



# The Orchid Collection

Genesee Region Orchid Society  
Volume 29, Number 6  
February, 2008

[www.geneseearchid.org](http://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: FEB. 4, 2008**

**I**t's almost February. The seed catalogs have started arriving in the mail, the politicians are busy calling each other names and the wheels are turning at the GROS to get ready for our Spring Show in April. Let's hope Mother Nature doesn't have any nasty surprises up her sleeve as we get together for our February meeting.

**W**e'll try again this month as Joe Kunisch, proprietor of Bloomfield Orchids, presents "Paph Species - Back to Basics," a brand new program he's created on growing the diverse and fascinating species that comprise the Genus Paphiopedilum. As you may recall, Joe was scheduled to appear in December, but our local installment of the Ice Age managed to shut things down and that meeting was postponed - until now.

**J**oe is an internationally-recognized expert on slipper orchids, a frequent exhibitor and vendor at our own Spring shows and many regional orchid shows, and the winner of countless AOS awards and Show Trophies for his imaginative, artistic displays and superbly grown plants. Inventor of the "Joe Pot" and someone who's always seeking to improve his already formidable cultural techniques, Joe is sure to have some really fascinating tips for everyone who enjoys growing Paphs - and who wants to grow them better. It's bound to be an evening of hands-on information you won't want to miss. There'll be plenty of time for your questions after the talk!

**W**e will be taking Joe 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 Program VP Jim Marlow at 585-889-7983 to make sure that there will be enough space. The Show Table will be back, as neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night can stay this furniture from the swift completion of its appointed duties. So, bundle up your flowering plants (and yourselves) and bring them in. We'll see you there!.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

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*Paph. villosum* "Chris"  
Photo illustration ©2008 Phil Matt



## Meeting Minutes for Jan. 7, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President **Jeff Snyder**. Jeff welcomed all the new members present.

Treasurer **Judy Ekberg** reported that the society's treasury contains \$11,362.42.

Show Chairwoman **Ruth Espinosa-Barone** reported that eight (8) vendors had been confirmed thus far. The poster is being finalized. More volunteers are still needed. A recommendation and vote was taken concerning the type and number of displays the society would have this year. There will be more details concerning the Awards Reception at the February Meeting. This year there will be a show program booklet; **Ron Uhlig** will be helping to produce this.

The Eastman House Dutch Connection is requesting orchids and people to water them. They will be on display from February 8th till February 23rd, 2008. Contact **Noel Krzesinski** if you'd like to help.

The Toronto Orchid Show will run from February 9-10, 2008. Please contact **Jeanne Kaeding** if you're interested in lending plants for the GROS display. Directions to the Toronto Orchid Show can be found at The Southern Ontario Orchid Society web site, <http://www.soos.ca/index.htm>.

**Jeremy Bechelli** and **Dave Hayes** are asking for potting supplies from the membership. The supplies are needed as they continue the repotting work at the Highland Park Conservatory greenhouse. Please contact them if you have any supplies to donate.

An inquiry was made about The 2008 Philadelphia Flower Show, March 2 to March 9, 2008 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Is anybody going?

Special Recognition goes to Mr. Jim Marlow of Marlow's Orchids for receiving the Benjamin Berliner Award. The award was for best *Lycaste* of the year. His winning orchid is a specimen of the species *Lycaste fragrans*.

Gardenscape will be held from March 13th through March 16th, 2008 (website: [www.rochesterflowershow.com](http://www.rochesterflowershow.com)) There is a call for volunteers, but members that do volunteer to help at the Society's display will have to purchase a ticket.

There is still a call for volunteers for various committees and outstanding positions. Please volunteer! Positions include Membership Committee, Nominating Committee, and GROS Librarian.

Our Guest Speaker was Dr. Thomas R. Nasser, III of Carolina Orchids. His presentation was on *Bulbophyllums*. Dr. Nasser and **Jim Marlow** presented the Show Table.

## GROS Welcomes New Member

Please add this new member to your membership roster:

Kenneth Usulai  
34 Goodman St. S.  
Rochester, NY 14607  
267-972-7693





A live gardening program hosted by Michael Warren Thomas

**WYSL 1040 AM**  
Saturdays from 9-10 a.m.  
Live on the Web at  
[www.SavorLife.com](http://www.SavorLife.com)

## Marlow Plant Wins Berliner Award

Jim Marlow, proprietor of Marlow's Orchids in Scottsville, NY and GROS Program Chairman, is the proud owner of a large spec-



imen of *Lycaste fragrans* that recently won the Benjamin C. Berliner Award. There will be more photos and other details on the GROS website soon (please check the Features page.) Congratulations, Jim!

