



The Orchid Collection

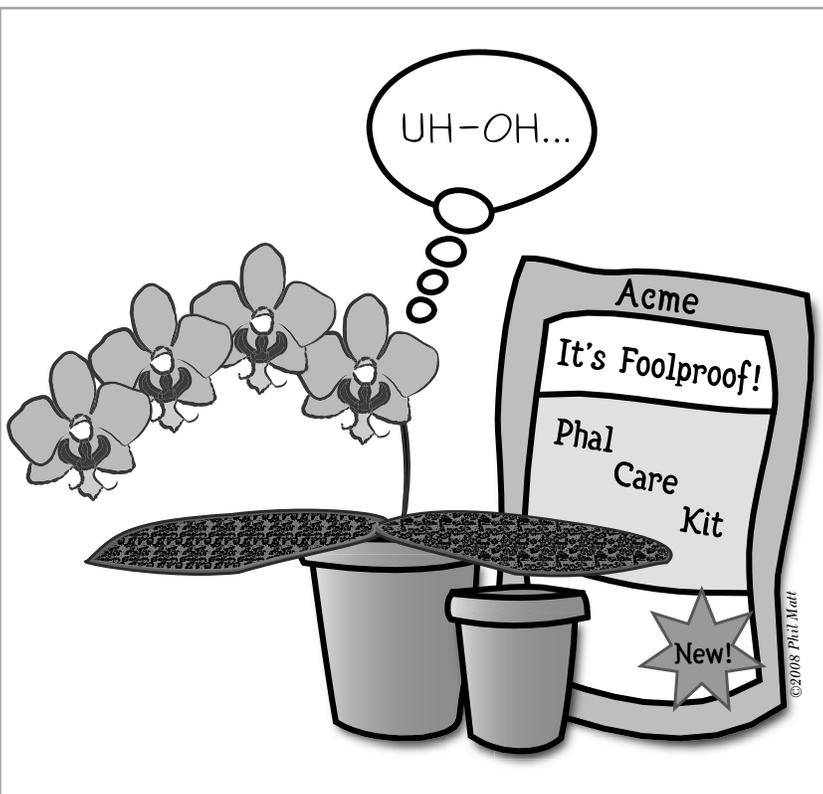
Genesee Region Orchid Society

Volume 30, Number 1

September, 2008

www.geneseearchid.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*



Somehow the summer has gotten away from us. Although we've had strange hailstorms and alternating hot and cool spells, thankfully we're not underwater. Mountains of peaches and tomatoes, and the dazzling display of garden flowers attest to the generally benign climate we all enjoy during our Western New York summers.

Difficult as it may be to believe, Fall is on its way, signalling the start of our club's activities for the new season. Kick off your orchid "year" as we welcome Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids in Yorktown, Indiana. Russ will be speaking on "How Not to Grow Phalaenopsis." (Had I realized that this was such a good topic, I could perhaps have contributed untold hours worth of "experience"-Ed.)

Early on Russ had an interest in plants, helping in the yard and growing cacti purchased with his allowance. His parents and grandparents were all interested in various aspects of horticulture. When Russ was 12 years old, his uncle arrived with 6 orchids saying, "If you can grow those darned cacti, you ought to be able to grow these..." - and thus a career was launched! Russ is an American Orchid Society accredited judge, and is currently First Vice President of the

Mid America Orchid Congress and of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance. In 2004, Russ and his wife Anita started New Vision Orchids. The company specializes in Phalaenopsis, Odontoglossums and their intergenerics, Miltoniopsis and Lycastes. Russ will be bringing orchids to sell at the meeting, and pre-orders are also encouraged. Please see the GROS website for a link to his plant lists; be advised that he will only be able to accept cash or checks at the meeting - no credit cards.

We will be taking Russ out to dinner prior to the meeting at Aladdin's Natural Eatery (located at 8 Schoen Place, in Pittsford NY) at 5 p.m. before the meeting. If you'd like to join us, please call our Program Vice President Diana Polle at 637-2882 ASAP, to make sure we have enough room for you. The Show Table will be back as well, so don't forget your flowering plants.

We'll see you there!

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GROS Sets Budget for 2008-9 Year

Your executive committee and other interested members worked hard in July and August to put together a budget for the 2009 fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. In most cases, our estimates for this year were based on actual expenses and income from last year. Because our budgeting process was much more informal last year (You can blame me for that!), we did not have good tracking of income and expenses. That will change this year. I will get monthly reports from Judy Ekberg (our treasurer) about how we are doing with respect to the budget. I will make this information available to any member who has an interest.

When we first assembled the budget for this year, we had several goals. First, we wanted to continue to support our annual show, which has become somewhat more expensive and less profitable over the years (although we did have a profit of about \$3,000 last year.) Second, we wanted to have a good program, which requires spending money to bring in speakers from other parts of the country. Finally, we wanted to expand the raffle and get more plants in the hands of members at less cost to them. When we added up all of the numbers, we had a projected deficit of \$4,650.

We then looked at the numbers again and made some cuts to get to a balanced budget. We cut \$2,000 from projected show expenses. If we can get printing done cheaply or for free, this will be an easy cut to accomplish. We reduced the program budget by \$1,000. This leaves us with a budget of \$3,000, which is still more than we spent last year. We balanced the raffle budget at last year's levels instead of running a \$600 deficit. We saved another \$600 by eliminating optional donations. It doesn't make sense to donate money that we don't have. We will still support the judging centers, who, in turn, support our show; but we will not donate to Sonnenberg, the Bergen Swamp, etc., this year. Finally, we reduced library expenses by \$400 and auction expenses by \$100. This still leaves those items with more money than we actually spent last year.

