



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

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 32 Issue 6

June 2024



~June Meeting and Picnic at the Grays' Home~

*260 Baker Brook Road, Williamsville, VT 05362*

*Marc's Phone: (802) 258-8406*

**Sunday, June 9-** arrive any time after 1:00

**Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided, please bring:**

- an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share
- your own chair

*Please see complete directions on page 9*

## May Meeting

Marge ran the meeting in Joe's absence. Steve Reardon gave a report about the Scholarship, which has been awarded to a student from Monson. The amount is \$1000. The second scholarship in the same amount was unclaimed this year. Steve also gave a report on membership numbers. Marge opened up the meeting to anyone who wanted to ask a question of the group about orchid growing. The two questions that generated a lot of discussion were How to repot a Cattleya that has roots growing outside the pot? And what's the best way to sterilize tools? Steve and Marc presented the show table. May is not usually prime time for orchid blooms, but there was quite a display on the table with lots of unusual and nicely grown plants.

## President's Message

### Joe Maciaszek

Hi Everyone-

Sorry I missed the last meeting but Marge and I needed to get away for a bit. I heard the meeting went well and there were a lot of plants on the show table. I am glad it was a good meeting for everyone.

I hope everyone is able to go to Marc's mom's house for the June meeting. They have a very nice location for a meeting. Please remember that this is a pot luck for the side dishes and desserts, so bring your favorite dish to share with the group. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I won't be there. I will be in Baltimore attending a conference and flying back on Sunday.

I wanted to let everyone know in case you want to bring a plant in for judging that the MA site for the Northeast Judging Center has moved. This wasn't something we wanted but was forced on us by Tower Hill Botanical Gardens. They renovated the space we were using for judging into office space, forcing us to use other space that was out of our price range. The new location is not far from our old location.

The address is the Parish Hall of First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist in Northborough, MA. Located at 40 Church Street in Northborough. You are welcome to bring plants if you want them judged for an award. I am always willing to bring your plants to judging if you make an arrangement to get the plant to me. We have judging at this location on the first Saturday of every month.

I have volunteered to have the July meeting at my home on July 14. We will have a cookout with food to be ready around 1:30. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share with the group. People can arrive after 12:30 to enjoy talking with each other before we get started with the food and show table.

My address is 55 Hendrick St. Easthampton MA. Marge and I looking forward to seeing you and enjoying your company.

Hope to see everyone in July-

Joe

## May 2024 Show Table

**Betsy Higgins**

Den. flexuosum

Den. tannii

Tillandsia albertiana

Bulb. lepidum

Den. laevifolium

Promenaea ovatiloba x xanthena

Den. glumaceum

**Lee Brockmann**

Prosthecha vagans

Epi. Bonita Kift x Pacific Seniorita

Phrag. Eric Young

Epi. Black Comet

**Steve Steiner**

Bifrenaria tyraniae

Promenaea ovatiloba x xanthena

Oda. Debutant

Sobralia crocea

Lycaste aromatica

Wilsonara Kolibri

Phal. Tyingshin Fly Eagle 'Wilson'

Encyclia vitellina

**Liz Marinelli**

Mysticidium braybonae

Promenaea Colmaniana

Bulb. flaviflorum

Paph. appletonianum

Masd. Cassiope

Coelogyne ochracea

Trichopilia suavis x (Trpla. x ramonensis)

Rlc. Volcano Spring 'Volcano Queen'

SchomboLc Newberry Lava Burst 'Whirligig'

**Ann Robinson**

Ludisia discolor

**Ed deVarenes**

Rlc. Gene Crocker

**Zoe Loughman**

Epc. Kyoguchi x Sc. Beaufort

Phal. Bronze Maiden

Paph. hainanense

**Troy Jordan**

Paph. Maudiae

Lc. Lois McNeil xLc. Mini Purple

**Carol Mentos**

Den. Hsinying Tobazuki

Den. trantuanii

**Greg Hudon**

Phal. NOID

**Judy Hudon**

Phal. NOID

**Dave Marinelli**

Maxillaria tenuifolia

Maxillaria tenuifolia (mounted)

