



The Orchid Collection

Genesee Region Orchid Society
Volume 29, Number 8
April, 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: APR. 7, 2008



The Spring Show will be a pleasant (but vivid...) memory by the time our April meeting gets under way - just a day after the Show closes! We wish we could tell you about all of the neat Show happenings and beautiful orchid exhibits; but this publishing format requires some lead time, so those things are still in the future, at least for this venue. See next month's issue for Show award listings - and more.

Our April meeting will feature our colleague Carri Raven-Riemann who will present, "The Mini But Mighty Multifloral Phals." Carri is a frequent exhibitor at our orchid shows, and is owner of the orchidPhile, an orchid firm in Stamford, CT. The orchidPhile is known for specializing in quality Phalaenopsis orchids. A former New York model and actress, Carri began growing orchids in 1980 with the gift from her husband, Herb, of three orchid plants placed under the Christmas tree. And the rest - as they say - is history. Her personal collection now numbers in the thousands of plants, many of which have won AOS Awards.

Carri participates in several orchid shows around the country, creating elaborate orchid displays and managing a sales table at each. Her orchids have been recognized with over 70 AOS flower awards and several botanical awards, several AOS Show Trophies for Best Exhibit in Show, for Best Exhibit Design in Show, and many trophies for Best Phalaenopsis in Show & Best Orchid in Show.

Ms. Raven-Riemann serves as a member of the AOS Education Committee and is an AOS accredited orchid judge. She is co-founder and two-term president of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, an organization of Phalaenopsis enthusiasts. Her articles on Phalaenopsis hybridizing have been published in *Orchids* and in the *IPA Journal*.

Carri will be bringing a selection of plants to sell at the meeting. We will be taking her to dinner at 5:15 p.m. (before the meeting) at Mamasan's Noodle Caboodle, 2800 Monroe Avenue; if you'd like to join us, (everyone pays for his or her own dinner) please call our Program VP Jim Marlow at 585-889-7983 to make sure that there will be enough space.

The Show Table will be back, having spent the past week envying its brethren who were otherwise occupied at the Spring Show and its mountains of exquisite flowering orchids. So, if you've still got any orchids in bloom, conjure up that last bit of energy and bring them in - especially if you were lucky enough to come away with some Show ribbons. We'll see you there!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Meeting Minutes ♡2
- Orchid Longevity ♡2
- Show Table ♡3

Phal. Bedford Lawrence Budding
Grower: Kim Hober
Photo/Illustration ©2007 Phil Matt

Meeting Minutes for March 3, 2008

(no report received this month.)



Orchid Culture: Longevity of Orchids

How long will an orchid plant live?

Often, the first question asked by someone just given their first orchid is, "How long will this grow for me?" What determines the life expectancy of an orchid plant? From a theoretical standpoint, an orchid plant can live forever. Orchids are perennials. If kept in good health, you can just keep dividing them. It is quite possible that in their native habitats, there are some orchids which are hundreds of years old, perhaps older. There are accounts of enormous masses of orchids collected in the early part of the 20th century that were so large it took many men to cut the clumps out of the trees and carry them off. Often they would have to cut the clumps into even smaller portions for transport back to the purveyors.

In nature, plants are not subjected to disease, neglect or obsolescence to the same extent as orchids in cultivation may be. Under cultivation, orchid plants are far more subject to the conditions that shorten their life than are the jungle plants. There are some highly regarded breeding plants which are known to have been in cultivation for 75 to 100 years. The average life expectancy of a plant in cultivation is 15 - 20 years.

Let us go beyond our first question - "How long will this grow for me?" - to assume we are thinking of someone who has a small orchid collection. The three factors which determine an orchid plant's life are disease, neglect and obsolescence. Under greenhouse conditions, orchid plants are often packed together "pot to pot." The conditions which are maintained for their growth are also ideal for diseases: high temperature, high humidity, close proximity. Diseases thrive under what are consid-

ered to be "good cultural conditions." An excellent illustration is the soft brown rot of *Phalaenopsis*. This is a water-borne bacterial disease which thrives under high humidity and temperature. The dangerous thing is that it spreads rapidly merely by water being splashed from a diseased plant onto a clean plant! The prevention? Good circulation of air, immediate separation and treatment of infected plants, keeping the leaves of the plants dry at nightfall, and maintaining proper night temperature, 65-70° F.

Of curable diseases there are fungal and bacterial types. There is a generous literature on the identity of these two types and on prevention and treatment.

Virus is the third type of disease; it is separate from fungus and bacteria. With the first two types, you can effect a cure. With virus, there

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live?"*

is no cure - only prevention. This is why everyone should learn aseptic technique to prevent the spread of virus. Virus is spread via mechanical means. This refers to infected cutting tools, pots which have contained virus-infected plants, virus-infected plants commingled with roots growing over each other in the greenhouse, and sucking and chewing insects which go from plant to plant, such as aphids, cockroaches and red spider. Virus on your hands can be spread if you have handled an infected plant and then come in contact with a wound of some kind on another orchid plant.

