



*The Greater Whorled Pogonia*

*Official Flower of the Club*

*Newsletter of the*

# AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY

*An affiliate of the American Orchid Society*

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January, 2008

## From the President's Corner

Hello all, I write this from the Sea Crest Resort, the location of the Cape and Island Orchid show. For those of you who will not be coming, it is lovely, with a Victorian Theme. The ribbon judging went very well, organized by Judge Bob Winkley, who will be the AOS judging chair for our show. I was given the honor of judging with Bob Hesse and Lee Soule. We had Cattleyas and Pleurothallids. It was equal parts fun and terrifying to be actually judging. Our friend Mike Sheridan of Wickford Orchids had a lovely cattleya that won the Best Cattleya in Show, one of those giant pink fluffy things. It wouldn't have stood a chance against Bill Hutchinson's mat of tiny flowers- which I hope to see at our show- how about it Bill, has the bat guano done its' work?

Our show is shaping up nicely. I have spoken to our non-member vendors this weekend as they are all captive here at the resort. The school has finally agreed to an excellent price. We will essentially be paying for the custodial staff and a reduced service that covers a portion of the utilities.

The list of what we will need is in this newsletter, we will also discuss it in greater detail at the meeting. I know some of you have emailed me, and even called, my deepest apologies if I have not gotten right back to you. I wanted to meet with some people first before I started delegating. Expect to hear from me this week, or at the very least, at the meeting. If you have any ideas, send them along, because even if I do not respond, I do hear your thoughts and am compiling a list.

Remember to consider doing a presentation at the show, here at CAIOS the members are covering issues ranging from growing under lights to creating an outdoor garden of hardy orchids. I am always impressed by how much each of you know, our club is a font of information, so let's share the wealth.

I do have a jewelry vendor who would like to come to our show and is looking to trade- he would like to stay at someone's house and will offer a weekend visit to his house in Vineyard Haven. Let me know if you are interested.

Please make copies of the enclosed flyer and put them up. Our best advertisement is blanketing the region with posters.

Cheers, I have to go try to not buy plants!

Ellen

## PRE-REGISTRATION OF PLANTS FOR THE 2008 SHOW

We are going to be doing the computer program again this year for the pre-registration of the plants. We will have the forms at the January meeting and also including one in this newsletter. We will be emailing it out to everyone on the clubs email list. If you are not on the club email list but have a computer please contact Nancy Goodman at [wildeyes@rcn.com](mailto:wildeyes@rcn.com) and I can email the form right to you. But **PLEASE** try and send your plant list by email when you can. This is because the names of the plants can be copied from the email and pasted onto the program. It saves a lot of typing and will reduce any errors when inputting the names.

This emailed form is a form that can be written on, on the computer, and then emailed back to us. We need all of you to get this to us **BEFORE** Wednesday at 9 pm. It would be better if we have these at least **3** days before the set-up day. It is easier to take out a plant than to add it in on Thursday. I cannot stress how important this is. Any plant lists received after 9 pm on Wednesday Feb. 20 **might not be** entered in judging unless you have contacted us prior to Wednesday. If you need to call, my phone number (Nancy) is 413-549-4521. It will just be much easier if everyone complies with this request. For sending the list of plants please email them to **BOTH** emails listed here. Nancy Goodman at [wildeyes@rcn.com](mailto:wildeyes@rcn.com) and Ellen Kennedy at [E832847@aol.com](mailto:E832847@aol.com) this will ensure that your plants get entered. If you must mail it send to Nancy Goodman at 429 River Dr Hadley, MA 01035.

We are going to have the Judging class lists available to those who need it. This can be emailed to you or we will have some copies at the January meeting for those who do not have email. Please contact Nancy Goodman at [wildeyes@rcn.com](mailto:wildeyes@rcn.com) if you would like this emailed to you. This will help you to decide which class to put the plants in for judging. If you need help you will have to wait till the set-up day, since it is very hard to tell where the plant belongs without seeing it. Please make sure you read **ALL** the class descriptions that might apply before deciding where to put the plant. We always have MANY plants that are never judged due to being in the wrong class. If you are new to this please do not hesitate to come and ask for help. That is what we are there for. And for those of you who are new, bring in your plants, even if it is only one or it is small. Any plant will help us fill in our two displays and many people who thought they would never win did just that. So do not be shy and bring in all your blooming plants for Thursday set-up and join in the fun. It is actually a great day and everyone should experience it. We always need help in the morning and there are usually lots to do. The more people we have, especially on set up day the easier it is on everyone.

