



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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From the Presidents Corner:

Hope you are all enjoying this seasonal weather. It has been a busy month, with the Mass. Orchid show, the Northeast Judging, and the Northeast Center Business Meeting. (To say nothing of the three puppies which are still rampaging around my house.) Thank you all who: offered plants for the show, came to help set up and break down, drove plants around, and who actually made it out there to see the show itself. It was very well attended this year, with stunning exhibits ranging from the usual plants to exquisite art work. I would like to see some art displayed at our show- I know some of you are artists, please do not be shy! I gave two talks on Sunday on how to prevent one's orchids from running the household, and how to pick a first orchid.



Our display took second in the Society category, losing only to the amazing creation of the Mass. Orchid folks. I am told that the Mass display was put together by someone who had never even tried a small display! A good example of why it is vital that more members step up to try their hand at creating or managing. The judges found our display 'charming.' It really looked its' best with Princess in the display, as it was supposed to represent my downstairs hallway. The theme was "GREAT HALL OF ORCHIDS" but without a trailer and some serious props, I figured the best I could do was a hall-

way. Our plants also did well- all the ribbons were in classes with 15 plants or more- which shows that the judges saw something that impressed them.

Our plants also placed highly in each category:

Bill's *Aerangis biloba* was number two in the Vandaceous-Aerangis species category

Keith's *Ascocentrum miniatum* was number one in the Vandaceous-Ascocentrum category

Bill's *Miltonia bluntii* was number three in the Oncidinae-Miltonia/Miltoniopsis species category

The Norman's *Witherara Ash Tree "Everglades"* was number two in the Oncidinae-Ontoglossum category

Bill's *Oncidium tubeo* was number three in the Oncidinae-Oncidium species category

Bill's *Calanthes tripillata* was number one in the Misc-Bletia etc category

Marge's *Phrag sedenii* was number one in the Phragmipedium species category

Pretty cool hey?

That aerangis and I have now been to several shows together, and it is SO beautiful- and it lost to the EXACT same plant as last time, grrrr. I hope someday



that my baby biloba is as beautiful. Several of these plants would probably have been awarded if it had been a regular judging. I was going to bring Keith's incredible orange surprise back, until I looked it up and saw that the most recent award for this plant was a plant with 1000 blossoms. I wish I had been able to take the mini-purple with me, as there were three there, and yours was the best of all of them.

I had a lot of fun staging the plants, my two favs were the miniatum under the umbrella, and Verda's stunning dendrobium in my very high heeled shoe. I had a disagreement with the judges regarding that plant, as they felt it was in the wrong class- I still disagree- either way, it got moved because they liked it so much, but into a class with about three pages of plants, so its' third place was very well earned. The competition in that class, mostly from intensely showy and large plants, was serious. P.S. to Bill, please remember to bring that plant to the meeting. I was too afraid to take that plant home and keep it for a month in my desert of a house, so it is residing in Bill's cool house.



With regards to the upcoming shows. I am definitely going to be participating in the judging, and will have to decide soon if I will try to put up an exhibit. My decision will be partly based on what plants you all might have in bloom at that time- so polish up your crystal ball and let me know. I will also continue to attend the monthly judging at Tower Hill. Several of you have commented that it isn't as far away as you had previously thought- YES- so come along! The lectures begin at 10 am, and I have to say that our center definitely has great information to impart.

Now, about our show. I put that bad boy application right into Rita Cohen's bejeweled hand and she winked and-nodded. So we are in, barring an asteroid strike of course. Start thinking about this now. It would be great to walk away from the November meeting feeling as if we-

have lots of people who want to help out. I will go over the tasks in detail at the meeting, but here is an abbreviated list of what needs to occur:

Award Pots sponsorship- this has to happen fast as I will probably get the pots at the Cape and Island Show (I am sponsoring the AOS trophy in memory of my Dad)
 Raffle Table
 Refreshments
 Table set up
 Curtain set up
 Monson Library Pick up person- to acquire all the goodies stored in that back room and bring them to the school
 Videos, lectures, presentations, demonstrations during the show. I will volunteer to give a talk- how about you?
 People to deal with the sales end of the show- this requires several folks.
 Random people to be at the show for 2 hour blocks to do various jobs
 Either a club member to do Pre-entry of orchids, or we will have to pay someone to do it (I do have a high school student lined up if necessary)

Assuming Smith Voke goes along with my proposal we will also need some of you to offer tours of your greenhouses to Smith Voke students, potentially set aside plants for them to set up their own mini-display, and possibly one or two of you to donate some time to speak to students either at Smith Voke or JFK- the baby plant/keiki idea we have discussed.

