



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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June Picnic- Roger West

It was a nice Sunday up in Vermont. Everyone relaxed under the pines as the Chef Emeritus relegated the grill to his assistant. The grounds were enjoyable but I didn't see any trout in the pond. There were just a few plants on display highlighted by a large specimen of *C Canhamiana*. President Joe conducted a brief meeting around two topics. First were donations to various entities with \$2,700 being allocated. Munson Library was to receive \$1,000 as this is the usual donation when the club is flush. The N. E. Wild Flower Society was to receive \$300 and this was a first time donation to this organization. The others were the judging center, AOS and some orchid conservation thing.

The second topic was a September auction. That month was open so why not have some fun. Still to be determined is what type of auction. Will it be all plant donations or an 80/20 split that would be in accordance with previous club sales. Probably will be a combination of the above. All this will be decided at the July meeting up in Conway. I wonder what New Hampshire does with their auction in regards to plant donations? Do they ask vendors for free plants? I don't know but I would have a hard time asking vendors for free plants.

The Conway grounds will be ablaze with daylily blooms. The large hostas are also nice this time of the year. Come, enjoy, if you want a piece of some daylily, bring a shovel and I will split the daylily. We will start at 1 PM, bring a dish to share.

June 22 was my younger grandson's last day of school as he is a young arborist, we decided to visit the Smith College grounds. We had previously visited back in February during the show setup. This time of the year the campus is quite scenic and not too many people. He liked the tree varieties, I liked the greenhouses. The orchid house had a complete makeover from our previous visit. Every plant looked great and clean. The whole place was really clean. A few orchids were in bloom with a *Stanhopea* pushing out two spikes downward through a basket. A very large *Dinertia polybulbon* "Fred Morse" was growing with the camellias, a cooler area. This plant must have come from Bill Hutchinson. This could be a real show stopper come next February. Two more "rather interesting" orchids were in bloom. A *Thunia* species was in full bloom in another room. My grandson wanted me to check this plant out as I was still in the orchid house. From a distance I thought it was a *Phaius* but upon closer inspection and a helping label it was this *Thunia*. It had large blooms like a *Phaius* but the blooms faced out like a *cattleya* bloom. It was quite a specimen and there were two smaller plants along side. This is a deciduous plant from SE Asia.

The second orchid of interest was a large leaf plant (*Phal* like leaves but longer) hanging in a basket. It had reddish bronze flowers at the apex of the plant as the large leaves were pendulant. I had my cocky grandson come over and take a good sniff of the blooms and he bolted from the room. I will let you guess as to what this orchid could be. Sad to report that there were no *cattleyas* in the greenhouse, only one small *Epicat*.

May Meeting

Roger West

There were more display plants present than members. The few people certainly appreciated the nice display highlighted by a large specimen of a red cattleya. As mentioned in a previous e-mail there will be no Orchidfest this July. A lack of vendor interest was the main reason for the cancellation. It is quite hard to get outside our area vendors to participate when there is no guarantee of good attendance.

The other topic of discussion was when Holly presented a problem with her orchids. She has a white buildup on the orchid leaves and I think she said white crusty areas on the pots. Most everybody suggested bad water which is high in insoluble salts. Holly said her water had a count of 700 ppm of the insoluble salts. Anything over 400 ppm (Parts per Million) is not good for most orchids especially the thin leafed varieties. Good water is very important in orchid culture and it seems we rarely talk about this. Many years ago we had a talk from the late Dr. Ben Berliner, a Connecticut orchid judge. He had what he diagnosed as a salt buildup in his orchids. His water tested out at 800 ppm. He switched to a RO system (Reverse Osmosis) to supply water to his plants and they made a dramatic turn around. He stated working with a RO system was a pain but needed. Years ago I tested my well water and it was around 400 ppm. I switched to collecting rain water or snow in the winter. I still on occasion use the well when it doesn't rain or too lazy to carry in the snow. You must remember that rain water is so pure that you need to supplement the water with macro and micro nutrients from your fertilizer selection. I use Peter's Cal-Mag fertilizer which supplies more of these two nutrients than regular fertilizer. A Calcium deficiency is seen with black tips on the new orchid growths. Also fish poop from my small pond is used in the summer when I feed the cattleyas heavily. I also top dress the plants with handfuls of compost when they are summering outside. This way the plants are fed a little bit with each watering or rainfall.

