



nenyosorchids@gmail.com

NENYOS NEWSLETTER

# North Eastern New York Orchid Society

January 2016

www.nenyos.com

## December Celebration

The December meeting was full of fun, orchids and good cheer. The informal Q & A panel session provided lots of information. Mark Conley, Wake Gardner, Bob Phillips and Donna Wardlaw answered a wide variety of questions about cultural mysteries that face so many of us.



SBuxton

Q. How/Can we successfully grow Vandas?

A. We do have several growers with Vandas. Most are greenhouse growers but one has the plant in a big south facing window. The plants need to be watered every day! When hot, Stan Lee admits to watering his 2x+ (basically every time he walks in greenhouse).

These are light loving, warm growing plants which are necessary conditions to getting them to bloom. Big Vandas are a challenge in our climate. They are demanding plants that grow monopodially (single stem) which makes them a lot to handle.

Q. Fertilizer – that eternal need.

A. Several of the panel admitted to using Miracle Gro™ brand products. For Tomatoes or Bloom Booster (purple box) but others just use the plain stuff. Usually at a dilute level.

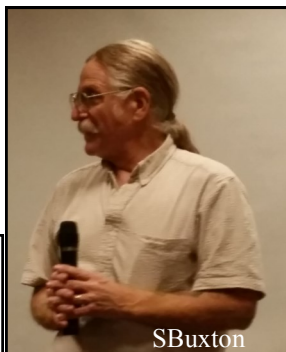
Several in the audience asked about MSU fertilizer. The panel mentioned this is fine but it is not necessary to spend big bucks on orchid only fertilizers. Buying a good balanced one with a 10-10-10 (N-P-K) or so formula will get the plants the nutrition they generally need. Donna uses MSU for RO water (Reverse Osmosis) because the water is lacking in all nutrients.

Wake also uses slow release fertilizers on his orchids especially when they go outside. It allows the plants to receive a little fertilizer every time he waters, so he doesn't have to worry if his schedule gets disrupted.

Also with winter approaching, he reduces how much/often he fertilizes with a taper program. His quote "Less daylight; Cooler temperatures."

Reminds us that the plants aren't growing as much.

Bob Phillips answering questions.



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New members attending December meeting – Pam Fitzpatrick of Loudonville who joined with her husband Brian. Also Anna-belle Gallup (pictured above with her mom ® and Janet Vinyard) of Clifton Park joined our group.

Q. Can you use water softener water for orchids?

A. ABSOLUTELY

NOT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Do not use on your plants – any plants. The salt will kill your orchids!! If you have to have a softener in the house, get the water for your orchids BEFORE it goes into the softener.

Q. Roots?

A. Roots are the most critical part of your orchid. When they are properly watered they are a frosty white color with a light green growing tip. You should water until you see the green throughout the roots and the plant. (Cont'd page 5)

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## Upcoming Meetings

**January 16, 2016—  
Annual Luncheon at  
Wolfert's Roost at noon**

**February 6, 2016—  
Hands-on Mounting  
Demo in Colonie**

**March 5, 2016—Dick  
Doran will speak on  
Australian Dendrobiums  
and Winter Dormancy in  
Orchids in Colonie**

**April 2, 2016—a Begin-  
ner Grower Meeting – in  
house experts will pro-  
vide info about growing  
orchids at home and in  
the Northeast in Col-  
onie.**

**May 7, 2016—Native Or-  
chids**

**June 4 – co-hosting Pip-  
ing Rock Open House  
which will include a  
hands-on activity, Gal-  
way**

**July—No Meeting**

## Upcoming Events in the Northeast

**Jan 15 – 17, 2016 North Jersey Orchid Society Show and Sale** at Douglass Student Center at Rutgers University, 100 George St, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact: Richard Ho 973-857-7992 or rho144@hotmail.com

**Feb 20 – 21, 2016 Amherst Orchid Society Show** at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, 80 Locust St. (Rt. 9), Northampton, MA. Contact: Marc D. Gray 802-348-7926 or bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net

