

North Eastern New York Orchid Society

The December 5th Meeting – Show Table & Panel

The Holiday meeting was an informal event with some business, a wonderful Show Table discussion and a panel addressing orchid problems brought in by members. With goodies brought by Stan Lee and other members, it made for a festive and lively occasion.

The Show Table was exciting with 16 plants on display looking wonderful. From a miniature Dendrobium to Wake's big white Cattleya it was quite a show, even more impressive since we left in the first significant snowfall of the season!

The following is some of the tidbits discussed around the table and by the panel.

Cattleyas only send out one set of roots/year. Some plants have new growth, then roots then bloom, others have a different system. Make sure you learn about what your plants do.

The Paphiopedilum Pinocchio brought by Wake Gardner is a sequential bloomer. It will go almost all year. Wake keeps it under lights in the house with his Phalaenopsis, not in the greenhouse.

As a greenhouse grower Wake fertilizes every couple of weeks. He waters every 4 days or so but puts water in the humidity trays every day to maintain the moisture around the plants. He uses white vinegar on the leaves as a cleaner.

One of Wake's orchids was growing in a basket but it was drying out too fast so he wrapped some coconut fiber around the roots. Now it is happy with a 1 x/day spray.

Mark Conley made the point if you grow plants well, they will keep reproducing. Mark uses time release fertilizer (Dynamite from Home Depot 13-13-13) in the potting medium so the plants receive a little every time he waters.

Having a double plastic walled greenhouse, Mark has to exercise extreme care during cold weather when watering and controlling humidity because excessive condensation can fall from the ceiling and act like hail on the plants!

Patti Freed grows in a southern exposed window. She waters with a hand pump sprayer and just lightly mists the growing media every 2-3 days.

Patti's tip was demonstrated by the lovely Zygopetalum she had brought in. It was in a long tube container with hydrotone media, she had added side drain holes to. She likes to buy plastic containers at the dollar store and then adds her own holes (through drilling, melting, etc) for economical pots for her orchids.

Christina Anderson had several plants on the show table and talked about hail damage and the challenges and issues a grower has when plants are outside.

She also discussed an anti-fungal rot treatment that she uses where she dabs a bit of a paste made from copper sulfate crystals and water on Phalaenopsis fungus spots.

Another Christina tip is that as a grower who grows outside in summer and under lights in winter, she adjusts her potting medium to handle her schedule. She only waters 1x/week so it cannot dry out too fast or stay too wet.

As an outside grower, Christina also tackled questions about dealing with pests that want to hitchhike into the house or greenhouse in the fall. She drenches her plants as they come back in with Consan 20 (Consan Triple Action 20™). She mixes ¼ tsp/gallon water and runs all of the plants through it to get rid unwanted guests.

It was this active exchange of information and ideas which makes coming to the meetings such a valuable use of time especially for newbies as we try to learn from the experienced growers.



Christina Anderson shows the brown scale on a plant to the group as they talk about how to handle it during the grower panel.



Another grower showed an interesting system for creating hanging pots with picture wire and bow string.

If you have anything you think would be good in the newsletter, feel free to bring to a meeting, email to buxtonsandy@gmail.com We look forward to passing along info.

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Upcoming Meetings

January 16th
Annual Luncheon
@Wolferts Roost
Country Club,

12:00 cash bar followed
by buffet lunch.

A great opportunity for
fellowship and conversa-
tion with our members.
There will be a show ta-
ble for any grower with
orchids in bloom.

NENYOS BOARD MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board
will be on March 6th at 10:30
a.m. at the William K. Sanford
Library in the library's Training
and Conference Room. Some
agenda items: final plans for
2010 Garden & Flower Show
booth, membership, program-
ming for 2010 and by-laws.

**MAKING IT WORK FOR NENYOS
OFFICERS FOR 2009**

Ernest Reis	President
Stan Lee	Vice President
Jane Smith	Secretary
Janet Vinyard	Treasurer
Ed Belemjian	Director
Tom Hoodack	Director
Lew Harget	Director
Steve Condon	Director
Kim Metzler	Past President
Ernie Reis	AOS Rep
Gillen O'Brien	Name Tags
Ed Belemjian	Refreshments

NENYOS Contact & Coordinator
of Public Relations: Ernest Reis
392-3449 or nenyos@fairpoint.net
Sandy Buxton Newsletter Ed.
buxtonsandy@gmail.com

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5TH 2009 NENYOS BOARD MEETING

In attendance were Ernie Reis, Tom Hoodack, Steve Condon, Sandy Buxton and Janet Vinyard. Late were Stanley Lee and Ed Belemjian. Jane Smith asked that Janet Vinyard take notes.

