

Greater Whorled Pogonia
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The Newsletter of the
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 33 Issue 2

February 2025



**FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

Date: Sunday, February 9, 2025

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

Upcoming meetings at Munson Library:

March 9

April 13

May 18

President's Message

Stacy Soldato

Hello all,

Thank you everyone for attending the first meeting of 2025. We had a great show table considering CAIOS was only weeks away. I hope you gained some knowledge regarding virus testing and what to do with a virused plant based on your individual preferences. I am also pleased to announce and welcome our new members: Bree Garneau, Ann Johnson, Becky Lockwood, Bob Phillips, and Megan Trudell.

Now that the northeast region show season is in full swing, I would like to encourage everyone to attend some shows or try your hand at volunteering as this is an excellent way to gain knowledge and connect with some fantastic growers. I have found the orchid growing community to be a very welcoming one no matter which show I attend.

Our club show February 19th through February 23rd is a great place to start by volunteering for any number of positions available. No experience is necessary. You can contact myself stacysoldato@gmail.com 413-884-4538 or Marc Grey with any questions. There is no better way to geek out about our plants for an entire weekend and get to know other group members. It takes all to make a successful show and I would love to see everyone lend a helping hand.

We need someone on Wed.2/19 to drive the U-Haul. Contact Marc Grey (802)348-7926 or bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net.

We are taking monetary donations for the food at the show this year. In past years we have assigned individuals food items to bring, however this year Kasia will be doing all the shopping so as to not have doubles and triples of any one item. Please give cash or checks to either Steve Reardon or Zoe. If you prefer PayPal or Venmo contact me. Please feel free to bring in any baked goods, deserts, or salads.

The Cape and Islands Show this past weekend was a lot of fun and I recommend visiting next year. Thank you to Liz, Dave, Joe, and Marge for setup and Marc for takedown.

Amherst won the Orchid Digest Award for our display along with numerous ribbons.

Congratulations to Liz Marinelli who won Best Cymbidium with her Cherry Blossom 'Profusion' and was also awarded an AOS Judge's Commendation for that plant. Liz also won Best Dendrobium and Best Miniature with her eriiflorum, which also received an AM/AOS. Great job Liz!!

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to thank Joe for his many years of leadership as president. He led the club for more than 10 years, including through the upheaval of Covid. We all enjoyed the meetings that he led with warmth and humor, and we benefited from his great knowledge of orchids that he gained as an AOS judge. We are all very much indebted to him. I would also like to thank all of the current board members and recognize our new board members: Zoe- treasurer, Aimee- 2nd VP and myself as president. I look forward to working with everyone to provide knowledge and comradery to all our members.

Hope to see you all at the February meeting,

Stacy

Show Table January 2025**Nancy Braymiller**

Paph Egret's Moonbeam
 Aliceara Snowblind 'Sweet Spots'
 Paph gratixianum

Marc Gray

Brasilorchis schunkeana
 Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'
 Paph spicerianum

Betsy Higgins

Epidendrum porpax
 Dendrobium flexuosum
 Brassavola perinii
 Leptotes bicolor
 Cymbidium No ID
 Maxillaria uncatata
 Vanda Amina Ashe
 Tillandsia fuchsii var. gracilis
 Paph Puna Moon

Maryanne Laukaitis

Stenorrhynchos speciosa 'CH' x sib
 Oncidium ornithorhynchum
 Oncidium Twinkle 'Red'
 Oncidium Twinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy'
 Oncidium Pink Profusion
 Barkerara Cotton Candy
 Coelogyne speciosa
 Cymbidium Anne Miller 'Rejoice'
 Laelia anceps 'Flock of Butterflies'

Steve LaValley

Phal stuartiana 'Sogo'
 Phal Taisuco Rosemary
 Paph Oriental Appeal
 Phal Formosa Sassy Girl

Zoe Loughman

Dendrobium New Hope 'Mini'
 Phaiocalanthe Red Dragon
 Paph Phyllis Prestia

Joe Maciaszek

Bc David Sander's Mimic

Dave Marinelli

Vanda Yolanda de Tona

Liz Marinelli

Paph spicerianum
 Epidendrum quisayanum

Bob Phillips

Masd. Highland Monarch 'Shirley'
 Paph Montera Venus
 Paph Peacock Wonder
 Australian Dendrobium No ID

