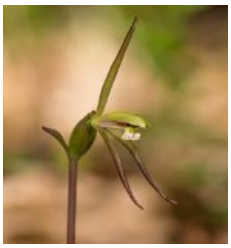

Greater Whorled Pogonia

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The Newsletter of the

AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 32 Issue 1 January 2024

JANUARY MEETING OF

THE AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

Date: Sunday, January 14, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location**: Munson Memorial Library,**

1046 S East St, Amherst

Members with last names starting with I, J, K and L
please bring a snack to share

Upcoming meetings at Munson Library:

February 11, March 10, April 14, May 19

President's Message

Joe Maciaszek

Hello Everyone-

The Dec meeting was a good one with a nice show table. We had a large number of people there and we had good selection of food for our holiday party. I am glad we had a many of our society members there as well as some new members- Rob and Cheryl Lak.

We talked about upcoming shows with the CAIOS show happening right after our January meeting. So please have any plants you want to have in the show at the meeting so they can be taken back home by those setting up the display. The setup for the show is on Thursday the 18th so if have any plants for the Amherst display connect me or Liz about getting them to the show setup. I will have a signup list at the meeting for people the volunteer for other upcoming shows. I hope more people volunteer to help set up a club display we need more people setting up displays at our sister society shows.

Of course, our show is coming up in Feb from Wednesday 21 to Sunday 25. We will need people to help get materials from the library to the school on Wednesday, and help setting up the room. On Thursday we will be setting up the display so we will need people for that and we need everyone's plants there that day. Friday is Ribbon judging so we will need a large number of people to help with that. Saturday and Sunday we need people to help with various activities. It would nice to have a list of talks put together before the show so we can have those posted. So, think about a topic you might be able to present at the show.

I also have a list of prices for tee-shirts and sweatshirts. Please bring checks to the meeting so I can place the order right afterwards and hopefully they will be ready for the show. I hope anyone who hasn't placed an order and wants tee-shirts will come to the meeting so they can place an order.

I was talking to an orchid grower, Bill Stender, and he is placing a bulk order of orchid media. I can pick up the media and bring it to the show if I can schedule a pickup before that. We would need the money at the January meeting so I can send it to him so the order can be placed. There will be a list of the available material in the newsletter. Please contact me if you are interested in placing an order so I can get the info to Bill in time.

Announcing the dates for the 2024 Amherst Orchid Society Show:

Saturday February 24 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday February 25 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Set-up will be Thursday, February 22, judging will be Friday February 23

Come to the next meeting to learn about volunteer opportunities- it's a fun way to learn about orchids and meet other enthusiasts!

Orchiata Bark and Tree Fern Order form

ORCHIATA BARK CONTENT	100% Pinus Radiata (Monterey Pine)	
Bag dimensions, volume, and weight: 24" x 16" x 6"/ 35 liter/ ~30 lbs. **All bags $45/bag**	BARK CHIP SIZES	Quantity
	☐ Classic (Small) – 3/8"	_____
	☐ Power (Medium) – 1/2"	_____
	☐ Power Plus (Medium Plus) – 3/4"	_____
	☐ Super (Large) – 1"	_____

More Info: https://acadiansupply.com/products/orchiata/

100% Premium Tree Fern products

Tree fern is the newest media being used in potting and mounting with great results. It is almost as moisture retentive as Sphagnum moss, but has more aeration and does not break down. Fernwood brand New Zealand tree fern is available as a loose substrate as well as panels for directly mounting orchids and use in lining vivarium backgrounds. Tree fern from New Zealand is unique in that it is soft, porous, and spongy, and long lasting with excellent water holding capability. Best of all, because the team behind Fernwood NZ is committed to sustainable harvesting, New Zealand tree fern is not subject to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) protection.

More info: https://acadiansupply.com/products/tree-fern/

- ☐ **40 Liter bag loose- $85** _____
- ☐ **10 liter bag loose- $38** _____
- ☐ **12" x 6" x 1" mounts (twin pack) - $28.00** _____
- ☐ **12" x 12" x 1" mounts (twin pack) - $48.00** _____
- ☐ **2" x 2" x 20" Totem (twin pack) - $28.00** _____

Name:_____ **Email:**_____

Mobile number:_____ **Total Order:**_____

All payment by Check, PayPal or Venmo. Make checks payable to William Stender. Payment due at time of order preferably.

Forms must be returned to Bill Stender at billstender@gmail.com or text 908-296-1020. Please return this order form no later than January 15th for February pick up. Individual pickup in Columbia NJ or Bangor PA.

Bulk delivery points:
LVOS meeting: February 4th
NJOS meeting: February 12th

Show Table December 2023

Betsy Higgins
Paph. Puna Moon
Blc. Melody Fair 'Carol'
Phal. Noid
Coelogyne usitana
Blc. Toshie's Magic 'Doris'

Liz Marinelli
Cym. erythrostylum 'Magnificum'

Nancy Braymiller
Paph. insigne

Lee Brockmann
Den. Regal Vista
Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'

Maryanne Laukaitis
Paph. insigne
Masdevallia Marmalade

Marc Gray
Paph spicerianum
Dend. Jonathan's Glory

Dave Marinelli
Holcoglossum wangii
Laelia Anceps var. Guarerro

Steve Steiner
Bulbo. Louis Sanders 'Louvens'
Vanda Pachara Delight
Maxillaria sophronitis
Isabellia pulchella
Pescatoria ecuadorana
Pleurothallis aluaroi
Lycaste Chiltern 'Hundreds'
Dendrochilum javerii
Oncidium (odontoglossum) wyattianum
Pleurothalis palliota 'Eichenfels'

