



nenyosorchids@gmail.com

NENYOS NEWSLETTER

# North Eastern New York Orchid Society

March 2018

www.nenyos.com



PMcDavid

Drew Monthie demonstrates the potting technique.

Alex Shepherd teaches how to listen to your orchid's leaves and the info they are telling you.



PMcDavid

## February Meeting

Alex Shepherd gave a brief discussion on knowing what leaves are trying to tell us. Then we did the show table.

Drew Monthie talked about Semi-Hydroponic growing and then we did the hands on activity which allowed us to take home a plant to practice with.

By Philip R. McDavid

**Culture notes on Page 4**



PMcDavid

Note the holes in side of the pot. They allow the plant to have a reservoir of water for the roots.

Alex discusses the parts of a leaf's anatomy and why they are important for it's function.



PMcDavid

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**Upcoming Meetings**

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

**March 23-25—Capital District Garden and Flower Show at HVCC**

**April 7—Greg Griffis, The Wonders of Orchid Roots in Colonie**

**May 5—TBD in Colonie**

**June 9—Piping Rock Open House in Galway**

**July—No Meeting**

**August 4—picnic at Stan & Fern Lee's, Scotia**

**Bark will be available at the March meeting.** If you are in desperate straits before then, you can call Stan and pick it up at his house 518-557-2070.

**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
Mark Conley	Raffle
	Greeter

NENYOS Contact:  
nenyosorchids@gmail.com  
Sandy Buxton Newsletter Editor

**Upcoming Events in the Northeast**

**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)

**Plant Opportunity****NENYOS PREORDER PLANTS – 2018 SPRING**

Each year the society, under Stan's management with major assistance from the design team, builds a grand display for the Flower Show held in the Capital District. In order for us to have enough color for the structures, the Society has initiated a system of preordering orchids AT COST! for its members. We hunt down budded and blooming orchids from growers near and far for \$16 each. OUR COST AND YOUR COST! This is your chance to get mature/blooming orchids for the most reasonable price AND help color-up the orchid display. We can request preferences for plant families: cattleyas, paphs, oncidium, etc, or sizes, standards, minis or simply species, but essentially it is GROWERS' CHOICE. We'll unpack at Stan's March 14th.

In exchange for this deal, the orchids are used in the display and only get distributed at breakdown on Sunday, March 25th 4pm. Generally, this helps us get lots of folks to tear down the display. It is a lottery style dispersal and works. Last year we had folks purchase orchids during breakdown but they will not be sold at \$16. We had quite a few extras but I cannot guarantee it from year to year. CHECKS PAYABLE TO NENYOS. 4 Orchids - \$64; 8 Orchids - \$128. Share or split the eight-some with friends, and come help out and have a good time. Contact **Janet 518-673-3212, [janetvinyard@yahoo.com](mailto:janetvinyard@yahoo.com)** for information, preferences and questions.

DEADLINE FOR PREORDER IS the MARCH 1st MEETING. Also take a look through your collection and bring orchids in bloom Wednesday the 21st to Stan's or Thursday morning to HVCC.

-Janet Vinyard

**April Speaker - Greg Griffis: "The Wonders of Orchid Roots."**

Greg Griffis first became aware of orchids in 2009. He first heard about them through a college friend, who had always admired orchids. Studying at West Chester University, from which he graduated with a degree in Music Education, put him in close proximity to Longwood Gardens. He attended the 2010 Longwood Orchid Show where he purchased his first orchid. One plant quickly became twenty or so, and before long he was hooked. In 2010 he visited Parkside Orchid Nursery for the first time, and by Summer 2011 he was working part time for Tom Purviance and John Salventi. He studied under their tutelage while working for them, and when they sold the nursery in 2012, he was hired by the new owners as the Grower and Manager of Parkside Orchid Nursery. He managed Parkside for one year, before leaving to grow orchids in Hawaii. He worked for Hilo Orchid Farm for more than a year, spending a large amount of time working with Paphiopedilum, as well as Inter-generic Oncidiinae and Miltoniopsis. At the beginning of 2015 Greg began working as the orchid grower at Longwood Gardens, where he remains today.



**Mystery Question:** WHAT'S odd about this Paphiopedilum ?



Answer will be revealed at the March 3 meeting....



Member Genevieve Wiech sent this picture and caption:

The White flowers (Phalaenopsis) are one plant with 11 flowers, the two spotted flowers are actually on one stem with four more buds to open then the two Paphs. I have one more small Paph in bud but too small yet for a pic.

It is so exciting to get blooms!

### January Meeting Recap

The luncheon and social time gave a nice break to the formal Annual Meeting. The budget was discussed and voted on.

Near the end of lunch, President Donna Wardlaw went around the room and asked what members liked or would like to see more of in future meetings. The comments I got down were:

Deb appreciated the excitement and energy of the auction.

Elaine felt the friendliness and generosity of the members is what makes this club outstanding.

Tom felt the informal discussions among members helping each other out with growing insights was a highlight.

Joyce liked the picnics at Piping Rock which exposed us to professional level growing conditions as well as the August picnic hosted by Stan and Fern (both present at the lunch) where the club raffled plants members might not otherwise have been exposed to.

### 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  
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)

One of the newer members especially appreciated Alex's beginner's talks.

I'm afraid there were other comments that I didn't catch-as an amateur reporter I didn't start taking notes till after a few members had already made comments.

I am sure if anyone wants to pass along any more thoughts they should talk to Donna or email Sandy or Alex.

