



*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 15 Issue 1

January, 2007

## DECEMBER MEETING

*By Kevin English*

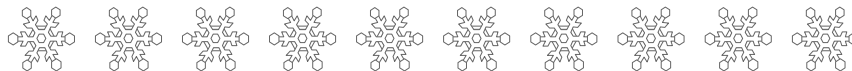
### Happy New Year!

The minutes of our last meeting were 1, 2, 3, etc., ok enough of that. It was a very interesting meeting, encompassing lots of work type items with several important features. First, there was an absolutely beautiful plant display, and a great table presentation by Steve and Roger. The colors and aromas were cherishing. The condition of the plants AAA plus. Kudos to all who presented, Dave and Marge of note and I mean to leave no one out, Thank You everyone. Second, one fantastic food table was exhibited proving beyond doubt that we have a multi-talented membership. The variety of tastes really did reflect the festivity of the Christmas/Chanukah season and the food was awesome to eat. Thanks again to all our orchidio-culinists for the treat. And third, there was a serious and fruitful business meeting.

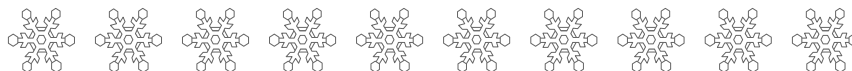
The main business item discussed was the date of our next show. The clashing dates with NH led to a discussion. The need for judges, and reduced regional competition of shows has created a need for our winter show to be changed to November. The benefits of the show's move will be the care of the previously mentioned items and some individual notoriety for our group, which we feel is being ignored. The drawbacks are the possible loss of our loyal followers who are used to the winter show, and also the question of "What the hell flowers in November?" There was a hand vote to the unanimous for the change, citing adaptability to survive, albeit the story of the orchid itself. The unanimous vote was almost overridden by a nay vote from Verda but she did say OK towards the end. "Don't worry Verda, Well get em."

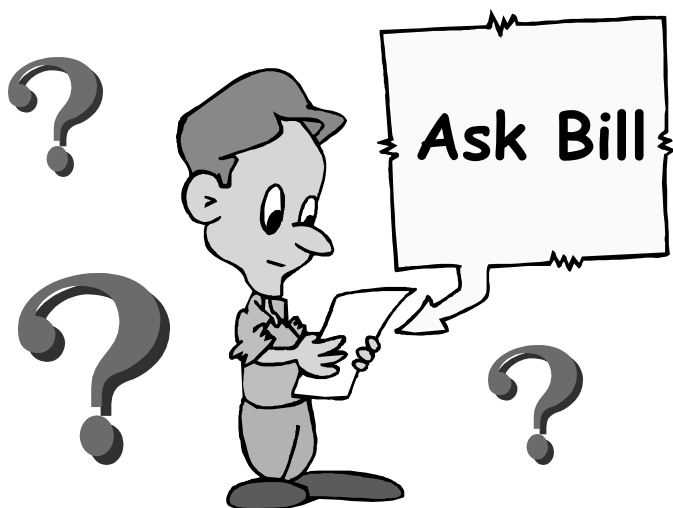
There still is the possibility of doing a plant sale in the winter, as opposed to a show and maybe doing this can help increase revenues for the club. Also, our Prez., Ellen, feels that our show is the best in the region and the separation by time frame may begin to reflect this fact to the American orchid world as well. We should be able to prove highly competitive under any circumstances.

I'll stop with the verbiage now but I really did enjoy the meeting and a healthy and joyful 2007 to you all. Any knowledge of fall bloomers will be in the next issue. "Preps will begin!"



We would like to introduce to the Amherst Orchid Society our new members, Thomas McCurry and Bruce Lockhart! Welcome!





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](http://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 Our well water has been tested and found very acidic (pH5.6).\* In order to correct this situation which is leaching our copper pipes and causing green staining in sinks and tubs, it has been suggested that we install a water conditioner that would bring the pH up to normal by adding calcium carbonate to the water. My question is twofold:

- How harmful is acidic water to my orchid plants
- Would the addition of calcium carbonate be harmful to my orchid plants?

I have moderate success growing on windowsills but am in the process of installing a greenhouse and would like to correct the situation of the acidic water now if it is advisable.

