



NHOS Newsletter

July 2019 www.nhorchids.org

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society & Orchid Digest Corp.



Please be sure to become a fan of [New Hampshire Orchid Society](https://www.facebook.com/newhampshireorchidsociety).

President's Message

Well, the trip to Piping Rock Orchids in New York was well worth the long travel. We increased our membership with others that joined us. Many came home with several plants, some with a few and I think 1 or 2 just came to see Glen's place, which was very nice. The

New York Society that hosted was amazing and there were great speakers as well as other sales including; Kelley's Korner, Grace Emporium and Flora Peculia, who had Neo's.

My easy breakdown for the month:

- (1) Nomination Committee will be looking to fill the following Board positions, President, Treasurer and two trustees to replace those of us who need to step down because of the by-laws. Please consider joining the board as this Society cannot continue to thrive and grow without the help of all the members. Ask questions, we will be completely honest on what the jobs available are and their responsibilities. Please reach out.

(Con't on Pg. 2)

Next Meeting

Saturday July 13, 2019

**11:00 AM, Old Bedford
Town Hall, Bedford, NH**

**Speaker- Brenda Oviatt,
Botanica, Ltd.**

**See Page 9 for more
information including pre-
orders**

**Plants must be on the show table
by 11:00 to be eligible for judging.**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly 2019 AOS Judging

The first Saturday of every month unless posted otherwise
10:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA

If you are interested in additional information about your plant, or have a plant you would like transported to judging, please contact Jean Stefanik, AOS Accredited Judge, Jeango4it@aol.com or (603) 647-1063) or one of the others who MAY be driving to judging this month.

[Additional Information](#) **www.towerhillbg.org**

NHOS Monthly Meeting

Sat. Aug. 10, 2019
Annual NHOS picnic
Location- Carl & Daryl's, Milford, NH

NHOS Monthly Meeting

Sat. Sept. 14, 2019
IPA Focus on Phal's Day

NHOS Monthly Meeting

Sat. Oct. 12, 2019
Kim Feddersen, owner of Fair Orchids
Topic TBD.
He will have plants for sale.
(con't on pg. 3)

President's Message (Con't from Pg. 1)

(2) August picnic will be held at Carl & Daryl's in Milford, look for more info on this coming soon. We will be voting on the Board as well as the Annual Budget for 2019/2020 please review in this newsletter.

(3) International Phalaenopsis Alliance will be our September meeting again this year, look for registration information.

Hope to see you at the meeting

Andrea

UPCOMING EVENTS (con't)

AOS Fall Members Meeting

**Oct. 16-20, 2019
Homestead, FL**

NHOS Monthly Meeting

**Sat. Nov. 9, 2019
Gary Myer, owner of Columbian Orchid Imports
Topic – Draculas.
He will have plants for sale.**

NHOS Monthly Meeting

**Sat. Dec. 7, 2019
Annual Holiday Party and AOS Judging
Come celebrate orchids and orchid friends at our holiday party at Bedford Old Town
Hall.**

It's potluck so please bring a dish to share.

**The AOS Northeast Judging Center will have their monthly meeting with us and will
conduct a mini-auction to help defray their monthly costs.**

Showy Lady's Slipper Fieldtrip

by Jean Stefanik, NHOS Education & Conservation Chairperson

On Saturday, June 22nd, a group of 16 NHOS members ventured to the NH Academy of Science hosted at Crossroads Academy in Lyme, NH for a private tour of the new educational laboratory facility, directed by Dr. Peter Faletra. Dr. Faletra, you may recall, has been working with students in various locations and capacities for the past 20 years to seed propagate and restore populations of the amazing *Cypripedium reginae*. He and his students have spoken at both meetings and at several of our orchid shows, even earning a coveted AOS Educational Exhibit award. Dr. Faletra explained the new Center is continuing the research on *showy lady's slippers*, continuing to refine protocols and long term studies of both germination and cultivation of orchids, as well as other research topics. We all had the opportunity to view stages of seed development and listened in awe to his explanations of the sophistication of the cutting edge research into other projects as well, all by middle and high school students. (con't)

Most of the group then continued to Eshqua Bog in Vermont near Woodstock. A Nature Conservancy and New England Wildflower Reserve, Eshqua is actually a fen, not a bog, and it boasts one of the most impressive and accessible populations of *Cypripedium reginae* in the region, visible from short paths and

a rather new boardwalk. They did not disappoint... and the bonus was two other *Platanthera* orchid species in full bloom...the white bog candle, and the northern green orchid.

We'll be heading for another bog location in NH, to view different orchids in late July or very early August... if interested, please contact Jean Stefanik through the NHOS website. (let's see who reads all the way to the end of this article...first come, first served for signups!)



