

# CHAOS

# Charlottesville Orchid Society

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

February 2013

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## ***2013 Board and Committee Members***

### **President/AOS Liaison**

Larry Eicher

### **1st Vice President**

Jeffrey Morris

### **2nd Vice President**

Neale Merriman

### **Treasurer**

Lewis Dudley Miller

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Daria Kiselica

### **Newsletter Editor**

Robyn Voytilla

### **Program Director**

Brenda Steigman

### **Website Editor**

Pam Howie

### **Publicity Committee**

CJ Besanson

Tim Richards

Larry Eicher

### **Photography**

Stella Erickson



# *President's Message*

We are pleased to welcome Robyn Voytilla as our new CHAOS newsletter editor for 2013. I think you will find that the new format and information contained in this and subsequent newsletters will greatly assist us all in being better orchid growers. Thank you also to the orchid experts who answered questions at our January roundtable event. Jeff Morris, Paula Berardi, Neale & Lee Merriman, and Leon Blumreich all made the session a great success. Feel free to ask more questions of these folks if you want further guidance on any orchid problem you might have in the future.

You all should have a copy of the Speaker's List for 2013 but a copy is listed on our website at [www.cvilleorchidsociety.com](http://www.cvilleorchidsociety.com). You will note that for 2013 our focus is going to be more on local experts than ones farther away, compared to 2012. Even so, we are fortunate to have good local expertise in the mid-Atlantic region. Some speakers will still need a room for an overnight stay, depending on distance travelled, so if you can host one of these speakers, please contact Brenda Steigman, our program director, if you can help. Having an orchid expert in your home is a great way to get one on one personal advice on how to better grow your own orchid collection. Think of it as low cost expert advice!

If you haven't already renewed your CHAOS membership for 2013, please do it now. Our deadline for renewal is March 1 and anyone who has not paid his/her membership by then will be dropped from our newsletter and email listing. Don't be left out.

A reminder that we have two shows coming up where CHAOS will need your plants to plan an exhibit. This is for the Virginia Orchid Society show and the North Carolina Piedmont Show. Jeff Morris is our creative genius who has led CHAOS to many awards in this area but he needs your plants to finish out each design. His appeal is found later in this newsletter so please check your plants to see if you can assist us towards another exhibition award for CHAOS in 2013.

A reminder that our Spring Show & Sale will be coming up early this year, March 29-30, with setup set for March 28 in the evening at Fashion Square Mall. We are awaiting final agreement with the Mall but given the short lead time, we need to recruit volunteers starting now to man the sales tables for those 2 days. This is how we make enough to pay for honorariums and travel expense money for our speakers so check your schedule and please be willing to fill out the volunteer sheet at our February meeting.

Lastly, after the January Roundtable meeting, I was approached by a number of older members who complained they had a hard time hearing the speakers due to some private discussions going on in the back of the Church hall. Voices carry easily in a small area and you may not realize how far even your whispers can carry. If you must chat with your friend(s), please excuse yourselves and go into the Church hallway where you won't disturb our ongoing discussions. This is especially important when we pay to have outside experts at our meetings. Our purpose is to learn about orchids, not chat with our friends during the meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

*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.

### *Other Important Dates*

March 29-30 Annual Spring Show & Sale at Fashion Square Mall

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

# SPEAKERS

February 17, 2013	Paul Philhour, The Orchid Station <a href="mailto:paulandkathy@orchidstation.com">paulandkathy@orchidstation.com</a>	Phals and How to Grow Them
March 17, 2013	Bill Goldner, Woodstream Orchids <a href="mailto:woodstream@chesapeake.net">woodstream@chesapeake.net</a>	TBD
April 14, 2013	Linda Wilhelm, Woodland Orchids <a href="mailto:orchidfrau@bellsouth.net">orchidfrau@bellsouth.net</a>	Plants in Small Places or Magnificent Stanhopeas
May 5, 2013	Members Annual Get Together	Repotting/Picnic
June 9, 2013	Eric Sauer <a href="mailto:eric@cypstudios.com">eric@cypstudios.com</a>	Maxillarias or Review of Various Orchid Genus from South America
July/August	VACATION - No Speakers	
September 8, 2013	Thomas Voytilla, The Orchid House <a href="mailto:tvoytilla@gmail.com">tvoytilla@gmail.com</a>	The Culture and Mechanics of Growing Orchids in Semi-Hydroponics
October 13, 2013	Charles Garrett <a href="mailto:grayowl@tds.net">grayowl@tds.net</a>	Native Orchids of Virginia
November 10, 2013	Geraldine Powell, The Orchid Gallery <a href="mailto:geraldinepell@gmail.com">geraldinepell@gmail.com</a>	Cool Growing Orchids
December 8, 2013	CHAOS Holiday Social	



