

The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

Page 1 Volume 11: Issue 1 January 2009

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 second week of the month before the next meeting to:

egalson@twcny.rr.com

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WANTED : person to split OrchidWiz software package. (Price \$259.00 divided by two) Call Jan Woodworth (315) 687-7207

If you need orchid potting materials or supplies, call or e-mail Kim at 455-7587

ortizkim@msn.com

The club would like to thank Allene Rossler for her generous donation to the club.

We all miss Cliff's enthusiasm and company at our meetings.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 11*, 2 PM Member Silent Auction

*Please note that the meeting date is the second Sunday of January due to the fact that New Year weekend interferes with the first Sunday.



Happy New Year to all!!

By this time your orchids should have adjusted to coming inside, and hopefully your cymbidiums and phalaenopsis as well as other winter and spring bloomers are in spike. Perhaps you made some divisions that have now settled in but that are taking up needed bench space, or you've had some plants for years without a sign of bloom. Bring them to the auction, and give another orchid club member a chance to enjoy your favorites, or try their hand at getting your recalcitrant plants to bloom. At the same time you'll help the club to make some money and have a chance to pick up something new at a great price!! You can split the proceeds from the plants you contribute 50/50 with the club, though the club sure could use 100%. There will be a \$5.00 charge for those not binging a plant.

Tom Daily suggests that divisions you bring should have three pseudobulbs or more. Orchids without pseudobulbs, should consist of a decent clump, and, of course, plants should be bug and disease free.

In addition to the silent auction, there may be an orchid video and a question and answer session on all things orchid related. Bring the questions that have been bothering you, and don't be shy. If it's been puzzling you, others probably have the same questions.

December Meeting "Minutes"

(In the absence of our secretary, "minutes" consist of informal notes taken by John Bradley, Eva Galson , and Charles Ufford)

Our meeting time on December 7 coincided with a fierce snowstorm, but the brave souls who made it enjoyed some delicious food, and some enlightening information about our sick orchids from the "Orchid Doctor", Joe Kunish.

Thomas Daily has graciously volunteered to be our club president for the next year. He has a wide knowledge of orchids and will do a great job. Please send your support his way.

December Meeting “Minutes”con’t

Since club members’ occupations will not be listed in the directory, they can be listed in the newsletter a few at a time. Interested members should give their information to the editor.

An item of concern raised by Charles Ufford was that raffle donations for both September and December were so numerous, that not only was a lot of time spent on the raffle, but few plants were purchased from vendors, who spent considerable time traveling and speaking. When we have vendors travel here, they are counting on being able to sell a decent number of plants. Often when they do sell a good number of plants they either waive their speaker's fee or cut it down quite a bit. Especially in these times, Charles knows from talking with vendors that if they can't make money, they won't travel to a club. They will be helpful when they can but if it costs them too much then they just can't afford it. They have pointed out that we should make more of a point to let members know that if they bring plants to sell, the club members really need to make a point to try and support the vendor by buying plants. Charles saw on the Rochester club website that they ask their members not to bring raffle table plants to specific meetings when there will be a vendor. This is an idea that we can copy with a notice in the newsletter and/or our website.

From the President-Elect

The following will be my first item of new business for the January meeting:

It has come to my attention that we have not selected a date certain for our annual Fall show. It's a subject that I'd like to take some time to discuss and so I'd like everyone to think about it. A couple of additional specifics we need to talk about are: Can we afford the \$850 plus for advertising?

Can we come up with an alternate means of funding that line item such as raising the membership dues or voluntarily contributing to fund this item. I was speaking to Joe Kunish about the relative success of the vendors that come to the show. He related to me that the only show that he's been to that was financially successful was the Buffalo show. The reason was they cut back on the number of vendors that came. What will be the impact of the economy on peoples ability to purchase plants?

This is all good information for us to consider going forward.

If you'd like to talk about club goals for this year that would be excellent as well.

Mid – December Notes

We are now approaching the darkest point in the year. By the time you read this we will have passed this point and be imperceptibly heading toward spring and more daylight. I continue to be impressed by orchid growers, whom I respect; able to see things about plants and the way they grow, which I’ve somehow missed, even after years of personal experience.

