

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC!

As hard as it is to believe, another CNYOS season is coming to a close. And what a season it's been! Let's recap: the 2003-2004 season saw three excellent invited speakers, including AOS Judge Lena Parker (Orchids of Costa Rica), Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids (Phragmipediums & the saga of *Phrag. kovachii*), and Clark Riley (Cypripediums & Selenipediums). Club activities included a program on orchid judging, the holiday party, a silent auction, a beginners' clinic, the ever-popular biennial

mounted orchid clinic, and our most recent annual spring auction. And if that were not enough, we participated in the Holiday Shoppes, the Home & Garden Show, two regional orchid shows, AND hosted a successful annual fall show & sale that garnered six national awards and both the AOS & Orchid Digest trophies for our own display! *Not that I keep track of such things, but the largest show in the area only had 4 national plant awards this spring... CNYOS should be proud!*

But the season is not quite over yet—we still have our annual summer picnic, and CNYOS is participating in the Herb Fest of Oneida County (details page 7). This year's picnic will once again be held at the home of Dianne Bordoni, this Sunday, June 6TH at 2:00^{PM}—members are asked to bring a dish to pass and a chair to sit in. The club will provide paper plates, etc., as well as non-alcoholic beverages. If you're planning on attending, please RSVP (by Friday, June 4TH) to Dianne as soon as possible, and let her know what you're planning to bring (446-3836). Members are encouraged to car-pool because parking will be limited. If parking is no longer available, additional parking will be available in her neighbor's circular driveway (same side of the road, past Dianne's home). Street parking is not recommended. There will be a short meeting during the picnic to discuss some of the upcoming fall activities, including our show, scheduled for October 1-3. And don't forget to bring your blooming orchids for the last show table of the season! Directions to Dianne's home are on page 11.

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MAY MEETING: ANNUAL ORCHID AUCTION

Last month's meeting marked our annual Orchid auction, with a wide variety of orchids donated by reputable vendors from all over the country, as well as some from our own members. And as for previous years, it was a glowing success! According to Treasurer Carol Haskell, net proceeds totaled \$1928.50! And after a dismal showing at the CNY Home and "Garden" Show, those profits are especially appreciated. Money brought in from the auction will be funnelled back into programs and other member benefits throughout the next year. A special thanks goes out to all of the vendors who supported our auction, including **Andy's Orchids, AnTec Orchids, Black Meadow Orchids** (formerly **Frier's Orchids**), **Bloomfield Orchids, Carter & Holmes Orchids, Hoosier Orchids, J&L Orchids, JustPat Orchids, Marlow Orchids, Mountain Orchids, Oak Hill Gardens, and Piping Rock Orchids**. Although CNYOS provides checks for \$25 to help offset their costs, vendors are obviously under no obligation to make donations to our auction. **Now it's up to us to return the favor—please look to these vendors first when making your orchid purchases!** Of all the vendors the of which the club makes donation requests, these vendors have supported our club year after year. We owe them both our thanks, and our loyalty. Thank you letters will be sent to each vendor by the newsletter editor.

CNYOS owes another debt of thanks to all of you members out there who auctioned off plants from your own collections, or purchased plants to donate to the cause. Thanks also to all the members who helped set up and run the auction (Kim & son, Deb, Dianne, Carol, Judi, Tom, Carol, & Cynthia). Finally, your newsletter editor/auctioneer owes thanks to CNYOS members Iris Cohen and Jeff Snyder, both of whom helped out by providing descriptions and/or actually auctioning off plants.

1. Treasurer's Report—the Club has assets of \$5,259.19.
2. The STOS Show (Binghamton) Kim thanked everyone who participated in the Show.
3. Laptop computer and printer—Deb Coyle suggested that the club make these purchases that could provide a registration program and Sanders information to facilitate registration at Shows. Charles suggested that anyone can make a direct donation to the computer. David suggested we buy a product that will last and has upgrade potential. The group voted on purchasing a club computer. Jeff will print information in the June newsletter.
4. This year's annual picnic will again be at Dianne Bordoni's home, to start at 2^{PM}, please bring your own chair and a dish to pass. The rain date will be the following Sunday, June 13TH.
5. Herb & Flower Festival—Rich Braue passed out the sign up sheet.
6. Monica Kott announced that this year's African Violet Show will be at the Great Northern Mall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Weller, CNYOS Secretary

Mark Your Calendars!