# February 2013 Speaker

## The Orchid Station - Paul Philhour

Paul has been growing orchids since he was in high school. He grew up in Miami and started his hobby by collecting native species in the everglades and establishing them in the trees of his parents' back yard. After college and a tour in the Navy he moved to Albemarle County and started working for Region Ten Community Services as a psychologist. Once he was settled he started building an extensive hobby collection which grew quickly from windowsills to a small solar greenhouse. In 1988 the hobby got out of hand and he started the Orchid Station with the construction of a 3000 square foot greenhouse. The Orchid Station specializes in blooming phalaenopsis plants which are sold to the wholesale market in DC. In addition the Orchid Station grows a small number of intergeneric oncidiums and a few papahs. Since its beginning the Orchid Station has grown into a thriving family business with over 7000 square feet of greenhouse and employing Paul's wife Kathy and his son Mark. Although the business is mainly a wholesale operation, the Orchid Station is open to the public for retail sales every Saturday.

Orchid Station  
tel. 434-974-6663

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

### February

Sweets: Stella Erickson  
Savory: Alba Shank  
Drinks: Larry Eicher

### March

Sweets: Jeff Morris &  
Linda Wright  
Savory: Neale & Lee Merriman  
Drinks: Leon Blumreich

### April

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

### May

Drinks: Jim Nemer

## January's Show Table Results

### Hobby 2

**1st** - Leon Blumreich, Den Diane Meyer  
**2nd** - Leon Blumreich, Epc Rene Marques  
'Flame Thrower' HCC/AOS  
**3rd** - Leon Blumreich, Den Royal Wings

### Hobby 3

**1st** - Larry Eicher, Phrag Fits Schomburg  
**2nd** - Larry Eicher, Paph Lebaudyanum  
**3rd** - Larry Eicher, Coel Unchained Melody  
**HM** - Larry Eicher, Phrag Jason Fischer  
**HM** - Larry Eicher, Den Sir Francis Moore

### Super Hobby

**1st** - Lee & Neale Merriman, Max variabilis  
**2nd** - Dudley Miller, Den Nobile  
**2nd** - Dudley Miller, Bl Yellow Bird  
**2nd** - Lee & Neale Merriman, L rubescens  
**3rd** - Lee & Neale Merriman, Robiquetia  
cerina 'Merri-Great Grapes' CCM/AOS

### Professional

**1st** - Jeff Morris, Paph Pacific Shamrock x  
Terry Jarvis  
**2nd** - Jeff Morris, Den macrophyllum  
**3rd** - Jeff Morris, Lds discolor

## 2013 Points - Running Total

### Hobby 1

Anne Hobson - 18 pts  
Pam Howie - 8 pts

### Hobby 2

Leon Blumreich - 30 pts  
Diane Bradshaw - 12 pts  
Jim Nemer - 10 pts

### Hobby 3

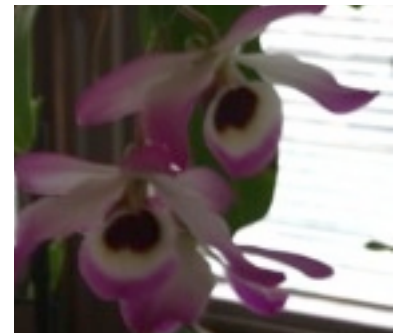
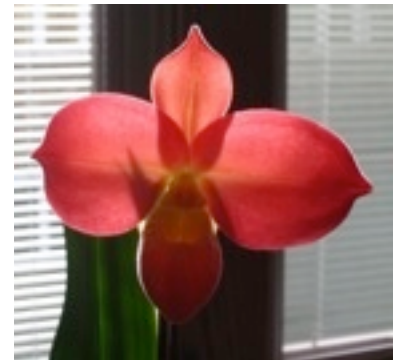
Larry Eicher - 90 pts  
Alba Shank - 10 pts

### Super Hobby

Lee & Neale Merriman - 28 pts  
Brenda Steigman - 24 pts  
Dudly Miller - 19 pts

### Professional

Jeff Morris - 78 pts



Photos courtesy of  
*Stella Erickson*

# *Upcoming Events*

The Charlottesville Orchid Society will be staging an exhibit at the VOS, "Virginia Orchid Society" show in Richmond at Strange's Greenhouse, also at the NCPOS, "North Carolina Piedmont Society" show in Charlotte, NC. Hopefully some of our members will be able to visit and enjoy the shows. We will need help setting up and taking down the exhibit in Richmond as well as available orchids for the display. The NCPOS will be a small table top display. Linda and Jeff will be able to install that one but if someone else wants to make the drive help is always appreciated. The Richmond exhibit will be somewhat larger and we will shoot for a 100 sf. display.

If you have orchids that will be available for either exhibit please start to groom and clean the plants as well as stake the flower buds for presentations. Please keep all staking materials as unobtrusive as possible. The goal in all displays is to make the orchids the center of attention with no noticeable distractions. All artificial materials are hidden as much as possible.