NEWSLETTER.—We spent a considerable amount of time on the newslet-
ter as Sandy Buxton and Ernie Reis are switching batons. Sandy is able to
get copies printed in office (Co-operative Extension) for less than Ernie at
his local printer. It was decided Sandy would have newsletter printed at her
office rate, then use Paul Bauer's labels while they were still current and
paid for. She will add her own labels for the newest members for 2010. It
was also decided that the newsletter would be available on-line as part of
NENYOS website but a month or two LATE. This means the current issue
gets mailed or emailed to paid members prior to the meeting. This issue then
gets put online a month or two later.

The 15th of the month (prior to the next meeting) will be the expected cut
off date for getting information to Sandy for publication. Sandy has agreed
to publish the 2010 membership brochure in March of 2010 to be circulated
to PAID members.

WEB SITE—Steve will work with Sandy to add our newsletter to the web
site a month late.

BY-LAWS—Steve Condon will look through the by-laws as printed and
update board members with items needing attention prior to it's publication.
We believe these were last updated in 1989.

WILDWOOD SHOW in March—Stanley assured us that 'we' have the new
arena space for the Wildwood Show but he is not exactly sure of dimensions
at this point. Info will be forthcoming once the planning for Festival of Trees
has finished.

Tom Hoodack presented an inventory of supplies held by NENYOS and
where. The board decided to continue the offer to gift a plant to new mem-
bers signing up at the Wildwood Show. Janet Vinyard will purchase plants
for the exhibit that will then be gifted or used as raffle plants after the show.

She will also look into getting plants from vendors who would provide us
with boxes of plants ready to bloom that members might want to share. De-
tails will be forthcoming.

March Speaker - We will look into getting Barbara Tischerman to speak on
March 6th. She is nationally acclaimed as a judge and winner of orchid de-
signs. She will work with us to artistically present the ideas originating from
our membership and design committee. Her travel and accommodations will
be worked out shortly.

Ernie brought up emails to board members and who is to be included.
Present board members voted to keep email belonging to the board within
the board unless the info needs to be sent to additional members for their
input.

TREASURER'S REPORT—Janet Vinyard presented a tentative budget
based on 2009's expenditures. Final budget and Treasurer's report for 2009
will be available at the Jan 16th luncheon.

It was declared that our ANNUAL MEETING WAS THE OCTOBER meet-
ing with election of officers.

Ernie read a letter from AOS asking for affiliated society donations. The
board decided to send the suggested donation of \$250 to help the AOS meet
its budget.

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TO DRAW AN ORCHID IS TO KNOW THAT ORCHID

Sharpen your pencils! Anne Jaster, a botanical artist living in rural Schenectady County will be our featured “speaker” for Feb 6th. I met Anne while volunteering at the George Landis Arboretum, Esperance, Schoharie County. She has taught many drawing classes there and her work is published widely. She tells me that orchids are among her favorite drawing subjects due to their clean lines and grace.

While in Paraguay, 1992, visiting her daughter who was working with the Peace Corps, Anne took a cruise down the southern coast of Chile, stopping at small fishing villages in spectacular landscapes. “It was on a hill above one village that a small, white flower caught my eye. I couldn’t imagine what it was!” I drew it! and once home took it drawing to the right person at the NY Botanic Garden who identified it as *Codonorchis lessenii*, a small terrestrial orchid.” This person was Eric Christenson, Ph.D who suggested a small article for one of the orchid journals as a possibility because the genus is so rarely illustrated. “Because I had encountered so many interesting plants there, I returned to Chile November of the next year. Outside my Lake District hotel, meadows of this charming orchid were blooming - ‘palomita’ they call it, ‘little dove’ .”

To draw an orchid (and other plants) on Saturday February 6th, you need:

1. pencils: medium. HB or #2 (the regular #2 Ticondiroga led pencil) best all purpose
lighter --- 2H, 3H.... for initial sketching
darker ----2B, 3B....for shading
2. paper: a drawing pad or any paper clipped to a firm backing; 9”X12” is a good size
3. eraser: get a white plastic eraser - they’re great!
4. plant in bloom.

