



nenyosorchids@gmail.com

NENYOS NEWSLETTER

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

February 2017

www.nenyos.com

Plants and Pests

Many of our new growers who develop an orchid passion dream of a greenhouse. A place dedicated to beautiful plants and blooms. A place where a person can enjoy a respite in the winter afternoon or feel like the growing season can extend far past our brief-ish outdoor growing season.

The reality that many greenhouse owners express to us wannabes is often focused around the challenges of managing lots of plants—for watering, tracking pests, handling bio-matter (dead leaves, blooms, stems, etc) and timing activities to encourage bloom spikes.

A larger space means more management. Lots of things need to be tracked and watched but sometimes they get away from you.

Upscaling to a larger space is a little like quadrupling a favorite recipe. There are a number of surprising impacts and changes....The system you used when your plants were in your kitchen, bathroom and other space may not work now.

At the December meeting, Mark Conley made a comment during the Show Table discussion about his current frustration with mice in his orchid collection. I paid attention because of several comments.... "mice chewing on leaves making the plants look ragged" and such.

After the meeting, I went home to have a discussion with a Phal in one of my growing areas (the cocoa room, so named from the trim's paint color). I thought the ragged appearance of the one leaf was related to six legged pests. But when I looked more closely I could see it was a larger pest impacting the plant. I set a mouse trap and managed to snag one of my perpetrators.

Mark sent me a follow up message after I moaned to him a bit about my discovery. I wrote, "I have caught a couple and have a Cattleya bud they chewed the leaves around...."

Mark replied, "Mice that's a bad word.

I've got 3 traps out and 5 or 6 poison things from Tractor Supply. I've caught 20 or so in the last several months. I just caught a shrew last night. Traps are the only way in the house other than a cat. Poisoned mice in the house stink, really stink.

Damn mice eat the root tips and dig in the pots, I've lost some nice plants because they start throwing out new roots and the mice eat them. Then the plants don't recover.

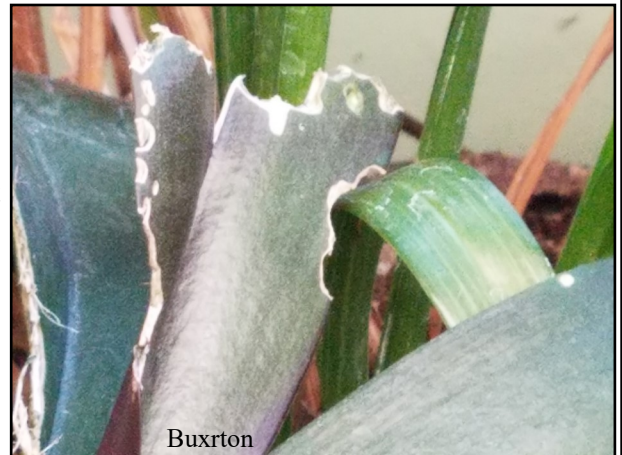
I like the traps with large pans and set them next to the wall. The mice run next to the wall and step on the pan, it seems to work better than the bait ones.

Sorry to hear about your plant, 'keep on trapp'in' that's the only way or get a mouse eater cat."

Well, I do have cats but they actually are equally hazardous to the orchids some days..sleeping in the pots (with the plants) and chewing on leaves. Though I know the chew marks below are not from feline teeth because they don't have access to that area.

Taking the time to dream and track your plants certainly what we are all working toward.

By Sandy Buxton II



Buxton

February 2017 Table of Contents

Announcements	page 2
AOS Letter	page 3
Auction Supporters	page 3
Beginner Talks	page 2
Dormant Orchids	page 4 & 5
Renewal Form	page 6
Show Table	page 7
Upcoming Events	page 2 & 3

Upcoming Meetings

February 4—Hands-on Activity potting Com-pots at William Sanford Library in Colonie

March 4—Dick Doran

April 1—Basic Orchid Growing with George Alford

May 6—Linda Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids in NC -“The Magnificent Stanhopeas”

June 3- Piping Rock Orchids Open House, Galway

July—no meeting

August—Annual Picnic

September

The Newsletter is looking for other members interested in being columnists, photos or helping out. Please email buxton-sandy@gmail.com if you are interested!

MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS OFFICERS FOR 2017

Donna Wardlaw	Co-President
Janet Vinyard	Co-President & Treasurer
Deb Lambeth	Secretary
Sandy Buxton	Director
Mark Conley	Director
Alex Shepherd	Website
Stan Lee	Past President
Sandy Buxton	AOS Rep
Patty Boggs	Name Tags
Joan Gardner	Refreshments
Bob Odess	Raffle
	Greeter

NENYOS Contact:
nenyosorchids@gmail.com
 Sandy Buxton Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Events in the Northeast

January 28 -29, 2016 Cape and Islands Orchid Society Show at The Resort and Conference Center, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA. For more info, contact Tina Balog at 508-540-5006 or tina@plaid.who.edu

January 28, 2017 National Capital Orchid Society "Paphiopedilum Forum" at U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue NE, Washington, DC. For more info, contact William and Lynn Goldner, at 410-610-6697 or woodstreamorchids@gmail.com

February 3 - 5, 2017 Susquehanna Orchid Society Show "For the Love of Orchids" at Milton and Catherine Hershey Conservatory at Hershey Gardens, 170 Hotel Road, Hershey, PA. For more info, contact Lorna Deibert at 717-825-7827 or lornadeibert@aol.com

February 9 - 12, 2017 Deep Cut Orchid Society "20th Annual Orchid Show" at Dearborn Market, 2170 Route 35 South, Holmdel, NJ. For more info, contact Helen E. Kroh at 732-241-2483 or krohsnest@optonline.net

March 10 - 12, 2017 Maryland Orchid Society Annual Spring Show at Maryland Home and Garden Show, Timonium Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD. For more info, contact Joan Roderick at 410-992-1811 or jomarod@verizon.net

April 1 - 2, 2017 Genesee Region Orchid Society Spring Orchid Show at Rochester Museum & Science Center, Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY. For more info, contact Carol Butcher at 585-742-3403 or jbutchel@rochester.rr.com

GROS—Greater Rochester Orchid Soc. CTOS—Connecticut OS
 STOS—Southern Tier OS MHOS—Mid-Hudson OS C check www.aos.org/events before traveling to see if there may be a local orchid event at your destination. Everything published in *Orchids* magazine is also on the web page

Beginner Talks – with Alex Shepherd are a chance for members to learn some basic information to help improve their orchid growing habits and knowledge. The programs take place before select meetings.

Here’s what’s we have for Beginner Talks in 2017:

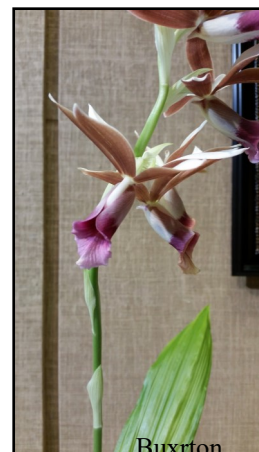
- February **‘Quit Bugging Me’** info on pests and their management
- March **We Have a Winner!** Info awards and the letters on labels
- May **Repotting** info on achieving success when performing the task.
- October **Leaves** They provide tons of info which can help you



Buxton



Buxton



Buxton

Action Needed for Feb 4, 2017 Meeting

... Hands-On Young Orchid Growing Seminar, February 4, 2017. Janet Vinyard and Mark Conley will demonstrate deflasking and care of the subsequent community pot, then work on taking seedlings/meristemed plantlets from community pots and settling them into individual 2" pots.

Current 2017 members will get a chance to work with and take home the larger seedling plugs which have a greater chance of survival. One plug per membership please, with extras available for \$3 each (our cost)

If you are interested in working on your own flask or community pot (average \$35+ shipping) and want us to order compact cattleyas for you, please let Janet know ASAP -----meaning.... as soon as you read this! 518-673-3212. We will supply medium and pots.

Please let Janet know if you plan on attending the February meeting so she will have enough community pots available!!

This is another great chance to get exposure—at low risk—to other types of orchids beyond what you currently might be growing!

