



*The Greater Whorled Pagonia
Official Flower of the Club*

Newsletter of the

AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

An affiliate of the American Orchid Society

wa.hutchinson@comcast.net

Volume 14 Issue 1

January, 2006

December Meeting

By Karen Howat and Carol Mentos

A significant number gathered for our traditional holiday potluck, some tentatively, some with apprehension, and some totally ignorant of the situation prevailing within our group. People pattered about with their usual holiday cheer laying out a spread of tempting food, and admiring the display table as the members one by one brought in their blooming orchids.

The meeting came to order, and Marc and Nancy took turns trying diplomatically to address the situation at hand. Nancy announced her resignation and those out of the electronic loop expressed their surprise and requested explanation. The explanation proved to be emotionally difficult, and Nancy felt compelled to leave. This resulted in the declaration by Marc that the February Show could not go on, because he could not do it alone. Ellen Kennedy pointed out that a very small number of people have been doing the work that lets the club have its shows. A number of people stepped forward to help pick up the pieces and it now seems possible that the show will go on. If you can offer an hour or two, whether during the show or before helping to prepare, please call Marc Gray at (802) 348-7782, leave a message and he'll call you back or send an email to him at orchids@together.net. Ellen will be doing some advertising by placing flyers and blooming plants in various doctor's offices. She was voted \$150 to help with the cost.

After the club business closed Mike Sheridan of Wickford Orchids stepped forward to wish the club well in getting over this difficult patch. He also said very nice things about the unusually fine quality that our small club manages in our shows.

Then we all got on with eating, buying new plants because Mike was not the only one to bring plants for sale, and enjoying Bill's information on the plants of the display table. May the New Year bring a good new beginning.

We will be having Bill Cullina of New England Wildflower Society at our January meeting talking on 'Understanding Native Ladyslipper Orchids'. This should be a great program. And for anyone not familiar with any of Bill's work he had written 3 books for NEWFS. His first book was on Native Wildflowers and the second was on Native Trees, Shrubs & Vines. His latest book on Orchids is a great book if you have not seen it. He had in the past been a member of the Conn. Orchid society and has been friends with some of the great growers from that area and in the country. So I urge all of you to make the Jan. meeting a priority.

Message To The Members

Nancy Goodman

As of December I have resigned from my positions of Vice President and the Show Committee. It is time for me to move on right now and I will miss many of you. I will still be involved somewhat with the club, but it is time for a change. Thanks for all the good times.

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Since I will no longer be at many of the meetings the club will need to have someone to take over these duties. Please feel free to contact me (Nancy Goodman) with any questions at wildeyes@rcn.com or if you want to volunteer for this contact Marc Gray at orchids@together.net . The duties will include.

1. Doing up the monthly write-up of the meetings describing what was discussed and what went on at the meeting. If you cannot make the meeting you will need to find someone willing to fill in for this.
2. Write up a little blurb on the next month's beginners program. To include a description of the program and where and when it will be held. This information can be gotten from Verda Dale.
3. Write up what program is being offered for the next month or a description of what will be going on at the next meeting. Need to include what is happening at what time and where.
4. Make sure that we will have some type of plant of the month write up in the newsletter. Or some other type of write-up that the members will enjoy.
5. Make sure that the display table write up is done each meeting. Two others share this responsibility and if neither of them is at the meeting you will need to either do up the write-up or find someone else to do it.

Now more than one member can share these responsibilities, but one person should oversee it just to make sure everything gets to the newsletter editor on time. Also if I am at a meeting I can do the monthly write-up if needed.

Orchid T-shirt Order

We will be doing up the prepaid t-shirt order as we discussed at the December meeting. For those of you who had put your names down on the list you need to pay to get the shirts. If we do not get a payment from you we will not be ordering your shirt. The costs will be short-sleeved shirts \$12, long sleeved shirts \$15 and sweatshirts are \$20. We will need the payment no later than the Jan. meeting if you want to try and have them for the show. We can always order more at a later date. Any questions please contact Ellen Kennedy at E832847@aol.com or 413-369-8070.

