



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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June, 2007

June Meeting at the Grays

DIRECTIONS:

GRAYS RESIDENCE FROM NORTH

Take I-91 S to exit 4. At end of ramp take a left. This is Rte 5.
Proceed 2.3 miles. Take a right onto East/West Rd. Go 2.0 Miles to
Dummerston Center. Go through 4 way stop sign. Go 2.5 miles. Will
Come to a covered bridge. Go through bridge. At end of bridge turn
Right onto Rte 30. Go 1.9 Miles North on rte 30. Take a left hand
Turn proceed 3 miles to the TOWN OF WILLIAMSVILLE. Cross Cement Bridge
and take a left hand turn. Go 3 tenths of a mile to BAKER BROOK ROAD on
the right across from the Post Office. Go 1.3 Miles on BAKER BROOK ROAD
always keeping brook to your left. We are on the right Grey house with
black trim. Will see a garage at end of driveway.

GRAYS HOUSE FROM SOUTH

Take I-91 North to exit 1. (BRATTLEBORO, VT) . At the bottom of the ramp go right.
Go through 4 sets of lights. After the 4th set of lights follow signs for RTE 30.
(The signs will lead you around a large triangular circle. After a left hand turn at
one "Corner" keep in the right hand lane. This will turn into a right-turn-only land heading
out of the circle. The road goes gently downhill through the Retreat Hospital and then opens up into RTE 30.)
Continue up RTE 30 For 8 Miles (After 6 miles you'll see a covered bridge on the right.)
Take the left turn to WILLIAMSVILLE-South NEWFANE. Go another 2 miles to a cement arch bridge. Take a left
at the end of the bridge. You are now in WILLIAMSVILLE.
Go past the Fire House/General Store on the right to the post office (Red with white trim).
Go right on BAKER BROOK ROAD for 1.3 miles, keeping the brook on your left. The house is on the right and is
grey with black trim. In front are signs for #260 and BAKER BROOK ORCHIDS.

From the President's Corner

First of all, sorry for the tardy newsletter. This is entirely my fault, and I have lots of excuses: end of the school year, two field trips, a field day that involves the fire department-complete with fire, a middle-schooler's favorite thing, grading exams, compilation of quarter grades and final grades, and last but not least, my mother's graduation from graduate divinity school.

Yet these are all just excuses, and I really just forgot to get this blurb to Carol on time, so be tweaked with me, not her. I shall endeavor to be more timely in the future.

Our last meeting involved a diverse and wonderful show table. (You people make me feel extremely inadequate!) We also had a slide show on 'What is an Orchid,' that had some interesting tidbits and visuals. Both of the V.P.'s were away, as was Nancy G.- but at least the latter was someplace wonderful, the Galapagos Islands. If you get a moment, ask her tell you about the trip.

We briefly touched on the sale and the show, and I am delighted to tell you that the New Hampshire Orchid Society was happy to move their date now that they are in a different location. This means we have the end of February vacation back- for the non-teachers that means the weekend of the 22nd. I have spoken to Rita Cohen, have the application for the AOS, and am awaiting a call back from Smith Vocational school. If they cannot host us, then JFK Middle School can, I checked.

What does this mean for you? Start thinking about how you can help. I know many of you would love to help and just aren't sure what to do. Please contact me and we shall find a task that fits your availability. The more planning we do ahead of time the better. For the next newsletter I will make a complete list of possible ways to help. In the meantime, mark the date and I will keep you posted.

The sale is also on. Hadley Garden Center has graciously agreed to host our society again. There is no date as of yet, but assume sometime in September. Again, there will be work to do, from simple set up, to the more complex job of helping people select the correct plant for their growing ability and home conditions.

I am sure there is more I am supposed to be telling you, but it can wait. I have here a wonderful email from Carl Carlozzi that I would like to share with you. Remember, I am still looking for stories of how you got started in orchids, and some help completing that President list!

