



Greater Whorled Pogonia

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The Newsletter of the
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 34 Issue 2

February 2026



February Meeting Upstairs at Munson Memorial
 Library, Amherst

1046 South East St, Amherst, MA

Sunday, February 8 at 2:00

***Members with the last name V, W, X, Y, and Z please bring a snack
 to share***

Save the date!

Upcoming meetings:

March 8, April 12, and May 17

President's Message: February 2026

Dear Members,

As we shake off the winter chill, I am still beaming with pride over our recent showing at the Cape and Island Show. While the weather had other plans and forced us to end a day early, the way this society pulled together was nothing short of inspiring. We worked fast, stayed safe, and got the job done.

A Heartfelt Thank You

First and foremost, a huge thank you to Terri, Julie, Betsy, and Liz for the incredible effort in transporting staging, plants, and providing the props that made our display possible. Your hard work during setup truly set the stage for our success.

I also want to extend my gratitude to Marc and Joe for their heavy lifting during the accelerated takedown and for ensuring all plants were transported safely home before the storm hit. Finally, thank you to every member who sent in their plants—our display looked absolutely spectacular because of your generosity and talent.

Our Biggest Event: The Annual Show & Sale

We have finally arrived at our most important fundraiser of the year! Our Annual Show and Sale is happening February 21st and 22nd. This event is the lifeblood of the Amherst Orchid Society, and we need every hand on deck to make it a success.

- Volunteer Opportunities: There are still plenty of slots open. Please sign up for a task; whether it's an hour or a day, your contribution matters.
- Try Your Hand at Clerking: If you're looking for a fun way to dive deeper into the hobby, I highly recommend clerking. It's a fantastic way to learn about different orchid genres and rub elbows with highly experienced growers.
- Raffle Donations: We are still collecting orchid-related items for our Orchid Lovers Raffle Basket. If you have something to contribute, please bring it to the next meeting!

Welcoming Our Neighbors

In the spirit of collaboration, I want to extend a very warm welcome—and ask all of you to join me in welcoming—the representatives from our sister societies who are traveling to Western Massachusetts this month. These folks are giving their time and braving the February roads to help us set up and support our club. Let's make sure they feel our appreciation; the orchid community is a tight-knit one, and their support is a huge part of what makes our show a success.

February Meeting Preview

Our upcoming meeting will be dedicated to final preparations for the big show. We will review remaining tasks and ensure everyone feels ready. Additionally, Liz and Dave will give a vital presentation on everything you need

to know about registering your plants for the show. If you've never exhibited before, this is the perfect time to learn the ropes.

Winter Care & Lengthening Days

As we move deeper into February, you may notice the sun lingering a bit longer in the afternoons. These lengthening days are a signal to your orchids that spring is on the horizon. While the increased light is a welcome boost for growth, remember that winter homes are still quite dry. Keep a close eye on your humidity levels and watch for any "hidden" sunburn if your plants are right against south-facing glass. As the plants wake up, you may notice new root tips or spikes—treat these signs of life with consistent watering, but be careful not to over-fertilize until we see sustained active growth.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting and working alongside you at the show!

Warmly,

Stacy Soldato

President, Amherst Orchid Society

CALL FOR DONATIONS!

Amherst Orchid Society Show & Sale 2026

✔ Help Us Create a Dream Basket!

- We need items for our "Orchid Lover's Raffle Basket" to make our show a success!
- Your donations will delight fellow enthusiasts and raise crucial funds!
- Ideas: Tools, Pots, Books, Art, Fertilizer, & More!



📅 Key Dates & Contact

Bring items to our
January meeting!

Show Dates: Feb 21-22, 2026

Contact: Marc Gray

Email:

bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net

AmherstOrchidSociety.org

Show Table January 2026

<p>Ed deVarennes Bc Yuan Nan 'Star Wars' Den. Green Flash</p> <p>Tim Gosselin Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' Dendrobium Little Norman</p> <p>Betsy Higgins Paph. Puna Moon Ludisia discolor Blc Toshi's Magic 'Doris' Comparettia Higoshiyama Phal NoID 'Jim's Magic' C. Kiritsubo x C. Love Knot Burrageara Mayor Billy</p> <p>Maryanne Laukaitis Laelia autumnalis Stenorhynchos speciosa Oncidium Twinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy'</p> <p>Joe Maciaszek Laelia Wellesley 'Nelda' Den. Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy' Bulb. obtusipetalum Pot. Shin Shiang Diamond 'Tai Young #1' Blc Hilda Takamatsu</p> <p>Liz Marinelli Cymbidium tracyanum Cattleya Circle of Life</p>	<p>Holly Rainaud-Loss Dendrobium jonesii 'Trident's Snow Shower'</p> <p>Stacy Soldato Den. K Lai x Burana Sunshine Epidendrum melanoporphyreum</p> <p>Deb Spearot Cahuzacara Hsinying Pink Doll Cymbidium NoID</p> <p>Steve Steiner Burrageara Stefan Isler 'Ember' Restrepia sp 'Light Pink' Maxillaria spilotantha Masdevallia hirtzii Paph Petula's Happiness Dendrochilum convallariiforme Paph Whyte Thorne Savoir 'Rilla Levine' HCC/AOS Trichopilia orientalis</p> <p>Jeanne Usereau Rlc George King 'Serendipity' Laelianthe Bowrialbida</p> <p>Kasia Wynne Vuylstekeara Melissa Brianne 'Tawny Tart'</p>
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New England Orchid Societies Show Schedule

If you are interested in helping with setting up or taking down our orchid displays, please reach out to Liz at ewmarinelli@comcast.net

	Show Dates	Set up	Take down
Amherst Orchid Society	Feb 21 – 22	Feb 19	Feb 22
New Hampshire Orchid Society	Mar 7 – 8	Mar 5	Mar 8
Nutmeg State Orchid Society	Mar 21 – 22	Mar 20	Mar 22



Cymbidium tracyanum, Liz



Dendrobium jonesii 'Trident's Snow Shower', Holly



C. Kiritsubo x C. Love Knot, Betsy



Den. Green Flash, Ed



"Zygote", no grower listed



Phal No ID "Jim's Magic", Betsy



Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos', Tim



Oncidium Twinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy', Maryanne



Blc Hilda Takamatsu, Joe



Dendrochilum convallariiforme, Steve S.



Laelia autumnalis, Maryanne, photo by Maryanne

Our orchid show is quickly approaching! Save the dates: Feb 21 & 22 2026

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

Call for Volunteers! We still need volunteers: for show setup, for during the show, for take down and repacking the materials at the storage unit 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 are not sure what to do, contact Marc Gray at bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net, or at 802-348-7926

Set up schedule: Initial work on the show will begin at **9:30 AM Wednesday February 18th** at the club storage unit at Western Mass Storage Solutions in Hatfield. 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 around 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 dues low.

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

Show Timetable:

Questions: Marc Gray at bulbophyllum@myfairpount.net, or 802-348-7926

Wednesday Feb 18, 2026

9:30 AM – meet at Western Mass Storage Solutions 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 19

9 AM – Finish table set-up

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

10 AM – Donated food can be brought in

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

Friday Feb 20

8:30 AM – All clerks need to be here. 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 complete. Follow 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 21

8:45 AM – Anyone who has 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 22

9:45 AM – Anyone who has 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.

10 AM – Show opens

4 PM – Show closes. Take down displays, pack truck, congratulate all for a job well done

Registering Your Plants

We encourage everyone to register their blooming plants and participate in the show!

If you have never registered plants before, please don't hesitate to ask for you. Liz and Dave will be at the February meeting early to answer your questions.

Where to find the judging schedule and forms:

You will receive an email prior to the show with the schedule and forms attached, or you can access them on the club website <https://amherstorchidsociety.org/club-events/our-show-sale/#>

How many plants should you register?

Register all of the plants that you might end up bringing. If you are unsure if a plant will be in bloom at the time of the show, it is best to register it. If it ends up being slow to bloom or past its prime, it is very easy for us to delete the entry on Thursday.

The deadline for registering plants is 8 PM on Tuesday, February 17th.

Where to send the digital forms: Save the form as a **Word Document** and send as an attachment to Liz and Dave Marinelli at ewmarinelli@comcast.net. Please do not save it as a Google document. If you are unable 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!

Set-up of our society display will be **Thursday Feb 19, 2026**, 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 will 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 22, 2026**.

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

A Call for Props!

We are looking for props for our club display! This year we are going for a **Zen garden** theme; if you have any items that match the description please consider dropping them off at Smith Voc on **Thursday, Feb 19**. Some examples include bamboo filler plants, smooth rocks, Japanese style lamps. We also always appreciate other filler plants, natural materials, and crates that can be used for pedestals. Please label all materials and plan to pick them up at take down at **4 PM on Sunday, Feb 22**.

Show Plant Delivery

Final deadline for plant delivery for judging is **3:00 PM, Thursday Feb 19, 2026** 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 at ewmarinelli@comcast.net if you have questions regarding registering your plants.