

CHAOS

Charlottesville Orchid Society

www.cvilleorchidsociety.com

March 2014

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2014 Board and Committee Members

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President's Message

I'm sure everybody has now heard the wonderful news that the AOS awarded CHAOS a gold medal for the fantastic Caribbean Festival display that Jeff and others put together for the annual VOS/AOS show at Strange's Garden Center in Short Pump. We are truly fortunate to have the caliber of orchid growers in our local society to make all this possible. Of course special congratulations are due to Jeff and Linda Morris for all the time and work they put into this effort. This display certainly is something to remember for a long time to come because it seems the AOS rarely gives out Gold Medals at such shows outside Florida. So we are truly fortunate to be the recipient of one this year. I hope Jeff will give us a rundown of the various awards we won later in this newsletter.

Also special mention must be made to all our members who contributed plants to the display and especially to those who helped Jeff and Linda in the set up of the display, as well as those of you who helped with the take down. Members must remember this is a team effort and we all can aid in such efforts, each in his or her own way. Together we can truly put Charlottesville on the map as far as a local orchid society. Thanks again for the great effort!

Again as a reminder, we will NOT be holding our annual Spring show and sale at Fashion Square Mall this year. In the past we simply did not earn enough to pay our expenses even though Easter should be a great time to sell orchid plants. Instead, we're now investigating the possibility of having 2 days of sales to coincide with the Crozet Arts & Crafts Show May 10-11 in Crozet. Dudley is working on a location at this time and hopefully can update the membership as we get more information on this event. Please reserve those dates if you can volunteer some time to help with sales. More details to follow.

For our March meeting Neale Merriman will be presiding in my stead as Vicky and I will be traveling again to the South Atlantic to South Georgia. We hope to bring back lots of photos of penguins as we dodge ice bergs and storms in the Drake Passage. Many thanks to Neale for volunteering and we look forward to seeing everybody back in April.

Larry Eicher

Meeting Information

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.

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.

February Show Table Results

Hobby 2

1st Melanie Murgula, Slc Jewel Box

Hobby 3

1st Larry Eicher, Paph Somers Phil

2nd Larry Eicher, Paph Bel Royal

3rd Larry Eicher, Lc Meadow Gold

HM Larry Eicher, Blc William Stewart x
Blc Love Sound

Super Hobby

1st Dudley Miller, Den densiflorum

2nd Dudley Miller, Cym Agnes Norton

3rd Dudley Miller, Bc Yellow Bird

Professional

1st Lee and Neale Merriman, Ros
Rawdon Jester

2nd Jeff Morris, Stcs Vanguard 'Fireball'

3rd Lee and Neale Merriman, Fdk After
Dark 'SVO Black Pearl' FCC/AOS

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

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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.

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.

Virginia Orchid Society 2014 Show and Sale

The Virginia Orchid Society's Annual Show was a Great Success. Many Thanks go to our friends at VOS for their Hospitality. There were 14 displays that contained a remarkable selection of beautiful orchids.

Here are the ribbon results for our display;

3Hobby - 1st	Larry Eicher	Paph delenatii var Dunkel
3Hobby - 2nd	Larry Eicher	Paph Pinnocchio
3Hobby - 3rd	Larry Eicher	Paph Somers Phil

Super Hobby - 1st	Paula Berardi	Ctt Cluster Fire
Super Hobby - 1st	Paula Berardi	C Mari's Magic
Super Hobby - 3rd	Paula Berardi	Ctyh Landwoods "Green Elf"
Super Hobby - 3rd	Paula Berardi	Den Himezadura "Fujiko"

Prof - 1st	Lee/Neale Merriman	Lpt pohlitinocoi
Prof - 1st	Lee/Neale Merriman	Ros Rawdon Jester
Prof	Lee/Neale Merriman	Lc Gold Digger "Fuchs Mandarin"
Prof - 2nd	Lee/Neale Merriman	Phrag Andean Fire "Merri-Todd" AM/AOS
Prof - 2nd	Lee/Neale Merriman	Ascda Yeo Geck Bee "Violet Lady" HCC/AOS

Prof - BS	Jeff Morris	Phrag Don Wimber "Morrigh" CCE/AOS
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Prof - BS	Jeff Morris	Orcp cochleariformis
Prof - BS	Jeff Morris	V Thong Chai
Prof - 1st	Jeff Morris	Stsc Vanguard "Fireball" JC/AOS
Prof - 1st	Jeff Morris	Phrag China Dragon "Morrigh" CCM/AOS

Prof - 1st	Jeff Morris	C Vallezac "Magic Fire" FCC/TOS, AM/AOS
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Prof - 1st	Jeff Morris	Bulb graveolens
Prof - 1st	Jeff Morris	Phrag Schroderae "Howard King"
Prof - 1st	Jeff Morris	Paph bellatulum var. alba
Prof - 1st	Jeff Morris	Stan connata
Prof - 1st	Jeff Morris	V Robert's Delight "Garnet Beauty" FCC/AOS
Prof - 1st	Jeff Morris	Paph Conco-bellatulum
Prof - 2nd	Jeff Morris	Brs Rex "Waiomao Spotless" FCC/AOS
Prof - 3rd	Jeff Morris	Coel rochussennii
Prof - 3rd	Jeff Morris	Cll Fair Jewell "Xavier"
Prof - 3rd	Jeff Morris	Phrag Fliquet

Our exhibit garnered the following awards:

Best Use of Theme

Best Visiting Society First Place

People's Choice Best Exhibit In Show

Best Exhibit In Show

The Orchid Digest Award

The American Orchid Society Show Trophy

An American Orchid Society Gold Certificate



The coveted American Orchid Society's Gold Certificate is given only a handful of times in any given year. To qualify, an orchid exhibit must score a minimum of 90 points. The description on the Judges Award Form is as follows;

Circular naturalistic design dramatically simulates a tropical atoll, centered by five realistic trees staged with multiple levels up to 15 feet; wide variety of orchids, to 8 feet, focuses on a beautifully presented *Coel rochussenii* whose streams of buds suggest lianas in a jungle; high proportion of quality plants, many of specimen size create a moving pattern that draws the viewer around the display; feather decorated labels subtly express birds in a typical paradise in keeping with the show theme.



We owe our success to the members that all helped with the presentation; Bill and Brenda Steigman, Lee and Neale Merriman, Paula Berardi, Linda Wright, and Jeff Morris all helped with Setup. Lee and Neale Merriman, Paula Berardi, Larry Eicher, Melanie Murgia, Jeff and Linda all contributed plants. Melanie Murgia and Eleanor Matano also joined us for take down.

Thanks to all,
Jeff Morris

Smithsonian Bus Trip

I have arranged to see the Smithsonian Greenhouse's orchid collection (with an introduction by Tom Mirenda) 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



Monthly Checklist for March and April

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.



Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.



Monthly Checklist for March and April

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.



Miltoniopsis Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful waterfall pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas



Monthly Checklist for March and April

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.



Masdevallia Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit'
AM/AOS photographed at Parkside Orchids.
Ottsville, Pennsylvania © G. Allikas

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display.

Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or replot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

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

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 !