



*The Newsletter of the*  
**Amherst Orchid Society**  
*An affiliate of the American Orchid Society*

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August & September 2016

**Conway Gatherings**

**Roger West**

It was a wonderful day for members to relax under the old maples. Most everyone took advantage of the flower gardens, ablaze with color. The daylilies were not quite at peak bloom but the echinacea were gorgeous. I have more of the latter than the former. I started the echinacea from seeds of the Cheyenne series, which are red, orange or gold. Each year I put in more because they are so much better than the old purple coneflowers. They branch more and have a flat flower presentation. As the meeting was breaking up some of us witness the rare sight of Holly taking flight on a rope swing over a trampoline. My two grandsons demonstrated on what needed to be done for Holly. So with some trepidation and a cheering crowd, Holly “flew through the air with the greatest of ease” and made it onto the trampoline in one piece. It was awesome and the boys were impressed.

A great deal of club business was discussed. The June orchid sale at Smith Vocational School was very profitable and everyone is looking forward to next year with maybe two more vendors. A possibility of a Saturday speaker was bandied about to increase that day's attendance. Advertising was discussed with many mentions of using social media for this purpose. When Facebook and other computer stuff were mentioned, I zoned out as this is way advanced for me. I personally think the sale success gave everybody an emotional lift. I could feel the enthusiasm that flowed through the crowd. Conclusion was that a few members put in a great deal of work leading to monetary and emotional success for the rest of us.

A future road trip was mentioned. Next April there is an orchid show in Philly (SEPOS). An overnight stay would include Longwood Gardens. We need about 25 club members and another 25 from other clubs to make the bus trip economically feasible. Trips require lots of planning in advance that's why Joe and Ellen Kennedy are trying to get a head start on this. The orchid show is almost as good as the old New York shows and Longwood is great all the time.

T-shirts were brought up and the club wants to redo the multifloral paph shirts from years ago. The shirts would be white with the colored paph. September will be a sale at Munson library just like last year. Club only made \$100 last year, but it was fun for those who showed. October is membership renewal month with other things promised. November will be interesting with members who re-upped receiving a bare-root plant from Gold Country Orchids and repotting the plant at this meeting. Basically this will be a repotting clinic that used to be held in July when Bill Hutchinson would be wielding either an axe or a machete to divide some poor Dendrobium or Maxillaria. Those were hellish times and not for the meek. Thinking is to get the old vets to help the beginners with either dividing or repotting their orchids and a little camaraderie spread amongst us.

July Meeting continued...

Finally the two show tables were awesome, loaded with blooms. This was very impressive for a summer showing. Paphs and multifloral paphs dominated the tables. The vandas and Steve's little guys were equally plentiful. A wonderful time, great weather, awesome setting, happy people, multiple deserts, as everyone knows this club loves to eat and Holly on the flying trapeze!!!

### **Calling All Writers!**

Writers wanted – and even non-writers! Volunteers needed to write articles, short or long, contribute “helpful hints” and report on meetings and events. Please help the club produce an informative, useful newsletter. Contact Maryanne at a meeting or through the society website email.

### **Helpful Hint:**

Here's a helpful hint from Maryanne Laukaitis:

A couple of newsletters ago, Roger told of an orchid pot getting plugged at the bottom drainage hole. I've found a way to mitigate that problem. I use a seashell, like a mussel or clam shell, concave side down over the hole. The shell is a dome over the hole letting water out under irregular edges and keeping the media from being washed or compacted into the hole. You can also use several shells for the bottom of a basket.

### **Thanks to Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids for Orchid Growing Tips** Maryanne Laukaitis

At the first New England Orchid Fest (June 2016), vendor Alan Koch had a nice selection of orchid plants, but most appreciated was his friendliness and willingness to share growing advice when asked.

Alan gave a short talk on windowsill orchid growing, and I attended, scribbling notes as fast as I could. Here are a few points that are useful to know:

Situating your plants in an East or South window is preferable to a West or North window. One reason for this is that the first early light stimulates a plant to begin its daytime metabolism. If a plant is in a West window, it does not get that first strong light until later in the afternoon, and so has less time to engage in photosynthesis.

