



# The Orchid Collection

Vol. 32, No. 8 - April, 2011

Genesee Region Orchid Society, Inc.  
<http://www.geneseeorchid.org>

## NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, APR. 4, 2011

"Orchids 101" 6:00 p.m. ❁ Social "Hour" 7:00 - 7:15 p.m. ❁ Meeting begins at 7:15 p.m.  
Senior Lounge, Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Ave., Rochester, NY



Paph. Ho Chi Minh (delenatii × vietnamense)

**I**t's still snowing. There are no days with temperatures above freezing in sight. Whether there is any real humor in this - writing before the Spring Show about something that will happen after the Show - seems more than a little surreal at this point.

**O**ur April meeting will take place nonetheless, with Claudio Rossi of Cloud's Orchids arriving from the Great White North to present "Current Trends in Paph Breeding," discussing the results from making crosses with the "new" Paph species that have been introduced in the last 15 years.

**C**laudio is a familiar figure to all GROS members, having been both a vendor and exhibitor at our Spring shows for many years. He's been growing orchids since 1975 and is usually associated by those in the orchid world

with Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums. But, those who really know him know that Claudio is an aficionado of just about any genus. Claudio is an AOS judge, and regularly judges orchid shows and give lectures on orchid topics.

**C**laudio started Cloud's Orchids in the late 1980's with a strong emphasis on species and slipper orchids. Since its birth in a 300 sq. ft. greenhouse, Cloud's Orchids has grown to a nursery operation of 39,000 sq. ft. on Canada's Niagara Peninsula. Cloud's Orchids now focuses on their large nursery facility. They have entered into the wholesale market in a big way and now service a number of nurseries within Canada, the U.S. and even overseas. They open their retail facility once a month for the general public usually providing a workshop on orchids.

Please visit the Cloud's Orchids website for duty-free pre-orders. Please specify whether you will be picking up your order at the GROS show, or at Monday's April 4 meeting. Order cut-off date is Monday March 28.

Plans for dinner prior to the meeting TBA! Watch the website for late-breaking dinner plans the night of the meeting. The Show Table will be back, so please don't forget your blooming plants - including the ones with ribbons from the Show *and* the orchids that didn't flower in time for display. We'll see you there!

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## Meeting Minutes for Monday Mar. 7, 2011

President **Paul Batz** called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Paul welcomed members, guests and one new member, John Francis. John was one of our speakers last month from Bioworks in Victor.

A motion was made by Barb Greene to accept the January meeting minutes. A second was made, a vote was taken and the minutes were accepted.

Refreshments were provided this evening by Judy Wischoff, Jeanne Kaeding and Sandi Uhlig.

This evening's Orchids 101 was all about exhibiting your plants at a show. **Paul** brought plants and equipment to show what is done to make a nice exhibit.

**Ron Uhlig**, treasurer, gave the financial report for the past month. The report wasn't voted on due to a typo of the correct month. We will vote on it at the April meeting. Ron will send it to members via email and the corrected report will appear in the March newsletter.

**Ron Uhlig**, show chairman, brought us up to date on plan for our April 2-3 show. Twenty six days until set-up and registration begins. Check out the website for information as well as forms for exhibit space requests, reception reservations and to pre-register your plants. Ron showed the advertisement for our show in *Orchids* magazine. Flyers and posters are once again available for distribution to florists and garden centers/friends/workplaces, etc.

### Show Schedule:

Day 1 – Thursday, March 31 – Registration (this is on-line now) and bring in plants you'd like to sell on the Members' Sales Table for both Saturday & Sunday.

Day 2 – Judging/Luncheon for Judges and Volunteers/Awards Reception

Day 3 – Open to Public from 10-5. Members volunteer to host and bring in lunch food for vendors and workers.

Day 4 – Open to Public from 10-4. Members volunteer to host, bring in food and help with teardown starting at 4:01 p.m.

### Other details about the Show:

**Carol Butcher** will be organizing Setup and Teardown.

A clipboard went around to sign up for bringing food and assisting in the kitchen on Saturday and Sunday.

Member Sales at the show – Members can sell 15 plants each day. The Society receives 15%. Forms must be filled out for each day's plants. Ron will pay members their sales monies in about one week after the show closes.

Ron announced that one of the vendors at the show, Edgar Stehli from Windswept Orchids, would appreciate overnight accommodations for March 31 – April 2. Please contact Ron if you can help with this.

Paul also passed on information about rain barrels, per a member's request. Email or call Paul for more details.

Our March speaker, Leon Glicenstein, was introduced by Program Chair **Carol Butcher**. He gave an enjoyable program about his excursion through the high country of Ecuador and the orchids he enjoyed finding.

After the raffle, officiated by **Phil Matt**, the show table was presented by **Jeanne Kaeding**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Sandi Uhlig*  
*Secretary*



## The Rituals of Spring

Once upon a time, the days leading up to spring were punctuated with college basketball and late season ski trips. Then I discovered the joy of orchid growing. It started innocently enough, with one plant bought in a big box store as a birthday gift. Six years and 83 plants later, I find that my spring rituals have changed drastically from getting my skis tuned and filling out college hoops brackets, to quiet

observation of my orchid collection with three things in mind: pests, purging and potting.

I had been aware of a white substance in the crotch of my loveliest *phalaenopsis* for about three weeks. I had written it off as being minerals filtered out of the water by the plant (think I read that *somewhere*), and therefore harmless. A comment made by one of my orchid growing buddies about being in the midst of a mealy bug fight, made me take a closer look at my newly budded vini-colored *paphiopedilum*. Something white with furry little legs was contrasting against the dark stem of that plant as well. I also had mealy bugs!