The above suggestions were given to Holly but Steve Steiner had the simplest solution, double water the plants. Water one day to loosen up the medium and then water the second day to really flush the medium. This method should remove a great deal of those unwanted salts. Holly will report back this fall as how her orchids responded.

Show Table June 2018

Dave Marinelli

Phal. cornu-cervi 'Chattaladae'

Liz Marinelli

Ascocentrum miniatum

Dendrobium trantuanii

Lani & Harold Norman

Epi. Cosmos Dream

Epi. Noeon Valley

Epi. Mivra Valley

Karen Steward

Prosthechea cochleata

Paph Lynliegh Koopowitz

Roger West

Cattleya Canhamiana



Spotlight on the Show Table:

Cattleya Canhamiana Grown by Roger West

The show table was a little sparse this month, but one plant was out there flaunting itself- Roger's *Cattleya Canhamiana*. A primary hybrid of *Cattleya purpurata* and *Cattleya mossiae*, this specimen had about 15 large white and purple flowers on 6 leads, making a stunning display.

Roger got this plant about 6 years ago from Carter and Holmes, when it was in a 2-inch pot. In the intervening years this plant has clearly not been slacking off, it is now filling a custom-made wooden

basket about 10 inches square. Fat healthy roots could be seen peeking out between the slats, and the leaves were flawless.

Culture: The plant is grown in osmunda fiber that Roger sources from the woods near his home. It receives rain water and is fed weekly in summer with a 20-10-20 fertilizer, and monthly in winter with a bloom booster. It gets full sun in winter in the greenhouse and 55% shade cloth outside in summer. More on Roger's *Cattleya* culture can be found in the May meeting report on page 2.

Registered by Veitch in 1885, *C. Canhamiana* went on to become probably the most famous primary hybrid in orchid history, according to the Chadwick and Son website. It was the "Wedding Orchid" of the cut-flower days, and tens of thousands of *C. Canhamiana* were grown during the 1940s when they were used in bridal bouquets, travel corsages and hair ornaments.





Picnic at Roger West's July 15th at his house in Conway!

Directions:

FROM THE SOUTH

Take Rt. 91 to exit 24. Take Rt 5 north to Rt. 116 North. Go North on Rt.116 into the center of Conway.

In Conway, from the center of Conway, you will see a green road sign for Dacey Rd. and a sign for Conway Orchids. The Wests have a big farm with a large red barn.

FROM THE NORTH

Take Rt. 91 to exit 25. Take Rt. 116 North. Go North on Rt.116 into the center of Conway. In Conway, take a Right on Shelburne Falls Rd. Exactly 3 miles from the center of Conway, you will see a green road sign for Dacey Rd. and a sign for Conway Orchids. The Wests have a big farm with a large red barn.

Please bring a dish to share.

We hope everyone can make it!

Upcoming Events

Upcoming meetings for AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY at the Munson Library:
September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9

The meeting on September 9 will be a club auction, details to follow

~ J & L Summer Sale ~

July 28 and 29, 10 am to 5 pm

Guest vendors, lectures, orchid displays, door prizes and a lunch picnic

Vendors: Piping Rock, Orchidphile, Kelly's Korner and Grace Emporia

<https://jlorchids.com/j-l-summer-sale/>

Janet Price – Long Time Orchid Society Member

We are deeply saddened by the news that Janet Price (née Kreuter) passed away on June 24, 2018. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Janet has been a congenial member of Amherst Orchid Society for over ten years. One of the last things she did with the club was to generously donate her extensive collection of orchids for an auction (March 2018) and designate the proceeds to be used to fund speakers for meetings.

Janet was born in Michigan on March 16, 1939. She graduated from UCLA with a degree in mathematics in 1962, and went on to Stanford and Dartmouth College, receiving her Ph.D. in psychology in 1972. She taught math and computer science, then moved in to academic computing at various colleges. Janet went back to working directly with students and faculty at Amherst College in 2000, retiring in 2008. Janet had many interests as well as raising orchids- enjoying pottery, gardening, and participating in the Five Colleges Learning in Retirement programs.

Janet is survived by two sons, Kai Alexis Price and Gareth Amaya Price, their partners and two grandchildren.

Her sons suggest that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to one of her favorite organizations: Planned Parenthood, Amherst Orchid Society, or Five Colleges Learning in Retirement.

There will be a memorial service July 13, 2018 at 3 PM at the Lathrop Community, Northampton, MA. To see the complete obituary, and sign the guest book, go to link below:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/gazettenet/obituary.aspx?n=janet-price&pid=189455958>.

