



# North Eastern New York Orchid Society

contact@nenyos.org

www.nenyos.org

**November 2014**

## The Orchids of Madagascar By Sandy Buxton

Dr. Ron McHatton, the Education Director of the America Orchid Society, gave an outstanding presentation on the wonders and realities of orchids on this fascinating island. It is a very special location, sort of a "Land that Time Forgot". There are representatives of every orchid family except Cyrtipedia.

The island which is approximately 970 miles by 355 miles is off the east coast



SBuxton

of Africa. It is very old geologically and has been isolated due to the clockwise wind direction in the ocean. This means the wind travels from Antarctica before hitting the island, so no seeds, dust or other plant materials are carried naturally to the landmass.

There are dramatic variations in microclimates over short distances, similar to what happens in Ecuador. Due to its isolation, speciation occurred and 85% of the species found on the island are not found anywhere else in the world.

One of the points Ron made was orchids are highly evolved plants which have been alive for a long

time, over 100 million years, which means dinosaurs walked among orchids.

There are five distinct areas of the island: the Western Plains, the North, the Near Alpine, the Central Highlands, the East. Ron had numerous spectacular plant photos.

In the East rainfall is 6-10 Feet/year – there is NO dry season at low elevations and it is very short (2 weeks) at high levels.

Habenaria that grow there go dormant. Hairly orchids are pollinated by oil collecting bees. Calanthes, Phaius and Gastrorchis are wet/warm growers. A tip from Ron: If you are growing Phaius and you have leaf-tip dieback, it is NOT fertilizer burn, it is because you are not watering enough.

The Central Highlands range 2500-6500 ft in elevation, are south of the equator with iron-rich soil. The weather is cooler and more seasonal with 5 ft or less /yr in rainfall. But all of the rain comes in the summer, the winters are dry. Minimum temps are 55 deg. at low elevations with 40 at higher ones.

The High Mountains or Alpine area is 6500-9800 ft in elevation. It is extremely seasonal habitat where a dry season last 7-8 months. Precipitation is mist, drizzle or nightly dews while the summer is the rainy season.



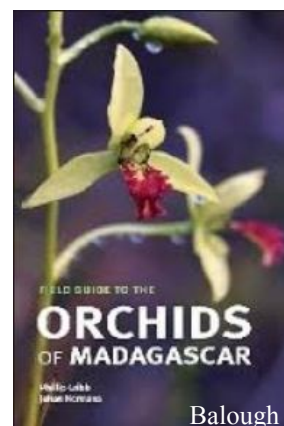
Lambohany

The West incorporates a landscape ranging from sealevel to 2500 feet where they see 8-15 inches of rain. It is very similar to southern California.

The Extreme South is a coastal plain between 650-1500 ft that is arid, seasonal and hot. Rainfall is less than 4 inches between December and March with normal night temps are 80 degrees. Vanilla grows in this area but grows as a leafless plant.

Ron's parting thoughts is this island is a living laboratory and one of the most threatened ecosystems. Eighty percent of the forests are gone, mostly through slash and burn agriculture in effect since the 1950's.

The clearest point made was the reality that many things grow in a specific association with a host which can not be easily transferred or substituted. For example, orchids which grow on palms do not survive on the trees grown for palm oil.



Balough

## November 2014

### Table of Contents

Announcements	page 2
Auction Prep	Page 5
Auction Supporters	page 3
Ballot	page 5
Brout Collection	page 6
IPA Thanks	Page 4
Repotting	page 3
Show Table Tales	page 7 & 4

## Upcoming Meetings

**Nov 1—AUCTION at Sanford Library**

**Dec 6—Holiday Gathering at Sanford Library**

**January 17, 2015 - luncheon at Wolfert's Roost**

**February 7—Drew Monthie, "Growing Orchids Hydroponically"**

**March 7—TBA**

**April 4—TBA**

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

For more information or to encourage others to experience NENYOS, don't forget to direct people to our website:  
[www.nenyos.org](http://www.nenyos.org)

