NENYOS NEWSLETTER

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

contact@nenyos.org **April 2014** www.nenyos.org

Masdevallias – A New World Species

Marguerite Webb, J & L Orchids, came up from CT on a cold February day to expose us to the wonderful world of Masdevallias. More than 400 species exist and have been grown for years, but the group is enjoying a renaissance back in fashion. Known for bright colors and fun features like hairs, tails and size, the plants have been lurking in collections for years. But hybrids have really raised the bar in the last 25 years.

One of the key points to understand, is when you are looking at a Masdevallia bloom, you are looking at the sepals which are partly fused. There can be tremendous size variation in the blooms from 1 inch to 1 foot. But most plants have 6 inch blooms and are great to grow in the home.

Native from southern Mexico to southern Brazil, these "gems of the orchid world" have their main living area in the Andes, from sea level to 13,000 ft. The intermediate growers are generally around 6000-7000 ft. Sympodial orchids without pseudobulbs, these plants require frequent watering and or high humidity, since their only stored water is in their leaves and that is not much.

They like moderate light but not direct light. And like most orchids need a temperature differential of at least 10 degrees between day and night to keep them happy and get them to bloom. Marguerite recommends having a min/max thermometer to know that you are supplying the needed environment.

Masd. Like to approach dryness before they get watered again but Draculas like humidity at 60% if possible! Additional note: Draculas won't grow or flower properly if humidity is too low.

On a windowsill, use a humidity tray.

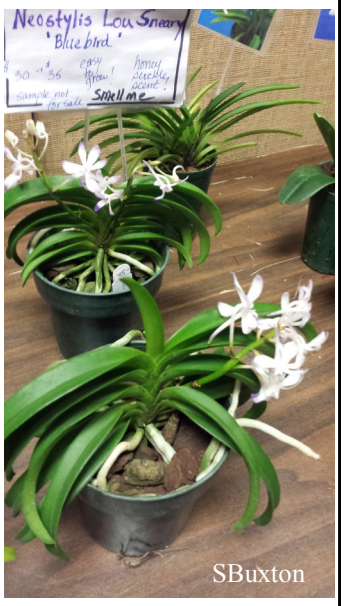
She also said that leaf color will change with light conditions.

Too dark – not enough light
Yellow leaves – too much light
Red tint to leaves – too much light

Growing Madevallias and Draculas in a case (wardian or terrarium) is a choice that frequently helps in our imperfect environment, unless you have lights in a cool, damp basement like one of our members. If you use a case, you have to keep it out of direct sunlight, use lights and have a fan to provide ventilation.

Pests include aphids, mealy bugs and spidermites as well fungal diseases since so much water is involved. Removing dead flowers is important from the floriferous ones since fungal infections will get going.

Plant breeding is tricky and usually requires a pin since all of the parts are so small! Pollinators are often fungus gnats and small flies.



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April 2014

Table of Contents

Upcoming Meetings

April 5—Tom Purviance & John Salventi, frmr Parkside Orchid Owners talking about Roots! It's all about the roots! at Sanford Library, Colonie

May 3—Steve Male from Fishing Creek Orchids in PA at Sanford Library

May 31—Open House at Piping Rock Orchids in Galway, NY (This will take the place of June meeting.)

July—No Meeting

August 2—Annual Picnic at Stan & Fern Lee's in Scotia

September 6—Ron McHatton at Sanford Library

October 4—Alan Koch from Gold Coast Orchids in CA at Sanford Library

Nov 1—AUCTION at Sanford

Dec

MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS OFFICERS FOR 2014

Donna Wardlaw	Co-President
Janet Vinyard	Co-President & Treasurer
Deb Lambeth	Secretary
Ed Belemjian	Director
Sandy Buxton	Director
Mark Conley	Director
Steve Condon	Website
Stan Lee	Past President
Sandy Buxton	AOS Rep
Gillen O'Brien	Name Tags
Joan Gardner	Refreshments
Bob Odess & Ed Belemjian	Raffle Greeter

NENYOS Contact: Contact@nenyos.org

Sandy Buxton Newsletter Ed. buxtonsandy@gmail.com

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

Mar 1 – Apr 21 - New York Botanical Garden Orchid Show, Bronx, NY. www.nybg.org

March 21-23, Greater Capital District Flower & Garden Show, Troy.

