



nenyosorchids@gmail.com

NENYOS NEWSLETTER

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

February 2018

www.nenyos.com

January Annual Meeting & Luncheon Takes a Snow Day— Moved to January 20th

We are grateful to Wolfert's Roost for being able to accommodate the nasty weather and our desire for member safety.

17 degrees. He lost almost every plant.

Both stories are enough to make you set and alarm and get up and check on the equipment repeatedly on the super cold nights.

January Notes

Since the Annual Meeting was postponed and the newsletter has to go out... To quote a movie, "time and trolley wait for no man." -*Meet Me in St. Louis*

Our little piece of northeastern NY has experienced some record-breaking cold at the end of 2017 and beginning of 2018. Then on Friday, January 12, we started a 65 degree temperature drop (59 to -4 deg) along with some devastating rain that certainly caused excitement. Flooding, freezing and everything in between. For those of us driving home Friday night, the strings of fog racing across the road in between whiteouts were quite distracting. I thought I was driving in the special effects of a rock concert.

As for our orchids and their growing locations, I hope you have paid attention so no one is touching a window. Being too close to the glass can result in plants being chilled.

Winter heating causes stress on the plants due to lack of humidity. With warmth blasting out of the heating system, it exacerbates the dryness confronting houseplants. And stressed plants become an open door to invite pests into your plant collection. Healthy plants do a much better job at fending off intruders.

Take the time to put some humidity pans (glass or metal trays with a layer of decorative stones and water under or near your plants. You may also want to

I haven't heard if any of our members with greenhouses experienced the ultimate disaster – no heat – though I know they were all watching. Joan and Wake Gardner once had an event where their greenhouse heater died during a cold snap. They didn't freeze the greenhouse but...it was close.

Mark Conley is the grower who has told us his horror story several times. The heater was working but the fuel gelled because of the cold and couldn't get to the burner. His greenhouse temperature dropped to

Knowing how envied the GH growers are because of their space and growing areas, it is important to remind our windowsill owners that our problems are much more mundane.



February 2018

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Upcoming Meetings

January 20 —Annual Luncheon at Woolfert’s Roost

February 3 - In –House Hands-on Meeting— Growing Semi-Hydroponically in Col-onie

March 3—Dick Doran from New Jersey in Col-onie

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

The Newsletter is looking for other members interested in being columnists, photos or helping out. Please email buxton-sandy@gmail.com if you are interested!

MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS OFFICERS FOR 2017

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

NENYOS Contact:
nenyosorchids@gmail.com
 Sandy Buxton Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

Feb. 2-4, 2018 Susquehanna Orchid Society Show at Hershey Gardens Conservatory

Feb. 8-11, 2018 Deep Cut Orchid Society’s 21st Annual Orchid Show presented at the 11,000 sq. ft state of the art greenhouse at Dearborn Market, Route 35 South, Holmdel, NJ. Free admission. For more info call 732-264-0256 or visit www.dearbornmarket.com

March 9-11, 2018 Maryland Orchid Society Show, at Timonium Fairgrounds, MD. For more info: www.marylandorchids.org

March 17-18, 2018 Brookside Gardens Event in Wheaton, MD. Little Brook Orchids will be a vendor.

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

Catasetum culture from AOS culture sheet

“ **Potting** should be timed to coincide with the initiation of new growth, usually in the spring. New roots will be produced quickly at that time, and plants will experience minimal setback. These plants have vigorous root systems and require a rich, moist potting medium during the growing season. Many growers bare-root their plants during the resting period to ensure dryness at that time. Fine-grade media are common for smaller pots; medium-grade media are used only in larger pots. Sphagnum moss is used successfully for plants in many areas, as it provides tremendous water- and fertilizer-holding capacities. Some plants can be grown on slabs of tree fern or other material, which makes it easier to keep them dry during dormancy; however, it is harder to keep them moist while growing. When well grown, these orchids can be divided down to one mature pseudobulb and will then flower on the next mature growth. Spider mites are a common pest of these orchids when in leaf. Control spider mites by keeping humidity high or spraying with recommended miticides.”

—NENYOS member Wake Gardner reminds us to NOT WATER our deciduous orchids until there is at least several inches of new growth (3-4). The roots will be able to handle water at that time. Once the plant is well established again, then watering and fertilizing need to increase due to short growing season.

