



# The Orchid Collection

Vol. 34, No. 7 - March, 2013

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

## NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013

“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



*Cyp. parviflorum*, native American slipper orchid species.  
Grower: Jim Marlow, GROS 2010 Spring Show. Photo ©Phil Matt.

As our local weather merrily careens from “icy” to “balmy” and back again, it’s sometimes difficult to remember that Spring is on the way. To get us all oriented in the right direction, our March speaker will be Dotty Woodson, Ed. D, lecturer, writer, and video producer. She will be presenting “North American Orchids and Conservation” - outdoor orchids!

Dotty Woodson is an award-winning writer and video producer with extensive credits in print and electronic media. She is a contributing author for *Gardening in Fort Worth*, *The Lone Star Gardener’s Book of Lists* and the CD and computer web site, *Texas SmartScape*. She produces her own garden television shows on Comcast, “Gardening with Dotty,” Fort Worth Community Cable called “Extension in the City with Dotty Woodson” and

appears weekly on the local NBC Sunday Morning News. She appears regularly on HGTV “Gardening by the Yard” with Paul James. In addition, Ms. Woodson has produced several orchid videos and contributed orchid material and photographs for several books. Woodson’s DVD “Growing Orchids Made Easy with Dotty” is available through the Texas Cooperative Extension Bookstore at <http://tcebookstore.org/browse.cfm?catid=120>. The DVD is # sp-199.

Together with her husband, Berry, Dotty has grown and hybridized orchids since 1973. The Woodsons grow their orchids in 5,000 square feet of greenhouses, have registered 64 hybrids and won many awards for their orchids and orchid exhibits. We will have updated plans about plant sales at the meeting and dinner plans for the Woodsons - please check the website. The Show Table will be back, so please don’t forget your flowering plants. We’ll see you there!

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## GROS Meeting Minutes - Feb. 4, 2013

Bill opened the meeting by thanking **Anne Esposito, Bob Pfromm, Sue Flanders, Dave Weiss,** and **Natalie Auburn** for bringing in refreshments. Bill mentioned that someone needing help setting up a greenhouse had contacted him. If you are interested in helping, contact Bill for the details.

**Noel Krzesinski** was looking for plants this week for the George Eastman House displays. **Jeanne Kaeding** has canceled the GROS exhibit in Toronto. She did not get any volunteers to take the exhibit down. The same weekend is the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society Show. If you have any plants you'd like displayed, contact Bill Renick. He will be taking plants to it.

**Carol Butcher** caught us up on the Spring GROS Show. She brought in fliers, and post cards to be distributed to Garden Centers, and shops in the area. Next month she will have more details finalized, and start making the rounds with her clipboards.

**Phil Matt** showed us the Swap sheet part of the newsletter. You should now be able to post plants for sale or swap, as well as things your looking for. If you have any questions, contact Phil.

There was a brief discussion about Cymbidiums. Several members discussed how they care for theirs, how long they are kept out side, as well as how they water them. Bill ordered back bulbs from the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. Three potting stations were set up, and the Cymbidium back bulb potting began. By the end of the night all 105 back bulbs had been purchased, potted, and staked. Thank you **Jim Marlow** for supplying the mix, and pots.

- *Natalie Auburn*  
GROS Secretary

NB: Jeanne Kaeding expands upon her Cymbidium growing techniques on Page 5 of this Newsletter.

## The AOS Corner

### *AOS Orchids online!*

As I mentioned last month, the magazine *Orchids* is now available online. All AOS members are able to access the digital magazine by logging on to the AOS website using their current user name and password; then click on the link to view the magazine. It is portable; it may be download each month and available to read offline. It may be printed – as many pages as needed. No more waiting on the mail to see the new magazine each month. Each month will be readily available before the print copy is mailed.

If you are not a member of AOS, we invite you to join us. For the cost of a domestic membership (\$65 per year) in the AOS you will receive the digital version no matter where you are. Remember, one years' membership includes the twelve magazines per year, access to the members' only section of the website, free or discounted admission to more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta, the annual Orchid Source Directory, discounts at select orchid vendors and back issues of AOS publications as well as being part of a worldwide orchid community who share your passion for orchids.

For exact cost of digital and print memberships, check the website at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). Non US delivery of magazines may be part of your subscription basically for the additional cost of mailing.

### *\$50,000 for Orchid Research*

The AOS is soliciting its members and the general public for practical or applied orchid research ideas that could be immediately used by hobbyists and commercial growers. The ideas will be reviewed and the winners will become proposals to be sent to various universities or institutions of higher learning. The AOS has received this generous donation that will be used to fund the research at the institution(s) submitting the proposal(s). Send your ideas to [ideas@aos.org](mailto:ideas@aos.org). No idea is too "far out." Please note, however, that submitting the idea to the AOS does not qualify for any of the research grant. The grants will be disbursed only to established research institutions.

