



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

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 28 Issue 2

February 2020

## January Meeting

### Roger West

What a great day for a meeting! It was over 60 degrees, the warmest ever for a winter meeting. I remember the coldest meeting was at night many Januarys ago. It was at night because that was when the speaker, Dr. Martin Motes from Homestead, Fla, could attend. He happened to have a daughter who went to Smith College and that was the connection. I remember that cold night, so cold that I had to wrap up my cattleyas to protect from the elements. It was colder than the “blue balls from hell”. By the way Dr. Motes spoke about his specialty, ascocendas. According to president Joe that name no longer exists in orchid nomenclature. During the meeting Joe and Marc talked about the changes in orchid nomenclature and how plants are to be entered into judging. This was the bulk of what happened at this meeting, it was rather boring.

The display table was colorful and full despite plants being held back for the upcoming Cape show. A lively auction of four orchids was the highlight of the meeting. We will have a February meeting prior to fine tune things for the show. Marc hinted that he is putting a show display with pictures of awarded orchids that the members have attained. I have seen these and it should be colorful and fill in blank spaces on the show floor. Lastly, we need everybody’s plants to fill in the club center display.



*Amherst display at the Cape and Islands Show*

I have a quick note on plant preparation. Everybody that has displayed orchids have remarked about bloom timing. They either bloomed too soon or are still in bud, they needed another week of sunshine too look really good. In the past I used to bring budded plants into the warmer kitchen at night to push the plant into blooming ahead of schedule. This rarely worked and the amount of time and effort expended seemed such a waste. I don’t do this anymore but discovered the reverse of the above. Cooling the blooms and they last longer, up to 8

weeks in regards to cattleyas. For the past three winters I have closed off a third of my sun porch with a wall of insulated aluminum foil. Thus I heat a smaller area even though there is another heater, unused, on the opposite end of the porch. I don't need this area because of the fewer orchids in the collection. I wait for 3-4 days after the blooms open up and then move the plant into the cooler area. I wait this time because cattleya blooms will continue to increase in size over the four day time period. It also helps if the sun is out during this time to really set the blooms. This cooler area still gets the all-day sun but will get down to 45-50 degrees at night. I have had blooms lasting up to eight weeks.

The Cape show went really well. I had Liz and Dave help in setup and take down. The big plus was something other than cattleyas were in the club's display. Liz and Dave along with Steve and Marc contributed plants. Liz won three "best of" with her Phrag Hanne Popow which was on the January show table, the best mini with something with a bunch of purple blooms that was front and center in the display. Her last one was the best vanda which was actually an Angraecum species that didn't look like a vanda or an angraecum. It had metallic green stems and blooms. Imagine the new pea varieties with tendrils instead of leaves and this would describe what the flowers looked like. It was a little different. I won the best cattleya with C Catherine Patterson, a semi-alba that was the best cattleya in our show two years ago. On a sad note, I found out that Judy Becker died. She was an AOS judge and helped with our society with her talks and orchid advice.

## Upcoming Events

The next meeting will be on **Sunday, February 9, 2:00 p.m.** at Munson Memorial Library. Members with last names starting with I, J, K and L please bring a dish to share.

