NEWSLETTER OF THE

Central New York Orchid Society

Volume 2, Issue 11: July 2001

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest

July 15th: Annual CNYOS Summer Picnic!

t's hard to believe, but another CNYOS season is drawing to a close. Our **Annual Summer Picnic** will mark the end of a *very* successful CNYOS season—here are the highlights: invited speakers included Paul Sheetz (Just Pat Orchids), Carol Glenister of IPM Labs, noted orchid taxonomist Eric Christenson, Janice Hanson (White River Orchids), Ron Olcott on photography, and former AOS President Milton Carpenter. The club hosted a successful orchid show last fall, and participated in two regional spring shows (STOS & GROS). We also did our time at the State Fair Grounds, with displays at both the State Fair last August and the CNY Flower & Garden Show in March. And somehow we managed to make time for our Annual Holiday Dinner, trips to two Rochester commercial orchid growers (Joe Kunisch and Jim Marlow), and our recent orchid auction! Good Grief! How did we all find time to actually *care* for our orchids???

ut, alas, we have one more event to round out what has been an incredible CNYOS year: the last official event of the 2000-2001 season is our annual picnic, to be held this coming Sunday, July 15TH, at 3:00^{PM}, at the home of CNYOS Newsletter Editor, Jeff Stuart. And the only agenda for this event is to relax, enjoy the company of friends, and eat! As in past years, the picnic will be a covered dish affair. **Members should bring a dish to pass, a chair to sit in, and their appetites!** The club will provide beverages (non-alcoholic). A gas grill will be available for barbecuing. Don't forget to bring your summer blooming orchids for the show table. There will be a short meeting before we eat—on the agenda will be the club's participation in the Great NY State Fair this August, as well as our quickly approaching show this

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September. In short, we have a lot of work to do before Fall! Directions to Jeff's place are given on pages 10-11. If you're planning on attending, PLEASE call Jeff (471-1404) and let him know so we know how many people to expect.

Also tell us what you're planning on bringing, so we don't have a selection of 10 different kinds of potato salad! The rain date is July 22ND, although the forecast looks good. *Hope to see you there!*

MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 10th, 2001

June Meeting: Annual Orchid Auction

June 10[™] marked our annual auction, our largest fund-raiser of the year. held in May, the auction was postponed by one month due to former AOS President Milton Carpenter's visit. Jeff Stuart sent out request to a number of commercial vendors requesting donations. The following vendors sent generous donations to support CNYOS: Andy's Orchids, Bloomfield Orchids, Carter & Holmes, Hoosier Orchids, Marlow Orchids, Mountain Orchids, Oak Hill Orchids, Piping Rock Orchids, and Zuma Canyon Orchids. In addition, J&L Orchids phoned to say they had found our original letter too late, but otherwise would have sent a donation. Thanks to the generosity of these vendors, AND the enthusiasm of our members and guests, CNYOS netted a profit of over \$1100! This money will be used to keep up the high quality of monthly programs, including invited speakers and the biennial mounted-orchid clinic (coming again next spring!). Last month's auction would not be possible were it not for the generosity of the vendors listed above: please return the favor and remember them with your patronage over the next year. CNYOS also owes thanks to members Jeff Stuart for making the requests of the vendors, Dolores Capella for both housing the orchids and getting things organized, and Cheryl Lloyd for acting as Treasurer, pro tem.

- 1. Sign-up sheets were circulated for participation in our booth to be set up in the Horticultural Building at the New York State Fair on August 25-26.
- **2.** The upcoming Fall Show and Sale was discussed. Volunteers are needed.
- **3.** The annual orchid auction was held. Thanks go out to Jeff Stuart & Dolores Capella for arranging the donations.
- **4.** Member Cheryl Lloyd acted as Treasurer in Elinor Burton's absence.
- **5.** There was a nice show table, but there was not time to discuss the plants.
- **6**. The Picnic will be held on July 15th at the home of Newsletter Editor Jeff Stuart. It will be covered dish. Details to be announce in the next newsletter.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Ditz CNYOS President, on behalf of Treasurer Barbara Weller

ATTENTION COURTESY MAILINGS:

If you are currently receiving this newsletter as a courtesy, **this will be your last issue!** Courtesy mailings are limited to three free newsletters. Thank you for your interest in the Central NY Orchid Society, and we sincerely hope that you will consider becoming a full member of the club. Annual dues are \$15 individual, \$17 family. Please contact Treasurer Elinor Burton for details (682-6274)

CNYOS CALENDAR

July 15

Annual CNYOS Summer Picnic to be held this year at the home of Newsletter Editor Jeff Stuart. Rain date July 22. Bring a dish to pass and a chair to sit in. There will be a short meeting.

