



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

Volume 16, Issue 2

February, 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

I am writing to you from the New Hampshire Orchid show, having survived judging Masdevillas, pleurothallids, and other miscellaneous genera (all the plants that have names like diseases, spathagottis and such). I want to give a shout out to two people, one Dr. Steve Steiner, whose knowledge I tap whenever doing this class- and they make me do it all the time! It is because of all those little plant divisions I buy from him that I actually can speak with some intelligence on many of these. The other person is Marc, once again, I hope your ears were burning as I remotely accessed your bulbophyllum intelligence center.

Here is a test, lets see if Marc (or anyone else!) can identify these from my screwy descriptions: One has flowers that look like disarticulated hands, one has flowers that look like they are trying to look like an Angraecum (sort of like how all my 8th graders try to look like Brittany Spears) and one with flowers that looked like the tentacles of an angry octopus, of course they all were 'fragrant'.

One of the reasons I like this show is how many of the club members are visible, and the amount of input they have at the ribbon judging. Those of you who will be on the judging teams will be as involved, and although tiring, it is an excellent experience. I look forward to seeing all of you at our show, in some capacity from **show worker to cheering squad**. I have the postcards, if there is a place you would like to see them, or people to whom they should be sent shoot me an email or call and leave a message. 413 369 8070 or E832847@aol.com. I have them strategically placed all over the NH show.

My students who have done artwork will be coming to set up their display, any ideas on how best to set that up? The pieces are a mix of watercolor, pastel, and pencil. Some are mounted, some are not, and none are framed. We have the trellis coming to hang them from, but I am still unclear how we are going to make them look their best.

Another thing I am looking for help with is the number of long time members who have **NOT** paid this year's dues. Due to our costs for sending out the newsletter, those people are being removed from the lists. I KNOW that for some of you it has nothing to do with leaving the club, it might be a cost concern, or no time to attend the meetings. Please feel comfortable to call me and discuss your situation.

For those of you who know you are coming to the show, take a moment and pay your dues. I occasionally scrutinize the clubs to whom I pay dues, and consider the value. Your dues are what make it possible for us to continue our mission of conservation and education. It is an affordable way for each of us to make a difference, both for local orchids and worldwide conservation.

As a last note, our show is our **BEST single** place to acquire new members. Signing up to be available at the welcome table to talk to potential victims, I mean members, is a vital job. If you only have a small amount of time, or a

health issue that prevents you from another task, this is a job for you. It requires only a small time commitment and is a job best shared by many. Last year our welcome wagon handed out forms, took people through the vendors and answered questions. If you know you are coming to the show as part of the cheering squad, please devote a few minutes to our welcome table.

On set up day I will have a list of things that need to get done. When you arrive, see what is going on, check the list, put your name alongside the task you have selected and have at it. When that task is completed, check it off. If you think of something I have forgotten, let me know and we shall add it to the list. I trust that you all know how to do things, and do them well. Make good decisions and work as a team, with our combined brain power, we cannot go wrong!

It is all coming together, and again I am so impressed by all we have accomplished. To those of you who have already contacted me, made visuals, offered to do talks, and signed up to participate, you are AMAZING. Keep up the great work, can't wait to see you there,

Ellen

February Show By Nancy Goodman

The set up for the displays will begin at 9 am on Thursday. The drop off time for plants is at 10:30 am. If you are going to be coming to help with early set up you can bring your plants at that time. We need **EVERYONE'S** plants. We need all that we can get. Bring in anything in bloom. The more plants that we have the better. Even if it only has one bloom, bring it. Anyone who grows in the house or under lights and does not think that their plants live up to the greenhouse grown ones, do not worry. You can enter your plants under the windowsill category and you do not have to compete with the greenhouse growers. Just bring in your plants. If you cannot get your plants there on Thursday try and make arrangements with another member to bring your plants. If you do give your plants to another member please make up a list of plants with your name and send this along with your plants so we can keep track of which plants belong to whom at the end of the show. Also do not forget to mark your pots in case the labels disappear. Put your name somewhere unseen on the pot or in the pot. Using a piece of masking tape on the pot is a good way to do this. The names of your plants and the classes you want to enter them in can be emailed to ahead of time to both Nancy Goodman at wildeyes@rcn.com & Ellen Kennedy at E832847@aol.com. See last month's newsletter for directions on how to do this.

On Friday we need all the people who signed up for clerking to arrive promptly at 9:00 am so we can discuss what is expected of you and who will be doing which job. This will also give you time to scope out where the plants are so it will be easier to find during judging.