Stacy Soldato

Cattleya Ethel's Paradise

Deb Spearot

Brassia Rex 'Sakata'

Steve Steiner

Bllra. Big Shot 'Pink Leopard'
 Pleurothallis truncata
 Restrepia cuprea
 Restrepia chocoensis
 Restrepia guttulata 'Fox Den'
 Pleurothallis palliolata 'Eichenfels'
 Condylago rodrigo
 Lycaste Jason x cruenta

Bev von Kries

Epilaelia Beverly Shea



Amherst Orchid Society display at the Cape and Islands show



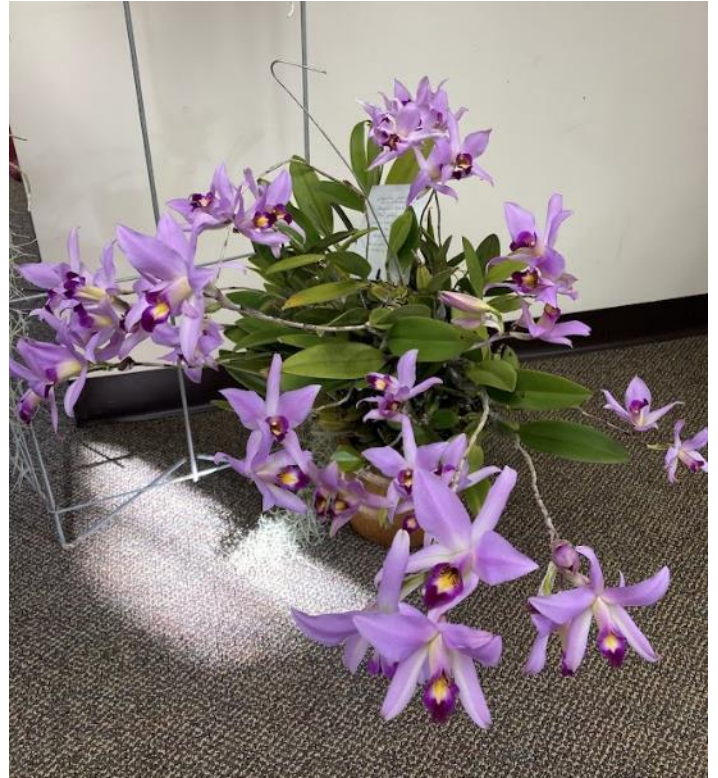
Cattleya Tahoe Rose
Stacy Soldato



Paph Phyllis Prestia
Zoe Loughman



Epilaelia Beverly Shea
Bev von Kries



Laelia anceps 'Flock of Butterflies'
Maryanne Laukaitis



Cymbidium No ID
Betsy Higgins



Bc David Sander's Mimic
Joe Maciaszek



Lycaste Jason x cruenta
Steve Steiner



Phal Formosa Sassy Girl
Steve LaValley



Australian Dendrobium No ID
Bob Phillips



Paph gratrixianum
Nancy Braymiller

News From the Orchid world: New orchid found on Australian island resembles a cupcake

Maryanne alerted us to this article from phys.org. The article describes how a group of botanists from Australia found a new orchid species on Norfolk Island in the South Pacific. It goes on to enumerate the steps to determine if the plant is a new species, then describing it and naming it. A very interesting story surrounding a diminutive plant. You can read the whole article here: <https://phys.org/news/2025-01-orchid-australian-island-resembles-cupcake.html>



Show Season Is Here!

Mark your calendars for the winter 2025 show season:

Amherst Orchid Society- February 22-23

[Nutmeg State Orchid Society- March 22-23](#)

[New Hampshire Orchid Society- March 28-30](#)

[Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society- April 4-6](#)

Show Plant Preparation

By Roger West

(Reprinted from the January 2018 newsletter)

Show prep starts a couple of months prior to the show. Larger specimens take more time than your single inflorescence plant. There are three must dos prior to the show. 1) Don't rotate your plants from their solar source. I place the plant label facing the solar source so that the plant goes back to its original position after being pulled to be worked on. The goal is to have all the blooms facing the same direction. 2) Staking is important in many ways but probably most important in transporting plants to the show. Many a long, flowery, and heavy inflorescence will be bent or broken during the jousting of the in and out of your car and the ride in. You can always remove the stakes at the show. 3) Flower balance is the goal with the larger plants. Ideally you want to see the flowers and not the foliage. Flowers centered over the plant not on opposite sides. Say a plant has 4-6 inflorescences. These should be equally arranged over the plant, not three on one side and two on the opposite with nothing in the middle. Pseudobulbs can be moved around by tying to non-blooming bulbs. Do this well before the show, then remove the ties at the show. An example, at last year's Cape show, J&L had a Masdevallia with 31 blooms on 31 spikes all of which were staked. It was gorgeous and won a CCE/AOS award. The previous year, this same plant was shown with a few less blooms but not staked. It won nothing. It takes time to properly prepare show plants but why else do we grow these things but to show them off.

