it in order to save the rest of your orchid collection and other houseplants you may have.

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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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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.

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September 2011 Issue – A Presentation by Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited