

FEBRUARY 2005: TAKING SEEDLINGS OUT OF COMPOT, SILENT AUCTION, & TRIP TO BLOOMFIELD ORCHIDS!

This Sunday, February 6TH, 2^{PM} at St. Augustine's Church, marks the next meeting of the Central NY Orchid Society, and we've got a busy program lined up! Our Program Chairs have ordered a trio of orchid seedling compots for members to learn how to pot up orchid seedlings.

There are three steps to growing orchids from seed—after pollination, of course. Once seed has been produced, it is sown on sterile media in flasks. The media is rich in nutrients, and is kept sterile so that bacteria and fungus don't compete with the seedlings. Once the new seedlings are large enough, they are removed from the flasks and put into community pots, or "compots" for short. The compots are usually crowded with small seedlings, and grown on until they are large enough to be potted up individually (typically a few inches). That's where our program comes in! Cynthia Busic-Snyder has picked out a pair of Brassolaeliacattleyas and a species (*Paphinia cristata*) for members to pot up. The Blc hybrids are sure to be flashy with large lips (two Blc's are show at left), and the species has bright red flowers, but is a bit harder to grow. There will

be a minimal fee for each seedling and cultural information will be provided at the meeting.

Pots and mix will be provided. **And if that were not enough, we'll also have our New Annual Silent Auction**

(page 4), AND (later that week) our annual field trip to **Bloomfield Orchids** (Saturday, March 12, see page 2)! **Good Grief**—with all this going on,

it won't be hard to get an orchid fix this month!

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**JANUARY MEETING: JEANNE KAEDING —
TRAVELS IN ECUADOR**

Our January meeting offered somewhat of an escape from the cold weather, albeit a virtual one. GROS President and AOS Student Judge Jeanne Kaeding paid CNYOS a visit to talk about her November 2003 trip to view orchids in Ecuador. Her slide show and talk gave the club an idea of the surprising environments in Ecuador where orchids are found. She also showed a few slides of the well-known orchid greenhouse, Ecuagenera. Jeanne was kind enough to make a few suggestion about improving our annual Fall Show & Sale, and she did a great job of presenting our show table. Several members took Jeanne out to lunch prior to the meeting.

**FEBRUARY 12: ANNUAL TRIP TO
BLOOMFIELD ORCHIDS!**

The month of February marks one of our two annual pilgrimages to local commercial orchid growers. On Saturday February 12TH, Joe Kunisch has invited CNYOS members out for a visit. As in past years, a visit to Bloomfield Orchids promises a chance to wander Joe's greenhouse—a welcome respite from the frigid winter air—a tasty lunch (with great deserts!), and the opportunity to add a few new orchids to your collection. Joe specializes in slipper orchids, but also has a variety of other miscellaneous orchids, including Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, and Miltoniopsis. Members always have a great time. If you're interested in going, please call or e-mail Jeff Stuart by Wednesday, February 9TH, so he can give Joe a head count, and plan on meeting at the Parish Hall of St. Augustine's Church (diagonally across the parking lot) by 9:45^{AM}. We'll form car pools and leave around 10:00 to arrive at 11:30. Directions to Joe's are on page 11.

1. A sign-up sheet was circulated for refreshments.
2. A Get well card was circulated for Monica Kot.
3. Upcoming Shows (see calendar for dates): Set-up for the STOS Show is Thursday, 4/21. Set-up for the GROS Show will be on Thursday, 3/31. Volunteers will be needed for set-up & break-down for both shows.
4. Jim Marlow Orchids will have an Open House on 1/15 from 9-5.
5. Dues are due.
6. The February Meeting will be a combination of a silent auction & taking seedlings out of compots. We need to know how many members want to participate.
7. Nominating Committee: The Slate of previous officers was accepted.
8. Deborah Coyle has contacted Shoppingtown Mall about the Show; our first choice is 9/23-25, the second is the weekend of 9/30.
9. Treasurer's Report: Net inflows/outflows: \$4,898.12
10. The Annual CNYOS Orchid Auction will be held on 5/1/05. Jeff Stuart will be sending requests for donations out to vendors, approximately 3 weeks before the auction. Let Jeff know if there are any vendors that you want included.
11. The Annual Summer Picnic will be at Dianne Bordoni's home, date to be determined.
12. CNYOS Fall Show: The club will need someone to be Show Chair—a committee approach might be a better way to spread out the work load. Alternate locations are being sought. It might be possible to use a church hall. There was a discussion regarding judges.
13. CNYOS will take a trip to visit Joe Kunisch / Bloomfield Orchids on Saturday, February 12.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Weller, CNYOS Secretary

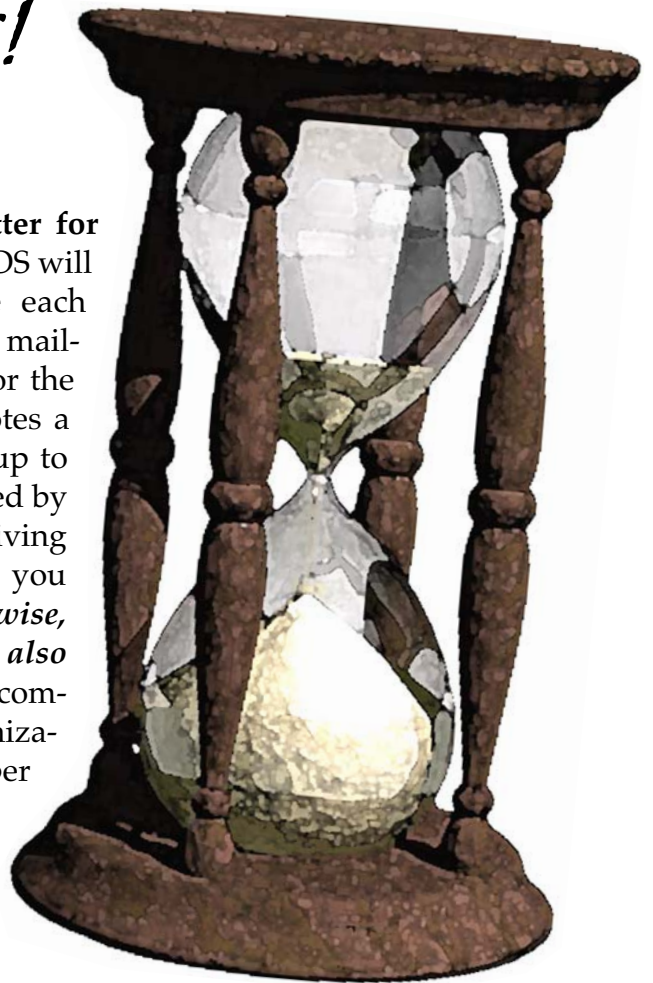


- February 6** **CNYOS Monthly Meeting:** Taking orchids out of compot, annual silent auction.
- February 12** **Trip to Bloomfield Orchids!** Switched to a Saturday this year.
- March 6** **CNYOS Monthly Meeting:** Dennis D'Alessandro of Gypsy Glen Orchids
- April 1-3** **Genesee Region Orchid Society Show**, Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, NY. Contact: Ron Uhlig, 26 Mandalay Ridge, Pittsford, NY 14534; (585) 387-9940; www.genesee-orchid.org.
- April 3** **CNYOS Monthly Meeting:** Howard Ginsberg of Bedford Orchids
- April 12-17** **The 25TH Anniversary New York International Orchid Show** at Rockefeller Center, sponsored by the Greater New York Orchid Society, <http://www.gnyos.org>
- April 22-25** **Southern Tier Orchid Society Show**, Oakdale Mall, 601-635 Harry L. Drive, Johnson City, NY. Contact: Gail Kirch, 1099 Powderhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850; gkirch@stny.rr.com.
- May 1** **Annual CNYOS Orchid Auction!**
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YIKES! DUES ARE OVERDUE!

...and time is running out!

