

# CHAOS

# Charlottesville Orchid Society

[www.cvilleorchidsociety.com](http://www.cvilleorchidsociety.com)

February 2014

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## **2014 Board and Committee Members**

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Stella Erickson



# President's Message

It would be easy to look out the window from our cozy homes and fret about the cold weather we've been having, but an optimist could also note that we're also having longer days now and say "by golly, it's only a couple of months until spring!" Winter won't last forever. We just hope that your orchid plants have survived this spate of cold weather.

January was our first official monthly meeting at Our Lady of Peace Retirement Center, located at 751 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Those who attended enjoyed the new surroundings. We look forward to welcoming all returning members at our upcoming February 9 meeting, starting with setup preparations at 12 noon, the meeting actually begins at 1PM and we need to clean up and be out of that space by no later than 3:30PM. In January with everybody's help we were able to meet that time table with time to spare. Thanks for everyone's cooperation in helping to setup and take down. It makes all the difference in the world.

If you haven't paid your annual dues, please contact Dudley Miller, our treasurer either at the meeting or simply send in your check made out to CHAOS for \$30 single or \$35 for a family membership. This reflects a Board approved rise in fees for 2014. If we do not receive your check by the March 9 meeting, your name will be deleted from the membership roles. Please don't forget to get your check in to Dudley <[ldudleymiller@aim.com](mailto:ldudleymiller@aim.com)>. We want everyone to renew and to help us recruit new members this year!

February's talk will be given by our one and only Jeff Morris on Growing Paphs. Many of these orchids are now coming into bloom. We have all seen the success Jeff has had growing his orchids. Be sure to come to the meeting to learn how he grows such spectacular specimens.

For those of you who haven't visited our CHAOS website, please do so at <[www.cvilleorchidsociety.com](http://www.cvilleorchidsociety.com)>. You will note a new addition that highlights "newsletters". I am delighted to tell you that all of the newsletters that Robyn Voytilla has produced for us so far will now be linked to our CHAOS website each month. As many of you realize, Robyn uses a lot of colorful photographs in the newsletter and this takes a bit of computer ink to print. However, by having an active link on our CHAOS website, you now will be able to go back to any issue of the newsletter and read it on line at your leisure. This saves a lot of printing of the newsletter and is always a ready reference whenever you want to refer to something reported in a past issue. Thank you Robyn for another fine job.

Finally, be sure to stake your plants and clean them up so they can be a part of the upcoming VOS Orchid Show & Sale at Strange's Nursery in Short Pump, (Richmond) VA. CHAOS has been challenged by a sister society on who will get the award for best society display this year. Jeff is busy creating a secret design that should wow the judges but he needs your help in providing blooming orchids for the display. He also needs volunteers to help set up this display at Strange's starting February 20. The Show runs from February 21-23, and again we shall need volunteers to help take down the display on February 23. Please contact Jeff at <[orchidstoo@3welec.com](mailto:orchidstoo@3welec.com)> if you can donate orchids or help in setting up the display. Further info on this event will be forthcoming.

*Larry Eicher*

# *Change of Meeting Venue for 2014*

Please remember our meeting place is now at the Church of Our Saviour **to Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community, located at 751 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901.** Set-up will be at 12 noon with the actual meeting starting no later than 1 pm. We will have to clean up and be out of the room by no later than 3:30 pm.

Because the room is carpeted, **no food will be permitted at this venue. Drinks for refreshments will be permitted** so we will still need to solicit volunteers to bring drinks only for refreshments. This change will make for an easier and faster cleanup.

## **Directions to Our Lady of Peace:**

Coming from Rt. 29, turn onto E. Rio Road, going past Albemarle Square on the left and Fashion Square Mall on the right, continue east on E Rio Road until you come to Hillsdale Drive (red light), turn right on Hillsdale Drive and look for Our Lady of Peace on the Left side of the road, 751 Hillsdale Drive. Upon entering the compound, turn Right and go to the end of the parking lot where it is clearly marked for Visitors. If you are unloading orchid displays for the show table etc., you can offload under the awning at the front door entrance, and then park in the Visitor area. Enter the lobby and go to elevators and go Down one floor, turn Left and the meeting room will be directly in front of you on the left hand side of the hallway.



# SPEAKERS 2014

<b>February 9, 2014</b> 2:00 pm	<b>Jeff Morris</b> TBA
<b>March 9, 2014</b> 2:00 pm	<b>Hal Horwitz</b> Orchids of Israel
<b>April 13, 2014</b> 2:00 pm	<b>Tom Mirenda, Smithsonian Institute</b> TBA
<b>May 4, 2014</b> 2:00 pm	<b>Molly Brennan, Brennan Orchids</b> Phalaenopsis Bright Spring Color
<b>June 8, 2014</b> 2:00 pm	<b>Picnic at Member's House</b> Repotting session - Members can bring plants for sale.