Dr. Faletra shows off a test tube containing newly sprouting seeds in the lab and a bed of seed propagated *Cyp. reginae* in bloom.



NHOS & Friends June fieldtrip to Piping Rock Orchids,
Galway, NY



Are we there yet?



Piping Rock greenhouses



Piping Rock bloomers



The money drop!



C'mon Glen....seriously?



**Glen's tutorial on how to "gently"
divide a specimen plant.....WITH A
SAWZALL!!!!**



The lecture tent

Cypripedium acaule (a-Kaw-lee)

By Leigh Coolidge, NHOS Newsletter Editor and edited by Jean Stefanik, NHOS Education & Conservation Chair

Better known as the Pink Lady's Slipper or the Moccasin Flower, *Cyp. acaule* is undoubtedly the most widely recognized of all the orchids native to New Hampshire.

Found in the eastern USA and Canada and south to Georgia and Alabama in hardwood and conifer forests, in swamps and bogs, dense woods along streams and in coastal dunes as a large sized, cold growing, erect, terrestrial plant from the higher and drier deciduous forests with 2, plicate, opposite, basal, elliptic, obtuse leaves that blooms in the spring and early summer on a terminal, slender, to 15" [45 cm] long inflorescence carrying a solitary, nodding, showy flower arising with the new leaves in the spring in the south through summer in the north. Native Americans have historically used an extract from this species as a sedative and treatment for nervous disorders.¹

Although there are a handful of other color forms of *Cyp. acaule* ranging from white to red, the standard "pink" is typical of New Hampshire's population which tends to bloom from late May to mid-June depending on site and local weather conditions. As can be seen from Mr. Phahl's's description, *acaule*, unlike many orchids, actually can successfully inhabit a fairly wide range of habitats although there are often key ingredients that should be kept in mind when exploring for potential sites to enjoy the spring blooms.

This year, for the first time, I had a chance to explore in detail the 200 acres (of which 150 are a conservation easement) of our lakefront condominium development here in Weare. As it turns out, we have quite a healthy population of *acaule* and I found them in 3 sites, each slightly different, but all sharing certain similarities.

Site 1 I will refer to as the lakeside embankment. This site is a very steep (45 degrees plus) east facing bank of gravel underlay on the west shore of Horace Lake. The bank is populated primarily with 100+ year old White Pines interspersed with a few White Oak. They are dense enough to prevent any direct sun from reaching the orchids but although it is densely shaded by a high canopy, the morning sun provides a few hours of bright light which gets reflected up under the canopy off of the lake's surface. This site held close to 30 plants.



The above photo's of site 1 were taken from my knees which helps illustrate the steepness of the site. Note the dense groundcover of pine needles which provides one of the key characteristics for *Cyp. acaule*'s success. An acidic growing medium.

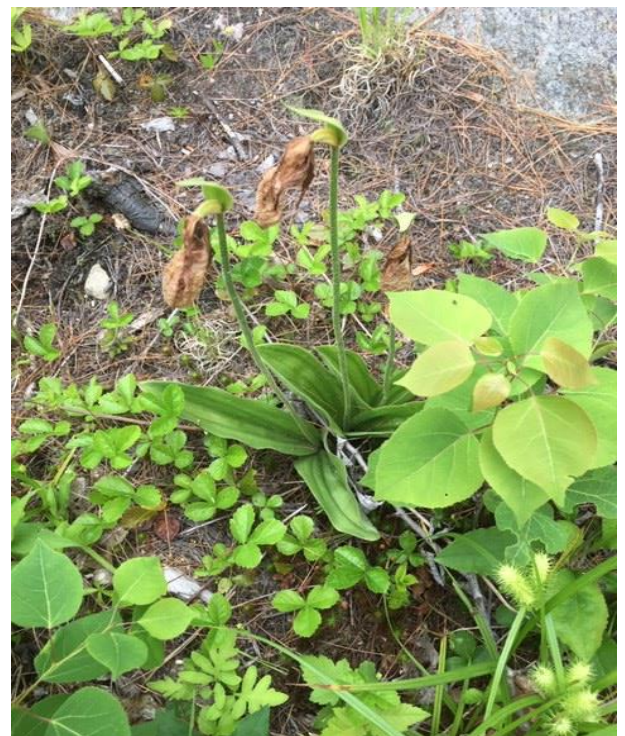
¹ As described in Jay Pfahl's Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia
New Hampshire Orchid Society

Cypripedium acaule (con't)

Site 2, the hilltop hemlock grove, supported only 2 Plants but they were quite large. What distinguished this site was the fact the plants had a more northerly exposure and were growing in very dense shade. I actually had to use a flash to get this picture.



