



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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December Meeting

Roger West

The Christmas party was well attended. There was delicious food and lots of good cheer. Not much was discussed except some show stuff. We are to rent a truck to haul material to and from the show. Steve Lavalley is checking out rentals. There were some orchids from the late Mike Trybus that were given away. Most were Maxillarrias and a few Oncidium intergenerics. Mike, along with his wife Margaret, were very active members for the first 20 years of the club's existence. They used to host the July get together at their place in Wilbraham. Lani and Harold Norman are moving the remainder of their orchids and there may be more giveaways at the next meeting. Also the club lost Boots Walker, who recently passed away. She, along with Bob were active members for the past dozen years.

The display table was awesome with a few, large colorful Cattleyas leading the way. The scholarship people are making headway. The application form has been greatly simplified and should be sent out to area high schools by early March.

Show Table December 2018

<p>Russell Autry</p> <p>Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite (Twinkle X sotoanum)</p>	<p>Holly Reynaud Loss</p> <p>Cymbidium No ID</p> <p>Oncidium 'Irish Mist' X 'Winter Green'</p>
<p>Ed deVarrenses</p> <p>Masd minuta 'Sharon Kay'</p> <p>Paph venustum X sib</p>	<p>Steve Steiner</p> <p>Cymbidium erythrostylum</p> <p>Masd Angel Frost X Marguerite</p> <p>Maxillaria sophronitis</p>
<p>Marc Gray</p> <p>Den. Aussie Parade 'Carrot Splash' X Hilda Poxon</p> <p>Den Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'</p> <p>Neo (Vanda) Baby Angel</p> <p>Paph Spoglens X moquetteanum</p>	<p>Paph coccineum</p> <p>Paph Hengduan Grace Helen</p> <p>Paph hybrid</p> <p>Karen Steward</p> <p>Dendrochilum formosanum</p>
<p>Maryanne Laukaitis</p> <p>Dendrobium tetragonum</p> <p>Laelia gouldiana</p> <p>Potinara Little Toshi</p>	<p>Roger West</p> <p>Ctt Golden Wax 'Debbie'</p> <p>Rlc Mae Hawkins 'Newbury'</p> <p>Rlc Port Royal Sound</p>
<p>Liz Marinelli</p> <p>Cymbidium erythrostylum</p> <p>Masd Marmalade</p> <p>Mas Pink Mist</p>	<p>Rlc Sea Swirl 'Whirpool'</p>



Spotlight on the Show Table:

Cymbidium erythrostylum Grown by Steve Steiner

The December show table had an abundance of beauty, but one large plant stood out- Steve Steiner's *Cymbidium erythrostylum*.

Noteworthy not only for its size and multiple sprays of crystalline white flowers, the plant was established in a pot surrounded by moss which gave it an air of permanence as if it were growing in its native habitat in Vietnam.

Known also by the common name The Red Column Cymbidium, the plant was first collected by a French soldier in Vietnam and brought back to France. It was described by Rolfe in 1905. Due to its early blooming season and large, long-lasting flowers, the species has been widely used in hybridization. Some of its descendants are miniature, such as *Cym.* Cherry Blossom.

Steve got his plant from Silva Orchids at a show in New Jersey about 20 years ago. According to his records it was last re-potted in 2006, so he is thinking it might be time to repot again soon. It grows in full sun on the south side of his greenhouse, receiving some shade in the summer. It tolerates low temperatures into the 40s. He gives it regular fertilizer, adding some timed-release fertilizer into the mix when he repots. Steve recommends this species highly since it blooms reliably every fall and the graceful arching spikes don't need to be staked. Plus, the flowers are just beautiful.



Safe Methods for Moving Flowering Orchids to Keep Them in Prime Shape

By Susan Jones -Originally published in ORCHIDS Magazine December 2013

During this time of the year, unpredictable and often inhospitable winter weather makes transporting flowering orchids a tricky matter. A shock of cold, dry air can quickly damage and even blast an orchid bud or bloom, a particularly heartbreaking event if one is on the way to have the flower judged. When carrying your flowering plant to a show, home from a nursery, to Judging or even to give as a holiday gift, taking a little bit of precaution against potential cold damage can prevent a lot of disappointment later on.

An orchid's flowers and buds, as the most vulnerable parts of the plant, are easily damaged by environmental stress. Some of the more cold-sensitive varieties may even drop leaves if the exposure and shock is of sufficient severity. Phalaenopsis and vandaceous orchids (the former neofinetias are a bit hardier than most, but their blooms are still sensitive) are among the least tolerant of chills. Other orchids that are most often affected include those with flowers of more delicate substance. The thicker, heavier and waxier an orchid's floral tissues are, the more resistant to cold damage they will be.

TIPS FROM A PRO Long-time orchid grower, Connecticut Orchid Society member and one of the technical editors of Orchids magazine, Ann Jesup provided the following savvy ideas for ways to minimize disaster enroute to an orchid society meeting, show or Judging at a presentation to the Society.

Start with a good quantity of packing materials, she advises. Have on hand a variety of boxes of different sizes, including some insulated styrofoam boxes to shelter your plants from inclement weather. Padding is also important. She suggests waxed floss paper (also known as "spaghetti"), shredded paper, polyester batting and styrofoam peanuts as useful materials. For protection against brief exposure to the elements, the plastic bags in which newspapers are delivered make an ideal sleeve to slip over a smaller plant. Dry-cleaning bags supported by wire hoops can help protect larger plants or those with tall inflorescences from freezing or drying out in winter weather. Plastic storage containers of various sizes and shapes are useful. They are not effective at insulating plants, but do provide excellent shorter term protection against potentially damaging chills. When used in conjunction with the packing materials mentioned above, they can be an excellent light weight winter carrying case for bringing blooming orchids safely to and from their destination.