This is your last notice, and will be the last newsletter for those who do not renew! So over the next month, CNYOS will be looking for your annual membership dues (due each December). Check your mailing label: "C" is a Courtesy mailing. "M04" indicates a paid member who owes dues for the new season. "M05" 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 & haven't joined the club, you will be removed from our mailing list in February. *Likewise, those who have not paid dues by the end of February will also be removed from the mailing list.* This does not apply to commercial vendors & representatives of gardening organizations. Annual club dues are \$15.00 per person or \$17.00 per family, payable to CNYOS. Dues should be given to CNYOS Treasurer Carol Haskell, 102 Wynthrop Rd. Solvay, NY 13209.



Please renew—we would hate to lose you!

Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or complete your records.

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph. Leeantum (insigne x spicerianum)</i>	Stuart
<i>Phrag. Sedenii (schlimii x longifolium)</i>	Weller
<i>Phrag. longifolium</i>	Lloyd
<i>Phrag. Carol Kanzer (pearcei x schlimii)</i>	“
<i>Paph. Saiun (sukhakulii x wardii)</i>	Coleman
<i>Paph. chamberlainianum</i>	Witkin
<i>Paph. Wössner Perle (niveum x micranthum)</i>	“

Cattleya Alliance

<i>Mrclm. trinasutum</i>	Ditz
<i>Lpt. unicolor</i>	Bordoni
<i>B. nodosa</i>	Haskell
<i>B. bahiensis</i>	Lloyd
<i>S. pygmaea</i>	Witkin

Vandaceous

<i>Phal. micholitzii</i>	Ufford
<i>Phal. sumatrana</i>	“
<i>Aërgs. luteo-alba</i>	Witkin

Oncidium Alliance

<i>Odcdm. Susan Kaufman (Wera Stolze x Onc. flexuosum)</i>	Coleman
<i>Onc. Pupukea Sunset (fuscatum x cheiroporum)</i>	“
<i>Zelenkocidium Kukoo (Zel. onusta x Onc. cheiroporum)</i>	“
<i>Vuyl. Saint Mary (Mem. Mary Kavanaugh x Oda. Saint Clement)</i>	“
<i>Mps. phalaenopsis</i>	Ufford
<i>Rhynchostele uroskinneri</i>	Stuart

Pleurothallid Alliance

<i>Pths. nipterophylla</i>	Stuart
<i>Masd. strobilii</i>	Witkin
<i>Masd. mendozae</i>	“
<i>Pths. longissima</i>	“
<i>Masd. zahlbruckneri</i>	“
<i>Rstp. guttulata</i>	“
<i>Dda. zebrina</i>	“
<i>Masd. Juno (uniflora x corniculata)</i>	“

Miscellaneous

<i>Trias picta</i>	Stuart
<i>Bulb. wallichii</i>	Ditz
<i>Bulb. macroleum</i>	“Gal. sp.” Coleman

Iris Cohen

SECOND ANNUAL CNYOS SILENT AUCTION!

Last year we held the first *CNYOS Silent Auction* as a society fund raiser, and due to its popularity and success, we're doing it again this month. **Here's how it works:** members are asked to bring an orchid or a non-trivial orchid-related item to the February Meeting to donate to the auction. **Your donation will serve as your entrance fee.** We ask that your donation be **non-trivial**—in other words, we don't want used stakes or all of your back issues of Orchids Magazine! But healthy orchids, growing supplies, books, trinkets, etc., will all gladly be accepted. If you have nothing you wish to donate to the cause, but still hope to participate, you will be asked to pay a **\$5 nonrefundable entrance fee.** If you have an orchid to donate, please ensure that it is healthy and pest & disease free; anyone donating orchids is requested to provide a photograph of the plant in flower (if available), and a written description of cultural needs, how often it flowers, etc. If you're donating a division, please give it a clonal name if it does not already have one. Plan on arriving early so you can get a good look at the plants and other items on the auction block. You will be assigned a number upon registering for the auction. During the meeting, members will be free to bid on plants by listing their bid and number on a sheet of paper assigned to each plant—there will be a time limit after which no further bidding will be allowed. The winners will be announced, and payments will be made to CNYOS Treasurer Carol Haskell. Lets hope this one is as successful as last year's!