Our calendar schedule is as follows; If you are able to help with setup or take down please let Jeff Morris ([orchidstoo@3welec.com](mailto:orchidstoo@3welec.com)) know as soon as you can so that we can coordinate the event.

## **VOS Show:**

Please send the names for all the orchids you might have available to Jeff by email by Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. This will allow us to print up labels and register the orchids for ribbon judging. Please keep in mind that this step takes just as long as the actual display installation and the more we can get done before Thursday the better. If plants are not in their prime for the exhibit installation is much easier to delete missing ones than to add ones at the last minute. If you have available plants and cannot bring them yourself; 1) You can bring them to the meeting on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and we will house them until the display. 2) Drop them off at WWW Electronics, Inc. right off of Airport Road on Wednesday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. We will meet Thursday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at Strange's Greenhouses between 10:00-11:00am to begin the exhibit installation. Members helping with take down on Sunday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> should meet at Strange's no later than 3:00pm to assist in take down.

## **NCPOS Show:**

Please send the names for all the orchids you might have available to Jeff by email by Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will allow us to print up labels and register the orchids for ribbon judging. If you have available plants and cannot bring them yourself, drop them off at WWW Electronics, Inc. right off of Airport Road on Wednesday, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be leaving as early as possible Thursday, Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> to begin the exhibit installation. It is a 5 hour drive. Take down will be Sunday, Mar. 10<sup>th</sup>. We don't have a definitive time yet.

We look forward to providing the general public and other orchid enthusiasts an opportunity to see our lovely jewels at the upcoming events

Many Thanks,

*Jeff Morris*





# American Orchid Society

Education, Conservation, Research

## Monthly Checklist for January and February

### Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

### Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

### Lycaste

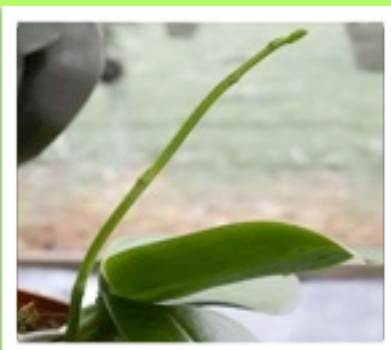
The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

### Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using Oncidium and Brassia, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

### Paphiopedilum

The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.



In the fall Phalaenopsis should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.

### Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

### Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.



*Cattleya trianae* 'Mary Fennel' HCC/  
AOS is a good example of this  
winter-blooming species.



# Other News...



## Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond, VA Orchids Galore!: A Love of Living Color; plus chase away the winter blues

Outside it's cold and gray, but at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, we have a sure cure to beat the winter blues. **Orchids Galore! A Love of Living Color** (Feb. 14 – March 31) features orchids in colors across the spectrum to dazzle the senses. Step inside the warm and cozy Conservatory for an intimate look at these exotic beauties. Learn more about the role of color in plants and how it supports all life on Earth.

Each weekend includes sensory experiences for all ages with themes highlighting how we turn to plants at this time of year for nourishment, comfort and to boost our mood. Weekends also feature family activities (11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; free with Garden admission) inside the Conservatory and specials in the Garden Shop. Come visit for some “plant therapy”!

Companion exhibits in the Education and Library Complex feature photographs of North American orchids by Hal Horwitz; and selections from the *Reichenbachia*, *Orchids Illustrated and Described*, plantsman Frederick Sander's 1894 compilation of 192 orchid illustrations; and information on the great age of orchid exploration.



CHAOS receives advertisements from orchid retailers that we want to pass along to all members. As an AOS affiliated society we get these notices all the time and whenever we do we shall strive to pass them on in case anyone might be interested in taking advantage of these sales.

To celebrate Valentines Day, **Ironwood Estate Orchids** is having its annual orchid sale and open house Saturday February 9 through Thursday February 14, from 9AM to 5PM daily. This orchid grower is located at 3757 Sandy Ford Road in Hickory, NC with info via 828-294-3950 or [www.ironwoodorchids.com](http://www.ironwoodorchids.com). They are advertising purchases of \$50 or more will get you 10% off the entire purchase price.

AOS has gone digital. Starting with the January issue, Orchids magazine is available for download to your computer, smart phone, pad or tablet. All you need is a valid email address connected to your membership and your personal login. If you have explored the members only section of the AOS website, you are all set! If not, there are instructions on the site how to set up your own account. This is another advantage of becoming a member of AOS. See Larry Eicher, your AOS liaison for details.

The AOS Affiliated Societies Committee would like your tips, suggestions and/or ideas on how you grow your societies' membership and methods you have to keep your society's members active and engaged. Please send them to the [affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto:affiliated_societies@aos.org) email address and we will organize and catalogue them on the Affiliated Societies section of the AOS website so we can all share your successes. CHAOS members, if you have ideas, please share them with Larry Eicher, AOS liaison so we too can participate in this effort.