

# The Orchid Enthusiast

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

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

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

***Next Meeting: Sunday June 10, 2012 – Spring picnic at the home of David Ditz, 7733 Morgan Road, Baldwinsville***  
***Come between noon and 1 PM***

To get to Dave's house: From 690: take the Jones Rd. Exit (same way as if you were going to the Church for our meeting). Go Right on Jones Rd. **to the end**. Take a Left on Route 48 North, go about 3 -3.5 miles, take a right onto Morgan Rd. #7733, Dave's house, is gray with blue shutters, down at the bottom of the hill on the left.



We hope the weather will cooperate, but the picnic will take place rain or shine.

In case of inclement weather, the picnic will take place at the church - in the social hall across the parking lot from our usual entrance

Bring a dish to pass, a drink for yourself, table service, a lawn chair, and a lap tray .if you have one. There will be a grill available.

Bring your blooming orchids for the show table, and plants for the raffle table.

## ***Visit to Piping Rock***

Remember that on June 2<sup>d</sup>, the club is planning a trip to Piping Rock Orchids. The Northeastern NY Orchid Society (NENYOS) is having their spring picnic on Saturday, June 2, at Piping Rock Orchids, 2270 Cook Rd, Galway, NY, north of Albany. They will have two speakers, one of them Mountain Orchids with plants for sale and one from the NY Botanical Garden. In addition there will be plants available from Piping Rock. For the visit to Piping Rock bring a small monetary contribution, and a dish to pass.

There may be a car pool set up. Contact Sue Finger, 458-3040 for particulars.

## ***President's Message***

Ahhh... summer. I hope everyone's auction plants are doing well. Maybe some will make it to a meeting show table or to our October show? Plants are moving outside to take advantage of the summer breezes.

Summer picnics... great times are to be had talking with orchid buddies and sharing in good food. The NENYOS picnic at Piping Rock is an adventure not to be missed plus 2 excellent speakers. And our picnic is a time to kick back and relax (no business), enjoy the show table and try your luck at the raffle table.

One thing to remember to do is send a subscription to Jay's Internet Orchid Species

Photo Encyclopedia. Send \$10 by mail or Pay Pal to help keep this website growing. The information available there is awesome (you'll see me as subscriber #607) and it is an invaluable tool for registering plants for any shows.

Hmm ... cold lemonade anyone?  
Sue

## ***STOS Show***

The CNYOS exhibit, expertly set up by Jan Woodworth, Barbara Weller, and Judi Witkin at the Southern Tier Orchid Show and Sale won second place as an exhibit put up by an AOS affiliated orchid society.

*A number of our members won special awards and ribbons:*

## ***Special Awards***

### **Laurie Burritt**

Den Stardust

Jim Kie Award – Best grown under lights or windowsill

## ***Ribbons***

### **Sue & Jerry Finger**

Trichoglottis pusilla	1 <sup>st</sup>
Phal. Brother Gemstone 'PR3'	2d
Leptotes bicolor	2d
Phal Sunrise Delight x Super Pixie	1 <sup>st</sup> (miniature)

### **Jan Woodworth**

Pyp Butterfly var alba 'Canary'	2d
Dtps I-Hsin Ice Coke	1 <sup>st</sup>
Dtps. Sogo Vivien	2d (miniature)
Rth Zul 'Waiomao Fantasy'	3d
Sarco Fitzhart	1 <sup>st</sup>
Den bigibbum var compactum x sib	2d
Prom Chameleon	3d
Prom Chameleon	2d (miniature)
Cym Dancing Mother 'Kotone'	1st
Ric Paradise Beauty 'Marcela'	2d
C Melody Fair x Rlc Puppy Love	2d

### **Judi Witkin**

Gur. aurantiaca	1st
C Plum Love	3d

### **Charles Ufford**

Phrag pearsei	3d
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**Donna Coleman**

Phal I-Lan Green Pixie	2d
Phal Elegance 'Deborah'	3d
Phal. Timothy Christopher	2d
Dtps Fantastic Mariana Myers 'Sweetheart'	1 <sup>st</sup>
Den Aussie Chip	3d
Spe Tribularioides	3d
Spe Tribularioides	1 <sup>st</sup> (miniature)

