



Greater Whorled Pogonia

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The Newsletter of the **AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

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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 page 6 for complete directions~

Save the date!

July's meeting will be at the home of Joe and Marge Maciaszek, info to follow
in next month's newsletter

May Meeting

Liz Marinelli

Marge led a short meeting in Stacy's absence. Our guest speaker was Daryl Yerdon, president of the New Hampshire Orchid Society. He gave a very informative talk about his travels and orchid viewing in Ecuador. His talk was abundantly illustrated with slides of scenery, plus orchids that he and his group viewed in the wild. We all enjoyed it very much!

Steve S. and Joe reviewed the show table. There are a lot of plants in bloom this time of year, and many fine specimens made it to the show table. Of note was Joe's *Dendrobium Gattton Sunray*, a division that had belonged to Roger West and had grown to massive size.

Dave brought his equipment to test water samples for pH and TDS, and tested about 20 samples. His results are summarized later in the newsletter.

The next meeting will be on June 8 at the Grays' home in Vermont. This is always a fun meeting- the burgers and hotdogs are excellent and the primroses are usually in bloom. Let's hope for good weather!

Message from the Co-Vice President

Aimée Hudon

Hi everyone, I wanted to reach out to let you know that Stacy will be taking a backseat in her presidential duties for a little while to be with family. As discussed in the May meeting, Stacy's mother was recently diagnosed with brain cancer and will be undergoing chemo and radiation treatments over the next few months. Stacy will be helping her through this difficult time. We wish the best to Stacy and her family and I ask you all to keep them in your thoughts while also showing extra kindness to those around you.



Native Species Alert!

It is one of my favorite times of year when our native charismatic mega-flora put on a spectacular show in our forests! *Cypripedium acaule*, pink lady's slipper or moccasin flower, can be found in acidic soil in eastern North America. There is an amazing community of them near where I live and I always make my annual pilgrimage near Memorial Day. Every year I see hundreds of beautiful pink blooms and am also lucky enough to see seed pods from the previous year. If you live near acidic soils (look for wild blueberries!) you may also see one of these elusive beauties; it's not just the tropics with gorgeous orchids.

May 2025 Show Table

<p>Bill Benner Cattleya Laure-mossiae Cattleya Time Life Meiracyllium trinasutum</p> <p>Lee Brockman Vanda Roll on Red Dar. Rainbow</p> <p>Ed deVarennes Pot. Golden Circle 'OPRL' x Lc Tokyo Magic 'G-1'</p> <p>Marc Gray Coelogyne xyrekes Phal NoID</p> <p>Betsy Higgins Dendrobium tannii Coelogyne usitana Dendrobium Ecuagenera Rainbow</p> <p>Ann Jordan Ctism Penang 'Doubloons' x Ctism dentigrianum 'Love This Flower' Ctism dentigrianum 'SVO excellence' x Ctism Portagee Star 'Brian Lawson's Sunrise' Phalaenopsis NoID Ascofinetia Walnut Valley</p> <p>Maryanne Laukaitis Lc Rojo Encyclia bractesens Epidendrum parkinsonianum Procatavola Key Lime Stars Eplc. Jackie Bright Dendrobium loddigesii Maybe ? Tahoma Glacier</p> <p>Steve LaValley Ctism Penang 'Doubloons' x Ctism dentigrianum 'Love This Flower'</p> <p>Zoe Loughman Miltoniopsis Breathless Onc. Riverwood? Paph thaianum Blc Rosella's Lovely Sunset Ponerorchis graminifolia</p>	<p>Joe Maciaszek Schombolaeliocattleya Newberry Lave Burst 'Whirligig' Cattleya purpurata Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga x Den. aberrans Mps. Linda Lingle 'Kiu'ainu' Dendrobium Gatton Sunray</p> <p>Dave Marinelli Calanthe Micro Burst 'Orchtoberfest' Leptotes bicolor 4N Rlc. William Farrell x C. Horace</p> <p>Liz Marinelli Lycaste consobrina Dendrobium petiolatum 'Laura Hansen' Masdevallia Flying Colors Sc Lana Coryell Coelogyne ochracea Dendrobium Stardust 'Firebird'</p> <p>Carol Mentos Sedirea japonica</p> <p>Julie Miller Miltoniopsis Morris Chestnut Maxillaria tenuifolia 'Yamada'</p> <p>JoAnn Skiba Cattleya forbesii</p> <p>Deb Spearot Cattleya Irene Finney x Cattleya Logee White Sarcochilus hartmanii Paph Raspberry Caramel</p> <p>Steve Steiner Phrag Jason Fischer Brassia verucosae Pleur. Quadrifida 'Fox Den' Den. pseudoglomeratum Paph Green Veil Paph Odette's Ruby Oda. Debutante Den. Swiss Mountain</p>
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Coelogyne ochracea, Liz Marinelli



Pleur. Quadrifida Steve Steiner



Miltoniopsis Morris Chestnut, Julie Miller



Masdevallia Flying Colors, Liz Marinelli



Dendrobium Gatton Sunray, Joe Maciaszek



Paph. thaianum, Zoe Loughman



Cattleya Irene Finney x *Cattleya Logee White*, Deb Spearot



Cattleya forbesii, JoAnn Skiba



Procatavola Key Lime Stars, Maryanne Laukaitis



Sarcophilus hartmanii, Deb Spearot



Ctism Penang 'Doubloons' x *Ctism dentigrianum 'Love This Flower'*, Steve LaValley

Water Testing Part II

Dave Marinelli

At the May meeting we tested a variety of water samples for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and pH. I now have records of 29 water samples. You may be interested to learn how your water compares with the other growers who brought samples.

As you might expect, rainwater had the lowest mineral content (TDS) with a range of 5-20 parts per million (ppm). The rainwater pH was variable with a range of 5.3-6.7.

Municipal tap water demonstrated a large range with a low of 47 ppm (Springfield/Longmeadow) to 201 (Cromwell, Connecticut). Reverse osmosis brought the Cromwell TDS down to a very reasonable 20 ppm and did not affect pH. Municipal pH was in a tight range between 6.5 and 7.1.

The well water samples were quite varied with a range of 39 to 178 ppm. pH ranged from 5.6 to 6.6.

You may have heard me mention at the meeting that the 3 orchid fertilizers I tried raised the TDS to between 407 ppm and 700 ppm when mixed according to the package directions, and between 208 and 380 ppm when mixed half-strength.

Liz and I have some trips planned this summer which will prevent us from attending the next few meetings, but I plan to bring the meters again in the fall for those who missed out, and for anyone who would like to test water fortified with their preferred orchid fertilizer.

Watch the newsletter for more information.

Directions to the Grays' house for the June 08, 2025 meeting:

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.