



# The Orchid Collection

Vol. 40, No. 6 - February, 2020

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

## NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 3, 2020

“Orchids 101” 6:00 p.m. ❁ Social “Hour” 7:00 - 7:15 p.m. ❁ Meeting begins at 7:15 p.m.  
Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Ave., Rochester, NY



Peter Tobias with lemur friend

As the season nonchalantly swings from balmy to frigid, orchid growers might have a hard time imagining warmer climes where orchids grow in nature, ideally without interference from humans. But these days, even nature needs some help.

February’s meeting brings us a visit from Peter Tobias, founder of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Peter will present the goals and methods of the OCA, focusing primarily on the Selva de Ventanas reserve in Colombia, and then show pictures from one of the OCA’s recent tours to Chiapas, Mexico. Come in out of the cold and relax with scenes of warm climates - and orchids!

The idea of developing a way to fund orchid conservation projects grew out of discussions among the members of the San Diego County Orchid Society, around 1990. Soon a Conservation Committee was formed. Peter Tobias was its first chairman. A plan was put into motion by the committee members to raise funds by sell-

ing some of their excess plants. The first sale, in 1991, succeeded so well, that the program has continued to this day. Seeking to extend the reach of these efforts, Peter created a spin-off, the Orchid Conservation Alliance, an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff, but with a clear mission.

You will often find Peter at the big orchid events, happy to explain what OCA has been doing. The Alliance now has dozens of affiliated societies and hundreds of individual members. They have been able to leverage donations to support a number of projects in South America, as well as putting conservation on the agenda of orchid lovers everywhere. Since Peter will not be bringing plants to sell, members are free to bring in their own orchids for sale/trade at the February meeting.

We’ll be taking Peter dinner at 5:00 p.m. prior to the meeting, at Aladdin’s Natural Eatery, 8 Schoen Place in Pittsford. If you’d like to join us (everyone pays for his or her own dinner – except Peter, of course) please contact Carol Butcher at 585-742-3403. The Show Table will be back, as usual, so please don’t forget to bring your flowering plants. We’ll see you there!

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## GROS Meeting Minutes Jan. 6, 2020

After a bit of delay trying to get Jonathan Jones' Mac to communicate with the GROS Microsoft laptop, President Fran Murphy call the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

Fran thanked those who brought snacks for the December auction and the January meeting, John Kellas among them. Doug Fleischman brewed the coffee. Fran brought fresh unsweetened lemonade made with the lemons from the tree in his greenhouse.

Treasurer's report – Susan Ackerman did not have the total account balance, but gave a report on the Auction proceeds. 26 of the 27 bidders went home with plants. GROS took in \$1,338 plus another \$100 from 10 plants donated by Bob Wyman and sold with \$10 tickets. GROS spent \$745 on plants from vendors including Fran Murphy, Carmela's, Paph Paradise, Sunset Valley Orchids. Besides Bob's plants, Carol Butcher donated 6 phals, which brought in \$90; Jeanne Kaeding donated 10 plants, which brought in \$185, Larry Nau's Phalaenopsis display brought in \$15, and Bob Wyman's Cattleya brought \$25. Thus donated plants brought in \$315 plus the \$100 from Bob. Jeff Snyder acted as auctioneer.

Fran announced that tonight's meeting will be in two parts, the first about our spring show, and the second will be a distribution of plugs (seedlings) to members. The seedlings can all be grown under Paph. conditions, even those that would need higher light when mature. The Dendrobiums are blooming size. All plugs are from Hawaii, where they never dry off seasonally. Fran also reported he gave the beginner's class a tutorial on various genera with culture sheets in books. Anyone who signs up to be in charge of a Show committee will get first pick of the plugs. Carol Butcher then said that anyone who volunteers at the show for every day will get second pick. Fran brought pots and media for potting up plugs.

The only other business brought up from the floor was a question about the show dates, which Fran deferred to Jonathan Jones's presentation to follow. Fran then moved to close the business part of the meeting. Jeanne

Kaeding seconded, and the business meeting was closed at 7:27 p.m.

The meeting minutes do not usually go into detail about the program contents after the business meeting, but I am making an exception this time.

Jonathan Jones, Show Chairman, then gave his presentation about our show. Set-up is Thursday, March 26, 2020. Show is open to the public March 27, 28, 29. Both New Hampshire and Montreal changed their show dates this year to be the same weekend as our show. Jonathan will not be at our show since he will be in New Hampshire for Marlow Orchids, but Susan Ackerman is Co-Chair. Someone is needed to head up set-up on Thursday and breakdown on Sunday. Someone is needed to be in charge of food. Phil Matt agreed to be in charge of the Members' sales table. For Thursday show set-up, starting at 8:30 a.m., Jonathan will furnish an action checklist.