Donna Wardlaw received an interesting letter from AOS which included this comment:

The first orchid society meeting Penny attended was our annual auction. She was mesmerized by the beauty of the flowers that were flashed on the screen as they came up for bid. She had no idea

that they came in so many shapes and sizes! At her second meeting, she was ecstatic as she was showered with orchids from long-time collectors who gave her their winnings from the raffle table. Orchids beg to be shared!

Something every orchid lover will tell you: We love orchids even more when we experience them together! And the American Orchid Society is the best place to sow the seed for a lifelong interest in orchids. Our energetic community has opportunities galore for everyone—young and old—to explore the value and beauty of orchids. Whether you find growing orchids a challenging art form, want to discover nature’s rhythms that create these astounding flowers, or wish to extend your personal orchid community, the AOS is ever ready to nurture your knowledge and enthusiasm.

With gratitude,

Jeanne Buchanan, Vice President American Orchid Society

Editor Note: Certainly an excellent point! NENYOS members enjoy sharing their plants, blooms and knowledge.

Our society thrives when we all enjoy gaining information, even when a grower doesn’t have a highlighted species or variety, there is often a stray nugget of knowledge which is helpful to any collection.



VENDORS WHO HELPED WITH THE 2016 AUCTION & Activities

Bill Doran, Co Flower wholesalers
45 Industrial Park Rd, Albany, NY 12206 (518)-465-5285
www.billdoran.com

Island Sun Orchids –
Karen Kimmerle; PO Box 909, Keaau, HI

Lehua Orchids
Mountain View, HI
808-968-8898
www.lehuaorchids.com

Piping Rock Orchids
2270 Cook Rd
Galway, NY 12074
518-882-9002
www.pipingrockorchids.com

Sunset Valley Orchids
Fred Clarke, 1255 Navel Place Vista, CA 92081(760) 639-6255
Www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com

The Orchid Works
Rayna@theorchidworks.com
P.O. 278 Hakalau, HI 96710
wholesale and retail lists online

Walter Scheeren
44-3265 Kalopa Mauka Rd
Honokaa, HI 96727
808-775-1185
WFScheeren@juno.com

Woodstock Orchids –Elaine Grega
1920 Glasco Turnpike
Woodstock, NY 12498
wdstlady@verizon.net

Newsletter If you have something you think might be of interest to the group (article, photo, question), please e-mail it to buxtonsandy@gmail.com or bring it to a meeting.

Thanks to Jim Webb for his sharp eyed locating of this great article!!

Dormant Orchids Need Fungi to Rise Again

Posted by KristenM on January 6th, 2017 <http://today.uconn.edu/2017/01/dormant-orchids-need-fungi-rise/>

by Kristen Minogue



Small whorled pogonia orchid, *Isotria medeoloides*. (Melissa McCormick/SERC)

If you are a plant, when life aboveground turns harsh, you have few options. Some orchids respond by going dormant, spending years to decades underground before reemerging aboveground. But an army of the right fungi may help jolt them out of dormancy, ecologists from the [Smithsonian Environmental Research Center](#) (SERC) discovered in a [new study](#) published in the [American Journal of Botany](#) Friday.

Smithsonian scientists have been working to understand the ecology of one particular orchid – including why it enters and exits dormancy. The [small whorled pogonia](#) is widely regarded as the rarest orchid east of the Mississippi. Federally listed as threatened, the orchid has vanished from Maryland and is endangered in 16 other states.

Melissa McCormick kneels in a Virginia forest with small whorled pogonias. →



(Dennis Whigham/SERC)

Endangered Orchids Underground

At first glance, the small whorled pogonia is a strange poster child for orchid conservation. It’s a tiny, unassuming plant with a pale green flower above a whorl of five leaves, or occasionally four or six.

“It’s not very fancy at all,” said Rachel Rock-Blake, who worked with the SERC team as part of her master’s thesis at the [University of Connecticut](#). But, she said, its sensitivity makes it an indicator for the health of the entire forest. “You’ve got this plant that is so in tune with the health of the soil and all of the organisms that live within the soil ... If that plant is failing, it means that there’s a lot of plants and a lot of organisms in that ecosystem that are probably also in danger.”

Many small whorled pogonia populations have plants that go dormant and persist underground, perhaps as a way to survive drought, deer or other dangers. While underground, they can secure enough resources to survive and emerge aboveground, most likely because orchids have an underground source of energy: fungi.

