



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

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 31 Issue 11

November 2023



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

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

Date: Sunday, November 12, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Members with last names starting with E, F, G and H  
please bring a snack to share

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

**Future meetings at Munson Library: December 10, January 14**

## Show Table October 2023

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| <p><b>Nancy Braymiller</b><br/>Paph. Egret's Moonbeam</p> <p><b>Ed deVarenes</b><br/>Pot. Golden Circle 'OPRL' x Lc. Tokyo<br/>Magic '6-1' AM/AOS</p> <p><b>Marc Gray</b><br/>Paph. Petula Aflame<br/>Phal. NOID</p> <p><b>Maryanne Laukaitis</b><br/>Catt. Hawaiian Passion 'Carmela'<br/>Cymbidium erythrostylum<br/>Zootrophion purpurea<br/>Zygo. Jumpin Jack</p> <p><b>Connie Lentz</b><br/>Ionocidium<br/>Paph. Macabre Drama</p> <p><b>Dave Marinelli</b><br/>Cyrtorchis arcuata</p> <p><b>Liz Marinelli</b><br/>Laelia Barbara Tague<br/>Laelia alaorii<br/>Paph. henryanum<br/>Paph. Wossner Ministar</p> | <p><b>Carol Mentos</b><br/>Phal NOID</p> <p><b>Stacy Soldato</b><br/>Den. antennatum<br/>Den Kari Waki x Mariner's Gold<br/>Laelia purpurata var. vinicolor x<br/>atropurpurea<br/>Phal. Little Blue Bird 'Picotee'</p> <p><b>Deb Spearot</b><br/>Coelogyne fimbriata</p> <p><b>Steve Steiner</b><br/>Beallara Tahoma Glacier 'Willow Pond'<br/>Den. victoriae-reginae<br/>Encyclia vitellina<br/>Maxillaria scorpioidea<br/>Paph. charlesworthii<br/>Stenoglottis longifolia<br/>Tristella pentax</p> |
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## Spotlight on the Show Table:

*Laelia purpurata* grown by Stacy Soldato

*Laelia purpurata*, commonly known as the "Queen of Brazilian Orchids," is a remarkable species of orchid native to Brazil. This orchid has garnered acclaim for its exquisite beauty, vibrant colors, and its significance in the world of orchid cultivation. It is

recognized for its distinctive appearance, which includes large, waxy, and fragrant flowers that display an array of colors such as shades of pink, purple, and white. What sets *Laelia purpurata* apart are the intricate patterns and markings on the petals, adding to its visual appeal. These features have earned it a reputation as one of the most beautiful orchid species in the world.

*Laelia purpurata* holds a special place in Brazilian culture. It has been regarded as a symbol of luxury and beauty for generations. The striking blooms of *Laelia purpurata* are frequently used in floral arrangements, and they are also a favorite for corsages and boutonnieres in weddings and other special occasions.



**Care:** This is a general guideline on how I care for *Laelia purpurata*:

I will first start with the fact I received this orchid rootless 3 years ago as an import from Equagenera so the care in the beginning was quite different from its care now.

**Light:** Must have high light in order to bloom. When the leaves are very light green to yellow this is when you know you've supplied adequate light. I grow this orchid outside in the summer under a 40% shade cloth but still burned a couple leaves. If in direct sun with no air movement the thick leaves will scorch even in the northern hemisphere.

**Water:** During the growing period from spring until fall this plant requires a lot of water. For strong root growth in the spring, I never let this plant stay dry for more than a day. In Brazil they do have a wet and a dry season. Once the plant has finished blooming and is "resting" then I cut back on water to about once a week.

**Humidity:** During the summer outdoors, the plant receives 60%

to 85% or so depending on the weather. Inside during winter my growroom stays between 60% and 75% RH with good strong air flow to prevent bacterial growth.

**Media:** *Laelia purpurata* needs well-draining media and a distinct wet/dry cycle. I grow this plant in large bark with large sponge rock and charcoal. Due to the size and weight of this plant I have large rocks in the bottom of a heavier clay pot and this drains quickly in the winter but will retain some moisture during the summer. The roots will rot if they are kept soggy.

**Fertilizer:** I use MSU fertilizer twice a month during the winter while inside the growroom. I also supplement with cal-mag/ kelp once a month. During the summer growing season I use First Rays slow release fertilizer.

*Laelia purpurata* is a jewel among orchids, not only for its breathtaking beauty but also for its cultural significance and ecological importance. This Brazilian orchid's stunning flowers have captured the hearts of people worldwide. As a novice orchid grower, I was quite intimidated by this orchid but given a warm environment and a few cultural guidelines I have found it a totally rewarding orchid to have in my collection.



*Phal* No ID  
Carol Mentos



*Catt. Hawaiian Passion* 'Carmela'  
Maryanne Laukaitis



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



*Stenoglottis longifolia*  
Steve Steiner

## A Return Visit to Betsy Higgins' Orchid Growing Areas

Liz Marinelli

In the April 2022 issue of this newsletter, I described a visit to Betsy Higgins' home where I saw her setup of indoor growing areas and her rainwater collection system. I also saw the arrangement of growing cages on her back deck where her plants go for their summer vacation, but at that time of year the cages were empty. I made a return visit in early October when the plants were still outdoors, and here are some views of the plants enjoying the last of the mild weather before they go back indoors. Betsy and her husband Doug are avid wildlife observers, so she has developed a system of cages to allow peaceful coexistence of both plants and animals. As always, Betsy credits Doug's skills in constructing the apparatus, and his general support of her orchid hobby.



The centerpiece of Betsy's outdoor growing area is this walk-in screen house. It received a renovation recently as Doug replaced some of the bars and hardware cloth. Shade cloth provides protection from the sun on the brightest days.

This clever cage-on-wheels can be moved around the deck to take maximum advantage of the sun. It's the summer home of Betsy's collection of cactus and succulents.

If you would like more information about Betsy's outdoor growing structures and plant care practices, feel free to contact her at [higgins.elizabetha@gmail.com](mailto:higgins.elizabetha@gmail.com)



## Show Season Has Begun!

Mark your calendars for the winter 2024 show season:

Cape and Islands Orchid Society- January 20-21

Amherst Orchid Society- February 24-25

New Hampshire Orchid Society- March 1-3



*Amherst Orchid Society Display at the Massachusetts Orchid Society Show  
Thank you Joe and Stacy for doing a great job setting up!*