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President's Message

Our January round table was very informative due to Neale and Lee Merriman and Leon Blumreich. Thank you - and thank you Lee Merriman for judging our show tables.

The annual Virginia Orchid Society show & sale in Richmond at Strange's Garden Center is coming up. Set up is Feb. 19 and the show and sale is 20-22. So start getting your orchids ready. We will discuss the details at our next meeting.

CHAOS has been invited by Charlottesville's garden club to participate in this years National Garden Week in April and we have accepted. We will be able to sell our plants, offer growing tips and invite new people to attend our meetings. I will have more information soon.

Membership renewals are due. You can pay Jim at our next meeting or mail your renewal. Remember to include your area code along with your phone number on the form.

Eleanor received word from Lonnie Murray that the Purple Fringeless seeds that were gathered the year before last have successfully sprouted. And as far as he knows this a first. He hopes this will be published in a journal once they have reached maturity. This could help orchid conservationists.

Just a reminder that set up for our meeting is 12 - 12:30 and take down/clean up is 3 - 3:15 and if you can help at one or both it would be greatly appreciated.

Melanie Murquia

2015-16

Feb 8, 2015 Art Chadwick
"The 14 First Ladies"

Meeting Information

Location: **Our Lady of Peace
Retirement Community
751 Hillsdale Drive,
Charlottesville, VA 22901**

Time: 1:00 pm (Setup - 12:00 pm)
We will have to clean up and
be out of the room by no
later than 3:30 pm.

**No food will be permitted at this venue.
Drinks for refreshments will be permitted**

Arthur Chadwick

On Sunday Feb. 8, 2015, Art Chadwick will be our guest speaker. He will speak to us on "The 14 First Ladies Cattleya". Art and his father founded Chadwick and Son Orchids in 1989, in Powhatan, Va. The address is 1240 Dorset Road off of Route 622.

Art's father has been growing orchids since 1943. Chadwick's operates 11 greenhouses and a retail store in Richmond and boards over 13,000 orchids for clients.

Art and his father have the distinction of naming Cattleya hybrids after the wives of the last Four U.S. Presidents and personally presenting the flowers to the honored recipients. Art writes a monthly orchid advice column for the Richmond Times Dispatch and the Winston Salem Journal.

He has spoken at the Western Australia Orchid Conference and the World Orchid Conference in France. In 2005 Art Sr. and Jr. appeared on the Martha Stewart TV Show with their book, 'The Classic Cattleyas'. Later the company was featured in Southern Living Magazine and the New York Times.

Art holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from NC State and a MBA from James Madison.



January Show Table Results

Hobby 1

- 1st** Jonathan Chance, Neostylis Lou Sneary
'Blue Bird'
2nd Jonathan Chance, Lc Purple Cascade
'Fragrance'

Hobby 2

- 1st** Pam Van Brunt, Paph Maiculi x maudiae
2nd Leon Blumreich, Den Diane Meyer
3rd Pam Van Brunt, Paph Primulianum x
Paph Helenae

Hobby 3

- 1st** Larry Eicher, Paph Hybrid (Desperie 'Pristine'
x Muriel Constance Rider')
2nd Larry Eicher, Blc William Stewart x Love
Sound
3rd Larry Eicher, Den Mini-Snowflakes

Super Hobby

- 1st** Dudley Miller, Cym Bethlehem Early Times
2nd Dudley Miller, Cym Greenstreet x Alvinie
3rd Dudley Miller, Onc. Planalabri



Upcoming Events

NOW SHOWING!

"ORCHIDS ON BROADWAY"

**THE VIRGINIA ORCHID SOCIETY'S
9TH ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE**

**HELD AT STRANGE'S GARDEN CENTER
12111 WEST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23233**

**FEBRUARY 20-22, 2015
FRI. 12-6, SAT. 8-6, SUN. 10-5
SHOW GALA – FRI. FEB. 20, 6-9 PM**



VAORCHIDSOCIETY.ORG



The How and Why of Water

More orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. There are two separate components to proper watering; when and how. The vast majority of orchids grown by hobby growers are epiphytes, growing on trees above the ground where the light is more plentiful. These plants are adapted to having their roots exposed to light and air so in addition to water, orchid roots need air.

The central core of an epiphytic orchid root is covered with a spongy material called *velamen* designed to store water. When this spongy material remains wet too long, the central core suffocates and begins to rot. Once the roots begin to rot, the plant can no longer take up water properly and a whole host of problems begin.

At worst, root rot will spread upward into the rhizome and cause the death of the plant. In other cases, the loss of roots prevents the plant from absorbing sufficient water to maintain the plant in good condition and the leaves will take on a wrinkled appearance.

Unfortunately, the symptoms of over-watering and under-watering are superficially similar and the tendency is to increase watering rather than inspect the roots. Over-watered roots will be brown and mushy while those on under-watered plants will be white or gray and obviously dry. Let's look first at when to water.





The How and Why of Water (cont.)

When do I water?

Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. This rule applies to all orchids with slight variations depending on whether your plant has pseudobulbs (thickened stems that are designed to store water) or not. Orchids such as cattleyas and oncidiums should be allowed to just dry completely between waterings while orchids such as phalaenopsis and vandas that have no water storage organs should be watered just before dryness occurs.

For vandas, this may mean daily watering during the warm summer months. Vandas and ascocendas that are properly watered will have actively growing root tips at all times. If the root tips on your plants dry up and seal over, you are not watering often enough.



There's unfortunately no magic formula; i.e., water a plant in a 6" pot every 7 days and you'll be trouble free. This is because your growing area is different from anyone else's. Humidity, air movement, potting medium (type and age) and light levels all play a role. There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) the surface of the potting mix will appear dry; 2) dry pots will feel lighter when lifted; 3) clay pots feel dry; 4) a wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry. If in doubt, a finger inserted into the potting mix is perhaps the best tool to determine the moisture content of the potting mix. It will cause no harm to the plant. And remember, fresh potting mix will always dry out faster than the old medium.



The How and Why of Water (cont.)

How do I water?

How to water is just as important to proper culture as when to water. When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. This serves several functions. First, thorough, copious watering is necessary to soak the potting medium. In addition, thorough watering helps to flush away the salts that naturally accumulate in the potting medium from the dissolved salts in our water supplies and the fertilizers applied for good growth. Also, this is your opportunity to examine how the potting mix behaves. If you cannot pour water rapidly through the pot, the potting mix is too dense and you run the risk of starving the roots for air. If you see finely divided material that looks like coffee grounds in the water coming from the drainage holes, your potting mix is breaking down and it's time to repot into fresh medium. At a minimum, try to thoroughly water your plants at least once a month.

Finally a couple of notes about mounted plants and those like vandas that are grown in baskets without additional potting medium. First, avoid dunking these plants in buckets of water. This practice very easily spreads diseases. If one plant has a disease, all those dunked in the same bucket of water will have been exposed as well. Also, two short waterings a few minutes apart are much more effective than one long watering. Once water runs off the plant, the roots will have absorbed essentially all they can at that time and excess water simply runs off to the ground. The proper technique is to water your plants and then a few minutes later water them again, always beginning with the first plant you watered. This allows time for the roots of the last plant watered to finish absorbing water before you wet them again. Roots that are completely saturated will be a solid color while those that are not will appear mottled.

Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education

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 !