

GUEST SPEAKER: JANICE HANSON OF WHITE RIVER ORCHIDS ON *BULBOPHYLLUMS*

What the heck is that???

Is it a bizarre, unique, and beautiful orchid? Or is it somebody's idea of an April Fools' joke? Well, as we're all aware, orchids come in all shapes and sizes. And the orchid genera of *Bulbophyllums* and *Cirrhopetalums* contain among the most unusual and bizarre flowers in the entire world of orchids. Our cover illustration is not an April Fools' joke, but the magnificent *Bulbophyllum polystictum*.

For our April meeting, this Sunday, April 1ST—April Fools Day!—at 2:00^{PM}, CNYOS will host Janice Hanson as our guest speaker. Janice is the proprietor of White River Orchids in Buckley, Washington, and this Sunday she will introduce us to the world of *Bulbophyllums* and *Cirrhopetalums*, two very unique and diverse families of orchids. She has been a commercial orchid grower for almost six years, specializing in *Paphs*, *Phrags*, and *Bulbophyllums*. *Bulbophyllums* are the second largest orchid genus, second only to *Dendrobiums*. At least 1200 species exist, and can be found in all of the tropical and subtropical parts of the world. Hobby plants include *Stanhopea*,

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Gongora and *Lycaste* species, as well as *Cattleyas*. Janice does her own hybridizing in *Paphs* and *Phrags*, and sells mini compots in addition to flasks and individual plants; she'll be bringing a selection of orchids to sell to members. Her web page can be found at www.whiteriverorchids.com. Anyone wishing to order in advance can do so by e-mailing her at orchids@wolfenet.com. CNYOS will be taking Janice out to dinner after the meeting (see page 4 for details).

MARCH MEETING: RON OLCOTT ON PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR ORCHIDS

The Central New York Orchid Society was pleased to have Ron Olcott from the Syracuse Camera Club & the Beaver Lake Nature Photo Group as the guest speaker at our March meeting. Ron discussed the finer points of photography, including depth of field, print vs. slide film, and lighting conditions. In an impressive demonstration, Ron handed around examples of identical prints developed by several different local shops—the color composition of each set of prints was dramatically different, despite being from the same negatives. Slide film is much more dependable and accurate in color reproduction. Ron also gave some very helpful advice on how to compose our photographs, and showed some beautiful examples of his own work. After the meeting, several members took Ron out to dinner at the Fireside Inn.



Ron Olcott speaking to the club at the March meeting on the finer points of photography.

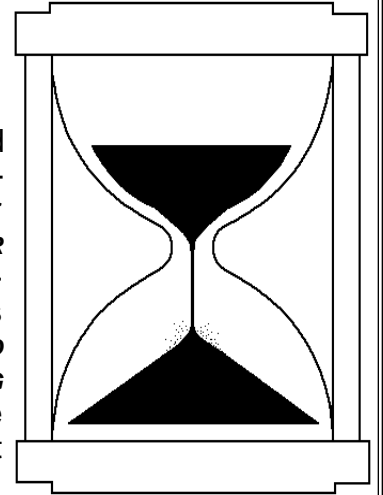
1. The first part of the meeting was a discussion of the Flower and Garden Show that was well documented in the March supplemental newsletter.
2. The trip to Jim Marlow Orchids is scheduled for 3/31/01; all those interested should meet in the Church parking lot by 11:00^{AM}. Let David Ditz know if you are planning to attend.
3. The April speaker, Janice Hanson of White River Orchids, will be bringing plants to sell.
4. The plants from the Hoosier Orchids order will be shipped when the weather is better.
5. Dianne Bordoni volunteered to take over handling the supplies. The OFE order has arrived.
6. Thanks to Nancy Powell and Barbara Weller for the refreshments.
7. There is to be an Orchid Jubilee in Columbus, Ohio April 25-29, 2001.
8. We need to update our library books; the club voted to contribute \$100/year for new books. Suggestions will be discussed 4/01/01. There was discussion of possibly sending our old AOS Bulletins to Peru.
9. Christine Lowell is missing a book.
10. We need refreshment people for our June meeting.
11. Our speaker today is Ronald Olcott speaking on photography.

**Respectfully submitted, Barbara Weller
CNYOS Secretary**

Photo Credits, Page 1 (*Bulbophyllum polystictum*), Page 4 (*Bulbophyllum echinolabium*, *Cattleya aclandiae*), & Page 6: The Orchid Photo Page, maintained by Greg Allikas, <http://www.orchidworks.com/>

WARNING! Pay Your Dues!
Final Notice: Time has almost run out...

