



CHAOS

Charlottesville Orchid Society

www.cvilleorchidsociety.com

September 2016 Newsletter

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2016 BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President: Dudley Miller

1st Vice President: Jeffrey Morris

2nd Vice President: Neale Merriman

Treasurer: Pam Van Brunt

Corresponding Sec'y: Alba Shank

Program Director: to be determined

Newsletter: Daria Kiselica

Publicity: CJ Besanson

AOS Liaison: CJ Besanson

Photography: Stella Erickson/Jeff Morris

NEXT MEETING:



Sunday 9/11/2016

Same location....NEW TIME!!!

See the President's Message for details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I hope that you and your orchids have endured the summer heat without too much difficulty. With the imminent return of cooler temperatures, the chores of caring for our outside plants are more pleasant and the hard work of preparing for their winter needs will soon be upon us. September also heralds the start of our monthly CHAOS meetings where we get a chance to share our growing experiences and, of course, the beautiful flowers that reward our efforts. The speaker for our Sept. 11 meeting is Peter Breed. Peter is one of the partners in "Orchid Classics 4u" in Hampton/Virginia Beach Area. They are breeding neofinetia hybrids and specialize in custom displays for events. We all look forward to hearing what Peter has to say. In anticipation that Peter will be bringing plants to sell, members will not sell plants at the Sept. meeting. Members are encouraged to bring snacks and drinks to share.

Please note that our meeting time is moving to later in the afternoon. Our set-up will begin at 2:30 and our program will begin at 3:00. Our meeting location is unchanged: 1024 Carrington Place across Rio Road from Church of our Savior). Turn right into the parking lot after turning onto Carrington Place. The building is toward the end of the lot with a covered garage area on the lower level. Take the elevator (or the stairs if open) from the 1st floor (garage) to the top floor. Our meeting should be finished by 5:00.

After the meeting we will have a short meeting of the CHAOS Board. I will share a proposed agenda with members of the Board prior to the meeting and encourage Board members to think about possible agenda items they would like discussed.

Dudley Miller, CHAOS President

NEWS:

You may remember that a group of CHAOS members made a trip to the George Washington National Forest in May with Lonnie Murray as our guide. We were thrilled to see several colonies of yellow lady slipper orchids (*Cypripedium parviflorum*), and a number of other wildflowers. The photo below shows one of those beautiful lady slippers.



However, it was very upsetting to learn through Lonnie back in August that all of the plants growing at that roadside, including the colonies of yellow lady slippers, had been destroyed due to spraying of herbicide. That triggered some letter-writing by Lonnie and others, and here are some replies from our representatives at the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests:

Hi Lonnie,

Thanks for your email. I am not able to get any geotags out of photos here on my work computer unfortunately, so I'll need you to actually send me the location. We have a road called the Cold Springs Rd (FDR 77) which runs parallel to the east of the Deerfield Valley Rd (679) off of the Old Parkersburg Turnpike. Is this the road you are referencing? It is a long road, so I was hoping to get a little more detailed description about where the plants are from you. Maybe we could plan a day that the Forest Botanist, Fred Huber, and I could go out with you or some other folks and see some of the plant hotspots that you are aware of?

Also, while I appreciate that mowing is another way we can manage our roadsides, our staff levels and equipment are at a bare minimum here on the North River District. Just to give you some background, we only have one tractor and bush hog that is busy mowing clearings and doing other projects from May-October and only one full-time roads staff person. Without another piece of equipment, including someone trained to operate it, we are limited in our options for roadside maintenance. This is why many of our roads are sprayed with herbicide to treat encroaching woody vegetation.

In some cases, herbicide has been sprayed on vulnerable/sensitive plant populations inadvertently, and they have actually thrived due to the multiflora rose or other woody species being killed around them. That being said, we can do our best to mark these areas in some way for our roads staff, so they are able to avoid them with herbicide in the future. With only one staff member (plus a seasonal helper) to cover nearly 600,000 acres of National Forest Lands, and all the roads running throughout, he has an incredible workload of roads to maintain and tries to get it done as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. If we were to mow our roadsides via contract, it runs about \$100/acre mowed. I hope this helps give some perspective of the issues we face here with staffing, equipment and budget limitations, and that we are not purposely being negligent of special plant populations.

I'm excited to get out on the ground with your group and see some of the areas you'd like us to try and protect! Maybe we can shoot for next spring, early summer to see the plants while blooming? If you'd like to get out there earlier, just let us know.

Thank you for reaching out and alerting us to this issue!

Meg

Meg McElveen
North Zone Wildlife Biologist
Forest Service

George Washington & Jefferson NFs, North River Ranger District

Great letters from both of you. Even though this species is not on a Forest Service protected list, nobody wants to harm such beautiful plants that have such a high public interest. I agree completely that we should use this as a springboard to try to avoid future damage, particularly of globally rare species. Even if we just sit down with maps to mark known locations. I echo Meg's comment about getting out in the field.

All the best,

Fred

Fred Huber is evidently a botanist with the Forest Service.

Let's hope that the sprayed area eventually recovers, and that this incident leads to better communications and awareness of other areas that may benefit from some protection.



Charlottesville Orchid Society

Join us for a *CHAOS* meeting!!!

Be our guest at a meeting because you enjoy orchids!

What's in it for you:

- Speakers who address multiple topics of interest about 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 them in their own greenhouses or homes
- Frequent options to purchase beautiful orchids to grow yourself
- Raffles in which you may win an orchid plant for as little as \$1.00
- The option of joining our organization as a member

When: Usually the second Sunday of each month, September through June, from 1:00 to 4:15 PM, with program from 2:30-3:30 PM. Check our website (<http://cvilleorchidsociety.com/>) to confirm a date.

Where: 1024 Carrington Place, off of Rio Road East, Charlottesville. Go to the third floor, "Accounting Solutions".

Hope to see you at our next meeting!