### 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.

## Upcoming Events in the Northeast

**October 17<sup>th</sup>— Connecticut Orchid Society Show "Orchid Harvest"**. Van Wilgen's Garden Ctr, 51 Valley Rd, North Branford, CT. Cheryl Mizak 203-264-6096 [alcher@millenicom.com](mailto:alcher@millenicom.com)

**October 18<sup>th</sup>— Mid-Hudson Orchid Society Orchid Show and Sale.**

**October 25-26, 2014 3rd Annual Berkshire Orchid and Tropical Show** at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The weekend event will offer up to twenty unique exhibits, a diverse program of educational talks, workshops and demonstrations, raffles and door prizes, and a limited number of vendors selling plants, supplies, and related materials. Visit [www.berkshirecc.edu/orchid](http://www.berkshirecc.edu/orchid) to see photos and information from prior years.

**Oct 31 – Nov 2, 2014 Massachusetts Orchid Society Show**, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA. Contact: Joanna Eckstrom 603-654-5070 [show@massorchid.org](mailto:show@massorchid.org) or [jkeckstrom@comcast.net](mailto:jkeckstrom@comcast.net)

**Jan 16 – 18, 2015 North Jersey Orchid Society Show & Sale** at Strawberry Blossom Home & Garden Center, 1364 State Route 23, North Wayne, NJ. Contact: Caroline Buchman 201-848-9491 or [cbuchman@tncb.net](mailto:cbuchman@tncb.net)

**Feb 5 – 8, 2015 Deep Cut Orchid Society "18th Annual Orchid Show"** Dearborn Market, 2170 Route 35, Holmdel, NJ. Contact: Helen E. Kroh, 732-828-7727 or [krohsnest@optonline.net](mailto:krohsnest@optonline.net)

**Feb 13 – 15, 2015 New Hampshire Orchid Society Show** at Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd., Nashua, NH. Contact: Jean Hallstone 603-880-0404 or [jhallstone@yahoo.com](mailto:jhallstone@yahoo.com)

**Feb 28 – Mar 8, 2015 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society "Philadelphia Flower Show"** at Pennsylvania Convention Center, 100 N. 20th St., 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Betty Greene 215-988-8826 or [bgreene@pennhort.org](mailto:bgreene@pennhort.org)

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—

And here's the list of upcoming beginner talks:

### Beginner Talks 2014-2015

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 meet-

ings 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!

## Catasetum Update—Gift Plant 2013

Don't forget that we are coming to the slow down period for these deciduous orchids. November is when you should slow down fertilizing and watering aggressively.

Then by mid-December to January, cease watering. Leaves should come off.

Do not start watering in February until new growth is 3-4 inches high.

**The October 2014 AOS Corner-**

From the desk of Laura Newton,  
Affiliated Society Chair

Our Fall Members' Meeting is just around the corner. We hope that you will make the trip to Florida and join us for a jam-packed schedule of speakers and our fantastic "Orchid Spooktacular" show and sale. Check it all out and register on the home page at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) !

This month's webinar is on October 22nd at 8:30 EDT with Fred Clarke presenting "Growing Catasetums". Fred is the owner of Sunset Valley Orchids a "boutique" style nursery dedicated to providing excellent customer service and breeding superior orchid hybrids for the orchid enthusiast. **This is a member's only webinar.** Join now so that you can participate in this webinar, and also view all of the previous ones that are available online.

Are you on Facebook? If so, please check out the "American Orchid Society" page. We are always happy to see new faces. We have some of the most knowledgeable members available anywhere answering all of your Orchids related questions. Post your photos- we

**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.

love seeing everyone's beautiful blooming flowers!

AOS Orchids Magazine has announced that the annual supplement for this year will be on Stanhopea by Rudolph Jenny. This is one of my favorite genera. The flowers are quite unique and have a very elaborate lip that is designed to accommodate a very specific bee for pollination. If you are not already a member, now is the time to join, so that you will receive your free supplement with the December issue. It is just one of the many perks of membership in the American Orchid Society.