HINTS FOR GOOD DRAWING:

- Sit with specimen in front of you at eye level
- Hold drawing pad at a 30 degree tilt - use a book or wedge for the angle
- Try to maintain the same view angle throughout the drawing process
- Work on ‘whole’ image; don’t get drawn into details, however fascinating!

Please come prepared for an exciting meeting!



VENDORS WHO HELPED WITH THE 2009 AUCTION

Andy’s Orchids, Inc
734 Oceanview Rd
Encinitas, CA 92024
888-514-2639
www.andysorchids.com

Carmela Orchids, Inc
Box 227
Hakalau, HI 96710
808-963-6189
www.carmelaorchids.net

Oakhill Gardens
37 W550 Binnie Rd
Dundee, IL 60118-0025
847-428-8500
www.oakhillgardens.com

Orchidaceae, Inc.
2022 Wallula Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 98362
509-525-9566
www.orchidaceae.com

Parkside Orchid Nursery
2503 Mountainview Drive
Ottsville, PA 18942
610-847-8039
www.parksideorchids.com

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

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

Tropical Orchid Farm Inc.
P.O. Box 170
Haiku, Maui, HI 96708
866-572-8569
www.tropicalorchidfarm.com

Board Minutes continued from Page 2

We discussed and decided to accept the Orchid Wiz's offer for free subscription. This on-line service is to be auctioned in November to an individual. Valued at \$259. Sandy and Ernie felt that Orchid Wiz's request, in return, would not jeopardize the privacy of our members' email addresses if 'blind copies' can be made consistently.

Programs for 2010:

Jan 16th - Luncheon at Wolfert's Roost. Contact Joan Gardner

Feb 6th - Anne Jaster, Draw Your Orchid

April or May - visit members' growing areas

June 5 - Potting seminar and Barbeque at Glen Decker's - Galway

July - car pool to Bog in Herkimer County

Janet will canvas the group Jan 16 and Feb 6th to determined interest in a road trip.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Vinyard

Mark Your Calendar

2010 MEETING DATES

Topics will be announced later

Jan. 16th	Annual Luncheon
Feb. 6 th	Sanford Library
March 6 th	Sanford Library
April 3 th	Sanford Library
May 1 st	Sanford Library
June 5 th	Sanford Library
July	No Meeting
August 7 th	Annual Picnic
Sept. 11 th	Sanford Library
Oct. 2 nd	Sanford Library
Nov. 6 th	Sanford Library
Dec. 4 th	Sanford Library

Don't forget to pay your membership dues. This will insure that you are in the directory and on the mailing list for the newsletter.



(L) Wake's Cattleya and Doris Collins' Paphiopedilum on R.

Make Conley's 2 show exhibits are on Page 8.



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 MAKE THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

REMEMBER NO DUES, NO NEWSLETTER.

Individual Membership \$15 Family Membership \$20

Make your check payable to NENYOS, and please complete (and correct) membership information and return this slip with your check. Beginning January 1, 2010 and mail to:

Janet Vinyard
597 State Highway 162
Sprakers NY 12166

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

please complete accurately

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP, CALL OR EMAIL JANET AT 673-3212—
rvinyard@frontiernet.net

Why My Orchid Won't Flower

By: Larry Desiano, Deep Cut Orchid Society,
New Jersey

Unless you are buying jewel orchids for their distinctive foliage, it can be frustrating having orchids without flowers. The point of having orchids is for their flowers, not their foliage. So what prevents or causes orchids to flower? There is no one answer that applies to all orchids as a group because orchids are found all over the world, at different elevations and in different climates. Where an orchid comes from has a lot to do with what each needs to flower, but this is not always easy to find, or interpret. However, there is a list of conditions or triggers that can be tried to determine what a specific orchid wants which will be discussed in this article.

The first thing to consider is the plant's age. With terrestrial garden plants we have come to expect that if you throw seeds in a pot of soil sprouts will occur in a few weeks and then flowers within a few months. We "expect" that it will only take a season to go from seed to flower. This is not the case with orchids. At a minimum it will take 3-4 years for the fastest growing orchids to reach flowering maturity, but many take 5-7 years, and some up to 9 years to produce its first flower if grown from seed. Once they start flowering they should flower year after year, but it may take many years for the first flowering to occur.

