



Greater Whorled Pogonia
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The Newsletter of the
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

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**APRIL MEETING OF THE
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: **Munson Memorial Library**, 1046 S East St, Amherst

Members with last names starting with M, N, O and P please bring a snack to share

Upcoming meetings at Munson Library:

May 21

March 12 Meeting

We had a smallish turnout at the March meeting, maybe everyone and their plants were resting up from the show. Vice President Marge led the meeting, filling in for Joe. Steve R. gave a financial report of the show, and Marc reported that all went smoothly in other areas as well. We gave a round of applause to Marc and the other volunteers who worked very hard behind the scenes.

Neither President Joe nor Steve Steiner was at the meeting to present the show table, so we did a "Show and Tell" format where each person talked about their own plants. Several lively discussions resulted, on topics ranging from controlling ants to the best place to store *Catasetums* for their winter rest (in a box under the bed).

The club had a display at the Nutmeg show the following weekend, and our plants came away with a nice assortment of ribbons, rosettes and trophies.



Amherst Orchid Society display at the Nutmeg State Orchid Society show in West Hartford

Eggshell Trick and *Paph insigne*, *Paph villosum* Maryanne Laukaitis

I've had my *Paph insigne* for over 10 years, and have never divided it. It gets repotted every other year in a bark, charcoal, perlite, with a bit of potting soil mix. It's been a 'shy bloomer.'

When I brought *P. insigne* to the meeting in January, I commented that I use powdered eggshells in the potting mix to provide calcium, which it seems to need in order to bloom. Before I started adding the eggshells it would produce only one bloom at a time. At the last repotting, I added a couple of handfuls of the powdered eggshells, and it produced 3 lovely blooms.

My *Paph. villosum* also gets eggshell powder at re-potting, and it produced 5 blossoms at the last bloom in February 2023 for our show. (Note: Maryanne's *Paph. villosum* won the trophy for best plant in our 2023 show. - Ed.) *P. villosum* seems to be an easier grower, and more willing bloomer.

Members were concerned about this eggshell practice, crying "salmonella!" Here's what I do to process the egg shells, after I bake a cake or something else with eggs:

1. Set the eggshells in their own dry pan (no grease) or wrapped in aluminum foil and place them in the oven with whatever you're baking at 350F or higher.
2. Leave the eggshells in the oven for about 45 minutes to an hour. (Take the cake out before it burns!) The shells can even be left in the oven and baked over again the next time you turn it on. The baking helps break down the structure, makes the calcium more available, as well as killing off germs, if you are worried.
3. When the egg shells are cool, grind in a mortar and pestle by hand. Or, buzz them in a coffee bean grinder, which will result in a fine powder. Try not to inhale the powder.
4. The powder or crushed shells can be stored dry in any container with a lid.
5. When you are preparing to repot a calcium loving plant, you can add a handful or two to the medium. Or add the powder to the mix in layers as you fill the medium in around the roots, and sprinkle on top of the mix. The shell powder is fine, so as you water the plant, the tiny granules will be washed down into the media.
6. Another way to use the egg shell powder is to boil it in plain water for a while, to break down the structure further, so that the water appears a bit milky. Use the water and the boiled powder in your medium, or as you water normally.

Paph insigne "Splendid Paphiopedilum" is found in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and northwestern Yunnan province of China growing on humus and mosses on limestone outcrops. It is cool growing, and takes temperatures into the low 40s F. It blooms in Fall into early Winter. It blooms with glossy, mostly brown and yellow, markings of white green, and spotted dorsal.

Paph villosum "Hirsute Paphiopedilum" is found in India, Myanmar, Thailand, southern China, Laos and Vietnam in cloud forests of evergreen, mixed and broad-leaved trees, at high elevations. It sometimes is found in tree forks above the ground, but usually grows as a terrestrial, and found rarely on cliff faces as a lithophyte. It is also cool to cold growing, taking temperatures in the low 40sF in my greenhouse. It blooms in the Winter with subtly colored blooms of mostly brown, with markings of yellow, purple, green, white, and is exceptionally glossy.



Show Table March 2023**Kasia Wynne**

Clowesia Rebecca Northen 'Grapefruit Pink'
Phal No ID (Stop & Shop)

Ed deVarennes

Cattleya Jewel Box
Dendrobium Love Memory 'Fizz'
Wilhelmara Pinot Princess 'Scary'
Oncidium cheirophorum
Pot. Golden Circle 'OPRL' x Lc Tokyo
Magic '6-1'

Liz Marinelli

Cattleya NoID
Slc Purple Doll x Laelia rupestris
Phrag. Pink Panther

Alex Loss and Holly Rainaud-Loss

Cymbidium Stella Verdi

Stacy Soldato

Blc Lilly Marie Almas (Roger)
Bc Maikai 'Mayumi'
Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga
Brassavola nodosa
Ett. Volcano Trick 'Volcano Queen'
Psy. Kalihi

Deb Spearot

Cymbidium ign.



Clowesia Rebecca Northen 'Grapefruit Pink'
Kasia Wynne



Bc Maikai 'Mayumi'
Stacy Soldato



Cymbidium Stella Verdi
Alex Loss and Holly Rainaud-Loss



Ett. Volcano Trick 'Volcano Queen'
Stacy Soldato



Pot. Golden Circle 'OPRL' x Lc Tokyo Magic '6-1'
Ed deVarenes



Cymbidium ign.
Deb Spearot

Connecticut Orchid Society Mother's Day Sale



Saturday, May 13, 2023

10 am to 4 pm

Free Admission

First Congregational Church

37 Main Street

Southington, CT

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