Pictures on pg 6      Orchid reporter  
Joyce Villa

**Reprinted from March 2015****Growing Semi-Hydroponically**

As an in-house expert, Drew Monthie of Glens Falls offered to speak on the culture method he uses to grow many of his orchids. As an example of how successful this system can be, he brought an Encyclia with a tall flower spike still on the plant. It had started blooming in April and had lasted with continuous blooms until New Year's Day – about 8 months of fun!

The system Drew described to us is not what most people would think of when hearing hydroponic growing – long tubes of continuous flowing nutrient solution running through plants nestled in rock wool. Certainly a more commercial application situation.

What he showed us was a system using clay pellets or LECA (Lightweight Expanded Clay Aggregate) that can be good to use since they don't break down like bark, can be re-used and serve to raise the humidity around the plants growing in them. Drew washes the pellets in the sink with dish detergent to remove mineral deposits or algae.

A number of orchid species appear to thrive in this type of system: Bulbophyllum; Cattleya; Cymbidium; Dendrobium; Epidendrum; Maxillaria; Oncidium; Paphiopedilum; Phalaenopsis alliance; and Phragmipedium.

The pot for this system are clear containers with 2 small (size appropriate) holes on each side cut into them about 1 inch from the bottom of the pot. This turns the bottom inch into a reservoir which enables roots to access water.

When potting with the clay pellets, it is a deal if they can be soaked for 2 hours before use. Something that is important to note, the clay changes color when it dries which can help gauge when plants should be watered.

**The process:**

Take the plant to repot out of its current medium. Rinse off the roots under warm water.

Add a few pellets to the pot. Then add the plant, spreading out the roots and begin backfilling with pellets. It may be necessary to stake the plant for support.

If the pellets were pre-soaked don't water the new potting immediately, allow 2-3 days and watch the plant.

To water the new pot, run water into the top until it runs out the holes. Drew fertilizes regularly and flushes the pot about once/month to prevent salt buildup on the pellets. He did comment that some-

times algae will grow on the pellets but it doesn't bother the plants.

**Tips:**

You need to figure out how often to water based on the temperature and micro-climate in your house or growing area.

If you are re-potting in the cool season – err on the side of dryness until the plant is established. Pellets are a colder growing medium than bark and may stress plants. Root rot is only a problem if re-potting in the winter.

Some orchid species will not thrive in a semi-hydroponic system or medium. Not well suited to semi hydroponic culture: Acineta; Stanhopea; Toluinas, and many Lithophytes.

As always for most orchid work, for city water it is important to let it sit overnight to reduce chlorine content.

As Drew stressed, growing semi-hydroponically can be a real benefit to many of us with busy lives and less than perfect growing conditions. It enables us to:

Water less frequently.

Repot less often.

Provide a constant food supply.

Provide a system where roots can draw water/moisture up from a reservoir.

You cannot overwater!

So enjoy trying this system and see if it might help you branch into some new orchid varieties that have been challenging for you.

By Sandy Buxton II

Habenaria erichmichelii 'Memoria Ernst Michel' CHM/AOS; Photographer: James McCulloch





## The Faddegons Event in Latham

The pictures include the NENYOS table, and some display pieces that Faddegons was nice enough to let Ben and I make, once they found out that we were florists.

As a whole, they were very generous, gracious, and amazing. It was a fun experience before and even more so after they gave me free reign of their back work room :P

But everyone had a wonderful time, and I learned so much getting to listen to everyone around me speak with folks wanting to purchase orchids. It was something I will never forget, and something I will definitely do again! I recommend it for everyone!

Oddly enough, even though we are there to help folks learn about the orchids they are buying, it is a great way for newcomers to learn.

All day, information about orchids is being given, and just soaking it in like a sponge, you just can't buy that!



PMcDavid



PMcDavid

By Philip R. McDavid



PMcDavid



PMcDavid



Sophranitis brevipunduncu-  
lata from Elaine Grega

## Show Table Tales - January

Brassavola cordata from  
Donna Wardlaw



Show Table  
at Wolfert's  
Roost

Paphiopedilum  
tranlienianum from  
Janet Vinyard



Den. Sunny  
Vista x Du-  
nokayla  
'Tuyet' from  
Kristine  
Komjathy

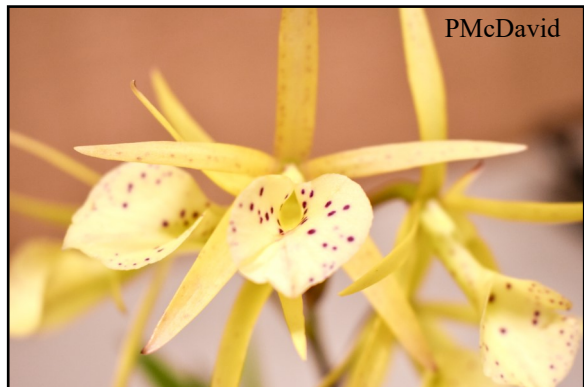


It's good to see our club enjoying orchids,  
each other and the winter as we make our  
way to Spring!





Show Table Tales—February





# 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

**March 3, 2018**

**1:30 p.m. Announcements  
and Beginner Talk**

**1:50 p.m. Show Table,**

**2:10 Dick Doran,  
Cool Growing Orchid  
Guru from New Jer-  
sey**

**He will have  
plants for sale.**

## Questions and Raffle

The meeting is at the William K. Sanford Library, 629  
Albany Shaker Road, Colonie (Loudonville, 12211)

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

### Raffle Winners

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



JVilla

### 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.



DMonthie