Dr. Berliner, an AOS judge of many years experience, was a frequent visitor to our Spring shows. He was a good friend to the GROS and his judging expertise is remembered by all orchidists who had the good fortune to work alongside him.

## January Show Table Missing in Action!

Do you have the Show Table slips from the January meeting? If you do, please contact the GROS Secretary, Reggie Coleman. As many of you know, long time GROS member Iris Cohen, a resident of The Salt City to the East (Syracuse) compiles the Show Table listings every month from that pile of sometimes difficult-to-decipher entries. Many members enjoy reviewing the listings, so if you can help us get them to Iris, please do. We'll publish the January table in an upcoming issue of *The Orchid Collection*.



For the latest on our Spring Show, please check the GROS website!

**[www.geneseorchid.org](http://www.geneseorchid.org)**

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# ***EXHIBIT SPACE REQUEST FORM***

*Genesee Region Orchid Society Show — April 4-6, 2008*

Please complete this form and return it by March 7, 2008 to:  
**Ruth Espinosa-Barone, 1134 Jackson Rd., Webster, NY 14580**

Name that will appear on your exhibit sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you prefer to use your own sign and do not need the GROS to provide one:

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit type:  Plant display       Cut Flowers       Educational  
 Art or photographs       Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Placement:

- Table provided by GROS (30" x 96")  
 Wall space                       Corner Space  
 Open floor space (dimensions) \_\_\_\_\_

Does your exhibit require electricity?                      Y      N

Does your exhibit have sides which might obscure the edge of a neighboring exhibit (e.g. frame cutting diagonally to a table edge)?                      Y      N

Number of sides from which your exhibit should be viewed (1-4) \_\_\_\_\_

Expected height above the surface (floor or table) \_\_\_\_\_

Is your exhibit "unusual"? If so, please provide us with a sketch of your exhibit, showing anything that might help the setup chairman to decide where to place your exhibit. **Please note, our contract with the Rochester Museum & Science Center forbids the inclusion of water devices.** Special items such as corner positions, electricity, backdrop space and central floor space may be limited. Assignment of scarce items will be made by the setup chairman to the best advantage of the overall display area.

Setup begins at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 3, and will continue until 9:00 p.m. Last minute setup will be permitted on Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. ONLY. **All plants and exhibits must be registered by 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 3rd – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

All plants and exhibit materials must be removed immediately after the show closing at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 6th. You are responsible for cleaning your exhibit area after removal of your show materials.

**If you have any questions, contact Ruth Espinosa-Barone at 585-872-5658 or  
show2008@geneseeorchid.org**

# GROS 2008 SPRING SHOW

## PLANT CLASSIFICATIONS

When registering, place the plant in the first class in which it belongs (please see Note 1 on last page.) Plants may be entered in only one class, except for the Joan Burnham Award. Eligible plants may be entered for the Joan Burnham Award and into one other class. At the registration desk there will be a thesaurus of all genera and intergeneric hybrid names and their corresponding classification. It is well advised that exhibitors avail themselves of this resource.

**AWARD - Best Specimen Plant in Show:** GROS Culture Award

**AWARD - Jim Marlow Award:** Best Amateur-Grown Plant

**AWARD - Joan Burnham Award:** Best Windowsill-Grown Plant

**AWARD - Best Exhibit In Show**

**AWARD - Best First Time Exhibitor**

### Exhibit Classes:

*Exhibit Class A:* Commercial Exhibits (defined as anyone selling at the GROS show outside of the GROS members' table)