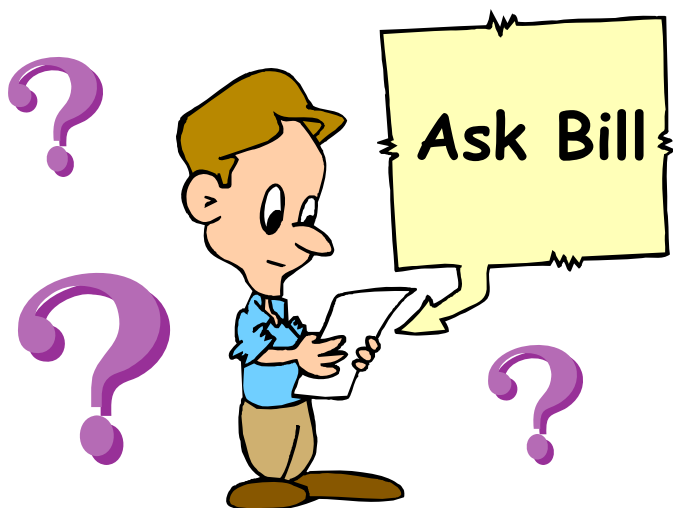
Ellen, sometime in 1976 or 77 I bought a bare root catt from Ed Machno at Hadley Garden Center. It came with instructions using treefern as a potting material. Somehow the plant thrived, grew new bulbs while outside in the summer and produced five standard lavender flowers. Flushed with success I bought a phal two years later. That was my personal start. A few years after that I responded to a notice in the Amherst Bulletin posted by Phil Phillips asking anyone interested in forming an orchid club to meet at a given time and place. Seven or eight of us did, and we formed the Amherst Orchid Society. Shortly thereafter I saw Bill Hutchinson giving orchid growing instructions on WGBY. I went to see him at his home and told him about the new society and he said that he would come to the next meeting. He did, along with about a half dozen others who saw Phil's display in an entryway case at the Jones Library. There's much more to this story. Hutch and I would be glad to bend your ear anytime. We are the last of the originals. Think of it as an oral history.

-Carl

Obviously I will be taking them up on this, in some seriously comfy location with genial beverages. It is particularly interesting as the current 'fashion' in orchid judging is looking backward. The specimen plants of the 1950's and 1970's are significantly different from what is currently shown. It is vital that we not lose sight of what foundation plants created the plants we now consider 'stunning.' How a pedigree is stacked makes all the difference. The recent win at the Belmont Stakes by the filly Rags to Riches is an excellent example. This girl horse simply outran her male competitors, despite the distance, and despite her fall at the gate. Her pedigree says it all; she goes back to Secretariat, possibly one of this country's greatest race horses. Her whole bloodline is stacked with superior animals, horses that could beat anything on the track today. As we look at our plants today, it is important to know from whence they came, so thank you Carl! I will be picking your brain as soon as the school year ends. I am also curious how Verda fits into this web.

Once again, I thank you for all you do. This club 'rocks' as my students would say. The number of fantastically bright and talented people in the society makes my head spin. Keep up the good work and I will see you at the July meeting. Have a hamburger for me, talk to the giant fish in the pond, pet the dog, and say hello to the peafowl and I will almost feel as if I were there.

Cheers, Ellen



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. Please explain how to use horse manure on orchids instead of fertilizer on top of fertilizer, during growth.

A. Sorry but there is no panacea for good cultural attention. But from the early days when there was no ready source of water soluble fertilizers available what growers would do is utilize, molded, aged manures as a source of nutrients. With the advent of the water soluble mixtures and their ease of use the manure method fell by the wayside. A judicious application of aged manure, however, will provide for slow release of nutrients as well as provide fibrous materials, from bedding and undigested cellulose, to the potting material. **NOTE:** The admonition of aged since fresh material is often has concentrated urea, etc. I use one of the commercial preparations and apply a small amount over the potting medium surface just about when new roots emerge from the pseudobulbs

Q. How can you tell if your Dendrobiums need a rest time and can you recommend Dendrobiums for beginners and their growing needs?