CLUB REMINDERS

The **CNYOS Club Library** is now located at St. Augustine's church. Make arrangements with Val Introne (682-8595) if you want to borrow an item from the Library.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Phalaenopsis bellina (violacea),
photograph by Vagisha
Sharma, with digital enhance-
ment by J. Stuart.

A limited supply of Coconut Husk Chips is still available from Jeff Stuart. The medium grade is sold out, but there is still a supply of small/fine. If there is interest, a group order for general supplies might be possible. Contact Jeff Stuart (471-1404)

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

Winter-Spring, 2005

February	Judi Witkin & Charles Ufford
March	Need Volunteers!
April	Donna Coleman & Maxine Weibel
May	Bev Costello & <i>Volunteer</i>

STOS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Southern Tier Orchid Society will be held on February 20TH. No details on the program are available at this time.

Monthly meetings begin at 2:00^{PM} in the Vestal Public Library. For directions, etc. contact STOS president Paul Crumb at 607-539-7249 or by e-mail, pfc3@cornell.edu. Better yet, check out the club web page: <http://www.geocities.com/orchidovation/>

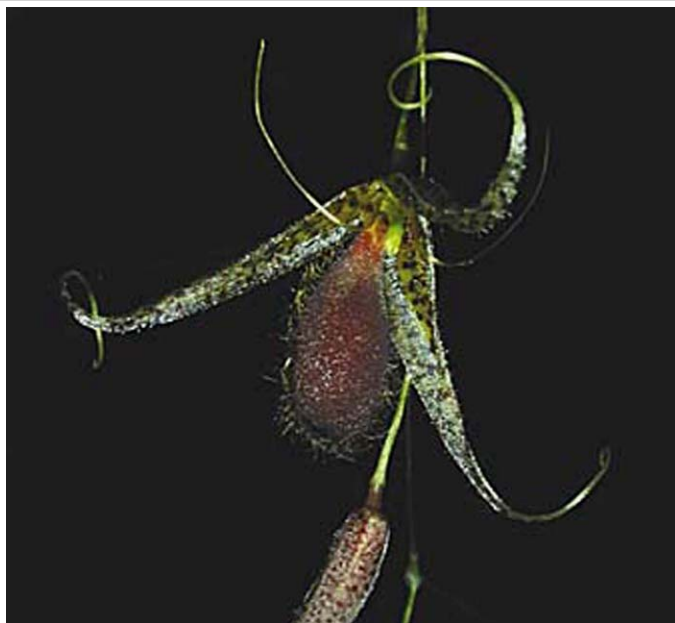
GROS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE GENESEE REGION ORCHID SOCIETY

Member's Cultural Roundtable: Several of our Members will discuss what's worked and what hasn't worked for them when it comes to growing orchids in the Rochester area. Both greenhouse, window sill and under-lights growing methods will be discussed. This is your chance to have all your questions answered as well as to share your experience.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 27, No. 5, January 2005, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025. More Info: <http://www.geneseeorchid.org/>

PLEUROTHALLIS MEGALOPS & *RESTREPIA SANGUINEA*

If there is a theme for the CNYOS winter & spring meetings, it is surely Orchids of Ecuador. Last month CNYOS friend Jeanne Kaeding spoke about her trip to that country, and our invited speaker for March, Dennis D'Alessandro, will also speak on the orchids of Ecuador. So it should be no surprise that this month's spot light specials happen to be from—you guessed it—Ecuador. Both also happen to be miniature Pleurothallids that will grow to maturity at only 2 - 4" tall.



THE NEARLY GROTESQUE FLOWERS OF *PLEUROTHALLIS MEGALOPS* MAKE THIS UNUSUAL ORCHID A CONVERSATION PIECE IN ALMOST ANY COLLECTION.

Pleurothallis megalops is a fine example of an easy-to-grow Pleurothallid with a floral offering that looks like it belongs more in a horror movie than in an orchid collection! The small flowers (3/8 - 1/2 inch) are dominated by the lip that looks more like a hairy tongue. Multiple flowers are held on wiry stems which originate from the top of the petiole (the leaf stem). As with all Pleurothallis species, frequent watering (rain, RO, or DI) and high humidity are mandatory for successful culture. This species can accommodate more light than many Pleuros: bright shade, and intermediate temperatures will suit it best. Water several times a week.

