



# The Orchid Collection

Vol. 32, No. 6 - February, 2011

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

## NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, FEB. 7, 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*



The rhododendrons in the backyard have leaves that look like little pencils, and getting the mailbox open to retrieve the seed catalogs sometimes seems like a pointless activity. As our weather rides a wild rollercoaster of a Winter, it gives new meaning to the words “cabin fever.” But there is hope!

Hitch up those Huskies and mush on down to the February GROS meeting where the heat will be on high and the camaraderie will match it, as John Francis, Director of Marketing and Technical Support for Bioworks presents a talk on the use of

organic and biological solutions for orchid pests. Wonder how to use safer methods to combat orchid maladies such as fungus, bacterial infections, spider mites and a variety of other insect pests? John will have samples of his products on hand, and will be able to answer any questions members may have about using these products.

If that isn't enough to get you away from the fireplace and out into the frozen tundra, we will also be hosting an Orchid Repotting Workshop led by the redoubtable Jeff Snyder. Jeff will first give a short talk on orchid repotting techniques. Then we will break up into groups and each person will receive - free of charge! - a “plug” of one of the five orchids listed below, along with a pot and media to pot it up. Each group will have an experienced grower to answer questions and to assist with potting techniques.

What's a plug? It's horticultural jargon for a small orchid plant that has been out of the flask for about nine months and grown to a leaf span of 3 to 4 inches. The “plug” comes from the fact that these orchids are grown in “plug trays,” which are plastic trays designed to hold many small plants (say, maybe six dozen ...) being grown together. These seedlings are provided to us bare root. Plugs generally grow much faster than plants that have been through the compost stage. Plugs available will be: Pot. Edith North ‘Danny Adams’; Blc. Lady's Favorite ‘Morning Mist’; C. Green Emerald ‘Queen’; Pot. Waianae Appeal ‘Aloha’; and Blc. Samba Splendor ‘Carmela’.

There is also rumor afoot that this will serve as some sort of “growing contest,” as all plugs are pretty much the same in terms of size and growth stage. Since these are Cattleya Alliance plants, we'll have some time to concoct a suitable “award” before the first plants bloom. More on this as it develops.

There will be no organized dinner outing prior to the meeting. So, strap on your snowshoes and trek on down to the JCC for an evening of good growing information - and a free plant! Bundle up your blooming plants (and yourself!) We'll see you there!

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## Meeting Minutes for Monday, Jan. 3, 2011

President **Paul Batz** called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Paul welcomed members, new member Katie Faden and guests.

**Noel Krzesinski** talked about the upcoming annual Dutch Connection at the George Eastman House in February. GROS members loan blooming plants for decoration in the rooms of the Eastman House. Set up day to take in your plants is February 10<sup>th</sup>. Opening day is the 11<sup>th</sup> and it runs until 2/26. Orchids will be taken care of by experienced gardeners at the Eastman House. Pickup is 2/27. Contact Noel at 464-9077 if you would like to loan your orchids. People look forward to seeing orchids there every year. Noel hopes to get at least ten plants this year.

A motion was made by **Barb Greene** to accept the November meeting minutes. A second was made by **Cheri Dills**. A vote was taken and the minutes were accepted.

**Ron Uhlig**, treasurer, gave the financial report for the past month. He also gave details from December's auction. A motion was made by **Mark Gillette**, seconded by Cheri Dills. The treasurer's report was accepted by a vote of the membership.

Paul announced that HGTV had contacted him saying that they are putting together a pilot for a new show and are looking for people who are having trouble growing a specific type of orchid. You would appear on TV getting advice from an expert. If you are interested, please contact Paul Batz either by email, phone or at the meeting. You will be asked to submit a description of your problem along with a bio.

**Ron Uhlig**, show chairman, gave some details about the upcoming show (April 2-3). Four volunteer openings were discussed. Three were filled by members present tonight. The last one needing a volunteer is someone to set up the Society exhibit at the show. Ron talked about having one large exhibit or perhaps two. Contact Ron if you'd like to help with that. **Phil Matt** volunteered to do the Program that we hand out at the show. **Jeremy Bechelli** agreed to head up the education aspect (videos, demonstrations and lectures).