It is vital that this show become an educational outreach event, as that will make it affordable as well as provide free press.

Another thing to consider is if we want a theme or not? I will be going to price out the 'postcard' style invitation card this week, along with chasing the Smith Voke Principal to get a solid answer.

Other non-show items to consider before the meeting:

1. Where would we like to go instead of NYC this year?
2. We need a librarian- any volunteers? Think of it as a way to actually get to read some of our stored material.
3. Our newsletter editor is also getting tired.....
4. This is your Society- the only way this sort of thing works is if everyone pitches in, even in the smallest of ways.
5. I need more people to sign up for shirts so I can make that order come true!

It is a lot to think about, and certainly I have rambled too long. I need to go kiss the puppies-

See you next Sunday, ellen

I accidentally omitted this from the last newsletter, so I am including it now. Editor



Phrag
sedenii

SEPTEMBER PLANT SALE

By Nancy Goodman

The day started out cold and breezy and continued that way for most of the day, only finally warming up a little after noontime. Set up went well and members were there to help out. Things got set up in record time and before I knew it, it was close to 10 am. We had a steady stream of buyers including members for a few hours then it got very quiet near lunchtime, never really picking up again. I suspect the Big E had a lot to do with that and we need to rethink our choice of weekends next year. But by days end it looked as if there was a decent sale of plants, but we will only know after the treasurer's report on how it went.

I would like to thank all of you who turned out to help, especially Verda and Carl who despite not being up to par were there to help out and talk to any one who had questions about the plants at the show table and to get them the plant fact sheets. A few of the members, who had never been able to help at the sale before, were there to lend a hand. Winkie Kuyk was a big help at the front gate and Elizabeth Marinelli and her husband were critical for the check out table. Along with Joe and Ann Cesan they did a great job and things ran smoothly. For all of you others who helped at the front gate, I want to thank you for doing a job, which is very lonely. I usually try and have two people there for that reason, but we did not have the

bodies to spare this year and so I am happy you all helped out at that position. Thanks to Carol for doing the money collecting till Steve showed up. And a big thanks to all of you others who were there helping and talking to the buyers and just being there to help and fill in where needed. Without the volunteer help it would be very hard to get these things going.

The shade cloth made a big difference this year. Since it was very sunny it kept the greenhouse at a bearable temperature. I had most of it borrowed from Bill Hutchinson with what was needed to fill in from Nasami Farm (New England Wildflower Society Nursery) in Whatley lending us the rest. I want to thank all who offered theirs even though it was not needed.

Lastly I want to send out a big thank you to Tom and Dan at the Hadley Garden Center (and the guys who set up the greenhouse tables) for helping us out again and offering us a great place to have our sale. Please thank them when you go into the store and let them know how much we really appreciate their generosity. It is really a great place to have our sale and they go to a lot of work to get it ready for us.

So do not forget that next month is renewal month. If you do not renew at the meeting or by mail by October you will be dropped from the mailing list. There is an explanation of why this happened included elsewhere in the newsletter and I hope to see you at the October meeting.

Show sign-ups

We will be starting to pass around the sign-up sheets for the show. These will be for donations, the reception table and door watching during the show. They will be out at the November meeting so please sign up early and get your donations into Steve, the treasurer, now so we can start getting things ordered early.



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. There are so many different fertilizers out there. How do you know what kinds to use for what orchids? Is there anything special that you can recommend?

