

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

Happy Holidays! Despite temperatures threatening to hit 70 over the week, it is nearly December and the holiday season is looming over us! Shopping centers are already decked out with holiday decorations, the first Christmas commercials have been on TV for a few weeks, and I've seen at least one home on my block with their Christmas tree up! And CNYOS is no exception—come and help us welcome the Holiday Season on **December 2ND at 5:00^{PM}** for our **Annual Holiday Dinner at Pier 57** in Liverpool. Just as last year, we will have a buffet-style dinner at Pier 57—the menu will include slow roasted roast beef, smoked pit ham, scalloped potatoes, baked penne pasta, garden salad, fresh bread, and coffee, tea, or soda. There will be a cash bar. Desert is extra. The cost per person is \$15.80, required in advance. Those interested in attending need to call Club President Dave Ditz, **AND** send him a check (written out to CNYOS) to arrive no later than November 26TH (Dave Ditz, 7733 Morgan Road, Baldwinsville, NY 13027). Directions to Pier 57 are provided on page 3.

In addition to the holiday festivities, there will be a general business meeting, where our primary agenda will be to elect new officers for the 2002 season. The elections committee (Judi Witkin, Ken Renno, & Jeff Stuart) are still looking for nominations for the offices of President and Vice President/Program Chair. All other officers will remain the same: Barbara Weller as Secretary, Elinor Burton as Treasurer, Dianne Bordoni as Librarian, and Jeff Stuart as Newsletter Editor. If you are interested in either of the open offices, or would like to nominate

someone, please contact us as soon as possible. And be sure to bring your blooming orchids for the holiday dinner show table, which is consistently one of the best each year.

IN THIS ISSUE...

November Meeting & Minutes	2
CNYOS Calendar	3
Directions to Pier 57	3
Oct. & Nov. Show Table	4
Miscellaneous Business	5
Spot Light On...	6
Pay Your Dues!	7
STOS & GROS News	7
CNYOS Show Winners	7
It All Started With...	9

**Best Wishes for a
Wonderful Holiday
Season!**

NOVEMBER MEETING: ORCHID CULTURE CLINIC ROUND TWO!

Due to the popularity of the October program, the meeting in November featured further discussion on orchid culture. Members Iris Cohen, Rick Braue, & Dave Ditz fielded a number of questions and offered valuable advice. In addition there was an extended discussion of where to hold the annual holiday dinner, with the final decision being made for Pier 57.

.....



1. Christmas party is to be held at the Pier 57 Restaurant , dinner will be served buffet style. Payment will be by check for \$15.80/person made out to CNYOS. Call Ken Renno (315/652-6495) if you plan to attend. Please plan to arrive at 5:00^{PM}, dinner at 6:00^{PM}. Judi Witkin volunteered to be our creative person to do decorations.
2. Field trip to Jim Marlow Orchids: please meet in the Church parking lot at 9:15AM on Saturday, November 10TH. The suggestion was made that in the future could we meet at the Park and Ride at Thruway exit 39.
3. The Election Committee is developing a slate of officers.
4. Club Show 2002-The dates are for 9/27, 28, & 29 at the Carousel Mall. We could use the Community Room near the Post Office for our office. We will need a lap top computer that is wireless for Internet access. We do not have to rent tables, chairs, stanchions. Debbie has sent letters of commitment to the judges.
5. Thanks to Cheryl and Tom Lloyd for the refreshments.
6. The program was a continuation of orchid culture / problems.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Weller, CNYOS Secretary



- December 2** **Annual Holiday Party at Pier 57:** 5:00^{PM}, \$15.80 per person, Buffet menu (see page one, this issue)
- March 14-17, 2002** **Central New York Flower & Garden Show,** State Fair Grounds: CNYOS will have an information booth & display, and will sell orchids & supplies to the public—this is our largest fund-raiser of the year!
- April 18-21** **Genesee Region Orchid Society Show,** Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, NY. Contact: Jeanne Kaeding, 161 Crosman Terr., Rochester, NY 14620; (716) 442-3202.
- April 26-28** **Southern Tier Orchid Society Spring Show,** Oakdale Mall, Reynolds Road, Johnson City, NY. Contact: Gail Kirch, 1099 Powderhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850; (607) 723-3414.
- September 27-29** **2002 CNYOS Annual Fall Orchid Show & Sale:** NEW LOCATION! Carousel Mall. Details to be announced.



