



Greater Whorled Pogonia
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The Newsletter of the
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 29 Issue 6

September 2021

August Meeting at the Maciaszeks' Home

Roger West

There was a small gathering of a dozen members that met in Easthampton on one of the better days of the summer. Highlight of the meeting was listening to Steve LaValley's top ten life disasters, one bad one after another. It was a fun time with no concrete future decisions being made. Everything is dependent on the covid problem. There will be a normal meeting somewhere in September with Joe's Easthampton spot a possibility. The library would probably allow us to use their grounds but not the rest rooms as the library would remain closed. The future October meeting held more promise with the possibility of having a plant auction. A



Connecticut member volunteered 30 plants for the auction. I offered my Conway farm for the auction if we can't get into Munson library. November will be membership renewal and plant give away as we normally do in the fall. Again, all of the above is dependent on the virus situation but there is hope ahead for us.

It's Time... to Pay Dues!

All members who pay their dues at or before the October meeting will receive a free plant at the November meeting.

\$25.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for family

Send a check payable to Amherst Orchid Society Membership, 157 Shea Rd,
West Brookfield, MA 01585

~The September Meeting Has Been Cancelled~

Information about our next meeting will be coming
in early October

THE MASSACHUSETTS ORCHID SOCIETY PRESENTS

World of Orchids
The Caribbean



Tolumnia triquetra

Photo Credit: Eric Hunt

Show & Sale
October 22–24, 2021

Sons of Italy Hall
117 Swanton Street
Winchester, MA

www.massorchid.org/show

Dates & Times:

Friday, Oct 22, 2021: 12:30 pm - 5 pm

Saturday, Oct 23, 2021: 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday, Oct 24, 2021: 10 am - 4 pm

Location:

[Sons of Italy](#)

117 Swanton St, Winchester, MA

Admission:

Adults \$10

Purchase tickets online soon or at the door.

COVID19 INFO:

Masks will be required for all visitors to the MOS Show per Winchester regulations.

Last Update: 9/5/2021

Please check the Massachusetts Orchid Society website prior to visiting the show in case of covid-related changes: <https://www.massorchid.org/show>

~ In Memoriam ~



Robert Herbert Melvin "Bob" Simon, 96, passed away peacefully at his home on July 3, 2021. He was born in New York City on November 11, 1924, to the late Joseph and Elsie Simon and grew up in Brooklyn. At age 18, he joined the Army Air Corps and served in Europe as a navigator in the 401st Bomb Group during World War II. In 1948, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware and in the following year met the love of his life, Sheila Levy. They were married on New Year's Eve 1950 in his parent's Brooklyn home and entertained their guests with a beautiful piano duet. A few years later, Bob entered the graduate program at Yale University, earning a doctorate in chemical engineering. Bob and Sheila loved their time

living in the Quonset hut community that Yale built on its polo fields for married veterans. This was especially true after they realized that nobody else was waiting until they could "afford" children and started their family, eventually welcoming four children in the years to come.

In 1958, Bob and Sheila built a home in Longmeadow, MA that Bob designed himself, and they lived there for the rest of their lives. Being a self-taught architect was just one example of the unfathomable range of his interests, expertise, and skills. To call him a renaissance man would be an understatement. A scientist with multiple patents, he also was an accomplished pianist, oboist and composer, who had considered becoming a professional musician. He instead indulged his love of music in other ways including more than 40 years as an oboist and writer of program notes for the Holyoke Civic Symphony. Bob was a nature lover who raised orchids and could tell you the Latin name of any plant he encountered while hiking. He was a gifted writer of letters and short stories and a scholar of art, music, literature and history who remembered almost everything he read. And he could build or fix just about anything.

Above all of this, Bob's greatest love and joy was his family and many lifelong friends. Together with Sheila, he led a rich and happy life filled with a shared passion for the arts, travel, good conversation, and paddling their canoe on lakes throughout New England. Bob was also an ardent scuba diver, a sailor with Sheila on their "sailfish" boat, and a great sledding enthusiast with his children at every snowfall. Bob was predeceased by his loving wife Sheila, who passed away on February 19, 2020. He leaves their four children and their spouses, Burt Simon (Minh), Stewart Simon (Leslie), Diana Simon Benoit (Philippe), and Alice Simon Ericson (Tracy), along with 13 grandchildren: Chau (Kevin), Tran (John), Tien, Rachel, Laura, Claire, Natalie, Valerie, Rebecca, AJ, Julie, Kevin and Olivia, two great grandchildren, Adrien and Vivienne, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was also predeceased by his brother and sister-in-law Henry and Selma Simon, brother- and sister-in-law David and Marilyn Levy, and nephew Steven Simon. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



Yvonne Ruth (LeCamp) Boucher, 91, died June 29 at the Fisher Home in Amherst.

Born September 22, 1929, in Upper Silesia, Germany, she fled with her family to Belgium in 1939, and then to Aix-en-Provence in southern France, where she lived the rest of the war. Emigrating to the US in 1947, she settled with her family in New York City.

An avid walker, she met her husband, F. Robert “Bob” Boucher, on a hike in 1952. They married in June 1953 and lived in New Jersey, before moving to Northampton in 1956.

A graduate of the Evening Division of Maurice Evans High School in New York City in 1954, she began her college studies twelve years later. After four years at Holyoke Community College, she transferred to Smith College, where she graduated magna cum laude with honors in French in 1972. She earned her doctorate in French at UMass in 1984. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi.

She taught in Northampton public schools, most notably JFK, for thirty-five years.

She was both a Brownie and Girl Scout leader, and a long-time member of the Pioneer Valley Section of the Green Mountain Club, the League of Women Voters, and the Orchid Society. She also belonged to the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence.

Her husband having died in 2003 after 49 years of marriage, she leaves four children, Nancy E. Catania of Vero Beach, Florida, Patricia A. Rathay of Montgomery, Wayne A. Boucher of Cambridge, UK, and Andrew F. Boucher, of Paris, France, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

A brother, Marcel LeCamp, died earlier.

Does Anyone Recognize this Plant????

Steve Steiner received a piece of this *Stanhopea* at a meeting a few years ago, it was part of a huge plant from the University of New Hampshire. He is wondering if anyone else has gotten it to flower and had it identified. Maybe *S. wardii*?

