



*The Greater Whorled Pagonia*

*Official Flower of the Club*

*Newsletter of the*  
**AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

*An affiliate of the American Orchid Society*

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November, 2006

## **OCTOBER MEETING**

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH**

*By Lynn Vennell*

There was a mix of orchid varieties to choose from this year when you renewed your membership. The gorgeous weather didn't keep away too many people as approximately 40 people attended the meeting. Many current members attended with about a half dozen new members joining – Welcome to the club! President Marc Gray spoke about the upcoming elections next month and that the Nominating Committee has been busy working up the proposed slate. Marc will not be President again, but has offered to handle getting the judges for the club show. The Nominating Committee's recommended slate is: President – Ellen Kennedy; Vice President (two co-vice presidents) – Carol Mentos and Kevin English; Treasurer – Steve Reardon; Recording Secretary – Lynn Vennell; Program Chair – Leilani Norman; Membership Chair – Marion Jackmen; Conservation Chair – Kim Nyiri and two at-large Executive Directors – Marc Gray and Lynn Reynolds. Nominations from the floor can be accepted as long as the person nominated wants to do the job! No one specifically was nominated by the committee to be on the Show Committee. This is a lot of work to run the show as those who have been involved know. The nominating committee thought that for the new membership chair, this person would introduce the new members and set up a mentor connection with another member of the club.

Marc announced that the Massachusetts Orchid Show will be held at the Tower Hill Botanical Garden in Boylston Friday Oct 27 to Sunday Oct 29. The facility – buildings, gardens and view - is quite beautiful. It is worth a trip to see. Also, Nancy Wight asked if anyone might be interested in a trip to Longwood Gardens in PA. This is also another not to be missed botanical garden. It would be an overnight trip with tentative dates of May 31 to June 1.

The September plant sale netted \$154.60. Thank you Kevin English for stepping forward to volunteer to organize this event. It would not have happened otherwise.

Ellen Kennedy has ordered the T-shirts. This first order was more costly than expected as some of the artwork needed to be re-created. After this initial order, t-shirts can be ordered in groups of 24 with other colors besides white available.

Bill Hutchinson says that the Web page is up and running, although some people were not able to connect. Sometimes it depends on the server (and whatever other electronic glitches may be out there in cyberland!!) It is not completely smooth running yet. The newsletter is available on a PDF file (which depending on your computer program you may or may not be able to retrieve). An idea is to build up the file to include a years' worth of newsletters and then drop the oldest one as the newest is added. The newsletter used to have a regular article entitled Plant of the Month. Would someone like to volunteer to do this?

Bill is usually in his greenhouse Saturday mornings and if you'd like to drop by, give him a call Sat. am, 253-7036 to set up a time. Leilani & Harold Norman are also open to having people stop by their greenhouse in Monson. 413-267-5124. Not after Nov 10 however as they are traveling to the Panama Canal. Bon voyage Lani & Harold!

There was some discussion regarding the club's orchid show and its location. The Hadley American Legion is no longer suitable as it is not handicapped accessible and the space is too small for the size of the show now. The

Smith Vocational School is a great size and easy for setup and access but is really costly. Ellen Kennedy suggested that if we could use the show as a teaching tool for a grade level class or an afterschool science club talking about photosynthesis or reproduction for example, we may have the opportunity for reduced rates as the AmOS is a nonprofit organization. Ellen is checking out the JFK Middle School in Northampton (she is a teacher there) and will check out the Smith Vocational School as well.

