



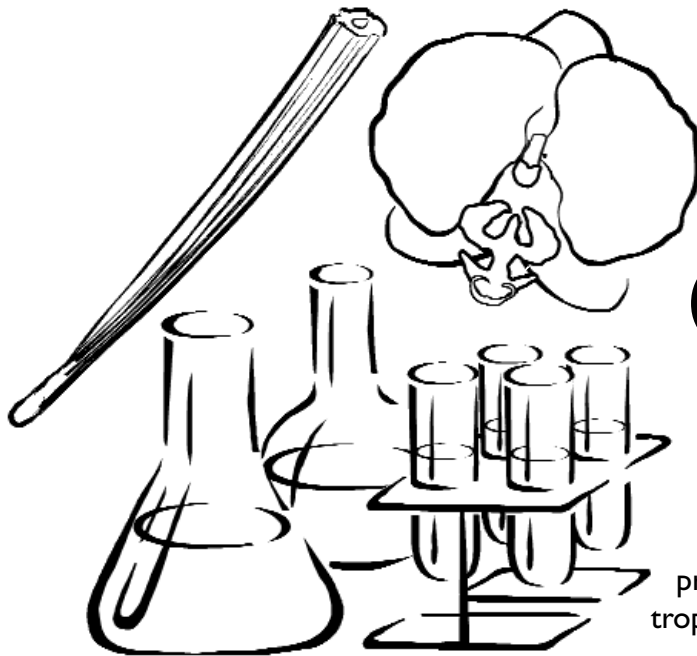
The Orchid Collection

Genesee Region Orchid Society
Volume 27, Number 5
January, 2005

www.geneseeorchid.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: JAN. 3, 2005



WE HOPE THAT YOU'VE ALL ENJOYED the holiday season this year! Now that your particular variety of frenzied activity has died down, relax and welcome the New Year as the GROS gets off to a flying start for 2005.

Our speaker for January is Kelly Hennigan. She will be presenting a talk on orchid propagation techniques, which are part of her work in the horticulture curriculum at SUNY Morrisville.

Ms. Hennigan holds both a BS and an MS in horticulture from Cornell University. While at Cornell, Kelly ran a web-based program to teach grafting techniques. This program used tropical Hibiscus as the plant material.

At SUNY Morrisville, where she is an assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture, Kelly teaches plant propagation and plant science. Students in the horticulture program learn various micro-propagation techniques, including growing orchids from seed and mericlone. The program was founded about two years ago, and has attracted a dedicated group of students. Recent construction of state-of-the-art greenhouses, installation of a reverse-osmosis water system, and addition of a plant tissue culture laboratory have made the school's horticulture production program a unique resource.

We'll be taking Kelly to dinner - location TBA, at 5 p.m. on January 3rd; if you'd like to go, please phone Jeff Snyder (377-5895) by noon of the same day. The Show Table will be back whatever the weather, so please don't forget to bring in your flowering plants! We'll see you there!

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New Group to Form: Lights or Greenhouse?

Most of us start out with a few orchid plants on the windowsill. Then our collections get bigger, we acquire more complex plants. Plants that need higher humidity, more light, different temperatures, to bloom properly. How to expand becomes the question. There are advantages to growing under lights and advantages to growing in greenhouses. Which direction is best differs for each person and his or her individual circumstance. We would like to form a subgroup of GROS members who are interested in learning about both these options. There may be a program at a regular Society meeting; there may be meetings either before or on a different day than the regular meeting; or there may be visits to members' greenhouses and light setups. This will be partly a discussion and research group, with members discovering and sharing information. If you are interested in participating in this type of a group, please contact Diane Bernard, by e-mail at wedge@red-spenders.com, or at 315-597-6778.

Spring Show 2005 Announces New Poster Contest

Ron and Sandi Uhlig, co-chairpeople for the 2005 Spring orchid show, announce the annual poster contest for the 2005 show. We are looking for original artwork or photography of an orchid or orchids that can be used for advertising posters and flyers. The deadline for entries is December 24, 2004. The poster committee will judge the entries and announce the winner at the January meeting. Don't worry about the text - we'll add that. Questions? Just call Ron or Sandi Uhlig at 387-9940 or email them at this address:

show2005@geneseeorchid.org



IN MEMORIAM

JOANMARIE BURNHAM DEC. 10, 2004

After a long and valiant battle with lupus, long time GROS member Joan Burnham passed away on December 10th, 2004. She had been in hospice care at St. John's Home.

Many of our club's members will recall the absolutely *amazing* things Joan did for our Spring Show's publicity year after year.

Joan's professionalism and seemingly endless supply of energy and enthusiasm were simply, quietly outstanding. Even being tethered to a portable oxygen tank didn't seem to slow her down very much.

This Fall, from her bed at St. John's Home, Joan managed to secure a large light garden for the residents, asking GROS members to donate plants for all to enjoy.

The Joan Burnham Award, established in 2002, is awarded every year at our Spring Show, for the best orchid grown under windowsill conditions.

Those wishing to make a donation in Joan's memory may contact the Genesee Valley Chapter, Lupus Foundation of America, 500 Helendale Road, 14609.