DIRECTIONS TO PIER 57



Pier 57 is on Rt. 57 in Liverpool, NY. Those traveling from out of the area can use the NYS Thruway to Liverpool exit. Turn left out of the exit heading north on Rt 57. Pier 57 is on the right hand side of the road, approximately 1 mile. Parking lot entrance is before the restaurant. From the east: 690 W to 81 N and get off either Onondaga Parkway or Old Liverpool Road. Take either into the village of Liverpool and follow signs to Rt. 57 north toward Bayberry and Oswego. (Be careful driving through the village they love to give tickets--stay at 30 mph.) After passing over the thruway the restaurant is approximately 1 mile north on the right hand side of the road. The phone number of the restaurant is 457-8109 in case anyone gets lost.



Hope to See Everyone There!



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER SHOW TABLES

OCTOBER SHOW TABLE

Cypripedium Alliance

Phrag. Ecu-a-Bess (besseae x ecuadorensis) Ufford

Cattleya Alliance

Encyclia mariae Stuart
Epi. nocturnum "
Lc. Mini Purple (Soph. pumila x C. walkeriana)* "
Lc. Mini Purple Weller
Lc. Mari's Song (Irene Finney x C. Cherry Chip) Capella
Lc. Memoria Robert Strait (Wayndora x C. walkeriana) Burton

Vandaceous

Phal. buyssoniana† Ufford
Phal. amboinensis "
Dtps. (Phal. Nantai x Dtps. Malibu Castle) Powell

Oncidium Alliance

Onc. Gower Ramsey (Goldiana x Guinea Gold) Coyle
Brs. longissima Capella
Odcdm. Tiger Butter x Odm. Golden Halls "
Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis Witkin
Onc. Mendenhall (Butterfly x Psychopsis papilio) Ditz
Tpl. tortilis Weller
Onc. ornithorhynchum Verone
Odm. (sic) cirrhosum Stuart

Miscellaneous

Lths. calodictyon Witkin
Den. victoria-reginae "
Aërsgs. mystacidii Stuart
Aërsgs. mystacidii Ditz
Aërsgs. distincta Capella
Aërsgs. cryptodon "
Bulb. cucullatum Braue

*All of the Brazilian laelias were recently removed from that genus, and for technical reasons are currently lumped in the genus *Sophranitis*. Watch for further developments.

†This taxon was originally published by Reichenbach in 1888, and has been resurrected by Christenson in his revision of *Phalaenopsis*.

Iris Cohen

NOVEMBER SHOW TABLE

Cypripedium Alliance

Paph. Maudiae (lawrenceanum x callosum) Ditz
Paph. Wössner Vollmond (niveum x armeniacum) "

Phrag. caricinum "
Phrag. Sedenii (schlimii x longifolium) "
Phrag. Sedenii Capella
Paph. spicerianum Cohen

Cattleya Alliance

Bl. Sea Urchin (L. anceps x Rhyncholaelia glauca) Burton
Bepi. Phoenix (B. nodosa x Encyclia phoenicia) Braue
Bl. Morning Glory (L. purpurata x B. nodosa) Kot
Prosthechea cochleata "
Blc. Copper Queen (Bl. Richard Mueller x Toshie Aokie) "
C. maxima Capella
Blc. Oconee (Lc. Belle of Celle x Norman's Bay) "
B. cucullata "

Vandaceous

Schoenorchis fragrans Braue
Tblm. kotoense Coleman
Phal. Arnie Linsman (El Tigre x violacea) "
Phal. ? ?

Oncidium Alliance

Mtssa. Royal Robe (Erachne x Milit. Seminole Blood) Capella
Ntla. barkeri Coleman
Onc. crista-galli "
Odtna. Santos x Milit. Ruth Senn "
Bllra. Marfitch (Mtssa. Charles M. Fitch x Oda. Fremar) Ditz
Oda. Danilo (sic) x Mont a l'Abbe Witkin
Vuyl. Cambria (Rudra x Odm. Clonius) Kot
Onc. ornithorhynchum ?

