



The **Orchid Collection**

Genesee Region Orchid Society Inc.

Volume 31, Number 3

November, 2009

www.geneseearchid.org

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, NOV. 2, 2009

"Orchids 101" 6:00 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



Paph. lowii, 2nd. Place ribbon
GROS 2008 Orchid Show
Grower: Windswept in Time
Photo illustration ©Phil Matt

This is a funny time of the year. Somehow, it just doesn't feel much like Fall. True, the usual signs are there: our mailbox is full of flyers from various local political hopefuls simultaneously promising the moon and calling their opponents unsavory names; the children are pumping themselves up for the Great Sugar Ingestion known as Halloween; and my dahlias have been reduced to blackened skeletons from a short dalliance with a hard freeze.

Auction Fever has come and gone, so maybe Paph Fever is upon us as our meeting for November brings Terry Root, President of The Orchid

Zone Ltd. in Moss Landing, CA, for a rare appearance on the North Coast. Terry will present "A Tour of the Land of O.Z.," an unusual glimpse into the operation of one of the most heralded contemporary wholesale orchid growers in the US.

With over 40 years of orchid growing and breeding experience, Terry has made over 4,000 orchid crosses. His crosses have won more Gold Medals in Japan than any other nursery in the world. He is a self-avowed lover of Paphiopedilums above all other orchids.

Since the Orchid Zone, Ltd. is a strictly wholesale operation, your officers have negotiated a special purchase of fifty plants from the Orchid Zone for sale at our November meeting. We will have 10 plants each of 5 different orchid tribes grown at the Orchid Zone, Ltd. - on view and made expressly available for sale to you, our members, during the meeting hours. They will be competitively priced to sell quickly (cash & checks, only.) The Show Table will be back, so please remember to bring your flowering plants.

We'll see you there!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Meeting Minutes ♡2
- Regional Shows ♡2
- Show Table ♡3
- Paphiopedilums ♡3
- Orchids 101 ♡4

Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2009

President **Paul Batz** called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The minutes for our September meeting were approved.

Ron Uhlig, treasurer, brought us up to date on our financial situation:

Previous balance (9/8/09):	\$12,473
Income:	\$469
Expenses:	\$690
Current balance (10/5/09):	\$12,253

A question was asked – do raffle receipts cover the cost of raffle plants? Yes. Treasurer's report was approved.

Jeff Snyder reported on the upcoming auction. The date is Sunday, October 18th, in the auditorium. Preview begins at 12 Noon, the auctioning will start at 1:00 p.m. Auction plants have arrived from H&R, Cal-Orchids & Andy's. Local vendors and other donations will complete the selection of plants to be auctioned. Central NY (Syracuse) Orchid Society has been invited and Niagara Frontier Orchid Society (Buffalo) will be contacted also.

Paul reminded us that several library books are still missing. Please remember to return the books you take out to read.

Thank you goes to **Jeremy Bechelli** for the newsletter/website article on *Cattleyas*.

The Buffalo fall orchid show is this coming weekend, Oct. 10 & 11. **Jeanne Kaeding** and **Carolyn Edwards** will be setting up the GROS club display.

Assistant Program Chair **Alan Salzman** introduced our speaker, Jean Ikeson. Jean has been growing orchids about twenty years and currently lives near the Royal Botanical Gardens in Ontario, Canada. She is currently a probationary judge. Her presentation this evening is entitled "How *Cattleya Species Breed*."

After the raffle, the Show Table was presented by the Society members who brought in their plants for display. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Sandi Uhlig
Secretary

GROS Members Take Ribbons at Regional Orchid Shows

Many of our members take advantage of the Society's active participation in various orchid shows in neighboring cities. Here are the ribbon and other awards won by GROS members at the recent Fall shows organized by the Central New York (Syracuse) and Niagara Frontier (Buffalo) Orchid Societies. The Buffalo Orchid show was held on Oct. 9-11 at the Conservatory at the Botanical Gardens - a really spectacular location for an orchid show.

First and foremost I wish to say that the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society was extremely gracious and accommodating to our representatives and were super hosts. For the second year in a row Carolyn Edwards was the architect for the GROS exhibit and the exhibit won 1st place in its class. There were five GROS members who contributed material for the exhibit that contained 17 plants.

-Dean Edwards

The Syracuse listings are courtesy of GROS member Iris Cohen.