*Our Annual Fall Show & Sale is scheduled for **OCTOBER 1-3** in Shoppingtown Mall, DeWitt.*

Featured will be Lots of Displays,
Judging by the American Orchid Society,
Tons of Orchids, & Vendors!



- June 6** **Annual Summer Picnic to be held again this year at the home of Dianne Bordoni.** Directions on Page 11.
- June 26** **Herb & Plant Show:** CNYOS will have a display and will be selling plants at the Herb & Plant Show in Oriskany NY.
- June 25-July 4** **J&L Orchids Annual Summer Sale!** 15% discount on J&L plants and special J&L bargain tables. There will be two guest vendors on the first weekend: Jim Rose of Cal-Orchid and Carrie Raven-Reiman of Orchidphile. Meet the owners of these nurseries and learn about their plants from the experts. More info: <http://www.jlorchids.com/>, (203) 261-3772
- July 31-Aug 1** **Parkside Orchids Summer Orchid Fest 2004:** See website for details: <http://www.parksideorchids.com>. Several CNYOS members are planning on attending.
- August 14** **Marlow Orchids Summer Orchid Fair:** Marlow's Orchids, Scottsville NY. At least 6 vendors expected to participate, including Bloomfield Orchids, Salzman Orchids, Main Street Orchids, Mountain Orchids, and Marlow Orchids.
- August 15** **Summer Orchid Seminar:** The Genus Phragmipedium: 8^{AM} to 5^{PM}, Williamsport, PA. Multiple lectures on the Phragmipediums from various experts, including Bob Wellenstein, Hadley Cash, and Bill Wertz. Vendors will be on hand as well. For more information see page 4.
- October 1-3** **CNYOS Annual Fall Show & Sale, Shoppingtown Mall, DeWitt.**

THE ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC marks the end of the 2003-2004 CNYOS Season,

as we take a well-deserved break for the summer.

There will be no regular meeting until September. And then we'll be jumping right back into the thick of things with our upcoming Fall Show, scheduled for October 1-3!

So see everyone this fall, and...

*Have a Great
Summer!*



Please note especially all names and abbreviations in bold-face, and correct or complete your records.

Cypripedium Alliance

Paph. tonsum Churchill
Paph. delenatii Coleman

Cattleya Alliance

Guarianthe (*Gur.*) *aurantiaca* Churchill
C. mossiae “
Iwan. Appleblossom (*Dial.* Snowflake x *Blc.* Orange Nuggett)
Lowell
Epi. Crystal Valley (*Star Valley* x *radicans*) Coleman
L. unknown Stuart

Vandaceous

Neost. Lou Sneary (*Neof. falcata* x *Rhy. coelestis*) ?
Phal. Venimp (*venosa* x Malibu Imp) Capella
Asctm. miniatum Churchill
Phal. Golden Peoker x **Tinny Ivory** Rossler
Phal. pulcherrima Ufford
Phal. lueddemanniana “
Phal. bellina “
Phal. Gold Tris (*Taipei Gold* x *equestris*) ?
Dtps. Happy Ufo (*King Shiang's Beauty* x *Ever-spring King*)
Cohen

Oncidium Alliance

Onc. unknown* Churchill
Mtdm. Issaku Nagata (*Onc. leucochilum* x *fuscatum*) Capella
Odm. cristatellum Stuart
Onc. Sweet Sugar (*Aloha Iwanaga* x *varicosum*) Osio
Milt. Michael David Lawless (*santanaei* x Pearl Ono)
Rossler

Milt. Red Tide x *Memoria Ida Seigel* “
Mtdm. Bartley Schwarz (*Milt.* Red Pali x *Onc.* Honolulu) Coleman
Wils. Susi (*Onc. tigrinum* x *Oda.* Feuerglut) “
Trpla. suavis Ufford
Onc. Regal Pink (*Tiny Tim* x **Royal Purple**) Olney
Odm. crispum Stuart

