



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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March Meeting **Roger West**

This was the first March meeting that I have attended in a long time due to the fact the Nutmeg show is usually this time. As of this writing, March 13, the Nutmeg show in East Hartford has been cancelled due to Corona. Too bad, I have always enjoyed going down there. Time will tell if New Hampshire or the other Ct. show cancels. Thank goodness we put on our show before Corona and its medical problems. I used to see the Corona virus in baby calves. It would hit them at around three weeks of age and was pretty nasty. Fortunately we had an oral vaccine that was administered at birth and problem solved.

The meeting started with a review of the show. It was a very positive review especially Treasurer Steve's financial report. The interesting part of the meeting involved virus testing. Dave Marinelli brought in a cattleya with suspect blooms. Dave gave a quick demonstration on how to test for a virus. This was all well and good but then all the old club veterans added their perspective on orchid viruses. It was getting a little complicated and probably confusing to the newer members. Just remember, be clean around your orchids and when cutting use a clean instrument. I have been through the gamut of tools and chemicals involved with cutting orchid tissue. What I have been using for the last many years are knives. My wife has about 20 kitchen knives and I use one knife per orchid. These knives then get washed in the dishwasher and that is how I try to keep my collection clean.

Maryann has taken over the school scholarship program. She has sent out the applications to the many area schools. Within the next month we should know the results of her efforts. The show table was a little light due to the upcoming shows. Steve Steiner had three nice Lycastes. Hopefully the New Hampshire show will be a go. Stay Healthy.

Virus Discussion Continued...

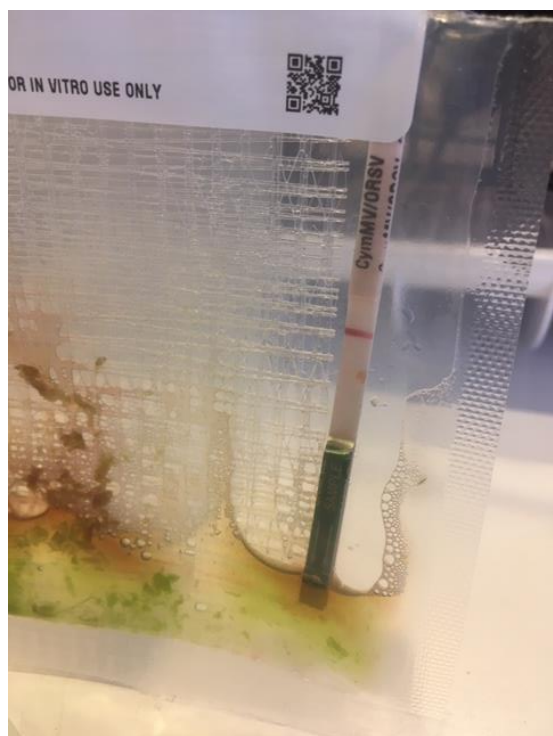
Dave Marinelli

Here is the follow up to the lively discussion we had about virus testing at the 3/8/2020 meeting. The plant in question is an intergeneric hybrid, with 17 different species as ancestors.

Laeliocattleya Angel Heart × *Rhyncattleanthe* Orange Nuggett is now named *Rechingerara* M and D Fliss .



I was worried about it having a virus when I saw the asymmetric petal coloration on the first blooms. Not wanting to cut off one of the newest leaves, I took a piece of a fading but still decent several year-old leaf. As I said at the meeting, it tested negative for Cymbidium mosaic virus & Odontoglossum ringspot virus (CymMV & ORSV). Based on feedback (blowback?) at the meeting I retested with a piece of the newest leaf growing adjacent to the flower stem. I am pleased to report that this also tested negative for virus:



The single red line on the strip above is the control line which shows that the test is valid. If the other viruses had been detected, there would have been one or two red lines below the control line.

Roger West reassured me that sometimes the first bloom looks funny, so I will hang on to it and see how the next blooms develop.

