

SIOS

JULY, 2009
Volume XXXII, Issue 7

NEWSLETTER

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY



Next meeting July 21st 7:00pm

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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

A Message from John

Hi Guys

Hope you are enjoying spring...even though it's summer!

I am well. No trips to the hospital. No wounds or broken bones.

If you have not yet put your plants outdoors, get those babies outside now. Keep them protected from the sun. They will love you for it.

Last month's auction was a success. We made a modest profit and I believe that you all got some great plants at unbelievable prices.

The buffet was probably one of the best I can remember...and we had no unwelcome guest! Thanks to Gerry, Dick and Frank for a very entertaining evening, and to all who helped make it happen, especially Colman and Ron.

I want to remind you that we need your help with this newsletter. I am sure you will agree that Kathleen is doing an amazing job as editor. I can assure you that she has a very full schedule and among all her various projects and duties, she has been very gracious to us in undertaking a job no one else offered to do. I know for a fact that if this newsletter were to be discontinued I would hear from all of you.

So what do we need? As I mentioned in the past quite often, Kathleen is the "Editor". Besides my message, the show table tally and photos there's not much more she has to work with.

We need COPY!..that could be an article, something personal with a photo like Sharon, Colman and Olga submitted in the past...or something you have found on the Internet that you could copy and send to her as Patrick did. These articles don't come from the "Newsletter Fairy" they must be contributed by you. It would be unfair to ask Kathleen to spend her valuable time researching and writing also.

So again I am asking you to step up and help.

Our next meeting is July 21st. Hope to see you all then. Trustees come a little earlier for a quick Pow Wow

Be Well and Be Good

~John

JULY PROGRAM SPEAKER

DAVID HORAK
Orchid Curator at the
BROOKLYN BOTANICAL GARDENS

Congratulations and

Best Wishes to KAREN SILVERMAN

On her Retirement

Now you can tell the school bus
to keep on goin'!....



Orchid Auction and Potluck Party



WOW That pizza looks yummy!



LOOKING FOR ORCHIDS close by in the city?
Silva Orchids is going to be at the
Union Square Greenmarket
every Wednesday AND NOW every other Saturday!
The next date they will be there is June 13, then June 27 etc.

North Jersey Orchid Society Presents

2009 Summer Auction & Picnic

Saturday, July 18th
Frelinghuysen Arboretum

Doors Open 9:00am
Plant review & breakfast

10:00am ~ 3:00pm
Auction

Ticket drawing at the
auction for a prize
orchid plant

Tickets: \$12 - Lunch & Raffle (Auction is free)

Register & Pay by June 11th and get 12 raffle tickets
Pay by July 9th and get six raffle tickets and
get three if paid at the door on the day of the picnic.

To register and pay for lunch, see Rosemary Teeple
Telephone ~ 973-667-8883
or email rosemarytee@verizon.net or mail to:
Rosemary Teeple, 43 Terrace Avenue, Nutley, NJ 07110

Cash and checks at the auction,
no credit cards.



2009 NJOS Summer Orchid Auction Partial Plant List

(Multiple plants indicated in parenthesis, more plants to be added.)

OAK HILL ORCHIDS

Galeandra baueri
Brassavola David Sander
Ascocentrum aurantiacum
Aspasia lunata
Neostylis 'Lou Sneary' Bluebird
Ornithophora radicans
Polystachya galeata
Pholidota imbricata
Maxillaria rufescens
Cleisostoma racemiferum
Liparis bootanensis
Doritis buyssoniana
Phalaenopisi cornu-cervi alba (sp)
Doritis pulcherrima

NEW EARTH ORCHIDS

Phal Taida King's Caroline (2)
Masd Angel Tang (2)
Masd Peach Fuzz (2)
Onc Rosy Sunset (2)
Onc Twinkle (Red) (2)
Odcdm Bob Burr 'Yellow Cat'
Grammatophyllum Yunan Tiger
Odcdm Downtown Honolulu 'Huina Road' (2)
Grmcym Lovely Melody (2)
Tolumnia (4)
Lc Casitas Springs 'Linden' AM/AOS
L. prupurata v. carnea
Bc Cynthia (fragrant)
Paph Pinocchio (2)
Php Mariposa 'Green Valley' AM/AOS (5 spikes)
Mtdm Red Brick Road 'Arbec' (2)
Odcdm Catatante 'Solar Flare' (4 to 5 spikes)
Onc Heaven Scent 'Redolence'
Neostylis Lou Sneary (5)
Mini Cats (25)

MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES

Paph Woluwense AM/AOS (3)
Dendrochilum wenzelii (2)
Beallara Purple Passion 'Talisman Cove' (3)
Cym finlaysonianum (S. Thailand) (3)
Den Elegant Heart (kingianum)
Wils Pacific Command 'Talisman Cove'
Blira Tahoma Gracier
Neofineta falcata 'Hanagoromo'
Neofineta falcata 'Hisui'
Neofineta falcata 'Kuroshinju'
Neofineta falcata 'Seiryujshi'

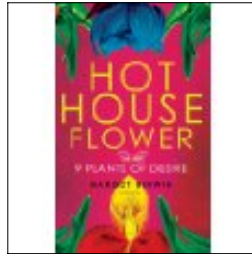
A Great Summertime Read

Looking to add something sizzling to your summer reading list? You won't be able to put this book down. It's a great read for the orchid enthusiast and plant lover.

