

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Page 1 Volume 14: Issue 6 February 2012

Editor's Note:

Contributions to the Orchid Enthusiast by members of the CNYOS are welcome. Articles, pictures, or ideas for discussion subjects should be submitted by the first week of the month before the next meeting to:

egalson756@gmail.com

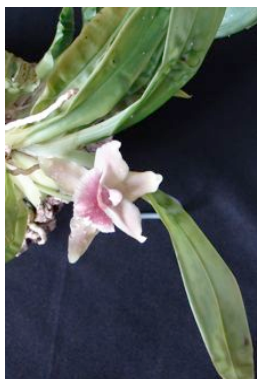
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It's time to renew your membership!
Individuals \$20
Family \$22

Send check to:
Carol Haskell, Treas.
102 Wythrop Rd
Syracuse NY 13209

Next Meeting: Sunday February 5, 2 PM, Orchid Mounting Clinic



By this time, members have had a chance to submit orders from a list of orchids provided by Andy's Orchids of Encinitas, CA. As for past clinics he has sponsored, Andy is providing us with a wide selection of orchids at reasonable prices. Here is the list, as a reminder: *Odontoglossum lindleyanum* \$8.00; *Laelia gouldiana* \$12; *Dendrobium loddigesii* \$5; *Bulbophyllum*

Keff. Alice Marlow from a previous mounting clinic

masdevalliaceum \$7 *Masdevallia floribunda* \$7; *Dendrobium speciosum* ssp *pendunculatum* 3" pot size \$16; *Isochillus* species oz \$10; *Aspasia silvana* \$8; *Dendrochilum javieri* \$9; *Cirrhopetalum curtisii* \$6; *Acropera* (*Gongora*) *galeata* \$10; *Acropera* (*Gongora*) *amparoana* \$10; *Maxillaria picta* type fall \$8; *Mormolyca ringens* \$8; *Dendrobium kingianum* \$5; *Maxillaria lindleyana* species orange \$8; *Maxillaria variabilis* \$6.

Other plants may be ordered from Andy's and will be shipped with this order at no extra charge.

If you haven't done so already, you must pay for your plants when you get to the meeting by seeing the treasurer, Carol Haskell, before you pick up your plants. If you have ordered plants and cannot attend the meeting, get in touch with Carol to make payment and pick-up arrangements.

During the meeting, experienced CNYOS members will teach the rest of us the basics of mounting orchids. Mounts, wire, and moss will be provided, and tools will be available, but bring any extra pliers, twine, filament etc, which you may have.

Why do we want to mount orchids?

Well, conserving space is one reason. When they are hanging up in the air they are not taking up crowded bench space.

But a more important reason is that most orchids are epiphytes, air plants which in nature derive their nutrients from rain, mist, dust and air. They cling to tree limbs, grow on top of rocks, hang from cliffs. Epiphytes like their roots to get wet and to dry off quickly. Some grow terrestrially, but they are seldom found growing in pots. So when we grow orchids potted, we are really growing them un-naturally. Orchid medium is a convenience to hold the orchid roots in place, but when it starts to break down it hurts the roots by cutting off the air supply. This problem is eliminated by mounting.

However, one problem introduced by mounting is providing enough moisture to the exposed roots. Dendrobiums, Epidendrums, and Cattleyas are somewhat tolerant of dry roots, and make good candidates for mounting. Phals., Miltonias, Paphs, and Phrags are not as suitable, though they can be mounted if enough humidity is provided.

One idea is to grow mounted orchids in a terrarium or Wardian Case. (See article at the end of this newsletter)

Show Committee

Though it's still early in the year 2012, it's not too early to start thinking of and planning for our Show and Sale in October. This is our big club effort for the year, and we always bring it off successfully, with those who have done it in the past working hard. We'd like to see some new faces on the committee. So get involved and join us for our first organizational meeting at 1:45 PM before the next meeting.

President's Message

At the time I'm writing this, the weather has been real nice and it's hard to believe that this is Central New York and almost February.

The January Silent Auction was really fun and I thank all who donated since it seems that the club did make some money.

I have never participated in a mounting clinic so the next meeting should be very interesting. The list of plants being sent from Andy's Orchids is quite diversified and it will be interesting to see what blooms first.

Hopefully the weather will still see fit to cooperate and we can connect with all our orchid friends in February.

The business end of the meeting will be as short as possible due to the Super Bowl!

Sue Finger

Not Exactly Minutes – CNYOS January 15, 2012

Official minutes were not taken at the January meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:45 by Sue Finger and was short.

It was announced that the February meeting would be the Mounting Clinic, and that plants were being sent by Andy's Orchids. A list of plants was passed around for those who had not already chosen their plants.

