



# The Orchid Collection

Genesee Region Orchid Society

Volume 28, Number 4

December, 2006

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

. \* Meeting begins at 7:15 p.m. \* .

Senior Adult Lounge at the Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY

## **NEXT MEETING: DEC. 4, 2006**



**T**he GROS will conduct no "official business" at our next meeting. No clipboards to pass around, no formal presentation, no reports by officers, no waiting for the "good stuff" to begin - just "Desserts & Orchids!"

**W**e'll have a good old fashioned Dessert Party, with the treats courtesy of our own talented crew of orchid-loving chefs. If you didn't sign up to bring a treat, please feel free to bring one with you when you come. (Please bring whatever serving pieces you might need, too.) There will also be our more or less traditional Gift Exchange: if you'd like to participate, just bring a wrapped orchid or plant-related gift, suggested value no more than \$10. Those participating will exchange gifts - and who knows what you might receive!

**O**rchids? Of course we've got orchids! Everyone in attendance will receive two (2) free raffle tickets - and the club has purchased just for this raffle - a special group of plants from Cal-Orchid in California! That's right! You can't buy a raffle ticket this evening, but you CAN win a great orchid plant to take home! By the way, feel free to bring your spouse, significant other, children, etc. It's bound to be a delicious night to socialize with your orchid friends! (There is a limit of one free raffle winner plant per family.)

**T**he Show Table will be in attendance, so make sure that you bring in your flowering plants, provided of course, that we don't get a blizzard or a monsoon or an alien invasion that evening. Take yourself out to dinner before the meeting, but save some room for dessert. We'll see you there!

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## Meeting Minutes for November 2006

The November 6th, 2006 meeting for GROS was called to order by president **Randy Humphries**. New members were introduced and members who provided refreshments were thanked.

Minutes from October 9th, 2006 were approved. **Bob Wyman** motioned and **Diane Bernard** seconded.

Treasurer's report: **Marjorie Greene** reported a balance of \$15115.28 in the society account.

**Dwaine Levy** provided a card for all members to sign to wish **Dody Ellenberger** a speedy recovery. She recently suffered a heart attack and is recovering at a local hospital.

**Old Business:** Randy reported that there was not an AOS representative appointed this year. He asked for volunteers. **Davis Weiss** agreed to fill the position for the remainder of the year.

**New Business:** Dwaine Levy discussed the plan for the December meeting. This year the society will sponsor a dessert/social meeting. Members are asked to sign up to bring food or drink. There will be a raffle as well as a show table and a gift exchange for those who wish to participate. The event will be held at the JCC on Monday night, December 4th.

**Mark Gillette** will be ordering AOS calendars. See Mark if you are interested in ordering.

Keep in mind that the Eastman house exhibit, "Dutch Connection" will be held February 9th through 26th, 2007. The GROS will be loaning orchids for display.

**Show Business:** **Kathy Kluge** reminded members to submit artwork for posters. She'd like all examples sent to her by early December. **Jim Marlow** discussed the possibility of sponsoring a show award. He will talk further with the show committee. Show dates are March 29th, 30th, 31st, and April 1, 2007.

**Program:** Diane Bernard introduced Jacob Phelps who presented a fascinating program entitled "Uncovered: Illegal Orchid Collectors of Southeast Asia." Jacob took us on a fascinating journey through Thailand, Laos and

Myanmar tracking the journey of wild orchids to the markets of Bangkok and beyond. He encouraged us to think about conservation in some different ways. Jacob then presented the show table with assistance from Bob Wyman. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p. m.

- Kim Hober

## GROS Pin Found at Gem/Mineral Show

A Genesee Region Orchid Society 25th Anniversary Show pin was found at the Gem and Mineral Show on October 29.

Please contact Jeanne Kaeding, 442-3202, if the pin belongs to you. Jeanne was attending the show, and did speak to the other GROS members who were also there. Jeanne took the pin home for safe keeping when no one claimed it that day.