Fungi grow in and on the roots of almost all terrestrial plants, helping them absorb more water and nutrients in exchange for carbohydrates. But when fungi and orchids interact, only the orchid seems to benefit. In essence, orchids become parasites, digesting fungi as a source of nutrients.

Small whorled pogonias, like all other orchids, depend on these fungi, especially during periods of dormancy when they don’t have any leaves to capture sunlight and provide carbon to the plants.

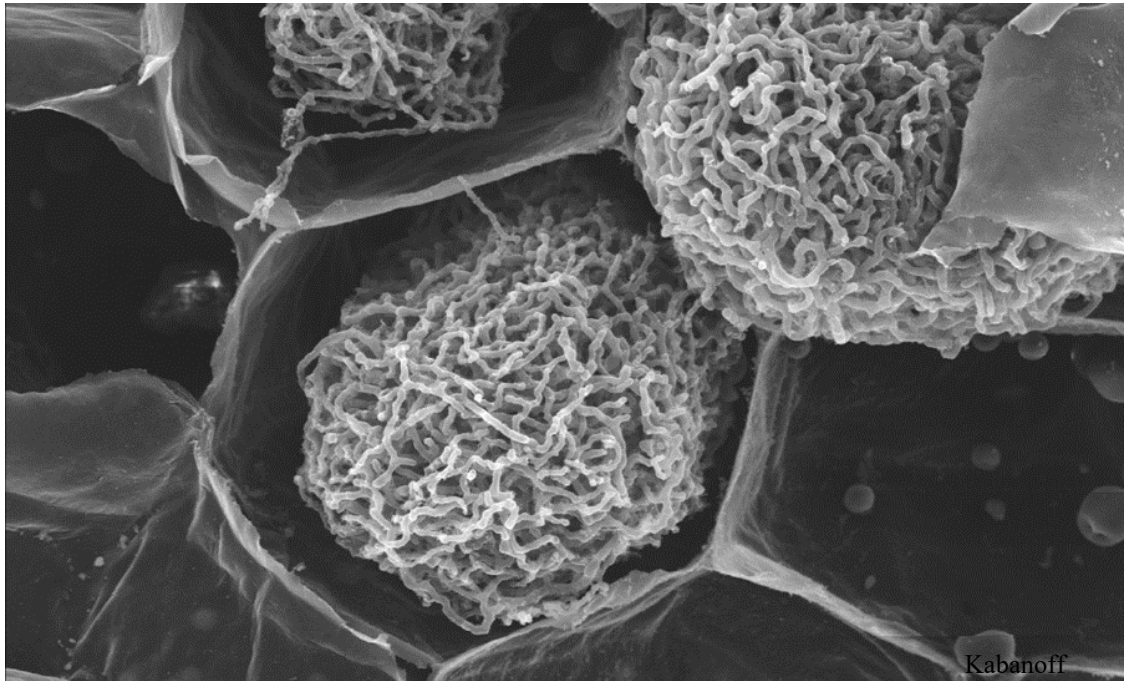
The SERC team and Rock-Blake made the first discovery of a possible link between the amount of certain soil fungi and orchid dormancy. They wanted to know whether the amount of fungi in the soil would not only help orchids survive *during* dormancy, but also help snap them out of it.

“If you have something like a fungus that’s a nutrient source for a plant, it seems logical that the more of the fungus there is, the better the plant should grow,” said Melissa McCormick, lead author and SERC molecular ecologist. “But nobody’s ever shown that before.”

Continued on page 5 →

Fungi and Orchids
—continued from
pg 4

Photo: An odd couple: When fungi encounter an orchid root, the fungus roots form coiled balls called pelotons, like these, which the orchid digests for nutrients. (Liz Kabanoff, University of Western Sydney)



Kabanoff

which orchids had gone dormant and for how long. The team collected soil from areas next to orchids that had emerged aboveground or were dormant, and analyzed them in the lab to measure how many fungi were present. They were searching specifically for one group of fungi—Russulaceae, a group of fungi the small whorled pogonia uses.

The idea was simple enough: Orchids aboveground should have more fungi in the soil around them. Using DNA to find those fungi was another story.