Bill Hutchinson and Marge Tanquay did the show table presentation with Bill giving helpful information for the new members. Orchid names with an -ara ending are orchids that have multi-generic crosses, so many that their names become made up! Knowing a bit of Latin is helpful as the plant naming system (binomial) is in Latin. Arithro- in Latin means red so the cymbidium on the show table would hint that this plant is a warmer grower than other cymbidiums (I imagine it could also mean a plant could have red flowers). Why a basket for some plants and not others? Besides, "That's the way I bought it!", this potting method lets you know that this plant likes lots of water but does not want to stay wet. When the leaves of certain types of orchids become crinkled, it's a sign that there has been a lack of water. Keep these plants consistently and evenly moist. If your conditions are dry, mix in some sphagnum moss, loosely is better than packed, with the bark. Or instead of bark, you can use coconut chips as they hold more water. Rinse this material well, sometimes several times, before use however as it may contain a lot of salt. All potting medium should be well soaked before use. Some orchids develop black dots on their leaves. No cause and effect has been determined as to why this happens, but one member uses horse manure tea and sprays with neem and has reduced this happening. The plants flower fine even with the black spots. Phragmepedium's and Paphiopedilum's (commonly shortened to be called Phrag's and Paph's) are some orchids that have serial flowers up the stem. Instead of one flower (or flowers) at only the tip of the stem, there are flowers blooming along the stem up to the tip. Also with these orchids, it is beneficial to tip the pot forward so that when the pot is set upright say for the orchid show, the flower is presented straight forward instead of leaning over when it is difficult to see.

Kim Nyiri presented a beautiful slide show on Native Orchids. She has visited many of the sites and has taken quite a number of the slides herself. She is quite a photographer. Thank you, Kim.

*Plant of the Month*  
**CYMBIDIUM ERYTHROSTYLUM**

*By Steve Steiner*

Cymbidium erythrostylum grows as a terrestrial, lithophyte (growing on rocks) or as an epiphyte. It is reported to be endemic to Vietnam. The flowers are mainly white with red veins on the lip. The petals and the lip form a tube around the red column (erythrostylum). The appearance is very charming with multiple arching, self-supporting spikes. Each spike has 5-10 flowers.

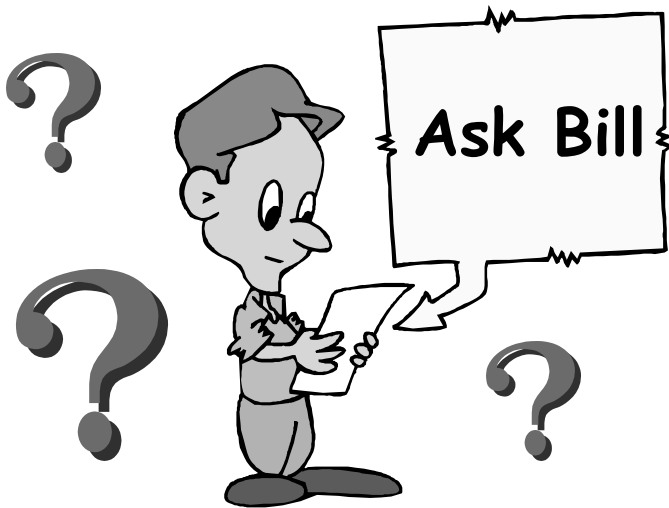
I first saw the plant at a flower show about 15 years ago, and purchased it at Silva Orchids in N.J. 5-6 years ago. I displayed it at last month's meeting. It flowers every fall. I repot it in a terrestrial mix every 2-3 years after it flowers. I did try to split it the last time I repotted it. It would have taken Bill's proverbial ax to do it and I didn't have the heart.

I do not know if this orchid has been utilized in hybrids, but I have never seen any. Certainly the striking red veins of the lip would be easier to appreciate if the flower would flatten out with hybridizing. But in general, a boldly patterned poorly shaped flower crossed with a flat flower will usually yield a poorly shaped flower without the desired pattern. Perhaps it would just be gilding the lily anyway.

Cymbidium erythrostilum is miniature for a cymbidium. It is listed as an intermediate grower but certainly tolerates temperatures down to 50 degrees. I grow it in full sun. If you do not have a greenhouse, I would advise growing it outside over the spring and summer.

The plant I brought in had 6 spikes, and it usually puts out another 1-2 spikes after these die. Well worth the space.





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.** How does a flower become an orchid by definition?

**A.** Orchids belong to the group of plants known as monocotyledons. This is a large group of seed plants which all have several elements in common. I will not give them here other than to say that they all have floral elements in threes. Orchids have three sepals, petal like structures at the base of the petal. The sepals may be concolorous (of the same color) with the petal or very different. The petal are three and one of the petals is modified to be lip like, pouch like, have warty projections and finally an ovary which is inferior (below) the sepals.