July 28-29

Parkside Orchids' 2001 Summer Orchid Fest: Visit historic Bucks County in 2001 and attend the fourth annual Summer Orchid Fest: An event featuring orchid sales, and summer fun! Presentations will cover basic and advanced topics. A total of 18 vendors are expected to participate. For more information, call 610-847-8039. Web site: http://www.parksideorchids.com/

August 25-26

The Great New York State Fair. Just as last year, CNYOS will again participate in the NY State Fair, in the Horticultural Building. We will set up a small display and hand out literature on both growing orchids and the club. Hopefully this will be a good opportunity to boost membership. Details to be announced.

September 11

Guest speaker, Howard Ginsburg: Proprietor of Bedford Orchids (Montreal, Quebec, http://www.bedfordorchids.com/) and AOS Judge (regular at the CNYOS Show). Howard specializes in *Phalaenopsis* hybrids and will discuss new trends in hybridization of perhaps the most popular of all orchids. Meeting will be on a Tuesday evening!

September 14-16 CNYOS Fall Show & Sale at Shoppingtown Mall in DeWitt.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS FOR THE 2000-2001 SEASON!

CNYOS IS PLEASED TO WELCOME IT'S NEW MEMBERS FOR THE 2000-2001 SEASON; ONCE AGAIN, IT'S BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR NEW MEMBERS, WITH ALMOST 20 JOINING THE CLUB.

Farhad & Mitra Azimi	Ellie Hillers	Bill & Stephani Tansey
Ken Becker	John Linehan	Margaret Tupper
Pat Bonamo	Mimi Lyons	Kathy Verone
M-John Caruso	Carolyn & Kevin Pace	Joseph Virkler
Don Davis	Ken Renno	
Colin Dimon	David Rice & Joanna Kwiek	And this list is probably not complete Our apologies if you were inadvertently missed.
Ted Haglin	Robert & Janet Rice	

Welcome All — CNYOS looks forward to seeing you at our meetings and other functions over the next year!

JUNE SHOW TABLE

Cypripedium Alliance

Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice (longifolium x sargentianum)

Cohen Paph. Carolina Park

Paph. bellatulum

Kot

Kot

Cohen

Witkin

Cattleya Alliance

Pot. Little Toshie (Sc. Beaufort x Blc. Toshie
Aokie) Cohen
C. Heathii (walkeriana x loddigesii) Capella
Epi. Jubilee (melanoporphyrium x capricornu) "
Prosthechea vitellina Ditz
Prosthechea lancifolia "
Encyclia tampensis Coleman
Encyclia (Euchile) citrina ?

Vandaceous

Dtps. Ramsden x (Kaula x Golden Wish)

Phal. Snow Flurry (Alice Gloria [sic] x Memoria

Oncidium Alliance

Wils. Calico Gem (Oda. Cranberry Marble x Onc. onustum)

Kot Cuitlauzina (sic) pendula

Onc. Mendenhall (Butterfly x Psychopsis papilio)

Dendrobium

Den. (Talia Beauty x Lipstick Beauty) x Alice
Ogata Kot
Den. aberrans x rhodostictum

Den. lindleyi Lloyd
Den. christyanum Stuart
Den. parishii Coleman

Miscellaneous

Stelis argentata Coleman

Iris Cohen

THE ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC marks the end of the CNYOS Season, as we take a short break for the summer. Although we will be participating in the NYS Fair in August, there will be no regular meeting until September. And we'll be jumping right back into the thick

of things with our September show! So see everyone this fall, and...

... Have a Great Summer!

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!!!

THE LONG-AWAITED
COCONUT HUSK CHIPS WILL
BE AVAILABLE AT THE JULY
PICNIC! CONTACT JEFF
STUART FOR DETAILS!
471-1404



REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

September October November January 2002 Donna Coleman & Monica Kot Dave Ditz Cheryl & Tom Lloyd Judi Witkin

CORRECTION...!

