Newsletter of the

CENTRAL NEW YORK ORCHID SOCIETY

Volume 6, Issue 7: May 2005

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Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest

MAY 2005: ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION !!!

pring in Central NY... Bright sun, blooming bulbs, April showers, and finally some warmer temperatures! And for those of us infatuated with orchids, there are plenty of orchid shows, new orchid catalogs, and our Annual Spring Orchid Auction! To be held this Sunday, May 1st at 2^{PM} sharp, this

most anticipated event remains our most profitable fundraiser, and allows the club to continue to fund programs and other benefits for you, our members. Request for donations have gone out to a number of reputable orchid vendors, including Aloha Orchids, Andy's Orchids, AnTec Orchids, Black Meadow Orchids, Bloomfield Orchids, Carter & Holmes Orchids, Everglades Orchids, Hoosier Orchids, H&R Orchids, J&L Orchids, JustPat Orchids, Marlow Orchids, Mountain Orchids, Oak Hill Gardens, Petite Plaisance, Piping Rock Orchids, and Woodstream Orchids. Although donations cannot be guaranteed, many of these vendors have been very generous in the past, and some vendors have already sent plants... !

If a solution off some of your own plants! Are you finding your space more and more limited? Are some of your orchids not performing as well under your conditions as you had hoped? Perhaps it's time to clear out some space to make room for a few new friends—all we ask is that any orchids you donate to the auction block be generally healthy and pest & disease free. You have the choice of retaining 50% of your plants proceeds, or donating all the profit to the club. And if you do decide to auction off some of your orchids, **please get their names and descriptions to Jeff Stuart as soon as possible** so he can include them on the master list (471-1404, jastuart@syr.edu). The format of this year's auction will be much the same as last year's—a number of plants will be handled

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through a silent auction, while others will be handled in the usual way. *Please Arrive 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 strongly 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.

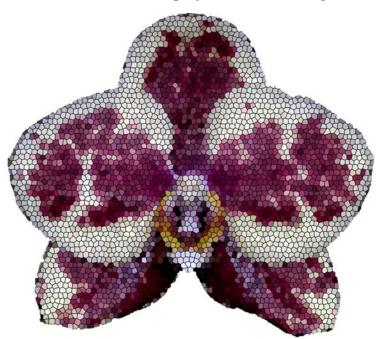
MAY MEETING: HOWARD GINSBERG, BEDFORD ORCHIDS

Howard Ginsberg of Bedford Orchids was the featured speaker at our last meeting. Howard focused on the breeding of the Phalaenopsis Golden Peoker, known for producing a variety of offspring including the popular harlequin orchids. When the Phal. Golden Peoker is crossed with the Phal. Liu Tuen-Shen, it produces orchids with a yellow base and fuchsia spotting and/or stripes. Howard's lecture included a discussion of novelty Phalaenopsis breeding in Taiwan and was well-illustrated with many beautiful photos of Phal hybrids. In addition, he brought a large variety of blooming Phals, compots, and flasks for sale.

Thanks to Carolyn Pace for this report.

CNYOS DOES WELL AT GROS SHOW

Many CNYOS members donated their plants and talent toward our society display at the Genesee Region Orchid Society Show, resulting in many ribbon awards & even a First Place for our display—just another one of Judi Witkin's wonderful displays! Picture on Page 11.



MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL, 2005

1. Treasurer's Report: Carol Haskell has sent donations to the North Eastern and Mid-Atlantic Judging centers.

2. GROS Show: The CNYOS display won first prize. Club members won a collection of ribbons.

3. Upcoming Events: 1. Oriskany Herb and Flower Festival-Rick: Braue will set up a display of members' plants for the show. We will need a tent or awning, a table, and chair. Various club members have tents and tarps. Our space is 10x20'. We will be selling plants (variety of genera) and possibly potting supplies.

4. The Liverpool Library called to inquire if the society would be interested in presenting a one-day lecture on orchids. The possible dates are 7/23, or 10/4. If we sell plants, we would need to give 10% of sales to the library. The library will do the advertising. Jane Taylor will help advertising for our club. Motion made to participate in the Liverpool Library function with the amendment that the 10% be of profits, hopefully we will have advertising available to distribute for our Show.

5. David Ditz reported on our Fall Show: The Fire Barn does not do 3-day events; the Casa Grande costs \$1200 for 3 days. Beaver Lake has large rooms with tables. They will assist with advertising and liability insurance. They would like a donation. Possible date is the first full weekend of October (10/7,8,9). David Ditz has sign-up sheets for participation in the show. Tom Lloyd will meet with Beaver Lake people on Wednesday.

