

# SIOS

AUGUST, 2007  
Volume XXX, Issue 8

## NEWSLETTER



**Next meeting August 21st 6:30pm**

### *A Message from John*

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#### NEWSLETTER

Kathleen Ruoti, *Editor*

#### CONTENTS

Message from the President ...1

Show Tally Table for July...2

Orchid of the Month...3

Orchid Propagation...4-5

AOS Corner...5

Websites/Ads/Information...6

The SIOS meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at All Saints Episcopal Church, 2329 Victory Blvd., SI, NY 10314

Hello Friends,  
I hope summer is going well for you.

I personally can't wait for the fall.

Being raised on the Gulf Coast you would think I'd be accustomed to heat and humidity...not so. I hate it.

It was good seeing you all last month. I enjoyed Joe Silva's presentation. Those of you who have not yet visited SILVA ORCHIDS should do yourself a favor and take a trip to Neptune, New Jersey. You will see firsthand how well those guys do with the feeding routine Joe talked about.

Barbara and I spent a delightful day last week at Snug Harbor.

Ron Altman offered us a tour of the magnificent Chinese

Garden, and Colman guided us through the greenhouse which is also the home of Gerry's Orchid collection. It was wonderful. We topped it all off with lunch outdoors at the café. Thanks guys! I recommend it to everyone! Snug Harbor is truly a S. I. treasure.

The **SIOS PLANT SALE** will be back for the September meeting! **BIG TIME!!!** This will be a special occasion with boxes and boxes of beautiful Cymbidiums, Phals, Paphs and Cattleyas. You won't believe the prices. So if any of your orchids died this summer, here's a chance to replace them. I want to thank Sandy DeLeon again for his generous donation. Sandy we really appreciate your constant support. Karen Woytowich will be the salesperson.

Although I will miss next meeting, I encourage you all to be there. Our scheduled speaker Ron Midget canceled at the last minute, so, I made a few frantic phone calls and thankfully Dick Doran came to the rescue again for us. He found a speaker for us who has a program I am sure you all will find fascinating to say the least! He grows Mini Orchids in a CAVE!!!! Dick I don't know what to say....Thanks! I'm really sorry I'm going to miss this one. I understand he will also be bringing some plants for sale.

We will be back for the September meeting

So until I see you all then, I expect you all to

Be Well and Be Good

~John~

### *Speaker for August .... Albert Tamashauskay*

Our guest speaker for August will be Albert Tamashauskay. His talk will be on "Growing Mini Orchids in a Cave".

## *Show Tally Table for July*

### WINDOWSILL

**Karen Woytowich 11 points**

Phal. SaluJadeite x Dtps. Join Angel  
Phal. Rosy Tyke x Phal. (First Choice x Hoi Amaglad)

**Michael Corace 35 points**

Holcoglossum Kimballianum x Vanda Lamellata  
Dtps. Ever Spring Prince 'Pretty Cat'  
Rhyndohalelia Digbyana  
Blc. Haw Yuan Grace 'Cat King'  
Encyclia Radiata



### GREENHOUSE



**Anthony Penza 54 points**

Bulb Malasia Sestichilus  
Aerathes Arachnite  
Dracula Vampire  
Vanda Pat Delight  
Masd. White Angel  
Bulb Lexiflorum  
Encyclia Randli  
Cat. Henrietta Japnet  
Dracula Astuta

**Colman Rutkin 17 points**

Brs. Eternal Wind "Sato" HCC/AOS  
Bulb Echinolabium  
Paph. Armeni White "armeniacum x Delen afii")

**Frank Ariosta 79 points**

Masd. Infacta  
Phrag. Bouley Boy  
Dend. Sulawesiase  
Zygo Inky Dink Rosalie  
Dend. Tetragonum  
Masd. Meudoza 'Yellow Forai'  
Bulb. Odeatissum  
Vanda Robts Delight 'Pachua Pink'  
Asconeuada Thai Scarlet 'Prasona'  
Lc. Hwayoran 'Angle'  
Don't Arispun  
Zygo Hybrid  
Vanda Roberts Delight 'Pachua Pink'  
Dend. Cuptostoxum  
Blc. Pisgah Rosberry

