



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

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 30 Issue 2

February 2022

## **President's Message**

Joe Maciaszek

Hi Everyone

Due to the weather conditions and probably COVID the January meeting was a small group. We met at the Polish Club in Easthampton, thanks Kasia for taking care of that. There were only 9 of us there but a nice selection of plants on the show table. The meeting area at the club was a nice size space for us to meet. It was a little dark and noisy with a bar on the other side of the meeting room but a good location for us to meet.

It is very sad to report that Leilani Norman passed away on Jan 12. I am sure the hearts of all our members who knew Leilani will go out to Harold in his time of mourning. Lani was a long time member and a very involved member in the club. Over the years she served several roles on the club's leadership as well as running an orchid business with Harold. She participated in our annual show as a vendor and always set up very nice displays. Her involvement in our society will be sorely missed and I hope Harold will be ok as time passes and will still see him at our meetings.

Marc and I grabbed the last of the good plants at Herb Fishman's greenhouse which will be closed at the end of January. Thanks Deb for helping and allowing the Amherst Orchid Society to collect these plants so they can use them as a fundraiser. With that said we need to plan on a plant sale soon. I am thinking of April so we have time to plan this out and get the word out there so we get buyers for these plants. So at our next meeting we discuss this and hopefully have a location picked so fliers can be made and emails sent out.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. Also with COVID still being at high rates in the area I am requiring everyone to wear masks to our meeting, so those who have (or family members) underlying health issues feel comfortable to come. With that said I also think we should stop bringing food to share to our meeting as it requires people to lower their masks to eat. Thank you Ed for bringing something to share to our last meeting but I don't think anyone had any during the meeting. I hope we can bring this back once COVID numbers are lower and people feel safer to meet in larger groups without masks.

That's all for now, see you at the meeting

Joe

Show Table January 2022**Ed deVarenes**

Paph Delightfully Venus

Vanda Memoria Yolanda Detona

**Maryanne Laukaitis**

Laelia anceps

Lc bowri-albida 'Kennedys' AM/AOS

**Joe Maciaszek**

Wilsonara Castle Issa 'Hilo Bay'

Rlc Volcano Harmony 'Volcano Queen'

**Liz Marinelli**

Cymbidium Cherry Blossom

Paph spicerianum

Phrag Eumelia Arias

Sphronitella violacea



## In Memoriam: Leilani Norman



*Lani and Harold at their open house in August 2009*

Leilani May Norman, 80, beloved wife of 62 years of Harold Richard Norman passed away on January 12, 2022. "Lani" was a long time member of the Amherst Orchid Society and contributed to the Society by serving on its Board of Directors, as Corresponding Secretary, promoting the Society's Scholarship program, and participating annually in the orchid show with a display of outstanding plants, doing educational demonstrations, and enthusiastically running a vendor table. We will miss her generous, no-nonsense way of instructing and demonstrating the care of orchids.

Orchids were just one of her passions for she also knitted, crocheted and sewed beginning in childhood, making items for charities and for the military. With Harold she took up rock collecting, lapidary arts such as gemstone cutting and faceting, silver and gold-smithing, and lost wax casting. They ran their business, Aloha Gems and Minerals, attended many gem and mineral shows and belonged to the CT Valley Mineral Club.

Lani was born September 9, 1941 in Montague, MA to the late Alfred F. Booska and Mary L. (Sawyer) Keller. She married the love of her life, Harold, in 1959. They built a house in Montgomery, Ma, started a family, then moved to Monson, MA in 1969. Harold had made the "mistake" of giving her a couple of orchids, which started her obsession with growing them. They were members of the CT Orchid Society and joined the Amherst Orchid Society in 1987. They later joined the American Orchid Society, and traveled to attend conferences, meetings, and events connected to orchids. Their business became Aloha Enterprises, when they added orchids to their sales. They exhibited at the Amherst Orchid Society annual shows, winning many awards for their exceptional plants and having many returning customers. Their final orchid show was February 2020. They were vendors at the Brimfield Farmers Market in the summers and had added perennials to their other offerings. Lani always asked people who purchased her plants to call her if they had questions or if their plant did not thrive, as she wanted to make sure that they were successful at their growing.