6. May Auction: if anyone has a favorite vendor they'd like to see represented at the auction, please e-mail Jeff Stuart. If you are donating plants, make sure they are pest and disease free. Donations will be on a 50/50 basis or 100% to the Club. Notify Jeff Stuart of any plants you'd like to place on the auction block so they can be included in the list.

7. STOS Show: Set-up on 4/21. Volunteers are still needed for both set-up and break down. Please remember to pre-register your beauties, and withdraw name if it's a no-show. Plants can be dropped off with Kim or Judi.

8. FYI -in the general area of the Herb and Flower Show, there is an area of showy lady slippers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Weller

Cover Photo & Graphics Credits: Photographs & digital manipulation © Jeff Stuart, 2005. *Phal.* Haur Jin Princess 'Bedford Best' © Howard Ginsberg (page 2). Digital editing by Jeff Stuart

2005 CNYOS CALENDAR

Annual CNYOS Orchid Auction! May 1

announced.

Trip to Marlow Orchids (tentative): Date to be announced May ???

June 12

June 25

Oriskany Herb & Flower Fest: Parker Scripture Botanical Gardens, Farm & Home Center, 121 Second Street, Oriskany, NY

CNYOS Picnic: To be held at the home of Dianne Bordoni. Details to be

July 23

Show, Sale, and Workshop to be held at the Liverpool Library, 10 - 4



Dianne Bordoni's Leptotes bicolor took a first place ribbon at the GROS Show, and also took second place in the special windowsill grown orchids category.

Please note especially all names and abbreviations in **Oncidium Alliance** boldface, and correct or complete your records. Trpla. marginata **Cypripedium Alliance** Capella Paph. haynaldianum Paph. Holdenii (crossii x Maudiae) Galson Miscellaneous Aërgs. citrata **Cattleya** Alliance Aërgs. modesta Coel. ochracea 9 Blc. Fred Stewart x Memoria Crispin Rosales Gal. sp. Vandaceous

Nak. Edwin Hausermann (*Ascf.* Peaches x V. cristata) Capella

APRIL SHOW TABLE

Ufford **Onc.** Issaku Nagata (*leucochilum* x *fuscatum*)

Capella

Capella

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Iris Cohen

Coleman

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Photo of Epi. stanfordianum © Andy's Orchids (http://www.andysorchids.com). Digital editing by Jeff Stuart

4 The Orchid Enthusiast

CNYOS Members Win Awards at Genesee Region Orchid Society Show

any CNYOS member who displayed orchids at the recent GROS Show came home with one or more ribbons for their efforts. The full list is given below. Judi Witkin, Kim Boroncyzk, Cheryl Lloyd, Pam Reeve, and Jeff Stuart deserve special thanks for a display that took first place in the orchid society category. And **CNYOS Vice President Carolyn Pace** took the award for best window-grown orchid for her unknown Cymbidium hybrid plucked off the raffle table a few years ago (photo at right). Thanks to all members who helped out by donating plants to the display, and with breakdown on Sunday.



Central NY Orchid Society		<i>Cym</i> . unknown hybrid	2^{ND}
Exhibit	1 st	<i>Phal.</i> (Pinlong Cinderella x Pinlong Lady) x	
		(Coquinette 'Be Glad' x Florida Snow)	2^{ND}
Kim Bononczyk		Dtps. Chester's Pink Glow 'Iceberg Green'	3^{RD}
Onc. Private Dancer x Oak Hollow	2^{ND}	Pot. Minisun	3^{RD}
B. Little Stars		Lc. Gold Digger x Orchidglades Mandarin Gold	3^{RD}
Dianne Bordoni			
Lpt. bicolor	1 st	Cliff Rossler	
Phal. Hobby's Amy 'Shih Hua'	2^{ND}	Paph. Shireen	1 st
		Onc. Aloha Iwanaga	3^{RD}
Iris Cohen			
Haraella retrocalla		Charles Ufford	
Lc. Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii'	2^{ND}	Educational Exhibit: Native Orchids	1 st
		Phal. stuartiana	1 st
Donna Coleman			
Pths. ornata	2^{ND}	Barb Weller	
Phal. Timothy Christopher	3^{RD}	(Lc. El Cerrito x Bc. Daffodil) x C. Helen Jarzab	3^{RD}
Oncidium Twinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy'	3^{RD}		
		Judi Witkin	
Heather Erickson		Prom. Meadow Gold	1 st
Dtps. Taisuco Jewel x Phal. Ambonosa	2^{ND}	Paph. Gary Romagna	1 st
Den. nobile	2^{ND}	Sgmx. sergii	2^{ND}
		Chsch. lunifera	3^{RD}
Carolyn Pace		Sgmx. eliae	3^{RD}
<i>Cym.</i> unknown hybrid	1 st	Kefst. tolmensis	3^{RD}
Joan Burnham Award for Best Windowsill Gro	wn Plant	Stelis suberbien	3^{RD}
Lc. Gold Digger x Orchidglades Mandarin Gold	1 st		

