

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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December 2021

November Meeting: The Auction

Roger West

It was an orchid activity that I could sink my teeth into. It's all well and good to venture to members' homes to enjoy gardens and orchid tables but when there is a chance to add to your orchid collection get out and grab it. So it was at Herb Fishman's glass house in Hartford. The club is extremely grateful to Herb and Deb for allowing the club into their orchid heaven with all benefits going into the Amherst coffers. I'm pretty sure that I met Herb at one of our shows. He purchased some cattleyas from my show table but when I wanted a beautiful white cattleya from the Nutmeg display, no dice. I said how about a trade? Herb still said no. They say "what goes around comes around". The white cattleya that I wanted was C Bob Betts "White Lightning". In that Nutmeg display this plant had four large blooms on one stalk, highly impressive. Low and behold this was the same plant (probably a division) in the auction. This is why I had to outbid Marge Tanguay for this orchid, Henry thanked me afterwards.

Joe and Marc had the auction well organized. Forty plants were bid upon by about twenty members. I thought the plants brought in more money than previous auctions. Probable reason for this was the fact all monies went directly to the club. It seemed as though the bidders were quite generous in opening their check books. In addition to the auction plants many others were purchased. There were a ton of Vandas hanging in the glass house, all looking quite nice. Some were auctioned off unfortunately there are not many vanda growers in the club. These were the best plants in Herb's collection.

The giveaway orchids were also from Herb's collection so the club saved money again. There is a possibility that more of his plants may be auctioned off at future meetings. Hopefully there will be a meeting on the second Sunday in December, somewhere!



In summary, it was an exciting time down in Hartford. The club greatly appreciated the efforts of Deb and her staff for making it a fine experience for everyone. I added seven plants to my collection which needed additions. I threw away about twenty plants this summer due to a nasty rot brought upon by all the rain we had this past summer. Outside growing has its downfalls when we have monsoons all summer. This past spring, while repotting, I ran out of charcoal and sponge roc that are used to open up my media. So some of the repotted plants went into straight coconut chunks and this stayed much too wet for the roots, hence there were additions to the compost pile. Hopefully I will see you somewhere in December.

President's Message

Joe Maciaszek

The society held a successful auction at Herb Fishman's greenhouse, our first revenue generator since the 2020 show. We had a moderate size crowd there, I wish there a few more bidders especially people who like to grow Vandas. Several of the plants had pretty active bidding on them while many of the Vandas were not bid by many members. I would like to thank everyone who showed up and I appreciate all of those high bidders (weather it was one plant or several plants) who took home some of these great plants. The auction consisted of approximately 35 plants and few others sold before or afterwards raised \$1505 for our society which is a good amount to help replenish the club's bank account.

There are still quite a lot of plants that need to be moved out of the greenhouse, looking for a new home. I am planning on bringing some of these plants to the monthly meeting and continuing to sell them with the proceeds going to the club again. Please let me know if you have any interest in Vandas so I make sure to bring some.

I am thinking that the club might want to have a sales table at our show and we can sell off these plants to a bigger group of people.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting at Rogers's house.



Upcoming Events

December 12: Holiday Potluck- bring a dish to share!
At The Wests' home in Conway, 2 p.m.

Directions:

FROM THE SOUTH

Take Rt. 91 to exit 24. Take Rt 5 north to Rt. 116 North. Go North on Rt.116 into the center of Conway. In Conway, from the center of Conway, you will see a green road sign for Dacey Rd. and a sign for Conway Orchids. The Wests have a big farm with a large red barn.

FROM THE NORTH

Take Rt. 91 to exit 25. Take Rt. 116 North. Go North on Rt.116 into the center of Conway. In Conway, take a Right on Shelburne Falls Rd. Exactly 3 miles from the center of Conway, you will see a green road sign for Dacey Rd. and a sign for Conway Orchids. The Wests have a big farm with a large red barn.



Announcing the dates for the 2022 Amherst Orchid Society Show:

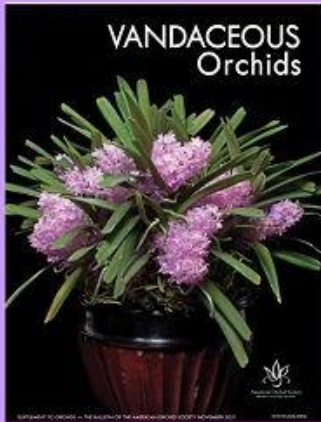
Saturday February 26, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
And Sunday February 27 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Smith Vocational High School in Northampton

Coming in January.....

