

**MARCH MEETING: TAKING ORCHID SEEDLINGS OUT OF COMPOT**



**C**ompot—you've seen the term—almost every orchid dealer nowadays sells a few compots. But perhaps you're not familiar with exactly what this means, or what it means to take care of one. Compot is short for community pot, a collection of orchid seedlings potted together after being removed from flask. Potting the seedlings in close proximity allows them to benefit from mutual humidity, and encourages root production (the media does not stay moist long enough to encourage root-rot). So at our next meeting, Sunday March 2<sup>ND</sup> at 2<sup>PM</sup>, we're going to take a look at a few compots which have been ordered from Exotic Orchids of Maui. The cross we have ordered is the mini-catt Slc. Angel Eyes (Slc. Bright Angel x C. Little Dipper), which will have lavender flowers and a yellow lip marked with purple. During the meeting, we will take a look at the compots, and pot the seedlings up individually. And for a nominal fee (\$3-5 ea., depending on how many seedlings there are) members can take a seedling home to their collection!

**CNYOS PARTICIPATING AT THE CNY FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW, 3/13-3/16:** After some question as to whether CNYOS would be participating at this year's Flower & Garden Show, the organizers finally gave us the green light! So just as in past years, we'll be setting up a display and an information booth where we will answer questions and sell a selection of easy-to-grow orchids. Historically this has been our largest fund-raiser, and we will need the help of our membership with manning the booth, setting-up the display, and breaking down at the end of the show. To date, several members have already volunteered, but we still need volunteers for the following times: Thursday 3/13, 5-8:30<sup>PM</sup> (one needed); Friday, 3/14, 2-5:30<sup>PM</sup> (one needed), 5:30-8:30<sup>PM</sup> (one needed); and Saturday, 3/15, 10<sup>AM</sup>-3<sup>PM</sup>, 3<sup>PM</sup>-8:30<sup>PM</sup> (two needed for each slot). All slots are filled for Sunday 3/16, although we could use some additional help with break-down at 6<sup>PM</sup>. The sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting, along with details regarding parking and badges.



CNYOS Members can purchase orchids from the club at a 10% discount—those members who volunteer to help at the show will get a 20% discount!



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**FEBRUARY MEETING: AOS VIDEO ON  
GROWING ORCHIDS UNDER FLUORESCENT  
LIGHTS**

At the last meeting of the Central NY Orchid Society, VP Judi Witkin showed the AOS video on growing orchids under lights. The video had a lot of helpful tips for both the novice and advanced grower. Toward the end of the video, several growers were interviewed, including John Sullivan, who has been a regular judge at our annual show for several years now. John's basement light gardens were filled with a host of miniature orchids—700-800 total—many of which are extremely challenging to grow.

After one of our better show tables, several members volunteered suggestions on how they successfully grow their own orchids. Unfortunately the AOS video went longer than expected, and not a lot of time was left over for this part of the program. If there's time at our March Meeting, we'll continue this segment!

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**FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>: TRIP TO BLOOMFIELD  
ORCHIDS**

On Saturday February 8<sup>TH</sup>, about 15-20 members made the trip to Bloomfield Orchids to enjoy a little warmth in Joe Kunisch's greenhouses, and pick up a few orchids. As usual, Joe had a nice meal brought in, including several varieties of pizza, a lasagna, stromboli, and some mouth-watering deserts made by Joe's wife Norma. Joe had a great selection of orchids in bloom—mostly slippers—and offered cultural tips to anyone who asked. Everyone left with something nice to add to their collections. Afterwards, a number of members made short drive out to Jim Marlow Orchids, who had his Valentine's Day Open House that same day. For those of you who were unable to attend, Jim will have a booth at this year's Flower & Garden Show, so stop by and see him there!