FEBRUARY SHOW NEWS

JOBS NEEDED TO BE FILLED FOR THE 2006 SHOW

These are the jobs we need people to volunteer for to have the show run smoothly. These jobs are one's I did when I was on the show committee that I will no longer be doing this year. The more people who can do these jobs the less each person will be responsible for. If you share these jobs between all the members, the amount of time each person needs to do will be much easier. If you have any questions about these jobs feel free to contact Nancy Goodman at wildeyes@rcn.com or call me at 413-549-4521. Or contact Marc Gray at orchids@together.net

1. Food Table for the show-

- Must make sure the coolers are kept filled with drinks during the whole show, making sure that the ice is also refilled as needed.
- Must empty the melted water in the coolers everyday and refill with ice every morning before the show opens. See Janitors.
- Make sure any of the food items are kept cold and not left out for long periods of time. Have the cooler to put them in and then store the extra food in the refrigerators in the back cafeteria every night. See Janitor to get in.
- Must take out the food every day and to get replacement food as needed from members donations. Must be checked every day.
- Need to get 3 meat/ cheese platters for the Judges lunch on Friday to be there by 11 am on Friday.
- Need to get soda and deserts and chips for the Judges lunch on Friday by 11 am.
- Need at least 3 coolers for the food and drink for the show. Marc usually brings a very large cooler, but you will still need at least 3 others for the food and extra drinks.

2. Signs being put out-

- Need to make sure the 3 signs that stick in the ground are picked up from the library and are put out first thing Sat morning, before 9 am.
- Make sure the large sign is going to be put up for Thursday to Sunday with dates and times. See Roger West.
- On Thursday after the cloth is put on the tables the names of each vendor display table owner is put out so they know which table is theirs so they can set up their plants.
- All the signs for doors, bathrooms, vendors, babysitter, not an exit, etc. are put up Friday before or after the judging is over.

3. Cloth set-up for the display and vendor tables- We need someone to be there first thing Thursday morning to put the cloth on the tables after they are set up. The cloth cannot be cut to fit the tables. The pieces work as they are and just need to find which ones fit which tables. The long pieces need to be kept for the vendor tables and the reception tables.

4. Raffle Table-

- Need to set up the raffle table Friday and secure the items against theft.
- Get the plant donations from the vendors and record the names and who donated them.
- Need to keep a master list of all donations of plants and other raffle items to use for the drawing at the end of the show. Need to know who won what so they can be delivered to winners.
- Announce and do the raffle drawing on Sunday at 3:30 pm. Make sure the master list is updated at the time of the drawing to reflect who won each prize.
- Make sure that all the won prizes are gotten to the winners either by mailing or having them pick them up. Using the master list to call from.

5. Volunteer Overseer for Reception Table & Door Watchers- To make sure we have enough people to be at these jobs and to make sure everything is running smoothly. Also need to make sure the people get a break to eat lunch and for other reasons.

6. Program/ clinic announcer and setup- We need someone to announce when the clinic is going to start, 5 mins before it start. Also to remind the person giving the clinic 15 mins prior to the start of the clinic. You will also need to have the signs and table set up for the clinic on Friday afternoon after the judging is done.

7. Volunteer to help the vendors to get food and to take a break from their selling tables. This person will make sure that the vendors, especially ones who do not have help, get a chance to eat and take bathroom breaks etc.

8. Set-up person for the Display and Vendor Tables following the floor plan done by the show committee first thing Thursday morning. This person needs to make sure all the tables are set up following the floor plan, before the cloth can be put on the tables.

9. Someone to pick up all the supplies at the library- All the boxes at the library need to be picked up at the Library and be brought to the show. These include the following:

- All the Coffee and Tea / Hospitality stuff including the coffee pot, needs to be picked up. This is about 4 boxes of items. Any items that are running low need to be replenished for the show.
- All the boxes containing the cloth for the tables and the curtains need to be picked up. There are approx 6 large boxes.
- All the boxes for the judging need to be picked up, including the judging tags, Ribbons, and the tag maker.
- The 3 stick in the ground signs need to be picked up.
- All the nametags in the black box need to be picked up.
- Three boxes with the glass raffle containers and the award pots need to be picked up.
- The boxes with the clipboards and other items for the show need to be picked up. There are approx. 2-3 boxes.

DISPLAY TABLES FOR THE SHOW

Anyone who wishes to do up a display for the February show must contact Marc to let him know what you need for size and if you want to do a floor or table top (single or double) display. Please let me know before Mid January at the latest. We need to do up the floor plan and the sooner we know the better.

Marc Gray
orchids@together.net

ASK BILL

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 at 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. Currently not active.

