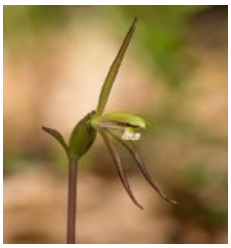

Greater Whorled Pogonia

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The Newsletter of the

AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 32 Issue 5 May 2024

MAY MEETING OF THE

AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m.

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

Members with last names starting with A, B, C and D please bring a snack to share

Check your email for updates about the June meeting date and location

President's Message

Joe Maciaszek

Hi Everyone-

We had a good April meeting as we finished off the show season. There were a good number of people and plants at the meeting but we were missing a few regular members, and their plants. We talked about our show results- finding out the final number of our profit, which I believe we did every well this year. We talked about setting up the display at other shows. I am very happy that several members have stepped up and are helping with that. So I would like to thank Liz and Dave, Stacy, Betsy and Doug, Zoe and Zac, and Marc who have all helped set up or take down the club's displays. I very happy to see the club members coming together and helping out, you have helped me out so I don't have drive back and forth 2 or three times for a show. All of our displays have been really nice this year due to the fact we have great growers and good team to set up the display.

I won't be at our May meeting as Marge and I are going away for a vacation now that the spring semester is over. I hope the meeting goes well and we set some dates for the summer meetings at members' homes.

Unfortunately, I won't be available the second weekend in June as I have been asked to attend a education meeting for the College. I would rather be talking about orchids than listening to the talks at the meeting.

I hope we can line up some speakers to talk at our fall meetings even if they are some local people. We talked about inviting a few different people so hopefully we can make it happen.

As I mentioned last year, this will be my last year as president of the society. I believe it's been about 13 years that I have held this position. It is definitely time for some else to take over. I hope someone is willing to step up in October to take over or we will not have a president for our society. I hope a few people step up and are willing to take over other positions as well. Marge has been VP as long as I have been president. Marc as been a board member for even longer than I have been president. Marc will still very active in the club board as he is the show chair, and his activities would require him to be involved. I just believe it is time for a new set of people to help run things and guide the club for next few years. We have many great members in our society, hopefully they will take over some of the leadership roles.

Joe

Show Table April 2024

Ed deVarennes
Den. Hsin Ying Tobazuki
Oncostelopsis Brazilian Sun 'Samba'

Marc Gray
Clowesia NOID
Lycaste Corrimal x Suave
Sarcochilus Parma 'Lemon Drop' HCC/AOS x Kulnura Kaleidoscope 'Chesell'

Betsy Higgins
Bulb. bicolor
Den. tannii
Onc. Twinkle
Phal. Fire Rose
Phal. Harek Rainbow
Phal. NOID (x2)

Aimée Hudon
Den. prenticii 'Gold Country'
Phal. NOID 'Limoncello'

Judy Hudon
Maxillaria NOID
Phal. NOID

Steve LaValley
Paph. Magically Fred

Deb Spearot
Lc. Golddigger

Steve Steiner
Den. pseudoglomeratum
Lycaste campbellii
Lycaste skinneri
Pleurothallis viduata 'Selby'
Restrepia guttulata

Stacy Soldato
Phal. NOID

Kasia Wynne
Phal. NOID (x2)

Amherst O.S. Display at the Connecticut Orchid Society Show
Thank you, Betsy and Stacy!

Bulb. Bicolor
Betsy Higgins

Lc. Golddigger
Deb Spearot

Den. Pseudoglomeratum
Steve Steiner

Phal. No ID
Judy Hudon

Den. Hsin Ying Tobazuki
Ed deVarennes

Den. prenticii 'Gold Country'
Aimee Hudon

Phal No ID
Stacy Soldato

Lycaste Corrimal x Suave
Marc Gray

Den. Tannii
Betsy Higgins

Restrepia guttulata
Steve Steiner

Oncostelopsis Brazilian Sun 'Samba'
Ed deVarennes

Lycaste skinneri
Steve Steiner

New York Botanical Garden 2024 Orchid Show: Florals in Fashion

Photos by Stacy Soldato

San Diego Orchid Society Show

Liz Marinelli

Recently Dave and I were in the San Diego area visiting family, and I happened to notice that the local orchid society was having their show starting the afternoon before we flew home. If we were lucky, we might just squeeze in a visit…and we did.

