

CHAOS

Charlottesville Orchid Society

www.cvilleorchidsociety.com

December 2013

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CHAOS Invitational
Flyer

2013 Board and Committee Members

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Larry Eicher

1st Vice President

Jeffrey Morris

2nd Vice President

Neale Merriman

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Lewis Dudley Miller

Corresponding Secretary

Daria Kiselica

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Robyn Voytilla

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CJ Besanson

Larry Eicher

Photography

Stella Erickson



President's Message

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We now continue with the holiday spirit throughout December and New Year's. **CHAOS will be having our annual Holiday Social/meeting again at the Church of Our Saviour, located off E. Rio Road, on Sunday, December 8. Spouses and significant others are most welcome to join us for this special meeting.**

Please note the time for this event -- **it will be from 3PM to 5PM because this is a meeting and a pot luck social where everybody brings something that will feed approximately 6-8 people.** We'll have a quick meeting and give out awards from competition results this past year and then round out the session with some good food. This is generally considered a heavy hors d'ouvres event and includes anything from soup to nuts, main casserole to desserts, cider or coffee etc. so put on your thinking caps to help liven up the holiday spirit. Be also certain to bring serving spoons and warming trays as needed to help keep your food warm. If you are bringing drinks, please bring some ice as well.

We do need help in setting up the room for our meeting so please come a bit early to help in decorating the room. If you can come around 2:30PM for the setup, that would be most appreciated. We will provide tablecloths, plates, knives, spoons and forks, as well as cups for the drinks. **Point awards will be given for any orchid centerpieces that members bring to decorate our tables, and ladies' corsages made with orchids will also garner points for the winners** so let your imagination soar so all may enjoy!

At this meeting Jeff will be giving out award certificates from this last year's competition. You are encouraged also to bring new flowering plants to display and thus begin the 2014 cycle for next year's competition. There also will be a sale table for members in case anyone would like to sell some of your own plants. Remember there is a 20% handling fee given to the CHAOS treasurer for any member's personal plant sale at this meeting.

Again since this is the Holiday Season, please consider bringing some canned or packaged foodstuffs that we can add to the Church of Our Saviour's food bank. There are still many people who might greatly benefit from our donations. See our reception desk for labels so CHAOS gets credit for the donation.

Best Holiday Wishes to All!

Larry Eicher



The Charlottesville Orchid Society is pleased to present the following orchid education opportunities for its members and interested visitors at the Church of Our Saviour, 1165 E. Rio Road, Charlottesville, Virginia at 2:00PM, generally on the second Sunday of each month, unless otherwise stipulated. Everyone is welcome. All events are free. Light refreshments, orchid competition, educational information on orchids and plants for sale are features of each monthly event.

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December 8, 2013 3:00 pm	CHAOS Holiday Social Members bring pot luck and a table decoration or corsage including orchids. Members can bring plants for sale.
January 12, 2014 2:00 pm	Roundtable Discussion of Member's Orchid Problems, etc. Members can bring plants for sale.
February 9, 2014 2:00 pm	Jeff Morris TBA
March 9, 2014 2:00 pm	Hal Horwitz Orchids of Israel
April 13, 2014 2:00 pm	Tom Mirenda, Smithsonian Institute TBA
May 4, 2014 2:00 pm	Molly Brennan, Brennan Orchids Phalaenopsis Bright Spring Color
June 8, 2014 2:00 pm	Picnic at Member's House Repotting session - Members can bring plants for sale.



CHAOS Holiday Social!

When: Sunday, December 8
3:00 - 5:00 pm

Where: Church of our Savior
E. Rio Road, Charlottesville, VA

Please bring a pot luck dish that serves 6 - 8 people.

Volunteers requested for setup at 2:30 pm

Please see the President's Message for further details.

Hope to see you there!

