



Greater Whorled Pogonia  
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# The Newsletter of the **AMHERST ORCHID SOCIETY**

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

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## September Meeting

### Roger's Notes

A happy, loud group of members were present for a Friday night meeting that featured a speaker. Kristen Thus, Neofinetia grower, from Michigan spoke about her specialty and she was real good. Her enthusiasm toward Neofinetia transferred to the club members as witness the crowd around her sales table after the talk. That was when the above mentioned loud came from as Steve and Joe tried to get through the display table. Many plants were purchased so I want to see them again at the February show entered into the foliage class. I will gladly help judge these little guys as I now know about different leaf patterns, leaf colorations, mud roots and basal leaf purple colors (there is a Japanese name for this as there is for everything related to Neofinitas). Did I mention green root tips, also an importance for this species. Kristen mentioned that there are 2,200 varieties of this species. During her slide show I got to thinking (always a dangerous thing) that my cattleyas are very similar to her avid Neos descriptions. My Cattleyas have purple leaf colorations during their summering outside. The Cats can have fragrant white flowers although Kristen didn't emphasize the Neos white fragrant flowers. In Japan often times the flowers are removed for the shows, everybody in attendance cringed at that thought. My Cats even have green root tips but not the nice sphagnum root ball that the Neos like to grow in and not the decorative pots although I have seen Marge with her Cats in these fancy pots. My cats even have the mud root coloration. This is noticed when I throw away a dead Cattleya and look at its roots. By the way, people who missed this Neo talk will have to give me the color of a mud root in order to partake in the December feast.

I used to grow and bloom Neofinetia falcata and really enjoyed its summer fragrance. This fragrance was the reason why this species was in my collection. Kristen pointed out that her Neos look good and varied every day of the year. A few of her growing tips are DON'T OVER WATER, can grow in any medium but sphagnum moss is preferred. Change the moss every year as salts can accumulate with the fertilizing. Clay pots or net baskets are needed, 70% shade, hot or cold temps are no great shakes and don't over water. Steve our club Neo expert really stressed the over watering caution. Neo growers remind me of the fanatic Paph growers. You can't clone either genus so when they see a good one, price is no object and usually that high priced plant is in orchid heaven in six months, the angst of orchid growing! The above is just me having a little fun. I enjoyed her presentation and it was nice having a speaker and learning something. I will now take notice of the whole Neofinetia presentation and not just the number of blooms.

Business side of the meeting pertained to the upcoming Mass show which is the first weekend in November. I will need some plants for the club display so bring them for the October meeting or check with me. Joe auctioned off four plants that were left at my place back in July. We had a great deal of fun with this and maybe do something like this in the future. You better label your display plants or else!

## Steve Steiner

### ANDY'S ORCHIDS

This June, I visited Southern California for a week. I had last been to the area around 10 years ago and visited Andy's Orchids. I was wowed. Andy's is several miles north of San Diego. It is close to the Pacific coast where a cold ocean current moderates the heat of Southern California. Many plants are grown outside under shade cloth. Andy's consists of a warren of multiple growing areas.

Before I flew out, I made an appointment. The last time I was there, I spent a couple of hours, with Andy accompanying me throughout, pointing choice little things. This time I spent over 3 hours with him. It was bigger and better than I remembered. There is a large new greenhouse with just small growing plants. Most were cool to intermediate growing Pleurothallids, but interesting Dendrobiums, Bulbophyllums, and the like were also present. There was a small greenhouse filled with just rupicolous Laelias. There were large growing plants as well, including a couple of 10 to 15 foot Sobralias. A terete leaved vandaceous species with small light blue flowers was spectacular, but too expensive to just "give it a shot". Andy's has some hybrids, but species are the reason to go there. While Andy's still sells many mounted plants (their motto is, after all, "orchids on a stick"), many others are grown in plastic baskets and pots. I had Andy ship the plants rather than risking my new treasures on the Dallas tarmac for 1 to 2 hours during a heat wave, while we changed planes. If you find yourself in L.A. or San Diego and are at all interested in orchid species, Andy's is well worth a pilgrimage.