**Laurie Burritt**

Den Stardust	1st
Dtps Brother Enigma	2d
Phal Stuartiana	2d
Dtps Melody	1 <sup>st</sup>
Oncostele Lorraine's Fourteenth WOC	1 <sup>st</sup>
Max tenuifolia	2d
Epicatanthe Don Herman	2d

**Eva Galson**

Phrag Eric Young x Phrag Sorcerer's Apprentice	3d
Dtps Taisuco Micky	3d
Bulb Ambrosia	3d

**May 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**

<i>Paph. spicerianum</i>	Cohen
<i>Phrag. After-Glo</i> (Eric Young x Sorcerer's Apprentice)	Galson
<i>Phrag. Grande</i> ( <i>longifolium</i> x <i>caudatum</i> )	Capella
<i>Paph. Ho Chi Minh</i> ( <i>vietnamense</i> x <i>delenatii</i> )	Woodworth

**Cattleya Alliance**

<b>Cattleya</b> ← <i>sincorana</i>	Finger
<i>Lpt. bicolor</i>	Capella
<b>Prosthechea</b> ( <b>Psh.</b> ) Green Hornet ( <i>cochleata</i> x <i>trulla</i> )	Goshorn

**Oncidium Alliance**

<i>Pyp. Butterfly</i> ( <i>sanderæ</i> x <i>papilio</i> )	Woodworth
<i>Onc. Sharry Baby</i> (Jamie Sutton x Honolulu)	Galson

**Vandaceous**

<i>Chsch. lunifera</i>	Finger
<i>Vf. Virgil</i> ( <i>Neof. falcata</i> x <i>V. cristata</i> )	"
<i>Ster. dalatensis</i>	Capella
<i>Phal. Timothy Christopher</i> (Cassandra x <i>aphrodite</i> var. <i>formosana</i> )	"
<i>Phal. Salu John</i> (Ever-spring King x Ching Her Buddha)	"
<i>Nak. Edwin Hausermann</i> ( <i>Ascf. Peaches</i> x <i>V. cristata</i> )	"
<i>Dtps. I-Hsin Ice Coke</i> ( <i>Phal. Sogo Lisa</i> x Taisuco Firebird)	Woodworth

**Dendrobium**

<i>Den. convolutum</i>	Woodworth
<i>Den. bigibbum</i> “subvar. <i>compactum</i> ”	"
<i>Den. Dawn Maree</i> ( <i>formosum</i> × <i>cruentum</i> )	Goshorn

**Miscellaneous**

<i>Coel. mayeriana</i>	Burritt
<b><i>Bryobium</i> (Byb.) <i>hyacinthoides</i></b>	Ditz
<i>Pol. paniculata</i>	Capella
<b><i>Maxillariella</i> (Mxl.) <i>tenuifolia</i></b>	"
<i>Cymla. pardalina</i>	Finger
<i>Prom. Chameleon</i> (Limelight × <i>guttata</i> )	Woodworth

Iris Cohen

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

***Refreshment Volunteers***

June	Spring Picnic – Everyone contributes	
July and August	No Meetings	
September	1. Jack/Deb Hasse	2. Lori Burritt
October	Show	
November	1. Dolores Capella	2. Charles Ufford

***Events Calendar***

June 2	NENYOS Picnic at Piping Rock. Bring a dish to pass, table setting, chair. 2 speakers are arranged for that day (one is Mountain Orchids with plants for sale)
June 10	CNYOS Picnic at David Ditz’s house
July & August	No Meetings
September 9	CNYOS Meeting - Possible Repotting Clinic
September 9	Focus on Phals, Ballston Spa, NY Go to phal.org for more information.
October 5-7	CNYOS Show and Sale at Beaver Lake
November 4	CNYOS Meeting - Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids

***Treasurer’s Report***

Total Cash and Bank Accounts as of 5/6/12	
Cash Account	\$ 450.00
Key Bank	<u>1,437.15</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$ 1,887.15
Year to Date Net Inflows Outflows 1/1/11 – 5/1/11	
Total Inflows	\$ 1997.50
Total Outflows	<u>\$ 2,693.88</u>
Net Inflows/Outflows	(\$ 696.38)
Carol Haskell, Treasurer	

## *CNYOS Fall Show*

Plans are well under way for the CNYOS Fall Show in October. The torch has passed for the very important job of Registrar from Iris Cohen to Sue Finger. Iris will continue as expert consultant.

