

# The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Page 1 Volume 18: Issue 6 February 2017

## 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](mailto:egalson756@gmail.com)

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"First Plants"	

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

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

**Next Meeting: Sunday February 5, 2 PM. Jim Marlow Will Speak.**

Jim will talk about "Taking care of your Orchids"

Most of us are familiar with Jim Marlow, and know that his talks are both informative and interesting. No matter what the topic, we always learn something new.

Jim will also have plants to sell, so we will not have a raffle table, but we will have a show table, so bring your blooming beauties as usual.

## Open House News! You are invited!

The January thaw has set in and we are hoping it will last for our 'Winter Open House.' (Snow date is Feb. 4, 2017)

Open House January 28, 2017

Marlow Orchids

2272 Scottsville Road

Scottsville, New York 14546

[585-889-7083](tel:585-889-7083)

9:00 AM- 4:30 PM Jan 28, 2017.

Many new varieties of orchid species are now in stock. We've imported new varieties of species and hybrids for our upcoming shows and mail order customers. Some are in limited supply so here's your chance to check them out before they're gone!

9:30-10:15 AM- 'Growing Mini-Cattleyas' We'll be discussing repotting and best practices for care of mini-Cattleyas. Perfect for on the window sill or under lights!

11:30 There will be plenty of food for all attendees. Meet others from around the area and discuss your favorite orchids or football teams or the unusual January weather!

## Menu

Cheddarr Cheese Chicken

Spiral Ham

## Soups

Slivered Coleslaw

Potato Leek Soup

5 Bean Salad

Beef Barley Soup

Creamy Potato Bak

Orange/Basil/Winter Squash Soup

Veggie Baked Bean

## Desserts

Peanut Butter Cookies

Chocolate Cake

Apple Pies

Key Lime Pies Coffee, Tea, Cola.

## ***FEBRUARY SHOW TABLE***

Show Table from our January 2017 meeting:

Lights Outside Windowsill Greenhouse, Summer

Summer

### **Barbara Weller :**

Paph. Little Trouble L  
(barbigerum x charlesworthii)

### **Jerry & Sue Finger :**

Vandachostylis Pine Rivers L/O  
(Vanda Peggy Foo x Rhynchostylis coelistis)  
Vanda Happy Smile L/O  
(Gold Spots x insignis)  
Paph. Fumi's Delight L  
(armeniicum x micranthum)  
Masdevallia tonduzii L  
species

### **Lori Burritt :**

Zelenkocidium (Zed.) Kukoo W  
(Zelenkoa onusta x Oncidium cheiroporum)  
Oncidium Opalescent W  
(Nationhood x **aurarium**)  
**\$#** Cattleya percivaliana 'Summit' **FCC/AOS** W  
species  
**\$** Brassanthe (Bsn) Maikai 'Louise' **AM/AOS** W  
(Brassavola nodosa x Guarianthe bowringiana)  
Cattlianthe Golden Treat 'Big Red' W  
(Trick or Treat x Golden Wax)  
**\$** Rlc. Little Toshie 'Pizzaz' **AM/AOS** W  
(C. Beaufort x Rlc. Toshie Aoki)  
**\*** **Maxillaria** variabilis W  
species

Changes & Info:

**\$** These plants were previously awarded clones and should carry the award as part of their name.

**#** This FCC was 90 pts awarded on 12/17/1986 at the NE Judging Center, Bronx, NY. The judges commented that this was the best clone they had ever seen shown.

**\*** This is back to being classified under Maxillaria and there isn't an alba variety listed.

Thanks for braving the cold weather and bringing some blooms to brighten the day!  
Sue Finger

### ***NOTE FROM EVA***

I want to show off a plant that was not blooming in January, and probably won't be blooming at the next meeting. It is *Angraecum sesquipedale* and I originally bought it at a member auction in 2013, contributed by Charles Ufford. Since then it has been sitting in my grow room close to the lights, putting out a new leaf every once in a while, but never blooming until now. It has a faint yellow color, and is fragrant.

This is the orchid found by Charles Darwin in Madagascar. He speculated that a bird or insect would be found with a long proboscis, which would be able to pollinate the flower by reaching to the bottom of the long nectar spur. Such an insect was found 50 years after Darwin's death.



## *Events Calendar*

February 5	CNYOS Meeting -Jim Marlow
March 6	CNYOS Meeting – Leon Weiss Glibenstein (no plants to sell)
April 10	No Meeting – GROS Orchid Show
May 1	CNYOS Meeting – Wanda Wilhelm (plants to sell)
June 5 or later	Picnic combined with Vendor Auction
July & August	No Meetings
September 6	TBA

## *Refreshment Volunteers*

Members! Sign up to bring refreshments on one of the CNYOS meeting days!

