



Greater Whorled Pogonia

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# The Newsletter of the **AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 25 Issue 11

December 2018

## November Meeting

Roger West

The largest gathering of the year was present for the membership plants and dividing three large orchids donated from Smith College. The giveaways came bare rooted from Gold Country orchids and were of the smaller genera such as Masdevallias, etc. Before getting to the main event, plant dividing, there was a lively discussion about the lack of attention directed toward scholarship monies. Bill and Verda had will provisions allocating scholarship money to worthy students. They needed to be interested in horticulture, botany and related sciences. This was three years ago and nothing has been done. Lani Norman ended the heated debate by taking over the scholarship program. Lani has enlisted help from a few members and as she volunteered me, I made a few calls to local school guidance people. They need scholarship applications by April first in order to get them to the students by their April vacation. There should be an update for the December meeting. This does not seem all that difficult, just needed somebody to take control, thanks Lani.

An update came from Holly about her orchid problem dating back to this past May. Her plants were not doing that well and a few veteran growers recommended substituting rain water for the Belchertown water. Holly reported that her plants are doing much better but it's time consuming collecting rain water. Many in the audience backed up her rain water benefits.



*Amherst Orchid Society display at the Massachusetts show*

The show table was awesome with many outstanding. Why don't I see some of these beauties when Joe and I set up displays at other society shows? We had only three members displaying at the past Mass. show. There are only two reasons that I go to these shows. One is I like to show off my plants and the other more important reason is I want these societies to come to our show. It takes time which I don't mind and traveling money for these away shows. It would be nice if I had more of a variety to display.

The main event was the dividing of three large, overgrown plants. *Dendrochilium convulariforme* (sp?) was a small growing plant that found 12 new homes. A very tall *Dendrobium Gattou Sunray* was divided 5 ways with Joe using a machete to accomplish this feat after cutting away the pot to get this monster out in the open. This plant came from the late Dr. Wilford Neptune as he donated some plants to Smith College. Dr. Neptune was a great grower of

specimen orchids that he displayed at many of the eastern shows. He once spoke to our group about growing Dendrobiums. This plant was awarded a CCM/AOS in June 2000, displaying 394 yellow blooms on 30 spikes. What got my attention with this award was the fact the plant was growing in a 30 gallon container. How much did this thing weigh? The last plant was a Pleurothallis species (unnamed) growing through a wire basket. Joe was using wire cutters to free this rather large plant. I didn't stick around for this dividing. The challenge is to see who can get blooms on some of these divisions, my money would be on the Pleurothallis.



*President Joe uses a machete to divide the monster Dendrobium*



*The machete also came in handy on the Dendrochilum*

## Upcoming Events

**December 9:** Holiday Potluck, bring a dish to share!

**Announcing the dates for the 2019 Amherst Orchid Society Show:**

Saturday February 23 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

and Sunday February 24 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Smith Vocational High School in Northampton