At the March Meeting of the Central New York Orchid Society it was voted that all members who have not renewed for 2001 will be cut from the mailing list after the April newsletter. Check your status on the mailing label for this issue. **IF THE CODE BESIDE YOUR NAME SAYS M2K, YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES AND YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE MAILING LIST AS OF MAY.** If your mailing label reflects an incorrect code, please contact Jeff Stuart as soon as possible. M01 reflects a paid status. **ANY NON-MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THREE OR MORE COURTESY MAILINGS WILL ALSO BE REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST.** Annual club dues are \$15.00 per person or \$17.00 per family, payable to CNYOS. Dues should be mailed to CNYOS Treasurer Elinor Burton, at 301 Sherbrooke Rd., Manlius NY 13104.



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CNYOS CALENDAR

- March 31** **CNYOS trip to Jim Marlow Orchids.** See Page 11 for details.
- April 1** **Special guest speaker, Janice Hanson of White River Orchids** in Buckley, Washington will speak on those weird and wonderful *Bulbophyllums* and *Cirrhopetalums*.
- April 6-8** **New York International Orchid Show,** The World Trade Center Winter Garden, New York, NY. Contact: Carlos Fighetti, 325 Piermont Rd., Closter, NJ 07624, (201) 767-0621.
- April 20-22** **Genesee Region Orchid Society Show,** Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, NY. Contact: Mark Gillette, 5190 Beam Hill Road, Marion, NY 14505.
- April 27-29** **Southern Tier Orchid Society Show,** Oakdale Mall, Harry L Drive & Reynolds Road, Johnson City, NY. Contact: Patricia Bonamo, 808 Echo Road, Vestal, NY 13850, (607) 748-5314.
- May 6** Special Guest Speaker, **Milton Carpenter, President of the American Orchid Society** and proprietor of Everglades Orchids (<http://www.evergladesorchids.com/>). Details to be announced.
- June 10** **Annual CNYOS Spring Auction.** Note change of Month!.
- September 11** **Guest speaker, Howard Ginsburg:** Proprietor of *Bedford Orchids* (Montreal, Quebec, <http://www.bedfordorchids.com/>) and AOS Judge (regular at the CNYOS Show). Howard specializes in *Phalaenopsis* hybrids and will discuss new trends in hybridization of perhaps the most popular of all orchids. **Meeting will be on a Tuesday evening!**
- September 14-16** **CNYOS Fall Show & Sale at Shoppingtown Mall in DeWitt.**

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Phrag. Saint Peter</i> (Eric Young x <i>longifolium</i>)	Ditz
<i>Paph. sukhakulii</i>	"
<i>Paph. Yoko Kojima</i> (Conco-bellatulum x <i>sukhakulii</i>)	Bordoni
<i>Paph. villosum</i>	Stuart
<i>Paph. insigne</i>	"
<i>Paph. exul</i>	"
<i>Paph. philippinense</i>	"
<i>Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice</i> (<i>longifolium</i> x <i>sargentianum</i>)	"
<i>Paph. exul</i>	Kot

Cattleya Alliance

<i>C. maxima</i>	Capella
<i>Lc. Mari's Song</i> (Irene Finney x <i>C. Cherry Chip</i>)	"
<i>Lc. El Cerrito</i> (sic) x <i>Bc. Daffodil</i>	Weller

Vandaceous

<i>Dtps. Quevedo</i> (<i>Phal. Fairy Tales</i> x <i>Poco's Play Fest</i>)	Bordoni
<i>Phal. Gold Tris</i> (Taipei Gold x <i>equestris</i>)	"
<i>Phal. celebensis</i>	Ufford
<i>Phal. mannii</i> (sic)	"

<i>Dtps. Blessed</i> x <i>Zuma White Puff</i>	Ditz
<i>Phal. Golden Gift</i> x <i>Dtps. Rendezvous</i>	"

Oncidium Alliance

<i>Mtdm. Issaku Nagata</i>	
(<i>Onc. leucochilum</i> x <i>Onc. fuscatum</i> [syn. <i>Milt. warscewiczii</i>])	Capella
<i>Onc. Maple Hollow</i> (Tafsan x <i>Private Stock</i>)	Bordoni
<i>Odm. unknown</i>	Stuart

