



North Eastern  
N.Y. Orchid Society

www.nenyos.com

nenyosorchids@gmail.com

NENYOS NEWSLETTER

# North Eastern New York Orchid Society

January 2018

www.nenyos.com

## Closing out the Orchid Year

By Sandy Buxton II

The December meeting is traditionally fairly low key as the orchid society celebrates their November auction goodies and enjoys sharing around the holidays. This year was a little more exciting since we had the Silent Auction to sell the last of the auction plants as well as some donated plants.

Donna thanked a number of members who work hard to keep the society humming along all year. They included: Janet V, Alex Shepherd, Deb Lambeth, Mark Conley, the Sandy Buxtons, Stan Lee, Joan & Wake Gardner, Elaine Grega, John & Phil, Bob Sharp and many other members who work to help make the club a success.

Our event certainly provided some great learning opportunities since the Show Table had some newbie participants and allowed for tons of conversa-

Wake Gardner's Paph Deperle – a nice white.



SBuxton

tion and questions.

Some interesting greenhouse info was shared. Mark C. grows 15' x 35' northeast facing GH. It is heated with oil and set at 50 deg. So his plants are cold growing. He reduces how much he waters (1x every 2 weeks) since most plants are just sitting for the winter. He also has to split bud sheaths to prevent condensation from rotting the buds since it takes so long for them to develop at the colder temps. Another comment is it takes very little water to reach 100% humidity in winter. (Note: in the summer, his GH is HOT!)

Wake Gardner has a 8' x 16' GH that is crammed full of plants. He said there is a huge temperature differential. There can be ice on the floor and the plants at the ceiling might be

80 deg. He sets his watering schedule by the number of sunny days.

Also Wake reminded us to be careful with deciduous orchids like Catasetum, Calanthe, etc. Don't water until they have around 4 inches of new growth. They don't have enough new roots and will rot.

Thanks for a great send off and look forward to a New Year!!

Chatting over the Silent Auction Table which helped raise some more dollars for NENYOS expenses.



SBuxton

## January 2018

### Table of Contents

Announcements	page 2
AOS	page 5
Annual Luncheon	page 4
Auction Supporters	page 3
Beginner Talks	page 2
Bird's Botanicals	page 3
Membership Renewal	page 4
Show Table Tales	page 6 & 7
Upcoming Events	page 2

**Upcoming Meetings**

**January 13 —Annual Luncheon at Woolfert’s Roost**

**February 3 - In –House Hands-on Meeting— Growing Hydroponically in Colonie**

**March 3—Dick Doran from New Jersey in Colonie**

**April 7—Beginning Orchid Growing 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](mailto: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
Bob Odess	Raffle
	Greeter

NENYOS Contact:  
[nenyosorchids@gmail.com](mailto:nenyosorchids@gmail.com)  
 Sandy Buxton Newsletter Editor

**Upcoming Events in the Northeast**

**January 12-14, 2018 NJ Orchid Society 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Orchid Show** at Douglass Student Center, Rutgers University, 100 George St, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. For more info contact [njorchids@gmail.com](mailto:njorchids@gmail.com) or visit [www.njorchids.org](http://www.njorchids.org)

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

**Feb. 8-11, 2018 Deep Cut Orchid Society’s 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.dearbornmarket.com)

**March 9-11, 2018 Maryland Orchid Society Show**, at Timonium Fairgrounds, MD. For more info: [www.marylandorchids.org](http://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](http://www.sepos.org)

**Beginner Talks – with Alex Shepherd** are a chance for members to learn some basic information to help improve their orchid growing habits and knowledge. The programs take place before select meetings.

Here’s what’s we have for Beginner Talks in 2017:

December **Leaves** They provide tons of info which can help you understand your plant and what it wants

**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](mailto:shepherd@nycap.rr.com) the information.

Complements of Kay Hafner, Glens Falls (NY) Writing Group:

**Bird's Botanicals**

Kansas City, Missouri

A cave 150 feet beneath Kansas City is the perfect climate for growing 10,000 delicate orchids.

David Bird has loved orchids since he was 16 years old. He got his first glimpse of the flower on a trip to Hawaii, and it sparked a lifelong passion. He took five flowers home with him and began the long process of learning to care for this notoriously difficult plant, eventually starting his own business as an orchid grower.



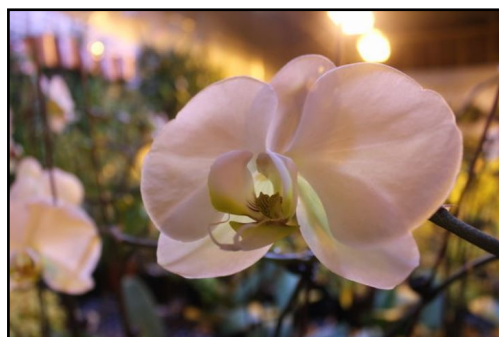
Bird initially starting growing his flowers the way many do, in a greenhouse. But a sign advertising underground storage intrigued him, and his orchid farm moved from its above-ground location to its current home, a cave 150 feet beneath Kansas City, Missouri.