Dendrobium Alliance

Den. pseudoglomeratum Witkin
Den. hercoglossum Coleman
Den. primulinum Ditz
Den. pentapterum Stuart
Den. harveyanum “
Den. sulcatum “

Pleurothallid Alliance

Pths. tarantula Witkin
Rstp. striata “
Ste. superbiens “

Masd. infracta Ditz

Miscellaneous

Cym. tigrinum Stuart
Angcm. viguieri photo Capella
Aërgs. citrata Ditz
Prom. xanthina Witkin
Prom. Crawshayana (*stapelioides* x *xanthina*) “

*Could find nothing with a name even remotely like this, nor did Oak Hill Gardens have any information. Check the label.

Iris Cohen

SUMMER ORCHID SEMINAR: THE GENUS PHRAGMIPEDIUM

When: Sunday, August 15, 2004: 8^{AM} to 5^{PM}

Where: Old Lycoming Township Fire Hall, Williamsport, Pennsylvania

For Information contact: Jeff Tucker (570) 998-8746 (paphman@earthlink.net), Bill Werntz (609) 773-0447, or Shirley Dunkleberger (dkmount@juno.com).

Noteworthy Speakers will include Hadley Cash, (Flask to FCC); Valerie Lowe (AOS Phrag Awards in 2003); H. P. Norton (Phrag Culture in South Carolina); Bob Wellenstein (Phrag Culture in New York); Bill Werntz (What Becomes a Legend: Most AOS Awards History—Jason Fisher); and Tony Whitiker (Phrag Culture under Lights).

Vendors will include AnTec Lab, H. P. Norton, Marriot Orchids, Marsh Hollow Orchids, and Tony Whitiker.

Registration for the event will cost \$20.00 (includes breakfast and lunch)

Registrar: Bill Werntz, 150 South Main Street, Lambertville, NJ 08530

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!!!

Coconut Husk Chips will be available at the June Picnic. The club has purchased several bales of CHC for members to purchase. CHC makes great potting media, as long as it is properly rinsed of salts. Instructions will be available.



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

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

WINTER-SPRING, 2004 - 2005

*We Need Volunteers for Next Year!
Please Consider Signing Up!*

STOS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY

Although no specific program information for the June meeting was available by the time of this printing, the Southern Tier will be scheduling a picnic for sometime over the summer. No further details are available at this time.

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 GROS annual Summer Picnic will be held on June 6 at Mendon Ponds Park (Pondview Shelter), starting with a social hour at Noon, and dinner at 1^{PM}. The club will provide soda, beer, meat, rolls, condiments, pater plates, utensils, cups and napkins. Members are requested to bring a dish to pass, such as an appetizer, hot or cold dish, salad or desert. As usual, the show table will attend to take its final bow of the season. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and clean-up. If you didn't sign up at the meeting, it would be appreciated if you would call or email the picnic chair (Dottie Dailie (889-2015 or picnic@geneseeorchid.org).and let her know you're planning to come.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 26, No. 9, June 2004, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

LAELIA ALAORII, SOPHRONITIS COCCINEA & SL. CORAL ORB

Last month's issue of *THE ORCHID ENTHUSIAST* contained an article by Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids on Cattleyas for the Home Grower. One of the featured hybrids was *Sl. Coral Orb*,