Miscellaneous Business...

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<u>Club Reminders</u>

The **CNYOS Club Library** is now located at St. Augustine's church. Make arrangements with Judi Witkin (422-0869) if you want to borrow an item from the Library.

Don't forget to bring your blooming orchids for the Monthly Show Table!!!

A limited supply of Coconut Husk Chips is still available from Jeff Stuart. The medium grade is sold out, but there is still a supply of small/fine. If there is interest, a group order for general supplies might be possible. Contact Jeff Stuart (471-1404)



REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

Winter-Spring, 2005

May Bev Costello, Lu Prokopiw & Jeanne Kurtz

GROS News: News from the Genesee Region Orchid Society

May 2: Ray Barkalow of First Rays Orchids, speaking on Semi-Hydroponic Orchid Culture: Ray's orchid growing began when he was a Ceramic Engineering student at Georgia Tech. After about a year of volunteering his time at the public greenhouses in Piedmont Park - now the Atlanta Botanical Gardens - the orchid grower there gave him a big purple cattleya. It took him about 2 years to kill it via the typical root rot-desiccation cycle torture; he was determined to learn more about growing orchids well, and got addicted like everyone else. Needless to say, in the 30+ years since, he's learned that he's a very effective plant killer... Ray has had many opportunities to travel internationally, and has put together an extensive collection of orchids from around the world. That travel schedule (averaging 13 flights a week for three years at one point) led to a great deal of experimentation surrounding keeping plants healthy and happy during absences, and that's what led to the development of Semi-Hydroponics.

First Rays Orchids came into being by accident - literally - courtesy of a greenhouse heater & alarm failure on a 7°F night in January of 1994. That 20-year collection of plants from around the world was a total loss. After a few months, a new heater and alarm were purchased and written off as business expenses, even though he had no idea how to make a business out of orchids. Shortly thereafter, he divided the first couple of replacement plants he had purchased, created a textonly web page listing them, and offered the extra divisions to the internet orchid community. Two orders were placed within the first three hours, and the rest is history, as they say.

The best part about the exposure that First Rays Orchids has given Ray is the ability to communicate with folks from around the world on the fascinating subject of orchids. Sharing the obsession is second only to growing the plants.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 27, No. 7, May 2005, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025. More Info: http://www.geneseeorchid.org/

6 The Orchid Enthusiast

SPOT LIGHT ON... Cattleya aurantiaca & Cattleya luteola

I'm always amazed how my collection, isolated in a basement with little or no natural light, always knows it's spring. Orchids that have been dormant over the last six months start to wake up, buds pop out of sheaths formed long ago, and growth rates increase by leaps and bounds. It seems that my orchid collection knows it's spring well before I do. Two such Cattleyas are profiled here, both very brightly-colored and welcome harbingers of spring.

Cattleya aurantiaca: Like a beacon in the night the brilliant orange Cattleya aurantiaca draws attention in the greenhouse. Found throughout much of Central America this species is highly variable and has the smallest flowers of the genus. Plants can be either tall or short with an inflorescence that can carry 15 or more flowers that range from red-orange to yellow or rarely white. Where the ranges of C. aurantiaca and C. skinneri overlap they interbreed readily to produce a lovely natural hybrid, Cattleya Guatemalensis, which comes in a rainbow of pastel tones. Aurantiaca has been much used in Cattleya hybridizing to produce brilliantly colored multifloras. Many plants are cleistogamous (self-pollinating) so it is best to buy named clones or plants that are in flower. C. aurantiaca is not especially fussy in cultivation and grows easily with the other Cattleyas in an intermediate or warm environment and moderate light.