## It's Show Season!

**Mark your calendars and plan a road trip:**

### **Nutmeg State Orchid Society Show**

Saturday March 21 and Sunday March 22

### **New Hampshire Orchid Society Show**

March 27-29

<https://www.nhorchids.org/event-3642670>

### **Connecticut Orchid Society Show**

April 4-5

Show Table January 2020

<p><b>Russell Autrey</b> Epidendrum polybulbon</p> <p><b>Nancy Braymiller</b> Beallara Tropic Lily 'Chocolate Drop'</p> <p><b>Lee Brockman</b> Cyc. Wine Delight 'J.E.M.'</p> <p><b>Ed deVarenes</b> Phal unknown Phal 'Pocorn' Phal 'Sakura' Dendrochilum convallariforme</p> <p><b>Marc Gray</b> Perreivaara Le Beau Blue Cymbidium Pipeta 'Royal Gem' Dendrochilium convallariaeforus Stelis morganii</p> <p><b>Betsy Higgins</b> Phal noid Blc Melody Fair Dendrobium Microchip Amgracecum didieri</p> <p><b>Alex and Holly Loss</b> Cymidium unknown Paph purpurata</p>	<p><b>Carol Mentos</b> Dendrobium Super Star 'Dandy' Hoc MS Sunlight 'Sweetheart'</p> <p><b>Joe Maciaszek</b> Wilsonaria Devos 'Burgandy' Wilsonaria Castle Issa 'Hilo Bay'</p> <p><b>Dave Marinelli</b> Dendrobium Robie McInnes</p> <p><b>Liz Marinelli</b> Cymbidium Cherry Blossom 'Profusion' BLC Chia Lin 'New City'</p> <p><b>Steve Reardon</b> Restepia xanthophthacma Dinema polybulbon</p> <p><b>Laurie Richards</b> Miltassia Aztec Hana Ho Phrag Dick Clements Phal Unknown</p> <p><b>Roger West</b> C. Circle of Life 'Mesmerize' C. Shin Shand Diamond 'Ta. Young' C. Blue Box 'Gainsborrough'</p>
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## Spotlight on the Show Table:

### Angraecum didieri Grown by Betsy Higgins

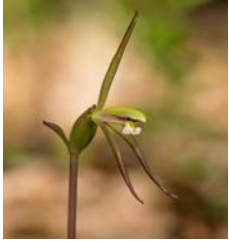
Most of the flowers that we see on the show table are from either South and Central America or Southeast Asia, homes of the most colorful and showy orchids. The orchids native to Africa are not as commonly grown by hobbyists, perhaps because their coloration does not often diverge from shades of white and pale green, and the flowers are typically modest in size. But if African species lack star power, they more than compensate with elegance and interesting qualities.

The *Angraecum didieri* that Betsy brought is a great example. The plant is small in stature but the pure white flower was nearly as large as the plant. And it displayed the feature that fascinates growers of African orchids, a long nectar spur that in this case extended about 4 inches below the flower. It was just such a structure that intrigued Charles Darwin, who saw a nectar spur about 12 inches in length on an *Angraecum sesquipedale* and hypothesized that there must be a moth with an equally long proboscis that could fertilize it. It was 21 years after his death that he was proven right and the moth was discovered.

Betsy has owned this plant for several years, purchasing it from J & L. It spends summers outside and the rest of the year

under lights. It is growing in bark in a small basket that has been set in a larger basket, also filled with bark. She reports that it has a great fragrance at night, which must mean that it has its own moth for pollination back in its native Madagascar.





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Show Supplement Section

February 2020

***The Orchid Show Is Almost Upon Us! February 22 & 23 2020***

Want to help with the show? Contact: Marc Gray [bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net) 802-348-7926

**Volunteer Call!**

We still need volunteers: for show setup, for during the show, for tear down and repacking the materials at the library on Sunday. If you can volunteer some time to help, please do! Even if you can't stand or lift things, we have spaces where you can sit and take admission money or sit and watch exits. Yes, we would sincerely appreciate your help. If you're not sure what to do, Contact Marc Gray at [bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net), or at 802-348-7926

**Setup Schedule**

Initial work on the show will begin at 9:30 AM Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup> at the club library in the Munson Memorial Library in Amherst. We will be packing and transporting the materials needed to set up the show space at the Smith Vocational High School in Northampton. We should be at Northampton about 10 or 10:30.

***Text it. Tweet it. Facebook it. Flyer it. Put the word out.***

Attendance at the annual Orchid Show is the major way the Amherst Orchid Society supports itself. If we don't have enough attendance, we can't pay for newsletters, speakers, or keep lower dues.

Tell everyone how much you are looking forward to the show. Tell them about being able to buy plants at the show, about the fabulous displays put on by local clubs (the space is jam-packed with displays!), and the wonderful informational speakers. An educational, family-friendly experience.



## Show Timetable-

Questions: Marc Gray [bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net)  
or (802)348-7926

### Wednesday Feb 19, 2020

**9:30 AM-** meet at library to pick up show supplies.

**10/10:30 AM-** arrive at Smith Voc; set up backdrops and tables, drape tables. Club members only. No plants or individual displays on this day.