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**MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2003**

1. Two new members were introduced, plus one previous member has returned to the club
2. The old AOS Bulletins have been pulled from the library bookshelf and are in a box; take what bulletins you like.
3. Thanks to Deb Coyle and Dianne Bordoni for the refreshments.
4. The supplies from Tropical Plants are in. Try the seedling mix to see if you like it. Let Dianne Bordoni know what supplies you need for the March meeting. We have 2002 AOS calenders for \$ 5 each.
5. There was a discussion about the different kinds of fluorescent lights members use, in the hopes that the group can decide on a specific kind to order for the club.
6. We have not as yet heard from the Flower and Garden Show regarding our participation status.
7. Dues are **really** due.
8. Field trip on 2/8/03 to Bloomfield Orchids, catalog distributed, park at the Parish Hall parking space by 9:30-9:45<sup>AM</sup>. Jim Marlow also is having an open house that day.
9. Fall Show—Show Chair and Judging Chair still needed. Ken Renno volunteered to be on the Planning Committee.
10. Survey for future programs distributed by VP Judi Witkin.
11. Cheryl Lloyd announced that Ginny Spina is planning a Hudson Valley trip June 24-26, 2003.

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

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- March 2**                    **Regular Meeting:** Taking seedlings out of compot.
- March 6-9**                **Sonnenberg Orchid Show**, Thursday, 3/6 - Sunday, 3/9, 10AM-5PM. The Wine Center will be open for limited tastings. Admission: \$5—children under twelve—free: 151 Charlotte St., Canandaigua
- March 13-16**            **Central NY Flower & Garden Show** in the Horticultural Building at the NYS Fairgrounds. CNYOS will be participating by selling orchids and educating the public.
- March 16**                **STOS Regular Meeting:** Program to be announced. Monthly meetings begin at 2:00<sup>PM</sup> 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>.
- 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. ***We'll need your blooming orchids for the CNYOS display!!!***
- April 10-13**            **23<sup>RD</sup> Greater New York International Orchid Show**, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY. Contact: Carlos Fighetti, 4325 Piermont Rd., Closter, NJ 07624; (201) 767-3367.
- April 12**                **Men's Garden Club of Syracuse and Phoenix Flower Farm/PFF Landscaping** present "**Shades of Night**," the 9<sup>TH</sup> annual Spring Gardening Seminar, with Judy Glattstein & Cathy Barash. Call 315-451-2969 or 315-655-9124 for registration info (\$35). Craftsman Inn, Fayetteville.
- April 25-27**            **Southern Tier Orchid Society Spring Show**, Oakdale Mall, Reynolds Road, Johnson City, NY.

*Expanded Spot Light section this month!* Our spot light is a bit brighter this month, and spans a full 4 pages (pgs. 6-9)! But there wasn't room for the entire piece—look for a guide to telling the differences between *Cattleyas guttata* and *leopoldii* next month!

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**GROS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE GENESEE REGION ORCHID SOCIETY**

This month's speaker is Mario Ferrusi, proprietor of Marsh Hollow Orchids. Mario is the President of the Southern Ontario Orchid Society and an AOS judge. His talk, entitled "How to Design a Show Display or Exhibit," will provide key insight into one of the most subjective tasks orchid clubs face on a yearly basis! With the GROS show quickly approaching, his talk could not come at a better time. Mario also has expertise with the cooler growing orchids, having received several cultural and plant awards for Masdevallias, Draculas, Lycastes, and Odontoglossums.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 25, No. 6, March 2003, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

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**Cypripedium Alliance**

<i>Phrag.</i> Hanne Popow ( <i>besseae</i> x <i>schlimii</i> )	Coleman
<i>Paph.</i> Memoria Maurice Powers x <i>fairrieantum</i>	“
<i>Paph. wardii</i>	Witkin
<i>Paph.</i> Lathamianum ( <i>spicerianum</i> x <i>villosum</i> )	“
<i>Phrag.</i> Don Wimber (Eric Young x <i>besseae</i> )	Capella
<i>Phrag.</i> Paul Eugene Conroy ( <i>longifolium</i> x <i>wallisii</i> )	“
<i>Paph.</i> Blood Clot* x Black Buddha	Busic-Snyder
<i>Paph. wolterianum</i>	Churchill
<i>Phrag.</i> Albopurpleum (Dominianum x <i>schlimii</i> )	“
<i>Paph. purpuratum</i>	“
<i>Paph. glaucophyllum</i>	Bordoni

