



The **Orchid
Collection**

Genesee Region Orchid Society

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www.geneseeorchid.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: NOV. 8, 2004



*Slc. Sierra Doll, a typical mini-Catt.
Photo ©Phil Matt*

As the last days of summer have slipped away, we're all getting busy with adjusting to those little things in life that one would never suspect might happen, while we're reporting merrily away in the background: a gallon of gasoline at \$2.35 doesn't seem all *that* bad; the Boston Red Sox let the air out of the New York Yankees, thus advancing to the World Series; and although local residents are now (by proxy) all part-owners of a fancy Australian ferryboat, held fast by lines of legal restraint, it saileth not.

Roger Cole of Arbec Orchids in Laurel, MD will be our speaker for November. He will present a discussion on

"Main Lines of Mini-Catt Breeding." The mini-cattleyas are great orchids to grow at a sunny window or under plant lights. They typically bloom with fairly large flowers despite being grown in very small pots, so you can have a whole collection in the space it would take to grow just a standard size *Cattleya* or *Phalaenopsis*. Roger also is a member of the Board of Directors of Orchids Dominicana and is responsible for the company's hybridizing programs for *Cattleyas*, and larger-growing *Oncidium* intergenerics. Orchids Dominicana currently has more than 2.5 million *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobiums*, *Cattleyas*, *Oncidiums* and *Vandas* in production for sale to the U.S. market. Roger has personally won dozens of flower quality and cultural awards for his hybridizing work. He is an American Orchid Society Accredited Judge and a past Chairman of the National Capital Judging Center.

We'll be taking Roger to dinner at the India House, 998 South Clinton Ave., at 5 p.m. on November 8th; if you'd like to go, please phone Jeff Snyder (377-5895) by noon of the same day. The Show Table has been pumping iron downstairs at the JCC in anticipation of hefting a mighty orchid load, so pack up your flowering plants and bring them in! We'll see you there!

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GROS Exhibits at CNYOS Show

Once again we participated in the CNYOS annual fall show in Syracuse, New York. Many thanks go to **Dwaine Levy** and to **Cathy Buggie** for setting up the exhibit on Friday (October 1), and to **Sue Flanders** and **Diane Bernard** for taking the exhibit down on Sunday. Cathy and Dwaine created a most interesting and beautiful exhibit, long, multi-tiered. Theirs was not a standard table top display. For their efforts, they received First Place in the Amateur Class. Two other big awards went to plants in our display: Best Amateur Species was awarded to the Ellenberger's *Vanda kimballiana*, and Best Hybrid in Show went to Cathy Buggie's *Miltonia Cogniauxiae* 'Fort Caroline'. Other news of note, Joe Kunisch got an HCC/AOS and a CCM/AOS for his plant *Vanda sanderiana* var. *alba* 'Bloomfield, and the CNYOS exhibit received the AOS Show Trophy for their exhibit. Thank you all for loaning your plants to the exhibit. The full list of GROS awards at Syracuse to the right..

-Jeanne Kaeding

GROS Exhibits at NFOS Show, Buffalo

GROS participation in our second regional fall show, held by the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society of Buffalo, NY, was made possible by **Ellen and Jerry Linger**, who set up our exhibit, and **Bernice and John Roll** who took the exhibit down. Many ribbons were won by the participants: Susan Myers, John and Dody Ellenberger, Bob Wyman, Sandi Uhlig, Dwaine Levy, Mark Kaczynski, Cathy Buggie, and Jeanne Kaeding. The exhibit itself won second place in its class. Congratulations to Ellen for her good arrangement. And thank you all for donating your plants for use in the exhibit. The list of awards to GROS members follows.



CNYOS Show Results

- Ellenbergers: *Vanda kimballiana*: 2nd in class, Best Amateur Species
Dtps. Dyah Redita: 2nd in class
Paph. dianthum: 1st in class
Paph. Clair de Lune 'Edgar Von Belle': 1st in class
Paph. Cumumbah: 1st in class
- Cathy Buggie: *Milt.* Cogniauxiae 'Fort Caroline': 1st in class, Best Hybrid in Show
Phal. unknown: 3rd in class
- Mark Kaczynski: *Mtssa.* Dark Star 'Orchid Works': 3rd in class
- Bob Wyman: *Paph.* Maudiae: 3rd in class
Phal. Red Delight 'Patent': 2nd in class
- Judy Wischoff: *Cattleya grossii*: 2nd in class
Blc. [(Acapana × Greenwich) × Caroline Cameron]: 3rd in class
- Fran Murphy: *Phrag.* Sedenii: 3rd in class

NFOS Show Results

- Robert Wyman: *Rhynchocentrum* Lilac Blossom: 1st in class
Brassavola flagellaris: 1st in class
Dtps. Achy Breaky Heart 'Linda': 3rd in class
- Ellenbergers: *Cattleya bowringiana*: 3rd in class
- Sandi Uhlig: *Ornithocephalus* species: 1st in class
- Mark Kaczynski: *C.* Sir Jeremiah Colman 'Blue Moon': 2nd in class
- Cathy Buggie: *Onc.* Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance': 2nd in class
- Jeanne Kaeding: *Bc.* Green Dragoon 'Lenette': 1st in class
Cymbidium species: 2nd in class
Burrageara Kilauea: 3rd in class
Brassavola nodosa 'Linda': 3rd in class

Executive Board To Meet November 1

An Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the President's (Jeanne Kaeding's) house. The agenda is below. If there is anything more to add to it, let me know. My phone number is 442-3202 if you need to call or directions. All interested members of the society are welcome. See you there.