RUTH HAUSER

Ruth Hauser, a GROS member who rarely missed a meeting and was an enthusiastic if relatively new addition to the world of growing orchids, passed away in November, 2004.

Many GROS members will recall how pleased Ruth was with the exhibit she entered in last year's show. As a new member, she proudly displayed her plants in Exhibit Class 'E', Amateur, 1-7 plants, and came away with a 3rd place show ribbon for her hard work.

We send our deepest sympathy to her husband Oskar and family.



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GROS to Display Orchids at GEH Dutch Connection

The GROS is readying for our *tenth* consecutive year of orchid displays at "The Dutch Connection: George Eastman's Conservatory in Winter Bloom," set for February 8 - 20, 2005. Our displays will feature individual plants set in different rooms of the George Eastman House, as well as several groups of orchids in planters on the stairway and second floor hallway. We really need members to loan blooming orchids of every size, from well-flowered seedlings to very large "specimen" sized plants and everything in between. The displays will be on view from Tuesday, February 8th through Sunday, February 20th, 2005.

If you'd like to participate, (and this is a great way for new members and beginners to get involved in our Society) please note that setup will be late afternoon, (before 5 p.m.) Monday, February 7th. Ideally, plants can be dropped off at George Eastman House from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on February 7th. *Please use the side entrance where the security desk is located.* If you are going to bring plants, please contact Cathy Buggie at 244-1534 before setup so that we can keep track of all the orchids



we will be taking in for our displays.

We will also need volunteers to help water and check on the plants during the week and a half that our displays will be up. This means that we will need some volunteers to be at the George

Eastman House to water our orchids in the morning before the facility is open to the public. Dates for watering are Feb. 13th, Feb. 16th, and Feb. 20th.

Plants must be left until Feb. 20th. (a Sunday), and may be picked up at the House's Security Office (side entrance) between 5 and 6 p.m. that day or on Monday or Tuesday, Feb. 21-22 between 8 a.m and 6 p.m. If you can possibly help out with watering, please call Cathy Buggie at 244-1534.



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Cold Feet!

Despite popular misconceptions, very few orchids grow in hot jungles; most grow on mountains where it gets quite cold, though not freezing. The temperature nomenclature in orchid books is for greenhouses. What the books call "warm" is comfortable in a house; what they call "intermediate" is cold, and what they call "cool" is ridiculous. Indoors, you can easily find places to grow *paphiopedilums* and *phalaenopsis*. For other orchids, the challenge is to find - or create - areas which are cold enough.

What counts is the nighttime temperature in the winter. The daytime temperature should ideally be 10° or 15° higher, but is not as critical. The simplest thing to do is to turn down your thermostat at night. If that's too cold for you, turn up the electric blanket or wear socks to bed. 60° is at the boundary between the "warm" and "intermediate" groups and should allow you to grow both.

Second, pay attention to "microclimates." For example, a spot right next to the windowpane will be colder at night (and brighter during the day) than a spot just 8" or 10" farther into the room. So you might put *cattleyas* next to the glass and *phalaenopsis* farther away. Some rooms may be cooler than others. Near the floor is decidedly cooler than higher up. If you don't have a maximum-minimum thermometer, get one, and try it in all different places around the house that have enough light (or where you could put lights...) It's the only way to stretch out those microclimates without getting up at 2:00 a.m. to check.

To grow "cool" orchids, you should find a spot which gets down to 55° or colder. Fluorescent lights in the basement are good for things like *odontoglossums* which don't need bright light. The hardest combination to provide is bright sun and cold temperatures, preferred by *cymbidiums* and many *dendrobiums*. If you are lucky enough to have a basement with a sunny window, you can grow these normally difficult plants indoors (even "mini"- *cymbidiums* can be enormous, though.) Another good spot is an unheated spare room. I have a guest bedroom with a south window; when I shut off the hot air register at night it gets down to 50° or less, which is ideal for these orchid Eskimos.

One last tip: assuming you put your orchids outdoors in the summer, leave them outside in the fall as long as possible, without letting them freeze, of course. This will encourage many varieties to make spikes or buds, even if the house temperature after you bring them in is a little too warm. It may be a nuisance to bring everything in when the weatherman predicts frost, then move them out again for a spell of Indian summer, but the plants seem to benefit. Even warm-growers like *phalaenopsis* should be left out until the temperatures get into the lower 50's at night. Intermediate types can stand temperatures in the 40's before you bring them in, and certain really cool-growers such as *cymbidiums* and *Dendrobium nobile* hybrids are said to tolerate light frosts, though I've never tried it.

- Larry Kuekes, Editor
Connecticut Orchid Society Newsletter

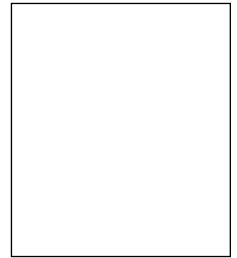
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The Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS) meets every month from September through May at the Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY, on the first Monday following the first Sunday of each month. (Dates sometimes vary due to holidays, etc.) The GROS is an affiliate of The American Orchid Society and of The

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