



North Eastern New York Orchid Society

contact@nenyos.org

October 2013

www.nenyos.org

The Beauty and Diversity of Orchids in Colombia

Andrea Niessen of Orquideas del Valle did a spectacular job of making us feel like we were enjoying a brief trip through her exotic country. With wonderful photographs and frequent referrals to her topographical maps, we all learned a great deal about this country full of mysteries, bioclimates and orchids. From dry arid areas to snowy mountaintops to warm humid beaches, Andrea gave us a tremendous flavor for the region.

With an estimated 5000 orchid species in country, though ONLY 3600 have been scientifically described, orchids are just one of the many natural wonders found there. The variety of eco-systems: desert, swamp, tropical and dry forest were evident as she toured us through the 5 regions contained within the sea level to 6000 m (18,000 ft) elevation change. There are 46 million people who live in Colombia

We also learned a little history – Santa Marta is the oldest city dating from 1527 and in the ‘Atlantic Coast’ area. Recently archeologists have discovered a “Lost City” in Sierra, a 5 day walk from anywhere.

There are 56 different languages in Colombia, many



from tribes or groups. Lots of hand-crafts are also made.

But Andrea also talked about orchids and the Colombians love orchids (and coffee)!! Many of the different ones she presented are very capable of growing in different culture situations.



Atlantic Coast is a hot humid area, exporting lots of bananas and growing Brassavola nodosa & grandiflora orchids along the beach areas with Masd. And Cattleyas around. She had one picture of Catts. Growing on a roof like weeds or moss here!!

Pacific Coast is one of the rainiest areas in the world 8000-10,000 millimeters of rain/year (or to put that in English 25-30 feet/year of rain). One plant *Acronia marthae* grows to be the size of a child but doesn't actually put roots in the ground, just the leaf litter on top! Because of the voracious rain, most Colombian orchids don't have pseudobulbs. Lots of *Maxillaria* varieties. *Kefersteinia tolimensis* was described as an easy bloomer that can bloom year round and is good on windowsills.

Andrea gave a caution about *Psychopsis krameriana* – it often

continues to bloom on its spike. NEVER cut off the spike until dry and brown because frequently it will re-spike from another node.

Western Mountain Range – contains 3 mountain ranges and 2 valleys. *Bolleo coelestis* – a good blue orchid is found there and *Anguloas* or tulip orchids. In the past, lots of forests were cut down, and the orchids disappeared. Now the trees are re-growing and the orchids can be seen blooming on the road cuts. Some orchids thought to be extinct are making a comeback.

Tropical Dry Forest is dry and hot, a perfect location for *Cattleya quadricolors* to flourish. Andrea said the *Rodriguezia secunda* orchids grow in the calabash trees and make them look like they are in bloom. Continued page 3=>



Plants came bare root or in moss.

October 2013

Table of Contents

Announcements	page 2
Auction Supporters	page 3
Beginner Class schedule	page 2
Orchid Apps on Smartphone	page 4
Show Table Tales	page 7
Monthly Checklist	Page 5
What's Wrong with my Plant	page 6
Raffle Recap	page 8

Upcoming Meetings

October 5—In-House Presentations—Social Media and Orchid Questions Answered, Sanford Library, Colonie—**Members can sell plants**

Nov. 2—Auction at Sanford Library, Colonie

Dec. 7—Holiday Event at William Sanford Library, Colonie

Jan. 18—Annual Luncheon, Woolfert’s Roost

Feb. 1—at Sanford Library, Colonie

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

Oct. 5—Super Slipper Celebration with the Orchid Society of Western PA at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh, PA. Rich Raiff, 412-344-5969. Reservations are limited. <http://www.OSWP.org>

Oct 5-6—Central NY Orchid Fall Show, Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville, NY www.cnyos.org

Oct. 9—CT Orchid Society is hosting speaker speaking on Slipper Orchids from China. [Www.ctorchids.org](http://www.ctorchids.org)

Oct 19 – 20, 2013 Eastern Canada Orchid Show, Hotel Espresso, 1005 rue Guy, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Contact: Brian Dunbar 514-684-3904 or bcd@videotron.qc.ca

Oct. 31—Nov. 2, 2013 Massachusetts Orchid Society Annual Show at Tower

Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA. Contact: Joanna Eckstrom 603-654-5070 show@massorchid.org or jkeckstrom@comcast.net

Nov. 14-17, 2013 American Orchid Society Members Fall Meeting, Show and Sale at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Coral Gables, Fl. Visit www.aos.org for more info.

Nov 29 -30 & Dec 1, 2013 Parkside Orchids Black Friday Sale, visit parksideochids.com for more info.

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

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.

Notice: The Greenhouse donation to NENYOS has been withdrawn.

MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS OFFICERS FOR 2013

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
Bob Odess & Ed Belemjian	Raffle Greeter

NENYOS Contact:
Contact@nenyos.org

Sandy Buxton Newsletter Ed.
buxtonsandy@gmail.com

Beginner Series Class—

And here's the list of upcoming beginner talks:

October – And the Winner Is... How orchids are judged and awarded

November – Auction (no presentation)

December – Info Please! A look at orchid databases

January – Luncheon (no presentation)

February – A Closer Look at... (some genus we haven't talked about)

March – The Scoop on Fertilizers and Fertilizing

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.