I was interested to see a west coast orchid show. We have been to all the New England shows and the SEPOS show, but a California show seemed like an opportunity to see some plants we don't often see in this area. The format of their show turned out to be quite a bit different from the ones I have seen. For a start, it was just their own society exhibiting plants, no others were participating. I don't know if all west coast shows are done this way, or if others follow our format. In addition, instead of having naturalistic displays where the plants are artistically arranged, they had plants grouped by judging class and set on tables. The advantage of this setup was that the viewer could get a good look at each plant, and see it from all angles. And it certainly must have made judging easier! But I missed the impact of the arrangements at other shows I have seen, including ours.

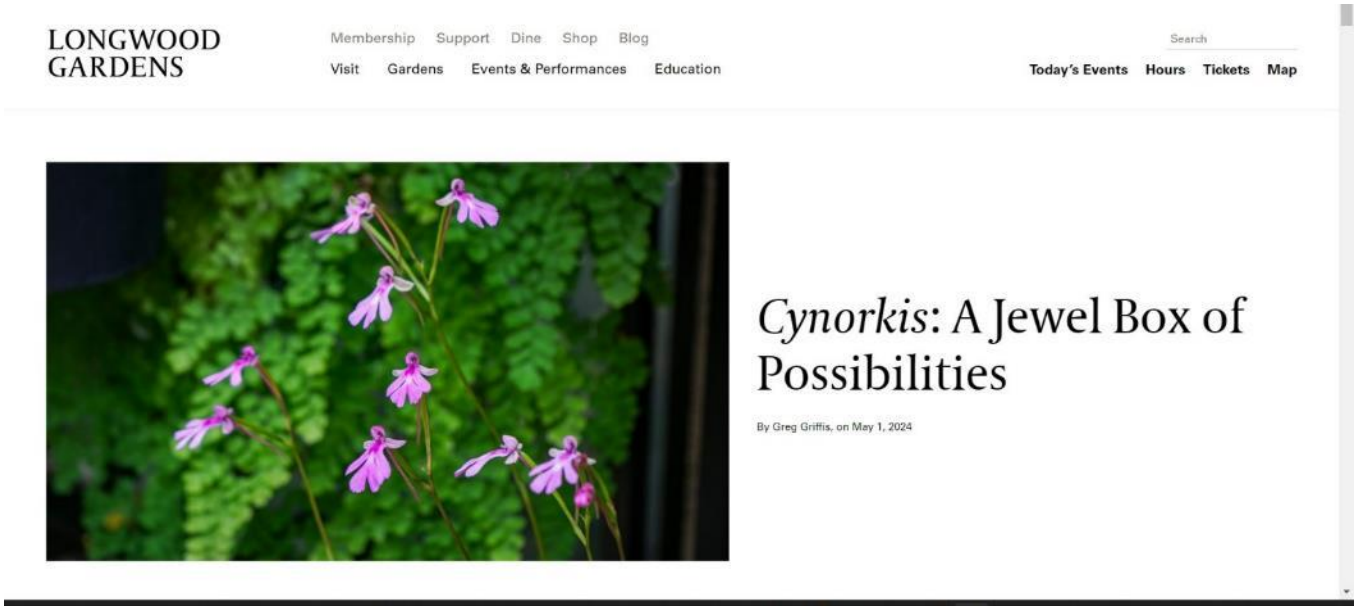
They did have some fabulous plants- they are fortunate to have a mild climate year-round and can leave most plants outdoors. There were representatives of most genera and many had grown to specimen size. They had a lot of cymbidiums that were clearly thriving under ideal conditions.