**Apr 9 – 10, 2016 Genesee Region Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Show and Sale** at Rochester Meuseum & Science Center, Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY. Contact: Carol Butcher 585-742-3403 or jbutche2@outlook.com

**GROS—Greater Rochester Orchid Soc.**

**CTOS—Connecticut OS**

**STOS—Southern Tier OS**

**MHOS—Mid-Hudson OS**

Check [www.aos.org/events](http://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—2015-2016

And here's the list of upcoming beginner talks:

### Beginner Talks

Dec	Orchid Databases
Feb	Winner, winner! (orchid judging)
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.

## Annual Meeting and Luncheon

January is traditionally the time NENYOS holds its annual meeting. It is a chance for the membership to participate in the process of budgeting approval, upcoming speakers and by-law changes.

The meeting is a great chance for the democratic process to take hold of the group.

In addition to the action of the group on decisions, it is a great time to enjoy some time discussing orchids with others. There is usually a very active Raffle as well as a Show Table.

**So, Come On Down!**



### MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS OFFICERS FOR 2015

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
Bob Odess	Raffle
	Greeter

NENYOS Contact:  
[nenyosorchids@gmail.com](mailto:nenyosorchids@gmail.com)

Sandy Buxton Newsletter Editor

### 2016 Currently Scheduled Meetings

January 16 – Annual meeting and Luncheon at Wolfert's Roost Country Club

February 6 – an In-house meeting on Mounting Orchids

March 5 – Dick Doran will speak on Australian Dendrobiums and Winter Dormancy in Orchids

April 2 – a Beginner Grower Meeting – in house experts will provide info about growing orchids at home and in the Northeast.

May 7 – Native Orchids

June 4 – co-hosting Piping Rock Open House which will include a hands-on activity

July – no meeting

August 6 – summer picnic

September 11 – co-hosting IPA

October 1 – TBA

November 5 – Auction

December 3 – Holiday Event

### VENDORS WHO HELPED WITH THE 2014 AUCTION & Activities

**Bill Doran, Co** Flower wholesalers  
45 Industrial Park Rd, Albany, NY 12206 (518)-465-5285  
[www.billdoran.com](http://www.billdoran.com)

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

**Lehua Orchids**  
Mountain View, HI  
808-968-8898  
[www.lehuaorchids.com](http://www.lehuaorchids.com)

**Piping Rock Orchids**  
2270 Cook Rd  
Galway, NY 12074  
518-882-9002  
[www.pipingrockorchids.com](http://www.pipingrockorchids.com)

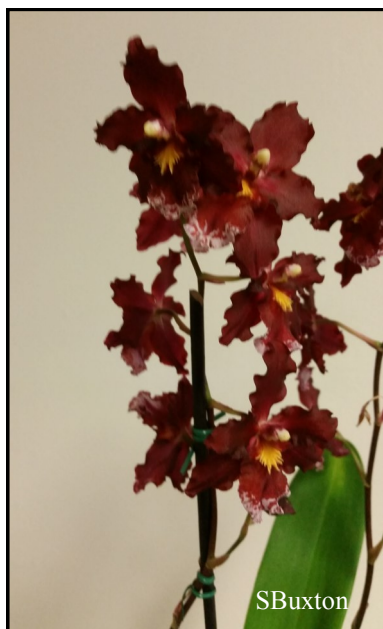
**Sunset Valley Orchids**  
**Fred Clarke**, 1255 Navel Place  
Vista, CA 92081 (760) 639-6255  
[www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)

**The Orchid Works**  
[Rayna@theorchidworks.com](mailto: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](mailto:WFScheeren@juno.com)



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### 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.



## THE NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK ORCHID SOCIETY ANNUAL LUNCHEON - JANUARY 16, 2016

## WOLFERT'S ROOST COUNTRY CLUB

Van Rennselaer Blvd, Albany, NY

(located near I-90, Exit 6 and Rte 9 north)

Festivities start at 12 pm

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Reservation \$ 23.00  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Guests x \$23.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to NENYOS and bring to the next meeting or mail to Joan Gardner, 100 Gipps Ln, Voorheesville, NY 12186.

