



North Eastern
N.Y. Orchid Society

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NENYOS NEWSLETTER

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

April 2018

www.nenyos.com

March Recap

March kicked off with a very visual presentation by Dick Doran on Australian Dendrobiums. These cool growing orchids do very well in our Northeast growing conditions which is a great plus for our group.

With over 100 American Orchid Society (AOS) awards, Dick has oodles of experience which he worked to impart to us.



DDoran

These small, very tough plants are almost perfect (according to Dick). They will bloom while still relatively small, have a nice variety of colors and a fairly bug proof too.

That does not mean they have no buggy friends they like to pick up but very few. Unfortunately, mites are their buddie and biggest issue. As a

thin leaved plant, the mites can wreak havoc on a collection if you don't catch them quickly.

The Dendrobiums also attract ants when they are outside which are a huge problem.

Dick was very specific "You need to get rid of 'ants in your plants'!" The ants themselves aren't the problem but they bring mealy bugs, that fluffy white creeping plague, and scale which can suck the life out of your plants.

The collection of photos Dick clicked through covered an enormous array of colors and markings. But he also showed how the developments of hybrids in the past years are benefiting current growers.

One example was a plant where twenty five years ago, you would have to lay on the floor to look at the blooms. However, more recent hybrids have a better form with more upright appearance.

These Dendrobiums like good light. When he grows them outside in the summer, Dick has the plants under a 50% shade cloth. Even in the greenhouse in the winter he doesn't put anything in full



DDoran

sun! He has shade material up – even for the Cymbidiums that he grows.

His reason, "When you burn a plant, it is forever." Leaves are generally growing so slowly that he is probably right.

In terms of the cool growing nature of these plants and their suitability for the Northeast, he told us the temperature near the heater in his greenhouse is 52-55 degrees. At the far end of greenhouse (over 20' away), there will be thick ice on the inside walls!

—by Sandy Buxton II

Reprinted from April 2016

April 2018 Table of Contents

Announcements	page 2
AOS	page 4,5,6
Auction Supporters	page 3
North American Orchid	page 6
Orchid Mystery	page 3
Orchids on Windowsills	page 3
Thunia Escapades	page 7
Upcoming Events	page 2

Upcoming Meetings

March 23-25—Capital District Garden and Flower Show at HVCC

April 7—Greg Griffis, The Wonders of Orchid Roots in Colonie

May 5—TBD in Colonie

June 9—Piping Rock Open House in Galway

July—No Meeting

August 4—picnic at Stan & Fern Lee's, Scotia

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

April 3 Repotting with Bill Stender at the North Warren Garden Club

April 6-8, 2018 - Southeastern PA Orchid Society Show at Philly Expo Center, Oaks, PA. For more info: www.sepos.org

April 12 NJOS Meeting—Allen Black, Brassavola Nodosa

April 21 CJOS Auction—Central Jersey OS, Princeton, NJ (see Page 4)

May 10 NJOS Meeting, Wade Hollenbach

June 14 NJOS Meeting—Francisco Miranda, Brazillian orchids

July 12 NJOS Meeting—Joe Silva,



MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS OFFICERS FOR 2018

Donna Wardlaw	Co-President
Janet Vinyard	Co-President & Treasurer
Deb Lambeth	Secretary
Sandy Buxton	Director
Mark Conley	Director
Alex Shepherd	Website
Stan Lee	Past President
Sandy Buxton	AOS Rep
Patty Boggs	Name Tags
Joan Gardner	Refreshments
Mark Conley	Raffle
	Greeter

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 Sandy Buxton Newsletter Editor

April Speaker - Greg Griffis: "The Wonders of Orchid Roots."

Greg Griffis first became aware of orchids in 2009. He first heard about them through a college friend, who had always admired orchids. Studying at West Chester University, from which he graduated with a degree in Music Education, put him in close proximity to Longwood Gardens. He attended the 2010 Longwood Orchid Show where he purchased his first orchid. One plant quickly became twenty or so, and before long he was hooked. In 2010 he visited Parkside Orchid Nursery for the first time, and by Summer 2011 he was working part time for Tom Purviance and John Salventi. He studied under their tutelage while working for them, and when they sold the nursery in 2012, he was hired by the new owners as the Grower and Manager of Parkside Orchid Nursery. He managed Parkside for one year, before leaving to grow orchids in Hawaii. He worked for Hilo Orchid Farm for more than a year, spending a large amount of time working with Paphiopedilum, as well as Inter-generic Oncidiinae and Miltoniopsis. At the beginning of 2015 Greg began working as the orchid grower at Longwood Gardens, where he remains today.