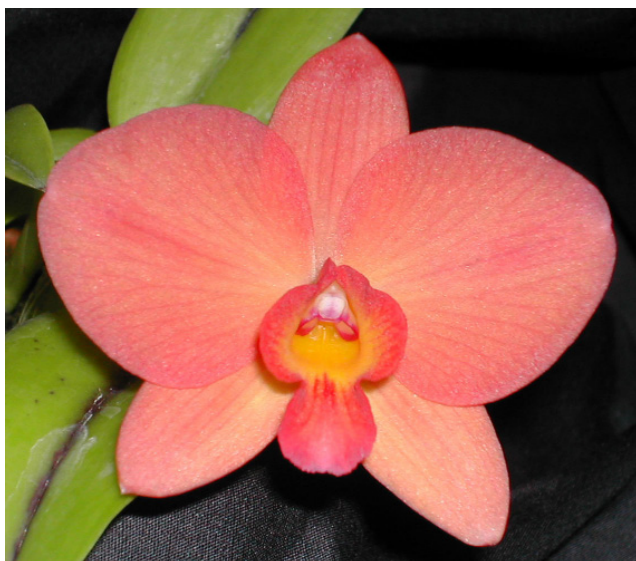
the grex resulting from *Laelia alaorii* & *Sophronitis coccinea*. However, no photograph of *Sl. Coral Orb* was available at the time. So now we revisit this wonderful hybrid, complete with illustration and a discussion of its parents.



Laelia alaorii (right, top) is a relative newcomer to the orchid hobbyist, having been first described in 1976, but only recently becoming widely available. It is found in Brazil, where it grows as a small epiphyte relatively bright light (i.e. not full Cattleya light), with intermediate to warm temperatures. It is widely regarded as easy to grow & bloom, with flowers arising any time of year as new growths mature, often in bloom 8 months out of the year! The flowers (~1.5-2") are very pale lavender-pink, often described as "blueish." It is considered by some to be a *Sophronitis*.



The discovery of *Sophronitis coccinea* (middle) revolutionized Cattleya hybridization by introducing both the color red and small size to its progeny. The adjective "small," however, refers only to the plant—the flowers can measure up to 3" across, on a plant only 3-4" tall. It is a cool-grower from cool montane forests of Brazil, and is pollinated by hummingbirds—just look at the shape of the lip, and it's not hard to imagine! Unfortunately, it's not the easiest orchid to grow, requiring clean water and cool temperatures. But those bright red to orange flowers are hard to resist!



Finally, we come to *Sl. (Sophrolaelia) Coral Orb* (bottom right), the hybrid grex that results upon crossing *L. alaorii* & *Soph. coccinea*. This hybrid produces good-sized flowers on a small plant, and blooms at a young age with variable color that ranges from red to salmon pink to coral orange.

Furthermore, because it results from cool and int/warm-growing parents, it is temperature tolerant. This easy to grow hybrid is a sure winner! Gold Country Orchids has them listed in their current catalog (www.goldcountry-orchids.com/).

CNYOS entered a display at the recent **Southern Tier Orchid Society Show & Sale** in late April, including orchids from at least a half dozen members. The display, set up by Judi Witkin, Barb Weller & Nancy Loveland, took a first place ribbon in its category—good work! Thanks go to all the members who donated their plants for the display. Special thanks go to Iris Cohen for her efforts in getting the entries registered. Unfortunately no photo of the display is available. Awards that went to CNYOS members are listed below.

Central NY Orchid Society			
Exhibit Covering 25 square feet	1 ST	<i>Ren. imschootiana</i>	2 ND
		<i>Cym. tigrinum</i>	2 ND
		<i>Ob. setigera</i>	2 ND
		<i>Paph. Lyro Glorious Magic</i>	3 RD
		<i>Lc. Little Oliver x Enc. cordigera</i>	3 RD
Donna Coleman			
<i>Phal. Timothy Christopher</i>	1 ST		
<i>Physosiphon tubatus</i>	2 ND		
<i>Enc. bractescens</i>	3 RD		
Mtdm. Bartley Schwarz 'Highland'	3 RD		
Wils. Susi 'Scaarlet Passion'	3 RD		
Dave Ditz			
<i>Lc. Mandarin</i>	3 RD		
Nancy Loveland			
<i>Onc. Patrapara Charusorn</i>	2 ND		
Gary Stensland			
The Armchair Explorer (art exhibit)	1 ST		
Jeff Stuart			
Special Award: Jim Kie Award for Culture Under Lights or on a Windowsill: <i>Ren. imschootiana</i>			
		Charles Ufford	
		Educational Exhibit: Native Orchids	1 ST
		<i>Phal. lueddemanniana</i>	2 ND
		<i>Phal. stuartiana</i>	3 RD
		Judi Witkin	
		Special Awards:	
		Best Pleurothallidinae: <i>Pleur. tarantula</i>	
		Best Botanical: <i>Stereochilus datatensis</i>	
		<i>Stereochilus datatensis</i> (botanicals class)	1 ST
		<i>Stereochilus datatensis</i> (miniatures class)	1 ST
		<i>Pleur. tarantula</i>	1 ST
		<i>Jumellea aracanantha</i>	3 RD
		CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!	