INSULATING PLANTS Newspaper is an effective, easily available and inexpensive insulation material. If plants must remain in an unheated area for any length of time during inclement weather, a cardboard box lined with newspaper will help retain heat around the plant. Foam packing peanuts may be added to stabilize and protect the plant in the box, but provide little in the way of insulation or heat retention.

For extreme situations in which prolonged exposure is anticipated, a heat pack can be placed under protective insulation in the bottom of the box. Disposable chemical heat packs are available in different lengths of effectiveness — the most commonly available last six to eight hours, but other durations are available. They can be ordered online (enter "disposable heat packs" into a search engine to find a vendor). Some orchid vendors who use them for shipping may also be persuaded to sell some of their stock.

Another consideration is staking your plant's inflorescences. This cannot only improve the overall appearance of the blooms, but will also help keep the spike and flowers stationary and less susceptible to injury during transportation. The proper time to stake an inflorescence is when the flowers are beginning to develop. This helps ensure that the buds are oriented properly once they open. For the sake of aesthetics, Jesup suggests attempting to keep the stake unobtrusive. Placing the thinnest stake possible as close to the foliage as is practical helps to avoid distracting attention from the blooms themselves.

Finally, when the temperature is low, warm up your vehicle in advance of transporting blooming orchids to minimize the length of time your plants will have to endure the chill temperatures. Plan your trips so the plants will spend the shortest possible time in transit, and never leave orchids sitting in a hot or cold car.

—Susan Jones was editor of the Awards Quarterly.

Obituaries

Mike Trybus, Jr.

Michael Trybus, Jr., (September 3, 1929 ~ November 20, 2018, age 89), a long-time member of the Amherst Orchid Society, died peacefully on Monday, November 19, 2018 at Hartford Hospital. Born in Wilbraham to the late Michael and Stefania (Janiszewski) Trybus, he was a skilled carpenter and a member of the Western MA Carpenters' Union Local 108. An avid gardener, Michael was well known for his magnificent flowers. He will be sadly missed by his beloved wife Margaret Trybus, his loving daughter Karen Winiarski, three step children, eight grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. Mike's Funeral Service was November 24th, followed by burial in Glendale Cemetery, Wilbraham. Memorial contributions may be made to the Amherst Orchid Society at www.amherstorchidsociety.org.

"Boots" Walker

Muriel "Boots" Walker, passed away at home on Nov 13, 2018. She was born in Lynn, MA April 7, 1933 to Fred and Lillian (Gagnon) Parent. She pursued a career in science and medicine, acquiring advanced degrees in these fields. She was professional potter for 18 years, assisted in the founding of the Leverett Artists and Craftsmen, and also was involved in many peace movements. Her interests in oriental rugs and textiles led to a career as a textile merchant and lecturer which she pursued with vigor for the next 18 years. Appreciation of renaissance and baroque music, literature, gardening and orchids, film and foreign travel became her pastime in retirement. "Boots, your father was right-on when he nicknamed you at birth, you turned out to be a big lovable woman."

She leaves Bob, her beloved husband of 59 years, as well as her son Jeffrey, grandson Devin and brother Richard Parent of Maine.

A celebration of her life will be held at the Mt. Toby Quaker Meeting, Leverett Ma. at a date to be determined. Donations in Boots' memory may be made to Mt. Toby Friends Meeting, 194 Long Plain Rd, Leverett, MA 01054, Traprock Peace Center, Miles St., Greenfield, MA or to one's favorite charity.

"Cliff" Desch Jr.

Clifford Edward "Cliff" Desch, Jr., 73, of Conway, MA, died Sept. 20, 2018 surrounded by his loving family, following a period of declining health.

Cliff was born in Rockville Centre, NY, on November 29, 1944 to Clifford E. Desch, Sr., and Shirley (Hoffmann) Desch. He earned a PhD in Zoology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Prior to his retirement in 2011, Cliff was a biology professor at the University of Connecticut for 35 years and was an internationally known authority on acarology (the study of mites and ticks). In 1978, Cliff built his home in Conway, Massachusetts. He was an accomplished fiddle player, and dedicated horticulturalist who created a sprawling garden of rhododendrons and magnolias, meticulously cared for, including a greenhouse filled with orchids, cacti and succulents from all over the world.

Cliff leaves his wife Cathy (Abrams), their daughter Natalie Borreson and husband Christopher, and granddaughter Sydney.

Note: many of you did not know Cliff, as he did not attend meetings, but he came to many of our shows to admire and buy more orchids. He left his collection to his daughter who is taking on the hobby.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next meeting will be on **Sunday, January 13, 2:00 p.m.** at Munson Memorial Library. Members with last names starting with A, B, C and D please bring a dish to share.

Announcing the dates for the 2019 Amherst Orchid Society Show:

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

Sunday February 24 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cape and Islands Orchid Society Show

Saturday January 26 and Sunday January 27

<http://www.caios.org/caiosorchidshow2019.html>

New Hampshire Orchid Society Show

February 8-10

<https://www.nhorchids.org/page-1802606>

