

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER—DR. DON LEOPOLD:
TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS OF NYS**

Happy New Year! With what seemed to be astonishing speed, 2002 has yielded to 2003. Likewise, CNYOS has put a busy fall schedule behind us, and is ready (?) to face an even more busy spring, as the calendar on page 3 will attest! And several upcoming spring events have yet to be listed... Kind of hard to think of "spring" as I look out the window—let's face it, in Central New York we won't be able to do that for another 3-4 months! But it might be nice to pretend for a while, and at our next meeting we should have ample opportunity! For our January meeting—**this Sunday, January 12TH, at 2:00^{PM}**, CNYOS is pleased to have Don Leopold as our guest speaker, discussing the **Ecology of the Terrestrial Orchids of New York State**, especially those that occur in acidic ("bogs") and alkaline ("fens") peatlands of the state. Don is a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the State University of

New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse (see Don's biographical sketch on page 7). Central New York is home to a diverse population of native orchids—many more than most of us are aware. The specialized environments they require often require us to go "off the beaten path" in order to see them. But tracking them down can be both exciting and rewarding—in addition, it offers the orchid hobbyist a unique opportunity to make that connection between our collections of largely tropical orchids with their more temperate cousins, perhaps reminding us that all our orchids, species and hybrid alike, have their origins in natural environments. Don has spent more than his fair share "off the beaten path," and the result of his labors is an extensive collection of observations and photographs of orchids in the wild, many of which can be observed on-line. So join us this Sunday for what is bound to be an enjoyable presentation.



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DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY HELD ON DECEMBER 8TH

In a departure from past years, our holiday party was held at the home of CNYOS president Deb Coyle. It was catered by Dinosaur BBQ, and various members brought deserts to share. As is almost expected this time of year in Central New York, the weather refused to cooperate by dropping a surprise snow storm on the area—the roads became hazardous and many members were unable to make the drive. Those who did, however, had a great time relaxing in Deb's comfortable home. It was a nice change of pace from the rushed atmosphere of the restaurants the club has chosen in the past. And the food from the "Dinosaur" was great!

The club had a short meeting, including elections. The slate of officers was submitted to the floor—no new nominations were offered. Needless to say, the slate was unanimously re-elected! The raffle table was particularly varied this year, with a number of holiday centerpieces and poinsettias donated by member Mike Candella. Charles Ufford donated a few more poinsettia plants. In addition, Rick Braue brought in a number of back divisions of his Cattleyas.

SPECIAL THANKS GO OUT TO VALERIE INTRONE for the beautiful banner that she made for the Junior League Holiday Shoppes. The handmade banner will undoubtedly be used at our future meetings and events.

MEMBERS NEEDED! Deb Coyle is looking for volunteers to help in planning next year's show. Specifically, we need someone to act as the Show Chairman and another member to act as the Judging Chairman. The Show Chairman coordinates the show, handles interactions with Shoppingtown Mall, organizes the layout, notifies vendors and other participants, and ensures that things run as smoothly as possible. The

MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 8TH, 2002

1. The annual Christmas party was held at Deb Coyle's home on December 8TH. As usual for CNYOS, it was a snowy and stormy night.
2. The Refreshment list for the next year is completed and will be included in the newsletter.
3. CNYOS participation in the Junior League Holiday Shoppes was a success in that we broke even. The club hopes to participate again next year.
4. The trip to Jim Marlow's was a success, with good plants and food.
5. The club's annual Show & Sale has been scheduled for 10/12-10/13/03, Columbus Day Weekend.
6. Supplies have arrived. The club will be looking for a new vendor. Please let Dianne know what your supply needs are. There was some discussion about Phillips fluorescent lights, and whether the club should continue to sell them. At present, there are 7 left—based on an informal discussion the club will probably continue to sell them. There are a large number of slotted clay pots; 3, 5, and 6 inch sizes are available.
7. Election of officers: Elinor would like a local treasurer to collect dues which are coming due and make those deposits in the club's account. This new person will need a computer and E-mail capability. The present officers were voted in for the next term.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Weller, CNYOS Secretary**

Judging Chairman must find enough judges, arrange their accommodations, take them to dinner the night before the show, and in general see that their experience is a positive one (so they'll return next year!). Please contact Deb if you're interested.

