



The Greater Whorled Pogonia

Official Flower of the Club

Newsletter of the

AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An affiliate of the American Orchid Society

wa.hutchinson@comcast.net

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ANNUAL PLANT SALE SEPTEMBER 16, 2007 HADLEY GARDEN CENTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Hello all, hope your summer is winding up in a pleasant manner. We've been very busy here with our litter of puppies born on July 5th. For those of you who like to know these things, the mother is Princess, and she managed to have the first puppy on the couch despite the presence of an enormous whelping box. They are little demons at this point, but anyone who would like their ankles nipped is more than welcome to come and visit, just give a call. With regards to the upcoming sale, we will need multiple people for multiple thankless jobs! (I promise to thank you over and over again if that helps.) It also helps to put up flyers, these are our best advertisements. Consider what is near to you, greenhouses, community centers, coffee shops, and other gathering places. Target jewelry stores, doctor and dentist offices- I know, sounds weird, but it actually pulled a lot of people into our previous shows.

Speaking of the show, we are still a go for February. Our current challenge will be that Nancy G. will not be able to do the data entry

July Meeting

Many thanks to Roger West and his wife, Beth, for sharing their personal paradise for our July meeting. Member's relaxed as they ambled about the many gardens, browsed the free book sale, and purchased orchids for sale. Beth outdid herself again with her decadent deserts with fresh blackberries and strawberries. People went home happy with full bellies, hands full of free orchid's from Bill's divisions and free books. What more can you ask for from a meeting?

Thanks again Roger and Beth!



PRESIDENT'S
CORNER
CONTINUED

for the cards. This means someone other than me- my data entry is pretty scary- needs to take up this task. We have the program, and either myself or Nancy can show you how to do it. It is also possible that two people could split the task. If no one steps forward I am going to hire one of my techie high school students, which will of course, cost money. Mull it over and let me know.

I am hoping to sell off the last of the t-shirts at the sale, which will leave us ready to make another order, using the same design, but in a different color shirt. This would also be something for us to sell at the show. I like that lilac color that they made for me, but I am open to suggestions. I am also working on next year's design, trying several different plants that might work for a black and white shirt.

The show season is beginning again, MOS is already looking for clerks, if you are interested, let me know and I will pass your name onto the appropriate folks. The monthly judging at Tower Hill is coming up, first Saturday in September, and again I extend a welcome if you would like to come along, or good directions if you want to get there on your own. (I know, I wouldn't drive with me either if I could help it.)

The talks prior to judging, which begin at 1000am are always worth the drive.

As always, thank you for all you do,

Ellen Kennedy

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Starting this year membership renewals will be handled differently. **Everyone's** dues are due in October. If you pay at the meeting you will receive the free membership plant. If you do not pay in October you will get one notice that your membership has expired then you will not receive the newsletter for December. This has come about since it is very hard to keep on top of all the members due dates and it only makes it fair for everyone and easier for the treasurer. Do not forget that the dues are now **\$20**. If you have any questions please contact Ellen Kennedy at E832847@aol.com

Mid-Huson Orchid Society

Orchid Show and Sale

Saturday, October 13, 2007

11:00am to 3:00 pm

at

Union Presbyterian Church

44 Balmville Road

Newburgh, NY

For further info call:

Dennis Sandberg, President

1-800-597-6271

Web page at:

<http://users.bestweb.net/~mhos>

The September Plant Sale

Sept 16, 2007

Again we will be having the sale at the HADLEY GARDEN CENTER, on Rt 9 in Hadley. Set up will start at 8:30 am and the sale is from 10-4 pm. We will not be letting people in before this time. There are no exceptions. We need to have everything in place before we start selling. One year we were not ready and it is hard to try and scramble.

We are going to be in the back greenhouse again, which is on the right all the way in back. Members will be parking in the area on the right hand side when you drive in. This is NOT the regular parking area. It looks like a storage area, but is their extra parking area and where extra things are stored. So there should be plenty of room back here. Try to fit in there as many of us as we can so we can save as many of the other parking spaces for the customers. This will actually give us access to the back door of the greenhouse for set up. This back door will be closed during the sale, but will make it easier to get our plants in there.

We will also have a table set up for show plants, so bring in those in bloom that are not being sold. This helps sell the plants that are not in bloom. So please come and enjoy. It is a fun time and the more people we have there to talk to people the better. Please invite all your friends and anyone else who would be interested in coming to the sale.

