

PHRAGMIPEDIUMS & WATER QUALITY

**W**elcome Back! September 12<sup>TH</sup> marks the first meeting of the CNYOS 2004 – 2005 season. After taking a well-deserved summer rest—at least for the most part—CNYOS members have plenty to think about over the next few months. In *less than a month* we have our Annual Fall Show & Sale, October 2-3, in Shoppingtown Mall, November brings our annual trip to visit Jim Marlow, and December brings our annual Holiday Party. But for now we have to consider only our quickly approaching show, as well as our September Meeting.

**F**or our September Meeting, CNYOS is excited to welcome back Bob Wellenstein of AnTec Laboratories and Ladyslipper Farms, who will be discussing Phragmipedium culture and water quality.

This is a topic that Bob has spent a lot of time exploring, and some of what he has discovered may surprise you!

Through Bob & Lynn Wellenstein's work, AnTec Laboratories & Ladyslipper Farms of Candor NY has become one of the foremost producers of quality Phragmipediums and Paphiopedilums in the country, specializing in the production of high-quality species and hybrids at affordable prices. Furthermore, Bob & Lynn maintain one of the best websites for slipper orchids, rich with detailed cultural information and perhaps the most comprehensive photographic collection of slipper species and hybrids currently on-line (<http://www.ladyslipper.com>).

Bob last spoke to CNYOS on new directions in Paphiopedilum breeding in October 2002—he will again be bringing a collection of plants to sell. We'll be taking Bob out to lunch at Lock 24 in Baldwinsville before the meeting. See page 2 for details.

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**October 2-3: CNYOS Annual Fall Show & Sale!**

**A** good amount of time at our next meeting will be devoted to planning our show—there is a lot to do, and we will need volunteers! Sign-up sheets will be passed around for manning the front desk, monitoring the displays, and helping with set-up and break-down. We currently have

five vendors lined up, including Black Meadow Orchids, Bloomfield Orchids, JustPat Orchids, Marlow Orchids, and Mountain Orchids. The Southern Tier and Genesee Region Orchid Societies are also expected. We'll also be trying something new this year—

CNYOS will have a show planning & preparation meeting on Sunday, September 26<sup>TH</sup>—see details on

Pages 3 and 7. **Hope to see everyone soon!**

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**JUNE MEETING: ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC**

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, CNYOS once again had the pleasure of holding its summer picnic at the home of member Dianne Bordoni. Dianne's back yard provided a nearly perfect venue for the picnic, with an incredible selection of perennials and exotic shrubs to admire. At least 25 members attended. The weather was perfect, the food was delicious, and the company was the best. There was a short business meeting before it was time to relax. As it seems every year, the show table was particularly nice—see page 4.

**JUNE 26: HERB & FLOWER FEST**

In July CNYOS participated in the Herb & Flower Fest held in Oriskany NY on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The club sold orchids purchased from Black Meadow Orchids (formerly Frier's Orchids) and discussed orchid culture with the public. Member Rick Braue gave a presentation on basic aspects of growing orchids in the home. Best of all, several new members joined the club!

**LUNCH WITH SPEAKER BOB WELLENSTEIN**

Prior to our meeting on Sunday, CNYOS will be taking our speaker to lunch at Lock 24 in Baldwinsville. Members are welcome to attend. If you're interested, please call Carolyn Pace at (315) 662-7993 no later than Saturday (9/11) so she can make reservations, and plan on meeting at St. Augustines at 11:45 so we can form car pools to the restaurant.

