



North Eastern New York Orchid Society

contact@nenyos.org

www.nenyos.org

Explaining Orchid Taxonomy through Orchid Hunting

Well, the Northeast put on its best face, a warm and sunny May day, as we welcomed Dr. Patricia Harding, Oregon, to NENYOS for a talk on “The Oncidiinae of Brazil”. She gave a great geography lesson while teaching us the ins and outs of orchid hunting. **Tip 1 – have a good (or great) guide!** She demonstrated so many key points through maps and stories that discussing the DNA maps were able to make sense to all of us.

Considering most of Brazil’s Oncidiinae orchids have yellow and brown blooms, Pat admitted she was concerned about working on a resource book with over 3000 orchid species. Brazil has a tremendous native history with orchids.

Pat covered 4 major Oncidiinae out of 170 species.



P. Harding

3 species originate in distinctly different climate zones in the country.

When ordinary people think of Brazil, we all visualize the rain forest but that is only 1 part of geo-climate areas. The Mata Atlantica is a zone tremendous daily rain while



1—home to *Coppensia hydrophila* habitat

2—*Coppensia ramosa* habitat

3—Atlantic rainforest home to *Coppensia doniana* habitat

Map courtesy P. Harding

the Cerrada which is more inland, on the other side of the mountains, is extremely dry for 6-9 months of the year. The Caatinga is an area that is less wet/more dry with rain. The Floresta Amazonica is a large area with very similar plants.

The talk was a fascinating look at the details of an orchid family with insight into how the DNA scientists, plant scientists, and we, the amateur sleuth, consider and process evidence. More importantly, Pat showed us these amazing plants

are more than “yellow and brown blooms”.

Enjoy your plants and continue to learn their fascinating stories.

-by Sandy Buxton

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Upcoming Meetings

June 1st—Event at Piping Rock Orchids in Galway. Mario Ferrusi of Toronto and Marc Hachadourian of NY Botanical Garden will speak.

July—No Meeting

Aug. 3—Picnic at Stan's in Scotia

September 7—Andrea Nielsen, Cali, Columbia

September 15—**International Phalaenopsis Alliance** at CCE, 50 West High St, Ballston Spa, NY—all day event

October 5—TBA, Sanford Library, Colonie

Nov. 2—Auction at Sanford Library, Colonie

Board of Directors will hold a meeting on August 3 in Scotia at Stan's house at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

May 17-19, 2013 17th Annual RED-LAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL from 9:00AM - 5:00PM at Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave. Homestead, Florida

June 7-9, 2013 Shore Orchid Fest—<http://waldor.com/upcomingevents.aspx?id=22>

June 21st & 22nd 2013 Waldor Orchids is planning its first Summer Open House. We will be offering workshops throughout the day along with a wide selection of orchid plants on special. Please watch www.waldor.com for more information in the near future.

7/26/2013 - 7/28/2013 Summer Orchid Festival, Parkside Orchids, Ottsville, PA
In the field at Parkside Orchid Nursery
Friday 12 noon - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate orchids at the Parkside Orchid Summer Fest! Orchid vendors from throughout the area will be at Parkside to sell plants and other orchid

accessories. In addition, we will be scheduling educational lectures during the day and AOS plant judging. And, there will be food

Oct 19 – 20, 2013 Eastern Canada Orchid Show, Hotel Espresso, 1005 rue Guy, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Contact: Brian Dunbar 514-684-3904 or bcd@videotron.qc.ca

Oct. 31—Nov. 2, 2013 Massachussetts Orchid Society Annual Show at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA. Contact: Joanna Eckstrom 603-654-5070 show@massorchid.org or jkeckstrom@comcast.net

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

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Check this website 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.

**MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS OFFICERS FOR 2013**

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Stan Lee                 | President      |
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| Joan Gardner             | Refreshments   |
| Bob Odess & Ed Belemjian | Raffle Greeter |

NENYOS Contact:  
[Contact@nenyos.org](mailto:Contact@nenyos.org)

Sandy Buxton Newsletter Ed.  
[buxtonsandy@gmail.com](mailto:buxtonsandy@gmail.com)

**Beginner Series Class—**

And here's the list of upcoming beginner talks:

**September** – What Could Possibly Go Wrong? Orchid troubleshooting

**October** – And the Winner Is... How orchids are judged and awarded

**November** – Auction (no presentation)

**December** – Info Please! A look at orchid databases

**January** – Luncheon (no presentation)

**February** – A Closer Look at... (some genus we haven't talked about)

**March** – The Scoop on Fertilizers and Fertilizing

**September 7, 2013 Meeting**

**Andrea Niessen** is our featured speaker as she starts a trek visiting orchid societies across NYS and New England!!

She is coming from Cali, Columbia and there is an opportunity to pre-order plants—please visit her website [www.orquivalle.com](http://www.orquivalle.com)

**Pre-orders must be in by JUNE 30th!!**

We have her price list and I will see if I can get it posted or I am happy to email it to you.