<i>Plant Name</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Exhibitor</i>	<i>Show</i>
(Exhibit)	3rd	GROS	CNY09
V. Tokyo Blue	3rd	Sarah Wemett	CNY09
Pyp. Mendenhall	3rd	Sarah Wemett	CNY09
Rby. Hawaiian Leopard	2nd	Judy Wischoff	CNY09
Lsu. Koolau Starbright	1st	Judy Wischoff	CNY09
Phrag. Sedenii	3rd	Judy Wischoff	CNY09
Vasco. Pine Rivers	1st	Judy Wischoff	CNY09
Grcym. Lovely Melody	1st	Judy Wischoff	CNY09
<i>S. dayana</i>	1st	Mike DeVito	CNY09
<i>Bulb. rothschildianum</i>	1st;	Alan Salzman	
	Best. Misc. Orchid		CNY09
Paph. Sommers Isles	3rd	Carolyn Edwards	NFOS09
Wils. Pacific Perspective 'Pacific Heat'	1st	Carolyn Edwards	NFOS09
Wils. Berry Red 'Starry Starry Night'	3rd	Carolyn Edwards	NFOS09
<i>Cym. ensifolium</i> v. Hsing Fei 'Buddy's Red'	1st	Carolyn Edwards	NFOS09
<i>Ludisia discolor</i> [from Vietnam]	2nd	Carolyn Edwards	NFOS09
Blc. Lois McNeil 'Ace'	2nd	Carolyn Edwards	NFOS09
<i>Cym. ensifolium</i> v. Hsing Fei 'Buddy's Red'	3rd	Carolyn Edwards	NFOS09
Eplc. Don Herman	1st	Bob Wyman	NFOS09
Pot. Hoku Gem 'Kauai'	3rd	Bob Wyman	NFOS09
Lc. Pirate King 'Port Wine'	1st	Bob Wyman	NFOS09
<i>Onc. ornithorhyncum</i>	2nd	Bob Wyman	NFOS09
<i>Onc. ornithorhyncum</i>	1st	Bob Wyman	NFOS09
Dtps. Maysang Angel's Heart	3rd	Jim Marlow	NFOS09
<i>Masd. rojohni</i>	2nd	Jim Marlow	NFOS09
<i>Paph. philippinense</i>	1st	Molly Weimer	NFOS09
Vascostylus Pine Rivers 'Blue'	2nd	Judy Wischoff	NFOS09

Show Table, from Page 3.

Note: species names are always in lower case, never capitalized.

The Kew Checklist is keeping the genus *Sophronitis* at present, while the RHS has transferred them all to *Cattleya*. Stay tuned for latest developments. Please note: if there are any names you have questions about, don't hesitate to call or e-mail me.

- Iris Cohen

315-461-9226

iriscohen@aol.com

OCTOBER SHOW TABLE

Cypripedium Alliance

Paph. philippinense Weimer
Paph. Hsinying Agogo (*armeniicum* × *Hsinying* Concon) Gillette

Cattleya Alliance

Prosthechea brassavolae Greene
Guarianthe bowringiana De Vito
Sophronitis dayana "
S. brevipedunculata "
Bc. Hoku Gem (*C. Tangerine Jewel* × *Bc. Richard Mueller*) Hober
B. nodosa Levy
Laelirhynchos (Lrn.) Sea Urchin (*L. anceps* × *Rl. glauca*) Butcher
Rcv. Fairy Queen (*Jimminey Cricket* × *Rl. glauca*) "
Rlc. Ports of Paradise (*Fortune* × *Rl. digbyana*) Wischoff
Cattleya Exotic Smile (*Love Knot* × *loddigesii*) Marlow

Vandaceous

Renanthera bella Gillette
Angcm. Longiscott (*eburneum* subsp. *superbum* × *scottianum*) Butcher
Vasco. Pine Rivers (*Asca.* Peggy Foo × *Rhy. coelestis*) Wischoff

Oncidium Alliance

Rrm. (Sycamore Hollow × [*Tolu.* Wave Dancer × *Robsan*]) Hober
Pyp. Mendenhall (*Butterfly* × *papilio*) Pfromm

Pleurothallid Alliance

Drac. pholeodytes Bechelli
Drac. astuta "
Masd. Ken Dole (*coccinea* × *tonduzii*) "
Diodonopsis erinacea "
Masd. Peach Fuzz (*constricta* × *veitchiana*) "
Masd. Aquarius (*constricta* × *davisii*) "
Masd. **Redwing** (one word) (*infracta* × *coccinea*) "
Masd. Monarch (*macrura* × *veitchiana*) "

Miscellaneous

Max. tonsbergii Batz
 Unknown Woodhams
Ctsm. Spotted Dragon (*fimbriatum* × *Orchidglade*) Hober
Hab. medusa "
Cyc. William **Clarke** (*herrenhusanum* × *cooperi*) "
Ctsm. Jumbo Eagle (*sanguineum* × *expansum*) Levy

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

(continued on Page 2)

A New Perspective On Paph Culture

I have been asked to provide some background on the genus *Paphiopedilum*, as a prelude to our November meeting, where Terry Root, proprietor of The Orchid Zone, is to be the featured speaker.

Instead of recounting past articles, features and newscopy on the subject, I've decided to focus on what I have seen locally here in Rochester, NY. Many of our members grow a few slipper orchids and of course a few grow quite a number of these beauties. However I have noticed that a number of you do not do very well with *Paph* culture and often they lie forgotten or pushed to the side in favor of other tribes with which you apparently have more success.

Over the last two years, especially since I have retired and for a short spell before, I have been increasing my knowledge and frustration over just what I have done wrong or could be doing better. Believe me, it has been a struggle. Now I wish to lay out some things I have done, done better and sometimes redone to get better culture for myself and the ladyslippers.

