



# The Orchid Collection

Genesee Region Orchid Society  
Volume 28, Number 7  
April 2007

[www.geneseearchid.org](http://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

## NEXT MEETING: APR. 9, 2007



*Neofinetia falcata* var. *Shu Ten Nou*. Photo ©Keith Harder

common varieties, many of these were unobtainable outside of Japan. New World Orchids now has more than one hundred varieties of *Neofinetia falcata*, fifty varieties of *Dendrobium moniliforme* as well as several forms of *Sedirea japonica*, *Cymbidium* species and others. Glenn will be bringing orchids to sell at the meeting. If you'd like to preorder something, please visit [www.newworldorchids.com](http://www.newworldorchids.com) and let him know.

We will be taking Glenn to dinner at 5 p.m. on April 9th at the Mykonos Cafe, 3423 Winton Place, Henrietta. If you'd like to join us, please call Diane Bernard at 315-597-6778. The Show Table, having had a wonderful time at the Show, will be back for those orchids that just refused to bloom in time for judging, so please don't forget to bring your flowering plants. We'll see you there!

At press time, the GROS Spring Show for 2007 is just winding down. The Eisenhart Auditorium has really been humming with activity for the past few days! The organized frenzy of exhibit setup, the vendors moving in, orchid judging, the Awards Reception, and finally the opening of the Show itself have all been wonderful. It's our favorite time of year! We'll have full details in the May issue of this newsletter.

Our April meeting will feature a program on "Orchids, Orchid Shows, and a Quick Trip Around Japan," as Dr. Glenn C. Lehr of New World Orchids returns for another visit to the GROS. Glenn has been a vendor and judge for many years at the Grand Prix International Orchid Festival and the World Orchid Festival, both in Japan.

After attending a few of these shows, he decided to try to bring some Japanese orchids to the U.S.; except for the most

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## Meeting Minutes for Mar. 5, 2007

President **Randy Humphries** called to order the March meeting of GROS at 7:25 p.m. New members were introduced and welcomed.

**Refreshments:** For the next meeting, refreshments are assigned to **Susie Meyers, Diane Bernard** and **Sue Flanders**.

**Treasurers Report:** Treasurer **Margery Greene** announced an account balance of \$13,486.03.

**Upcoming Events:** The annual Sonnenberg Orchid Show is scheduled for March 8th – 11th. Gardenscape is scheduled for March 15th – 18th.

**Show News:** Thanks to **David Weiss** for assistance with printing show posters. Please get reservations to **Ruth Espinosa-Barone** for the awards dinner. **Dwayne Levy** reported that advertising will appear on R-News and in the *Democrat and Chronicle* and that an interview has been arranged with Rebecca LeClaire. Volunteers are still needed for the kitchen. Please see **Denise Humphries**, who is organizing the food this year.

**New Business:** The JCC has requested a short presentation, with plants on Sunday, March 25th in conjunction with a performance by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Diane Bernard announced a planned visit to **Joe Kunisch's** greenhouse by the Lights and Greenhouse group, on May 1st. If you are interested, please contact Diane.

Diane Bernard introduced the evening's speaker, Joe Kunisch. Joe is internationally known for his expertise in hybridizing and growing slipper orchids. He provided a slideshow depicting *Phrags* and *Paphs* he has developed and grown over the years. He also provided us with some of his closely guarded secrets about keeping these beautiful plants alive, blooming and happy.

The Show Table held only four plants, due to the weather. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

- Submitted by Kim M. Hober

## Lights & Greenhouse Group On the Move

At the March meeting I announced that the club sub-group "Lights and Greenhouse Group" would be visiting Joe Kunisch's Bloomfield Orchids in May, date yet to be determined by Joe. I also asked if anyone was interested in making an orchid "run" to the NYC Orchid Show at Rockefeller Center on Friday, April 20th.

Just what is an orchid "run?" Well, this means that everyone will be jumping on a tour bus in Rochester in the wee hours of the morning, staying at the Show all day - and then turning around and marathoning it back home on the same bus the same day. Sound like your idea of fun? If you're interested, contact me through the Society website or call me at home at (315) 597-6778, evenings.

- Diane Bernard

Lights & Greenhouse Group-



## Is Neem Oil a Good Insecticide?

I can only tell you of *my* experience with Neem oil. I cannot recommend it because our government (i.e., Canada's - *Ed.*) has not approved its use on orchids or on any plants. When I refer to Neem oil, I mean pure Neem oil as pressed from the seeds of the Neem tree. I have never used any product with Neem oil as a partial ingredient; I don't know that it would be as safe as pure Neem oil alone.

