NENYOS NEWSLETTER

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

contact@nenyos.org www.nenyos.org

50 years young

By Janet Vinyard

Where did it go? And what will we be in the future?

Names that surface time and time again in the NENYOS history are that of Walter Scheeren and David Tomlinson, who are LIFE MEMBERS. We know Walter is alive and well and growing orchids with a vengeance in Hawaii and David is well cared for in an area assisted living facility.

These fellows were charter members of NENYOS and I came across their names in a peculiar way. I have a dog eared and tattered mimeographed Nature Conservancy booklet published in 1981 to "Natural Areas in Eastern NY", listing Black Creek bog and it's orchid and rare plant populations.

Before I was a NENYOS member, a wild flower friend and I set out to Grant's Bog, or Black Creek Bog in northern Herkimer County. Little did I know of connections to NENYOS. We found no orchids that early May trip and the booklet sat on the shelf for years. Three years ago, as I made many friends in the society, we decided to revisit the bog, dust off the pamphlet and lo! And behold! Names jumped out at me!!!!! Walter Scheeren and David Tomlinson!!! Dang!!!! David and his late wife, I met at NENYOS meetings and Walter, we knew from ordering plants for society and private sales. He supplies a box of big, blooming plants for a reasonable price for our March display at the Capital District Garden Show.

Well, here's a story, I thought..... Seems while Walter was out looking for investment land, he came across a farm in Herkimer Co. discovered the bog and found a healthy population of *Cypripedium regina*. (below) At some point he wanted to donate the bog to NENYOS for conservation, but the board refused it citing liabilities. The Nature Conservancy of Eastern NY now owns the property.

For the past three years, I and a handful of adventurous souls don long sleeve shirts, muck boots, bug repellent and hats to explore the bog. This year, just at the equinox, we hit the nail on the head and saw hundreds of the 'showy' orchids in their prime. Previous years, we were too late and saw plenty of healthy plants but flowers faded or decapitated by deer. It is thrilling.

Continued on page 4

By Viktoria Serafin

(Photo by Viktoria Serafin)

August 2013

Table of Contents

Announcements	page 2
Auction Supporters	page 3
Beginner Class schedule	page 2
Directions to Picnic	page 4
IPA Schedule & Registration	Pg 5
NENYOS is Born	page 7
Our Anniversary Picnic	page 6
September Speaker	page 3
More History	page 5
Travel to Picnic Items	page 8

Upcoming Meetings

Aug. 3—Anniversary Picnic at Stan's in Scotia

September 7—Andrea Nielsen, Cali, Columbia

September 15—International Phalaenopsis Alliance at CCE, 50 West High St, Ballston Spa, NY—all day event—reg. fee

October 5—TBA, Sanford Library, Colonie

Nov. 2—Auction at Sanford Library, Colonie

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

Jan. 11—Annual Luncheon, Woolfert's Roost

Board of Directors will hold a meeting on August 3 in Scotia at Stan's house at 10:30 a.m.

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

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

7/26/2013 - 7/28/2013 Summer Orchid Festival, Parkside Orchids, Ottsville, PA
In the field at Parkside Orchid Nursery
Friday 12 noon - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Join us as we celebrate orchids at the Parkside Orchid Summer Fest! Orchid vendors from throughout the area will be at Parkside to sell plants and other orchid accessories. In addition, we will be scheduling educational lectures during the day and AOS plant judging. And, there will be food.

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 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 Massachussetts 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

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

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September 7th Speaker

We are very lucky to have Andrea Niessen of Orquideas del Valle from Cali, Columbia as our speaker in September.

Ms. Niessen will be speaking on "The Orchids of Colombia" with some additional concentration on Masd and Pleurothallids. Please bring your questions, get ready to pick up your pre-orders and prepare to be amazed!!

Photos compliments of Orquivalle

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

And other businesses that have provided a benefit to us.

Orchid Re-potting Clinic—back on a HOT day in June, Bob Odess (r) and Mark Conley (center gray shirt) spoke at Laura's Country Garden shop in Salem. They ran a re-potting clinic for newbie growers looking for information.

Thanks guys for passing along info to more growers!!

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@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

Continued from page 1—50 Year Young

That was not our first stop, however. Blindfolded and sworn to secrecy, Viktoria Serafin of Glenbrook Gardens, Debbie Lambeth and I descended into an open boggy 'field' of Rose *Pogonias*. We knew we were early and saw only one or two single blooms, and soon our eyes got accustomed to 'seeing ' the multitudes of buds on short, grass like stems.