There are so many great articles in this month's Orchids Magazine that it is hard to pick just one to recommend...

Sue Bottom's article on "Repotting Bifoliate Cattleyas" is a must read if you grow them. I have never tried this particular method before, but it looks like it is just what these sometimes hard-to-grow plants require.

I also enjoyed learning about "Building an Orchid Tower" from Daniel Heyer, his step-by-step guide looks like something that is easy enough for everyone to do, and who doesn't need another place to store orchids?

Lastly, Peter B. Adams' article on the "Australian Miniature Species of Dendrobium Section Lichenastrum" gives you a thorough look into these tiny succulent terrete-leaved species. There is always enough room for one more orchid in your collection...Especially if they are miniatures!

**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](http://www.billdoran.com)

**Carmela Orchids**

Hakalau, HI  
[www.carmelaorchids.net](http://www.carmelaorchids.net)

**Danker Florist**

658 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 518-489-5461  
[www.dankerflorist.com](http://www.dankerflorist.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)

**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  
[WFScheeren@juno.com](mailto:WFScheeren@juno.com)



## A Giant IPA Thank You to All !

The IPA New York & Eastern Canada Region wishes to thank the North Eastern New York Orchid Society for, once again, Co-Hosting our annual Focus on Phals day this September. Despite the inability of Norman Fang to join us for the event, Glen Decker & Daryl Yerdon joined me in his absence for an energetic culture workshop which I think everyone found informative and fun. From several comments we heard as we wound up the day, I think a good time was enjoyed by all.

Enormous thanks and applause go to Sandy Buxton as the Point Person for the event...from arranging the venue, the computer set-up, a wonderful continental breakfast and lunch to making sure everything ran smoothly, she did it all with grace under pressure. We also noticed she had some great unsung assistants – without all of you, this annual event would not take place!

Tom & Patti Hoodack stepped up to the plate at the last minute to handle Registrations and take your auction dollars – and Mitch Paroly, IPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, took on the task of keeping track of our auction donations & winning bidders. I love knowing we can always rely on all of you to pitch in – thanks!

More thanks go to our auction donors: the North Eastern New York Orchid Society, the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society, Mitch Paroly, Brenda Peterson, Mike Mims, Kelley's Korner, Piping Rock Orchids and the orchidPhile. Due to their generous donations, our IPA Regions can continue to look forward to bringing in great speakers to share with everyone. All the

speakers' expenses are paid for from our Regional auction income, not from the International IPA organization's treasury. So we are grateful for every donation and each generous bidder, all of which allow us to fund a new program each year, often with speakers that societies rarely, if ever, have a chance to hear from.

The biggest – and best - surprise of the day was discovering a “budding auctioneer”. Tom Hoodack was brilliant in his first time out doing anything like this – he not only garnered generous bids but made us all laugh while our wallets were shrinking. A star has been born! I'm so grateful that he doesn't know how to say “no”. Giant thanks, Tom!!!! I know, I owe you, right?

Additional thanks go to all our attendees for their enthusiasm, great questions and generous bidding at the Auction! We were thrilled to have quite a few members of the Mid-Hudson Orchid Society join us again this year, despite the very early morning long drive up to Ballston Spa. Our guest speaker, Mike Mims, was most impressed with our attendees, their quest for knowledge and their growing ability.

And last, but certainly not least, a very special thanks goes to my right hand, Glen Decker, who is a wonderful sounding board, always with helpful suggestions. Without everyone's help in organizing these meetings and getting the word out, we would be sorely lacking.

*Thanks,*

*Carri Raven-Riemann,*

IPA New England  
Regional Director

## More Show Table...



SBuxton



SBuxton

Just a quick reminder to members, our meetings are open to anyone and everyone. We encourage people to invite friends and neighbors who love plants and orchids to come and participate.

Please make everyone feel welcome.

### Beginner Talk: Orchid Habitat

One of the key factors an orchid grower needs to pay attention to in order to be successful is where the orchid plant comes from in nature. Alex Shepherd gave an excellent talk explaining why this information can make or break your growing achievements. Knowing the temperature, light and humidity conditions and seasonal needs of the plants allows the grower to replicate conditions. This in turn will encourage proper growth and blooming.