**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!



1. Treasurer's Report. Income: \$7,729.64, proceeds from auction \$1,928.50.
2. Membership: we have 90 paid members. Jeff will be getting out a membership list.
3. Herb and Flower Show: 6/26/04 in Oriskany, New York. The directions will be posted on the club's website. We need your blooming plants, please get them to Dianne or Deb by Thursday.
4. A proposal was discussed to put up a non-plant display at the Oswego Fair 7/1 – 7/7 in Sandy Creek. The decision was not to participate.
5. Monica reminded us about the Summer Orchid Fest that is listed in our newsletter. Jim Marlow will be hosting his own event.
6. Rich Groll has the pictures from our last show. He hopes to submit them shortly.
7. Fall Show: Jeff has confirmed 2 judges, John Sullivan and Dianne Strack, and he is sending out e-mails to others. Confirmed vendors are Jim Marlow, Joe Kunisch, and Darrin Norton. David Ditz distributed a list for Volunteers for the Show, and he would like the membership to be on the lookout for ideas for our display. Judi will help with display.
8. Our September speaker is planned to be Susan Jones. [cancelled]
9. Laptop: the club voted to give money to Deb Coyle to purchase a laptop computer for use during show registration.
10. Charles Ufford requested archival information and pictures for an informational display on the club.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Barbara Weller, CNYOS Secretary**



- September 12**      **Bob Wellenstein:** Phragmipedium Culture and Water Quality (2:00<sup>PM</sup>)
- September 19**      **STOS Annual Orchid Auction**
- September 26**      **Show Preparation Meeting:** St. Augustine's Church, 2:00<sup>PM</sup>
- October 1 - 3**      **CNYOS Annual Fall Show & Sale,** Shoppingtown Mall, DeWitt.
- October 1 - 2**      **Parkside Pleurothallid Fest:** See <http://www.parksideorchids.com>
- October 15 - 16**      **Niagara Frontier Orchid Society Show:** Harvey Morin Post, 965 Center Road, West Seneca.
- November 7**      **Meeting at SUNY Morrisville:** tour of propagation labs by Prof. David Soucy
- November ?**      **Trip to Marlow Orchids,** date to be announced.
- December 5**      **Holiday Party**

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**SPECIAL SHOW REGISTRATION  
MEETING TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**

Because our fall show is scheduled during our regular meeting weekend, we have scheduled a *show preparation meeting for Sunday, 9/26, 2:00PM, at St. Augustine's Church.* Last minute details, volunteer schedules, & information on set-up & break-down will all be discussed. Furthermore, we will be taking the time to discuss preparing your orchids for the show, AND to register all members' orchids that are to be entered. Last year there were problems with late entries that had to be registered and fit into the display, which had already been completed. So in order to avoid that problem this year, all orchids will have to be registered and at the show **before** the display is set up on Friday, October 1. Be prepared to bring any orchids for the display to the 9/26 meeting, register them, and perhaps even leave them with the show committee. This way things will run much more smoothly during set-up. A supplemental newsletter will be sent out prior to the meeting with more details. More on page 7.

## Bonsai Kai of Central New York Annual Show



DeWitt Community Library  
Jack C. Buckland  
Community Room  
lower level  
Shoppingtown Mall  
3649 Erie Boulevard East  
DeWitt, New York

Exit 35 on the Thruway  
Saturday, September 18  
11 AM to 5 PM  
Sunday, September 19  
1 to 4 PM  
Free Admission

Bonsai are miniature potted trees which represent large trees in nature. They can be solemn evergreens, deciduous, bright flowering or fruit trees, hardy outdoor trees or exotic tropicals. Come and see our exhibit from garden, mountain, jungle, and forest.

For information call 315-461-9226.

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**Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or complete your records.**

### Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph. Saint Swithin</i> ( <i>philippinense</i> x <i>rothschildianum</i> )	Stuart
<i>Paph. argus</i>	“
<i>Paph. Berenice</i> ( <i>lowii</i> x <i>philippinense</i> )	“
<i>Paph. Armeni White</i> ( <i>armeniacum</i> x <i>delenatii</i> )	“
<i>Paph. Meda Ballard</i> ( <i>Denehurst</i> x <i>primulinum</i> )	“
<i>Paph. Saint Swithin</i>	Ditz
<i>Paph. Via George</i> ( <i>Pinocchio</i> x <i>concolor</i> )	Weller
<i>Phrag. Schroederiae</i> ( <i>caudatum</i> x <i>Sedenii</i> )	Capella
<i>Paph. niveum</i>	Wilson
<i>Paph. lowii</i>	“
<i>Paph. Deperle</i> ( <i>primulinum</i> x <i>delenatii</i> )	“