I do ask that any members who will be there to please wear your orchid T-shirts. This will help in picking out the members and will also help the Hadley Garden Center workers to know who is a member.

Please make sure that if you are selling that you MUST fill out the cards as specified in the newsletter. This is very important and makes it easier for the checkout people and the treasurer at the end of the day. If you have any questions feel free to contact Nancy Goodman at wildeyes@rcn.com or 413-549-4521 or Kevin English at kengal11233@aol.com

What WE Need Help With

We will need 6 people to man the check out tables. Three to take the plants and find the card and three to do up the prices for the money people. Please show up between 8:30 and 9 am so we can show you what is needed. We also need 2 people to take in the money. We also need at least 4 people to help with directing traffic out front and to help with any people who need help either getting in or out of the store and our sale. We do not want to have the Hadley Garden Center workers having to deal with any problems due to our sale. So these jobs need to be filled all day long. We can have people change shifts, but please find Kevin English or Nancy Goodman if you are unsure what your job is or what you should be doing. We would also like two people to sit at the show table to make sure none of the plants walk. I think due to this being in a nursery/greenhouse that it would be much easier for these plants to walk away. No one up front will be questioning plants going out. We also need people there to just help answer questions of the shoppers and to give out the plant fact sheets. The more plants we have on display, the more plants we might be able to sell. Talking goes a long way and they really enjoy getting our input. We need bags and boxes brought in for the plants. So bring in what you can. Thanks.

People who are bringing plants

If you will be bringing plants please contact Kevin English at kenga11233@aol.com and let him know how many plants you are bringing or how many tables you need ASAP. The tables are 4 x 6 and a maximum of 2

tables each seller. Also make sure you have a card for **EACH** plant you are selling. So one card for one plant. **DO NOT** put duplicate plants on one card. You **MUST** have these cards done **BEFORE** you arrive at the sale. These will be given to us so we can check out the plants. Also you might want to have stickers on the plants before you show up. These stickers need to have your code, the plant # and the price on it. These also need to be taken off the plant at sale time so please make sure we can get them off. We need bags, too, for the sale.

Make a 3 X 5 card like this for each individual plant.

How To Prepare Your Plants For The Sale

Price	Plant #
Plant Name	
Seller Name	

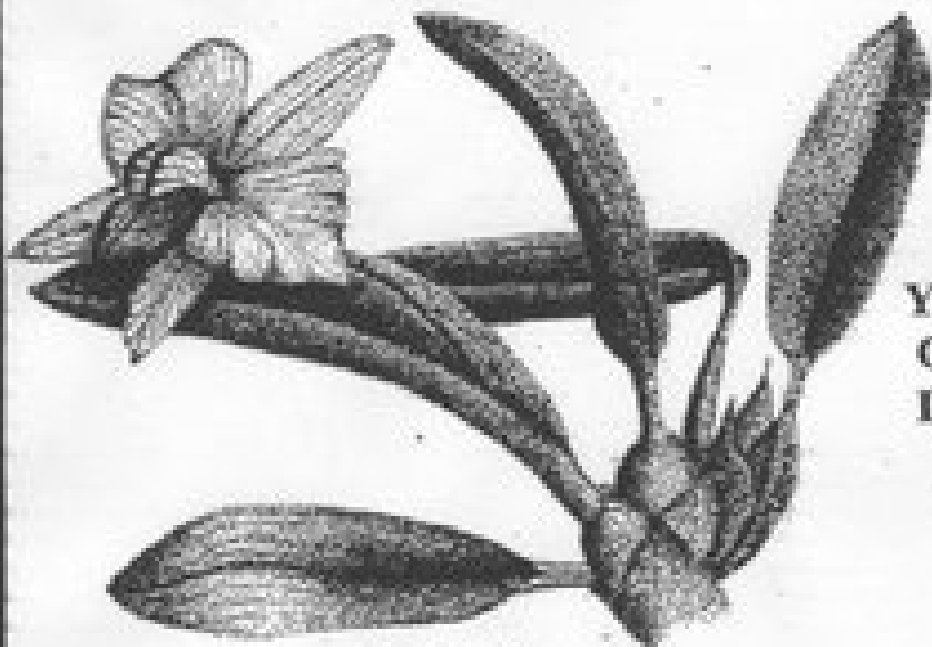
Each plant that you are selling needs an individual 3 x 5 card. Even if you are selling more than one plant of the same sort, **EACH PLANT NEEDS AN INDIVIDUAL CARD**. On the upper right hand corner will be the plant's ID#, which will be an ID that you make up, beginning with your initials. For example, Roger L. West's first plant might be RLW1, then RLW2 will be the second card, RLW3 the third, and so on. In the upper left-hand corner will be the price of the plant. The plant's name should be in the center of the card. In the lower left-hand corner will be your name. The cards should be in alphabetical order by plant name in case the plant stickers should rub off. Each plant must have a sticker with the plant ID# and price readily visible. An example would be RLW1 \$20, and so on. It is best to use round stickers in bright colors like the ones used to mark the plants that are sold each month at the meetings.