Ed deVarennes
Brassavola nodosa
Bc. Yuap Nan 'Starwar'

Zoe Loughman
Procatavola Exotic Lime Sorbet
Phaiocalanthe Red Dragon
Potinara Exotic Aperol
Den. New Hope Mini

Alex Loss & Holly Rainaud-Loss
Phrag. Schroderi 'Bolin'

Joe Maciaszek
Neostylis Fuchs Ocean Spray
C. Arctic Star 'Snow Queen' HCC/AOS
Schomb. Wellesley 'Nelda' AM/AOS
Den. Jonathan's Glory
Bc. Bredren's Calypso

Spotlight on the Show Table: *Dendrobium aggregatum* grown by Betsy Higgins

We had some eye-catching blooms on the show table in December, not too surprising since we are entering the time of year when many plants like to bloom. One that attracted my attention was Betsy's Dendrobium aggregatum that was hanging in a basket and blooming extravagantly with sprays of cheerful yellow flowers. I had been under the impression that it was impossible to grow them outside of Florida…well, Betsy's plant disproves the conventional wisdom!

Dendrobium aggregatum is native to Thailand and much of southeast Asia, where they grow on the branches of trees that lose their leaves before winter.

Here's what Betsy has to say about this beautiful plant:

"I bought my Dendrobium aggregatum lindleyi at an Amherst Orchid Society meeting from Maryanne in February of 2019. Steve Steiner assured me that it was in very nice condition. Dendrobium aggregatum often have a wrinkled look about the pseudobulbs, so I needed a little convincing that it was in good health! Happily, it bloomed for me that year in April, and again 5/2020, 3/2021, and this year, in June, and again just this month, 12/2023!! was not expecting this bloom in December! Typically, in November, I put it in a bright but completely dry winter rest indoors under lights. I was about to put it to rest this year when I noticed that it was in bud! It seems to just bloom when it feels like it. (An interesting note…. I have another Dendrobium aggregatum that I treat the same way, and it has never bloomed since I got it as a gift from my daughter 3 years ago. It bloomed that first year, and never again.)

The plant lives outside in the summer in my orchid screen house, under a 60% shade cloth. I put it in one of the brightest spots I can find. I feed through the spring and summer about once a month. I would do weekly/ weakly but I just don't usually manage that. I use a variety of fertilizers, just depending on what I happen to have. I sometimes use a 20-20-20 balanced food, and sometimes one with a high middle number and sometimes one with a high first number. I'm not scientific about it at all. I consider it a warm grower so it comes in when the nights start to cool down. I don't let it go any cooler than 45 or so, and ideally a bit warmer than that. In past years, I have kept it dry and bright from Thanksgiving until Valentines Day, with only a bit of water if the pseudobulbs get too shriveled looking. Then I resume watering and feeding and wait for my reward! I love the buttery yellow flowers. They remind me of one of my summer favorites, Buttercups. I hope I can keep it happy for a long time."

Cymbidium erythrostylum
Liz Marinelli

Vanda Pachara Delight
Steve Steiner

Potinara Exotic Aperol
Zoe Loughman

Phrag. Schroderi 'Bolin'
Alex Loss & Holly Rainaud-Loss

Paph spicerianum
Marc Gray

Den. Regal Vista
Lee Brockman

Holcoglossum wangii
Dave Marinelli

Schomb. Wellesley
Joe Maciaszek

Paph. insigne
Nancy Braymiller

Bc. Yuap Nan 'Starwar'
Ed deVarennes

Blc. Melody Fair 'Carol'
Betsy Higgins

Phaiocalanthe Red Dragon
Zoe Loughman

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

Nutmeg State Orchid Society- March 16-17

Volunteer Opportunity: Setting Up/Taking down displays at affiliated society shows

What's involved on set-up day:

- Transport plants to and from the show, arrange to collect plants from club members who are exhibiting
- Set up staging on the table provided by the host society- arrange upturned boxes and crates and cover with black cloth
- Cover pots with black pot covers
- Make labels for plants or use provided labels, stick them into pots
- Pick up judging tags from the registrar and match them up with the plants
- Arrange plants on the display
- Return tags to registrar for plants that were registered but not displayed

What's involved on take-down day:

- Be at the show venue promptly at closing time- a few hours earlier if you want to look at the show and shop
- Pack up plants in boxes and crates (grouping plants from each exhibitor together), some crates were probably used as staging.
- Dismantle staging, pack up black covers and crates along with any other display items
- Transport plants and display items back to Western Mass and arrange for their owners to pick them up

Cape and Islands show- Hyannis, Ma (2 hrs 45 min from Amherst)

- Set up day- Thursday January 18
- Take-down- Sunday January 21, 5:00 pm

New Hampshire Show- Nashua, NH (1 hr 45 min from Amherst)

- Set up day- Thursday February 29
- Take down- Sunday March 3, 4:00 pm

Nutmeg Show- West Hartford, CT (1 hr from Amherst)

- Set up day- Friday, March 15
- Take down- Sunday March 17, 4:00 pm

If you are interested and able to help there will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting, or contact Joe at maciaszek@gmail.com