The last thing that has changed is that you will be responsible for doing up your own plant tags to put on your entered plants. Each plant put into a display at the show needs a nametag on the plant. We will be supplying the card stock and the pens, but you can also do them up before hand. We use silver ink pens on black card stock. If you do them before hand it will save you time on set-up day.



### Committees for the 2008 show

We need the help of the society members. We need people to sign up for the committees for getting the show running well. We need at least 20 people on the different committees to be able to do the show for 2008. The jobs are not hard, but are mostly little things, that since there are many of them, end up taking 3 months to get done by one person. So here is what is needed for the show. If these jobs are divided between 3-4 people for each committee, the jobs are not that hard. The more people helping the less any individual needs to do. So please offer your help. No experience is needed. We need your help!!!! Please contact [Nancy Goodman](mailto:Nancy.Goodman@rcn.com) if you want to help out at [wildeyes@rcn.com](mailto:wildeyes@rcn.com) or 549-4521

**Donations, Award & Sponsorship Committee-** (3-4 people) Responsible for getting food donated for the set up day and the two days for the show. Try and get donations of things needed (like benches) for the show and money donations to help buy what is needed. Get sponsorship of the award pots and to collect the money and set up getting the award pots ordered and picked up. Get the ribbons ordered for the ribbon judging and put information on the back of the ribbons. - **NANCY GOODMAN**

**Raffle Table Committee-** (1-2 people) Responsible for getting the raffle prizes donated and collected and set up the raffle table Friday night and take care of doing the final drawing at 3:30 pm on Sunday. Get all the info on who won the prizes and get them delivered to those not at the show.

**Hospitality for the show Committee-** (3-4 people) Need to get the food table set up for Thursday morning and to keep food and drink available for the rest of the show each day. Need to make sure we will have enough food for all they days needed. Need to keep ice in the coolers so food and drinks stay cold. Need to get 2-3 large coolers to use at the show (Marc Gray has a very large one we can use). Need to make sure the food is put away each night and then brought out each morning and that the ice in the coolers are stocked each day. Can use the ice machine at the school if we ask the janitors. To make sure that all the items, coffee pot, and paper products are gotten from the library the club uses each month. Try and make sure that all the vendors are offered lunch and drinks over the weekend, since many of them cannot leave their sales area. - **MARJE TANGUAY – She needs more help**

**Display table & Curtain set up for show Committee** – (3-4 people) To get the rental tables needed. To make sure the tables are laid out in the needed spots (floor plan can be faxed to head janitor the week prior to the show so they can get what is needed). To set up all the display tables for the show displays and the vendors, with the black cloth. Must be done first thing in the morning, on Thursday, before any displays can be started. Also to set up the curtain rods and the curtains before the tables can be set up or the displays can be set up. These two things must be done before anything else can be done.

**Pick Up Committee-** (1-2 people) Someone to pick up all the items for the show that are stored at the Monson library. This includes the lights, Curtain material, Coffee and Tea items, Coffee pot, Paper plates and all the other eating items in the boxes, Extension cords, T-shirts & Sweat shirts & Ties to be sold, Plant fact sheets, Stick in the ground show signs, all the boxes with the pens & tape and other things in them, Clipboards, Curtain rods, Label maker, Easels, Judging stuff, Plastic potting tray (large one). Basically all the boxes in the library. A large covered truck would be best or a Suburban so these items do not get wet. Most of these items are in boxes so are easier to get. You will also need to get these items back to the club after the show.

