

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

contact@nenyos.org

May 2015

www.nenvos.org

The Nutritional Requirements of Orchids

John Salventi gave a great presentation which was a preview of a May 28th American Orchid Society webinar. John and his partner Tom Purviance are the former owners of Parkside Orchids and speak around the country on a variety of orchid topics.

Orchids have some very traditional requirements to grow and thrive: Energy, Matter and Nutrients dissolved in water so they can take them up into the plant, usually through the roots. Some nutrients the plant may need lots, other nutrients the plant may only need a miniscule amount.

The action of some nutrients are crucial for overall success of the plant.

Potassium – regulates water uptake – keep for getting nutrition up in to the

John Salventi SBuxton plant.

Calcium – is important for a growing root tip

Mg or magnesium is crucial for chlorophyll activity.

Iron carries O_2 in the plant just like iron in hemoglobin carries O_2 in body.

Photosynthesis which is the action that occurs due to chlorophyll, the stuff that makes leaves green, in the plant produces glucose and oxygen. Plants use carbon dioxide as an input to fuel the engine. But several different nutrients are involved in the process.

When looking at labels – fertilizers list N-P-K-Ca-Mg...in that order Nitrogen – Phosphorus – Potassium – Calcium – Magnesium.

Make sure all nutrients appear on the label (macro, minor and trace that you are looking for.

Water Quality

Once you get past the nutrient requirements of your plants, you need to know about the water you are using to move the nutrients into the plants.

Rain water is great. Dehumidifier water is the equivalent to distilled water. There is nothing in it. City water may have a pH of 7-7.2 and is fine. But hard water is high in minerals so it is difficult to add more to move to the plants. Water softened with a salt water softener is TERRIBLE. Excess salt prevents velamen from moving water within the plant. Water with a high pH prevents nutrients from being absorbed.

Tom and John brought some great plants from their collection to sell.



If you are worried and want to check on your water, you do not have to buy a pH meter. John recommended buying a test kit for a fish aquarium. It gives several options for testing at a very reasonable price. And they also have solutions that you can use to raise or lower pH!

Purchased Fertilizers
Jack's
Dyna-Grow
Schultz's
MSU (Michigan State
University) formula

By Sandy Buxton (Article continues on page 4)

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Upcoming Meetings

May 2—Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids at Sanford Library in Colonie

June 7—Piping Rock Open House—co-hosted with NENYOS, in Galway, NY.

July—No Meeting

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

Sept. 12—no meeting

September 13– IPA meeting co-hosted by NENYOS in Voorhees-ville

Oct 3—

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 Steve Condon Website Stan Lee Past President Sandy Buxton AOS Rep Gillen O'Brien Name Tags Joan Gardner Refreshments **Bob Odess** Raffle

Greeter

NENYOS Contact:

Contact@nenyos.org

Sandy Buxton Newsletter Ed. buxtonsandy@gmail.com

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

Apr 24 – 26, 2015 Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society International Orchid Show & Sale at Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Bob Sprague at 484-919-2922 or bobsatcyndal@aol.com

May 2 – 3, 2015 Southern Tier Orchid Society Annual Show at Oakdale Mall, 601-605 Harry L. Drive, Johnson City, NY. Contact: Anne Quain at 607-797-1383 or anneetinker@yahoo.com

May 9 – 10, 2015 Orchid Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania Show at Palms Banquet Room at Boston's, 8071 Peach St., Erie, PA. Contact: Steve Kidder 814-866-1830 or spkido1@neo.rr.com

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 whimsyor-chids@gmail.com

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 C heck 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

May Eeeww – What's that on my orchid? (pests and other orchid maladies)

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!

The April 2015 AOS Corner-

From the desk of Laura Newton, Membership and Affiliated Societies Chair

The Webinar for this month:

This month we have a double-header!

- Greg Allikas will present- Cattleya lueddemanniana on April 14, 2015 at 8:30 EDT/5:30PDT. (This webinar is for members only.) and a week later...
- Ron McHatton- AOS Greenhouse Chat on April 21, 2015 at 8:30pm EDT (This webinar is open to everyone.)

The April issue of Orchids typically concentrates on judging and the 2015 issue is a must read:

•Judging Paphiopedilum rothschildianum- The New Standard, by James Fang, this article outlines what makes this species awardable.

•Judging Masdevallias by Mario Ferrusi, an in depth look at this genus that has many shapes and colors.

•The Best of the Best, by Lois Posev describes the AOS Special Judging awards for 2013, with wonderful insights about the award winning plants and their owners. •Paragons- The 2014 First Class Certificate, by Kathy Barrett, is a photo essay of the fabulous flowers that scored over 90 points in 2014. •For those of you that are not really into judging, there are other great articles: on repotting, Bletia, Ornithidium and Camaridium, and an article on the Redland International Orchid Festival which is coming up this year May 15th-17th.

