



The Orchid Collection

Genesee Region Orchid Society
Volume 30, Number 2
October, 2008

www.geneseearchid.org

Beginners Meeting 6:30 p.m. * Social "Hour" 7:00 - 7:15 p.m. * Meeting begins at 7:15 p.m.
Senior Adult Lounge at the Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY

NEXT MEETING: OCT 6, 2008

**Auction
2008!**
Oct. 19th
details inside



V. Churek Chan Blue (sic) 1st place Vanda hybrid, NFOS, GROS Spring Show 2008
Photo ill. ©2008 Phil Matt

As the season slowly, almost imperceptibly begins to change, the days grow shorter and the piles of catalogs and political junk mail grow taller. Fall is when our thoughts naturally turn from our outside gardens to orchids we nurture indoors throughout the year.

Visiting us in October from his home in the Great White North will be our friend Mario Ferrusi of Marsh Hollow Orchids in Fenwick, Ontario. Mario will present "Mario's Orchids A-Z," a discussion of different orchids that he has grown or for which he has received awards, with specific cultural information for each type.

Mario started growing orchids over twenty-five years ago, beginning with what everyone else started with - a hybrid *Phalaenopsis*. This soon "escalated" when he purchased a hobbyist setup of 23 plants and fluorescent light setup. He quickly learned to like the weird and unusual, i.e. *Masdevallias*, *Draculas* and everything in the cool-growing range.

Past president of the Southern Ontario Orchid Society, Mr. Ferrusi joined the AOS judging program in 1992 and became accredited in 1998. He is currently Chair of the Toronto Region for AOS orchid judging. Proprietor of Marsh Hollow Orchids, he now has two greenhouses, one for intermediate to warm plants and a larger one for all of his "cool beauties." Mario's hybridizing has focused on *Masdevallias*, *Odontoglossums*, *Lycastes* and a few other genera. He particularly enjoys exhibiting and competing for the AOS Show Trophy, but he also cherishes cultural awards. Many of you have no doubt seen Marsh Hollow's orchids at our annual Spring shows, where Mario has

been an exhibitor, vendor, and has served as an AOS show judge many times over the years.

We'll be taking Mario out to dinner prior to the meeting, 5 p.m., at Moe's Southwest Grill (1100 Jefferson Rd.) If you'd like to join us, please call Program Vice President Diana Polle at 637-2882 ASAP, to make sure we have enough room for you. The Show Table, having spent recent weeks dodging mudpies flung by local politicians, will be back as well, so don't forget your flowering plants. We'll see you there!

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Meeting Minutes for Sept. 8, 2008

President **Jeff Snyder** called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m..

We welcomed three new members this month: Steve Joy, Pat Barnes and Mariko Pollock.

Marshall Edgcomb, our membership chairman, made it known that some members haven't paid their dues, in particular our President, Jeff! Jeff had received his pink card and under such pressure, paid up...right then and there. Anyone who has received a pink card reminder will not receive next month's newsletter unless they get their money in "pronto." Please take note.

Reggie Coleman, our Secretary, has agreed to run the Beginner's Meeting but is often unable to attend the regular meeting. So Jeff asked for a volunteer to be his stand-in until a new person can be voted in. These minutes are being written and presented to you by a volunteer, **Sandi Uhlig**. For now, I am the Assistant to the Secretary.

Ruth Espinosa-Barone, our new (and incumbent) Show Chairwoman, gave us the dates for the 2009 Orchid Show & Sale. Set-up and judging will take place on April 2 & 3 followed by the opening of the show on Saturday, April 4 and concluding on Sunday, April 5th. Fifty-one invitations to advertisement prospects for the Show Program have been sent out. This coming week the vendor invitations will be mailed. The most important thing at this time, however, is the poster for the show. Ruth asks that photographs or artwork be submitted to her by September 30th so that she can begin work on the poster. If she receives nothing, she will be bringing it up at the October meeting. Photographs should be high resolution.

Kim Hober, Auction Chairwoman, announced the date for the annual Auction, the second biggest money maker for the Society. It will take place on Sunday afternoon, October 19th. A clipboard was passed around to recruit volunteers for the many fun jobs. There will be slides of the auction plants projected once again as many are not in bloom at the time of the event.