## Dody Ellenberger Recovering Well!

Dody Ellenberger, (co-owner of Ellenberger's Orchid Eden with husband John) one of our club's most active and experienced members, is now at home recovering from her heart attack. Dody would like to thank all of the GROS members who sent cards and notes to her while she was in the hospital. I spoke to

Dody just the other day and she sounds absolutely great! We all hope to see Dody at a GROS meeting again, soon.

- Ed.

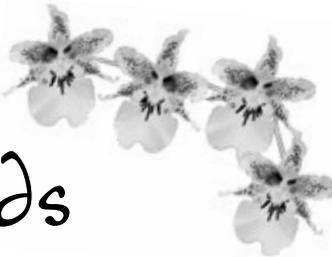


## From Seed to Community Pot

It takes from six months to one year for a seed capsule growing on an orchid plant to mature. It is not uncommon for the capsule to contain 10,000 to 100,000 seeds. Orchid seeds are transparent and very small - tiny specs, at times barely visible to the eye. Orchid seeds have only minute reserves of nutrients and need a fungus for germination in nature; this is called "symbiotic" germination. The required nutrients are provided by the fungus. Until 1922, symbiotic germination was the only known method of propagating orchids from seeds.

In 1922, Dr. Lewis Knudson of Cornell University provided us with a simpler method, "asymbiotic germination." Here, seeds are germinated and seedlings are grown on a sterile, jelly-like culture medium containing sugars and other nutrients. Germination takes place without the aid of a fungus. Today, this "C" medium is still being used in laboratories worldwide. Since unwanted bacteria and fungi grow even faster on a sugar rich medium than orchid seedlings, all seeds, flasks, media, and tools used must be sterilized. All the work involved, like sowing, transferring seedlings etc., is (to next page)

## Marlow's Orchids



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(from previous page)

performed in a sterile environment, such as under a laminar flow hood or in a glove box.

First, orchid seeds are sown in a “mother flask” in a sterile environment. Sowing of seeds is a simple procedure. Germination medium is prepared and poured into clean flasks. Flasks with media are then autoclaved and allowed to cool. Flasks are moved into the laminar flow hood or glove box where sterilized seeds are distributed evenly on top of the medium. Flasks are tightly sealed and may have a filter to allow air and moisture exchange between inside and outside; the filter must be dense enough to keep out microorganisms that would spoil the germination process. Flasks are then placed under fluorescent lights for 12 hours for most epiphytic species. (Some orchid seeds need total darkness to germinate.) After two to three months in the “mother flask,” seedlings are large enough to be transferred to a richer medium and larger vessel. The transfer process is called replating.

Replating is also done in a sterile environment. Seedlings are replated when they have reached a stage of growth at which they will greatly benefit from being placed on medium richer in nutrients. Seedlings will now grow very rapidly and usually remain in these flasks for approximately one year, or until they are large enough to be planted out to a community pot. The community pot may hold from 15 to 30 seedlings. Plants may spend up to one year in the community pot before being transplanted to individual pots. After several more transplants and lots of tender loving care in years following, the orchids reach flowering size, finally!

From seed to flowering, an orchid plant takes from three to seven years, depending on the species.

#### **Caring for Flasks**

It is fun and educational watching orchids grow inside flasks. Flasked seedlings need light/dark, proper temperature and humidity. A covered filter top keeps out micro-organisms that could spoil the contents if allowed to enter the flasks. Light should be of low intensity, 300 footcandles, gradually increased as seedlings grow bigger. Place them 30 cm. below two four-foot cool white 40 Watt fluorescent lamps that cover a growing area of two by four feet. Lights must be on 12 hours per day, followed by 12 hours uninterrupted darkness.

Temperatures in the 24° C (75° F) range are adequate, give or take 2° C. Keep the variation between day and night time temperatures to an absolute minimum. Flasks that have filtered tops allow air and humidity exchange of the inside with the outside environment. To prevent the culture medium from drying out, place flasks in an environment where the relative humidity is about 60%. Keep air movement in the flasking area to a minimum. No fans!