- January 12** **Regular Meeting:** Don Leopold of SUNY ESF, speaking on the Ecology of the Terrestrial Orchids of New York State.
- February 2** **Regular Meeting:** AOS Video—growing under lights. In addition, members are encouraged to bring in their problem plants and culture questions for a problem-solving session, and our more seasoned members are encouraged to bring in their growing tips to share with the group.
- March 13-16** **Central NY Flower & Garden Show** in the Horticultural Building at the NYS Fairgrounds. CNYOS is tentatively scheduled to participate by selling orchids and educating the public.
- March 29-30** **Genesee Region Orchid Society Show** in Eisenhart Auditorium at the Rochester Museum of Science & Technology. Set up is scheduled for March 27, and judging will be on March 28.
- April 25-27** **Southern Tier Orchid Society Spring Show**, Oakdale Mall, Reynolds Road, Johnson City, NY.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to CNYOS Member Hilda Belman, who was recently awarded the Arnie Linsman Award from the Greater New York Orchid Society for outstanding indoor orchid growing.



STOS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY

This month's meeting (January 19th) will feature STOS Member and SUNY Binghamton Professor Geof Gould discussing Orchid Photography. Geof is the unofficial STOS show photographer, will discuss the finer points of photographing your orchids. And judging from last spring's show, he should have a lot of experience!

Monthly meetings begin at 2:00^{PM} in the Vestal Public Library. For directions, etc. call STOS president Kenneth Lattimore at 570-553-2753 or e-mail him at <klatt@epix.net>.



GROS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE GENESEE REGION ORCHID SOCIETY

The holidays and their sometimes hectic pace have come and gone, and the New Year is here, filled with the promise and freshness that lies ahead. Put down your snow shovel and get ready for our first program of 2003 - at our new meeting site, Temple B'rith Kodesh on Elmwood Avenue in Brighton. Cordelia Head, owner (with Marguerite Webb and Lucinda Winn) of J&L Orchids in Easton, CT comes to the GROS in January to speak on "Collecting Orchids from Around the World." J & L has been among the leaders in the effort to artificially propagate unusual orchid species and been at the forefront of modern masdevallia hybridizing. J&L has been honored with awards internationally, both for its plants and for its displays. Ms. Head will be bringing plants for sale; you can see J&L's extensive plant listings at their Web site, www.jlorchids.com

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 25, No. 4, January 2003, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

DECEMBER SHOW TABLE

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph. charlesworthii</i>	Rice/Kwiek
<i>Paph. Virtuous (Virgo x niveum)</i>	Cohen
<i>Paph. Limelight (Maudiae x Chiara)</i>	"
<i>Paph. Clair de Lune (Emerald x Alma Gavaert)</i>	"
<i>Paph. Wössner Vollmond (niveum x armeniacum)</i>	
	Ditz
<i>Paph. Doctor Jack (concolor x niveum)</i>	Braue
<i>Paph. Saiun (sukhakulii x wardii)</i>	Coleman
<i>Phrag. kaiaeteurum</i>	"

Cattleya Alliance

<i>Slc. unknown</i>	Ditz
<i>Slc. Mahalo Jack (C. walkeriana x Sl. Orpetii)</i>	Coleman
<i>Blc. Memoria Crispin Rosales (Lc. Bonanza x Norman's Bay)</i>	Bordoni

Vandaceous

<i>Phal. venosa x Artemis</i>	Lowell
<i>Phal. lamelligera (?)</i>	Ufford
<i>Phal. lindenii (sic)</i>	"

Oncidium Alliance

<i>Trpla. laxa</i>	Stuart
<i>Ntl. barkeri</i>	Coleman
<i>Hwra. Lava Burst (Mini-Primi x Rdza. lanceolata)</i>	"
<i>Mtssa. Dennis Kleinbach (Cartagena x Milt. Goodale Moir)</i>	

<i>Orpha. radicans</i>	"
<i>Onc. Sweet Sugar (Aloha Iwanaga x varicosum)</i>	"
<i>Onc. unknown</i>	"
<i>Onc. Twinkle (cheirophorum x ornithorhynchum)</i>	Rice/Kwiek
<i>Odcdm. Bittersweet (Rhynchostele bictoniense x Crowborough)</i>	"
<i>Onc. ornithorhynchum</i>	"
<i>Bllra. Marfitch (Mtssa. Charles M. Fitch x Oda. Fremar)</i>	
	Ditz