Where does Neem oil come from? Originally it came from India. The Indians have been using Neem for about 4000 years as an internal remedy as well as an ingredient in toothpaste, soap, shampoo, cosmetics and skin creams. I have never used a product in the greenhouse whose effects were as efficient and long lasting as those of Neem. Insecticides and fungicides that I had previously used were a short-term fix - about two weeks. The smell was offensive and lasted for days. But it was what was available to keep a clean, insect-free greenhouse even if the fumes from most insecticides caused me to have allergic reactions.

(-to next page)



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# MARCH SHOW TABLE

Please note especially all names and abbreviations in boldface, and correct or complete your records, including parentage and new registrations. Next time you present this plant, kindly include the name and parents.

## Cattleya Alliance

Lc. Aloha Case × Blc. Hunting Island McKay

## Vandaceous

*Neof. falcata*\*\*\* Coleman  
*Phal. equestris* Uhlig

## Miscellaneous

*Phaiocalanthe* (*Phcal.*) Kryptonite  
(Cal. Rozel × *Phaius tankervilleae*) Snyder

## Oncidium Alliance

Milt. Bert Field (Mulatto Queen × Woodlands) Kluge  
- *Iris Cohen*

(\*\*\* Sole entry for February)

(- *Neem*, from Page 2)

Due to a long-term illness, my greenhouse had become a disaster area. In January, as the *Phalaenopsis* were spiking, the mealy bugs moved in by the thousands. About 75% of the mature plants had fire ants in the pot. Scale was rampant. We had snails and slugs so big they looked dangerous. Toxic sprays did not get rid of them completely.

The first time I used Neem oil (1 oz. to 1 gallon of water + 1 Tablespoon of dishwashing liquid) I sprayed every plant, walkway and every bench - both on top and underneath. In a few days there was a definite improvement. I waited two weeks and sprayed again. I kept a close eye on the plants, and found no mealy bugs or scale, and best of all the fire ants were gone. And no more slugs and snails. I didn't spray again for six months. I found a snail and a slug, no other "livestock", but I decided to spray everything again. One beauty of using Neem oil is that you don't have to wear protective clothing or special breathing equipment, and there are no sickening odors. Neem oil does have an odor, best described as 'kind of like onion soup.' However, the odor is not offensive or sickening, and only lingers for a short time.

How does Neem get rid of insects? Most insects die shortly after spraying. Those remaining become sterile and do not reproduce. I've heard a story of two desert locusts, two grape leaves, and two bell jars. One grape leaf was sprayed with an insecticide, the other with Neem oil. One locust and one grape leaf were put under each bell jar. The locust ate the toxic leaf and died. The other locust

refused to eat the Neem-sprayed leaf and starved to death. From my experience, the story could be true. I believe it is better if you can prevent the insect from eating the plant, than to allow them to eat the plant and then die. It takes years to lose damaged leaves on most orchids. Flowers can be ruined before the critters will die from insecticide. I've not been disappointed with Neem oil. I'm sure that many who read this will be skeptical because of the 'do everything' claim.

### Tips for using Neem oil:

- 1.) Pure Neem oil will retain its potency much longer if stored at about 40°F. in a low light area such as a refrigerator.
- 2.) A new batch of Neem oil, water and a little dishwashing soap should be mixed each time you are going to spray. Mix only the amount of Neem oil you will use in 4 to 6 hours. Discard unused mix.

3.) Do not mix anything else with your Neem oil solution other than the soap and water already mentioned.

4.) Spray the entire plant, including the top of the potting media. Spray benches, walkways and any surface over which an insect might travel.

5.) The dishwashing soap is used to help emulsify the oil, so don't leave it out.

6.) A mixture of 1oz. Neem to 1 gallon of water should be used for spraying. A weaker solution may be used as a maintenance spray. It is impossible to give a definitive schedule for spraying, however a 'close eye' will help each person to adjust a timetable to maintain clean plants. You will probably not have to spray as often with Neem as you would have to with toxic insecticides.

*From the Kingston Orchid Society (Ontario) Newsletter May, 2006.*

**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS!  
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR  
NEXT MEETING ON APRIL 9TH  
AT THE JCC!**



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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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.

### GROS Committee Chairpersons 2006-2007

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Beginners' Meeting	Jim Marlow	889-7083	
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Librarian	Mark Gillette	315-589-6031	
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**NOTE THE DATE  
FOR OUR  
NEXT MEETING:**



**APRIL 9, 2007**