NENYOS NEWSLETTER

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

nenyosorchids@gmail.com

November 2015

www.nenyos.com

Catasetums and How To Grow Them

Our presentation from Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in California, the second in three years, gave us a great follow up for enjoying and embracing these wonders of the Cymbidiae tribe.

Catasetums are named for one of their unique features. Cata- downward; seta – bristles. Catasetum blooms have 2 bristle hairs which act as pollen triggers on male plants.

These orchids experience a dormant period which made them a more successful plant to survive the hunt and harvest explorations of the New World in the 1800's. They have been in cultivation since then but are still a mystery to many growers.

Fred reassured us several times, "They make great hobby plants." They are easy to grow and bloom 1 -5 times/season.

Catasetums like open areas with good light levels and lots of air movement. A grower needs to remember, in nature, they experience monsoonal summers (rain at least 1x/3-7 days) and dry winters.

SBuxton

One of the things I find most interesting about Catasetums is the sexual dimorphic flowers. The plants can grow male and female flowers.

Male and female flowers look different. Male flowers are showy and colorful and have a pollen ejecting trigger. Female flowers are helmet shaped and almost all of them look the same no matter who the parents are and what the male flower looks like.

The gender of the flower is determined by the condition of the plant. Very healthy well-grown plants will have female flowers, while less robust plants will have male flowers. Part of the theory around this is the female flowered plant has to be capable of carrying the seed capsule to fruition in order to propagate the species.

One of the most important things to understand about Catasetums is to allow for a dry dormant period. Some humidity may be beneficial to keep everything turgid but really the plant wants to be dry and watering too early when the new growth starts can lead to rot and death.

Another reason these are great hobby plants is the lack of pests. Spider mites are the main scourge and they technically aren't insects!

Male flowers will last 6-10 days while female flowers will last 6-7 weeks. This allows for pollination and breeding to occur.

SBuxton

Fred Clarke, at the Show Table (above). Wake Gardner's female Catasetum blossoms this fall.

SBuxton

A very interesting plant to have in your collection.

By Sandy Buxton II

November 2015

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Upcoming Meetings

Nov 7—Auction!! Come and bid on great plants!

December 5—Holiday event at Library

January 16, 2016—Annual Luncheon at Wolfert's Roost at noon

February 6, 2016—Hands-on Mounting Demo

March 5, 2016—TBA

April 2, 2016—TBA

Board of Directors meeting on December 5. Please feel free to contact them with any questions or issues that need to be discussed. Email nenyosorchids@gmail.com

Janet Vinyard is the proud grandmother of a baby girl! The reason she missed 2 NENYOS events... Congratulations!!

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

October 27, 2015 webinar with AOS.org: Ecuador: Land of Orchids For more info, visit www.aos.org

Nov 6 – 8, 2015 Massachusetts Orchid Society Show at Mahony's Garden Center, 242 Cambridge St., Winchester, MA. Contact: Joanna Eckstrom 603-654-5070 or show@massorchid.org

Jan 15 – 17, 2016 North Jersey Orchid Society Show and Sale at Douglass Student Center at Rutgers University, 100 George St, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact: Richard Ho 973-857-7992 or rho144@hotmail.com

Feb 20 – 21, 2016 Amherst Orchid Society Show at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, 80 Locust St. (Rt. 9), Northampton, MA. Contact: Marc D. Gray 802-348-7926 or bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net

Apr 9 – 10, 2016 Genesee Region Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Show and Sale at Rochester Meuseum & Science Center, Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY. Contact: Carol Butcher 585-742-3403 or jbutche2@outlook.com

GROS—Greater Rochester Orchid Soc. **CTOS—Connecticut OS**
STOS—Southern Tier 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

From Eastern Canada Orchid Society International
Hello,

Please find attached information about our upcoming show and a link to our show. We hope to see you and your members there!

A $2.00 coupon can be downloaded from our site: http://www.ecosorchids.ca/show.html
Click here for coupon: http://www.ecosorchids.ca/2015/Poster2015-coupon.jpg

See you Soon!

Claire Cooney, Vice President of ECOS

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
Alex Shepherd	Website
Stan Lee	Past President
Sandy Buxton	AOS Rep
Patty Boggs	Name Tags
Joan Gardner	Refreshments
Bob Odess	Raffle
	Greeter

NENYOS Contact: nenyosorchids@gmail.com

Sandy Buxton Newsletter Editor

Beginner Series Class—2015-2016

And here's the list of upcoming beginner talks:

Beginner Talks

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!

