



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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September Meeting- Club Auction

Roger West

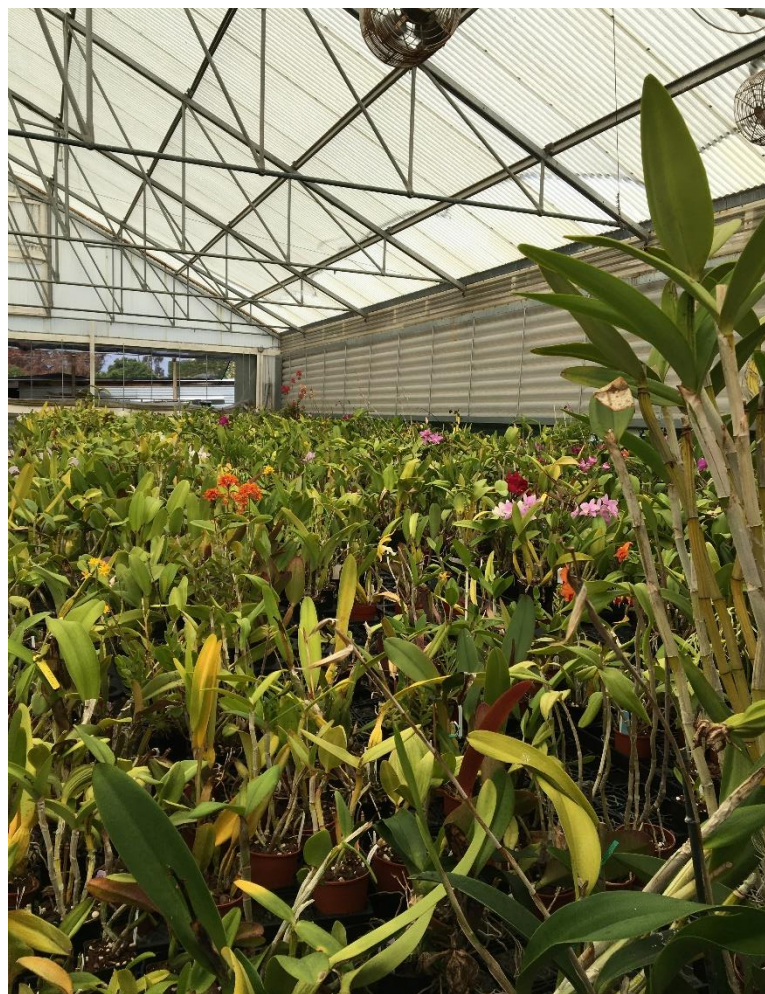
Prior to the auction, I was sitting with Ed Gray and we were worried that there were not enough people present to make competitive bids. It turned out only 22 members were present and about 50 plants needing new homes. Marc Gray had acquired some donated plants from Orchidphile, about 6 Phals, and Piping Rock which donated about a dozen plants of various genera. All plants were real nice as were the plants donated by club members. A few were in bloom but most needed pictures to aid the bidding. President Joe ran the auction and did a marvelous job. A real important contribution came from Bill Benner who had his computer out finding photos of the auction plants. I think those photos added 25% to the bids. Once we saw what the bloom looked like, the bids went up accordingly. There were some real quality on display and some rather interesting give and take amongst the bidders. Two tall (4 and 6 feet) Sobralias came down from New Hampshire, photos displayed yellow blooms and the bidding went crazy. Connie Lentz related that in Costa Rica, Sobralias are grown as a hedge and the bids went higher. John Russell, a shy member for many years, brought in 5 huge Sharry Babies that were in spike or bloom with up to three spikes on a plant. John said that these were divisions from a very large plant that he recently divided and he kept two of those divisions at home. I was envious so I had to purchase one of them. It took some time to get through the plants but it was fun. In summary, all the plants were well grown and bargains, I mean real bargains. I certainly would welcome another auction next September. For those who did not show up you missed an opportunity to acquire some great plants. I would guess that we probably made about \$750 for the club.

The business meeting mentioned that October was membership renewal month with free plants coming in November for those that pay. The orchids are coming from Gold Country. The Mass Orchid show is the first weekend in November. The venue has moved to their regular meeting place which is the Sons of Italy hall in Winchester, Mass. There was a strong show table dominated by two plants that Bill Benner brought in. One was a large Cymbidium with five spikes of golden blooms. The other was a Neofinetia falcate with many flowering spikes. And guess what, it was growing in an ordinary clay pot, nothing fancy except those gorgeous white fragrant blooms. Bill's key to growing is repot every year and he uses fine bark as the growing medium.

A Visit to Sunset Valley Orchids

Liz Marinelli

This past July, Dave and I happened to be in the San Diego area for a family wedding, so we took advantage of a lull in the festivities to slip away and do some orchid tourism. On a previous visit we had gone to Andy's Orchids, which is amazing- a Noah's Ark of thousands of orchid species. While Andy deals exclusively with species, there is another grower nearby, Sunset Valley Orchids, that concentrates on breeding new hybrids and that is where we went this time.