Pleurothallid Alliance

<i>Dryadella zebrina</i>	Stuart
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Miscellaneous

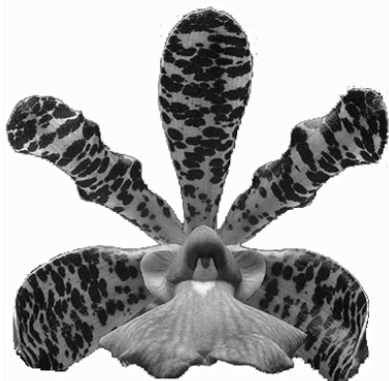
<i>Ctmds. Painted Desert</i> (Rebecca Northen [sic] x <i>Morm. sinuata</i>)	Capella
<i>Den. Memoria Margery Ummer</i> (Nagasaki x <i>Yukidaruma</i>)	Ditz
<i>Den. kingianum</i>	"
<i>Den. unknown</i>	Kot
<i>Den. Jasmine Curtis</i> x <i>Walter Oumae</i>	"
	Iris Cohen



JOIN US FOR DINNER AT LOCK 24 AFTER THE MEETING...

CNYOS will be taking our April speaker, Janice Hanson, out to dinner at **Lock 24** after the meeting. Members are welcome to attend at their own expense. If you would like to join us, please contact club president Dave Ditz by Saturday, March 31ST so he can make reservations on Sunday (635-8148).

Missing Clone Name: Iris Cohen would like to contact the person who put divisions of a *Miltonia* on the raffle table at the Christmas party. The plant is *Milt. Tropic Dawn* (*Cogniauxiae* x *Minas Gerais*). Phone 461-9226, e-mail iriscohen@aol.com.



S O N N E N B E R G O R C H I D S H O W

April 7 - April 15
 Daily: 10:00^{AM} - 5:00^{PM}
 \$4.00 for Adults and Children over Twelve
 151 Charlotte Street
 Canandaigua, New York 14424
 Call (716) 394-4922 for details.

Orchids for sale by **Sonnenberg Gardens, Ellenberger's Orchid Eden, Marlow Orchids, & Fernwood Manor Orchids.**
 Orchid Growing Supplies Books and T-Shirts Potting Demonstrations

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS...

CLUB REMINDERS

Orchid-Growing Supplies are now available, including fir bark, sphagnum, sponge rock, charcoal, and 40W fluorescent tubes. Call Rich Groll for details on pricing and availability.

The **CNYOS Club Library** is now located at St. Augustine's church. Make arrangements with Dianne Bordoni if you want to borrow an item from the Library.

***DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR
BLOOMING ORCHIDS FOR THE MONTHLY
SHOW TABLE!!!***



Phalaenopsis bellina (violetaceae), photograph by Vagisha Sharma, with digital enhancement by J. Stuart.

STOS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY

Due to the Easter holiday, no regular meeting is scheduled for April. Our show this year is April 26 - 29, and a show planning meeting is scheduled for April 22..

Monthly meetings begin at 2:00^{PM} in the Vestal Public Library. For directions, etc. call STOS president Dave Clemens at 570-879-4244 or e-mail him at <clemens@epix.net>.

GROS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE GENESEE REGION ORCHID SOCIETY

GROS will have its annual show from April 20-22.

For the April meeting, GROS will host Janice Hanson of White River Orchids speaking on *Bulbophyllums*, second only to *Dendrobiums* in genus size. A commercial grower for 6 years, she also grows a wide selection of slipper orchids, as well as a few *Lycastes*, *Stanhopeas*, *Gongoras*, and *Cattleyas* in her collection. She will be bringing plants to sell at the meeting.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 23, No. 8, April 2000, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

April	Dave & Jackie Churchill, Jen Wilson
May	Dolores Capella & Ken Renno
June	Need Volunteers
September	Donna Coleman & Monica Kot
October	Dave Ditz
November	Cheryl & Tom Lloyd
January 2002	Judi Witkin

The Men's Garden Club of Syracuse, Watson Garden Center in Lafayette, NY & Phoenix Flower Farm/PFF Landscaping, Phoenix, NY
Present their 7th Annual Spring Gardening Seminar

"A Garden Odyssey"

with Judith B. Tankard & Stephanie Cohen

PERENNIALS IN THE GARDEN: LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

Saturday, April 7, 2001

To be held at Drumlins Country Club, \$45 per person

Call (315)457-9542 for more information.

