



North Eastern New York Orchid Society

Growing Orchids at the Swartz Brewery

By Sandy Buxton

It seemed almost too good to be true, orchids and beer, the final pairing! But I think after Albert's talk, our crew realized, with great disappointment, the lager was not actually cold down in the cave.



What a great talk about combining a life-long interest and taking advantage of a special attribute of a house, to develop a cloud forest environment in New Jersey! Albert Tamashauský of Oxford, NJ, grows orchids 8 feet underground, sixty miles west of NYC, in a room originally used to age lager. The over 250 year old space under Albert's backyard provides water (humidity), a cool temperature and the ability to control most aspects of the environment.



Photo provided.

Building a plastic greenhouse inside the man-made "cave", Albert created a space which utilizes the very attrib-

utes that made it a great place to age beer so many years ago. Day-time temps range from 70-79 degrees. 100 % of the heat in the cave is supplied from the fluorescent lights which run from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Night time temps are 48-57 degrees. If the lights are on then there are 6 fans running.

The plants require a contrast of temperatures so during the summer he actually cools the room since the night temp might stay above the 55-57 degree range. He also provides some extra humidity by spraying water through oil furnace nozzle controlled by a solenoid valve re-

full spectrum, Maxum 5000.

He replaces his lights every year. This is one place where he feels lots of growers with light culture fail. Just because there is still light coming from the tube does not mean it is enough for the plants you are trying to grow! He calculates he uses 1500 watts/hr or about \$3.15-3.50/day. When the power goes down, he is in the dark. There is no backup generator in the system.

Regardless of conditions on the surface, his cloud forest is generally 75 degrees and sunny with a light

breeze. There are 800 orchids with an additional 100 bromeliads in the space. Though a recent addition has him adding 500 new plants to his miniature and small-growing collection.



Continued on
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leasing 1.4 gal/hr that is open 1x/minute.

It is apparent that Albert is an engineer when he shows all of his specialized accommodations for the NJ cloud forest – water spray, lights lined up in their setups. He uses one with 8 parallel tubes, 2 with 4 tubes and 2 with 6 tubes. All tubes are 48" Paralite, T-40, T-12

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Upcoming Meetings

March 2, 2013 - Dick Doran on *Lycastes* at Sanford Library

April 6, 2013— Ray Barkalow, Hydroponics at Library

May 4, 2013—Dr. Patricia Harding on 'Taxonomy of Orchids' at Sanford Library.

June 1st—Event at Piping Rock Orchids in Galway

July—No Meeting

Aug.—Picnic at Stan's in Scotia

September—Andrea Nielsen

Board of Directors will hold a meeting on March 2 in the Training Room of Sanford Library at 10:30 a.m.

MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS OFFICERS FOR 2012

Stan Lee	President
Deb Lambeth	Secretary
Janet Vinyard	Treasurer
Ed Belemjian	Director
Donna Wardlaw	Vice President
Sandy Buxton	Director
Steve Condon	Website
Ernie Reis	Past President
Sandy Buxton	AOS Rep
Gillen O'Brien	Name Tags
Joan Gardner	Refreshments
Earl & Jean Liberty	Raffle
Dot Hargett	Greeter

NENYOS Contact:

Contact@nenyos.org

Sandy Buxton Newsletter Ed.
buxtonsandy@gmail.com

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

Feb 23-24 – Amherst Orchid Society Show, Northampton, MA.

http://www.larchhillorchids.com/amherst_orchid_society.html

Feb 23 – 24, 2013 Niagra Frontier Orchid Society Show, Buffalo Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY. Contact: John Cociela, 716-835-2132 or johnkbfo@aol.com

March 1-10, 2013 Philadelphia International Flower Show in Philly, PA, www.theflowershow.com

Mar 8 – 10, 2013 Maryland Orchid Society Show, Maryland Home and Garden Show, Timonium Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. Contact: William Scharf, 410-456-1794 or willworks@hughes.net

Saturday, Mar 9, 2013 Mid-Hudson Orchid Society Show and Sale at Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Rd., Newburgh, NY (map), Contact: Elisabeth Mansfield, 845-294-1000 or www.mhos.us.com

Mar 16 – 17, 2013 Nutmeg State Orchid Society 2013 "Come See Our Bloomers!" Show—At West Hartford Meeting & Conference Cen-

ter, 50 South Main, West Hartford, CT. Contact: Diane Dean, 860-233-4384 or ddean@wsj.edu

March 22-24, 2013 Capital District Garden & Flower Show @ HVCC in Troy, NY. NENYOS will have display.

