



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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August Picnic at the Home of Jenny Hansell

6 Maple St, Haydenville, MA (at the corner of Kingsley Ave)

Sunday, August 16 - arrive any time after 12:00, meeting at 2:00

Please bring: an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share as well as your own chair

Jenny is providing burgers, hot dogs, and fixings - please RSVP and let her know if you prefer a veggie option - jahansell@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Upcoming meetings at Munson Memorial Library in Amherst, MA:

September 13 (at 12!), October 18, and November 8

President's Message: August 2026

Dear Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the peak of the summer season!

First and foremost, a massive thank you to Joe and Marge for opening up their beautiful home and hosting a spectacular summer picnic. It was wonderful to catch up, share some laughs, and enjoy fantastic food surrounded by great company.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to Lee Brockman for her incredible generosity. Lee brought in beautiful Cattleya to divide and share with the society, and many of our members went home with an exciting new addition to their collections. Thank you, Lee, for sharing the orchid love!

August Meeting Details

Our upcoming monthly meeting will be hosted by Jenny Hansell on Saturday, August 16th in Haydenville.

What to bring: Please remember to bring a comfortable lawn chair and a favorite dish to share for our potluck table.

Show Table: Don't leave your summer beauties at home! Be sure to bring your blooming plants for the show table so we can all celebrate what's thriving in your collections right now.

Looking ahead, our September meeting will take us back to our familiar gathering space at the Munson Library. We are thrilled to welcome guest speaker Chris Satch all the way from New York! Stay tuned for more specifics on his presentation—we are continuously updating the details on our evolving webpage, so keep an eye on it.

New England Orchid Care for August

August in New England brings high humidity and scorching mid-day heat. It is a peak growth period, but it requires careful monitoring:

Watering & Air Movement: With high temperatures, plants dry out faster. Water deeply in the morning so foliage dries before nightfall to prevent crown rot. Maximize air movement with fans to keep leaf temperatures down and ward off fungal issues.

Shading: The August sun is intense. Keep a close eye on your plants for signs of sunburn (leaves feeling hot to the touch or developing bleached/black patches). You may need to pull plants back from bright windows or add extra shading outdoors.

Fertilizing: Because plants are actively growing, maintain a regular "weakly, weekly" fertilizer regimen to help build strong new pseudobulbs before the autumn slowdown.

Care for Your New Cattleya Division

If you were lucky enough to take home one of Lee's Cattleya divisions, here is how to give it the best start:

Secure the Plant: Newly divided Cattleyas lack an established root system to anchor themselves. Secure the plant firmly in its pot using a rhizome clip or stake. If the plant moves around, the tender new root tips will rub against the bark and abort.

Humidity & Shading: Keep the division in a slightly more shaded, high-humidity area than your established Cattleyas until you see active new root growth.

Watering Cautiously: Because the root system is currently limited, the plant cannot absorb water efficiently. Mist the foliage and the top of the medium to prevent the pseudobulbs from shriveling excessively, but avoid keeping the potting mix soggy, which can invite rot before the new roots even take hold. Once vibrant green root tips emerge, you can resume normal watering.

I look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces—and gorgeous blooming plants—in Haydenville on the 16th!

Happy growing,

Stacy Soldato

President, Amherst Orchid Society



Some beautiful native orchids seen recently in New England. Clockwise from upper left: grasspink (*Calopogon tuberosus*), yellow fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), and rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*). Photos courtesy of Zoe Loughman.

Show Table July 2026

Ed deVarenes Phal Tong Yi Yu Shiou Paph Double Oxymoron Den Hsinying Tobazuki Seth Gray Oberonia japonica Betsy Higgins Bulbophyllum pardalotum 'Col Dick' Coelogyne usitana Judy Hudon Den. Jonathan's Glory Steve LaValley Den. Super Star 'Dandy' x Den Kurvov Red Zoe Loughman Spathoglottis plicata Ctism Francisco Berrios Gaines Ctism Mary Cash's Memoria Jim Wade Slc. Love Fresh Joe Maciaszek Paph Johanna Burkardt Rby Spotted Charm Den sanderae var, luzonicum Marge Maciaszek Phal Surf Song	Dave Marinelli Epidendrum secundum Epidendrum parkinsonianum Oncidium leuchochilum Maxillaria tenuifolia Oncidium Volcano Hula Halau 'Volcano Queen' Liz Marinelli Cattleya walkeriana var. semi-alba 'Kenny' Sarcochilus ceciliae Masdevallia vietchiana Cleisocentron gokusingii Stacy Soldato Cattleya trianae Cattleya Rojo 'My Valentine' Restrepia sp. Steve Steiner Promenaea stapelioides Pleurothallis luctuosa Calanthe triplicate Paph Crouching Tiger Comparettia coccinea Den. purpureum Kasia Wynne Lycaste Goldenrod (Lycaste Corrimal x Lycaste dowiana) Kefericzella Peppercorns (Cochleanthes discolor x Kefericzella Ash Trees)
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Cattleya Orchid Stlma Kelly 'Lea', Judy (photo: Judy)



Calanthe triplicate, Steve S. (photo: Liz)



Paph Double Oxymoron, Ed (photo: Liz)



Phal Surf Song, Marge (photo: Liz)



Rby Spotted Charm, Joe (photo: Liz)



Cattleya Rojo 'My Valentine', Stacy (photo: Liz)



Rby Spotted Charm, Joe (photo: Liz)



Cleisocentron gokusingii, Liz (photo Liz)