

CHAOS

Charlottesville Orchid Society

www.cvilleorchidsociety.com

April 2013

In This Issue

President's Message

2013 Speaker List

April Speaker

Results of the Spring
Show and Sale

CHAOS Invitational
Flyer

AOS Article - *A Tale of
Two Epis*

2013 Board and Committee Members

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Photography

Stella Erickson



President's Message

Thanks to all CHAOS members who participated in the Spring Show & Sale at Fashion Square Mall March 29-30. This is an important sale event for our society because the Mall location and the timing of our event generally support good sales. Even so, times change and so must we; thus we encourage all members to think about other possible "Option B" venues for the future. We used to have two events at Fashion Square but due to lease rental and insurance costs our second event of the year in October is now held at Snow's Garden Center (at no cost to our society, thanks to Snow's generosity).

Increasing speaker costs and especially increasing travel costs mean a greater drain on our resources. If we are to maintain high quality educational services to our members, we must also be mindful of our ability to pay. Therefore, your CHAOS board decided at its March 9 meeting that an increase in membership dues will be instituted starting for any new/renewed memberships after September 2013. This is the first increase in a great number of years so we hope members will understand this need. Our membership year is on a calendar year basis but normally we have allowed newcomers from September onward to enjoy the final months of one year plus a full new year with their membership. This will be continued. New dues will be \$30 per person and \$35 for a couple.

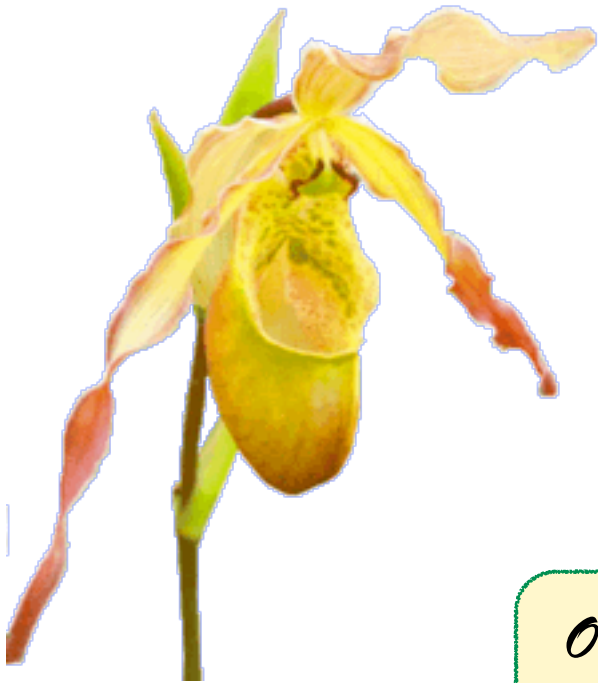
We also encourage CHAOS members to bring at least one friend interested in orchids as a guest to our monthly meetings in hopes they may think about joining us as a paid member. Thanks to our Secretary, Daria Kiselica for the item included in this month's newsletter. Use it, please! Increasing membership is one way to continue to improve our educational impact here in the Charlottesville area.

To further reduce costs members are encouraged to offer overnight housing to some of our long distant speakers who otherwise would need more costly motel accommodations. Generally this is only for one night and you get the benefit of an orchid expert's advice on how enhance your own orchid flowering. Contact Brenda Steigman, our program director at bsteigma@aol.com if you can help in this area.

Upcoming Events: Our repotting and picnic event will be held May 5 and this year the CHAOS Board decided that the repotting plant will be a phalaenopsis. Stand by for future updates and location of this event.

A few years back we had Lonnie Murray speak to us about local native orchids. CHAOS even made a contribution to the conservation of a native orchid habitat. We are now hoping to make a field trip to that site, and the current thinking is for Saturday, July 27, where the Purple Fringeless native orchid should be in bloom for all to see, so please mark that tentatively on your calendar. A recent survey at our last meeting indicated great interest in this event. We will keep you posted as details evolve.

Larry Eicher



2013

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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.

Other Important Dates

May 5 Repotting and Picnic event

July 27 Tentative date for field trip to Lonnie Murray's native orchid habitat

October 25-26 Annual Fall Show & Sale at Snow's Garden Center

April 14, 2013	Linda Wilhelm, Woodland Orchids orchidfrau@bellsouth.net	Plants in Small Places or Magnificent Stanhopeas
May 5, 2013	Members Annual Get Together	Repotting/Picnic
June 9, 2013	Eric Sauer eric@cypstudios.com	Maxillarias or Review of Various Orchid Genus from South America
July/August	VACATION - No Speakers	
September 8, 2013	Thomas Voytilla, The Orchid House www.theorchidhouse.org tvoytilla@gmail.com	The Culture and Mechanics of Growing Orchids in Semi-Hydroponics
October 13, 2013	Charles Garrett grayowl@tds.net	Native Orchids of Virginia
November 10, 2013	Geraldine Powell, The Orchid Gallery geraldinepell@gmail.com	Cool Growing Orchids
December 8, 2013	CHAOS Holiday Social	