Newsletter announcement: **Phil Matt**, our faithful and artistic editor and webmaster, talked about doing away with the paper newsletter and going to a web version. He doesn't want to force people to do this, but it's an expense of the society that can be reduced significantly. It costs a minimum of \$.42 per newsletter to mail them out each month. Phil wants to make a new type of website which would have photos, blogs and stuff from members like a question & answer place. The concept was supported by the president, who said, "You can find Phil's email address on the "Contact Us" page of the website, www.gene-seeorchid.org. If you can see your way to help cut expenses and get your newsletter by a link on the GROS website, please send Phil an e-mail to "opt out." Discussions took place regarding this issue: "Some people don't have computers or access to the internet", "Could we send out an announcements postcard that could be hung on refrigerators as reminders?", "This is a great idea to help the society save money and use it in other ways!", "Could we hand a paper copy out at the meeting?", "I love the hard copy so could we add \$5 to the dues to still get it?"

Ron Uhlig, director of Special Operations, gave us some good news about the non-profit status. The application for incorporation was signed and notarized just before tonight's meeting. It should take about 30 days to be processed, making us a Not-for-Profit corporation. The next step is to apply for 501(c)(3) - IRS. And last will be the step for NY State Sales Tax Exemption.

A motion to pass the Budget, as published in the September newsletter, was made by **Joshua Hollander** and seconded by **Len Bayer**. The Budget was passed.

Fran Murphy, our Sonnenberg Liaison, talked about Sonnenberg Gardens. Per last year's Contribution budget, they were given seven large (summer blooming) orchid plants. They are planning to build three new greenhouses and are asking us to help them come up with a 3-year plan. There will be an article in next month's newsletter about help with cleaning up orchid plants. They would like to add us as a "Fellow Garden Club" which would get us four passes to be shared by our members for Sonnenberg events or visits.

Jeanne Kaeding announced two upcoming Fall shows. October 4 & 5 is Syracuse. **Paul Batz** has volunteered to set up the GROS display and **Diane Bernard** will be taking down. The following weekend, October 11 & 12 will be Buffalo's show. **Dean and Carolyn Edwards** have agreed to take the society's display down but we need someone to set up. Anyone interested should call Jeanne at 442-3202.

Program Chair **Diana Polle** introduced our speaker for the evening, Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids. The topic was "How Not to Grow *Phalaenopsis*."

The raffle followed the program. Jeff Snyder and Fran Murphy presented the Show Table.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Asst. to the Secretary
Sandi Uhlig

Auction Set for Sunday, Oct. 19th

Auction 2008 will be held at the JCC, as in previous years. The GROS needs good storage space for auction plants as they arrive prior to the Oct. 19th auction date. If you have extra greenhouse space, please offer to help out. Please see **Auction Tsarina** Kim Hober or **Fearless Leader** Jeff Snyder at the October meeting. Any help in getting the plants unpacked and cared for prior to the auction would also be appreciated.

The tentative schedule has the Auction starting around Noon for plant browsing. The bidding will start promptly at 1 p.m. Check the GROS website for plant listings - coming soon.

With our new Auction presentation, where you're able to actually *see* what a particular species' or hybrid's flowers look like on an adjacent viewing screen, there's no better way to add to your orchid collection at very reasonable cost. Remember, every plant you buy at the Auction helps the GROS in running our many yearly activities. If you have friends who might be interested in our Auction, bring them along! The Auction is open to everyone, free of charge.

- Kim Hober
Auction Tsarina

Marlow's Orchids



Halloween Open House

Saturday, Oct. 25th - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Refreshments all day! Wine + Cheese Party 3p.m. - 5p.m.

Large inventory reduction sale as well as many new species just in from Ecuador.

Wear something "Halloween" and get 10% off on any 1 plant!

Halloween decorations like you have never seen before!

Marlow's Orchids

2272 Scottsville Rd., Scottsville, NY 14546
(585) 889-7083

Near RIT and Marketplace Mall
(No need to call ahead for the Open House!)



www.marlowsorchids.com



SEPTEMBER SHOW TABLE

Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or complete your records, including parentage and new registrations.

Cypripedium Alliance

Paph. Wetz Ballad (*bellatulum* × *adductum*) Batz

Cattleya Alliance

Bishopara (*Bish.*) Happy Face
(Peggy San × *Sc.* Mari's Song) Batz

Powellara (*Pow.*) Yuan Nan Mini

(*Ctt.* Chocolate Drop × *Bnts.* Richard Mueller)
Guarisophleya Plumberry Glow Kaeding

(*Sc.* Antonica Fredrick × *Ctt.* Chocolate Drop)
Rl. digbyana De Vito

Marriottara Hawaiian Leopard
(*Rsc.* Waianae Leopard × *Bnts.* Richard Mueller) Hober