Mounting instructions will be given by experienced members.

A refreshment volunteer list was passed around to fill in the blank spots. Refreshments for April will probably not be needed, because we go to Rochester for GROS.

Sue and Jerry Finger and Jan Woodworth were thanked for providing such delicious snacks for January.

The many plants on the Show Table were described by their owners and admired.

The rest of the meeting was taken up with bidding on the auction plants.

Refreshment Volunteers Please note that there are some changes from the list published last month.

February	1. Barbara Weller	2. Charles Ufford
March	1. Bob Pfrom	2. Susumu Ikuta
April	1. Cheryl & Tom Lloyd	2. Pam Reeve (May coincide with Trip to GROS)
May	1. Pat Cotter	2. Dale Corey
June	Spring Picnic	Everyone Contributes
September 2012	1. Jack/Deb Hasse	2. ?
October	1. ?	2. ?
November	1. ?	2. ?

January Show Table

Please note all names, accent marks and abbreviations that are in boldface
 Kindly update your labels with registered names or parents. Bring the information to the show table next time.

Cypripedium Alliance

Paph. Barbilight (Barbi Playmate × Nulight) Coleman

Cattleya Alliance

Rth. Bouton D'Or × **Marv** Ragan Finger

Cattleya Memoria Alvin Begeman (*esalqueana* × Beaufort) Braue

C. Petite Elf (Jungle Elf × Petite Pride) Braue

Brassanthe Maikai (*B. nodosa* × *Gur. bowringiana*) "

C. maxima Capella

Bsn. Maikai "

Rl. glauca "

Ett. Volcano Trick (*Ctt.* Trick or Treat × *Epi. Stamfordianum*) Coleman

Rth. Burana Beauty (Netrasiri **Starbright** × *C.* Netrasiri Beauty) "

Lc. Angel Love × *Gur. skinneri* "

Ctt. Rajah's Angel (Rajah's Ruby × *C.* Bright Angel) "

Rth. Melinda Rose Funke (Afternoon Delight × *Rlc.* Salmon Splendor) Hasse

Rlc. Nicole Lynn Federighi (Salmon Splendor × Memoria Deana Sanders) "

Oncidium Alliance

Onc. Pupukea Sunset (*cheirophorum* × *fuscatum*) Coleman

Mtdm. Saint Mary (Memoria Mary Kavanaugh × *Onc.* Saint Clement) "

Orpha. radicans Witkin

Vandaceous

Phal. Brother Goldstone (Fortune Buddha × *amboinensis*) Hasse

Aërgs. luteoalba var. *rhodosticta* Witkin

Dtps. Yu Pin Summer (*Phal.* Modern Stripes × Sun Jye Diamond) Galson

Rhy. gigantea Capella

Dendrobium

Den. Baby Pink (*affine* × *bigibbum* "subvar. *compactum*") Cohen

Den. bigibbum "subvar. *compactum*" Capella

Den. Mini Snowflake (*aberrans* × *johnsoniae*) Coleman

Den. Baby Pink Coleman

Pleurothallids

<i>Stelis cypripedioides</i>	Cohen
<i>Specklinia (Sp.) grobyi</i>	Witkin
<i>Stelis ciliolata</i>	"

Miscellaneous

<i>Ddc. filiforme</i>	Coleman
<i>Ddc. glumaceum</i>	Braue
<i>Cmd. praestans</i>	Capella
<i>Ddc. glumaceum</i>	"
<i>Bulb. maxillare</i>	Capella
<i>Ddc. exile</i>	"

Iris Cohen

If you have any questions, you can always call 315-461-9226 or e-mail <mailto:iriscohen@aol.com?subject=Show Table>.

Treasurer's Report

Assets as of 1/15/12

Cash Account1,	1,635.72
Key Bank	<u>1,053.65</u>
Total	2,689.37

Does not include all he dues and silent auction money collected at the January meeting

Events Calendar

February 5	Biannual Orchid Mounting Clinic
March 4	Linda Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids in N. Carolina
April 1	Possible car pool to Rochester for the GROS Show
May 6	Club auction
June 2	NENYOS Picnic at Piping Rock
June 3 or later	CNYOS Picnic
July & August	No Meetings
September 9	Possible repotting Clinic
October 5-7	CNYOS Show and Sale at Beaver Lake
November 4	Fred Clark of Sunset Valley Orchids

Picnic at Piping Rock

Last year we joined NENYOS for their picnic at Piping Rock Orchids, north of Albany. They are again holding their picnic there, and have sent a notice describing the event:

“It will be held on Saturday June 2, 2012. We will be following the same format as last year. The greenhouses will be open at 10:30am. NENYOS will be providing a picnic lunch starting at approx. 12:15 - 12:30pm. This year we will be featuring two speakers, Darrin Norton of Mountain Orchids in Vermont and Marc Hachardorian of the New York Botanical Garden. As many of you know Darrin only does one show a year and rarely does appearances at orchid societies, he will also be bringing a fine selection of plants for sale.