BULBOPHYLLUM GRAVEOLENS AND PAPHIOPEDILUM MAKULI

At first glance it might seem odd that the Spot Light is focussing on two such seemingly unrelated orchids as a *Bulbophyllum* and a *Paphiopedilum*. But considering that our speaker specializes in both, and the fact that our club sold a collection of Maudiae-type Paphs at the recent CNY Flower & Garden Show, it seemed appropriate.

BULBOPHYLLUM GRAVEOLENS: For some orchidists, *Bulbophyllums* are an acquired taste...perhaps that is the wrong metaphor, we should not use the words *Bulbophyllum* and taste in the same sentence. The fetid fragrance of many *Bulbos*, *graveolens* included, is guaranteed to spoil most people's appetite. Flies however love it and are responsible for pollinating these stinky orchids. Fragrance aside, *Bulbophyllum graveolens* has large and attractive flowers in yellow and red that can be almost 3 inches (7.5 cm) top to bottom. This species is from New Guinea and does best under warm to intermediate conditions with bright filtered light. A basket or mount will best accommodate the sprawling growth habit.

PAPHIOPEDILUM MAKULI is a classic Maudiae-type Paph hybrid, in its appearance, reliable blooming, ease of culture, and superb flower. A hybrid of the wonderful *Paph. sukhakulii* and *Paph. Maudiae* (*callosum* x *lawrencianum*), it has inherited excellent traits from both. From *Paph. sukhakulii*, Makuli gets wide deeply colored and spotted petals. From Maudiae, perhaps the most well-known *Paph.* hybrid of all time, it inherits ease of culture and large flowers on tall stems. Floral color can range from deep vini tones to albinistic green and white. *Paph. Makuli* makes a wonderful pot plant, prospering in both the greenhouse and on the window sill, and is an excellent orchid for growers of all abilities. It requires intermediate temperatures and medium to low light levels.



Bulbophyllum graveolens

© 1998 Greg Allikas



Paphiopedilum Makuli
'Roman Holiday' AM/AOS

© 1996 Greg Allikas

Reference: The Orchid Photo Page by Greg Allikas:
<http://www.orchidworks.com/>

April is the busiest month of the Spring for the Central NY Orchid Society! We have both the Genesee Region Orchid Society Show (April 20-22) and the Southern Tier Orchid Society Show (April 27-29). Both of these wonderful societies have always honored CNYOS by regularly displaying in our own annual Fall Show. Now is the time for CNYOS to return the favor. Please consider donating your blooming orchids for our displays.

FOR BOTH SHOWS: Please make sure that you include a complete list of your orchids, and label them with your name. If pre-registration of your plants is possible, please do so! Proper grooming and staking of your plants will save time for the volunteers setting up the display.

GROS Show, April 20-22: Dolores Capella (469-8697), Cheryl Lloyd (689-5017), Barbara Weller (468-5039), and Rich Groll (451-4248) have volunteered to set up again this year. To help things go more smoothly, early registration of your plants is strongly encouraged! If you have orchids that you're planning on sending to Rochester, or even

just thinking about sending, please contact Dolores Capella by phone or e-mail (ddc@future.dreamscape.com) with their full names and parents (if hybrids)—or bring your list to the April meeting. Orchids for the display should either be dropped off with Dolores, Cheryl, Barbara, or Rich, OR they can be dropped off at St. Augustine's Church by 10:00^{AM} on April 19TH. Leave your plants in either the entrance lobby or our meeting room. Judi Witkin, Donna Coleman, and Monica Kot have volunteered for take down at the end of the show.

STOS Show, April 27-29: Dianne Bordoni (446-3836), Deb Coyle (445-9106), and Val Introne (682-8595) have volunteered to set up for the Southern Tier Show. As for the GROS show, preregistration is strongly encouraged—if you are pre-registering for the GROS show and plan to send the same plants to the Southern Tier Show, forward your list to Dianne Bordoni (Dcwb5@aol.com) or Deb Coyle (tcoyle1@twcny.rr.com) as well. Contact Dianne, Deb, or Val if you have plants to donate for the display. Judi Witkin, Iris Cohen, and Jeff Stuart have volunteered to break down the display.

