

THE ORCHID ENTHUSIAST

The Newsletter of the Central New York Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest

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 **two weeks** before the next meeting to: csmith23@twcny.rr.com

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Membership Renewal Reminder

2019 Memberships - Dues are \$20 for individuals and \$22 for families.

Send to:

Carol Haskell, Treasurer
102 Wynthrop Road
Syracuse, NY 13209

President's Message:

Hello CNYOS Members,

Happy to see that spring weather has finally arrived in Central New York. Soon the opportunity to Summer some of our orchids outside will be here.

I use this opportunity to check my orchids for pests and thoroughly treat them with a strong cocktail of topical and systemics, only suitable for outside use. In previous winters I maintained a separate naughty orchid area in my house and added club members as needed. They were maintained with 70% alcohol and various mild treatments during the winter in the house. These, plus any questionable orchids, were definitely kicked out of the house in the month of May. They were sprayed with the mixture and after the first frost they are sprayed again, repotted as needed, and welcomed back into the house.

I am proud to say that this winter I did not need to maintain a naughty orchid region in my house. I expect a couple of pests will show up when it becomes humid soon, but at this point I am optimistic that things are getting better in my collection.

My 'Bug Juice,' as someone called it, starts with 1 tsp Monterey's Conasan Triple Action 20 Conc., 1-1/2 tsp Acephate 97UP Conc., and 1 tsp Bayer All-in-One Rose & Flower Care Conc. I wear gloves and mix the concentrates into 1 gallon of water. I saturate the plants and repeat lightly a second treatment.

~ Lori Burritt

Vendor List:

Our auctions and shows have benefited greatly from the generosity of the following vendors. When shopping for new orchids and supplies, please check them out first!

- <http://www.andysorchids.com>
- <http://marlowsorchids.com> **
- <https://www.kkorchid.com> **
- <http://www.jlorchids.com>
- <https://www.mountainorchids.com>
- <http://www.pipingrockorchids.com> **
- <http://www.fairorchids.com>
- <http://www.stonybrookorchids.com>
- edgarstehli@sbcglobal.net

To contact Windswept in Time Orchids

<https://www.msorchids.net> **

**** denotes vendors at our show**

Upcoming Webinars:

American Orchid Society: Register at aos.org

May 7, 2019 - 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Greenhouse Chat May 2019

Ron McHatton

(Open to All; submit questions by May 5th)

May 16, 2019 - 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Asian Cymbidiums

Ken Jacobsen

(Member Only Webinar)

You can watch a variety of recorded webinars any time at your convenience at aos.org

Minutes: April 2019

No April Meeting

Treasurer's Report: April 2019

No April Meeting

Show Table: April 2019

No April Meeting

May 2019 AOS Orchidist's Word of the Month:

parthenogenesis
(par-thin-oh-JEN-e-siss)

The process by which a seed may develop without fertilization; plants so produced have the genetic constitution of the seed-bearing plant.

~ Welcome ~

New CNYOS Members

Sarah Kelly and John Carnissali



Paphiopedilum Liberty Taiwan 'Mysterious Valley Bubblegum' AM/AOS Photographer: Mark Van der Woerd



THE May 2019 AOS CORNER

From the desk of Denise Lucero, Vice Chair, AOS Affiliated Societies Committee
(dluceroaosmembership@gmail.com)

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Orchid Societies attracting Members...

Membership growth and retention is the lifeblood of our societies. The Affiliated Societies Committee met at the recent AOS Spring Meeting in San Diego to share ideas about what works and what doesn't regarding the top most concern of a majority of our affiliates.

First Get Them Hooked

Orchid shows are where local orchid societies get to show what they are all about. It's the best place to attract new members.

Here are three tips proven in attracting new members at shows:

1. Offer membership at half price or offer a free membership for the remainder of the program year for a new sign up.
2. Give away a free plant to every new member who joins. With society discounts that vendors offer, and/or member plant donations it is quite doable.
3. Advertise at vendor sales booths. Encourage buyers with a membership offer if they present proof of purchase for 2 orchids from the show.

Of course, shows are not the only places we recruit. Many societies provide workshops or lectures at nurseries, public gardens, botanic gardens, gardeners and master gardener club meetings. People who are already hooked by the 'plant bug' are often budding orchidists who just don't know they love orchids yet! They only need to be introduced.

Some societies co-host an event like repotting at a local orchid nursery. The society may provide food and volunteers to help repot for anyone who walks into the establishment to show the fellowship shared between societies and orchid vendors. We should support each other for mutual success.