It is not enough to know that your orchid comes from Colombia because some may grow at sea level and be hot growers or at an upper elevation in the clouds and be a cool grower. Many Phals are low light growers, as most of us assume. But some Phals require full light, like *Phal cornu cervi* when in rest phase.

Most of the time, the info is not going to be obvious or listed on the plant's tag. You need to do some research.

But beware you can't believe everything you read on the Internet. You should make sure that the picture looks like the plant you are researching. Use a reputable source, like the American Orchid Society (AOS) or the NENYOS library where there are numerous books detailing info about different types of orchids. And check out info on the parents too if you have that information.

Ron commented we should all care about our orchid's name because it tells you everything. You can learn about the parents, research what it likes and know if it is an award winner. Some orchids will take after one parent or the other—not necessarily a mix or average between the two. Orchidspecies.com is the Internet encyclopedia about orchids—very visual and lots of good info.

As always, learn all you can. Knowledge is power and will bring success!

By Sandy Buxton II

### Auction Prep

Pre-viewing for NENYOS's Annual Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. when the doors will be opened. Prior to that hour, only the set-up volunteers will be allowed inside.

Bidding will begin promptly at 1:30, led by our auctioneer Christina Anderson. During that open ½ hour, attendees need to check out the plants, obtain their bidding plate and pick their seat for optimal viewing and bidding.

Alex Shepherd will have pictures on screen to help show off what in-spike or non-blooming plants should look like when in bloom.

Pay attention to the directions at the beginning of the auction because it can impact your buying strategy. There have been some changes instituted over the past few years regarding multiple plants of the same species.

One of the opportunities instituted several years ago was the "Bump Up" table. This addition allows people on a short timeline to jump the plants they're interested in all the way to the head of the line.

Several of our members have used this to their advantage. By "bumping up" several plants for a nominal donation, one member was able to have the plants she was interested in up for auction immediately. She bid, bought and cashed out within minutes, then she was off to a family event without missing a beat or incurring the wrath of relatives!!

Another person used the bump table to move some extravagantly blooming plants up into the middle of the auction hoping they might sell at slightly lower prices.

So come out, plan your strategy and support NENYOS. The auction is one of the ways the society raises money to underwrite some of our activities for the rest of the year (gift plants, annual picnic and luncheon, trips, etc).

By Sandy Buxton II

### NENYOS 2014 Ballot

Several Officer positions are up for election. Please vote by placing a check mark next to the name of the nominated candidate for whom you wish to vote for or write the name of someone else for whom you would like to vote.

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Janet Vinyard (2 year term) or \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Presidents: \_\_\_\_\_ Donna Wardlaw & Janet Vinyard (2 yr. term) or \_\_\_\_\_

Other officer suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed ballots to Deb Lambeth, 114 Front Street, Schenectady, NY 12305 prior to the November NENYOS meeting or bring your completed ballot to either the October 4 or November 1 meeting.

One of our members brought this great place to visit to our attention:

## Brout Orchid Collection

The Brout Orchid Collection housed in the Life Sciences Greenhouse is the gift of Alan P. Brout, Dartmouth class of 1951. His donation of nearly 1000 individual plants from the family Orchidaceae ranging from *Ada* and *Aerangis* to *Zygactaria* and *Zygopetalum* represents over 30 years of collecting and caring. Alan is very involved with the collection, finding new and unusual orchids to bring to the collection, usually twice a year.



Alan and Joan's three daughters donated the materials and funds to build a moss orchid wall. The wall was built to honor Alan and Joan's 50th wedding anniversary.

sary.

The Brout Collection has since continued to grow with huge hybrid *Cattleyas*, the familiar prom corsage orchid, to the delicate *Lepanthes calodictyon*, where a magnifying glass is needed to more fully enjoy the tiny blooms, to spider-like *Brassias*, and the strange and unusual *Dracula*, there are orchid flowers in an almost unbelievable variety of shapes and structures. Many of the orchids have won prizes in local and regional competition and the collection is recognized by the [American Orchid Society](http://www.americanorchidsociety.org).