## A Look at the Library

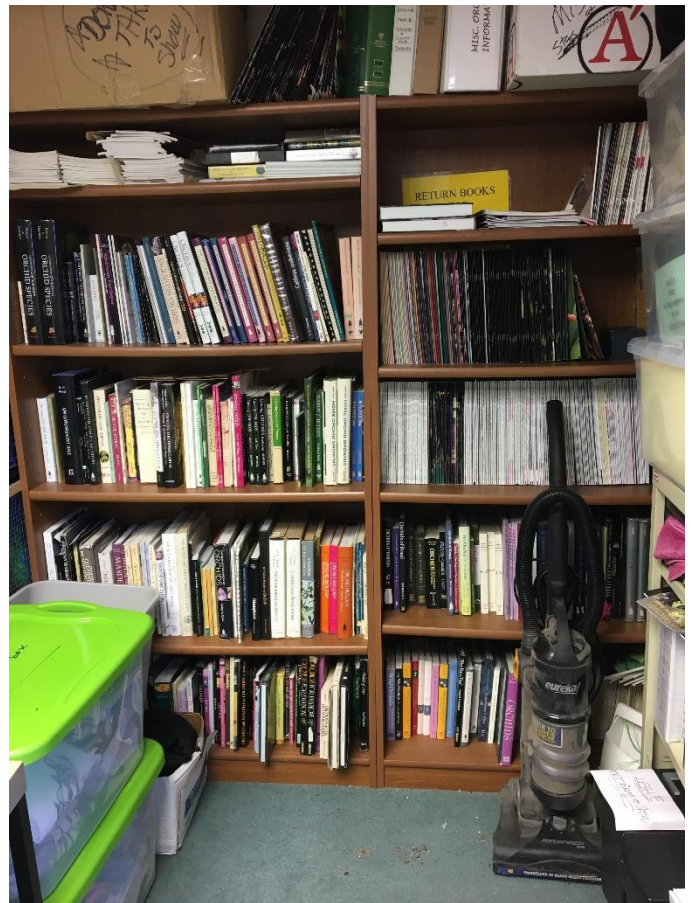
Liz Marinelli

Orchid club meetings are always humming with activity- between admiring the plants on the show table, checking out the sale table, chatting about plants, maybe grabbing a snack...in all the meetings I have attended I had never made time to check out the library, which I vaguely knew lay behind the door at the front of the room. I decided that it was time for me to have a look, so at the November meeting the librarian, Marge, was kind enough to give me a tour.

The library's quarters are not impressive, sharing a space with the equipment that is stored for the annual show. But a closer look revealed treasures...I would estimate that there are about 400 books, ranging in age from older volumes up to recent releases. Topics covered are comprehensive ("*The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids*") and specific ("*Maxillaria: An Unfinished Monograph*"), and many books are devoted to the orchids of a particular geographic region ("*The Orchids of Tasmania*"). The two major American orchid periodicals are present: holdings of *Orchids* go back to 1980 and *Orchid Digest* goes back to 1986. In addition, the library holds back issues of specialized society periodicals- *Phalaenopsis Quarterly*, *The Slipper Alliance Newsletter*, *The Pleurothallid Newsletter*, and *The Cymbidium Society of America Journal*.

The books are arranged in alphabetical order according to title, so if you know the title of a book it is simple to find, and the collection is not so big that books can't be found by browsing. Checking out a book is a simple matter- there are two loose leaf binders on a table by the window, each book has its own page (also arranged by title). On the page for the book you want to check out just write down your name and the date, etc. and place a sticky tab on the page so that Marge knows that the book has been checked out. The loan period is one month, but if you miss the next meeting you can bring it to the following one.

I'm very glad that I finally took the time to discover the resources that the library has to offer. Next time I want to delve deeper into a genus that is new to me, this will be my first stop. *The World of Catasetums* is one book that caught my eye. I encourage all club members to take a look at the library next time you are at a meeting.



Show Table November 2018**Russell Autry**

Oncidium Red Wasp

**Bill Benner**

Holcoglossum kimbalianum  
 Holcoglossum wangii X Vanda coerulea  
 Masdevallia 'Peach Fuzz'  
 Prra Bangkok Sunset 'M'  
 Restrepia cuprea

**Lee Brockman**

Dendrobium bigibbum  
 Dendrochilum tenellum 'Cecilia'  
 Epi. Miura Valley

**Linda Coffey**

Blc King George 'Serendipity'

**Ed deVarrenses**

Cochleanthes amazonica

**Marc Gray**

Neostylis Lou Sneary  
 Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite  
 Pleurothallis hymrodiens alba form  
 Pot Burana Beauty  
 Stelis species  
 Zygosepescalum Zesty Kaila

**Betsy Higgins**

Blc Toshi Aoki 'Pizzaz' X Pot. Burana  
 Beauty 'Burana'  
 Brassidium - intergeneric

**Ann Jordan**

Paph maudiae X Paph maudiae 'Napa Valley'  
 HCC/AOS  
 Phal Ganlin Passion X Lionlin Dazzle

**Maryanne Laukaitis**

Dendrobium tetragonum

**Geraldine Liebert**

C. bowringiana

**Joe Maciaszek**

Masd Proud Prince  
 Paph Jennifer Stage

**Dave Marinelli**

Pleurothallis condorensis

**Liz Marinelli**

Paph. helenae  
 Phrag. Eumelia Arias (Kovachii hybrid)  
 Phrag. Hanne Popow

**Carol Mentos**

Phal bellina

**Bob Meyer**

Paph. Emerald Sea 'Ted' X Paph. Stone  
 Lovey 'Clean Breeze'

**Lani & Harold Norman**

Catt. Minerva var coerulea  
 Catt. Rivermont Imperial 'Firma'  
 Phc Herbert Kuihara "Kazuto Nitta"