Cattleya luteola is perhaps the smallest of the cattleyas with only *C. aclandiae* challenging this claim. It is, however, much easier to bloom than *aclandiae*. A low elevation species from the Amazon basin, *Cattleya luteola* is found primarily in Brazil and Peru but its range extends into neighboring countries. The pretty yellow flowers are borne 4-6 on an inflorescence and are about 2 inches (5cm) across. *C. luteola* does especially well when mounted but may also be grown in a pot using a fast draining media such as medium bark mixed with a little lava rock or expanded clay. Warm to intermediate temperatures and filtered light should be provided.



Cattleya aurantiaca has the smallest flowers of the genus, although they are produced in profusion. The color can vary from a bright orange to yellow, to nearly red.



Cattleya luteola is a delightful miniature, with bright yellow green flowers. The plant is usually under 6 inches in height.

References: Photos © Gregg Allikas (2004, 1997, 2001), The Orchid Photo Page (http://www.orchidworks.com). Text by Gregg Allikas with contributions by Jeff Stuart. No reproduction without permission.

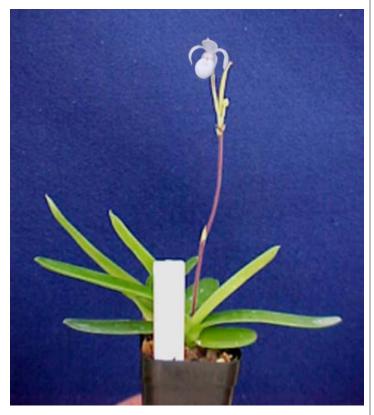
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Mexipedium (Phragmipedium) xerophyticum

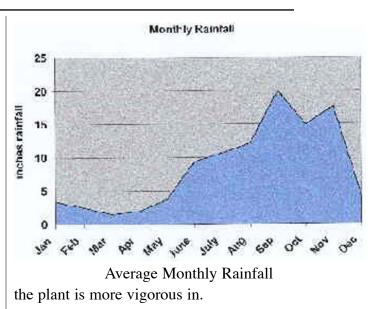
By Bob & Lynn Wellenstein AnTec Laboratory & Ladyslipper Farms http://www.ladyslipper.com

An excellent review of the discovery and habitat of this plant is presented by Marilyn LeDoux (1996). The plant was first collected and presented as a pressed herbarium specimen in 1985. The site was revisited in 1988 and live material was collected. The plant was described by Soto *et al.* in 1990, and transferred to its own genus by Albert and Chase in 1992, based at least in part on it's unilocular ovary more reminiscent of Paphiopedilum and Cypripedium than Phragmipedium's trilocular ovaries. This transfer is not universally accepted (see Koopowitz (1995)).

The habitat is said to be restricted to one isolated locale in Oaxaca, Mexico, where it grows on exposed steep cliffs with a north and east exposure, shielding it from full mid day sun. It is also said to grow both directly on the rock and in accumulated detritus in crevasses in the rock, with the latter being the habitat

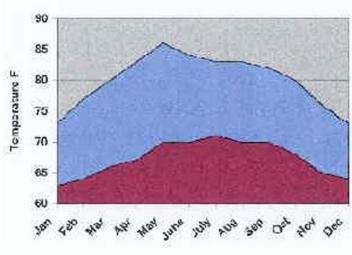


Mexipedium xerophyticum, note the small size (in a 2.5" pot).



The plants grow at an elevation of 1,050 feet (320 m) and receive an annual rainfall of about 98 inches (250 cm), but as you can see from the accompanying chart derived from data published by the Bakers (1991) the rainfall is far heavier from June through November, and very much reduced from December to May. They also grow in very warm conditions year round, with approximately an average 10F diurnal variation (chart again reproduced from data published by Baker and Baker (1991)). The small, stiff and semi erect thick leaves indicate that this is a plant capable of withstanding some very harsh conditions.

Average Minimum & Maximum Temperatures



Average Monthly High and Low Temperatures

8 The Orchid Enthusiast

We grow this plant best in a mix containing approximately 40% #3 charcoal, 50% fine fir bark and 10% perlite. This makes for a dense but quick draining and drying mix. Because the plants are in a less moisture retentive mix they do dry out somewhat in between waterings. We fertilize virtually every watering at the same rate we use for our Paphs. Our irrigation water is RO, and the water/fertilizer pH is adjusted to approximately 6.5 This is the only "Phragmipedium" to grow in association with limestone, and we do grow it with a top dressing of crushed oyster shell similar to how we grow calcicolous Paphs.