*Exhibit Class B:* Orchid Society Exhibits, more than 15 blooming plants

*Exhibit Class C:* Orchid Society Exhibits, 1-15 blooming plants

*Exhibit Class D:* Amateur Exhibits, greater than 20 blooming plants

*Exhibit Class E:* Amateur Exhibits, 8-20 blooming plants

*Exhibit Class F:* Amateur Exhibits, 1-7 blooming plants

*Exhibit Class G:* Educational

### Cattleya Alliance

- 1 Epidendrum and Encyclia species
- 2 Epidendrum and Encyclia hybrids and intergeneric hybrids
- 3 Cattleya species
- 4 Cattleya hybrids & intergenerics, other than above: White and Semi-Alba (white with colored lip)
- 5 Cattleya hybrids & intergenerics, other than above: Lavender, Mauve
- 6 Cattleya hybrids & intergenerics, other than above: Pink, Dark Purple, Red-Purple
- 7 Cattleya hybrids & intergenerics, other than above: Yellow, Green
- 8 Cattleya hybrids & intergenerics, other than above: Orange
- 9 Cattleya hybrids & intergenerics, other than above: Red
- 10 Cattleya hybrids & intergenerics, other than above: Other Colors
- 11 Broughtonia species, hybrids & intergenerics, other than above
- 12 Brassavola species, hybrids & intergenerics, other than above
- 13 Laelia species
- 14 Laelia hybrids & intergenerics, other than above
- 15 Sophronities species, hybrids & intergenerics, other than above
- 16 All other genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids of the Cattleya Alliance other than above
- 17 not assigned

**AWARD - Best of Cattleya Alliance** (classes 1-16)

### Pleurothallid Alliance

- 18 Masdevallia species
- 19 Masdevallia hybrids & intergenerics, other than above
- 20 All other genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids of the Pleurothallid Alliance other than above
- 21 not assigned

**AWARD - Best of Pleurothallid Alliance** (classes 18-20)

### Dendrobium Alliance

- 22 Dendrobium species, Nobile type
- 23 Dendrobium species, Phalaenopsis and Antelope types
- 24 Dendrobium species, all others
- 25 Dendrobium hybrids, Nobile type
- 26 Dendrobium hybrids, Phalaenopsis and Antelope types
- 27 Dendrobium hybrids, all others
- 28 All other genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids of the Dendrobium Alliance other than above
- 29 not assigned

**AWARD - Best of Dendrobium Alliance** (classes 22-28)

### Cypripedium Alliance

- 30 Paphiopedilum species: subspecies Brachypetalum
- 31 Paphiopedilum species: subspecies Parvesepalum
- 32 Paphiopedilum species: all other, single flowering
- 33 Paphiopedilum species: all other, multi-flowering
- 34 Paphiopedilum primary hybrids: White, Pink
- 35 Paphiopedilum primary hybrids: Green, Yellow
- 36 Paphiopedilum primary hybrids: Bronze, Tan
- 37 Paphiopedilum primary hybrids: Red, Mahogany, vinicolor, flame
- 38 Paphiopedilum primary hybrids: Other Colors
- 39 Paphiopedilum complex hybrids: White, Pink
- 40 Paphiopedilum complex hybrids: Green, Yellow
- 41 Paphiopedilum complex hybrids: Bronze, Tan
- 42 Paphiopedilum complex hybrids: Red, Mahogany, vinicolor, flame
- 43 Paphiopedilum complex hybrids: Other Colors
- 44 Phragmipedium, Cypripedium, Selenipedium species
- 45 All other genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids of the Cypripedium Alliance other than above
- 46 not assigned

**AWARD - Best of Cypripedium Alliance** (classes 30-45)

### Vandaceous Alliance (Phalaenopsis type)

- 47 Phalaenopsis and Doritis species
- 48 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: White, no bars/spots/stripes
- 49 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: White, Colored lip, with or without bars/spots/stripes
- 50 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: White, with bars or spots
- 51 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: White, with stripes
- 52 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Pink, no bars/spots/stripes
- 53 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Pink, with bars or spots
- 54 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Pink, with stripes
- 55 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Yellow, Green, no bars/spots/stripes
- 56 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Yellow, Green, with bars or spots
- 57 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Yellow, Green, with stripes
- 58 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Other Colors, no bars/spots/stripes
- 59 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Other Colors, with bars or spots
- 60 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Other Colors, with stripes
- 61 Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis: Miniature, multiflora
- 62 Phalaenopsis and Doritis intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 63 not assigned

**AWARD - Best of Phalaenopsis Alliance** (classes 47-62)

### Vandaceous Alliance (all other)

- 64 Ascocentrum species, hybrids
- 65 Ascocentrum intergenerics, other than above

- 66 Vanda species, hybrids, intergeneric hybrids, other than above
- 67 All other genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids of the Sarcanthinae Alliance other than above
- 68 Aerangis species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids, other than above
- 69 All other genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids of the Aerangidae Alliance other than above
- 70 Angraecum species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids, other than above
- 71 All other genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids of the Angraecinae Alliance other than above
- 72 not assigned