MARCH 15-18: CENTRAL NEW YORK FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

As in past years, CNYOS participated in this year's CNY Flower & Garden Show by putting up a display and selling orchids. Although sales seemed a bit slower this year, the club managed to make a few hundred dollars in profit that will help to finance next year's programs and activities. And hopefully we've stimulated interest in the club which will result in new members. The club's deepest thanks go out to all of those who donated their time and energy toward helping with the display and/or manning the booth.

Directions to GROS Show: Take the NYS Thruway, I-90 W to Exit 45 (I-490W) toward Rochester. The Rochester Museum and Science Center grounds (at 657 East Ave.) can be reached by taking the Goodman Street exit off of 490W, turning north, and following Goodman Street to East Ave. Turn right onto East Ave. and the main entrance to the museum grounds is the first right. Eisenhart Auditorium is the large building with big glass windows located in back of the Museum proper.

Directions to STOS Show: From Syracuse take I-81 South to NY 17 west. Take Exit 70N to Harry L Drive. Continue straight ahead across Harry L Drive and turn left into the mall. The show is in the Center Court.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ORCHID EXHIBITS

BY GREG ALLIKAS AND WOODY ROBBINS, MASTER
EXHIBIT DESIGNER

With two major shows this month, it's an ideal time to take a few pages to review the basics of setting up an orchid display. Many members of the club have some experience in this regard, but many more are often hesitant to volunteer to help out because they've never done it on their own. Here are a few pointers. Some of the article is geared toward larger displays, but scaling down shouldn't present too much of a problem. We'll start out with just what AOS judges are looking for...

AOS POINT SCALE FOR JUDGING EXHIBITS

The American Orchid Society Handbook on Judging and Exhibition provides the following point scale for judging Groups of Plants or Cut Flowers Arranged for Effect. This point scale is similar to ones used by horticultural organizations throughout the world and is used for scoring exhibits for show trophies and ribbons.

General Arrangement	35pts
Quality of Flowers	35pts
Variety	20pts
Labeling	10pts
Total	100pts

Let's look at these four areas separately and see how they relate to planning an orchid exhibit. Starting from the bottom up...

LABELING: Any AOS judged orchid show requires that all orchids *be accurately and legibly labeled*. A full ten points of the score is allotted for labeling. There is no excuse for not getting the full ten points. If you are putting in an exhibit for a society where the plants come from many sources be sure you know the name before accepting a plant for consideration. It's a good idea to bring a species book (Golden Guide) and at least one copy of a Sander's List to check spelling and hybrids. Typically, labels are done on poster board cut into strips then the individual labels are cut as they are done. A piece of floral wire with a "u" bent into it is taped to the back of the label. This light gauge wire can be inserted into a pot or bent to hang from a branch of foliage. For many years black poster board with a gold pen was popular. I have used a stone-gray and black calligraphy marker with good success. Greens, especially olive, are also popular. Just be sure that the labels are discreet and do not draw attention from the orchids themselves. They should be big enough to read

but no bigger. I have seen exhibits with bright green labels that looked atrocious. Making sure that the person doing the labeling has *good penmanship* and is familiar with orchid names will make the job go much smoother. Having a list of all the orchids being considered for the exhibit is also helpful.

VARIETY: Variety, which accounts for 20 points, may sometimes be difficult for the hobbyist to control. If you are on a committee that is putting in a society exhibit you only have the plants the members provide to work with. If you are a hobbyist putting in your own exhibit you only have your own plants to work with. It is important to know what plants you have to work with a few days before you actually begin putting in the exhibit. This will give you ample opportunity to solicit additional plants in any areas that are deficient. Variety in an orchid exhibit can be many things: variety of color within a genus (such as many different colored Phals.), variety of flower sizes within a single genus, even variety of colors within a single species. The glossary of the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition defines "variety" as "Both as numbers of different genera and variety within one or a few genera." Unusual species can add interest to any group of plants. Obviously, judges find evaluating exhibits with a great variety of genera to be easier than evaluating those with variety of other types.