Odontioda Cuencana Colorada

**Connie Lentz**

Phal. cornu-cervi

Mormolyca ringens

Catasetum dentigrianum x Ctsm. Portagea

**Marc Gray**

Phal. NOID

Cat. Irene Finney

Bulb. falcata flavum

Hab. Hampson



*Lc Lois McNeil x Lc. Mini Purple*  
Troy Jordan



*Bulbophyllum falcata flavum*  
Marc Gray



*Phal. Bronze Maiden*  
Zoe Loughman



*Blc Malworth*  
Stacy Soldato





*Phal No ID*  
Judy Hudon



*Bulbophyllum lepidum*  
Betsy Higgins



*Bifrenaria tyraniae*  
Steve Steiner



*Phal No ID*  
Greg Hudon





*Catasetum dentigranum* x *Ctsm. Portagea*  
Connie Lentz



*Rlc Gene Crocker*  
Ed de Varennes



*Den. Trantuanii*  
Carol Mentos



*Odontioda Cuenana Colorada*  
Dave Marinelli





*SchlC Newberry Lava Burst 'Whirligig'*  
Liz Marinelli



*Sobralia crocea*  
Steve Steiner



*Tillandsia albertiana*  
Betsy Higgins



*Habenaria Hampson*  
Marc Gray

# How to Sterilize Tools? So Many Opinions...

Liz Marinelli

During our May meeting, when the question was tossed to the group “What is the best way to sterilize tools?” the responses were flying fast and furious. It seemed that no two people used the same method- “Bleach!”, “Physon!”, “A torch!”, “Put them in the dishwasher!”, “TSP!”, “Buy disposable razor blades!”, “Rubbing Alcohol!”, “Hydrogen peroxide!”. It was almost comical, and if more people were at the meeting no doubt there would have been more opinions. It seemed like it was a topic that was begging for clarification and further research. I searched the archive of *Orchids* magazine and found an excellent article by Sue Bottom in the October 2018 issue, “Orchid Hygiene”. Here are some of the main points, the complete article can be found here:

<https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/OrchidHygienebySueBottom.pdf>

**Horizontal Surfaces:** Disinfect the surface regularly and keep newspaper handy to use as a temporary tablecloth and barrier to cross contamination. Be careful about placing used utensils or plant material on the surface.

**Cutting Tools:** Cutting tools should be sterilized between plants, and sometimes between cuts. Studies of 16 disinfectants resulted in the recommendation of only three that reliably deactivate virus particles: 2% Virkon S, 10% Clorox regular bleach solution (0.5% sodium hypochlorite) and 20% nonfat dry milk. (Li et al.) Of these three, the author has only tried the bleach solution and found it to be corrosive on tools. Instead, she uses a torch with a self-igniting trigger. With this method there is no need to wonder if your solution is strong enough or if you have left the tools in contact with the solution for long enough. So, it seems that whoever shouted “Torch!” was the winner of this controversy. (Dave)



**Reusing Pots:** Plastic pots can be sterilized by dropping them into a 10% bleach solution for an hour or more. Clay pots have to be heat sterilized by baking at 400F for an hour or two. Wooden products such as baskets should be considered single-use products.

**Hands:** When repotting, the author washes her hands with Lysol All Purpose Cleaner between plants.



## **Directions to the Grays' house for the June 09, 2024 meeting:**

**The Grays will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Please bring side dishes to go with that.**

**Arrive any time after 1:00 pm.**

### **TO THE GRAYS' RESIDENCE FROM THE SOUTH**

Take I-91 North to Exit 1. (BRATTLEBORO, VT). At the bottom of the ramp go right. Go through 5 sets of lights. After the 5th set of lights, follow signs for Route 30. The signs will lead you around a large triangular circle. After a left hand turn at one "Corner" stay in the right-hand lane. This will turn into a right-turn-only lane heading out of the circle. The road goes gently downhill through the Retreat Hospital and then opens up into Route 30. Continue on Route 30 For 8 Miles (After 6 miles you'll pass a covered bridge on the right.) Take the left turn to WILLIAMSVILLE-South NEWFANE. After 2 miles you will cross a cement arch bridge. Take a left at the end of the bridge. You are now in WILLIAMSVILLE. Go past the Fire House/General Store on the right to the post office (Red with white trim). Go right on BAKER BROOK ROAD for 1.3 miles, keeping the brook on your left. Our house is on the right and is grey with black trim. In front are signs for #260 and BAKER BROOK ORCHIDS

### **TO THE GRAYS' RESIDENCE FROM THE NORTH**

Take I-91 South to Exit 4. At end of ramp take a left. This is Route 5. Proceed 2.3 miles. Turn right onto East/West Rd. Travel 2.0 Miles to Dummerston Center. At 4 way stop signs, continue driving straight ahead. After going 2.5 miles, you will come to a covered bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right onto Route 30. Go 1.9 miles north on Route 30. Take a left hand turn and proceed 3 miles to the TOWN OF WILLIAMSVILLE. Cross Cement Bridge and take a left-hand turn. Go 0.3 mile to BAKER BROOK ROAD on the right (across from the Post Office.) Go 1.3 Miles on BAKER BROOK ROAD, always keeping brook to your left. Our house is on the right and is grey with black trim. In front are signs for #260 and BAKER BROOK ORCHIDS.