

## Alan Koch Brazilian Cattleyas and their Mysteries

Alan Koch gave a great fact-filled presentation in May. While “Brazilian Cattleyas” was the official topic and certainly the focus of his pictures and stories, he provided numerous tips and hints crucial to successful orchid growing.

With a varied career leading him to his current business and 16,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of growing space, Alan is an inquisitive learner. He absorbs information and connects it to many areas.

Despite the shifts in taxonomy (naming of plants) which can be distracting, the orchids of Brazil are amazing. Some of the trees in lowland areas are covered in orchids. We, as growers, are told the plants must dry out before watering again, and to worry about giving them too much water. Ironical when you consider that the South Catrina area experiences 340 days of rain per year!

After learning the growing location of the orchids, it makes more sense. They are usually situated in ravines and along ridge tops that funnel winds of 40 mph past the plants which dry the plants quickly. More info to explain some of the different issues to help a grower do a better job offering desirable climates to their plants.

One of Alan’s interesting points, even as we encourage growers to research their plants na-



tive habitats, was don’t always trust the books. In years past when orchid hunters and collectors were ravaging the wilderness for plants to carry home as prizes, they might not have been honest when describing where the plant came from or what type of conditions it likes. Such information would be a tip-off for other hunters to help them zero in on possible locations. Misinformation ruled the day!

Another tip as he paraded a serious cast of Cattleya characters

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids (above) talking at the Show Table, (right) discussing sales table with a potential client and below, setting up after unpacking plants.



through the room was some Catts grow on flat (horizontal) limbs. If you mount those plants on a vertical mount, they will be very unhappy and are unlikely to bloom.

Phals can be grown in Vanda light. But their flowers will be smaller than normal because they are stressed and unhappy.

It was a great presentation with lots of pictures and interesting backstories.

By Sandy Buxton II



## June 2015

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## Upcoming Meetings

**June 6—Piping Rock Open House—co-hosted with NENYOS, in Galway, NY.**

**July—No Meeting**

**August 1—Summer picnic at Fern & Stan Lee's in Scotia.**

**Sept. 12—no meeting—please consider attending IPA (below)**

**September 13—IPA meeting co-hosted by NENYOS in Voorheesville**

**Oct 3—Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, California**

**Nov 7—Auction!! Come and bid on great plants!**

**December 5—Holiday event**

### 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
Gillen O'Brien	Name Tags
Joan Gardner	Refreshments
Bob Odess	Raffle
	Greeter

NENYOS Contact:  
nenyosorchids@gmail.com

Sandy Buxton Newsletter Ed.

## Upcoming Events in the Northeast

**May 15 – 17, 2015 Redland International Orchid Festival** at Redland Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, FL. Contact: Bill Peters at 305-242-1333 or whimsyorchids@gmail.com

**May 15 – 17, 2015 Memphis Orchid Society Show**, Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Rd., Memphis, TN

**May 23 – 24, 2015 Foothills Orchid Society "Calgary Orchid Show"**, Triwood Community Centre, 2244 Chicoutimi Drive Nst, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

**May 23 – 24, 2015 Grand Traverse County Civic Center**, 1213 W Civic Center Drive, Traverse City, MI

**May 23 – 24, 2015 New Orleans Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale**, Lakeside Shopping Center, 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Suite 209, Metairie, La

**June 1- June 4, 2015 Native Orchid Conference.** Check out : <http://www.nativeorchidconference.info/> You MUST register to attend the conference; and registration is limited! Contact Jean Stefanik, Local Arrangements Conference Chair (Jeango4it@aol.com ; (603) 647-1063)

**Oct 2 – 4, 2015 Susquehanna Orchid Society Show "The Art of the Orchid"** at Ware Center of Millersville University, 42 N. Prince Street, Lancaster, PA. Contact: Jay Holcomb & Denise Conklin at 717-252-6092 or jayh530@comcast.net