THE MAY ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:

- The New Refugium Botanicum - *TBD* by Franco Pupulin
- Orchid Gardens - *Inkaterra, Peru, Part 2* by Tom Mirenda
- For the Novice: *A Beginner's Guide to Vegetative Propagation of Orchids* by Barbara Schmidt
- Orchids Illustrated - *Sophranitis (Cattleya) Group* by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
- A New Classifications of the *Dendrobium bigibbum* Lindl. Complex, and Hybrid Registration by Peter Adams
- Who Were These Guys, Part 8 - James Bateman by David Rosenfeld
- Greenhouse Cooling Ideas by Norbert Dank
- *Goodyera pubescens* by Soraya Cates Parr

Let's grow together, Denise Lucero

Give Me Some Air

~ Prepared by the AOS Education Committee
*This is a re-print of an article from **Orchids Magazine**, March 2013*

Combining humidity with air that feels light and is constantly moving benefits plants during the 19th-century Orchidmania craze that swept Europe, thousands of orchids would die in dry, heated “stoves,” as the orchid greenhouses were called. It is surprising that any survived and it was only the sheer numbers being ripped from the jungles at that time that allowed a hobby to be born. These early orchid hobbyists had little first-hand knowledge of where or how orchids grew and the plants often arrived in Europe unaccompanied by the person who collected them. The notion was that epiphytic orchids grew in dank and steamy tropical jungles. There certainly are orchids that come from sea level forests close to the equator, but even in those places there is open air movement, the subject we will cover here.

Humidity and air movement are qualities of the air that surround your orchids, and you. Although there are genera-specific requirements for more or less humidity, most tropical epiphytic orchids require 50–70 percent humidity. Less than 40 percent humidity can cause plants to grow poorly or at best, less than optimum. Plants transpire moisture through stomata, tiny pores on the leaves. If the humidity of the growing environment is too low, orchid plants will transpire water faster than they can take it up through the roots and become desiccated. Roots and potting media will also dry out quicker when a plant is kept in a dehydrated state. Watering more frequently is not a solution for dehydration and leads to root problems because of rapid decay of the medium.

If you grow orchids in a greenhouse it is most likely properly equipped to provide an acceptable range of humidity. Evaporative

coolers are an excellent means of adding humidity and keeping temperatures cooler in summer. If you grow orchids in the home, you have more of a challenge to maintain proper humidity. Winter heating and summer air conditioning both dry the air significantly. For just a few plants there is a classic solution that may be somewhat limited in its effectiveness, but is easy and provides some humidity. Fill a shallow tray (such as an aluminum oven liner) with pebbles, and then add water to just below the tops of the pebbles. Set your orchid pots on the pebbles. Refill the tray every few days as needed (if algae builds up, empty the pebbles into a colander in the sink and rinse with diluted bleach, then plenty of clean water and then return to the tray). This works well if you are growing just a few orchids on a windowsill. Misting can also help, but the water evaporates so quickly that the benefits do not last long. If you have a larger collection that you perhaps grow on a plant stand or cart, an inexpensive humidifier can be bought for slightly more than the cost of a couple of orchid plants. Look for one with a large reservoir that does not need frequent refilling. Specific orchid-growing setups such as orchidariums, terrariums, Wardian cases and many under-lights setups in basements all will provide ample humidity.

If you were to visit the habitat of an epiphytic orchid such as *Cattleya mossiae*, you would discover a setting totally contrary to the Victorian perception mentioned in the first paragraph. You would be in the Venezuelan mountains at an elevation of about 3,000–4,500 feet (915–1,370 m) and the cattleyas would be growing in the canopy of the trees above you.

~ Continued on page 5

Give Me Some Air continued...

Air constantly flows up the mountains and the tops of the trees sway in the breeze. Many of our favorite orchids come from this kind of airy environment.

Optimum conditions for cultivating orchids are often described with the words “buoyant atmosphere.” What that describes is air that feels light and is constantly moving. Primarily, a buoyant atmosphere provides a constantly fresh supply of carbon dioxide to the trees and the orchids in them. Green plants convert carbon dioxide and water into food compounds (such as glucose) and oxygen through the process called photosynthesis. Air that is constantly moving provides other benefits, such as eliminating pockets of extreme temperatures and moderating the temperature of both air and leaves. An adequately ventilated orchid growing space discourages fungal infections by hastening the evaporation of standing water. The surest way to discourage the flower-damaging fungus *Botrytis cinerea* is to increase air movement.

Providing orchids with air movement is one of the easiest things to achieve. If you are growing a few orchids on a windowsill, merely open the window a few inches any time the outside temperature is above 50 F (10 C). If you have a grow cart of orchids, one or two 6- or 8- inch (15- or 20-cm) muffin fans will do the trick. Turn them on low and aim them above or to the side of the orchids to draw air over the plants. Ceiling fans provide excellent air circulation for patios and sunrooms, while most commercial greenhouses offer fan options. If yours does not, buy one or two 24-inch (60 cm) box fans, depending on the size of your structure.

As you have probably gathered, if the setting feels comfortable to you, your orchids will like it too.

For another article on air and humidity go to....

