



Greater Whorled Pogonia
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The Newsletter of the **AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

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July/August/September 2017

June and July Meetings

June's meeting was the annual picnic hosted by the Gray family, Ed, Christine and Marc, at their Vermont home. It was a small-ish but convivial crowd that warm, sunny day, with a tasty selection of potluck dishes, and Ed cooking up burgers and hotdogs on an open fire. It's always a pleasure to sit beneath the big pine trees, stroll through the greenhouse (though many plants were outside for 'summer-camp') and admire the pond gardens surrounded by colorful borders of Japanese primroses. A few of us discussed merits of different garden plants, and the miseries of trying to control invasive plants, as well our efforts to control pests on our orchids. Many thanks to the Grays for their hospitality in relaxed woodsy ambience!

For July's meeting, we owe many thanks to Roger West for hosting another picnic at his beautiful farm in Conway. It was a lovely day to visit the hilltop, sit in the shade of the giant, ancient maples, view the surrounding hills and take in his gardens. This year it seemed that every garden bed was edged in brilliant pink, (I think it was Lavatera), and daylilies of all colors beamed gloriously at every turn. Our potluck lunch was generous and varied...thanks to all who attended and brought those tasty goodies and good company.

Roger's re-potting of Catts demonstration was quite exciting. I've never seen anyone re-pot so quickly, and if you missed this demo, you missed quite a bit of expert advice, some discussion on how best to avoid spreading disease (virus is a big concern), and tales of plans that went wrong, such as Roger's "orchid tree" with many epiphytes that didn't choose to grow. Marc Gray also demonstrated re-potting of other species, including a Dendrochilum, which was overdue. Better to make the move in an active growing phase than to wait and risk the health of the plant. Well, we all learn through experience. *Maryanne Laukaitis*

Let's hear from Roger now...

A large group was present for a nice afternoon in Conway. A relaxing atmosphere, colorful grounds, food aplenty and a dazzling display table made for a wonderful time. Fragrance dominated the display table as many of the species were enticing. Maryanne and Mike brought in a Stanhopea with three spikes and a dozen buds with the hope that one of these spikes would open so more fragrance would be added. Of all the orchids that I have encountered, Stanhopeas have the strongest fragrance. Unfortunately the buds didn't open, probably the next day. Also their large exotic blooms only last 5-7 days but what a great week! Growing a Stanhopea you need to have it in a basket as the blooming spikes grow downward, must be an adventure to transport. Also on display were many multifloral Paphs displaying their stately blooms. (continued next page)

Marc Gray and I did a repotting demonstration that I hoped helped the more novice growers in our club. I had six examples of cattleyas in need of repotting. They ranged from an overgrown plant to one with rotted media to one not

doing so well to an oxalis invasion of a plant growing in charcoal and finally a cattleya growing in a straight line that I cut off the back bulbs to try to get a new growth started. I demonstrated how I do this by putting this division in a long plastic sleeve with a little moist sphagnum moss. I then tied off the sleeve top, put two small ventilation holes near the bottom and placed it in a shady part of my growing area. I rarely do this and only with a valuable orchid. The goal is for a new growth to commence and then place it into a small growing pot. This division should bloom on its second growth. Happy roots always yield bountiful blooms. There were 4 sale plants that didn't go back to whoever brought them in. I will bring them the next time that the club meets. *Roger West*

IMPORTANT ! Next Meeting is FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017 at 7 PM

Location: Munson Library, South Amherst, MA

A special presentation will be made by Dr. Kristen Uthus, of New World Orchids on *Neofinitas*.

Dr. Kristen Uthus studied both plant and animal ecology and evolution at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and the Ohio State University (OSU). She then taught biology and ecology at several colleges including VCU, OSU, University of Michigan, and Eastern Michigan University. The daughter of a plant fanatic, Kristen has been growing orchids for over 20 years, sometimes more and sometimes less seriously. In April 2013, however, she began working with Dr. Glenn Lehr, the previous owner of New World Orchids, one of the first people to introduce Japanese orchids to the American market. After a short time, he offered her the business, and she fulfilled a lifelong dream of making orchids a full-time commitment by purchasing NWO from Dr. Lehr in January 2014.

Although she enjoys growing many varieties of orchids and other plants, miniatures remain her passion—the weirder the better. New World Orchids specializes in Japanese species including *Neofinetia falcata*, *Dendrobium moniliforme*, and *Sederia japonica* as well as Asian Cymbidium species, but her miniature selection has been expanding to include other small species including Pleurothallids, Bulbophyllums, and Angraecums. Although not ever entirely up to date, you can check out some of NWO's offerings at www.newworldorchids.com.