**Q.** What does Ctna, Slc, Blc letters in the name of orchids mean? Which one give more flowers?

**A.** This is one of the major stumbling blocks for new orchid growers. One of the unique facets of orchid culture is that it is possible to breed across the genera of orchids. Breeding programs at first were haphazard but then began to be carried out to bring out selected characters. Be aware that for every good plants thousands are grown which are adequate but not great so selection takes place. The question of just these few abbreviations raises the issue of what about the others? In the coming months I shall try to put together a listing of some of them. Warning: the list from the Cattleya alliance is three pages long and you might want to save it. Ctna. Is Cattleya x Broughtonia = Cattleytonia or Ctna. ; Slc. = Sophrolealiocattleya and Blc. = Brassolaeliocattleya. Which one gives more flowers is not necessarily determined by the generic cross but is more a question of selecting a good clone. You must, and now I'm only speaking of sympodial forms of orchids (grows across the medium somewhat like a hand laid flat). The more growths there are coming off the main rhizome (flat stem on the medium) the greater the chance of multiple stems flowering. Specimen plants tend to have many active growing shoots.

**Q.** Many of my paphs and phrags get leaf tip damage. This usually happens in winter when they are inside the house. Is this caused by humidity, watering, fertilizers or some combination?

**A.** To determine the best answer I need to ask several questions. Is the winter environment very dry? Do you keep the medium for your paphs moist and do you repot annually? Potting medium should be replaced at least every two years or every year since new roots do best in freshly fallen organic debris in the wild. How do you fertilize? I only foliar fertilize my paphs and phrags and use a special combination of nutrient sources (detailed in an earlier ASK BILL). The most obvious culprit is over fertilizing. At best weekly weakly is the rule and for the winter I would make it even weaker than usual unless growth is very vigorous. If you have less watering and strong fertilizer being used, the culprit, I would adjust the parameters you gave one by one for selected plants and observe what happens.

**Q.** Would it be “fun/useful” to make a list of, “If I only knew then what I know now”.

**A.** What would you like to have answered before you build your greenhouse (that topic I discussed sometime ago in ASK BILL) but ask on. It's your newsletter and I'll tackle any question.

## Display Table

**Verda Dale**

Greenhouse  
*Perrerluaarea Motes Leprechan*  
*Dendrobium – delaourir type*

**Ed Gray**

Greenhouse – warm, intermediate  
*Phrag sedinii*

**Marc Gray**

Greenhouse – cool to warm  
*Brassivada flagellonos v. self*  
 Greenhouse – intermediate, warm  
*Pleurothallis strupitolia*  
*Bulbophyllum burfordense “Marc”*  
*Bulbophyllum wenfandium*  
*Dendrochillum magnum*

**Elizabeth Green**

Windowsill  
*Miltassia Charles Marden Fitch Dark*  
*Monarch AM/AOS*

**Maryanne Laudkitis**

Greenhouse – cool  
*Maxillaria tenuifolia (in bloom since*

*June!)*

*Zygopetalum (Kiwi Geyser Mendenhall)*

**Carol Mentos**

Windowsill  
*Lc Marie’s Song*  
*Sorceror’s Apprentice*

**Lelanie Norman**

Greenhouse – warm to intermediate  
*Den. Leonis*  
*Aerangis Ivory Star*  
*Witherara Ash Tree ‘Everglades’*  
*Spirantes cernua var. odorata*

**Steve Steiner**

Greenhouse-Intermediate to cool  
*Pleurothallis Alleuri*  
*Dracula sodiroi ‘Firecracker’*  
*Pot. Free Spirit*  
*Cymbidium erythrostylum*  
*Phrag Carnninalale ‘Rodney Wilcox Jones’*

*Scaphosepelum sp.*  
*Scaphosepelum swertifolium*

**Marge Tanguay**

Greenhouse-Intermediate  
*Slc. Smile Again ‘Hawaii’*  
*C. Dupreana ‘Blue Shadows’ x Lc Indigo ‘Mist Magic’*  
*Otaara Jame Fumlye ‘Hawaii’*  
*AM/AOS (ctna. Keith Roth x Blc Lucky Strike)*  
*Hknsa Koolau Sunset ‘Hawaii’*  
*Dendrochillum magnum*