If you have plants with viral symptoms and want to try testing yourself, this is where we bought our test kits:

<https://orders.agdia.com/immunostrip-for-cymmv-and-orsv-isk-13301>

Show Table March 2020**Marc Gray**

Paph Honey Gorse 'Donnland'
 Phal 'Trader Joe's' (2 plants)
 Phrag 'Piping Rock'
 Sedirea japonica

Betsy Higgins

Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'
 Den. Foxtail Blue
 Phal No ID
 Miltassia No ID

Dave Marinelli

Dendrobium kingianum 'Roy'
 Dendrobium delicatum 'Ira Butler Trident's
 Snow Showers'
 Lc Angelheart X Blc Orange Nugget
 'Kadooka'
 Scaphiglottis clavata

Liz Marinelli

Amesiella monticola
 Phrag Pink Panther
 Polystachya ottoniana
 Slc Minipet

Joe Maciaszic

Den. Pua'ala
 Phcal Kryptonite X Calanthe vestita

Holly Reynaud & Alex Loss

Cymbidium No ID
 Phal No ID

Steve Steiner

Dendrobium kingianum 'Big Foot'
 kingianum #4
 Dendrobium usitae
 Dendrochilum glumacea
 Diplocaulobium tentaculatum
 Dracula polyphenous
 Lycaste Abou First Spring 'Will'
 Lycaste skinneri 'Alba'
 Lycaste campbellii
 Lycaste Jason X cruenta
 Paph Norito Hasegawa
 Pleione formosana
 Pleurothallis grobyi
 Pleurothallis viduata
 Pterostylis curta
 Stenorhynchus speciose
 Trichoglottis pusilla

Marge Tanguay

Epc Kyoguchi 'Fumi'
 Phrag Rocquier (Nicolle Tower X Eric Young)

Pleione formosana
 Steve Steiner



AmOS Television Debut

Amherst Orchid Society had a brush with fame recently when two of its members appeared on tv to promote the annual show. Kasia Winn was able to arrange a spot on Mass Appeal, a daily lifestyle program on WWLP. Two people from the club were needed to appear on the show and be interviewed: President Joe was game and Steve Steiner offered to bring some plants- as it turned out he was to be the second interview subject also.

Steve arrived at the studio well ahead of time, and filled out the release forms. Joe arrived with some showy plants, so combined with Steve's "weird" looking ones they had a nice variety. They entered the studio which was set up for several different interviews and were able to mingle with the others who were appearing that day: an herbalist who was to show how to make tinctures, a yoga instructor (sat with very good posture!) and a fire chief who was speaking about ice safety. Then there was some waiting time, which for those of us not accustomed to public speaking (Steve) only breeds nervousness. Luckily, they were on first so the time for anxiety was limited. The woman who interviewed them was very skillful and carried them through the 5-minute interview. Joe found it to be no big deal, probably since he spends most days speaking in front of groups as a professor. Steve, on the other hand, considers his duty to the club to be fulfilled and another member is welcome to take a turn next year, should the opportunity arise.

Thank you to Kasia for arranging the spot, and to Joe and Steve for stepping up and representing the club very well. Your efforts surely contributed to the record setting attendance at the show this year. You can watch the interview here:

<https://www.wwlp.com/massappeal/get-a-taste-of-spring-at-the-amherst-orchid-societys-annual-show-and-sale-this-weekend/>