Pleurothallid Alliance

Trisetella hoeijeri Witkin
Pths. sp. "
Zootropheon sp. Kot
Masd. herraduræ "
Masd. herraduræ Coleman

Miscellaneous

Bulb. cucullatum Braue
Den. unknown Introne
Cirr. Louis Sander (Bulb.* longissimum x Bulb. ornatissimum)* Ditz
Den. aberrans x rhodostictum Coleman
Den. Poh Kiew x Windward Rose "
Den. Waimanalo Beauty x canaliculatum "

*The genus *Cirrhopetalum* is used in registration by RHS, but is not accepted by most taxonomists.

Iris Cohen

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 (violacea), photograph by Vagisha Sharma, with digital enhancement by J. Stuart.

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

January 2002

Judi Witkin

Wanted: Handicrafter who can make a portable rack to hold the club name tags, so people can find them easily.

Call or e-mail Iris Cohen
461-9226, IrisCohen@aol.com

2002 AOS CALENDARS AVAILABLE!

A limited number of AOS calendars for 2002 will be available at the next meeting on a first-come, first-served basis. These had originally been ordered for our fall show, but did not arrive on time.

See Jeff Stuart.

CNYOS IS NOW ON-LINE!

CNYOS's new team of web-masters, Charles Ufford and Jeff Stuart, are working on a club website. Although just in the beginning stages, the site is up and running—or rather up and under construction—at www.paphioepidilum.net. We've got lots of ideas and they'll be discussed at the next meeting. Photos from both the September meeting and the show are currently posted there. What would YOU like to see on our own web-site? We're open to your ideas!



Happy Holidays!

CATTLEYA MAXIMA & PAPHIOPEDILUM SPICERIANUM

Both *Cattleya maxima* and *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* bloom this time of year. Members who attended last year's holiday dinner will remember Dolores Capella's exceptional *C. maxima* from the Show Table. And Iris Cohen displayed her very old *Paph. spicerianum* at our last meeting.

There are two distinct races of *C. maxima*, one from Ecuador and one from Peru. The plants from Ecuador are much more robust and produce many more flowers per growth than those from Peru. Although, the Peruvian form (whose range extends into Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela) has fewer flowers, it is far superior in form and color. Both forms are pale to deep lavender pink have a beautifully ruffled lip with cherry-red veining which is distinctive to *C. maxima*. *C. maxima* is very adaptable to most growing conditions provided it is supplied with a well-draining potting mix, protected from temperature extremes (outside a 50 to 85 degree F range) and given ample light for flower production.



Paphiopedilum spicerianum was described by Reichenbach in 1880 from a collection of mixed Paphiopedilums made in India. The species is distinctive for its funnel-shaped dorsal sepal which is dominant in first generation hybrids, *Paph. Leeanum* (*x insigne*) being one of the most popular and highly awarded. The species is from elevations of 1000-2000m and requires cooler intermediate conditions. Due to its size and ease of culture, *Paph. spicerianum* makes an excellent choice for growing on the window sill or under lights.

Paph. Leeanum (spicerianum x insigne)



Reference: Photos © Greg Allikas. The Orchid Photo Page by Greg Allikas: <http://www.orchidworks.com/>. *Paph. Leeanum*: <http://village.infoweb.ne.jp/~fwhn3418/paph2.htm>

IMPORTANT!!! Dues Soon Due!

Over the next few months, CNYOS will be looking for your annual membership dues (due each December). Check the label on this newsletter: if it reads "C" you are a Courtesy mailing. If it reads "M01," you are a paid member and owe dues for the new season. "M02" reflects a paid status. "CM" denotes a Commercial Mailing. These labels may not be entirely up to date, so if you've already paid, your status will be updated by the next newsletter. If, however, you are currently receiving this newsletter as a courtesy and haven't joined the club, you will be removed from our mailing list in December. A few exceptions will be made, including commercial vendors and representatives of various gardening organizations. 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.

STOS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY

STOS will bring in the holiday season with their annual holiday party on December 16TH. The STOS Spring Show has been scheduled for April 26-28.

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

The annual Holiday Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 1ST. There will be no regular meeting in December.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 24, No. 4, December 2001, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

CNYOS Annual Fall Show Award Winners

The complete winner's list is finally here! Congratulations to ALL of the winners, and, more importantly, THANKS for doing your part in making our show a huge success!