-Nancy Goodman

The
Amherst Orchid Society

Invites You to Attend Its Annual

Orchid Plant Sale



*Sophranitis
coccinea*

**You can grow orchids!
Come to our sale and
Learn how easy it can
Be to grow these
Exotic plants!!**

Sunday, September 16, 2007

10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

At the Hadley Garden Center, located on Rte 9,

Across the street from the buffalo farm

Hadley, Mass



Questions for “ASK BILL” can be given to me at the monthly meetings. If possible write them out. If you prefer you may call me at 413-253-7036, write me a 52 Jeffrey Lane, Amherst, MA 01002-2532 or reach me via e-mail at >wa.hutchinson@comcast.net<. Answers to written questions may take one or two months to appear. The e-mail questions I nominally will answer within 24 hours or less. Keep in mind that if you are puzzled by a growing problem, etc. someone else is too.

Go to> www.larchhillorchids.com<, click on AmOrch and go directly an Amherst Orchid Society Web page. Additional information may be found on the Larch Hill pages. The web page now has the newsletter posted as a PDF file and most of them for the whole year are available.

Q. If I buy an awarded plant, -say-, “HCC/AOS, what is the relationship of my new plant and the plant that got the award?

A. You have a piece or a clone of the original plant. In the “Old Days”, the only way this could happen was to know the person who owned the original awarded plant and when they divided it have them give you a piece of it. Today the technology allows them to take the meristem cells of the bud and put it into liquid culture and generate many cells moving freely in the medium. Each of these cells behaves like seed with one exception. They have been produced asexually and thus have the same genetics. There is one caveat. If the tissue is pushed too hard in the process, producing many hundreds of thousands of cells, a process called genetic drift begins and you will get some variant of the original. The Oncidium Wildcat complex is an example. But if properly done, you have the original plant and can label it “HCC/AOS”.

Q. Some of the plants I’ve bought – a Dendrobium, a Maxillaria, a Cattleya have roots coming out of the pot and over the edge. I thought you were supposed to repot them before that happens.

A. It sounds like you’ve been brought up with the classical process of growing houseplants. All plants are carefully centered in the pot and no roots in the air. Most orchids, note I didn’t say all, are epiphytes in nature. That is the roots ramble out to attach the plant to some support structure, a tree, a stone, a cliff. The rambling roots anchor the plant and also catch detritus, organic debris which falls from the canopy along with dead animals, fruit, leaves, guano and the like. Thus many orchids continue to ramble often growing out of the pot and sometimes wrapping around the pot. Repotting need only be carried out when the medium breaks down and becomes soggy. In nature the amount of medium is less than one might use in repotting and is also replaced over an extensive time period.

“Freebie” of the month

Brassia verrucosa

By Maryanne Laukaitis

At the July 15th meeting, Bill Hutchinson brought two large plants to divide: Dendrobium ‘King Philip’ (named for AOS first President, Phil Philips) and a large *Brassia verrucosa*, which had been set into a large hanging basket, outgrown pot and all. He pulled off chunks of each and tossed them to any member who held up a hand. Thanks again, Bill, for your generosity and good humor!

Brassia verrucosa, one of the “Spider Orchids,” so called because of the shape of the flowers, which are greatly elongated, slender petals and sepals that stretch out on a long spike. It is also called the “Warty Brassia”, referring to the green warts on the lip. (“Verrucose” means “covered with warty elevations.”) The pseudobulbs are narrow egg shaped, which are laterally compressed and furrowed, about 3” to 4” tall, 2” wide and ½” or so thick, dark green in color, with several leaf-like sheaths at the base. There are two leathery leaves, folded at the base, up to a foot long, and about 2” wide. The arching inflorescence (flower spike) is produced at the pseudobulb base, can reach more than 2 feet long with up to 20 flowers in ranks of 2. They are waxy, fragrant, long lived, very pale green spotted with darker green or red, the lip is white with greenish warts. Each bloom can span about 6 to 8 inches, although this is quite variable.