This is the time in the year when because there are not a lot of things in bloom to distract our eyes we can better see the plant. Take the time to really look at your plants and make some notes, mental for you, paper for me, to remind me of the changes as they happen. Integrated Pest Management is based on the ability to ‘scout’ outbreaks of pathogens before they overwhelm the plants. This means you must be able to see the tree from the forest. You need to be able to see the telltale signs of mealy bug (white cottony masses in the axils of your plants leaves) or what slug damage looks like versus mechanical damage to a leaf. Why treat for slugs if what you’re looking at is caused by your ‘greenhouse help’ cleaning up and re-arranging plants and knocking them about causing damage to sensitive leaves. What makes some leaves droop? What can we learn from the different colors of green in our

leaves? When you tip a plant out of the pot what does a healthy root look like? On and on it goes. It's a cascade of never ending observations that teach us more and more about the way plants grow.

January is a good time to watch our plants as they accommodate the cooler indoor temperatures, lower humidity, and lower light levels. Some have no problems others don't like the changes. But it's interesting to see how it affects the physiology of the specific plant. When you really understand what you are looking at you are in the best position to do something about it.

It's great if you have a mentor but short of that we have our fellow club members to help make sense of our observations. We have a good library where you can borrow a reference book.

Learn to 'see' and you'll begin to understand and thus will learn how to grow better plants. The best growers can see what others don't and know what to do with what they see.

Tom Daily

Treasure's Report

Our current balance is	\$2518.59	
Everything has been received for our show and we ended up losing		\$1510.56
Because we lost so much on the show the year to date summary is		\$568.59.

Carol Haskell



Do It Yourself Online

Many people regard the registration and nomenclature of orchid hybrids as an esoteric branch of necromancy. Proper labeling actually increases a plant's value, and in the case of one that is inherently superior, it paves the way for a really prestigious award.

For anyone with Internet access, getting the right name for your orchid, or finding its parents when you already have its name, is as close as your computer. The Royal Horticultural Society, which is the official registration authority for orchid hybrids, has virtually the entire database of their registrations on the World Wide Web, at http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration_orchids.asp

Unlike other flowering plants, individual clones of orchids are not registered. What are registered are the names of grexes, entire crosses between two parents. Where italics are available, the names of orchid genera, both natural and artificial, are in italics, as are the names of species. In the Orchid Register, only roman type is used. The names of genera and hybrids are capitalized, while the names of species and wild natural hybrids are in lower case.

In botany, it is recommended that when the parents of a hybrid are listed, the seed parent is first, followed by a multiplication sign and the pollen parent, the opposite of the way it is done with animals. When you do a search for a grex name, the parents on your label may not be listed in the same order as in the Register. This is called a reciprocal cross. The grex name is almost always the same.

Let's say the label on your new orchid reads Gsl. or Slc. Jewel Box 'Scheherazade,' AM/AOS. You want to locate the parents. Go to the above Web site and click on the words "Grex Name Search." Ignore the awards. You will also need to figure out what, if any, are individual clone names, and ignore them also. If you see a name in single quotes (sometimes erroneously in double quotes), you will know it is a clone name. If you are not sure, just type in the first two words of the name. You do not need to type anything in the "Genus" field, unless the grex

name is an extremely common one, like *Rothschildiana*. It is better if you don't, since genus names are often changed. Do not abbreviate a genus name, unless the abbreviation is part of the name (e. g. *Onc* for *Oncidium*). You do not have to capitalize anything. When you have typed in the grex name, click on "Search" or hit the "Enter" key.

The next page will give you a choice of three names, *Cymbidium Jewel Box*, *Dendrobium Jewel Box*, *Lycaste*, or *Guarisophleya Jewel Box*. Click on the one you are looking for, and it will take you to the registration information. You will find out that *Gsl. Jewel Box* is a cross of *Guarianthe aurantiaca* with *Sc. Anzac*. It was originated and registered by Stewart, Inc. in 1962.

Apostrophes are a problem. The instructions on the RHS Web page say to ignore them, but if you type in a name that has an apostrophe, you will be told, "No record in database..." whether you included the apostrophe or not. To work around this, if you are sure it is a registered grex, type in the genus name and the part of the name before the apostrophe. For example, if you are searching for *Oda. Joe's Drum*, you will get the "No record" message whether you type *Joes Drum* or *Joe's Drum*. Go back and type *Odontioda* in the genus field and *Joe* in the grex field. You will get a list of all the *Odontiodas* containing the word *Joe*, including *Joe's Drum*. Click on it to get the parentage. Some diacritical marks are used. In Spanish names, you may need to include the dieresis (the squiggle over some n's).