March Meeting

March Show Table Results

Hobby 1

- 1st** - CJ Besanson, Phal Unknown
2nd - Anne Hobson, Onc Sweet Sugar
 'Emporer'

Hobby 2

- 1st** - Jim Nemer, Epc Rene Marques
 'Tyler'
1st - Jim Nemer, Phal Unknown
2nd - Daryn Norton, Paph Tapestry
 Chiffon x Paph California Queen
 'Cerritos'
3rd - Daryn Norton, Phal Baldan's
 Kaleidoscope
HM - Pam Bortz, Stcs Vanguard 'Red
 Stripe'

Hobby 3

- 1st** - Larry Eicher, Phrag Fritz Schomburg
2nd - Larry Eicher, Phrag Jason Fischer
3rd - Larry Eicher, Pleuro tribuloides

Super Hobby

- 1st** - Dudley Miller, Cym unknown
2nd - Brenda Steigman, Blc Irene Finney
 'Ingrid'
3rd - Dudley Miller, Cym Agnes Norton
HM - Brenda Steigman, Bulb ornatissimum

Professional

- 1st** - Jeff Morris, Phrag pearcei
2nd - Lee and Neale Merriman, Sarco
 hartmannii
2nd - Lee and Neale Merriman, Epi
 floribunda x Enc cordigera
2nd - Lee and Neale Merriman, Slc Jewel
 Box 'Scheherazade' AM/AOS
3rd - Thomas Voytilla, Den Pixie Charm
3rd - Thomas Voytilla, Phrag Cape Gold
 Nuggett

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

April

Sweets: Daria Kiselica
Savory: Pam Howie
Drinks: Anne Hobson

May

Drinks: Jim Nemer

September

Sweets: Diane Bradshaw
Savory: CJ Besanson
Drinks: Brenda & Bill Steigman

October

Sweets: Alba Shank

November

Sweets: Elenor Matano



The plant is a Phragmepedium Fritz Schomburg that Larry Eicher raised from a seedling and recently in Richmond at the VOS/American Orchid Society show, the plant was awarded an Award of Merit. As a result of this AM/AOS award, he is permitted to add another name to the plant and have it registered with AOS. To honor his Peace Corps stint in Turkey 1964-66, he added 'Turkish Sunset' to the plant's name. This is currently pending with AOS.

2013 Points - Running Total

Hobby 1

Anne Hobson - 42 pts
CJ Besanson - 10 pts

Hobby 2

Pam Howie - 15 pts
Leon Blumreich - 30 pts
Diane Bradshaw - 22 pts
Jim Nemer - 38 pts
Pam Bortz - 5 pts
Melanie Murguia - 1 pt
Daryn Norton - 20 pts

Hobby 3

Larry Eicher - 180 pts
Alba Shank - 10 pts

Super Hobby

Brenda Steigman - 47 pts
Dudly Miller - 60 pts

Professional

Jeff Morris - 348 pts
Lee & Neale Merrimen - 102 pts
Thomas Voytilla - 19 pts

April 2013 Speaker

Woodland Orchids - Linda Wilhelm



Linda Wilhelm started growing orchids in 1980 after a vacation in Florida with her mother. Already intrigued by orchids, she finally bought a small cattleya seedling, not knowing at the time that it would take seven or eight years to get a bloom. It was the beginning of an addiction. After meeting Rolf in 1985, the addiction became severe when he too got involved with orchids.

When the hobby got out of hand and developed into a serious passion for both Linda and Rolf, they started their business Woodland Orchids. They specialize in breeding warm tolerant Oncidiinae (several of their new hybrids have received awards from the AOS), compact cattleyas and also line breed a number of different species and have made some wonderful Stanhopea hybrids.

An Accredited Judge, Linda is very active in the judging program, having served in various positions with the Carolinas Judging Center including the job of the Training Coordinator, 5 years as the Chair of the Center and six years as a Trustee for the American Orchid Society. She enjoys being involved in shows outside her region, including offshore shows in the islands. "It offers such an opportunity to see a different variety of orchids as well as an opportunity to extend my group of friends."

She is a frequent guest speaker at orchid societies all over the USA and has spoken at places such as Brazil, Trinidad, Barbados and Guatemala.