I was out of "Bayer" brand insect spray (\**Bayer Advanced Rose & Flower Insect Killer - Ed. See below.*) that I had used for scale and aphids in the past. Not wanting to spray the Bayer insecticide inside the house, nor take my tender plants outside in the 30 degree weather to spray them, I opted for some horticultural oil pest treatment purchased from a local garden store. The oil seemed to keep the pesky bugs at bay, but I had to repeat it every three days, and still they seemed to reappear on a weekly basis. This bought me some time, however, and during a patch of warmer weather, I brought several plants outside and coated them with the Bayer spray. Lucky for me, I have plants in four different locations in the house, and the mealybugs appeared only on plants in my eastern location.

I quickly isolated about five plants with the suspicious white particles and kept a vigil for any more outbreaks. I decided to get rid of three plants in the east location. Two of them I had been tending for three or more years, and not a spike in sight. These reluctant bloomers had three strikes against them: never-ever bloomed, pitted leaves, and now were swarming with mealy bugs. A fairly recently purchased, also infected, mini-phal followed.

The other two older phals into the waste receptacle. Spring is a good time to purge your collection of non productive or ailing plants. Having said that, I must admit that it seems to take an awful lot to get me to relinquish any of my orchids. Oh, the remorse I feel when I open the trash can to add a dirty paper towel and see the green of a discarded orchid leaf peeking through the rubble! I try to remind myself that now I have space for other healthy specimens that may actually put forth a flower spike or two. Also, the plants that will inevitably  
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tably accompany me home from the GROS show will now have a space to grow.

Not all of the plants I purge in the spring will wind up at the dump. I also have others that will go on the member's sales table at our spring orchid show. These previously enjoyed orchids are either cuttings from bigger plants, or healthy plants I feel will easily flower for another orchid enthusiast.

This year the first plants to be re-potted will be those recovering from my pest issues. Repotting is a sure way to insure that the pests don't leave behind eggs that will hatch later and re-infest the plant. I also give the infected orchids roots a spray or soaking of the insecticide I used on the leaves. Always read the manufacturer's directions when using pesticides; and it is a good idea to pre-test the pesticide on one area of a leaf before you douse the whole plant, as some plants are more sensitive than others. I do not dread or fear re-potting my collection. (Well, except for the *cymbidiums*!) I have learned to size the pot for the size of the roots, not the leaves, and the plants seem to perk up and grow with new found energy in the fresh pot and medium.

I love to experiment with pots and medium. Right now my favorite pot is actually a combination of two: a plastic netted pot nestled inside of either a clear plastic or clay pot. My medium recipes differ between mixes I conjure up myself from raw materials, to ready-made mixes purchased off the internet. I will say that rice hulls are not my favorite; they escape at each watering. Lava rock is on my list to try next.

I still quietly root for my favorite college basketball teams in the spring; often without watching a single game all season. Instead I turn my attention to the orchids growing at my windows and in my basement. Watching them grow brings me great peace, not emotional chaos, and I can count on them to *not* die out in the first or second round!

- Carol Butcher



**Coming ...  
in the May  
newsletter:**

**Spring Show Award  
Listings!**



## Imidacloprid - A Systemic for Orchids?

Bayer Advanced Rose & Flower Insect Killer has as its primary active ingredient a pesticide formally known as Imidacloprid. Imidacloprid is a nicotine-based, systemic insecticide, which acts as a neurotoxin and disrupts insects' nervous systems. As of this writing, this product has not specifically been listed for use on orchids.

Although it is now off patent, the primary manufacturer of this chemical is Bayer Crop Science, (part of Bayer AG). It is sold under the trade names Kohinor, Admire, Advantage (Advocate), Gaucho, Mallet, Merit, Nuprid, Prothor, Turfthor, Confidor, Conguard, Hachikusan, Premise, Prothor, Provado and Winner. These products with the trademarked names are normally only available to the professional gardening trade - LPA's (Licensed Pesticide Applicators.)

Imidacloprid is one of the most widely used insecticides and can be applied by soil injection, tree injection, or broadcast foliar or ground application as a granular or liquid formulation or as a pesticide-coated seed treatment. Studies have shown that Imidacloprid is extremely toxic to honeybees and to several kinds of common birds such as the house sparrow, canary, pigeon and Japanese quail.

The Bayer spray is usually available in local gardening centers during the warmer months, but can be difficult to find during the Fall and Winter. This product comes in an all-blue bottle, but you must be careful to shake well

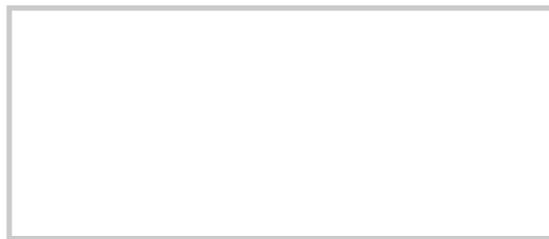
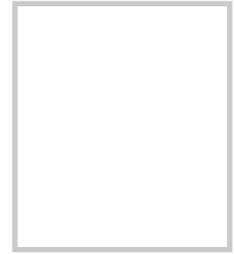
before each use, or the sprayer will become hopelessly clogged - which is why the photo shows a bottle with a "replacement sprayer." As with any insecticide, you should always read the label on the product carefully and take precautions to minimize your exposure.



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.

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