The cave holds 10,000 orchids, spread out over three rooms in a number of varieties. The subterranean growing space is climate controlled, in part due to nature (it being underground means the humidity levels are just right and it's already cooled), and partly because of Bird's equipment. The heat lamps he uses to grow his flowers can be cranked up to heat the cave, and the temperature

can easily be lowered by letting some of the naturally cool cave air circulate again.

Some of the plants are brought in from other growers and are in Bird's cave to bloom. He also works with other orchid growers to develop their own unique varieties of the plant. His unusual growing space is also host to a number of classes for those wanting to bring some orchids into their own lives. But as Bird warns, "Start with one, 20 orchids and you're hooked, 60 plants and you're obsessed; 10,000, there's no turning back."



Know Before You Go—Open to the public every Tuesday from 10am-8pm. Visitors also welcome Wednesday through Friday 10-4pm by appointment. Group tours available by appointment.

[https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/birds-botanicals?utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_medium=atlas-page](https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/birds-botanicals?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=atlas-page)

**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](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)

**Woodstock Gardens—Elaine Grega**  
845 679 6531 or  
[woodstockorchids@gmail.com](mailto: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.



THE NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK ORCHID SOCIETY ANNUAL LUNCHEON  
 JANUARY 13, 2018  
 WOLFERT'S ROOST COUNTRY CLUB  
 Van Rensselaer 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 6, 2018.**

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\*\* 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.**

**Final Call for Luncheon and Membership**



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*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Newsletter: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ or Paper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Choose 1 (in color) (black & white)

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

December: The Month of Unbridled Joy

~ by Thomas Miranda

This is a re-print of an article from Orchids magazine, December 2013. It's still as useful today as it was when Tom first wrote it.

### Giftng Your Friends with Orchids and the Joys of Growing Them

I'm not ashamed to say that of all the people who've come and gone through my life, I miss my mother, Patti, the most. This might make me a sentimental mama's boy to some, but I don't care. Mothers throughout history have always gone to heroic lengths to bring happiness to their progeny. I'll never forget one holiday season when I was eight or nine. I was an avid collector of rare seashells (I still am) and mom took me to meet a famous local collector she read about in the newspaper to encourage my interest. There was a fascinating shell in that collection that was rare and probably one of a kind. After all these years, I've never seen another. It was beyond my imagination that I would find this rare creature inside a box under the Christmas tree that year. I don't think I can recall ever again being as ecstatic. I'll never know what she had to do, nor how much it must have cost, but that is what love is. And that year I knew I was loved.

We all have the power to create such unbridled joy. With our orchid friends, in this day of massive orchid propagation, such tasks are easy. Most adults won't indulge in that rare orchid for themselves, but you know what brings your orchid friends joy. With all the strife, division and despair we're feeling around the world, the gift of a young seedling or clone of that orchid your friend so desperately wants should go a long way to spreading much needed happiness and goodwill. This holiday season, I encourage you to spread that unbridled joy of orchid growing. You might be surprised at how good it makes you feel when full-grown adults jump up and down and run screaming around the room like beloved, happy children.

**BREAK THE ICE** The weather has taken a turn for the inclement with the winter season. It's bleak, barren and cold outside, but warm, buoyant and full of life in the greenhouse. Spikes are everywhere this time of year, particularly on Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums, but also on many others triggered by cooler night temperatures and short day lengths. Collecting ice and snow can be novel ways of supplying pure water for your orchids, although you would want to melt them and allow the water to reach room temperature before applying to your plants because cold water will shock them. Imagine someone sticking your foot in an ice bucket while you're sleeping.

**UP IN THE AIR** There is one thing that we all tend to

lack in our air this month. If you wake up with a scratchy throat and a dry mouth in the morning, it's a sign your humidity has plummeted, often to levels lower than a cactus might need. In the greenhouse, misting systems and wetting down gravel and floors can help alleviate this problem, but on windowsills this can be much more challenging. Pebble trays are one option, but any humidity that rises a few inches above the surface dissipates quickly. (A pebble or humidity tray holds wet pebbles on which containers are placed; the increased surface area of all the stones creates extra humidity around the plants.) Grouping your plants can help create a humid microclimate. Frequent misting can be beneficial, but is labor intensive. Placing plants behind a partition or shower curtain can create that humid terrarium effect, but beware of low air circulation under such circumstances. I never cease to be amazed by the ingenious ways people solve these problems for their individual conditions. If you have a novel solution you'd like to share with our readership, please send it to me.