Bloomfield Orchids

- Orpha. radicans* First
- Paph. concolor* First
- Paph. glaucophyllum* var. *moquetteanum* First
- Paph. Madame Octave* First
- Paph. purpuratum* First
- Paph. Snowflake* First
- Phal. violacia* 'Marylynn' HCC/AOS First
- Phrag. April Fool* First
- V. sanderiana* forma *alba* First
- Paph. bellatulum* Second
- Paph. callosum* var. *sanderiae* Second
- Paph. Irish Eyes* Second
- Paph. Virtuous* Second
- Cirr. Elizabeth Ann* 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS Third
- Exhibit Third
- Paph. lawrenceanum* form *album* Third

- Cathy Buggy**
- Onc. Taka* Second
- Paph. Dragon Knife* Second

- CNYOS**
- Exhibit First

- Cheryl Lloyd**
- Phal. venosa* x *Artemis* Second
- Phrag. Ecua-Bess* Second

- Dave Clemens**
- L. pumila* First, Best *Cattleya*, James Rice Memorial Award, Margery Ummer Memorial Award
- Den. Jaquelyn Thomas* Second
- Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice* Second
- Den. Easter Bunny* 'Boyd' AM/AOS Third
- Gal. baueri* Third
- Phrag. Umbriel* Third

- David Ditz**
- Orchids: Where in the World Do They Come From? First
- Onc. Mendenhall* Third
- Rhynchostele bictoniensis* Third

Deborah Coyle Angcm. Longiscott 'Lea'AM/AOS	First	<i>Phal.</i> Henry Rothman x Brother Lawrence	First, Best in Section
Dianne Bordoni Exhibit	First	V. Barbara Jean Ansly Varwuth x <i>coerulea</i>	First, Best in Section
<i>Malleola baliensis</i> 'Chrislin'	First, CBR/AOS	Ctsm. Jumbo Eagle 'Scottsville'	First, Best in Section, HCC/AOS (76 points)
<i>Angcm. eburneum</i>	Second	<i>C. Bactia</i>	Second
<i>Phal. pulcherima</i>	Second	<i>Cuths. amazonica</i> x Overbrook	Second
<i>Den.</i> (Theodore Takiguchi x <i>affine</i>) x Snowflake	Third	<i>Den.</i> Jewelite 'Roberta' AM/AOS	Second
Welcome Tile	Third	Exhibit	Second
<i>Malleola baliensis</i> 'Chrislin'	Third CBR/AOS	<i>Masd. herraduræ</i>	Second
Dody & John Ellenberger <i>Phal. deliciosa</i>	Second	<i>Milt. spectabilis</i>	Second
Dolores Capella <i>Onc. crista-galli</i>	First	Mtdm. Pupukeya Sunset	Second
<i>Ntl. barkeri</i>	Second	<i>Paph. bellatulum</i>	Second
<i>Onc. crista-galli</i>	Third	<i>Paph.</i> (Goultenianum x Oriental Enchantment)	Third
<i>Phal.</i> Taisuco Perherz	Third	<i>Miltonia</i> 'Black Rain' AM/AOS	Third
Dwaine Levy <i>Trgl. philippinensis</i> var. <i>brachiata</i>	Second	Judi Witkin <i>Encyclia alata</i>	Third
Frier's Orchids <i>Dtps.</i> Dyah Redita x Pink Bells	First	Leon Frank Slc. Mahalo Jack	First
<i>Dtps.</i> Rabbi Harvey Fields	First	Slc. Dream Cloud	Second
<i>Onc.</i> Florida Gold 'Frier's Jackpot'	First, Best in Section, Best Hybrid, CCM/AOS (87 points)	Slc. Bright Angel x Lc Bonanza Queen	Third
<i>Phal.</i> Royal Amboin	Third	Slc. Mahalo Jack	Third
Gary Stensland "Home from the Show"	First, Best in Section	Margie Koehler <i>Paph.</i> Wossner Volimond	Third
Genesee Region Orchid Society Exhibit	First	Mountain Orchids <i>Max. turkeliae</i> 'Mountainside'	CBR/AOS
Iris Cohen Pot. Heavenly Jewel 'Puanani'AM/AOS	Second	<i>Den. masarangensis</i> 'Mountain High'	CCE/AOS
Slc. Angel Eyes	Second	<i>Aërgs. ugandensis</i>	First
Slc. Angel Eyes	Third	<i>Den. prasinum</i>	First
Jackie & David Churchill C. Stars and Stripes	First	<i>Den. prasinum</i>	First
Ctna Whynot	First	<i>Malaxis metallica</i>	First
<i>Phrag.</i> Sedenii	First, Andy Myers Memorial Award (Best Amateur Grown <i>Phragmipedium</i>)	<i>Masd. cacodes</i>	First
<i>Paph.</i> John Lamb	Second	<i>Masd.</i> Peach Fuzz 'Mountainside'AM/AOS	First
<i>Paph.</i> liemianum	Second	<i>Max. variabilis</i>	First
<i>Phrag. ecuadorensis</i>	Second	<i>Platystele stenostachya</i>	First
<i>Paph. bellatulum</i>	Third	Rdtta. In the Pink	First
Walkeriana	Third	Exhibit	First, Best Exhibit, AOS Show Award
Jeanne Kaeding <i>Onc. flavovirens</i>	Second	<i>Den. masarangense</i> 'Mountainside' AM/AOS	First, Best Species
Jeff Stuart <i>Phal. bellina</i>	Third	<i>Epiblastus auriculatus</i> 'Mountainside' CHM/AOS	Second
Jim Marlow Orchids <i>Paph.</i> (Maude Raven x Black Buddha)	First	<i>L. pumila</i> forma <i>coerulea</i>	Second
<i>Eplc.</i> Don Herman	First	<i>L. pumila</i> forma <i>coerulea</i>	Second
<i>Paph.</i> Tsui's Delight	First	<i>Den. masarangense</i> 'Mountain High'	Second, CCE/AOS (90 points)
<i>Phal.</i> Sogo 'YN' AM/AOS	First	<i>Den. cuthbertsonii</i>	Third
<i>Paph.</i> (Norwoods Creek x <i>sukhakulii</i>)	First, Best Cypripedium Alliance	<i>Eria hyacinthoides</i>	Third
		<i>Malaxis metallica</i>	Third
		<i>Neof. falcata</i>	Third
		Pat Bonamo <i>Den.</i> Hiroshi Tokunaga	First
		Ascda. Bicentennial	Second
		<i>Paph.</i> King Author	Second
		<i>Paph.</i> Vanda M. Pearman	Second
		Robert Wyman <i>Milt. cogniauxiae</i> 'Fort Caroline'	First, CHM/AOS (83 points)
		Valerie Introne <i>Phal.</i> Sogo Yukidian	Second