Apr 11-13 – Southeast Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show, The Academy of Natural Sciences, PA, www.sepos.org

Apr 29 - May 4 – 2014 Spring AOS Members Meeting and Show, Minneapolis, MN Kim Livingston, 952-831-8135, thelivingstons@comcast.net. http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=512

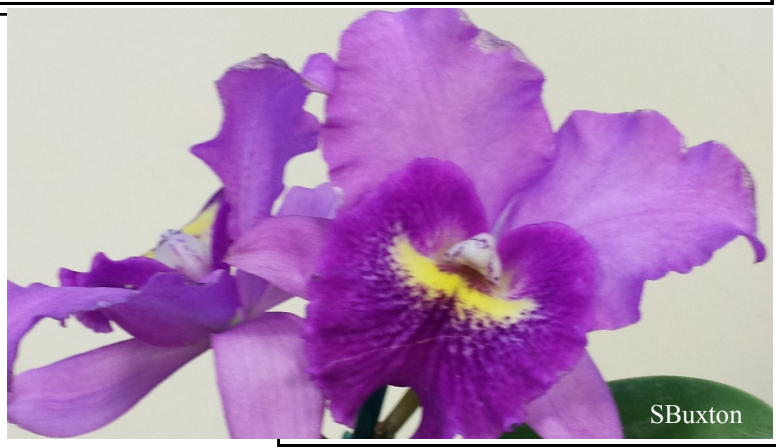
May 2-4 – Long Island Orchid Society Show, Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park Conference Center, Oyster Bay, NY. festival@longislandorchidsociety.org, www.longislandorchidsociety.org

GROS—Greater Rochester Orchid Soc.
CTOS—Connecticut OS
STOS—Southern Tier OS
MHOS—Mid-Hudson OS

C heck www.aos.org/events before traveling to see if there may be a local orchid event at your destination. Everything published in *Orchids* magazine is also on the web page

Beginner Series Class—

And here's the list of upcoming beginner talks:



Beginner Talks 2014-2015

April	An introduction to orchids
May	How orchids are named
Sept	Repotting
Oct	Orchid Habitat
Dec	Orchid Databases
Feb	Preparing your orchids for display
Mar	An orchid genus we haven't talked about

Beginner Grower lectures are generally held before regular meetings at about 1:30 p.m. Arriving for a meeting early allows participants to check out the Show Table, have a snack and look at the Sale Table!! As well as find a chair with a good view and ask questions of the other members.

Much of our learning happens by gaining information from our peers!

Don't forget if you are a Raffle winner, don't forget to bring a goodie to the April meeting to help all of us celebrate!

Fertilizer for Beginners

Telling us the original thought was orchids didn't need fertilizer was Alex Shepherd's method for getting our attention this month. Fertilizer and orchids are intertwined and interrelated with light, moisture and potting mixes.

Using a well-balanced, professional, high grade mix is important for success but growers also need to use a variety of products to help provide the appropriate micronutrients required by each plant. In addition, what is in your water is also important.

Fertilizer types include: Soluble (mix in water)/ inorganic, controlled or time release and organic (smelly ones like fish emulsion).

Numbers that are generally visible on a product represent the proportions of 3 major elements: Nitrogen – Phospohorus – Potassium

Nitrogen – is good for plant growth ABOVE the ground. Use nitrate or ammoniacal nitrogen (not urea unless the plants are terrestrial orchids). Look for 20% or less Nitrogen.

Phosphorus – is good for plant growth BELOW the ground, the root system.

Potassium – is best for overall plant growth.

The way to remember is the phrase "**Up, Down and All Around."**

The rest of the stuff includes calcium and magnesium as well as other trace minerals like: sodium, manganese, copper, zinc, boron, iron and molybdenum.

When to fertilize:

Different genera have different calendars for when they should be fertilized. The general rule is to fertilize as the plants as headed INTO a growth cycle.

