

THE Orchidist

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

Volume XXXVII, Issue 8, August 2014

Message from the President



**Hello, friends!
I'm delighted
that we had
an interesting
speaker last month in Chris!**

There was a lot of good info there on miniature cattleyas for both our experienced and new members.

This month we are meeting on Saturday, August 23 at 10:30 AM. We will be having our annual barbecue event, and there will be orchids for sale / auction. As always, the society will be providing the hotdogs, hamburgers, and beverages. Jeff Li will be manning the grill, and every one should come hungry. Remember to bring side dishes.

Above all bring some cash. The plants that Dick and Dave are ordering are quite special. You should be able to find something you like in all price ranges, and for every enthusiast, whether you are buying for yourself or as gifts for your friends. Speaking of friends, please bring your friends, your family, even feel free to bring strangers.

I look forward to seeing you then. Till then, be well and be good!

John Foley
President

Our next meeting is:

Saturday, August 23rd 10th, 2014
at 10:30 am.

There will be no Guest Speaker this month but there will be food!

July

Show Tables



Epicattleya El Hatillo 'Pinta' HCC/AOS



Podangis dactyloceras



Dendrobium laevifolium



Laelocattleya Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah'



Ascoscenda Chaisiri 'Spotted Leopard'
(*Vanda denisoniana* x *Ascocentrum miniatum*)



P. rothschildianum x *P. lowii*



Dtps. Purple Martin 'Champion'



Phalaenopsis hybrid

Member's Items

SIOS member Amy Trautwein shared with us pictures of some local and not so local orchids. Amy writes:

"I found wild orchids in a neighbor's front yard. There are actually three neighbors, all in a row, who have this sprouting in their ivy patches. According to *Orchids of New England & New York*, by Tom Nelson and Eric Lamont, which I bought when Tom

was our speaker, it is most probably the Broad-leaved Helleborine, or *Epipactis helleborine*: "This non-native species was first found in



North America near Syracuse, NY, in 1879, and has migrated across the continent all the way to the Pacific Coast." The flowers are more than 1/2-inch across.



Next, while I was in India, I had several orchid encounters. Some were of cultivated orchids, often lining the tops of a walls or rooftops or hanging on thin ropes down walls. I regret that I didn't get a picture of the roadside vendor, set up on some folding tables, who was selling beautiful blooming Dendrobiums and Vandas for about \$4 each.



Others were of wild orchids, mostly Vandas, sometimes growing in huge, astonishing clumps. Unfortunately, I don't have any good pictures of the trees where the Vandas were practically taking over, and I only

glimpsed one in bloom, in a village square when we stopped to ask directions from a policeman. It had medium-small yellow flowers, rather cupped, but was too high overhead to allow identification. According to a book my mother-in-law has, there are four species endemic to India, so I have no idea if the ones I saw were the same or not. I've included pictures of a



small group on a low-ish branch of a candy mango tree in my uncle-in-law's yard, some growing on a tree in the playground of a school (those are the leaves of an almond tree (or possibly cashew) in the foreground), and a shot of a plaza by the Arabian sea, with some typical rain trees, the lower branches covered in ferns and Vandas on the upper branches.



Jeff Li's Orchids



Dendrochilum filiforme (The Golden Chain Orchid)

This detail shot shows the individual flowers in the "chain" which are each only about 1/8th of an inch across.



Encyclia mariae

The Fox's **Orchids**



Dendrobium



Dendrobium



July Showtable Tallies

Greenhouse

Ronald Altman = 38

Colman Rutkin = 18

Dave O'Dell = 93

Lights

Roy and Gertrude Fox = 7

Window

Michael Corace = 18

Jeff Li = 6

Roy and Gertrude Fox = 16

Renée Lichtman = 8

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Collector's Items

Dendrobium amboinense

By Ron McHatton, July 2009
Reprinted from the AOS Website
(<http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=165>)



Dendrobium amboinense showing plant habit.

Some orchid species are discovered, enter cultivation and remain so over long periods of time while others, either because of rarity, incorrect collection data, cultural difficulty or a combination of these factors, disappear from cultivation rather rapidly and may not ever reappear or do so after a long lapse. Such is the case with *Dendrobium amboinense*, an incredibly beautiful, although ephemeral-flowered, species.

This species, an extreme rarity, has disappeared from cultivation twice; first shortly after its discovery in Ambon around 1854 by an English naturalist. It was discovered again sometime between 1895 by a collector working for the firm of Sanders and it remained in cultivation until sometime after 1931 although in extremely limited numbers. A short time ago the species was reintroduced into the United States through a seedling population raised by Michael Ooi of Leng Sun Orchids of Penang, Malaysia. At least two of these seedlings; one purchased

at the World Orchid Conference in Miami, Florida in 2008 and one purchased at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show in March of this year, have reached flowering size.

The species is endemic to the island of Amboin and nearby islands in the Banda Sea and belongs to Schlechter's section *Euphlebium* (J. J. Smith's section *Fugacia* meaning fleeting) and is the only member of the section to carry more than one or two flowers per inflorescence. Most species in the genus have angular, clavate (club-shaped) pseudobulbs (flat in the case of *Den. orbilobulatum*) with two or three leaves near the apex of the growth. Based on our flowering plant, the pseudobulbs of *Dendrobium amboinense* reach about 50-cm (20 inches) in height with two or three leaves about 6-cm (3 inches long) and about 2.5-cm wide (1 inch). The flowers, up to four per inflorescence in *Den. amboinense*, are produced on very short racemes from a pit at the node on the side rather than at the angle of the pseudobulbs below the leaves and both leafless and well as pseudobulbs with leaves are capable of producing flowers. The flowers of *Den. amboinense* are up to 20-cm (about 8 inches) across if the ribbon-like petals are flattened although when carried naturally, the sepals and petals droop producing a distinctly wispy appearance. Flowers on our plant open shortly after midnight and, as the sectional

name indicates, were completely closed by sundown. Freshly opened flowers are bone white as illustrated here but as the afternoon progresses the color undergoes a slow change to a pale shade of burnished orange before the flower collapses completely. Along with this color change is a distinct change in fragrance, beginning as a sort of musty, not really pleasant fragrance and becoming more vanilla-like before as the flowers senesce

Little is known with regard to this species but based on its habitat and that of the other species in the section, this lowland species should be grown consistently warm with constant moisture but with excellent drainage. We grow ours in a small plastic pot of sphagnum moss under light levels slightly brighter than *Phalaenopsis* and the plants are never allowed to become completely dry.