### Cattleya Alliance

<i>Pros. vitellina</i>	Lloyd
<i>B. David Sander</i> ( <i>cucullata</i> x <i>Rhyncholaelia digbyana</i> )	“
<i>Encyclia bractescens</i>	Ditz
<i>Sc. Mini Collins</i> ( <i>C. Michael Collins</i> x <i>S. Arizona</i> )	“
<i>Epi. Fantasy Valley</i> ( <i>Joseph Glow</i> x <i>Crystal Valley</i> )	Bordoni
<i>Encyclia guatemalensis</i>	Witkin

### Vandaceous

<i>Phal. unknown</i>	Rosler
<i>Phal. Golden Peoker</i> x <b>Tinny Ivory</b>	“
<i>Phal. micholitzii</i>	Ufford
<i>Phal. philippinense</i>	“
<i>Phal. equestris</i>	“
<i>Phal. lueddemanniana</i>	“
<i>V. tricolor</i>	Ditz
<i>Rhy. retusa</i>	“
<i>Phal. Sogo Grape</i> ( <i>Super Stupid</i> x <i>Princess Kaiulani</i> )	“
<i>Nakamotoara</i> Edwin Hausermann ( <i>Ascof. Peaches</i> x <i>V. cristata</i> )	Capella
<i>Ascof. Cherry Blossom</i> ( <i>Neof. falcata</i> x <i>Asctm. ampulaceum</i> )	Bordoni
<i>Schoenorchis fragrans</i>	“
<i>Stereochilus dalatensis</i>	Stuart
<i>Sedirea japonica</i>	Coleman

### Oncidium Alliance

<i>Sigmatostalix sergii</i>	Witkin
<i>Helcia sanguinolenta</i>	“
<b><i>Cuitlauzina pendula</i></b>	Ditz
<i>Brs. longissima</i>	Capella
<b><i>Tolumnia</i></b> Kitty Crocker ( <i>Port Antonio</i> x <i>Sniffen</i> )	“
<i>Vuyl. Cambria</i> ( <i>Rudra</i> x <i>Odm. Clonius</i> )	Coleman
<i>Palumbina candida</i>	Braue

### Dendrobium Alliance

<i>Den. lichenastrum</i>	Stensland
<b><i>Den. christyanum</i></b>	Lloyd
<i>Den. unicum</i>	Coleman
<b><i>Den. griffitheanum</i></b>	Ditz

### Pleurothallid Alliance

<i>Pths. resupinata</i>	Stuart
<i>Lths. telipogoniflora</i>	“
<b><i>Pths. ornate</i></b>	Witkin
<i>Pths. pterophora</i>	“
<b><i>Pths. grobyi</i></b>	“
<i>Scaphyglottis chocoana</i>	“
<i>Platystele ximenae</i>	“
<i>Platystele dasyglossa</i>	“
<i>Lths. niessenae</i>	“
<i>Pths. ornate</i>	Braue

### Miscellaneous

<i>Max. tenuifolia</i>	Braue
<i>Max. uncarinata</i> (?)	Witkin
<i>Cyclopogon lindleyanum</i>	“
<i>Bulb. macroleum</i>	Ditz
<i>Max. sanderiana</i>	“
<i>Liparis sp.</i>	“
<b><i>Bulb. Memoria Richard Mizuta</i></b> ( <i>lobbii</i> x <i>affine</i> )	Witkin
<b><i>Bulb. dearei</i></b>	“
<i>Caralluma crenulata</i> hybr. ( <i>Stapeliaceae</i> )	Coleman
	Iris Cohen

## 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 September Meeting. 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 enhancement by J. Stuart.