A In considering your questions there are a number of possible answers. One how serious is the corrosion of your copper tubing? If it is very serious then the change in your water pH is essential to prevent the deterioration of your water delivery system. With that out of the way the question of pH on orchids can be considered. The pH at which orchids will grow ranges from pH 4 to pH 8. \*Note that the numbers used to measure pH (pressure of the  $[H]^+$  (hydrogen ion concentration) are geometric and not arithmetic, so an increase from pH 4 to pH 5 is a ten fold increase not a one fold increase and the symbols are always used with the numbers and the p is always lower case since it stands for the mathematical symbol of `molecular' pressure and the H is always upper case since it stands for the element hydrogen. The math gets a little more complex and uses logarithmic computation. With that out of the way several things can be use to minimize pH affect. New media is often very acidic and a small application of ground limestone can help. If your new roots come out and immediately turn a burnt brown the media pH is too acidic and a limestone application will help. Lee ground limestone is dolmitic and will provide both calcium and magnesium ions.

The addition of calcium carbonate from a water treatment system will within reason do much the same thing as adding limestone although you will need to keep an eye on salt build up on your media. I would also suggest that you pre-test any water soluble fertilizer before treating your plants with the solution. Wash through with watering or rain-water may minimize such salt build up.

## December ShowTable

**Bill Arduser**

Windowsill Warm

*Hawkinsara Hoaku Sunset 'Hawaii'**Phal. bellina 'Norman' X Phal. belina 'Poyan'***Bill Benner**

Windowsill Intermediate

*Oncidium Gower Ramsay 'Volcano Queen'***Nancy Goodman**

Sunspace

*Oncidium Twinkle X Ornithorhyncum**Ascocentrum Princess Mikasa 'Soon Tarn' Am/AOS***Marc Gray**

Greenhouse Warm

*Sarcoglottis speciosa**Dendrochilum cootsii**Calanthe St. Aubin X Calanthe Groveville***Karen Howat**

Windowsill Intermediate

*Stenoglottis longifolium**Polystachia piersii**Lc. Mini Purple*

Windowsill Cool

*Paphiopedilum "Shireen"***Ellen Kennedy**

Windowsill

*Paphiopedilum Maudiea X Paph. Pulsar**Phragmepedium Living Fire 3N Apprentice X beseiae***Maryanne Laukaitis**

Greenhouse Cool

*Oncidium Twinkle "Fragrance Fantasy"***Janet Price**

Lights Intermediate

*Sc. India Rose Sherwood**Cattleya Lynn Spencer – walkeriana 'Seashell' X Brassavola perrinii**Paphiopedilum spicerianum***Steve Reardon**

Sunspace Cool

*Mediocalcar decorate***Steve Steiner**

Greenhouse Cool - Intermediate

*Amesiella philippinensis**Blc. King George 'Serendipity'**Encyclia dichromum**Masdevallia Redwing**Masdevallia Copper Angel triangularis X vietchiana**Masdevalli strobilii**Masdevallia Pacific Gold 'Burnt Orange'**Maxillaria letodota**Neolauchia pullechella**Pleurothallis megalops**Restrepia sp. Paute, Ecuador**Restrepia contorta**Restrepia cuprea***Marge Tanguay**

Greenhouse Intermediate

*Blc Erin Kobayashi 'Lahaina Gold' Am/AOS**Blc. Greenwich 'Elmburt'**Lc Mari's Song HCC/AOS**Oncidium ornithorhynchum**Paphiopedilum marita**Oncidium Aloha Sunshine 'Black Hole'**Oncidium Sweet Sugar 'Emperor' (Aloha X O. varicosum)**Zygopetalum Kiwi Geysler 'Medndenhall'***Keith Tibbets**

Greenhouse Intermediate

*Zygopetalum mackii***Mike Trybus**

Greenhouse Intermediate

*Paphiopedilum wardii X vintners Treasures***David Walker**

Greenhouse

*Aerides odorandii**Brassavola digbyana**Bakeria luminii**Cattleya Stephen Isler**Cattelya Olsen X C. Eva Patterson**C. Mary Tyler X C. amethystoglossa**Epidendrum ciliare 'Ostedii'**Laelia canariensis**Paphiopedilum spicerianum**Paphiopedilum Maudiea 'The Queen' AM/AOS**Pelantenthera insectifera**Schomberkia Welsley**Slc. Kermit*

### LONGWOOD GARDEN TRIP

Sat March 31st & Sun April 1st

If you have never been to Longwood Gardens this is your chance to experience one of the greatest gardens in the world. They have built a new conservatory that just opened last year and the orchid show with about 26 vendors should be spectacular!! We will stay at the Brandywine Valley Inn in Wilmington, Delaware. It is a package deal that gives us a room, continental breakfast, and a ticket to Longwood Gardens, tax included. Please note that only breakfast is included in the price. You are responsible for all other meals while on the trip the prices are as follows:

**Single-\$201.00 Double-\$151.00 Triple-\$134.00**

This rate is based on thirty people signing up. If we have less than thirty sign up the bus rate will go up accordingly.