CNYOS to participate in Herb Fest at the Oneida County Cooperative Extension: June 26, 2004

The day-long Oneida County Herb Fest attracts visitor from all over the NorthEast, and this year CNYOS will have a booth with both a display and blooming orchids for sale (to be purchased from Black Meadow Orchids). Club member Rick Braue will give a few presentations during the day on the basics of orchid-growing. As we do for any event that requires a display, we will need your blooming orchids! The general requests apply:

1. **PLEASE** put your name on the pot so the plant finds its way home! Groom & stake your plants as needed.
2. Blooming orchids may be dropped off at the home of either **Deb Coyle**, 5186 Winterton Dr., Fayetteville, NY (315/445-9106) or **Dianne Bordoni**, 61 Lyndon Rd., Fayetteville, NY (315/446-3836) **by Thursday, June 24**. Please call ahead to coordinate leaving the plants.
3. If you have questions about the Herb Fest, please call Rick Braue at (315) 896-2709, or e-mail

orchidmakor@aol.com. Make sure you put "orchids" in the subject heading as Rick deletes messages from unknown addresses.

Directions to the Herb Fest at the Oneida County Cooperative Extension

From the Thruway, coming from the east or west:

1. Exit the Thruway at the **Westmoreland Exit, Exit # 32** (Rt. 233).
2. At the **first traffic light** after exiting the toll booth, **turn left**.
3. This is **Cider St**. Proceed approximately **3 miles** on Cider St. to the next traffic light. **Turn Left on to Judd Rd.**
4. **Proceed approximately 1/2 mile** on Judd Rd. **The OCCE building is on the left.** It is set back from the road, but readily visible. Make two left turns into the parking lot.
5. The CNYOS display and sales booth will be inside the building.



At the May meeting, the option of the purchase of a lap-top computer by the Central NY Orchid Society was advanced by Past President Deb Coyle and discussed at some length. The advantages are several fold, but primarily include the ability to utilize Wildcatt Orchids (<http://www.wildcattdata.com/>), a comprehensive orchid database program that enables facile access of up-to-date information in Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids and Awards Quarterly. This would greatly reduce the need to look up orchid hybrids in Sander's (all those old texts that appear at our show registration each year), making registration go much faster. Furthermore, investing in Sander's represents an ongoing cost to the club as new additions are published—the series is currently at 7 volumes and over 100,000 entries. Searching for a particular hybrid can be daunting; the Wildcatt data base simplifies this procedure.

In addition, the computer could be used to maintain club's accounts and membership files; as such the

computer would probably be kept with the club treasurer.

Proposal for the CNYOS Notebook Computer

CNYOS members have asked for a list of specifications for a notebook PC to be utilized for show registration and judging activities. The Wildcatt software package would be purchased and installed on this PC. Wildcatt requires Windows 3.1 or higher; at least a 386 processor; 16 meg RAM; and 70 meg of free disk space. The cost for the software is \$160 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling and is updated every six months on 3/1 and 9/1 for \$60 annually.

Requirements for the Notebook Computer:

A 15 inch or greater screen; 2.8 or higher GHZ processor speed; at least 512 MB of DDR SDRAM (memory) with the option to increase this as needed; 40 Gigabytes or higher hard drive (available space to hold data); DVD/CD-RW combo drive; a 3.5 inch floppy drive (which can be bought separately as an external drive that is plugged into a USB port—cost around \$60); a carrying case; and a basic ink jet color printer.