**AWARD - Best of Angraecinae Alliance** (classes 64-71)

**Oncidium Alliance**

- 73 Brassia species and hybrids
- 73.5 Brassia intergenerics
- 74 Miltonia and Miltoniopsis species and hybrids
- 74.5 Miltonia and Miltoniopsis intergenerics
- 75 Oncidium species except Tolumnia (equitants)
- 75.5 Oncidium hybrids except Tolumnia hybrids
- 76 Oncidium Equitant species
- 77 Tolumnia (equitant oncidium) hybrids & intergenerics: base color of lip White
- 78 Tolumnia (equitant oncidium) hybrids & intergenerics: base color of lip Yellow, Orange
- 79 Tolumnia (equitant oncidium) hybrids & intergenerics: base color of lip Red, Pink, Lavender
- 80 Oncidium intergenerics other than above
- 81 Odontoglossom and Related Genera species (Cuitlauzina, Lemboglossum, Rossiglossum, Symphyglossum, Systeloglossum, Ticoglossum, etc.)
- 81.5 Odontoglossum hybrids including all genera in class 81
- 82 All other genera-species of the Oncidium Alliance other than above
- 82.5 All other hybrids & intergeneric hybrids of the Oncidium Alliance other than above
- 83 not assigned

**AWARD - Best of Oncidium Alliance** (classes 73-82)

**Cymbidium Alliance**

- 84 Cymbidium species-
- 85 Cymbidium hybrids: Standard White, Pink
- 86 Cymbidium hybrids: Standard Yellow, Green
- 87 Cymbidium hybrids: Standard other Colors
- 88 Cymbidium hybrids: Miniature White, Pink
- 89 Cymbidium hybrids: Miniature Yellow, Green
- 90 Cymbidium hybrids: Miniature other Colors
- 91 All other genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids of the Cymbidium Alliance other than above
- 92 not assigned

**AWARD - Best of Cymbidium Alliance** (classes 84-91)

**Maxillaria Alliance**

- 93 Lycaste and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 94 Maxillaria and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 95 Zygopetalum and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 96 Bifrenaria and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 97 not assigned

**AWARD - Best of Maxillaria Alliance** (classes 93-96)

**Miscellaneous Genera, Hybrids & Intergeneric Hybrids**

- 98 Catasetum, Clowesia, Cycnoches, Dressleria, Mormodes and allied genera - species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 99 Stanhopea, Gongora and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 100 Calanthe, Phaius, Chysis, Bletia and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 101 Disa, Habenaria, Orchis and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 102 Coelogyne and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 103 Bulbophyllum, Cirrhopetalum and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above
- 104 Jewel orchids and allied genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids other than above: **to be judged on foliage**
- 105 All other genera-species, hybrids & intergeneric hybrids not covered above

**AWARD - Best of Miscellaneous Classes** (classes 98-105)

**Orchid Related Art**

- 106 Painting, etchings, etc., Artistic or Botanical in nature
- 107 Photographs
- 108 Arrangements, Corsages, Bouquets
- 109 Handcrafts: Needlework, Ceramics, Jewelry, etc.

Note 1: Example - If you are registering an Epilaeliocattleya, it should go into Class 2, not one of classes 4-10.





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# GROS 2008 Orchid Show Rules and Regulations

## Judging

1. All plants and exhibits must be registered. They may be labeled as not for judging (NFJ.)
2. Plants may be entered in only one class with the exception of the Joan Burnham Award. Eligible plants may be entered for the Joan Burnham Award and in one other class. (see Rule 8)
3. Each exhibitor agrees upon registration to abide by the rules, regulations, and judges' decisions; the judges' decisions are final.
4. Judges will have the right to award or to withhold any scheduled prize and may substitute any class or award.
5. All questions regarding the interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the Chairman of Judging.
6. Only authorized persons are permitted in the show area during judging.
7. Plants eligible for the GROS Cultural Award must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least six months prior to the show.
8. Plants eligible for the Joan Burnham Award must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least six months in the windowsill, with no artificial (except normal room lights) supplemental light. The plant cannot have been grown in an environment modified specifically for plants, i.e. no Wardian cases, porches converted to greenhouses with controlled humidity, etc. Areas of uncertainty can be discussed with the Judging or Registration Chairperson.
9. Cut flowers and flowering plants will be considered equally in judging.

