

# ANNUAL ORCHID AUCTION!

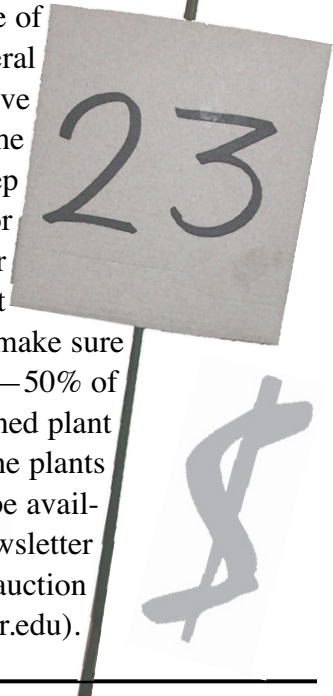


**D**espite the fact that Spring has not decided whether she wants to grace Central NY with her presence, signs of her imminent (?) arrival surround us. But “unseasonably cold” has appeared all too frequently in weather reports of late, and the tulips and daffodils have surfaced, only to be greeted by crippling late frosts and cold raw days...

**F**ortunately, CNYOS has just the thing to take your mind off of the uncooperative weather—our Annual Orchid Auction! Join us on **May 4<sup>TH</sup> at 2:00<sup>PM</sup>** for one of our premier fund-raising events of the year. Request for donations have been sent out to roughly 15 prominent orchid vendors, including **Andy’s Orchids, AnTec Orchids, Bloomfield Orchids, Carter & Holmes, Exotic Orchids of Maui, Hoosier Orchids, J&L Orchids, Marlow’s Orchids, Mountain Orchids, Oakhill Orchids, Petite Plaisance, Piping Rock Orchids, Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, and Woodstream Orchids.** Although there’s no

guarantee that all the requests will be honored, it’s a pretty safe bet that we’ll have a good selection for the auction. So here’s your chance to pick up some great orchids at a fraction of retail prices, from some of the highest quality vendors around! The auction always takes several hours, so ***Please Come Early!*** You will need to get registered to receive an auction number, and you’ll probably want a chance to check out the plants as well! During the auction, members are encouraged to keep track of their purchases and / or sales. Your friendly newsletter editor will be acting as auctioneer, hopefully with an additional volunteer or two to step in to save his voice. And should you have any orchids that

you’d like to auction off, just make sure they are disease & bug free—50% of the profits from your auctioned plant goes to CNYOS. A list of the plants available for the auction will be available *via* e-mail from the newsletter editor a few days prior to the auction ([jastuart@syr.edu](mailto:jastuart@syr.edu)).



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**APRIL MEETING: THOSE MAGNIFICENT  
MINIATURES**

At the last meeting of the Central NY Orchid Society, VP Judi Witkin narrated the AOS slide show on miniature orchids, prepared by Moises Behar, corresponding member of the AOS Education Committee. The slide show had high-quality pictures of a full range of orchids, with flowers ranging in size from no bigger than a pin head, to over an inch in diameter—with plant size that showed an equally broad range! The diversity in size and form in this group of orchids is truly amazing, and just re-emphasizes why orchids are a truly remarkable family of plants.

**CNYOS PARTICIPATES AT GENESEE REGION  
ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE: MARCH  
29-30**

Members Cheryl Lloyd, Barbara Weller, and Jeff Stuart set up the CNYOS display at the Genesee Region Orchid Society Show & Sale on March 27<sup>TH</sup>. Although it was a long day, their efforts were worth it—the CNYOS display took the blue ribbon for society displays, class B! We even out did the home team, which is fitting since their display took top honors at the CNYOS show last fall! And individual members did well also—ribbon awards are listed on page ????. A number of members showed up to help break down the display, which went quickly. Thanks to all the members who helped out. A photograph of the club display is shown below.