A. I always love these loaded questions. The problem with this one is to do it justice and answer in a manner that has some value to the questioner. Basically general fertilizers consist of a source of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, which are the major essential elements for plant growth. Nitrogen is involved in the formation of protein and essential to good vegetative growth. Phosphorous is essential to structural growth, root growth and the formation of the reproductive structures, flowers and fruit of a plant. Potassium has a role in cell and tissue formation. As elements nitrogen is a gas, phosphorous is a metal that can't be exposed to oxygen, and potassium is a metal that explodes on contact with water. The usable forms then are found in a variety of compounds both as simple inorganics and complex organics. Nitrogen is available in several usable forms such as nitrates (but not nitrites) such as sodium nitrate, ammonium nitrate and urea to name the more common usable forms. Both sodium nitrate and ammoniacal nitrate are available immediately while urea nitrogen requires microbial action to become available. In my mind and based on some research, urea goes more to supporting the bacterial and fungal growth on the media than it does to providing nutrition to the plant so I prefer a fertilizer that is at least 50 % nitrate or ammonia based. Phosphorous is a limiting factor for growth of all organisms and available phosphorous is found in large deposits in only two or three places in the world. One is a small island in the Pacific that is almost all phosphorous and also large fossil beds in Florida. The material is mined, treated with a concentrated acid and then aged and sold as phosphoric acid. Potassium is extracted from manure, wood ash and as mineral sources and sold as potash. All fertilizers are sold as complex mixtures with three numbers given. The first number is percentage of nitrogen, the second percentage of phosphate and the third the percentage of potassium. Also given will be the compound source of each element as a part of the label. There are low-level fertilizers and high-level fertilizers. Usually if the total of the numbers is less than or about 20, the fertilizers are called low level with Dyna Grow® one such and if the numbers are above 45 total then they are considered high level fertilizers. Peter's® 20-20-20 is a high level fertilizer. When to use high nitrogen source fertilizers such as 23-10- 8? When you wish to stimulate new vegetative growth as in the spring when putting out the plants. Then as growth begin to mature even out the numbers to a 20-20-20 (also known as a 1-1-1 fertilizer) for several weeks and finally go to something like Peter's® bloom booster, 10-50-10 or any other high phosphate fertilizer. As in all cases use the approach of weekly weakly.

What do I do? I use a fertilizer proportioner and use something like Pete Light 17-16-15 with about 8 to 10 pounds per series, my unit makes 3 gallons of concentrate, and then set the unit at 1 part per two thousand and fertilize once per week all summer long. Then as growth matures, I switch to 10-50-10 every two weeks and gradually go to every three weeks during darker winter months also I use bone meal and blood meal for certain of my terrestrials and cymbidiums but that's another story.

Lately for some plants which I am grooming for show material I might make an application of blood meal (high nitrogen) early in the sequence and then an application of wet-cave bat guano (high phosphate) later.

Marge Tanquay

Ascocendra SuratSpot 'Sweet Fragrance'
 Stlma Kelly 'Lea'
 Phrag sedenii
 Lc Memoria Robert Strait 'Blues'
 Eplc. Mae Bly 'Ching Hua Splash'
 Milt. spectabilis 'Moreliana 4n x Odm Sheraton'
 Dtps (Taisuco Noble x Morent Lip)

Steve Steiner

Vanda Rose Davis 'Snowflake'
 Encyclia dichrome
 Pleurothallis pfauii
 Phrag Cardinale schlimii 'Rodney Wilcox Jones'
 Pleurothallis alleni
 Masd herraduræ

Bev von Kries

Paph philippinense x Paph adductum
 Gomesa recurva
 Bc Gen. Douglas McArthur
 Phrag Hanne Popow

Bill Pavlovich

Stercochilus dalalensis

Bill Benner

Miltonidium Red Brick Road

Stan Buss

Mttsa. Dark Star 'Darth Vader'
 Lc Mini Purple 'Tamaimi AM/AOS' x L. Horace maxima

Tom McCurry

Beallara Marfitch 'Howards Dream'



Lani and Harold Norman

Witerara Ash Tree 'Everglades'
 Lc Irish Helen x B. nodosa
 Lc Harold Carlson 'Linwood'
 Bc. Star Ruby 'Nanadu'
 Blc peoukau's Southern Lady x Blc Regal Pokai
 Phrag Sorcerer's Apprentice
 Blc Mem Vida Lee 'Limelight'

K. Howat

Lc. Mini Purple
 Paph charlesworthii

Keith Tibbetts

Blc November Bride
 Asconcentrum mincatum



Marc Gray

Bulbophyllum pecten-veneris



Verda Dale

Dend. delauri

Carol Mentos

Lc Mari's Song



And three very unhappy puppies that are wishing at the moment that they were orchids, too, so they could be inside with everyone!

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

Nov 18: Monthly meeting. 'The Orchid Scene in Thailand' by Keith Tibbits

Dec 15: Northeast Judging Center, Annual Judges Auction, 10am, The Hampton Inn, Elmsford, NY, Contact Rita Cohen, 516 374 6426

Dec 16: Annual Holiday Party

Note to Members: Submissions for the December, 2007 newsletter must reach the editor by November 28, 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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NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, November 18, 2007, Munson Library, Amherst, Ma
Keith Tibbits will be speaking on 'The Orchid Scene in Thailand'

Beginner's Program: Ellen Kennedy will conduct a workshop on windowsill growing for beginners upstairs in the library at 1:30.

Since we didn't have a show this year we had an extra meeting which changed the alphabet format for refreshments, so I am asking anyone who feels like bringing something to bring it. We may get nothing or we may get a lot. That way we can start at A in January.