Watch for new roots, new leaves, new pseudobulbs and then feed. And always follow the directions.

Recommended system:

Water your orchid first.
Fertilize.
Then after 10-30 minutes, rinse the pot to wash out fertilizer salts which are just hanging around. Prevents build up.

For a home collection, feed for a couple of weeks then spend a week or two rinsing out the build-up.

Warning signs: are leaf tips that are brown – could be fertilizer burn and not a bug or fungus.

Tips:
*Don't fertilize when plant is dormant!
*Decrease fertilizer when temps are cool or hot or light is very high or low since the plant will be stressed.
*Also don't fertilize when there is a spike.
*Fertilize weakly, weekly – frequently at low levels.
*Make sure potting material is damp.
*Dark green floppy leaves can also be a sign or over-fertilizing!

-By Sandy Buxton

Come and Visit a NENYOS meeting!!

One of the wonderful things about our NENYOS organization is we encourage anyone interested in orchids to come and visit our meetings.

You don't need to be a member to listen to the speaker or ask questions.

So, come and visit. Bring a friend. The more, the merrier as we all learn and enjoy the wonders of growing orchids.

VENDORS WHO HELPED WITH THE 2013 AUCTION & Activities

Gretchen Bellinger Textiles
24 Mill Street
Albany, NY 12204

Bill Doran, Co Flower wholesalers
45 Industrial Park Rd, Albany, NY 12206 (518)-465-5285
www.billdoran.com

Carmela Orchids
Hakalau, HI
www.carmelaorchids.net

Danker Florist
658 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 518-489-5461
www.dankerflorist.com

Island Sun Orchids –Karen Kimmerle; PO Box 909, Keaau, HI

Lehua Orchids
Mountain View, HI
808-968-8898
www.lehuaorchids.com

Piping Rock Orchids
2270 Cook Rd
Galway, NY 12074
518-882-9002
www.pipingrockorchids.com

Sunset Valley Orchids
Fred Clarke, 1255 Navel Place Vista, CA 92081(760) 639-6255
Www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com

Tohru Takekoshi, former NENYOS, Member, Scotia, NY

The Orchid Works
Rayna@the orchidworks.com
P.O. 278 Hakalau, HI 96710
wholesale and retail lists online

Walter Scheeren
44-3265 Kalopa Mauka Rd
Honokaa,HI 96727
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Growing Healthy Orchids Indoors

Many orchids are rewarding indoor plants. Once a home owner has succumbed and bought his or her first orchid, or received one as a gift, meeting a few cultural requirements will coax the plant to flower again.

Orchids are far tougher and hardier than most people think, and are, by and large, extremely adaptable. There is a long-standing myth that orchids are difficult, if not impossible, to grow, especially without a greenhouse. With at least 20,000 species and some 100,000 artificial hybrids, there are some notoriously fussy orchids. But there are many rugged, popular, easy-to-grow types that adapt to the temperatures and light conditions found on the average home windowsill. Explore the options and assemble a collection that will put forth exotic flowers year-round.

Orchids are different from other houseplants. Unlike ferns, philodendrons, palms and Swedish ivy, orchids do not grow in soil. Potting an orchid in soil is actually one of the best ways to kill it. Most orchids in the wild are not rooted in the ground, but instead attach themselves by thick roots to the sides of trees and on branches. Clinging to the bark, the plants absorb water and nutrients from the air and rain and whatever drips down the tree. They are adapted to surviving when rain is scarce, hoarding water in thick leaves, stems and roots.

Watering

In the house, orchids are grown in pots filled with chips of bark, stones, treefern or some other loosely packed material, which keeps roots well-aerated and permits water to drain quickly. Nothing -- repeat, nothing -- kills an orchid faster than letting it sit in a water-logged pot, since a lack of oxygen will cause the roots to suffocate and rot. Water orchids thoroughly, usually about once a week, then allow them to dry slightly before watering again. Orchids are better equipped to withstand periods of forgetfulness than they are to being overwatered.