A. As long as you don't need an answer in 25 words or less, I'll give it a try. Within the genus Dendrobium, depending upon which taxonomist you follow, there are about 40 different sections. I utilized at least 4 major references: Dendrobiums and their relatives by Lavarack, Harris & Stocker, Timber Press; Orchid Species in culture: Dendrobiums by Baker & Baker, Timber Press; Dendrobium One stop book by AOS; Dendrobiums of Australia by Upton, Timber Press as well as numerous other references for specific species. With some of the new crosses in the Latouria section and the nobile section it is possible to get some superb plants which respond well to either greenhouse growing, growing under lights or windowsill growing. Either at the spring show or the annual 50/50 sale corner one of the `senor' growers and ask about particular plants or if you have more time and find a plant that you would like to try drop me a line and I'll try and answer the specific question (just remember e-mail is about 2 days and ASK Bill might be 2 months or more.

Q. How important is the `stick' to grow orchids on? Does it make a difference if you use grape, apple Black Walnut, lilac, etc?

A. The answer is yes. Some sticks, such as black Walnut can actually be toxic to the plant. Walnuts are notorious for producing inhibitors. Go into a walnut grove and you'll find the undergrowth very limited to a Carex (grass-like plant), some grasses and a few species of bushes. Other plants are outright killed by a walnut toxin. Plants with high resin levels such as pine and spruce are also not very good. Grape, lilac, sassafras and the like are very good.

Marge Tanguay

Dracula vampira 'Night Shaddow'

ZygoTitanic 'Grand Prix' x Zygo
Freestyle 'Cheer'

Phal Pink Twilight

Paph lowii 'Princehouse' AM/AOS x
Paph lowii

Dtps Black Butterfly 'ORCHIDS-OL'

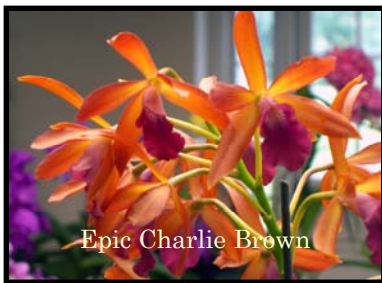
Blc Mari's Glory

Iwanaguara Apple Blossum

Phal Ming-Hsing 'Yellow Boy'

Epic Mae Bly 'Ching Hua Splash'

Phal 'Iridescent Glow' x 'Broadway
Baby'



Epic Charlie Brown

Epic Charlie Brown

Phal I-Hsin Sunflower

Janet Price

Blc Morning Glory

Brassia Jiminey Cricket

Tom McCurry

Phal Doritanopsis cross unknown

Maxillaria variabilis

Blc Morning Glory x Bc Maikai

Bill Hutchinson

Cochlioda vulcana

Brassovola aphyllum

Cat skinnerii

Spathoglottis Kimballiana

Den Fortune 'Hawaiian Sunset'

Masd Fancy Pants

Calanthe x Kazu

Holly Rainard

Sedirea Japonica

Phall 'Big Yeii'

Steve Steiner

I. purpurata (ernies clone)

Dend pseudoglomeratum

Pescatorea cerenu 'Jem'

Paph Armeni White

Promnea xanthena

Paph delanatii x primulinum

Lycaste aromatica

Steve Reardon

Pleurothyallis linearifolia



CALLING ALL ORCHID GROWERS

Orchid societies' monthly show tables provide a great opportunity for members to show off their blooming plants and see what others are doing. *A Judge may comment on the quality or rarity of a plant and suggest that it be brought to an AOS judging center where it may be researched in their records.* Unless your plant or inflorescence was AOS judged the day before, you'll probably never know if it's awardable but one thing is certain - your plant won't be awarded if it stays at home. So, what are you waiting for?

An AOS Judging Center is a great place to see how new hybrids are blooming and what new species are coming out of the wilds or even flasks. Hybridizers, whose goal is to make better-looking flowers and plants, get to see what's working, and, what's not. All attendees get a first-hand look at the best, most unusual, and even the worst and learn what to look for and are privy to a great store of knowledge in terms of quality, unusualness and historical perspective.

Learning how to judge an orchid begins with a minimum six-year training period; but, with orchids (and orchid judging) constantly evolving, the learning process is ongoing - What was good 5, 10 or 15 years ago may be substandard today. The Judging Program affords exhibitors and judges alike with an opportunity to look at issues like this through informative presentations and lively discussions that precede plant judging. The bottom line is that Judging Centers are in place for the benefit of all orchid interests.