Vandaceous

V. Diane **Ogawa** (?) × Thananchaisand* Murphy
Mkra. Golden Tommy (Sayan × *V.* Kultana Gold) "
Rnya. Unknown Bloomfield
Phal. (Neon Stripes × Be Tris) Matt
Ascda. Phak Hai × *Rhy. coelestis* Wischoff
V. Tokyo Blue (Chindavat × *coerulea*) "

Oncidium Alliance

Odcdm. Wildcat (Rustic Bridge × Crowborough) Murphy

Brsdm. Shooting Star
(Gilded Urchin × *Brs.* Edvah Loo) "

Wils. Golden Afternoon (**Tigrina** × *Onc. sphacelatum*) "

Milt. Earl Dunn (Goodale Moir × Minas **Gerais**) "

Ada glumacea × *keiliana* "

Brsdm. Shooting Star Ekberg

Dendrobium

Den. Spring Doll (Ise × Yukidaruma) Hober

Miscellaneous

Bif. Trish Rohrl × *Z.* Kiwi Dusk Murphy

Galabstia (*Gbs.*) Green **Tyger**
(*Pab. jugosa* × *Glt. grandiflora*) Batz

Dendrochilum magnum "

Ctsm. Spotted Dragon (*fimbriatum* × Orchidglade) Hober

*There is also a *Vanda* Sunkakul (Diane Ogawa × Thananchai.)


- Iris Cohen

All About Miniature Cattleyas!

Miniature *Cattleyas* or "Minicatts" have been popular for well over 30 years, now. Back in the 1970's with the energy shortages and high cost of fuel it was becoming more and more difficult to maintain large orchid collections in large greenhouses. At this same time orchids became popular with people who didn't have greenhouses in which to grow their plants, just windowsills and fluorescent light setups. Large *Cattleyas* fell out of favor mainly due to their size at maturity. Orchid growers were looking to replace their large-growing *Cattleya* plants with smaller-size plants that produced large flowers. Unfortunately, these plants were not that easy to grow, because the species used in this line of breeding were difficult to grow and flower well due to their high light requirements and specific cultural needs.

The first hybrids were between plants such as *Cattleya walkeriana*, *Laelia pumila*, *Sophronitis coccinea*, and others. Besides their stringent cultural requirements, these plants only produce one or two flowers, at best, per growth. This was considered to be another severe drawback in their chances for success with orchid growers who were used to traditional *Cattleyas* with their large clusters of flowers.

With the use of cluster-flowered species (albeit these are sometimes considerably larger plants), these new hybrids began to be used more. Some of the *Laelia* species from Brazil such as *L. briegei*, *L. flava*, and *L. milleri* produce many flowers in clusters on long stalks. These long flower stalks were also considered to be negative traits, but the flower shape and colors contributed by these species were certainly seen to be positive attributes, and by breeding these colorful, - to p. 7



WYSL 1040 AM
Saturdays from 9-10 a.m.
Live on the Web at
www.SavorLife.com



A live gardening
program hosted by
Michael Warren Thomas

(MEMBERSHIP ROSTER NOT AVAILABLE IN ONLINE EDITION)

Miniature Cattleyas - from p. 4

long-stalked, multi-flowering plants with others that have shorter flower stems, single-flowering habits, and large flowers, many successful hybrids were created. Miniatures are plants that grow less than 15cm. tall and have flowers in proportion to their overall size. In comparison, small or “dwarf” *Cattleyas* are plants that usually grow to 25cm. tall and can have large or small flowers. These heights exclude the inflorescence or flowering stem.

The main genera that go into making up these hybrids are *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Brassavola*, and *Sophranitis*. There are other genera occasionally used such as *Broughtonia*, *Leptotes* and *Encyclia*. Here are some of the the most common combinations involved in miniature *Cattleya* hybridization:

Cattleya × *Laelia* = Laeliocattleya (Lc.)

Cattleya × *Sophranitis* = Sophrocattleya (Sc.)

Cattleya × *Brassavola* = Brassocattleya (Bc.)

Sophranitis × *Laelia* = Sophrolaelia (Sl.)

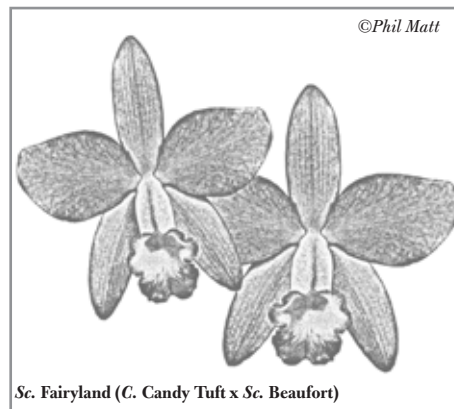
Cattleya × *Laelia* × *Brassavola* =
Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc.)