Because of the high humidity requirements, many Pleurothallids, including both of this month's spot light species, will do well in enclosed environments like an aquarium. A small aquarium can accommodate a large number of these little jewels.



RESTREPIA SANGUINEA BOASTS LARGE COLORFUL FLOWERS ON COMPACT PLANTS. IN THE RIGHT CONDITIONS IT WILL SELDOM BE OUT OF BLOOM.

Despite the fact that a mature blooming size *Restrepia sanguinea* will fit nicely into a two inch pot, it is a much meatier plant than *Pleurothallis megalops*. And the insect-like flowers are much larger and more deeply colored—deep red ranging to deep pink. Like many Pleurothallids, the 1.25" flowers emerge from the petiole on the underside of the leaf. Although Restrepias grow on the cool side of intermediate, their culture is otherwise the same as described above: clean water (frequent), bright shade, and high humidity.

References: Photos of *Pleurothallis megalops* & *Restrepia sanguinea* © Andy's Orchids (<http://www.andysorchids.com>). Text compiled from the following websites, and/or personal experience: <http://www.orchidspecies.com>, <http://www.pleurothallids.com>, and <http://www.andysorchids.com>. No reproduction without permission.

GROWING *PHRAGMIPEDIUM BESSEAE*

BY CNYOS MEMBER DAVID KESSLER

A change in the direction of *Phragmipedium* breeding occurred in 1981 with the introduction of the species *besseae* from the Andean mountains of Peru and Ecuador. *Phragmipedium besseae* imparted orange and scarlet red to its hybrid progeny and more recently yellow, with the introduction of the 'flavum' variant. While at the Chicagoland Orchid Festival on September 11TH at the Hauserman greenhouse complex, I attended a lecture on this species given by Tom Kalina (owner of Fox Valley Orchids) entitled "*Phragmipedium besseae*: It's Culture and Breeding,"

Before I start in on the "how to" learned in the lecture, let me tell you a little about Fox Valley and its history with *Phrag. besseae*. In 1990 the late Dr. Dick Clements' entire nursery was purchased by Fox Valley. Among the treasures of this acquisition was a single plant labeled *besseae* #220, not outstanding on its own merit but, as a breeding plant it had a genetic constitution that passed on extremely desirable traits to its offspring. Out of one flask of *besseae* #220 x self came four AM/AOS awards and one FCC (divisions of the FCC are not sold in the U.S.).

According to Tom Kalina, another crucial event in Fox Valley's history came from the friendship he made with Mr. Nebojsa Popow of Germany. Before CITES regulations, Popow



THE STUNNING RED FLOWERS OF *PHRAGMIPEDIUM BESSEAE* HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED *PHRAGMIPEDIUM* BREEDING—NOT ONLY DOES THE SPECIES CONTRIBUTE COLOR, BUT ALSO NICE FORM TO MANY OF ITS HYBRIDS.

had started a breeding experiment looking for the best *Phragmipedium besseae* he could find; unfortunately, however, his plants were wild collected specimens. He imported several thousand plants and grew them on looking for the perfect breeding plant, but this project came with great expense and Popow had to trim his sample of about 5,000 down to about 3,000 plants, selling the remainder. A few months later Popow was working in the back of the greenhouse when he became aware of a very large German woman waving one of her arms in the air, and the other clutching a *Phrag. besseae* Popow had sold her, except it had vivid cadmium yellow flowers. As the woman came closer Popow heard the

woman's shouting only as a faint whisper while his mind immediately ran to figuring out how much he would pay her for this rarity. Knowing the value of this semi albino mutant, was \$10,000 or even \$20,000 too much? The woman approached Mr. Popow and quickly and furiously made it clear that he had sold her a RED *besseae* and this was NOT one. She demanded he exchange it for a red one. With a furtive smile he picked out the largest red *Phrag. besseae* in bloom and gladly made the exchange.