A Few Orchid Shows Before the Quarantine

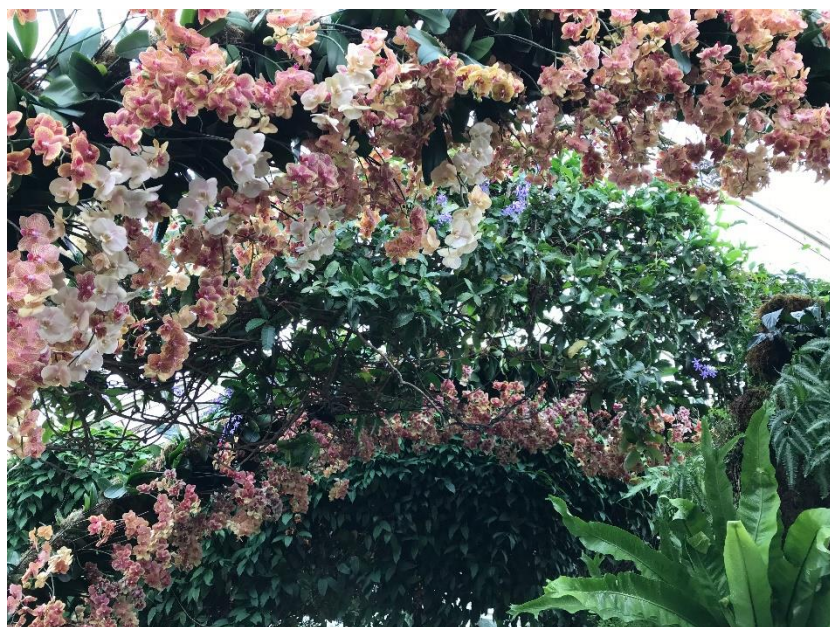
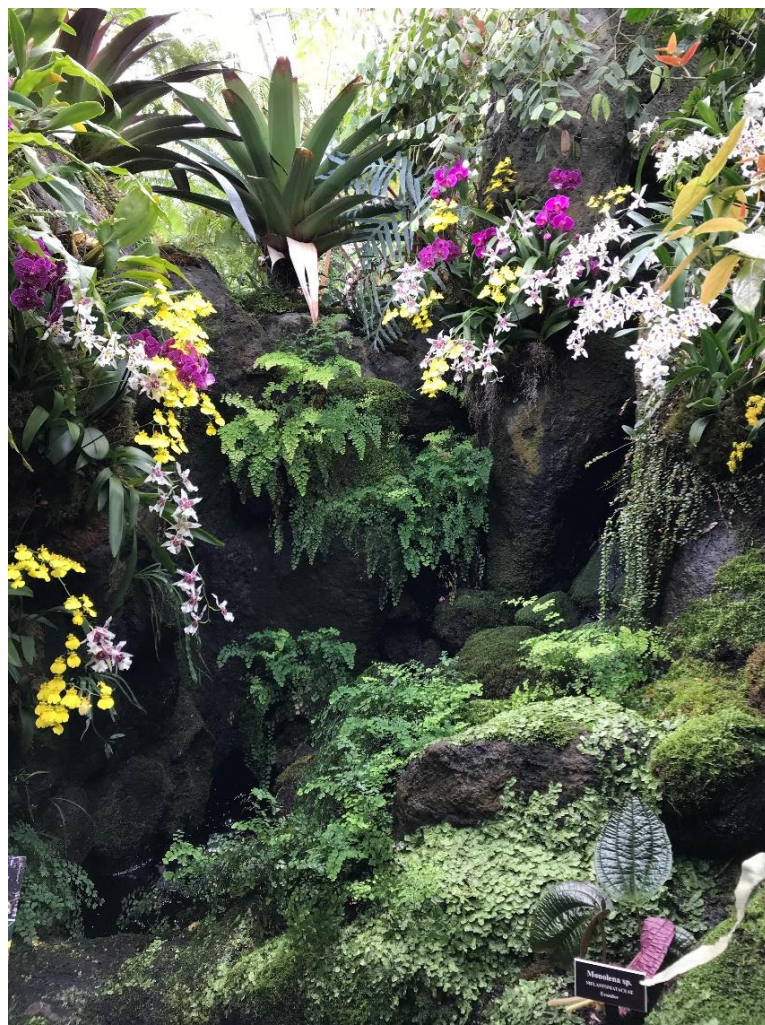
Steve Steiner

I went to the **New York Botanical Garden Annual Orchid** show on a weekend in late February. I thought it was one of their better ones. They have a different designer each year. The NY show is unlike any other orchid show I have attended. They use orchids like other gardeners use bedding plants. If you want to see hundreds of Vandas with thousands of flowers, this is the show for you. There are several massive displays and some smaller displays scattered among the permanent plantings in the one-acre greenhouse. Our show probably had more varieties of orchids and certainly more species than they had at the Botanical Garden. But the spectacle of so many plants is hard to describe.

The remainder of the show has been cancelled for this year. If you go next year, the dates are usually mid-February to mid-April. Admission is \$23 per person. Parking is another \$20. If the weather is warmer, be sure to see the 2-acre rock garden. Arthur Avenue, about a half mile away, has taken the place of Little Italy and is well worth a visit while you're in the neighborhood.

