

# 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 time to renew  
your membership!**  
**Individuals \$20**  
**Family \$22**

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

## ***Next Meeting: Sunday March 6, 2 PM***

### ***Talk by Leon Glicenstein, formerly of Hoosier Orchids***

***He will probably discuss the orchids of Costa Rica, though he has many lecture topics available.***

Leon Glicenstein Ph.D. began growing orchids in 1954, and became assistant to the curator of orchids at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, then Carl Withner, from 1957 to 1960. He has advanced degrees in Chemistry and Horticulture, with an emphasis on plant breeding, cytology, and cytogenetics. Working as a plant breeder for five years at Linda Vista S.A. in Costa Rica, he photographed, in the wild, approximately 80% of the then known orchid species of Costa Rica. He also found new species such as *Telipogon glicensteinii*, *Macroclinium glicensteinii*, *Pterichis leo* and *Lepanthes glicensteinii*. He won the second American Orchid Society Dillon/Peterson Essay Contest using one of his Costa Rican experiences. He has photographed many of the orchids in the Northeastern United States, Florida, and all of the orchids in California, where he located some taxa not formerly known to exist there. As a respected lecturer, has given numerous conservation oriented programs both nationally and internationally, showing orchids growing in their native habitats.

Leon joined Hoosier Orchid Company in September 1998. As a breeder as well as a grower of orchids at Hoosier Orchid Company, Leon specialized in working with members of the *Pteruothalidae*, *Zygopetalinae*, *Gongorinae*, *Angraecoid*, *Jewel* and *Painted-leaf* orchids, as well as other groups. He has created numerous novel and new combination not before known, thereby extended our knowledge of generic relationships within the orchid family. Since the demise of Hoosier Orchid Company, Leon has been consulting with other orchid companies on growing orchids from seed.

He is currently taking images of orchids in habitat in Ecuador and Peru which may lead to more programs.

A strong conservationist, Leon was past chairperson of the American Orchid Societies Conservation Committee, and has been a member of this committee for decades. He represented the AOS at the international conservation meeting in Costa Rica in 2007.

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

Well, we're in deep winter still but reports now are good for a respite from the cold for a few days. Just warm enough to dream of the days when our orchids will be able to go outside again. That always leaves spaces on the benches and windowsills and you know that means room for more plants, until you have to find space in the fall to bring everything in! OOPS!

Lots of opportunities are coming up to overload our growing areas due to spring shows and our May auction. Maybe you like to pick out an old favorite or proven bloomer but sometimes we all get a little adventurous and try something new. Don't forget that we have many members with expertise at many types of orchids so try the new or odd variety and ask questions. You could be the next success story with a blooming plant on the meeting's show table or in a display for our show.

Here's hoping we all have more successes than 'next victims'.

Sue Finger

### ***Minutes of the February Meeting***

With the weather cooperating, we had a nice turnout for our meeting. After indulging in the snacks, desserts, and marvelous soup [ I'd like the recipe ], President Sue Finger opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Carol Haskell read the Treasurers report and our "spending power" is growing. Honey Goshorn read the minutes and they were approved. There was a discussion about the show. There is much to be done and there was a call for volunteers for a planning committee. Volunteers Monica, Charles, and Honey stepped up to the plate. There will be a need for food for the show. There was a discussion about OAS contacts for the show tables. The next discussion was about the April meeting in Rochester on April 1,2, and 3. We will not have a business meeting on Sunday. We will have a carpool to go to the show on Sunday; meeting at the Church @ 11 a.m. Anyone with plants for our table at the show, but unable to go, can drop their plants with Judy [in the city] or Janet Woodward [Kirkville]. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, we will travel to Piping Rock on Sat. Gold Country will also be there then. Our picnic was moved to June 12<sup>th</sup> when the members mutually decided on the change. Our next meeting in March will be about orchids of Costa Rica. Piping Rock will be at our Christmas dinner.

Our program followed the business meeting. Charles brought seedlings for us to pot and buy, including special pink seedlings. Krum brought some plants and taught us how to pollinate an orchid. Several of us were given an opportunity to pollinate a flower. We had three show tables, with many beautiful blooms and some interesting dialogue about some unknown names. Then the raffle was held. After being able to pick up more seedlings or taking a turn at pollinating the meeting was adjourned. A good time was had by all.

### ***Refreshment Volunteers***

February	1. Rick Braue, Dale Corey	2. Lori Burritt, Deb Hesse
March	1. Sue & Jerry Finger	2. Pamela Gotjen
April	1. No refreshments needed. Trip to Rochester for GROS	
May	1. Pat Cotter	2. Barbara Weller
June Spring Picnic	Everyone Contributes	
July & August	No Meetings	
September	1. David Ditz	2 ?