After Popow grew it on for a while, he shared a 2 growth division of the *Phrag. besseae* 'flavum' with his friend Tom for a mere \$14,000. Tom purchased this



THE YELLOW VARIETY OF *PHRAGMIPEDIUM BESSEAE* IS CERTAINLY EYE-CATCHING. ALTHOUGH FIRST GENERATION HYBRIDS HAVE NOT HAD THAT PURE YELLOW COLORATION, IT IS HOPED THAT SECOND & THIRD GENERATIONS WILL.

with the hope of new avenues in *Phragmipedium* breeding. The division came in sorry shape “looking like it got run over,” but some careful attention nursed it back to health. When it first spiked he attempted to self the plant. After the first few attempts at pollination were unsuccessful (causing the flowers to fall off the plant) he feared the worst—a sterile plant. After contacting a friend in South America who explained that the pollen was only fertile for about 8 hours after the flower opened, a successful pollination was achieved. He flaked the seed pod, and at the 1993 Paph. Guild he sold 30 flasks for \$3,000 each.

After these anecdotes, the talk turned towards the cultural conditions and how to grow *Phrag. besseae*. Using slides of *Phrag. besseae* in its natural habi-

tat he showed how some populations were growing in heavy shade while other populations grew in full sunlight. He said the plants in full sunlight were growing in a grassy area with a small stream running over the roots, which kept the roots cool even with higher air temperatures. He suggests when growing not to expose them to over 2,000 foot-candles of light, so an east window or under lights is recommended. The temperature should be 60°F at night with day time around 75-80°F. Water quality is important to *Phrag. besseae* so reverse-osmosis or rain water is ideal, but tap water under 140 ppm is acceptable. As long as the water quality is good, he says you can not over water this orchid. His growing mix consists of 6 parts seedling bark, 1 part #3 charcoal, and 1 part coarse perlite.

Phragmipedium besseae's fertilizer

needs are low and 1/8th teaspoon per gallon is plenty. Air movement sufficient for this plant can be achieved with a small fan not blowing directly on the plant, but keeping air in the growing area moving. Humidity should be maintained at about 60%. As for repotting, because *Phrag. besseae* is watered often, the mix tends to break down quickly; repotting every 6 months is recommended for the species, and *besseae* hybrids should be repotted every 9 months.

After this lecture, Bob Wellenstein of AnTec Ladyslipper Farms spoke to our society about water quality and *Phragmipedium*s. Bob's method of growing phrags in clay pots filled with 100% #3 diatomite in a hydroponic flow table utilizing constant water circulation mimics how *Phrag. besseae* was shown growing in a stream under full sunlight during the talk by Tom Kalina. This system also allowed the phrags to be exposed to higher temperatures during the summer without negative consequences. He recommended pH levels of about 5 are best under his growing conditions, and found that as the pH of water in the hydroponic system was lowered, the problem of leaf-tip die-back (a large problem for *Phrag.* growers) is nearly eliminated.

David Kessler has been a member of the Central NY Orchid Society since May of 2004. davidivad23@hotmail.com

Photo credits: *Phrag. besseae* (red, page 7) © Jeff Stuart, 2004. *Phrag. besseae* (yellow, page 8) © Joe Kunisch, Bloomfield Orchids and used with permission.

Editor's note: the following article was contributed by CNYOS Member and Keeper of the Show Table Extraordinaire, Iris Cohen. If you have internet access, the RHS web site should be an invaluable aid in preparing your orchids for entering into a show, and keeping your labels up-to-date!

Many people regard the registration and nomenclature of orchid hybrids as an esoteric branch of necromancy. Proper labeling actually increases a plant's value, and in the case of one that is inherently superior, it paves the way for a really prestigious award.

For anyone with Internet access, getting the right name for your orchid, or finding its parents when you already have its name, is as close as your computer. The Royal Horticultural Society, which is the official registration authority for orchid hybrids, has virtually the entire database of their registrations on the World Wide Web, at

http://www.rhs.org.uk/research/registration_orchids.asp

Unlike other flowering plants, individual clones of orchids are not registered. What are registered are the names of grexes, entire crosses between two parents. No matter how many times two orchids are crossed by hybridizers, or the same orchids of different colors (with a few possible exceptions), the resulting cross is the same grex and carries the same name. (There are one or two errors, which have been preserved to avoid further confusion.)