In the orchid trade, orchids that have already flowered or should flower this season are designated as "Flowering Size". Orchids designated as "Near Flowering Size" should flower for the first time in the next cycle. When buying young orchids it is important to know this and that orchid "seedlings" will not flower next year. So it may be that if you had purchased a seedling it simply may have not reached flowering maturity.

Assuming that the plant is old enough to produce flowers, we cannot simply assume that orchids that are growing well will produce flowers. It is not uncommon to see a plant that appears to be on its death bed with flowers, so why wouldn't a well grown orchid do the same? To answer this, you need to understand why any plant produces flowers. The main reason is to procreate. A dying plant's last act will be to flower to ensure that the plant lineage continues. A trigger is usually needed to cause an orchid to flower. Dying can be one of those triggers, but fortunately there are less lethal triggers that also work.

Living in the Northeast we observe dramatic seasons from summer to winter, but as you get closer to the equator changes in seasons are not very obvious. But if we examine seasons in detail we find that there are a number of things that change like the temperature, intensity of light, length of day, and amount of rain (watering). Flowering triggers are

designed to encourage any plant to flower when its pollinators are available, but since it takes time for flowers to grow, the triggers must occur well before the pollinators come. Pollinators usually occur sometime after a rainy season which is in the spring, so often the trigger for flowering may be the drought before the rainy seasons.

The best example of this is the standard *Phalaenopsis* which grow native in the southeast Pacific. In this area there are monsoons, after which everything grows lush and there are lots of pollinators. But just before the monsoons there isn't a cloud to be found in the sky for weeks. Not having clouds means several things. First, there is no rain (watering) for weeks. Second, there are bright sunny days that are brighter than usual. Third, because clouds lock in the day's heat, no clouds at night means cooler nights. So to encourage Phals to set their spikes, place your Phal close to a window in early to mid-September before your turn on your heat, and don't water for 3 weeks. By being close to a window in the fall, your Phal will get more light in the day and will have cooler evenings. Combining that with no watering simulates the native climate before the monsoons which are the triggers Phals are looking for. Once the spike(s) are visible, be sure to pull the plant back from the window and resume watering. Leaving the plant close to the window may cause bud blast later in the winter.

There are also places where orchids grow that are constantly wet. In these areas changes in the length of day and the swing between daytime and evening temperatures may be the trigger. This is typical for many *Cattleyas*, especially species. This can be a common problem when growing Catts under lights. If they do not get a good 15 degree change in temperature from day to night, along with a shortening of the day from 15 to 12 hours of light, they may not flower. They will grow very well, but won't flower. The solution is actually simple. Move your Catts outside gradually into a well lit sunny area for the spring and summer months and bring them back in when night temperatures start getting down around 60 degrees in the fall. This will give your Catts everything they want to produce flowers and they are easier to care for when they are outside.

Not enough light is also a common cause. Some plants need a lot of light to flower and what you believe is a lot of light may not be near enough to what your plant needs. Your eye is a poor judge of light intensity. If you have ever gone to Florida you know that the light is stronger, but you cannot tell with your eyes whether it is twice as strong or 10 times as strong, so you cannot believe what your eyes tell you. Also, if you have only been to Florida and not much further south, you have no idea how strong the sun is near the equator. It is definitely stronger than it is in Florida.

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Why No Flowers—from Page 5

I've seen level of light dramatically impact the flowering of *Psychopsis papilio*. *Psychopsis papilio* (and its related hybrids) will flower one flower at a time continuously all year round, for years on the same spike if given enough light. I've had mine stop flowering for a month or two whenever the light levels decreased, and then start again after the light levels became more intense. So if your stops flowering, and the stem has not turned light brown, do not cut the spike. Wait until the summer and get it stronger light. You may be surprised to have it start flowering again after a short hiatus.

I had a similar experience "growing" *Bulbophyllum Frank Smith* with great success, but no flowers. I assumed *Bulbophyllum*s were low light plants. On one website it said "Preferred light conditions are bright shade." To me bright shade means low light. Dennis Dayan told me otherwise and within a month of moving it close to a light in the green house I found two spikes emerging. These are clear indications that the level of light can control flowering.