It All Started With...

One weak-willed Newsletter Editor's tale of gradual defeat in the face of orchid temptation...

Just a nice gesture...

It all started with wanting to buy an orchid for a friend who suffered a recent loss. Knowing that my friend favored species, I called up my favorite species grower (you know the one—just north of San Diego—he has lots of orchids mounted on sticks...) and asked him to make a suggestion of something in bloom. The suggestions he gave soon had my mouth watering: a great *Laelia* and a fantastic little *Bulbophyllum*, among others. However, I had started to think along the lines of something a bit showier, such as a nice flashy hybrid of some type—you know, a nice Brassocatt. or hybrid Odont. that would be a reliable bloomer every autumn. And given the fact that hybrids are often more vigorous and less demanding than the species, I decided to take that route and placed an order with another grower—actually I was able to add it to a small pre-existing order without increasing the shipping charge—done deal, mission accomplished.

The slippery slope...

But still, those suggestions made by the self-proclaimed

By Jeff Stuart
Central New York Orchid Society Newsletter Editor

“species-nut” lingered in my head. I sat at work, and during a mild case of writer's block found myself browsing the web. Of course, I ended up at the species-nut web page, and before I knew it I had a nice list going of species that simply had to be destined for my collection. But hold on! I have **enough** orchids and I don't need any more! So I decided to wait—after all, it's not like I can't order them next year... I DO have will-power—I am STRONG!