**Cattleya Alliance**

<i>Oerstedella centradenia</i>	Coleman
<i>Rhynchoaelia glauca</i>	Capella
<i>C.</i> Marie Riopelle (Empress Bells x Douglas Johnston)	“
<i>Lc.</i> Red Gold x <i>B. nodosa</i>	Braue
<i>C.</i> Hawaiian Comfort (Bob Betts x <i>walkeriana</i> )	Bordoni
<i>Lc.</i> Trick or Treat ( <i>L. Icarus</i> x Chit Chat)	“

**Vandaceous**

<i>Phal.</i> Timothy Christopher ( <i>Cassandra</i> x <i>amabilis</i> )	Coleman
<i>Tuberolabium kotoense</i>	“
<i>Kgw.</i> Red Lava ( <i>Ren. imschootiana</i> x <i>Ascda.</i> Meda Arnold)	Capella
<i>Phal. venosa</i>	Ufford
<i>Phal. aphrodite</i>	“
<i>Phal.</i> unknown	Lowell
<i>Phal.</i> Brother Green Bamboo (Bamboo Baby x Taipei Gold)	Pace
<i>Amesiella monticola</i>	Stuart
<i>Phal.</i> Taida Timothy ( <i>venosa</i> x Timothy Christopher)†	Braue

**Oncidium Alliance**

<i>Vuyil.</i> Saint Mary ( <i>Memoria</i> Mary Kavanaugh x <i>Oda.</i> Saint Clement)	Coleman
<i>Odcdm.</i> Susan Kaufman ( <i>Wera</i> Stolze x <i>Onc. flexuosum</i> )	“

<i>Trpla. suavis</i>	Stuart
<i>Rhynchostele cervantesii</i>	“
<i>Odm.</i> Serendipity ( <i>praestans</i> x <i>cirrhosum</i> )§	“
<i>Hwra.</i> Lava Burst (Mini Primi x <i>Rdza. lanceolata</i> )	Pace

<i>Trpla. tortilis</i>	Ufford
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**Dendrobium**

<i>Den.</i> Nora Tokunaga ( <i>atroviolaceum</i> x <i>rhodostictum</i> )	Coleman
<i>Den. lichenastrum</i> ( <i>Dockrillia lichenastra</i> )	Witkin
<i>Den.</i> Berry x Ku-Ring-Gai	“
<i>Den. goldschmidtianum</i> *	Ditz

**Miscellaneous**

<i>Pths. ornata</i>	Coleman
<i>Max. nardoides</i> (sic)	Witkin
<i>Bulb. macrocoleum</i> (sic)	“
<i>Max. sp.</i>	Churchill

\*Neither your reporter nor the editor of this publication is responsible for the names given to orchid hybrids by mentally incompetent registrants, nor for careless botanists who did not check adequately to see if a species had already been named.

†The registered cross (1997) is the reciprocal of yours (Timothy Christopher x *venosa*), unless there is a label error. Since flavonoids (yellow pigment) are inherited through the mother (not genes), it would be interesting to compare the two types.

§The vagaries of botanical spelling: The Latin root *cirr-* means wisp or tendril, as in cirrus clouds. The Greek root *cirrho-* means orange, as in cirrhosis of the liver. The old botanists frequently got these two mixed up. This wispy white-flowered species should really be spelled *O. cirrosum*, but we can't mess with it.

Please note: You have more company. I have recently been invited to harass the NorthEast New York Orchid Society. Send them your condolences.

Iris Cohen

GIVEN THAT THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST HARSH WINTERS IN RECENT MEMORY, OUR FEBRUARY SHOW TABLE WAS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE!

NOW THAT'S DEDICATION! KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!



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

**CNYOS is Now ON-LINE!**

CNYOS is on-line at [www.paphiopedilum.net](http://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!

**REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE**

March 2  
April 6  
May 4

Dave Ditz & Margaret Tupper  
Monica Kot & Donna Coleman  
Bev Costello & Joanna Kweik

**THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN****A Celebration of Orchids: An Exhibition and Sale of Fine Orchids**

**February 28-March 30, 2003**

Surrounded by a mystique that few plants can rival, orchids inspire fascination, obsession, and awe. This winter the Garden will present a month-long Celebration of Orchids: An Exhibition and Sale of Fine Orchids, its most extensive orchid exhibition since the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory restoration was completed in 1997. Hundreds of plants from the Garden's collection of more than 5,000 specimens will be on display in the landmark Victorian crystal palace, including species from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Americas, along with many beautiful hybrids. <http://www.nybg.org/events/orchids.html>



Photo of *Brassavola nodosa* and NYBG Logo courtesy of <http://www.nybg.org>

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## CATTLEYAS GUTTATA, LEOPOLDII, SCHILLERIANA, & THEIR HYBRID, C. RESPLENDENS

Text by Greg Allikas

with contributions and editing by Jeff Stuart

This month we explore the “tall and the short of it” in the *Cattleya* world, while taking a look at an old hybrid. There’s a strong argument for today’s *Cattleya* hybrids taking center stage when competing against their hybrid kin in other orchid genera. *Cattleya* hybrids can be found in an astonishing array of sizes, colors, and forms. Of course, I use the term “*Cattleya* hybrids” somewhat loosely, as it includes many intergeneric forms comprised of at least a half dozen species—*Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Sophronitis*, *Epidendrum*, *Encyclia*, *Brassavola*—which form the basis for a host of intergeneric hybrids. In fact, orchids are one of the only groups of plants where intergeneric combinations are possible. For the simpler combinations, the names are often a combination of the parents.

Combining a *Brassavola* with a *Cattleya* produces a *Brassocattleya*. *Brassavola*, *Laelia*, and *Cattleya* gives us *Brassolaeliocattleya*. But throw a *Sophronitis* into the mix, and we get *Potinara* (*Brassavola* x *Laelia* x *Cattleya* x *Sophronitis*). And trust me, we’ve just scraped the surface! But we digress, as this month’s

*SPOT LIGHT* starts with an old primary hybrid, *C.*

*Resplendens*, that is a combination of the relatively small statured *C. schilleriana*, and *C. guttata*, which has “Jolly Green Giant” aspirations. From there we explore the nature of the *C. guttata* parent—but it’s not quite that simple, because the original hybrid may not have been made with *C. guttata*, but perhaps *C. leopoldii*. Then again, some people say that *C. leopoldii* actually is *C. guttata* (or a form thereof), but more on that below!

All hybrids ultimately started with primary hybrids between two species, and *C. Resplendens* is one of the originals. This hybrid between the towering *C. guttata* and much shorter *C. schilleriana* was registered more than 100 years ago. It features the best qualities of both parents; 5-8 large waxy, showy flowers on medium-size plants. The broad *schilleriana* lip is usually suffused with the brilliant fuchsia of the other parent. But what was the other parent? The RHS award register does not require that varietal names be submitted for registration of hybrids. Until recently, *C. leopoldii* was considered a variety of *C. guttata*. The rich cordovan base color of most grexes suggest that this hybrid may have actually been made with *C. leopoldii* rather than *C. guttata*. Let’s take a look at all of the possible purported parents, starting with the only one we’re completely sure of: *C. schilleriana*.



*Cattleya Resplendens*

© 2000 Greg Allikas



*Cattleya Resplendens*  
'KG's Dark Star' AM/AOS

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This is not the first time that *C. schilleriana* has graced the pages of our *Spot Light* section, but it's certainly worth revisiting. Being a Cattleya of relatively small stature (topping out at 6-8"), it boasts wonderfully huge flowers that can be 4-5" across, with the lip itself being 2" across and beautifully candy-striped. The petals and sepals are brown with deeper brown spotting. Despite the plant being small in stature like its cousin *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 better choice is a cork or tree fern slab, or even a basket. 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 & do not over-water. Many *C. schillerianas* have a unique fragrance which as been described as smelling like, of all things, a taco!