Apr 6 – 7, 2013 Genesee Region Orchid Society Show and Sale, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY. Contact: Carol Butcher, 585-742-3403 or butcher218@yahoo.com

April 12-14, SEPOS Show at Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Apr 20 – 21, 2013 Southern Tier Orchid Society Show, Oakdale Mall, 601-635 Harry L. Drive, Johnson City, NY. Contact: Anne Tinker 607-797-1383 or anneetinker@yahoo.com

May 4 – 5, 2013 Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show, The Ag Arena, Park Avenue, University Park, PA. Contact: Cathy Riemer 814-865-4748 or cathy+cpos13show@bx.psu.edu

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

~~~~~C 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.

## Beginner Series Class—

Future Beginner Series classes:

**Mar 2013- It's show time!** Preparing your orchids for showing

**Note for Show Table Participants:** the Show Table sheet can be downloaded from the website so you can fill out ahead of the meeting!

## Come and Visit!!

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.

**Upcoming Bus Trip Opportunity is FULL!**

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society (SEPOS) event on April 13, 2013 at Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA will place some amazing educational sessions, international vendors and an amazing Judged Show at our fingertips.

Wade Tours has organized an overnight event (4/13-4/14) in conjunction with NENYOS which will visit the SEPOS Show as well as Longwood Gardens.

This activity will be a intense experience and will require walking and people maneuvering skills but will be a dramatic opportunity according the American Orchid Society material. And where else can you go and see so many cool things so close to home??

The group has filled the available bus and should have an exciting trip. If you would like to be on a wait list in case of emergency, please contact Stan 518-557-2070.

**February Raffle Winners**

Stan Lee  
Ed Belemjian  
Helen Kim  
Dorothy Heffernan  
Alex Shepherd  
Ed Belemjian  
Mark Conley  
Wake Gardner  
Bob Christenson  
Leanne Tashjian  
Janet Wierchowski

Congratulations! Don't forget to bring your celebratory snack on March 2!

NENYOS will have orchids on display at "NY in Bloom" an event on the Empire State Plaza Concourse Feb 22-24. As well as at the Nutmeg Show in Connecticut in March and at the Capital District Garden Show at Hudson Valley Community College on March 22-24.

**Attention Orchid Buyers**

Mark Conley also brought a plant to demonstrate "Buyer Beware". He bought 10 bare root Catts from a grower via mail order. This is the second plant that has been virus infected from that order!! Symptoms: bloom is smaller than should be, breaks in the color of the bloom and brown areas. He will throw plant out after meeting to prevent infecting his other ones.



Thanks to Bob Odess for selling Raffle Tickets at the February meeting for the great Cymbidiums donated by Bill Doran Company while the Miltonias and Paphs were from Piping Rock.



**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

**Cal Orchids**, Lauris & Jim Rose  
Santa Barbara, California.  
calorchid@cox.net

**Carmela Orchids**

Hakalau, HI  
www.carmelaorchids.net

**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

**Quarter Acre Orchids,**

"everything for orchids" Supplies.  
info@quarteracreorchids.com

**Sequoia Orchids California**

Toll Free: 1-866-SORCHID (767-2443)  
707-725-5020

