



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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PLEASE NOTE:

The Members and Executive Board of Directors of the Amherst Orchid Society have come to a difficult decision of to cancel the Orchid Fest for the year 2018. This decision is primarily for the lack of the interest of vendors wanting to attend and not wanting to have lack of people attending do to small number of vendor at the event.

A Visit to Lankester Gardens, Cartago Costa Rica

by **Connie Lentz**

While living in Costa Rica during part of the year I have been able to visit Lankester Gardens, a premier orchid and tropical plant garden on the outskirts of Cartago, about an hour from the capital of San Jose. They have over 1000 species of orchids, as well as cacti and succulents, ferns, trees and a lagoon that attracts birds on 22 acres. There is a small café with picnic tables and a gift shop. There is a spectacular display of Sobralias near the entrance which immediately caught my eye as well as naturalized displays of Oncidia and Cattleyas along the paths.

If I remember correctly admission is \$12.

A focus of the Garden is research on the orchid species of Costa Rica and a number of papers have been published on new species, primarily pleurothallids. There are research greenhouses as well as a display greenhouse.

On one occasion we were with our friend Jean Stefanik and we had lunch with Franco Pupulin. He is an expert on Costa Rican orchid species and writes often for Orchids magazine and is a researcher at the Garden, now run by the University of Costa Rica. I was hoping for a tour of the research greenhouses but he had somewhere to be after lunch. We wandered through them by ourselves.

Another worthwhile destination for orchid lovers (and birders, too!) is the Bosque de Paz Lodge near Zarcero Costa Rica. Zarcero is worth a stop on the way as they have the most spectacular topiary in the church yard. Outside the lodge is an extensive planting of *Phragmipidium longifolium* and there is a deceptively compact, well labeled orchid trail of native species that have been collected from the area and are being studied by graduate students from the UCR. FYI- the food at the Lodge is great.

Photo- Bart and I in the display greenhouse at Lankester Gardens



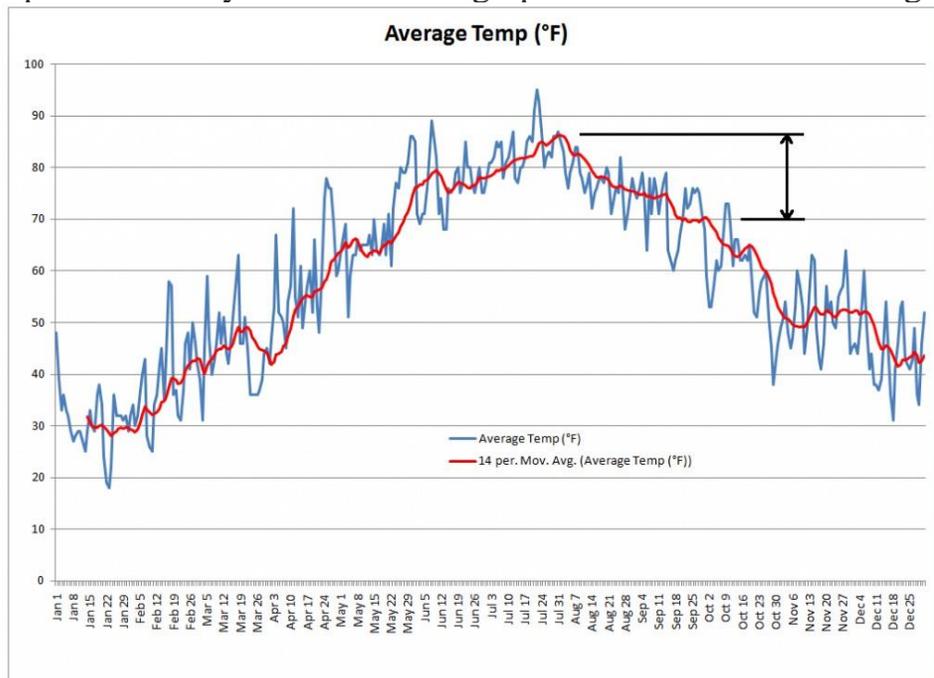
CHILLING PHALAENOPSIS

The subject of chilling phalaenopsis to induce blooming comes up so often, I'd like to address it with this piece:

First, we need to understand that not all species require it. Interestingly enough, those with white/pink/purple flowers generally do, while those with yellow/orange/red flowers mostly do not. Of course, considering the complex breeding in modern hybrids, that distinction is pretty much “blurred”.

Most of us, as beginners, were led to understand that phalaenopsis “need to have a 10°- to 15°F day/night drop” in order to initiate spiking. Dr. Yin-Tung Wang, while at Texas A&M University, did some research into this area in order to optimize the growing and blooming of these plants, and determined that the day/night differential was not the key, but that an overall average decrease in temperature of the growing conditions led to spiking. More specifically, the plants were shown to require about 10 days to two weeks at an average growing temperature of 10°-15° lower than the temperature at which they had been normally growing. In other words, grown at a constant 85°, one could lower the growing area to a constant 70° and initiate spiking, without any day/night variation whatsoever.

Similarly, it can be shown that even with significant day/night temperature variation, spiking will not occur until the average is shifted downward. To test this I used a data recorder to track the daily high and low temperature in my own area. The graph below shows the average daily



temperature during 2011.