Temperature

Another difference between orchids and many houseplants is that in nature most orchids experience a big difference between day and night temperatures. Manipulating the temperature of the home so it will drop at least 10 degrees at night, especially in autumn and winter when many orchids initiate buds, will induce the orchids to set flower buds more readily. Achieve this by lowering the temperature on the thermostat. This little trick can mean the difference between an orchid plant that merely lives, and one that thrives and flowers.

Orchids are usually classified as warm growing, intermediate and cool growing, with regard to their temperature needs. Many tolerate exposure to warmer or cooler temperatures without suffering damage. The temperature groupings refer to the lowest temperature the orchid prefers during winter nights. Warm-growing orchids, such as phalaenopsis, sulk if temperatures drop much below 60 F. Intermediate growers, such as cattleyas, prefer winter nights around 55° F. Cool-growing orchids, including cymbidiums and odontoglossums, are accustomed to winter nights of 50 F. At the other extreme, most orchids perform poorly when exposed to temperatures above 90° F.

Light

Orchids are also classified into three other groups depending on the intensity of light they require -- high (3,000 foot-candles), medium (2,000 foot-candles) and low (1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles). Most orchids require plenty of light, preferably at least six hours a day. Many orchids can withstand more or less than the amount of recommended light, but providing more light enhances flowering potential. Conversely, inadequate light prevents orchids from flowering, although they will grow.

Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. Dark green leaves are attractive, but signal there is not enough light. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom. Gauge light intensity with this simple hand/eye test: Put your hand 6 inches above the leaves and look at the shadows cast. A sharp-edged shadow means high light; a soft-edged shadow indicates medium to low light; no shadow at all means the light is insufficient for an orchid to flower.

Southern- and eastern-facing windows work best for orchids; western windows canbe too hot in the afternoon; and northern ones are usually too dark. Too much direct light causes leaves to sunburn -- the leaves bleach out to white, ultimately dying and turning black -- so it may be necessary to reposition plants as the seasons change.

Continued on next page==>

Continued from page 4

Move plants away from or toward the window to manipulate the amount of light. A sheer curtain will cast light shade. Positioning sheets of Mylar or another reflective material in the growing area will increase usable light, a handy trick for the winter when light levels are often reduced.

Artificial Light
Where windows with adequate light are unavailable, consider cultivating orchids beneath artificial light. Four 4-foot-long fluorescent tubes placed 6 inches apart side by side should do the trick. Two shop-light fixtures with cool-white bulbs will suffice. Special grow lights, sold under various trade names, are considerably more expensive and extend the light spectrum. The grow lights may reap better results, although data on this are conflicting. Place plants 6 to 8 inches below the tubes. Put the lights on a timer set to operate the bulbs for 14 to 16 hours a day. Many orchids, such as phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums, will be content. Orchids requiring more light, such as vandas and cymbidiums, however, need natural sunlight or high-intensity discharge lights to bloom. A fluorescent fixture in a dimly lit window adds extra light to natural sunlight, too, and can mean the difference between flowers and no flowers. Orchids that do not flower often require more light.

Fertilizing
Orchids do not require abundant doses of fertilizer. However, to maintain healthy plants and see blooms on a regular basis, apply a weak solution of 20-10-20 fertilizer once a week. Each month, water with plain water to flush out any accumulated fertilizer salts. Dilute the fertilizer to one-quarter the strength recommended on the package. When in doubt, give less rather than more. Switch to a blossom-booster fertilzer in the autumn, when many orchids are initiating flower buds. Blossom-booster is a fertilizer ratio with higher phosphorus and lower nitrogen, such as a 10-30-20 formula. Many orchids are winter bloomers, which makes them even more special as houseplants. They fill an often otherwise flowerless void in the drabbest of months. Peak of orchid bloom usually occurs between December and April.

Humidity
One of the things orchids greatly appreciate is adequate humidity. Fifty percent or more is necessary, but the atmosphere in most homes, especially those with dry, hot-air heat, is far below that. Raising the humidity around orchids will result in better flowering. Some tricks to increase humidity: operate a humidifier near the plants; place the pots on flat, black pebbles set in a tray in which water is added until it almost covers the stones ("Egg crate," which is the lattice-like plastic grid sold in hardware stores for suspension ceiling lights, is a good, more steady alternative to the pebbles.); group the orchids together; or cordon off the growing area with clear plastic (but continue to provide ventilation to prevent bacteria from becoming a problem).