Some orchids do not need strong light to grow and flower, however. A phal may be able to thrive in the low light of West or even a North window. The grower should try different locations to see what satisfies the specific plant. Even *Leptotes bicolor*, usually considered a high or medium-light plant, was tried on a North exposure, and it flowered.

Change the media every year or two. If the media is of high quality and not breaking down, then change it after 2 or 3 years.

Masdevallias need a chill period to trigger flowering, and so do *Zygopetalums*. The new hybrid *Zygos* do not need a chill, due to about 30 years of selective breeding by an Australian.

Alan Koch Talk – continued...

Why do “Big Box” store orchids come without ID tags? It’s the money, honey! The big nurseries churn out millions of plants per year. If a tag costs a cent or even less, multiplying that cost by the millions will cut into profit.

Taiwan orchid nurseries also cut costs by reducing the number of times plants need to be watered. The orchids you get potted in a plastic pot with moss are watered once every 21 days with oxygen pumped into the water. If you’re growing a Phal in a clay pot with coarse medium, you’ll probably need to water once a week. Phal roots are green and engage in photosynthesis, as do leaves, and store starch (energy) for the plant.

Dendrobiums of the *Latouria* group can take temperatures from about 32F to 110F. Many are bird pollinated, and stay in bloom for a long time – even months.

*Neofinitias* have been moved to the *Vanda* genus. Their range includes Korea and past the Okinawa Islands. They are cool growing to tropical, so are considered very adaptable. No chill is necessary to initiate blooming, however. Nor do they require very high light conditions.

*Oncidiums*: some may need no chill to bloom, depending on species. Don’t over fertilize them, as some think it contributes to the spotting problems many *Oncidiums* exhibit. Flush out regularly with plain water. Some will require potting in moss to keep moisture even and constant.

The popular mini-Catts are products of breeding using two parents that need no chilling to bloom. They are: *Laelia pumila* and *Cattleya luteola*. The hybrids tend to be small, forgiving – that is adaptable – plants.

When putting your plants outside for the summer, remember to acclimate them gradually to the higher light by first setting them in shade and moving them little by little to higher light. Should they become too hot, the plant uses energy to cool itself rather than for growth.

Pests! Outdoors it seems that pests are less of a problem since predatory insects (and spiders) can control the nasty ones. Here’s a spray recipe from the *Cymbidium Society of America* for pest control:

1 part distilled water (it contains no salts)  
1 part Murphy’s Oil Soap (a surfactant)  
1 part rubbing alcohol (to desiccate insects)

Repeat application every 3 days for 2 weeks in summer or for 3 weeks in winter when indoors, in order to break the life cycle of the pest. This formula is said to work on 90% of insect pests. But, you should still be vigilant, look for mealy bugs, scale, etc. and remove by hand when you can.

Thrips and gnats: Scratchy marks on flowers are evidence of thrips. They also carry 3 different types of fungi, which can infect your plants. Fungus gnats also carry fungi in their bellies. The larval gnats feed off fungi in the medium, (that may also indicate the medium is breaking down). You may have to use commercial pesticide to get rid of thrips and fungus gnats. Alan recommended Bayer 3-in-1 which is effective for 14 days and contains insecticide, fungicide and miticide. You may choose other pesticides, but take care to choose the safest for your application, use gloves when applying. For heavy infestations, Repot!