Mystery Question: WHAT'S odd about this Paphiopedilum ?



Orchids on the Windowsill

<https://www.usbg.gov/orchids-windowsill>

The secret to success in growing orchids indoors is choosing plants that are best suited to the growing environment. Most orchids fail to bloom because of inadequate light or temperatures that are too consistent.

Test the light. Here's a quick way to test the light for growing orchids indoors: on a bright, clear summer day, hold your hand about six inches above your orchid to see if a shadow is cast on the leaves. A faint shadow indicates that 'low' light orchids may be grown, while a strong, distinct shadow indicates there is enough sun to grow 'high' light orchids.

What's your exposure? Unobstructed southern exposures offer the most possibilities for growing orchids. However, a wide variety of 'high' light and 'medium' light orchids will thrive on windowsills with a western or partially obstructed southern exposure. Eastern exposures will allow bloom of 'low' light orchids. Northern windows frequently don't provide enough light to bloom orchids well, but artificial light can help supplement.

Water. Most orchids prefer to dry out a bit between waterings, although there are some exceptions. When watering, drench the pot thoroughly and drain completely. Never let the plant sit in water. Tepid water is preferred, and it is best to water early in the day so the foliage dries by nightfall. Keep in mind that far more orchids are killed from over-watering than being too dry.

Cooler nights. Many orchids prefer a nighttime drop in temperature. In some, this helps encourage flowering. For several weeks during the fall, leave the windows cracked open slightly at night to allow the daytime temperatures to drop 10 degrees. This should help your orchids set spikes for winter and spring blooms!



VENDORS WHO HELPED WITH THE 2017 AUCTION & Activities

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

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

Walter Scheeren
44-3265 Kalopa Mauka Rd
Honokaa, HI 96727
808-775-1185
WFScheeren@juno.com

Woodstock Gardens–Elaine Grega
845 679 6531 or
woodstockorchids@gmail.com

Your local orchid society, such as the National Capital Orchid Society, is a great place to find out which varieties do well in your area.

- Low' light orchids:** Paphiopedilum (slipper orchids), Phalaenopsis (moth orchids), Ludisia spp. and other jewel orchids (grown for beautiful foliage)
- Medium' light orchids:** Oncidium and many miniature Cattleyas, Miltoniopsis (pansy orchids)
- High' light orchids:** Cattleya, Ascocenda, Phragmipedium, Brassia and Dendrobium

THE MARCH 2018 AOS CORNER –
From the desk of Denise Lucero, Vice
Chair, American Orchid Society Affiliat-
ed Societies Committee
(dluceroaosmembership@gmail.com).



Here's a link to check it all out -
<http://www.aos.org/>

March: The Month of Work -

By Thomas Mirenda

(This article was originally published in the
March 2015 issue of Orchids Magazine)

MOST OF US spend a lot more time working at our jobs than at any other activity. While life balance may seem somewhat out of whack for the workaholics among us, fulfilling work and accomplishment makes us feel proud, productive and engaged. For many of us, work gives meaning to our lives. Yet I fear so many of us doubt what we do has any impact at all. While I am lucky enough to have a job I'm passionate about, many among us only work to generate money, and the satisfaction these people get from the work itself is pretty negligible, if it exists at all. Sometimes when working for a large company we tend to get lost in the corporate machinery and, like cogs in a wheel, lose cognizance of the relevance of our daily tasks. If we don't believe what we are doing is important or worthwhile, why should we bother to get good at it?

I think all us humans fall into this syndrome from time to time and March is a month where inspiration may be scarce indeed. Everyone reading this has a unique life-history and perspective, much like the orchids we cultivate. We all have purpose and direction as well as lovely and nurturing personalities. I've never met an orchid grower who didn't. Whatever your role in this workaday world may be, you are part of the fascinating, vibrant and passionate world of orchid growing. What better thing could we aspire to than to spread that joy and passion we know so well to others? I hope I see you out there at the next orchid show doing exactly that!

