



Greater Whorled Pogonia  
© All rights reserved

The Newsletter of the  
**AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 31 Issue 5

May 2023



**MAY MEETING OF THE  
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

Date: Sunday, May 21, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

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

*Members with last names starting with Q, R, S and T please bring a snack to share*



*Dendrobium gonzalesii*

Steve Steiner

## President's Message

**Joe Maciaszek**

Hi everyone-

Last month was a sad time for club members. As I am sure many of you know, the great Roger West passed away last month. I know everyone was as shocked as I was when they first heard the news at the meeting. This was a terrible loss for the club, Roger played so many roles over the years. While Roger was stepping back from orchids recently, no one really ever leaves permanently. I was hoping Roger would eventually come back to participate in club activities.

I remember meeting Roger for the first time when the Amherst Society still had their show at the Hopkins Academy gym in Hadley. That's when I got my first orchid from Roger- a beautiful red Cattleya. I wish it were still alive. I am sure each of us has our own memory of when we first met Roger and the impact he had on us and our desire to grow orchids.

Last month's meeting was well attended and we had a good show table of plants. We talked about how well the setup of displays at our sister society shows went this year, and how this is a very important job. I hope members continue to volunteer to help bring plants to these shows as well getting engaged in the display setup. The more people involved in the group the better, as this will ensure that we can set up displays at our sister society shows.

We also talked about the upcoming summer meetings and where we would be holding them. I will be doing the June meeting at my house. We are looking for volunteers for the July and August months so if you want to host the club, please let me know at our meeting.

We are hoping to do a club order of new tee shirts. If you are interested in a new shirt, we will have a signup sheet for them at our next meeting. Hopefully there is enough interest in them so an order can be placed where the shirts aren't too expensive.

Lastly, we talked about placing a club order with Lehua Orchids in Hawaii. They are mainly a Paph. and Phrag. business. Please check out their website and if you want some of their plants bring a list to the next meeting and a check to pay for them. Steve Reardon can then place the order for the group and you can pick up your plants when the order comes in.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting-

Joe

Show Table April 2023

<p><b>Maryanne Laukaitis</b>  Brassavola Yellow Bird  Lelia anceps  LC Summer Spot 'Cheetah'  Procatavola Key Lime Stars  LC Santa Barbara Sunset 'Showtime'</p> <p><b>Nancy Braymiller</b>  Colmanara Wildcat 'Yellow Cat'  Aliceara Snowblind 'Sweet Spots'</p> <p><b>Ed deVarenes</b>  Phal Lia's Berry 'Orchidhouse'  Dendrobium Nobile Love Memory 'Fizz'</p> <p><b>Dave Marinelli</b>  Angraecum doratophyllum  Sarcochilus Kulnura  Maxillaria tenuifolia  Dendrobium Nobile Love Memory  Maxillaria tenuifolia</p> <p><b>Kasia Wynne</b>  Phal mini  Phal Magic Hat</p> <p><b>Steve LaValley</b>  Phal Sogo Vieker  Paph Caienta Approval  Phal Sago Vivien  Phal Surf-Song  Dinema polybulbon</p> <p><b>Carol Mentos</b>  Phal Tying Shin</p> <p><b>Deb Spearot</b>  Leptotes bicolor</p> <p><b>Joe Maciaszek</b>  Paph rothschildianum  Phrag Grouvillie 4N  Paph Philip's Song  Bulbophyllum bicolor  Paph Julius  Sarcochilus Kulnura x Kulnura</p>	<p><b>Alex Loss and Holly Rainaud-Loss</b>  Paph barbatum  Paph fairianum  Cymbidium Spring Pleasure</p> <p><b>Stacy Soldato</b>  Phal Sweet Memory 'Liodoro'  Oncidium Wildcat 'Green Valley'  Phal Jaiho 'Summer Love'  Prosthechea Black Comet  Oncidium Pink Profusion</p> <p><b>Judy Hudon</b>  Maxillaria tenuifolia</p> <p><b>Marc Gray</b>  Pahl Yin's Eagle 'Nobby B'  Bulbophyllum Goody Goody  Sarcochilus Hybrid</p> <p><b>Michelle Hudon</b>  Phal NOID</p> <p><b>Liz Marinelli</b>  Cymbidium eburneum  Polystachya ottoniana  Slc Virginia Dickey x Pot Loud Nine  Dendrobium Hamana Lake 'Prism'  Potinara Fairyland</p> <p><b>Aimee Hudon</b>  Dendrobium NOID 'Chocolate Chip'  Phal Mini</p> <p><b>Steve Steiner</b>  Lycaste campbellii  Paph Norito Hasegawa  Paph armeniacum  Pleurothallis quadrifida  Dendrobium gonzalesii  Phal schilleriaiana</p> <p><b>Betsy Higgins</b>  Phal NOID  Leptotes bicolor  Phal NOID  Dendrobium tanii  Brassavola perrinii</p>
---	---