To take a virtual tour of the show, Click here:

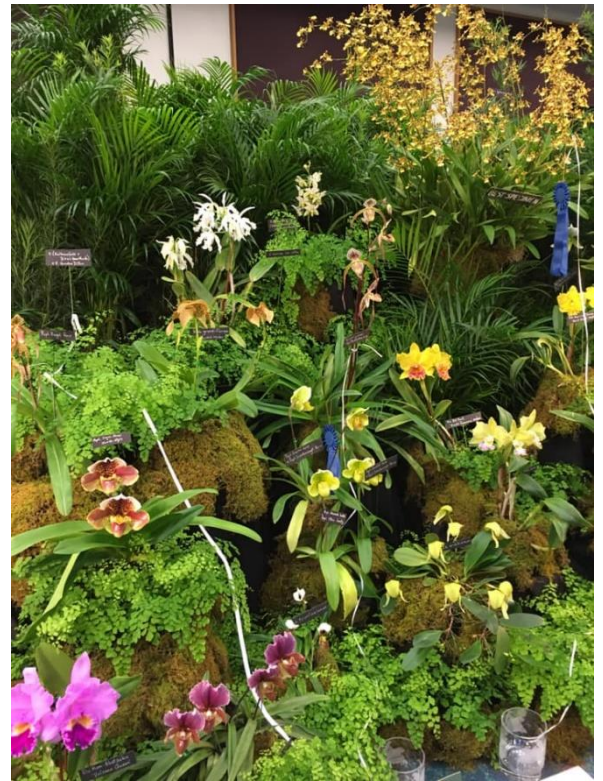
<https://www.nybg.org/take-a-virtual-tour-of-the-orchid-show-jeff-leathams-kaleidoscope/>



(Continued) This winter I had the pleasure of visiting three orchid shows in southern Florida. The first was the **Fort Lauderdale** show which used to be the weekend after the Tamiami show. I used to try to see both shows during the same trip, but since they lost their show venue they moved to different weeks and since I make my reservations a year in advance, I have stopped scheduling my trips to see it. The show has around 20 dealers, mainly from Florida, although Cal Orchids is usually there.

The **Tamiami** show is a terrific show with 70 dealers from all over the world, including a few from Florida. They sell mainly species, most are bare root. Many people order the plants they want from the various web sites before the show and then pick them up avoiding shipping charges. I did the most damage with Springwater Orchids (a Florida grower of mainly paphs), Ecuagenera and Popow Orchids (a German firm known for Paphs).

Popow Orchids had the *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* hybrids in the long terrarium. While this show is slightly smaller than the Redlands show in May, it is indoors and much more comfortable.



Fort Lauderdale Show



Tamiami International Orchid Festival

The **Boca Raton** show also had about 20 dealers, mainly from Florida. Springwater and Krull-Smith were the main attraction for me.

While all the shows had orchid displays, they were not the main attraction. The crowds were there to buy orchids. The more dealers, the larger the crowds. I actually like our show's displays better than the Florida shows' displays. However, I wonder if we would get orchid growers from farther away (Boston, New York,

Albany, etc) if there were more dealers. We could use the hallways for some or all of them. We might be able to charge dealers less if we could increase the attendance. Something for the board to consider.

Announcements:

Due to the current social distancing requirements, the April meeting has been cancelled. It is uncertain if the May meeting will be held, please check the website closer to the date.

We are hoping that if all goes well, we will be able to hold the summer picnic meetings that we usually have in June and July.

Some club members have expressed interest in having a virtual meeting on Zoom. It would probably be held on the date of our scheduled meeting, April 19, but later in the day. If you have interest in attending and would like to receive an invite, email Liz Marinelli at ewmarinelli@comcast.net

While you are hunkered down you might enjoy-

- All American Orchid Society recorded webinars are free to the general public through the end of April: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>
- Ivan Portilla of Ecuagenera talks about Lycaste culture: <https://www.facebook.com/ecuagenera.orguideasecuador/videos/709195716287160/>
- Orchid culture articles by Sue Bottom on the St Augustine Orchid Society website: <https://staugorchidsociety.org/culture-monthly-sue.htm>