## **REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE**

*WINTER-SPRING, 2004 - 2005*

*Information not available at the time of printing.  
If you signed up, we'll be calling you!*

## **STOS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY**

**IT'S AUCTION TIME!** STOS will hold it's annual orchid auction at 1:00<sup>PM</sup> on Sunday, September 19<sup>TH</sup> at the Vestal Public Library. CNYOS members are welcome to attend.

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>.

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

On September 13<sup>TH</sup>, GROS kicks off its new season with guest speaker Claudio Rossi discussing cultural aspects of growing rupicolous Laelias.

Claudio is a certified AOS judge and owns and operates Cloud's Orchids of Jordon Station, Ontario. Although he has a passion for Slipper Orchids, he's never met an orchid he didn't like, and like many of us has grown plants from many different genera. Cloud's Orchids came into being in the late 80's with a strong emphasis on species and slipper orchids. Since it's birth in a 300 sq. ft. greenhouse, it has grown to a nursery operation of 39,000 sq. ft. in the Niagara Peninsula. He will be bringing plants to sell.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 27, No. 1, September 2004, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

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*NEOCONIAUXIA HEXAPTERA & CIRRHOPETALUM TINGABARINUM*

Orchids can sometimes be funny things. Take the two species in the Spot Light today—two radically different species with presumably different requirements. One is a cool grower that likes copious water and low light levels.

The other prefers warm temperatures and brighter light. Yet both are currently in bloom in my collection, even in the same stand! It just goes to show you that you never know how orchids will like your conditions until you try.

Cultural recommendations are only guidelines, not predictions of success.

*Neocogniauxia hexaptera* is classified as part of the Cattleya alliance, although if memory serves there are those who would classify it as part of the Pleurothallids. The species occurs as a twig epiphyte in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The genus *Neocogniauxia*—named for the nineteenth century Belgian botanist Alfred Cogniaux—consists only of two species, *hexaptera* and *monophylla*. However, the two are remarkably similar and considered synonymous in some taxonomic circles. Plants of both species are found growing in small shrubs in higher elevation cloud forests (>1000 meters). They must be kept cool and humid with good air circulation in fairly shady conditions. Clean water low in dissolved salts is a must. The vivid orange flowers can reach up to 2” in diameter.

*Cirrhopetalum tingabarinum* is one of my favorite orchids, and has proven to be a reliable bloomer this time of year—always before our annual show! A stick mounted plant purchased from Andy’s Orchids several years ago, it routinely puts out over a dozen umbels of unusually-colored flowers, which can be described as an intense orange or vermillion. The plant itself gets no larger than 3 to 4 inches, and when in bloom with multiple inflorescences, gives the impression of fireworks. This colorful orchid is found in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia, and generally prefers warm to intermediate temperatures. Frequent (daily) watering is required along with good air circulation and moderate light. This is one orchid that definitely benefits from mounting, not only from the stand point of keeping the plant healthy, but also for the aesthetics. My plant grows in my mounted orchid stand (with vertical fluorescent tubes) and grows no more than two feet from the *Neocogniauxia hexaptera*.



THE BRIGHT ORANGE FLOWERS OF *NEOCONIAUXIA HEXAPTERA* ARE HUGE FOR THE SIZE OF THE PLANT. THE FLOWER ON THIS FIRST BLOOM SEEDLING MEASURED ABOUT 1.5” IN DIAMETER, AND WAS GROWN IN A 1.5” POT! HIGH HUMIDITY, COOL TEMPERATURES, MODERATE SHADE, AND LOTS OF CLEAN WATER MAKE THIS ORCHID HAPPY.



