

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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June Meeting at the Maciaszeks' Home

Roger West

It was 15 months since the society had convened. I'm sure everyone had the same feeling, just great seeing fellow orchid growers. Our hosts did a great job putting this together. I have been to Joe's house when the carpenters were finishing up and Marge had all her perennials on the front porch waiting to be placed in a barren landscape. The place looked a whole lot different this Sunday with a nice border garden, the orchard, many potted plants and the greenhouse orchids. This picnic seemed like things are getting back to normal for the 25 people attending. The camaraderie felt among the members was on display and that was nice. Speaking of display, the orchid tables were full of blooms. It is hard to imagine this amount of orchids blooming this time of the year. Small plants with large blooms dominated the tables. My eye caught a Den unicum hybrid brought in by Liz. It had many large, round orange blooms very unlike the unicum species except the orange color. How can I forget a very large C canhamiana specimen brought in by Marc but originated from a former member, Kay Howat. We will divide this plant at the July meeting. On a sad note, we lost Ed Gray a week before the picnic and Holly lost her father at the age of 103 last May. In summation it felt great being among friends and the past 15 months is behind us and soon we will be back at Munson and maybe a February show.

The scene was April, 1995. The club was holding the annual show at the old Hopkins gym (now a parking lot). This was our second or third year at the gym and the last because the lighting was so bad. We didn't have any of the mobile lights that we now have. Thinking back, the old setup material seems barbaric to what we now use. But one thing that hasn't changed over the years is orchid quality. The larger sized orchids were more plentiful back then with the smaller ones seen today. Anyways, that April was the first year we had vendors. There were two commercial vendors with Lani and Harold and myself from the club. I was manning my table when this father and son team approached. The talkative son was like a kid in a candy store, exuberant about the showy blooms and saying they had just joined the society. Meanwhile the father was looking over my plants and brought a few. This was my introduction to Ed Gray, the start of many years of friendship. He purchased many plants from me and I gave him plants that were too big for me and Ed grew them to an even greater size. In those early years, Ed was the grower, not so much in the latter years. He started with a cool greenhouse off his bedroom, then building a much larger one.

The Grays and I spent a great deal of time with the orchids. Some of the memorable moments occurred when we would travel to the EOC shows. The Eastern Orchid Congress held a large fall show somewhere on the East coast with the local societies putting it on. These were very good shows. It was so good that our society sent Lani and Harold as our reps to these shows. Too bad this show doesn't exist anymore. It was actually held in Boston one fall with Carl Carlozzi setting up the club's display. Altogether the Grays and I must have hit 6 shows. The club even rented a bus for a show at King of Prussia in Pa.

Ed, Marc and I set up many displays at the other New England sites. Most memorable was a N. H. show at an armory in Nashua. The way it worked was we would place the plants and then Marc and I would be off doing the paper work. There were always extra plants that would go back home with us. On this day, I left out a *C mossiae* "Willowbrook". It had only 6 blooms and I thought we had better purple cats. While Marc and I were busy, Ed slipped this plant into a corner of the display. I came back on Sunday to find out this cat species was awarded a FCC/AOS. I would have brought this plant back home, Ed won me a FCC award. The Cape shows were Ed's favorite as he and Christine would spend the weekend at the show's hotel, probably to get away from those Vermont winters.

All of us remember Ed for his grill work during the June picnics at the Grays in Vermont. No charcoal for Ed, always the wood chunks for cooking those fat hamburgers and hot dogs. Or maybe we remember him as the guy sitting on the stage steps quietly observing the orchid madness down below. I think back to all the nice orchid folks that have past and feel sad but this is the way it goes.



Picnic at Roger West's July 18th at his house in Conway!

Time: Arrive any time after 1:00 p.m.

Bring:

- A dish to share (The Wests will provide a meat dish, some desserts, soda and water)
- A folding chair

Directions:

FROM THE SOUTH

Take Rt. 91 to exit 24. Take Rt 5 north to Rt. 116 North. Go North on Rt.116 into the center of Conway.

In Conway, from the center of Conway, you will see a green road sign for Dacey Rd. and a sign for Conway Orchids. The Wests have a big farm with a large red barn.

FROM THE NORTH

Take Rt. 91 to exit 25. Take Rt. 116 North. Go North on Rt.116 into the center of Conway. In Conway, take a

Right on Shelburne Falls Rd. Exactly 3 miles from the center of Conway, you will see a green road sign for Dacey Rd. and a sign for Conway Orchids. The Wests have a big farm with a large red barn.

Update to Article About Snails in March Newsletter...

Liz Marinelli

I bought some yellow sticky traps as recommended in Orchids magazine and stuck them into some of my pots around the edges. After a week or so I checked and sure enough there were snails stuck to some of them. It is not clear if all the snails in a particular pot were trapped, there could still be some at large. But it is definitely worth adding to the arsenal of weapons to thwart snails, in combination with soaking the pots now and then. They are inexpensive and there is no pesticide involved.



In Memoriam: Edwin Gray

Edwin F. Gray, 86, died peacefully at home in Williamsville on June 11, 2021, with his wife Christine and Bayada home health aide Melinda at his side. He was born October 7, 1934 at home in Williamsville, the third of 6 children to Frank and Helena (Crowninshield) Gray.

Edwin worked for Loney Construction for 30 years, retiring after a serious accident on the job in 1993. As part of his recovery, he and his son Marc began to raise orchids, building two greenhouses, and filling them with award winning orchids.