Our final budget is one that we can live with. It is possible that we will run a surplus this year. For example, we can save money by going to an electronic newsletter. The auction and/or

show may be more profitable than we project. If we do find more money, we can restore spending on donations or other items that the club would like to support.

As always, I am interested in your opinions about the budget; a table showing the budget details appears on the next page. We will have a discussion and vote on the budget at our September meeting. I hope to see you there.

-Jeff Snyder
President, GROS

GROS Group Visits Great White North

On Sunday June 22, an adventurous group of GROS members took off for the Niagara Peninsula to visit Claudio Rossi and his greenhouse in Jordan Station, Ontario, Canada.

Claudio is a familiar face at the annual GROS show. He is an accredited AOS judge and a knowledgeable and friendly vendor. He has been a guest speaker at a number of GROS meetings and some of his plants were featured in our annual auction last October. His enterprise, Cloud's Orchids, is a 39,000 square foot greenhouse nestled among cherry orchards in the greenbelt near St. Catherine's, Ontario. He offers a wide variety of orchids both for the beginner and experienced grower and his website is informative, with interesting articles and tips on orchid growing, and offers a terrific selection of both hybrids and species. Have a look



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at www.cloudsorchids.com to see some of Claudio's inventory and some good information on orchid culture.

Thirteen of us began our journey at 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning, departing in four vehicles from the JCC. GROS member and US Agricultural Agent Lewis Tandy had planned to go along, but had to change his plans due to a family commitment. He provided us with his phone numbers just in case we needed assistance. Perhaps this was an omen. The trip took about 2 hours, with a ten-minute pit stop near Pembroke. The Canadians welcomed us in without incident. As we approached Claudio's greenhouses, the skies were clear and the sun was shining.

Claudio started by touring us through the area where he houses seedlings just out of flask and established plants used for breeding. He explained his theory of plant memory and why most of his plants are cultivated from flasks. He discussed the trials and tribulations of growing in a northern climate and discussed summering plants outdoors. He then released us to the sales area where we all indulged our addictions. After a picnic lunch, Claudio gave us a primer on growing *Cattleyas*.

When the necessary paperwork was completed to get our new acquisitions over the border, we said our good-byes and headed back to the U.S. Alan Salzman graciously agreed to carry the plants and all the paperwork back for us in his van.

We had all exchanged cell phone numbers and just outside Batavia, phones began to ring. Alan was still at the border and the customs official was questioning our purchases. Before it was all over, he was interrogated by a U.S. Agricultural Agent, questioned about possibly paying duty, threatened with confiscation of the plants, made to go back into Canada for more stamps on the paperwork and finally allowed to move on after another 20 minute wait at the U.S. border. Thankfully, Lewis was available by phone to intervene, but even he isn't sure what the issue was.

Alan and his troop of beleaguered passengers arrived back at the JCC at around 7 p.m. Some of us discussed bestowing upon Alan a GROS Medal of Honor. Needless to say, the plants arrived in great condition!

- Kim Hober

GROS Newsletter: Can We Save Expenses By Going Strictly Electronic?

Every year for the past few years, Phil Matt, our newsletter editor, makes a plea to the membership. He asks us to consider switching to an electronic newsletter from the current paper edition. Every year, he is (mostly) turned down. I would like this year to be different.

There are many reason to go electronic. We are running a tight budget this year and could save up to \$2000 if everyone received their newsletter by going to the web site or through email. This would free up money to improve programs or restore some donations that we have historically made. Not printing a newsletter would save paper, ink, gasoline, and Phil's time - all valuable natural resources! (Well, maybe not *that* much of Phil's time, since he's also our webmaster -Ed.) Due to the lead time for printing and mailing, Phil has usually re-

quired that he receive any content for the current newsletter at least 10 days ahead of the meeting date. For an electronic newsletter, this lead time could be reduced, which may result in more contributions from people who have been "too late" in the past.

So, please consider going electronic. While the club will still publish a paper newsletter for people who have no other access, I would like to see at least 90% of the membership forgo the paper copy this year. Finally, if you must have a paper newsletter, consider helping Phil deliver it. If you are able to pick up the newsletter from the printer, put stamps on it, or deliver it to the post office, consider volunteering to do some of these tasks for one newsletter this year.

I will propose a method for opting out of the paper newsletter at September's meeting. At this point, I am thinking that sending an email to Phil is the preferred method. So, please consider going electronic and stay tuned!

- Jeff Snyder
President, GROS



WYSL 1040 AM

Saturdays from 9-10 a.m.

Live on the Web at

www.SavorLife.com



A live gardening
program hosted by
Michael Warren Thomas

2008-2009 GROS Budget

Item	Income	Expense
Show	14,300	10,000
Programs		3,000
Newsletter		2,000
Auction	3,200	1,400
JCC Rental		1,550
Donations		700
Library		350
Raffle	500	500
Insurance		500
Beginner's Meeting		300
Out of Town Travel		200
GardenScape		400
Office Supplies		150
Web Site		60
Membership Brochures		25
Membership Renewals	3,200	
Total:	\$21,200	\$21,135

Marlow's Orchids

Watch for our Monthly Specials!

September Special:

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(*Promenaea Limelight* × *Promenaea guttata*)

in 3" baskets on sale for \$25. (normally \$30)

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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.



**TIME'S
RUNNING
OUT!**

If you've received a bright pink postcard reminding you that you need to pay your GROS dues, please take a moment to send in the card with your check - or bring the card and payment to the September meeting. Anyone not paid up by the end of September will not receive further newsletters.