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 Intergeneric Oncidiinae and Miltoniopsis. At the beginning of 2015 Greg began working as the orchid grower at Longwood Gardens, where he remains today.

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



AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

It’s been a year filled with challenges from Mother Nature for many of our members and we’ve all been witness to the devastation that can come so quickly and be so overwhelming. We heard story after story of “orchid friends” being there for each other. Whether it be loaning a generator or providing temporary shelter, you were there. “Orchid friends” are good friends to have and we’re thankful to have you as a part of the AOS. We hope that you and your family are well and safe. We want to offer our gratitude and appreciation for all of you who provided support to others in need.

We were excited to hear from the Membership Committee Chair, Graham Ramsey, that the committee has been hard at work developing an AOS Member Survey that is scheduled for distribution to all AOS members in the first part of January. We are asking you to share this with your society members and tell them to be on the lookout for the e-mail. One of the primary goals of the AOS is to increase member satisfaction and membership participation. The AOS wants to hear the “Voice of the Members”. This will be an opportunity to tell the AOS about your orchid interests, your expectations as a member, and how you value the exclusive benefits of your AOS membership. Also, let your members know that as incentive for responding, three participating members are going to win a one-year printed membership extension. We look forward to hearing from everyone. Once the survey has been completed and results are in, we plan on sharing the data results with our affiliates so that they can benefit from member feedback and use the information to grow membership, and improve programs that will help retain existing members.

Thanks for all the pics that you are sending in for the Instagram feed. Our Instagram Administrator, Candace Hollinger, sends her appreciation to you all. It’s really wonderful to see such a variety of everything orchid that’s enjoyed around the globe. Please remind your members that we would love pics of how they grow, what’s blooming now or anything they love about orchids. Please continue to send your photos and short videos to: americanorchidsociety@gmail.com. Be sure to send a short caption explaining your photo. Also, if you are bilingual and can include your caption in English plus your other language(s)—it will help with our universal outreach.

Don’t forget to check-in on our Facebook Group Page for Affiliated Societies of the American Orchid Society. Our administrator, Chad Brinkerhuff, monitors the feed and is a great resource for all that the AOS has to offer. Keep us up to date on what’s going on at your local society and let us know how we can help you. If he doesn’t have the answer you need, he will find it for you.

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

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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

Reminder—February Meeting is a Hands-on Event with Drew Monthie

GROWING ORCHIDS HYDROPONICALLY

February is a tricky month weather-wise, but we hope you will be enticed out into the cold to join us for a hands-on and participatory session dealing with orchids grown hydroponically.

Drew Monthie grows many of his plants in clay pellets very successfully as evidenced by the orchids he shares with us at the Show Table and Auction donations.

Shooting Stars and Everlastings

~ By Ken Slump

This is a re-print of an article from Orchids Magazine. It is still as useful today as it was when Ken first wrote it.

Orchids Offer a Range of Flower Longevity

It is interesting to consider how long any flower should or could last if it is not cut from the plant. Certainly the stems, roots and foliage of most plants are much more durable than their flowers.

When you think of such temperate plants as the tulip, crabapple or rose, perhaps a week at peak bloom is all you can hope for, or maybe 10 days if the weather is favorable. Of course, the effective life of any particular blossom or inflorescence varies considerably throughout the plant kingdom. The range may be demonstrated by familiar examples, such as the daylily {*Hemerocallis* cultivars), with blossoms that last for only a day or so, to the strawflower (*Helichrysum* species), which produces flowers with vivid bracts that effectively retain their color indefinitely when dried.

It is probably safe to say that most of the orchids popular with hobbyists produce flowers that are at their most beautiful stage for a week or perhaps two. Yet orchid flowers show considerable diversity in floral life as well. While none may be quite so durable as the strawflower, some orchids produce flowers that are effective for weeks or even months, while others, as does the daylily, last just a day.

A couple of orchid genera quickly come to mind when one considers flowers of particularly brief duration. Even though their flowers are fleeting, both enjoy

popularity. The *Cattleya* alliance genus *Sobralia* is a prime example. There are about 100 species described. The plants are mostly terrestrial and are native to tropical regions in Central and South America. Their cane-like stems typically mass into a shrubby habit. Among the species, plant stature varies from 2 or 3 feet (.6 to .0 m) in height to some that tower 9 to 12 feet (2.75 to 3.7 m) tall.

