



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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April Meeting

Roger West

There were a couple of familiar and TANNED faces showing for the meeting. Considering the miserable weather that greeted the members, I'm sure these few wished they were still down south. We questioned when winter's grip would finally allow spring to commence if at all. The meeting's topic revolved around advertising for the February show and the upcoming July Orchidfest. Our last show had 400 fewer attendees and last summer's Orchidfest was not good. Hard to attract vendors when there is nobody purchasing their products. Ideas were thrown around but nothing caught. The formation of an advertising committee was advanced but you know how volunteerism goes when it comes to committees. A mention of inviting Smith College and Mt. Holyoke to set up small orchid displays was encouraging with the thought of college kids coming to the show. The lack of the Springfield papers mentioning the show certainly hurt attendance. We get our best attendance when the papers get an orchid article just prior to the show. I know there was a photographer during the Friday judging but I think he represented a minor paper. Future meetings will further address this problem.

President Joe mentioned a \$1,100 profit from the auctioning off of Janet Price's orchids. Lee Brockman brought up the New Hampshire auction of orchids in their May Sat. AM meeting. Check out the New Hampshire Orchid Society site for details. The display table was vast and colorful and the only thing to brighten another miserable winter day.

Summer Orchid Preparation

Roger West

Today is Patriots day and looking outside I see two inches of snow covering everything. Robins are perched on my pea fences as I managed to get a couple of rows in. Ten-day forecast reveals no days in the 60's so I will be spending much of the time in the greenhouse. I have repotted most of the winter show plants moving them into larger pots. Some of the plants growing in baskets will be divided and moved into pots. Basket growing just doesn't work for my growing conditions, their potted sisters always out performing them. I had ordered a bunch of Sequoia bark from Tropical Plant Products down in Florida. Their bill arrived with the UPS charges \$120 more than the cost of the 7 boxes of bark. The wife said it would be cheaper to drive down and make the purchase. Bill Hutchinson used to order the stuff by the pallet, a great deal cheaper.

I switched to Sequoia bark from the Cypress mix (with sponge rok and charcoal) that was used for the past three years, because I was getting a great deal of rot. The cypress only lasted a little over a year. A good media should last two years and three would be even better. Observations about other potting mixes revealed that charcoal ((from my outside wood furnace) worked well all by itself. No rot, just a little white (salt buildup?) around the charcoal chunks. The larger cattleyas did real well in straight charcoal, problem is, there is not enough of it.

Some plants were in Keith Tibbetts stones (norlite?). This inorganic stuff was used in mixes and ok but the few plants I tried using it straight turned out badly. I had my best mini cattleya (Rlc Newberry's Delight "Collin") in these stones and performed well for three years. It always won a blue at the Cape show. Things went wrong last fall when I noticed reddish blotches on the older leaves and the four new growths were small and wimpy. Thinking virus and a lost plant, I popped it out of its pot. There were no roots, not even on the new growths. Usually virus shows up as black blotches on the leaves also black pitted areas. This reddish stuff had me puzzled. Hoping for the best, I repotted the plant minus those bad leaves, in the cypress mix. This mini had a few blooms for our show but was definitely lacking from previous blooming. Yesterday I repotted the plant into the Sequoia mix (with sponge rok and charcoal).

Roots and potting media have troubled me as well as all orchid growers ever since we started growing these things. Cattleyas MUST have good roots to perform well and a happy medium is essential. I have tried many and I'm still learning. Only advice is, if you're having success, stick with it.

