



The Orchid Collection

Vol. 34, No. 2 - October, 2013

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

NEXT MEETING: Monday, Oct. 7, 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

The Summer seems to be lingering well into the “official” Fall season this year. There are few harbingers of the change of seasons: the leaves are pretty much still on the trees, the sound of lawnmowers still buzzes through our warm mornings, and the greenhouse shutters are still wide open. Anyone living in Western New York who complains about this is not thinking clearly...

Our October meeting will feature Cattleya hybrid seedlings for members to pot and to take home from the meeting. Two different hybrids will be available. The first is *Schomburgkia thompsoniana albopurpurea* × *Laelia purpurata* var. *carnea*. The *Schomburgkia* species is native to the Cayman Islands, and is a small, low-growing plant. The *Laelia* species from Brazil is known as “Queen of the Laelias,” and is a well known temperature-tolerant summer bloomer.



L-R: *Schomburgkia thompsoniana albopurpurea*, *Laelia purpurata* v. *carnea*



L-R: *Encyclia altissima*, *Cattleya percivaliana*.

The second hybrid is *Cattleya percivaliana* × *Encyclia altissima*. *Cattleya percivaliana* is a Venezuelan species with a flowering period of autumn through winter, and is commonly known as the “Christmas Orchid.” *Encyclia altissima* is a Caribbean species with small, fragrant flowers produced on very tall unbranched inflorescences. The cost of each seedling will be \$1 for all members.

There is no dinner outing for October. Since we are not having an outside speaker, all members are free to bring in their own plants for sale or trade. 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 Sept. 9, 2013

Bill opened the meeting with his monolog. He thanked **Tony Gerardi** for refreshments. He thanked **Ron Uhlig** for making the member name tags. (For anyone who is a new member, the nametags are kept Alphabetically in trays right as you come in the room.)

Bill also talked about the orchid donation from RIT. (Rochester Institute of Technology) RIT donated quite a few orchids, most of which were overgrown, and in desperate need of repotting. After cleaning them up, repotting, and debugging them, we now have about 50 plants to use for the Society. Some will be sold, some will supplement the raffle table, and some will be used in the auction. Bill has been looking for some "foster homes" for the plants. **Natalie Auburn** has some, and both **Molly Weimer** and **Carol Butcher** have offered. **Fran Murphy**, **Susan Hill**, and **Judy Wischoff** also have volunteered. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

The Spring Show (April 3-6) "40 Years of Bringing Orchids To Rochester" will have a new location this year. It has been moved to MCC. (Monroe Community College) This location was chosen for several reasons, but the biggest change will be parking and ease of access. MCC is close to the highway, has wonderful access to elevators, both regular and handicap parking, and will let us rent both space and parking "a la carte".

Our Auction will take place in November. It will again be held out in the open lobby area at the JCC. We still need an Auction chair!

The December meeting will be a holiday gathering (probably at an Italian restaurant) instead of a meeting.

The Syracuse Show (Oct. 5 -6) - **Carol Butcher** is willing to either set up or take down for the show. We need someone else to volunteer to help her. If you have plants you want to display, you need to contact her.

The Buffalo Show is the following weekend. **Carolyn & Dean Edwards** will set up and take down. If your plants weren't in bloom for the Syracuse show, they should be perfect for the Buffalo show! You need to contact the

Edwards if you have plants you want to loan for the GROS display.

Bill went over the proposed budget. There is a difference of \$3,604.00 That deficit is due to two major changes: #1- the rent at the JCC has gone up (for the 1st time in many years; this also included an additional day per month for board meetings.) #2 - The cost of changing the Show location. **Jeanne Kaeding** made a motion to approve the budget, **Fran Murphy** seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the budget was approved.

Andrea Niessen was our speaker tonight, She had a wonderful talk on Columbian Orchids! Bill did the show table, and the meeting was adjourned.

- *Natalie Auburn*
GROS Secretary

AOS 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, before bringing inside to your growing environment.

Cynoches

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 *Cynoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cynoches 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.



Cynoches chlorochilon, the green swan orchid

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 Burana Stripe, a popular and easy-to-grow hybrid

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 bictoniensis

Both *Rhynchostele bictoniensis* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele bictoniensis*, 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 *Odcdm. 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 *paphiopedilums* 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.

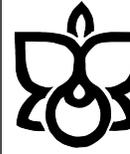
Phalaenopsis

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.

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



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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