Now, as mentioned earlier there is a bit of confusion as to whether the other parent of the original *C. Resplendens* was *C. guttata* or *C. leopoldii* (or *C. guttata* v. *leopoldii*, but you get the idea). The former, *C. guttata*, is a remarkable orchid in itself, being one of the more venerable members of this group of Brazilian cattleyas. It was originally described by Lindley in 1831 (Botanical Register) from specimens collected by Robert Gordon in 1827. If you grow a number of cattleyas, you probably have at least one with *C. guttata* in its background, as it has always been an important ingredient of the orchid breeder's art. There is continued debate concerning the differences between *C. guttata* and *C. leopoldii* and indeed, the dark forms of *C. guttata* do look very much like the other species, especially to the casual observer. There are several easy ways to distinguish the two, the easiest is that they flower at different times of the year; *C. leopoldii* in the spring from a green sheath immediately after the new growth matures, *C. guttata* in the summer after a brief rest from a dried sheath on the new growths.

It is often said that cattleyas are ugly plants. A photo of a "teenager" *C. guttata* is shown below. This **first-**



*Cattleya schilleriana*

© 1996 Greg Allikas



*Cattleya guttata*

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**LEFT: A FIRST BLOOM *C. GUTTATA* SEEDLING AT ABOUT 3' HIGH, GROWING IN A 7" POT.**

**RIGHT: NORA, A FRIEND OF THE AUTHOR'S FROM COSTA RICA, STANDS NEXT TO A MORE MATURE SPECIMEN, REACHING NEARLY 6 FEET IN HEIGHT! THIS ORCHID WOULD DEFINITELY POSE A CHALLENGE TO THE HOBBIEIST WHO GROWS UNDER LIGHTS!**



**bloom seedling** is growing in a 7" pot and is about 3-foot tall! These orchids really need to mature in order to produce a full head of flowers. A photo of a mature *C. guttata* is also shown on the following page—Nora tells me she is 5' 3" tall. Shades of Jack's beanstalk!—definitely not for windowsill growers.

*Cattleya guttata* is a low elevation orchid of coastal areas of southern Brazil; primarily the states of Espirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro & Sao Paulo. It can be found in bright situations on rocks or trees overhanging waterways. *C. guttata* does exist in one very unusual habitat—the beach at Cabo Frio. We had an opportunity to visit this habitat last winter. Although we were a few months early to see flowers, we did find plants... growing in low scrub on the sand dunes a few hundred yards from the ocean—there was even a cactus nearby—truly a testament to the harsh conditions that this orchid can endure! We found several large clumps of mature plants. Someday I will return when they are in flower. A distribution map for *Cattleya guttata* is shown opposite.

We grow our plants in large clay pots with styro chunks and large lava rock. The bottom drainage holes are enlarged and empty net pots place over them to





provide additional aeration to the roots. Growing in an open shade house, our biggest challenge with the large bifoliate cattleyas is to maintain healthy roots through the rainy season. The plants are hung high & receive bright light with only about 30% shade. They are fertilized weekly during the growing season & every other week in winter.

*Cattleya leopoldii* is definitely one of my favorite orchids. After seeing a mature specimen in full bloom, it is hard to not be impressed—this is an orchid!

*C. leopoldii* is found in the southern Brazilian state of Santa Catarina where *C. intermedia* and *L. purpurata* also grow (there are natural hybrids). There is also a habitat to the north at Cabo Frio where the orchid grows in low scrub on the sand dunes and thrusts its brightly-colored heads of flowers up through the brush.

Plants of *C. leopoldii* can be 3-feet (1m) or taller and produce heads of 20 or more flowers on a mature plant.

Flower color can range from an ochre color to deep cordovan with deeper burgundy spots. There is also a rare spotless variety (pictured below). For many years *C. leopoldii* was considered to be a variety of *C. guttata* and many of the hybrids in the RHS registry listed as having *C. guttata* as a parent were actually made with *C. leopoldii*. Grow *C. leopoldii* in intermediate to warm conditions, coarse potting media, and large pots or baskets for mature plants.