**February 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. appletonianum</i>	Galson
<i>Paph. Maudiae (callosum × lawrenceanum)</i>	Hoffman
<i>Paph. Memoria Ada Perry (hennisianum × sukhakulii)</i>	"
<i>Paph. wardii</i>	Witkin
<i>Paph. F.C. Puddle (Actaeus × Astarte)</i>	"

## Cattleya Alliance

<i>Epicatanthe (Ett.)</i> Volcano Trick ( <i>Ctt. Trick or Treat × Epi. stamfordianum</i> )	Hoffman
<i>Rhyncattleanthe (Rth.)</i> Haw Yuan Glory ( <i>Rlc. Love Call × Ctt. Kauai Starbright</i> ) "	"
<i>Prosthechea (Psh.)</i> Green Hornet ( <i>cochleata × trulla</i> )	"
<i>Rlc.</i> Haw Yuan Beauty × <i>Rth.</i> Haw Yuan Glory	Finger
<i>Ett.</i> Volcano Trick	Coleman
<i>Epi. centropetalum</i>	"
<i>Rl. glauca</i>	Capella
<i>Ctt.</i> Whodunit (Chocolate Drop × <i>C. Psyche</i> )	"
<i>Bsn.</i> Maikai ( <i>B. nodosa × Gur. bowringiana</i> )	"

## Oncidium Alliance

<i>Wils.</i> Opalescent ( <i>Oda. Nationhood × Onc. aurarium</i> )	Coleman
<i>Hwra.</i> Lava Burst (Mini Primi × <i>Rdza. lanceolata</i> )	Finger
<i>Onc.</i> Pacific Sunrise (Hawaiian Sunset × <i>sotoanum</i> )	Capella

## Vandaceous

<i>Phal.</i> "North Lit Orange" unknown	Woodworth
<i>Dtps.</i> Chiada Elsa ( <i>Phal.</i> Da-chien Spider Beauty × <i>Dtps.</i> Formosa Rose) "	"
<i>Phal.</i> Baldan's Kaleidoscope ( <b>Hausermann's</b> Candy × Daryl Lockhart)Galson	Galson
<i>Phal. celebensis</i>	Coleman
<i>Dtps.</i> Sogo Gotris ( <i>Phal.</i> Be Tris × <i>Dtps.</i> Sogo Manager)	"
<i>Phal. schilleriana</i> 2 plants	Ufford
<i>Phal. amboinensis</i>	"
<i>Phal. aphrodite</i> <b>subsp.</b> <i>formosana</i> *	"
<i>Phal. stuartiana</i>	"
<i>Phal.</i> Maysang Black Boy (Sunrise Red Peoker × Timothy Christopher)Finger	Finger

## Dendrobium

<i>Den. nobile</i>	Galson
<i>Den.</i> Baby Pink ( <i>affine × bigibbum</i> "subv. <i>compactum</i> ")	Coleman
<i>Den.</i> <b>Aussie's</b> Chip ( <i>aberrans × atroviolaceum</i> )	"
<i>Den.</i> Memoria Margery Ummer ( <b>Nagasaki</b> × Yukidaruma)	Ditz

## Miscellaneous

<i>Masd. herradurae</i>	Coleman
<i>Maxillariella (Mxl.) variabilis</i> †	Finger
<i>Bulb. rothschildianum</i>	"
<i>Ddc. exile</i>	Witkin

\*Generally, a geographically distinct variation of a species is called a subspecies.

†The genus *Maxillaria* has recently been balkanized into numerous independent republics, at least for the present. However, there are still quite a few Maxillarias left standing. To check on yours, go here:

<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/prepareChecklist.do;jsessionid=907C1662EE94EA4433BE1E91D185996F?checklist=monocots%40%40363291220071433153>

Iris Cohen

If you have any questions, you can always call 315-461-9226 or e-mail

<mailto:iriscohen@aol.com?subject=Show Table>.

## *Events Calendar*

March 6	CNYOS Meeting: Leon Glicenstein (Formerly of Hoosier Orchids) Orchids of Costa Rica
March 11	Mid-Hudson Orchid Society Show and Sale 11Am – 3PM
April 3	No CNYOS Meeting: Car pool to Rochester for GROS
May 1	CNYOS Auction
May 1	African Violet Society Show & Sale 10-4, Beaver Lake Nature Center
May 7&8	STOS Show and Sale
June 4	Trip to Piping Rock Orchids
June 12	CNYOS Picnic
July & August	No Meetings
September 11	CNYOS Meeting: Jerry Fischer of Orchids Ltd. Of Minnesota
October 1&2	CNYOS Show and Sale
November 6	??
December 4	Holiday Covered Dish Party- Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids will give a talk

## *Visit To Piping Rock Orchids*

The Northeastern NY Orchid Society (NENYOS) is having their spring picnic on Saturday, June 4, at Piping Rock Orchids, north of Albany. They will have a speaker on orchid culture, and Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids will be there to sell plants in addition to the plants available from Piping Rock.

At our February meeting, the members present voted almost unanimously to go to Piping Rock on June 4, and postpone our own picnic to the next week – June 12, (perhaps with someone making an informal presentation and also selling plants). For the visit to Piping Rock a small monetary contribution, and a dish to pass will be required.