## Show Table July 2016

### **Roger West**

Cattleya gaskelliana  
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Memoria Helen Brown

### **Tom McCurry**

Angraecum didieri  
Oberonium myosaurus

### **Donna Pettitt**

Paphiopedilum Lynleigh Koopowitz  
Cacyclia Serena's Tinkerbelle  
Paphiopedilum Shin-Yi's Pride  
Phalaenopsis Tying Rose Golden Rose x H.P. Norton

### **Liz Marinelli**

Paphiopedilum Green Hornet  
Prosthechea cochleata  
Gastrochilus retrocalla  
Vanda Ashley and Beverly's  
Haraella retrocalla

### **Steve Reardon**

Paphiopedilum Victoria's Passion  
Paphiopedilum Pinocchio's Song  
Paphiopedilum callosum

### **Ann Jordan**

Psychopsis NOID  
Oncidium Heavenly Scent  
Oncidium NOID

### **Steve Steiner**

Dendrobium lawesii  
Promenaea stapelioides  
Bulbophyllum dearei  
Lycaste Highland Peak 'Cooksbridge'  
Paphiopedilum rothschildianum  
Pleurothallis brighami  
Maxillaria gracilis var. macrantha  
Restrepia striata 'Waynes'  
Chondrorhyncha lendyana  
Restrepia sp. Columbia  
Restrepia viduata  
Brassia Spiders Gold  
Phragmipedium pearcei  
Stelis convallaria

### **Joe Maciaszek**

Broughtonia sanguinea 'Red Star'  
Cattleya Jungle Hotspot

### **Kasia Wynne**

Phalaenopsis Magic Art

### **Leilani and Harold Norman**

Cattleya Manaure  
Vanda Suksamran's Delight  
Paphiopedilum Robinianum

### **Emily Pettitt**

Phalaenopsis Lioulin Sparrow 'Taida Little Panda'

### **Marge Tanguay**

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Toshie's Magic 'Doris'  
Phragmipedium Patti MacHale 'Ron'  
Miltoniopsis Red Woodham  
Paphiopedilum primulinum  
Paphiopedilum Lawless Zauberflote

### **Marc Gray**

Habenaria rhodocheila 'Electric Orange'  
Habenaria rhodocheila 'Tracy'  
Brachycorthis sp. Lao  
Dyakia hendersoniana  
Phalaenopsis NOID  
Domingoa purpurea  
Phalaenopsis Kenneth Schubert  
Aerides lawrenceae x Vandachostylis Sasicha  
Aerides lawrenceae x Vandachostylis Sasicha

# Upcoming Events

**Amherst Orchid Society meeting for Sunday, September 18, 2016  
will be a Plant Swap and Sale.**

**Hours: 11 AM to 3 PM**

**Location: Munson Library, South Amherst, MA**  
1046 South East Street, South Amherst, MA

**Bring plants to Swap or Sell, and snacks to share. Other Orchid Societies are welcome to attend.**

This event is in place of our regular meeting...

Anyone is free to sell his or her extra plants and divisions at our September Orchid Plant Swap and Sale Day. The club receives 30% of the sale price; the seller gets the other 70%. If you will be bringing more than just a few plants, contact Marc Gray, and let him know how many plants you are bringing ASAP so we can determine ahead of time the amount of tables we need. (You are also free to bring your own table. We will set-up outside weather permitting.)

Important: PLANT SALE LABELING SYSTEM !

Make sure you have 2 identification labels for EACH plant you are selling.

On the plant identification tag (ID tag), which goes with the plant, you should place a sticker-label.

On the sticker, write your initials, a number that identifies that particular plant, and the price.

For example, RW #1 \$25 would be written on Roger West's plant #1. If you cannot get the sticker-label to stay on the ID tag, you may place it on the pot. You should also make a second label, which includes your name or initials, the plant number, and the price. So this label would also look like RW #1 \$25.

We will collect these priced ID tags at the check-out line and then tally them up at end. These ID tags will be returned to sellers for future use. This priced second ID tag does not need to include the plant's name, unless you are concerned about people switching out the tags.

This new system will expedite the set up time for getting plants ready, and will make the check-out process more efficient. Sellers can also have a master list with the plant names listed in numerical order on one sheet of paper for record keeping after the sale is over. We WILL NOT be checking these lists at check-out time since it really slows down the check-out line!

If you have any questions or concerns please contact: Marc Gray at 1-802-348-7926 (leave a message) or at [bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net) Hope to see you there!

Note: Until further notice, photos will be omitted from the newsletter and only posted at the website:  
[www.amherstorchidsociety.org](http://www.amherstorchidsociety.org)