



Greater Whorled Pogonia

The Newsletter of the
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY
An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 26 Issue 10

November 2018

October Meeting

Roger West

The usual crowd was present for a give-away meeting. President Joe had some gift orchids from Smith College that the attendees took home. Former club member, Jimmy Grogan, is now working at the Smith College greenhouses and he had plants to give away. Smith College is going the species route. There were about 50 orchids with the vast majority being hybrid Paphs, most with multiple growths. They were very nice plants and I even took one home and as of this writing it is still green. I anticipate many blooming Paphs for our show. Joe also announced that there were two more very large orchids from Smith that needed dividing. This will be done during the November get together. I remember Joe stating one was a large mounted *Pleurothallis/Restrepia* that produces a nice flowering spike. The other, I forget. So these will be divided, repotted and given away in November.

Treasurer Steve announced a \$1,082 total from last month's auction, more than I predicted. The show table was colorful. Two plants were outstanding in my view. One was brought in by Mary Ann, *Stenoglottis longifolia* which usually is in bloom for the Mass show but a little early this year. This well grown plant had 6 tall spikes of small lavender blooms and 3 smaller spikes, very impressive. The second orchid came in via Liz and Dave Marinelli. It was a mini Paph with five gorgeous, yellowish blooms. Good things do come in small packages.

Spotlight on the Show Table: *Stenoglottis longifolia*

Maryanne Laukaitis

At the October 2018 meeting my *Stenoglottis longifolia* attracted some attention. I am pleased with its performance this year because it has nine spikes with dozens of cute little half inch florets. Each deep pink floret has a scattering of deeper pink spots and a fringed lip, however it is not scented. The leaves are a rosette form rising to less than a foot tall. It is deciduous and considered to be a 'robust' species. The tallest current spike is almost 29 inches and the shortest is about 9 inches.

Liz Marinelli, newsletter editor, asked me to share a few things about this species –

How long have I owned this plant?

Just over four years, purchased from Santa Barbara Orchid Estate in the spring of 2014. I purchased it with a couple of other plants to round out my order. It was one of SBOE least expensive items, and I liked the fact that it can stand some cool temperatures.



How long did it take to bloom?

It flowered with one tiny spike in the autumn of 2014, and has bloomed every year since then. *Stenoglottis longifolia* is a native of eastern South Africa in the Kwazulu Natal region, where it flowers March to May. South Africa is in the southern hemisphere, so their autumn season falls during the spring months of the northern hemisphere. I'm glad it made itself accustomed to New England, so far from home.

Cultural info:

Its natural habitat is forest shade or in shade on cliff sides, growing in thin humus, on moss covered boulders, or in rich soil in rock crevices. Those conditions allow good drainage and intermittent drying. So, I try to imitate that situation by planting in a mix of gravel, potting soil, perlite and charcoal chunks in a large clay pot. It seems to be working well. The plant is outdoors in dappled shade from the last week of May until it sets spikes in late August or early September. The leaves are light

green, and purple spotted on the underside only. They seem to be very tender compared to other orchid species, so I never let it sit out in bright direct sun. Once I see spikes developing, I bring it into the greenhouse or east kitchen window to make sure no spike is broken or eaten by some varmint. It can flower late September to early November. It even made it to the Massachusetts Orchid Society Show one time with four spikes and was given a ribbon, although I don't remember which place.

Watering during the growing season is pretty liberal with dilute fertilizer and seaweed extract applied every couple of weeks, just as the rest of my plants get. This year we had quite a bit of rain, so I took that into account. I didn't increase fertilizer too much to compensate for nutrient leaching because I was concerned that additional watering could cause rot. After flowering, the spikes eventually die back, then the leaves yellow, deteriorate and die back as well, leaving just a few small tufts of green as it goes dormant for winter. The first time this happens it's a bit disheartening to see – one thinks the plant is lost. I just remind myself that this is normal dormancy and we are going to follow Mother Nature's cycle of seasons with a cool, dry rest. I place it in a cool room (50sF) near a window (not the greenhouse where it gets into the 40sF) and water sparingly every couple of weeks. The plant has very thick fleshy roots that sustain it over the winter. I think this is one of the least demanding of my plants since it can be ignored for much of its dormancy. Late dormancy is the time to transplant into a larger pot, if necessary.

In March or April, as new leaves are forming, I start watering with a little weak fertilizer and seaweed solution and increase the amount as the leaves increase. This may sound like it takes a lot of work, but really it is just observing and responding to what part of the cycle the plant is in. I recommend giving this one a try, as I've found it to be reliable and very charming.

Show Table October 2018**Bill Benner**

BLC Prada Green Deluxe 'NN'
Potinara Coral Gold 'Pacific Rainbow'

Marc Gray

Liparis nutans
Phal. Sogo Vivien 'Wilson'
Stanhopea species

Maryanne Laukaitis

Brassavola Jiminy Cricket
Catt. Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii'
Catt. Summer Spot 'Carmela'
LC Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah'
Masdevallia barleana
Stenoglottis longifolia
Syfopetalum Kiwi Geysers 'Mendenhall'
Zygopetalum Jumpin' Jack

Dave Marinelli

Pleurothallis condorensis

Liz Marinelli

Paph. helenae

Bob Meyer

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

Kathy Puckett

Coelogyne finmbriata

Steve Steiner

Bulbophyllum pardalatum
Oncidium coloratum
Dendrobium lawsii
Paph. Doll's Kobold
Paph. henryanum
Phrag. Dick Clements
Phrag. Pink Panther
Restrepia species Columbia
Restrepia lansbergii
Sobralia galeotiana
Stanhopea nigripes
Zootrophion atropurpurea

Roger West

RLC Fort Watson

Kasia Wynn

Stenocoryne aureofulva

Owner not given

Brassidium - intergeneric

Upcoming Events

Upcoming meetings for AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY at the Munson Library:

November 11: Free plant for those who paid dues in October

Those with last names starting with U, V, W, X, Y, Z please bring a snack to share

December 9: Christmas Party- bring potluck dish to share!

Meetings start at 2 p.m.