Dendrobium

<i>Den. Super Ise (Super Star x Ise)</i>	Cohen
<i>Den. Candy Cane (Aussie Green x Penang Stripe)</i>	"
<i>Den. Maiden Charlotte (aberrans x rhodostictum)</i>	
	Coleman
<i>Den. Poh Kiew x Windward Rose</i>	Bordoni

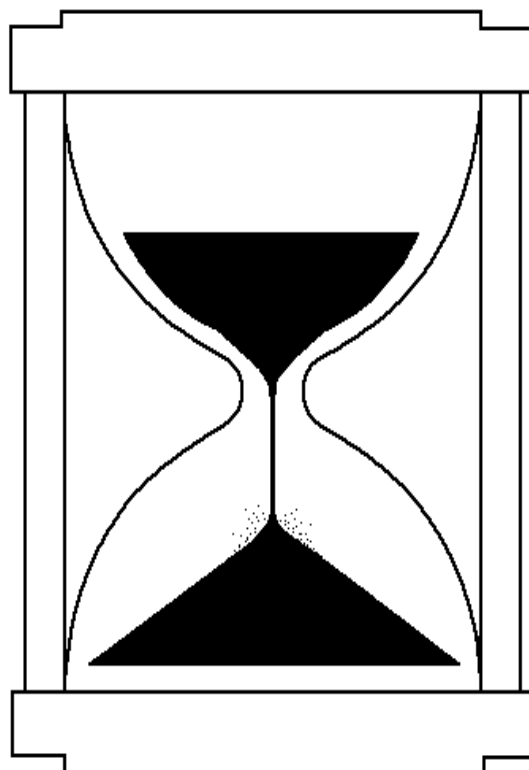
Miscellaneous

<i>Gga. galeata (sic)</i>	Coleman
<i>Epigeneium triflorum</i>	"
<i>Aërgs. biloba</i>	Ditz
<i>Trias picta</i>	Rice/Kwiek
<i>Pna. Majestic (cristata x herrerae)</i>	Ditz

Iris Cohen

IMPORTANT!!! TIME TO PAY DUES!

Over the next month, 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 "M02," you are a paid member and owe dues for the new season. "M03" 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 February. **Likewise, those who have not paid dues by the end of January will also be removed from the mailing list.** 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 President Deb Coyle, at 5186 Winterton Dr., Fayetteville, NY 13066.



CLUB REMINDERS

Orchid-Growing Supplies are now available, including fir bark, sphagnum, sponge rock, charcoal, and 40W fluorescent tubes. Call Dianne Bordoni for details on pricing and availability (446-3836).

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!!!



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

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

January 12	Judi Witkin & Gary Stensland
February 2	Deb Coyle & Dianne Bordoni
March 2	Dave Ditz & Margaret Tupper
April 6	Monica Kot & Donna Coleman
May 4	Bev Costello & Joanna Kweik

CNYOS IS NOW ON-LINE!

CNYOS is on-line at **www.paphiopedilum.net**. The site is regularly updated and will be changed as the club's two crack web-masters (Jeff Stuart & Charles Ufford) have time to do so, so check back frequently!



ABOUT THIS MONTH'S COVER ART...



This month's cover art—a doctored photograph of *Cypripedium reginae*—is used with permission of Spangle Creek Labs in Bovey, MN (with digital processing by Jeff Stuart, <http://www.uslink.com/~scl/Cyp.reg.bed3.jpg>). Spangle Creek Labs, owned and operated by Carol & Bill Steele, specializes in the artificial propagation and culture of Cypripediums. Their business originally started as an effort to repopulate diminished lady slipper populations in Washington state, but they had such success (so many extra seedlings) that they went in to business. Their web site, found at <http://www.uslink.com/~scl/index.html>, contains many high-quality images of Slipper Orchids from not only North America, but from all over the world. In addition, their prices for artificially propagated seedlings are *very* reasonable. The insert above shows *Cyp. kentuckiense*, also courtesy of Spangle Creek Labs, which boasts the largest flowers in the entire genus. Spangle Creek Labs, 21950 County Road 445, Bovey, MN 55709, Phone: (218)-247-0245, E-mail: carolscl@uslink.net