After enjoying the wet and coolness underfoot, we continued down the road to search for that 'rock', a particularly shaped and placed rock, that signaled the next pullout. Ha! We saw plenty look alikes along the 2 mile stretch. There we had a rendezvous with a broad, flat leafed *Platanthera*, probably macrophyllum. There was no chance we would see blooms on these July bloomers, but had to check the health of the population. Happy to report, they are thriving!

The slope lead us to another boggy area crisscrossed with fallen, moss covered, soggy logs and we searched for some very early bloomers, finding only seed pods! Frustrating to be too early for some, and so late for others. We were thrilled to come upon but hated to disturb a nesting hermit thrush, with it's pale blue eggs.

As is custom now, we stopped at Harvey Bridge to scout out early blooming spiranthes and fringed platantheras along the water's edge. We were again, too early with too much water. However, we KNEW the *Cypripedium regina* would be perfect...hope...hope...and we were not disappointed. They are fabulous in their deep rosy pink to pastel variations, clustered around the hummocks of grasses and struggling spruce trees. They were not the only damsels worthy of attention. *Platanathera dilatata (below)*, the white bog candle, came into focus once we got over the awe of the showy slippers. You had to look closely at the small flowers to see the familiar orchid characteristics, but there they were, amongst sundews, pink pyrolas, cat tails, twin flower and one of the cornus bunchberries.

Kudos to Walter and David for preserving such a gem of a specific habitat, the calcereaceous bog. If it were mine, however, I might be cutting down a few trees to keep the light at former levels, yet, who can second guess Mother Nature? There are many other terrestrial orchids to be found in the area.....join the conservation committee of NENYOS to find out more.

By Viktoria Serafin

Plananthera psycodes - lesser purple fringe orchid (close view) photo by J. Vinyard, 2010

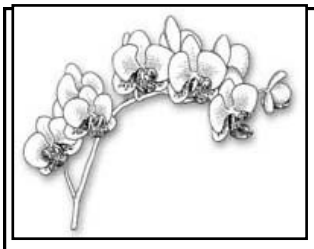
DIRECTIONS to 130 Johnson Rd, Scotia: The Picnic

- Albany I-90 & 87 EXIT 24
- I-90 West to exit 25 I-890

West on 890 to the end at the junction of Route 5.

- Left on Route 5 toward Amsterdam
- Proceed through the first stoplight at the intersection of Route 103 Continue west on Route 5 about 3/4 of a mile to Johnson Road. Turn right on Johnson Road.
- The Lee homestead is on the corner of Johnson Road and Route 5, our NENYOS sign will be on Route 5 Brick home with flag pole and blue historic marker. Plenty parking in the yard or along Johnson Road. See You There!!!

PLEASE call with any questions TO STANLEY AND FERN LEE: phone # 518-557-2070 or Email: fslscotia@aol.com.



INTERNATIONAL PHALAENOPSIS ALLIANCE

"FOCUS ON PHALS" DAY

Co-hosted by the North Eastern New York & Mid-Hudson Orchid Societies

Sunday, September 15, 2013
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY

In conjunction with the North Eastern New York & Mid-Hudson Orchid Societies, IPA is pleased to present its 3rd Annual Speakers' Day, "Focus On Phals". This day-long event will include our keynote speaker, Norman Fang of Norman's Orchids who will delve deeper into the secrets of growing successfully in New Zealand Moss. Joining him will be Tom Harper of Stones River Orchids in Tennessee. His presentation will focus on the top six Phal species influencing today's modern hybrids. Carri Raven-Riemann, past IPA President & current Regional Director, will update us on some of the cutting edge directions in breeding from the Taiwan 2013 TIOS Show and from some new young hybridizers.

The day will also include a roundtable discussion and a mini-auction of select plants. The Registration Fee covers just the cost of morning refreshments and a light lunch. We invite all orchidists, IPA members and non-members alike, to join us for this very special Speakers' Day. Guest vendors will include: Norman's Orchids, Stones River Orchids, the orchidPhile and Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies.

*** ***PLEASE NOTE: EARLY & FULLY PAID REGISTRATIONS BY AUGUST 30th ARE REQUIRED !***

Registration for NENY & Mid-Hudson OS Members Only: $ 15 Registration for non-NENY/Mid-Hudson OS Members: $18

For further information contact: New York Regional Director: ***Marilyn Shapiro*** *at mlshap2@juno.com or (212) 831-3076*

Additional information will also be available on the ***IPA Website*** *(www.phal.org)*

FORMS will be available at picnic.

