



North Eastern New York Orchid Society

contact@nenyos.org**May 2014**www.nenyos.org

Roots!

Tom Purviance & John Salventi, from Parkside Orchid Owners provided a great visit with their comments at the Show Table and Tom's presentation on Roots! It's all about the roots!

It certainly was a great introduction for some of our members to a NE-NYOS meeting.

There are many ways to look at a plant and even more to evaluate it. But "healthy roots are the key to healthy orchids."

Epiphytes grow where air movement and light are abundant. Roots exist to gather water and nutrition for the plant and provide support. But orchid roots are also special because they can photosynthesize. There are several different layers in a root which allows for it to have a variety of functions. Some parts are the plumbing that carries the nutrient and the water to the plant. Other parts absorb the water and then pass it to the plumbing.

Tom talked about several special things he does or looks at when working with his orchids but one of his big tips was clear pots. Clear pots allow you to "see" the roots. Dry roots are silvery or white, wet roots are green. You can see beads of moisture in the potting material.

If you are not absolutely convinced your plant needs water, you should wait another day or two. It is far more harmful to overwater than to underwater!

Know your plants too.

Miltoniopsis roots may be stained by bark.

Cymbidiums are terrestrial so they have large, thick, fleshy roots.

Phals like open aerated mix.

Oncidiums have small thin roots which can't take up lots of water at one time.

Unhealthy roots

Most Phals., at present, are grown and then started in moss when moved to pots. If the potting mix is re-done in a healthy way, there will be good roots. Otherwise, there may be few or no roots.

Repot once/year. Not because the orchid is too big but because the mix is compressed and the roots need air around them.

When cutting or trimming roots or stems, you should use sterile implements. Tom was VERY specific – to prevent the spread of virus and other nasty problems, flame the tools. You can dip in alcohol but the kill time is slow so it is better to dip and then flame with a candle, gas stove or torch. Just don't burn down your greenhouse or house!

One of the highlights of the presentation was the video he showed to document how velamen, the outside covering of the root, works to take up water. He placed a droplet of water on a root and we watched the changes on the root's surface as the water was absorbed into the sponge-like material before it actually is transported into the plant. Remember the goal of watering is to "fully hydrate the roots" which will feed the plant.

Everyone needs to learn how your

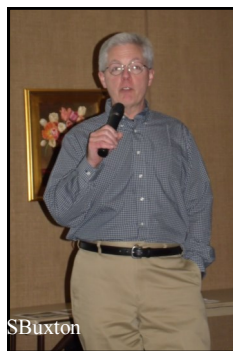
pots feel before and after watering. This will help you know when you need to water your plants again.

Also, when you change an element in your plant culture system, you will have to change other things (or everything else) in order to maintain the balance in the system. For example, increasing the amount of light available to the plants, usually means that you will have to water more, both because the temp might have increased and because the plant will be using more water in response to the light. If you pot in clay pots, you will have to water more often because the clay gives off more water than a plastic pot and causes the pot to dry out faster.

Additional tips: soak any bark mix before you use it, at least for 30 minutes. Remember most of the commercial mixes are baked.

Prevention is the best medicine. Try to keep from getting problems. Have a quarantine area to keep new plants separated until you find out if they have bugs or bacteria probs. Watch your plants. Don't switch everyone over to some new radical treatment at the same time – try a few plants to see how it works in your world.

If you would like more, visit their website: everythingaboutorchids.com
-by Sandy Buxton



John speaking during the presentation.

May 2014

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Upcoming Meetings

May 3—Steve Male from Fishing Creek Orchids in PA “Growing a Diverse Collection of Unusual Plants in one Environment” at Sanford Library

May 31—Open House at Piping Rock Orchids in Galway, NY. 2270 Cook Road off of State Route 67. (This will take the place of June meeting.)

July—No Meeting

August 2—Annual Picnic at Stan & Fern Lee’s in Scotia

September 6—Ron McHatton at Sanford Library

September 14—IPA Meeting with 3 speakers at CCE, 50 West High St, Ballston Spa

October 4—Alan Koch from Gold Coast Orchids in CA at Sanford Library

Nov 1—AUCTION at Sanford Library

Dec 6—Holiday Gathering at Sanford Library

MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS OFFICERS FOR 2014

Donna Wardlaw	Co-President
Janet Vinyard	Co-President & Treasurer
Deb Lambeth	Secretary
Ed Belemjian	Director
Sandy Buxton	Director
Mark Conley	Director
Steve Condon	Website
Stan Lee	Past President
Sandy Buxton	AOS Rep
Gillen O’Brien	Name Tags
Joan Gardner	Refreshments
Bob Odess & Ed Belemjian	Raffle Greeter