-Jeanne Kaeding

The Agenda for the GROS Executive Board Meeting, November 1, 2004 is as follows:

1. Membership Renewal to: Several people who paid their dues by the September meeting

were left off the membership list published in the October newsletter. Is there a better way to renew membership and/or to make up the membership list?

2. JCC Contact: Curt Dengler, our contact at the JCC, as suggested that we have one person to act as liaison with him at the JCC. Several people contacted him with auction related information, and some of it was contradictory. Who should be the designate contact person?

3. Spring Orchid Show: This event seems far away but there are things we can start on now. Ron Uhlig, our Show Chairman, will lead this discussion.



Orchids I Have Killed!

Part 1: You Always Hurt the One You Love

If you're a beginning orchid grower and some of your plants have already died, while others are languishing like the consumptive heroines of Victorian novels, take heart. All orchid growers learn the hard way what works for them and what doesn't, leaving a trail of dead plants along the way. They just may not admit it.

It is said that if you took all the economists in the world and laid them end to end, they still wouldn't reach a conclusion. The same is true of orchid experts. This is a good reason to collect several different how-to books and articles on orchid growing. Then, when one of your orchids dies, you can always find some expert who recommended the same stupid culture which killed it, so you don't have to blame yourself. Seriously, the best way to learn is from your own experience, but another good way is from the mistakes of others. In this essay, I'll share a few things I've learned the hard way.

That's Not My Bag. When I had been growing orchids for about a year, I bought an *Odontocidium* Tiger Hambühren from a local orchid dealer, healthy and in spike. This was in early December. Then I went away for a couple of weeks over Christmas. How should I keep the orchid healthy while I was away? I treated it like my African violets - I watered it well and sealed it in a plastic bag. Big mistake. When I came back, some of the leaves were brown with rot. This gradually spread to the pseudobulb, then to the flower spike. I finally took drastic action and cut off the diseased spike and pseudobulb. I hated to lose the flowers, but I was lucky: the plant recovered and put out a new growth. It lived and bloomed for three more years before finally succumbing to another attack of rot.

Another casualty was *Ascocentrum curvifolium*, a gift from a friend who had just repotted it. I put it in a sunny south window. Then the lower leaves started yellowing and dropping off. I was puzzled, since *Ascocentrums* are supposed to like sunny conditions, and my *Ascocentrum miniatum* was flourishing in the same window. I moved the *Ascocentrum curvifolium* to a less-sunny east window and stepping up the watering. It continued losing leaves. I moved it under

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lights. No improvement. Finally it occurred to me what was going on. I unpotting it and checked the roots. They were brown and dead from overwatering. I had probably watered too soon after the plant was repotted, then compounded the problem by watering more.

However, I figured all was not lost. I had read that you could save an orchid which had lost it roots by unpotting it and putting it in a plastic bag, out of direct sun, to encourage new growth. I tried it on the *Ascocentrum*. The remaining leaves all promptly rotted and fell off. I have

“ In light of my hard-won experience, I of course considered this advice to be merely the raving of lunatics. ”

tried this technique on other occasions, always with the same fatal results.

The lesson I finally learned is that what works for some expert may not work for you. Remember that your climate and growing conditions may be quite different. For me, putting an orchid in a plastic bag is condemning it to death. When I recently divided up my *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Summit', FCC/AOS, I ended up with a couple of leftover rootless backbulb divisions which I wanted to try and grow, since 'Percy Summit', as it is familiarly known, is a beautiful and valuable plant. I had read some books and articles which advised bagging the

divisions to encourage rooting. In light of my hard-won experience, I of course considered this advice to be merely the raving of lunatics. I went and found an article by another expert who advised just sticking the divisions in a empty pot and sprinkling them with water now and then, letting them dry out in between. So that's what I did. The divisions sprouted nicely, with no rot, and are now healthy plants.

Unfortunately, there's no way in advance to tell raving-of-a-lunatic advice from fount-of-eternal-wisdom advice. You juts have to try it and see if it works for you. If you're lucky, you won't kill too many plants in the process.

- by Larry Keukes
via the Connecticut Orchid Society

Spring Show 2005 Announces New Poster Contest

Ron and Sandi Uhlig, co-chairpeople for the 2005 orchid show, announce the poster contest for the 2005 show. We are looking for original artwork or photography of an orchid or orchids that can be used for advertising posters and flyers. The deadline for entries is December 24, 2004. The poster committee will judge the entries and announce the winner at the January meeting. Don't worry about the text - we'll add that. Questions? Call Ron and Sandi at 387-9940 or email them at this address:

show2005@geneseeorchid.org

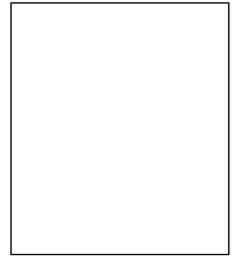
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The Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS) meets every month from September through May at the Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY, on the first Monday following the first Sunday of each month. (Dates sometimes vary due to holidays, 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 may not be reprinted without the express written permission of the artist.

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