**Beginner Talk -  
Home Sweet Home**

It is May and we have to ask “do you know where your orchids are?” or more correctly “Do you know where your orchids come from?”

As a great complementary talk to Dr. Harding’s presentation, Alex Shepherd took the time to demonstrate why information about where various orchids grow in the wild can only enhance our ability to be a good successful grower here in the Northeast with our many challenges.

Temperature, humidity, light, potting system or media, and watering needs are all issues that can make or break a home grower. Learning about the location and conditions where the plant family generally grows can provide great clues on how to improve your success with growing.

As Dr. Harding’s talk pointed out, knowing the country of origin for an orchid is not much help if you don’t know if the plant prefers sea level conditions or mountain top. Some plants grow on trees, others anchor to rocks and might be in full sun while some might grow at the base of a tree in deep shade.

Alex gave the example of Paphiopedilums (Lady Slipper orchids) which can grow at home very happily – low light, moderate temperatures, moist-ish. But Cypripediums (*sip-prah-ped-iums*) are native lady slipper terrestrials who generally grow in boggy or pine forest areas. They require fungi as a symbiotic helper to assist them in germinating. Phragmipediums are another form of slipper orchids. Phrag. Kovachii is a plant found on the side of a mountain in Peru requiring tons of

water – literally growing almost in the water. How do you plan to water a plant like that??

So knowledge is important! You should use the NENYOS library (contact Janet Vinyard ), magazines, the American Orchid Society website and magazine – and ASK other NENYOS members and growers!! Don’t be shy or afraid. Most are very willing to share their knowledge, they just don’t know what you need to know and as far as I can tell most of our NENYOS members are not registered mind readers so they need a hint about what info you would like to learn!

Come early for some socializing and to admire the Show Table - and then pounce and ask your question!

By: Sandy Buxton

**Bus Trip to Parkside Orchids Summer Fest 2013 .**

We would go on Saturday July 27th. It is 3 1/2 hour drive time. If we leave at 7:00 we would arrive around 11:00. Leaving at 4:00 would bring us home before 9:00 with time for a quick food stop on the Thruway. This should give you ample time to tour Parkside's green houses, shop from the many orchid vendors, see the AOS judging and take in a lecture or two. Food will be available there. If there are not enough to charter a bus, we can always car pool. Check it out at [www.parksideorchids.com](http://www.parksideorchids.com).

**Anyone interested, please email Stan at [fslscotia@aol.com](mailto:fslscotia@aol.com)**

**VENDORS WHO HELPED WITH THE 2012 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](http://www.billdoran.com)

**Cal Orchids**, Lauris & Jim Rose  
Santa Barbara, California.  
[calorchid@cox.net](mailto:calorchid@cox.net)

**Carmela Orchids**  
Hakalau, HI  
[www.carmelaorchids.net](http://www.carmelaorchids.net)

**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)

**Quarter Acre Orchids**,  
"everything for orchids" Supplies.  
[info@quarteracreorchids.com](mailto:info@quarteracreorchids.com)

**Sequoia Orchids** California  
Toll Free: 1-866-SORCHID (767-2443)  
707-725-5020  
[www.sequoiaorchids.com](http://www.sequoiaorchids.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)

**Open House at Piping Rock Orchids**

We are again joining our June 1st meeting with Glen's Open House. It should again be a fun and productive day with his greenhouse open and Marsh Hollow Orchids as an outside vendor. Speakers will be Mario Ferrusi (Marsh Hollow Orchids) and Marc Hachadourian ( Curator of living collections, N Y Botanic Gardens). Plus good food and orchid friends.

More details at [www.pipingrockorchids.com](http://www.pipingrockorchids.com). Glen is offering a 10% discount to our members who sign up as volunteer help in advance. If you wish to volunteer and have not, contact Tom Hoodack at [thoodack@nycap.rr.com](mailto:thoodack@nycap.rr.com) or [518-283-7345](tel:518-283-7345).