NENYOS Contact:

Contact@nenyos.org

Sandy Buxton Newsletter Ed.
buxtonsandy@gmail.com

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

Apr 29 - May 4 – 2014 Spring AOS Members Meeting and Show, Minneapolis, MN Kim Livingston, 952-831-8135, thelivingstons@comcast.net. <http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=512>

May 2-4 – Long Island Orchid Society Show, Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park Conference Center, Oyster Bay, NY. festival@longislandorchidsociety.org, www.longislandorchidsociety.org

June 7, 2014 Shore FEST at Silva Brothers Orchids in NJ. Silvaorchids.com for more info.

GROS—Greater Rochester Orchid Soc.

CTOS—Connecticut OS

STOS—Southern Tier OS

MHOS—Mid-Hudson OS

Check 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—

And here's the list of upcoming beginner talks:

Beginner Talks 2014-2015

May	How orchids are named
Sept	Repotting
Oct	Orchid Habitat
Dec	Orchid Databases
Feb	Preparing your orchids for display
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!

Beginner Presentation: Orchids 101

So Many Orchids,
So Little Money!

Once again, Alex Shepherd gave a great overview of general orchid information. Giving us a perspective and snippets of information which help to make us knowledgeable, Alex provided a fun lecture.

The largest genera of plants, orchids make up 10% of the world's plants growing on almost all continents, except Antarctica. Orchids fall into just a few general categories. Epiphytes – plants that grow in the air anchored on trees or other structures. Lithophytes – plants that grow on rocks or cliffs. And Terrestrial or semi-terrestrial – plants that grow in native soil or bogs.

What makes a plant an Orchid?

Orchids share several characteristics:

Bilateral Symmetry – if you cut it down the middle, the right and left halves are the same.

Parts – each plant has 3 sepals and 3 petals – though they may be fused or altered.

Reproductive Organs – Orchids have a column (several parts are fused together) and pollinia (where the pollen is fused). This makes orchids excellent plants for people with allergies because their very nature makes them quite hypoallergenic.

By Sandy Buxton

Don't forget if you are a Raffle winner, don't forget to bring a goodie to the May meeting to help all of us celebrate!

Demystifying Dendrobiums

On Monday, April 21, 2014, there will be a webinar hosted by the American Orchid Society. The webinar starts at 8:30 pm, and ends an hour later (Eastern Standard Time.) The following information is from the American Orchid Society website:

While there are hundreds of species distributed from Japan to India and south to Australia, New Zealand and the islands of the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the vast majority of species readily available can be grouped into a handful of culturally similar groups. An understanding of these groups, which species and hybrids belong to them, and their cultural idiosyncrasies, is critical to successful Dendrobium culture, but once you master them, these plants are wonderful performers. This presentation summarizes the general needs of dendrobiums and looks in detail at each of the cultural groups with examples of species and hybrid groups that belong to them.

Presenter Ron McHatton has been growing orchids for about 50 years and has an eclectic collection of plants representing a wide cross-section of the orchid family and over the years his private collection has numbered in excess of 2500 plants; a direct result of no willpower or common sense. A PhD Chemist by training, Ron is currently the American Orchid Society's Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Education responsible for editorial content and layout of the magazine. In addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Society judge. Prior to joining the AOS staff, he volunteered for the organization for

over 25 years; chairing several national committees, twice holding a seat on the organization's Board of Trustees and briefly serving as vice-president. In addition to Ron's volunteer support of the AOS, he has also been a long-time supporter of the Orchid Digest. In this role, he has served on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee for many years and as its President for three consecutive terms.

Go to the AOS website (<http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=757>) to register for the webinar.

Trading post

Aquarium For Sale - I have a 55 gallon aquarium with a wrought iron stand that I no longer use and thought that a member might be interested in it to make a terrarium for their orchids! It also has a full set of lights, not sure if it's the "correct" lights for growing orchids but they could always change the bulbs. I'm asking \$60.00 for it all. Contact for more info, brucemichaelscafford@verizon.net and 518-451-0965.

Aquarium for sale - I have a 29 gallon aquarium that has a crack in the upper corner not good for holding water but perfect if someone wanted to make a terrarium. If you hear of anyone who is interested in building one I would like to sell it for \$20 dollars I could bring it to the open house at Glen's next month as I believe the presentation from J&L will be about making terrariums. Contact Tom Hoodack with **Aquarium** in email subject line at thoodack@nycap.rr.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.

