



# The Orchid Collection

Vol. 34, No. 8 - April, 2013

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

## ***NO MEETING IN APRIL: Enjoy the Show!***

*39th Annual Orchid Show & Sale* ❁ Eisenhart Auditorium, RMSC  
*Public Show Hours : 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Apr. 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Apr. 7*



Sandi Uhlig's exhibit from the 2009 Spring Show

It's time for the Spring Show! There's absolutely **nothing** that's a better harbinger of Spring than the GROS Spring Orchid Show! From vendors moving in tray after tray of plants, to exhibitors setting up their displays, to the excitement of judging, to the Awards Reception and the two glorious days of the Show itself, it's bound to be a lot of hard work - and fun - for all GROS members. Hopefully, most members have signed up to help in one way or another, because it's the spirit of our collective interest in orchids and in our orchid community that makes for a successful Show weekend. The Show also provides a substantial - and vital - contribution toward our yearly operating budget.

We hope that many of you have signed up for the Awards Reception on Friday night! It's an inexpensive and relaxing evening that celebrates the exhibit and AOS awards given out at the Show, and allows for a leisurely visit to the Show floor and to the Vendor area downstairs. We'll see you all at the Show!

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## GROS Meeting Minutes - Mar. 4, 2013

The meeting opened with Bill's monolog. Bill told us about the upcoming Maple weekend. March 16 & 17. The New York State Maple Producers Asociation is promoting this state-wide event.

He talked about the GROS display at the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society Show.. Thank you to **Jeanne Kaeding**, **Natalie Auburn**, **Dwaine Levy**, and **Bill Renick** for providing the plants. He welcomed two new members, and thanked Jo, and Dave for providing refreshments

**Noel Krzesinski** thanked everyone for sending their plants to the George Eastman House for display. There were plenty of plants, and we were able to have them displayed in every room.

GROS has been invited to the Erie, PA orchid show May 10 (set up), 11 & 12. If anyone is interested in doing a display there, talk to Bill.

The Garden Factory is having a Spring show again on April 6 & 7.

April 27<sup>th</sup> Rochester Museum and Science Center is having a workshop on how to make your own rain barrel. The cost is \$25.00

It's that time of year again for finding new officers. Is anyone interested infilling any of these positions? Think about it, it might be the perfect job for you!

A request was made for an updated Membership list, it should be available from the web site, but you have to log in to access it.

**Dwaine Levy** requested that we stick to featuring speakers and not holding social events on our scheduled meeting nights.

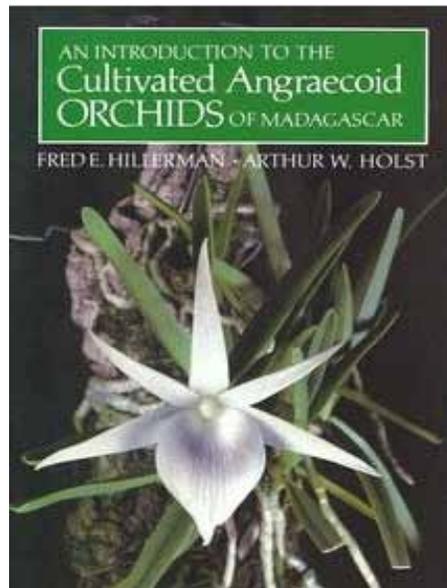
Jeanne Kaeding made a motion, and **Mike DeVito** seconded it, for the Society to donate \$100.00 from GROS to the AOS in memory of Dody Ellenberger.

**Carol Butcher** sent the clipboards around for help with the spring show. She would like 5 or 6 more volunteers for ribbon clerking, as well as guides on the floor through out the exhibit.

There are sign up sheets for food, volunteers to help load and unload the vendors etc. So please sign up to help with something during the show. Reception ticket forms are posted on the website. Display info is also there. If you have something to sell at the member's table, contact Mike DeVito. Many of the show vendors will accept pre-orders. Check the web site to see the list of vendors.

Our speaker was Dottie Woodson, she spoke on North American Orchids and Conservation.

- *Natalie Auburn*  
GROS Secretary



### NEXT MEETING:

**MONDAY  
MAY 6,  
2013**

**Dr. Patricia Harding  
Orchid Taxonomist**

**Topic: TBA**

## From the GROS Library Collection

*An Introduction to the Cultivated Angraecoid Orchids of Madagascar*

By Fred E. Hillerman & Arthur W. Holst

I blame my interest in Angraecums on Dwaine Levy and Sandi Uhlig. Both of them have shown off their *Angraecum distichum* on our show table over the past couple of years. The next thing I noticed was that I had two Angraecums in my orchid collection.