The day starts at 10:30, Volunteers: please be a little early.

Glen is supplying the meat, hot dogs, hamburgers and pulled pork. All our members are expected to bring a dish to pass. Please make it generous, there will be others there not from the club and not bringing food.

Wine and bottled water will be provided. If you want beer, bring your own brand. Be sure to bring your own chairs.

The address is 2270 Cook Rd. Galway NY 12074, phone [518-882-9002](tel:518-882-9002).

Directions: Cook Rd goes to the north off route 67 between Ballston Spa and the intersection of 147 and 67. It is not hard to find, there will be a sign at 67 and Cook Rd. Volunteers will be there to assist with parking. This will be a great day rain or shine.

-Stan Lee  
[518-557-2070](tel:518-557-2070)  
[fslscotia@aol.com](mailto:fslscotia@aol.com)

Marsh Hollow Orchids— From his green house in Fenwick, Ontario, Mario

Ferussi is a leading grower and breeder of award winning Masdevallia, Dracula, Lycaste and other orchids. He offers plants for sale at many orchid shows as is in demand as a speaker.

“-I started growing orchids in March of 1980 on a dare from my wife, Conni. She hails from Los Angeles, California. She said her aunt grew orchids so I should be able to. She didn't like the cacti that I had on the kitchen window sill.”

-from ‘Why I love the Odontoglossum Alliance’.

**If you want something specific from Mario, pre-order with him so it can cross the border. He will have plants for sale too.**

**Phone:** (905)892-4187

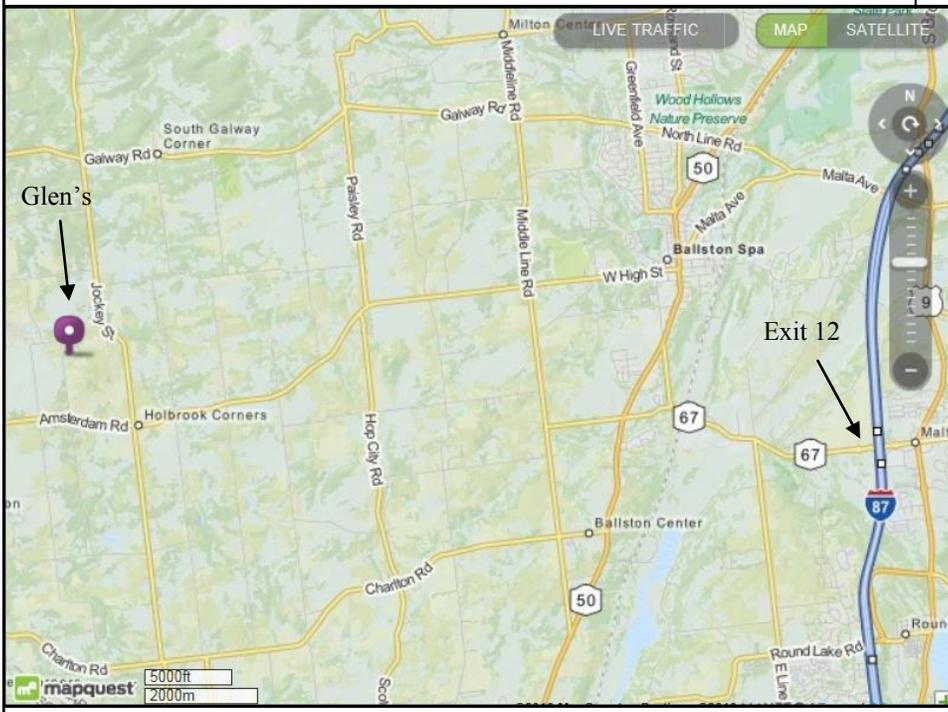
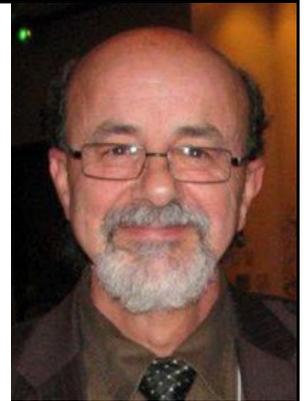
**Hours:** By Appointment

**Web Site:** <http://marshhollow.com/>

**Email:** [mferrusi@sympatico.ca](mailto:mferrusi@sympatico.ca)

**Orchids Etc. Handled:**Orchids, Etc. Handled: Masdevallias, Dracullas, Restrepias, Lycastes, Odontoglossums, Dendrobium cuthbertsonii, Bifrenarias, Promenaeas, Brassias and more.

