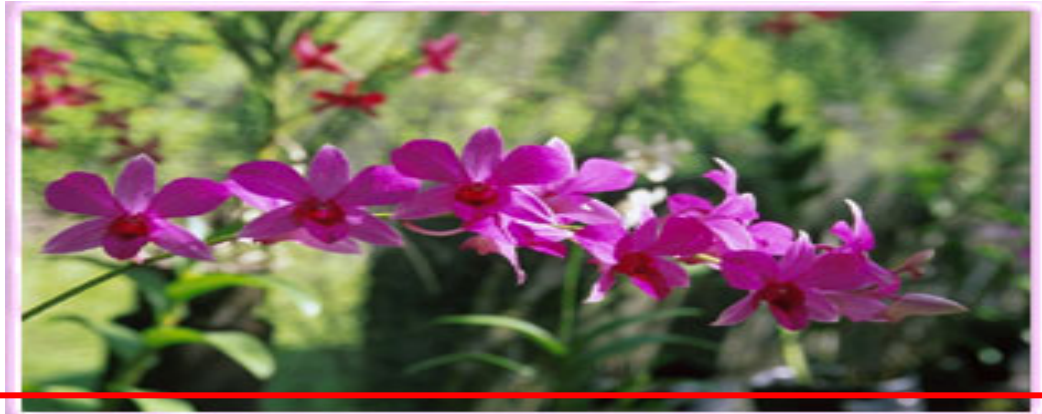


SIOS

FEBRUARY, 2009
Volume XXXII, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER



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NEWSLETTER

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The SIOS meets on the
3rd Tuesday of each month at
7:00pm at
All Saints Episcopal Church,
2329 Victory Blvd., SI, NY 10314

Next meeting February 17th 7:00pm

A Message from John

Hi Guys,

Having a Lovely February?

What's up with this weather!

First up I have to give a
SHOUT OUT to my buddy
John Stallone.

John is recovering from sur-
gery. Everything is fine and
John is doing well.

Well John, you're all tuned
up now. Rest and get well
Friend.

Hang in there Helen!

Deep Cut Orchid Society
had their annual show last
week at Dearborn Market in
Homdel, NJ last week.

You will remember that I
told you that we were invited
to participate as we did in
years past. You all voted to
accept the invitation.

I mentioned on more than
one occasion that we need
PLANTS for the display.

The display was an eight
foot table, so judging on
how our monthly SHOW-
TABLE looks, I was confi-
dent that we could do quite
well.

David O'Dell agreed to put
the display together.

On the day of Set Up we



*SIOS Display by David O'Dell at the
Deep Cut Orchid Show at Dearborn Farms*

had 18 plants to use...David
O'Dell's.

David you did a wonderful
job. You were awarded 6
awards (second place for
tabletop display).

If it were not for your efforts,
we would have disappointed
our friends at DEEP CUT.

Thank You.

I would like to thank Pat and
Carol too. They helped
Dave and I set up and regis-
tered David's plants.

Our next meeting is on the
17th.

Mark your calendar. I'll
be there. I hope you will
be too!

Be Well and Be Good!

~John

RAFFLE PLANTS

We need raffle plants.

If you have any plants

you wish to donate,

please bring them to

the next meeting.

Show Tally Table for January

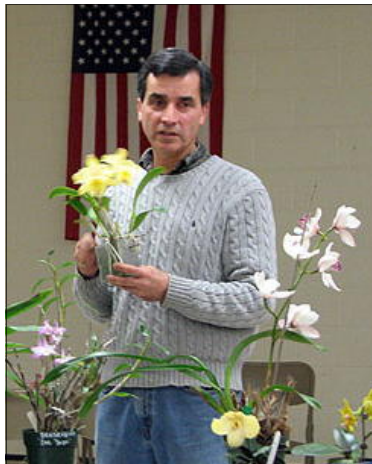
LIGHTS

Joseph Schwab 82



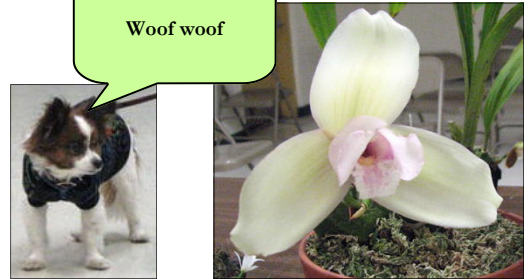
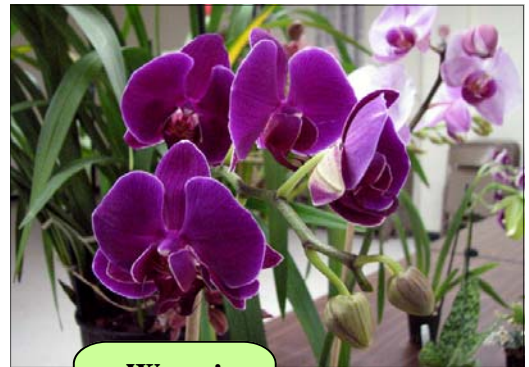
GREENHOUSE

Dave O'Dell 61
Colman Rutkin 12



WINDOWSILL

Ronald Altman 6
Patrick Cammarano 17
Roy Fox 18
Diana Milatta 20



Wow!
Woof woof



It's a Corsage Nightmare: An Orchid as Big as a Car

By Tina Kelley

A rare orchid the size of a Volkswagen Beetle is blooming for the second time ever at the [Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#), a blessed event that has spurred envy among the handful of orchid growers who will even try to grow a plant this big.