The following was inadvertently omitted from the June newsletter: In addition to receiving a First Place, Dave Ditz's *Trichopilia tortilis* was also awarded Best-of-Show Species at the STOS show. It had an absolutely astounding number of flowers, completely skirting its pot. If the judges didn't consider it for an AOS cultural award, they should have! Congratulations to Dave for this accomplishment, and thanks to new member Pat Bonamo (STOS show chairman) for pointing out the omission.

This month the spotlight is focussed on two of the bifolate Cattleyas, C. schilleriana and C. aclandiae. A less flashy bifolate cousin, *C. forbesii*, is discussed on the following pages.

CATTLEYA ACLANDIAE is a dwarf growing bifoliate whose pseudobulbs are generally less that 5" high. Like *C. violacea* and *C. schilleriana*, the 3-1/2" flowers open shortly after maturation of the new growth

in the late spring, with the buds appearing as the leaves unfold. C. aclandiae has a reputation for being temperamental. It will happily grow on the outside of a clay pot for years, covering the pot with its vigorous root system. Try to give it a new home in a new pot and it will languish. This is an indication that aclandiae roots do not like to stay wet. Indeed. C. aclandiae does much better mounted on a cork slab or piece of salt-free driftwood so that the roots can dry out within a few hours of being watered. We have had best success growing C. aclandiae on small horizontal pieces of cajeput (although buttonwood works equally well).

This Cattleya's native state of Bahia is mostly hot and dry throughout much of the year. Like many of the bifoliates, aclandiae can take high levels of light, as much as possible without burning. Water mounted plants every other day during warm weather and twice a week in winter, increasing the frequency if the recent pseudobulbs look too shrivelled.

C. schilleriana: Despite the plant being small in stature like C. aclandiae, C. schilleriana shares none of its bad reputation as being tough to grow. On the contrary, schilleriana is tolerant of diverse conditions. It does have preferences, however. Although it does grow well in a pot, a cork or tree fern slab, or even a basket, is a better choice. The idea is to give it room to ramble and not have to disturb it too often. The leaves and pseudobulbs of this cattleya should appear dark green tinged with purple anthocyanin pigment which is produced under the high light levels in which it thrives. Provide intermediate to warm temperatures and do not overwater. The flowers can be large, up to 4" with the lip itself being 2" across and beautifully candy-striped. Many *Cattleya schillerianas* have a unique fragrance which I can only describe as "smells like a taco".

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



Cattleya aclandiae © 2000 Greg Allikas



Cattleya schilleriana

FEATURE ARTICLE...

Kyle, Grandson of Ugly Duckling Forbesii, Makes Good - Receives a Highly Commended Certificate from the AOS



Blc. Kyle 'Hearts of Gold' HCC/AOS shows off its striking markings which always stand out in a crowd.

TEXT & PHOTOS BY GREG ALLIKAS The Orchid Photo Page: http://www.orchidworks.com/

People are asking, how could such a downright homely orchid such as *Cattleya forbesii* have such beautfiul children as Blc. Kyle, Blc. Shanghai Jade, Blc. Cadmium Light and the noteworthy Blc. Waikiki Gold. Alan Koch, noted Cattleya breeder and proprietor of Gold Country Orchids has said, " *Cattleya forbesii* is one of my favorite parents because anything you come up with is sure to be an improvement over *forbesii*".

Mustard is the color often used to describe a typical Cattleya forbesii.

"Cattleya forbesii is one of my favorite parents because anything you come up with is sure to be an improvement over forbesii"

Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids



Cattleya forbesii is a lowland species of Brazil's coastal areas from Rio de Janeiro south into Santa Catarina. Typically, it is found growing as an epiphyte in swampy areas inhabiting the lower



Cattleya forbesii and kin, left to right: *C. forbesii*, *C. dayana*, *C. venosa*, Blc. Waikiki Gold 'Lea'