VENDORS WHO HELPED WITH THE 2013 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

Carmela Orchids

Hakalau, HI
www.carmelaorchids.net

Danker Florist

658 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 518-489-5461
www.dankerflorist.com

Island Sun Orchids —Karen Kimberle; PO Box 909, Keaau, HI

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

Sunset Valley Orchids

Fred Clarke, 1255 Navel Place Vista, CA 92081(760) 639-6255
www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com

Tohru Takekoshi, former NENYOS, Member, Scotia, NY

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
scheeren@juno.com

AOS Monthly Checklist for May and June



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

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.



Paphiopedilum Maudiae is a perennial favorite slipper orchid.

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 fair-rieanum*-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.

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.

Small Bug Can Cause Mitey Big Problems

by Greg Allikas, October 2010, AOS.org

Like the thrips we mentioned last month, mites have stealth as their advantage. Unless you have really good eyesight and a strong magnifying lens, you may never even see a spider mite. Usually, the first thing that will alert you to a spider mite epidemic is the silvery stippling on the underside of orchid leaves. That is, if you happen to be in the habit of looking underneath your orchid leaves. If you are not, you may not notice until the damage has spread to the upper surfaces. If you have a 10x or 20x magnifier you can confirm the presence of mites by looking at a suspected leaf. You will see the small eight-legged critters scurrying about. Another way to determine their presence is to wipe the leaf with a white tissue or paper towel. If there are mites, there will be a red-brown smear on the tissue. If you don't notice a spider mite outbreak until you see silk webs on the undersides of leaves you have probably already sustained significant damage. The word to the wise is observation. See our [July newsletter](#) for more on that subject.

Most information you read will tell you that spider mite outbreaks are more likely to be seen when weather conditions are hot and dry. Then they will go on to tell you to increase humidity as a means of prevention. This advice may work well for growers in northern temperate zones and it is certainly the most benign means of preventing mites. In places like the Gulf Coast and South Florida, humidity rarely goes below 70% in the summer and

spider mites can still be a problem. Diligence is the best prophylactic against all pests. It is a lot easier to eliminate a few mites on a Phalaenopsis than it is to control a runaway outbreak on a seedling bench!

Most of the household remedies mentioned in the past two newsletters will also provide control on



minor mite problems. Using a solution of soapy water to thoroughly wash the leaves of a mite-infected orchid may be all it takes to solve the problem. Rinse with clear water afterwards and keep the plant isolated for a week or two to be sure you have eliminated the pests. Isopropyl rubbing alcohol in a quart hand sprayer can be used to "jet away" mites from the underside of orchid leaves. Insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils and especially Neem Oil can be effective against mites.

Biological controls such as green lacewing larvae and predatory mites can be effective controls in a closed greenhouse. Just remember that a commitment to biological

controls has to be 100%. You cannot spray any agricultural chemicals without killing off beneficial insects along with the bad guys.

Because mites are eight-legged creatures more closely related to spiders, regular insecticides do not work to kill them. For serious mite control, special chemicals called miticides are called for. For many years, Kelthane was the orchid hobbyist's miticide of choice. It is no longer registered for orchid use and is now sold only to professionals. Newer chemicals such as Avid or Pentac will effect control of mites as will growth regulators based on Azadirachtin, which may be safer for humans. Sprays based on Pyrethrins are said to also be effective against mites. Before using any pesticides, read and follow label instructions explicitly.

Experienced orchid growers will identify and treat a problem before strong agricultural chemicals are needed. Make sure that you are one of them!



Wake Gardner wanted to make sure that everyone remembers that "Spring is here!" The plants know it and are starting new growths and more importantly, the bugs know it.

They are attacking your plants, and if you don't pay attention and stay on them RIGHT NOW, you will have one heck of a problem all summer long!

So look at under the leaves of your plants and keep an eye out!

Show Table Tales



SBuxton



SBuxton

Janet Vinyard brought Cymbidium Cally night – very dark. And a Cattleya with tons of roots – very appropriate for our lecture. (in Extra pages) Her Paph is one she is disappointed in for the shape of the petals and color.

Maggie Wiard brought in a NOID hoping someone could ID it for her. She bought it from Hawaii in 2008. John gave her the name – it is a Brassavola hybrid!

Phil Rudko (and John Raymond) have a small greenhouse and like mounted species plants. They brought in Phal stuartia with a nice big bloom. An Epidendrum was at the end of the table. And most importantly, a Brass. Empress of Russia which came from a cutting from a plant growing since 1896 and has a faint fragrance of lavender.