We have all seen nice plants of *Paphiopedilum*, whether in bloom or not, and our purchases have always been on what appear to be healthy and vigorous individuals. The tops of these plants, however, does not always reveal what is below - and bringing back damaged roots can be a challenge for even the most dedicated grower.

I have found that water quality and good roots are synonymous. Not all water need be perfect in our lives - you don't need pristine shower water. But when it comes to drinking water, we humans are more fussy. Some people even go to the expense and bother to have under-sink, on-demand reverse osmosis (RO) water available in the kitchen.

Obtaining water higher in quality than what comes from the tap need not be expensive, but knowing how to get it and how to implement it can be an exercise. Rainwater is one resource available to us all, and even cleaning rainwater with a few grams of calcium hypochlorite is often very simple. A swimming pool supplier should have five dollar packages of calcium

- continued on next page

(Paphiopedilums, from previous page)
chlorite available to you as the “shock treatment” every swimming pool caretaker knows. Even Monroe County water can be made more palatable for all our plants merely by adding the equivalent of 1 teaspoon of acetic acid (vinegar) or citric acid (lemon juice) per gallon of water.

Occasionally we read catalogs listing potting materials available for various orchid tribes. *Paphiopedilum* is no exception. However, choosing a potting medium that really can make a difference for you is another matter. Here is what to look for. Have your mix made up of some organic and some inorganic constituents. I shoot for about 50/50 but other ratios have worked just as well. Additionally, make sure there are no “fines,” or other dust-like materials in your mix. This is very important and sieving may be the only final solution despite the dollars you have spent for pre-mixed commercial potting material. I sieve all constituents I purchase before combining my mixes. Yes, it is some work and bother, but then I know I have solved this important area of culture in which my important *Paph* roots may wander.

My current mixes for *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium* contain coconut husk chips, sponge rock or perlite, charcoal, high red lava rock and a very, very light amount of processed (grated, by hand) New Zealand sphagnum moss. The moss only gets sprinkled in as the mix is used from the holding tray. Pre-moistening these items helps keep unwanted dust from entering my lungs.

Always use the smallest pots possible and never use clay pots - the roots can stay too cool in the summertime. I also use deep pots, where the pot diameter is disproportionally smaller than the height of the container. I also open the pot bottoms (by drilling more holes) to allow more atmosphere into the pots during non-watering days. This all contributes to large, healthy and very vigorous roots even when they are periodically lost.

Lastly, I want to express some thoughts concerning a good fertilizer for your ladyslippers culture. I do not find the N-P-K percentages to be the most critical concern. Instead, aiming for a fertilizer with the big five N-P-K-Ca-Mg are far more important. Calcium should always be available to your *Paphiopedilum* plants.

Calcium does not readily translocate as many other fertilizer compounds do. While your plants are always growing, even on less than ideal days in a greenhouse, calcium compounds need be available each day there are new cells forming to make up plant and leaf structures.

I also place small amounts of crushed oyster shell on the top of my potting mixes thereby ensuring constant availability even when rainwater and no calcium has been added to the water during some irrigating events. Finally, become knowledgeable about Nitrogen and the three types listed on your manufacturer's label. Avoid urea nitrogen and seek very low ammoniacal nitrogen. You are looking for the “hot stuff,” Nitrate Nitrogen.

With these brief notes and their stimulating or argumentative facets, I hope you will begin to see better results with your *Paphs* a few months after implementing.

*Regards, and good growing,
Alan C. Salzman*

Orchids 101 to Feature Repotting

The Orchids 101 meeting for November 2nd will feature a workshop on How to Repot. Admittedly, November is not the best time to repot orchids. However, if your plant is sulking and looks unhappy, better to repot than

not! We will be discussing types of containers, different potting media, and a few tricks learned along the way. Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2nd and hopefully we can start you on the road to successful repotting.

- Kim Hober

NORTHEAST JUDGING CENTER

Annual Judges' Auction

A Once A Year Opportunity

**Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009
10:00 a.m.
The Hampton Inn
Elmsford, NY**

This is a wonderful way to buy at auction very special plants, mostly grown by our Judges, and to take the mystery out of orchid judging. All members and guests of AOS Affiliated Societies are invited to our Holiday Party, Auction and Judging Sessions.

Contact: Rita Cohen
516-374-6426



Lycaste (unknown) a/k/a “Ron's Folly”

2 and 3 bulb divisions For Sale

A beautiful white *Lycaste*, originally obtained from AOS judge Ron McHatton. Several 2 and 3 bulb divisions are available.

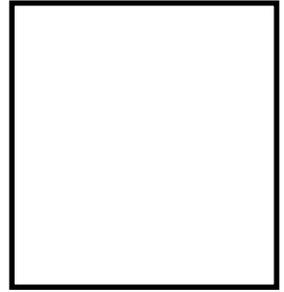
2-bulb divisions @ \$4.00 3 bulb divisions @ \$5.00

Call Dwaine Levy 271-0201. I can bring the plants to the November meeting.

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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.

SAVING LOTS OF TREES!

The Orchid Collection has moved to an all electronic format with the October, 2009 issue. Questions? Ask any Board member.