Kristen lives in Manchester, MI, about an hour west of Detroit. She is supported in her orchid pursuits by her husband, Dr. Kevin Wehrly, her two sons, Henry and Gus, and a veritable menagerie of lovable animals.

Kristin will grant a 10% discount on **pre-orders** of greenhouse stock.

Due to this special off-cycle meeting, there will be NO MEETING on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

Refreshments welcome!

From the New Hampshire Orchid Society – Annual Focus on Phals Day

September 9, 2017 is the annual annual IPA Focus on Phals all-day meeting. Sales tables open at 8:30 AM to 3 PM.

If you haven't already, get details and register for this all-day event by visiting the website: www.nhorchids.org

The speakers and Vendors are: Dottie Woodson, Texas A&M Certified Nursery Professional and Water Resource Specialist, Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids, Carrie Raven-Riemann of orchidPhile, and Kelley's Corner Orchid Supplies.

Here's a Challenge for You!

Time to sharpen up those pencils and put on your thinking caps! The deadline is fast approaching for the annual Gordon W. Dillon - Richard C. Peterson Memorial Essay Contest. The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families. You do not need to be an AOS member.

The winner receives a cash prize and a certificate suitable for framing. The contest was established in 1985 by the AOS Northeast Judging Center to honor the memory of two former editors of the AOS Bulletin (now Orchids). Gordon Dillon served as editor from 1943 through 1968 and again from 1970 through 1973. Richard Peterson's name first appeared on the masthead of the AOS Bulletin in April 1971 as associate editor. In 1973, he was named editor and, upon Dillon's retirement in 1977, he became the executive director, retaining his position of editor through 1984.

The theme for 2017 is: **Species or hybrids?**

Which do you prefer and why? Do you grow hybrids because of their cultural adaptability and reliable blooming (sometimes more than once a year) or do you grow species because of the challenge and diversity? This is a chance to show off some of your favorite orchids as you use them to illustrate your points!

CONTEST RULES

- The essay must be an original, unpublished article.
- The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families.
- Submissions must be no more than 5,000 words.
- Manuscripts must be submitted in English and may be submitted electronically as MS Word or compatible word processor file.
- Submissions will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author. The decision of the judges is final. If no entries meet the expected criteria of excellence, the award will be withheld.
- Artwork is not necessary for entering this competition.

Non-winning entries will be returned to the contestant if requested. Such entries are eligible for resubmission in subsequent contests. These non-winning entries will also be considered for publication by the editor of Orchids and may be used in Orchids or other AOS publications with the written permission of the author. Published entries will not be eligible for consideration in subsequent contests.

Submit all entries to the Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay Prize:

Ron McHatton
American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
Email: rmchatton@aos.org

2003 – Theme: Family and Friends with Orchids
Winner: "Our Orchids" by Ellen Kennedy

The Orchid Conservatory Alliance "Orchids in the Wild" Trip for 2017

The tour of Ecuador will cover the entire length of the country which has the largest orchid biodiversity of anywhere in the world. Visit www.orchidconservationalliance.org/guided-trips for details and registration.

November 13 – 28, 2017: 16 Day Trip to Ecuador after the World Orchid Conference

Our trip will begin in southwestern Ecuador, Guayaquil, just after the World Orchid Conference, and swing through many regions to end up in Quito after passing through Tulan, very near to the northern border with Colombia. Our guide will be Gilberto Merino, whose experience and knowledge of Ecuadorian orchids is unparalleled. Along the way we will visit native markets, orchid reserves and orchid nurseries, making a stop at the equator, where we can stand in the northern and southern hemispheres at the same time.

Show Table July 2017

Sheron Tuohey

Phalaenopsis NOID

Marge Tanguay

Paphiopedilum Jolly Holiday
Vanda Lou Sneary 'Bluebird'
Phalaenopsis Kenneth Schubert 'A08258'
Cattleya Cherry Song 'Pink'
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Walianae Leopard 'Ching Huo'
Porsthechea radiata
Paphiopedilum Pink Fred
Paphiopedilum appletonianum v. hainanense
Paphiopedilum liemianum

Kathy Puckett

Stelis bivalvis

Bulbophyllum bicolor

Brassavola cucullata

Phymatidium tillandsiodes

Leilani and Harold Norman

Prosthechea prismatocarpa
Cattleya Wendy Patterson
Laeliocattleya Twilight Song
Dendrobium Memoria Jo-Ann Kelly
Paphiopedilum Mamie Wilson