Natalie Auburn asked whether the 2019 show layout worked well. Jonathan said it got positive response. It is not practicable to keep purchase bags out of the show area. There is an area behind the Orchidgami table where people can check bags if desired. The hospitality committee has people watching the exhibits, and the Member Sales' table is near the Show/Exhibit area door, so there are eyes on attendees.

Someone is needed to do the GROS exhibit. Someone suggested Austin Miller, but he is likely to be in New Hampshire with Jonathan. Plants for the GROS display should be brought in by noon. Jeanne Kaeding offered to have people who could not drop off plants then to drop them off to her on Wednesday evening. GROS exhibit plants must be pre-registered. Kim Hober & Jeanne Kaeding will be registering plants. The set-up should be complete by 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Registration closing at 5:00 p.m. Late comers will have to be cut off. If someone comes in at 5:00 with a whole table to set up, they can set up, but their unregistered plants will not be judged.

Fran took a moment to introduce first-time GROS meeting attendee Eileen Petrillo before returning to Jonathan and the discussion of the Show preparation.

Vendors will be J&L, Kelly's Korner, Mike Kauffman (Main Street Orchids), Claudio Rossi, Helen Hersh. Unfortunately Edgar (Windswept in Time) has several shows in the Midwest and will not be at our show.

Someone is needed to be in charge of the kitchen. Note that on Friday we cannot use the kitchen until after 3 p.m. when the school closes. We can have food on tables outside the kitchen. There will be pizza for vendors and set-up people on Thursday.

Fran stated that if someone has a plant that they might want to exhibit but aren't sure, they should pre-register it. It is easier to take it out than to add at the last minute.

Show hours on Friday are 1 – 5 p.m.

Marlow Orchids is not doing Gardenscape this year. The club will have to decide if we want to do Gardenscape without them. Last year about 50 people came to our show from Gardenscape postcards. Austin did last year's Gardenscape setup alone and stated that more volunteers are needed for Gardenscape if we do it. Jonathan will check if there is a cost to us to do Gardenscape without Marlow. Fran will check if Sonnenberg is doing Gardenscape. Possibly the GROS could be near Sonnenberg.

Friday morning of our show weekend starts with the judges' breakfast. Ribbon judging starts between 8:30 and 9:00. AOS judging is after that. Diane Bernard may or may not be willing to take care of the breakfast again this year – Jonathan will ask.

There was some discussion about whether the repotting service would start after all the judging is done. Last year the judges brought plants into the atrium where the repotting was going on, to take advantage of the natural light. There will have to be coordination of the judges and repotting spaces.

Next question: do we want the Friday night wine & dine? 50 people came last year. If we don't have 50, we still have to pay for 50. 2 years ago we had 45, last year 50. The club subsidizes the activity, but the show overall still makes money. Those present wanted to have this event. Joe Jurenko will be in charge. Sue Ackerman, Carol Butcher and Jonathan

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(Minutes, from previous page)

Jones will get Joe all the info needed. We must choose the caterer from a short list from the Rochester Museum and Science Center venue. Last year's caterer was better than the one used the previous year.

John Kellas agreed to be in charge of the re-potting station.

Jonathan will be setting up lectures on Saturday and Sunday. People are needed at the Orchidgami/raffle ticket table. There will be a sign-up sheet for time slots. People are needed to commit to staying through show cleanup. Fran agreed to taking responsibility for being last man out.

Show advertising: we will be giving the RMSC more postcards this year. We have also done well with Facebook and postcards in the mail. Signs on the side of the road need to be set out. Banners will go up. Susan brought posters and postcards for people to start deploying. At next month's meeting there will be a sign-up sheet for poster locations.

After the Show presentation, Noel Krzesinski announced that the Dutch Connection at the George Eastman House schedule is earlier this year due to construction projects at Eastman. Plants should be dropped off Tuesday, February 11 – Thursday February 13. The show opens Friday, February 14. When you drop off your plants, security will call the person setting up the show who will take your plants directly to their exhibit spots. Be sure to label your plants and also identify with your name. Unlike past years, Noel will not be at the Eastman security office to receive plants. Plant pick up will be March 2 from 9 to 5.

At 8:14 we moved on to the next part of our evening and started the plug giveaway. 25 people were in attendance and there were 50 plugs so each person could get 2.

Mark Gillette conducted the raffle, followed by Phil Matt & Fran Murphy presenting the show table.