#### **Deflasking Seedlings**

Seedlings stay in replate flasks for about one year, but can stay longer if the medium has not yet been depleted of necessary nutrients. Seedlings are deflasked when leaves are at least 5 cm. long, cleaned of all growing medium and transplanted to a community pot. Pour some tepid water into the flasks and carefully swirl it to break up the agar. Pour water and seedling mix into a bowl half filled with tepid

water. Rinse seedling roots and leaves free of agar. Submerge the seedlings for about ten minutes in a weak systemic fungicide solution like Benomyl®, then place them on paper towels to dry.

#### **Preparing Community Pots**

Use a well drained, clean pot and line the bottom with drainage material. Fill the pot to within one inch from the rim with damp, loosely packed sphagnum moss. Wrap the roots of a dry seedling loosely with the same damp sphagnum moss and place the “package” in the pot. Repeat the process until the pot is filled with seedling packages touching each other. Finish by filling gaps between seedlings and pot edge with some loose sphagnum, write the orchid name plus the “compot date” on plant labels and put a label in every pot.

#### **Caring for Community Pot Seedlings**

Seedlings deflasked have come from a 100% relative humidity environment inside the flask. Do not shock them by moving them to 50% or 60% immediately, but rather do it gradually. You can do this by placing the pots in a tray covered with a clear plastic dome with top vents closed. Over a period of time the vents can be gradually opened. Keep the pots about 30 cm below two 40Watt fluorescent lamps, as described above for flask lighting. Keep temperatures around 24° C. Prevent seedling medium from drying out, but do not have it soaking wet as it can promote root rot. Start a regular watering program right away; begin a fertilizing program in one or two weeks from the compotting date.

-Peter Croezen/DCOS Newsletter

## **OCTOBER SHOW TABLE**

**Please note** especially all names and abbreviations in **boldface**, and correct or **complete** your records. Next time you submit this plant, kindly include the corrected information.

### **Cypripedium Alliance**

<i>Paph. Maudiae</i> ( <i>callosum</i> × <i>lawrenceanum</i> )	Ellenberger
<i>Paph. Deperle</i> × <i>Chastity</i>	"
<i>Paph. Chastity</i> × <i>adductum</i>	"
<i>Paph. Armeni White</i> ( <i>armeniicum</i> × <i>delenatii</i> )	"
<i>Paph. Prime Child</i> ( <i>primulinum</i> × <i>rothschildianum</i> ) ?	

### **Cattleya Alliance**

<i>Lc. Mini Purple</i> (?) ( <i>S. pumila</i> × <i>C. walkeriana</i> )	Goar
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<i>Pot. Luna Jaune</i> ( <i>Blc. Malworth</i> × <i>Sc. Beaufort</i> )	"
Unknown	Ellenberger

### **Vandaceous**

<i>Ascda.</i> (?) Princess <b>Mikasa</b> ( <i>Royal Sapphire</i> × <i>V. coerulea</i> )	Myers
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### **Oncidium Alliance**

Unknown	Greene
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### **Miscellaneous**

<i>Masd. Ted Khoe</i> ( <i>constricta</i> × <i>welischii</i> )	Espinosa-Barone
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- Iris Cohen

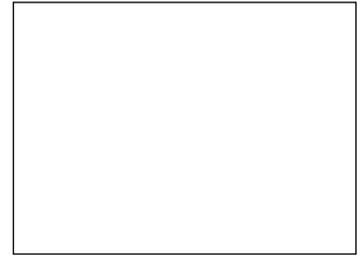
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## FIRST CLASS MAIL



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AOS Rep.	Dave Weiss	544-3561	



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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GROS SPRING SHOW

MARCH 29 - APRIL 1

2007

SAVE THE DATES!