Cape and Islands Orchid Society Show

January 22-23, 2022

The Resort and Conference Center, 35 Scudder Ave.,
Hyannis, MA



AOS Speaker's Day

Pour Your Coffee and Prepare Brunch!
Enjoy a Day with these Delightful Speakers

Explore the Virtual World of Vandaceous Orchids

SATURDAY, January 29, 2022

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4834617917122351119>

Start Time 10 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

\$30 USD

Building on the 2021 Bodacious Vandaceous Orchids Magazine Supplement,
this is an opportunity to learn more about the VANDA family of orchids.

Tune in to presentations by four distinguished speakers.

- 1) **Kim Fedderson** from *Fair Orchids*: Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids at Home
- 2) **Jason Fischer** from *Orchids Limited*: The Culture & History of *Vanda falcata* (formerly *Neofinetia*)
- 3) **Bob Fuchs** Pres. of *RF Orchids*: The Latest Trends in Vanda Hybridizing
- 4) **Brenda Oviatt** from *Botanica Ltd.*: Angraecoids - Conservation and Culture

Finding the names of orchid hybrids, or the names of their parents

Liz Marinelli

Sometimes young plants are available for purchase and they are the result of a cross that has not been registered. If you own one of these, years might go by until they bloom, and then you wonder if the cross has been registered and if it has a hybrid name. A hybrid name is much easier to write on a tag if you are entering a plant in a show! It turns out that it's easy to find this information on a few free websites.

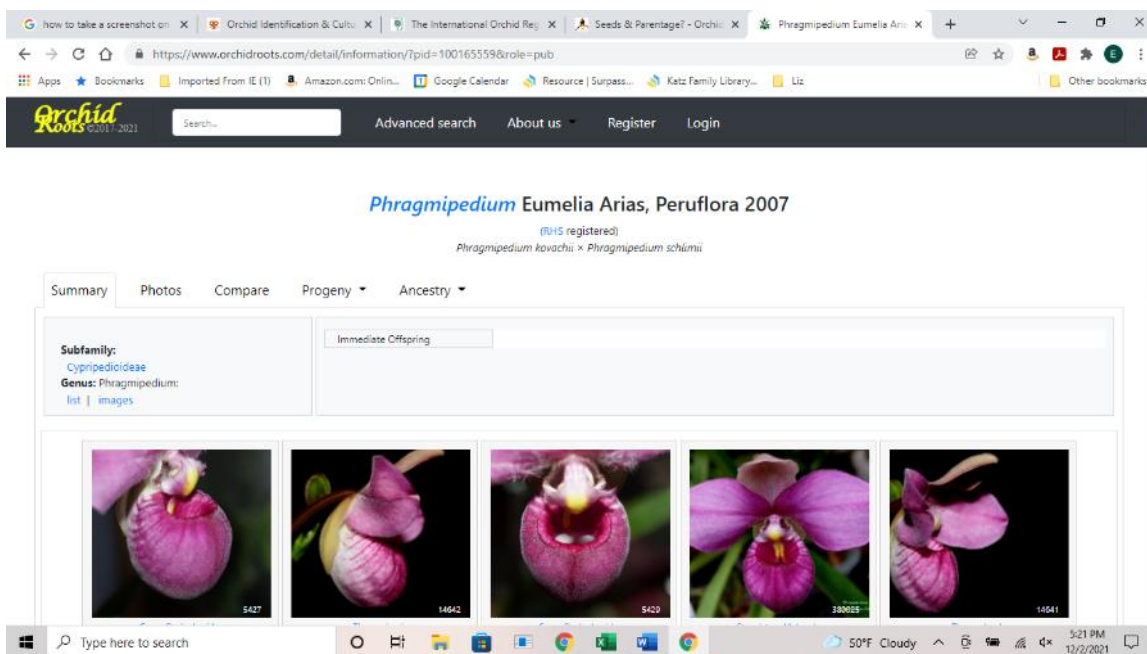
When an orchid hybrid is officially registered, it is done through the Royal Horticultural Society in Kew Gardens, England. If a hybrid is accepted it is given a name, referred to as an "epithet". These records of hybrids and parents are searchable on the RHS website:

<https://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>

If you already know the name of the hybrid but want to know the parents, an option is Orchidroots, which is a crowd sourced database that also includes photos uploaded by users.

<https://www.orchidroots.com/?role=pub>

Photos are useful since there is variation from one individual to another within a cross. Here is the result when I searched for *Phragmipedium Eumelia Arias*:



If the parents of a cross are also hybrids, on this site it is easy to keep clicking on each parent to find previous generations going back to the original species. When you know the species that make up a hybrid, it is easier to find cultural information. A good source for information on orchid species is

<http://www.orchidspecies.com/>