**Denise Milanette** volunteered to organize the Awards reception.

Ron presented the draft of this year's Show poster, the layout for which submitted by **Mariko Pollock** using original artwork (a watercolor) by **Mike Bucur**.

Our January speaker, dedicated GROS member Phil Matt, was introduced by Program Chair **Carol Butcher**. He presented an amusing and informative program on *Phalaenopsis*. Many questions followed Phil's talk.

After the raffle, the show table was presented by **Kim Hober and Jeremy Bechelli**.

Thanks to Carol Butcher, Joe Jurenko, Jeanne Kaeding and Bill Renick for bringing refreshments tonight!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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

## GROS Thanks Our Speaker Hosts

The Society wishes to thank the members and their families who have either hosted, or volunteered to host a speaker this fiscal year :

Alan and Sue Salzman -  
Alan Koch, Duane Erdmann  
Joe and Carol Butcher -  
Bill Thoms  
Jeanne Keading and John Kapecki -  
Leon Glicenstein, Claudio Rossi

I am currently looking for a volunteer to host our May speaker, Steve Frowine. If you are interested, please contact me at 585-742-3403, or by email, butcher218@yahoo.com

- Carol Butcher



## Dec. 2010 Treasurer's Report Presented at January Meeting

### Income Details

Raffle		39.50
Commission		9.75
Auction		1,873.00
Show - Vendors		700.00
Interest - savings (Jun-Dec)		0.80
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,622.25</b>

### Expense Details

<b>Total</b>		

Previous Balance	12/1/2010			12,483.51
Changes		2,622.25	0.00	
Current Balance	12/31/2010			15,106.56

*(Courtesy of Ron Uhlig, GROS Treasurer)*

# JANUARY SHOW TABLE

## Cypripedium Alliance

*Paph.* Hsinying Alien (Raisin Pie × Supersuk) Butcher

## Cattleya Alliance

**RLC.** Toshie's Magic (Toshie Aoki × C. Tokyo Magic) Hober  
**C.** Mari's Song (Irene Finney [1964] × Cherry Chip)\* "  
**RLC.** Haw Yuan Gold (Lemon Tree × Tassie Barbero) Bloomfield

## Oncidium Alliance

*Comp. macroplectron* Bechelli  
*Onc.* Twinkle (*cheiroporum* × *sotoanum*) "  
*Bllra.* Marfitch (*Mtssa.* Charles M. Fitch × *Oda.* Fremar) Butcher

## Dendrobium

*Den.* Christina (Hanafubuki × Everest) Hober  
*Den.* Spring Doll (Ise × Yukidaruma) "  
*Den.* Exotic's Superstar (Super Ise × Star Sapphire) "  
*Den.* Kokomo (Ise × Kurenai) "

## Miscellaneous

*Fdk.* After Dark (*Mo.* Painted Desert × *Ctsm.* Donna Wise) Bloomfield  
*Rstp.* *cymbula* Bechelli  
*Rstp.* *sp.* "  
*Masd.* Angel Tang (*veitchiana* × *tonduzii*) "  
*Masd.* *menatoi* "  
*Masd.* Keiko Komoda "  
*Masd.* *pyxis* "

Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or complete your records. The judges will appreciate it if your orchids in the upcoming shows are correctly entered, including the parents.

\*To avoid duplication, the date is a permanent part of the name.

Please note: if there are any names you have questions about, don't hesitate to call or e-mail me.

- Iris Cohen

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## Auction 2010 - Statistical Summary

	2009 Actual	2010 Budgeted	2010 Actual
Registered bidders	31		39
Bidders that won plants	31		30
Plants auctioned	126		100
Plants won	126		99
Income	\$2,520	\$2,500	\$1,873
Cost of Plants	\$1,432	\$1,400	\$804
Profit	\$1,088	\$1,100	\$1,069
Average sale price per plant	\$20.00		\$18.92
Average cost per plant	\$11.37		\$8.12

## Growing & Blooming Nobile Dendrobiums

When discussing *dendrobiums*, the oft heard comment among orchid enthusiasts is "I can't grow them." Even experienced growers seem reluctant to take a stab at this genus. Yet *dendrobiums* are some of the easier and most rewarding orchids to grow, primarily because many species, especially nobile, **thrive on neglect!** I have found nobile *dendrobiums* quite adaptable to upstate New York, if they can summer outside. Today with hundreds of crosses and hybrids, any orchid enthusiast should be able to grow and flower these terrific orchids.