The AOS thanks judywhite for this essay.

Summer Orchid Growing Tips

Cattleya Alliance Plants
In most areas of the country, higher light and higher temperatures require more fertilizer and water for Cattleyas. If you are in one of the areas with extremely high temperatures cut back on the fertilizer since your plants will be stressed from the heat and will go into a period of very little growth until the temperatures moderate in the fall. Be sure to watch for fungal diseases as well as scale since both proliferate in higher temperatures.

Phalaenopsis or Moth Orchids
Phals are one of the warm growing orchids and as such are happiest during our summer months. They should be fertilized every week during these months so that they can achieve maximum growth to support spikes in the fall. Very high temperatures (over 90F) will cause leaf loss. So if possible try to keep your plants in areas where they are not exposed to these high temperatures. Be very careful of water in the crowns of plants to avoid rot and provide good air circulation.

Paphiopedilums or Slipper Orchids
Paphs generally like a little cooler temperatures than some of the other orchids. Even the so-called "warm growers" will not like temperatures above about 85F. Good air circulation is a must for these plants especially during warmer weather. Make sure that they do not dry out and that high humidity is provided if the plants are in warm areas.

Watch for fungal infections
Fungus infections are especially prevalent during the hot and humid summer months, especially on thin leafed orchids. If you notice spotting on the leaves of your plants, spray with a good fungicide such as Physan or Consan to keep the problem from getting worse. Be sure to spray both the bottom and the top of leaves for best results. Increase your air circulation around that specific plant if possible since poor air circulation is one of the causes of fungal infections.

Watch for new growth and stake inflorescences
Stake new inflorescences on most of the summer growing orchids such as Epidendrum, Dendrobium, Brassavola, Oncidiums and Phrags. It is a good idea to put in the stake as soon as you notice the inflorescence so that you can keep track of where it is and stake when the growth has reached about 4 inches. Be careful not to pinch the inflorescence because all the growth and flower development is nourished through the stem. ==>

Continued from Page 5—Summer Tips

Heat stress is usually a function of, or accompanied by excessive light. Early signs are a bleached, withered appearance of leaves (top) followed by cell collapse (bottom). Additional shade and air movement can help prevent these summer problems.

- From AOS Website

Orchids Outdoors

Properly selected and cared for, orchids can be among the showiest and most exotic of all garden or patio plants. There are many areas throughout the southern and central United States where temperatures for a good portion of the year are compatible with the needs of many orchids. Some coastal areas are nearly frost-free year round. In these areas, with some protection from excessive sun, wind and rain, lovely orchid plants can be successfully cultivated on the patio or as a part of the landscape. In frost-free areas, the plants can be left in place all year. Where frost or temperatures below 40° F threaten, plants can be brought into the home to be grown on windowsills, under lights or on an unheated patio where the coldest temperatures are avoided. The trick is in selecting plants that are already adapted to your particular area. First, though, consider some basic cultural needs of the plants.

Light

No flowering plant will do well in deepest shade, and orchids are no exception. Orchids generally come from environments where dappled light is the norm. The hotter the sun, the more midday shade is required. In humid or coastal areas, more sun can be given. The required amount of light will also dictate your selection of plants. If you can offer only one light situation, select only plants that can do well under those conditions.

Temperature

In most cases, you will be limited to whatever Mother Nature provides, eased only by the amount of shade you supply. Generally, there are many lovely orchids that will do well in the temperature range from 40 to 90 F. Your particular temperature conditions will influence your choice of plants.

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areas with satisfactory tem-ures will have adequate hu-. Anywhere from 40 percent o will do. Only in the deserts be unsatisfactory. In such grouping orchids with other can create a microclimate that will suit them.

Watering

This will depend greatly on your plant selection, and whether the plants are grown under cover. In general: Most orchids require at least some air circulation around their roots yet are intolerant of excessive moisture at the roots.

Fertilizer

Fertilize regularly, at a low dosage of approximately one-half strength, with a fertilizer appropriate to the potting mix in which the plants are grown.