We grow it with the strap leaf Paphs, but it would probably do well also with *Phrag caudatum* as long as the mix is kept a little less moisture retentive. The plants receive about 2200 to 2500 footcandles of light at the maximum, probably much less than they receive in the wild. Some growers report good successes with these plants at much higher light levels, but compromises have to be made in the mixed collection.

The plants can roam quite a bit by putting out quite long rhizomes, when this occurs it is best to place another pot under the errant growth, and gently anchor the base onto the pot with a piece of wire until it is fully rooted. Then you can severe the rhizome if you wish. We have tried to select plants with a shorter rhizome for reproduction, but only time will tell if we've been successful.



Closeup of Mexipedium xerophyticum flower.

Feature Article, cont.



Rhizome Heading Out of the Pot.

The plants flower for us in the spring.

Mexipedium xerophyticum has proven quite easy to germinate in the laboratory, but a bit more difficult to grow up in flask and compot. However, it is becoming somewhat more available with time as progress is made in learning to overcome these obstacles. Hybrids have also been generated with Phragmipediums, however to the best of my knowledge none have yet bloomed.

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Maintaining High Humidity Indoors

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By Brian Milligan Orchid Societies Council of Victoria http://www.oscov.asn.au

Editor's Note: Growing orchids indoors always presents a unique set of challenges not encountered by the greenhouse grower. Do our windowsills have enough light? Is the house warm enough during the winter? Are the plants getting enough humidity? This last question is often the one we have the least control over. With Brian Milligan's help, let's examine one popular, albeit questionable, approach to increasing humidity: the standard gravel-filled tray of water.

Most hobbyists probably grow a few phalaenopsis or other warm-growing orchid indoors, with mixed success. It can be done very successfully if you can achieve the correct balance of light, warmth and humidity, although this is easier written than accomplished. My wife and I have grown two phalaenopsis plants in our bathroom for the last five years or so and have flowered them every year, although three or four flowers on an inflorescence represents a good year!!

Virtually every book or article on growing orchids indoors recommends placing the pots on a gravelfilled tray of water to help maintain an acceptable level of humidity, and for years our two phallies stood on large river pebbles sitting in trays of water. I wonder how many other members have used the same system? It transpires that this procedure is a waste of time and effort!

In the American Orchid Society Bulletin for 1994 (pp. 916-917), Douglas Kohl describes a series of experiments in which he measured the relative humidity (RH) at various distances above trays of water in his house in Minnesota (USA) at different times of the year. In summer the increase in RH was 7% if measured 40 mm (1.6") above the water level, only 1% at 110 mm (4.3") above the water level and zero at a height of 300 mm (11.9")! The corresponding figures for winter (when the RH is very low in Minnesota because of low ambient temperatures) were 3%, 2%

and zero!! Addition of pebbles to the water, as expected, had no effect on the results. It's therefore obvious that growing plants above trays of water will have a negligible effect on the relative humidity at foliage level in the case of large plants like phallies, and only a slight effect for miniature orchids.

Kohl also conducted experiments using water in transparent chambers, such as aquariums. In this case there were quite large increases in RH, depending upon the extent to which the top of the aquarium was covered. Of course, the RH reaches 100% if the tank is totally covered but the humidity regulates itself to about 52% RH if 30% of the top area is left uncovered, and to 72% RH if only 10% is left uncovered. It would therefore seem to be a good idea to grow your phallies in a partly covered fish tank containing a little water (sit the pot on a layer of pebbles, not in the water). Of course, dealing with a yard-long inflorescence may present some problems unless you have a very tall fish tank! Maybe it would be OK to let the flower spike grow through the opening in the lid - the lower humidity in the open air may be beneficial in reducing the possibility of flower spotting caused by fungal attack. I would try growing our phallies this way myself, if only my wife would allow me to keep an aquarium in the bathtub!



Phalaenopsis Sogo Yukidian 'Mathews' AM/OSCOV

Photo & Text © OSCOV, http://www.oscov.asn.au

J&L ORCHIDS: MAGNIFICENT MASDEVALLIAS

By David Kessler

Magnificent Masdevallias! That was the thought that was running through my mind after a trip to J&L Orchids. J&L Orchids is tucked away in a small rural area of Connecticut, specializing in Pleurothallids, miniature, and unusual species orchids. Those who are lucky enough to visit will be treated to a fantastic display of unusual and stunning plants in flower. I saw striking flowers of Dracula vampira, Masdevallia veitchiana, as well as a Masdevallia Celtic Frost so memorable it followed me home. The proprietors of this nursery for the last 26 years, Cordelia Head, Marguerite Webb, and Lucinda Winn run an impressive nursery. They participate in national and international orchid shows winning awards for their displays, hybrids, and growing skills. When I visited they were busy with preparations for the Tokyo Dome Orchid Show, but this did not stop Cordelia from showing me around and answering all of my questions.