Cattleya × *Laelia* × *Brassavola* × *Sophranitis* =
Potinara (Pot.)

Cattleya × *Encyclia* = Epicattleya (Epc.)

As you can see, the combinations are endless and so are the names of man-made orchid genera. There is now a man-made genus that is the result of combining 12 different genera! Many of the newer miniature or dwarf *Cattleya* hybrids are relatively easy to grow and flower. The colors are also much more varied than ever thought possible. Now, plants with large flowers produced in clusters in a wide assortment of colors and color patterns are widely available.

A few of the most famous miniature *Cattleya* hybrids are *Slc. Falcon* “Westonbirt,” made in 1964, which lived up to its reputation of being absolutely difficult to grow, never mind flower. *Slc. Falcon* clones also proved to be unproductive as parents in further hybridizing of miniature *Cattleyas*.



By comparison, *Slc. Jewel Box* (*Slc. Anzac* × *C. aurantiaca*), a very widely grown red minicatt, is much easier to grow and flower. Many orchid growers still have the “Scheherazade” or “Dark Waters” clones (awarded in 1964 by the AOS) in their collections. *Slc. Jewel Box*, due to its size, is not really a minicatt *per se*, but it is somewhat smaller than a standard *Cattleya* and is more properly classified as a “dwarf” or compact-growing *Cattleya*. In addition, *Slc. Jewel Box* is an outstanding parent. Many of its offspring, including *Slc. Madge Fordyce* (*Slc. Jewel Box* × *Slc. Doris*) went on to gain numerous AOS awards.

Slc. Seagulls Landing (*C. luteola* × *Slc. Tropic Dawn*), *Slc. California Apricot* (*Lc. Pacific Sun* × *Soph. coccinea*), *Sc. Beaufort* (*Soph. coccinea* × *C. luteola*), *Sl. Orpetii* (*L. pumila* × *Soph. coccinea*), *Slc. Precious Stones* (*Sl. Psyche* × *C. aelandiae*), *Slc. Hazel Boyd* (*Slc. California Apricot* × *Slc. Jewel Box*), *Slc. Mahalo Jack*

(*Sl. Orpetii* × *C. walkeriana*), *Slc. Tangerine Jewel* (*Slc. Little Beamche* × *Soph. coccinea*), among others, are being used to create new and exciting hybrids for the future.

Because of their background, miniature *Cattleya* plants require as high light as their larger counterparts and in fact, even like a bit *more* light to perform at their best. Of course, they will grow and flower under less than ideal conditions. Temperatures should be kept in the intermediate range, 15°C. (59°F.) nights to 22°C. (71° F.) days, with exceptions going either warmer or cooler, again depending on the species in the background. One thing that has been bred out of many of the newer hybrids is the rest period, and because of this, many newer hybrids will flower more than once a year.

by Ken Girard
Foothills Orchid Society Newsletter
with additions by the Editor

(Also see “Amazing Minicatts” by Ronald J. Midgett, Ph.D, in the July 2000 issue of *Orchids - The Magazine of the American Orchid Society*. - Ed.)

Paper Newsletter: Opt-Out Goes Slowly

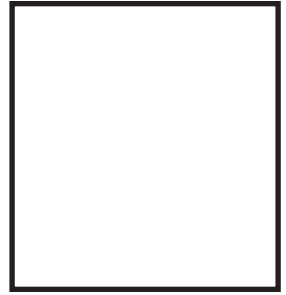
The voluntary “opt-out” for GROS members of the paper (mailed) edition of this newsletter is proceeding very slowly. To date, we have received 17 opt-out notices from members. If you’d like to join the “paperless” contingent, just send an email to me at webnews@genesee-orchid.org (no hyphens in that URL!)

- Phil Matt
Editor

The *Orchid Collection* is a publication of the Genesee Region Orchid Society. It is published ten times per year for our members. Single membership is \$20.00, family membership is \$25.00 annually. Dues should be sent to the GROS at P.O. Box 20606, Rochester, N.Y. 14602

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The Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS) meets every month from September through May at the Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY, on the first Monday following the first Sunday of each month. (Dates sometimes vary due to holidays, etc.) The GROS is an Affiliate of The American Orchid Society and of The Orchid Digest Corporation. Material in our newsletter, *The Orchid Collection*, may be freely reprinted in other orchid society publications with proper attribution. Copyrighted illustrations, photographs or articles may not be reprinted without the express written permission of the artist or author.



Sunday, Oct. 19th, 2008

Watch the website for plant listings & other details!