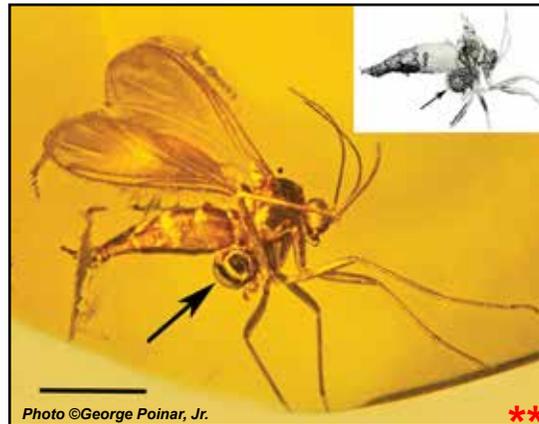
-Margery Greene  
GROS Secretary

## Researchers identify evidence of oldest orchid fossil

The orchid family has some 28,000 species – more than double the number of bird species and quadruple the mammal species. As it turns out, they've also been around for a while.

A newly published study documents evidence of an orchid fossil trapped in Baltic amber that dates back some 45 million years to 55 million years ago, shattering the previous record for an orchid fossil found in Dominican amber some 20-30 million years old.

Results of the discovery have just been published in the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*. "It wasn't until a few years ago that we even had evidence of ancient orchids because there wasn't anything preserved in



the fossil record," said George Poinar, Jr., a professor emeritus of entomology in the College of Science at Oregon State University and lead author on the study. "But now we're beginning to locate pollen evidence associated with insects trapped in amber, opening the door to some new discoveries."

Orchids have their pollen in small sac-like structures called pollinia, which are attached by supports to viscidia, or adhesive pads, that can stick to the various body parts of pollinating insects, including bees, beetles, flies and gnats. The entire pollination unit is known as a pollinarium. In this study, a small female fungus gnat was carrying the pollinarium of an extinct species of orchid when it became trapped in amber more than 45 million

years ago. The pollinarium was attached to the base of the gnat's hind leg. Amber preserves fossils so well that the researchers could identify a droplet of congealed blood at the tip of the gnat's leg, which had been broken off shortly before it was entombed in amber.

At the time, all of the continents hadn't even yet drifted apart. The fossil shows that orchids were well-established in the Eocene and it is likely that lineages extended back into the Cretaceous period. Until such forms are discovered, the present specimen provides a minimum date that can be used in future studies determining the evolutionary history and phylogeny of the orchids. The microscopic view below shows pollinarium – a cluster of pollen found in orchids – that will stick to the legs and body of pollinating insects. Credit: Oregon State University

How the orchid pollen in this study ended up attached to the fungus gnat and eventually entombed in amber from near the Baltic Sea in northern Europe is a matter of speculation. But, Poinar says, orchids have evolved a surprisingly sophisticated system to draw in pollinating insects, which may have led to the gnat's demise.

"We probably shouldn't say this about a plant," Poinar said with a laugh, "but orchids are very smart. They've developed ways to attract little flies and most of the rewards they offer are based on deception."

Orchids use color, odor and the allure of nectar to draw in potential pollinating insects. Orchids will emit a scent that suggests to hungry insects the promise of food, but after entering the flower they will learn that the promise of nourishment was false.

Likewise, female gnats may pick up a mushroom-like odor from many orchids, which attracts them as a place to lay their eggs because the decaying fungal tissue is a source of future nutrition. Alas, again it is a ruse. In frustration, they may go ahead and lay their eggs, dooming their offspring to a likely death from a lack of food.

\*\* *Pollinarium* (arrow) of *Succinanthera baltica* gen. nov., sp. nov. attached to the base of the hind leg of a fungus gnat in Baltic amber. Arrow shows pollinarium.

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*(Fossils, from previous page)*

Finally, male insects are attracted by the ersatz scent of female flies and they actually will attempt to copulate with a part of the orchid they think is a potential mate.

All three of these processes are based on deception, Poinar said, and they all have the same end result.

“Though the deception works in different ways, the bottom line is that the orchid is able to draw in pollinating insects, which unwittingly gather pollen that becomes attached to their legs and other body parts, and then pass it on to the next orchid flowers that lure them in,” he said. “Orchids are, indeed, pretty smart.”

*Source:* Oregon State University. Copyright by George Poinar, Jr., professor emeritus of entomology in the College of Science at Oregon State University and lead author on the study.

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## In Memoriam



### Anna Greene

Anna Greene passed away January 15, 2020. She is predeceased by her husband Martin. Survived by her children Barbara Greene and James (Carol) Greene.