Where italics are available, the names of orchid genera, both natural and artificial, are in italics, as are the names of species. In the Orchid Register, only roman type is used. The names of genera and hybrids are capitalized, while the names of species and wild natural hybrids are in lower case.

It is the rule in botany that when the parents of a hybrid are listed, the seed parent is always first, followed by a multiplication sign and the pollen parent, the opposite of the way it is done with animals. When you do a search for a grex name, the parents on your label may not be listed in the same order as in the Register. This is called a reciprocal cross. The grex name is the same.

Let's say the label on your new orchid reads *Slc. Jewel Box 'Scheherazade,'* AM/AOS. You want to locate the parents. Go to the above Web site and click on the words "Grex Name Search." Ignore the awards. You will also need to figure out what, if any, are individual clone names, and ignore them, also. If you see a name in single quotes (sometimes erroneously in double quotes), you will know it is a clone name. If you are not sure, just type in the first two words of the name. You do not need to type anything in the "Genus" field, unless the grex name is an extremely common one, like *Rothschildiana*. Do not abbreviate a genus name, unless the abbreviation is part of the name. You do not have to capitalize anything. When you have typed in the grex name, click on "Search" or hit the "Enter" key.

The next page will give you a choice of three names, *Cymbidium Jewel Box*, *Dendrobium Jewel Box*, or *Sophrolaeliocattleya Jewel Box*. Click on the one you are looking for, and it will take you to the registration information. You will find out that *Slc. Jewel Box* is a cross of *C. aurantiaca* (*Guarianthe aurantiaca*) with *Slc. Anzac*. It was originated and registered by Stewart, Inc. in 1962.

Apostrophes are a problem. The instructions on the Web page say to ignore them, but if you type in a name that has an apostrophe, you will be told, "No record in database..." whether you included the apostrophe or not. To work around this, if you are sure it is a registered grex, type in the genus name and the part of the name before the apostrophe. For example, if you are searching for *Oda. Joe's Drum*, you will get the "No record" message whether you type *Joes Drum* or *Joe's Drum*. Go back and type *Odontioda* in the genus field and *Joe* in the grex field. You will get a list of all the *Odontiodas* containing the word *Joe*, including *Joe's Drum*. Click on it to get the parentage. Do the same for names that contain an umlaut, such as *Wössner*.

Now suppose you have the parents of your orchid on the label and you want to find out if the cross has been registered. Go to the registration page and click on "Parentage Search." You will get a page with four fields. Where it says "Grex," you can also type in a species name if that is one of the parents. Typing in the "Genus" name is not necessary, but it will narrow the search. If you are not absolutely sure of the genus, leave it out.

Let's say you want the name for the cross of *Slc.* Jewel Box x California Apricot. Type in the names and click on "Search." You will be told, "No record in database, try entering parents in reverse order." Go back to the Search Page. Select California Apricot, cut it, and paste it in the other grex field. Do the same with Jewel Box. This time you will be told that the cross is registered as *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Hazel Boyd. Click on the grex name if you want the registration data.

One of the most frustrating problems in orchid name detection is when you purchase a plant in good faith that has a name on the label and no parents, and you discover it is not a registered name. When you buy an orchid with an unfamiliar name, always ask for the parents. It may be that the hybridizer fully intends to register it, but hasn't done so. Meanwhile, someone else could register the same cross. If you know the parents, it will not be a problem. If you have the parents and you think the cross has been registered, do a search. If you get the "No record" message, try again in a couple of months.

Sometimes, when you make inquiries of an orchid seller, you will find that the plant is a mericlone and the name on the label is a clonal name. Further probing should eventually reveal the parentage.

All too often, orchid owners are stymied because the names on the labels are misspelled or faded. If you are getting the "No Record" message, go back and enter only the part of the name you are sure is correct, or try various spellings. The name may be "Marie" rather than "Mary."

