



NHOS Newsletter

December 2020 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/nhorchids).

President's Message

I want to thank Bob Cleveland for a very informative presentation. We learned a lot about viruses and had a chance to test some of our plants using Agitest, a rapid test kit from Taiwan.

It was very easy to use and required only a very small piece of leaf from the questionable plant in order to perform the test. We had our results in about 5 minutes. As viruses can be difficult to detect it seems like this would be a useful tool to have.

The Board had originally decided to cancel the December Meeting but Jean Stefanik suggested we try having a virtual show table with the AOS judges from the Northeast Judging center. Members would be able to present their plant and the judges would discuss the merit of each plant submitted. It sounded like a great idea so we decided to see how it goes. I

hope you will enjoy it. Specific instructions for participation can be found in Jean and Sue's notes later in the newsletter. There will be a Board meeting from 9:00-11:00, Show table with the judges 11:00-12:00 followed by brief member meeting.

Anita

NHOS MEETING NOTICE

**THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY
PARTY FOR 2020 IS
CANCELLED!**

Instead, NHOS will host a virtual AOS judging session.

ZOOM instructions are on
Pg. 4
Sat. Dec. 5, 2020 @ 11:00
AM.

IN THIS EDITION.....

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Please monitor <https://www.nhorchids.org/> for updates on NHOS and other related events being impacted by COVID-19 State and local Orders. Once COVID-19 restrictions have been eased and we have a better understanding of what events can be held and under what guidelines, we will once again publish our full, long-term schedule of events for your planning purposes.

NHOS Monthly Meeting

Sat. Dec. 5, 2020, 11:00 AM

Annual Holiday Party & AOS Judging

Location– Old Bedford Town Hall



After our November meeting Andrea drove to Concord to meet with Simon Leeming to receive the books left by his late father that he is donating to the society.

**New Hampshire Orchid Society
General Meeting
November 14, 2020**

The President called the meeting to order and welcomed new members and guests.

- If we are back to “in-person meetings” after the 1st of the year, we have been chatting with Marlow Orchids and J & L Orchids to possibly be speakers in January and February. Please provide any information on programs that may be of interest to you and we will see what we can do.
- Membership – we have 115 memberships with 168 members. To date there are 48 members that have not renewed their memberships. Dues can be renewed via the website or please contact either Lee Brockmann or Sue Labonville for more information.
- With the increase in COVID-19 cases, and the numbers continuing to be on the rise, the Board decided to cancel the December Holiday Party and AOS Judging. We will be having a Zoom Meeting beginning at 09:00 AM, which is the Board Meeting, and then at 11:00 AM we will be hosting a virtual Show Table discussion with AOS Judges. More information will be included in the newsletter on how to enter your plants for this virtual Show Table.
 - Financials: We have \$12,333.44 in the checking account.
- We were contacted by Simon C. Leeming regarding two very large volumes of Orchid Reference Books by authors John Lindley and James Bateman that he would like to donate to the Society Library. Andrea is going to meet him in Manchester to pick them up. It seems that Simon’s father was a member of NHOS in past years.
- Two of our comrades are a little under the weather; Chuck Wingate and Sue Andersen. Please sign cards, located at the back table, and wish them well.
- Lee Brockmann has purchased for the Society Library from AOS the Compendium of Orchid Genera.
- We have contacted the Falls in Manchester and requested a deposit refund for our 2021 show which we cancelled.
- Discussions have commenced with the Marriott for our 2022 show. We are brainstorming ideas on how to generate interest and financial opportunities for this show. We have discussed raffling off a room/suite at the Marriott, asking businesses in the area to advertise in the Program Booklet, and have a plant raffle during certain hours over the show weekend.
- We are toying with the idea of going back to two auctions next year. One auction would be just a Member Auction, the other would be for the Vendors. We are just in the discussion phase.
- The support of the members means a lot to the Board. We are trying to make things interesting in the current climate and we appreciate your understanding and support.

