

# *The Orchid Enthusiast*

The Newsletter for the Central New York Orchid Society

Volume 9: Issue 5 May 6th, 2007 CNYOS is affiliated with the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest

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## May Meeting: Annual Orchid Auction!

On May 6th at 2p.m. at the St. Augustine's Church in Baldwinsville, NY we will be having a blowout orchid auction with open and silent bidding. Arrive early to get your bidding number and to look over the selection of plants. If you would like to submit plants for auctioning, please make sure that you have a picture of the plant in flower, a good description of the growing conditions and that the plant doesn't have insect pests or disease. Sick plants will not be allowed in the meeting room. Those who submit plants can receive 50% of the winning bid amount, or they can donate more or all of the proceeds to the CNYOS. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we usually have more beautiful plants than we can handle, so be sure to show up with your checkbook, greenbacks or some really good food to trade (wink). Please note that orchid artwork, pictures and other related material can be auctioned off as well. Note to snack volunteers: if you were one of the people scheduled to bring snacks to the April meeting that was cancelled, please consider bring some to this meeting. There will be many hungry bidders wandering around and it would be nice to have enough for everyone.

The Southern Tier Orchid Society (STOS) will be holding its show at the Oakdale Mall in Johnson City, NY April 27th through the 29th, with setup the Thursday before (4/26). We will be having a display at the STOS show. If you would like to help with setup, take-down or offer plants for the display, please talk to Judi Witkin before April 25th to schedule drop-off of your plants. Contact her first! Contact Iris Cohen to register your plants well before the 26th as well.

If you would like to enter plants in the display, think now about properly presenting them for showing. That means staking an inflorescence so that the flowers are properly displayed, repotting the plant so that it is healthiest for the show, and removing all pests and/or diseases or browned leaves. Please note that we can always use non-flowering non-orchidaceous plants in the display as fillers and backdrop material. Note that anyone can also display orchid art and photos in these shows.

<b>In This Issue:</b>		<b><u>CNYOS Meeting and Event Calendar</u></b>	
		April 27-29 STOS show, setup April 26	
Meeting times:	pg. 1	<b>May 6th</b> Annual Orchid Auction	
CNYOS Calendar:	pg. 1	<b>June 3rd</b> Annual Spring Picnic site to be determined	
Misc. notes:	pg. 2	Sept 9th CNYOS meeting - please note the meeting will be the second Sunday of September due to the Labor Day weekend	
Previous minutes	pg. 2	Sept 22nd-23rd It's rumored that the CNYOS Show has found a show date. Our Show will again be at the Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville, NY	
Volunteer schedules:	pg. 2		
Show Table	pg. 2		
Main article	pg. 2-3		

It should be noted that the CNYOS had a very nice showing at the Rochester Orchid Show! Gary Stensland and Judi Witkin did an excellent job of designing and setting up the club display (though they had to wait a few hours for the newsletter editor to get out of work and drop off his plants,.....) and the display won First Place for orchid club displays. Judi also received a first place award for her terrarium miniature orchid display. I personally thought the club display was very well done, and overheard people remarking on how much they liked the miniature display as well. There were quite a few club members who received ribbons and Best in Class awards for their plants. Tom Daily received an AM/AOS for his Dendrobium senile! Hats off to all the members who supplied plants or helped to set up/break down the displays. A few people did show up for the carpool Sunday morning, we hope they enjoyed the show. We appreciate all of your efforts very much! Please don't forget that we again need plants for the STOS Show as noted on the front page of the newsletter.

2007 CNYOS Dues are now due, and should be paid to our Treasurer Carol Haskell as soon as possible. Carol Haskell 102 Wynthrop Rd. Syracuse, NY 13209 315/468-0811 **chaskell33@earthlink.net**

If any of your contact info has changed, then please let Carol know asap. It is our policy that if members have not paid their dues after a few months, they will no longer receive their newsletters. Please keep your membership up-to-date! We don't want anyone to miss out on all of the activities happening this Spring. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual, or \$17.00 per family.

### Misc. Business

Club Vice-President Kim Boronczyk has orchid supplies for sale. Please contact Kim at 315-455-7587 before regular meetings to discuss what she has available and can bring to the next meeting.

Donna Coleman is looking for a room mate for the 19th World Orchid Conference in Miami, January 22 to 26 (approximately), 2008. Check out the web site at <<http://www.19woc.com>>[www.19woc.com](http://www.19woc.com) and call her if interested, 633-2437.

The club has an orchid book library at our meeting location. Please contact Judi or Tom to find out what is available and to sign out a book.

The Wolles are still collecting clothing, household items, baby supplies and other food and paper stores for the Living Hope Christian Center in Syracuse. Members can bring their donations to the meeting to give to the Wolles.

Anyone who has ideas for Beginner's Session topics please feel free to contact Tom D. by phone at 315-687-3449

CNYOS Meeting Minutes - no meeting in April, no minutes

### Volunteer Schedules - Refreshment List for Winter/Spring 2007

(if you were scheduled to bring snacks in April, please consider bringing some to the May meeting for our Auction. Thanks!

May 5th - Dorothy Brock and Lynne Odell/Holzer

June 2nd - Annual Picnic, everybody will bring goodies!