Many *Sobralia* species produce flowers that are large, showy and colorful. For a few years, I have been trying to cultivate a half dozen species in the landscape of my subtropical garden in South Florida. Even though it would be a stretch to say that they have thrived, a couple of them produced a number of blossoms this past summer. *Sobralia decora* has performed the best. My cultivar has a pale violet-pink coloration rather different from others I have seen. I was particularly pleased when my *Sobralia leucoantha* flowered. Its large white flowers are accented by bright yellow in the throat of the lip and, indeed, are reminiscent of a white *cattleya*. Both of these species' flowers last just a day, but each inflorescence produces a succession of them.

Sobralias generally do best in semi-shaded intermediate conditions. They need to be kept moist in the root zone, which may be my primary difficulty with them, as my soil is sandy. I am considering moving the ones I have back to pots. Friends have told me that they have had good success growing them here in a mix formulated for terrestrial orchids.

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TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP—PASS THIS ALONG
 NENYOS MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER-PLEASE MAKE THINGS
 EASY FOR JANET AND GET THOSE CHECKS IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! JANUARY 31ST
 IS THE CUT OFF DATE FOR PAYMENT AND TO MAKE THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

REMEMBER NO DUES, NO NEWSLETTER.

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 EMAIL JANET AT 518-673-3212— janetvinyard@yahoo.com

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 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Tel: _____
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 Newsletter: E-mail _____ or Paper _____
 Choose 1 (in color) (black & white)

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Stanhopea is another genus of evanescent orchids. What they lack in floral longevity, however, is more than compensated by their floral intrigue. There are more than 50 species that range from Mexico to Brazil. They are epiphytic and most will thrive in intermediate conditions. Open wire baskets, lined with sphagnum, suit them best, as many inflorescences are produced basally and project downward.

The flowers of stanhopeas must be seen to be believed. They are among the most amazing of all orchids and defy description. Most last but a day or two, and many are fragrant. Nearly any of the species makes a worthy horticultural subject and every orchid grower should try at least one. For me, the bold coloration and large flowers of *Stanhopea tigrina* are hard to beat.

When it comes to floral longevity, few orchids can outperform contemporary phalaenopsis hybrids. I have enjoyed some for more than three months. That is not to imply that each flower lasts that long; however, from the time the first flowers open until the last of an inflorescence fades can easily span most of a season. Indeed, the human eye, which seems to thrive on fresh images, can begin to tire of such long-lasting flowers before they are spent.

The *Dendrobium* branch of the orchid family also includes some with durable blossoms. Interestingly, some of the longest lasting are the *Dendrobium bigibbum* (*Dendrobium phalaenopsis*) types from Section *Phalaenanthe*. The parent species are found in New Guinea and Australia and their flowers resemble small phalaenopsis blooms. Flower color varies from purple to pink and white. Horticulturally, they require bright light, warm conditions and a dry winter rest. Keep them tightly potted or grow them on slabs. Most of their inflorescences are beautiful for easily a month or more.

Another group of dendrobiums with long-lasting flowers is Section *Latouria*. This clan includes about 50 species ranging from the Philippines to Samoa, the majority of which are found in New Guinea. Many have closely spaced spindle- or club-shaped pseudobulbs with the foliage and flowers produced near their ends. The flowers of some of the larger-flowered species within this group tend to be nodding and they often have petals that are twisted. In recent years, selective breeding has produced considerable improvement in both flower form and carriage. Many of the hybrids are tolerant of a variety of conditions so long as the light is filtered and the plants are kept somewhat moist. Flowers are said to last six to 10 weeks or more

on many of them. The hybrid *Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga* (*atroviolaceum* × *johnsoniae*) is a good example.

But it is not just genetics that makes a flower long lasting or not. Nutritional and environmental conditions affect floral longevity as well. Excessively hot and dry conditions will usually shorten flower life. Somewhat cooler, humid environments will generally encourage blossoms to last a few days longer.