Respectfully submitted: Susan Usseglio, Secretary

December Meeting ZOOM Instructions

Susan Usseglio is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85942462960?pwd=NVERbm5NZ3ljSis0OTBYcVRQNFN4QT09>

Meeting ID: 859 4246 2960

Passcode: 86dr%4#e

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,85942462960#,,,,,0#,,77572361# US (New York)

+13017158592,,85942462960#,,,,,0#,,77572361# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 859 4246 2960

Passcode: 77572361

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85942462960>



Phrag. Nitidissimum



Rhynchostele rossii

Nov. Show Table Results
Judges: The Membership

Hobbyist
©= Cultural award

Cattleya Alliance:

1st: Pot. Sunspot Gen. X SLC Katherine Clarkson ©
1st: Eplc. Volcano Trick 'Orange Fire'

Caron Savone
Caron Savone

Advanced Growers
(all cultural or “R” for rarity)

Maxillaria uncata Sue Labonville
Sophronitis cernua Sue Labonville
Pleurothallis stricta Sue Labonville
Den. Victoria reginae Sue Labonville
Oncidesa [Oncsa.] Sweet Sugar Lee Brockmann
Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird' Lee Brockmann
Blc. Hausermann's Holiday 'Christmas' AM/AOS Lee Brockmann
C. Bob Betts 'White Lightening' Lee Brockmann

Advanced Growers
(all cultural or “R” for rarity)

Liparis grossa Bob Cleveland
Rhyncostele rossii Bob Cleveland
C. kerrii Bob Cleveland
Pleurothallis leptotifolia Bob Cleveland
C. (Laelia) mixta Bob Cleveland



Cattleya Mixta



Cattleya Bob Betts 'White Lightning'

Dec 5 Virtual Show Table Discussion
by Jean Stefanik, AOS/OD Rep

With the decision to cancel the "in person" December 5 Holiday meeting, I'm pleased to be helping organize a virtual Show Table Discussion, in lieu of the scheduled AOS judging which was to happen. AOS judging guidelines do not permit "virtual" judging of plants, so no awards can be given at such a virtual gathering. Some judging centers throughout the US have experimented with simply discussing plants, including the grower in the discussion, and everyone involved seems to be finding it enjoyable, educational, and a valuable alternative to actual judging.

After coordinating with Bob Winkley, chair of the Northeast Judging Center, and the NHOS Board, we've decided to give it a try for Saturday, Dec. 5. Any member of NHOS can "show" a plant or two in the Zoom session (thanks to Sue U. for setting that up), and the plants will be discussed, as many as the allotted hour of time allows. Everyone will be muted except for the person speaking, either the grower, an AOS judge, or another member. Comments must be brief, so several have a chance to contribute to the conversation. We will not be awarding show table ribbons either, trying to keep this simple.

So that we have an idea of who would like to participate, and what plant or two you would like to have discussed, it will be greatly appreciated if you could send an email to me, Jean Stefanik (conservation@nhorchids.org), and also Sue Usseglio (susan@nhorchids.org) preferably a few days before the meeting. You should list the plant name, and parentage if easily known, and how many flowers and buds if that's easy to count. One of the questions often asked is, "How big is the flower", so a ruler using centimeters, not inches, might be handy to have on hand. If you include a photo or two of the plant and a flower, I'm sure Leigh Coolidge would welcome them for a future newsletter.

While it is not yet "officially" canceled, January 2021 judging in Boylston at Tower Hill Botanic Garden seems highly unlikely. And the CAIOS Orchid Show which was scheduled for late January 2021 is definitely canceled also. We're hoping this activity will be enjoyable and educational for all, in the meantime.....

Stay healthy!



Den. Victoria- Reginae



**Blc. Hausermann's Holiday
'Christmas' AM/AOS**

DENDROBIUM CUTHBERTSONII, A HIGHLAND GEM
(Re-printed from Exotica Esoterica July 2018)

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii is probably the most famous and certainly one of the most desirable New Guinea orchids in cultivation. Its diminutive plant size coupled with relatively huge and showy flowers ranging in color from pure white through clear yellow, orange and red to deep purple as well as bicolored forms, makes it extremely striking when well-grown. This species, together with another very attractive New Guinea endemic, *D. lawesii*, are also noteworthy for being the world's two most color variable orchid species. Casual observations I have made at plant shows where it was offered for sale indicate that it has great traffic-stopping appeal even to non-orchid growers; something quite remarkable for a miniature. While many plant collectors have tried and – for a wide variety of reasons - failed with this beauty, it is reasonably straightforward in cultivation if the improved planting material now available is used and several of its quirks are addressed by the grower from the outset. That said, it is not an orchid that I would recommend to beginners nor those who cannot attend to its needs. It is definitely a species that will test a grower's talent when maintained over the long run, but is worth every bit of effort to try and grow it to perfection. A robust, well-flowered specimen plant is perhaps the most worthwhile achievement in miniature orchid culture.