BACK TO THE GRINDSTONE March, with its lengthening of days and warming of temperatures, marks the beginning of the growing sea-

son for many of us. Many of our orchids, such as phalaenopsis and cymbidiums, have been blooming the last few months, but haven't done much vegetatively since last fall and therefore haven't needed much in terms of water and fertilizer for quite a while. Now you should be seeing the beginnings of new growths, and most importantly, new green root tips. This is your signal that growth has resumed; repotting season has come and you need to be ready!

SUPPLY CHAIN It may seem a bit premature, but now is the time to stock up on the supplies you'll need for the onslaught of repotting necessary in the coming months. Your friends at the garden center will be so happy to see you and are likely to give you first-rate customer service because their business is still pretty slow until spring is in earnest next month. Get the jump on your orchid needs by purchasing fresh potting mix and a wide variety of containers in an array of useful sizes, both clay and plastic, as well as mounts and baskets, rhizome clips and stability stakes. Get enough so that you won't have to interrupt your rhythm and momentum during potting season to head back to the store for just a bit more.

PRIDE IN YOUR WORK If you haven't worked with your plants in a while, get out the books and review your potting techniques, and maybe invite a friend (or that curious teenager across the street) to help you. Sometimes showing someone else how to do something is the best reminder for protocols, such as how to strategize against spreading virus, potting securely and effectively and keeping an eye out for problems such as pests and pathogens that might have gone unnoticed in a crowded winter greenhouse. Reward your helpers with a nice healthy division of something pretty and vigorous that grows easily. This is to ensure they get the orchid bug too!

FRUITS OF YOUR LABOR The work you put into your collection this month as well as in April and May will invariably influence your success for the rest of the year. (Continued on Page 5)

AOS column—continued from page 4

Plants that are neglected in the spring rarely perform well in the long term. While some plants will bloom a little better when slightly root-bound, waiting too long to repot will eventually lead to declining health and even death. Search your collection for plants that have grown past their pot rims (with obstreperous aerial roots) or don't dry out (due to rotting roots or broken-down mixes) or have weeds and ferns taking over, crowding out your precious orchids. There is nothing quite like a fresh potting job to fix a multitude of potential orchid problems. A little hard work now will repay you in boatloads of floral productivity this coming year!

—*Thomas Miranda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is an AOS accredited judge. He recently co-authored The Book of Orchids: a life-size guide to 600 species of orchids from around the world. Tom recently assumed the directorship of horticulture, education and outreach at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden. (E-mail: biophiliak@gmail.com; www.htbg.com)*

UPCOMING WEBINARS

It's easy to find the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You'll find the link under the **All About Orchids** tab. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of the monthly Corner.

Doctor, Doctor, I see spots: Cattleya guttata with Andrew Coghill-Behrends

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST Members Only

Join Andrew Coghill-Behrends as he presents a discussion on *Cattleya guttata* and its hybrids.

Register now using this link: [https://](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3455364111863945474)

register.gotowebinar.com/register/3455364111863945474



Cattleya guttata 'Mint Julip' HCC/AOS; Photographer: Edwin Boyett

Orchids Under Glass

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST Members Only

Chris Miller, a grower of all orchids small, will show us how to build and maintain orchidariums for those plants that need special growing conditions, humidity, light and temperature.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5731094796130690818>

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

Thursday, March 29th, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST Open to All

Please join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education and Science Officer, who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send you questions to stilis@cox.net by Monday, March 26th.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1353064894983688963>

Note: After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the seminar.

WHAT ARE WEBINARS? Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view his presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your Mac, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP.

WANT TO LEARN, BUT CAN'T MAKE THE

DATE? The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.

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

- Genus of the Month - *Cyrtorchilum*
- Orchids Illustrated - *Rossioglossum*
- For the Novice - How to Rebasket
- Who Were These Guys, Part 4: Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach
- *Dendrobium bigibbum*, Part 3: Intersectional Hybrids, Stripes and Pansies
- The 22nd WOC in Guayaquil
- Collector's Item - *Mystacidium capense*

ALSO FEATURED IN ORCHIDS MAGAZINE!