Marc Hachadorian is the manager of the Production Greenhouses at the N.Y. Botanical Gardens. He oversees the orchid collection of over 5000 plants not to mention all of the plants used in the seasonal displays at the Gardens.”

Our members should discuss whether we want to join NENYOS at Piping Rock, and how to coordinate this visit with our own picnic.

Growing Orchids in a Terrarium or Wardian Case

Adapted from an article by Susan Taylor, former orchid editor of Belaonline

A decorative idea for growing orchids in the home is the use of a **terrarium, conservatory** or **Wardian Case**. The concept behind the use of these items is that you create a mini-greenhouse inside to grow plants. They come in all sizes, colors and shapes to suit almost any décor. The story behind the discovery is rather interesting:

The fern case was discovered accidentally in 1827 by Dr. Nathaniel Ward, a London physician with a passion for botany. Dr. Ward built a fern rockery in his backyard, but the ferns kept dying, poisoned by the fumes from the city's factories. Ward was also studying moths and caterpillars and, while experimenting with a cocoon in a covered jar for observation, he noticed that several plants had grown in the bit of soil at the bottom of the jar. Among the bottled plants was a fern and, unlike the ferns in his garden, it looked healthy; Dr. Ward concluded that plants could flourish in London if they could be protected from the city's polluted air. Ward pursued his discovery in miniature greenhouses, which he named fern cases, and which are now known as Wardian cases or terrariums.

For the first time, horticulturists were able to bring back sensitive tropical plants in Wardian cases well-protected from salt air and changing climatic conditions during the long sea voyage. Ward's terrariums also became popular for growing the plants, and it became, in various guises, almost a domestic necessity. The poor had to content themselves with inexpensive rudimentary versions, but there were no limits for the rich. Wardian cases grew into miniature Taj Mahals and Brighton Pavilions, perfect vehicles for the contemporary love of elaborate ornamentation as well as living plants. The Wardian case was fashionable in the United States in the early 1860s, and hardly a self-respecting Victorian household was without one.

Today's "Wardian Cases", or Terrariums, as we now call them, no longer have the need to keep our plants away from cold, and fouled air, but serve quite another purpose. With the dry air of our modern air conditioned, and forced air heated homes, many plants have difficulty thriving without a great deal of attention. Terrariums allow us to keep plants easily in our homes in attractive, decorative containers, while creating an environment which requires very little care. Closed terrariums, happy in their humidity filled surroundings, actually thrive on neglect.

It is important to understand what will and will not work for **orchids** in this type of environment. The major thing to remember is that we are trying to replicate the growing conditions for the orchids we are putting in the chamber. Thus, high humidity, good air circulation and adequate lighting are required.

Terrariums by definition are self-contained ecosystems designed to live without disturbance for a year or more. The water in the container is constantly re-circulated by evaporating and dripping back into the soil or growing medium. Most orchids will not survive well in this kind of an environment because they need more air circulation or they will rot.

A **Conservatory** or **Wardian Case** is actually a mini-greenhouse with air vents, perhaps fans, lights, everything necessary to grow indoors. There are any number of combinations that can be used, depending upon your needs. [The Orchidarium](#) site has the most complete information I've seen, including what accessories are available. If

you are considering building your own there are several really good articles available. The [Do It Yourself Wardian Case](#) article by Prem Subrahmanyam published in the Tallahassee Orchid Society Newsletter is extremely helpful and detailed.

In corresponding with several people who have successfully grown orchids in enclosed gardens, the primary comments were that it is necessary to have fans going 24/7, keep an opening to allow in fresh air, and to choose orchids which prefer high humidity, have lower light requirements and like the warmer end of the growing spectrum. It is extremely difficult to provide cool temperatures in enclosed spaces while using artificial lighting. One lady even mentioned trying to reduce evening temperatures by putting ice in the bottom of the enclosure, but found that that didn't work adequately. And, *most importantly do not* have pots or plants sitting in water!

It is important to have automated controls on a Wardian Case because it doesn't take much to cause conditions that will kill your plants. In order to keep the humidity up while the lights are on, misters are recommended. It is recommended that lights be used for 12-14 per day. Recommended orchids mentioned were *Pleurothallids* although *Masdevallias* don't seem to like it as much as the *Restrepias* and mini-Dendrobiums.