Leaves – An Orchid's Communication Tool

After a rousing game of "Name that Leaf" Alex Shepherd gave us some great insights into how orchids use their leaves to communicate with us, their caretakers.

Most people only see green things that generally don't have lots of beauty compared to the wonderful booms that appear on the plants. But leaves are amazing structures. Leaves help us to identify orchids when they are not in bloom. Leaves help a plant make food and they breathe for the plant, a vital function.

Leaf anatomy is very complex, on the bottom of a leaf, CO_2 goes in and O_2 comes out. Thin leaf plants are day breathers. Thick leaf plants like Phals are night breathers. So foliar feeding does not work for many types of orchids.

Some orchid plants can have very interesting leaves for year round enjoyment.

Injury to leaves causes damage which can make them susceptible to fungus, bacteria, etc. It could be caused by sunburn, pest bites, cold temps, or physical injury. When some leaves are injured, the appearance and injury can follow the plant and be visible for years!

Fertilizer burn will show itself on leaf tips which turn brown. If that is an issue, the plant should be repotted to reduce the long term impact.

Viruses can also cause odd patterns on leaves – color changes within the leaf. Or pests can cause appearance changes – silvery-ing, chewing, dead spots, etc.

Leaf care is very important.

- Clean the leaves of your plant to maximize photosynthesis for the plant. Dust will reduce the plant's ability to convert sunlight into food.
- Don't let leaves stay wet. Can cause rot or fungus activity.
- Insecticidal soap application is one way to combat some of the problems.

Also, remember that not all orchids have leaves – they use photosynthesis in their roots to survive. And other orchids are deciduous, meaning leaves will fall off periodically which gives the plant a chance to grow new, pretty leaves.

So take care of your plant and it's leaves and appreciate all that they do for you!

-By Sandy Buxton II

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 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.

Monthly Checklist for November and December –aos.org

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. Paphiopedilums 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

Continued Page 5

Continued from page 4—Checklist
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 paphiopedilums 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.

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"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs 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.

Jim Imbody aslo brought Den. Hybrid gouldrix x johanis grown in sunspace and outside.

ORCHID AUCTION, NOV. 7, 2015

SET-UP 12:30 PREVIEW 1:00

SIGN - UP SHEET—will be available on 10/3/2015
We did a fabulous job last year. Our regular helpers are gems. Please join us for the fun, and camaraderie. Multiple jobs can be assigned to the same person….Feel free! Most tasks are claimed during October's meeting. Please review the following and let me know about the jobs still up for grabs. Contact Janet rolandvinyard@gmail.com or 518-673-3212

PUBLICITY - Sandy - email, plant societies, Janet - printed news & on line events pages.

Sandy Buxton generally uses her master lists for garden societies, regional orchid societies and publications. Janet Vinyard hits the area newspapers with a community event announcement. Please look for the notice in Albany Times, Schenectady Gazette, Saratogian, Metroland, Leader Herald, Amsterdam, Courier Standard Enterprise (west of Amsterdam) and several pennysaver/shopper flyers. We need help with radio and TV announcements.

PLANT SITTERS - Stan, Fern, Janet, Wake, Jane.

We use generally 3-4 people to help unpack at Stan's. It's a long afternoon as we try to put the first 10 in auction order and get a few ahead to make life easier for Christina, our auctioneer and Alex, who pulls photos and info up on the internet to show during the auction.

PLANT STAGING/SET UP - Stan, Wake, Donna Wardlaw

At 12:30 or as early as we can get into the Stedman room, plant stagers set up the first 10 and organize the remaining plants in numerical LIST order, not nec auction order. Plants should already have a number on them, position so number is visible. This way once folks have the list sent via email, they can quickly find the orchid on the tables to review condition and look for buds! Multiples of the same plant will be set up together and auctioned at the same time.

PLANT RUNNERS, Stan, Gill, & TAB RUNNER_____

2 folks alternatively select plants for auction, announce the plant number to the tabulators at the front table and show Alex and Christina. The third runner brings bid slips back to the treasurer.

DOOR MONITORS - _____, _____

Affectionately called BOUNCERS, 2 persons hand out auction lists, remind folks door open only at 1pm. They have a list of auction crew and will get food items onto the refreshments table. The farthest door will be shut so that both can channel the mob through the back door to sign in and collect bidding plate.