**Www.sequoiaorchids.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



## Growing in Swartz Brewery— page 1

Some of Albert's tips for growing:

**Under lights** – position the plants to the light. Raise or lower the bottom height of pot to what the plant needs. He uses wire shelves, upside down pots and bricks to move plants up and down. His plants range from 16" away to actually touching the lights.



**Use wire screens** on sides to allow for mounted plants to be hung. It increases available space for plants.

**Albert likes leaves** – flowers are nice but 10 months of the year, it is the leaves of the plant you are looking at and caring for. Though Den. Cuthbertsonii has flowers which last up to 10 months!! (Wake Gardner confirms that when we were talking at the Show Table looking at Albert's flowering orchids. Though they are extremely intolerant outside their key temp range. Wake said his cellar area got too warm and everything died in a 3 week period.)

Buy/have lots of plants and **be willing to experiment**. Albert likes to mount plants on upside

down clay pots. Roots are easy to wet and then they dry out. He uses tree fern fiber stuck in pots with the plants tucked in. This way when repotting has to happen, everything falls apart when you take it out of the pot and the plant is easily exposed – no trauma!



**Do Research.** Remember it takes lots of time to build skill as a grower. Don't panic. Rebecca Northern's book on growing miniatures is a great reference.

**Fertilizer** – he uses a rotation of 3 -4 different formulas, fertilizing 1 time/week at a VERY low dilution. (30-10-10, Mich. State mix, fish emulsion and one other)

He uses well water directly on the plants – no additional heating – the plants either take it or they die.

Not everyone is going to start a system like this. There are only so many natural systems that can be turned into the ultimate "man cave"!! But developing some type of similar system in a basement or garage, using lights, air conditioner, water, fans and other accoutrements might be possible. But more importantly—remember and know what types of plants you like

working around. If you want huge showy Cymbidiums, then you will need a HUGE basement. And they really like to go outside during summer.

So do your research and work on experimenting on a small scale before you spring for the big time. Remember, Albert had been growing for years before he found a girl to date that had a cave!



## Repotting – Ah, it feels so good to stretch!

Alex Shepherd gave another great presentation to help all of us gain nerve and skill. Her first point – don't be afraid, orchids are not super delicate generally. And your plants will appreciate repotting.

Follow the rules:

1. use clean pots. You can even wash them in dishwasher.
2. use washed potting medium. It is easier for the plant and medium to pick up water if it is already damp.
3. inspect plant as you are repotting. Feel free to wash it – roots, leaves, getting it all clean and shiny while checking for any problems – bugs, eggs, slugs, etc.
4. stake the plant so it will feel solid and comfortable in the pot.

When to repot:

Over watering breaks down the media, if water is not draining properly – media may be too broken down to allow for air and water infiltration. Remember that most orchids are epiphytic so they need access to air.

Also a great time to repot is if you have a pest problem. It gives you a chance to remove eggs, bugs, larvae and other residue.