For more information and history of the conserved bog that Janet is talking about in her article, please visit the NENYOS Aug 2010 newsletter. Janet wrote a wonderful thank you to Walter and Dave for their time, effort and money that was spent to save an amazing location—home to many native orchids and an interesting but buggy place to visit!!

Quick reminder for people attending the August Picnic, the gift plant this year will be a Cycnoches (I believe) from Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids in California, our speaker from November 2012. this is a deciduous orchid and will require a dormant period during the winter. More directions will be provided.

Continuation from pg7 –**Additional History**

Danker Florist has been serving the Albany area for 115 years traveling through several owners starting with the Danker family and Ken Felthousen to now Deborah Hall. The business's motto is "In business since 1898 and still blooming!" A sentiment that is true when I stopped in recently to try and learn a little more information.

The original location for the business was 744 Central Avenue with additional growing space on 40 -42 Maiden Lane in Albany, they are now located at 658 Central Ave & Allen with a showroom and delivery business. Reviewing an original second edition of "Fred A. Danker's Catalogue of Plants, Bulbs and Nursery Stock", I learned the business built greenhouses after 4 years in business. They had 13 greenhouses "growing choice cut flowers, decorative and blooming plants". The list is extensive: ferns, Cannas, perennials, trees, shrubs, gladiolus, dahlias, roses, phlox, peonies and more.

For orchids the early 1940s catalog lists some that are available: Cattleya Gaskelliana from Venezuela; C. Gigas from Colombia, C. labiata from Brazil, C. mendelii from Colombia, C. mossiae from Venezuela, Coelogyne cristata from East Indies, Cypripedium insigne from India and Dendrobium nobile from India. For "strong plants", the prices ranged from $2.50 – 5.00 while large plants were priced $10.00 to $25.00 each. To put this in perspective, gas cost $.21/gal, minimum wage was 30 cents/hours and a car cost $1650.

By Sandy Buxton

Our Anniversary Picnic

We are hoping David Tomlinson can join us for the 50th Anniversary Picnic held at Stanley and Fern Lee's home on August 3rd. We will celebrate with our usual fabulous spread, historic surroundings, gift plant, and a celebratory cake.

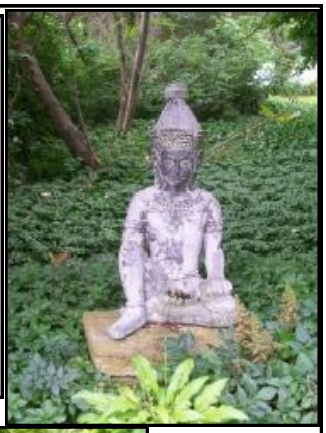
Stan and Fern's home is listed in the state and national register of historic places. It is a rare example of a combined residence and public house, reflecting the evolution of early agriculture and transportation in

the Mohawk River valley. Their exquisitely groomed 2 acres was part of the SWARTS' HOUSE that served as a Public House and 'Teveron', originally 'luysensed' in 1730. At that time, it was a small house, Dutch style with only 2 rooms. By 1760, a front main section was built, one room deep and three wide. Two doors at the front marked the tavern and separate residence entrances. Prior to that, however, it was deeded in 1713 as part of the1660 original franchise of Schenectady. By the 1800's, it was well used as a stagecoach/ tavern stop.

It was farmed until 1937 when the house and 2 acres was sold off. Stan and Fern bought the house in 1965, finding neglected grounds and overgrown fields. He designed, planned and planted the present gardens, reminiscent of the English style to complement the house. A visit there will showcase a formal boxwood garden, mixed borders, a rose garden, a bog/wildflower focus and the newly constructed greenhouse for orchids and propagation. You will miss an additional great treat if you don't get to join us for an anniversary celebration.

By Janet Vinyard
Photos by Sandy Buxton

There are little gems all around the property, just waiting to be discovered!!



In the Beginning…NENYOS is Born

By Sandy Buxton

Fifty years is a tremendous accomplishment for any organization or business. Think about it, growing pains, communication issues, opinions and changing values all battle together causing stress and our little Northeastern New York Orchid Society continues to chug away, providing information and opportunities for those who want to learn more about orchids and find ways to enjoy them, conserve them and explore their mysteries.

As part of my research for our 50th Anniversary, I spoke with a number of former members from years ago. The most significant was Walter Scheeren, currently of Hawaii, one of our charter members. We had a great conversation about a variety of things. Walter still reads our newsletter and is pleased to see what we are doing.