Optional: Do we want to have an integrated 802.11b/g wireless LAN? This will allow the PC to be utilized in an area that supports wireless computing. However, it will add a couple hundred dollars to the cost, and is probably not worth the expense at this time.

The cost for the above shall not exceed \$1500.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Coyle

CNYOS Show Quickly Approaching!

It's time to start thinking about the show, especially those members on the exhibit committee. Use the summer to start thinking of ideas for a new and novel display, and perhaps even to collect any needed props. But we'll need all kinds of help, including set up & break down, manning booths & tables, and even hosting orchid vendors & guests. Contact our show chairman, Dave Ditz (635-8148, dditz7733@hotmail.com) and let him know how you can help out!

by Mike Clark, Tallahassee Orchid Society

For those of us who travel or those who find conventional culture methods for orchids like a foreign language, Ray Barkalow has trademarked a culture method for orchids he calls Semi-Hydroponics™. For some orchid growers the watering schedule, especially inside the house can be intimidating. Todd Zimmerman, whose webpage starts with the quote “I’m not good with this whole watering thing”, is big into Semi-Hydroponics™ (let’s just call it S/H for the rest of this article). Todd is an Assistant Professor at Long Island University whose problem with growing orchids is very similar to mine. Todd has that compulsive feeling to tend to his orchids in a way that offers too much water. He finds that S/H prevents him from over watering and offers the added benefit of allowing anyone (almost anyone) to care for his plants while he is on the road.



Figure 1 Courtesy of Ray Barkalow

WHAT IS SEMI-HYDROPONICS™

Ray points out that the majority of orchid growing is hydroponic in nature. Growing medium primarily provides the plant mechanical support, offering little to no nutrient value. In hydroponic methods, nutrients are provided as fertilizer solutions on a regular basis by the grower. Traditional hydroponic methods are not appropriate for orchid culture due to the reuse of nutrient solution potentially causing the spread of fungus, bacteria, and viruses (Oh My!).

The S/H culture method basically involves the use of a single container for each orchid, an inert medium to grow in, and a water level that cannot exceed a given level (Figure 1). It’s a passive hydroponic system. Todd says you are providing the plant’s roots with constant favorable conditions. When you use an

organic medium and you over water, you provide a constant moisture condition that promotes bacterial and fungal growth.

CONTAINERS

One of the drawbacks, if you could call it that, is the container used for S/H is not a normal clay or plastic pot. Although you can go out and buy special pots for the S/H method, you can also make them yourself. S/H pots that you purchase can be made of plastic or clay. The S/H pots you can make are mostly plastic. Use a plastic container that is taller than its diameter. You can use drink cups, painter buckets, food storage containers, trash cans and any other plastic container with a closed bottom.

You can make your own containers by melting (with a soldering iron) three holes in the side of the container about 1.5 inches up from the bottom. You can also use a regular pot (make it a deep one with holes in the bottom) in a saucer, so the pot will hold about an inch of water. Although Todd tells me that this a very inconvenient and inefficient method.

MEDIUM

The medium is a key component in the S/H culture method. The medium must be inert. Inert medium will not decompose and result in prime growing habitat for fungus and bacteria. The growing medium should be of uniform size to provide free air space and provide good capillary (wicking) action to keep the root zone uniformly moist. Figure 2 shows a container with medium.

Good medium to use includes, but is not limited to: LECA (Lightweight Clay Aggregate) sold by hydroponics stores, Aliflor, Hydroton, and others (try the solite you can get for free at the concrete plants, ask nicely);

Very coarse perlite (sponge rock in the ? to ? inch range) can be used with coarse charcoal (as Todd points out the perlite will float in water and can be anchored with gravel on top of the medium); PrimeAgra™ (coarse grade ? inch); Pumice (I’ve seen

it sold at Charley's Greenhouse and use it for growing Bulbophyllums); and Try other inert materials like rocks, ground up tires, and who knows, maybe some of those broken clay pots you have under the potting bench.