*Oncidium Pink Profusion*  
Stacy Soldato



*Lycaste campbellii*  
Steve Steiner



*Lc Summer Spot 'Cheetah'*  
Maryanne Laukaitis



*Phalaenopsis No ID*  
Betsy Higgins





*Bulbophyllum bicolor*  
Joe Maciaszek



*Paphiopedilim Philip's Song*  
Joe Maciaszek



*Dendrobium Hamana Lake 'Prism'*  
Liz Marinelli



*Aliceara Snowblind*  
Nancy Braymiller

# The Smith College Greenhouse

Liz Marinelli

In late April, I met up with Betsy Higgins to visit the greenhouse at Smith College. Betsy lives nearby and visits frequently, and she had told me about an *Angraecum sesquipedale* as well as some other orchids that were in bloom. Many people are familiar with the Smith greenhouse from the bulb show that they host in March, but for plant enthusiasts the conservatory collection is a bigger reason to visit and it is available all year.

The first room we entered was a cool room filled with blooming citrus plants- what an incredible fragrance! There were also some large orchids that were in bud: The plants were enormous and the buds were about 4 inches long. They were a species (*Thunia alba*) that I had never seen before, which made me realize why Betsy visits so often- there's always something in bud promising a surprise if you return the next week.

The greenhouse is enormous and consists of ten rooms that are open to the public, arranged like a labyrinth that invites wandering. Our primary destinations were the orchid growing areas, the first one being part of the Camellia Corridor. Here we found flowering specimens of cool growing plants- Nobile Dendrobiums, Lycastes, Cymbidiums, Sarchochilus, Bletilla, and an enormous specimen of *Maxillaria variabilis* which must have been about 2.5



feet in diameter. All the plants were flowering impressively and very healthy looking. Next, we checked out the room called the "Stove House" that is home to orchids and bromeliads. The room is a generous size with orchids on benches lining the walls, and some in hanging baskets over a pond in the center of the room.

Occupying a position of honor was the *Angraecum sesquipedale* with 4 open flowers in shades of white and pale yellow. Maybe they are yellow when they open and fade to white or vice versa? At any rate they were quite a sight with their long nectar

spurs that earned them legendary status as Darwin's Orchid. There were lots of other nicely blooming plants, the ones that particularly caught my eye were two plants of *Ansiella africana*, a Vanda hanging high over the pond, and a very nice display of Paphs and Phrags. There was one diminutive plant that drew my attention-







a *Bulbophyllum thaiorum* hanging on the wall near the door. It had very deep red petals and maroon undersides of the leaves- small but stunning.

As we wandered through the rest of the rooms, we kept running across plants that were very unusual and fascinating. Some were downright weird! There was the white batflower that had just come into bloom, a few corpse flowers whose “fragrance” could compete with the most putrid *Bulbophyllum*, and a disturbingly freakish flower that looked like it contained teeth. The cactus and succulent room was filled with an

amazing variety of shapes and growing habits, some with beautiful flowers, which explains why these plants have a fanatical fanbase. It’s clear that the entire collection of plants was developed with great care and attention- every plant is not just unusual, it has something special about it that earned it a place in the greenhouse.

This time of year, the sights don’t end at the greenhouse exit- there is an adjoining garden with blooming perennials and a rock garden that alone is worth a visit.

The best thing about the Smith Greenhouse is it’s nearby and almost always open daily. There is a box at the entrance where they suggest a modest donation of \$2.00. Parking is less straightforward, there are only two spaces in front of the greenhouse. There are plenty of parking meters on Green Street, which is just a few minutes’ walk from the greenhouse.





American Orchid Society  
*Education. Conservation. Research.*  
Affiliated Society

## AOS Culture Corner: Monthly Checklist for May and June

By Ned Nash and James Rose

**Cattleya** The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

**Paphiopedilum** The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieianum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

**Phalaenopsis** Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.



*The Long Island Orchid Society  
in conjunction with  
Planting Fields State Historic Park  
Presents the Eighth Annual*

# *Long Island Orchid Festival*



**2023**

*Orchids & Vendors from Around the World*

**June 2nd-4th, 2023**

**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

*Planting Fields Arboretum*

*State Historic Park*

*Conference Center*

**1395 Planting Fields Road  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771**



For more information, please visit  
[longislandorchidsociety.org](http://longislandorchidsociety.org)  
or  
[plantingfields.org](http://plantingfields.org)