I do most of my repotting now because I have a cool month ahead for the plants to adapt to the disruption of repotting. They have to take advantage of the summer growing season. Ideally you want to repot just before the new roots appear, so you don't damage them and they can grow down into the new medium. I repot very few in the summer and only if I follow the above advice. I repot many of the fall bloomers at that time because they send new roots out just as they are ready to bloom. Never encountered a problem doing this when the plant was about to bloom. So as you are reading this, it is time to get your plants ready for the summer growing season, if it ever arrives.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Show

Liz Marinelli

Dave and I are lucky that our son and his wife live only a few minutes from the location of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society show, so for the second year we combined a weekend visit with them with a visit to the show. Billed as the biggest orchid show in the northeast, there were 24 exhibits and 18 vendors, including several foreign growers. The venue is in Oaks, PA, not far from Valley Forge in an area of big box stores and light industrial buildings. There are several exhibition buildings in the complex, with other events going on at the same time.



We got there on the first day shortly after the noon opening time, and I must be honest and report that we went directly to the sales area. We had some pre-ordered plants to pick up but then had to check out all the other vendors, which was no small task. In addition to the ones that we typically see at local shows, there were Ecuagenera, Miranda Orchids from Brazil, Ooi Leng Sun Orchids from Malaysia, Seed Engei from Japan, and Ten Shin Gardens from Taiwan. There were also some growers from the Mid-Atlantic area that we don't see at New England Shows, such as Woodstream Orchids, Waldor Orchids, Fishing Creek Orchids and Main Street Orchids among others, plus Andy's and Cal-Orchid from California. By the time we had made the rounds of the

vendors and made a few impulse purchases requiring multiple trips to the car, we were getting hungry and hadn't even looked at the exhibits yet!

Since we were in the Philadelphia area, we figured hoagies and cheesesteaks could not be far away, and sure enough in less than a mile we found plenty of choices to grab a bite, including the local institution, Wawa. We returned to the show restored and ready to take in the incredible exhibits.

So much to see... displays bursting with flowers, unusual species I had never seen before, and beautifully grown huge specimen plants. We looked at all of them several times and kept finding treasures we had missed before. Some of my favorite exhibits



were the large terrarium that contained small delicate plants like *Ophrys tenthredinifera* and *Porroglossum actrix*, and the Maryland Orchid Society exhibit that looked like a hillside packed with orchids. Andy's won for best exhibit in the show, and it was small but a wonder. An arrangement of weathered branches covered with the species that his nursery is noted for, each plant was a perfect specimen and arranged in such a way that they looked like they had been growing there for years. In fact, Andy told us that he attached the plants and put it together the day before. Of the specimen plants winning rosettes, I was impressed by *Lycaste Pheobe*, which must have had 50 flowers, and a massive *Dendrobium aggregatum*.

We finally left at 5, but made a return visit the next day on our way out of town- and we still saw things we had missed. Our calendar is already marked for next year, April 5-7, 2019.



F.Y.I.....

- If you are interested in the meanings of the Latin names for orchids, check "The Vocabulary of Orchids" by Allen B. Martin
<https://nossaorg.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/martin.pdf>
- At the last meeting Joe mentioned the incredible story of an enormous Cymbidium that was brought in for judging. The grower tells his story in full as well as divulging cultural methods in "20 Years to 'Kessander'", *Orchids*, April 2012, p. 239
- Follow the Amherst Orchid Society on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AmherstOrchidSociety/>