**Dead-line for reservations is January 5, 2016.**

12pm CASH COCKTAIL TRAY SERVICE —

BUFFET LUNCH TO FOLLOW

**THE MENU**

Fruit Bowl \*\*Mixed Greens Salad with 2 dressing choices\*\* Antipasto Salad\*\* Seasonal Vegetables Medley \*\*Roasted Potato\*\* Chicken Picatta\*\* Sesame Ginger Salmon \*\*Rolls and Butter\*\*  
 \*\*Blueberry Crisp and Whipped Cream \*\*Coffee, Tea and Decaf Coffee

**Come and enjoy spending time with orchid enthusiasts, Annual Meeting, a Show Table, Member Sale Table and Raffle.**



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.**

Individual Membership \$20    Family Membership \$25

Please Print Clearly

Make your check payable to NENYOS, and please complete (and correct) membership information and return this slip with your check.  
 Mail to:

Janet Vinyard  
 597 State Highway 162  
 Sprakers, NY 12166

*please complete accurately*

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP, CALL OR EMAIL JANET AT 518-673-3212— janetvinyard@yahoo.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ or Paper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Choose 1 (in color) (black & white)

Continued from Pg 1-

Q. Is acid rain bad for orchids?

A. Rain water is fine. Wake uses it all summer and into the fall to water his orchids. Others also use rainwater. You can check the pH of the water if you are concerned but actually the issue of acid rain has declined (<http://phys.org/news/2014-05-northeastern-lakes-recovering-acid-effects.html>).

If your well water has a high pH or high calcium levels, you could have issues when watering and fertilizing.

Q. One member is interested in orchid breeding- mentioning phalaenopsis.

A. Mark Conley fielded this question. As a member who has bred orchids (Cattleya family), he talked about some of the challenges and realities. You have to get pollen and put it on the appropriate location to fertilize the plant and make a cross. Then, depending on the Genus, you have to wait 6-18 months for the seed pod to develop.

You must harvest the pod at the right maturity to send it to a lab who will germinate your "orchid dust" which is generally the size of most of the seeds. From there (the flask) where the seedlets may spend up to 2 years, the next step is a compot or community pot. This is another 1-2 years as the plants grow. Finally when the plants are growing on their own, you now have to get them to blooming size another couple of years usually.

Orchid breeding is something which can be done but is very difficult to do as a backyard hobbyist. Mark compared it to breed-

ing a rabbit with an elephant – they both can make babies but to do it together – there are a lot of hurdles to overcome. It also takes an enormous amount of time and all of the lab steps cost money.

Q. What is the deal with the brown papery things on some stems?

A. It is a sheath, a growing layer which covers a stem or pseudobulb. When it dries, you should peel it off, very carefully. It is a great place for bugs and disease to hide.

Q. What does monopodial/sympodial mean?

A. These words refer to the growth system or habitat of the orchid plant. Phals, Vandas and others are monopodial because their leaves always come out of the center point and the plant grows in one direction. It has one foot (mono-podial).

Sympodial growth can happen in other directions.. Some plants will add new shoots always on one side or other plants will start new shoots on any side of the plant crown and spread.

Q. What should you pot in – bark or moss?

A. Mark likes bark. Bob uses bark except for novelty Phals which are in moss. Wake grows in three different areas. His greenhouse is potted in bark. The dining room area which is under lights growing warm growing Phals and Paphs are in bark. His Phrags and some Phals are in a mix of bark, perlite and New Zealand moss. It allows them to be watered less frequently.

One of the interesting points about moss and why it is such a

big deal in Taiwan – it can be legally shipped as a potting material. And it is lighter than bark.

Mark went on to make the point that you don't need to use anything as a potting material for a number of orchids. Phals and Catts (and Vandas) can be grown in a basket with nothing else in it. You just have to keep track of watering to make sure the plant gets what it needs.