The blue line represents the average temperature for each date. The red line is a 14 day running average temperature, which is the more important of the two curves. Note that we hit a peak in late-July/early-August of roughly 85°. You'll also note that in early October, we finally got to an average temperature 15° lower. If Dr. Wang's explanation of average temperatures was valid, we would expect that our phalaenopsis plants

would start spiking approximately 6 to 8 weeks later, and in fact, that is exactly what happened, and then, as we approached a timeframe 6 to 8 weeks later than that, we saw the flower buds reach full development and begin to open.

Before anyone gets concerned about the low averages early and late in the year, let me explain that I control only the minimum temperature with a thermostat, and that's set to 60°, so the greenhouse temperature typically will match the outside temperature during the middle of the year when these various control points were reached.

It is also interesting to note (I won't bore you with the actual data) that of the 365 measured days, 222 of them actually sustained day/night temperature variations of 15° or more, and they occurred in every month of the year. Never however, did we experience 10 days to two weeks of such daily variation, further supporting that is the average temperatures that are important, and not the day-to-night variation.

One last comment on this before I go: Dr. Wang also pointed out that once spike initiation has occurred, the plants will grow their flower spikes best and flower the best if the average temperature is raised back to the elevated level and not kept at a low level.

Thanks to *First Ray's* : *FirstRays.com*

Join us at the Grays' house for the June 10, 2018 meeting

The Grays will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Bring side dishes to go with that. Come any time after 1:00 pm.

Gray's Picnic

Next Meeting: June 10, 2018 **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT OUR USUAL DATE FOR A MEETING**

The next meeting marks the move from the Munson Memorial Library for the summer. In June, the meeting will be held at the Grays' (Edwin and Christine) house in Vermont. The address is *260 Baker Brook Road, Williamsville, VT 05362.*

It'll start at 1:00 pm, and be a picnic. The Grays will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks, but ask that you will please bring side dishes that can accompany them. The following are directions to get to the Grays'house.

From the South:

Take I-91 North to Exit 1. (BRATTLEBORO, VT). At the bottom of the ramp go right. Go through 5 sets of lights.

After the 5th set of lights, follow signs for Route 30. The signs will lead you around a large triangular circle. After a left hand turn at one "corner," stay in the right hand lane. This will turn into a right-turn-only lane heading out of the circle. The road goes gently downhill through the Retreat Hospital then opens up into Route 30. Continue on Route 30 for 8 miles (after 6 miles, you'll pass a covered bridge on the right.) Take the left turn to WILLIAMSVILLE -SOUTH NEWFANE. After 2 miles, you will cross a cement arch bridge. Take a left at the end of the bridge. You are now in Williamsville. Go past the Fire House/ The Eatery on the right to the Post Office on the left with (red with white trim.) across the road to the right is BAKER BROOK ROAD on BAKER BROOK ROAD go for 1.3 miles, keeping the brook on your left. The Grays' house is on the right and is gray with black trim. In front are signs for #260 and BAKER BROOK ORCHIDS. We hope everyone can make it....

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. !

We hope everyone can make it!

Show Table May 2018

<p>Bill Arduser Oncidium Heaven Scent</p> <p>Steve LaValley Calanthe Grouville Encyclia cochleata Phal Gan Lin Small Shell Su's Milk Puff X cornu-cervi Chattaldee</p> <p>Joe Maciaszek Laelia purpurata alba? Phal. Hanaford Pink</p> <p>Lani & Harold Norman Blc. Jewel Box 'Sheherazade' Catt. Milton Warne 'Dream Girl' Catt. skinneri 'Cherokee'</p> <p>Steve Steiner Colax jugosa X Mdcla grandiflora Den. cuthbertsonii Den. farmeri Dracula bella Keiferstenia taurine Lycaste aromatic Miltoniopsis Bert Fields 'Leah' AM/AOS Pbt Copper Queen HCC/AOS Phal. Jiatto Summer Love Paph Norito Hasegawa Promenaea crawshayana Promenaea xanthena Restrepia species Restrepia striata 'Waynes'</p>	<p>Marge Tanguay Phal. 'Breezes' Phrg. Olaf Gruss (besseae X pearcei) Phrag. Haroldeen Quintal (Cape Gold Nugget X schlimii) Epy. Serena O'Neill (Epi. Mabel Kanda X Enc. cordigerum)</p> <p>Roger West Ctt. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' Ctt. Love Passion 'Island Romance' Catt. Marcia Foster 'Bob Sander' Catt. mossiae X Rlc. Irene Finney Rlc. Marlene Lundquist</p> <p>Kasia Wynn Phal. Home Depot Bak. Cotton Candy</p>
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Upcoming Events

Upcoming meetings for AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY at the Munson Library:

September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9

Next Meeting is Sunday, June 10, 2018 at the Grays' House. Directions are on page 2.

Please bring a side dish to share.

Picnic at Roger West's home July 15th Directions are on page 2

Please bring a side dish to share

Open House at Piping Rock Orchids Open House, Picnic, & Guest Speakers Saturday ~ June 9, 2018

10:30 AM 2270 Cook Road ~ Galway, NY <http://www.pipingrockorchids.com/open-house-at-piping-rock-orchids.php>