branches of tall trees. Cattleya harrisoniana grows in many of the same locations, where the two species interbreed to make the natural hybrid, Cattleya venosa. Other natural hybrids of Cattleya forbesii include C. dayana (x guttata), C. isabella (x leoplodii) and C. krameriana (x intermedia). Slender pseudobulbs are topped with a pair of leaves and can be short (4" - 10cm) and stained with purple anthocyanin or tall (8" - 25cm) and bright green depending on cultivar and growing conditions, or either. Flowers average 3" across (8 cm) but can occasionally be up to 4" or more as in the awarded clone 'Equilab'. Color can be from a bronzy-tan to a clear green. The reflexed lateral sepals give the flowers a bow-legged appearance. The side lobes of the lip curl neatly over the column giving a nice tubular effect. Perhaps the most attractive feature of forbesii is the beautiful red veining inside the side lobes of the lip set against a center splotch of egg-yolk yellow on the mod-lobe. This veining often carries though to first generation progeny. Like other Cattleyas, flower color can depend on culture, although this effect seems even more pronounced with forbesii and its hybrids. Higher light produces more purple anthocyanin pigment adding a purple tint to the flowers whereas lower light creates less of this pigment allowing the clear green to predominate. It is the purplish cast of anthocyanin that creates muddy colors among forbesii and hybrids—lower light will suppress it. See the photo below using Blc. Pollyana. On a historical note, Cattleya forbesii was originally described as Epidendrum pauper (early on, all orchids were Epidendrums) by Marianus Vellozo in 1790. It wasn't until 1823 that

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Lindley gave the species its present name in honor of a Mr. Forbes who sent the first plants to London.



This photo illustrates the effects of light intensity on flower color using two seperate pieces of the same plant. The flowers on the left developed in low, Phalaenopsis-type light (1500 foot-candles) whereas the flowers on the right developed in bright Cattleya type light (2500+ foot-candles). All other cultural factors were the same. The lavender color tones of the righthand flowers are caused by anthocyanin pigments which the plant produced in response to the higher light levels. These are the same pigments that cause the reddish colors in leaves and pseudobulbs of orchids. In many species the presence of anthocyanin in the vegetative parts of the orchid can be an indication that the plant is receiving adequate light.

To date, 155 hybrids have been registered with C. forbesii as a parent. Many of these fell into obscurity and were not given much notice. When Stewart Orchids registered Blc. Cadmium Light (C. forbesii x Blc. Xanthette) in 1966, the species finally gained notice as a parent. Blc. Cadmium Light was a popular green Cattleya of its time and garnered four flower quality awards from the

Another line of *C. forbesii* breeding that has produced good results has been with Slc. Kaui 'Starbright' (Lc. Flirtie x Slc. Tickety Boo). Lc. Flirtie is C. forbesii x L. flava. Kaui Starbright has been used as a parent 88 times to produce

mostly yellow and orange

cluster-type hybrids.



Blc Waikiki Gold x sib - note the difference from the flower above. The results of this sib cross show more of the grex's bifoliate background

AOS. I remember seeing it for sale well into the eighties. Cadmium Light, probably a triploid, appeared to be a dead end though, having made only eleven registered hybrids of not much note. It wasn't until 1978 when Miyamoto's Orchids registered Blc. Waikiki Gold (Blc. Pink Surprise x C. forbesii) that the awarded forbesii offspring began rolling out of the flasks. Waikiki Gold has



Otr. Maili's Surprise (Ctna. Keith Roth x Blc.Waikiki Gold) has received three flower quality awards



C. forbesii serves well as a grandparent even with more exotic genera. Recc. Adele King (Blc. Waikiki Gold x *Schom. thomsoniana*) garnered an AM/AOS for Tom & Margie Barbaree.

been an excellent parent for breeding yellow, green and art-shade Cattleyas. It imparts good substance, good shape, easy-growing and freeflowering tendencies to its offspring. Although Waikiki Gold itself has received only three flower quality awards (the highest, an 80 pt AM/AOS), a mention of awarded progeny would include Blc. Ann Miyamoto, Blc. Orglades Royal Flush, Blc. Memoria Benigno Aquino, Blc. Erin Kobayashi, Blc. Waianae Treasure, Otr. Maili's Surprise, and the still popular Blc. Golden Tang. Pot. Beaufort Gold, which like these other hybrids is 25% forbesii, has received an unbelievable 13 AOS awards. The majority of this line of breeding has been done in Hawaii where they were quick to recognize the magic of Blc. Wakiki Gold, and C. forbesii, as a superior line of breeding.