### PLANTS COMING IN FROM SUMMER VACATION by Steve Reardon

October is not a month that one looks forward to when it comes to our orchids. Most of us 'summer' our orchids out of doors. The orchids seem to appreciate the summer heat, humidity and rains. We have had some dry spells here in Central and Western Massachusetts and some cool days, yet it is what the orchid doctor seems to order. New growth and emerging flower spikes and buds are all welcome signs of a healthy and happy orchid. We all have our routines to perform prior to allowing the orchids back inside our homes or greenhouses for the winter months. It is cool at night, and we have already dipped into the low 30's in many areas of our region. Frost this time of year can be a nuisance or a killer, depending on how you protect your orchids. We expect the colder nights and the frosts, but we prepare the orchids for these 'chilly' nights out of doors because the orchids like that extreme. Most orchids love that cool drop in temperature and the lower light of the shorter days to coax them into flowering. Cymbidiums really love the cool nights. Depending on where your orchid hails from, the cooler nights are great for it. Protect them from the frost as you would your annuals or the late blooming perennial Montauk Daisy. At some point you must decide when to bring the orchids back inside. This is where the fun starts. Not just carrying all the orchids back in, but preparing them for the short journey. One must check for weed growth in the pot, or even a maple that decided to sprout there. Removing the weeds or other unwanted growths is a must. Then you have to deal with the insects that would also like to come into the house. Ants, slugs and earwigs, little bitty leaf biting critters and others, all are not welcome in the home or greenhouse. Usually a spray of all the leaves with insecticidal soap is great, but what about the critters hiding in the potting media...This is a great hiding spot for all sorts of unwanted guests. A good watering with the hose is needed, followed by a treatment with something to kill the unwanted hitchhikers. Usually a systemic insecticide can be used - *very carefully*. Make sure the insecticide is safe for your orchids. Read the label carefully. Apply outside ONLY. The idea of the systemic is that it is absorbed by the plant and any insect that wants to chew on the roots or leaves will be targeted with the poison. Be fussy when choosing your systemic insecticide also, some have real strong odors even days later. These systemic insecticides are readily available at Lowe's or Home Depot or your favorite garden center. Just like wiping your feet at the door before entering the house, your orchids also need to be clean before they are brought in for the winter months.

**Show Table September 2017**

**Marge Tanguay**

Cattleya Green Veil 'Dressy'  
Rhynchobrassoleya Everything Nice 'Showtime'  
Zygopetalum Jumpin Jack

**Liz Marinelli**

Phragmipedium Eric Young 4N  
Dendrobium laevifolium

**Maryanne Laukaitis**

Cattleya Summer Spot  
Cattleya Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii'  
Cattleya Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah'  
Paphiopedilum dianthum

**Steve Steiner**

Vanda Pakchong Bluer 'Bnjong'  
Dendrobium gonzalesii  
Maxillaria triloris  
Pleurothallis flexuosum  
Oerstedella wallisii'  
Paphiopedilum Prime Child  
Macroclinium escobarianum  
Epidendrum capricornu

**Leilani and Harold Norman**

Cattleya Elsie Hetherington

**Dave Marinelli**

Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi f. chataladae

**Betsy Higgins**

Rhyncattleanthe Haiku Magic

**George Collison**

Oncidium Sharry Baby  
Phalaenopsis Trader Joe #8  
Wilsonara unknown  
Dendrobium atrovioleaceum

**Roger West**

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Gene Crocker 'Collin'



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**Cypripedium reginae**  
**Showy Lady Slipper**

**On orchid venture in Woodstock, Vermont**



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**Cypripedium arietinum**  
**Rams-head Lady Slipper**

**On orchid venture Strafford, Vermont**

## **“GoBotany” ? “NEWFS” ?**

If you found a native, wild orchid (like the *Platanthera* that Marc found) , or other intriguing plant, you can get help with identification from <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/> This identification site is sponsored by New England Wild Flower Society ([www.newfs.org](http://www.newfs.org)) a non-profit society with gardens and office in Framingham, Massachusetts. One can visit the gardens, take a class, and purchase native plants at Nasami Farm in Whately, MA, their Western Mass propagating nursery facility. Elizabeth Farnsworth of NEWFS will speak at our meeting November 19, 2017.