Now suppose you have the parents of your orchid on the label and you want to find out if the cross has been registered. Go to the registration page and click on "Parentage Search." You will get a page with four fields. Where it says "Grex," you can also type in a species name if that is one of the parents. Typing in the "Genus" name is not necessary, but it will narrow the search. If you are not absolutely sure of the genus, leave it out.

Let's say you want the name for the cross of *Gsl. Jewel Box* × *Sc. California Apricot*. Type in the names and click on "Search." You will be told, "No record in database, try entering parents in reverse order." Go back to the Search Page. (In some computers, it is easier to click the Go Back arrow in the browser menu than to use their Return button.) Select *California Apricot*, cut it, and paste it in the other grex field. Do the same with *Jewel Box*. This time you will be told that the cross is registered as *Guarisophleya Hazel Boyd*. Click on the grex name if you want the registration data.

Sometimes the correct or commonly known name of a species is not the same as the name used by the RHS. If you have a cross of *Dendrobium lithocola* and want to know if it has been registered, you need to enter the "accepted" name, *Dendrobium bigibbum* (var. *compactum*). One of the most frustrating problems in orchid name detection is when you purchase a plant in good faith that has a name on the label and no parents, and you discover it is not a registered name. When you buy an orchid with an unfamiliar name, always ask for the parents. It may be that the hybridizer fully intends to register it, but hasn't done so, or doesn't want the expense. Unfortunately, there are dishonest sellers who market others' mericlones under spurious names. If you know the parents, it will not be a problem. If you have the parentage and you think the cross has been registered, do a search. If you get the "No record" message, try again in a couple of months.

When you have an unusual or outstanding orchid, especially a new one, which you are thinking of hybridizing with, it is useful to find out whether that species or grex already has any registered progeny to its credit. With the RHS Web site, you can do this very easily. Go to the Parentage Search page, and enter your orchid in one of the grex fields. Leave the other field blank. The search will tell you all the offspring that have been registered. Don't forget to go back and move the name to the other field, so you will have its complete record as both a pollen parent and seed parent.

Sometimes, when you make inquiries of an orchid seller, you will find that the plant is a mericlone and the name on the label is a clonal name. Further probing should eventually reveal the parentage.

All too often, orchid owners are stymied because the names on the labels are misspelled or faded. If you are getting the "No Record" message, go back and enter only the part of the name you are sure is correct, or try various spellings. The name may be "Marie" rather than "Mary." One of the most exasperating is *Brassocatanthe Little Mermaid*.

The RHS recently added a wildcard character to its search engine. If you enter only part of a name, such as *Mar* when you are looking for *Mary* or *Marie*, or *Onc* for *Oncidium*, add %, so it looks like *Mar%*. This tells the

search engine to find all the names containing mar. Many databases on the Web use wildcards, but in the orchid database, it is not always necessary.

Another mystifying problem is when the label only tells you the grandparents. A label of that type should be written: (C. luteola × Rsc. Waikiki Gold) × (C. Cherry Chip × walkeriana). Given that information, you will find that C. luteola × Rsc. Waikiki Gold = Rsc. Junka Gold. The next search will tell you that C. Cherry Chip × walkeriana = C. Hunabu Surprise. Put them together and Rsc. Junka Gold × C. Hunabu Surprise = Rsc. Lennea Trimble. The real problem occurs when the label is written carelessly and you have difficulty sorting out which name is which. If the names are unknown, you will have to try them different ways. Sometimes foreign growers put a dash between the grandparents rather than a times sign, or they may abbreviate the name of a well-known parent. Dendrobium Theodore Takiguchi, when crossed with another Dendrobium, is often listed as Ted-SoandSo.

A special case that may frustrate beginners is the question of natural hybrids, hybrids between two genera or two species that occur in nature. If an old natural hybrid was discovered and named before the cross was made in cultivation, it always carries the name given by the botanist. In botanical writings, the name is in italics, sometimes with a times sign in front of it, e.g. *Cattleya xhybrida*. When the hybrid is used as a parent in registration, it is written *Cattleya Hybrida*. If you turn it up in a search on the RHS site, you will see it printed twice, once in lower case, and once capitalized. Nowadays, when someone registers an artificial hybrid, and it is also discovered to be a natural hybrid, the botanist gives it a brand-new name. Both names are correct. If you do a search on *Comporetia speciosa* × *Comporetia falcata*, you will see two names, *Comp. maloi* and *Comp. Afterglow*.