The nobile type *dendrobiums* are native to Southeast Asia and grow on branches of tall trees in countries such as India, Burma, and Thailand. They are extremely hardy plants. Their range extends from the warm and sometimes hot lowlands to the cool, wet highlands with elevations of up to 4,000 feet and where temperatures may drop to near freezing. In this area of the world there are two seasons, the dry and the rainy. For more than four months during the dry season there is hardly any rain, and yet the *dendrobiums* still survive.

Nobile *dendrobiums* grow pendulous canes that drape over the pot. The canes can be compact (6-8 inches), to several feet long, thick and fat, or thin and narrow. These orchids can make attractive, hanging plants. Some growers prefer to stake the canes, which

**"Nobile"**  
**is Latin for**  
**"notable" or**  
**"showy"**

is easily done with some of the newer crosses, especially the Yamamoto hybrids from Hawaii. Nobile *dendrobiums* are deciduous plants, eventually losing leaves from the two and three year old canes. However, since the leafless canes will continue to store nutrients and energy, you should not be tempted to cut them off the plant unless they turn brown, shrivel, and dry up.

(to next page)

For upstate New York growers, one of the most rewarding aspects of these orchids is that they bloom in the winter months. Most start blooming in late December and continue through March. The plants often produce several blooms along a cane and it is not unusual to see old canes with new flowers each year.

The usual flower width is 1-2 inches, but some of the newer hybrids boast blooms that can be up to four inches across. The plants represent a wide color range and many, depending on parentage, are also fragrant.

The following information is a guide to help you grow and bloom nobile type *dendrobiums*. So purchase a few plants, get them outside this spring and try some of the hints provided. Hopefully, you will have some success and fall in love with these beautiful and rewarding plants.

**Potting:** These plants need to be pot bound. The smaller the pot, the happier the plant will be. Only repot when the plant is growing over the edge. If you have a heavy hand with the watering can, a clay pot may be best. Also, these plants tend to be top heavy, so if you decide to use plastic, stabilize the plant by dropping the plastic pot into a larger clay pot. Many of my hanging dendrobiums are potted in plastic, but then live in a larger clay pot. Plastic does prevent you from having to water as frequently and don't break when the plant topples over.

**Medium:** I've tried everything. I've been most successful with mixes that hold some moisture but drain quickly. Because the roots of these orchids tend to be finer than *cattleya* or *phalaenopsis* roots, I use a medium size mix. Presently, I mix of equal parts medium coconut chunks, perlite, charcoal, with a sprinkle of lava rock and chopped sphagnum or bark. I pot dry, and only tap the pot a few times. A loose, airy medium seems to work best.

**Light/Air/Water/Temperature:** These four cultural components are the most important to take into account if you want to successfully bloom nobile type *dendrobiums*. These plants thrive in high light and will tolerate full sun if, in spring, they are gradually acclimated to

the outside **and** they are well watered during hot weather. Outside, they will also receive the necessary air movement to grow well. I hang my plants in trees, facing south or west. Plants should be watered regularly in active growth and again, in hot weather. Don't worry as the temperatures start to cool, because plants can be left outside until frost. Nobile *dendrobiums* need a cold rest to set bloom. Some years I have moved plants to a garden cart in early fall and covered them on the rare freezing nights. This year, many of my plants were outside until late October. It is obviously important to reduce watering once the temperature starts to drop. Once the plants move inside, I drastically reduce the watering and place or hang them in southern or western



*Den. Oriental Smile, GROS Spring Show 2006*  
Grower: Bloomfield Orchids - Photo ©Phil Matt

windows. Maintain the cooler temperatures and increase humidity with a humidifier or trays of water. Plants should start to set buds beginning in November. After blooming, I only water once every 10-14 days, until new growth appears. Sometimes I forget and don't water for a month. Don't worry about yellow or dropped leaves. These plants are deciduous and are supposed to lose leaves from older canes.

