



The Orchid Collection

Vol. 34, No. 2 - October, 2012

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

THE AUCTION! MONDAY, OCT. 15, 2012

*Plant browsing opens at 6:00 p.m. * Auction bidding begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.
Main Lobby, Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Ave., Rochester, NY*



It's Auction time again! Come join your fellow members at the GROS for an evening of great orchids and great fun! With many great plants up for bid, everyone is sure to find a healthy, beautifully grown orchid - at an affordable price, too! You'll be able to bid on plants that our buying power as a club brings to our members & friends at truly spectacular savings.

Auction 2012 will be held at the JCC, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, as in previous years.

The Auction starts at 6:00 p.m. for plant browsing. Bidding starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. We plan to be done at 9:00 p.m.

The Auction is a wonderful way to add to your orchid collection at very reasonable cost. Remember, every plant you buy at the Auction helps the GROS in running our many yearly activities. If you have friends who might be interested in our Auction, bring them along! The Auction is open to everyone, free of charge. There will be orchids for windowsill, under-lights and greenhouse growers, orchids for experts, orchids for beginners - orchids for everyone! We will have a good selection of both hybrids and species, with some plants in bud and bloom! The antics of our auctioneers are always fun, but the best part is that you just never know what you'll find!

We ask that all members bring a food item to the auction to share with fellow members and guests. We suggest that people with an odd number birthday month (Jan., March, May, etc.) bring a savory and people with an even number birthday month (Feb., April, June, etc.) bring a sweet. Paper products, eating utensils, coffee, tea, cider and water will be provided.

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GROS Meeting Minutes Sept. 4, 2012

Tonight's meeting opened with Bill's Monolog. He welcomed two new members. Thank you to both Bill and **Dave Weiss** for bringing in the refreshments. GROS has purchased a laptop and software for the society. We are hoping to centralize our information, record keeping etc. instead of having bits and pieces spread out in all sorts of places we still haven't found!

Phil Matt has been working on some changes for the newsletter, and web site.

Bill has set up a society calendar for Gmail. It is up and running, and if you'd like to use it contact Bill. There will be a new Swap Sheet section on the website. It should be up and running in the next few weeks. There will be a few rules for it, these are still being worked out. It will be open to all registered members, will be photo capable, and should be a great addition to the website!

HELP NEEDED!!!! We still need some help from members, and we need to fill the following positions:

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SEPTEMBER SHOW TABLE

Cattleya Alliance

Rlc. Hawaiian Charisma (Hisako Akatsuka × C. Memoria Robert Strait)	Murphy
<i>Cattleya</i> unknown*	"
<i>Cattleya tenebrosa</i>	De Vito
<i>Cattleya</i> Gratrixiae (1901)† (<i>tenebrosa</i> × <i>coccinea</i>)	"
Guaritonia (<i>Grt.</i>) Why Not (<i>Gur. aurantiaca</i> × <i>Bro. sanguinea</i>)	"

Vandaceous

V. Robert's Delight (Kasem's Delight × Madame Rattana)	Uhlig
V. Sunkakul (Diane Ogawa × Thananchai)	Murphy
Mkra. Khaw Phaik Suan (Arach. Ishbel × Ascda. Madame Kenny)	"
Prra. Motes Leprechaun (V. Paki × Prra. Luke Thai)	"

Oncidium Alliance

Alera. Marfitch (Brat. Charles M. Fitch × Onc. Fremar)	Murphy
<i>Onc. incurvum</i> × Honolulu	"
Onc. Golden Afternoon (Tigrina × <i>sphacelatum</i>)	"
Brsdm. Gilded Urchin (<i>Brs. arcuigera</i> × <i>Onc. wentworthianum</i>)	"
<i>Milt. spectabilis</i>	Butcher

Miscellaneous

<i>Hab. rhodocheila</i>	Gillette
<i>Aërgs. luteoalba</i> var. <i>rhodosticta</i>	Butcher

*There is no registered cross named Makala Enchantment. It is probably a trade name.