**GROS—Greater Rochester Orchid Soc.**  
**STOS—Southern Tier OS**

**CTOS—Connecticut 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

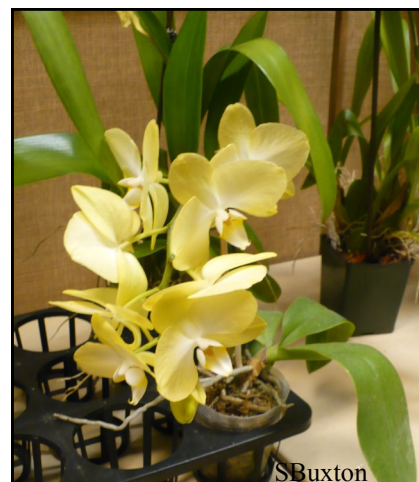
And here's the list of upcoming beginner talks:

### Beginner Talks

June	Piping Rock Event— no class
July	No meeting
Aug	Picnic—no class
Sept	Let there be light (growing under lights)
Oct	Leaves
Nov	Auction!
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.

Much of our learning happens by gaining information from our peers!



SBuxton

**The May 2015 AOS Corner-** From the desk of Laura Newton, Membership and Affiliated Societies Chair

The upcoming Webinars:

- On 5/27/15 at 8:30p.m. EST, John Salvanti will present - **Orchid Nutrition, Taking the Mystery out of Feeding Your Orchids**. This is for members only.
- On 6/10/15 at 8:30p.m. EST, Ron McHatton will present another **Greenhouse Chat**. This webinar is open to all!

The May issue of Orchids has many great articles, which you may have already seen if you are a current AOS member, but for those of you who are not, here is some of what you will find inside this issue of our monthly bulletin, which should entice you into becoming a member.

•Embreea- a monster orchid in 3D, by Thomas Mirenda, gives a great overview of this fascinating genus of enormous, yet short-lived flowers.

•Disas by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins, is a beautifully illustrated look at many variations in color of this African genus.

•There is a new series of articles called Growers Profile, highlighting a different grower each month. This month we get to peak into Paph Paradise and proprietor David Sorokowsky with a Q&A that gives up some insight into how you can start with a "box store" purchase and end up in a full-blown addiction into growing, hybridizing and selling award-winning orchids, as explained in the questions that Kathy Barrett asks.

•Selecting a Pot by Sue and Terry Bottom, is a great tutorial on how to select the perfect pot for your plant, for your growing conditions.

•Sarchochilus- Modern Breeding Lines and Plant Culture, by Scott Barrie and Fred Clarke, gives an in depth look at the new and excitingly colorful hybrid in this Australian genus.

•In Brazil with Francisco Miranda, by Stig Dalstrom, is a wonderful article that showcases Brazilian orchids in their native habitat.

Orchid Shows taking place this month (for more in-depth information, please check out the complete calendar on [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)):

Another great thing that you can find on our website is the new "Kid's Corner" tab, by Sandy Stubblings of the education committee. She provides great ideas on how to encourage and foster interest in orchids for the young children in our lives, so please check it out!

I have enjoyed sending the AOS Corner out for the past year, but alas my term as chair has come to an end.

George Hatfield, an AOS Trustee, will be taking over as chair of the Membership and Affiliated Societies Committee. George is a fabulous orchid grower and Judge. I look forward to seeing his vision for our societies!

Let's grow together,

*Laura Newton*

## 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  
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)

## 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.



Alex Shepherd's Beginner Talk

## Eeeew, What's On My Orchids? Bugs and Other Orchid Afflictions

By: Sandy Buxton

Mealy bugs – have a white cotton appearance and can be easy to overlook. The females live for 30 days and produce 100-300 young.

Pay attention when you grow in clear pots. Often when you water, you will see things crawling in the pot if you have an infestation of anything.