SBuxton

Mark Conley brought a yellow BLC Love Sound that he bought from Alan Koch. It has 4 spikes and does well at his place. Wake Gardner talks .



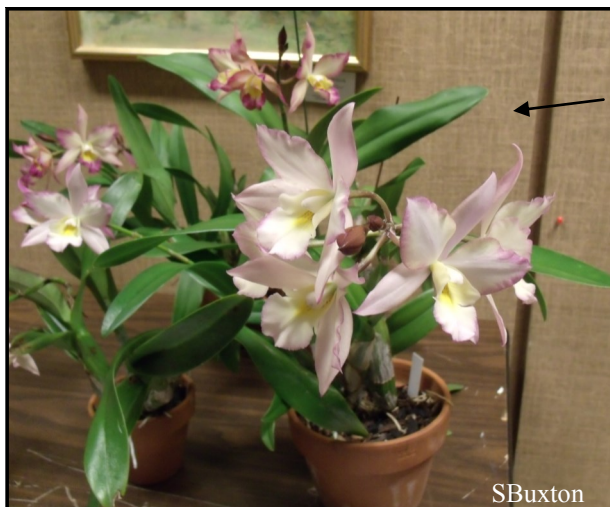
SBuxton



SBuxton



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Wake Gardner brought 4 Iwanagara Apple Blossom plants which usually don't open at the same time. 1 he got from Jen Palermo. He grows them in his greenhouse in winter and out under his crabapple trees in summer. LC Prism Palette is a great purple plant which originally came out of a community pot that was shared with NENYOS members in 1988. It was a race to see who would have the first bloom from it. And his plant is still blooming more than 20 years later!

His Oncidium Sweet Sugar is a great yellow bright.

SBuxton



SBuxton



Phil Rudko's mounted. Genevieve Wiech brought a Dendrobium which had 2 spikes. She grows on a south-west facing windowsill and has had very good luck getting it to bloom. John praised the new growths on her plant.

Drew Monthie brought a potted Den. Microchip has been blooming since the beginning of February.

SBuxton



SBuxton

Donna Wardlaw brought 3 Masdevallias Auburn Hero, Sue Forrester and Southern Sun. they grow in her wine cellar in a converted aquarium with T-5 lights overhead and muffin fans blowing air. The LC Reho Redhead was very showy.

LC Titus Swan is a cattleya he has had for years. Wake has been fertilizing it more lately, using Dynamite as a slow release in the pot during the summer.



SBuxton



SBuxton

Drew also had a Bulb. Falcatum which he claims is very easy to grow.

Ed Belemjian brought a tall spiky plant and a Maxillaria tenuifolia which had a great coconut smell.



SBuxton



SBuxton

April Raffle Winners-bring a goodie in May

Sandy Buxton II	John Raymond
Monica McClary	Tracy Chuck
Lew Hargett	Rebecca Burgos
Yong Sook H. Kim	Gill O'Brien
Janet Wierzchowski	Sandy Buxton I
Bob Bristol	Genevieve Wiech
Stan Lee	



Stan Lee brought a great Tolumnia he bought at Parkside and a Den which only bloomed with 1 spike last year. This year, he withheld water for 3-4 weeks and now has 3 spikes with great flowers!



Sarcochilus



North Eastern New York Orchid Society

NENYOS c/o S. Lee, 130 Johnson Road, Scotia, NY 12302 www.nenyos.org

NEXT MEETING

May 3, 2014

**2:15 Steve Male from
Fishing Creek Orchids**

**"Growing a Diverse Collection of
Unusual Plants in One Environ-
ment"**

1:30 Beginner talk

**2:00 p.m. Show Table,
After presentation—
Questions and Raffle**

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

(Times are approximate.)