The best time to repot is when a plant has finished blooming and when roots are 5-6 inches long. At the beginning stage (1/2 – 1 inch) the roots are very easy to injure.

When choosing a new home, think about the many choices.

What size? Under pot. Make sure

that you accommodate the roots and not the leaves!! Orchids prefer to be under potted (barely squeezed into a pot). Goal is a pot diameter that is 1/3 to 1/2 the height of the plant for orchids other than Phals and Dendrobiums. Net baskets are great because they allow for air movement but require lots of humidity and watering since they don't hold anything.

When furnishing the home, what is your medium choice?

The thicker the root, the larger size potting medium piece sizes. Thin roots need small pieces. Alex brought her potting media display from Quarter Acre Orchids to show a fraction of the many different choices that can be used.

Which brings up another point - also include your actions in the decision. Do you like to water frequently and fuss over the plants? Think about something which doesn't retain water. Or are you watering once every 10 days because that is when your schedule allows it? Look for something which holds water.

Some of the choices and their properties include:  
Sphagnum moss – which can hold water for plants that like to be moist. Packed tightly, it stays very wet. Using a looser pack, it is drier on roots. But BEWARE, some people develop a reaction to the moss, so wear gloves when handling it and repotting plants!

Lava

rock – is another choice from the opposite end of the spectrum. It doesn't retain water because it can't soak into the rock. The plants use the moisture on the surface of the rock. A benefit is the fact that it doesn't break down so plants which don't like to be repotted may do well. Though remember, you have to provide all sources of nutrition.

Other material – coir, aliflor (clay beads), tree fern, coconut husk chips, fir bark, charcoal, perlite, and a mix of many items and different sizes. Joan Gardener relayed a story from a previous speaker, "if you don't have bark pieces that are small enough, this person used to put the bark in a garbage bag on the driveway, and they drive over it until the pieces were of the appropriate size.

Alex's final Rule: There is no right or wrong way to repot or material to use. BUT, try several plants with the new material. Don't jump on the new fad or system too fast if it is a big change for your collection. Make sure it works. Does it fit in with your watering system? Environment? Temperature? Take your time and be sure everyone (plants, people and pests) will all feel right about the new system!

- by Sandy Buxton



Quarter Acre Orchid Supplies donated materials to help us see what they are like in real life.

**Save the date for a GREAT time!** Saturday, March 2nd---the **National Capital Orchid Society** holds its 35th Annual Orchid Auction at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville, Maryland. Grab a friend interested in Orchids and join us in the fun. Hundreds of blooming or near-blooming size orchids, from well-known growers coast to coast, Hawaii, and private collections. Lots of very rare and unusual orchids. This is one of the largest Orchid Auctions in the country!

Schedule~~from **10 am to 3 pm** (Preview: 10 to 11 am, Lively Auction: 11 to 3 pm). **Free admission**--food on-site.

**Bump Sticker:** Donate \$2 to have the plant(s) you are interested in, bumped up to the 'head of the line'--taken directly to the auctioneer for action!

Checks/VISA/MasterCard/Discover cards gladly accepted! [www.NCOS.us](http://www.NCOS.us)