**Fertilizer:** When nobile *dendrobiums* don't bloom, it is usually because of a build-up of fertilizer, especially nitrogen. Only fertilize when plants are in active growth, and use a low nitrogen fertilizer. Do not use slow release fertilizer and do not fertilize after August.

**Pests:** In the summer, outside, the biggest problem is slugs/snails chewing on the thin leaves of the new growth. Sprinkling slug bait over the top of the medium usually does the trick. In winter, spider mites can be a problem when the humidity drops. If the leaves start to look silvery, a light spray of 1 cup each 409/isoprophyl alcohol/water mixed together and an increase in the humidity usually takes care of the problem.

- Kim M. Hober  
GROS Exec. VP

# NENYOS

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday June 4,  
2011

North East New York Orchid Society  
Picnic and Open House at  
Glen Decker's Piping Rock Orchids  
in Galway, NY

Featured Speaker: Alan Koch of  
Gold Country Orchids

Up to a road trip in early June? North Eastern NY Orchid Society invites all GROS members to attend the NENYOS Picnic in June.

Plants for sale! More information will be forthcoming....stay tuned.



## Cattleya Alliance species and their influence

Whether we are wandering around the show table at our monthly meeting or browsing through the current edition of “Orchids” it’s hard to beat the fantastic colors seen in many of the *Cattleya* Alliance hybrids. They come in all shapes and sizes, from bold colored mini *Cattleyas* to the vigorous, large flowered *Laeliocattleyas*. Some are remarkably floriferous while others carry only one or two flowers. Have you ever wondered why this is? Or what the hybridizer was thinking when they made the cross? In this article I’ll be discussing species commonly used and their attributes. With the thousands of different species in the *Cattleya* Alliance the possibilities for making new hybrids seems almost infinite, but truthfully only a small percentage of species are routinely used in breeding. These species are commonly from the genera *Cattleya*, *Brassavola*, *Laelia* and *Sophranitis*.

There are several *Cattleya* species that have, and will continue to have a dominant role in hybridizing. Some of the most popular include a number of unifoliate *Cattleyas*.



*Cattleya dowiana labiata*

*Cattleya dowiana*, often referred to as the “Queen of the *Cattleyas*”, has been used more in *Cattleya* hybridizing than any other *Cattleya* species. The brilliant yellow color of the sepals and petals are unfortunately recessive, however *C dowiana* has played an important role in enhancing the color in many lavender hybrids and will increase the amount of gold and yellow tones in the lips of its progeny. Several other unifoliate *Cattleyas* that were

popular, ticularly in the 1940’s and 50’s during the “Cut Flower Era”, include *Cattleya mossiae*,  *trianae*,  *warscewiczii* and *Cattleya dowiana labiata*. With their fragrance and dramatic variations in color these large flowering species have long been favorites of many hybridizers. An important bifoliate *Cattleya*



*Cattleya mossiae v. coerulea*

that has frequently been used in breeding is *Cattleya bicolor*. This large, robust plant imparts several desirable traits to its progeny, including remarkable substance and glossy texture. As well as fragrant long lasting flowers. With its glowing green and bronze overtones, it has long been an important building block in golden toned hybrids.

Two other bifoliate which should be mentioned are *Cattleya aelandiae*, which has proven useful in breeding more compact hybrids. Many of which have excellent



substance, large flowers and vivid colors. The other is *Cattleya aurantiaca* which is used regularly used to introduce vibrant red, orange and yellow tones. It’s bright, clean flower color is usually passed on for generations. *Aurantiaca* has also been used to increase flower count in its hybrids. Unfortunately it can also pass on its messy flower arrangement and cupped form.