### LIGHTS

**John Stallon 20 points**

Phrag. Sergeant Eric Rocket Fire x Sargent Fanum  
Phrag. Eric Young 4n most m Caricinium  
Enc. Green Hornet Cochlsatum x Lane-forium  
Paph. Saint Louis Saint Swith "Shooting Star"



**Olga Federico**

**11 points**

Sarco. Ceciliae 'Royal Flush'  
Ctna. Samaica Rep(sent)nel





## *Orchid of the Month*

### *Slipper Orchids in a Hot Climate ..... Coastal North Queensland*

**T**ownsville/Thuringowa, Queensland, Australia is noted for its hot tropical sunny days, with high heat and humidity during the annual Wet season. Many slipper orchids will grow quite happily in our climate when some basic requirements are met.

#### **Culture notes**

A good shady position is essential, especially during the hotter months when the plants are heat stressed. Extra shade during the summer months will protect plants from the heat. Pot size is important; the slippers should always be potted into a pot just big enough to accommodate the root system. When repotting, remove old dead roots, place the root system in the pot and fill with the growing media. A porous media is best, so that the roots are not sopping wet all the time.

#### **Recommended media**

A local grower who does very well with these plants uses the following mixture. (A modest man, I wont mention names!)  
Ray's mix;

6 to 8 parts dend size bark (half inch)

6 to 8 parts fine bark seedling grade

1 part of each of the following; shellgrit, perlite, vermiculite, isolite, and milled spaghnam. All mixed together well. When potting, a small amount of nitrophoska fertiliser is sprinkled on top of the media to replace nitrogen uptake by the bark. After 12 months, Ray sprinkles about a teaspoon of dolomite on each pot to adjust excess acidity due to the bark mulching.

#### **Benching and light**

The plants like high humidity, and can be grown on a sand bench or close to the ground, but NOT under benches or other plants. They do need light, not a dark dingy corner. Excess wet weather rain can also be a problem, and some shelter is recommended. The best results seem to be had with seedlings raised from seed in the district.

*Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*, *glaucophyllum*, *spicerianum*, *concolor*, *purpuratum*, *leimiana*, *chamberlainianum*, *lowii*, *primulinum*, *philipinense*, *wardii*, *roebelinii*, *laevigatum*, *niveum*, *godfroyae* and a few others have been successfully grown, indicating that local production from seed produces a better acclimatised plant for our hot tropical climate.

Hybrids of *Paphiopedilum*, with good hybrid vigour, are also grown well locally by several growers, and often figure prominently in Shows. Recommended procedure; get a few seedlings and have a go.

*Text by Ian Walters* May be reproduced provided source acknowledged. [http://www.speciesorchids.com/slipperOrchidsHot\\_article.html](http://www.speciesorchids.com/slipperOrchidsHot_article.html)



**GARDENING KAREN WOYTOWICH**  
**GONE TO SEED**

SIOS member Karen Woytowich now maintains a blog at [www.silive.com](http://www.silive.com) to promote membership for District I Garden Clubs on Staten Island. Visit her at <http://blog.silive.com/gonetoseed/>. Karen posts some great gardening events happening on Staten Island at Richmondtown, the Conference House and the St. Charles Mission Center in the fall...check them out!

Nice job Karen, keep up the good work!



## Orchid Propagation <http://www.orchid.org.uk/orchidpropogation.htm>

There are now many ways in which orchids are propagated, (its not just strictly for the birds !) commercial nurseries will use mass production methods to reproduce a choice variety of either a specie or hybrid plant, the favoured one goes by the name of meristem culture, this laboratory technique involves the mass tissue culture of the growing meristem tip from within the new growth of the plant concerned, the nucleus of cells derived from this small sample of tissue or grown on in flasks on nutrient gels. The result of this is the successful production of any number of plants, all identical to the original more or less, and that is how excellent plants become available to us all at remarkably low prices.

However in nature initial fertilization of the orchid flower must take place for the seed pod to develop, and if a new hybrid or selective breeding is used to satisfy our demand for a new or improved variety then its back to nature for the hobbyist and commercial grower alike, so this article will focus on the principle of natural fertilization (well almost) and propagation.