**Kathy Puckett**

Coelogyne finbriata

**Steve Steiner**

Bulbophyllum pardalatum  
 Oncidium 'Red Wasp'  
 Dendrobium  
 Phal Ainsworthii  
 Pleurothallis allenii  
 Phrag Dick Clements  
 Restrepia species (hotsbutae?)  
 Restrepia guttulata  
 Restrepia lansburkii  
 Sophronitis cernua

**Karen Steward**

Masdevallia nicarague  
 Phal. 'Consolation'

**Marge Tanguay**

Blc Glenn Maidment 'Aranbeem'  
 Cattleya Blue Boy 'Gainsborough' HCC/AOS  
 Slc Misty Girl 'Autmn Symphony' AM/AOS

**Roger West**

Rlc Krull's Lemonade  
 Odbrs Memoria Nikoline Lorenzen

**Kasia Wynn**

Phal bellina var. coerulea  
 Stenocoryne aureofulva



## Spotlight on the Show Table:

### *Phragmipedium* Eumelia Arias grown by Liz Marinelli

First, a word about the show table in general...amazing! I am always overwhelmed at meetings when I see the fantastic plants that people grow on their windowsills, in greenhouses and under lights in our part of the world which is so inhospitable to orchids. It's no small feat, and we are lucky to be treated to a mini orchid show every month. In addition, we are fortunate to have Steve Steiner leading the review of the show table with his encyclopedic knowledge of orchid species and their culture, assisted by Joe Maciaszek adding his knowledge of judging. I'm sure we all come away with inspiration for plants we might like to acquire and tips to improve our growing.

This month my *Phragmipedium* Eumelia Arias was blooming nicely, with a flower on one spike and another spike developing. This hybrid is noteworthy because one of its parents is *Phragmipedium kovachii*, widely considered to be the most important orchid found in the last 100 years. I had read about the discovery of this species in Orchids magazine years ago, and was struck by the photos of a deep pink flower that can reach 8 inches across. The story of its discovery is full of drama and intrigue; the article by Glenn Decker in Orchids Magazine in November 2007 gives an interesting account. [http://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/Phrag\\_kovachii.pdf](http://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/Phrag_kovachii.pdf)

I thought it would be fun to try and grow one, but since plants of the species were pricy and said to be finicky to grow, I kept my eyes open for a hybrid. I stumbled across Eumelia Arias (*kovachii* X *schlimii*) at the Deep Cut Orchid show in NJ several years ago and brought one home. The blooms are not as massive as the species, but the advantage is that it is easy to grow. It has done pretty well for me, blooming almost every year. I grow it in a pot with several layers of medium: stones in the bottom for stability, then a few inches of clay pebbles (hydroton), then an inch or two of bark mix. When roots emerge from new growths above the mix, I wrap them in wet sphagnum so they don't dry out. I keep it wet, sometimes letting it sit in a saucer of water. It goes outside in the summer in part sun. I add oyster shell as a top dressing, since I read that *kovachii* grows in an area rich in limestone. This past summer I also added a top dressing of Nutri-cote, and it seems to like it. The regular fertilizer I use is Dyna Gro weekly in summer, less frequently the rest of the year.



I have been encouraged by Eumelia Arias to try a cousin, Perflora's Cirila Alca (*dalessandroi* X *kovachii*) but it is too soon to know if it will be as successful.

## *The newsletter needs you.....*

to send us some material!

Here are some ideas for articles:

- A visit you have made to a public garden or orchid nursery
- A book review
- An orchid you grow that has a story behind it
- Any growing tips you have discovered

Articles don't need to be lengthy or elaborate, a photo with a sentence or two would be welcome. If you don't enjoy writing, contact us and we can interview you over the phone or at a meeting. Better yet, invite one of us over so we can see your growing area and interview you on site. The newsletter will be better with more voices chiming in!

Since we take turns doing the newsletter, please send any submissions to both Liz Marinelli ([ewmarinelli@comcast.net](mailto:ewmarinelli@comcast.net)) and Troy Jordan ([troycjordan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:troycjordan@sbcglobal.net))

**Volunteers needed!**

**To participate in the Scholarship Committee**

**If interested please contact Leilani Norman**

**[leilani.norman@verizon.net](mailto:leilani.norman@verizon.net)**