To better grow these types of orchids, I checked out *An Introduction to the Cultivated Angraecoid Orchids of Madagascar* from the GROS library.

The book starts out with a little history of Madagascar. You can easily skip this part, but I found it interesting enough to finish reading. Next a couple of pages are given to the different geographical-climatic zones and a rainfall map of the island. I found these pages to be helpful in getting a quick understanding the needs of my individual Angraecums.

To get a full understanding of my orchid's need, I looked up the individual species. Each Madagascar Angraecum is give about a page in which it described, its natural habitat, the culture the authors found to be the best for cultivating and any relevant comments. Many of the plants have glossy color photos that show both the plant and flower.

The end of the book included sections on Hybridizing Angraecoids including tables on chromosome numbers, Awarded Angraecoids and non Angraecoid orchids of Madagascar.

However, the book provided me with little help for my *Angraecum distichum* - it is from Africa!

- *Bill Renick*



## Basic Orchid Glossary

Though by no means a comprehensive glossary listing, below you will find a basic orchid glossary.

**adventitious bud** — Meristem originating from a single cell or group of cells not part of preexisting meristem.

**adventitious propagation** — The use of tissue culture to produce whole plants from adventitious buds. Can lead to high levels of somaclonal variation, unlike micropropagation.

**aerial root** — Any root produced above the growing medium.

**anther** — The part of the stamen containing the pollen; the end of the column.

**axillary bud** — Preexisting meristem within the axil of a leaf that is normally inactive in growth.

**backbulb** — An old pseudobulb behind the part of a sympodial orchid that is actively growing. Although there may be no leaves the presence of undamaged “eyes” is a sign that growth is possible.

**bifoliate** — Having two leaves.

**cane** — An elongated pseudobulb, usually used when describing Dendrobiums.

**crock** — Small pieces of broken earthenware or flower pots, placed in the bottom of a pot when repotting to aid in drainage.

**cultivar** — An individual plant and its vegetative propagations in cultivation; a horticultural variety.

**diploid** — A plant with two sets of chromosomes. The normal condition.

**epiphyte, epiphytic** — A plant which naturally grows upon another plant but does not derive any nourishment from it. Many of the orchids in cultivation are epiphytic.

**eye** — The bud of a sympodial orchid that will eventually develop into a new lead.

**foliar spray** — Many minor nutrients and trace elements beneficial to growth are best absorbed through the stomata of an orchid's leaves when mixed with water and sprayed on the plant.

**genus (pl. genera)** — A natural grouping of closely related species.

**habitat** — The type of place in which a plant normally grows.

**hybrid** — The offspring of a cross between species or hybrids.

**inflorescence** — The flowering portion of a plant.

**intergeneric hybrid** — A hybrid between members of two or more genera.

**keiki** — A Hawaiian word referring to a baby plant produced asexually by an orchid plant, usually used when referring to Dendrobiums or Vandaceous orchids.

**lead** — An immature vegetative growth on a sympodial orchid that will develop into flower-producing structure.

**lip** — A modified petal of the orchid flower specialized to aid in pollination and different than the other petals.

**lithophyte** — An orchid that grows on rocks.

**medium** — The material in which an orchid is container-grown, it may be organic such as fir bark or inorganic such as lava rock.

**mericlone** — A plant derived from tissue culture that is identical to its parent.

**meristem** — The actively growing area of the plant from which mature tissues such as leaf, stems, flowers and roots originate.

**micropropagation** — The use of tissue culture to grow inactive axillary buds into whole plants with very little somaclonal variation, unlike adventitious propagation.

**monopodial** — Orchids which grow upward from a single stem producing leaves and flowers along that stem.

**node** — A joint on a stem or pseudobulb from which a leaf or growth originates.

**panicle** — An inflorescence with a main stem and branches, the flowers on the lower branches open earlier than the upper ones.

**photosynthesis** — The process a plant uses to produce carbohydrates and sugar from water and carbon dioxide in the air using chlorophyll-containing cells exposed to light.