“When you take an amount of soil the size of a lima bean and you have 150 species of fungus in it, being able to pick out just the fungi that you’re interested in or that your plant would be interested in is difficult,” McCormick said.

McCormick, Rock-Blake and SERC intern Hope Brooks did it by using a special fragment of DNA called a *primer*. The primer latched onto DNA of Russulaceae fungi in the soil samples and nothing else, allowing them to calculate the amount of those fungi in the soil.

Within all three sites, soils with the most Russulaceae fungi were more likely to have small whorled pogonias with aboveground shoots. Soils with fewer of those fungi were more likely to have orchids that had lain dormant for two to three years, and soils where there had never been any small whorled pogonias had the fewest Russulaceae fungi.

The scientists also showed that to bring orchids back from dormancy, it’s not enough to have just some of the right fungi.

“Before, I think we all were running on the assumption that it was just whether the fungus is present or not,” said Dennis Whigham, SERC plant ecologist and co-author. The SERC team showed that having a big enough supply of fungi is just as important as the type. However, what the “right amount” is may depend on the soil. In that, all three sites were different.

That leaves scientists another mystery to solve: how to guarantee enough fungi can thrive to support this orchid. McCormick and Whigham discovered in earlier research that some fungi like decomposing wood. Trees may matter as well, as the fungi small whorled pogonias need form relationships with trees as well as orchids. But the answers to conserving endangered plants, McCormick said, often lie beneath the surface.

“If you’re concerned about a species you’re trying to conserve and you’re only detecting what’s going on aboveground, you’re not getting the whole picture,” she said.

Learn more:

[DNA Offers New Hope for Saving Orchids](#)

[Orchid, Fungi and Bacteria Relationships: “It’s Complicated”](#)

Rock-Blake, Rachel, McCormick, Melissa, Brooks, Hope, Jones, Cynthia and Whigham, Dennis.

“Symbiont abundance can affect host plant population dynamics.” American Journal of Botany. [View full text](#)

NENYOS at Home

Genevieve Wiech

Here is one of my blooming orchids, *Aerangis luteoalba* sun.rhodosticta. I purchased this at our holiday meeting. I have four others in bud. And a mini Phal that is doing well.



GWiech

Genevieve



GWiech

This *Oncidium Sharry Baby* is part of 2 spikes that surprised Sandy Buxton. Both spikes were over 24 inches tall.



Buxton

Final Call for Membership

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP—PASS THIS ALONG
NENYOS MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER-PLEASE MAKE THINGS
EASY FOR JANET AND GET THOSE CHECKS IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! JANUARY 31ST
IS THE CUT OFF DATE FOR PAYMENT AND TO MAKE THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

REMEMBER NO DUES, NO NEWSLETTER.

Individual Membership \$20 Family Membership \$25

Please Print **Clearly**

Make your check payable to NENYOS, and please complete (and correct) membership information and return this slip with your check.
Mail to:

Janet Vinyard
597 State Highway 162
Sprakers, NY 12166

please complete accurately

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP, CALL OR
EMAIL JANET AT 518-673-3212— janetvinyard@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Zip: _____ **Tel:** _____

Email: _____

Newsletter: E-mail _____ **or Paper** _____
Choose 1 (in color) (black & white)

December Show Table Tales



Buxton



Buxton



Buxton



Buxton



Buxton



Buxton



Buxton



Buxton



Buxton

Annabelle Gallup taking pictures of the Show Table.



North Eastern New York Orchid Society

NENYOS c/o S. Lee, 130 Johnson Road, Scotia, NY 12302 www.nenyos.com

NEXT MEETING

February 4, 2017

**1:30 p.m. Announcements
and Beginner Talk**

1:50 p.m. Show Table,

**2:10 Hands-on Activity—
Deflasking & Potting
Community Pots (details
inside)**

**Member Plant Sales at meeting
too.**

**After presentation—
Questions and Raffle**

The meeting is at the William K. Sanford Library, 629
Albany Shaker Road, Colonie (Loudonville, 12211)

.....Congratulations!
January
Raffle Winners:

**Enjoy your
new plants!!**

Raffle Winners

Don't forget, Raffle winners are asked to bring a "goodie" to the next meeting (February) to help celebrate their good fortune.