## *AOS to Meet in San Diego March 21-23, 2013*

The Spring Members' and Trustees' meetings will be held in conjunction with the San Diego County Orchid Show being held March 21-23, 2013 at the Scottish Rite Temple in San Diego, California. Join the AOS to attend the meetings, its traditional banquet, auction, elections and reorganization meeting by registering at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). The registration fee for AOS attendees includes admission into the show for the weekend. Speaker and vendor information may be found on the society website at [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

- *Lynn Fuller, Chair*  
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee



2013  
Orchid Show  
Awards  
Reception  
Friday, April 5,  
2013



*Eisenhart Ballroom*  
**Only \$12 per  
person  
(non-members \$16)**

**Forms on  
the Website!**

## Monthly AOS Checklist for March and April

### Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths



*Cymbidium Magic Mountain* photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, though they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will

indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing. With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

### Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

### Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

### Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

### Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by

staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold..

### Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy. The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold. Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

### Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike. Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering

- AOS Checklist, from previous page

and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water. Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season.



Miltoniopsis Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful waterfall pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas

Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

#### Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

- The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.



*Masdevallia* Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit' AM/AOS photographed at Parkside Orchids. Ottsville, Pennsylvania. © G. Allikas

## 2013 Orchid Show Forms Now Posted on GROS Website

The GROS website has now been updated with copies of forms for the 2013 Show:

- Plant Classifications
- Awards Reception Sign-Up
- Rules and Regulations
- Exhibit Space Request Form

In the interests of going "green," these forms are not being published in this newsletter. Still to come are forms for the Members Sales Table, and the set of Rules and Regulations that accompanies these sales table forms. Just click on the Orchid Show tab on the main menu.



## FEBRUARY SHOW TABLE

### Cattleya Alliance

*C. trianae* Gillette  
**C. Stephen Oliver Fouraker** (Pegi Mayne × Enid [1898])  
 Levy

### Vandaceous

**Phal. Sogo Vivien** (Sogo Alice × Zuma's Pixie) \* Weimer  
*Phal. equestris* Matt

**\*Please note:** RHS has finally abolished *Doritaenopsis*, following the elimination of *Doritis*. They are now all *Phalaenopsis*. Find and replace.

**Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or complete your records, including parentage and new registrations.**

- Iris Cohen  
 iriscohen@aol.com  
 315-461-9226

## GROS Displays at DUTCH CONNECTION

### Dining Room:

*Brassavola nodosa*

*Cymbidium* Nagalex 'Hatsume'

### Conservatory:

*Blc.* George Herbert Walker 'Waldor'

*Miltonia* Red Knight 'The King'

### Side Hall:

*Phalaenopsis* Kaleidoscope

*Beallara* Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'

*Lc.* Stephan Oliver Fouraker

### Staircase:

*Phalaenopsis schilleriana*

*Onc.* Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy'

### Billiard Room:

*Cymbidium* Mellie Cruz

### Library:

*Zygopabstia* Blue Bird

### Front Hall:

*Paph.* (Gordon Sayer × W. Churchill 'Ind')

*Paph.* (Ranchero 'Goldie' × Roseling)

### Living Room:

*Paphiopedilum* Virgin Queen

*Oncidium cajarmarcae*

*Odotioda* Big Mac 'Suzy'

*Paph.* (Mod Maude × *henryanum*)

*Beallara* Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'

*Blc.* Makai 'Mayumi'

### Foyer:

3 *Cattleya* (orange and yellow)



## Some Comments on Cymbidiums: Feb. 4

It was an interesting discussion at the GROS meeting Monday night (February 4, 2013) on *Cymbidium* culture. It emphasized to me that we each need to figure out what works for our individual cultural conditions.

I feel one discussion point could use some clarification. I water my *cymbidium* plants all winter, which I stated at the meeting. After thinking about it, though, on average, my plants are dryer in my greenhouse in the winter than when I grow them outside in the summer. In the summer I water every other day if it doesn't rain, so the plants are wet most of the time. (If it rains, I skip the next day, then water.) In the winter, in the greenhouse, I water once a week, so most pots dry out more.

I hope you all heard Jim Marlow's recommendation that the back bulbs be tied to stakes. If the bulb wiggles around, as with all repotted orchids, the growing root tips are subject to damage and won't grow properly.