THE FLOWERS OF *CIRRHOPETALUM TINGABARINUM* ARE SURREAL. THE COLOR IS EXTREMELY HARD TO DESCRIBE, BUT IT IS PREDOMINANTLY ORANGE, WITH OVERTONES OF CORAL, SALMON, AND RUST. LIKE MANY IN THIS GROUP, IT ENJOYS MOISTURE AND WARMTH.

**Reference:** Photos & text © Jeff Stuart, 2004. No reproduction without permission.

### *Volunteers Needed!*

It's once again show time, and that means CNYOS will be strongly relying on its members to make everything come together. Both local societies will be participating (GROS & STOS), and we have at least four, possibly five, vendors committed: Bloomfield Orchids, JustPat Orchids, Marlow Orchids, Mountain Orchids, and (possibly) Black Meadow Orchids. Help will be needed in many areas, including manning the society booth and answering the public's questions, monitoring the displays to keep visitors from touching the plants, helping the vendors out with both set-up and break-down (loading and unloading their vans, etc.), clerking during judging, and the pre-show advertising effort. Show Chair Dave Ditz will be sending around sign up sheets at this Sunday's meeting, and the final schedules will be published in a mid-month supplemental newsletter. The show committee has been diligently designing our display, which is rumored to have a theme involving overgrown ruins!

### *It's All About Marketing...*

Jeff Stuart will be handling the advertising effort, but any ideas you have are appreciated. Because we may have one more vendor this year, a successful advertising effort is essential. Volunteers in this effort are needed. At the very least the following will be done: (1) Local radio, newspapers, and television stations will be sent press releases for publication on community calendars; (2) Posters will be placed in Shoppingtown Mall; (3) orchid-related web-sites will be notified; and (4) Post cards will be sent out to all local orchid societies and previous members as part of a direct mail campaign. With any luck one of the local papers will be willing to do a feature. Things to consider include (1) Classified advertisements (inexpensive, easily overlooked); (2) Non-classified paid advertisement in local newspapers (*expensive*, but more visible); and (3) Posters displayed in other locations (flower shops, restaurants, Home Depot, Lowes, etc.—many places won't allow this sort of thing). If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to let us know.

### *Clean Up Those Plants!*

Your orchids will also be needed for the society's display, and it's not too early to start looking at how they might be better groomed for the show. All dead leaves and flower spikes should be removed or trimmed. Inflorescences forming now can be carefully staked to guide them into the best display angle. Any orchids outside forming inflorescence should be closely watched for slugs, which will quickly eat through just about any orchid tissue. Furthermore, orchids that have summered outdoors often harbor unwanted pests (especially sow or pill bugs, slugs, and ants) that will need to be evicted prior to bringing them indoors, and especially prior to placing them in a display! A few (drenching) treatments with a neem oil product usually does the trick, and most of the time will leave developing flower buds unharmed (although it's still recommended to avoid spraying flowers directly). Prolonged immersion of the pot in water so the media becomes completely soaked will also help.

### *All Plants Need to be registered...*

*...and to be at the Show ON TIME!*

Keep in mind that part of the September 26 meeting will be for registering plants, and presents an ideal opportunity to drop off your show plants early with the display committee. Complete show schedules will be provided in the supplemental newsletter, including registration forms.

When it's time to actually leave the plants for the display, *please make sure that the pot is clearly labeled with your name and the plant's name*. This eliminates any ambiguity when it comes to labeling the orchids for the display.

The show will also have art and photography-related displays for our more creative members. All entries will have to be registered in the appropriate class. Educational exhibits are also welcome, and most helpful to the public.

*Here's Hoping We Have A Successful Show!*

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## APPRECIATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF AN ORCHID SHOW

By Wayne Bourdette

*Editor's note: The New York International Orchid Show was held in Rockefeller Center last April. The article reproduced below was in the show pamphlet, and although it is geared toward the NY Show for which it was written, its observations and content are certainly apropos to our upcoming CNYOS Annual Fall Show & Sale, especially if you have wondered about all those ribbons and awards that the judges distribute. So enjoy the article, and hopefully you'll gain a fuller appreciation into the processes of staging an orchid show of any size! And for those of you who have never attended the NY International Orchid Show, you have no idea what an orchid show can be until you do! JAS*

You will find there are many perspectives from which to appreciate an orchid show. The journey I wish to embark on with you will hopefully give you a better understanding of what actually takes place and how to better interpret what you see.