They also offered an activity that I have not seen at a show before. As they enter, each guest is given a ballot and a pencil and instructed to vote for their favorite orchid. The winner receives the People's Choice Award. One of the society's members explained to me that this is a scheme to get people to slow down and look carefully at each plant. It's not so much about the award as encouraging people to engage with the plants and think about what makes a good plant. She explained that people take their responsibility very seriously and go through the show two or three times before making a decision.

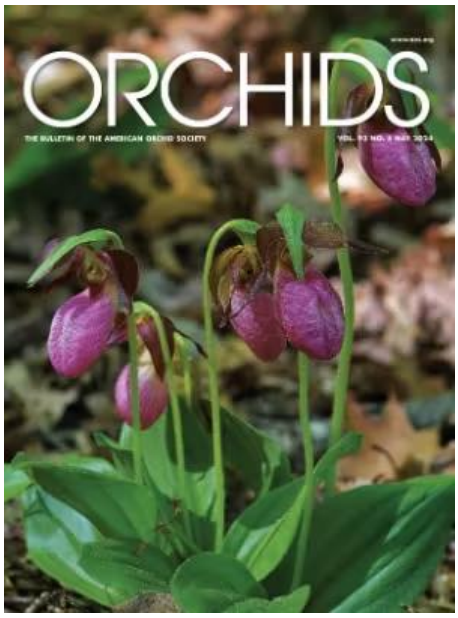
It was interesting to see how a show is done in another part of the country, and it's always a treat to see some nicely grown plants. If you happen to be travelling, it's worth checking the American Orchid Society calendar to see if you might stumble upon an orchid show: https://www.aos.org/community-events/events-calendar

Check out this blog post from Longwood Gardens…

Longwood Gardens has developed one of the few hybrids in the Cynorkis genus. Read about that plus several species in that genus in this blog post: https://longwoodgardens.org/blog/2024-05-01/cynorkis-jewel-box-possibilities



The Latest Issue of Orchids Magazine- May 2024



Our May issue features the completion of Bob Sprague's Valmont Bog Update series, a beautifully illustrated article titled *Pumpkin Soup and Majestic Orchids* by Clare and Johan Hermans highlighting the recent Orchid Conservation Alliance trip to Madagascar, a special feature on the first records of *Angraecum corrugatum* and *Cynorkis inermis* in Madagascar and a report on the spectacular 23rd World Orchid Conference and 10th Taiwan International Orchid Show provided to us by Elita Vellekoop of *Floral Daily*

A few pointers from Tom Mirenda's monthly checklist for May (Orchids Magazine):

- May is a prime month for repotting. Most plants will benefit from a fresh mix for a variety of reasons: They may be root bound or have roots growing over the side of their pots, some mixes may have broken down and might be hosting fungi or weeds, some bark products may have become too acidic with age. Do not miss the spring window for repotting.
- Many orchids are blooming this month, such as Miltoniopsis, oncidium intergenerics, as well as certain cattleyas, encyclias and many others. Make sure all the new growths have the space they need to grow unobstructed. It might be advisable to stake budded inflorescences so they do not droop or break under the strain of inflating buds.
- Take your blooming plants and display them for your enjoyment and so you can photograph them. This is also a good time to move many plants outside where they will grow much more happily. Choose a spot with dappled light and good air movement. Make sure to keep them off the ground away from pests.

Trichopilia suavis X Trichopilia x ramonensis
Liz Marinelli

Cypripedium Sunny
Dave and Liz Marinelli

Orchid Digest

Another Orchid Digest Speakers Day!~ Please join us in person at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, or virtually for this event!

Event

Orchid Digest Speakers Day

DATE/TIME

Saturday, June 8, 2024

1:00 PM - 9:00 PM

FEATURING

Four expert lectures, Orchid Sales, Auction with a Wine & Cheese Happy Hour & Dinner

SPEAKERS

Carol Klonowski: Vandas, A New Look

Marc Hachadourian: Topic to be announced

David Haelterman: Orchids of Colombia

Scott McGregor: Growing Mediterranean Climate Orchids

REGISTRATION

Members: $99.00

Non-members: $125.00

Virtual: $40.00

Guest Dinner: $55.00

All attendees will receive the link to the recording of the speakers!