†To avoid duplication, the date is attached. It is a permanent part of the name.

Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or complete your records. Once the parents are printed, kindly include time you show the plant.

- Iris Cohen
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Important! Changes to GROS By-Laws Proposed by Board

The GROS Board of Directors proposes that our Bylaws (Article 3, Section 5) be amended to remove the two term limit for elected officers as shown below. When written, there were no doubt good reasons for a term limit. But today, when offices go unfilled for lack of willing candidates, we believe that those willing to serve should be encouraged to do so. In fact recent experience has demonstrated that after serving on the Board, officers often burn out and either drop their membership or become invisible. There exists a natural limit for the number of terms an officer may serve - it's called an election! Here are the

ARTICLE 3 - OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 5 — All terms of office shall be for one year and shall begin at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. ~~No member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.~~

The method for amending the Bylaws is Article 10 shown below. At our next regular meeting those present will vote on the proposed change.

ARTICLE 10 – AMENDMENTS

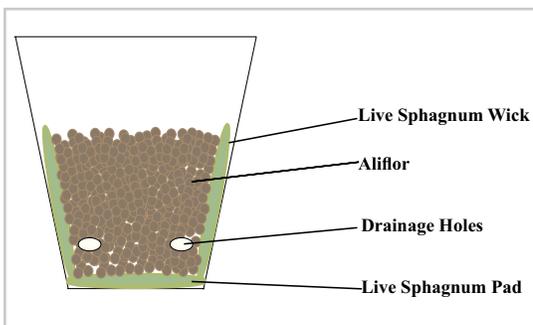
Proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be published in the newsletter and be presented to the members at a regular meeting to be voted on at the next meeting. A two-thirds vote of those present shall be required for adoption.



Seedling Culture: Tips for Deflasking

Over the past thirty odd years I have probably killed as many orchid seedlings as anyone. Getting them to adapt to the real world when removed from the flask is perhaps the greatest challenge. Consider having to adapt from a situation with ideal conditions – high humidity, all nutrients provided – to a situation where nutrients may or may not be available and the humidity varies from 20% to 80%. Addition environmental hazards such as fungi, bacteria, insects, slugs, and snails complicate the mix.

I've experimented with many different techniques to increase survival. Most have failed, but recently I have developed a technique which has succeeded beyond my expectations. For containers, I initially used the clear, domed plastic cups which are used by many fast food restaurants for milkshakes, but being incapable of drinking that many milkshakes I resorted to standard clear plastic cups modified to my purposes.



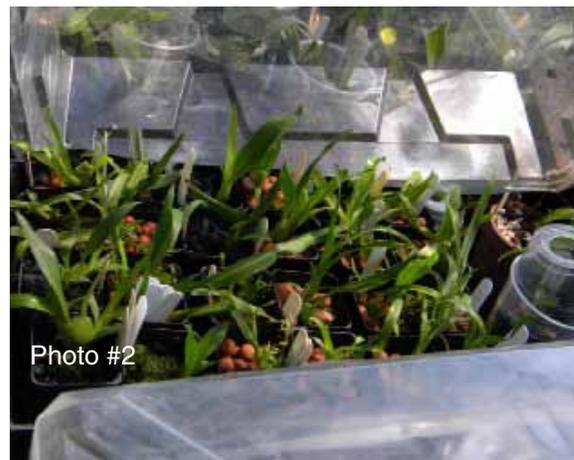
A standard clear plastic drinking cup is pierced with holes in three or four places about 3/4" above the bottom so as to produce a reservoir for water in the bottom. A thin pad of live sphagnum is placed in the bottom. Then about two inches of Aliflor pellets are added. A wick or two of sphagnum should be worked into the pellets at the edges to



help conduct water from the bottom to the top surface.

The seedlings from the flask with the medium washed off are placed on the top of the Aliflor. Then, using tweezers, a little bit of live sphagnum is worked in among the roots of the seedlings. Some should contact the wicks.