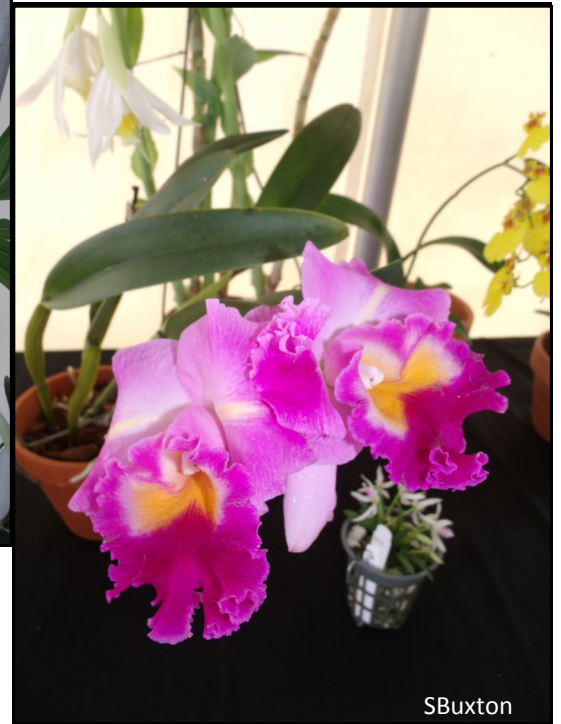
Extra Info



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Wake's Thunia (above) and Mark's Neostylis added lots of discussion to the Toad Flax Nursery display. Wake and Joan also brought a Paphiopedilum sampler basket (below).



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SBuxton



SBuxton

THE TRIP TO SHOREFEST IS ON!!!!**SATURDAY JUNE 7th.**

There'll be vendors, lectures, judging, lunch provided, a \$5 discount coupon and plenty of fun camaraderie and orchid talk. Check out Silvaorchids.com for details of the event.

We were only 2 shy of the required 20. Mid Hudson Orchid Society has gotten close to the same number and is willing to **MAKE A GO!!!** of it. They are beating the bushes amongst friends and other garden society members to garner a few additional attendees. There is room for 52 and I hope you will encourage someone to join in on this orchid adventure.

We leave the Holiday Inn on Wolf Road, Albany PROMPTLY at 7:00 a.m.. JUNE 7th SATURDAY.

We can arrange a stop at the Cairo exit for those a bit south of Albany. We then stop in the Newburgh area to pick up the Mid Hudson Group.

The cost is \$40 per person. Please make the check payable to NENYOS and mail it to me:

Janet Vinyard
597 State Highway 162
Sprakers, NY 12166
H. 518-673-3212
M. 646-301-8576

or bring to the May 3rd NENYOS meeting and give it to Stanley Lee. I certainly hope you can join us!!!
Email me: roland@thebardrocks.com for questions.

—Janet

2014 NENYOS Piping Rock Open House & Picnic

I'm including a schedule for the day's activities it will also be on Glen's website Pipingrockorchids.com. There will be a picnic lunch with a variety of assorted dishes provided by our members and hot dogs, hamburgers, cold drinks provided by Piping Rock. We know how hard it is to bring a dish to share if you are traveling by bus or a long distance so a small donation would be very helpful to help offset some of our food costs. If you can bring a folding lawn chair with you that would be helpful. Here is the schedule for the day.

9:30 NENYOS Volunteers arrive
10:30 Invited Guests Arrive, Greenhouses Open for shopping, Raffle Tickets on sale
12:15 Lunch 1:30 Lunch clean up
1:45 Begin Raffle Table
2:00 Short Meeting & Announcements
2:15 J & L Orchids, CT
3:15 Marc Hachadorian
4:00 Questions & Answers and Greenhouse Shopping
5:00 Pick up

Toad Flax Open House April 12, 2014

A hardy group of NENYOS volunteers participated in Toad Flax Nursery's Open House, Route 9 in South Glens Falls, NY. It was a breezy but sunny day when the plants and people wiggled through the tent and greenhouses. Billed in the radio spots as the New York Orchid Society – *we are trying to take over the world!* – several groups of people came to see us and ask their most pressing orchid questions.

It was a fun day in a beautiful setting as we were surrounded by wonderful greenhouses full of spring plants. Our orchid blooms held their own as they put on a display representing several different genera which people would not expect to see.

Wake Gardner brought a Thunia which was in bloom. This deciduous orchid doesn't look like most orchids people think about. He also had his Cattleya show and an Iwanagara Apple blossom on display again.



Mark Conley brought several Cattleyas, one of which was in a basket with no potting

material. This gave us plenty to talk about with people when they were asking culture questions!

Stan Lee had brought his Tolumnia as well as several Phals to show off the variety of plants.

It was a great Show Table representing NENYOS and we had lots of comments and spoke with a number of people. It appears there are a number of orchid friends who live in this area north of Albany! Hopefully, we will snag a few more members to share and enjoy everything at NENYOS!

Thanks to Rich Morris and his crew (Jen, Amber, Melissa and the rest)! (Stan got to check out some plumbing he could add to his greenhouse and reduce his workload....) —Sandy Buxton