

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

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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, May 6 at 2:00 PM at the Church.

It's time again for our fabulous orchid auction!

Here is your chance to pick up some great orchids at bargain prices.

A special item will be included in the main auction:

OrchidWiz Express 2012 is a modified version of the orchid encyclopedia and data base, which focuses on the beginner to intermediate hobby grower.

It ordinarily sells for \$95.

We successfully raffled off a copy of Orchid Wiz software during our last two auctions, and OrchidWiz Express 2012 is our auction copy this year.

There will be no raffle table at this meeting. Guests are welcome, but will be charged \$5.00, unless they join the club at the meeting.

Come early to pick up your bidder number and look over the available plants, so we can start on time!

Show Committee

Since this is the last formal meeting of the year (except for the picnic), there will be a meeting of the Show Committee to discuss what has been accomplished so far and what needs to be done over the summer to get ready for our Show and Sale in October. The meeting will be at 1:30 before the regular meeting. Anyone is welcome to join us.

I will bring some sign-up sheets so members can sign up for some of the volunteer duties required for a successful show.

President's Message

Congratulations to all who entered plants for the Rochester show. We had a terrific exhibit table with lots of color and artistic value. Three other members showed up for the carpool/meeting day/show viewing and joined Jerry and I for a drive out on Sunday for the show, sale, and take down of the exhibit. We had quite a few members show up there and support the Rochester show. We're winding down our day now with a cup of hot tea to chase away the chills from the rain.

Hope to see you all in May for our annual auction!!

Sue Finger

GROS Show



CNYOS Exhibit at GROS 2012

The GROS show was a success for CNYOS. Many thanks go to the dedicated members who contributed their plants, and to Jan, Judi, Sue and Jerry who set up our display which won:

2d Place for Best Orchid Society Exhibit of more than 15 plants. (The Niagara Frontier Orchid Society got 1st place again this year)

In addition, the following members won ribbons for their plants:

Sue & Jerry Finger

Guaricyclia Kyoguchi x C. Seagulls Tangerine	3d
C. Mari's Song	1st
Paph. Memoria Marie Audet	2d
Dtps. Fusheng's Mystical Dream	2d
Phal Brother Gemstone	2d
Pyp. Pisgah Forest	1 st

Cym. Unknown 1st

Jan Woodworth

Dtps. I-Hsin Ice Coke 2d

Judi Witkin

Den. Aussie's Chip 2d

Donna Coleman

Oncidopsis Bartley Schwarz 2d

Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 3d

Dtps. Fangtastic Mariana Myers 2d

Phal. I-Lan Green Pixie 3d

Phal. Timothy Christopher 2d

Max. variabilis 2d

Dcd. wenzelii 1st

Eva Galson

Rct. Linda Vee 1st

Pyp. Mendenhall 2d

Charles Ufford

Phrag. pearcei 1st

Barbara Weller

Den. loddigesii 3d

Lori Burritt

Den. Stardust 1st

Doritaenopsis DeLeon's Kisses 1st

Doritaenopsis Melody 1st

Dotitaenopsis Brother Enigma 1st

Congratulations to all the winners!

STOS Show

Our club will also have an exhibit at the Southern Tier Orchid Society (STOS) Show and Sale which will take place at the Oakdale Mall, Center Court, at Exit 70N off Route 17 in Johnson City, April 20-22 (Before you get this newsletter). Set up and take down will be performed by Jan, Judy, and Barbara Weller (468-5039). Please contact them for plant drop-off points. Register your plants at least a week before the show with Iris Cohen iriscohen@aol.com or 461-9226. If you have paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture or other media they are welcome at the show!

CNYOS Meeting April 1, 2012

There was no meeting, since only a few of us met in the sunshine in the parking lot of the church before car pooling to GROS in Rochester.

Refreshment Volunteers

May	1. Pat Cotter	2. Dale Corey
June	Spring Picnic – Everyone contributes	
July and August	No Meetings	
September	1. Jack/Deb Hasse	2. ?
October	1. ?	2. ?
November	1. ?	2. ?

Events Calendar

April 20-22	STOS Show and Sale
April 28,29	African Violet Society of Syr. Annual Show & Sale – Sat 1-6, Sun 10-4
May 6	CNYOS Meeting - Vendor Auction
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

Virtual Show Table

Charles Ufford, who manages our website, wanted members to have the following information:

While looking through the CNYOS website, I realized that I had not finished creating a user account so that club members could upload pictures to the Virtual Showtable. To go to the Virtual Showtable page, follow the link <http://cnyos.org/virtualshowtable/index.php> . Once at this page, click the 'login' button or link towards the upper right of the page. For user enter [cnyosmember](#) and the password is [baldwinsville](#) . There are two accounts that are similar; cnyos member and cnyosmember. Login to the account cnyosmember (no space in the name). Once logged in as 'cnyosmember', find the 'upload pictures' link towards the top of the page, click this. Once you get to the upload page, select via browsing through your computer the image(s) that you want to upload. Once uploading is finished, then add extra information for each of the orchid information categories. Once you are finished uploading and editing, log out of the account. Very important - once you have uploaded your pictures, send an email to me (charles) at uffnet@surfbest.net telling me that you have uploaded pictures. I will then move the image and information to the proper table year's page. This way it's easy to upload pictures and there is no threat of accidentally deleting/altering already submitted images or information. If you have pictures from other years, just let me know which year the images and information should go to.