Nancy Loveland continues as coordinator of the judges. This year we will have judges from the down-state judging center as well as from the Montreal center.

Honey Goshorn is in charge of taking care of the needs of the vendors and the clubs.

Jerry Finger is in charge of coordinating the food for our three days at Beaver Lake. We will still need volunteers to bring food items. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the September meeting.

David Ditz is in charge of publicity, and asks that anyone who has a suggestion of where we can get free advertising contact him at 635-8148 or [dditz7733@hotmail.com](mailto:dditz7733@hotmail.com)

Jan Woodward has created a great poster for the Show, copies of which will be put up at strategic locations before the show by Jerry and Steven Goshorn.

Charles Ufford will put information about the 2012 Show on the club website, including Jan's poster which can be downloaded by members for putting up in grocery stores and other venues.

Many members signed up for various jobs at the last meeting, but we still need a few clerks, a few people for manning the club booth, a few people for Friday room/table set-up, and room monitors to watch our precious plants.

Please sign up for these jobs at the September meeting, or contact me if you can't be at the September meeting.

**Remember, we all have to pitch in to make our Show a success!!**

**Killing Orchids: Dealing with the Inevitable by Larry Litwin** The following article first appeared in the June 1991 *American Orchid Society BULLETIN*, Volume 60 ( Note the reference to Syracuse)

I have grown orchids for what seems like a long time, 17 years. My collection started as meagerly as you could imagine; single, standard-size, lavender *Cattleya* hybrid that was simply labeled "blue." I got it at a farmer's market in Syracuse, New York, for \$10.00. I grew that plant for about a year before it flowered. Once it did, all hope was lost. I began to purchase orchids with a vengeance. After all, "I now could grow and flower them." My collection swelled dramatically from that lone orchid. That lasted just over two years. An unexpected freeze dropped it back to one plant in a single night. Since then, the number of plants in my collection has varied between a low just under 20 and a high of several hundred. The collection now stands at around 75. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to grow orchids in climate-controlled growth chambers, greenhouses, outdoors, under lights and on windowsills. Throughout, I have managed to kill a lot of orchids. I feel qualified to offer reassurance to the beginner who has some apprehension. I would advise you not to worry. It might take some practice to get really good at it, but you can kill orchids!

At first you will probably kill them mostly by accident. You will repot something at exactly the wrong time. You will both overwater and underwater. You will heavily fertilize a plant that is salt-intolerant. You will give shade lovers too much sun and sun lovers too much shade. This is unavoidable. Some mistakes will be made because you just didn't know any better. Others will occur because you followed well-intentioned advice which was inappropriate for your conditions.

Much of orchid growing depends on your experience. Experience takes time. You can't get everything you will need to know from reading. That is not to say that reading is not important. It most certainly is! However, while it is possible to illustrate clearly what sunburn looks like and to list most of the conditions which cause it, there will always be some peculiarity of your environment that was not discussed. This is the one that will get you. Until you happen to run into that one unusual, and perhaps rare, condition, you will have no way of knowing you are putting a plant into danger. Then all of a sudden sunburn will strike. You will probably be able to identify the cause, but it is doubtful that you could have anticipated it. This is experience. As the saying goes, "it must be seen to be appreciated." The more experience you have, the more mistakes you will have made, the more problems you will be able to anticipate and avoid.

Nonetheless, reading and talking to other growers is very important. Learning what has worked for other people is only one of the benefits. This also exposes you to considerations which may not have occurred to you otherwise. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands of good articles on orchid culture. There are bound to be a fair number of these that apply

directly to the type of orchid to which you are attracted. By all means, read all of them that you can get your hands on. Unfortunately, you may find there may not be complete agreement among the experts, except concerning general cultural requirements. This is not to say that an expert won't offer very specific, and possibly emphatic advice. Moreover, usually that advice will be entirely accurate, if your conditions are exactly the same as those of that particular expert. Believe me, they almost certainly aren't! Your only recourse is to balance all advice against your experience with your own conditions. Find out why the advice is given. Determine the cause-and-effect basis for the advice. Then analyze how that relates to your situation and conditions. Modify the advice as necessary and apply it. You won't go too far wrong. The important thing is to understand the "why" of it rather than the "how" or "what." Above all, be prepared to make mistakes.