October Show Table Results

Hobby 2

- 1st** Leon Blumreich, Lc Mini Purple 'Tamami' AM/AOS
- 2nd** Leon Blumreich, Dtps Malibu Chablis

Hobby 3

- 1st** Larry Eicher, Phrag Sorcerer's Apprentice x Grande
- 2nd** Larry Eicher, Blc Williette Wong
- 3rd** Larry Eicher, Max picta
- HM** Larry Eicher, Angrm calceorus

Super Hobby

- 1st** Brenda Steigman, V Pachara Delight 'Pachara'
- 2nd** Dudley Miller, Odtna Santos x Milt St. Martin
- 3rd** Dudley Miller, Cym Unknown

Professional

- 1st** Jeff Morris, Paph Michael Koopowitz
- 2nd** Jeff Morris, C perciviliana
- 3rd** Jeff Morris, Colm Wildcat

Results of Board Election for 2014

At our meeting in November, the following members were re-elected to serve as either Board members and/or committee chairs for the year 2014. Congratulations to all!

Larry Eicher, president
Jeff Morris, 1st Vice President
Neale Merriman, 2nd Vice President
Lewis Dudley Miller, Treasurer
Daria Kiselica, Secretary
Brenda Steigman, Program Director

Pam Howie, Webmaster
Robyn Voytilla, Newsletter Editor
Stella Erickson, Photographer
CJ Besanson, Publicity

Please consider volunteering to assist any of these members in any capacity during 2014. It's one way to get some experience with the job and to gain more confidence that others too in our Society can help contribute to our overall objectives and goals. Please contact any Board or committee person to volunteer your services.



Photo Credits to Stella Erickson



American Orchid Society

Education, Conservation, Research

Monthly Checklist for January and February

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as



Cattleya trianae 'Mary Fennel'
HCC/AOS is a good example of
this winter-blooming species.



American Orchid Society

Education, Conservation, Research

Monthly Checklist for January and February (cont.)

the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.



Paphiopedilum

The standard *Paphiopedilum insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

In the fall *Phalaenopsis* should start initiating flower spikes.

Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

Monthly Checklist for January and February (cont.)

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.



Healthy orchids should have turgid, pest and blemish-free leaves.

What Should I Look for When I Buy an Orchid?

Many consumers, both retail and retailer, find themselves in a position today of having to make purchase-oriented decisions about an entirely new -- to them, at least -- class of plants: orchids. What should they be looking for? How can the purchase dollar be maximized? How can the best shelflife -- of vital importance for both the retail and retailing consumer -- be obtained?

Here are three helpful hints:

The Plant

Should be in proportion to the container, have roots in the media, be clean and unblemished, turgid and medium green, free of visible pests.

The Flowers

Should be lustrous and held well above the foliage on a strong, well-supported spike, be unblemished and free of fungal spotting, have some buds yet to open (never, ever accept a plant with flowers open to the tip of the spike, as it is impossible to judge flower life after all flowers have opened), and have a generally appealing aspect that fits with your decor.

The Vendor

Is the overall aspect one of cleanliness and order? Do the production plants look good? Is the staff attentive and interested in your welfare? Can they answer the most elementary of your questions? Selecting an orchid plant isn't really that different from any other flowering plant purchase, including the satisfaction that comes with the proper decision.

Charlottesville Orchid Society



*Join us for a **CHAOS** Meeting !!!*

CHAOS invites you to join us as our Guest because you enjoy orchids!

What's in it for you:

- Speakers who address multiple topics of interest related to orchids and growing them
- A show table that allows you to see (and smell!) blooming orchids grown by our members, AND discussion by experienced orchid growers about how those orchids grow and thrive
- Networking with friendly and welcoming people who enjoy orchids and plants, and grow orchids in their own greenhouses or in homes
- Frequent options to purchase beautiful orchids to grow yourself
- A raffle in which you may win an orchid plant for as little as \$1.00
- The option of joining our organization as a member yourself

When: Usually the second Sunday of each month, September through June, at 2:00PM. Check our website (<http://cvilleorchidsociety.com/>) to confirm a date.

Where: Church of Our Savior, 1165 E. Rio Road, in the main church hall. Plenty of parking is available.

Hope to see you at our next meeting !