Q. How do I get my cymbidiums to bloom? They used to bloom reliably, then I moved to a new house and they stopped, what's up? My old house was drafty and uncomfortable but with good light. My new house has good light too but is much cozier and comfortable. I'm happier here, why aren't my cymbidiums? Harpo.

A. The differences you've noted between the previous situation and the current situation is the key. Cymbidiums are native to high mountain meadows and often grow on grass tussocks and have been found covered with snow. If you talk to cymbidium growers in the Northeast you'll find that they put their plants out in early in April, if possible by April Fool's Day, cover them overnight if low temps are forecast and leave them outside until late October, bringing them in when a freeze is forecast. Note, a frost is temps at or near 32° F while a freeze is 25 - 27° F. Then keep them in the coolest surroundings possible. Your results should be much better. NB Mine are just beginning to show spikes for spring bloom.

Q. My Blc's have put out numerous buds on the sunny side by the window, but they seem to be sitting in limbo and not blooming. The buds and plants look very healthy just no progress towards flowers. It's like they went into bud and then went into suspended animation for a couple of months. Can I do anything to move them along to flower? Are they going to die? Why the limbo? Keith Frank

A. First a question: Are what you're getting buds or sheaths? It is usual for most members of the Cattleya alliance to first develop sheaths and have the buds develop inside. Occasionally there are some plants where the new growths develop buds directly but more often they form a leaf like sheath to protect the buds as they develop. Some crosses and species a double sheathed and the bud often has a harder time to emerge. Some species and crosses will have the sheath dry up and then all of a sudden 'leap into bloom'. A caveat of sheaths in bright sunny exposures is for condensation to occur and then cause bud rot. As a sheath matures its upper margin opens slightly to allow water vapors to escape. It is often a good idea to be sure the sheath is slightly open. Finally, many plants form sheaths and then just sit there for several weeks or months before the buds emerge and open. Right now you can go up and down the rows in my greenhouse and see all these differing conditions. Sometime, but not always a jolt of cooler conditions will stimulate flowering or elevating the temperature around the plant. This is why record keeping is so important in developing the best cultural conditions. Why don't we have specific criteria for jolting the plants out of limbo? Growers with many plants always have enough in flower that they do not want to spend time and money studying the question.

Q. What are bark mites as seen in Hawaiian plants?

A. You almost had me there. I called in a dozen or so makers and couldn't get an answer. Part of the problem was the name since the mites in question are not necessarily Hawaiian mites but are in all probability are "Hard mites" which infest old bark and live on decaying organic matter. They are somewhat larger than spider mites and often flush out of the system when watering. Much like the insects that 'Freddie' Robertson had at the last meeting. Treatment is to flush through with a miticide. While they may nibble a root or two their main diet is old disintegrating bark. When repotting clean all old potting material from plant and use fresh bark in clean or new pots.

Q. What are intergenerics such as those in Masdevallias and Miltonias?

A. First the easy part. The term intergeneric means between genera. One of the ways to determine if organisms are

closely related is to cross them. In the hierarchy of plant taxonomy genera within a family are closely related but have enough differences in floral structure and the like, at least morphologically so with examination they can be distinguished. If I were to cross a *Cattleya* with a *Miltonia* there is a very strong probability that I will obtain viable seed even though the flowers may wilt and exhibit signs of having been pollinated. On the other hand *Cattleya* and *Laelia* will produce viable seed and hence are related and will produce a bigeneric cross listed as Lc or *Laeliocattelya*. I've made intergeneric crosses by crossing *Masdevallia* with *Dracula* but after 10 years have yet to see a flower. These *Dracavallia* crosses can be purchased from Hoosier Orchids and several other growers, but all I can tell you is that those I bought from them have also yet to flower. *Miltonia* intergenerics are a current explosive area of breeding and I have to say I'm waiting for the dust to settle a little bit. Some of the crosses are spectacular others are real challenges and others are busts like the classic breeding exercise for plant breeders of crossing radishes with cabbage (which is easily done and not a figment of someone's imagination). The problem is you get the root of the cabbage and the leaves of the radish. With that said I also note that more and more of the latter intergenerics are showing up on the show table. Make notes and if you like it corner the grower and try a little Yankee swapping! Other multigeneric crosses are found between the Oncidinae. Some of these are spectacular, but not always. I have an interspecies cross between *Oncidium biconiense* and *Oncidium cordatum* and like the radish cross I get a very tall spike, up to three feet, with very small flowers.