It is difficult to predict the effect of every environmental condition that you will encounter. It is often possible to gain a feel for what is going on in retrospect. Often you won't be able to remember much about past conditions by the time you observe an effect. It is impossible to observe and remember every fact that might have an effect on growth. It is likewise unreasonable to expect to be able to take daily measurements of every environmental variable that might be important. Still, it's much better to do something rather than nothing. My advice is to keep some sort of journal. It should be just detailed enough to keep your interest but not so detailed that it becomes a chore. Don't get caught up in forcing yourself to make "standard entries" or to adhere rigidly to a specific set of observations. Your perception of what is meaningful will change over time. Use the journal as a scratch pad to record things that you notice about a particular plant, the general weather conditions, anything out of the ordinary or anything which you suspect might be important. Eventually, you will begin to recognize which factors are most important, how the individual conditions influence the plant and how these factors are related. You will probably find agreement with the general principles that you read about. The specifics will be unique to your conditions, your plants and your growing style. For the fine points, you're mostly on your own. Your success will depend on how closely you observe, on how much experience you have.

Experience has its downside, though. As you kill fewer plants by accident, your collection will grow in size and finally exceed carrying capacity. Everyone's does eventually. The carrying capacity for your collection is the number of plants that can be grown well, given your resources. Some resources are, more or less, infinite. For example, you can probably supply far more water than any collection of orchids will ever need. There are also resources that are finite. They are available in limited quantities. Examples of this type of resource are light (within a defined space), space and money. These types of resources can become limiting to growth as they are spread over an ever-increasing number of plants. For example, there might be space to squeeze one more orchid into a windowsill growing area that is already at capacity for light. The result will be that some plant(s) will get a little less light. Sometimes this small amount of change will be enough to push one or more plants into decline. At this point, light is limiting to growth. The collection is above carrying capacity. Of course it's never as simple as that. Changes in air circulation affect the rate of drying and the amount of COT available to the plant. Other factors may come into play. Even though the changes are nominal, a plant that is near the edge anyway might be pushed over.

At some point it will become impossible to squeeze any more plants into the available space and light. If money is not a limiting condition, you can expand the space that you have available. You could add some lights to a window area, build another growth chamber, add to the greenhouse or even build another greenhouse. Even with quite a lot of money, your collection will still exceed carrying capacity. One limiting resource that is often overlooked is the amount of time you have to devote to your collection. Though there are ways to become more efficient, sooner or later you will hit the wall. You won't be able to spend adequate time with your plants. If you ignore this limit, your orchids will suffer. You will experience an increase in the number of plants that you lose from disease or poor culture. It takes time to discover the outbreak of a pest in time to prevent damage. It takes vigilance to monitor the state of each plant. If you don't have enough time to do this kind of preventive maintenance, you will kill a lot more plants than necessary. The worst part of losing plants this way is that it is a random process. Your most favorite orchids go just as easily and as often as those you could live without. A good rule of thumb is that you should be able to give each plant a casual examination at least every third day and a detailed inspection twice a month.

To bring your collection back into balance once it has exceeded carrying capacity you will have to learn to kill (i.e., remove from your collection) orchids intentionally and reliably. While killing orchids by accident, inattention or carelessness is easy, it takes skill to do it deliberately. It requires a certain amount of dedication and discipline to develop a true executioner's spirit. Although a great deal has been written on growing orchids properly, there is little advice available on when and how to kill them appropriately. I will attempt to remedy that at least in part. Probably the most emotionally difficult way to eliminate an orchid is actually to kill it. Nonetheless, there are some plants that are so inferior

that they must be destroyed. Others, suffering from poor health, might take an unacceptable share of the available resources to recuperate. Some may never recover no matter what is done. A plant may become infected with virus. Cultivate the ability to put this type of plant in the garbage can.