Results of the Spring Show & Sale fund raiser by Dudley Miller, CHAOS treasurer:

Here are the final results of the spring show and sale at Fashion Square Mall:

of Plants Sold:

Merriman -	4 plants	The total payments to vendors:	\$2572.40
Jeff -	6 plants	Society Take:	\$680.6
Dudley -	9 plants		
Paula -	7 plants		
Tom V. -	26 plants		
Orchid St. -	93 plants		

If we subtract the \$200 for rental of the space then our profit is \$480.60 (or \$380.60 if we get charged another \$100 for the special insurance language). If we count the basic insurance cost (\$400) against it this so called profit is basically a wash. Of course we need the insurance for other events as well throughout the year so that cost needs to be spread over the entire 12 months. Oh well, just more justification that we really are a non-profit.

President's Comment: FYI: We almost did not have a show and sale this spring due to the fact that our Insurance company objected to the new language for coverage that Fashion Square Mall insisted on adding to our rental lease. It was a last minute effort to get this resolved but it may cost us additional insurance as cited above by Dudley! Each year we have had more issues and they are not getting any better (or cheaper). As I have mentioned before, we all need to think 'out of the box' and come up with new ideas on how to promote our programs, as well as raise funds to cover speaker costs, especially mileage due to the gas price increase.

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 !



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

A Tale of Two Epis

Epidendrum pseudepidendrum and *Epidendrum ilense* are two species worth growing in greenhouses and tropical gardens

By Ned Nash

Once upon a time, all orchids were classified as *Epidendrum*. Linnaeus established the genus as part of his binomial system in 1753, and so few orchids were known at the time that it seemed to make sense that all orchids should be included in this broadly defined group.

Consequently, as more orchids were discovered, it became clear that they needed to be reclassified into more genera to accommodate the many differences in their morphology.

However, and especially until the last few decades,

Epidendrum has remained a classical catch-all genus with broadly defined characteristics.



Epidendrum pseudepidendrum 'Rudolph' CHM/AOS exhibited by Woodstream Orchids. Photo by James Osen.

As more and more sophisticated taxonomic work is possible, more and more genera seem to emerge from what were once familiarly known as *Epidendrum*. *Prosthechea*, *Barkeria*, *Encyclia* and *Psychilis* are a few of the better known of the more modern interpretations of this widespread New World group.

Today, what are most properly called "epis" are the reed-stemmed plants with the lip adnate (attached) to the column. These are generally robust plants, well exemplified by the commonly seen and brightly colored *Epidendrum ibaguense* complex, which are such popular garden subjects where frost does not often threaten. There are some dull and prosaic plants in this group, as well as a few that are exotically distinct and different. Thereupon hangs our tale.

Cultural Needs

Here we want to discuss one of the most recently described of the genus, *Epidendrum ilense*, and one of the longest-known, *Epidendrum pseudepidendrum*. Both are characteristic of the genus, growing to 3 feet or occasionally more, with attractive foliage on reedlike canes and slightly drooping inflorescences of several to many blooms. Both will also branch off old spikes, so do not be too quick to remove the withered spikes. And both will do well under generalized cultural conditions prescribed for cattleyas - bright light (as for other cattleya types, indicated by strong, upright foliage and a medium-green color) with drying between waterings (this will vary according to pot size, mix, climatic regime and growing area).

These plants are remarkably tolerant in their potting mix needs, as well. They will succeed in just about anything that drains well, from medium- or fine-grade fir bark, to tree fern, to mixtures incorporating such materials as charcoal, peat, perlite or coir (coconut fiber).



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

A Tale of Two Epis (cont.)

Fertilizer should be appropriate to the mix used. If grown in a bark-based mix, the nitrogen will need to be a higher ratio (often 30-10-10 or similar), while in other mixes it is appropriate to apply a balanced fertilizer. The only cultural drawback seems to be a propensity to foliar spotting. Their foliage is a bit on the soft side, and so seems to be more susceptible to leaf spotting that may be caused by cold-water injury to the leaves, with subsequent necrosis, according to Jim Rose of Cal-Orchid, Inc. He notes that observant growers have less spotting on their plants than careless ones, so keeping water off the foliage may be an answer.

Owing to their height and light requirements, neither of these two species can really be considered satisfactory for windowsill culture, nor easy under most light set-ups. They are both more appropriate to greenhouse conditions or to tropical shade gardens, where they will often acclimatize in the landscape, making an attractive addition in or out of bloom. In the garden, they require shade from the hottest sun of the day, while in the greenhouse, they can be grown under the same conditions as cattleyas and similar types. Their main season of bloom tends to be late summer into autumn, though it is extended well into the autumn months by the repeat-blooming characteristic.

Epidendrum pseudepidendrum

Epidendrum pseudepidendrum, with its nodding spikes of fleshy apple-green blooms offset by a brilliant orange lip, has been a favorite for many years. Originating in Costa Rica and Panama, today's populations are seed-grown, but only occasionally available.



Epidendrum René Marqués 'Caribe'
exhibited by Caribe Plants Inc.
Photo by Mei-Ling Melendez.