I will need a deposit check for \$89.00 at the next meeting. That covers all bus expenses-drivers room, bus, and drivers tip. The rest is your room expense which will be due when we leave the hotel. Please make checks payable to the **AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**. Our new treasurer, Steve Reardon, has graciously offered to do the finances for us. Thank you, Steve.

Any questions please call Nancy Wight at 584-1733; on weekends at 549-0860.

### T-SHIRTS

The first T-shirt order is here. You need to contact Ellen Kennedy at email E832847@aol.com or 413-369-8070. Leave a message.

A second order can be done as soon as enough orders and money are received. Contact Ellen Kennedy to order a T-shirt. The order will not be put in until the money is paid up front.

### BEGINNER PROGRAMS

As of January I have taken over the beginners programs. I will not be doing one for January since there was not enough time to set one up. I will be starting it at the February meeting. Please let me know what subjects you would be interested in. The more ideas you give to me the more variety we can have. You can contact me, Nancy Goodman, at [wildeyes@rcn.com](mailto:wildeyes@rcn.com) or talk to me at the meetings.

### NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT

An announcement to any members who have not paid their dues by January 1, 2007. The February newsletter will be the last one you will receive. Any unpaid members as of the February newsletter will get a label on their newsletter saying it will be their last one. If by some chance you get a label on your newsletter and have paid your dues please contact Nancy Goodman at [wildeyes@rcn.com](mailto:wildeyes@rcn.com)

Green River Orchids (formerly D and J Orchids) is open to the public and would like to offer the club members the chance to see it first. I have about 9000 sq feet of greenhouse space and have 35,000-40,000 orchids. I have 3 greenhouses, 2 of which are at 37 Green River Rd. in Greenfield and a 120' greenhouse in Deerfield as well. I have been a busy man and I now grow and sell orchids full time. I now flask all of my own seed pods and am in the process of doing my own meri-cloning. Yea, pretty neat!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thanks to the help and teachings of a very well known man in the hybridizing world.

All in all, I am going at this business full speed ahead. I am doing 6 shows this year, 5 of which I will be vending at. I am open 7 days a week, but advise to call in advance to make sure I am here. My # is 413-824-7881.

David Walker

To find the bylaws of the Amherst Orchid Society go to: [www.larchhillorchids.com](http://www.larchhillorchids.com) and click on Amherst Orchid Society and then bylaws.

**PRESIDENT**

Ellen Kennedy  
1326 Whately Rd  
Conway, MA 01341  
E832847@aol.com

**CO-VICE PRESIDENTS**

Carol Mentos  
783 Southeast St  
Amherst, MA 01002

Kevin English  
P.O. Box 9602  
North Amherst, MA 01059  
Kenga11233@aol.com

**TREASURER**

Steve Reardon  
157 Shea Rd  
West Brookfield, MA 01585

**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**

Leilani Norman  
7 Maple St  
Monson, MA 01057

**DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Jim Cotanche

Lynn Reynolds

Marc Gray

[orchids@together.net](mailto:orchids@together.net)

**MEMBERSHIP**

Marion Jackman  
PO Box 92  
Leicester, MA 01524

**CONSERVATION CHAIR**

Kim Nyiri  
41 A Revere Circle  
Greenfield, MA 01301

**AOS REPRESENTATIVE**

Harold Norman  
7 Maple St  
Monson, MA 01057

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Leilani Norman

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Carol Mentos  
[Seacrab866@aol.com](mailto:Seacrab866@aol.com)

**Amherst Orchid Society**  
**2007 Upcoming Events**

**January 21** Amherst Orchid Society Monthly Meeting at 2pm

**March 31-** Longwood Garden trip with the  
**April 1** Amherst Orchid Society

Note to Members: Submissions for the February, 2007 newsletter must reach the editor by January 31, 2007 to be printed.

**AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**

Our monthly meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Pagonia*  
*Official Flower of the Club*

Carol Mentos, Editor  
783 Southeast Street  
Amherst, MA 01002

**NEXT MEETING:**

Sunday, January 21st at 2pm at the Munson Library on Southeast St in Amherst. There will be a slide presentation from Orchid Digest titled "Forty Species Everyone Should Have in Their Greenhouses" by Fordyce "Red" Marsh.

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