We do still need **A LOT** of people for the reception table, the babysitting table and for door watchers. We have so many blank spots where no one at all is signed up. See below. We need everyone to give at least 1 hour of his or her time, please try and help. Email me at wildeyes@rcn.com to get the times we need to fill in and to sign up. I will be keeping a list of the volunteers. We need all of the members to help out for the show. All we ask for is one hour from everyone. If you cannot make the show, maybe you can help with set-up or with the many committees we need to get filled. As I stated last month, I will not be there to do much this year and Ellen needs your help she cannot do everything. Please help out the club to make this a good show. This is our club show and everyone

should take pride in it and try to help.

We still also need donations for the raffle table. This is a popular draw for the people entering the show. It is the first thing they see and the more we have the more tickets we can sell. They see the raffle items and buy tickets. It is another good way to raise money at the show. We did get a volunteer for the raffle table, thanks Joe. It might just be easier to let me know if you have an item you want to donate. I will be keeping the master list to give to Joe on Friday. We will need to get the items there by Friday. If you cannot make it you can try and drop off with someone who will be there. Please try and help with this.

Here are the times we really need help during the show.

Saturday- 9-11 am -3 people for door watching

11-1 pm -1 person for door watching

3-4 pm- 3 people for door watching

9-11 am- 1 person for plant babysitting

11-1 pm- 1 person for plant babysitting

2-5 pm - 3-4 people for 1-hour shifts at the reception table. We have 1 person signed up for the whole time period. We need more people.

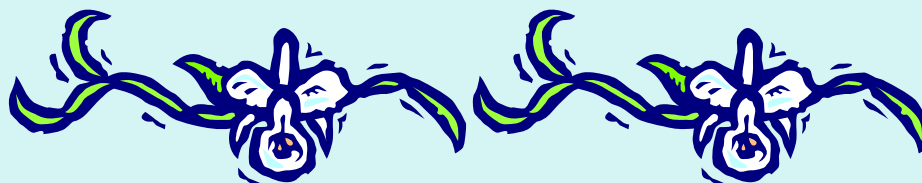
Sunday- 12-2 pm- 3 people for door watching

10-2 pm -1 person for plant babysitting

10-3 pm - 3-4 people for 1 hour shifts at the reception table. We have 1 person signed up for the whole time period. We need more people.

Friday- We need at least 7 more people to help with clerking. This can be a very interesting process to see if you have never done it before. You do not have to have lots of experience to do this. Everyone who tries it always has fun.

If you can help with any of these times please contact Nancy Goodman at wildeyes@rcn.com to let me know and I will add you to the list. You can also call me at 413-549-4521. Thanks.



Feb 2008 show timetable

Thursday Feb 21, 2008

9 am- set up for tables and displays- no plants

10:30 am- you can start to bring in plants after this time.

11 am- donated food needs to be brought in around this time.

6:30 pm- Cut off for the plants to be brought in. No plants allowed after this time.

Friday Feb 22, 2008

9 am- all clerks need to be here at this time. If for some reason you cannot make it you MUST let Ellen Kennedy know at E832847@aol.com or phone [413-369-8070](tel:413-369-8070)

10 am- Judging starts

10 am- food for the judge's lunch needs to be picked up and delivered by this time.

12 noon- lunch for the clerks and judges

1 pm or around then- judging resumes after lunch.

Sat. Feb 23, 2008

8:45 am- Anyone who is signed up for 9 am task, please get there early so you can get you to your spots and have things explained to you BEFORE we open the doors.

9 am – show open to the public

5 pm- show closes

Sun. Feb 24, 2008

9:45 am- Anyone signed up for a task please get there early so you can get you to your spots and have things explained to you BEFORE we open the doors.

10 am- show opens to the public

3:30 PM- Raffle drawing will be done

4 pm- show closes. We need as many people as we can for the take down at this time.

If there are any questions please contact Ellen Kennedy at E832847@aol.com or by phone [413-369-8070](tel:413-369-8070)

Directions to Smith Vo-Ag High School

Location :

Smith Vo-Ag High School

80 Locust Street - Route 9

Northampton, Ma 01060

Directions: NORTH

If you are driving North to Northampton on Rt 91 take exit #19 – go straight thru the intersection onto Damon Rd. Follow that to the next light. Go straight thru the lights onto Bridge Rd. Go up the hill to the light- turn left on Jackson St. At the end of Jackson St. turn right onto Prospect St. Go straight thru the light and Smith Voc. School will be on your left just past the hospital.

