

Greater Whorled Pogonia
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The Newsletter of the **AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 27 Issue 11

December 2019

November Meeting

Joe Maciaszek, President

The November meeting was well attended, as it was a free plant give away for those paying dues on time. The plants were nice healthy seedlings from Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and members seemed to be happy with the selection of plants. We talked about upcoming orchid shows at our local sister orchid societies. I mentioned the need for members to step up and help with setting up Amherst displays and other society shows. For a very long time Roger has been doing the display setup; I have also helped transport plants and display props and setting up display as well, for about the past decade. It would be nice if other members could help with the setup as well. I hope some members will want be a part of the team to setup displays.

We talked about upcoming auction to support the Northeast Judging Center of the American Orchid Society. On December 7 in conjunction with the New Hampshire Orchid Society holiday party we will be having a small auction of plants. The meeting will at Bethany Chapel, 54 Newbury Road, Manchester, NH 03103 starting at 11. On December 21 there will be a larger auction of plants at the Morristown NJ judging site- there are always great plants there to bid on. The location of that auction is the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue, Morris Township, NJ. I hope some of you might decide to carpool and go to some of these events.

We also had a nice presentation with our new projector that works great. We learned about growing Habenaria from one the AOS webinars. The talk hopefully helped members learn about that tricky winter dry rest period. The AOS has many Webinars that we could use for meetings. Amherst OS members might want to join the American Orchid Society so they can have access to these as well, if they are not already members.

A reminder: The Dec 8th Amherst Orchid society meeting will be our holiday party so please bring something to share with the group. I hope to see many members there for a fun filled meeting.



Amherst Orchid Society display at the Massachusetts Orchid Society Show

Show Table November 2019**Bill Benner**

Cymbidium Chen's Ruby 'Gold Tiger'
 Cym 'Caitlin Pink Delight'
 Cattleya Shekirah Glory

Lee Brockman

Paph NO ID
 Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'

Ed deVarenes

Dendrobium 'Green Flash'

Marc Gray

Bulbophyllum Betty Kelepecz
 Phal Summer Rose 'Blue Star'
 Habenaria carnea
 Oncidium Heaven Scent
 Masdevallia roseola
 Maxillaria tenuifolia (yellow)
 Perrerara LeBeau Blue

Betsy Higgins

Otaara Hwa Yuan Bay 'She Shu'
 Dendrobium Microchip
 Den. usitae Red Coral
 Odcdm Sunlight 'Hilo Honey'

Liz Marinelli

Masdevallia Angle Frost 'Gatsby'

Steve Reardon

Paph Spring Violet

Steve Steiner

Epidendrum capricornu
 Paph Wossner Mini Gold X Emerald Sea
 Tristella regina

Karen Steward

Oncidium Twinkle 'Sunlight'
 Oncidium ornythorhyncum

Tom Tynning

Dendrobium No ID

Marge Tanguay

Rlc Akikosato 'Volcano Queen'

Kasia Wynn

Stenocoryne aurea fulva
 Bradm Shooting Star 'Black Gold'



Spotlight on the Show Table:

Masdevallia Angel Frost 'Gatsby'
Grown by Liz Marinelli

This is the first Masdevallia I bought, from J & L back in 2005. It was a case of fools rushing in... I didn't know much about Masdevallias, having seen them only in photos in *Orchids* magazine and maybe at a show. I thought they were stunning and I had heard that they grew among the rocks in places like Machu Picchu, which added to their allure. But as is sometimes the case, the most interesting plants are often the least suited to life on a windowsill in New England. With a little effort I have been able to keep this plant alive for 14 years and it usually blooms each fall.

In 2005 we didn't have a greenhouse but we had a sun room with south facing windows. I knew that Masdevallias need higher humidity than most orchids, which is not a problem when the plants go outside in the summer, but can be a challenge during the winter months when the heating is on. Luckily, I am married to Dave who can design and build most anything. He came up with a plan for an orchid stand that has two levels, each holding a concrete mixing tub that is filled with clay pebbles. He drilled holes in the bottom of the tubs so that the plants can be watered in place and the water drains through a tube and into a bucket. The pebbles stay wet between waterings providing extra humidity. That's where all my Masdevallias lived until we got the greenhouse two years ago, and I still keep most of them there because they have done very well.

In the summer, the Masdevallias go outside. I put them in hanging baskets and hang them from shepherd's hooks in locations where they will get morning sun and dappled mid-day sun but shade in the afternoon. If we are having a hot



Masdevallia Angel Frost 'Gatsby'



Plant stand designed and built by Dave Marinelli

spell, more than a few days over 90, I bring the Masdevallias into the house until the weather moderates. They stay out until mid to late September, or when the night temperature starts dropping into the 40s.