All plants should be watered the day before the show, now a few thoughts regarding the different genera. Paphs have a problem with their bloom looking downward instead of straight on. Correct this by putting a wedge under the backside of the pot while the flowering spike develops. After the bloom opens, remove the wedge and the bloom is where you want it. Only the long-stemmed vin-colored paphs need staking and again, you can always remove the stake.

Large flowered Phals need to be staked just below the first bud. The goal is to have the flowers flow downward from that first bud. This was the norm 20 years ago when the big white and pink Phals were the only ones displayed. Now they are rarely seen at shows with the novelty Phals taking over. These should still be staked just below that first bud and remained staked. Another tidbit that makes the Phals look better is to wash the leaves with whole milk a couple of days prior to the show. You will notice the difference.

Oncidiums and their related intergenerics usually have the longest flowering spikes. Staking is a must especially during transport. I put a green bamboo stake into the potting medium alongside the inflorescence and tie them together. Then stick a metal rod (Surveyors metal flags, 50/bunch, Home

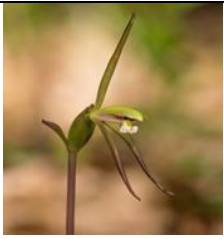
Depot) into the top of the bamboo stick to add another 18 inches to the bamboo. Even this may not be long enough, so splice another rod. These rods are very flexible so that you can bend them to the natural flow of the flowering spike. I like to see these tall inflorescences flowing naturally instead of being staked straight up. Sometimes I will place Styrofoam peanuts in the branching angle of the flowering spike to open this angle up to 90 degrees. Prevents crowding of the flowers

The smaller genera such as the Pleurothallids and Masdevallias have problems with drying out at the show.

Every show venue is hot and very dry. These little beauties take a beating. We set-up on Thursday and mist, Joe judges on Friday and mists, but come Sunday, these plants need help. Maybe put these potted plants into a larger pot with moss between the pots or even a sponge or something that is moisture retentive, just a thought. Vandas are in the same boat. I have never brought back one that looked as good as it did going to the show. Another good idea is to put your large, top-heavy plants into clay pots to prevent tip overs.

Finally, the Cattleyas: I do nothing with the small blooming cluster types other than the constant solar source and centering the spikes if there are many of them and there better be. Minicats require staking because they usually have weak stems and relatively large blooms. Large flowered Cats may need a couple of Styrofoam peanuts to spread the blooms apart. Do this as the buds develop and you may have to remove a bud if they are crowded. The goal is to have flat blooms that are not crowded.

Take the time and look at your plants. What can I do to make a better presentation? Wash both sides of the leaves, amazing how dirty they can get. Can I speed up the blooming or prolong them? The latter is easier. I wait four days after the blooms have opened, then move them out of the greenhouse into the cooler house. This move gains about one extra week. Speeding up involves bringing the budding plant into the warmer house at night then out to the greenhouse during the day. All of the above works most of the time at least it makes me feel better.



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Show Supplement Section

February 2025

The Orchid Show Is Almost Upon Us! February 22 & 23 2025

Want to help with the show? Contact: Marc Gray bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net 802-348-7926

Volunteer Call!

We still need volunteers: for show setup, for during the show, for tear down and repacking the materials at the library on Sunday. If you can volunteer some time to help, please do! Even if you can't stand or lift things, we have spaces where you can sit and take admission money or sit and watch exits. Yes, we would sincerely appreciate your help. If you're not sure what to do, Contact Marc Gray at bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net, or at 802-348-7926

Setup Schedule

Initial work on the show will begin at 9:30 AM **Wednesday February 19** at the club storage room in the Munson Memorial Library in Amherst. We will be packing and transporting the materials needed to set up the show space at the Smith Vocational High School in Northampton. We should be at Northampton about 10 or 10:30.