Directions: SOUTH

If you are driving South on Rt. 91 take exit #20 –bear right at end of ramp and turn right at the onto Bridge Rd. Go up the hill to the next light. Turn left onto Jackson Street. At the end of Jackson St. turn right onto Prospect Street go up to the next light. Go straight thru light and Smith Voc. School is on the left just past the hospital.

Directions: WEST

If you are driving West towards Northampton on Rt 9. Go thru Hadley and follow Rt 9 over bridge over the Conn. River. Stay in right hand lane and take a right onto Damon Rd. Follow that to the next light. Go straight thru the lights onto Bridge Rd. Go up the hill to the light. Turn left on Jackson St. At the end of Jackson St. turn right onto Prospect St. Go straight thru the light and Smith Voc. School will be on your left just past the hospital.



HELP FOR SHOW

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MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

From now through March 31st, new members can join for \$49.95/yr or \$99.95 for two years. Current members may extend their membership at the \$99.95/2 year rate. While the \$5 rebate to the sponsoring society has been suspended during this promotion, two year extensions or sign ups still receive the \$30 coupon. The website has been updated to reflect these prices so people can sign up through the secure website, call membership at AOS (561-404-2060) or one of the current membership brochures can be used. Just cross out the \$60 and enter the new price. In addition to the obvious benefits of membership like Orchids Magazine, membership in AOS gives our members privileges at over 200 American Horticultural Society member Gardens and Arboreta. This turns out to be, unfortunately, a rather well-kept secret. For a complete list go to:

http://www.ahs.org/pdfs/07/0708_RAP_Brochure.pdf

Plant Table for January

Steve Reardon

sunspace

Dendrobium Ise "Paul" x Ise "Yayoi"

Tom McCurry

lights

Potinara Free Spirit "Miami Sun"

K Howat

windowsill

Paph. primulinum var. purpurata

Stan Buss

windowsill

Oncidium Twinkle "Fragrance Fantasy"

Oncidium Twinkle "Yellow Fantasy"

Bill Benner

windowsill

Oncidium Twinkle "Fragrance Fantasy"

Oncidium Sharry Baby "Short Sharry"

Lepanthopsis astrophora "Stalky"

Brassavola cordata x sib.

Nancy Goodman

sunspace, windowsill

Coelogyne ovalis

Den. Roy Tokunaga

Den. Super Star "Dandy" x Kurenai "Red"

Encyclia cochleata "Spider Hill" Am/AOS x "H&R"

Marc Gray

greenhouse

Phloephila paulensis

Pleurothallis megalops

Pleurothallis ornata (scheidei)

Bill Hutchinson

greenhouse

Dendro Spring Dream "Apollon" (Pat.)

Vanda Ku Hapa Delight x V. Dr. Anders

Den. Himezakura "Sanokku"

Den. Telekon (Den. kingianum x Hilda Papon)

Maryanne Laukaitis

greenhouse

Onc. Twinkle "Fragrance Fantasy"

Zygopetalum mackayii

Miltonidium Hawaiian Sunset

Lc. Angel Heart "Hihimanu"

Steve Steiner

greenhouse

Paph Cardinal x John Hanes

Masdevallia Machu Picchu "Crown Point"

Masd. Copper Angel "Highland"

Masd. mendoza

Restrepia trichoglossa

Restr. contorta

Marge Tanguay

greenhouse

Blc. Herbert Williams Tickner "Talisman Cave"

Cym. Autumn Green

Lc. Summit View

Burregeara Stefan Isler "Lava Flow"

Keith Tibbett

greenhouse

Vanda Princess Blue x Kultana Blue

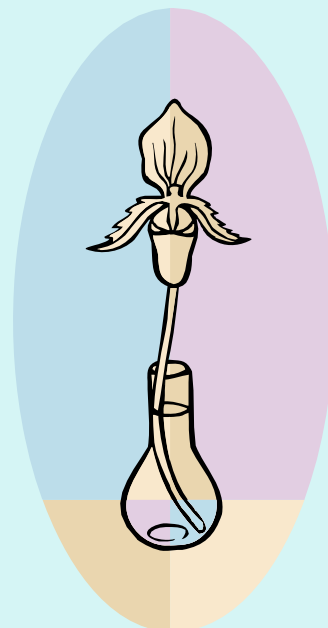
Vanda Kultana Gold x promenpromprai

Ascocenda Kultana x Thang Dee

Rhynchostylis gigantea

Rhynchostylis gigantea (orange var.)

Rhynchostylis gigantea (red var.)