1. Club participation in the CNY Flower & Garden Show brought in a profit of \$564.
2. Thanks to Monica Kot and Donna Coleman for today's refreshments.
3. The CNYOS display at the Genesee Region Orchid Society Show won the Blue Ribbon for best display.
4. Set-up for the Southern Tier Orchid Society Show is scheduled for 4/24/03. Dolores Capella & Judi Witkin have volunteered. Kim Boronczyk & Charles Ufford have volunteered to break down the display on 4/27/03.
5. Our next meeting will be the Annual Spring Auction on May 4<sup>TH</sup>. Jeff Stuart will send out letters requesting donations from vendors throughout the country. Let Jeff know if you have any suggestions. A suggestion was made that we purchase blooming orchids for the auction and it was discussed. It was agreed that the club will include a larger incentive (\$25) for each vendor to encourage donations and offset their costs.
6. The annual summer picnic will be held at the home of Co-President Dianne Bordoni on 6/1/03.
7. David Ditz has volunteered to be the Chair for our Fall Show.
8. Jeff Stuart will order coconut husk chips for the club.
9. The suggestion was made on behalf of Iris Cohen that the club participate in the Kles Fest on 6/8/03 to be held downtown for the cost of \$50, for a booth. The club agreed to participate.

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

**Photo credits page 1, 2:** All photos taken and digitally processed by Jeff Stuart, © 2003

- May 4**                    **CNYOS Annual Orchid Auction!!!**
- May 18**                    **Regular Meeting of the Southern Tier Orchid Society:** 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>.
- June 1**                    **Annual Summer Picnic** to be hosted by CNYOS Member Dianne Bordoni. Details to be announced in the June Newsletter.
- July 26-27**                **Parkside Orchid Fest 2003!** Parkside Orchid Nursery in Ottsville, PA. Two day educational & sales event (free admission). At least 20 orchid vendors scheduled to participate. Contact Info: (610) 847-8039, [http://www.parksideorchids.com/fest\\_2003.html](http://www.parksideorchids.com/fest_2003.html)
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**GROS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE GENESEE REGION ORCHID SOCIETY**

John Dunkelberger, a certified AOS Judge who specializes in Cymbidiums, will be presenting the May Program on miniature Cymbidiums. No further details are available at this time.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 25, No. 7, April 2003, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

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**SPOT LIGHT, CONT.**

tures. It is distinguished by the short blackish pubescence found on the stems and leaf sheaths. The fragrant flowers have been described as being nearly concolor rose in coloration. Flowers of *Sobralia decora* are not as large (~4") or showy as others in the genus, but the unflowered plant would be at home in any Victorian parlor with its bamboo-like canes.

*Sobralia fragrans* is easily identified by its diminutive size (for a *Sobralia*), the curious flattened stems, and when in bloom, by the sweet lemony fragrance (hence, the name). The plants grow to be only 8-12 inches (20-30cm) tall and are found growing low on trees in damp, low-elevation streamside forests. Although they last for only a day, the ~2 inch (~5cm) delicate white flowers are produced singly or in pairs in succession during the summer to fall blooming season. The species ranges from Belize south to Venezuela. Grow *Sobralia fragrans* in a medium-fine potting mix under shady intermediate to warm conditions.

More on *Sobralias*, including many species and their cultural requirements, can be found at Nina Rach's *Sobralia* page on the World Wide Web: <http://www.autrevie.com/Sobralia/>

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Central New York Orchid Society members did exceptionally well at the Genesee Region Orchid Society Show, held the weekend of March 29-30. Not only did members' entries bring in a total of 29 ribbons, but the society's display took the blue ribbon for best orchid society exhibit (picture on page 2, and at <http://www.paphiopedilum.net/GROS-CNYOS.jpg>). Individual awards are listed below. Thanks again to all the members who helped out!