The debate and confusion still continues after a century and a half: Is *C. leopoldii* a species or a variety of *C.*

*guttata*? Take whichever side you like but the tide seems to be turning in favor of two distinct species—*guttata* and *leopoldii*, with named varieties existing for each. To further muddy the waters, at least one authority favors the name *C. tigrina* rather than *leopoldii*.

This confusion is most evident in awards registration where the varietal name is not recorded. Hence, many hybrids registered as having *C. guttata* as a parent may have actually been offspring of *C. guttata* var. *leopoldii* or in reality, *Cattleya leopoldii*, just as for the wonderful *C. Resplendens*. There indeed are enough differences between the two: flower size and color, bloom-

ing season, geographic location and certain distinct physical characteristics. Some varieties of *leopoldii*, notably var. *leopardina*, may actually be natural hybrids between the two. Despite the confusion, *C. leopoldii* is generally an easy to grow cattleya, favoring bright light and a coarse potting mix. The tall pseudobulbs produce showy heads of medium sized flowers from mid-summer to early fall.



*Cattleya leopoldii*

© 2000 Greg Allikas



*Cattleya leopoldii*  
var. *immaculata*

© 1996 Greg Allikas

*PHALAENOPSIS BRACEANA*  
 'BRONZE STAR' CHM/ AOS  
 AWARDED 28 SEPTEMBER 2002  
 CENTRAL NEW YORK ORCHID  
 SOCIETY FALL SHOW & SALE  
 DEWITT, NY  
 EXHIBITOR: CHARLES UFFORD  
 308 MAIN ST. APT. A  
 ORISKANY, NY 13424



**CNYOS Member Charles Ufford relates the events that ultimately lead to his**

**beautiful *Phalaenopsis braceana* being awarded with a CHM/AOS at our Annual Show and Sale, September 2002**

In the past few years I've become very interested in searching for and growing some of the newer and more obscure *Phalaenopsis* species. Some of the 'Chinese' species and other related or rare ones are hard to find, so scouring the Internet and asking for sources is often the only way to locate these rare gems. I had purchased a few orchids from Andy's Orchids of Encinitas, Calif., before, so was surprised to learn from a 'source' that Andy's often has many species that aren't listed on their Web site. I was told that if Andy's doesn't have more than 100 plants of a species, for example, the plant isn't listed, so contacting them directly can reveal many additional species they have for sale. They have since told me that they should have more *Phal. braceana* available in the spring. Another source is Dowery Orchids of Virginia, which has them from time-to-time. I quickly gave Andy's a call and was surprised to find that at that time they had more than a dozen *Phal* species, many of which I didn't have or hadn't found listed for sale before. I was told they had a species called *Phal. braceana*, that it was often deciduous and had small, nearly brown flowers. I wasn't sure that I was very interested in buying it, even though it was a species I hadn't found available before. I deliberated about my picks, but finally decided I would take a chance and buy the *Phal. braceana* along with a few other species.

I wasn't sure what to make of the plant when it arrived. Even though it had a large mass of healthy roots, there was only one small, round leaf. I placed it in the unheated shelf area I have in my living room, which receives some bright, filtered light and has the same temperatures as the rest of my apartment. I had heard that *Phal. braceana* might like slightly brighter conditions than many other *Phal* species, and I felt this spot had the best light without allowing the plant to get too warm. Like most of my mounted plants, I soaked the *Phal. braceana* every few days, gave it minimal fertilizer and misted it when I happened to think of it. It is mounted on a stick roughly one inch in diameter and six inches long without any moss to hold water. The roots dangle about three - four inches below the base of the mount, so excess moisture dries out very quickly. I tried to keep it watered often in the early summer as we were settling into one of the hottest summers on record, and it never seemed the worse for wear because of the heat. After a few weeks I started using Dyna-Grow 7-9-5 about every two weeks at about 1/4 the recommended strength. I also sprayed fish emulsion fertilizer on the leaf/roots a few times.

