



Greater Whorled Pogonia
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The Newsletter of the
AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 34 Issue 4

April 2026



April Meeting Upstairs at Munson Memorial
Library, Amherst

1046 South East St, Amherst, MA

Sunday, April 12 at 2:00

Members with the last name E, F, G and H please bring a snack to share

Save the date!

Upcoming meetings:

May 17, Summer dates TBD

President's Message: April 2026

Dear Members,

As we transition into the beauty of spring, I want to take a moment to reflect on our society's incredible recent showings. It has been a whirlwind of activity, and the talent within our group has truly shone on the regional stage.

Show Season Wrap-Up

Our success in New Hampshire was a remarkable team effort. A huge thank you is owed to **Liz, Maryanne, and Betsy** for their hard work and vision during the setup, and to **Marc, Joe, Liz, and Dave** for their vital help with the take-down. Our display was honored with the **Orchid Digest Trophy** as well as the **Grace Barwood Memorial Award** for best interpretation of the show theme.

The momentum continued at the Nutmeg Orchid Society show. I want to extend a special thank you to **Anne and Betsy** for conquering the setup there; their hard work resulted in a **First Place** ribbon for our display!

Individual honors have been equally impressive:

- **Liz Marinelli:** Her stunning *Cym. Ming Emperor* not only won **Best Cymbidium** but also took home **Best in Show** in New Hampshire. She followed that up with another **Best Cymbidium** win at the Nutmeg show—a truly dominant run for a magnificent plant.
- **Athena Volpendesta:** Winner of the **Marcia Epstein Memorial Award** in New Hampshire for best Artistic feature with her beautiful watercolor *Phragmipedium*
- **Steve Steiner:** Congratulations to Steve for winning **Best Homegrown Plant in Show** with his *Pterostylis curta*.

This marks the end of a highly successful show season until we resume in the fall. Thank you to all who took the time to prepare and send plants to all of our shows. Your efforts are appreciated and necessary to make our displays beautiful!

Upcoming Programs

We have an exciting spring lineup prepared:

- **April Meeting:** Steve Steiner will be presenting "Those Weird Little Things We Grow," focusing on the cooler, smaller orchids he expertly cultivates in his greenhouse and home.
- **May Meeting:** We welcome **Chris Lasage** from Connecticut for an in-depth and important presentation on **Viruses in Orchids**.
- **June Meeting:** Our annual **picnic at the Grays' pondside!** We'll enjoy a classic cookout, so please bring your favorite dish to share with the group.

Spring Care & Cultivation

With the days lengthening and temperatures rising, our orchids are waking up. Spring is the primary window for **repotting**. As you see new green root tips beginning to emerge, it is the perfect time to refresh old media before

the summer heat arrives. This ensures your plants have a stable, airy environment to support the upcoming growth spurt.

As growth accelerates, so should your **fertilizer** regimen. Gearing up for summer means providing the nutrients necessary for building strong pseudobulbs and leaves. However, keep a close eye out for hitchhikers; spring is also when **pests** like aphids and mites become more active. A proactive check now can prevent a much larger headache in July.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting as we celebrate our recent wins and prepare for a vibrant growing season!

Happy Growing,

President, Amherst Orchid Society



Amherst Orchid Society's display at the Nutmeg Orchid Society Show in March, photo credit: Liz

Correction:

The March 2026 issue did not credit Liz Marinelli and Zoe Loughman for the wonderful photos from the Amherst Orchid Society Show.

Show Table March 2026

<p>Nancy Braymiller Cattleya Busy Bev 'Blue Jewel' Cattlianthe Fire Dance 'Patricia'</p> <p>Lisa Degerdon Paph Napa Valley</p> <p>Ed deVarenes Cattleya Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'</p> <p>Betsy Higgins Phal NoID 'Buddha's Babies'</p> <p>Aimée Hudon Maxillaria tenuifolia Phal NoID 'Limoncello' Den. prenticii 'Gold Country'</p>	<p>Holly and Alex Loss Dendrobium NoID</p> <p>Zoe Loughman Lepanthes martineae</p> <p>Liz and Dave Marinelli Laelia autumnalis var. vietchiana Masdevallia Elven Magic Pleione formosana</p> <p>Lynne Reynolds Paphiopedilum sukhakulii</p> <p>JoAnn Skiba Slc Paprika 'True Spice' Den. spectabile</p> <p>Bev von Kries Phrag Sedenii</p>
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Looking for more orchid content?

I enjoy listening to podcasts while I am at work doing a repetitive task. One of my favorites published an episode focusing on the Victorian obsession of discovering and collecting tropical orchids from remote corners of the world. What came to be known as Orchidelirium was a period of time in the 1800s marked by adventure, exploitation, and a surprisingly high death rate as wealthy collectors filled glasshouses full of these charismatic plants. You can listen to the episode by searching for Stuff You Missed in History Class Victorian Orchidelirium or by following this link: <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/105-stuff-you-missed-in-histor-21124503/episode/victorian-orchidelirium-29540453/>

Have any orchid related recommendations? Share it with the club by emailing Aimée at aimeehudon@gmail.com.



Lepanthes martineae, Zoe; photo by Zoe



Phal no ID "Limoncello", Aimée



Pleione formosana, Liz



Cattleya Jewel Box 'Dark Waters', Ed



Phrag Sedenii, Bev



Phal Noid 'Buddha's Babies', Betsy



Den. Spectabile, JoAnn



Cattleya Busy Bev 'Blue Jewel', Nancy