



The Newsletter of the
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 25, Issue 4

April 2017

March Meeting

Maryanne Laukaitis

Our monthly meeting of March 19 conflicted with round two of the Men's NCAA basketball playoffs, the Nutmeg Orchid Society Annual Show and the great weather outside. Our show table had many wonderful varieties of well-grown orchids. President Joe and Marc recapped our February show and extend a big thank you to all who helped out at the show in any way. The show was well-attended (no snowstorms) this year with about 1,300 folks attending. Show results were presented and discussed and the results indicate we did very well this year with the increased attendance and by cutting expenses. The advertising aspect of the show was discussed, and Marc broke down the costs and numbers being reached through different media. It looks like the advertising worked well for us this year. Future speakers were discussed and the search will continue to line up speakers. We are also all asked for our ideas and input about future programming. President Joe and Steve La Valley presented the show table and they really did a fantastic job. Descriptions and discussions of various orchids were given by President Joe, and his knowledge of the plants and of orchid judging enlightened us all. I know I learned some new things. Steve La Valley was trying to keep President Joe on a tight schedule during the show table presentation and did a pretty good job of it. Steve also spoke about a pin and talc process to increase plant growth (keiki) along with the weeping willow (tea) hormone process to increase root growth. Hopefully, he will do an article on these procedures in a future newsletter. This year's show had to be one of our best yet, if not the best. We will build on this year's success and next year's show will be even better. We also discussed the upcoming New England Orchid Fest in June.

A Plea From Your Editor

This is a call for articles from your friendly neighborhood newsletter editor. If you'd like to see more than blank space here, please think of something you'd like to read. If you have growing tips, you can include them. If you have an interesting story about seeing orchids on a vacation, share it! Did you go to an American Orchid Society meeting or festival? Write about it! Write about how you started growing orchids in the first place. Any articles in the newsletter are fantastic. If anyone wants to write up something about the November re-potting clinic that would be amazing! I know there were bribes being handed out the other month, but I'd like to make the request on a more personal note: I've started growing orchids (damn the peer pressure) and the knowledge I've gained from the newsletter over the years has helped them not yet die. Therefore, the more articles we can produce for the newsletter, the better chance my orchids have at survival. I'm totally selfish that way. It's all about my own personal use and entertainment. I mean, it's bad enough that the orchid collection illness has already taken hold, and I have not only one orchid, but four--how am I expected to keep them alive if you orchid masters don't tell me how?

Is That My Orchid?

Emily Petitt

At the Amherst Orchid Society Meeting on March 19th, the crowd was led in a discussion of plant biology by our President, Joe Maciaszek. Why, you ask? Because the girl who can kill a cactus six ways actually managed to bloom her first orchid and brought it in to show it off. Of course, when he took pictures of the show table with his beautiful and fancy camera, did he take a picture of it? Nope.

What prompted the full on science discussion was something stemming from a stray comment I made about my plant and Marc Gray's plant. They were both *Phalaenopsis Lioulin Sparrow* 'Taida Little Panda' (Tai-I Yellow Bird x Sogo Rosa), or so the tag said. But when I said to Marc that one of these plants was not like the other- remarking mostly on the fact that his plant had many more blooms than mine and was paler in the background color- he proposed that they were in fact different enough that mine might have been mislabeled. Beside here is a photo of my 'Taida Little Panda.'



Could my orchid not have been a cute 'Taida Little Panda' like I had always thought? Marc seemed to firmly believe so. Joe, however, suggested that the difference may be in the differences between siblings. Like two human children of the same parents are quite unlikely to have the same exact features, orchids, or any flowers for that matter, are also unlikely to all look identical to one another, even within the same hybrid or clone. Variety is the spice of life, after all, and beauty can be in the differences. Beside here is a photo of Marc's 'Taida Little Panda.'



We examined the different components of some other plants, most notably a *Paphiopedilum Robin in Purple*. It is *Paph. Robinianum* x *Paph. lowii*. If you look at Robin in Purple, you'd notice that its petals gently curl as they grow longer, though they never get terribly long. *Paph. Robinianum* is itself a cross between *Paph. lowii* and *Paph. parishii*. The *Paph. parishii* is where you get the real curl in the petals, while you get the more vibrant purple color from *Paph. lowii* in its three parts to one. It was an interesting further exploration of how genetics can effect the look of a plant. Below is a side-by-side photo of mine and Marc's plants.



To see if maybe my plant was mislabelled, I decided to take the question straight to the source: the grower. In this case, Carri Raven-Riemann of OrchidPhile. I sent her pictures. She explained that she only has one other clone of the hybrid, called ‘Taida Violet Butterfly’, but the flowers aren’t as round, full, or thick in substance, the spikes are much taller, and the leaves are much narrower and more pointed than my plant. She sent along a picture of ‘Taida Violet Butterfly’, and it is distinctly different. This photo from taidaorchids.com shows how high the spikes are, and pointed the leaves are.