16-page award gallery of breathtaking pictures of recently awarded orchids.



Cattleytonia Memoria Michael Davis 'Sandra Walters' AM/AOS; Photographer: Claude W. Hamilton

Awards” page on the AOS website to enjoy these stunning photographs! Click on the thumbnails to see them in larger format. *Free to members and nonmembers.*

Let’s grow together,
Denise Lucero

Mystacidium capense 'Harford's Galaxy' CCM/AOS; Photographer: Unknown



RECENT ORCHID AWARDS PICTURES ON THE AOS WEBSITE:

See fabulous pictures of the most breathtakingly beautiful orchids receiving awards from the AOS! Visit the new “Latest Orchid

Resource to check out for info on orchid conservation. On-line videos and more!!



Go Orchids

Go Orchids, developed by the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC), takes you on a journey across the continent to discover over 200 orchid species - native, non-native, even those orchids that seem to have disappeared and may be waiting to be rediscovered.

Start with the video for tips on how to navigate *Go Orchids*, or jump right in and select one of the methods below to start your search. Happy orchid hunting!

[Go to Video Tutorial](#)



My decade and escapades with Thunia alba

In 2006 I came to my first meeting of NENYOS which was a slide show and talk on weird and wonderful orchids. Bill Bergstrom from Hawaii flashed one oddity after another rattling names that I struggled to spell.

Overwhelmed and excited, I asked him to clarify some of his sources and the consensus was that Andy's in California was the prime supplier of species. Well that sent me on a week long study of his website searching for species that attracted me AND would survive in my cooler growing conditions.



JVinyard

I found that first invoice which included pleurothallis, restrepias, lemboglossum and Thunia alba (after seeing Wake's on the show bench). It is a warm to cool grower, fragrant, deciduous, terrestrial or litho-phyte from India, Nepal and China. It was in great shape when I bought it, 2 canes grew fantastically but not expected to bloom. Come cooler temperatures at the end of summer and all the leaves yellowed and fell off predictably. I

go to put the pot up high so I don't inadvertently water it through the winter and I DROP THE POT..... Breaking both canes. During my reading, I remembered that it is possible to settle the cane onto damp sphagnum moss and cover, checking periodically for the tiniest new growth



JVinyard

at those beige ridges called nodes. I cut the canes in thirds and dipped ends in rootone to minimize microbial growth. For some reason I got distracted, came back to my task, forgot what I was supposed to do next, saw the messy newspaper and simply threw everything into the wood stove. CRY.....? Are you kidding? Wail and moan!

Heartsick, I called Andy and he suggested not drying off the remaining stubs as quickly as per usual care....as I might get new growth..... I watered minimally and infrequently but kept humidity up with a sawed-off plastic quart bottle over amputated plant and pot (another trick learned from Wake).

The following spring, I see the tiniest green shoot coming from one of the nodes close to potting material showing the most minuscule roots. Well, sigh! and renewed hope..... I have nursed that keiki now all these years.

To my great joy and satisfaction, this past summer of 2017, the plant finally bloomed. Sweetness! Such lovely fragrance! Each season I watched it gain in stature. I'm sure my cool conditions hindered the rapid growth of the keiki. (some literature stated 3 years from keiki to bloom.)

I only wish I had a July meeting with show table to brag on it and can only hope it blooms earlier in 2018. I will be waiting for it!

-Janet Vinyard



JVinyard



North Eastern New York Orchid Society

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

NEXT MEETING

April 7, 2018

1:30 p.m. Announcements and Beginner Talk

1:50 p.m. Show Table,

2:10 Greg Griffis of Longwood Gardens, "The Wonders of Orchid Roots"

Questions and Raffle

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

.....**Congratulations!** March Raffle Winners: (and many thanks to the members who donated plants to the Raffle)

Raffle Winners

Don't forget, Raffle winners are asked to bring a "goodie" to the next meeting (April) to help celebrate their good fortune.



Show Off Extra Blooms

If you have plants in bloom which didn't get a chance to visit the Show Table for your moment of fame, take heart. Alex is willing to prep photos that are emailed to her so they will be visible before the next meeting. Just email shepherd@nycap.rr.com the information.