Steve Steiner

Dendrobium lawsii
Kefersteinia taurine
Aerangis Elro
Promenaea stapelodes
Phragmipedium Living Fire
Specklinia brighamii
Phragmipedium China Dragon
Stelis convallaria
Euchile mariae
Promenaea crawshayana
Paphiopedilum Bernice 'Lyretail'
Pescatoria cerina

Connie Lentz

Mormolyca ringens

Photo on the Right:

Platanthera grandiflora, photographed by Marc Gray,
near Pittsburg, NH while on summer vacation.

Marc Gray

Zygosepescalum Zesty Keila
Brachycorythus sp
Phalaenopsis Tying Shin Blue Jay
Vanda falcata himekaioamaru
Habenaria rhodochelia 'Tracy'
Vanda falcate NOID
Domingoa purpurea
Phalaenopsis bellina
Promenaea NOID

Russell Autrey

Phalaenopsis NOID
Paphiopedium Lynleigh Koopowitz

Mike Walunas

Stanhopea occulata

Maryanne Laukaitis

Cattleya maxima
Cattleya forbesii

Karen Steward

Porsthechea cochleata

Roger West

Cattleya tenebrosa
Cattleya purpurata 'Carnea'
Cattleya gaskelliana



© Marc Gray

“GoBotany” ? “NEWFS” ?

If you found a native, wild orchid (like the *Platanthera* that Marc found) , or other intriguing plant, you can get help with identification from <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/> This identification site is sponsored by New England Wild Flower Society (www.newfs.org) a non-profit society with gardens and office in Framingham, Massachusetts. One can visit the gardens, take a class, and purchase native plants at Nasami Farm in Whately, MA, their Western Mass propagating nursery facility. Elizabeth Farnsworth of NEWFS will speak at our meeting November 19, 2017.

Can You See a Polar Bear in a Snow Storm?

Do you like seeing lots of white space in the newsletter? No? Well, please consider writing a short – or long – article to contribute. The membership would like to hear about your best, or worst, plant experiences, as we all learn from our mistakes! Research an orchid and tell us about it. Or, did you find an orchid on vacation, a hike, or a canoe trip? We’d like to see a photo and maybe a sentence or two about it. Don’t forget, we like to run the “helpful hints” that make some of your plant keeping tasks a little easier. Send articles to Marc Gray or Maryanne Laukaitis.

A Big “Thank You”

Emily Petitt has edited and laid-out our newsletter for several years, and I want to gratefully thank her on behalf of the membership for a job well done and sticking to it. It’s a behind the scenes type of job that gets little thanks, and takes persistence. If you see Emily at a meeting, please join me in thanking her for all of that time spent at the computer. Best wishes to you, Emily, and we hope you’ll continue to love orchids and make them part of your life. Thanks again!

“Help Wanted: Newsletter Editor”

The club needs someone to take on the monthly newsletter together. Just as important, we need a person who can pick up, address label and stamp the postal copies of the newsletters, as not all members have internet access. Please contact Marc Gray or Maryanne Laukaitis – see page 6 for contact information.

Upcoming Events:

September 8, 2017 – special presentation by owner of New World Orchids, 7 PM, Munson Library (see article page 2)
Refreshment contributions by all are welcome !

September 9, 2017 – New Hampshire Focus on Phals Day, preregistration needed (see article page 2)

October 7, 2017 – Monthly American Orchid Society judging, 10:30 AM, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA (www.towerhillbg.org)

October 15, 2017 – Amherst Orchid Society, Annual Membership Renewal Meeting, 2 PM, Munson Library, So. Amherst
Members with last names beginning with Q through Z, please bring refreshments!

November 19, 2017 – Amherst Orchid Society Meeting, 2 PM, Munson Library. South Amherst, MA with guest speaker, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Ph.D., Senior Research Ecologist, native plant specialist with the New England Wild Flower Society, Framingham, MA (www.newfs.org)

November 3, 4, 5, 2017 – Massachusetts Orchid Society, Annual Show and Sale, located at Mahoney’s Garden Center, 242 Cambridge Street, Winchester, MA (www.massorchid.org)

December 17, 2017 – Amherst Orchid Society Meeting and Annual Holiday Party, 2 PM, Munson Library. South Amherst, MA – Please bring dishes to share! (May be cancelled if the weather makes traveling dangerous)