Carri did, however have another very logical reason why my flowers look so different from Marc’s: growing conditions. The greenish yellow color of the flower in the harlequin (a two-toned phalaenopsis) is the most brilliant in a younger flower. Since Marc’s had been open for longer, his had faded to an almost ivory color. Mine had just opened, and, like an excited child, I brought it in to show it off. As a result, the

flowers have a vibrant, almost chartreuse color. Also, the amount of light that yellow phals, particularly yellow harlequins, get can contribute to how bright they are. My plant is getting southwest light, which is pretty ideal, and makes that yellow fairly neon. What can I say? I like to hoard the sunlight. Temperature can also be a factor, but I'll be the first to admit that I am a windowsill grower and inconsistent at best.

My mother has noted temperature being a factor as well. She and Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids have flowered the same *Phragmipedium Nicole Tower* differently. His is a vibrant red because he grows it bright and cold, and hers flowers orange because she grows it warm and bright. Either way, it's a beautiful orchid, but one change in the growing conditions can create a major difference in color.

I'm inclined to believe Carri's theory on growing conditions. Joe's right, too; there's a lot of variation between siblings, and no two orchids will ever be the same. Orchids are too dependent on how we grow them. Did I move this plant into a different window? Did that change its color? Did it produce a bigger bloom? Are the leaves more robust and rounder? The temperature and light has a profound impact on the look of our blooms, as well as the foliage.

Show Table March 2017

Emily Pettitt

Phalaenopsis Lioulin Sparrow 'Taida Little Panda'

Marge Tanguay

Paphiopedilum Mamie Wilson
Zygopetalum Jumpin Jack
 Rlc Jeremy Island x C. Circle of Life
Paphiopedilum Memoria Larry Heur
Lepotes bicolor

Donna Pettitt

Paphiopedilum Robin in Purple
 Phal. Sogo Lawrence x Tying Shin x H.P Norton
Paphiopedilum Larry Heuer

George Collison

Zygopetalum Moonehouse #4
Oncostele Eye Candy
Rhycattleanthe Your Mine
Phalenopsis NOID
Phalenopsis NOID
Phalenopsis NOID

Marc Gray

Lycaste Dainty
Phalaenopsis NOID
Phalaenopsis Lioulin Sparrow 'Taida Little Panda'

Steve Reardon

Lepotes pohlitinocoi
Paphiopedilum Nitens
Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Illusion
Paphiopedilum Airly Dreamy
Paphiopedilum Ocean of Spots

Liz Marinelli

Lycaste Gamora Ablaze
Cymbidium Wakakusa 'Delight'
Tricopilia suavis

Steve LaValley

Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi
Maxillara sanguinea
Phalaenopsis Kuntrarti Rarashati 'Copperstate'

Marge Tanguay



Paph. Mem Larry Heuer

Lepotes bicolor



Zygopetalum Jumping Jack

Marc Gray



Lycaste Dainty
Steve Reardon



Phal. Lioulin Sparrow



Paph. Oceans of Spots



Paph Fairly Dreamy



Paph Nitens
Steve Lavalley



Leptotes pohlitinocoi



Phal cornu-cervi Red form



Phal Kuntrart Rarashati



Maxillaria sanguinea

Donna Pettit



Phal. Sogo Lawrence X Tying Shin
X H. P. Norton



Paph. Robin in Purple

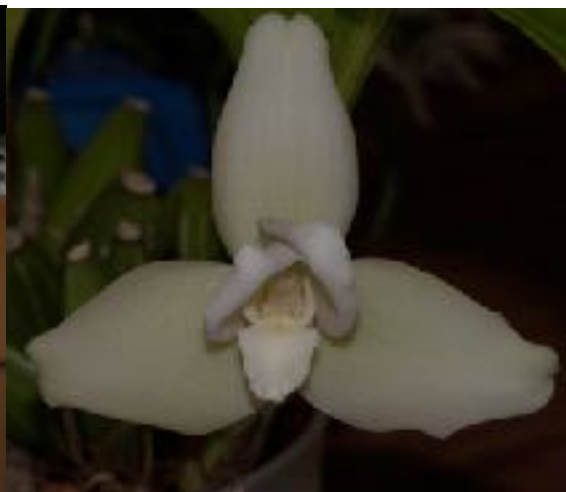


Paph.
Mem Larry Heuer

Liz Marinelli



Tricopilia Suavis



Lycaste Gamora Ablaze

George Collison



Zygo. Moorehouse #4



Phal NO ID
Maybe Baldan's Kaleidoscope

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting is Sunday, April 23th at 2 PM. Those with last names starting with I, J, K, L, Please bring a dish to share.

Orchid Auction: Saturday, May 6, 2017, 10 am-4 pm Waverly Inn, 286 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT 06410. Presented by the Connecticut Orchid Society.

10-12, Plant Preview

12-4 Auction

No Admission Fee

Specimen Plants

Fred Clarke Plants

All are welcome