Directions—travel from Exit 12 off I-87 on Rte 67 west over 3 miles. Turn left to stay on Rte 67 West—travel 6 miles to Cook Road (Look for NENYOS signs). It is first road after Jockey St and the Smith Bros. Orchard. If you get to the Stewart's Shop at corner of Rte 145 and 67—you have gone too far.



**Welcome to the Wonderful World of Orchids – Have No Fear!**

The opening riddle: How do you tell the difference between an amateur orchid grower and a professional? A: The professional has killed more orchids!

What a fun way to welcome some new members to the group! Listening to Alex Shepherd’s beginner talk always serves as a great training tool and this general topic was a superb jumping off point for the crowd in the room.

After making her point about the orchid cemeteries (tags of the dead plants) many of us have in pots/bags or piles on a shelf, Alex reminded us “There are NO silly questions!” as she explained how not asking questions caused her to almost kill one of her early orchids.

For many of us, a passion or relationship with orchids may have begun innocently – a Phalaenopsis in a photo or given as a gift, a native Cypripedium that fired your imagination or some exotic bloom that you tracked down the info on. And now, we are looking for more info and the ability to grow these beautiful plants in our own homes.

Alex discussed some of the differences that are visible between plants – Phals with big leaves and wide blossoms come in lots of colors, but not all Phals. have big leaves. Maxillaria is a genus known for having very different grass-like leaves and blossoms generally appearing low in the pot. But not all of them look like that or smell like coconut.

The message - Don’t be afraid to try different orchids! You may find some varieties that really like living in your environment, and you may

figure out how to alter your environment to try some other types.

Just ask:

- What kind of light does it like?
- How often should it be watered?
- What temperature does it like?
- How often should it be fertilized?

But remember at some point orchids can become a problem, which may cause your friends to ask you a pertinent question: Are you addicted?

You KNOW you are an orchid addict if:

- If you have more than 10 orchids.
- If you buy an orchid solely for its cool leaves.
- If you no longer “buy” orchids from big box stores – you “rescue” them.
- If you belong to one or more orchid societies.
- If you look at other people’s houses in terms of their orchid potential.
- If you think you can stop buying orchids anytime you want to!

So, Grow. Enjoy. Share!

-Sandy Buxton



Dr. Harding spent time talking with members, allowing them to pick her brain. Thanks!!



Don’t forget to come and enjoy some of the social time, talking with other members about orchids and growing issues while enjoying a snack. Sometimes it is great info.

And you get to try some great goodies—Janet Wierzchowski had 2 wonderful homemade fruit pies—yum! Yum!



**Our June Speakers at the Open House at Piping Rock**

Mario Ferrusi of Marsh Hollow Orchids in Fenwick, Ontario, and Marc Hachadourian from NY Botanical Garden. Topics are TBA. But Marc was an entertaining and educational speaker last year and Mario is highly recommended from his talks at SEPOS and other venues. (See picture on page 8)

**Tentative Schedule:**

- 10:30 AM ~ Open for Guests (Socializing / Shopping)
- 12:15 PM ~ Lunch
- 1:45 PM ~ Raffle
- 2:00 PM ~ Welcome all guests
- 2:15 PM ~ Guest Speaker
- 4:00 PM - 5:00PM (Socializing / Shopping)

The North Eastern New York Orchid Society is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. We have been presenting the occasional info about some of more senior members. Here is another look at a couple of members you might recognize from some recent meetings.

### Almost 30 Years of Orchids

It all started with some rather wilted, scratch and dent Cymbidiums purchased after the Easter holiday. Uli admits that he did everything wrong when he re-potted them (putting them in dirt, well, potting soil) and really didn't know much about orchids, they re-bloomed beautifully. But he had seen some during his travels around the world and when visiting cousins in Brazil.

So Uli Czapski and his wife Renate began to accumulate orchids at their farmhouse in Altamont. Never ones to do things half-way, the couple re-built a greenhouse on their house shortly after joining NENYOS in 1987. Uli, a geophysicist and atmospheric scientist at SUNY-Albany, designed it to be energy efficient. With fans, lights and even artificial rain for 10 minutes every day, he tried to simulate the orchids' home environment.