Leilani was an avid enthusiast of life, and a lifelong learner. She always felt that you could never have too much education and strived to learn something new every day. She was a great example that a woman could do anything that she set her mind to. She was a powerful role model to her children and grandchildren and made them all strive to be better and make her proud.

She leaves her devoted husband, Harold, their children: Tracy A. Norman and her husband Edward Shearer of Northfield, MA, Richard F. Norman and his wife Rosa of Goldsboro, NC, and Renee M. Lagacy and her husband John of Tehachapi, CA; a brother Steven Booska and his wife Amanda of CA; a sister Betty Moore and her husband Larry of CA; twelve grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Lani had always requested that she receive flowers when she was alive, so she could enjoy them, and not after she had passed. Please honor her wishes and memory by making donations to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 516 Carew St. Springfield, MA 01104. All services are private.

## A Remembrance of Lani

Roger West

The club recently lost Lani Norman who along with her husband, Harold, were the longest active society members. Most of you know Lani from the past few years, what I want to do here is give you the early Lani. My first encounter was the first election that I attended as a new club member. It must have been 1989 or 1990, don't remember exactly. Lani was up for club treasurer against the incumbent, a gal who grew great cymbidiums but never gave an account of the club's monies. It was a heated debate in which I didn't partake because as an orchid neophyte I was trying to hide in the back row. At that time I was in total awe toward members that could spout the orchid nomenclature. Lani won the election and was a good officer for years. The loser was never seen again at a meeting though I saw her at our show a few years ago and exchanged pleasantries. It was too bad she never came back to the club. To say the least, Lani was a force.

We held a few meetings at her place in Munson especially when she and Harold built a new greenhouse. She was the club's original vanda grower with them growing in a little hot room off of her kitchen. Lani was responsible for the initial ribbon judging at the second show held at the old Hopkins Academy gym. Lani, myself and Judy Becker, an AOS judge from Salisbury, Ct, met at Lani's house to figure out a judging schedule in which Judy and her friend would do the judging. It started early on Saturday morning with Lani and I helping the two judges. It was going slow and an impatient president Stan Buss was holding back the gathering public telling us to hurry. The public was harassing Stan and he just opened the doors and that was the end of judging. It was exciting times thinking back, now judging is on Fridays in a calmer environment. Lani and I were vendors for the first time at that show. I stopped after a few years but Lani and Harold carried on.

An important club contribution was Lani and Harold representing the club at AOS and EOC orchid functions. They travelled the country and even made it out to Hawaii for an AOS meeting. She would report back on AOS doings and this was much appreciated. When you go to these meetings they give you a goodie bag for the show and in it would be orchid pins commemorating that show. They loved collecting these pins and I even gave them a few on EOC meetings that I attended and they didn't.

Lani headed up the school scholarship program which she pushed for years. She did it the first year and turned it over to Maryann as it is time consuming.

Those early years saw Verda Dale, Bill Hutchinson and Lani leading the club from infancy to glorious years that probably peaked in the early 2000's (as far as membership goes) to what we have today. I will leave you with Lani favorite, She loved large, pink cattleyas.



## **February Meeting of the Amherst Orchid Society**

Location: The Pulaski Club, 79 Maple Street, Easthampton

Date: Sunday, February 13, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.



**An Orchid Exhibition at Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, Boylston, MA**

**Saturday, February 12 – Sunday, March 20, 2022**

**Included with admission**

Tower Hill's indoor spaces, including the Limonaia and Orangerie, will be adorned with 1,400 colorful orchids and sparkling works of art.

**Admission tickets must be reserved online in advance.**

**<https://www.towerhillbg.org/prismatic-orchid-exhibition/>**



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Maryanne Laukaitis



*Vanda Memoria Yolanda Detona*  
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