

CHAOS

Charlottesville Orchid Society

www.cvilleorchidsociety.com

November 2013

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CHAOS Invitational
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2013 Board and Committee Members

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Jeffrey Morris

2nd Vice President

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Stella Erickson



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President's Message

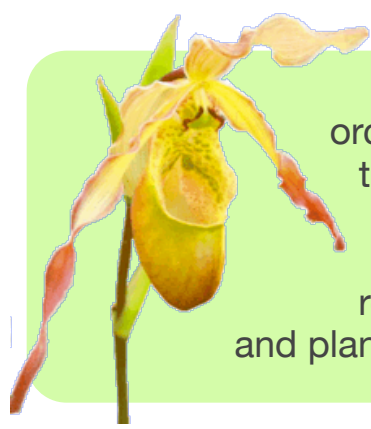
I hope everyone has recovered from both the Fall Show & Sale at Snow's and Halloween. Sorry not to have been at the October meeting because I've gotten a lot of good feedback on the topic of native Virginia orchids. Possibly next year we might repeat this kind of field trip as we did in July if members find that interesting.

November is upon us and that means our election of new board members for 2014. Thanks to Leon Blumreich for taking on the task of being our nominating committee this year. Unfortunately, other than those already serving, Leon was unable to encourage other members to volunteer for this kind of job for 2014. I received a number of thoughts from some of you indicating interest in certain board jobs, BUT (and there always is a "but") the persons were afraid that he or she would not have enough information and somehow might 'screw up' things. Believe me, sometimes I think what I do as president is the 'blind leading the blind' so don't be shy or bashful. We learn by doing and one thing I have always noted about CHAOS members, we never leave anyone in the lurch. If you take on a job, you can always rely on having the previous job holder willing and able to assist you, guide you, and counsel you on what steps. Another way to help out is to become an assistant to a board member -- something like being on a committee for that particular job. Splitting up the work helps the board member and you learn under direct supervision of that board member. So not all is lost! You still have time before the November 10 meeting where we will formally vote for a new board to throw your hat into the ring or if you're interested, let a board member know how you can 'assist' and get some training that way. Remember, this is a volunteer organization. We don't want anyone to burn out, and if we spread the work around, it's a lot more fun for all! Give a board member feedback. This is how we help each other and improve this orchid society. Your input is important!

Due to rent and insurance costs at Fashion Square Mall, it's quite possible that we won't be having our Spring Show & Sale at that location next year. We barely make enough to cover costs and that is terribly frustrating. The board is still discussing this situation and members are encouraged to give us your views. In the meantime members have their own plants to sell and we have another opportunity coming up at the Elk's Lodge off Rt. 20 Pantops on Saturday, November 16 from 9AM to 3PM. See the Craft Show notice later in this newsletter.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a very happy Thanksgiving. It's a great time to get together with family and friends. Don't forget about bringing some canned or packaged food items to donate to the Church basket to share your good fortune with others in need. Also please mark your calendars for our upcoming December 8 Holiday Social for members and spouses. More details will be forthcoming soon.

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.

2013-14

SPECIALS

November 10, 2013 2:00 pm	Geraldine Powell, The Orchid Gallery Cool Growing Orchids
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.

Elk's Craft Show November 16 and Member Orchid Sales:

Thanks to CHAOS member Paula Berardi, we will have one sale table at the Annual Doe Club Craft Show on November 16. Members are encouraged to bring plants to Paula to sell at the Elk's Lodge off Rt. 20 Pantops between 8-9AM on Saturday November 16, OR if it is more convenient, Paula will accept you sale plants at our regular CHAOS meeting on Sunday, November 10. She will then keep your plants at her 'green room' in her home and then take them directly to the Craft Show on November 16. Call Paula if you have questions at 434 245-1668. This annual craft show at the Elk's Lodge is very popular and this is another way to garner some income (and publicity) for future CHAOS activities.

This craft show is another great opportunity to sell off your excess orchid plants, and also help CHAOS as 20% of any sales will benefit your own orchid society. Be certain to put 2 stakes in each plant, one with your name & sale price and the other indicating the name of the plant. We highly recommend that at Craft Shows that flowering orchids sell best but if that is not possible, please include photos if you have photos of your plant in bloom.

October Show Table Results

Hobby 1

- 1st Pam Van Brunt, Brsdm FANGtastic Rob Henley
- 2nd Anne Hobson, Onc Sweet Sugar 'Emperor'
- 3rd Anne Hobson, Den Minipeg

Hobby 2

- 1st Diane Bradshaw, Neost Lou Sneary 'Bluebird'

Hobby 3

- 1st George & Fay Tyler, B Yaki
- 2nd George & Fay Tyler, Neost Lou Sneary
- 3rd Alba Shank, Onc Unknown



Super Hobby

- 1st Dudley Miller, Ascda Yip Sum Way
- 1st Paula Berardi, B nodosa
- 2nd Paula Berardi, Phal pulcherrima
- 2nd Paula Berardi, Den White Bota
- 3rd Paula Berardi, Pyp Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS
- 3rd Paula Berardi, Lhta lunifera
- HM Paula Berardi, Phal pulcherrima
- HM Paula Berardi, Den rhodostictum

Professional

- 1st Jeff Morris, Blc Ocone 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS
- 2nd Lee and Neale Merriman, Bulb Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS
- 3rd Jeff Morris, Paph Lefty Kei

Photo Credits to Stella Erickson

Thank you to the following members who have volunteered to bring food for our meetings:

November

Sweets: Eleanor Matano
Savory & Drinks:
Diane Bradshaw & CJ Besanson

November 10th Meeting

Geraldine Powell, The Orchid Gallery "Cool Growing Orchids"

I have been growing orchids for over thirty years and have been involved in the orchid business for over twenty-five years. I have lectured extensively on various topics from Paphs., Phrags., Masdevallias, Miltoniopsis and other topics.

My first orchid was a Cattleya. I bought it because it smelled wonderful. The rest is history. My interests have changed over the years from Catts. to Paphs. and Phrags. to weird species and so on. I have always liked Masdevallias and Miltoniopsis but hesitated to try many of them because of their reputation for being cool growing. I grew a few of the warmer growing types but I really wanted coccinea and yungasensis and the like.

When we opened our nursery in Brooksville, Florida I set up a small greenhouse specifically for cool growers. My partner thought I was nuts. I guess she was right. But our cooler growing plants started to receiving AOS awards. When we moved to Signal Mountain in Tennessee I continued with the cool growers. It might be a little cooler on the side of the mountain but I still had problems with the coolest growers. Over the first 2 years in Tennessee I developed Cool Pots. These have allowed us to grow a much wider variety Masdevallias. They work great for Miltoniopsis, Phrags., and quite a few other orchids that like it cool and damp. We began marketing Cool Pots about four years ago. Over the years I have learned a lot about growing Miltoniopsis, Masdevallias and other cool growing orchids in a warm climate.



American Orchid Society

Education, Conservation, Research

Monthly Checklist for November and December

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

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.



American Orchid Society

Education, Conservation, Research

Monthly Checklist for November and December (cont.)

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

Monthly Checklist for November and December (cont.)

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.



Neofinetia falcata will thrive in cooler temperatures and produce graceful vanilla-scented flowers.

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 !