



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

The April meeting was very non-descript. I think people were there because the weather is always bad that nothing can be done out in the garden. Lani reported that two Easthampton high school students were to receive scholarships from our society. That was it for news but not all was lost. The display table was overflowing with flowering orchids. A real nice job by everyone.



Survival

Recently I received a call from my sister-in-law about an orchid she was having trouble with. I started asking questions about the plant as I'm sure all of you would. There is nothing like an orchid mystery to stir the juices. What she related was, this was her late mother's orchid and Karen, my sister-in-law, has it as a remembrance. The main problem was, it has another plant growing out from the original one. What to do? This new plant was on a stem coming out of the original one. Thinking, like all of you, that this is a keikei. I explain that this term means "baby"

in Hawaiian. She doesn't respond so I ask her if her orchid is a Dendrobium. She shouts. "It's a flower for Christ sake, how should I know! I calm her down and have her bring the plant up the next day. After putting the phone down, I reflect on my brother and Karen. They are not flower people. There are no flowering plants or shrubs in their yard, just a tree and lawn.

The next night they bring the over their orchid. To my surprise it's a Phal. It has a good size keikei growing on an old dry inflorescence. The original plant has a bunch of healthy leaves with a flowering spike with six pale yellow blooms and a few buds to follow. All this looks good. The above mentioned keikei has five leaves that are dehydrated but amazingly it has two flower spikes with a couple of flowers each. Also this keikei has four long roots dangling in the air. These roots look a little dry and have no green growing tips. This whole scene is growing in a four inch clear pot which is inside a decorative pot something that Marge would use to show off her Phals at the monthly meetings. I'm amazed at all this flower power so I start getting a history. Yes, this was her mother's orchid and Karen inherited the plant a few years ago. She wants to keep it alive as long as she can. It has been in flower a long time. Many of her answers are vague as if she is embarrassed by her cultural methods. I'm trying to reassure her that the plant is going to be ok. Watering is done by the ice cube method, a cube a week on the potting surface. It sits above her sink a ways away from a light source. She gives it some fertilizer sometimes, again being vague. I tell her what I'm going to do. I first pot up the keikei by removing all but three inches of root in the hope that these will branch in the new medium. I cut off the two flowering spikes which causes Karen some anguish. So the plant is in its new pot and the hope is those old roots will branch and new roots commence growing. Meanwhile she must mist the plant for the next few weeks in hope the leaves firm up. I tell her don't be alarmed if this keikei doesn't make it as you still have the mother plant.

With the mother plant I leave the flowering inflorescence in place, Knowing Karen might faint if I chopped this one off. I take the potted plant out of its decorative container. It's a clear pot with draining holes and to my surprise there are three large, healthy roots being entwined inside the decorative pot. The potting media was moss and there is hardly any of it left, just roots. These three happy roots amaze me and I ask how long has this clear pot been inside this no drainage hole pot. The answer is forever. This Phal has survived for many years with no drainage. I cut away the clear pot, remove dead stuff and put everything into a six inch pot with bark medium. Instruction is no more decorative pot unless it has a drain hole. I leave her a culture sheet.

Show Table April 2019**Russell Autrey**

Zygopetalum hybrid

Lee Brockmann

Ctt. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters AM/AOS

Lc Rojo

Blc Orange Treat

Dend Mini Snowflake

Phrag Cardinale 'Birchwood' AM/AOS

Recch. Honky Tonk Woman 'Chadwick'

Lepotes unicolor

George Collison

Oncidium Hilo-Firecracker

Marc Gray

Phal Liu's Cute Angel

Paph Honey Gorse g. 'Downland'

Phal. Sogo Vivien 'Golden Leaves'

Dend. Love Memory 'Fizz'

Renanetia Sunrise

Asco. Cherry Blossum 'Carmela'

Dendrobium thysiflorum

Vanda Motes Plant

Natalie Imbier

Blc Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lennette'

Ann Jordan

Sarcochilus Hybrid

Vuylstekeara Carnivale 'Rio'

Maryanne Laukaitis

Slc Hsin Buu Lady 'YT' AM/AOS

Dendrobium Gold Star 'Orange Royal'

Steve LaValley

Masd polysticta

Bulbophyllum barbigerum

Liz Marinelli

Phrag. Nicholle Tower

Lemboglossum rosii

Lepotes pohlitnocoli

Leilani and Harold Norman

Blc. Mem Grant Eichler 'Lennotte' HCC/AOS

Lc. Aussie Sunset 'Cosmic Fire'

Steve Reardon

Paph. Red In Flight

Paph. Macabre Glamour

Paph Odette's Triumph

Paph Hawaiian Moon

Paph Hamlet's Magic

Laurie Richards

Dendrobium Micro Chip

Steve Steiner

Restrepia tsubotae

Oncidium hybrid

Lycaste Auburn 'Los Osos'

Lycaste Abou Rits

Phrag Dick Clements

Paph Toyoka Knight Dream x Great

Expectations

Lycaste campbellii

Paph Spice Island 'Krull Smith'

Aeranthes ramose x caudatus

Angraecum germinyanum

Dracula bella

Pleurothallis mathildue

Carol Steiner

Phal Sogo 'Vivien'

Karen Steward

Zygostates alleniana

Marge Tanguay

Iwanagaara 'Appleblossom'

Paph. dayanum

Paph. wardii 'Freckles'

Epc. Kyoguchi 'Fumi'



Spotlight on the Show Table:

Dendrobium thysiflorum grown by Marc Gray

The April show table was laden with beautiful blooms as always, and a great diversity of genera were represented. Somehow there always seem to be plants that I have never seen before, at least outside of a magazine or the internet. This month the one that caught my interest was *Dendrobium thysiflorum* grown by Marc Gray. Many cheerful looking white and yellow flowers were displayed on a pendulous raceme that called to mind a cluster of grapes that would swing like a lantern when the plant was moved.

Den. thysiflorum is part of the Densiflora section of Dendrobiums, and is found in southeast Asia from India through Vietnam in humid, mossy forests. It is commonly known as the Pine Cone-Like Raceme Dendrobium, a name that might be more cumbersome than the Latin name.

Marc reports: "This is an orchid that I purchased when I was a member of the Twin State Orchid Society which is no longer in existence. I have had this orchid for 7 plus years. It was purchased from Birds Botanicals who raises his orchids in a cave. I find this orchid fairly easy to grow in the warmer greenhouse. It gets more water during the summer and less in the winter. I have had up to 4 blooming inflorescences on it at one time. It usually blooms when we are not having a meeting. From when the inflorescence starts blooming it usually lasts at least 2 months. Fertilize in active growth cycle summer. It is a plant we usually keep in the greenhouse."



Dendrobium thysiflorum

Upcoming Events

- The next meeting will be Sunday, May 19 at 2 p.m. at Munson Library. Those with last names starting with M, N, O and P please bring a dish to share
- Long Island Orchid Festival- May 31 to June 2
https://www.longislandorchidsociety.org/orchid_festival.html
- New Hampshire Orchid Society Auction, May 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
<https://www.nhorchids.org/event-3289484>

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!