**KEEN OBSERVATION** Because temperatures and day lengths have decreased dramatically over the last two months for most of us, it is more important than ever to monitor your watering, fertilizing and other proactive activities in your collection. Some frequently grown orchids, including Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis and most Dendrobiums, need significantly less water now than they did three or four months ago. It's okay for most succulent orchids, particularly those with large pseudobulbs, to dry out more thoroughly at this time of year. Some plants should barely be watered at all. This is especially true for deciduous dormant plants, such as Catasetums, nobile- and other deciduous-type Dendrobiums, many terrestrials and seasonally dry forest plants, such as Prosthechea citrina and Prosthechea mariae, that will rot if watered heavily at this time of year. Aside from books, the best way to know these things is to observe your plants daily, and learn as much about individuals as you can. At that orchid club holiday party, ask those more experienced growers about the plants you're having trouble with or don't know much about. With few exceptions, orchid people tend to be uncommonly nice. Most are happy to help.

Tom Miranda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades, is an AOS accredited judge, recently co-authored *The Book of Orchids: A life-size guide to 600 species from around the world* and begins this month as the director of horticulture, education and outreach at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden (email: biophiliak@gmail.com; www.htbg.com).

From AOS—the American Orchid Society





SBuxton

Elaine Grega said Laelias are her new favorite. LC Mini Symphony thrives on neglect.

C. Pumila 'Big Ben' AM/AOS is in a basket of wine corks. Just rinse off corks to use.

Oncid. Phalaenopsis bought in Florida—mounted on bark.

Wake Gardner bought the Hab. Rhodochile at Nov auction – loves the color.

Alison brought BLC Sakurahwe



SBuxton



SBuxton



SBuxton

Karen Randall brought her Oncidium Twinkle 'Sunlight' which she bought at Faddegon's in 2016.



SBuxton

Larry Litwin brought SLC Tangerine Imp which he said is the worst growing plant he has ever had. Now potted in osmundas – has nice color.



SBuxton



SBuxton

Alison brought her Phrag sedenii wilcox with 2 spikes. She leaves it in water—the pot sets in a dog food bowl with 1 inch of water.

Jane brought Bnfd Gilded Tower—very nice bloom.



SBuxton

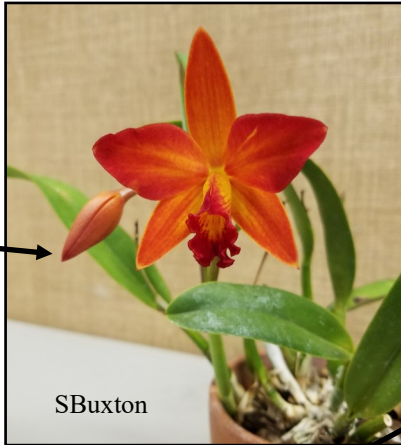


### Show Table Tales



Mark Conley brought LC Mari's Song – which came out of a community pot in 2013.

Pot. Love Tapes-try "Popular Song" is a very regular flower producer. 3 buds in flower last about a month.



Donna Wardlaw brought Phrag. Bessae x Phrag kovachii – she was grateful the bloom didn't fall off in the car ride!. Multi bloomer – has been in bloom since JUNE!!



Donna's Den. Kingianum "Tiedye" – likes cool, dry – petals are splashed with color.



Donna Wardlaw brought Den. Little Green Apples, bought from Fishing Creek in 2014. Blooms last a long time. She grows it warmer and doesn't let it dry out.

Oncid Twinkle 'Snow' from repotting clinic in 2016 is mounted on tree fern under lights.





# 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 13, 2018**

**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!**

**Exit 6 off local I-90**

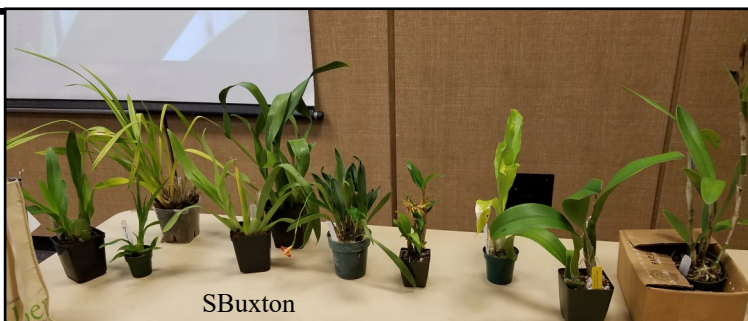
.....**Congratulations!** December Raffle Winners: (and many thanks to the members who donated plants to the Raffle)

**Raffle winners**

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Janet Vinyard | Alison Platt       |
| Paul Rodin    | Carole Serras      |
| Donna Wardlaw | Carole Serras      |
| Jane          | Janet Wierzchowski |
| Wake Gardner  |                    |
| Carole Serras |                    |
| Janet Vinyard |                    |
| Mark Conley   |                    |
| Patty Boggs   |                    |

**Raffle Winners**

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



SBuxton



SBuxton