It is not too late to plan to attend the AOS Spring Members Meeting at the end of this month that will be held in Portland, Oregon and hosted by the Portland and Cherry City Orchid Societies, April 29th thru May 3rd at the Lloyd Center Doubletree.

You don't want to miss out on this great opportunity!

Check out all the details at the website below:

http:// www.portlandorchidsociety.org/ calendar/2015AOS.php

The Members Meeting in conjunction with the Slipper Orchid Alliance, The Phalaenopsis Alliance, and the Pleurothallid Alliance have an awesome array of fabulous speakers, which include:

Frank Smith- Keynote Speaker, Graham Wood, George Hatfield-Cymbidiums, Alan Koch, Wally Orchard- Disas, Carlos Fighetti-Phalaenopsis, Norman Fang, Kristen Uthus- Neofinetia Culture, and Alfonso Doucette- Coolers for Cold Growers.

Something that I found just recently in the conservation area of the website that I think is great an Orchid emergency care card that can be found at the link below

http://aos.org/images/ img_content/carecard.gif

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

Island Sun Orchids -

Karen Kimmerle; 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

The Orchid Works

Rayna@the orchidworks.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

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 sten 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.

From page 1—Orchid nutrition

Fertilizers that are labeled for orchids can be used according to the label suggestions. John encourages watering 3 weeks with fertilizer and then in the 4th week flushing the pot with lots of clean water.

However, if you are using none orchid based fertilizers, you may want to cut back on the strength of the solution and use the weakly-weekly approach.

In summary, feed your plants, it will help them grow and thrive. But don't allow salt build up in the pots because it will cause some long term impacts.

Some of the Comments during Q & A

Time released fertilizers work well as additional nutrition on the top of the pot. The problem is the fertilizer releases faster in hot, humid climates.

There is no minimum temp where plants can take up nutrients. However, some plants are not really keen on receiving cold water in their pot.

The pH of well water will change during the year due to rainfall but the amount of change is relatively small.

Chlorine in city water is not at a level which will affect your orchids.

Rainwater being harvested off a roof is fine unless it is a brand new roof when it may bring extra stuff. John said in western PA where bituminous coal plants still operate there is still enough material in the air to cause acid rain with a pH of 3.54!



The sale table for the speakers and members was covered with some great deals!

terrestrial – plants that grow in in native soil or bogs.

It is important to know what you have for an orchid plant. Do your research but also remember sometimes plants, especially at big box stores, may be mislabeled. So also ask advice before doing something drastic.

Don't be afraid to move plants create a shake up to spark a change in their behavior. But learn to recognize when your plant is happy – growing roots, growing leaves – blooming – whatever it may look like.

Beginner Session – There is No Need To Fear!

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 all flowering plants are orchids – more than 30,000 species among 900 genera growing on almost all continents, except Antarctica. With hybrids and crosses, almost 120,000 are added daily. 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-

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.

Next month – Eeeew, What's On My Orchids?

By: Sandy Buxton

Meet our volunteers - Gill O'Brien, Master of the Nametags & Show Table display material By Sandy Buxton II

I met with Gill and his wife Gladys on a brisk March morning at their house in Guilderland. After being vetted by Buddy, their dog, we explored where Gill's passion for plants, and especially orchids, began.

Gill inherited his green thumb from his parents who had victory gardens and chickens in the city



(Middletown, NY) where he grew up. Gladys also had parents who were farmers, her dad was a dairy turned chicken farmer. After Gill retired from his career as an industrial arts teacher (graduate of Oswego) Zx32 in 1985, he began to exercise his interest as a Master Gardener volunteer for Cornell Cooperative Extension in Albany County. After years in Voorheesville, he moved on to Landis Arboretum, in Schoharie County, as a volunteer where he executed pruning and specialty projects. He took several horticulture classes at SUNY-Cobleskill and was on the Buildings & Grounds committee, raising Hens & Chickens, a succulent for specialty sales there.

It was a challenge with travel and a rotating parade of directors, so Gill got excited when he spotted a notice for an upcoming NENYOS meeting, and the die was cast. Gill followed up on a love of orchids that he discovered years ago when he was stationed in Hawaii for basic training during the Korean War. He sent plants home from there to people he liked and enjoyed being around the beautiful plants.

Fast forward to 2001, Gill rescued a plant his son purchased for his wife which she almost killed. It lived and a new plant direction was born. He joined NENYOS in 2003 and continues to work to raise some great blooming plants. He has a significant African violet display as well as bromeliads and other succulents.

Unfortunately, the house Gill and Gladys have lived in for 55 years is not well suited to growing orchids, really. North facing windows, surrounded by trees causing too much shade and tiny windowsills, Gill built a light

stand and put it in his basement but the humidity rusted his antique tool collection!