# National Capital Orchid Society

35th Annual

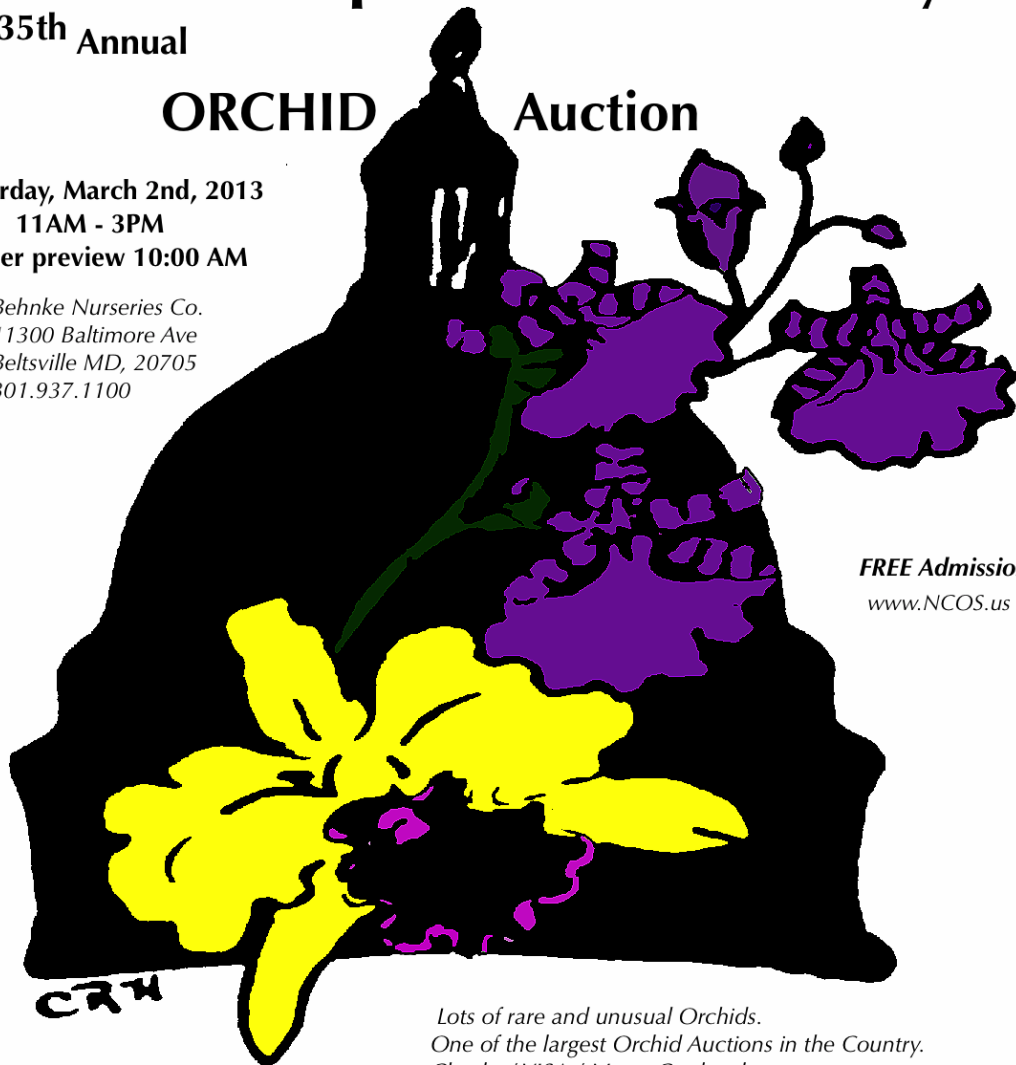
## ORCHID Auction

Saturday, March 2nd, 2013

11AM - 3PM

bidder preview 10:00 AM

Behnke Nurseries Co.  
11300 Baltimore Ave  
Beltsville MD, 20705  
301.937.1100



**FREE Admission**  
[www.NCOS.us](http://www.NCOS.us)

*Lots of rare and unusual Orchids.  
One of the largest Orchid Auctions in the Country.  
Checks / VISA / MasterCard welcome.*

For further information, contact **Pete Ma** at [petemiza@gmail.com](mailto:petemiza@gmail.com) or **Nancy Burns** at [n.burns@cox.net](mailto:n.burns@cox.net)

**National Capital Orchid Society**

~~Supporting Orchid Culture and Conservation Since 1947~~



## Show Table Tales

Janet Wierchowski – brought a Paph. philippenense f. album x Paph. fowlei f. christiana (alba). This is the second trip to the show table for this plant (November). Janet Vinyard recommended she stake it. Now, it is still growing and looking better than ever!!



Mark Conley – Paph Pedro's Moon. Bought this plant at IPA in September and it finally bloomed. It is a sequential bloomer and there is another bud on it.

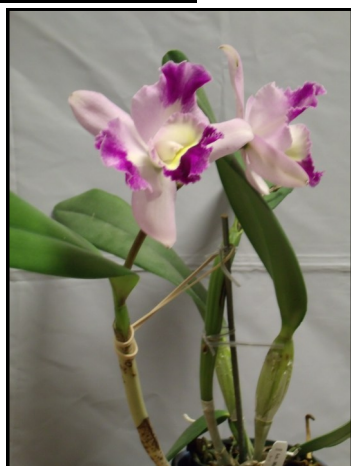
2 examples of Catt. Martha Clarke x Firey Leopard (Look at the difference in color!) He bought these plants from Fred Clarke—same breeding.



Donna Wardlaw – Mormodes Jumbo Bacra (SVO) x Mormodes .....This is a "Ghost" or goblin orchid she bought from Fred Clarke in November. The lip is reversed. Totally leafless and as per his directions, still has not been watered.



Bob Odess – LC Mari's Song x Hsinying Pub. Grown on window-sill.



Patti Freed – Phal gibbosa (species) mounted. She has this one hanging on lattice work by her kitchen sink and throws some water on it every day.

Albert shared some of his bloomers with the Show Table and talked about how some of these will be in bloom for up to 10 months!!





**Dick Doran** of New Jersey has been a dedicated winter speaker at NENYOS. This year's topic is *Lycastes*. Always practical and interesting, Dick is sure to have some gems of wisdom for us.

*Lycaste* species and hybrids are becoming popular for their large numbers of long-lasting flowers that offer a wide range of colors. Few

orchids rival a well-grown flowering *lycaste* plant, such as *Lycaste skinneri*, in flower size, shape and color.

And the winner of the "Cell Phone Award" is once again—Ed Belemjian. Instead of getting him out of bidding at the auction, this time he had to leave the Beginner Talk.

-Sorry Ed!

At least there was no call during the Raffle drawing!



**Don't forget we are trying a new meeting schedule to make sure we don't miss anything special!**

For February, March and April:

1:00 p.m. Social & Sale Time  
1:20 p.m. Announcements  
1:35 p.m. Beginner Program  
1:50 p.m. Show Table discussion including our Speaker  
2:15 p.m. Speaker  
3:15 p.m. Q & A, cont'd sales  
3:30 p.m. Raffle

This is a trial to allow everyone to partake in Show Table Tales.



*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

**March 2, 2013**

1:00 p.m. Social & Sale Time  
1:20 p.m. Announcements  
1:35 p.m. Beginner Program  
1:50 p.m. Show Table discussion including our Speaker  
2:15 p.m. Speaker-**Dick Doran**  
of New Jersey,  
**"Growing Lycastes"**  
3:15 p.m. Q & A, cont'd sales  
3:30 p.m. Raffle

At William K. Sanford Library, 629 Albany-Shaker Road, Colonie (Loudon, NY)