VANILLA PLANIFOLIA & ACINETA SUPURBA

Vanilla planifolia is the orchid that yields the vanilla flavoring of commerce. Vanilla was introduced to Cortez, and Europe, by Montezuma in 1520. It grew to be a favorite flavor for sweets as it still is today. The orchid is a vine and is commercially cultivated throughout the tropics with Madagcar being a major producer. The flowers last only one day and must be hand-pollinated in the morning to produce a seed-pod, the "vanilla bean." After the seedpods are mature in five or so months they are harvested and go through a curing process that dries them while retaining the maximum amount of essential oils. The vanilla spice is second in price only to saffron, largely due to the extraction process.

There are about 60 or so species of *Vanilla* found throughout the tropical Americas including Florida and the Bahamas. All are vines and several are leafless. Some have leaves that exhibit variegation with streaks of white or yellow. Most of the flowers are greenish-yellow, and are of only botanical interest especially because of their short-lived nature and vining growth habit. If you do decide to try growing *Vanilla*, start it in your normal potting mix and be sure to provide a support for it to climb on—be warned, however, because most varieties need to reach lengths of 20 – 30 feet or more before blooming! Moderate light and warm temperatures are required. Some growers in warm regions have *Vanilla* climbing the supports of the orchid house.

Acineta superba is a member of a poorly understood genus of between 15 – 20 species that are typically found at moderate elevations of the Andes in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and perhaps northern Panama for some species. They are related to *Stanhopea* and *Peresteria*. Like *Stanhopea*, the inflorescence is strongly pendant requiring culture on a mount or basket with open slats. Grow *Acineta superba* under intermediate temperatures and less than *Cattleya* light. With showy cream-colored flowers peppered with red, this exotically-scented orchid deserves to be better known in collections.



VANILLA PLANIFOLIA

© 1998 Greg Allikas



Acineta superba

© 2000 Greg Allikas

Donald J. Leopold is a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse). He received his Ph.D. (1984) in forest ecology from Purdue University, his M.S. (1980) in forest ecology from the University of Kentucky. Since 1985, Dr. Leopold has received nearly \$8 million in extramural grant support (as principal or co-principal investigator), to address a wide range of issues in forest and wetland ecology, and conservation biology. He is author or coauthor of nearly 50 refereed publications, six book chapters, three books (Trees of the Central Hardwood Forest, Harlow and Harrar's Textbook of Dendrology, and Trees of New York State (in press)), and many other papers. He has taught dendrology and freshwater wetland ecology at SUNY-ESF since 1985, and various other courses, as well as giving guest lectures each year in other classes. He has received a number of teaching and public service awards at SUNY-ESF including the Student Association Distinguished Teaching Award, the SUNY-ESF College Foundation Award for Exceptional Achievement in Teaching, and the ESF Public Service Award. He has advised 32 M.S. and Ph.D. students through the completion of their graduate program. Dr. Leopold was Editor for 6 years, of the Natural Areas Journal, and currently serves on the editorial boards of other journals. More information can be found at Don's professional SUNY-ESF web site, <http://www.esf.edu/efb/leopold/default.htm>.

Many of Don's orchid photographs can be found on-line at the SUNY-ESF Roosevelt Wildlife Station web-site on the Native Orchids of New York State. This site is a great on-line resource that details the ecology and habitat of many native orchids, including many that can be found within driving distance of Syracuse (<http://www.esf.edu/resorg/rooseveltwildlife/Research/Orchid/Orchid.htm>). The site can also be accessed through our own Links page at <http://www.paphiopedilum.net>.

To The Members of the Central New York Orchid Society...



May your 2003 be filled with health, happiness, and lots of blooming orchids! And Hey, an AOS award or two wouldn't hurt either!

Editor's note: Here is the third and final part of the article by Bob & Lynn Wellenstein (Bob was our October speaker) on the basics of growing Paphiopedilum orchids.