# October Show Table Results

Photo Credits: Stella Erickson

## Hobby 1

- 1st Pam Van Brunt, Paph Strawberries 'n Cream
- 2nd Pam Van Brunt, Phrag Schlimii
- 2nd Pam Van Brunt, Bnfd Gilded Tower x Mystic Maze
- 3rd Pam Van Brunt, Paph Unknown
- HM Stella Erickson, Phal Unknown

## Hobby 2

- 1st Leon Blumreich, Den Diane Meyer
- 2nd Melanie Murguia, Phal Unknown
- 2nd Leon Blumreich, Epc Rene Marques 'Flame Thrower' HCC/AOS
- 3rd Leon Blumreich, Cll Fair Jewell

## Hobby 3

- 1st Larry Eicher, Den Unknown antelope type
- 2nd Larry Eicher, Phal Unknown
- 3rd Larry Eicher, Epc Rene Marques 'Tyler'

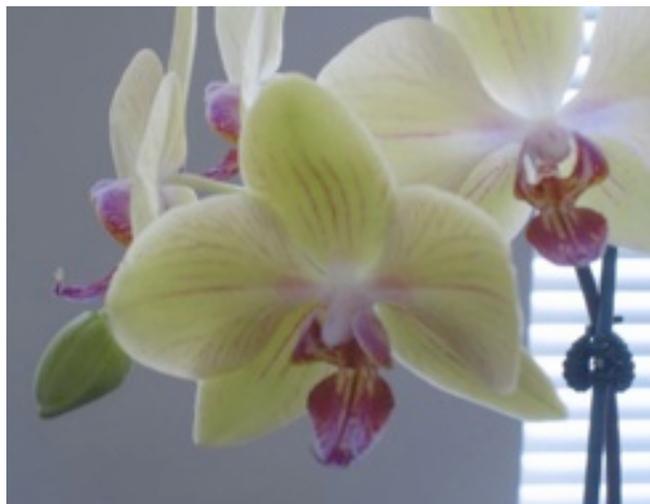
## Super Hobby

- 1st Dudley Miller, Odcdm Unknown
- 1st Dudley Miller, Den Nobile
- 2nd Paula Berardi, Den Himezakura 'Fujiki'
- 3rd Brenda Steigman, Acampe papilosa

## Professional

- 1st Jeff Morris, Paph Robin I Hall 'Lucerne' HCC/AOS
- 1st Jeff Morris, Blc Pamela Finney 'All Victory'
- 2nd Jeff Morris, Paph rothschildianum
- 2nd Lee and Neale Merriman, Bark melanocaulon
- 3rd Lee and Neale Merriman, Onc pulvinatum
- 3rd Jeff Morris, Paph Michael Koopowitz x Paph adductum
- HM Lee and Neale Merriman, Rhych glauca

*Thanks to Jeff Morris for the Show Table Results!*



# Other News...

## Smithsonian Bus Trip

I have arranged to see the Smithsonian Greenhouse's orchid collection (with an introduction by Tom Miranda) and the orchid display at the US Botanic Garden on the Mall on Wednesday March 26th. The VOS would like to extend the invitation to CHAOS members to join us on the trip. Currently I have 16 seats available. The cost is \$60 per person. The March Bus trip attachment has the tour information and itinerary. The reservation form has my contact information if anyone needs additional information. I realize that your members would have to rise an extra hour in order to get to Richmond by 7:30, but perhaps that might not be an obstacle for some of your members.

We look forward to sharing this trip with CHAOS.

Ron Geraci  
Virginia Orchid Society

## Virginia Orchid Society 2014 Show and Sale

It is that time again, and I am sending out all the pertinent information for our 8th annual orchid show and sale.

As you will see in the flyers and documents, the show this year is  
February 21-23, 2014 Friday Saturday and Sunday  
set up day is Thursday Feb 20th from 9-5

If you have not participated in our event so far, you need to come!  
we are hosted by Stranges Garden Center's state of the art greenhouse, so it is a perfect environment for orchids and an orchid show.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

On behalf of the entire VOS membership I would love to see you all at our event, and oh don't forget.... our Saturday Night Gala.... free food and beverages available..

Regards

David Sombach  
Show Chair

*Forms and Information will be attached with this Newsletter*



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## Handling Damage

By Susan Jones

The bumps, scrapes, cuts and bruises to your orchid's roots, pseudobulbs, leaves and flowers when mishaps occur — can result in anything from minor scarring and deformities to floral and plant tissues all the way to stunted growth from injured roots that cannot absorb water and nutrients sufficiently. The causes are often related to improper handling, from transporting orchids unprotected to accidental damage inflicted during repotting and even overcrowded growing conditions.