Questions for “ASK BILL” can be given to me at the monthly meetings. 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<. Members are asked to submit questions, preferably in writing. Questions which can’t be answered will receive a plant from the columnist. Or if you do have a question and corner me at a meeting don’t be surprised to see it in a later “Ask Bill” column. Something which you might feel is a silly question could well be one that is bugging a dozen other members.

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. In my classroom we have set up a vermiform composter to compost food scrapes from our food labs. During the summers I care for them in my basement. Several summers ago I decided to use some of the finished compost to feed my orchids. I remember my lesson in science about how worms procreate but must have fallen asleep during the part about what baby worms look like and some of the baby worms must have been deposited along with the compost. Now several years later they have adapted to their new home and are increasing in numbers. My question is, “Will the worms hurt the roots of the plants? I have not yet seen any stress on my plants”.

A. First a little more biology. Baby worms, perhaps you missed the part on worm eggs which are small and spherical of rather small size. If you read “Wild Trees” by Preston you will find all kinds of organisms living in 300 foot Redwoods. Any place where there is moisture and some organic debris all sorts of things live. I don’t know if any papers have been published about the organisms living in the duff and other material which collect around the roots of epiphyte but it would not surprise me that worms, Annelida, were to be found in some cases.

You have already noted no apparent stress and I can expand your data base on your worms, not to be confused with nematode worms, and point out they typically feed on dead organic debris hence your use of them in garbage composting. I might suggest that you do not let the debris build up too much and about the only thing I can see is that your media might be broken down somewhat faster than normal.

Q. How do I get plants (Phals, Onc, Milt, etc) to throw more than one spike? What are some of the ways to get plants with multiple leads?

A. When buying a plant look for select plants with multiple leads, large health leaves as well as good flower form. Then you need to develop good culture and allow the plant to grow larger. As part of the good culture you need to make judgment calls on when a plant should be divided. If you are growing show plants you also need to keep the growth to one plant since multiple plants grown to give multiple blooms is a no no.

Q. Can anyone give an orchid a clonal name?

A. If you wish to have a bone fide name then there is a specific registration process carried out via the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) in England. To have a recognized clonal name an awarded plant is an accepted route. Dr. West can fill you in on the details since he has several which have been qualified.

Q. What good surfactant or wetting agent, safe to orchids that will keep sphagnum moss from becoming water repellent.

A. I have never had the problem of sphagnum becoming water repellent once it has been wetted sufficiently. Hard and closely packed moss will seem to repel water and some loosening of the moss will minimize such reaction. If you still wish to use a surfactant, carbon tergitol is a standard wetting agent used in the laboratory. Other soaps, and perhaps Safer soap® should suffice. Note, I did not state detergents, since they have a sulfonyl group and I am not sure if the plants will react to such a combination. Some addition of the silica gel flakes in the moss could help to retain water. You also should be aware that wetted sphagnum will hold up to 350 % of its weight in water so what feels somewhat dry may have a surprising amount of moisture.

Q. I saw a nature video recently that showed how white fungal threads intertwined with tree roots, which was said to increase the surface area through which the plant can absorb H₂O and nutrients. My question is: Do fungi have this kind of relationship with orchid roots too?

A. What you are speaking about is the relationship of fungal mycelia with respect to plant roots. This is a complex topic and there are indeed several types of similar mycorrhizal association throughout the plant kingdom including many cryptogamic types such as lichens. The fungus does get moisture but more importantly some level of nutrition. In return the fungus compounds some metabolic elements important to the plant. As a case in point: Many years ago some parts of England had the forests cut down for fuel and agriculture and several centuries later when the government replanted the same trees they struggled to grow and very few survived more than several years. When trees were replanted with a small amount of soil taken from a region where they still grew, the seedling took off and formed a healthy thriving potential forest. On examination, the roots of the seedlings had become 'infected' with a fungus and formed a very unique root structure characteristic of mycorrhizal associations. In nature orchid seed have been shown to form similar relationship and as the plant matures the fungal element becomes an unseen but essential part of the root structure. In more mature plants the question becomes: Is it more important to the fungus that the orchid roots provides a safe haven or is it like the beech trees in England where the presence of the fungus is essential to the plant at all stages. This a somewhat open question and honestly I have not kept abreast of the recent literature.

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
2008 Upcoming Events**

Feb 21-24 Amherst Orchid Society Annual Show

Note to Members: Submissions for the March, 2008 newsletter must reach the editor by March 3, 2008 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

**Feb 21-24 Amherst Orchid Society
Annual Show**

**There will NOT be a February meeting
due to the show.**