Error in Concentration Calculation in Slugs and Snail Article, Sept 2009 Issue

For those of you who keep the back issues of the Orchid Enthusiast and refer to them from time to time, an error in the calculation of the caffeine concentration used to control slugs and snails was just pointed out to me – all the way from southern Washington State:

Quote from the Article:

"A 2% caffeine solution requires 1/16 of a pound of caffeine (or one ounce, either by weight or volume since both are very close together for this type of material) for one gallon."

Calculation correction:

"1 gallon of water is 128 ounces, so a 1% solution requires 1.28 ounces of whatever you're dissolving in it, in this case caffeine.

A 2% solution requires 2.56 ounces.

The "1/16 of a pound" referred to is, of course just one ounce (16 oz in a pound), and dissolved in a gallon of water, results in only a 0.4% solution.

Interestingly though, even though the recipe is wrong, it would still probably work great IF pots are immersed completely and IF the pots are pretty dry so it doesn't get diluted out, since 0.5% gave a 100% kill rate and they didn't say what the lower limit of effectiveness was, so 0.4% may be good enough IF everything else is done ideally."

May - Finally!

Ron McHatton - Director of Education AOL (2009)

(For those of you who don't keep back copies of The Orchid Enthusiast, you've probably forgotten that this article appeared in last May's issue, and for everyone, it has some good advice for orchid growers to consider now that spring is here.)

First, the obvious, it's finally May, now actually late May, and in virtually all parts of the country the weather by now has stabilized and it's safe to summer your orchids out-of-doors. If you don't and grow on windowsills and under lights, I strongly urge you to try it. There's something clearly rejuvenating about the natural humidity and air movement you get outside that can't really be simulated indoors.

I have a couple of things I'd like to discuss this month. First, take advantage of the summer growing season. This is the time of the year to really push your plants to put on the best possible growth they can manage. Fertilize regularly and give plants plenty of light. Move plants outside and let them take advantage of the natural humidity and air movement. I know many greenhouse growers who actually almost empty out the greenhouse this time of the year – just remember that it all has to go back inside at some point and the natural tendency is to accumulate plants. While fertilizer is one of those subjects best not discussed in polite company, it is true that the more dilute your fertilizer, the more often you can apply it. Many of the most successful growers apply a very dilute (1/8 strength or even lower) fertilizer solution every time they water with only an occasional pure water flush.

Don't worry about afternoon and evening rain when your plants are outside. It won't, unless really excessive, hurt them. If you think about it, it makes sense. When does it rain in the tropics? Not in the morning unless it's been raining all night. The natural cycle is much like the summer pattern in much of the country. The mornings are clear, humid and relatively cool and as the day progresses and heats up, the air becomes more unstable until the afternoon rains come and cool it down again. Even if it doesn't rain, clouds or fog in the late afternoon and evening hours are common. Since most of the orchids we grow are really tropical, it's this cycle they are adapted to. When it rains in the late afternoon and evening, the roots stay moist longer allowing them to absorb more of the available moisture. So why do all the books say water early in the day so plants are dry by evening? Because the books are written for greenhouse and indoor culture and that's remarkably different. Under closed conditions, air movement is restricted and fresh air is less available and wet plants are then more susceptible to disease. The bottom line is, if you grow outside, watering in the late afternoon and evening is beneficial and you'll see the difference in your plants.

Know the conditions you have to offer and choose plants that will thrive under those conditions. It's usually much easier to find plants adaptable to what you have to offer than to modify your available growing space to grow particular plants, especially if you are growing in the home. That's not to say that you can't successfully grow cool-growing orchids in the hot parts of the country – people do it all the time, but it's certainly more difficult. It's like the sign on the road alerting you to a 25mph curve ahead. Can you take that curve at 50mph – maybe, but you'll work a lot harder than you would at the posted speed. I know one particular grower who grows *Miltoniopsis* in Tucson, cooling the growing area with heat pumps and another who successfully grows vandas in Washington state. That's like growing masdevallias in Florida. The further from optimum conditions for a particular plant, the greater the stresses will be and just because you find something for sale in the marketplace doesn't mean it's easy to grow or flower in your area. As an example, if you like cymbidiums and live in a place where you can't easily provide the cool late-summer and early-fall nights the large-flowered group need to flower well, chose plants derived from the smaller flowered species which have more warmth tolerance. If you have difficulty maintaining humidity or not a lot of room, traditional vandas may not be the best choice (note I didn't say "don't grow vandas" – don't let anyone tell you that you can't grow something, just keep your eyes open) but smaller-growing ascocendas you can grow in pots might be a good substitute. One of the Collector's Items below is *Dendrobium kingianum*, an Australian species with the need for dry, cool winters. If you can't provide that, you'll grow a beautiful shrub but never see it flower.