**Video and demonstration Committee-** (2 people) Responsible for getting people set up to do demonstrations for the show. Make a schedule for them and make sure they are notified of the times they will be doing their demonstrations. Make sure there are enough chairs set up on Saturday morning for the demonstrations and/or the videos. To make sure that the demonstration people remember when to show up for the right times, and to announce the demonstrations to the people at the show. Make sure we have a TV & video to show our videos on (the school might be able to supply

one, ask janitors). Get posters made for what clinics and/or videos you will be having during the show and make sure someone is there to start the videos and take them out when they are done.

**Judging Committee-** (2-3 people)- These people will be responsible for getting the judges for the show, inputting all the plants for the judging lists, revamping the judging schedule when needed each year, Making sure all the equipment is at the show. Make sure all members understand the judging rule for the show and get the info posted in the newsletters and show the members at the meetings how to fill out forms. Make sure the plant entry form is emailed out and also put in the newsletter. Make sure that the vendors get all the instructions on plant entry and size of their displays and vendor tables. Make sure that the Awards Committee orders the Award Pots. Get the greenery for the displays. Make sure there is a judge's lunch for Friday before 10 am. Get donation lists going for the judge's lunch.- **ELLEN KENNEDY-**  
She needs more help

8. **Back up show Committee-** (3 people)- These people will learn the ropes of the show so they can take over if needed due to illness and problems that might arise. We need people who understand what needs to be done and can help on any items that are not covered by the other committees. Need to have you get all the signs up on the doors and outside to make sure people know where to go. To get the stick in the ground signs up at the roadway, so people can see them. To make sure all the vendors know where to go and where their display tables are. To make sure that the lights and extension cords are set up for each display tables. To deal with getting volunteers at the front table and to guard the doors, etc.

### DONATIONS STILL NEEDED FOR 2008 SHOW

Since the December meeting had been canceled we did not get to discuss the show and pass around the volunteer/donation lists that have been at the library since September. I was not able to see what has actually been signed up for, but at least a few people have mentioned that they have not seen nor heard of the lists. These sign-up sheets will also be at the January meeting so you can sign up then. So here is some of what we need your help with during the show. We need volunteers for the reception table, door watching, the babysitting table & clerks for judging day. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer your time for any of these, or if you would like to donate money to help with the purchasing of things for the show. This is especially important if you cannot make the next meeting and I will put you on the list. I am not going to include these lists in the newsletter since it would take up more than 4 pages, but I do have it in an Excel program and could send it to you if you want. Contact me at [wildeyes@rcn.com](mailto:wildeyes@rcn.com) or 413-549-4521 if you want to help. I will be keeping a list of the volunteers, but I will not be able to be there for any of the days of the set-up or show except Sunday, so we also need someone to oversee the volunteers to make sure we are covered for all the days. We need your help. 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. There are many small things that can be done before the show and if everyone pitches in no one single person will have to do it all.

There are also a few things that still need donations for the show. All of the awards pots have been sponsored and all but 3 people have already sent the checks to me. Please try and get the check to me before the January meeting or it might not be able to be matched. Make the check payable to **Nancy Goodman** and mail to me at **429 River Dr, Hadley, MA 01035** as soon as you can. Thanks to all of you who sponsored the awards and it was really good to have them sponsored so quickly. We also need food donations and money donations for the table rentals, food & soda purchases, etc and if anyone wants to sponsor a program flier, I will be willing to do one up that we can get printed. I have lists going for all of these, so please just contact me if you want to help.

We still need items for our raffle table. I have one item that has been donated so far, but it would be great to get at least 15-20 different items to have at the show. We can have orchid books, orchid pictures or prints, or any other orchid related items donated. Orchid plants are also something you can donate and are very popular. We also need to have someone to be in charge of the raffle table. All this involves is setting up the table with the raffle items on Friday night and then doing the drawing at 3 pm on Sunday. Please let me know if you want to do this. It is an easy job, but a very important one. So please contact me if you would be interested in any of these volunteer or donation possibilities. If you want to donate money for any of these things please let me know and mail the check, made payable to me, ASAP to get it matched. I will add it to the list of donations.