Your orchid society has made a contribution in your behalf to support the AOS Judging Program at the Northeast Regional Centers in Boylston MA and Elmsford NY. The great thing about orchids is that there's always something in bloom. Please bring your plants and visit us soon. We look forward to seeing you!

Rita Cohen, Chair – Elmsford NY

516-374-6426

Monthly on 3rd Saturday, 12:00 PM

The Hampton Inn

200 Tarrytown Rd

Elmsford NY

Bob Winkley, Chair – Boylston MA

617-282-7351

Monthly on 1st Saturday, 12:00 PM

Tower Hill Botanic Gardens

11 French Dr

Boylston MA

www.towerhillbg.org

Judging sessions at both locations are Free and Open to the Public - donations to the Northeast Regional Center are always appreciated. Programs usually begin at 10:15 AM. Plants submitted for judging should be registered by 11:45 AM. (There is no entry fee for judging however a nominal cost is charged to process any award. Effective 7/1/07, this \$32 by mail, \$28 by internet).

My trip to the Redlands Orchid Show, or why I wasn't at the last meeting

by Keith Tibbett

I saved up some money, left Hartford at 7:30am arrived in Ft. Lauderdale, rented a car, got lost, arrived at the show at 3 pm. very intense orchid shopping until 5 closing time; of course I saw lots of orchids I'd never seen before(the reason I went!). There were a lot of South American vendors and I bought a lot of Catasetums, Stanhopeas. I met a charming vendor, Gaspar from Panama, and I got a vanilla with huge leaves from him. After closing I went to Home Depot (after getting really lost) and bought some packing material and a white Mandevilla vine for cheap. Saturday morning I was second in line at the Redlands Gate; heard about a Phaius variety, Dan Rosenberg which was special and \$10 per pot, and raced with a judge from Atlanta to the far side of the show to get one; I got one! (2 left). Wandered around scooping up whatever orchid talked to me and had some nice chats with vendors; a much different atmosphere from the N.Y. show

and a very different selection of plants! I bumped into Harold and Leilani, marveled at each others club tee-shirt. They saw Ernie Jolin the day before and I knew David Walker was on his way. I diverged to a local fruit tree grower and bought my wife Tukta, 2 each of Lychee, Logan, and Dragonfruit trees and had them shipped home. Then I went back to the orchid show, wandered around again, and realized that I was starting to overdose on orchids! (maybe it was the heat!). I decided to attend an air conditioned lecture on orchids of Guatemala. Three people attended the lecture, so I got to ask lots of questions; it was great! Hector Castenata has done a survey of 868 species orchids in his native country. his PowerPoint presentation of beautiful close-ups started with species beginning with the letter A and after one hour he had gone as far as the letter B!, with great stories about discovering new species (about 7 per year) and his interactions with the Indians in the mountains, and teaching them the value of protecting their wild orchids, how to propagate them with some low tech method involving coffee filters and bleach, and starting an orchid business to sell to crazy foreigners like me. In Guatemala it is illegal to do any commerce with native orchids, even propagated ones and Hector is working with the rightwing government on this. After the lecture I talked with Hector, bought some of his orchid jewelry which he sells to fund his projects, and he gave me the DVD from his lecture! with all 1200 slides. I have looked at some of it since and it's breathtaking I would like to show it as a club program; no commentary, just beautiful pictures of orchids most, none of you have seen before. I have started an email dialogue with Hector. I got home at 2am on Sunday, and when I got up, I started to pot the 63 mostly bare root plants I had stuffed in my 2 large suitcases which I had brought to Florida completely empty. My only regrets are not getting the fragrant Vanda at the Motes booth, nor the huge specimen Maxillaria tenuifolia, but I had no room and all the UPS stores were closed.

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

June 17: Annual Picnic at Marc Gray's

July 15: Meeting at Roger West's

Note to Members: Submissions for the July, 2007 newsletter must reach the editor by June 27, 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.



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Carol Mentos, Editor
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Amherst, MA 01002

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, June 17th at the Gray's House in Vermont. Arrive any time after 1pm. The Gray's will provide the hamburgs, hotdogs, and soda. Bring your favorite dish or drink to share. Directions are in the newsletter.