A covering cup, used to maintain humidity, must also allow reasonable air movement or mold will become a



problem. I use a mixture of 80% rain-water and 20% tap water (to provide calcium and magnesium). Various fertilizers are being evaluated at a level of approximately one gram per liter – continuously.

There are always two or three larger seedlings in the bottles. The largest

ones were potted and cultured separately from the smaller ones to help prevent roots from becoming entangled during growth.

Photograph #1 shows – (a) a bottle of seedlings, (b) & (c) seedlings in cups three to four months after deflasking, and (d) more vigorous seedlings in 2-inch square pots five to six months after deflasking. Photograph #2

shows seedlings in 2-inch pots grown under a clear plastic hood to conserve humidity – hood removed for photograph.

Alternatives to Aliflor are being studied, e.g. charcoal and shale. The Aliflor provides an area for root growth because it maintains air at 100% humidity. Air at 100% humidity is ideal for root growth. Sphagnum has antifungal and antibacterial properties. The *Oncidium alliance* and *Cymbidiums*

are the areas which have been evaluated so far but surely *Phragmipediums*, with their love for water, should respond well.

- John Dunkelberger

Although it is true that John Dunkelberger has been growing orchids for over 40

years, he still experiments with new techniques, always trying to improve his orchid culture. He has received numerous AOS awards, many is own hybrids. In addition he is an AOS Judge. John has spoken to many orchid societies, including the GROS.

- Jeanne Kaedling

Monthly Checklist for Sept. & Oct.

Cattleya

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

Dendrobium

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Rhynchostele biconiensis



Dendrobium Burana Stripe is a popular and easy *phalaenopsis*-type hybrid.

Both *Rhynchostele biconiensis* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele biconiensis*, formerly known as *Lemboglossum*, *Odontoglossum*) is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: sulphureum (green with white lip), album (brown with white lip) and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in *Oedem.* Bittersweet and *Odm. bicross*) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for *odontoglossum* beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum

Standard, green-leaved *paphiopedilum*s begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossum grande

Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40°F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves. *Rossioglossum grande* shows off its large, dramatic flowers.

- From the American Orchid Society website, <http://www.aos.org>. The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.



(Minutes, from p. 2)

Auction Chair - Help! We need volunteers, and some participation with this it is scheduled for the Oct. 15th meeting! It will be held in the JCC Lobby .

Raffle Chair - make sure plants are available for each meeting.

Program Chair - Most of the meetings are scheduled for this year. We just need something for the March meeting. There is help available, but this is really an important position to have filled!

Beginners Meeting - Bill is going to work on this, but needs help from members for different topics, demonstrations etc.. We have a tremendous amount of talent in our group. Please consider helping out with this one.

Non Profit/Tax Exempt Status - It's been voted on by the Society and budgeted for several years, but does not seem to make it to completion. We need someone to step up and take this project on and get it completed. **Fran Murphy** has agreed to look at the paperwork.

CNYOS Show - Set up: **Carol Butcher**, and **Sandi Uhlig** Tear down: **Diane Bernard**.

NFOS Show - Fran Murphy will set up, Diane Bernard will teardown.

Budget - This year's budget is very similar to last year's. (The funds for the non-profit status were removed, but have been put back in as long as some one (not the Board) will take on the project. A vote was submitted, seconded, and the Budget passed.

2013 Show - Carol Butcher is in negotiations with Eisenhart Museum. (Bill has looked into relocating the show. Has researched many venues that for multiple reasons won't work.) The big issues are parking, and possible relocation of the vendors. (Both the Double Tree Inn, and

the Garden Factory are still a possibility for future shows.)

Jeanne Kaeding introduced our speaker, Ron McHatton. His talk was on "A New Approach to Pests and Diseases" Ron presented the Show Table, and the meeting closed.

- *Natalie Auburn*
Secretary

AUCTION 2012

MONDAY, OCT. 15

OPEN FOR VIEW: 6 PM

BIDDING: 6:30 PM

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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

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