**polyploid** — A plant with more than the normal two sets of chromosomes.

**pseudobulb** — A thickened portion of the stem of many orchids functioning as a water and food storage device.

**raceme** — An unbranched inflorescence of stalked flowers.

**rhizome** — A root-bearing stem of sympodial orchids that progressively sends up leafy shoots.

**scape** — An unbranched inflorescence with one flower.

**sheath** — A modified leaf that encloses an emerging inflorescence or leaf.

**somaclonal variation** — Genetic variants arising from tissue culture.

**species** — A kind of plant that is distinct from other plants.

**spike** — An unbranched inflorescence of unstalked flowers.

**stem propagation** — See micropropagation.

**stolon** — A branch that grows horizontally above the medium and produces roots and shoots at the nodes.

**stomata** — The breathing pores on the surface of a plant's leaves.

**sympodial** — Orchids which grow laterally and produce leafy growths along a rhizome.

**terrestrial** — Growing on the ground and supported by soil.

**tetraploid** — A plant with four sets of chromosomes. A normal plant is diploid with two sets of chromosomes. Most modern complex orchid hybrids are tetraploid. Compared to diploids, tetraploids generally have larger, fuller and heavier subtended flowers.

**(Glossary, from Page 3)**

**tissue culture** — The technique of culturing cells on a sterile synthetic media. There are two general methods use to propagate plants -- micropropagation and adventitious propagation.

**unifoliate** — Having one leaf.

**velamen** — The thick sponge-like covering of the roots of epiphytic orchids which helps prevent water loss and aids in absorption.

**virus** — A type of infectious agent, much smaller than common microorganisms, several forms of which affect certain kinds of orchids.

- [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

## My Favorite Fragrant Orchids

Some of my very favorite orchids are the ones with a noticeable fragrance. I consider it a real bonus, along with the fact that they are actually blooming for me. Whenever friends come over to see the orchids they usually try to sniff them. Most don't have any fragrance, but when I have some in bloom that do I am always sticking their noses in the plant, saying "smell that - what does it remind you of?"

Of course many of the Cattleyas are well known for their fragrance; in my case *Blc.* Sybil Farwell and *Bc.* Mahina Yahiro 'Ulii' - both have a lovely gardenia-like odor. Then there is *Lc.* Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah' which is reminiscent of roses in bloom.

One of my all time favorites is *Max. tenuifolia*, with its coconut-smelling little blooms. I am reminded of a Florida beach awash in sun-tan lotion. When I can find one, I am going to add *Lycaste aromatica* (well-named!) to my collection again for its enticing cinnamon fragrance. Although *Lycastes* do not do well for me I would definitely give this one another chance. I should rephrase that - I do not do well for *Lycastes*, not the other way around.

Every fall or winter that old standby *Onc.* Sharry Baby opens up from two to five inflorescences with its distinctive chocolate aroma. I have no quarrel with anything chocolate.

## MARCH SHOW TABLE

### Cypripedium Alliance

*Paph. lowii*

Gillette

### Cattleya Alliance

*Din. polybulbon*

Uhlig

### Oncidium Alliance

*Asp. psittacina*

Gillette

Unknown

Galley

*Don't forget. If you need help looking up a name in advance of your upcoming show, don't hesitate to contact me.*

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*R. digbyana*, GROS Spring Show 2011, Grown by Bloomfield Orchids

One of my favorite genera is *Miltoniopsis*. Besides their beautiful better than pansy-like flowers they emit a very light, fresh scent which always reminds me of spring.

At first I couldn't identify the source of a strange odor in my kitchen - after sniffing around I located the source - *Brassia* Rex Sakata. This orchid, and other *Brassias* as well, has a hard to describe, tangy, spicy, almost metallic odor. Not to everyone's liking but I definitely like it. Plus I am a big fan of the 'spiders' in general, with their unique rows of marching patterned petals.

I thought I had 'smelled it all' until I obtained *Brassavola nodosa* 'Little Stars.' Talk about aromatherapy! This little orchid is like having a plug-in fragrance emitter on a timer - regularly, at approximately 7:30 in the evening, it starts to waft out its perfume - a heavy, sweet scent that fills the entire room and then some. Calling all moths! A scent that would be overpowering and cloying if it persisted throughout the day, but I welcome it as it 'turns on' in the evening.

On my wish list is *Ryncholaelia digbyana*. I have gotten a whiff of these fringed beauties and remember a very pleasant odor of lemons. I may have to find room in my collection for one of these.

I am avoiding mentioning those orchids that smell like carrion - to attract flies as pollinators - not only do I not own one I don't think I want to. If I am missing some really good 'smellers' please let me know, I would be happy to seek them out.

- Molly Weimer



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