*Phragmepedium*s also like strong light and will flower more prolifically if given a lot of it. The same applies to strap leaf *Paphiopedilum*s (and their hybrids). These are the big multi-floral *Paphs* like *P. lowii*, *P. hynaldianum*, *P. rothschildianum* and others. Whenever you hear about easy to grow orchids in the home, *Paphs* are usually part of a conversation as orchids that do not need lots of light. This is true for *Paphs* like *P. Maudiae*, *P. collusum*, *P. sukhakulii* and other "mottled" leaf *Paphs*, but not for the strap leaf *Paphs* that have long solid green leaves. *Phrags* and strap leaf *Paphs* need good strong light to flower well. I put both of these into directly sunlight outside in the summer months and high in the greenhouse during the winter to get decent flower production.

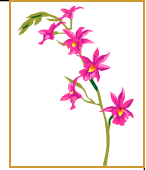
Another interesting point on *Paphs* that may also answer the question, "why won't they flower?". If *Paphs* are not cared for properly, they will grow a new leaf, and drop a bottom leaf, then grow another new leaf and drop another bottom leaf, and do this for years. *Paphs* are the only group of orchid that I have come across that can stay alive with almost no roots in a moist environment. How? By being in a pot of decayed bark that is continually overwatered. This will root and destroy the roots, but the plant will not die like most orchids, and it also will not grow. It just lingers. So if you are not seeing good active growth, such as new plantlets growing from the base, you certainly will not get flowers. Remove the plant from the pot and check its roots. If you don't find roots, or they are brown and mushy, your plant is in desperate need of repotting.

Contrary to what you might think, not all orchids like it warm. In fact, many orchids such as many *Masdevallias* and *Miltonias* require cool temperatures to live. And some orchids require cool temperatures to induce flowering, like 50 degrees or lower. Most *Cymbidiums* (but not all) are well noted for this requirement. But this is easily accommodated by putting them outside in the spring and leaving them there until the first threat frost in late fall.

A lot of *Dendrobiums* need a chill as well to flower (but not the *Phalaenopsis* type *Dendrobiums*), the most noted for this are the "Nobile" type *Dendrobiums*. Nobile *Dendrobiums* need a good chill, like 45 degree nights, to initiate flowerings. I recently discovered for myself there is another group of *Dendrobiums* that include *Dendrobium chrysotuxom*, *Den spectabile*, *Den aggregatum*, and others, that also require a cold period. I had been successfully "growing" *Den chrysotuxom* for a couple of years. It grew nicely but never flowered. So I picked up a book and read up on it. I found that it wanted night temperatures around 50 degrees for a short period of time. That wasn't happening in my greenhouse which I keep around 62 degrees at night in the winter, so I hung the plant literally up against the outside pane of my greenhouse. It can be up to 10 degrees cooler within 6-9 inches of a window so I figured I give it a try. After a month I found several spikes forming.

Dendrobiums are a large group of orchids and not all react to the same triggers. However, it is common knowledge (to those who know) that happy *Dendrobiums* that are fed well throughout the year and keep growing will not flower. Some require a chill, but most require feeding to be stopped by mid-August and watering to be cut back through the winter months. If you don't have active growth, don't water. This may cause some leaves to dry out and fall off, and you may even have some canes that are totally devoid of leaves, but this is OK. Surprisingly, many *Dendrobiums* with produce flowers on canes without leaves for several years, and some will only produce flowers on canes with no leaves which is normal.

In wrapping up, there are lots of things that will promote flowering, you just need to find what works for which plant. Hopefully this article has provided some insights into some of typical triggers you can try, but it certainly does not cover everything, only what I could think of as I wrote this. When in doubt, if the orchid's leaves are medium to dark green, give them more light to start. And use the internet to research your plant. If it is a hybrid, try to find out what its parents are. Typically the requirements of the parents come through.



Annual Luncheon

**THE NORTHEASTERN NY ORCHID SOCIETY —JANUARY 16TH
WOLFERT'S ROOST COUNTRY CLUB
Van Rensselaer Blvd, Albany, NY
(located near Rt. 90, Exit 6 and Rt. 9 north)
Festivities Start at 12:00PM**