Central New York Orchid Society		Third	Den. Elfin Charm
First	Exhibit Class 'B; Orchid Society Exhibits	<b>Dave Ditz</b>	
	<b>Dianne Bordoni</b>	<b>Second</b>	<i>Paph. Vanguard</i>
First	<i>Phal. Gold Tris</i>	<b>Second</b>	Pot. Douglass North
Third	<i>Phrag. Don Wimber</i>	<b>Third</b>	Lc. Mandarin
Third	<i>Phal. Paifang's Tsung Shen 'B'</i>	<b>Cheryl Lloyd</b>	
	<b>David Churchill</b>	<b>Second</b>	<i>Phrag. longifolium</i>
First	<i>Epi. secundum</i>	<b>Rich Groll</b>	
Second	<i>Brs. Rex 'Sakata'</i>	<b>Third</b>	<i>Masd. macrura</i>
Second	<i>Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope</i>	<b>Tony Mandour</b>	
Third	<i>Phal. China Best Girl 'Double Ten'</i>	<b>Third</b>	<i>Cym. Anyone Can</i>
	<b>Iris Cohen</b>	<b>Jeff Stuart</b>	
Second	<i>Paph. Master Henry</i>	<b>First</b>	<i>Nanodes medusae</i>
Third	<i>Paph. Torch Light</i>	<b>Second</b>	<i>Phrag. Grande</i>
	<b>Donna Coleman</b>	<b>Second</b>	<i>Trias picta</i> - floral detail (photo)
First	<i>Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope</i>	<b>Third</b>	<i>Lemboglossum cevantesii</i> var. <i>lilacinum</i>
Second	<i>Pths. ornata</i>	<b>Third</b>	<i>Odm. Serendipity</i>
Second	<i>Paph. Maurice Power's 'Newport' x fairrieianum</i>		
Third	<i>Lpt. bicolor</i>	<b>Judi Witkin</b>	
Third	<i>Paph. villosum</i>	<b>Second</b>	<i>Jum. arachnanthe</i>
	<b>Deb Colye</b>	<b>Second</b>	<i>Bulb. macroleum</i>
Honorable Mention	<i>Den. hemimelanoglossum</i>		● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



CATTELYA HYBRIDS ON DISPLAY AT THE UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN, EASTER WEEKEND, 2003. SEE ARTICLE STARTING ON PAGE 7.

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.

***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***

**May 4                      Bev Costello & Joanna Kweik**

***THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE ...***

...Will have its Annual Show & Sale, the first weekend in May: Show hours are Saturday, 5/3, 2 - 9<sup>PM</sup> & Sunday 5/4, 11<sup>AM</sup> - 6<sup>PM</sup>. Sale hours are Friday, 5/2, Noon - 9<sup>PM</sup>, Saturday, 5/3, 10<sup>AM</sup> - 9<sup>PM</sup> & Sunday, 5/4, 11<sup>AM</sup> - 6<sup>PM</sup>, in Shoppingtown Mall, DeWitt. African Violets

and their relatives (*Gesneriads*) often make great companion plants to orchids. Plants & supplies will be sold (African Violets, other gesneriads, from

Ralph Robinson, Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Ethel Champion, & more). You all know the old adage, "If you can bloom a *Phalaenopsis*, you can bloom an African Violet!" Or something like that... Anyway, stop by and see what this wonderful and diverse family of plants has to offer!



## SOBRALIAS DECORA &amp; FRAGRANS

Sobralia is a genus of close to a hundred species, and is named for the Spanish botanist Dr. Francisco Sobral. Like its distant *Cattleya* cousins and other orchids in the Epidendroideae subfamily, Sobralias have a distribution throughout the tropical Americas. This genus is, however, more closely related to our own native Calopogons (Grass Pinks, Arethuseae tribe) than to *Cattleyas* and *Laelias*, despite the floral similarity. Plants are mostly terrestrial but can be advantageous and found growing epiphytically in accumulated detritus on tree limbs.

A mature plant for many *Sobralia* species can be several feet tall, with 4 to 6 feet reed-like stems not being unusual. Others can be quite compact, ranging from about 1-3 feet in height—even the compact *Sobralias* are not necessarily good choices for fluorescent light culture! Altitude range for the genus is extensive with species being found both at sea level and cloud forest. The *Cattleya*-like flowers are short-lived, generally about a day. But *Sobralias* make up for their the short-lived flowers by flowering continuously over an extended period.

*Sobralias* can be grown in a potting mix of clean humus with peat, fir bark chunks and charcoal or expanded clay added to keep the mix open. The media should be kept moist but not wet. Bright filtered light will encourage the best flowering, and the temperature range should be appropriate to the native habitat of the species.