### Thursday Feb 20, 2020

**9 AM** Finish table set-up

**9:30 AM-** Plants can be brought in at this time.

**10 AM-** Bring in donated food about this time.

**4 PM-** Cut off for the plants to be brought in. No plants allowed after this time.

### Friday Feb 21, 2020

**8 AM-** All clerks need to be here at this time. If for some reason you cannot make it you **MUST** let Joe Maciaszek know at [Maciaszek@gmail.com](mailto:Maciaszek@gmail.com) or 508-344-8492

**9 AM-** Judging starts, continues until done. Followed by lunch for the judges.

**10 AM-** Food for the judges' lunch to be picked up and delivered by this time or earlier.

### Saturday Feb 22, 2020

**8:45 AM-** Anyone who is signed up for a 9 AM task, please arrive early so you can get to your places and have your job explained to you **BEFORE** we open.

**9 AM-** Show opens

**5 PM-** Show closes

### Sunday Feb 23, 2020

**9:45 AM-** Anyone who is signed up for a task please arrive early so you can get to your places and have your job explained to you **BEFORE** we open the

## Pre-registration for the Show- Karen Steward

### Why should you pre-register your plants?

Because your plant tags will be waiting for you on Thursday morning when you get to the Show. It's that simple: If you don't pre-register, you may have a long wait for your tags, depending on how many others didn't pre-register and how many tags I need to type and print. You know I'll do the best I can, but it might be a while.

### How many plants should you pre-register?

All of the plants that you might end up bringing. It is much easier to delete tags than to type and print them on Thursday, that I really would prefer that you pre-register anything that even has a chance of ending up at the show. After your plants are tagged, just bring back the tags that you won't be using and I'll delete them. Of course, you can still add plants on Thursday, but that puts you in the waiting line.

**How late can you pre-register?** I don't want to list a specific cut-off time, but I will not be up late on Wednesday working on tags because I need to get going early on Thursday. Send the files as early as Monday and I'll get started. Bear in mind that the later you send forms, the more chance you'll be waiting in line on Thursday morning.

**Remember that you'll be sending the entries to Marc and he'll be forwarding to me,** so there might be a little lag time. I'm sure he'll be just a bit busy that week!

**Why should you use the digital forms?** That's the fastest and most accurate way to get your information to me. Handwriting can be hard to read, so there is a better chance that your tag will match what you wrote if it is typed.

## Show Vendors

Aloha Orchids

J&L Orchids- <https://jlorchids.com/>

Kelley's Korner- <https://www.kkorchid.com/>

Marlow Orchids- <https://www.marlowsorchids.com/>

Orchidphile- <https://www.facebook.com/Orchidphile/>

Piping Rock Orchids- <http://www.pipingrockorchids.com/>

## Please Pre-Register Your Plants!

The club show officers request that plants be pre-registered by Wednesday, February 19, 2020. See above for an important message about plant pre-registration.

## Preparing the "Club" Display- All Hands On Deck! Maryanne Laukaitis

Set-up of our society display will be Thursday, Feb 20, 2020, beginning mid to late morning. We need volunteers to unload the sawhorses, panels, etc from the truck. If you feel up to this more strenuous part of the job, please join in. If you can't do heavy lifting, then we still have draping and decorating which takes a little creativity...and it's fun, too! We'll have the terrarium, introduced in 2016, which needs delicate attention, arranging plants inside and careful ID labeling of plants.

Please lend attractive natural materials, such as oddly shaped wood, to accent the display. Cut greenery, such as ivy and other evergreens, are useful too. Bring items which are easily had carried (without a forklift!) We can also use plain green house plants (not in bloom) in nice condition for filler. A Norfolk Island Pine is always welcome. Empty pots, crates and buckets are appreciated as pedestals for show plants, too. Please label all materials with your name on the back or underside! Be prepared to pick up lent items and take away at clean-up 4 PM Sunday Feb 23, 2020.

We hope you'll join in the set-up- **it's fun**- Bring your creativity!

## Show Plant Delivery

Final deadline for plant delivery for judging is 4:00 PM, Thursday Feb 20, 2020 at Smith Vocational High School in Northampton, MA. The vendors' deadline for plant delivery and setup is 6:30 PM.

Contact Marc Gray if you have questions regarding registering your plants.