The two earliest hybrids with this plant appeared around the turn of the century — *Epidendrum Langleyense* (x *wallisii*) in 1899 and *Epidendrum Cleon* (x *radicans*) in 1906 — so it is clearly a species that has stood the test of time. However, no hybrids were registered between the two earliest crosses and the 1960s, when Goodale Moir took up the torch with a series of hybrids including an early *Epicattleya* (*Epc.* Charles Lankester [x *C. Firefly*] 1960). Subsequent hybridizing was often with other, often uninteresting and obscure, *Epidendrum* species, and so in many cases the resulting grexes were not particularly popular or well known. Some lines were carried on into the second and third generation, with the 1980s being an especially active time for second-generation hybrids from *Epi. pseudepidendrum* (17 registrations.) Otherwise, activity over the last 30 years or so has been fairly well distributed in each decade, with only a high point worthy of note here or there.

A cross that is occasionally seen at shows is *Epicattleya* René Marqués (x *C. Claesiana*). Looking much like a slightly larger, improved *epidendrum*, *Epc.* René Marqués makes an impressive showing on plants that may reach more than 4 feet tall. This hybrid also demonstrates one of the drawbacks of *epidendrum* breeding: the exceeding dominance of the *epidendrum* parent. When one begins to research into some of the more obscure breeding lines, such as we have here, the byways traversed by adventurous breeders are nothing short of amazing.



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

A Tale of Two Epis (cont.)

One of the true pioneers of intergeneric breeding, after, of course, W.W.G. Moir, has to be Joseph Rumrill. He has been no less active with *Epi. pseudepidendrum* than with other unusual types, and one of his most intriguing hybrids is *Epileptovola* Hyperion (x *Lptv.* Rumrill Snow [*Leptotes bicolor* x *Brassavola nodosa*]). Not unexpectedly, another of the few well known hybrids is *Brassoepidendrum* Pseudosa (x *B. nodosa*). Rather like a good soft drink, everything seems to go better with *B. nodosa*. One cannot ignore *Epidendrum* Plastic Doll (x *ilense*), which was registered in 1989.

Epidendrum ilense

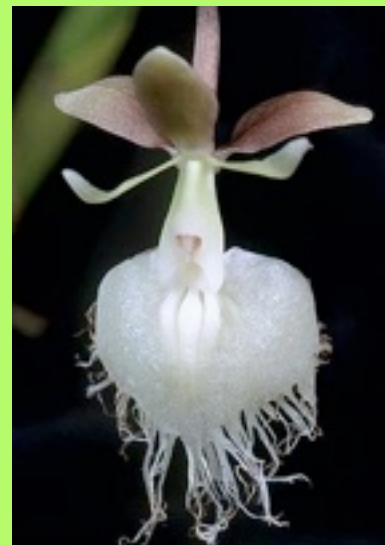
Epidendrum ilense is one of the most recently discovered and described members of this genus, having been found by Calaway Dodson, PhD, in a section of recently cleared forest in Ecuador in May 1976. It was subsequently distributed by the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida (see page 1083 in the September 1981 AOS Bulletin). Sadly, when Dodson went back to the locale, he found that the several plants he had collected from fallen trees were all that remained of the population. On a happier note, and though Dodson's early attempts met with failure, *Epi. ilense* has proven to be relatively easy to propagate from both tissue culture and from seed, so now there is a stable supply of nursery-raised seedlings in a case not dissimilar to that of *Paphiopedilum delenatii*.

The typically nodding spikes borne over light green, rather softly foliaged canes bear distinctive blooms with a most unforgettable fringed lip. As with *Epi. pseudepidendrum*, the spikes have a habit of reblooming. And also as with the previously discussed species, *Epi. ilense* seems to be dominant in its breeding characteristics. Both because of its fairly recent discovery, and because it seems to be one of those orchids that is best left alone (because it is more handsome than its hybrids), relatively few hybrids have been registered with *Epi. ilense* as a parent.

Besides the previously mentioned *Epi.* Plastic Doll (x *pseudepidendrum*) — which, interestingly, has been used as a parent to make *Epidendrum* Petit Doll (x *criniferum*) — probably the best known of the five hybrids registered to date is *Epicattleya* Dormie (x *C. Dormaniana*), which has received an AOS flower-quality award.

For students of orchids who love anecdotes and history, odd and unusual plants and hybrids, there are probably no better examples of truly good orchids than these two species. Worth the little bit of extra effort to search out and grow well, these plants and their hybrids will reward the diligent hobbyist with foliar and floral beauty, as well as a wealth of stories with which to amaze the less-informed.

Ned Nash is a former Director of Conservation and Education of the American Orchid Society. This article first appeared in *ORCHIDS*, November 1997 and has been updated to reflect current taxonomy.



Epidendrum ilense 'Magnifico' AM/
AOS exhibited by Mrs. Ralph Levy,
photo by Marcus Valentine.