There is an enormous amount of information and misinformation on this species posted on the internet. Some of it will contradict statements and recommendations made here. My current growing practices are the product of interaction with people who have successfully cultivated large numbers this species, some for decades. I have been quite fortunate in knowing and corresponding with two of the most talented growers and breeders of this species (Tom Perlite and Darrin Norton) for some time. I have managed to grow a number of color forms to fairly large sizes over the past seven years - fully exposed to the elements outdoors in coastal central California for the most part - while losing only a few small plants in the process.

This species was discovered by the English plant collector Walter Cuthbertson in 1887 in what was then British New Guinea and described by his colleague, the famed botanist Ferdinand Heinrich von Mueller, a year later in the Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria (Australia). It has more than a dozen synonyms, the best known of which are *Dendrobium agathodaemonis*, *D. sophronites* and *D. lichenicola*. Its closest relatives appear to be *D. laevifolium*, also from New Guinea and islands to the east, and *D. prasinum* from Fiji. Individual plants may grow epiphytically, as lithophytes or as terrestrials and moss companions.

I started tinkering with this species in California in 2011 after seeing some very fine ones in flower for sale that year at the San Francisco Orchid Society's Fall (now Summer) "Orchids in the Park" show. After starting them in a sunny bay window for a few months, I decided to trial them outside to a very bright but semi sheltered spot on my deck. Except for a few indoor interludes due to freezing overnight temperatures, most of my plants were grown under these conditions year-round for the next six years. Over this time-frame what were originally small starts in 2"5cm pots have grown into some of the fairly large specimen plants. The decision to move them from outdoors culture to cool greenhouse was prompted by their increased value (to me) and several heat waves we experienced in this area during late spring 2017, where we experienced daytime highs of over 105 degrees F (>40 C) and nighttime lows in the 80s F (~29 C). This type of temperature regimen, coupled with very low humidity, are not really favorable for the survival of this species so into the cool house they went.

The flowers of this species are famous for being very long-lasting when conditions are near optimal. While there are claims of them lasting nearly a year, my experience has been that six to seven months is a more reasonable lifespan for most *D. cuthbertsonii* blooms. The plants will flower year-round, usually peaking in the late summer and fall in this area. Smaller plants may benefit from flower removal in winter. Despite this practice being Gospel for some, I have never bothered and my plants have always grown fairly vigorously. I do agree that one should remove flowers from visibly struggling plants to avoid "death-by-flowering". Note: flowers will promptly blast when exposed to very high temperatures without near constant misting, full afternoon summer sunshine, or if the plant is dried out too long.

Another of the very attractive features of this plant are the leaves on some forms, which are fairly succulent with both upper surfaces and seed pods micro-papillose/tuberculate in texture. While this type of leaf is a somewhat unusual characteristic on an orchid, a number of pleurothallids and bulbophyllums also share this feature. Tuberculate leaves serve the dual purpose of increasing light capture in cloudy or shady habitats and facilitates shedding rainwater to keep leaves from being perpetually wet in cool montane rainforests.

(Con't on Pg. 8)

DENDROBIUM CUTHBERTSONII, A HIGHLAND GEM (Con't from Pg. 7)

In some of the darker-flowered forms the leaves will show a deep green tinged with violet, particularly on the lower surfaces. This is another modification to increase light capture in shaded, montane forest habitat. Under optimal conditions the leaves will persist on the pseudobulbs for many years, eventually forming a very dense mat of foliage on larger plants. Some plants (*agathodaemonis*-type) have elongated pseudobulbs and long, smooth or barely rugose leaves. Based on observations made some time back by a friend of a box of imported plants originating from IP, there can be visible intergradation between the two extreme leaf forms visible in plants vegetatively propagated from field-collected material.