Text it. Tweet it. Facebook it. Flyer it. Put the word out.

Attendance at the annual Orchid Show is the major way the Amherst Orchid Society supports itself. If we don't have enough attendance, we can't pay for newsletters, speakers, or keep lower dues.

Tell everyone how much you are looking forward to the show. Tell them about being able to buy plants at the show, about the fabulous displays put on by local clubs (the space is jam-packed with displays!), and the wonderful informational speakers. An educational, family-friendly experience.

Show Timetable-

Questions: Marc Gray bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net
or (802)348-7926

Wednesday Feb 19, 2025

9:30 AM- meet at library to pick up show supplies.

10/10:30 AM- arrive at Smith Voc; set up backdrops and tables, drape tables. Club members only. No plants or individual displays on this day.

Thursday Feb 20, 2025

9 AM Finish table set-up

9:30 AM- Plants can be brought in at this time.

10 AM- Bring in donated food about this time.

3 PM- Cut off for the plants to be brought in. No plants allowed after this time.

Friday Feb 21, 2025

8 AM- All clerks need to be here at this time. If for some reason you cannot make it you MUST let Joe Maciaszek know at Maciaszek@gmail.com or 508-344-8492

9 AM- Judging starts, continues until done. Followed by lunch for the judges.

10 AM- Food for the judges' lunch to be picked up and delivered by this time or earlier.

Saturday Feb 22, 2025

8:45 AM- Anyone who is signed up for a 9 AM task, please arrive early so you can get to your places and have your job explained to you BEFORE we open.

9 AM- Show opens

5 PM- Show closes

Sunday Feb 23, 2025

9:45 AM- Anyone who is signed up for a task please arrive early so you can get to your places and have your job explained to you BEFORE we open the doors.

Pre-registration FAQ's

Why should you pre-register your plants?

Because your plant tags will be waiting for you on Thursday morning when you get to the Show. If you don't pre-register, you may have a long wait for your tags.

How many plants should you pre-register?

All of the plants that you might end up bringing. It is much easier to delete tags than to type and print them on Thursday. After your plants are tagged, just bring back the tags that you won't be using and we'll delete them. You can still add plants on Thursday, but that puts you in the waiting line.

How late can you pre-register? The deadline for pre-registering plants is **8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18.**

Where do I find the digital forms? The forms will be sent to club members and other exhibitors in an email, along with the judging schedule.

Where do I send the digital forms? Save the forms as a word document and send as an attachment to Liz and Dave Marinelli at ewmarinelli@comcast.net. If you are not able to use the digital forms, send the list of your plants in an email. Information should include Genus, species or hybrid name, and the class where the plant is entered from the judging schedule. If you do not use email, call Liz at 413-575-4714 to read the list over the phone.

Questions about where a plant should be classified in the schedule?

ewmarinelli@comcast.net

Preparing the Club Display- All Hands On Deck!

Maryanne Laukaitis

Set-up of our society display will be **Thursday, Feb 20, 2025**, beginning mid to late morning. We need volunteers to unload the sawhorses, panels, etc from the truck. If you feel up to this more strenuous part of the job, please join in. If you can't do heavy lifting, then we still have draping and decorating which takes a little creativity...and it's fun, too! We'll have the terrarium, introduced in 2016, which needs delicate attention, arranging plants inside and careful ID labeling of plants.

Please lend attractive natural materials, such as oddly shaped wood, to accent the display. Cut greenery, such as ivy and other evergreens, are useful too. Bring items which are easily hand carried (without a forklift!) We can also use plain green house plants (not in bloom) in nice condition for filler. A Norfolk Island Pine is always welcome. Empty pots, crates and buckets are appreciated as pedestals for show plants, too. Please label all materials with your name on the back or underside! Be prepared to pick up lent items and take away at clean-up **4 PM Sunday Feb 23, 2025**.

We hope you'll join in the set-up- **it's fun**- Bring your creativity!

Show Plant Delivery

Final deadline for plant delivery for judging is **3:00 PM, Thursday Feb 20, 2025** at Smith Vocational High School in Northampton, MA. The vendors' deadline for plant delivery and setup is 6:30 PM.

Contact Liz and Dave Marinelli ewmarinelli@comcast.net if you have questions regarding registering your plants.