**M. T. (Mike & Marge Trybus?)**

*Phrag schrodero*

**Steve Reardon**

Cool sunspace  
*Dracula vespertilia*

**Bev von Kries**

Lights: *Paph Florence Jones*  
*Greenhouse, intermediate: C. Valentine ‘Coerulea’*

**Mike Walunas**

Greenhouse – cool  
*Stanhopea oculata*



### Note to Members

Members can now get the newsletter on the web. Go to [larchhillorchids.com](http://larchhillorchids.com), and you will find it. If you lose the newsletter, you will be able to find up to one year’s worth on the web. Bill



## Part 1

## INTERGENERIC COMBINATIONS

WITH CATTLEYA THROUGH APRIL  
1988

## WITH ACCEPTED ABBREVIATIONS

All crosses	with	Cattleya	
x Barkeria		=Cattkeria	Cka.
x Barkeria x Laelia		=Laeliocattkeria	Lcka.
x Brassavola		=Brassocattleya	Bc.
x Brassavolva x Broughtonia		=Stellamizutaara	Stlma.
x Brassavolva x Broughtonia x Laelia		=Otaara	Otr.
x Brassavolva x Broughtonia x Laelia x Sophronitis		=Hasegawaara	Hasgw.
x Brassavola x Diacrium		=Hookerara	Hook.
x Brassavola x Diacrium x Laelia		=Iwanagaara	Iwan
x Brassavola x Dominga x Epidendrum		=Kawamotoara	Kwmta.
x Brassavolva x Epidendrum		=Vaughnara	Vnra.
x Brassavolva x Epidendrum x Laelia		=Yamadara	Yam.
x Brassavolva x Epidendrum x Laelia x Schomborgkia		=Yahiroara	Yhra.
x Brassavolva x Epidendrum x Laelia x Sophronitis		=Rothara	Roth.
x Brassavola x Laelia		=Brassolaeliocattleya	Blc.
x Brassavolva x Laelia x Schomburgkia		=Recchara	Recc.
x Brassavolva x Laelia x Schomburgkia x Sophronitis		=Fergusonara	Ferg.
x Brassavolva x Laelia x Sophronitis		=Potinara	Pot.
x Brassavolva x Laeliopsis		=Fujiwarara	Fjw.

**ABBREVIATIONS II  
INTERGENERIC**

**WITH CATTLEYA THROUGH**

**WITH ACCEPTED**

**Cattleya**

x Brassavolva x Schomburgkia	=Dekensara	Dek.
x Brassavolva x Sophronitis	=Rolfeara	Rolf.
x Broughtonia	=Cattleytonia	Ctna.
x Broughtonia x Cattleyopsis	=Vejvartara	Vja.
x Broughtonia x Diacrium	=Brownara	Bwna.
x Broughtonia x Epidendrum	=Epicatonia	Epctna.
x Broughtonia x Epidendrum x Laelia	=Jewellara	Jwa.
x Broughtonia x Epidendrum x Laelia x Sophronitis	=Buiara	Bui.
x Broughtonia x Epidendrum x Schomburgkia	=Wilburchangara	Wbchg.
x Broughtonia x Laelia	=Laeliocatonia	Lctna.
x Broughtonia x Laelia x Sophronitis	=Hawkinsara	Hknsa.
x Broughtonia x Laeliopsis	=Osmentara	Osmnt.
x Broughtonia x Schomburgkia	=Schombocatonia	Smbcna.
x Broughtonia x Sophronitis	=Bishopara	Bish.
x Cattleyopsis	=Opsiscattleya	Opsct.
x Cattleyopsis x Epidendrum	=Hawkesara	Hwkra.

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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*The Greater Whorled Pagonia*

*Official Flower of the Club*

**NEXT MEETING:** Sunday, November 19th at 2pm at the Munson Library on Southeast St in Amherst.  
Bill Hutchinson will be speaking on pests and diseases in orchids.

***Refreshments:***

*If your last name begins with U-Z it is your turn to bring refreshments to the next meeting.*

**Amherst Orchid Society**  
**2006 Upcoming Events**

**November 19** Amherst Orchid Society Monthly Meeting at 2pm

Note to Members: Submissions for the December, 2006 newsletter must reach the editor by November 29, 2006 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.