Brown scale – is a pest that can be very deceiving. When young, it appears as little tan spots or flakes on plant leaves and stems. But when they become older, they appear as big brown crunchy lumps, shaped like a ladybug shell. At this point, the only way to remove them is through physical action – scrubbing with a toothbrush and rinsing off. Or poisoning them through systemic chemicals.

Males are winged so they can move around which causes more trouble and more new bugs.

Bois duval scale – is difficult to see. Preferred spot to hide is in orchid sheaths, the dried, papery coverings on some growths. The pests blend in easily and require physical or chemical interaction to remove them.

Their life cycle is 50 days and a female can lay 200 eggs. Any type of management action once they have invaded the collection must be repeated every 7-14 days to correspond with the life cycle of egg – nymph- larvae-adult.

A good habit to prevent them from gaining a foothold is to remove the dried sheaths from plants (generally Cattleyas, Oncidiums and their relatives).

Spidermites – are actually related to

spiders which means they do not respond to ordinary insecticides. You have to check the label to see what might work on them. They do spin webs and suck on the plants leaving a silvery colored surface on the lower side of the leaf.

Understand, with pests as with many things with orchids, an ounce of prevention is worth.....well, you know.

Be clean. Keep your growing area free of leaf litter and organic matter. Clean equipment. Don't have standing water around for algae or bugs to live in. Trap flies with sticky tapes or prevent them for accessing the area. This is a dual purpose benefit. Flies can transport pests and bacteria around to different plants. And they can pollinate some orchids which then causes the bloom to collapse.

Blooms on all plants age as they spend their days trying to attract their pollinator. But once pollination occurs, the bloom dies and the plant focuses all energy into the seed pod. Part of the survival of the fittest campaign to propagate the species!

### Insecticides

Orthene – can be found at Home Depot or Lowe's  
Bayer 3-in-1 – kills and controls insects and pests. Cures and prevents fungal diseases and lasts upto 30 days on the plant.

Sevin – liquid or dust

Growth inhibitors – are harsher chemicals and can last upto 6 months.

### Natural Alternatives –

- \*Wash the pests away. Use physical action or water and brush.
- \*Alcohol on a Q-tip.
- \*Insecticidal soap.
- \*Neem oil.
- \*Drown them by holding plant and pot under water for 10-15 minutes.
- \*Dr. Bronner's Magic Pure Castile Soap and organic peppermint –

\*Use natural predators. Release and encourage ladybugs to prowl through your growing area.

### Warning Notes:

If you use anything, natural or synthetic, **Read the Label!**

More is not necessarily better. It just might be more toxic to both you and the plant.

Follow the rules – be careful and make sure you use special handling and personal protective equipment – like gloves, masks, washing, ....

### There's a Fungus Among Us...

Petal blight – strikes during cold, damp conditions where air circulation is poor. It leaves spots on petals and causes the blooms to collapse early. It can proliferate and affect healthy plant tissue in as little as 14 hours.

Crown rot – is a scourge that impacts Phals, Paphs, Phrags and others. The fungus rots the plant stems or leaves near the junction with the roots. One successful treatment is hydrogen peroxide which can \_\_\_\_\_ the fungus.

From a cultural point of view, the best action is to make sure water NEVER sits in the crown. Be careful when watering plants and always have air movement.

Other remedies – Cinnamon, rosemary oil, tea tree oil, neem oil and hydrogen peroxide, Listerine.



## AOS Monthly Checklist for May and June

### Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.



*Cattleya purpurata*, formerly in the genus *Laelia*, is without a doubt one of the most stately orchids to bloom in this season. © G. Allikas

### Paphiopedilum

The *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially

common in *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.



*Paphiopedilum Maudiae* is a perennial favorite slipper orchid.

### Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on *Doritis* background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

*The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.*

### International Phalaenopsis Alliance Regional Meeting—September 13

Carri Raven-Riemann & Marilyn Shapiro,  
IPA Regional Directors

Mark your calendars now for our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Fall weekend of IPA Regional Meeting in the Northeast ! The exciting program will be presented to Region 17 in Voorheesville, New York, on Sunday, September 13, co-hosted by the North Eastern New York Orchid Society. The meeting will be held at Cornell Cooperative Extension – Albany County, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186.

We'll be following the same format as our previous four years, activities to begin at 9:30 am with a continental breakfast, sales tables open, and two presentations before lunch. After a mini-auction of select plants, our afternoon session finishes with our third speaker and, time permitting, a Q&A opportunity, adjourning at 2:30pm. A small Registration Fee just covers the breakfast and lunch with the two IPA Regions providing the speakers as a benefit for everyone.

For our 2015 meeting, we've invited **Norman Fang of Norman's Orchids** to present Part II of Moss Growing Culture – Part I was extremely well-received four years ago, and Norman will be covering in greater detail the secrets to successful moss growing. Our second speaker will be **Tom Mirenda, Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian** in Washington, DC, covering Phal. species in situ and how to grow them successfully in cultivation. **Carri Raven-Riemann** will round out the day by bringing everyone up to speed on the newest directions in breeding as seen at the recent 2015 Taiwan International Orchid Show and several nurseries in Taiwan.

All are invited to join us, IPA members and non-members alike. We're once again looking forward to a great day of orchid information and sales, good food and connecting with old friends and new. Our very special thanks go out to our co-hosting society!

Registration forms with more detailed information will be available on our website, [www.phal.org](http://www.phal.org) and will also be posted on the websites and Facebook pages of all the New England & New York Orchid Societies.

### June 6th Open House at Piping Rock

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

2:15 p.m. Speaker is Terry Kowalczyk of Flora Peculia, Toronto, Canada who has specialized in the Neofinetias of Japan. He has the largest retail collection and will bring plenty to sell. The second speaker --To Be announced.

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.

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.

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 Speakers
- 4:00 PM - 5:00PM (Socializing / Shopping)

**Come and enjoy this event. Volunteers will receive a discount on purchases of Glen's plants.**



# Show Table Tales



SBuxton

Donna Wardlaw brought this phenomenal Brassia Rex Christina AM/AOS which requires good light, grows it fairly warm and wet in summer/dry in winter. A beautiful plant!

Related is her Brassia Nittany Gold 'Dr. John' AM/AOS

Her Den. Unicam is from Vietnam and she is not growing it as cold this year and it is very happy

Mark Conley 's Sarcocylus hartmanii is doing well. →

The dark Sarcocylus allure he bought from Fred Clarke. Alan told us the reason the dark flowers are smaller is because red is a recessive trait.

The Catt Inter-media survived the GH freeze 4 yrs ago and the mice chewed off leaves. Now it is sunburned too. ↓



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Both Donna and mark brought a Lep-todes bicolor.

Larry Litwin brought a Phal that is spiking a second inflorescence out of the same node!



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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

**June 6, 2015**

**Open House at Piping  
Rock Orchids, 2270 Cook  
Road, Galway, NY**

9:30 a.m. NENYOS volunteers arrive

10:30 a.m. Other Guests arrive

Sales Tables and Greenhouse open.  
Lots of orchid discussion, networking,  
sharing of tips.

Noonish Lunch **This is June meet-  
ing.**

1:45 p.m. Raffle Drawing

2:00 p.m. Speakers Terry Kowalchuk  
on Neofinetias of Japan and Glen.

(Times are approximate. Directions inside.)

## May Raffle Winners

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

Margaret Cali  
Gill O'Brien  
Patty  
Val Trezinski  
Mary Menzies  
Tracy Chuck  
Judi Siler  
Jane Smith  
Gretchen Sharp  
Bob Bristol  
Kristie Center

Extra thanks to  
Alan Koch for  
adding a plant to  
the Raffle table!!



Congratulations!!