The Importance of Humidity and Air Movement in Successful Orchid Culture
aos.org/resources



Cymbidium eburneum 'Monica' AM/AOS
 Photographer: John Dunkelberger



Phalaenopsis YangYang Blue Angel 'La Grenoville' AM/AOS
 Photographer: Ramon de los Santos

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

May 5, 2019 - Annual Auction
(No Raffle Table but there will be a Show Table)

June 2, 2019 - Annual Picnic
(No formal program but there will be Raffle and Show Tables)

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**September 8, 2019 - TBD & Show Planning**

**October 4 - 6, 2019 - CNYOS Annual Show and Sale**

**Refreshment Volunteer List:**

May 5, 2019

Jan Woodworth/Dave Ditz

Beverages: Donna Coleman

June 2, 2019 - Annual Picnic

Everyone Brings a Dish to Pass

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A sign-up sheet will be at the May & June Meetings for Fall 2019 Meetings

African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Syracuse Presents Their 66th Annual Show and Sale

"Violets Get Their Kicks on Route 66"

Saturday, April 27

Sale: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Show: 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sunday, April 28

Sale & Show: 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

at Beaver Lake Nature Center
(for directions go to [Beaver Lake Nature Center](#))

Admission to the Sale & Show are free but there is a \$5 per car Park Admission Fee

~ Open Houses ~

Area greenhouses that generously support CNYOS Annual Auctions with donations. They support us, so let's support them.

Piping Rock Annual Picnic & Open House

June 8, 2019

Free Guest Speakers, Vendors, Lunch & Shopping!!!

Go to pipingrockorchids.com for more information on date, times and directions.

Marlow Orchids Open House - July 13, 2019

Food, Fun, Instruction & Shopping!!!

Go to marlowsorchids.com for more information and directions.

Save the Dates: 2019-2020 Events Schedule:

May 5, 2019: *CNYOS Program - Annual Auction*

Annual Auction of Donated plants by our favorite vendors. A list of donated plants will be published. This is our annual fund-raiser so we need you there!

June 2, 2019: *CNYOS Program - Annual Picnic*

No formal program, bring a dish to pass, your table service and beverage. Just fun and food.

June 8, 2019: Piping Rock Annual Picnic/Open House - Go to pipingrockorchids.com for more information on date, times and directions.

July - August 2019: No summer time meetings!

July 13, 2019: Marlow Orchids Open House marlowsorchids.com

September 8, 2019: *CNYOS Program - Final Planning for CNYOS Annual Show and Program TBD*

October 4, 5, 6, 2019: CNYOS ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Friday - set-up display and help get vendors settled, pizza; Judging Saturday Morning; Open to the Public Saturday - Noon-5 and Sunday 10-4. Sign up early to help out with clerking or show room monitoring and food. Co-chairmen - Judi Witkin and Sue Finger

November 3, 2019: *CNYOS Program - Guest Speaker Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in California!* His topic will be decided later. He is an expert in so many areas. He will bring plants for sale. This will be a must-see program!

December 1, 2019: *CNYOS Program - Holiday Luncheon*

No formal program, bring a dish to pass, your table service and beverage.

~ **2020 Don't forget to pay your dues as 2020 is gonna be fantastic for CNYOS!** ~

January 5, 2020: *CNYOS Program - Silent Auction*

February 2, 2020: *CNYOS Program - TBD*

March 1, 2020: *CNYOS Program - TBD*

April 5, 2020: *CNYOS Program - Guest Speaker Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids in California*

May 3, 2020: *CNYOS Program - Guest Speaker Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids in California*

June 7, 2020: *CNYOS Program - Annual Auction/Picnic*

Central New York Orchid Society

The Central New York Orchid Society meets at St. Augustine’s Church, 7333 O’Brien Rd, Baldwinsville, at 2:00PM on the first Sunday of each month from September through June except for January and September (date moved to second Sunday because of national holiday weekends).

Website: <http://cnyos.org>

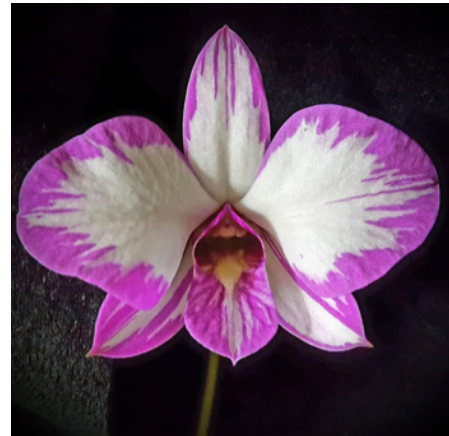
Directions to St. Augustine’s Church:

<http://www.cnyos.org/directions.html>

CNYOS Facebook Page:

If you have not checked out our Facebook Page, you can search “Central NY Orchid Society” on Facebook or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/CNYOS/>



Reminder: Be sure to “Like” our page!

Central New York Orchid Society

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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.

Chris Smith, Editor

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