A Selection of Plants

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids Especially good are hybrids with Laelia anceps in their ancestry; half sun, temperature-tolerant.

Cymbidiums Only in areas with cool summer nights, not for the Gulf states; nearly full sun.

Dendrobiums Among the many choices, Indian and Australian types best; half sun, temperature tolerant.

Encyclia Species and Hybrids Half sun, very temperature-tolerant.

Epidendrums Especially the brilliant reed-stem types; need almost full sun, temperature-tolerant.

Oncidiums Mexican species, or higher-elevation types; bright shade to half sun.

Paphiopedilums Lady's-slipper orchids are for the shaded garden.

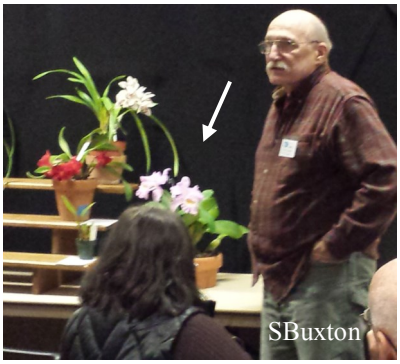
Phaius The nun orchid, with broad leaves and tall spikes; shade to half sun, keep moist.

Spathoglottis Broad, palmlike leaves and spikes of purple and yellow flowers; shade to half sun.

- From AOS website

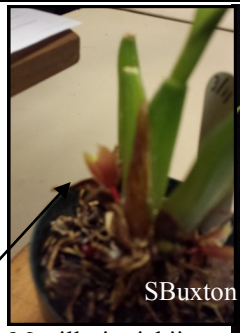
Show Table Tales

Larry Litwin brought a beautiful Blc. Marcella Koss 'Pink Marvel' which he grows on a window-sill.

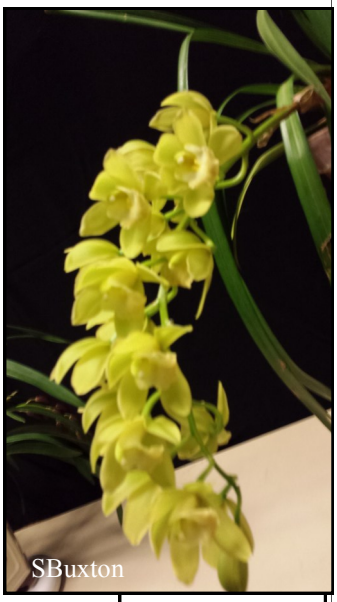


Wake Gardner showed his Cymbidiums which he says is the last orchid he brings into the greenhouse at frost time. Then puts in a spot of high sun but near the floor so it is still cool. It sets tremendous bloom spikes. He did admit he does not allow the cold fall rain to drizzle onto the plants, he has them on a porch so they don't get too wet and rot during September.

Cym. Jaclyn Orsten "Alice"
Cym. (Allegria x Dolly) Big Time



Mark's Maxillaria richii



Mark Conley's Slc. Circle of Life Fordyce "Herald Angel" bloom has doubled in size.

Donna Wardlaw's Cymbidium Ruby Eyes Tetra Baron (above left). And she brought her Laeliacattleya Gold Digger "Orglades Mandarin" again this year. Another enormous display!! Right pic—Close up on blooms!

March Raffle -bring a goodie in April

Alex Shepherd	Bob Sharp
Liz Sanderson	Mary Jane Crotty
June Zajaceskowski	Kathy Kodra Carlock
Stephanie Lotey	Janet Betlejeski
Gil O'Brien	Liz Sanderson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North Eastern New York Orchid Society

NENYOS c/o S. Lee, 130 Johnson Road, Scotia, NY 12302 www.nenyos.org

NEXT MEETING

April 5, 2014

2:15 Tom & John from Parkside Orchids, frmr owners— 'Roots! It's All About the Roots!'

1:30 Beginner talk

2:00 p.m. Show Table, After presentation— Questions and Raffle

The meeting is at the William K> Sanford Library, 629 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie (Loudonville, 12211)

(Times are approximate.)