Bob & Lynn Wellenstein

WHAT TO DO WITH LONG INFLORESCENCES

Some Paphs, both species and hybrids, can produce extremely long inflorescences that can be difficult to deal with especially if you are growing under fluorescent lights. Also, as the inflorescence grows in length, it will at some point actually touch the bulbs, which will inevitably kill the bud by drying it out. Therefore, any Paph in spike must be moved out from under the lights when the bud starts to get too close to the bulbs. 'Too close' is a bit difficult to define, because humidity, and air movement, and density of potting mix and its speed of drying, will have some affect on the outcome, but for safety's sake, remove the plant from under the fluorescents by the time the bud is within a few inches from the lights. Now, what to do with the plant? Well, the inflorescence and the resultant bud will grow in the direction facing the source of the light (think back to grade school science experiments and sunflower seeds and closets and light bulbs). You have basically 2 choices at this point. You could move the plant off to the side on a table, or on to a crate, or some other stable object, and place the developing inflorescence facing the closest fluorescent light. Place it probably not more than 24 inches from the light source, as you do not want to encourage the plant to produce an outrageously long inflorescence. You want the plant to funnel the majority of its resources into the flower, not the stem length. Or, you could place the plant close (but not too close!) to a bright window and allow the inflorescence to develop there.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

We are fortunate that most of the Paphs on the beginner's list will grow just fine at temperatures and humidity levels with which we ourselves are comfortable. Ideally, Paphs probably would like maximum temperatures not above the 85F range, but can tolerate much higher temperatures with minimal stress,

and can go down into the higher 50's F if necessary without suffering leaf or flower damage. The Paphs listed as beginner plants would prefer to stay mostly in the 60-80F range, preferably with a day night differential of 8-10F, but again for this particular group this is an ideal, but not an essential at all. The day/night differential is fairly easy to attain, either when growing under fluorescent lights when the lights go off, or on a windowsill when the sun goes down. Again, ideal relative humidity would be in the 70 to 80% range, but these plants if otherwise cared for properly (i.e., you've maintained a good root system through having an open potting mix, and a reasonable watering schedule) will tolerate lower humidity in the 40% range very well. Do keep a careful eye out for spider mite damage if you do grow in the lower humidity range, and especially if you grow under fluorescents. Spider mite damage will appear most often on the upper sides of the leaves, and will look like fine red dust, and you may also see a dull grayish minutely pitted surface to the leaves and slight webbing on the undersides of the leaves.

AIR MOVEMENT, ETC.

Air movement accomplishes many things in orchid culture. In warmer, high light conditions, it helps prevent heat build up on the leaf surface. In cooler conditions, it dries leaf surfaces after watering and thus limits pathogen growth capable of flourishing on wet surfaces, and under all conditions it helps limit a plants' pathogen exposure by keeping spores from settling on leaf surfaces. A few well-spaced plants on a windowsill will probably do fine without supplemental air movement, as thermal currents should provide enough. However, this gentle sort of air movement is easily disrupted as more and more plants are crowded together. Under these circumstances, or when plants are clustered together especially under fluorescent lights, it is a good idea to provide a small fan to keep the air moving around the plant foliage. Care should be taken in placement of the fan so that it does not force air directly onto the

leaves of the plants, but rather pushes the air around and adjacent to the plants. The problem of direct air flow from a fan in windowsill and under-light cultivation is that the closest plants may dry out extremely fast due to their proximity to the fan, while plants that are somewhat shielded from the fan, or are further away, may take considerably longer to dry out. This condition could make figuring out when and what to water difficult. An ideal situation is when you can place 2 fans that blow the air circularly around the plants, perhaps with one fan placed higher than the other, with the upper fan tilted slightly down to push the warmer air down, and the lower fan tilted up to push the colder air up into the warmer air, thus making the temperatures in the growing area more uniform. There are some cases, when you are growing certain Paphs, that you will actually want the warmer or cooler microclimates that are created in your growing area, either by proximity to a window or light source where the temperatures are warmer, or closeness to the floor on a table or light stand, where the



A PROPER REPOTTING JOB IN AN APPROPRIATE MIX IS ESSENTIAL TO GOOD ROOT GROWTH.

temperatures are cooler. The fan(s) should be run both day and night.

REPOTTING

When and how often should a Paph be repotted? The short answer to this question is an easy one: you repot the plant when it needs it, whether it's spring, summer, winter or fall. Unquestionably, ideal times for repotting are when the weather is going to be warm for some time to encourage new growth, but if the plant needs repotting, it's best not to postpone it.