On a third discussion point, when to repot, I may not have said enough. I stated that I repot from December through March. I am in the midst of this daunting task (if you have seen my greenhouse, you know how many *cymbidium* plants I have), so was not specific enough. **If a plant is in spike**, or I expect it to spike in the early spring, **I don't repot it until after it has bloomed.** So, while most of my collection is repotted in the winter, some of the plants are potted in May, or even in the fall for my rare summer bloomers. One good indication of repotting time is when you see new growth developing. With *cymbidiums*, the new growth starts, then the roots begin.

If there are any other questions about how I grow *cymbidiums*, I would be happy to try to answer them.

- Jeanne Kaeding



- Lambertson, from Page 6

Another idea is to add signage and cultural sheets educating the public on orchid botany and culture.

So if you are looking for a break from the harsh Rochester winter, please stop in to the conservatory and see what is going on. It will truly lift your spirits to be in a lush tropical environment for a little bit, and hopefully you'll get to see some orchids in bloom.

- Doug Fleishmann & Sandi Uhlig

## In Memoriam: Dody Ellenberger

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Dody Ellenberger on December 12, 2012. The Society expresses its sympathy to John and their family. Both Dody and John had a major influence on the "orchid community" in upstate New York. Trips to Ellenberger's Orchid Eden were a regular occurrence where orchid enthusiasts could experience the orchid knowledge, orchid enthusiasm, and wonderful hospitality of Dody and John, and yes maybe even purchase an orchid or two. By the way, purchase or not, I personally never left Ellenberger's Orchid Eden without a few "here maybe you can grow this" plants.



Dody Ellenberger (1997)

Dody, whose given name was Lilly Dolores Rissler, was a native of New Albany, Indiana, but came to Rochester in 1944 to attend the University of Rochester where she received a degree in nursing.

Over the years Dody introduced many of us to the world of orchids and orchid culture in a class she taught at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. When I joined GROS in 1981 Dody was the Editor of The Orchid Collection and she maintained this position into the late nineties. Dody and John had a small greenhouse at their home at 782 Oakridge Dr. (West Irondequoit) but their hobby expanded into a business with their move to 6764 Gillis Rd. (Victor) and Ellenberger's Orchid Eden was born. Because of its importance I plan to write a brief history of Ellenberger's Orchid Eden for a future newsletter. Please contact me if you have information you would like to share.

- David Weiss

## Orchid Mania! GROS Exhibits at GCOS Orchid Show

If you are lucky enough to be in Cleveland before March 11, you should stop by the Botanical Garden for their Orchid Mania. You will find orchids throughout the building and in the green houses.

The center piece of Orchid Mania is the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society's Orchid Show and Sale. I traveled to Cleveland the weekend of February 15 to set up our GROS display. I had a great time and met some very nice people. If everything works out I will be going again next year.

I would like to thank Natalie Auburn, Jeanne Kaeding and Dwaine Levy for letting me bring some of their plants for the display. A big thanks go to Jim Marlow for helping me navigate my first show and giving some wonderful suggestions for the display.

If you are curious how our Rochester orchids fared we received two 1<sup>st</sup> places for a *Cochlioda Lois Posey* and a *Phal. lobbi*, three second places for *Den. Aussie's Chip*, *Slc. Mem. Alvin Beggman Poem* and a *Phalaenopsis*, and two 3<sup>rd</sup> places for an *Epi. Annelie Wans* and an *Onc. Sharry Baby*.

- Bill Renick

## GROS Lamberton Project Continues

The GROS has supported Lamberton Conservatory's collection of orchids for a number of years. Donations were made in the past by our members and the number of plants has grown over time. Unfortunately, the plants in the collection had started to decline and many required care & repotting.

In the Fall of last year a few of us decided to donate our time to improve the collection into something our society could be proud of. We met regularly on Saturday mornings and it turned out to be a fun experience for us all. We are hoping that the plants improve with new media in their pots.



L-R: Sandi's elbow, Jeff, Noelle and Doug

One of our major tasks was to create an inventory of the collection. To that end, Phil Matt created a computer database and printed out labels to identify all the plants. Unfortunately, over half of the orchids had no original labels and we were only able to identify the genus. But what we were able to accomplish will help visitors in case they want a name to find a similar orchid.

A city the size of Rochester, with its wonderful cultural resources, should have a good orchid collection for all residents to enjoy. It was our goal to bring the plants back into active growth so people would notice we

have them. The job isn't finished yet but will be completed sometime this Spring. The conservatory staff, led by Noelle Nagel, will grow the plants from now on and GROS will continue to support their efforts with advice and help when needed. In the near future the conservatory will be installing improved shelving to replace the sagging shelves for orchids that are currently in place.

What will the future hold for this endeavor? Now that the collection has been stabilized we may look to "fill in the gaps" in the collection with plants from genera that are not currently on display.

-continued on Page 5



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