Fred's private collection

Unfortunately, the owner Fred Clarke happened to be in Australia when we visited, but his assistant Carlos showed us around and answered every question we had. We certainly needed a knowledgeable guide because the greenhouses encompass an area of over 1 acre, and the visitor is overwhelmed by a sea of orchids in various stages of growth. Since he began growing and hybridizing orchids 40 years ago, Fred's focus has been on developing compact plants with large flowers, first in the Cattleya family and later branching out into Australian Dendrobiums and the Catasetinae. By growing plants that are not widely available he has found a way to carve a niche in the orchid industry.

Carlos first showed us the greenhouses with Cattleyas, both Fred's permanent collection and the newest seedlings. I was surprised to see that Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids keeps his collection in one of the greenhouses. Next came the Aussie Dendrobium greenhouse, then upstairs to the Catasetums and a smaller greenhouse for Paphs. By the time we had seen all the growing areas, we wanted to buy some plants to take home but had no idea how to choose some, since unlike orchid shows the plants in the nursery had no photos accompanying them, and many were unbloomed



The Catasetum Greenhouse

We visit family in the San Diego area fairly frequently, so another visit to Sunset Valley is in our future. If you happen to be in that part of the country I recommend a visit- if not you can visit their website to get a glimpse of the results of Fred's hybridizing.

<https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/>

There are links to YouTube videos of Fred and Carlos being interviewed in the greenhouse, and they are worth watching. There is also an excellent article about Fred's Australian Dendrobiums in the summer 2018 issue of *Orchid Digest*.

seedlings. Luckily Carlos was extremely knowledgeable and eager to help, so we described what we would like and he made recommendations and found the plants for us. All the plants were vigorous and healthy looking, and made the trip home without incident. Only one of mine has bloomed so far, Catasetum Chuck Taylor. I know that Catasetums have tricky cultural requirements, so I will be studying up on them in hopes of getting them to rebloom.



Catasetum Chuck Taylor back in Massachusetts

Show Table September 2018**Bill Benner**

Cymbidium Chen's Ruby 'Gold Tiger'
Vanda falcata

Marc Gray

Ceratostylis rubra
Phal OX Hinamatsuri Cherry 'OX1705'
Trichotosia pulvinata

Joe Masiaszek

Paph Carolyn Butcher
Vanda miriata
Paph Liberty Taiwan

Holly Rainaud-Loss

Paph NOID

Steve Reardon

Gomesa radicans
Epideum porpax

Steve Steiner

Paph Harold Koopowitz
Paph dianthum
Restrepia species
Phal Tying Shin Fly Eagle 'Wilson'
Restrepia dodsonii
Phal Hybrid
Odontonia Glass Creek
Laelia sanguiloba
Lycaste powelli
Paph Makiko



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) and Troy Jordan (troycjordan@sbcglobal.net)

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

~The First Show of the Season is Coming Up~

The Massachusetts Orchid Society Presents...

World of Orchids: Up Close and Personal

November 2nd to 4th 2018

New Venue-Sons of Italy

117 Swanton St, Winchester, MA

For more information and directions: <https://www.massorchid.org/show>

-Next Meeting-

October 14, 2018 at Munson Library, 2:00 p.m.

October is "Pay Your Dues Month"- all those who pay in October will receive a free plant at the November meeting supplied by Gold Country Orchids. Dues are \$25.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for families. If you cannot attend the meeting send your check to Amherst Orchid Society Membership, 157 Shea Rd, West Brookfield, MA 01585. You can also pay online through the Amherst Orchid Society web site: <http://amherstorchidsociety.org/membership/>

Those with last names starting with Q, R, S and T please bring a dish to share

Mark your calendars for meetings on November 11 and December 9

JANUARY 13, 2019

MARCH 10, 2019

APRIL 14, 2019

MAY 19, 2019

SEPTEMBER 08, 2019

OCTOBER 13, 2019

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

DECEMBER 08, 2019

**Upcoming meetings
for AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY
at the MUNSON LIBRARY**





Phalaenopsis Tying Shin Flying Eagle
Steve Steiner



Epidendrum (Nanodes) porpax
Steve Readon



Paphiopedilum dianthum
Steve Steiner



Vanda (Neofinetia) falcate
Bill Benner



Phalaenopsis La Costco
Carol Steiner



Paphiopedilum Makiko Hasegawa
Steve Steiner



Vanda miniata(*Ascocentrum miniatum*)
Joseph Maciaszek



Cymbidium Chin's Ruby 'Golden Tiger'
Bill Benner



Paphiopedilum Harold Koopowitz
Steve Steiner



Paphiopedilum Liberty Taiwan
Joseph Maciaszek



Ceratostylis rubra
Marc Gray



Paphiopedilum Carolyn Butcher
Joseph Maciaszek