Biography on speaker for November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting:

### **Speaker for November 19 meeting**

**Elizabeth Farnsworth** is Senior Research Ecologist with the New England Wild Flower Society, and a biologist, educator, and scientific illustrator. She is also Senior Editor of the botanical journal, *Rhodora*. She is currently accessioning and curating seeds of rare plant species—including orchids--for the region’s largest native plant seedbank. She has developed and offered the Society’s first set of online courses for teaching botany. She was co-leader of the National Science Foundation grant for developing Go Botany, an interactive online guide to the entire New England flora, and previously coordinated planning for the conservation and management of more than 100 species of rare plants. She has illustrated the *Flora Novae Angliae* (Yale University Press) and the *Natural Communities of New Hampshire* by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau. She co-wrote and illustrated the award-winning *A Field Guide to the Ants of New England* (Yale University Press), as well as the *Connecticut River Boating Guide: Source to Sea* and the *Peterson Field Guide to the Ferns*. She is a member of the graduate faculties of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the University of Rhode Island, and has taught at Smith College, Hampshire College, and the Conway School of Landscape Design. She formerly served as Ecologist with the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. She has conducted scientific research on many ecosystems throughout the world, focusing on restoration, conservation, plant physiology, plant-animal interactions, mangroves, and climate change. She was awarded a Bullard Research Fellowship by Harvard University and a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. She has been a scientific consultant to the National Park Service, The Trustees of Reservations, U. S. Forest Service, Massachusetts and Connecticut Natural Heritage Programs, United Nations, and the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. She obtained her Ph.D. in biology from Harvard University, M.Sc. from the University of Vermont, and a B.A. with honors in Environmental Studies from Brown University. In her spare time she sings semi-professionally and paddles her hand-built kayak.

## Can You See a Polar Bear in a Snow Storm?

Do you like seeing lots of white space in the newsletter? No? Well, please consider writing a short – or long – article to contribute. The membership would like to hear about your best, or worst, plant experiences, as we all learn from our mistakes! Research an orchid and tell us about it. Or, did you find an orchid on vacation, a hike, or a canoe trip? We'd like to see a photo and maybe a sentence or two about it. Don't forget, we like to run the "helpful hints" that make some of your plant keeping tasks a little easier. Send articles to Marc Gray or Maryanne Laukaitis.

### "Help Wanted: Newsletter Editor"

The club needs someone to take on the monthly newsletter together. Just as important, we need a person who can pick up, address label and stamp the postal copies of the newsletters, as not all members have internet access. Please contact Marc Gray or Maryanne Laukaitis – see page 6 for contact information.

### Upcoming Events:

October 15, 2017 – Amherst Orchid Society, Annual Membership Renewal Meeting, 2 PM, Munson Library, South Amherst  
Members with last names beginning with A through D, please bring refreshments!

November 3, 4, 5, 2017 – Massachusetts Orchid Society, Annual Show and Sale, located at Mahoney's Garden Center,  
242 Cambridge Street, Winchester, MA ([www.massorchid.org](http://www.massorchid.org))

November 19, 2017 – Amherst Orchid Society Meeting, 2 PM, Munson Library. South Amherst, MA with guest speaker,  
Elizabeth Farnsworth, Ph.D., Senior Research Ecologist, native plant specialist with the New  
England Wild Flower Society, Framingham, MA ([www.newfs.org](http://www.newfs.org))

December 17, 2017 – Amherst Orchid Society Meeting and Annual Holiday Party, 2 PM, Munson Library. South Amherst,  
MA – Please bring dishes to share! (May be cancelled if the weather makes traveling dangerous)



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**Platanthera grandiflora White Form on Orchid venture in Vermont**