## Exhibits

10. The Genesee Region Orchid Society will take reasonable precautions for the safety of the exhibitor's property but will not be responsible for loss or damage.
11. Orchids are to be the only flowering plants in displays other than in class #108. In class #108, orchids must be the predominant flower. No dyed flowers will be permitted but dyed moss is acceptable.
12. Tables in standard sizes will be furnished without cost for individual exhibits. However, display exhibitors must provide their own non-standard tables as well as cloth, foliage plants, etc.
13. Any lighting used for effect is the responsibility of and must be furnished by the exhibitor. It must be approved by the Show Chairman or Show Setup Chairman. Effect lighting may be turned off during judging.
14. The Show Setup Chairman/Show Chairman reserve the right to limit space to any exhibitor should exhibit space become limited.
15. The Show Committee reserves the right to judge the suitability and appropriateness of any exhibit and alter or remove the exhibit as the Show Chairman deems necessary.
16. First Time Exhibitor: a person who has never before set up an exhibit, blooming plants or educational, at a show.
17. Each plant must be labeled with its name. Black labels and silver writing pens will be made available by the show committee for those wishing to use them.

18. The Show Setup Chairman will provide exhibit labels based on the name provided on the exhibit entry form for use after judging. If you prefer to use your own exhibit sign, please so note on the exhibit entry form. Exhibit names will not be visible until after the judging is complete.
19. All shipments of plants, cut flowers, or exhibit material to be displayed by the Setup Committee must be received by 5:00 p.m., Thursday. If the exhibitor cannot be present, the plant material will be labeled and displayed by the Show Setup Committee in a uniform manner.
20. There is no entry fee for plants or exhibits. Normal AOS fees apply to those individuals receiving AOS awards.
21. Registration for all exhibitors will close at 9:30 p.m., Thursday. Entries for the GROS exhibit will only be accepted until 7:30 p.m., Thursday. Exceptions will be considered on an individual basis—please contact the Registration Chairperson.

## Vendors

22. All vendors at the show are required to enter a display in Class A or G (Educational) of at least 11 blooming plants. If the vendor will not be selling live plants at the show (sellers of jewelry, paraphernalia, etc.), contact the Show Chairman or Set-up Chairman for alternate exhibit plans.
23. Space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.
24. The table fee will be \$250 per eight-foot table, payable in advance to the GROS. We must receive table requests and payments 14 days prior to the show. Deposits may be requested in advance, at the discretion of the Show Chairman.
25. Commercial vendors must provide one (1) orchid plant in bud or bloom per sales table, to be donated to the GROS for raffle or door prize use at the show.
26. One or more 8-foot sales tables may be requested. The Show Setup Chairman reserves the right to limit any single vendor to a maximum of two (2) sales tables, if necessary, to accommodate all timely reservations. "Half table" requests will be accommodated at the discretion of the Show Chairman.
27. Commercial exhibits must be of sufficient artistic and flower quality as to enhance the reputation of both Vendor and the GROS show. Citation by the show committee for poor exhibit quality or the presence of insects or other pests or diseases in the exhibit may result in the Vendor not being invited to participate in future GROS shows.

## General

28. Any plants found to contain insects or other pests will be removed from the show room and isolated.
29. All plants and displays must be left in place until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.
30. All plants and exhibits not claimed by 5:30 p.m. on Sunday will become the property of the GROS.

(References to days of the week refer to the week of the show.)

## AOS Offers New Membership Special

From now through March 31, 2008 the AOS is offering discounted membership rates.

Two year sign ups or renewals will receive a coupon worth \$30 off on a retail purchase of \$100 or more from one of more at one of these twelve orchid nurseries:

*Carmela Orchids, Carter & Holmes Orchids, Gold Country Orchids, Hoosier Orchid Company, IGS, Krull-Smith, Norman's Orchids, OFE International, Piping Rock Orchids, Quest Orchids, R.F. Orchids, Inc., Soroa Orchids, Inc.*

### New Members:

Individual - \$49.95/year or two years for \$99.95

Joint - \$64.95/year or two years for \$129.95

### Current Members:

Current members may extend their membership for two (2) years at the \$99.95 rate.

Note: During this membership special, new member sign ups **will not** generate a \$5/new member rebate to the sponsoring Society. Existing membership brochures may be used, simply reduce the price.

In addition to 12 issues of *Orchids* magazine, membership in the AOS also includes privileges at over 200 arboreta and botanical gardens throughout the United States. Even long-time AOS members may be unaware of this substantial benefit! The following is a partial list of those in the Genesee Region Orchid Society's area:

### Genesee Country Village & Museum

Free Admission; 10% gift shop discount.

### Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens

Free Admission; 10% gift shop discount.