Consistency is one of the biggest issues for watering. Having all of your different orchids in the same potting mix allows you to develop a watering schedule.

Moss can be challenging because sometimes the surface will be dry and crispy but the center will be wet and soggy. Moss usually requires a warmer growing temp to keep the roots from rotting off.

Q. Water pH? Menands city water has a pH test of 8 (7.5-8)!!

A. Testing your water can give you an idea of issues you may have with your plants. If you are going to check, it is also wise to check the pH of your fertilizer solution. Checking the pH of the water draining out of your pot might also provide insight into how decomposed the potting mix is.

By Sandy Buxton II





## Show Table Tales



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Mark Conley grows in a 50 degree greenhouse. When the sun is out it gets warmer, but if cloudy it is stays very cool.

LCTNA Mighty Titan 'Parkside'

LC Rajah's Ruby 'Sweetheart'

Trichoceros Parvifloris 'Fly Orchid'



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**Wake Gardner** – grows in greenhouse during winter and outside in summer. Puts a layer of 4 mil plastic over GH for extra winter protection.

Cynoches warsewicii – bought from Fred Clarke in Oct. He likes the shape of the bloom. Will be dormant for 3 mos, stopped watering in mid-Nov. It is difficult to overwater. He fertilizes 2x/wk with 1 tsp/gal.



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**Lorraine Whiting** – Harella odorata- a small plant she bought at IPA in Sept. She mounted it on Herkimer diamond matrix with a sphagnum moss pad. It had 2 buds when she bought it and several more have flowered since.



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**Jim Imbody** –3 left plants  
Paph Hsinying Alien – he owned it several years. It bloomed on Christmas 2014 and the bloom lasted until April Fool's Day. Nice starter plant. (right)

Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Bluebeard' – not a super demanding plant. Grows in same light as Catts. He considers it like an easy Vanda. (center)

Habenaria chodocheila – bought at Auction 2015 – it is a terrestrial orchid and will need a wet/dry season.



Show Table Continued

**Donna Wardlaw**

Catt Chocolate Drop 'Volcano Queen' –comes from HI. Donna has owned for a number of years.

Catt percivaliana – in competition with Deb Lambeth for first bloom. They both own one.

Sophronitis Laelia (SL) Beautiful Sunset 4N – the 4N refers to the number of chromosomes. It is a hybrid that should have bigger flowers.



SBuxton



SBuxton



SBuxton

Wake Gardner –

Phrag. Schlimii – is growing in NZ moss – semi hydroponically in a repurposed frosting container that he drilled holes in. Repots every 12-18 mos. Grown in Catt light. Uses rain water. Blooms 1-2x/yr.

BLC Honcho's Golden Star "Coqui"

BLC George King 'Serendipity' – 1st time plant has bloomed. It was a rescue from Lowe's for \$4. Has taken 2 years to get back into shape.



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Bob Phillips brought a mini-Paph that was discovered in China 10 years ago. It has only been in US for about 2 years.



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# North Eastern New York Orchid Society

NENYOS c/o S. Lee, 130 Johnson Road, Scotia, NY 12302 [www.nenyos.com](http://www.nenyos.com)

Next Meeting

**January 16, 2016**

**Annual Meeting and Luncheon**

**Wolfert's Roost**

**Van Rennselaer Blvd,  
Albany, NY**

**Lunch after 12:00 noon**

**Member Plants for sale**

**Reservations required.**

**See page 5 for more info**

**Fun, Food and Friends!**

## Raffle Winners

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

Mary Menzies  
Sandy Buxton II  
Alex Shepherd  
Joan Gardner  
Sandy Buxton I  
Patty Boggs  
Stan Lee  
Helen Yong Sook Kim  
Stan Lee for Janet Wierzchowski  
Lisa

Many thanks to Patty Boggs who has agreed to step into Gill O'Brien's position as Nametag Guru. We appreciate your commitment and support for NENYOS.



SBuxton