A plant that is nutritionally deprived will often produce short-lived flowers, if it flowers at all. This was brought home to me with my plant of *Vanda Pachara Delight* (*Karulea* × *Gordon Dillon*).

I do not grow many vandas because I tend to lack the time and dedication needed to provide the daily watering and regular fertilization that makes them thrive. My *V. Pachara Delight* was a gift a few years ago and seems to be a game little plant as it regularly produced a spray of five or six dark violet flowers that lasted about 10 days, despite my neglect. Last spring, I resolved to take better care of the plant and upped my commitment to its moisture and nutritional needs. The change was dramatic. The plant began to develop sturdier roots and more of them. Its last flowering produced an inflorescence of nine blossoms that were beautiful for about three weeks.

Perhaps someday, through botanical gene therapy, we can have a *Stanhopea* flower that lasts as long as a phalaenopsis. Until then, look after the environmental and nutritional needs of your orchids as well as you can, so that the flowers they produce will last as long as possible.

Ken Slump used to write monthly for *Orchids* magazine. 2 Middlesex Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33305-3907 (e-mail kenslump@aol.com).

WANT TO LEARN, BUT CAN'T MAKE THE DATE? 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.

Dendrobium bigibbum 'Samantha' HCC/AOS; Photographer: James G. Morris



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

- Orchids Illustrated - *Flore des serres et jardins de l'Angleterre*
- Genus of the Month - *Brassia*
Book Review - Conservation Methods for Terrestrial Orchids
- For the Novice - Bud Blast and Flower Blighting
- *Lindleyana* - The genus *Cyrtorchis* in Central Africa with a focus on its two sections
- The Story of White Cattleyas *Dendrobium bigibbum*, Species and Hybrids: Part 1

YOUR SOCIETY CAN EARN FREE AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS:

Upcoming shows are a good time to encourage new membership to AOS. Affiliated societies can now earn a one-month extension of their AOS society membership for each new AOS member that they refer (note: membership renewals don't count). For now, the only way to take advantage of this program is to download and print the AOS Membership Application Form, check the box "yes" to indicate that you are a member of a local orchid society, most importantly fill in the NAME of your orchid society, and mail the completed application and payment to: AOS, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33156.

With twelve new AOS members, your affiliated society can have a FULL YEAR OF FREE AOS membership! Be sure to have membership applications with your society's name already filled in and available at your club meetings!

Remember to let your members know, we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! If they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources at their disposal making growing orchids even more enjoyable and successful. Digital Access To Over 350+ past issues of Orchids magazine extending back to 1932!

ALSO FEATURED IN ORCHIDS MAGAZINE!

16-page award gallery of breath taking pictures of recently awarded orchids.



Paphiopedilum Fumi's Delight 'Chasus' AM/AOS; Photographer: Ross Leach

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 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.



Habenaria Pegasus 'Bryon' AM/AOS; Photographer: Bryon Rinke

Let's grow together,
Denise Lucero

2017 Show Table Highlights



Leptotes bicolor
From Phil Rudko
and John Ray-
mond March



October
Show
Table

February 2017 Show Table



December



Nov

Oct





North Eastern New York Orchid Society

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

NEXT MEETING

February 3, 2018

1:30 p.m. Announcements and Beginner Talk

1:50 p.m. Show Table,

2:10 Drew Monthie, Growing Orchids Semi-Hydroponically.

Member plant sales are allowed and encouraged

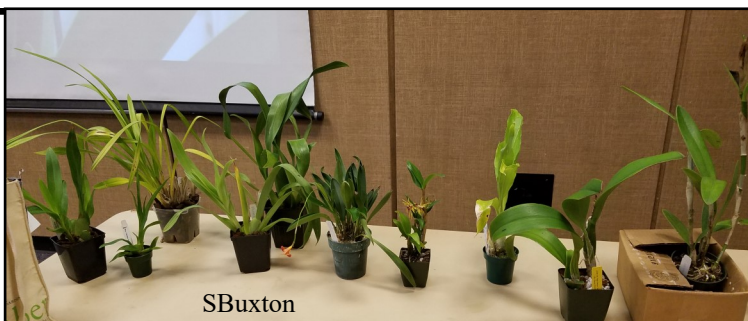
Questions and Raffle

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

.....Congratulations! December (and January)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 (February) 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.