Show Table March 2018

<p>Russel Autry Oncostele Wildcat 'Bob Cat' (formerly Colmanara)</p> <p>Lee Brockman Aerangis hildebrandtii 'Gold Country' Lc. Rojo Rhynchostylis gigantean</p> <p>Ed deVarenes Paph. Chou-Yi 'Chou-Yi Citron' X 'Chou Yi - Apple Spell 'Chou-yi Heart' Paph. Hung Sheng Bay #1 X Hung Sheng Bay 'CHX' Paph. Wolf's Folly</p> <p>Marc Gray Lycaste Dainty Phal. Jia Ho Summer Love Phal. Wu's Cute Angel 'KF#3' AM/AOS Sarcoglottis sceptroides Zootrophion eriangense 'Piping Rock' CBR/AOS</p> <p>Ann Jordan Aerangis hildebrandtii</p> <p>Maryanne Laukaitis Cymbidium Oiso 'Reynella' Dendrobium kingianum (2 plants) Dendrobium (Dockrillia) linguiforme 'AL' Dendrobium monilliforme 'Shayo' (?) Dendrobium speciosum v. pedunculatum X self Dendrobium striolatum Laelia canariensis Lc. Hsin Buu Lady 'YT' Oncostele Wildcat Pleione Tongariro Zygopetalum Jumpin' Jack</p> <p>Steve LaValley Bulbophyllum barbigerum</p> <p>Connie Lentz Dendrobium 'Micro Chip'</p> <p>Joe Maciaszek Chysis bractescens Chysis bruennewiana</p>	<p>Liz Marinelli Bulbophyllum flaviflorum Lambara Five Acres Sarcochilus ceciliae</p> <p>Dave Marinelli Epicattleya Rene Marques</p> <p>Lani & Harold Norman Epc. Siam Jade 'Avo' Iwga. Apple Blossom 'Woodland's HCC/AOS Lc. Bryan Wheeler 'Grandson' Paph. Macabre Presence Phal. Kuntrarti Rarashati 'Copperstate'</p> <p>Steve Steiner Aeranthes ramosa X A. caudatus Blc. Nicole Fulford Epi Pacific Pride X Pacific Coast Laelia jongheana Lycaste campbelli Lycaste Abou Rits Lycaste Cherish X Wild Sunset Maxillaria coccinea Masdevallia Orange Glow Oda. Debutante Phrag. Dick Clements Pleurothallis mathildae Restrepia guttulata</p> <p>Karen Steward Ascofinetia Cherry Blossom 'Carmela' Phal – mini – no ID Sedirea japonica</p> <p>Marge Tanguay Phal. 'Magic Art'</p> <p>Roger West Cattleya Astraea 'Ginny' C. Horace X Ctt. William Farrell Rlc. Carolina Orange D'or X Ctt William Farrell Rlc. Jennifer Off 'Joan' Rlc. Orange Treat Rlc. Sung Ya Green #2</p> <p>Kasia Wynn Phal. Tyng Shin Baby 'Smile'</p>
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On the Topic of Orchids and Grandchildren Sharing Names...

Liz Marinelli

Among the plants on the show table at our last meeting was a beautiful Cattleya that Lani said she had bought for the sole reason that it had the same name as her grandson. I had to laugh because I did the exact same thing when our granddaughter Adelaide was born. I sought out a plant with her name on it and ended up buying a Zygoneria Adelaide Meadows from a seller on Ebay. The photo showed an attractive Zygopetalum type plant with lime green sepals and petals and a purple lip- very pretty! The plant seemed healthy enough when I got it, but in the intervening years it has not flourished- it gets ugly black spots on the leaves, the growth is sluggish, and no blooms in sight. In other words, a dud. At around the same time Dave bought seeds for a tomato named Sweet Adelaide, and if possible they were worse than the orchid. Straggly plants that quickly succumbed to blight and the few tomatoes were puny, mealy and tasteless.



The good news is that Adelaide the baby has out-performed both Adelaide the Orchid and Adelaide the Tomato, at three years she is strong, energetic and robust. I'm glad it's that way rather than the other way around! I would say that I have learned my lesson except that I recently bought an unbloomed Phrag seedling with one parent named Cape May County, the part of New Jersey where I grew up.

Upcoming events

- Next meeting is Sunday May 20 at 2 p.m. Those with last names starting with M, N, O and P please bring a dish to share
- May 12- New Hampshire Orchid Society Annual Auction, see flyer
- June 1-3, Long Island Orchid Festival
http://www.longislandorchidsociety.org/orchid_festival.html
- July 13 and 14, 3rd Annual New England Orchid Fest, Smith Voc.

ANNUAL AUCTION



Orchid Auction

May 12, 2018

Old Bedford Town Hall

3 Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, NH

From 12:30pm-3pm



www.nhorchids.org