The greenhouse area is about 2,500 square feet. This space is divided in half for two distinctive climate zones to allow them to grow both "cool" and "intermediate" orchids. The cool greenhouse maintains a winter nighttime low of 56° Fahrenheit and a summer day-time maximum of 80° Fahrenheit. The intermediate greenhouse maintains a winter nighttime low of 60° Fahrenheit and a summer day-time maximum of 85° Fahrenheit and 85° Fah

Fahrenheit, but occasionally slightly higher during the hottest day of summer. The greenhouse has different shade materials to allow high, medium, and low light orchids to thrive. Humidity is maintained as high as possible due to the requirements of some of the plants they grow—Draculas prefer 80% humidity to grow well. There is plenty of air circulation; a necessary factor for healthy orchid cultivation. At J&L they prefer a potting medium of sphagnum moss or a combination of sphagnum moss, shredded tree fern fiber, and perlite. Many plants are mounted covering the walls which occasionally have the effect of making one feel as though they are in the orchid's native rainforest / cloud forest.

One tip Cordelia gave to fellow orchid growers is to maintain good humidity, especially for mounted plants. In the home she suggested a terrarium for growing the orchids which require high humidity. I would recommend a visit to J&L Orchids to anyone interested in Pleurothallids.

Note: J&L Orchids is located at: 20 Sherwood Road, Easton, Connecticut, 06612. That is about 4.5 hours from Syracuse. Their website, which includes a comprehensive catalog, is http://www.jlorchids.com/

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Above: Interior view of one of the J&L greenhouses. Right: Masdevallia Celtic Frost



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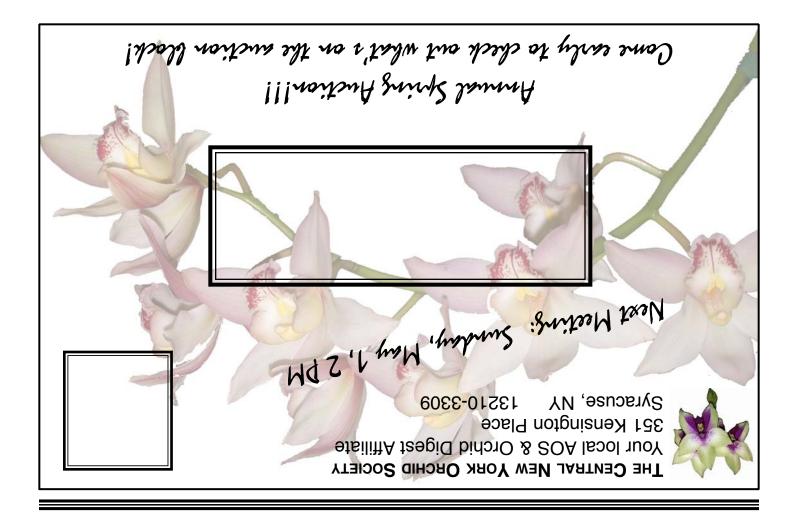


LEFT: THE NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW NEARLY ALWAYS HAS GREAT DISPLAYS, BUT THE DISPLAY ENTERED THIS YEAR BY J & L ORCHIDS WAS ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE YET. THEY MANAGED TO CREATE A MAYAN TEMPLE IN MINIATURE, AT ONLY ABOUT TWO FEET TALL! AND IT WAS OVERFLOWING WITH AN INCREDIBLE SELEC-TION OF MINIATURE ORCHIDS. THE DISPLAY TOOK MANY AWARDS.

PHOTOS © JEFF STUART, 2005

BELOW: AWARD-WINNING CNYOS DISPLAY BY JUDI WITKIN ENTERED IN THE 2005 GENESEE REGION ORCHID SHOW. JUDI'S DISPLAY TOOK BEST IN ITS CATEGO-RY. THAT PESKY HERON GOT THE BEST OF HEATHER ERICKSON'S PHALAENOPSIS!





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The Central New York Orchid Society meets at St. Augustine's Church, 7333 O'Brien Rd, Baldwinsville, at 2:00[™] on the first Sunday of each month from September through June. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual, or \$17.00 family. Dues should be paid to the CNYOS Treasurer, 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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