SHOW TABLE - No meeting, no show table results

### Spring Ahead

If some of this article sounds familiar, it's not 'deja vu all over again'. You must have read the article I wrote about bringing your orchids in last fall that contained some of the same ideas. They are sound principles that need to be learned and become a habit as a regular part of what it means to be a good orchid grower.

After the recent spring snowstorm temperatures are finally climbing out of the 30's, and into the 50's and 60's. With more hours of daylight, we can finally feel that spring is here. We begin to open windows and leave screen doors open if only for a little while to get some 'fresh' air. It feels good and not so cramped. It's a great time for spring-cleaning the orchid collection.

What are some of the tasks that should be done? Making a list of the plants in your collection and keeping records can be very effective in helping make future decisions about plant choices or locations for a plant to grow. When the plant came into your collection, the last time it bloomed, and when you last repotted it are all valuable pieces of information.

Most of all we want healthy plants because they are the ones that will bloom to their full potential. So, which ones are doing well and which aren't? Let's take a plant that doesn't look so good. Is it obvious why the plant is not doing well? Was it watered properly in that spot? Or was it forgotten? Was the humidity adequate? What about growing temperatures? Was it kept too cold? Was the plant in a draft? Or was it placed too close to the glass? Writing down your observations will help to prevent the same thing happening next winter. If the answers to your questions are not obvious, this is an opportunity to use some IPM monitoring questions to help get to the answers. Is there any evidence of pests present? What about bacterial or fungal infection? If we know what we are dealing with we can then proceed with a solution. What do the leaves look like? Are they healthy looking? Are they the right size? Or are they stunted, twisted, and or pleated? What about their general color? Is it similar to a grass green in color? If not, can you identify the reason?

Take the next step and remove the plant from the pot and check the root zone. Are the roots white and healthy looking or are they brown and mushy? Have they turned to a papery white from lack of water? Are there tons of roots or just a few healthy ones? What is the condition of the medium? Does it need to be replaced? How does the chosen medium work for you? You may want to consider choosing another medium that might work better for your growing conditions and cultural regime.

Spring is a great time to divide and or repot because the warmer temperatures stimulate new root growth and the plant has ample time to develop before the temperatures begin to cool in the fall. When you see new roots being formed and they are less than an inch and a half that's a good time to repot. Carefully clean off the old mix from the roots and repot into a new pot sized just large enough to allow for about two years of growth and fill with your chosen medium. Whether you use plastic or clay pots depends largely on your growing conditions and watering practices.

Remember, when trimming dead or diseased areas of the plant to use sterile equipment and do not reuse it on another plant unless it is sterilized again. If you have specific plants that you know need repotting, check the best time to do that with other club members or from online sources.

Divisions can rapidly add to the size of your collection as well as the amount of space needed as these plants mature. It is important to remember not to make the division too small. Minimum divisions should be three to four pseudobulbs or in the case of plants that don't have pseudobulbs, clumps of six to eight leaves. Don't rush to divide just to increase your collection size. Larger clumps generally make for showier displays. Small clumps can struggle for years before having adequate energy to produce 'normal' sized blooms.

Since dramatic temperature swings are all but gone we can safely move the plants out of the growing area, at least temporarily. This will allow for a thorough inspection and cleaning of the growing area. Clean up the algae, any weeds, and all dried plant material such as fallen leaves or flowers. Proper disposal of this material eliminates places where pest can live, develop, or have over wintered just waiting to reinfect or reinfest your plants when conditions become optimal with more constant heat and moisture present.

This spring ritual is a great opportunity to see how your plant choices are working out. Are the plants healthy with plump pseudobulbs or are they spindly and sickly looking? If the plant isn't sick but just under achieving because your conditions aren't quite right, an option could be to put the plant up for auction or trade it for something more suitable for your growing conditions. Again making notes as to how certain plants handle our dark winters in your conditions and checking the mature size of the plant will give you invaluable information to make orchid choices in the future. Over time, a lot of money and energy can be saved when you shop if you have some notes to help you clarify and remember what you and your growing conditions can handle.

Spring is filled with new opportunities. New catalogs come in the mail. Orchid shows, like the one put on by the Southern Tier Orchid Society in Binghamton, provide an opportunity to see many different orchids face to face. The friendly vendors will have interesting orchids for sale, all providing for visions of flowers blooming all year long.

Tom Daily

## *The Orchid Enthusiast*

The CNYOS Newsletter, *The Orchid Enthusiast*, 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 or functions.

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## Central New York Orchid Society

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**Club website:** <http://www.cnyos.org>

The Central New York Orchid Society meets at St. Augustine's Church, 7333 O'Brien Rd., Baldwinsville, at 2:00<sup>pm</sup> on the first Sunday of each month from September through June, with Beginner's Sessions at 1:30p.m. right before the regular meetings. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual, or \$17.00 per family. Dues should be paid to the CNYOS Treasurer, Carol Haskell

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**The Central New York Orchid Society**  
Your local AOS & Orchid Digest Affiliate  
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May Issue - Meeting Sunday May 6th

**April Meeting: 1:30p.m. Beginner's Session - Open Discussion**  
**Regular meeting 2p.m. Annual Orchid Auction and Silent Auction**