Site 3 sported 4 plants (all had previously bloomed) In an open area behind the beach where they got full sun for several hours a day (likely triggering the earlier blooming) but it was also right next to a seasonal running brook. Note there are still pine needles and the plants are growing basically in a thin blanket of forest litter on top of granite ledge. My theory on how these plants exist here is the tempering of spring sun by the brook and the fact that later season undercover growth will provide sufficient protection for the leaves from mid-summer sun.



So, substantiated by nothing other than my personal observations of a one day outing, it appears the 2 common threads of the three colonies observed are; 1) an abundance of pine straw ground litter to maintain a relatively high pH soil level and 2) an under layer of gravel which provides excellent drainage even when in close proximity to a source of seasonal running water. This provides the essential good drainage for the roots which radiate up to 3 feet in several directions but they are all in the top few inches of the surface, not deep at all, and don't branch. There are symbiotic relationships with the fungi and some theorize the orchids are actually parasites of the fungi and needed to naturally develop the seeds into the photosynthetic plant stage. If you have observations of native NH orchids, we'd love to hear from you!

AOS News

UPCOMING WEBINARS

It's easy to find the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You'll find the link under the [All About Orchids](#) tab. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of this monthly Corner.

The Story of White Cattleyas with Jean Ikeson

Thursday, July 11th, 2019 @ 8:30-9:30 EDT *Members only*

Join Jean Ikeson, AOS Accredited Judge, as she takes us on a journey through time to see trends in breeding and awarding White Cattleyas.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6393813344718413571>

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton

Thursday, July 18th, 2019 @ 8:30-9:30 EDT *Public*

Please join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchid. He will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send your questions and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at greenhouse@aos.org by Tuesday, July 16th. Please include pictures as well.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3683896514875164674>

Note: After registering you will receive a confirmation e-mail information about joining the seminar.

WHAT ARE WEBINARS? Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view the presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your Mac, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP.

WANT TO LEARN BUT CAN'T MAKE THE DATE? The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.

July Speaker- Brenda Oviatt, Botanica Ltd.

Botanica Ltd., located in Missoula, MT is owned and operated by Bill Nerison (architect) and Brenda Oviatt (graphic artist). They began growing orchids in 1983 and over time their growing has evolved from a hobby into a two part business. Half of the business involves growing and selling orchids (primarily species) to other interested growers. The other half of the business is focused on the ex-situ propagation of endangered angraecoids and the education of hobbyists and growers concerned with the plight of many species of plants and animals from Africa and Madagascar. The talk is called: Angraecoid Orchids - Keeping a piece of nature alive; half is about conservation and half is culture information to grow them more successfully.

Brenda can accept pre-orders (and have already received two) but their website has very few things listed right now. Previous society members have described her sales plants as a "mini orchid show". She will bring a wide selection of orchids (not just angraecoids) carefully packed in a suitcase(s).

You can pre-order at <https://botanicaltd.com/> or call (406) 721-3256 and make sure you specify this is a New Hampshire pre-order

Native Orchid Conference in Ontario a Success!

by Jean Stefanik, NHOS Education & Conservation Chairperson, NOC Trustee

In mid June over 70 people from all over the US and Canada converged on Tobermory on the Bruce Peninsula on Lake Huron in Ontario, Canada for the annual Native Orchid Conference Symposium. Many native orchid enthusiasts have been attending these gatherings for 16 years, in varying locations, including our own New Hampshire hosting in 2014. This year everything was blooming 2-3 weeks later than usual because of the cold and wet spring but we were amazed to see yellow lady's slippers,

Cypripedium parviflorum, variety *pubescens* gracing the highways and backroads in amazing abundance... often more plentiful than dandelions!!! Among unique orchids seen in bloom were *Listera ovata*, originally native to Europe; and a disjunct population of *Platanthera* (*Piperia*) *unalascensis*, the Alaskan orchid, among others.

The lectures included scientific talks, travelogues, and local information. Fieldtrips were divided into groups of 10 - 15 people to minimize the impact and included lots of roadside botany, walks on fens and boardwalks, and a trip to Flowerpot Island in Lake Huron to experience less common species. Jean and PK always enjoy catching up, and exploring together... and this year was no exception. Check out the Native Orchid Conference and consider becoming a member. <https://www.nativeorchidconference.info/>

The word is out that next year's location is being planned for the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State, sometime in late June or very early July most likely.



Yellow Lady's Slippers

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Ocean State Orchid Society

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Orchid Conservation Coalition

www.orchidconservationcoalition.org

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Submission of Articles

Deadline for submission of articles is
10 days before the monthly meeting.
Send to Leigh Coolidge at:

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or

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If your address changes, you must
notify the Membership Chairperson so
you can continue to receive any notices
and newsletters.

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