*Sobralia decora* Bateman: This large *Sobralia* can produce flowers about every ten days between May and September. This species is found at low elevations throughout much of Central America, and requires bright light and warm to intermediate tempera-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



*Sobralia decora*

©2001 Greg Allikas



*Sobralia fragrans*

© 2000 Greg Allikas





# ORCHIDS AT THE UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN

*Jeff Stuart*

*Newsletter Editor of the Central New York Orchid Society*

Not many people are aware that the United States has its own National Botanic Garden within a stone's throw of the Capitol Building in Washington DC. Having a lot of family in the suburban DC area, I've spent more than my fair share of time in the halls of Smithsonian Museums, whether it be staring at the replica of the Wright Brothers' plane in the Air & Space Museum, walking down memory lane with Archie and Edith's upholstered living room chairs in the Museum of American History, or contemplating Picassos in the National Gallery. But, despite my deep interest in horticulture for many years, I never made the time to visit the United States Botanic Garden. While visiting Capitol Hill over this past Easter Weekend, I made a point to remedy that surprising oversight.



THE FIRST CONSERVATORY CONSTRUCTED IN 1850 CAN BE SEEN IN THIS 1858 PHOTOGRAPH, PRIMARILY DEPICTING CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAPITOL DOME.

## History of the National Botanic Garden

Our National Botanic Garden is not huge and ornate, as are some of the more familiar botanic gardens (e.g. Longwood Gardens). However, that's not to say it's not worth the trip. In fact, it is the oldest continually operating botanic garden in North America—in fact, a national botanic garden was a dream of many of our nation's forefathers, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. The history of the USBG can be traced back to as early as 1816, when the Colombian Institute for the promotion of Arts & Sciences in Washington DC envisioned a botanic garden for the purpose of propagating and distributing plants collected from



THE CONSERVATORY AS IT APPEARS TODAY, PHOTOGRAPHED FROM THE BACK OF THE BUILDING.

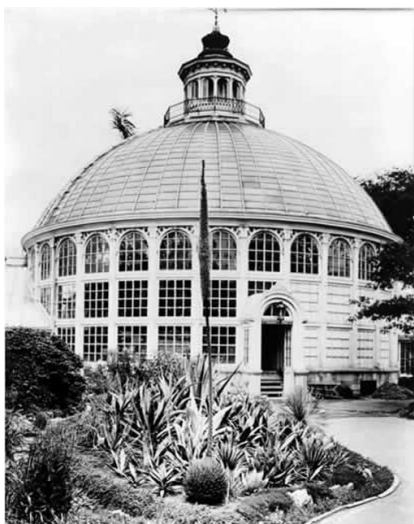
around the world that might contribute to the welfare of the American People. The garden was established by Congress in 1820, and existed through 1837. The gardens ultimately closed when the Colombian Institute ceased to exist as an active institution.

The Colombian Institute facilities were abandoned and the dreams of Washington, Jefferson, and Madison remained unfulfilled until 1842, when Admiral Charles Wilkes returned from exploring the South Seas. The Wilkes, or United States South Seas Exploring Expedition, returned with a collection of living plants from all over the world, which were housed in a specially built glass-house behind the Old Patent Office Building. In 1850, the collection was relocated to new facilities established on the site previously occupied by the Colombian Institute—the first greenhouses of what would eventually become the US Botanic Garden (picture at left).



CONSTRUCTION ON THE ORIGINAL MAIN CONSERVATORY BEGAN IN 1867. SHOWN ALSO IS THE BARTHOLDI FOUNTAIN IN ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION.





THE ORIGINAL DOME OF THE MAIN CONSERVATORY, PHOTOGRAPHED SOMETIME IN THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> OR EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.