## *Excerpts from AOS Beginner's Series*

### THOSE FIRST PLANTS

Though it may be nothing short of heresy on my part to say this, I do feel that the beginner should try, for a while, to cultivate a certain productive disregard for the lives of orchids, in spite of the tenderness and attachment we all feel for our first plants. I don't mean that you should merrily purchase orchids, bring them home, set them down, wherever, to grow, and wish them all the best of luck. I am suggesting, however, that a little indifference towards the ultimate fate of those first plants might free the novice from the paralyzing fear I know I felt when I found my first orchid declining rapidly. Terrified of doing further damage, irrationally wishing that the plant might recover by itself, I watched aghast as a fungus unfamiliar to me made orchid mush out of my cherished first plant. I learned from this experience not to be reluctant to try. It is never pleasant to replace a plant, but without experimenting, without learning why a plant declines, we cannot hope to become more proficient in the future.

The beginner, I believe, needs to overcome — or ignore — the preconception that orchids are delicate or enigmatic. They are particular, without a doubt, but then most living things are. Orchids, in general, must be quite adaptable, if they can be grown successfully under such diverse conditions as are prevalent in orchid culture today. Like other living things they respond to their surroundings, whether adverse or favorable. The observant eye of the capable grower detects these responses and attempts to interpret them. Orchids do indeed "talk"; the trick is to learn their language. To be fluent in "flourish", like Spanish or English, takes a study of the written word and the nerve to go out and try, many times only to err, sometimes to fail, with those that speak the language.

As for language: no doubt many beginners and experts alike have been bewildered by the Latinized language we all use to communicate

with each other on the subject of orchids. Without a basic understanding of the terminology involved, confusion and embarrassment can result. Imagine my embarrassment, and the grower's amusement, when I was first asked which orchids I was growing, or hoped to grow, and I responded, after a moment's confused thought, "Catalinas", — which is not to say that I had an affinity for an island off the California coast, or for the swimwear named thereafter! Gordon W. Dillon, previous Executive Director of the American Orchid Society, Inc. and Editor of its *Bulletin* for many years, working constantly with this curious language, created *An Orchidist's Glossary* for the purpose of better communication between orchid enthusiasts. Listed in alphabetical order are botanical terms, major genera and orchid

personages, accompanied by pronunciation keys, concise definitions, and frequent illustrations. So if you find yourself drawing a blank, for example, when someone approaches you and asks, "Do you grow any species or intergeneric hybrids of that Far Eastern genus of monopodial, usually epiphytic orchids typically bearing conduplicate, linear (occasionally terete) leaves with mucronate or erose tips, and axillary racemes of resupinate flowers frequently brightly colored and spotted or tessellated?", consider studying *An Orchidist's Glossary* so that you can more easily understand that the person in question was asking about vandas!

Where to buy your first plants? At the risk of offending those commercial orchid firms that may be located at some distance from you, I would suggest that the beginner, at least with an initial purchase, stick as near to home as possible. Go through the experience of selecting your first plants yourself. Search out any commercial orchid growers at your local orchid society meetings and make appointments for a visit, or ask other members for their recommendations. Visiting other growers' establishments, whether to buy orchids or not, is an eye-opening experience. "Seeing how others do it" will give you a host of new ideas. Most people in the retail orchid business need, and frequently have, the patience of Job. Don't be afraid to request the help of the owner or salesperson in selecting plants suitable for your growing environment and your experience. Try to avoid the more expensive plants, but select plants of flowering size initially. We all need the assurance of flowers in our first, tenuous efforts in orchid culture. If you run into problems, go back to the firm and ask for help, or bring the plant to the next orchid meeting for consultation. The thing to remember is that you are never alone in your mistakes; any seasoned grower will tell you this!

After you have achieved success at growing your first "easy-to-grow" plants, the seemingly unlimited world of orchid species and hybrids will begin to open up to you. Catalogues packed full of temptations, advertisements lurking within and behind text sections of magazines, all offering green for green, will be scratching at your growing-area door. Beware! No one person can hope to grow everything equally well. Experiment, but with some restraint. Just one or two "guinea pigs" of a genus unfamiliar to you is far more economical (if the experiment fails) than many! For your own sense of pride, concentrate on what you like *and* grow well (unfortunately, all too often the two are not the same!).

Once purchased and brought home, where should you grow your orchids? The possibilities are not limited to a greenhouse, which might be a more suitable proposition when you become more experienced — and hooked. There are other alternatives for the beginner, and the next article for this series will review some of these possibilities. — STEPHEN R. BATCHELOR

## **The Orchid Enthusiast**

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.

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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  
236 Lockwood Road  
Syracuse, NY 13214

*February 2017 Issue – CNYOS Orchid Meeting February 5, 2 PM  
at the Church - Jim Marlow Will talk.*