Masdevallias like to have moisture at the roots at all times. I use plastic pots and have experimented with a variety of potting media over the years. I have had good luck with straight hydroton pebbles, but recently I have been trying a layered approach with heavy stones on the bottom of the pot followed by a few inches of hydroton, topped off with a mix of fine orchidata mixed with perlite and chopped sphagnum. I learned the hard way that they should not be repotted during the heat of the summer. I feed them with Dyna-Gro "Grow" about every 4th watering. Sometimes the leaves of Masdevallias get black spots, so I usually spray them with Physan every 3 weeks or so. They are susceptible to pests like scale and aphids but no more so than any other orchids.

Slugs and tiny

bush snails can wreak havoc with their roots and new growth, especially when they are outdoors in the summer so it is worth keeping an eye on them at that time.

I have added a lot of Masdevallias to my collection over the years, and they have not all prospered but many of them have. In general, the hybrids are easier to grow than species. Masd. Angel Frost 'Gatsby' is still one of my favorites, because when you look closely at the petals, they are overlaid with tiny hairs that look like frost as the name suggests. My guess is the clonal name 'Gatsby' was given because when they catch the light the hairs look like diamond dust so why not name it for a well-known fictional millionaire.



Stained glass image of Masdevallia Angel Frost 'Gatsby' by Laura Marinelli

Upcoming Events

December 8: Holiday Potluck, bring a dish to share! At Munson Memorial Library, 2 p.m.

Announcing the dates for the 2020 Amherst Orchid Society Show:

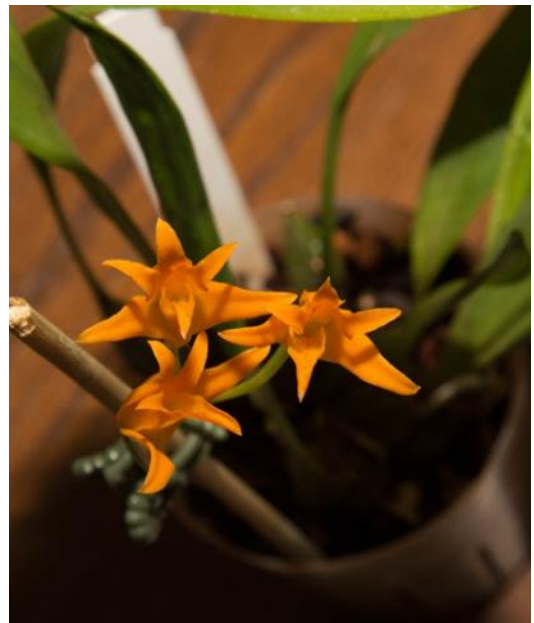
Saturday February 22, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
And Sunday February 23 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Smith Vocational High School in Northampton

2020 Meeting Dates at Munson Memorial Library:

January 12
February 09
March 08
April 19
May 17
September 13
October 11
November 08
December 13



Paph Wossner Mini Gold X Emerald Sea
Steve Steiner



Stenocoryne aurea fulva
Kasia Wynn



Epidendrum capricornu (Steve Steiner)



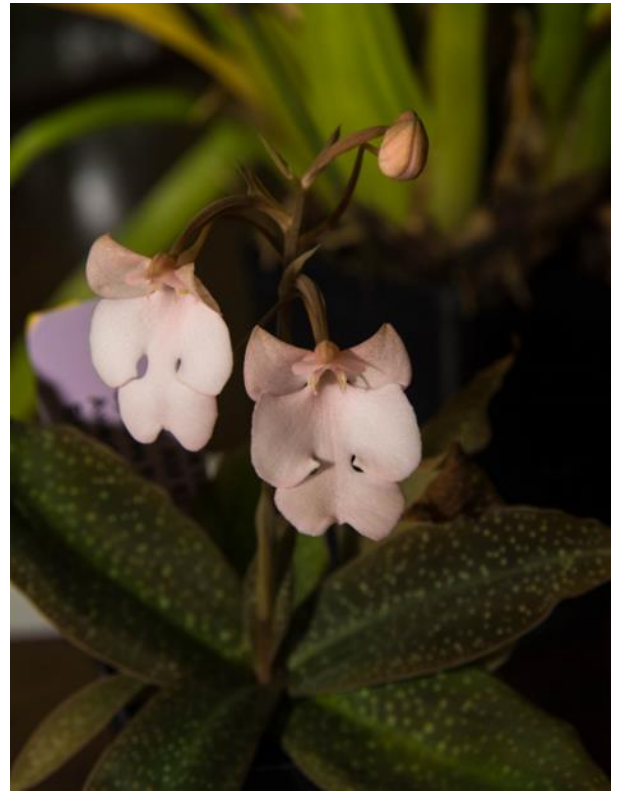
Dendrobium Green Flash (Ed deVarenes)

Maxillaria tenebrosa (Marc Gray)





Paphiopedilum No ID (Lee Brockman)



Habenaria carnea (Marc Gray)



Cymbidium Chen's Ruby (Bill Benner)



Odontoglossum Sunlight 'Hilo Honey' (Betsy Higgins)