The national collection of plants was moved to its present location on the National Mall in 1933, and is housed in an old-style conservatory, complete with a domed central structure (the Palm House)

and flanking wings that house several plant environments. Over two acres of external grounds surround the conservatory, including the outdoor display gardens in Frederic Auguste Bartholdi Park (named for the designer of the Park's focal point, the Bartholdi Fountain, and the Statue of Liberty), and the Administration Building—there are plans underway for a National Garden (funded by the National Fund for the United States Botanic Garden) that will be located immediately to the west of the main conservatory. In 1993, a maintenance and production facility was added in Anacostia, MD, the D.C. Village Production Facility—this facility is currently the largest greenhouse complex supporting a public garden in the United States. The greenhouse itself, completed in 1994, includes 85,000 square feet under glass (nearly two acres) divided into 34 greenhouse bays and 16 environmental zones (1). The Anacostia site is not only responsible for the maintenance of the US Botanic Gardens, but also for all the plants in the entire Capitol Hill complex (2). All facilities are fund-



THE GARDEN COURT, GRACED BY SMALL TREES AND NUMEROUS SPRING FLOWERS

ed as a US government facility, under the auspices off the US House of Representatives.

### The USBG Mission

Today, the USBG remains committed to the paramount task of educating the public on the fundamental importance and irreplaceable value of plants to the environment, the entire biosphere, and, indeed to humankind. It grows and displays a diverse selection of plants from around the globe. In addition to maintenance of the conservatories, the USBG keeps computerized records on their extensive collection of approximately 26,000 plants, which are used for exhibition, study, and exchange with other institutions. Among the holdings are extensive collections of economic plants, orchids, begonias, carnivorous plants, cacti and succulents, bromeliads, epiphytes, palms, cycads, and ferns—all aesthetically arranged in an environment that welcomes visitors by drawing them through mist-laden



A VIEW OF THE JUNGLE ROOM, INCLUDING PALM TREES AND LUSH TROPICAL FOLIAGE, WITH THE OCCASIONAL ORCHID.

paths filled with tropical flowers, arid displays of desert plant, and formal arrangements pulled out of Victorian stove houses. Various rooms of the complex are dedicated to individual collections, that highlight the aesthetic, cultural, economic, and ecological importance of various plant families—all specimens are meticulously labeled and attractively displayed (1, 2).

According to the USBG website (see references below), the institution categorizes its collections as follows (reproduced from the website): **1.** Plants of historical significance or current institutional significance for the USBG (individuals or descendants from the Wilkes and Perry expeditions; commemorative gifts by foreign governments; descendants of plants of American historical sig-



nificance); **2.** Plants appearing on approved permanent landscape planting plans for the Conservatory, National Garden, Bartholdi Park, and the Production Facility, Plants listed for rotation into permanent exhibits in the Conservatory, National Garden, or Bartholdi Park; **3.** Plants used in ongoing educational programming; **4.** Plants needed to support future exhibits or educational programming and whose quality or relative unavailability in the commercial trade justifies inclusion in the permanent collections; **5.** Orchid species and selected orchid cultivars; **6.** Listed rare and endangered species received under the CITES repository agreement, through interagency transfer, or other means; **7.** Medicinal plants whose quality or relative unavailability in the commercial trade justifies inclusion in the permanent collections; and **8.** Plants used for accent plants and horticultural propagation stock, including those obtained to trial for performance in local conditions.

The facilities act as a USDA Rescue Resource for CITES, the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora—the goal of this international convention is to prevent species from being forced toward extinction by uncontrolled exploitation. When plants are smuggled into the country and confiscated at Customs, they are often sent to the U.S. Botanic Garden for safe protection. These plants are nurtured and then often brought to the Conservatory for exhibition (2).

### The Conservatories

Upon entering the main conservatory, the visitor is treated to a formal Victorian style garden court. A long narrow pool spans the length of the room, which over the Easter weekend was adorned with potted Easter Lilies and



*BRASSIA GIREOUDIANA* PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE JUNGLE ROOM, THE LARGEST OF THE USBG CONSERVATORIES.



*PAPHIOPEDILUM WILLIAM MATHEWS* IN THE JUNGLE ROOM.

massive blue & pink hydrangeas. Various small trees are artistically arranged around the central pool, and raised beds containing more trees with a selection of foliage plants & blooming perennials skirt the perimeter. Benches provide a nice respite to take in the surroundings, and enjoy the ever-present fragrance of Easter Lilies in the air.