Although there have been six awards given to the species itself, only two were for flower quality, the other four were for culture or unusual coloration. We need to ask whether all of *forbesii's* talented offspring are because of—or in spite of—its qualities. And just what are those qualities? Alan Koch told me that he likes the vigorous growth habit of *Cattleya forbesii*—it readily produces multiple leads and is easy to grow under a wide range of temperatures. Plant size is good—not too large. Flower count, okay—usually 3-5 flowers per

inflorescence. Substance of the flowers is good and flowers are a nice intermediate size that can be increased by the other parent. So all we have left to consider is the sometimes "muddy" color and so-so shape of the flowers. As with most any hybridizing program, it appears that with Cattleya forbesii, it is of utmost importance to start with exceptional parents if you want exceptional children. Superior clones like 'Equilab' or alba and semi-alba clones that have clear green petals and sepals are more likely to produce worthwhile offspring than your average forbesii on the street. And what about Blc. Waikiki Gold itself—is there some magic there? Any hybridizer of Cattleyas will tell you that you cannot project what hybrids will look like by counting the percentage of species in the background. However if you are inclined to be curious about such things, Waikiki Gold is, 50% C. forbesii and 25% C. loddigesii. The RHS calls those two parents the previously mentioned C. venosa.

Maybe the magic lies in the remaining 25% in Blc. Glorious Gold...or in the hand of the breeder.



Superior clones of *Cattleya forbesii*, like this albinistic example, are more likely to produce worthwhile offspring.

Many Thanks to Alan Koch, Francisco Miranda and Ned Nash

CATTLEYA FORBESII: CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

Cattleya forbesii has never been much in demand at the flower mar-Some would consider the color muddy, but it is useful in breeding green cattleyas. C. forbesii has the added bonus of a petite stature, the pseudobulbs averaging about 6" high. Although the flowers can be larger, they are generally 2-1/2 to 3" across. Despite the lack of brightly colored petals and sepals, forbesii's lip is attractive with its deep yellow splotch and red veining. This cattleya will grow easily under intermediate conditions and often flower several times during the spring and sum-



mer. Because of its rambling nature, *C. forbesii* seems to prefer a mount to a pot and perhaps slightly less light to produce the brightest colored flowers.

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

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DIRECTIONS TO JEFF STUART'S HOUSE (315-471-1404)

From Route 81: Take Exit 17 for S. Salina St./Brighton Ave.

From 81N: At the bottom of the exit ramp go **Left**. At the second light take a **Right** onto **S. Salina St** and follow until the intersection with E. Colvin St. **Take a Right onto E. Colvin** and proceed through the Light at the intersection with State St. See *Directions from Colvin below.*

From 81S: At the bottom of the exit ramp take a **Right** onto **State St**. Go several blocks and at the first Light, take a **Right onto Colvin**. See Directions from Colvin below.

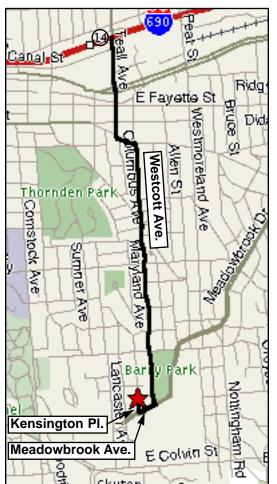
From Colvin: Proceed on Colvin through the intersection with E. Comstock Ave (Light). Go through two more lights(Skytop Rd. and Lancaster Ave.). Take the first **Left** after the intersection with Lancaster Ave., onto **Buckingham Ave**. Go though the stop sign, and **bear to the Right onto Meadowbrook**. Take the first **Left onto Kensington Place**. 351 Kensington Place is the white Cape Cod on the corner of Kensington and Meadowbrook. See maps on facing page.



MAP FROM 81N/S

351 KENSINGTON PLACE: WHITE CAPE COD ON THE CORNER WITH MEADOWBROOK AVE.

From 690: Take the Teall Ave. Exit and go South on Teall (from 690 E. take a Right, or from 690W take a Left onto Teall at the bottom of the ramp). Proceed through the intersection with Erie Blvd—Teall now becomes Columbus—and take a Left onto E. Genesee St (second light). At the next light, take a Right onto Westcott Ave. Proceed on Westcott until it ends at Meadowbrook. Take a Right onto Meadowbrook, and take your first Right onto Kensington Place. 351 Kensington Place is on the corner on



the Right. Please note that the **Teall Ave. on-ramp TO 690W IS CLOSED** FOR THE SUMMER, SO YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO 690W VIA TEALL.

LEFT: MAP FROM 690E/W. BELOW: DETAILED CLOSE-UP



Where: The home of Newsletter Editor Jeff Stuart When: July 15th at 3:00pm Annual CNYOS Summer Picnic

August 25&26: CNYOS at the NY State Fair!

13210-3309 Syracuse, NY 351 Kensington Place Your local AOS & Orchid Digest Affiliate THE 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™ 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

