



THE ORCHID COLLECTION



Volume 10 No. 7

THE ORCHID COLLECTION

March 1989

President's Corner

Orchid Lovers,

The great ocean going liner on which I was a passenger was docking at the port city of La Guaira, gateway to Caracas, Venezuela. The ship docket, cleared port authorities, and unload its pent-up demand into the city. I think that half the busses in Venezuela were waiting to take the passengers on tour of Caracas. "On Tour" you see the standard stuff, talk to the standard people, smell the standard smells, and come away with the travelog view of the city (any city).

After the tour busses returned to the ship, there were still a couple of hours to kill before sailing. It was an opportunity to venture out to see the sights of La Guaira on my own.

But I had been warned: Laguira, like any port, was a rough area not prepared for tourists. "Do not take any money or jewelry" was the admonition. "Do not venture away from the ship on your own" had been drummed into my head by crew and guidebook alike. In fact, from the deck of the ship one could see Venezuelan soldiers carrying automatic weapons patrolling the port and the city streets beyond. I presume they were there for my protection.

Still, I was hungry for a taste of the real Venezuela. Who knew when I would be back again? So I psyched up my courage, deposited all but about 10 dollars in the ship's vault, took my lack of Spanish (not a word) and with a firm grip on my least expensive camera, went forth.

What greets one outside the port authority gates is the poverty. All port towns are poor and rough, but South American ports seem to be less cared for than others. Poverty breeds crime. In this cases, unlike American run-down areas, not so much because of drug addiction as from unemployment, high inflation, and disease. One could see piles of garbage burning on the hills just beyond the port; one could see dirty children playing in the street; one could see the iron bars and gratings on the lower windows of all buildings, not only stores; and one could see an orchid.

There was a high rise apartment building more dilapidated than anything we would call low income housing. Way up on a high story balcony there was a hybrid Cattleya in bloom with three large flowers. It was too far away to photograph or even view well from the ground. I felt immediately at home. There was an instant sharing with the foreign environment that could never have taken place without the flower. I was hoping for communication of some sort, but I realized that, with my lack of Spanish, this is all there would be.

A species orchid growing in South American and transplanted to a balcony is no big deal. But a hybrid means that someone didn't just pick it from the nearest forest. This orchid was purchased (or received as a gift). A purchased orchid means many things: disposable income, time to maintain the plants, a love of growing things, and an appreciation of the best of what nature has to offer.

Seeing that plant made my day. My orientation changed from the burning garbage to the orchid flower. Happiness is where you find it. It will emerge in even in the midst of poverty. That day it was concentrated in an orchid flower.

Good growing,



Looking Ahead

March 6, 1989
Meeting 8:00 P.M.
Meeting 8:00 P.M.

Trinity Covenant Church
1235 South Clinton Avenue

PHALAENOPSIS CULTURE
by

Bob Gordon

As you probably know, Bob Gordon is a Favorite Person on the Lecture Circuit. Past President of the Rivers Beverly Hill Orchid Society, Author of 3 books and devoted amateur grower. You cannot miss this opportunity to hear this speaker. Please welcome Bob with a super turnout.

Join us for early dinner at 6:00 at S.B. Maxwell's
535 S. Clinton Ave. Rochester
Call Joe Kunisch at 426-1811 (w), 381-4206 (h) before
Sunday, March 5 for reservations.

Joe Kunisch - Program V-P

No beginner's meeting this month.

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The
Genessee Region Orchid Society
of Rochester, N.Y.

Presents

ORCHIDS OF THE WORLD




Saturday, April 1
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday, April 2
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

At the
Cooperative Extension
249 Highland Avenue

Movie: *The Many Worlds of Orchids*
Culture and Repotting Demonstrations



- PREREGISTRATION OF PLANTS IS REQUIRED .
IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN SEVEN
- BANQUET - FRIDAY, MARCH 31 - AFTER JUDGING
- SALES - GROS MEMBERS ONLY -
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 9-10 AM

SECONDS

GROS CLUB EXHIBIT

INDIVIDUAL PLANTS

The February 6, 1989 meeting of the Genesee Region Orchid Society was called to order by President Len Bayer at 8 p.m.

Members Dwaine Levy and David Weiss were thanked for donating refreshments.

Treasurer Fran Murphy reported a current balance of \$3,099.21.

New member, Ken Campbell, introduced himself.

There was no discussion of any old or new business.

Show Report: "Orchids of the World" April 1-2, 1989 - Chairman David Weiss still needs a clean-up chairman. David Kokis has posters available for distribution. He would like some volunteers for short video-tape interviews. He said there will be more TV coverage this year. Outreach: Dawn Michaelson and her group have been repotting and dividing orchids at the Lambertson Conservatory on Saturdays from 8 AM until 2 P.M. Anyone interested in joining them should call her.

Fran Murphy accepted orders for supplies from OFE International.

The meeting was adjourned. Program Chairman, Joe Kunisch, introduced our speaker, Jim Rice, who discussed the show table and gave a most interesting talk of his many experiences collecting orchids in various Central and South American countries.

-Mary Lou Clawson, Secretary

1. Entrants are to first register their plants for the GROS Show with the Judging Committee -- in advance or before 9:30 Thursday, March 30, 1989.
2. Each plant registered for the GROS Club Exhibit of Individual Plants is to be in a red clay pot and have the grower's name affixed to the bottom of the pot.
3. Plants are to be taken to the GROS Exhibit table near the stage where a committee member will receive them and record pertinent information.
4. Please collect your plants and prizes after the show on Sunday, April 2, 1989 between 4 and 6 PM.
5. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Susan West, GROS Exhibit Coordinator

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New members joining since January, 1989 are:
 Robert and Jean Steve, 148 Monroe Avenue, Honeoye Falls 14472, Ph: 624-1598 They grow phals, catts, & paphs under lights.
 Dr. Ken Campbell, 258 Berkshire, Rochester 14626 Ph: 225-3990 Ken, from the British Isles, has been in Rochester about 10 months.
 Valerie Coushaine, 34 Boughton Avenue, Pittsford 14534 Ph: 381-3489
 Diane Allen, 59 Hamilton Street, Rochester 14620 Ph: 423-9642 Diane grows under lights and her favorites are in the oncidium group. She also has a lily collection

(Please add to your membership list)

POSTERS - POSTERS - POSTERS - POSTERS - POSTERS

Genesee Region Orchid Society members play a vital role in publicizing the Spring Show by putting up posters where they work, shop and bank. Posters will be distributed at the March meeting. BE SURE AND GET SOME!

ROCHESTER MUSEUM & SCIENCE CENTER OFFERS ORCHID CLASSES

Beginning April 5th, "Orchids for Homeowners" Beginners (Course # 370) and Advanced (Course # 371) will be taught by Dody Ellenberger. 5 class nights each - \$31.00 each Wednesdays 7:30-9 PM Call Dody 924-7407 or RMSC - Gannett School 271-4320 ext. 501 with any questions.

YOUR ORCHID CALENDAR

- March 1 - 5 Miami International Flower Show
- March 5 - 12 Philadelphia Flower Show - Civic Center, Philly
- March 18 - 19 O. S. of Western Pennsylvania Show Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center
- April 1 - 2 Genesee Region Orchid Society - Annual Show
- April 13 - 16 Greater New York Orchid Society Show

The ORCHID COLLECTION is a Genesee Region Orchid Society publication publishes nine times a year for the members. Single membership is \$6. - family \$9.

Dody Ellenberger, editor
6764 Gillis Road
Victor, NY 14564
(716) 924-7407 Call Ahead