Orchids in Pacifica, California. These included the notable diploid bicolor clone, 'Lafayette' AM/AOS. A very nice orange-flowered plant of east coast origin, John Sullivan's 'Christopher John', which has received both CCM/AOS and AM/AOS awards, was also used by a number of breeders. Some of these early-accession plants and their progeny found their way into the hands of other SF Bay area hobbyists and nurserymen who - after learning how to grow them successfully - propagated them in much larger numbers. These include Pui Chin (SF), Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids (SF) and Terry Root of the Orchid Zone (Castroville). Numbers of these improved forms were later exported to Japan and elsewhere over the past 15 years. There have been subsequent rather sporadic imports of wild-origin plants from Indonesia's Papua Province into the US, the EU, Japan and New Zealand. In the UK, Dr. Richard Warren's Equatorial Plant Co., has been active since the late 1970s in breeding *D. cuthbertsonii* and some of his seedlings have been imported and grown on by US east coast orchid collectors and others. A very handsome and noteworthy wild-type F1 series from his PNG accessions, further bred to second generation by Darrin Norton of Mountain Orchids, 'Pink Flare' ('Terraplane' x sib). This species is also deservedly popular among coastal Australian orchid collectors who specialize in cool-growing plants, and some very interesting flower colors have also been produced there. Further selection over the past decade has resulted in markedly better flower forms and sizes as well as a dazzling array of colors, including greater numbers of brighter whites and bicolored flowers. Current flower quality on plants being offered online by reputable growers is generally very good to exceptional, with both improved polyploid and wild-source (*D. agathodaemonis*-type) examples available from different nurseries at very reasonable prices.

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii are generally sold as small starts established in small clay pots or mounted. Grown in fresh NZ sphagnum and under benign conditions, they can grow well as pot plants for some time. Indeed, some extremely fine specimen plants have been grown to >6"/15 cm diameters in terracotta bowls in the past, as can be seen in older images posted on the internet.

Currently, an increasing number of growers in the SF Bay area are moving from clay pot + sphagnum culture to small cork, redwood or cedar mounts, using little or no sphagnum moss to back the transplants. I now grow all of my plants (18) as mounts on virgin cork or redwood plaques. For people interested in trialing them as terrestrials, I would recommend using a high-end terrestrial blend of three parts Japanese pumice (*hyuga*-medium grade) to one-part *akadama* in small pots, preferably top-dressed with live sphagnum (*Sphagnum spp.*) or native plume moss (*Ptilium crista-castrensis*).

There are three "musts" that growers should be aware of prior to acquiring this species. They must have high quality water for irrigation in fairly large quantities to succeed. This can be in the form of clean rain, distilled, RO, RODI or tap water. They must cool down at night. While my experience has shown that this species shows remarkable tolerance for temperatures exceeding 90 F/32 C for short periods if watered or misted frequently, the plants will be setback or die if background temperatures do not drop to under 70 F/21 C at night on a regular basis during the summer. Some South Florida growers report success by spelling their plants in air-conditioned homes when night-time temperatures are oppressive, and presumably this will also work in parts of Southern California. The optimum temperature range seems to be 55 F/13 C to 78 F/26 C, but my plants have proven to be very cold-hardy, tolerating prolonged spells of 40 F/4.5 C-60 F/15.5 C degree weather with little change in appearance. Humidity should be relatively high, but plants benefit from their roots drying rapidly. They must not be ignored for prolonged periods. Very bright, cool light and excellent ventilation are also hugely advantageous for success with this species. They should *not* be attempted in poorly-ventilated, perpetually saturated environments. Mounted plants grown or spelled outside thrive if misted frequently with pure water on warm days. Any visible signs of plant decline should be addressed immediately. They can be susceptible to spider mite infestations when heat/humidity stressed, although I have not experienced issues with them on my plants. The usual suspects can occasionally be troublesome; mealybugs, aphids and thrips on flowers and slugs and snails chewing new growths.

(Con't on Pg. 9)

DENDROBIUM CUTHBERTSONII, A HIGHLAND GEM (Con't from Pg. 8)

In my experience, flower color is visibly improved in *D. cuthbertsonii* and other New Guinea highlanders when plants are grown outdoors under bright morning conditions in suitable climates during cooler periods from spring through early winter. In particular, my pinks and bright reds show very noticeable reductions in flower color intensity when green housed for prolonged periods.

I feed my *D. cuthbertsonii* more heavily than many would recommend. I currently favor MaxSea 16-16-16 + CalMag as well as occasional application of formulations for RO and pure water systems (13-3-15 + CalMag) at ~55 to 75 ppm N on a more or less weekly basis from early spring into late fall. During the winter months, I fertilize once every two to three weeks when conditions are mild. Other very successful growers of this species use about half this concentration with excellent results, so there appears to be room for further experimentation to tweak fertilization regimens to optimum in the 'tweens.