He was predeceased by his parents, his sister Jean (Druke), and his brothers James and Charles. Surviving are his wife of almost 59 years, his sons, Marc and Daniel (wife Sheila) and brother David and sister Joan Jones.

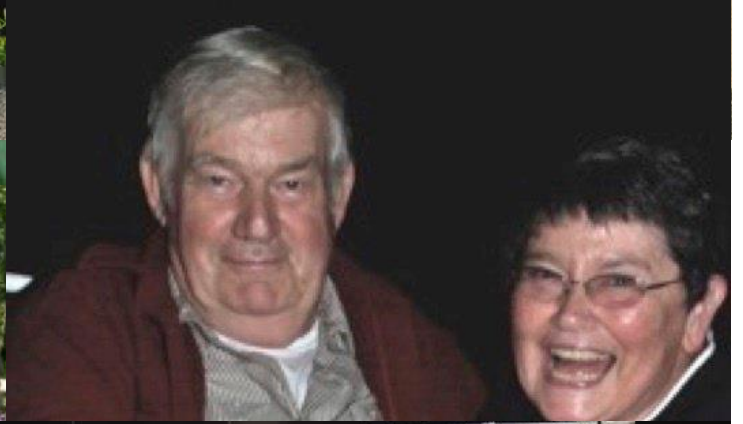


Edwin was a quiet, humble man who loved the outdoors. He built a beautiful home and yard for his family and was still gardening in 2020. He was also an avid hunter and fisherman and supplied many fish and game meals for the family.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 19th at 1 pm at the Newfane Congregational Church, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

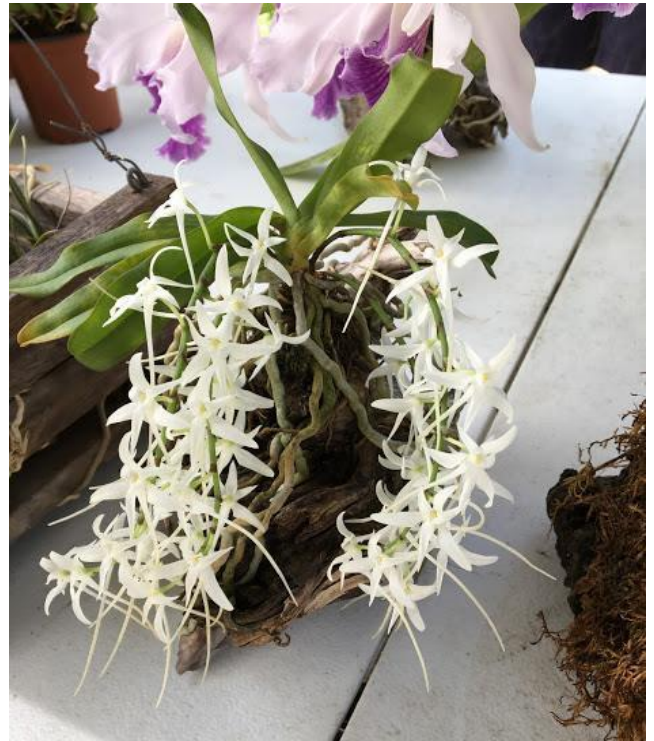
Special thanks to all who took part in caring for Edwin, especially Bayada Homecare, Bayada Hospice and David MacCormack, APRN, his primary care giver.

Some memories of Ed...





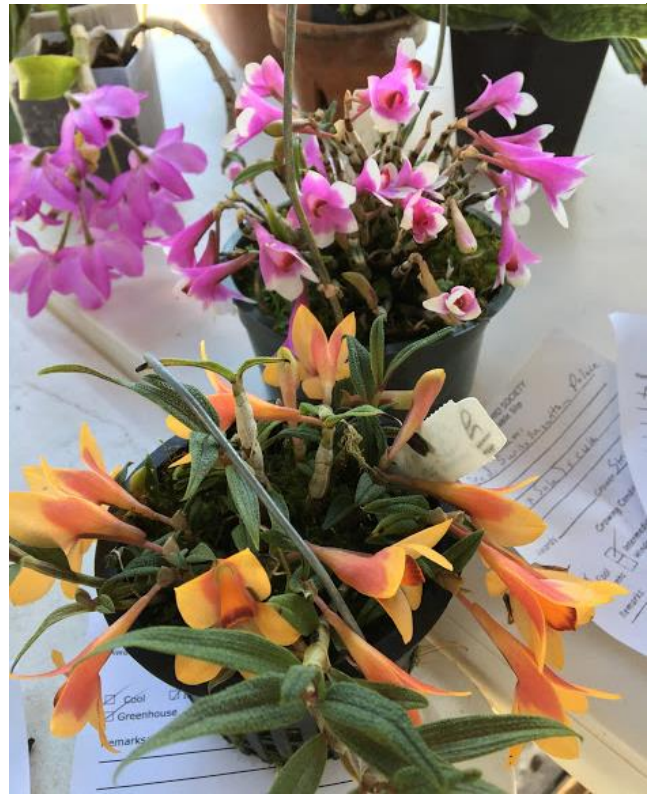
Diplocaulobium tentaculatum
Steve Steiner



Mysticidium capense
Maryanne Laukaitis



Den. parishii rubra
Joe Maciaszek



Dendrobium Swiss Mountain Palace
Steve Steiner



Aeranthes ramosa x caudatus
Steve Steiner