In some ways the garden court is simply an extravagant foyer to the central domed conservatory that houses the jungle room. Huge palm trees form a canopy of green that shades the tropical plants found below. The sounds of frogs and tropical birds—recorded as far as I could tell, but still effective—combine with the humid air to suggest a South Pacific paradise. It goes without saying that something grows nearly everywhere you look, and the conservatory achieves a pleasing balance of a naturalistic setting with cement & stone paths among the plants. A cat walk takes the visitor 24 feet above the jungle floor for a bird's eye view. Colorful flowers are everywhere, including the occasional orchid. A mature blooming *Brassia gireoudiana* was right at eye level near the entrance, and several *Paphiopedilums* sent their tall stems above the lush knee-level foliage, including *Paph. William Mathews (lawrencianum x mastersianum, above)*.

Other environments feature cacti & succulents, plants of medicinal value, herbs and fragrant plants, and—of course—orchids...

### The Orchid Conservatory

The orchid collection maintained by the United States Botanical Garden consists of some 6000 plants representing just over 2000 taxa. Lady Slippers (*Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium*) are particularly well represented, although the collection is considerably more diverse. Most





BLOOMING PHALAENOPSIS GREET THE VISITOR UPON ENTERING THE ORCHID CONSERVATORY.

of the orchids are housed in the off-site greenhouse, and are rotated into the conservatory as they bloom. Orchids are obtained through a number of venues, including retail outlets and exchange with other gardens. On occasion large donations of orchids are accepted, provided that the plants are correctly labeled and generally in good condition—un-named hybrids are usually not accepted, in favor of reserving space for species or suspected species (pending identification). More emphasis is placed on promoting and preserving species. Many of the orchids received as part of CITES are housed at the off-site facility—as discussed above, these are plants that normally get confiscated at customs due to illegal collection or improper paperwork. If the country of origin expresses no desire to have the plants returned, the USBG acts as a repository where they can be grown and propagated legally. Although the USBG does propagate within their collection, its main goal

is to replace older (irreplaceable) plants. CITES orchids tend to arrive in sufficient quantity and need no further propagation. The orchids are cared for by a paid gardening staff, two of whom specialize in orchids. In addition, there are a number of volunteers who contribute a few hours per week. The staff botanist, Kyle Wallick, works diligently with the collection to verify plant identities (4).

During the winter the botanical gardens hold a joint orchid show with the Smithsonian Department of Horticulture. This very popular annual event allows for the display many of plants that wouldn't get displayed otherwise. They do participate in regional orchid shows on occasion, mainly through the efforts of Clive Atyeo, the primary USBG orchid grower (4).

Although orchids can be found intermingling with other tropical plants as part of natural arrangements in several of the different conservatories—especially in the jungle contained in the central Palm House—the main collection is on display in the Orchid Conservatory. A board-walk leads the visitor into the moderately-sized conservatory that is bounded on one side by a damp rock-face covered with moss and on the other by a bench overlooking a small pool. The entire room is filled with tropical foliage plants and creeping vines that seem to cover nearly every surface, giving the area the feel of a lush rain forest. Despite all of the greenery, orchids take center stage. A group of various Phalaenopsis is strategically placed atop the rock face to greet the visitor with a kaleidoscope of colors upon entering. A large suspended branch over the walkway that spans the width of the room is draped with live Spanish moss and loaded with blooming orchids, including several splashy Cattleya hybrids (photo, page 4). Phragmipediums



A LARGE VARIETY OF BLOOMING ORCHIDS DECORATE A MOSS-COVERED ROCK FACE IN THE ORCHID CONSERVATORY.



PAPHIOPEDILUM HARRISIANUM 'G. S. BALL', THE FIRST HYBRID PAPHIOPEDILUM EVER REGISTERED.



grow out of crevices on the rock face, and *Paphiopedilum* species and hybrids seem to be everywhere. Several large *Cymbidium* inflorescences arched out over the pool.