When I noticed a flower spike emerging, I moved it to the growing area over my kitchen sink where I keep my *Phals* and other orchids that



like darker, cooler conditions. I wanted to keep the spike a bit cooler so that the buds wouldn't blast from the heat. During warm weather I have a fan that constantly blows air out of one of the bedroom windows so that the air is pulled in through my kitchen growing area. Through evaporative cooling, most of these plants survive the summer heat pretty well.

After a few weeks, I thought that the plant might benefit from some brighter light, so I moved it closer to the window. After about a week, though, the leaf started to dry up. Just to be safe, I decided to water the plant more and slide it back into the shade. The leaf fell off, but the stem section still looked very healthy, so I kept up the daily watering.

The spike and five buds continued to grow and develop. Eric Christenson says in his *Phal* species book that *Phal. braceana* is highly variable in color, so I had no idea what to expect of the flowers. I was amazed when the first bud opened. The flower was iridescent olive-green with a slightly raspberry midrib to the sepals and petals, with a bright rose-colored lip. I was even more amazed when I found it to have a nice fragrance, like sweet-tarts!

I took it to our local orchid society meeting, and people generally liked it. One person even offered to buy it on the spot! My only response was a polite grin. He then mentioned that I should take it to our show, which was to be the last weekend of that same month. I did my best to keep the plant cool in hopes that the

flowers would last until the show. I also wanted to pollinate it, so there was a dilemma as to whether I should risk 'hanging on' to the flowers and not pollinate them, as I didn't want to enter a plant with pollinated flowers that might fall off or look unsightly. The plant opened its first flower the week before our meeting (Sept. 1<sup>ST</sup>), and all five flowers made it to the show (Sept. 28<sup>TH</sup>).

I was extremely surprised to find two blue ribbons and a CHM hanging from the mount when I showed up the night after the show! On Oct. 1<sup>ST</sup>, I removed one flower to send for identification and pollinated two others. One of the flowers has just started to dry up, so they will have lasted from five to six weeks from start of flowering to finish.

I had never seen a sales listing for *Phal. braceana*, and have only recently found other listings for it on the Internet. If you are looking for a compact, tough, attractive, long-lasting and nice-smelling *Phal* species, I would definitely recommend it. I have hopes that it will soon produce seed, so that I can share it with others who I'm sure will enjoy it as much as I have!



Charles Ufford is a seedling plug grower for Hine Horticulture. He is also a member of IPA and the Central New York Orchid Society. he can be reached at 315 491-4505, [cmu1@cornell.edu](mailto:cmu1@cornell.edu), [cufford@surf-best.net](mailto:cufford@surf-best.net) or <http://www.geocities.com/charlesufford>.

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## ***PLANTS OF PARADISE***

### ***GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE***

**After many years as a fixture in the Central & Western NY Orchid Community, Plants of Paradise has made the difficult decision to close its doors and liquidate its inventory.**

***All remaining orchids are discounted by 30%.***

A large selection of hybrids and species is available, including a wide selection of *Miltoniopsis* hybrids.

Plants of Paradise is located behind Ithaca Paint at 1013 West State, Ithaca NY. Call (607) 272-1133 and ask for Bev.

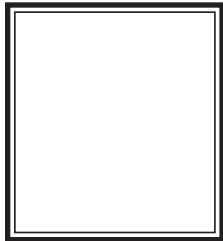




March 2: Taking Orchid Seedlings out of compost.  
 March 13-16: CNYOS at the Central NY Flower & Garden Show  
 March 29-30: GRDS Spring Show! (not w/ March 27)



Next Meetings: This Sunday, March 21



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

## Central New York Orchid Society

**Presidents:** Deb Coyle (315) 445-9106  
 Dianne Bordoni (315) 446-3836  
**Vice President:** Judi Witkin (315) 422-0869  
**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<sup>PM</sup> 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](mailto:jastuart@syr.edu)