Most plants appreciate, and need, repotting annually if they are in standard bark mixes. Plants that are grown in the 'new' coconut husk mix probably can go longer, perhaps up to 2 years or more if necessary, as the coconut husk chips do not break down at the same speed as the bark mix does. Seedlings can benefit from twice yearly repotting if you have the time, as they definitely experience a growth spurt in the new medium. Generally, it's helpful, but not absolutely necessary, to water these newly potted adult plants (not the seedlings) a little less often than your other plants, to encourage roots to grow and seek water and nutrients in the mix.

Any Paph that looks unthrifty, sickly, wilted, is falling over in the pot, is starting to grow up and out of the pot, has overgrown its pot with an excessive number of growths, has any sort of wet or damp rot visible on the leaves, has extremely pale leaves, or has excessively wrinkled leaves should be repotted. These conditions can be strongly correlated to poor roots and/or poor growing conditions that caused root loss, with the subsequent loss of ability of the plant to absorb water and nutrients. If the plant does have evidence of bacterial or fungal problems, remove these infected areas either by tearing off the affected leaf or leaf area, or use very carefully a small, sharp knife to excise the infected area. Wash your hands before handling the plant after you have done the 'surgery.'

What should you use for a potting mix? The one that works best for you and your conditions! You can grow Paphs in any number of different types of

potting mix; you can even grow some of them mounted if you have the right conditions. The basic needs are ample ability for holding air and water, ability to stabilize the plant, and not too high a salt retention. The most traditional mixes for the past several decades have been based on fir bark, with various additives such as perlite, aliflor, sphagnum moss or rockwool. Mixes utilizing coconut husk chips and lightweight aggregates are becoming more popular, and are our preferred mix. For more information see the links “Use of Coconut Husk Chips as a Potting Mix Base Superior to Bark” and “Coconut Husk Chips Followup to FAQs” on our website.

Next you need to choose a pot. To a certain extent, determining pot size will take into consideration your growing conditions, growing medium and watering habits, but as a general rule you do not want to ‘over pot’ Paphs. Rather, pot them so that the roots just comfortably fit into the pot, like a hat on your head: snug enough to stay on but not uncomfortably tight. The other consideration in a pot for Paphs is that it has sufficient drainage. Many pots designed for other types of plants do not drain well enough, so it may be necessary to enlarge existing or cut new drainage holes in your pots. The choice between clay and plastic also depends on your circumstances. Plastic pots are available readily in more sizes, lightweight and relatively inexpensive, and are easily modified to increase drainage if necessary. Clay pots dry faster and are more stable on the bench, but also tend to accumulate salts. They also tend to cool the root zone a bit, which can be either a benefit or a detriment depending on your climate.

Now that you have your mix and your pot, you’re all set to repot. First, to unpot your Paph: firmly hold the pot upside down, and with one hand hold onto the pot, and with the other hand grasp the plant at its base, and slowly pull it out of the pot, allowing all the old mix to fall into the trash. If you have difficulty removing the plant, you can carefully squeeze the pot all the way around before turning it upside down, which should loosen the roots sufficiently so that the plant can be removed. Any of the old mix that adheres to the roots of the plants can be gently removed. If you have to struggle to remove it, you will probably do more harm than good by remov-



SMALL COCONUT HUSK CHIPS (CHC). WE HAVE FOUND A MIX BASED ON CHC AND A LIGHT AGGREGATE (IN OUR CASE ALIFLOR) AND CHARCOAL WORKS BEST FOR US.

ing it, as you will damage the roots. Now, carefully hold the plant in the proper position in the pot with one hand (so that the base of the plant—where the roots come out—is just below the lip of the pot), and start to gently work mix in and around the plant’s roots, gently packing it in place with your fingers. Make sure that as you add the mix, you get the mix all the way to the bottom of the pot. Once you have the mix in place, press down very firmly with your fingers all the way around the top of the pot, making sure that there are no empty spaces that could be occupied by mix. It is not likely that you will press with enough force to seriously injure the roots. If the mix condenses with the pressure of your fingers to considerably below the base of the plant, you’ll want to add more mix so that newly emerging roots will have something to grow into. You want the mix level to come up just to the junction of the base of the plant with its roots. If mix is built up higher onto the base of the plant, you will be inviting rot. If the plant is not stable in this position, despite your efforts, you can fashion a wire into a U and insert it over the crown of the plant and into the pot to add stability until the plant grows more roots and anchors itself. Let the plant rest a day, and then you can water it.