B. verrucosa flowers in late spring through early fall, and is a common native of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, northern Nicaragua and Venezuela. This species is a warm to cool growing epiphyte of humid, cloud forests on tree trunks and branches at altitudes of 2900 feet to 7800 feet. They flower in the late spring through the early autumn and need regular watering and fertilizer year round.

B. verrucosa (crossed with *B. gireoudiana*) is a parent of *Brassia rex* 'Sakata' AM/AOS.

“Success With *Brassia verrucosa*” by Gordon Heaps, Orchid Society of Alberta

(adapted from The Canada Issue - August 1994 Volume 6 - Number 3 -

<http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/news/cocv063.html#brass>)

General conditions:

Grow in very high light (Vanda intensity).

Ideal Temperature 64° - 77° F. 53° F minimum

Copious water/fertilizer (30-10-10) every watering except the fourth.

Repot yearly – mesh pot or basket

Potting medium: medium grade charcoal or standard Phal mix of 50% expanded clay, 25% medium bark, 25% charcoal

Watch for spider mites

Scheduling to flower:

Grow in general conditions until new growth pseudobulbs are close to mature.

August 15 move to cool temperatures. .

Gradually dry out plant (over 3-4 weeks). Water once every two weeks in Sept.

In October (Still cool nights), feed with 10-52-10, 3 of 4 waterings.

When the spikes are visible at the base of the pseudobulbs (usually the end of December) change fertilizer to 7-11-27. Return to a heavy watering regime, 2-3 times per week.

When spikes are 5" - 6" long, move to high light & warm temperatures. (early January)

Flower spikes continue to grow to full length; flowers should open March to June.

Note that the cool temperatures will govern the flowering time. For example, if you extend the cool temperature period then flowering will be delayed.

Very important! A plant grown cool will not need as much water as a warm grown plant. Solve over watering by using 100% charcoal. It holds very little water.

Divide the plant if necessary after flowering and new pseudobulb is just visible.

Sources:

<http://orchidlady.com/pages/orchidGarden/Brassia.html>

<http://www.angelfire.com/or3/orchidsnz/scribblings/brassia2.htm>

<http://www.orchidspecies.com/brasverrucosa.htm>

Amherst Orchid society

Show table July 2007

**Maryanne Laukaitis
and**

Mike Walunas

Cool Greenhouse

Aerides odorata

Encyclia belizensis

Epidendrum capricornu

*Cattleya Spotted Gem 'Snow
Leopard'*

Steve Steiner

Cool to intermediate Greenhouse

Dendrochilum filiforme

Odontoglossum harryanum

Paph. Bernice 'Lyretail' HCC/AOS

Paph. Yellow Tiger

Pleurothallis convallaria



Propetallum mathina 'Elizabeth'

Marge Tanguay

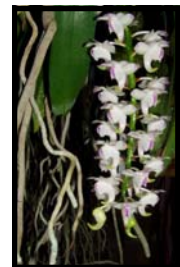
Intermediate Greenhouse

Bc. Hippodarnia (C. aclandiae X B. nodosa)

Colmanara Wildcat 'Patite Sirah'

Oncidium Sherry Baby

Phrag. Paul Eugene Conroy Longifolium X wallisii



To find the bylaws of the Amherst Orchid Society go to: www.larchhillorchids.com and click on Amherst Orchid Society and then bylaws.

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Amherst Orchid Society
2007 Upcoming Events

- Sept 16:** Annual Plant Sale at Hadley Garden Center, RT 9, Hadley, MA
Oct 13: Mid Hudson Orchid Society Show and Sale, Newburgh, NY
Oct 21: Monthly Meeting, Membership renewal month

Note to Members: Submissions for the October, 2007 newsletter must reach the editor by September 26, 2007 to be printed.

AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY
MONTHLY MEETING

Our monthly meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month except the month of August. Most of the meetings (except June and July) are held at the Munson Memorial library in South Amherst at 1046 South East St. next to the Congregational church. Meetings start at 2 pm with beginner programs some months at 1:30 pm.



The Greater Whorled Pogonia
Official Flower of the Club

Carol Mentos, Editor
783 Southeast Street
Amherst, MA 01002

NEXT MEETING:
ANNUAL PLANT SALE
Sunday, September 16th, 2007
Hadley Garden Center
Rt 9, Hadley, MA
Bring your plants to sell. How to prepare your plants for the sale are in the newsletter.