December Display Table

Harpo LaVersa

windowsill
Epidendrum fragrans

Carol Mentos

lights
L. anceps

Roger West

greenhouse
Blc. South Ghyll "Limerick"

Leilani & Harold Norman

greenhouse
Lockhartia lunifera
Paph. Sugar Suite (hangianum x niveum)

Bob Simon

greenhouse
Bllra. Tropical Splendor
Vanda Boonchoo x cerulea

M. Trybus

greenhouse
Paph. (Carlwin x Red Noche[Hochiel?

tag faded) x Paph. (WN Evans x Winston Churchill)
Paph. wardii x Vintner's Treasure
Paph. Julia Bell (fairieanum x wardii)

Marc Gray

greenhouse
Brassavola Little Stars
Brs. varicosa x gireoudiana "Town Hill"
Dend. cobbianum
Paph. sukhakulii "Wayfast" x P. Red Start "Lane End"
Oda. Red Shine "Vibrant" x Wils. Jean Du Pont "Red Delicious"

Bill Hutchinson

greenhouse
Den. Pixie Stripes (Mary Lee x canaliculatum)
Den. Telekon (Den. kingianum x Hilda Papon)
L. perrinii
Paph. Ballet Girl "Butterfly" x spicerianum "Maluku"
Paph. Nightfire x charlesworthii
Pleuro. truncata

Restrepia pelyx
Pot. (C. Horace x mem Jim Nickou)

David Walker

greenhouse
Angraecum eburneum v. superbum
Bulbo. fascinator
Laelia anceps v. delicata
Lc. Stonehouse
Ludisia discolour
Milt. warscewiczii
Paph. Macabre "Dracula" x Paph. Macabre "Dr. Death"
Paph. (Mildred Hunter X (Virginia City X Winston Churchill))
Paph. spicerianum
Schomb. undulata
Vanda Numancia Figueredo x v. Summon Sophonsiri [two plants - one plaqued]

Note to Members

The club voted unanimously to give Ellen Kennedy the \$150 as requested for advertising expenses and promotion for the 2006 show.

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

PRESIDENT
Marc Gray
P.O. Box 73
Williamsville, VT 05362
orchids@together.net
802-348-7782

VICE PRESIDENT
Nancy Goodman
429 River Drive
Hadley, MA 01035
wildeyes@rcn.com
413-549-4521

TREASURER
Jane Peirce
64 South Shore Dr
Orange, MA 01364

ASSISTANT TREASURER
Lynn Reynolds
62 East Taylor Hill Rd
Montague, MA 01351

RECORDING SECRETARY
Lynn Vennell
31 Greenwich Rd
Amherst, MA 01002

LIBRARIAN
Robert Simon
23 Caraville Dr
Longmeadow, MA 01106

PROGRAM CHAIR
Marc Gray
SHOW COMMITTEE
Marc Gray (Chair)
Nancy Goodman
Steve Reardon
157 Shea Rd
West Brookfield, MA 01585

MEMBERSHIP
Jim Cotanche
85 Cherry Lane
Amherst, MA 01002

CONSERVATION CHAIR
John Varner
54 Jeffrey Lane
Amherst, MA 01002

AOS REPRESENTATIVE
Harold Norman
7 Maple St
Monson, MA 01057

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Leilani Norman
7 Maple St
Monson, MA 01057

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Carol Mentos
783 Southeast St
Amherst, MA 01002
Seacrab866@aol.com

Amherst Orchid Society **2006 Upcoming Events**

January 15, 2006- January Meeting

February 18-19, 2006– N. H. Orchid Society 15th Annual Show & Sale
Sat 9-6, Sun 9-4
Crowne Plaza Hotel
2 Somerset Parkway
Nashua, N.H.

February 23-25, 2006– Amherst Orchid Society Annual Show

Note to Members: Submissions for the February, 2006 newsletter must reach the editor by January 27, 2006 to be printed.



The Greater Wooded Pagonia
Official Flower of the Club

Carol Mentos, Editor
783 Southeast Street
Amherst, MA 01002

NEXT MEETING: January 15, 2006 at the Munson Library in Amherst, Ma. Bill Cullina of the New England Wildflower Society will be speaking on 'Understanding Native Ladyslipper Orchids'.

January Beginners Program: Marjorie Tanguay will be doing a talk on how to grow Phalaenopsis. The talk will be at 1:30 pm upstairs.

Refreshments

If your last name begins with A, B, C, or D it is your turn to bring refreshments to the next meeting.