The most obvious thing that you will notice is that there are a number of exhibits. The exhibits are the result of either individual amateurs, groups of amateurs, orchid societies, or commercial exhibitors (vendors) who display their plants in varying sized exhibits. The size of the display is requested in advance by a given exhibitor based on the number of plants he/she expects to use.

If you choose to simply stop at this point and enjoy the artistry and beauty of the arrangements and individual plants that is certainly an acceptable way of taking in the show, but one can go well beyond that aspect. Many hobbyists and commercial growers are involved in these shows and there is an insatiable appetite for fine forms of species and hybrids. One way to further encourage the hobbyist or professional is to offer some types of recognition to both individuals and groups by several different levels of awards.

### THE AWARDS PROCESS

Judges involved in this show have a wealth of show judging experience and come from diverse backgrounds. Orchids are the common ground that can bring people together in search of a specific goal which, in this case, is to further the knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby. You will find that each judge has some specific area of expertise, as well as, a good general knowledge of all orchid genera. The combined knowledge of the members of each judging team allows for an accurate assessment of each category.

The award process at shows is divided into two different types of judging: ribbon judging and American Orchid Society (AOS) judging. Ribbon judging is always the first aspect of show judging. Groups of judges and clerks evaluate the plants that have been entered by the exhibitors, while referring to class schedules supplied by the host society. Classes to be



judged generally consist of plants, species and hybrids, which are closely related. These groupings could be all species, primary hybrids, or more complex hybrids within a given orchid genus (a subdivision of the orchid family of plants) or a number of closely related genera. These classes may be further divided by flower color. At the New York International Orchid Show over 200 classes are judged and the best of each class is given a blue ribbon. As the judges proceed they will then compare all the blue ribbons within a similar group of classes and that plant or exhibit will receive a plaque. As the process continues, eventually a "Best Orchid in Show" (The Grand Champion) is selected and receives a crystal trophy. Unique to the NYIOS, the Grand Champion also receives a cash award.

The ribbon judging process can take up to four hours to complete. All the exhibits, flower arrangements, and fragrance judging are done in a similar manner. There are always times in judging shows that plants of excellent flower quality are judged against plants of superior culture. Sometimes culture wins out and in other cases flower quality will be chosen first. These decisions are made as objectively as possible.

After all the dust has just about settled from the ribbon judging, the final sequenced of evaluations takes place. American Orchid Society judging includes choosing the Best Exhibit in the Show, the AOS Show Trophy, and also recognition for any plants that exhibit outstanding characteristics such as flower quality (FCC, AM, HCC), botanical or horticultural recognition (CBR, CHM), and cultural excellence (CCM, CCE). The plants under review either have been selected by an AOS judge or have been previously entered by an exhibitor. The AOS judges request the temporary removal of these selected plants from the various exhibits throughout the show. This removal enables panels of judges, seated at different tables, to study the plants and evaluate them.

As the judging teams review the New York International Orchid Show entries, there will always be plants that are considered to be special in one or perhaps several aspects. You will notice plants that are incredibly grown and flowered, those that have spectacularly colored flowers, and some that have



THE DISPLAY SET UP BY ANDY'S ORCHIDS WAS PARTICULARLY NICE AND MANY OF THE PLANTS TOOK AWARDS. AN INCREDIBLY-GROWN *COCHLIODA VULCANICA* (UPPER RIGHT) TIED FOR BEST ORCHID IN SHOW / GRAND CHAMPION WITH THE MAGNIFICENT *BULBOPHYLLUM PHALAEENOPSIS*, SHOWN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE. THIS WAS JUST ONE OF DOZENS OF WELL-DONE DISPLAYS TO ADMIRE.

awesome flower quality. When more than one of these aspects is involved, it becomes more likely that the plant will generate interest from the judging teams. Not only can these unique plants win prestigious show trophies but they can also be selected for American Orchid Society judging.