So now he is back upstairs with the plants, while lobbying for a greenhouse. He has an eclectic collection mostly formed around rescues, scratch and dents and raffle wins. He waters through the winter with 100 gal. rainwater which he collects from the roof and transfers into 5 gal buckets in basement. This is driven by the house's water softener for city water.

The orchids have taken over the dining room, window and table, for most of the year. Gladys complains she only has a dining room for holidays when everything has to be moved or consolidated! During the summer, the collection moves outside to hand off the shed



and be placed on risers near the patio. He had a giant Cymbidium in his garage

This bow window was a change Gill added to the dining room for the plants. He insulates at night in winter to maintain warmth

It was a challenge with travel and a rotating parade of ectors, so Gill got excited when he spotted a notice an upcoming NENYOS meeting, and the die was a challenge with travel and a rotating parade of which he used to wheel out into the sun. Finally he broke it into 4 plants. For a challenge he is now growing Vandas as well as some terrarium based plants.

So now you know a little more about Gill....



Above Den. Now fully out. One of Gill's vandas.



Welcome New Members

After the annual trek to the Capital District Garden and Flower Show, NENYOS has an infusion of new orchid growing members. We would like to welcome you and hope that you will find it interesting to grow with us.

No matter how experienced or inexperienced you are, there is a ton of information available during our meetings. Stand around with a snack and chat. Look at the Show Table and ask questions as people unpack their display plants. Talk to the speaker especially if they are selling plants and learn about what is available.

But most importantly – keep your ears open! You can learn and share frequently.



We hope everyone enjoyed the quick intro activity Donna (our co-president) initiated. New members went around the room and introduced themselves us-



ing a microphone, (so we old people could hear them!) and told what they were interested in or why they decided to join.

Don't be afraid – to quote Alex's April Beginner Talk. At the May meeting, the Sandy Buxtons will celebrate six years of membership. We admit, it took us 2 full years before we had the nerve to do anything more than buy raffle tickets or work with our gift plants. But when we let loose, we are excited by the results. Paphs and Phals in bloom during the winter. Trying different types of orchids and learning that sometime you cannot save them all.

While we haven't had the nerve to move everybody outside during the summer yet, we might get there eventually.

So come in and enjoy the orchids with all of us. It certainly provides a show!

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. Glen is offering a 10% discount to our members who sign up as volunteer help in advance.

2:15 p.m. Speaker is Terry Kowalczuk of Flora Peculia, Toronto, 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 • 2:15 PM ~ Guest Speakers 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
- 4:00 PM 5:00PM (Socializing / Shopping)

Janet will have schedules and volunteer jobs at may meeting..

Show Table Tales



Jim Imbody – Masd. Highland Monarch – will have spikes throwing blooms until the end of May

Donna Wardlaw—Paph. Julius P. lowii x P. Roth-childianum – Donna has owned since mid-1990s!

Tolumnia 'Pretty in Pink' – is a hybrid that wants sun and wants to be watered often but needs to immediately dry out. She keeps it in a VERY small pot.

SBuxton



Tom Hoodack

Max. Yellow varabilis – interesting form – different from tenufolia.

Den. Aggregatum – bought from Parkside 10 years ago. It is grown in very dry conditions in greenhouse – 55-60 deg. At night and 80 deg. During day. He ignores for 6-7 weeks (no water) then gives a splash. When spikes start growing he waters more.

Den. Doctor Judith – bought from J & L, watered 1x/ week. Plant drops leaves, leaving just bare canes to blossom.



Mark Conley's Max. Jurgesii – this Max. is grown mounted, in a cool location under the same light as his Cattleyas. Has a light watermelon scent. He displayed it hanging off a pot.







Wake Gardner brought Schenorchis fragrans – smallest plant (Wake brought a magnifying glass to see the bloom) is grown mounted under lights. It is grown warm in winter.

And LC Trick or Treat x C. Carribean

Kristie Center

– brought a
raffle plant she
won that is in
bloom again,
Baldin's Kaleidoscope. She
likes to grow
in a clear pot
so you can see
the moisture
level and track
the root situation.









North Eastern New York Orchid Society

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

NEXT MEETING

May 2, 2015
2:15 Alan Koch of Gold
Country Orchids in California—

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.)

April Raffle Winners

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

Tom Hoodack Ken Mortenson Alex Shepherd Ray Bouchard Tracy Chuck Mary Menzies Jane Smith

Congratulations!!

Members are welcome to bring plants to sell at the meeting.