Although many genera were represented in the orchid conservatory, several individual plants deserve mention. Foremost was a regal *Paph. rothschildianum* 'Penn Valley' CBM-AM-FCC/AOS. Interestingly, it was labeled as *Paph. elliotianum*, an outdated name which historically has been linked to several *Paphiopedilum* species in section *Corypetalum*, including *adductum*, *glanduliferum*, and *rothschildianum*—perhaps this is an indication of how long the specimen has been in the collection. An uncommon *Calanthe angusta* with a tall inflorescence of pure white flowers towered above several *Phalaenopsis*. A spectacular *Dendrobium chrysotoxum* was hard to overlook, with nearly a dozen large clusters of bright yellow flowers. And finally, *Paphiopedilum* *Harrisianum* 'G. S. Ball' AM/RHS, a primary hybrid of *Paph. barbatum* and *villosum*, was in bloom with two deeply-colored glossy flowers. Although by today's standards *Paph. Harrisianum* may not measure up in a judge's eyes, this plant is of note for being the first ever registered *Paphiopedilum* hybrid, dating back to 1869. As such, it figures prominently in the ancestry of many of today's complex hybrids. It is also one of the parents of a purported intergeneric hybrid with *Phragmipedium schlimii*, resulting in *Phragmipaphium* (*Phrphm.*) Malhouitri (1912). As with the majority of *Phragmipaphium* hybrids, however, direct evidence (photographic or otherwise) for these crosses is exceedingly hard to find. A recent curiosity concerning the specific *Paph. Harrisianum* owned by the USBG arose when it sported—spontaneously mutated—and started to producing predominantly green flowers on one side of the plant, while producing normally-pigmented flowers on the other side (see photos at <http://www.ladyslipper.com/harris.html>). To the best of my knowledge, this sort of behavior is uncommon at best in orchid hybrids.

The overall effect of being in the orchid conservatory at the USBG is one of tranquility where the orchids are effectively displayed year-round in a naturalistic setting, combined with tropical foliage plants that provide a backdrop to the exotic flowers. Visitors (and their cameras!) standing too long in one place risk getting a bit wet (!) from the regular automated misting system that keeps the humidity high enough for the plants.

The Gardens are located on the National Mall across from the U.S. Capitol along First Street, S.W., between Maryland Avenue and C Street. Admission is free. If you can't jump in the car tomorrow and drive to DC for a visit,



A BEAUTIFULLY-BLOOMED *PAPH. ROTHSCHILDIANUM* 'PENN VALLEY' CBM-AM-FCC/AOS.

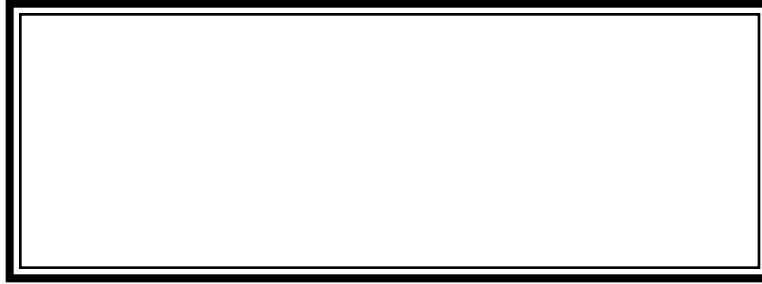
at least visit the web site which offers unique virtual tours of not only the orchid conservatory, but all the main environments, as well as a few external views. These virtual tours allow you to experience each room interactively through a full panoramic 360 degrees, giving the viewer a good feel for the gardens. But nothing, of course, can measure up to being there, so next time you visit our Nation's Capitol, be sure and visit one of our most overlooked national treasures.

#### GENERAL REFERENCES

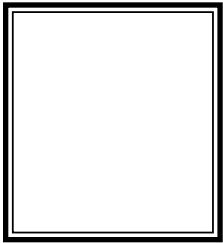
1. United States Botanic Garden Website, and links therein: <http://www.usbg.gov>
2. <http://www.tourofcdc.org/tours/USBotanicGarden/>
3. The AnTec Laboratories Website: <http://www.ladyslipper.org>
4. Personal communication: USBG Botanist Kyle P. Wallick.

Photographs of the USBG conservatory structures on pages 7 & 8 courtesy the USBG website (reference 1, above). All others copyright Jeff Stuart, 2003.

May 4: Annual CNYOS Orchid Auction!  
June 1: Annual CNYOS Summer Picnic!



Next Meetings: Sundays, May 4!



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*

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