An insect when pollinating a flower usually does so by collecting the pollen sacks from one plant (a forced occupation as the pollen plant by various clever means deliberately sticks the pollen sacks to the insect as it leaves) and depositing them on the stigmatic surface of its next orchid flower as it strives to collect its reward of a little nectar.

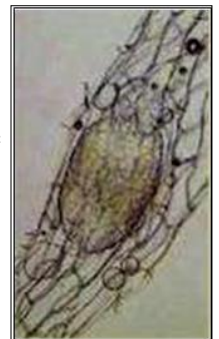


Man can do the same thing, usually with the aid of a toothpick and the two pollen sacks seen on the left are about to be deposited onto the stigmatic surface of the pod parent plant where they will adhere, and the minute pollen grains will embed themselves into the sticky bed and nature will begin to take its course.

In a few days, providing the seed was viable, the flower will shrivel and the column will swell to enclose the pollen saturated area, the stem of the flower will begin to swell and a seed pod will develop

This seed pod may remain on the plant for several months until it is ripe, it is important that the pod is harvested before it splits as the seed may be lost or spoiled.

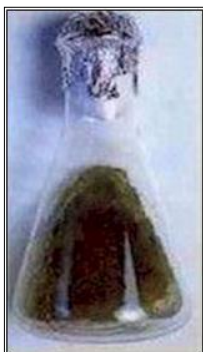
Not all seed pods will have viable seed, and in order to ensure that no more time is wasted on them a sample of seed will be examined, they are so minute that a microscope is needed to see them properly even after they have been soaked for a few hours in a sugar water solution, which makes them easier to study. On the right, you can see how primitive an orchid seed really is, it consist of a single cell, which is contained within an open a fibrous network, and at this stage is extremely underdeveloped.



In nature, the orchid seed will only grow when exposed to a microscopic fungus, which helps to break down the sugars and nutrients for the seed: the seed cannot survive without this symbiosis taking place, but as it is a hit and miss affair in propagation in the hands of man an alternative and more viable method has been evolved.

Firstly, as the orchid seed which has been contained in a sterile atmosphere within its seed pod may be contaminated by the wrong airborne fungal spores, and as it is about to be introduced to another sterile container ( a flask) it must be thoroughly sterilized to avoid being contaminated within its new environment.

A nutrient gel is prepared and sterilized also, this will eliminate the need of the primitive seeds dependence on symbiosis. The gel is allowed to set inside the flask, and the sterilized orchid seed is sown thinly across its surface. Hopefully the seed sowing will have been successful and in a little time will germinate, and the surface of the gel will become covered with a mass of round green spheres, these are called protocorms.



These miniature orchids will be sown again into new flasks which may contain a stronger medium, and again this is done in sterile conditions, eventually from the thousands of protocorms originally sown only around 25/30 will be sown into the final flask.

The task of replating (reflasking) may be done again and again as the plantlets mature and grow, and eventually they will become large enough to be pricked out and sown in regular orchid compost to continue and grow into flowering plants.

From seed to mature plant can take from three years upwards.

### *Propagation... continued from page 4*

Orchids may be propagated by division, those whose growths are Sympodial, (that is one new growth appearing from the base of an older growth) lend themselves easily to such an exercise, taking a sterile blade, cut through the rhizome leaving ideally at least three growths on each portion, this can be done at any time, providing the plant remains undisturbed in its original compost until the next re-potting takes place, when you should have perfect divisions.

On Monopodial orchids (those whose new growth comes from the centre of the plant, the exercise is a little more complicated, and should not be undertaken lightly. Vandaceous orchids are of this type, and when a plant has reached a size too big for you to cope with, it may be cut down, providing that there are sufficient aerial roots on the cutting to make it viable, which can then be re-basketed to grow on, the old stump should not be thrown away, as it may well produce several new growths from below the cut, and these may be eventually removed to form new plants or left as a splendid clump.

Phalaenopsis orchids if damaged may produce several new growths from beneath the ruined crown, or a little keiki paste may be added to the nodes of a flowering spike to encourage the growth of plantlets, sometimes this happens without encouragement, and when the plantlets have enough root they may be teased from the parent and potted up.