Prepared by Salventi-Purviance Enterprises LLC

To Convert Fertilizer Percentages to PPM

To convert to PPM, divide the stated % of the nutrient element (reduced to the elemental %) by 4 and move the decimal point once

The Nutritional Requirements of Orchids Fertilizing Generalities For the Ungeeks:

If you are using well water it is essential to have it analyzed, municipal

Shoot for a ratio of N highest, P lowest and K in between. If you achieve water nice but not necessary except for pH that (or are close) all you need to worry about is the N which is expressed

in the elemental form

higher with pure water Fertilize at the rate of 80-100 PPM Nitrogen; lower with hard water,

Do not exceed 500-600 TDS in your fertilizer water, half that for small

seedlings and salt sensitive plants like Masdevallias. Fertilize at a pH between 6 and 6.5 check pH after adding fertilizer to

Fertilize weekly for 3 or 4 times then with plain water

Do not use softened water from Na exchange systems, K systems OK

Supplement Ca, Mg, and S not absolutely necessary if using some Give up on "Blossom Booster" type fertilizers for most genera

To Convert Fertilizer Percentages to elemental percentages: CALCULATIONS FOR THE GEEKS AMONG US 10% Nitrogen A fertilizer with a 10-10-10 ratio has:

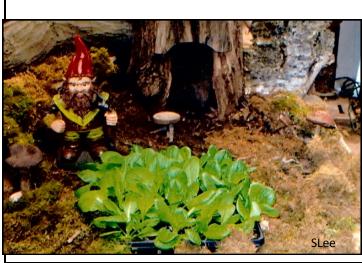
weight of this fertilizer is N. nitrogen is expressed in the elemental form so 10% of the 8.3% Potassium not 10% .4% Phosphorus not 10%

of P is 30 +70 = 43% therefore in fertilizer 10-10-10 the % of phosphorus is expressed as P2O5 so based on the atomic P is 0.43 x 10% = 4.4% weight therefore AtWt P-15 x 2 = 30 + AtWt O-8 x 5 = 40 Total Weight of the molecule is 30 + 40 = 70 and percentage

the percentage of K is $38 \div 46 = 83\%$ therefor in fertilizer 10potassium is expressed as K2O so AtWt K-19 x 2 =38 and AtWt O-8; Total Weight of the molecule is 38 + 8 = 10-10 the % of K is 0.83 x 10% = 8.3% 46 and

Some scenes from the Capital District Garden & Flower Show—March 27-29, 2015. This year Stan Lee made sure there were fun things for kids to watch and find while we talked with parents and grandparents about orchids. The Troll and Gnome houses were big hits along with the fairies and dragons!

If anyone has ideas for next year, Stan is all ears!





Prepared by Salventi-Purviance Enterprises LLC

10-10-10 Fertilizer: Gallon of water. 1 Gram = .035 oz and 0.2 (.184) oz/tsp, to the right. This results in the PPM for every gram of nutrient in 1

- N is 10% + by 4 = 2.5 move decimal = 25 PPM/gm (132/tsp)
- P is $10 \times .44 = 4.4\% \div 4 = 1.1$ move decimal = 11 PPM (58)
- K is 10 x .83 = 8.3% ÷ 4 = 2.1 move decimal = 21 PPM (109)
- All other elements secondary or micro shown on the package are in elemental percentages.

the desired PPM nitrogen. Let's use a fertilizer that is 14-10-12. To Calculate the amount of fertilizer to dilute in water to give you

Step 1: Multiply the desired nitrogen concentration by the gallons of fertilizer you want

Step 2: Multiply the percent nitrogen in the formula by 75

Step 3: Divide the value for Step 1 by the value from Step 2

Amount of fertilizer to add=

(desired N concentration X (# gallons of water) (% N in the fertilizer) X 75

So for 125 ppm of nitrogen in 1 gallon of water with our 14-10-12 fertilizer:

(14) X (75) (125) X (1)

or 0.119 ounces or 0.119 oz \div 0.2 oz/tsp = 0.6 tsp/Gallon.

IXI

A comparison of 5 common fertilizers at 1 tsp/Gallon of water 1.DS + 299 599 563 199 394 339 353 187 More pictures....NY In Bloom in February in front of Adirondack Geology exhibit.

Jack's Professional RO **Grows Even Better Orchids**

MSU Pure Water

Jack's Professional Well W

9 - 4 - 2312 - 3 - 15

119-23-252 158-17-164 172-17-164 **Grows Best Orchids**

20-20-20 30-10-10

264-116-219 396-58-109

132-58-109

7-9-5 756 Y-P-K

92-52-55 92-29-66

10-10-10 13 - 3 - 15

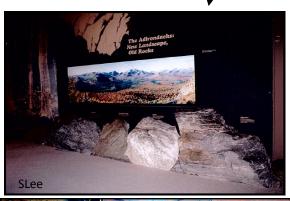
Schultz's

Jack's Classic Orchid

Brand

PPM N-P-K

Dyna-Gro Grow







★ Mid Pics are from January mtg. Then April event.