Catesetum Update

For those who picked up the NENYOS gift plant at the annual picnic, don't forget that your plant is deciduous and going to begin showing signs of dormancy. These may include yellowing leaves and browning, eventually falling off according to Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids.

By November 15 – fertilizing should stop, watering should be at one-half of the original level.

Most leaves should be off by January 1st – and you will stop watering all together then. New growth will appear in a few weeks and you still won't water until it really gets booming. Please refer to fact sheet from picnic.

Continued from Page 1—



Juan Carlos Uribe, Andrea's husband and business partner. They started the business in 1989 after she had been growing orchids for years.

Orinoco Basin borders Venezuela and Brazil. These eastern plains are very flat and have distinct dry/wet cycles so this is where you generally find the *Catasetum* varieties and like minded orchids.

It was a fascinating lecture and Andrea made a point important to many of us stressing about the conditions we provide our plants, "Humidity is sometimes more important than the temperature."

Photos & Text By Sandy Buxton

NENYOS's Library

Don't forget we have a wonderful resource for members to borrow from posted on our website.

Books, magazines, videos are all available to help each of us learn more about the wonders of orchids.

Visit nenyos.org and then contact Janet Vinyard.



Janet Vinyard's wonder plant. This *Coelogyne usitania* has been blooming since January. Now, a 2nd spike!!

She has brought it to numerous meetings to show off the growing zig-zag stem. Each time it blooms—new direction. How fun!!



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.

Danker Florist

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

And other businesses that have provided a benefit to us.

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

Orchid Applications for Smart Phones

Text and photos by Arthur E. Chadwick , from www.aos.org 8/21/2013



Orchid Notebook is an app for iPhone users that allows hobbyists to keep track of their collection.

Smart Phones and their 'apps' are increasingly playing a role in our everyday lives and now even orchid growers are getting a piece of the action. Here is a discussion of two widely used applications that cater to the hobbyist:

The concept of *Orchid Notebook* is brilliant. Finally a way to keep track of those dozens of orchids scattered around the house — what they look like, what their names are, how to grow them.

Orchid Notebook is easy to use for record keeping. Simply type in the name of the orchid, take a picture, and the entire orchid collection is at the tip of your fingers. Adding, deleting, or changing plants is a cinch. The app shows a running total of the number of plants for quick reference...as it is not uncommon for hobbyists to rapidly acquire new orchids – via shopping sprees at orchid shows or nurseries.

There is also relatively accurate culture information for the five most popular genera (*Cattleya*, *Dendrobium*, *Oncidium*, *Paphiopedilum*, and *Phalaenopsis*) as well as four lesser-known genera (*Brassavola*, *Encyclia*, *Phragmepedium*, and *Vanilla*). Included are sample pictures that are generally helpful although a few of the examples are obscure or misleading. Noticeably absent is information about *Cymbidium*, *Miltonia*, and *Vanda*. At the end is a list of 'recommended favorites' for each genera. Unfortunately, most are hard-to-come-by species along with a few unknown hybrids.

It is doubtful that any industry professionals were consulted when making this app. Throughout the program, key botanical words such as 'species', 'hybrid', and 'variety' are used interchangeably, even though they have entirely different meanings. As if correct orchid nomenclature isn't confusing enough, this app is sure to complicate matters.

The 'free' version of *Orchid Notebook* allows for five entries of an orchid collection and is likely just for sampling purposes. The full version is quite affordable at \$2.99. Despite its shortcomings, I would still recommend *Orchid Notebook* for the casual grower or someone just getting into orchids. Perhaps in future versions, the 'kinks' will be worked out.

One application that growers of all levels will appreciate is the Light Meter. With a few clicks, a phone can be magically transformed into a device that measures the intensity of sunlight — an important factor in plant growth. Originally developed for photographers, this program uses the tiny sensor of the phone to measure the sun and provide the result in 'Foot-



Growers use light meters such as this to measure the intensity of the sun near their orchids. Now cell phones can do the same function.

Candles'. Hobbyists who grow low light orchids such as *Paphiopedilums* and *Phalaenopsis* aim for light levels in the 1,500 to 2,000 FC range. Intermediate light orchids such as *Cattleyas*, *Dendrobiums*, and *Oncidiums* are happiest at 3,000 to 4,000 FC.

There are many companies offering Light Meters and, in reading the reviews, some are better than others. New and improved versions are being introduced regularly. I am especially taken by the 'Retro' ones with an analog gauge and needle that point to the Foot Candle reading. It is not necessary to be ultra precise with cultural aspects of orchid growing. These plants are from the rainforest and can tolerate a little give and take.

As new orchid applications hit the market, hobbyists will be further able to enhance their growing experience.

Note: There are also two AOS culture apps for Ipad produced by Xfactor Multimedia; Volume 1 and Volume 2 .

Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.



Cymbidium ensifolium produces delicate flowers with a delightful citrus fragrance.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable

improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them.

Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphs are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphs rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Continued →

From page 5—Checklist

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a bloom booster fertilizer will go a long ways I the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealy bugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.



Neofinetia falcata will thrive in cooler temperatures and produce graceful vanilla-scented flowers.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

What is Wrong With My Orchid? Beginner Talk

With a number of real world examples, Alex Shepherd walked our group through a great presentation on possible problems facing each of us in our orchid collections. The opening photo elicited questions to kick her off and in the final slide she answered by showing us the positives if you looked beyond the off colored leaves.

An orchid owner has to look and investigate without over reacting to the first thought. Remember, it is all about the roots. If they are in good shape, your plant can survive a lot!

But that being said, try to prevent the obvious problems. Standing water in and around orchids—on leaves, where pots sit, etc.— can lead to fungus problems which cause crown rot, Brown rot, Botrytis (Petal Blight) and other problems. Best course is to remove afflicted petals, leaves and treat the plant because this can destroy a plant very quickly!

Other problems: Sunburn—water on leaves can magnify sun or if plant is unused to it. If leaf is warm, MOVE IT.

Accordion leaf—not watering enough or roots unable to move

water into plant. Often in thin leaf plants it is horizontal but on Phals & Catts the pleat appears running the length of the leaf.

The key -Roots that are happy!

Fertilizer burn—in leaf tips or too much salt—needs to be removed because weakened tissue will make the plant susceptible to other issues (disease or insects).

Insect Damage

There are tons of insects that might be snacking on your precious plants. You can not treat too quickly because at warm temperatures, a bug's life cycle can be days and then the infestation will be impossible to control.

Be Careful with Chemicals!!
Read the Label. Do Not Mix Chemicals. Know how to apply & how often.

Remember if it is capable of harming pests, it can also harm you, your pets, & kids.

An Ounce of Prevention—follow 3 C's—Culture, Cleanliness and Care.

- No standing water.**
- Clean growing area.**
- Good air circulation.**

Comments from the crowd—have a watchdog plant like a Mandavilla that the bugs prefer to eat first—when you see bugs there, take action!

Form a spray tent for indoor or winter spraying by using a black plastic garbage bag. Put plant inside, raise up bag. Spray. Close top of bag. Leave for up to 3 hours, then remove plant and discard bag.

By Sandy Buxton

Show Table Tales



Donna Wardlaw—Dracavalia Blue
Boy? Baker Street in fish tank

SBuxton



SBuxton



SBuxton

Mark Conley—Mini purple cross



SBuxton

Pleurothallid prolifera



SBuxton

Mark Conley -
Maxillaria richii
Which is fitting well with
Catts.



SBuxton



SBuxton

Wake Gardner—
Aerangis Luteolis—his
3rd try to
grow one.
Owned it 10
yrs.



SBuxton



SBuxton

Christina also brought in this green
Epidendrum floribundum x Enc.
Linearfoliodes. It is very fragrant!

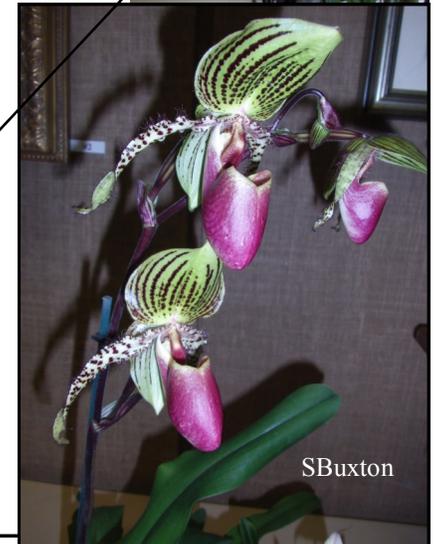
Donna Wardlaw also brought in
Tolumnia Pink Panther

And Paphiopedilum Transvaal

Christina Anderson-Den.
Julianne Bull (Den. Gracicaule x
tetragonum

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

And in case you didn't catch it with the picture above top left—her Dracavalia is grown in a former fish tank and has a great bloom.



SBuxton

Picnic Raffle Winners

Wake Gardner	Donna Wardlaw
Christine from Champlain	Bob Sharp
Joan Gardner	Lew Hargett
Jessica Bernard	Dorothy Heffernan

Don't forget to bring a goodie to the October meeting to celebrate your win!

Interesting Quotes from the meeting:

Wake Gardner at Show Table, "I really enjoy this orchid [a mini Pleurothallis prolifera]. It has been a good grower until I found out that I have been growing it wrong. Supposed to like cool temps and to dry out. I grow it intermediate and wet. But it sends out lots of keikis!"

Andrea Niessen towards the end of her presentation, "Humidity is sometimes more important than temperature for many orchids."



Scenes from the Raffle Table



North Eastern New York Orchid Society

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

NEXT MEETING

October 5, 2013

**In-House Presentations - Social Media—promoting orchids & knowledge
Bring Your Orchid Questions**

**1:00 Social time and set up
1:30 p.m. Beginner Meeting
1:50 p.m. Show Table
2:10 p.m. Speakers
Raffle**

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