Next there are those plants that just don't measure up to personal preferences. They aren't bad enough to simply discard. They aren't good enough to keep. Terminate these plants by giving them to someone who wants to try growing an orchid. They might as well have something that is less than exquisite on which to practice. More often than not, they will succeed in growing the plant, and you will have expanded that person's horizons. You will also have developed a valuable resource. Once hooked, this person will gladly take those plants which no longer interest you.

Another category covers those plants that are good enough to keep but for which there is no room. Sell these, usually at a high discount to ensure that they move. This partially covers the costs of new acquisitions. An alternative is to make them gifts to experienced orchid-growing friends. Unfortunately, most of their collections are probably at or above carrying capacity as well. An additional option is to use the plants in experiments designed to expand your skill in managing your collection. For example, when you think it is time to move the orchids outside for summering, set these out first as a test. When you decide to try a little more sun to see if you can boost growth even further, these are the plants to use. You can push these plants beyond any limit to determine more closely just where that limit is. Obviously some of these plants won't make it, but their loss provides enough value in information to make it worthwhile. The knowledge gained might help prevent the loss of the 1 % or so that are truly irreplaceable. In my opinion, only the smallest percentage of the orchids available will be so good that their loss is tragic. If you look honestly at any large group of plants, you will find that, though each plant may be unique, most are relatively interchangeable. You can obtain another, equally good or even better, very easily. It would be catastrophic to kill one of these precious finds. Sacrificing a few lesser plants in experimentation is a small price to pay if it keeps even one of these exceptionally superior orchids alive. Obviously, the extraordinary orchids are the ones of which you keep multiple divisions. You will want to grow enough copies of these plants to insure against their complete loss. As these plants grow larger and begin to take up more space, variety will become increasingly important. After all, no matter how good an orchid is, you wouldn't want a collection composed of 100 identical plants. Disposing of these plants is probably the most perplexing problem of all. They are so good that you really would like to hang on to them, but you absolutely have more than enough divisions for safety. Plants such as these can usually be sold at a fairly good price. If they are really very excellent you might consider donating a division or two to a breeder or the national collection in Washington, D.C.

How do you determine which plants fit into which group? The exact balance that you determine will be strictly personal. My experience has shown three things. First, strict adherence to rules based on objective measurements do not work. For example, one rule that I tried to follow was "If it fails to bloom two years in a row, it's gone." Another was "If the flower doesn't last more than four weeks, it's history." These were logical, but there were too many exceptions. Second, subjective guidelines are not much better. I developed a way to rank orchids based on plant size, growth habit, frequency of bloom, size, number and quality of flowers, all estimated subjectively. These types of schemes are every bit as difficult to adhere to as vigorous objective standards. Third, no matter what your tastes and conditions are today, they will change. The composition of your collection will evolve to reflect your tastes and environment as these change over time.

The only thing I have found that works is a very simple principle. I must accept that my time, abilities and resources are limited. I established a rigid restriction on the maximum size that my collection can attain. This limitation is not based on space occupied nor the number of plants in the collection. The sole criterion is the health of the plants taken as a whole. As long as I can grow all the plants well, there is no need to cull. The control comes into play whenever a resource becomes limiting to good growth. As soon as even one orchid suffers, the limit is reached and something has to go. I evaluate all the available plants in the collection and select those that can be removed. Exactly what I scrap depends on which factor is limiting and on the contribution of the individual plant. If I am running out of space I may go for the larger plants. However, the largest plant that I have is one that I refuse to include in the culling process. If it is time that is limited, I might target those plants that take the most time to care for properly. Again, there are plants that I would keep, no matter how much time they required. However, I force myself to reduce the collection to the extent necessary.

Eventually, with practice and dedication you will be able to kill enough orchids to maintain your collection at somewhat less than the absolute maximum possible. I try to keep about 10% of the available space free to "try out" new plants. Almost every orchidist has the never-ending craving for just one more. Resign yourself to the quest for the one that is just a little better. Keep looking, keep culling and don't fret too much over the ones you kill. It really can't be helped.

**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  
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*June 2012 Issue – CNYOS Picnic June 10 at the Home of David Ditz .*