Another mystifying problem is when the label only tells you the grandparents. A label of that type should be written: (*C. luteola* x *Blc.* Waikiki Gold) x (*C. Cherry Chip* x *walkeriana*). Given that information, you will find that *C. luteola* x *Blc.* Waikiki Gold = *Blc.* Junka Gold. The next search will tell you that *C. Cherry Chip* x *walkeriana* = *C.* Hunabu Surprise. Put them together and *Blc.* Junka Gold x *C.* Hunabu Surprise = *Blc.* Lennea Trimble. The real problem occurs when the label is written carelessly and you have difficulty sorting out which name is which. If the names are unknown, you will have to try them different ways. Sometimes foreign growers put a dash between the grandparents rather than a times sign.

A special case that may frustrate beginners is the question of natural hybrids, hybrids between two genera or two species that occur in nature. If an old natural hybrid was discovered and named before the cross was made in cultivation, it always carries the name given by the botanist. In botanical writings, the name is in italics, sometimes with a times sign in front of it, e.g. *Cattleya xhybrida*. When the hybrid is used as a parent in registration, it is written *Cattleya* Hybrida. If you turn it up in a search on the RHS site, you will see it printed twice, once in lower case, and once capitalized. Nowadays, when someone registers an artificial hybrid, and it is also discovered to be a natural hybrid, the botanist gives it a brand-new name. Both names are correct. If you do a search on *Comparettia speciosa* x *Comparettia falcata*, you will see two names, *Comp. maloi* and *Comp.* Afterglow.

There is one last step you can take when all else fails and you can't find anyone who can decipher your mystery label. You can contact the Senior Orchid Registrar, Julian Shaw, at orcreg@aol.com. But please remember that the Orchid Registrar's job is more taxing than Kofi Annan's, and try to exhaust all other sources of information first.

Iris Cohen

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From the **NYS Thruway** (Rt. 90W), take **Exit 45** to **Rt. 490**. Once on Rt. 490, take the **Exit for Bushnell Basin**. At the end of the ramp, take a **Right onto Rt. 96**. Go about **1/4 mile** to **Thornell Road** and make the first **Left** (onto Thornell; this turn is **easy to miss**). Go to the end of Thornell Rd. and make a **Left at the "T" onto Bloomfield Road**. Go about **1/2 mile** down Bloomfield Rd.; **Joe Kunisch lives on the right, although his mailbox (#251 Bloomfield Road) will be on the Left. His driveway is on the RIGHT**, and goes about 300 feet uphill to his brown house.

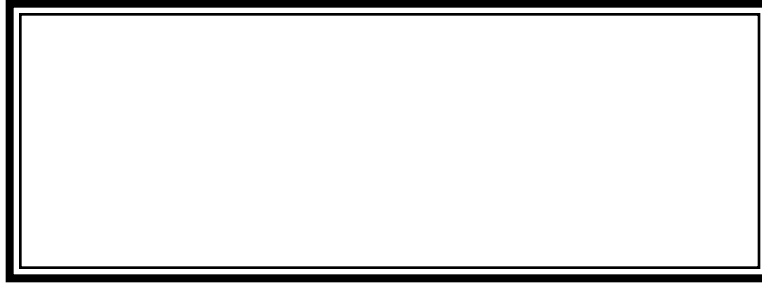
*****DO NOT GO INTO THE NEIGHBOR'S DRIVEWAY (WHITE HOUSE) ON THE LEFT*****

Park in the driveway and go through the open garage to the greenhouse in the back.

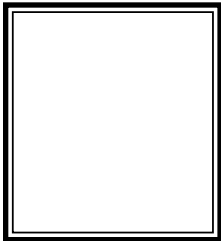
Paph. Edna Ratcliff 'Nike' AM/AOS ©Greg Allikas, 1996, Digitally enhanced by Jeff Stuart



Next Meeting: Taking Orchid Seedlings out of compost &
Annual Members' Silent Auction
Saturday, March 12TH: Trip to Bloomsfield Orchids



Next Meeting: Sunday, February 6, 2PM



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



Central New York Orchid Society

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<http://www.paphiopedilum.net>

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, Carol Haskell.

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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