You can take one last step when all else fails and you can't find anyone who can decipher your mystery label. You can contact the Orchid Registrar, Julian Shaw, at orcreg@rhs.org.uk or orcreg@aol.com. However, please remember that the Orchid Registrar's job is more taxing than Secretary-general of the UN, and try to exhaust all other sources of information first.

Iris Cohen

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Refreshment Volunteers

January –	Barbara Bassette & Jan Woodworth
February -	Judi Witkin & Pat Cotter
March -	Pamela Gotjen & Lori Hoffman
April -	Charles Ufford & Dolores Capella
May -	Rick Braue, Dale Corey, and Barbara Weller
June -	Picnic details TBA

Events Calendar

February 1	CNYOS meeting Program TBA
March 1	CNYOS meeting Program TBA
March 7	Mid-Hudson Orchid Society Spring Sale & Blooming Orchid Display, Newburgh, NY
April 2-5	GROS Spring Show & Sale
April 5	CNYOS meeting Program TBA
April 22-26	2009 Houston Orchid Society Orchid Show “Orchids Texas Style” go to the HOS web site www.houstonorchidsociety.org and download all of the details. The American Orchid Society is not the only orchid group meeting in Houston, the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association, International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Orchid Digest Corporation, Odontoglossum Alliance and the Slipper Orchid Alliance will also be there. You can see – Houston and “Orchids, Texas Style” is the place to be in April if you have any interest in orchids.
May 3	CNYOS meeting Program TBA
June ?	CNYOS Picnic Details TBA

DECEMBER SHOW TABLE

Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or complete your records, including parentage and new registrations. Next time you present the plant, include name and parents. Also, take note of which alliances your orchids are in, so you will know how to enter them in our show.

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph. fairrieanum</i>	Capella
<i>Phrag.</i> Mountain Maid (<i>besseae</i> × <i>hirtzii</i>)	Cohen
<i>Paph.</i> hybrid	Bloomfield

Cattleya Alliance

<i>Sc.</i> Mini Collins (<i>C.</i> Michael Collins × <i>S.</i> Arizona)	Cohen
<i>Rsc.</i> Little Toshie (<i>Sc.</i> Beaufort × Toshie Aoki)	Bloomfield

Vandaceous

<i>Phal. venosa</i>	Ufford
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Oncidium Alliance

<i>Comp. macroplectron</i>	Daily
<i>Wils.</i> Kendrick Williams (<i>Autumn</i> × <i>Oda.</i> Ray Buckman)	Coleman
<i>Sgm.</i> <i>unguiculata</i>	"

Dendrobium

<i>Den. aberrans</i>	Bradley
<i>Den.</i> Proud Appeal (<i>Midnight</i> × <i>Formidable</i> [sic])	Capella
<i>Den.</i> Nora Tokunaga (<i>atroviolaceum</i> × <i>rhodostictum</i>)	Coleman

Pleurothallid Alliance

<i>Masd. floribunda</i>	Daily
<i>Rstp. sanguinea</i>	"
<i>Masd.</i> Snow Cone (<i>rex</i> × <i>glandulosa</i>)	Hoffman
<i>Stelis cypripedioides</i>	Cohen

Miscellaneous

<i>Max. picta</i>	Galson
<i>Zglm.</i> Louisendorf (<i>Zspm. labiosum</i> × <i>Z.</i> Artur Elle)	Capella
<i>Ddc. glumaceum</i>	"
<i>Liparis</i> * <i>condylobulbon</i>	Coleman
<i>Zygotoria</i> † Midnight Blue (<i>Pes. violacea</i> × <i>Z.</i> B.G. White)	"
<i>Bif. aureofulva</i>	"

*Genera that have never been used in hybridizing do not carry official abbreviations. If you wish to abbreviate in a passage following the name spelled out in full, use the initial: *L.*

†This grex is still listed in the register as *Bollopetalum*. However, the parent *Bollea violacea* has been moved to *Pescatoria*. Therefore, a different nothogenus name is required. It will be changed in the register eventually.

Iris Cohen

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

Monthly Checklist for January and February

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

Standard *Paphiopedilum* *insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a *paphiopedilum*, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

(Because of space limitations, the checklists for *Phalaenopsis* and *Zygopetalum* have been cut and will be included next month) Editor

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay

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, with beginner's session at 1:30 pm, right before the regular meeting.

The Central New York Orchid Society
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