Plants were hung from the ceiling and structure in slatted baskets and woven baskets. Several tree trunks were installed in the greenhouse with orchids mounted on them with wire or filament. There was a 5' x 6' pond in the floor which provided extra humidity as well as a great water feature with lilies and fish. The 16'x22' 4 season room included a table and chairs so the couple could enjoy their plants at any and all times!

When interviewing Uli and reviewing the photos, I exclaimed over some of the plants pictured.

"Miltonias are not that hard," he assured me. I know that I am still quite lost about how to grow them but I have been doing more research as Alex (our Beginner Talk instructor) suggests, so I am hoping some day I can say the same thing with a casual wave of my hand!

In October 1992, the Czapskis and Joan and Wake Gardner were interviewed about their greenhouses and written up in the Daily Gazette. Uli and Renate discussed their decisions and many of the GH features, one of which was the need to blend with their 220 year old farmhouse. The added room, empty now, still provides a dramatic light source in their house twenty years later.

Joan and Wake built their greenhouse onto their garage and focused on housing their hundreds of plants in it. Space was a huge consideration as they keep filling it up!

Uli mentioned to me his opinion that greenhouses should look like cathedrals since they are such amazing places, housing dramatic beauty – the building should reflect it too! We were looking at some shots of a structure in San Francisco—absolutely beautiful. In think-

ing about some conservatories where I have been, I think I have to agree with this former NENYOS president.

The Czapskis have enjoyed the recent activities of the group and while their current plant numbers are small, we should all hope to enjoy years of these wonderful plants too!

-By Sandy Buxton

*Orchids currently growing over Renate's kitchen sink.* ↓



### 3rd Place for Orchid Society Display at Nutmeg Show (CT)



A number of members took advantage of the May meeting to purchase bark, potting mixes and other supplies Stan Lee was hawking for NENYOS. Our next opportunity will be in August at the picnic.



Show Table Tales

Donna Wardlaw brought in a Paph St Swithin (l) and Burr. Nelly Isler "Swiss Beauty" - right.

Patti Freed (far right) brought a 3rd year bloomer—LC Seagull's Fireworks 'Tristan' Grown on windowsill—knocked over by cat!

Wake brought Iwanagara Apple Blossom.



Donna also brought a Dend.—very fragrant! Mark Conley had some mice nibbling problems but brought in Sarcophilus cross Which needs to be damp.



Above—another Sarcophilus from Mark Conley, bought from Fred Clarke in November.

As always the Show Table was wonderful to look at and learn from.

Janet Vinyard displayed her Coe logyne which has been in bloom for 2 months and is developing the zigzag chain where flowers develop. She hopes to bring back in 2 months!



Catts and LC from Wake and Mark at right



The spoils of shopping (and the raffle) clearly demonstrated!



**May Raffle**

Our winners this month will be on for providing snacks at the September meeting.

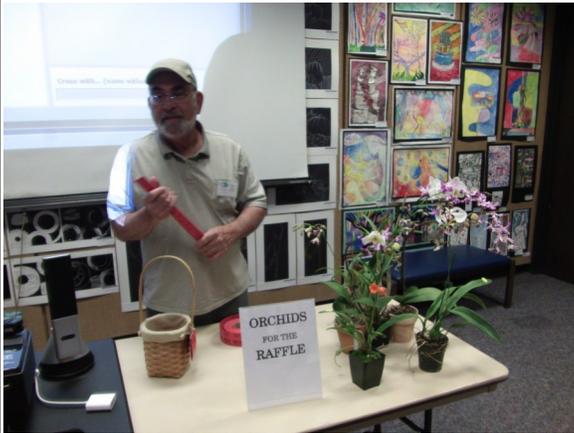
Congratulate:

Helen Carroll            Donna Wardlaw  
 Beverly (guest)        Wake Gardner  
 Tracy Chuck (won twice)

Bob Odess sold tickets galore!



Masdevallia Tuakau Candy 'Sunshine' CCM/AOS  
 all images ©Ravenvision Photographic



Above is a photo of one of Mario's Masdevallias. Make sure you come prepared to enjoy and partake of this opportunity to hear him speak on June 1st!



*North Eastern New York Orchid Society*

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

**NEXT MEETING**

**June 1, 2013**

**Open House at Piping Rock  
 Orchids with NENYOS  
 2279 Cook Road, Galway, NY**

Tentative Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Volunteers arrive
- 10:30 AM ~ Open for Guests  
(Socializing / Shopping)
- 12:15 PM ~ Lunch
- 1:45 PM ~ Raffle
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