One thing that I didn't hear much about, but I would recommend is that you try mounted plants in a Wardian Case, especially if you are looking for a decorative display. Mounted plants need higher humidity to allow their roots to gather water than those in pots.

Below are examples of Wardian Cases available from orchidarium.com:



How Wardian Cases Work –(abstracted from the Orchidarium site)

Light

When growing under fluorescent light you will learn that experience, not what you find in books, is your best guide to appropriate brightness for a particular plant. Keep in mind that most recommended foot candle numbers in publications refer to peak sunlight periods, i.e., the max of varying natural light in a day, and are really recommendations for greenhouse growing. Because the foot candles of artificial lighting are constant, the amount needed from dawn to dusk is much less than the peak sunlight figures indicate. It can mean as much as 2,000 foot candles less. You will burn your plants if you use the foot candles recommended for greenhouses, guaranteed. The

plant will tell you if it has too much light: stunted growth, lots of pigmentation in leaves, and stiff, hard leaves are all warning signs.

Among the models are options for single-, double-, or triple-lamp fixtures that offer varying ranges of light within the units. Measured in foot candles this fluorescent lighting may provide low, medium or high overall light. The low light of 350 foot candles is a good starting point for most seedlings, most masdevallias, phalaenopses and paphiopedilums, pleurothallids, and aerangis. Medium light (600-800 f.c.) will serve most cattleyas, some laelias and dendrobiums, ascocentrums equitant oncidiums and sophronities. The high light of 900-plus f.c. is appropriate for rupicolous laelias, some ecyclias, some dendrobiums and vandas.

In general, any range of fluorescent lighting calls for the following seasonal adaptations in length of daylight: Spring, 13-14 hours; Summer, 16 hours; Fall, 13 hours; and Winter, 11.5 hours. Because many orchids are photo-periodic, they need increased or decreased light to send out flower spikes (Some species flower in response to changing temperature).

Temperature

The temperature in the Wardian Case derives from the ambient temperature of the room in which it is placed and the heat generated by both the lamp and the ballast of its light fixture.

When the lights are off at night, the temperature slowly drops to the ambient temperature. By adjusting the vent slots, you regulate the diurnal temperature range for your selected plants' best performance. In addition, roof, ceiling and door venting can capture or release the heat from the light fixtures as needed. The digital temperature/hygrometer sensor allows you to monitor day and night temperatures.

Humidity and Air Movement

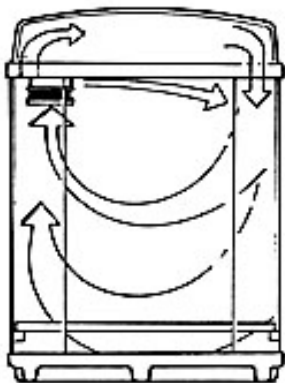
Water held in the bottom tray and sponge maintains humid conditions. Also, the more plants you have and the more you mist and water them, the higher the humidity will go (we open and close our doors at 1/8 inch increments to regulate humidity). You can further regulate humidity by venting the air through the roof and ceiling openings of the case. The temperature/hygrometer sensor reads the humidity. Mounted inside the case, it displays the numbers clearly.

Because the sensor records high and low readings, you may remove it and review those highs and lows that have occurred since your last check/reset.

You can expect noticeably increased root growth and vigor within days of placing your plant in the Wardian Case. We maintain between 60% and 80% humidity in most of our units.

The fan creates the continuous air movement your plants need. From its position on the ceiling, it circulates 50 CFM to 75 CFM in the various units we sell (the grating of the shelves allows for total circulation).

The fan is UL-registered and grounded for your protection. With a life expectancy of 6.7 years of continual use, ball-bearing construction and an attached foliage guard, this is a quality cooling fan. Removing the foliage guard will further increase air movement.



Airflow within a Wardian Case

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The CNYOS Newsletter, 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 and functions.

Eva Galson, Editor
236 Lockwood Rd
Syracuse, NY, 13214
(315) 446-0224

egalson756@gmail.com

CNYOS website: <http://www.cnyos.org>

Central New York Orchid Society

President:

Sue Finger 315/458-3040

V. President:

Charles Ufford 315/768-7466

Krum Sotirov 650/678-2628

Honey Goshorn 315//776-8468

Treasurer:

Carol Haskell 315/468-0811

Secretary: Pat Cotter

The Central NY Orchid Society usually meets at St. Augustine's Church 7333 O'Brien Rd, Baldwinsville on the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm.

The Central New York Orchid Society
Your local AOS and Orchid Digest Affiliate
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*February 2012 Issue – CNYOS Orchid Meeting February 5, 2 PM at
the Church
Orchid Mounting Clinic*