POTTING

Todd recommends removing most of the roots, leaving only enough to anchor the plant. You do not need to compress the potting medium into the pot. For subsequent repottings, move all the roots and media to a larger container and add additional media. Shaking the pot as you fill it with the medium will allow the mix to settle in around the roots. Ray notes that he has not had problems with over potting plants as they quickly fill the pot with roots.

WATERING

Ray says watering should be done infrequently, once every week or two depending on your growing conditions. Dilute fertilizer can be used for every watering. If you use the containers with the holes on the sides, you can water the plant to the top of the pot and allow the excess to drain to the level of the holes.

WHAT CAN I GROW IN S/H

Ray reports that he has done well with growing most orchids in S/H. He grows Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, Masdevallias, Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, Oncidiums, Dendrobiums, Epidendrum, Miltonopsis, Pleurothallids, and Zygopetalums. Ray says he has not tried Tolumnias or vandaceous orchids with the S/H method, but says he'll get there one day.



Figure 2, S/H Pot and Medium (Photo courtesy of Todd Zimmerman)

COMMENTS ON THE SEMI-HYDRO METHOD FROM CNYOS MEMBER RICK BRAUE

CNYOS Member Rick Braue has been an avid proponent of growing orchids by Ray Barkelow's Semi-Hydroponic method for some time now—the technique is described on Ray's website, <http://www.firsttrays.com>. After purchasing the starter kit, Rick realized he could make his own pots easily. He commonly uses any plastic container that has the right shape, including cottage cheese, catsup, mayonnaise, salad dressing, soda water, peanut butter, etc. Three holes (~ one quarter inch in size) are cut in the side of the container, roughly one-half to one inch from the bottom. One must take into account if the bottom of the container is flat or protrudes up into the container—if it protrudes up, the holes need to be a bit farther up the side to compensate for the loss of water holding volume. The holes must be large enough to allow excess water to drain, while retaining the potting media. Rick uses two types of media: medium size Aliflor, or a 50%/50% mix of medium sponge rock and small/medium horticultural charcoal. The potting medium MUST be thoroughly washed to remove any dust. Thick-rooted orchids get the Aliflor, while thin rooted orchids get the sponge rock/charcoal mixture. Rick is quick to point out that this is not to say that the thick rooted ones won't grow well in the 50/50 mix, but he finds the thin rooted ones like more water, and the 50/50 mix seems to provide that. As far as pots are concerned, Rick prefers clear plastic containers because it is easy to see the water level.

A clear advantage is that there is no fear of the media breaking down to rot the roots (a major drawback of bark). Furthermore, the Aliflor is reusable by spreading it on a foil lined cookie sheet & baking in the oven at 300°F for about an hour. Clean off the dust & detritus & reuse. The 50/50 mix is not reusable, but one only has to remove the plant, shake it to dislodge loose medium & repot.

Rick's final comment is that the Semi-Hydroponic method for growing orchids in an inorganic (i.e., inert) media does NOT negate the requirement to NOT OVER POT the plant. That maxim still holds.

61 Lyndon Rd.
Fayetteville NY
446-3836

Dianne's place can be reached most easily from the West *via* Erie Boulevard, Rt. 481, or Rt. 690.

From the ThruWay (E or W): Take exit **34A to 481S**, following **481S to Exit 3E** for Fayetteville (E. Genesee St.). The exit will merge onto E. Genesee (going East). Go to the third light (Lyndon Corners) and take a sharp left onto Lyndon Rd. Go roughly 0.6 mile and look for **house #61 on the left**.