Anna and her daughter Barbara, long-time GROS members, ran our monthly raffles for many years. Her cheerful demeanor and helping hands will be missed by all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers please consider donations to The Humane Society at Lollipop Farm, 99 Victor Road, Fairport, NY 14450 or Masses in her memory.

The GROS will make a donation in Anna's memory to the American Orchid Society.

## In Memoriam



### Dr. Irene M. Evans

Irene M. Evans, Ph.D, passed away December 11, 2020 in Jupiter, Florida.

A member of the GROS for many years, Dr. Evans was a professor of Biology at R.I.T., where she taught and worked at the Molecular Imaging Laboratory.

She also was Assistant Professor of Oncology in Pharmacology and of Laboratory Animal Medicine; Director of ATRF, both at the University of Rochester.

### Genesee Region Orchid Society Officers 2019-2020

President	Fran Murphy	924-7763	pres@geneseeorchid.org
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Raffle	<open>		
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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. Annual single membership is \$20.00, annual family membership is \$25.00

Dues should be sent to the GROS at P.O. Box 20606, Rochester, N.Y. 14602.

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## January 2020 Show Table

Plant	Genus Synonym (name in horticultural use)	seed parent	pollen parent	grower
<b>Cattleya Alliance</b>				
<b>Cattleya (C.)</b> Circle of Life 'Lily Rose'	Sophrolaeliocattleya (Slc.)	Culminant	coccinea	Natalie Auburn
Cattleya quadricolor				Fran Murphy
<b>Cattlianthe (Ctt.)</b> Tristar Bouquet 'Hawaii'	Laeliocattleya (Lc.)	Cattleya Rosette Warland	Cattlianthe Chocolate Drop	Fran Murphy
<b>Laecholaelia Sea Urchin</b>	Brassolaelia (Bl.)	Laelia (L.) anceps	Rhynchoelaelia (Rl.) glauca	Fran Murphy
<b>Rhyncattleanthe (Rth.)</b> Momilani Rainbow 'The Gypsy'	Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc.)	Cattleya Mari's Song	Rhyncattleanthe Orange Nuggett	Fran Murphy
<b>Rhynchoelaeliocattleya (Rlc.)</b> Good News 'Carmela'	Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc.)	Cattleya Persepolis	Rlc Meditation	Fran Murphy
<b>Cypripedium Alliance</b>				
Paphiopedilum (Paph.) gratixianum		gratrixianum 'Birchwood'	self	Jeanne Kaeding
Paphiopedilum unnamed cross		LSF Prime Peridot	venustum var. album	Jeanne Kaeding
Paphiopedilum unnamed cross		LSF Prime Peridot	venustum var. pardinum (colored)	Jeanne Kaeding
Paphiopedilum unnamed cross		Cocoa Olympic Yearning	Hamana Med	Jeanne Kaeding
<b>Cymbidium Alliance</b>				
Cymbidium Minneken 'Khobai' HCC/AOS		floridundum	Rosalita	Jeanne Kaeding
Cymbidium Spark Sprite 'Sparky'		Sarah Jean	canaliculatum	Fran Murphy
Cymbidium unnamed cross		Solar Flare	ensifolium 'Buddy's Red'	Jeanne Kaeding
<b>Dendrobium Alliance</b>				
Dendrobium (Den.) Australian Artist		speciosum	Cobber	Fran Murphy
<b>Oncidium Alliance</b>				
<b>Oncidium (Onc.)</b> Big Mac 'Suzy'	Odontocidium (Odcdm.)	maculatum	hallii	Jeanne Kaeding
<b>Oncidium</b> Jeanne's Magic	Odontocidium (Odcdm.)	maculatum	velleum	Jeanne Kaeding
<b>Vandaceous</b>				
Vanda Pachara Delight 'Dark Blue'		Karulea	Gordon Dillon	Claire Cordaro
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
Angraecum (Angcm.) sesquipedale				anonymous
Bulbophyllum (Bulb.) laxiflorum				Dwayne Levy
Habenaria (Hab.) carnea				Jeanne Kaeding
Lycaste (Lyc.) Spring Chorus		Abou First Spring	Shoalhaven alba 'Suzie'	Carol Butcher
Neobenthamia (Nba.) gracilis	Polystachya (Pol.) neobenthamia			Fran Murphy
<b>Notes</b>				
Corrections are in bold. Correct genus abbreviation in parentheses after first appearance. 'RHS' = Royal Horticultural Society (official hybrid registrar) - Margery Greene				