QUALITY OF FLOWERS: This pretty much speaks for itself. An exhibit with high quality flowers will almost always score higher than one that may excel in other areas. Keep in mind that this is an exhibit at an ORCHID SHOW—orchids must predominate. The exhibit with healthy, well-flowered plants will always catch the judges' eyes. Do not use diseased or otherwise unhealthy orchids. Do not use flowers that are past their prime or not fully opened. Do not, under any circumstances, use any artificial plant material. Do not manipulate flowers in any way (other than staking) to improve their appearance. Choose the highest quality hybrids and best species clones that you can possibly find. Flower quality counts for 35 points.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENT, CONSISTING OF BALANCE, CONTRAST, DOMINANCE, PROPORTION, SCALE, AND RHYTHM: This may be the hardest area for the average person to grasp...this is the "artistic" part. It accounts for a full 35 points of the total score. Let's

look at the components of "General Arrangement" one by one. As you will see, they all interact with each other. Keep in mind that we are discussing the whole exhibit, not just the flowers. **BALANCE** refers to the visual weight of one side of an exhibit compared to the visual weight of the other side. An easy way to evaluate the balance of your exhibit is by squinting your eyes and comparing the visual weight of the left side to that of the right side. The heavier side will appear as a more dominant blob than the less heavy side. A small grouping of light-colored flowers can have the same visual weight as a large grouping of dark-colored flowers. A balanced design is satisfying to look at so try to keep your exhibit visually balanced. **CONTRAST** is the difference between various elements in an exhibit. This could be a grouping of pink flowers against a dark foliage background or a small yellow spray *Oncidium* grouped with some large yellow *Cattleyas*. Contrasting elements can be different sizes, colors or forms. Contrast adds interest and texture to an exhibit. It is a good idea however, to use contrast sparingly. Indiscriminate contrasting elements can create a confused appearance that is uneasy to look at. Judges particularly frown upon color contrast (see color flow). **DOMINANCE** refers to the attention-getting qualities of certain elements against the other elements of a design. Dominance can be a result of size, form or color. A few orange *Cattleya* hybrids would be a dominant element in an exhibit of mostly pink and white *Phalaenopsis*. It is easy to unintentionally make our props the dominant element in our effort to make a statement. Keep in mind that we are doing an orchid exhibit...orchids must predominate. **PROPORTION** refers to the relationship between elements of a design; a group of dark *Vanda* flowers may be twice as big as the group of lavender *Cattleyas*, the *Vanda* flowers may be half as bright, they may have equal balance. Proportion lends coherence and serves to tie all the elements of a design together. **SCALE** is the specific proportion of size relationships of different elements. **RHYTHM** is the lifeblood of a design. Without rhythm an exhibit is static and lifeless. Rhythm is created by the use of the above components in various combinations to create movement within a design. Repetition of color or form, gradual change in form, size or color and diagonal or serpentine lines are all used to create rhythm in an exhibit. A frequently used device is a pathway to lead the eye into the exhibit and create rhythm and movement.



Intimidated? Don't be. To the novice exhibitor these

principals of design may seem ethereal and difficult to grasp. There are no yardsticks with which to measure balance or contrast. Let's stand back and look at the exhibit as a whole and try to see what our overall objective is. A successful orchid exhibit should be pleasing to look at providing a variety of flowers that may contrast with each other yet are grouped so they work well together. Any props should reflect the show theme yet not dominate the orchids. This exhibit would have rhythm so that the eye would follow the different elements throughout the design. All elements would be balanced and in proportion so that no one thing was dominant. If you squint your eyes and one element is perceived as jarring then it should be removed, subdued or balanced with a similar element. If you lack ideas as you plan your orchid exhibit, then look to nature. The natural world has a harmony that can always provide inspiration.

HOW MUCH DO I NEED?

RULE # 1: When putting in an orchid exhibit you are always better off having too much than too little. Of course this does not mean that you must USE it all. When you are at the exhibit hall it is a real luxury to have MORE foliage than you really need, plenty of mulch to cover all of your staging and enough of an orchid selection that you have just the right orchid for a particular spot. After spending hours planning your exhibit, gathering materials, creating your prop, collecting plants, and transporting all of your stuff to the exhibit hall...it is only frustrating to have to compromise at this point. Don't allow it. The guidelines offered below are conservative. If you can exceed them then by all means do so. You will appreciate it on set-up day.

ORCHIDS: Plan on having at least 100 blooming orchids per 100 sq. ft. of exhibit space. Plants should be groomed for exhibition and flowers should be fully opened but not on their way out. A few days in an air-conditioned exhibition hall can be hard on flowers, only those in their prime will last. Be sure that plants have been fully watered before putting them in an exhibit. If the show will last more than a few days make provisions to water the plants at some point during the show.