Don't let your failures get you down. We all learn by our failures and don't forget that, no matter how long we may have been growing orchids, we are all in some way or another, beginners. If you've been successfully growing under lights and have a new greenhouse – you're a beginner. If you've been a phalaenopsis kind of person and are now trying cattleyas – you're a beginner and so forth. Find and join your local orchid society. There's no better way to meet and talk with growers who share your local growing conditions.

Bud Blast By Susan Jones

It can be heartbreaking to watch helplessly as long-awaited orchid buds brown, die and drop instead of becoming those much-anticipated flowers. Bud blast, when buds wither and fall from an otherwise healthy plant, may occur through any of a number of causes. Buds are the most sensitive part of an orchid, and are easily affected by unsuitable conditions in the growing environment. Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums seem particularly susceptible to this problem. The most frequent reasons for this are as follows:

Water Under- or overwatering is a common cause of bud blast. If a plant becomes too dry, it may withdraw



Orchid flowers can abort for a variety of reasons, but the results are always the same

moisture from buds as a survival mechanism. Overwatering can damage the orchid's root system, with the end result being a lack of water to the plant. As with underwatering, when the plant is unable to absorb sufficient quantities of water, it will withdraw water from the buds, bringing about their demise. Budding Cattleyas are particularly sensitive to overwatering, which can cause buds to blacken and die while still in their sheath. Water that is allowed to sit on buds or in bud sheaths provides the perfect environment for fungi and bacterial growth, generating rots that will blast buds. Watering with cold water can shock a plant, causing bud drop.

Temperature Temperature extremes or rapid temperature changes are often a culprit in bud blast. If a budding Orchid receives drafts from a window, an air conditioning or from a hot oven, it may drop buds. Similarly, buds may blast when exposed to temperature fluctuations that occur when taking a

plant in from the car or outside during hot or cold weather, bringing plants back into a heated house after a summer outdoors, or temperature extremes caused by running heating or air conditioning for only part of the day.

Atmosphere Orchid buds are sensitive to fumes from paint, natural gas leaks and other chemicals. Once pollinated, flowers generate methane gas, causing them to collapse and saving energy for seed production. Methane or ethylene gas from other sources may also trigger bud or flower collapse. Ethylene gas given off by ripening fruit; gas leaks; inefficient burning of gas stoves or heaters; engine exhaust; cigarette, cigar or pipe smoke; open fires; smog or air pollution can also cause bud blast and age and distort open flowers.

Light If lighting available to its developing buds is inadequate, an orchid won't flower properly. Low lighting can cause buds to abort. Too much lighting may also cause trouble; direct sunlight on developing buds can overheat and desiccate them, leading to bud blast.

Chemical Damage Fertilizer, fungicide or pesticide applied at dosages above a plant's tolerance or in a manner inconsistent with manufacturer's instructions may damage buds, causing them to drop.

Humidity Developing buds need high humidity. If their environment is too dry, or the ambient humidity fluctuates a great deal, buds may be adversely affected and drop.

Insects Aphids and thrips can cause bud blast. These insects feed on flowers and flower buds, sucking the plant juices. The buds of infested plants fail to develop properly, dropping from the plant or opening to damaged and disfigured flowers. Thrips can be controlled using Diazinon or Malathion. Aphid control often involves not only eliminating the aphids themselves, but also the ants that farm them. Insecticidal sprays and sugar-based ant baits are recommended. For a few aphids, dab with a cotton swab soaked in rubbing alcohol. Other means of control include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils (Neem or Sunspray), growth regulators and chitin inhibitors (Enstar II), Pyrethrum-based insecticidal sprays, stronger insecticides (Malathion), and systemic insecticides (Orthene, Shield).

Repeat any treatment method twice after the initial application at seven- to 10-day intervals to kill successive generations. Test new controls on a small population of plants before widespread use. When using insecticides, check labels to be certain the insecticide works against the particular pest and that it is approved for use on orchids. Always use any chemical in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Genetics Occasionally, even under perfect cultural conditions, an orchid will continually abort buds. There may be a genetic mutation responsible for its inability to produce viable blooms, in which case the plant should be discarded.

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Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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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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***May 2012 Issue – CNYOS Meeting May 6 at the Church.
Vendor Orchid Auction***