



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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**OCTOBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
MONTH. PAY YOUR DUES AND RE-
CEIVE A FREE PLANT!**

Plant Sale

By Kevin English

Hello group members,

I am not going to try to include too much in this letter but as coordinator of the '06 plant sale I would like to say that it was a real learning experience.

Looking at the bottom line, the financial outcome of the sale will probably come in at the break-even point, or maybe a slight profit. Yet, we still have some of our purchased orchids which can be used for future group events, offsetting some future costs.

The real wealth of the sale to me was, however, the sharing of the knowledge and enthusiasm of our people brought about by the inexplicable allure of these unusual plants. We do have a great group of people in our society.

In the karmic sense, 'the end of one is the beginning of the next'. Therefore, it would be a wise move for us to start planning the winter show as soon as possible. Early discussion of our needs for the show will help prevent unnecessary spending and sharing our opinions will help strengthen our position to put on a good show for the public; both avenues of attracting the public and increasing profits.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the event, for their time and efforts, use of supplies and materials and, especially, to the collections table people who sat working diligently throughout the sale. All the best to everyone. See you next meeting.

Sincerely, Kevin English



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 at 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.

Q. Can you clarify the difference between Cat. Roho , Lc Roho and Lc Rojo. Are they different hybrids or just misspelled or mislabeled?

A. In checking through on all these names I come up with a combination of misspellings and mislabeling. In one case it appears that someone has anglicized the Spanish Rojo into the Roho which is how it would be pronounced and in the first case it appears to be just sloppy labeling. Wildcat data base does not show any other listing than the cross *C. aurantica* X *L. milleri* = Lc. Rojo.

Q. On setting up shade cloth for a greenhouse should I use strips of different percentages or one percentage and what percentages?

A. You present a very intriguing concept. If you have time and can work out a system to install different percentages of shading you could in effect create a dappling affect which would change the exposure for each plant as the sun moves. To some extent the results will be impacted by the orientation of your greenhouse. I think that you might find it very time consuming but very workable. I use only one shade cloth for the greenhouse because it's quicker and applied more easily. (We old guys have to minimize). I use a combination depending upon what kind of exposure and what temperature reduction I want. In general I use 65 % on the greenhouse but I also have a 30 % out where I have some natural shading. You want to give the maximum amount of sunlight without burning foliage. After my plants have been out for several weeks I remove the 30 % shade and switch the 65 % shade on an outside bed thus I can increase the sun exposure. But because the second bed gets more natural sun I do not remove the last shade totally unless a hurricane is forecast. After my plants are fully exposed I only cover (*Cymbidia*) when a frost warning has been issued.

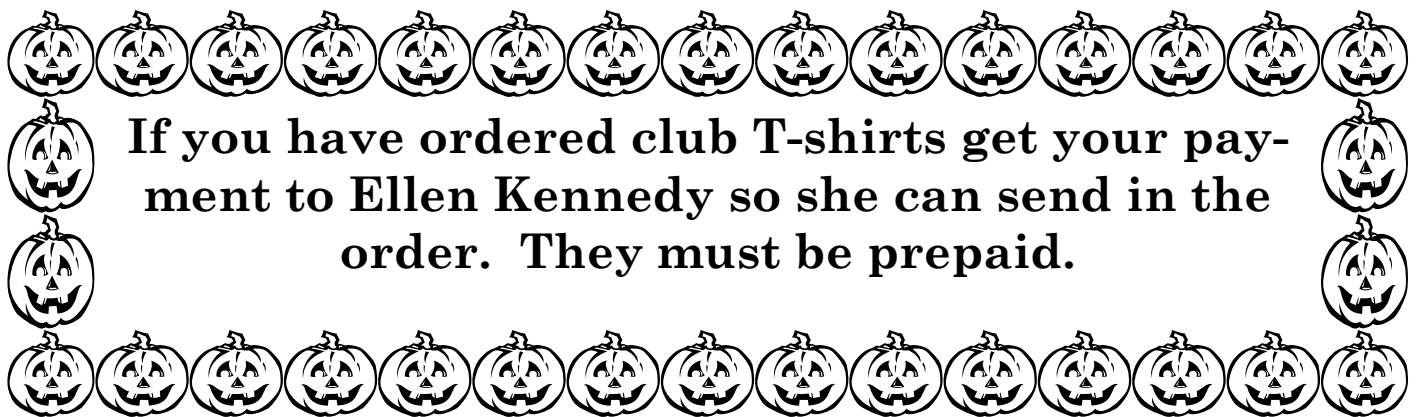
Q. What do I need to make my *Osmoglossum puchellum* bloom? I have it in my intermediate house.

A. My feeling would be that you are growing it too warm. I grow mine in the cold house 55° F

days and 48° F nights and this spring it had some 15 spikes. So try lowering the temperature and don't run it too dry.

Q. Do mealy bugs fly? Is it a known fact?

A. The way they get around it almost seems that they would have to fly but in-so-far-as I know such is not the case. When we examine the world of the very small, locomotion is a very interesting and strange phenomenon. Structural movement may be due to drop splash, wind currents, vector organisms and the like. For example aphids are transported by ants since the ants milk the honey dew. Very small spores and some insects and insect eggs move just like bullets and I have one book which deals entirely with the ballistics of spores and small structures. Spiders move hundreds of miles on wind currents. So don't be too surprised when mealy bugs or some other small insect pops up several plants away.



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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NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, October 15th at 2pm at the Munson Library on Southeast St in Amherst. Kim Nyiri will do a slide show on native orchids of the Northeast.

Refreshments:

If your last name begins with Q, R, S, or T it is your turn to bring refreshments to the next meeting.

Amherst Orchid Society
2006 Upcoming Events

October 15: 2 pm Amherst Orchid Society monthly meeting at the Munson Library on Southeast St in Amherst.

Note to Members: Submissions for the November, 2006 newsletter must reach the editor by October 27, 2006 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.