For our part, it is important to understand where the group came from and how it has changed and grown over the years with both opportunity and technology driving much of the movement. According to Walter, many local people purchased their first orchids from Danker Florist on Central Avenue in Albany. The business grew and sold both cut orchids for corsages and bouquets, mostly Cattleyas, as well as plants and potting material. (See page 5 for more.)

Fred Danker was the owner in the 1950s and '60s and all of these people were buying orchids and then asking questions. Since they seemed really interested in learning more, he suggested they get together and form a society. So that is what they did! Northeastern New York Orchid Society formed in 1963. Walter, Dave Tomlinson, Warren Ford, Doris Collins and Edith Michne were among the charter members of the group. In the beginning, the group rotated meeting around the members' homes so they capped membership at 20 people. There eventually was a waiting list and when someone moved, died or declared they were no longer interested, a new member was added.

More and more people were becoming interested and NENYOS found meeting space at SUNY-Albany which allowed them to open up the group to all interested people. It has moved around meeting locations some but tries to be very stable as members have come and gone.

One member I interviewed who developed his passion for orchids while in high school in the 1970s was Michael Bartholomew. He worked for a greenhouse/garden center on Rte 155 that had exotic and ornamental houseplants and orchids. Then he attended SUNY-Cobleskill when they had an orchid greenhouse and worked in it while a student.

He belonged to NENYOS during the 1980s and early 1990s and remembers some of the different meetings the group held. He told a story about developing a 'Beginner Orchid Growing' talk with Jim Webb that they gave a number of times around the area to garden clubs, Master Gardener groups and other places.

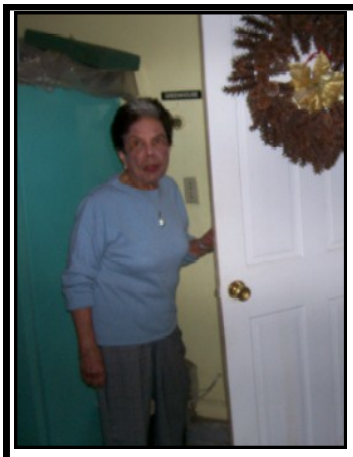
Despite developing new interests in bamboo and other tropical plants, Michael is still growing orchids and an AOS Life Member. He has fond memories of the group and all that he learned with it. But he does admit he regrets missing a special event that was held at Walter Scheeren's house before he moved to Hawaii, he wanted to see the growing space, atriums and plants Walter had collected!

Other members Walter mentioned joining the group early on were our own Wake and Joan Gardner, Renate and Uli Czapski.

It has been an interesting history for both the society which reflects much of what has happened in the industry. Walter talked about going orchid hunting years ago to bring back specimens for his collection. This was very common around the world but resulted in the loss and destruction of many orchids and habitats. In 1973, the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) was adopted and everything is much more tightly controlled, though there are still problems (Oregon Orchid Society website, 2012).

Propagation by divisions, seeds and keikis were the primary methods until tissue or meristem culture was refined. This micropropagation process allows for fast mass propagation of the most popular orchids especially the monopodial ones like Phalaenopsis (Oregon).

NENYOS has its own place in history, we have survived and thrived for 50 years during which time orchids went from being a revered flower of the wealthy to almost a throw-away cut/potted flower of the masses. But there are still many mysteries and hundreds if not thousands of fascinating plants still to discover and enjoy. The colors, shapes and other habits all combining to create a satisfying quest. So get ready to enjoy another 50 years NENYOS!!



One of our Charter members (L) Dr. Doris Collins who died last July was a regular attendee.

Below—other long time members—Wake and Joan Gardner on the April 2013 bus trip to SEPOS and Longwood Gardens.

Additional things to bring to picnic:

- Money for Raffle
- Money for Sale Table
- Money for available supplies like bark, books and stakes that Stan often has at the Library. Save him the trip and all of the carrying. Buy here!
- Sunblock and hat
- A chair
- Camera—always some good shots
- Swimsuit if you are inclined to partake of the pool.

August Picnic Goodies—please bring salad, appetizer or dessert. NENYOS will provide meat platter and some beverages.

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

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

NEXT MEETING

August 3, 2013

Picnic at Stan & Fern Lee's home at 130 Johnson Road, Scotia, NY

Come and celebrate NENYOS's 50th Anniversary
Lunch after 12:00 noon
Repotting Clinic
Member Plants for sale
Fun, Food and Friends!