Currently, there are several noteworthy and reputable sources for *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* in the US. First and foremost, Golden Gate Orchids in San Francisco, California (<https://www.goldengateorchids.com>), which maintains an excellent inventory of almost all color forms at very reasonable prices and are derived from an in-house breeding program that began in 1995. Hanging Gardens and Hawk Hill Orchids in Pacifica, California, and Mountain Orchids in Springfield, Vermont (<https://www.mountainorchids.com>) also carry select, improved varieties of *D. cuthbertsonii*. Andy's Orchids of Encinitas, California (<https://andysorchids.com>) is a good domestic source for those interested in "agathodaemonis"-type plants, as well as typical *D. cuthbertsonii*. Popow Orchids in Germany (<https://popow-orchids.com>) also carries this species on occasion for EU-based growers, and Colomborquideas of Medellin, Colombia and Ecuagenera of Gualaceo, Ecuador (<https://www.ecuagenera.com>) have both produced excellent quality plants propagated from ex-California flasks. A number of breeders have also hybridized this species with related taxa over the years to produce lookalikes that are more amenable to cultivation by beginners. Several of these hybrids are quite nice-looking, including Illusion, Gina Perlite, Mountain Magic, Aussie Hi-L, Flower Baby and *glomeratum* x *cuthbertsonii* (unregistered cross).

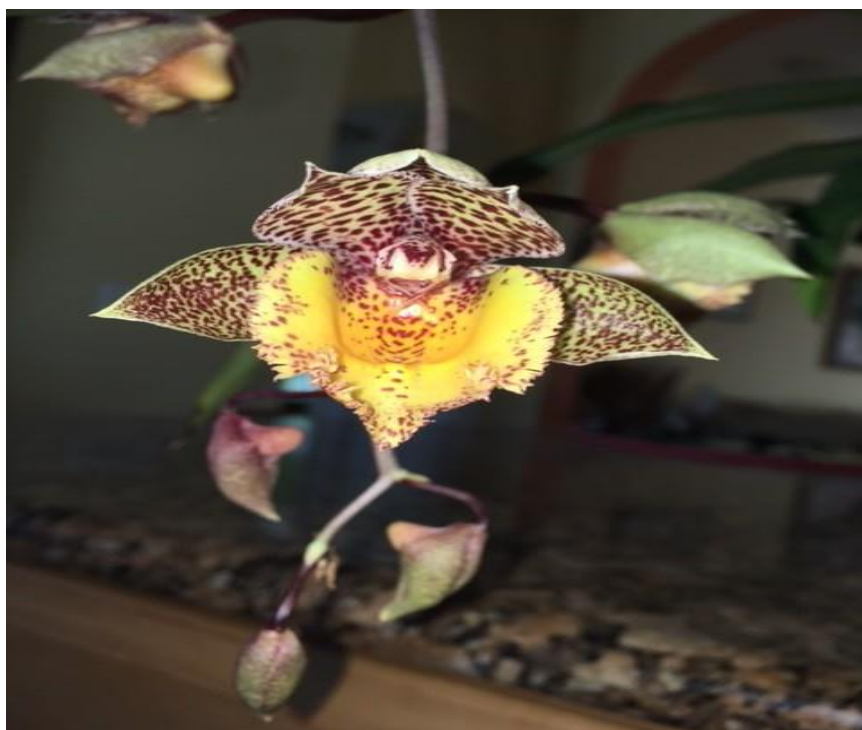




**Pot. Sunspot Gen. X SLC Katherine
Clarkson**



Eplc. Volcano Trick 'Orange Fire'



**Clo. Lydia Pan
(Ctsm. Frilly Doris 'SVO II' x Clo. Upper
Echelon 'SVO Sun Blast')
L. Coolidge**



New Hampshire Orchid Society
December 5, 2020 11:00 AM
Vitruual Show Table Discussion

Happy Holidays!
Please join us, via Zoom, for a virtual Show Table
discussion with AOS Judges.
The Show Table discussion will begin at 11:00AM.
Please join us; who knows it might even be fun!
The Board Meeting will begin at 09:00 AM.



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Northeast Judging Center at Tower Hill

Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA

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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.

Send all address changes to:

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