

To Orchid Societies in the Midatlantic, Northeast & Central US,

Sept, 2020

Attn: *Program Chair & Show Chair*

Since 2014 I have had the opportunity to speak at many of the societies in the northeastern quadrant of the US. But, there are still many other societies I have not visited yet, so I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am a third generation orchidholic, and a member of North Jersey, Deep Cut & Manhattan OSs, as well as the AOS. My grandfather spent 8 years in Malaysia, where he indulged his strong botanical interests. My dad had a retail orchid nursery (Orkidé Kultur) in Denmark, where I worked after school and weekends throughout high school and college, and continued to work there on weekends till I left for the US in 1977.

I have grown Orchids as a hobby grower for about 25 years, starting in windows, moving to lights in the basement, and finally into a greenhouse, where my collection eventually numbered some 3000+ plants, mostly Paphiopedilum and Vandaceous, but also ranging into Cattleyas, Aussie Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums & Lycastes. I have done a little breeding in Paphs (complex & tea cup types) and miniature Vandaceous, with emphasis on Neofinetia falcata & Ascocentrum hybrids. More recently, I have done some work with Cymbidiums also.

I have several **presentations** available for orchid societies (and more in the works):

- **Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids:** An overview of the primary genera, and their cultural requirements. Suggestions for the easier groups for the home grower.
- **Slippers - Mostly Paphs:** An overview of the 5 genera. In-depth look at Paphiopedilum sub-genera and cultural requirements for Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium & Mexipedium.
- **Growing Seedlings from Flask:** Propagation methods, why they come in flasks, deflasking, and how to care for seedlings from flasks. Also useful for those who buy small seedlings.
- **Cool Orchids, which can be grown outdoors 6+ months:** Bletilla, Aussie Dendrobiums, Dendrobium nobile hybrids, reedstem Epidendrums, Laelia anceps & Cymbidium.
- **Cymbidiums I:** An overview of the more important species, hybrid types and cultural requirements.
- **Cymbidiums II:** Breeding trends, 1860-2019, current trends & recent awards in each group.
- **Taxonomy, species name changes + how to research current grex names.** *Requires WiFi access!*
- **3 Generations of Orchidholics:** A family autobiography.
- **2008 World Orchid Congress, Miami:** 3 Orchidholics in Heaven

The first 5 presentations focus heavily on cultural requirements.

- **Orchid Shows:**

Since 2012, I have been transitioning my orchid hobby into a hobby business. To avoid conflicts with the other growers in the region, initially I concentrated on the Vandaceous group, augmented with an assortment of other plants. Then, as it became apparent that Lois Duffin was scaling back, I made Cymbidiums my primary focus, while still carrying a selection of Vandaceous plants. And, having seen somewhat of a vacuum in the Cattleya group, I have increased my activities in this area also.

Starting in 2015, I have participated in orchid society shows in CT, MA, NJ, NY & PA. I would welcome opportunities to participate in additional regional shows in the years to come, whether as a regular participant or occasional guest every 2-3 years.

As many are aware, I suffered a serious freeze in the rented greenhouse, where I kept my intermediate to warm growing plants. With 3 heating failures over the 2017 Holidays eventually dropping the temperature to 18°F, I lost virtually all the plants in that location. Thus, I was forced scale back show participation in the 2018 season.



Fortunately my cool growing plants were in a different greenhouse, so my Cymbidium, Aussie Dendrobium & Laelia anceps collections remained intact. These groups provided just enough material, for some limited exhibits at the 2018 shows.



DCOS 2017 (Best Tabletop Display)



DCOS 2018 (post freeze display)

- Since that incident, I have been aggressively rebuilding. Much of my restocking started as younger plants, but many are approaching blooming size, so the variety available is increasing every month.
- The orchids I bring to the shows vary somewhat with the season, but can be broadly categorized as:
 - Always **Vandaceous**, **Cattleya** (species & hybrids), **Dendrobium** (assorted) & a few **Paphiopedilum**.
 - From December to May a variety of **Cymbidiums** (standard, compact & miniatures, pendulous, etc.).
 - An assortment of other hobby grower orchids, which can include Ansellia, Calanthe, Epidendrum, etc. Occasionally also select divisions from my own or Kyle Saunders Cattleya collections.
 - From suppliers in Hawaii, I bring a variety of budded/blooming material.
 - Since I reside at Flemington Orchids, I bring some mass market **Phalaenopsis** to the shows.

If you have any questions concerning my orchid activities, need a speaker (*yes, I can do Zoom while Covid-19 restrictions apply*), or would like to discuss possible participation in your show, please do not hesitate to contact me, either by phone or email.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Kim G. Feddersen



**Cym Mem Amelia Earhart 'Scott Valine' HCC/AOS
Best in Show, SEPOS, 2018**



Cym Sweetheart 'Spring Pearl' AM/AOS