As with the other greenhouse collections, the Brout Orchid Collection is free and open to view by the public.



The Life Sciences Greenhouse and Brout Orchid Collection are located on the 4th floor of the new Class of 1978 Life Sciences Building, at the corner of College Street (Route 10) and North Park Street (terminus of Route 120), Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

We welcome visitors Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4 pm. There is no admission charge. There are informative signs throughout the greenhouse to engage visitors on a self-tour. There is no need to make arrangements to visit if it is not a group guided tour. We request a minimum of 6 people for a group guided tour.

Please contact us to schedule a tour during our normal business hours.

We are closed on weekends and the following holidays:

Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving, and the week from Christmas Day through New Year's Day.

Parking is located on the north side of the building in Dewey parking lot. The lot is behind the building at the corner of Lyme Rd. (Route 10) and North Park St (Route 120). As you park, please call the Parking and Transportation people at 603-646-2204. Give them your license plate number, make, model and color of car. Tell them that you're visiting the greenhouse.

The Life Sciences Building is in an "L" shape. The elevator leading to the 4th floor greenhouse is at the bend of the "L". There is a rear elevator that doesn't come to the public area of the greenhouse.

The facility is wheelchair accessible. There are handicapped parking spaces at the front of the building in the bus circle.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~grnhouse/visitor.shtml>





# Show Table Tales



SBuxton

Donna Wardlaw brought the Vanda (L.) she bought this at the auction several years ago and has found it tough to get it to re-bloom. Current treatment is as much sun as possible – daily watering and it likes it outside. She is very excited with bloom!

Epidendrum is a terrestrial from Central America – needs Cattleya light and she grows



SBuxton

it outside under shade cloth but the top can't touch the cloth or it stops growing and the inflorescence dies.



SBuxton



SBuxton

Joyce brought an Oncidoglossum she bought at Glen's which she repotted and has thrown some new spikes.

Monica McClary brought a Brassia NOID.



SBuxton

Sunandra bought an Oncidium Red at J & L that she repotted – now with 2 spikes that lives on window-sill with a north/northeast face.



SBuxton



SBuxton

Wake Gardner – LC has been in bloom for 5 weeks – lives in GH and outside until it drops to 55 deg. at night. LC – Summer Christmas –

Masd. Maggie Adeline was bought at J & L – grows under lights in basement 52-70 deg. water every 5-6 days Masd. Marguerite

Phal. corni cervi Red Macho – has been in flower since last November – under lights in dining room.

Catt Princess Belle x Earl Imperialis purchased from Larry Litwin – been in bloom for 2 days

Mounted Barbasella – grows with the Masd. Covered with spikes.

Ron was impressed with Wake's plants and commented on the variety of genera that he grows. Wake explained it is a "Noah's ark complex" – trying to have a few of lots of kinds!



SBuxton



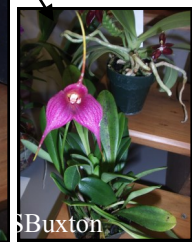
SBuxton



SBuxton



SBuxton



SBuxton





# North Eastern New York Orchid Society

NENYOS c/o S. Lee, 130 Johnson Road, Scotia, NY 12302 [www.nenyos.org](http://www.nenyos.org)

## Nov. 1, 2014 Auction

The annual fundraiser for NE-NYOS future speakers

1:00 p.m. **Doors open** to pre-view orchids, get your bid plate and stake out a seat

1:30 p.m. **Auction begins**

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

(Times are approximate.)

## Raffle Winners

Stan Lee  
Monica McClay  
Alex Shepherd  
Bob Sharp  
Sandy Buxton I  
Jim Imbody  
Ken Mortenson  
Wake Gardner

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

Remember there is no raffle at the November Auction. But members will be able to sell plants at the December Holiday meeting on Dec 6 at the Library.



SBuxton