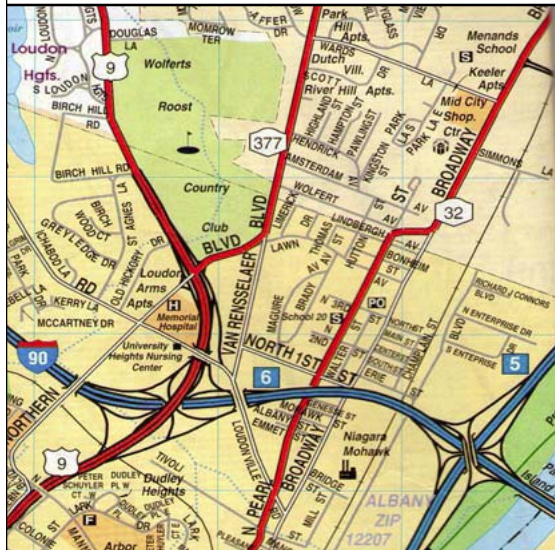
Name: _____ Individual Reservation.....\$ 20.00
Address: _____ No. of Guests x \$20.00 = \$ _____
Phone: _____ Total Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to NENYOS and bring them to the next meeting or mail to Joan Gardner (861-5017), 100 Gipps Lane, Voorheesville, NY 12186. **Deadline for reservations Jan. 9, 2010**

12:00 PM-CASH COCKTAIL TRAY SERVICE—BUFFET TO FOLLOW

THE MENU

FRUIT BOWL * MIXED GREEN SALAD W/2 DRESSINGS * ANTIPASTO SALAD * SEASONAL VEGETABLE MEDLEY * ROAST POTATO * CHICKEN ALMONDINE * SEASAME GINGER SALMON * ROLLS & BUTTER * FRUIT CRISP W/ WHIPPED CREAM * COFFEE, TEA, DECAF

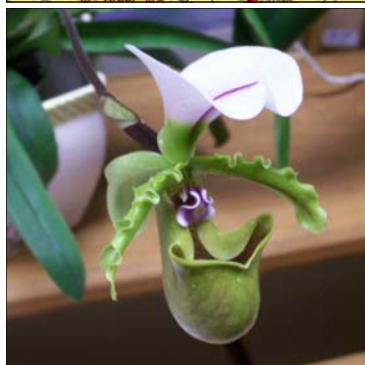


Notes from President (continued)

We are also promoting membership in the American Orchid Society. AOS has provided us with an incentive, a 2010 calendar and a book about growing Phalaenopsis. Prove your AOS membership and it's your choice as to what you will take home.

In the end we hope you have a joyful holiday season and wish you all the luck in the world growing your orchids in 2010.

Ernie Reis
NENYOS President



Here (and on Page 4) are a couple of the wonderful examples of plants presented at the Show Table in December.

Thanks to all members for bringing plants out!



NENYOS's Library

Don't forget that Janet Vinyard has been providing a wonderful resource for members to borrow from at each meeting.

Books, magazines, videos are all available to help each of us learn more about the wonders of orchids.



Raffle Winners

Don't forget that you are responsible for bringing snacks to the meeting after your win! (for February meeting)

Notes from the President:

With one foot in 2009 and the other in 2010 a year in review seemed appropriate, however the depredations of technology has thrown a monkey wrench into that notion. The unfortunate aspect of this problem is the potential loss of many years of news letters including half of 2010. However, we have some thoughts about NENYOS in 2009 based on many years with the organization.

For those members who have an extensive history with NENYOS you believe as I that 2009 has been the MOST active year in maybe half a decade. A year's worth of programs consisting of professional speakers and home grown advice. The latter being spear headed by Stan Lee and his beginners talks, and Janet Vinyard's membership engagement strategy of "here's a plant, get involved". Will 2010 be as successful? We certainly hope so in the context of working toward that end and always need help especially in the area of programs that are of interest to the membership.

The program for 2010 starts with the annual luncheon. It was featured in December's newsletter and within. It is a social event with brief talks about the coming year with a focus on the show table and members who have plants for sale. As in the past it is being held at Wolfert's Roost on Jan. 16th. NENYOS has kept the cost of the luncheon at \$20 per person.

And foremost on the minds of the officers and board members at this point is membership. We encourage all current members renew their NENYOS membership.
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North Eastern New York Orchid Society

NENYOS 6 Jones Ave., Chatham, NY 12037 www.nenyos.org nenyos@fairpoint.net

NEXT MEETING
JANUARY 16th
MEETING TIME
12:00 P.M.
Annual Luncheon
Wolfert's Roost
Country Club
TOWN OF ALBANY
Please call Joan by 1/9 to register—see page 7.