What is it that the judges look for? There are certain basic characteristics that are viewed as desirable when evaluating plants and flowers. Plants should be well grown with clean, unblemished foliage, plump growths, and what always helps is a large number of flowers. Teams always scrutinize plants to make sure that they are well groomed and displayed. This grooming includes removal of old inflorescences (spikes or flower stems), trimming of blemished foliage, properly staking growths and flowers, etc. Plants of good quality, when poorly displayed, can be ignored by the judging teams. Flowers should be staked to be easily seen, to give a natural presentation, and to avoid crowding on stems and around the plant. The flowers should occur in sufficient numbers based on what would be expected from a specific species or hybrid and be of good quality. A good flower will usually have flat segments (rolling or recurving is usually undesirable); good size and balanced segments; smooth, uniform color; good substance; and sparkling texture where possible.





### ORCHID AWARD LEVELS

If a plant is deemed worthy of a flower award, judges have three choices. A First Class Certificate (FCC of 90 – 100 points) is the highest award and indicates a flower of superior form, size, and color. An Award of Merit (AM of 80 – 89 points) is given for a flower of fine form, color, and good size. A Highly Commended Certificate (HCC of 75 – 79 points) is granted to flowers of improved form, size, and color compared to previously awarded cultivars.

Culture is a critically important part of orchid growing. Without adequate nurturing the best qualities of a plant will never be fully expressed. Two awards are currently available to plants grown exceptionally well. A Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM of 80 – 89 points) is granted to a well-grown and well-flowered specimen plant. Should a plant be even more spectacular a Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE of 90 – 100) is given. This award is reserved for exceptionally large specimens that have their flowers very well displayed and evenly distributed over the entire plant.

Many times at shows a new species is seen and judges have two alternatives to grant recognition to such a plant. A Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR) is granted by 2/3 vote of the judging team present to plants for rarity, novelty and educational value. A Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM) has a point scale of 80 – 100 and is given to outstanding plants that are exceptionally showy and highly prized for their aesthetic appeal. The chart on page 11 gives more details about these awards.

Hopefully, you will begin to appreciate the complex nature of how all the ribbons and awards are allocated to the large number of plants throughout the show. Whether you're a hobbyist, a commercial grower, or

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THIS MAGNIFICENT *BULBOPHYLLUM PHALAEOPSIS*, ALSO A RECIPIENT OF BEST ORCHID IN SHOW / GRAND CHAMPION HONORS "STOOD" NEARLY 5 FEET TALL! HOWEVER, IT PAID NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE—THIS IS ONE ORCHID THAT REDEFINES THE TERM MALODOROUS, HAVING A PARTICULARLY STRONG STENCH OF ROTTING MEAT! IT WAS, HOWEVER, ENTERTAINING TO WATCH PEOPLE PUSH THEIR NOSES TOWARD THE FLOWERS, ONLY TO RECOIL IN DISGUST! THIS PLANT WAS EVEN FEATURED BY CNN.



an admirer of beauty, I hope that you will go away with a better understanding of how a plant receives an award. Whatever your interest in orchids, may your time at the show be a pleasant one and perhaps you too will be infected by orchid fever.

**ORCHID NAME TAGS**

As you walk around the exhibits you will notice that each plant has a nametag. That tag is very important because it provides the plant's parentage. The first part is the plant's name. If the plant has been awarded by the AOS, the grower of the plant has the option of giving it a clonal name. This name will appear after the primary name in single quotation marks such as 'Maria Teresa'. Also on the tag of an awarded plant you will see the actual AOS award given. So a plant's tagged name of Phal. Small Sensation 'Maria Teresa' AM/AOS indicates that the plant has received an Award of Merit for the plant from the AOS and the exhibitor has given it a clonal name of 'Maria Teresa'.

