

# CHAOS

# Charlottesville Orchid Society

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

January 2015 Newsletter

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### **President**

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# *President's Message*

On December 14, we had our annual holiday social for CHAOS. There was a good turnout and lots for delicious food. Many toured Paula's green room. Awards were given out for 2014. Many thanks to Paula and Steve for hosting.

This month will feature round table discussions. Bring your questions and any plants you may have concerns about. Please put your plant material in a plastic bag. Jeff will do virus testing for a nominal fee.

Dues are due unless you have joined after July 2014, then you are paid through 2015.

Don't forget we have our show at Strange's in February so start preparing your plants.

*Melanie Murquia*



# SPEAKERS

# 2015-16

Jan 11, 2015	Round Table Discussion
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**

## Roundtable Discussions

**Show Table Judging** : Plants be on the show table ready for judging by 1:00 PM. Judging should be finished by 1:30 PM.

**From 1:00 - 1:30 PM** members could be having a drink from the table in the lobby, buying plants or other items members bring for sale or buying raffle tickets (See Below)

The Program for the January 11 meeting will be roundtable discussions using members of the Society who have had success and experience with growing orchids for many years. **Starts at 1:30 PM**

**To aid the members of the Roundtable.** ALL the members of the Society are requested to bring in examples of Orchids that they have problems with or in some way are not responding to your growth area, or failure to thrive and bloom. The Roundtable members as well as other members of the Society can give suggestions that might help the problem. If plant are diseased, please enclose the plant in a plastic bag or plastic wrap to not infect the other member's plants. **All members are asked to bring a list of questions** you would like to have discussed.

If you want to give **Testimony** of methods or luck with a particular plant or plants, please bring in examples of the plants for display or pictures so that we can praise and follow in your methods with our own plants.

**If you have Divisions of plants you want to give to members or Sell,** you are welcome to bring them in to this meeting, but if you plan on selling them, remember that the Society will need 20% of the sale price. So bring in each plant that is for sale with two tags, one with the members name and sale price, and one with the name of the plant. If you are buying plants give the tag with the members Name and the \$ requested on the tag to the Treasurer. He will send a check to the seller and retain 20% for the Society.

**Jeff will Review the Show Table right after the Roundtable**

**Raffle:** If you have books or other items such as note cards, pictures books, Orchid Care books, coffee table books on Orchids, or anything else, such as dishes, table cloths, shower curtains, or aprons, that you think might interest members for a raffle please bring those in and we will sell raffle tickets for them. If you are giving away plants that you have too many divisions, **Bring** them in for the **Raffle.**

Clean Up 3:15- 3:30 PM If you are able, please help with clean up.

# Chaos Holiday Party 2014



*Many Thanks Again to  
Paula and Steve Berardi  
for hosting this year's  
annual holiday party!*

PHOTOS COURTESY  
OF ALBERT SHANK

# 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**



## Botrytis

By Susan Jones

### Take Precautions Now To Prevent This Fungus from Marring Winter Flowers

A fungal disease affecting many different types of herbaceous and woody plants, botrytis strikes during cool, damp weather in areas where air circulation is poor. On orchids, the disease, caused by *Botrytis cinerea*, causes unsightly brown spotting of blooms. The fungus most often affects *Phalaenopsis* and Cattleyas, but may be found in a wide range of orchid genera. Older flowers are highly susceptible to infection.

### Life Cycle

The fungus winters primarily on dead and dying plant material, and begins producing and dispersing spores during cool, damp weather in the spring or autumn. Damp conditions, rapidly rising humidity or disturbing infected plants may release spores into the surrounding growing area. Spores can be distributed by wind, rain or any mechanical action. Temperatures in the mid 60's to low 70's F (18–23 C), and wet plant surfaces or ambient humidity of at least 92 percent, are ideal conditions. The fungus can proliferate very quickly, infecting healthy plant tissue in as little as 14 hours.



**It is a shame to wait all year for flowers and then have them ruined by Botrytis. The fungus is prevalent during cool, damp spells of winter.**

### Symptoms

*Botrytis* manifests as small, brown necrotic spots on orchid flowers. Those spots may increase in size and number as the infection progresses, and may be surrounded by a pale pink margin. In severe infections, the spots can coalesce, and gray, webbed fungal growth (mycelium) may become visible.



## Botrytis (cont.)

### Prevention

The best form of control for botrytis is prevention, which involves sanitation, air circulation and careful watering.

### Sanitation

Inspect the growing area for conditions favorable to botrytis. As this pathogen thrives and winters over on dead and dying plant material, remove any plant debris, spent or fallen flowers and leaves from the growing area to reduce the possibility of spreading the fungus. Some growers recommend removing and disposing of all affected flowers to help prevent the spread of the fungus, and even burning or burying of affected plant tissue.



**If conditions are proper, Botrytis spores can quickly spread from the lesions it makes.**

### Circulation

Keep plenty of fresh air moving through the growing area and around plants at all times. A stagnant, damp environment with inadequate air circulation promotes the growth of botrytis. Good air circulation is a necessity to prevent fungal infections year round, but most especially when plants are in bloom. Increasing the ambient temperature and air movement and decreasing the humidity during cool, damp weather will help eliminate any excess moisture on plant tissue, thus minimizing the chances of infection. In most areas, orchids grown outdoors already have the necessary air movement in their environment.



## Watering

When watering, avoid wetting the plant and its flowers, if possible. Water that remains on petals or leaves after a rain or watering encourages fungal growth. Watering early in the day helps ensure that the plant and its flowers will be dry by nightfall. Never allow blooms or foliage to remain wet overnight.

Companion plants may host a variety of pests and diseases that also affect orchids, including botrytis. Inspect any companion plants in the growing area for signs of the fungus. Some plants susceptible to botrytis include African violets, amaryllis, Amazon lily, azaleas, begonias, cacti, caladium, calla lily, camellias, castor beans, chrysanthemums, cinerarias, coleus, cornflowers, dahlias, dracaenas, dusty millers, ferns, fig, fuchsias, gardenias, gloxinias, heliotrope, passion flower and poinsettias. Finally, isolate any new plants for a minimum of two weeks before admitting them to your growing area and into your orchid collection. During the isolation period, keep a close eye on the new acquisition for signs of any pest or disease that could be spread to other plants.

## Control

Once the botrytis spotting occurs, there is no removing it — only preventing future occurrences. A fungicide such as thiphanate methyl, iprodione, vinclozolin or Physan can be applied as needed to prevent further outbreaks. Since the infection primarily affects flower petals, many growers do not recommend the use of fungicides. As with any chemical, always use it in strict compliance with the manufacturer's instructions.

## References

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*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 !*