In addition to the loss of the investment of time, patience, energy and care in the orchid's growth, the point of injury to the remaining plant tissue has become a weak spot through which virus, fungi and bacteria can enter and further damage the orchid.

The harm that occurs during these accidents is permanent; a healthy plant will heal around it, but the affected tissue will remain scarred from its accident. Eventually the impacted area may be removed during repotting and division once sufficient new growth has occurred. In the meantime, the plant will bear the marks of its mishap, which can reduce not only its aesthetic appeal, but its scoring potential — mechanical damage can negatively impact the judges' scoring of the plant or even preclude it from award consideration altogether at AOS judging.

### Accidents

Most growers have at some point dropped or knocked over a prized plant, marring its formerly perfect foliage, or snapping off that long-awaited inflorescence or new growth.

Orchid growers are an acquisitive lot, and collecting orchids has often been compared to eating potato chips — the similarity being that in either case it is difficult to stop at just a few. A basic but often-overlooked aspect of successful cultivation of any orchid collection is a healthy growing area that allows the grower free movement through the plants and ease of watering, fertilizing and pest control. Do not allow plants to become crowded in the growing area — a cluttered growing space is asking for trouble. Not only does overcrowding provide fertile grounds for the spread of pests and diseases, but it also increases the likelihood that plants will be knocked over or on top of one another, suffering and sometimes inflicting injuries.



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## Handling Damage, cont.

### Removing Tissue

If a plant part has become damaged or diseased, sometimes the affected portion must be removed in order to save the rest of the orchid. Common examples of this would include a raggedly torn leaf or an area infected by fungus or bacteria. The compromised tissues must be cut away, and with them a portion of the healthy plant material in order to stop the spread of the rot. This should always be done with a hot, sterile cutting tool in order to cauterize the healthy tissue as the cut is made. The fresh cut should then be covered with a fungicide paste (see Treating Wounds). A weekly fungicide spray during the recovery period helps ensure no opportunistic infections reoccur.

### Transporting Plants

Pack plants carefully when transporting them home from a nursery or show, to and from judging and orchid society meetings. Plants are better protected in boxes or cartons than loose in the car. Even a newspaper or piece of wrapping paper rolled into a sleeve around the plant and taped closed will help keep it safer during transportation.

Take the extra time to carefully situate and protect bloom spikes and flowers against bending and breakage in transit before transporting your plants. When orchid shopping, bring along an extra stash of boxes or bags, plus some lightweight packing materials unlikely to damage your new acquisitions such as polyester batting, finely shredded paper or foam packing peanuts. Most, but not all, sellers will supply some sort of protective materials to keep the plants they sell safe during the trip to their new home, but for those times when a seller is unprepared, has run out, or is simply too busy to wrap your purchases, it helps to have one's own materials on hand.



Mechanical damage can scar an orchid for life.



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## Handling Damage, cont.

### Repotting and Dividing

When repotting, dividing, staking and removing dead sheaths and leaves from plants, use extra caution and go slowly. Make sure there is enough room on the potting bench to work comfortably, and all tools, pots, stakes, clips and other materials are sterilized before coming into contact with each plant. Some growers recommend sterilizing cutting tools between every cut, even on the same plant. Unsterile or improperly sterilized tools and materials are an excellent vector for spreading virus between plants.

After unpotting the orchid and removing old media from the roots, dust the roots with fungicide before repotting. When using a commercially prepared fungicide, be sure it is labeled as safe for orchids and follow all dosage recommendations and safety precautions. Sulfur powder also functions as a fungicide and an insecticide. A more environmentally friendly alternative is powdered cinnamon, which has fungicidal properties, but is much safer for use in the home around people and pets.

### Wounds

A cut in human skin needs to be guarded against infection — likewise, a break in the tissue of an orchid is vulnerable to invasion by virus, bacteria and fungus. Apply a fungicide such as Bordeaux mixture to the open surface of cut plant tissue, such as a divided rhizome or a broken or trimmed leaf. Bordeaux serves as both a fungicide and an insecticide, and is made by mixing copper sulfate, hydrated lime and water. It is available premixed dry or as a paste, or can be made up as a spray by dissolving 2 parts copper sulfate and 3 parts hydrated lime into 26 parts water. Less water will make a paste that can be spread over open cuts in orchid tissue. Bordeaux is most effective when applied while fresh and kept well mixed during use.

### References

Bribie Island Orchid Society. "Plant Information: Pests and Diseases". ([http://www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com/plant\\_info/plantinfo\\_pests\\_and\\_diseases.htm](http://www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com/plant_info/plantinfo_pests_and_diseases.htm)).

*Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446*

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# 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, from 1:00 – 3:30 PM. Check our website (<http://cvilleorchidsociety.com/>) to confirm a date.

**Where:** Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community, located at 751 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901

*Hope to see you at our next meeting !*