FOLIAGE PLANTS: For naturalized exhibits, that is landscaped exhibits, figure that about 20% - 30% of the total area will be foliage plants. You will need a

variety of sizes and heights. Actual needs will depend on the show staging, exhibit design and location of your space. Corners will require less foliage. Often show committees will provide a minimum amount of foliage with the exhibit space, inquire the show chairman about this. Provide at least a row of tall foliage (up to 8') for creating a barrier between your space and the exhibit you back up to. For a 100 sq. ft. space that would be about 8-10, 5-gallon *Ficus benjamina*, areca or queen palms depending on how full they are. Stocky two-gallon arbutus, philodendron or boston fern can be used between and in front of the background material as well as for the sides of the exhibit area. 15-20 of these two-gallon plants would be a good number to have on hand. Finally, two dozen or more small maidenhair or fluffy ruffles ferns work well as contrast and relief between orchid plants. Philodendrons and other foliage plants as well as some bromeliads also work well for this however, avoid strongly variegated foliage (important !), it competes with the orchids. Finally, an interesting specimen foliage plant such as a citrus trained to a standard can provide a focal point for an exhibit as well as a great place to display that special orchid. DO NOT use any other flowering plant material in your exhibit (important !). And finally, Do not use any artificial plant material in your exhibit (important !).

GROUNDCOVER: The word "groundcover" refers to any material used to cover the floor or tabletop that the exhibit space encompasses. This material is also used to cover any staging that is used to create levels within the exhibit area as well as the orchid pots in most cases. Groundcover can be almost any material that serves this purpose without distracting from the orchids themselves. For naturalized exhibits groundcover is typically a bagged material such as cypress mulch, peat or pine bark "deco nuggets". Sheet moss was and still is extremely popular giving a nice woodland look to any orchid exhibit. It must be moistened before use however and today many exhibitors are looking for easier to use materials. Tabletop exhibitors generally use yard goods to cover tables, with black or dark green fabric being favorites. Yard goods have also begun showing up in floor exhibits; large drop-cloths dyed or painted a dark color provide a quick effective way to cover large areas of staging and foliage pots. Camouflage cloth such as used by hunters has been recently seen at orchid shows and makes a fast, easy groundcover especially when combined with a bag or two of dried leaves. Any groundcover materi-

al you decide on should be of a neutral color that does not detract from the orchids and should be readily available and inexpensive enough that a large enough quantity can be obtained for your exhibit space. A 2-cu. ft. bag of cypress mulch or pine bark should cover about 10-15 sq. ft. of space depending on how thick it is applied and whether or not the space is flat or contoured. Five bags would be minimum for 100 sq. ft exhibit taking into account the space taken up by foliage and orchids. Allow 3-4 boxes of sheet moss per 100 sq. ft. exhibit space and be sure to bring buckets and tubs to soak it in. Two or three bags of dark peat or top soil will make a nice path in a 100 sq. ft. exhibit.

STAGING: A successful exhibit has different levels on which to display orchids. Foliage plants are also more attractive when they are not all on the same horizontal plane. Whatever you use to achieve these levels will in part depend on the groundcover you have decided on. If you are using sheet moss your staging will need to be waterproof. Plastic milk crates, fern stands, plastic pots, wooden vegetable crates and crumpled newspaper in plastic garbage bags all work well and are equally suitable for dry groundcover. The newspaper does not need to be in garbage bags if you are using dry groundcover. Whatever materials you use should light in weight and easy to transport to the exhibit hall. They also must be sturdy enough to support orchids without compromise throughout the duration of the show. I remember one exhibit I worked on where the committee chairman had devised staging using chicken wire and lumber. It collapsed and destroyed our two best Cattleyas. If using crumpled newspaper be sure that any orchids are seated firmly before finishing the exhibit. Six or so milk crates can be used to carry materials to the exhibit hall and then pressed into duty to gain height for background foliage. An assortment of plastic pots are light in weight and can be used upturned to provide elevation to an orchid or foliage plant .

THE HOLY GRAIL OF ORCHID EXHIBITS: A FEW WORDS ABOUT COLOR FLOW

If you hang around enough orchid shows and listen to the discussion among exhibitors...those people in the trenches putting in the beautiful orchid displays for you and your out-of-town-guests to admire...you're bound to hear the phrase, "color flow". You'd think you might hear these folks talking about the state of the union or the latest flavored coffee whitener but no, they'll most

likely discuss color flow, at least at some point. You won't specifically find color flow mentioned in any official publications and yet it always comes up at orchid shows.