### *AOS Corner Melba and Jim Butler, AOS Representatives*

Orchid conservation is one of the causes that most of us think we can't do much about. But each of us can do our part! Please take the time to visit the AOS Web site to see what the AOS is doing about orchid conservation and how **we can all help:**

<http://www.aos.org/aos/conservation/page02.aspx>

Orchid trivia provided from Dot Henley of Fort Lauderdale:

Attenborough, D. 1995. **The Private Life of Plants**. Princeton: Univ. Press

Orchids have been used as animal food in several parts of the world. Cherokees in North America and natives in New Guinea used them to fatten pigs. (p 638)

In Malaysia roots of *Cymbidium* are used as part of the tonic for sick elephants. In Vermont leaves of *Habernia* were used as a poultice for sick horses. Ardetti commented that the phytoalexins produced by the orchids may kill pathogens and could have been a real help to the horses and elephants. (p 638)

The next AOS meeting is only a few months away.

### **FALL 2007 -- October 19-21, 2007**

Fall 2007 -- October 19-21, 2007

Hosts: AOS and South Florida Leadership Council

AOS Visitors Center and Botanical Gardens

Delray Beach, FL 33446

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Web site: [www.aosfall2007.com](http://www.aosfall2007.com)

"Orchids on the Beach" will be a fun-filled social function and set of traditional AOS meetings. A symposium featuring keynote speaker Alec Pridgeon, PhD, will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Boca Raton. Dr. Pridgeon's lecture is titled *Orchids Across the Millennia: The Times They Are A-Changin'*. Come share in the fun and camaraderie ... and see your AOS campus!

Visit the AOS Web site for more details <http://www.theaos.org/aos/events/page03.aspx>

Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor, [BelaOnline.com](http://BelaOnline.com)

# STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

SIOS *Staten Island Orchid Society*  
1306 Arden Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10312-4901



ADDRESS LABEL

## Orchid Related Websites and Information

### 19th World Orchid Conference® Excursions

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#### Day Trips:

- American Orchid Society Headquarters & Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Boca Raton
- Tours visiting local Orchid Nurseries & Fairchild Tropical Gardens
- Everglades Tour with airboat ride
- Parrot Jungle-Miami's unique bird sanctuary & botanical gardens
- South Beach / Art Deco District / Lincoln Road
- Vizcaya Museum & Gardens
- Miami Seaquarium-Marine-life entertainment park
- Day tours to Key West & Disney World-Orlando
- We can also arrange golf, fishing or spa experiences.

#### Evening Events:

- Brazilian Dinner Experience
- Dinner Cruise-Bayside-Millionaire's Row
- Transportation for Coconut Grove, South Beach and/or Bayside.



To Register for the 19th World Orchid Conference® visit [www.19woc.com](http://www.19woc.com)

### 19th World Orchid Conference® Limited Edition Commemorative Pin

By CAROLEE



Renowned jewelry designer CAROLEE began creating fabulous orchid pins in the mid-'90s and has now created the official, limited edition, commemorative pin for the 19th World Orchid Conference® -- a dazzling recreation of the yellow Cattleya with a red lip chosen as the 19WOC® logo.

The back of the pin is stamped "19WOC 2008" designating it as the official 19WOC® commemorative pin and the pin comes beautifully presented in a velvet box with pillow insert marked "Limited Edition."

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The 19WOC® commemorative pin is NOT available in stores, so order now before it's too late. There are three ways to order:

On-line: [www.19woc.com](http://www.19woc.com)  
Phone: (786) 621-9962  
E-mail: [director@19woc.com](mailto:director@19woc.com)

The pins are only \$125 plus \$10 for insured priority shipping. For shipping outside the U.S., an additional \$10 for insured postage will be added. Visit [www.19woc.com](http://www.19woc.com) to order your CAROLEE pin and to register for the 19th World Orchid Conference®, January 23-28, 2008 in Miami!

## ORCHID SUPPLIES

If you wish to purchase any orchid supplies from Carl Phillips, please call him to place an order **BEFORE** the meeting. His number is: 718-966-3505



Kathleen Ruoti, Newsletter Editor,