No discussion of *Cattleya* species is complete without mention of *Cattleya intermedia*. This

more compact grower does not offer spectacular flower form or size, however it does offer a number of splendid color variations. The pe-



*Cattleya intermedia f. aquinii*

loric variety “*aquinii*” has played a critical role in breeding for splash petal *Cattleyas*.

*Laelia tenebrosa* and *purpurata* are two of the most common large growing *Laelia* species frequently used by hybridizers. They impart large, long lasting flowers to they’re hybrids.



*Laelia tenebrosa*

*Laelia tenebrosa* has been an important parent in the breeding of many yellow and art-shade *Laeliocattleyas*. Both species are dominant for flower form and have a tendency to pass on long slender “cigared” sepals and petals to their progeny.

A particular group of *Laelias*, known as the Rupicolous *Laelias* or lithophytic *Laelias* from Brazil are becoming more fre-



*Laelia briegeri*

quently used in breeding. The most popular species used include *Laelia briegei*, *crispata* and *milleri*. While the species themselves are often difficult to grow, they are floriferous and tend to pass on both color clarity and intensity in their offspring. Other important traits include temperature tolerance, a compact tidy growth habit and long lasting, well arranged flowers. *Laelia briegei* also frequently produces hybrids with a faint splash or suffusion,

©2010 Paul Batz



*Laelia briegei* ×  
*Cattleya aelandiae labiata semialba*

though not as dramatic as *Cattleya intermedia*. We are all familiar with the compact and often rambling *Brassavola nodosa*, though few

©M.E. Thompson



*Brassocattleya Maikai*  
(*B. nodosa* × *C. bowringiana*)

people know that this little plant is responsible for some spectacular hybrids. When looking closely at the flower, most clones of *nodosa* have a small amount of freckling on the lip near the column. This freckling is disinhibited in its offspring and is often magnified in its progeny for several generations. It is unbelievable that this small white and green colored flower carries the genetic potential to create such amazing hybrids.

*Sophranitis coccinea* has been an ideal candidate for hybridizers in recent years. In the 1960's Stewart's Inc began introducing a line of miniature *Cattleya* breeding. It wasn't until the mid 1980's that these lines of breeding started to get the attention of other hybridizers

as well as *Sophranitis coccinea* amateur growers. With its intense orange-red color, excellent flower form and miniature size it has been used in many crosses and has been an important species in the breeding of miniature *Cattleyas*. The species itself often proves challenging to grow, but after several generations this can be

©Charlie Rpwiden



*Sophranitis coccinea*

overcome, while still imparting color intensity and flower form to its progeny.

After seeing the traits these species pass on to their offspring we can understand why they have been so widely used in creating new hybrids. And as time goes on new goals and standards will be set and new trends will occur. These species will continue to be used to make new hybrids and remake old ones. The process of striving for perfection is unending. It has long been said that hybridizing requires a mixture of science and detailed observation. While this may be true, it is unquestionably

a combination of luck and circumstance that have produced some of the most amazing hybrids by people just like you. So why not give it a try? And while you are potting-up your seedlings at this month's meeting, ask yourself, "What species are in this cross?"

- Paul Batz



## The Orchid in Lore and Legend

*The Orchid in Lore and Legend* by Luigi Berliocchi is a relatively short book, originally written in Italian. It was easy to read in one sitting. Full of short sections and chapters on the history and countless other little known facts about orchids, this is definitely not a how-to book. It was however a very interesting and informative read, including how orchids have played a part in art and literature which I found particularly entertaining. There are some beautiful illustrations and a whole section in color. Again, very little in terms of taking care of and growing orchids but overall an entertaining and enjoyable read.

- Denise Milanette



**Celebrate Orchids**  
20th Annual Show & Sale

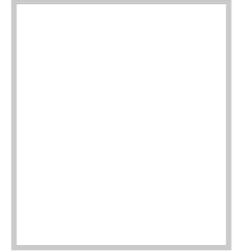
February 11 ~ 13, 2011  
Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH

presented by  
New Hampshire Orchid Society  
[www.nhorchids.org](http://www.nhorchids.org)

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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 Spring Show**

**MAR. 31 - APRIL 3, 2011**



**RMSC**

**EISENHART AUDITORIUM**