Finally, don’t be afraid to take a plant out of

its pot, once you own it, to check on the condition of the roots at any time. It's better to have to unnecessarily repot a healthy plant, than suffer the consequences of waiting until you have a serious problem with your plant, and have to nurse the plant back to good health and good roots.

FINISHED FLOWERING

When your plant is done flowering, generally, it's fine to let the inflorescence fade on its own—it will slowly dry out and turn a brownish color after the flower has dried up and fallen off the plant. Simply snap the stem off, using your first 2 fingers and the thumb on opposite sides of the stem, close to where the inflorescence emerges from the plant. Another way to remove the stem, especially if hasn't turned completely brown and dry, is to grasp it close to the base and your first two fingers and thumb, and give it a quick twist in one direction. Most stems will easy to remove, but there are some plants, *Paph. venustum*, *Paph. tigrinum*, and *Paph. fairrieianum* come to mind, that have very fibrous stems and they really need to be severed from the plant with a knife or razor blade. Remember to flame sterilize your instrument of choice after you have removed the stem. If you've chosen one of the cochlopetalum beginners plants, you will want to wait until the stem is definitely showing signs of turning brown before removing it, as these are sequential bloomers and can surprise you with another flower. If there is any question in your mind as to the health of your Paph and/or its root system, and it is in flower, it is best to cut the flower stem off. This will allow the plant to concentrate its energy in growing new roots and new growth for the next flowering.

Paphs only produce one inflorescence per growth (there have been recorded instances of 2 inflorescences growing from the same growth—we had 2 grow out of a single growth of a *Paph. fowliei*, but it is quite rare), so now it up to you to grow the next growth up to flowering size. When you have grown a Paph and flowered it, the plant is “yours.” Do not be discouraged if you are not completely successful with your first plant, it may take a little while to get the hang of growing them properly, but it will come if

you carefully observe your plants and how they are growing. If you are observant enough, the plants will start to “talk” to you and tell you what is going on. Also remember that all plants are individuals, and it is possible to get the occasional clone that is just a stinker to grow.

Finally, an important concept to keep in mind is one of balance or harmony with regards to the amount of light, fertilizer, heat, pot size, and water that your plant receives. All aspects of orchid culture are closely interrelated. As you may have noticed in the information we've presented, a change in one set of conditions will probably result in the necessity to change other aspects of culture. A complete understanding and appreciation of this concept develops with experience with your Paphs, and attention to detail in your growing.

It is our hope that we have given you enough information in this article to get you a quick and easy start into growing Paphs. If you have further questions, you may be able to find the answers in our Paph. FAQ on our website. As your interest and collection of Paphs grows, you will want to delve deeper into their culture needs, and read our more detailed articles on various aspects of culture. It is our hope that we can help you be a successful Paph grower, and as a result gain greater joy from this hobby.



Bob & Lynn Wellenstein own and operate AnTec Laboratory & Ladyslipper Farm in Candor NY. Their greenhouses contain one of the most impressive collections of slipper species & hybrids on the east coast, if not the entire country. Their breeding program has produced numerous awards & wonderful hybrids, especially in the area of miniature multiflorals. This group is targeted at the grower with limited space, and will bloom in a 4” pot. Although their list of hybrids is impressive, an emphasis remains on propagating species to reduce pressure on the native orchid populations, which continue to be illegally collected.

The full text of this article can be found on the AnTec Laboratory & Ladyslipper Farm website, <http://www.ladyslipper.com>. Text & photos © Bob & Lynn Wellenstein. This remarkable site is a virtual treasure trove of information for the ladyslipper enthusiast, with cultural information on nearly all the slipper genera. In addition, it has the most comprehensive set of photographs of species & hybrids on the World Wide Web!



Guest Speaker: Don Leopold from the SUNY college of Environmental Science and Forestry, speaking on native orchids.

Happy New Year!



Next Meeting: This Sunday, January 12!



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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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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