Morning soon yielded to early afternoon, and I went home for lunch. As is part of my typical lunch-hour routine, I went into my basement growing area to mist the mounted orchids and do my daily inspection. Noticed a few more buds coming. The mealy bugs had launched another offensive in one of the fluorescent light stands, but a few well-aimed salvos of neem or Sun-oil should drive them back for now... Several plants definitely need to be repotted... Hey what's with that *Pabstia viridis*? It looks a bit yellow—wait a minute, it's completely rotted! Damn. It had been doing so well—a nice new growth was maturing—I just repotted it a few weeks ago. And now it decides to drop dead! What's that about??? Aauugggh! Guess I should have waited to see some roots coming on that new

pseudobulb. Damn! That's the third orchid that has dropped dead *after* repotting it—but that's another sad story...

Being completely out-of-joint about my doomed *Pabstia*, I returned to work after lunch and went right to the species-nut home page. Sure enough, he still had them listed—Yea! OK, I'm going to order it. Whoa—shipping is \$10 for just one plant??? Jeez, what a rip-off. I'm not going to pay \$10 to ship just one plant! But then I figured, well, if I added a few more, and still stayed within the \$10 shipping charge, I'd be getting more for my money. Hey!—what a deal! So I browsed some more—and I certainly didn't forget those mouth-watering suggestions that I had just decided three hours earlier to postpone 'till spring (well, OK, late winter at the earliest). Let's see, how many can I order without going over the \$10 shipping limit... Looks like about four should do it. But, uh-oh, what about my will-power. Am I that pathetic? Hmmm... NO! I will wait! Besides, it's mid afternoon and I've got a lot of work to do—I'll wait 'till *after* work to place the order!

***What the heck just happened?
Or, you can't get there from
here, right?***

Later on that day, and after I had placed the order, I thought about the events that had led me to yet another addition to my credit card balance. I started out wanting to do something nice for a friend, and ended up replacing one orchid and purchasing three additional new ones. Actually the practice of replacing deceased orchids is a well-known phenomenon among orchid hobbyists; as one member of our society likes to put it, you first have to replace the one you lost—then you've got to buy at least one or two additional plants to assuage the feelings of mental anguish and guilt you experienced upon the loss of that first plant. And then, well, as long as you're already ordering... What on earth is it about orchids? Why are they so addicting? It seems we can justify just about anything if it leads to adding to our collections. I remember reading *Orchid Fever* by Eric Hansen, and at one point in the book the author ponders the same question from an outsider's point of view. I don't remember seeing much in the way of insight into this addiction, but he made one comment that rang true—"There's only one group of people who are worse than "orchid people," and that's the dog-people." My mother is a "dog-person," so I guess I come by it honestly! One thing I have learned in my interactions with the Central New York Orchid Society as Newsletter Editor

and Program Manager, pro tem, is that I always underestimate the capacity for orchid hobbyists to buy orchids, even when there are ample opportunities. I've often threatened to many of my friends from the society, in a tongue-in-cheek sort of way, to found a twelve step program for orchid addiction—OA—**Orchids Anonymous**. But in retrospect, maybe there's actually something to that thought! I envision that, with all due respect and no offense intended to the esteemed people and program of AA, the process might look something like this:

Surely, I don't have a problem...

First we must decide whether a problem exists. A few introspective questions are in order. Do you take care of your orchids to relax, or when you need to escape from work or other responsibilities? Do you take care of your orchids alone? Have you ever tried to cut back on purchasing orchids, without success? Do you suffer from orchid-induced memory lapse, having on occasion forgotten where and when you got an orchid, or even that you had it? (Huh? Where did that one come from?) Do you find yourself sneaking your new orchid purchases into the house so your spouse won't notice? Have you had to purchase a certain orchid because you wanted to be the

first in your club to have it—to be the envy of all your orchid friends? If you answered yes to more than 3 of those questions, you're probably an orchid addict!

The path to happiness...? My name is Jeff and I have a problem...

Step 1: *Admit to yourself that you have a problem with orchids.* Are you powerless when it comes to purchasing new orchids? Do phrases such as "There's always room for one more" and "I'm sure I can grow it" ring true? Do you find yourself rescuing the desiccated remains of formerly healthy orchids from the Home Depot or Lowe's bargain tables after arguing down the price? Do you often find yourself justifying the purchase of new orchids because of a "great opportunity" or for fear that you'll never have the chance to purchase a particular orchid again?