The second major category is rather simply - neglect. An illustration would be the person who does not repot his plants until there is nothing in the pot for the plant to grow on. Neglect is letting a plant that has lost its roots go unpotted. Learn something about pest control and how to identify a few of the major insect pests, such as scale, red spider mites, and other "wee small beasties" which are so easily eradicated by the perceptive grower. An

illustration is: a neighbor with a fine *Cymbidium* collection. All year he carefully tended his plants. Fall and winter came, the flower spikes developed, and he was ready for the best crop ever next spring. Recently he lamented, "My *Cymbidium* flowers are full of holes, even the stems are eaten." The cause? Slugs and snails which came out at night. The prevention? A few pennies' worth of slug and snail bait sprinkled around on the surface of the potting mix and around the pots and on the ground when the spikes are developing to save a whole year's effort. Neglect can also be killing plants with "kindness." Watering plants too often at certain times, or not enough at other times can lead to poor growth. Neglect can be trying some cultural practice on one's entire collection which that orchid-growing friend of yours has told you about - without conducting a small-scale experiment on just a few plants, first. I'm sure that everyone can add a few personal illustrations of neglect or bad culture.

The last of our three categories is obsolescence. This is probably the easiest to understand. Will you love every plant in your collection next year or five years from now as you do today? No, you will not. Your tastes will change. If you actively engage in building a collection, invariably you will develop preferences. Not only that, but you will find certain plants do not flower well for you or you may no longer want to give them space because you like others more. A beginner will say, "Throw an orchid plant out? Never!" Still, obsolescence is real and plants go out of collections for many reasons. Perhaps some divisions of the variety which grows well for you but of which you have an over supply will be "seed plants" to help a beginner get started. If you have divisions of a plant that does not grow or flower well, maybe you know someone else who might want to give them a try.

Yes, orchid plants are perennials. In theory, they can live forever. However, "there is many a slip twixt the cup and the lip." Just try to keep in mind some of the things that can shorten the life of your treasured beauties.

- by Ernest Hetherington from the
Fraser Valley Orchid Society Newsletter,
via the NROS News, Feb. 2008.

MARCH SHOW TABLE

(Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or **complete** your records, including parentage and new registrations. Be sure your plant names are correct for show registration.)

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Phrag. longifolium</i>	Uhlig
<i>Phrag. Memoria Dick Clements</i>	Snyder
(lindleyanum syn. "sargentianum" × <i>besseae</i>)*	
<i>Paph. rothschildianum</i>	Uslai
<i>Paph. Henrietta Fujiwara (primulinum × haynaldianum)</i>	Batz
<i>Paph. armeniacum</i>	Bloomfield

Cattleya Alliance

<i>C. Clarissa × Rhyncholaelia digbyana</i>	Wischoff
Caulaelia (Cll.) Mizoguchi (Snowflake × <i>L. anceps</i>)	Hober
Hrubyara Koolau Starbright	
<i>(Eyb. Phoenix × Guarisophleya Kauai Starbright)</i>	Bloomfield
Laelianthe (Lnt.) Orange Embers	
<i>(L. Santa Barbara Sunset × Gur. aurantiaca)</i>	McKay
Marriottara (Mrr.) Copper Queen	
<i>(Rsc. Toshie Aoki × Bnts. Richard Mueller)</i>	"

Oncidium Alliance

<i>Onc. maculatum</i> †	McKay
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Dendrobium

<i>Den. Memoria Margery Ummer (Nagasaki × Yukidaruma)</i>	
	Kaeding
<i>Den. Seigyoku (Oberon × Spring Wind)</i>	Uhlig
<i>Den. amethystoglossum</i> †	Hober
<i>Den. Oriental Smile (Fukuju × Yuubae)</i>	Bloomfield

Miscellaneous

<i>Masd. Angel Tang (veitchiana × tonduzii)</i>	Bechelli
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*It sometimes happens, not only in the orchid family, that a plant population has horticultural significance, but not enough taxonomic variation to warrant a separate name. The RHS occasionally preserves the distinct name, even if the Kew Checklist does not accept it.

†Latin nouns have gender. The species epithet is an adjective, & must agree in gender with the genus name.

- Iris Cohen



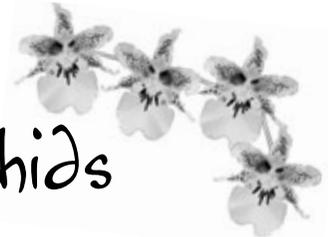
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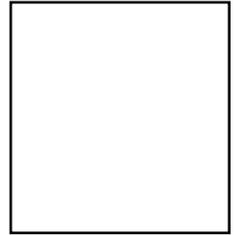
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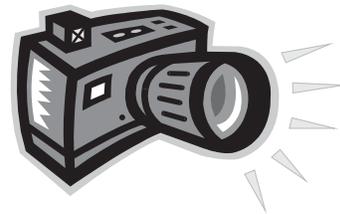
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The Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS) meets every month from September through May at the Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY, on the first Monday following the first Sunday of each month. (Dates sometimes vary due to holidays,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

GROS PHOTOS!



A new upgrade to our website will allow our Society to post photographs of various GROS activities in easily accessible picture galleries. Please contact Phil Matt, our Webmaster, if you have photos you'd like to add to the GROS site.