The American Orchid Society (AOS) is one of many organizations that grants awards to orchid plants. Other acronyms that may be seen on all tags include Orchid Digest Corporation (ODC), Japanese Orchid

Growers Association, (JOGA), South Florida Orchid Society (SFOS), and Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

Wayne Bourdette is an accredited AOS judge. He began growing orchids around 1962 with a white complex Cattleya hybrid. His main interest is in the Cattleya Alliance and the Pleurothallid Alliance. Currently he grows in a double layer inflated poly greenhouse. Wayne is Manager of Horticulture at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, New York.

**REFERENCES**

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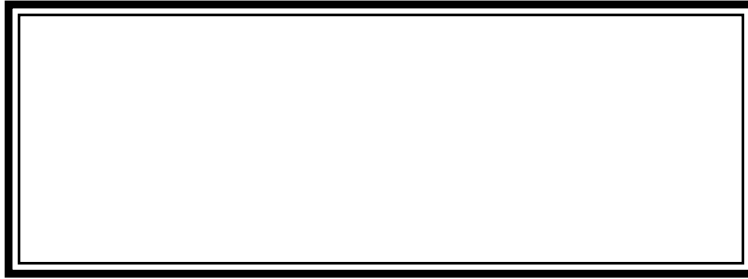
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<b>American Orchid Society Awards</b>						
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>QUALITIES</b>	<b>POINTS</b>	<b>AWARD</b>	<b>PLANTS WITH SUCH AWARDS*</b>	<b>POINTS</b>	<b>GROWER</b>
Flower	Superior form size and color	90-100	First Class Certificate (FCC)	Paph. Julius 'Maria Teresa'	FCC 91 pts.	Carlos Fighetti*
Flower	Fine form, size and color	80-89	Award of Merit (AM)	Masd. (Dick Doran x veitchiana)	AM 84	J&L Orchids*
Flower	Improved form, size and color	75-79	Highly Commended Certificate (HCC)	Masd. Rice Queen 'Cow Hollow'	HCC 79 pts.	Pui Chin
Culture	Spectacular growth and flowered specimen plant	90-100	Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE)	Chysis Langleyensis	CCM 96 pts.	Glen Decker* 'Suzanne' CCM(before CCE)
Culture	Well-grown and well-flowered specimen plant	80-89	Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM)	Den. smilliae 'Waiomao'	CCM 90 pts (before CCE)	Kawamoto Orchids
Species	Rarity, novelty, and/or educational value	No points used	Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR)	Pleurothallis condorensis 'Walter'	CBR	Mountain Orchids
Species	Exceptionally showy and aesthetic	80-100	Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM)	Ophrys holoserica 'Spiro'	CHM 82 pts.	Manhattan Orchid Society Exhibit*
Non-Specific	Quality (awarded once to a cross showing improvement)	No points used	Award of Quality (AQ)	Lc. Atticus	AQ	Krull-Smith Orchids
Non-specific	Distinctive characteristic worthy of recognition	No points used	Judges Commendation (JC)	Phal. Everspring King 'Lee'	JC	Arbec -Roger Cole*

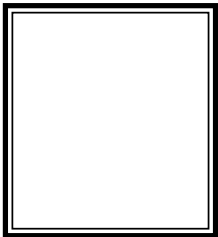
\*indicates local grower



Next Meeting: Bob Wellerstein of Artec Laboratory and Ladyshipen  
Farm: Phragmites/medium & Water Quality



Next Meeting: Sunday, September 12, 2PM



THE CENTRAL NEW YORK ORCHID SOCIETY  
Your local AOS & Orchid Digest Affiliate  
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## Central New York Orchid Society

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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, 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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