Considered the queen of orchidaceous plants, and one of the world's largest orchids, this particular *Grammatophyllum speciosum* is 12 feet in diameter and weighs about 200 pounds. It last bloomed in 2003 and has four huge flower spikes, at least one of which should remain in bloom for the next week or two, said David Horak, curator of the garden's orchid collection.

Known as the tiger or leopard orchid, the plant is native to Malaysia, Sumatra and New Guinea, where it grows in the crotches of trees more than 100 feet in the air. Plants can weigh up to two tons.



In a rare feat in captivity, this Grammatophyllum speciosum has blossomed to 12 feet in diameter and about 200 pounds

"There are all kinds of anecdotal stories about workers being killed trying to remove one from a tree," Mr. Horak said.

If it is rare in nature, this Gulliver of the garden is even rarer in captivity, because few people or institutions can afford to grow it.

Mr. Horak bought the plant 10 years ago for \$75 at an auction from the widow of Don Richardson, who was the orchid grower for Greentree, the Whitney estate on Long Island. It now hangs in a 30-inch square basket, 15 feet in the air above a pond.

As plants go, it is fairly high-maintenance, he said. It is watered every sunny day, and fed two or three times a week.

"The last time we potted it, it took five people and a rope and pulley to lower it into the current basket," Mr. Horak said. "They resent being repotted, and for some time after we repotted it, it kind of sulked. It didn't grow very well for a couple years."

In an August 2007 article in *Orchids*, the bulletin of the American Orchid Society, Erich E. Michel, the operations manager of the Hoosier Orchid Company in Indianapolis, described trying to get a *Grammatophyllum* to bloom. In the essay, titled "I Need to Grow a Giant Orchid" (a need his wife as defined as "childish competitive dementia"), he described trying to coax blooms from the plant, which he variously referred to as "the beast" and "the monster."

The plant's spiny rootlets, which dry and harden until they are thornlike, catch plant and animal litter from above and form "a self-made compost" that helps feed the plant.

"These barbed roots were just one way the plant could hurt you," he wrote, before describing how, after nine years of waiting, the growers decided to force the plant to bloom by starving it. "We were going to make it think it was going to die," he wrote.

He succeeded in 2004, and again in 2007, when the plant produced eight flower spikes.

The Brooklyn orchid's next feat will be to produce a seed capsule the size of a Nerf football, Mr. Horak said. It will have about two million dustlike seeds in it, which may be offered to some other institution or firm that wants to try growing its own. The seeds are considered an aphrodisiac by some, Mr. Michel wrote.

Unlike Audrey Junior, the voracious plant from "The Little Shop of Horrors," the Brooklyn plant has not been named, Mr. Horak said. "On any given day, if it's creating trouble, it gets names nobody wants to hear," he said.

[More Articles in New York Region](#) » A version of this article appeared in print on September 19, 2008, on page B4 of the New York edition.

*The Honor
Of
Your Presence
Is
Requested*

*Southeastern Pennsylvania
Orchid Society Dinner/
Dance at Longwood Gardens*

Come Dine and Dance among the Orchids

Saturday, May 28, 2009

6:00 -11:00PM

Longwood Gardens Conservatory

Hors D'oeuvres

Main Meal Choice of One:

Seared Caribbean pork tenderloin with warm mango jalapeno chutney

European chicken breast with natural thyme reduction

or Grilled polenta with grilled vegetables, goat cheese and roasted tomato sauce

Dessert - Chocolate Lava Cake

Advanced Ticket Purchase Required \$77/head

Marrianna Occhiuzzo

140 Columbia Ave

Phoenixville, PA 19460

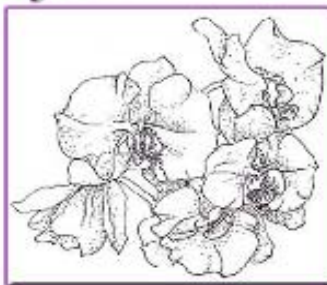
(610) 909-5908

Cash, checks (made payable to SEPOS, VISA/MC and Discover accepted)





*Longwood Gardens
International Orchid Show and Sale
Saturday, March 28, 2009*



**BUS LEAVES THE HANOVER MANOR AT 8:30 AM
AND WILL RETURN THERE AT 4:30 PM**

Parking is available in the rear of the Hanover Manor.

Please carpool if possible.

The bus has toilet facilities.

The price is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members.

**This includes round-trip bus fare, entrance to
Longwood Gardens and wine & cheese on the return trip.**

Send checks to Anita Gibaldi

133 Pershing Avenue, Nutley, NJ 07110

973-661-0520

email anitagibaldi@optonline.net

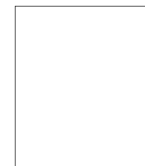
**Please include a phone number with your check
in case we need to reach you.**

Note on your check "Longwood Gardens Trip"

There can be no refund for no-shows.

**For more information contact Sharon @ 908-507-2717
or chaplinsky@embarqmail.com**

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



ADDRESS LABEL

Orchid Related Websites and Information

ORCHIDS ON THE WEB

For all you web surfers here are some sites you might enjoy visiting:

orchidweb.org

This is the AOS official website. It is a wealth of information on all things ORCHID

orchidmall.com

Looking for plants to buy? Here's a resource for you. Listing vendors from all over the world.

repotme.com

Everything you need to supply your orchid collection.

That's a start. Happy surfing!!