I downloaded the audio version onto my iPod and was able to listen while gardening and knitting.....how's that for multi-tasking!

Enjoy your summer

— *Kathleen*



HOT HOUSE FLOWER

and the

9 PLANTS OF DESIRE

By Margot Berwin

Eat, Pray, Love meets The Orchid Thief in this rollicking debut novel about plant magic, spiritual discovery, and romantic fever in the jungles of Mexico. Shortly after her divorce, advertising executive Lila Nova purchases her first plant. It's a bird-of-paradise, and the seller is David Exley, a rugged country-sexual, who seems to promise a paradise of his own making. Lila is immediately obsessed—with plants and with the man who sells them—but when David introduces her to the myth of the nine plants of desire, and when she meets named Armand who claims to own the nine plants, her obsession reaches unexpected heights: if she can possess all nine plants the legend goes, her wildest dreams will be fulfilled. But Lila is too trusting, and has a result she is soon off on an adventure she never meant to take: in the Yucatan, alone, hefting a backpack full of travel guides and expensive shampoo, and learning more than she ever wanted to know about the rain forest and about herself. Plant mythology, shamans and charlatans, mysterious spirit animals, orchid obsessives scorpions, poisonous snakes, and handsome Huichos....they're all here in a tale of mystery, adventure, and heat....in every sense of the word.

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions About Orchids

The American Orchid Society receives hundreds of orchid-related questions each month in a variety of media: telephone, fax, e-mail and, yes, even through the mail. Director of Conservation Ned Nash, who has answered the majority of these queries, has gathered the most frequently encountered questions here.

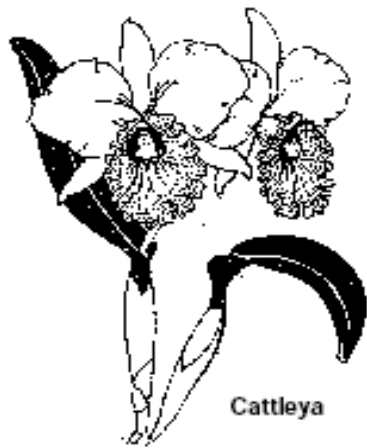
WHERE DO I CUT THE FLOWER SPIKE WHEN IT IS FINISHED?

The simple answer: When most orchids have finished blooming, the spike should be cut off with a sharp, sterile blade as close to the base of the spike as is practical. Of all of the more commonly available orchids, only phalaenopsis (the moth orchid) will rebloom from its old spike. Phalaenopsis will generally rebloom given a little extra care. The spike should be cut between the scar left by the first flower and the last node (swollen, jointed area on the stem). One of the lower nodes will then initiate a new spike that will generally produce flowers within eight to 12 weeks. Younger or weaker plants may not rebloom. It is also a good idea to cut the spike off entirely by midsummer to allow the plant to grow strongly to produce next year's bloom.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I WATER?

The simple answer: Once every four to seven days depending on season and dryness of the home. Allow the plants to approach dryness, gauged by pot weight or by the pencil trick (the point of a sharpened lead pencil, when inserted into the medium, will darken with moisture if the plant has enough water), and apply

sufficient water so that it drains freely through the container. Never allow any potted plant to sit in its own water.



Flowering plants may require more-frequent waterings to make up for the greater burden of the flowers. Plants will require less water when not in active growth (generally winter months), and more while growing (generally spring and summer months). Increased frequency of watering will not make up for a poor root system. If roots are not plump and alive, re potting may be called for, or the plant may have been recently repotted by the vendor, in which case it will require raised

humidity to compensate for the lack of supporting root uptake. Last, plants with thinner, softer foliage will generally require more water than those with harder, more succulent leaves. Plants with pseudobulbs (such as dendrobiums and cattleyas) generally need to dry out more between waterings than do those without (such as phalaenopsis).

DO ORCHIDS NEED TO BE FERTILIZED WHILE THEY ARE IN FLOWER? WHAT FERTILIZER SHOULD I USE?

The simple answer: Yes, if anything, flowering plants need extra fertilizer. Your plants will need to be fertilized with a product appropriate to the medium in which they are grown. In general, plants in a bark-based mix will need a fertilizer high in nitrogen (usually in a 3-1-1 ratio), while a balanced fertilizer will do for all others (usually a 1-1-1 ratio). If in doubt, fertilize with the same balanced fertilizer you use for your other container plants. Orchids will do far better with too little fertilizer than with too much. The old adage, "feed weakly, weekly" is appropriate. Fertilize every week with a dilute solution.