## *A Foolproof Orchid*

**James Watson tells how three hobbyists grow the jewel orchid *Ludisia discolor***

Reprinted from Orchids Magazine 1997

The jewel orchid *Ludisia discolor* contradicts the myth that orchids are not grown for their foliage. This adaptable terrestrial dazzles the eye year round with its colorful lustrous leaves. And when ready to bloom, the plant explodes with 12-inch-tall sprays of white flowers.

*Ludisia discolor* shatters another myth: Orchids can be grown only in certain regions because of their specific cultural needs. Not so with *Lds. discolor*. This tough plant will thrive in a greenhouse in the Pacific Northwest yet also reward the grower with lush growth in a Hawaiian garden, where it can be cultivated in a container or planted in the landscape.

It is equally at home indoors. "It's wonderful as a houseplant because of its beautiful foliage," says Rita Cohen, proprietor of Orchid Art in New York and chair of the AOS Northeast Judging Center.

"When Linda Yang wrote about this plant in the New York Times several years ago, she listed four vendors as sources who rapidly went through a couple of hundred plants while filling orders. Two years later, people were still calling for them."

**At Home Under Lights** For Cohen, *Lds. discolor*'s needs are met in a light garden where the plants are set on the floor next to the light stand. Here, the rich leafy colors are more intense than on those plants set directly beneath the tubes. "When the plants are given too much light, they bleach out. Likewise, shade seems to intensify the foliage color of another jewel orchid called *Macodes*," says Cohen. Her *Lds. discolor* shares the floor with the company of ferns in these low-light conditions.

*Ludisia discolor* is potted in a mixture of ProMix to which some perlite is added. Says Cohen, "The plants like to be kept damp, but not sopping wet." Because *Lds. discolor* is grown for its foliage, it is fertilized sparingly. A temperature of 58 to 60 F is maintained both night and day.

Fortunately for growers, the plants are almost insect and disease free. However, when mealybugs invade, the plants are washed with warm soapy water or rubbed with alcohol. Propagating *Lds. discolor* is a snap. When Cohen needs more to meet customer demand, she breaks off a piece of the pencil-thick brittle rhizome and then pins it on the top of some potting mix in a small container. Kept damp, the cuttings root quickly, and soon Cohen is ready to spark another orchidist's enthusiasm for *Lds. discolor*.

**Life Under Glass** *Ludisia discolor* also makes a pretty picture in natural light, whether on the windowsill or in a greenhouse. Mary Davidson Dunnell of Seattle, Washington,



*Ludisia discolor* in bloom, illustration by Marion Sheehan

recalls her first encounter. "When we first saw it, we thought it was an exotic tradescantia. Then, discovering what it really was, we began growing it like a rhizomatous begonia in our glass greenhouse," says Dunnell, a longtime member of the American Orchid Society who served as president from 1990 to 1992. Her potting mix contains a bit of everything - vermiculite, perlite, soilless potting mix, fine bark and tree-fern fiber. The plants, which are grown in 4-inch pots, are watered when the top of the soil is dry, and they are rarely fertilized.

Says Dunnell, "I treat this plant like a begonia, not an orchid." Her plants of *Lds. discolor*, which grow in the shade cast by begonias, marantas, ferns and aroids, are kept neatly trimmed in their plastic vessels. However, if the stems reached the greenhouse floor they would probably grow like a groundcover.

*Ludisia discolor* makes a great gift, too. Says Dunnell, "We gave one to a friend and she is growing it in a bathroom with a skylight, where it blooms all the time."

**Suited to the Tropics** At Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami, Florida, *Lds. discolor* is grown in 10-inch-wide shallow clay pots like those used for bulbs and epiphytic orchids. Says Conservatory Horticulturist Craig Allen, "I use a mix of one third perlite, one third peat moss and one third Aliflor, baked-clay pellets that are a substitute for tree fern. To each pot I add 1-1/2 tablespoons of cow manure and 1/2 tablespoon of bone meal." When he repots, which is once a year, Allen often divides each clump in half and centers each division in a new container.

The plants are watered three times weekly and fertilized once a week with Dyna-Gro. Allen echoes Cohen's advice: Although *Lds. discolor* can be watered often, it will not tolerate a soggy medium.

Allen, who has worked at Fairchild for 13 years, sets the containers on plastic-slat benches (for air circulation) outdoors under 50 percent shade cloth. When a cold night is forecast, the plants are brought into the greenhouse until the threat of chilly temperatures passes.

*Ludisia discolor* is a hot item at the garden's sales. "We have a different form that has an almost black velvety color with a gold center vein, which is popular with our members. It is more difficult to grow than the regular type, taking longer to fill a container, and its leaves are not as large," says Allen.

## 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  
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**March 2011 Issue – CNYOS Orchid Meeting March 6, 2 PM at the Church**

**Leon Glicenstein talking on the Orchids of Costa Rica**