**Cornell Plantation** – 10% gift shop discount.

**Brooklyn Botanic Garden** – Free Admission weekdays/ 2 for 1 admission weekends; 10% gift shop discount.

**New York Botanic Garden** – Free Admission weekdays/ 2 for 1 admission weekends; 10% gift shop discount.

**Royal Botanic Gardens, Hamilton, Ont.** – Free Admission

For a complete list of these other institutions, please go to:  
[http://www.ahs.org/pdfs/07/0708\\_RAP\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.ahs.org/pdfs/07/0708_RAP_Brochure.pdf)

- Ron McHatton  
Director of Education & Regional Operations  
American Orchid Society

## When To Repot Your Cattleyas

The rule to repot “only when new roots emerge” follows from two basic characteristics of *Cattleyas*. First, each lead of a *Cattleya* sends out a single flush of roots once, and once once, in its lifetime. The roots grow down into the medium for the next few months before they reach maturity and stop growing. No new roots will emerge from the old lead again, and, in general, very few if any new roots will grow from the existing roots once they have matured. The only way for the plant to grow new roots is to send up another lead.

Second, the repotting process is generally very hard on *Cattleya* roots and often results in extensive root damage, even when done carefully. The roots are tender and tend to intertwine and cling to pieces of the potting medium and the pot, so dislodging the roots generally causes substantial damage. It is therefore imperative to repot them only when they are about to send out new roots to replace those damaged during repotting.

The ideal repotting time window is fairly short, lasting from about one or two weeks before the roots first begin to emerge until a week or so after this time. If one repots more than a week or two before new roots emerge, the plant can suffer dehydration stress between repotting and the time new roots begin to grow. From the time of the visible appearance of the first slight bump of the first emerging root, it takes about a week for roots to grow too long (more than 1/4 of an inch) for repotting to occur without significant risk of damaging the new roots. New

root tips are extraordinarily tender; brushing the emerging tips even very lightly against the side of a new pot is likely to crush or break them.

There are two ways to cope with this narrow window of repotting opportunity and I recommend that you employ both of them. First, constantly inspect your orchids for signs of new root growth, and be ready to repot them the instant you see signs of it. Second, learn each plant's growth pattern, so you can anticipate when it will need to be repotted. The precise point in the growth cycle at which new roots emerge varies dramatically among different *Cattleyas*, but any particular *Cattleya* tends to exhibit the same pattern over and over again.

*Cattleyas* exhibit two sharply distinct patterns of growth. In one pattern (“root before bloom”), roots emerge as the new lead grows; blooming occurs only once the lead and roots are mature and basically finished growing. In the other pattern (“root after bloom”), the new lead sends out roots only after it has fully matured and bloomed. This means that *Cattleyas* that follow the “root before bloom” pattern should be repotted BEFORE they bloom, when the new lead is just emerging and beginning to grow. However, *Cattleyas* that follow the “root after bloom” pattern should be repotted AFTER they bloom, when the lead is fully mature.

Even many experienced orchid growers do not fully understand this distinction and tend to treat all of their *Cattleyas* as if they follow the “root before bloom” pattern, repotting all of them when the new leads are emerging. For the “root after bloom” group, this practice effectively destroys many of the existing roots just when the plant will need them to support its major growth spurt of the year. Plants exposed to such a shock are often set back and sometimes even die. I believe many *Cattleyas* considered to be difficult to grow are in reality difficult simply because people do not understand when to repot them.

- William P. Rogerson, via  
OSRBG (Ontario, Canada)  
Newsletter, Sept. 2007

(Conclusion next month)

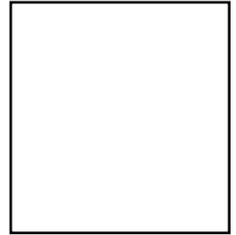
The *Orchid Collection* is a publication of the Genesee Region Orchid Society. It is published ten times per year for our members. Single membership is \$20.00, family membership is \$25.00 annually. Dues should be sent to the GROS at P.O. Box 20606, Rochester, N.Y. 14602

Phil Matt, Editor.

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(585) 288-7025.

The Editor receives e-mail at [newsletter@philmatt.com](mailto:newsletter@philmatt.com)



## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### Genesee Region Orchid Society Officers 2007-2008

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### GROS Committee Chairpersons 2007-2008

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Beginners' Meeting	Jim Marlow	889-7083	
Community Outreach	Cathy Buggie	244-1534	
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Nominating	< open >		
ODC Representative	< open >		
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	Anna & Barbara Green, Lory Hedges		
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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.