Step 2: *Make a list of all the people and things you've neglected while you were taking care of your overwhelming orchid collection, and promise yourself to do better.* This should include all the home improvements, the dog-walks, the things you could have afforded to do otherwise, your retirement account, your kids' college accounts, the time you could have spent with family,

etc. (Sorry, dear, you **know** that I need to water my orchids on Sundays... I'd love to go out Saturday night, but there's this orchid society meeting I'd been planning on... And by the way, pick up some lottery tickets while you're out) At the very least, issue a formal apology to your neglected dog (and/or spouse).

Step 3: Find a confidant who can keep you from purchasing more orchids. When faced by temptation from advertisements in the back of *Orchids* (what's Dr. Toot selling this month?) or the newest catalog or web-site, have someone you can call *day or night* to set you straight. This person should preferably NOT be a member of an orchid society. However, mutual non-purchase pacts among society members might be possible.

Step 4: Find an alternative way to spend your time and divert your interest away from your orchids. Consider diversions such as cooking, stamp collecting, or growing less appealing plants (for example, the numerous varieties of Swedish Ivy, a few African Violets, or a nice philodendron). Please note that it would not be wise to choose a different group of orchids that you don't find as appealing as those you already have; for example, if you are completely obsessed *Paphiopedilums*, but have never really had an inter-

est in *Dendrobiums* or *Oncidiums*, it might be tempting to try switching to one of these "less interesting" genera as a way to cut back. Although this may indeed seem a natural route to take, it seldom works and is inevitably self-defeating (especially with *Dendrobiums*...).

Step 5: If one of your orchids dies, DO NOT replace it! It's **obvious** that you could not take care of it in the first place. If it boils down to "it would have lived if I did *such-and-such* differently," you might as well simply admit that you won't do *such-and-such* differently just for that one plant because you've got too many to care for already! This is a frequent trap orchid hobbyists fall into, and being undaunted by failure, or maybe just stubborn, we typically need to kill three or four of the same species before we finally decide to move on.

Step 6: Avoid temptation! Don't go to orchid auctions—*except to sell*—and avoid orchid vendors and societies at any cost! **Do not buy any new orchids!** Or at least try not to. OK, perhaps just purchase fewer than you usually would. Or less frequently... Or...

So we have at the very least a 6 step program, although some refining is probably in order. And I'm sure a with little more

effort I could fill in the rest of the steps, perhaps by making the weaning process a bit more gentle. Or maybe "cold-turkey" is the way to go? I don't know—just too painful to think about. All I do know is that it doesn't look good for me! But after all this introspection and self-analysis, do you think I cancelled that order? **WHAT, ARE YOU NUTS?**

Epilogue: I'm OK! Are you?

To round out this tale of woe—this tale of my gradual descent into orchid-induced self-defeat—I finally did give my friend a nice hybrid *Odontoglossum* in bloom and she loved it. The orchids I ordered from the species nut arrived and all looked incredible! Half of them were in bloom. And after this whole ordeal there are only two things I'm absolutely sure of: I definitely am addicted to orchids, and the slope further down hill is even steeper and more slippery than I thought!

However, even though I am a self-admitted orchid addict, I can handle it... I am in total control. Unlike most of you, I *know I don't have a problem!* Now that that's settled, anyone up for a group order...? Please...? We could save on shipping!

...Good grief, when's that first OA meeting???



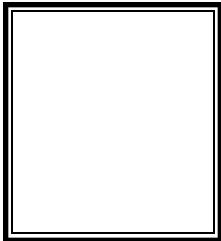
Next Meeting: December 2nd at 5:00pm, Pies 57 Restaurant
in Liverpool: Annual Holiday Dinner!



Happy Holidays!



THE CENTRAL NEW YORK ORCHID SOCIETY
Your local AOS & Orchid Digest Affiliate
351 Kensington Place
Syracuse, NY 13210-3309



Central New York Orchid Society

President: Dave Ditz (315) 635-8148
Vice President: Gary Stensland (607) 842-6534
Co-Vice President: Cheryl Lloyd (315) 689-5017
Treasurer: Elinor Burton (315) 682-6274
Secretary: Barbara Weller (315) 468-5039
Newsletter Editor: Jeff Stuart (315) 471-1404

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.

Jeff Stuart, Editor
351 Kensington Place
Syracuse NY 13210-3309
(315) 471-1404
e-mail: jastuart@syr.edu