## SHOW ADVERTISING HELP

Lani Norman is willing to send out press releases to any and all newspapers in any part of Mass or Conn. if we can get her the fax numbers for each paper. Please look in your local paper for the advertising fax numbers and email them to Leilani Norman at [Leilani.Norman@verizon.net](mailto:Leilani.Norman@verizon.net)

## NOTICE TO IN HOUSE VENDORS FOR FEBURARY 2008 SHOW

All members who would like to have a spot in our sales area for the 2008 show please contact Nancy Goodman ASAP at [wildeyes@rcn.com](mailto:wildeyes@rcn.com). People who have sold before get first preference and we usually have 3-4 spots available. If you want to sell at the show you also need to set up a display at the show. I need to know before the January meeting, so please contact me right away if I have not already spoken to you.

Here is a link to an article from the Orchid Conservation Coalition (OCC):

<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/pdf/articles/OCCHabitatloss1.pdf>

This very important information needs to be brought to the attention of orchid enthusiasts.

The main webpage for the OCC is: <http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/>

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19<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference – Miami, Florida

If you love orchids you need to make plans to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference (WOC) coming to Miami, Florida, January 23-27, 2008. The conference is held every three years in different parts of the world and it will be approximately 25 years before it returns to the United States. It is a unique opportunity for us to see the best in orchids as well as visit one of the most prolific growing areas for orchids in the country. The show is co-hosted by the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society and the South Florida Orchid Society, both of which are well known for the spectacular shows they host each year – so we should indeed expect the best from this one!

The basic premise of a WOC is that it is established to be of interest to the average grower as opposed to many other international conferences which are more focused toward either the scientific community or the commercial grower. Although many of the speakers will be offering advanced or scientific topics, most presentations will be geared to be understandable to the everyday grower. And of course, anyone can enjoy the exhibits and especially the sales booths.

These international conferences are known for their extravagant and showy exhibits. Vendors and exhibitors vie for prestigious trophies and put together heart-stopping exhibits in order to impress the judges. This will be an event to remember!

The centerpiece of the conference is the slate of speakers who will provide information on three main areas of interest: scientific, conservation, and horticulture. Keynote speakers Phillip J. Cribb and Roger Hammer are internationally known in the orchid community. Cribb will speak on "Orchids in a Changing Climate" and Hammer will present "Introduction to the Orchids of Florida." Then one-hour breakout sessions will be held throughout the conference.

The show itself will have exhibits from hundreds of exhibitors from around the world. It will be held in the Exhibition Center of the Sheraton Miami Mart Hotel which has been recently renovated. There will be both displays as well as sales booths for attendees. In conjunction with the show there will be a number of bus tours to some of the biggest orchid vendors in the immediate area for those of us who just have to buy orchids while there.

In addition to the orchids themselves, there will be competitions in orchid art, painting, photography, cake decorating, quilting, and flower arranging. These competitions will all be open to registrants.

For further information see the WOC website at <http://www.19woc.com/>.



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 at 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](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. What are bark mites as seen in Hawaiian plants?

A. You almost had me there. I called in a dozen or so markers and couldn’t get an answer. Part of the problem was the name since the mites in question are not necessarily Hawaiian in all probability they 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 other members occasionally comment on.. Treatment is to flush through with a miticide. While they may nibble a root or two their main diet is old disintegrating bark. When you repot, 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 not 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 *Laeliocattleya*. 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 bictoniense* and *Oncidium cordatum* and like the radish cross I get a very tall spike, up to three feet, with very small flowers.

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.

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**Amherst Orchid Society**  
**2008 Upcoming Events**

- Jan. 23-27** 19th World Orchid Conference  
Miami, Florida
- Feb 7-10** New Hampshire Orchid Society:  
A Symphony of Orchids
- Feb 21-24** Amherst Orchid Society Annual  
Show

**Note to Members:** Submissions for the February, 2008 newsletter must reach the editor by January 30, 2008 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 Pogonia*  
*Official Flower of the Club*

Carol Mentos, Editor  
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**NEXT MEETING:**

Sunday, January 20th at the Munson  
Library, in Amherst, MA.

We'll be discussing details for our show. Try  
to be there.

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