AUCTIONEER - Christina Anderson

Describes the plant and adds cultural/value notes, encouraging folks to part with their hard earned dollars for a good cause.

VISUAL CO-ORDINATOR - Alex

Uses computer program with photos of non blooming plants along with cultural tips.

TABULATION - Donna, Deb, Jane

3 persons are needed at the front table to keep notes on plants, bid, and bidder. Slips are written up and taken to the back. The extra person is there to cover any person wanting to bid.

SPOTTERS - Wake, _____

Assist auctioneer in noticing hands/plates, create excitement amongst the shy and uninitiated.

DONATED ITEMS CHIEF - _____

Assign a number to last minute donated items and get information to Auctioneer, Plant Stagers and Visual Co-ordinator. Inspect plants for condition.

CLEAN-UP CREW -
1._____.2._____,

3._____

Self explanatory. Do whatever it takes to return room to normal. Many folks just pitch in at the end. THANKS TO ALL!!!

Show Table Tales

Stan Lee – his Oncidium NOID is hosed down 1x/day – currently has 7 spikes. Beautiful display! (below left)

Vanda Poehara Delight – this is the 2nd time it has bloomed this year!! On really hot days, it gets watered 2-3x/day. In the winter it hangs over the fish tub. (below right)

Mark Conley – splash petal Catt. Grows at a winter temp of 50 degrees. He doesn't water on cloudy days, and usually only every 10-14 days.

Fred commented on Catts growing in the wild. The roots get just as much air movement as the leaves – causes them to dry out. That is why Catts with their pseudobulbs take advantage of nutrients and water when they are available.

Wake Gardner – Catt loddesii – lives outside in summer but this year it has been tough – really only mosted due to lack of rainwater.

Stan Lee— Potinara was a plant received at August picnic 4 years ago. He has recently moved it so it is against a white wall. No direct sun but lots more light, very happy. And he reminded us that small pots dry out faster than large ones.

Many thanks to Patty Boggs who has agreed to step into Gil O'Brien's position as Nametag Guru. We appreciate your commitment and support for NENYOS.

Jim Imbody—Masd. Floribunda—timy blooms grown under lights.

Donna Wardlaw brought a Catt maxima – Donna has owned for years and always grown as a warm growing Catt because she was told: short pseudobulbs are warm growers from the coast, and long pseudobulbs are on the mountain plants. She thought she had short pseudobulbs….Now she is growing it cooler, like a mountain Cattleya and has gone from 1-2 bloom spikes/year to 6+ spikes!! She has not repotted in 5 years and admits she will have to do something….

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

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

Nov. 7, 2015 Auction

The annual fundraiser for NENYOS future speakers

1:00 p.m. **Doors open** to preview 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)

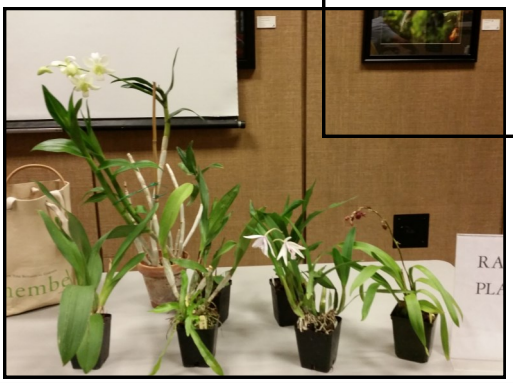
(Times are approximate.)

October Raffle Winners

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

Raffle Winners

Dot & Lew Hargett
Dot & Lew Hargett
Wake Gardner
Stan Lee
Patty Boggs
Virginia Laney
Bob Sharp
Gil O'Brien
Helen Yong Sook Kim



From Eastern Canada Orchid Society International

Bonjour,

SVP voir en pièce-jointe, les détails et le lien présentant de notre prochaine exposition. Nous espérons vous voir ainsi que vos membres en grand nombre parmis nous!

Un rabais 2$ avec le coupon d'ici : http://www.ecosorchids.ca/2015/Poster2015-coupon.jpg Notre site web : http://www.ecosorchids.ca/show.html

Au plaisir de vous voir bientôt,

Claire Cooney,
vice-président de ECOS

Please be prepared to return surveys, either by mail or at November auction meeting. The information is VERY important.