“JUST WHAT IS COLOR FLOW?”

Color flow refers to the sequence of colors as defined by the visible spectrum of light: violet-blue-green-yellow-orange-red-violet. Colors—or in our case colored orchid flowers—should be arranged according to that scheme. That's color flow plain and simple. Color flow in an orchid exhibit means that you shouldn't put an orange in a group of lavenders. In other words, the colors should **F ~ L ~ O ~ W** from one to another gracefully like the rainbow. By sticking to this rule you can avoid any bone-jarring clashes that might disturb judges and the public at large. By utilizing color flow you can throw away those “please wear protective eyewear” signs you planned for your display. Color flow will guarantee that a sense of serene well being will envelop all who view your exhibit. But most of all, color flow makes sense and provides a useful guideline for placing orchids in an orchid exhibit.

“BUT WHERE DO YOU PUT THE WHITE ONES?”

White is a combination of all the colors in the spectrum so theoretically you could put white orchids anywhere without a clash. Yet they are the lightest color and

because of that draw attention. Typically white orchids, especially groups of white orchids, are placed to the rear of an exhibit, this provides depth and makes them appear somewhat less bright. If you have just a few small white flowers they can be placed coming off of yellows, pinks or greens with good effect.

“SOME COLOR FLOWERS JUST DON'T SEEM TO FIT, SHOULD WE NOT USE THEM ?”

Use those odd color orchids as transitional elements that can bridge between two seemingly disparate color groups. For instance, many Paphs have color patterns that allow them to fit well between greens and lavenders providing a bridge between lavender/purple and green/yellow. Some of the art-shade Cattleya hybrids can fill the gap between reds and lavenders. Oncidium complex hybrids such as Aliceara & Miltonidium have elaborate color patterns that make them ideal as filler between color groups. Orchids such as *B. nodosa*, *B. digbyana*, Epc. Vienna Woods can make an excellent transition from greens to whites and all bicolor orchids can serve as transitions between two color groups. And finally, don't overlook species orchids to provide not only variety and interest but fill those awkward spaces that no conventional hybrid can.

BY USING CONSERVATIVE AND LOGICAL COLOR GROUPINGS OF ORCHIDS YOU WILL ACHIEVE HARMONIOUS COLOR FLOW.

Reference: These articles, and much more on setting up first class exhibits, can be found in **The O Zone**, an on-line orchid magazine maintained and edited by Greg Allikas, at <http://www.orchidworks.com/ozone/index.html>.

TRIP TO JIM MARLOW ORCHIDS PLANNED FOR MARCH 31ST

Rochester orchid grower Jim Marlow has invited the Central NY Orchid Society to visit his home and greenhouses on Saturday, March 31. Several CNYOS members attended Jim's open house held last November, and had an enjoyable time—there was a lot of good food with lots to look at & choose from in the greenhouse. Jim has invited us to come between 12:30 and 1:00^{PM}, and will have a light lunch prepared. Members interested in attending should plan on meeting at the St. Augustine's Parish Hall at 11:00^{AM} to form car-pools. **If you are planning on attending, please contact club president Dave Ditz (635-8148) by Thursday, March 29TH so that we can let Jim know how many people to expect.** Jim grows a wide variety of orchids, and has exhibited & vended at both the STOS and GROS shows.

Directions: Take NY State Thruway to Victor exit. Then take 490 through Rochester and pick up 390 South (airport exit). Just past the airport take the Scottsville Road exit. Travel approximately 7 miles down Scottsville Road. You will start to see horse farms. Jim's house is next to the Doubling Hills Inn. The address is 2272 Scottsville Road.

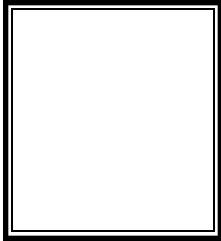
Next regular meetings: Sunday, April 1st at 2:00pm
Try to Marlow Orchids on March 31st: Sign up by 3/29.
See Page 11 for details!

Last issue
for members
who have
not renewed.



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The Central New York Orchid Society meets at St. Augustine's Church, 7333 O'Brien Rd, Baldwinsville, at 2:00^{PM} on the first Sunday of each month from September through June. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual, or \$17.00 family. Dues should be paid to the CNYOS Treasurer, Elinor Burton.

THE ORCHID ENTHUSIAST

The CNYOS Newsletter, *The Orchid Enthusiast*, 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, or functions.

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