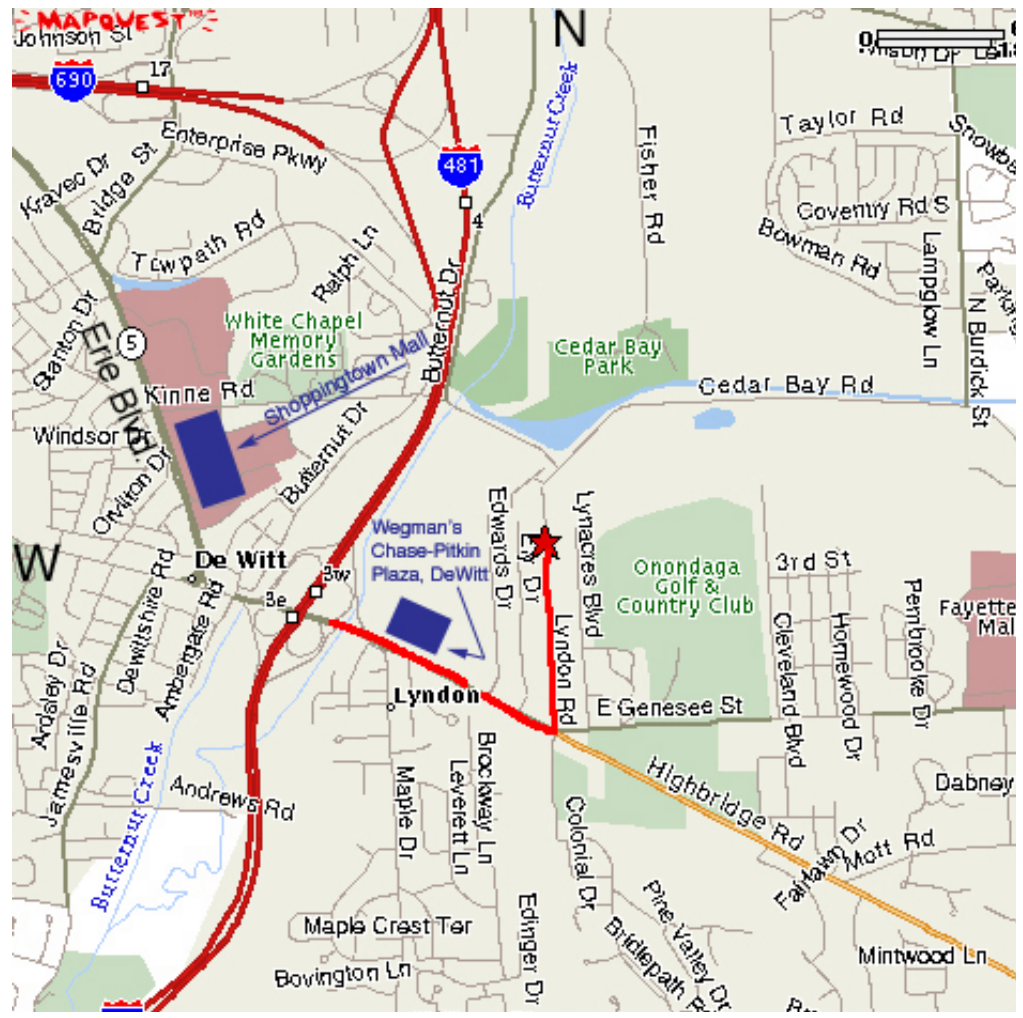
From Rt. 690: Take 690E to 481, and follow **481S to Exit 3E**. See above.

From Erie Blvd.: Take **Erie S/E** until the intersection with **E. Genesee St.** in DeWitt. **Go Left onto E. Genesee** (at the fire-station), and follow directions as outlined above.

Parking will be limited, so please car-pool if possible. If there is no more parking in Dianne's driveway, proceed to the next house on the left and park in the circular driveway.

Don't forget to bring a chair for yourself.

Paper products and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. **Please contact Dianne to RSVP by Friday, June 4TH,** and let her know what you're planning to bring.



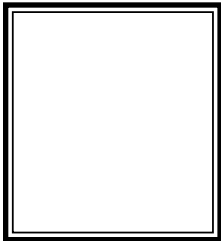
Last Meeting of the Summer!

Annual Summer Picnic!!!

LATE
EDITION!



Next Meetings: Sundays, June 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

President: Kim Boronczyk (315) 455-7587
Co-V. Presidents: Carolyn Pace (315) 662-7993
Cynthia Busic-Synder (315) 684-7525
Treasurer: Carol Haskell (315) 468-0811
Secretary: Barbara Weller (315) 468-5039
Newsletter Editor: Jeff Stuart (315) 471-1404

<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.

Jeff Stuart, Editor

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