WHEN SHOULD I REPOT?

The simple answer: When fresh rooting activity is expected (generally in the spring) or is very evident, generally every one or two years. Fresh rooting activity is best shown by the succulent green root tips on plump white roots. Often, the main flush of rooting will come from the base

The American Orchid Society is the world's leading provider of information about and related to orchids. We invite you to join us and learn about the world's most fascinating flowers and plants. Your membership entitles you to our monthly award-winning magazine *Orchids*, a free copy of our cultural guide *Your First Orchid* and the *AOS Orchid Source Directory*, a 10 percent discount on items purchased through

The AOS BookShop and Orchid Emporium, and free admission to the International Orchid Center in Delray Beach, Florida, and more.
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of the plant (in the case of phalaenopsis), or from the developing newest growth (in the case of dendrobium and other orchids with pseudobulbs, such as cattleyas). Orchid plants need repotting for one or a combination of two main factors: Potting mix breakdown, often evidenced by dead roots, or the plant outgrowing the container. In the first case, a larger pot may not be required, simply replacement of the growing medium. In the second case, the plant may need dividing or may be shifted into a larger pot. Fresh media should always be used. A good general rule of thumb is to pot for the bottom of the plant, the root system, and not for the top, the foliage. Freshly repotted plants should be placed in a shady, humid area until continued new root growth is observed. In general, if in doubt, pot in the spring.

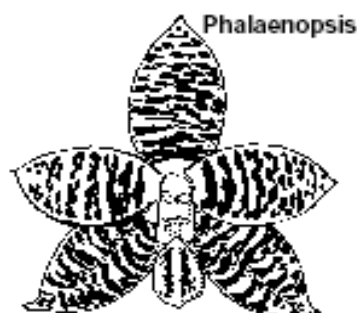
WHAT IS THE BEST POTTING MATERIAL?

The simple answer: Best is whatever your vendor or source recommends and stocks. Orchids, in general, will grow satisfactorily in many different potting mixes if watering and fertilizing are adjusted appropriately. That is, if the basic requirements for moisture, root aeration and support are accommodated, the most readily available media in your particular area are probably those that have proven to work



Paphiopedilum

the best. Orchids are grown today commercially in a variety of media, from fir bark to sphagnum moss to the increasingly popular peat-based mixes best exemplified by Pro-Mix. Watering frequency is generally inversely proportional to the porosity of the medium used. In other words, the faster the mix drains, the more often you'll have to water.



Phalaenopsis

WHAT IS THE BEST ORCHID FOR GROWING IN THE HOME?

The simple answer: One of the most widely available orchids of the mass market types is also the best for the home — the phalaenopsis or moth orchid. Many homes have insufficient light levels for the reflowering of most orchids. However, there are a few orchids that will grow in lower light and will reflower under home-light conditions. Home-light means light provided by a slightly shaded south window, or an east or west window. Phalaenopsis will grow easily under the same conditions enjoyed by African violets. Another good choice, but usually only for those already initiated into orchid appreciation, is *Paphiopedilum* or the slipper orchids. These, like phalaenopsis, have relatively attractive foliage, and will reflower in home conditions giving weeks of floral display. Both need to be kept evenly moist. Do not allow to fully dry out, and fertilize regularly with a weak dilution of any available fertilizer.

MY ORCHID'S LEAVES ARE WRINKLED AND LEATHERY. WHY?

The simple answer: Lack of water or dehydration. The next step is to determine why the plant is not getting sufficient water. First, look at the roots. If they appear a healthy white or green and are plump,

and the medium is in good shape, suspect underwatering, especially if the roots are white and the pot is very light. If, on the other hand, the roots are in poor condition, suspect root loss. If the plant has no roots, it cannot take up any water, no matter how much you give it. In this case, the cause may be root loss owing to overwatering or medium deterioration, or a recently repotted and poorly established plant. The immediate solution is to raise humidity in the plants' vicinity to reduce stress on whatever roots there may be, and then deal with whether to repot or to simply wait until the plant establishes in the fresh medium.

CAN I GROW ORCHIDS OUTDOORS?

The simple answer: Yes. Especially if you live in a frost-free or nearly frost-free area, there is a wide variety of orchids that will grow and flower with light shade outdoors year round. Where winters are cold, orchids can be grown on the patio or

Cymbidium



under trees in the warmer months when frost does not threaten. This is often a wonderful solution for orchid growers in colder climates, and enables the plants to grow so much better than they would if left indoors all year. Growers in frost-free areas with cooler summer nights (below 60 F in August and after) can grow cymbidiums, one of the finest of all garden orchids. Where summer nights are warmer, many varieties of vandas and cattleya types are appropriate.

If your questions have not been answered here, read the Beginner's Care Sheets for the five most popular-grown genera included with your New Member Packet.

STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

SIOS Staten Island Orchid Society
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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!!