



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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October Meeting

Roger West

We had a speaker for this month's meeting. Glen Decker, known to most members, spoke to us about Phragmipediums. He talked about the few species in this genera and a select number of its hybrids. Culture was discussed and was much appreciated. Before 1980 almost all Phrags were green/yellow with the small, pink Phrag schlimii the exception. Glen noted that there was one Phrag hybrid registered between 1900-1960. So you can see this genera was not very popular. This all changed in 1980 when Phrag besseae was discovered in Peru and it was a brilliant red color. This set the orchid world on fire. I remember starting out with orchids in the late '80s and going to shows and seeing this species and its following hybrids. They were spectacular especially the hybrids when grown to specimen size. Glen showed some pictures of these besseae hybrids as specimen plants and were totally awesome.



The second colorful discovery occurred in 2000 when Phrag kovachii was discovered and this is a monster sized purple. This new color has been introduced into this genera and we are just starting to see the influence of this new species as applied to the orchid world. I saw a kovachii at the Mass show two years ago and was blown away with the bloom size and color. Time will tell if kovachii will surpass the besseae impact on the Phrag genera. I think it has a long way to go to catch the colorful stylish besseae plants. Phrags can't be cloned like most of the popular orchids so they can be very expensive and thusly the first expensive one you purchase will croak in a couple of months. Welcome to orchid growing!

Glen discussed culture and as noted previously, much appreciated. Water, rather real good water, is the key in growing Phrags. He uses collected rain water or you can use R/O water. Phrag roots are quite sensitive to salt build up, thus pure water is essential. He showed pictures of Phrags in their native habitat and most were growing on steep, wet embankments with a steady flow of water going over their roots. Most club members grow their Phrags with the pots sitting in water. The fertilizer he uses is Jack's 15-5-15 4Ca 2Mg which can be purchased from Griffin's greenhouse supply which have a few warehouses around the Northeast. I use the same fertilizer on my cattleyas as I use mostly rain water. The Ca-Mg is a key additive when using rain water. Griffin's sell this fertilizer in 25 pound bags which last me about three years. If you need a pound or so, contact me, again use this with rain water or R/O systems.

There wasn't much business discussed at the meeting as time was spent trying to get the projector to work. The Mass show is the weekend of our next meeting. If you something nice to display contact me or Joe the weekend before the show.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming meetings for AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY at the Munson Library:

November 10: Free plant for those who paid dues in October

Those with last names starting with A, B, C, D please bring a dish to share

December 8: Holiday Party ~ bring potluck dish to share!

Meetings start at 2 p.m.

Tentative meeting dates for 2020....

Monthly meetings: January 12, February 9, March 8, April 19, May 17

🌸 **Amherst Orchid Society Annual Show February 22 & 23** 🌸

Massachusetts Orchid Society Show and Sale

November 8-10

Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St, Winchester, MA

<https://www.massorchid.org/show>

Show Table October 2019**Russell Autry**

Encyclia (Hormidium) rhynchophora
Ornithophora radicans

Marc Gray

Cleisocentron merrillianum
Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'
Habenaria medusa
Habenaria Jiaho Yellow Bird 'Marc' AM/AOS
Paph Memoria Brittany Marie Norwich
Phrag ainsworthii

Maryanne Laukaitis

Laelia autumnalis
Scheonorchis gemmata
Stenoglottis longifolia

Joe Maciaszek

Cynoches Wine Delight 'JEM' FCC/AOS

Liz Marinelli

Masdevallia Lollipop
Paph helenae 'Judy Bouchard'
Restrepia cuprea
Phrag Eumelia Arias

Kathy Puckett

Encyleyvola Surprise (Bc binosa X E. plicata)

Lani & Harold Norman

Ascda Kalapana Delight 'Sunrise'
Bc Angel Lace
Den. Green Mist

Steve Reardon

Paph Henrietta's Charm 'Bonnie Lane'

Steve Steiner

Dend. Lawsii
Dendrochilum magnum
Masdevallia herrudurae
Oncidium ornithorhyncom
Paph haynaldianum X lowii alba
Phal henryanum
Pleurothallis lita
Restrepia brachypus
Restrepia guttulata
Scaphosepalum species
Scaphosepalum breve
Scaphosepalum gibberosum 'Walter'
Scaphosepalum swertifolium
Vanda Pachara Delight FCC/JOGA

Karen Steward

Angraecum didieri
Holocoglossom wangii

Marge Tanguay

Rlc Akikosato 'Volcano Queen'

Roger West

Lc Puppy Love
Rlc Edisto



Spotlight on the Show Table:

Cynoches Wine Delight 'JEM'

Grown by Joe Maciaszek

There was a good turnout at the October meeting, and lots of us had blooming plants to bring- it was quite a show with lots of variety. Joe Maciaszek brought *Cynoches* Wine Delight 'JEM' which is an intergeneric hybrid of *Cynoches lehmannii* and *Mormodes sinuata*. As its name implies, it has flowers of a rich red wine color, displayed on a pendant inflorescence. It belongs to the subtribe of orchids known as *Catasetinae*, which consists of *Catasetum*, *Mormodes*, *Clowesia*, *Cynoches* and a few others. Its members are epiphytes that are widespread in lowland tropical [Central](#) and [South America](#) up to 1,500 meters.

Plants from this group do not appear very commonly on the show table or at local shows, for that matter. They are striking plants and many have a delightful fragrance which would make them popular candidates for hobbyists to grow, so perhaps their rarity in this part of the country is due to their particular cultural requirements. It seems like many articles have been written in *Orchids* and *Orchid Digest* in recent years, all stressing that they are easy growers once you know their preferred habits. In her article "Best Practices in Culture of *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cynoches*, *Mormodes* and Their Hybrids", (*Orchid Digest* October 2016), Phyllis Prestia outlines a typical year for these plants in their native habitat and then provides benchmark dates to mimic those conditions:

- November 15: Reduce watering to about half summer amounts
- January 15: Stop watering even if there are some green leaves still on plants
- Around May 15 to June 15: Water like a monsoon, starting when roots are 3-5 inches long, and fertilize copiously.

There is definitely a learning curve with these plants, but the many new hybrids from growers like Sunset Valley Orchids are providing incentive to learn their habits. (Editor's note: I have had three *catasetum*s for a few years, they have all had near death experiences but I have dragged them back from the brink of doom and they are doing better but not thriving...still learning!)



