

# CHAOS

# Charlottesville Orchid Society

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

June 2014

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## **2014 Board and Committee Members**

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**Photography**

Stella Erickson



*Photo Credit: Stella Erickson*

# *President's Message*

Our treasurer indicates that we can declare our Mother's Day weekend art exhibit and orchid sale a success. Our total intake from both days was \$3,932. Of that amount, the art sales totaled \$2,305 for 14 pieces. We sold 62 plants valued at \$1,625 and there was \$2 in the cash box unaccounted for.

After all expenses were paid we have cleared \$463.29 from the Exhibit/Sale. Without the expense of the sign to attract cars passing to/from the Crozet Arts & Crafts Festival, we would have been looking at over \$600 in profits. Even so, the sign can be utilized again and again in future sales; so over time that expense will diminish as we only need to update certain lettering for a nominal fee. The Art sale was a valuable addition (without that we would have just broken even).

Dudley is going to ask Ms Morris-Kinchloe if she would like to do this again, but he heard that she might be getting out of the Art business. In any case, the Tabor location permits us this option if we have a cooperating artist. Some members have suggested we have another Crozet sale this fall at Tabor to coincide with the fall version of the Crozet Arts & Craft Festival. Are members interested in doing this?

The CHAOS board would like thoughts/feedback from all members on this sale event. Your candid comments are most welcome and needed as we continue to search for the right combination of activities to bring in funds to help pay for speakers at our monthly meetings. Help us improve by participating in this post event discussion.

*Larry Eicher*

2014



June 8, 2014  
2:00 pm

**Picnic at Member's House**  
Repotting session - Members can bring  
plants for sale.

## *George & Fay Tyler*

### *Directions for Annual Picnic*

## *CHAOS Annual Picnic*

### *Sunday June 8:*

Coming up on Sunday June 8 is our annual picnic, to be held at the home of George and Fay Tyler in Louisa. Please time your travel to arrive at the Tyler's by no later than 3PM. The picnic will run from 3PM to 5PM so everyone can return home during daylight hours. Directions to the Tyler home are included separately in this newsletter. For those of you who would like to attend but have no transport, please contact Larry Eicher so we can arrange some carpooling for you. Those who have space and can take an extra passenger or two are requested to also let Larry know at [434 975-4231](tel:434-975-4231) or [<tuzlu@comcast.net>](mailto:tuzlu@comcast.net). If you can bring an extra table and/or folding chair, it will be much appreciated by our hostess.

This year the Board has decided to just have a nice summer picnic without any repotting activities as we have had in the past. CHAOS will provide the baked and/or fried chicken entree and members are asked to bring a side dish or salad, veggies or dessert to round out the picnic. It takes about 40 minutes to get to the Tyler residence but it's well worth the visit to see how Fay and George produce such spectacular orchids in their greenhouse. We also encourage members to bring any of their plants for sale and of course we will have our regular monthly competition display table of orchids where points can be gained towards the year end total awards. If you sell plants, please remember that 20% of the price needs to go to the Society.

The Tyler's address is 2387 Mt. Airy Road, Louisa for our June 8 picnic get together. Phone: [540-967-5401](tel:540-967-5401). Take Route 64 East from Charlottesville (towards Richmond) to the Shannon Hill Road Exit; Turn left onto Shannon Hill Road and go about 6.5 miles. At that point turn left onto Mt. Airy Road and go 2.5 miles. Our home is on the left, behind a 4-board fence. There are two driveways - use either one that is available. It takes the Tylers about 45 minutes to make this drive.

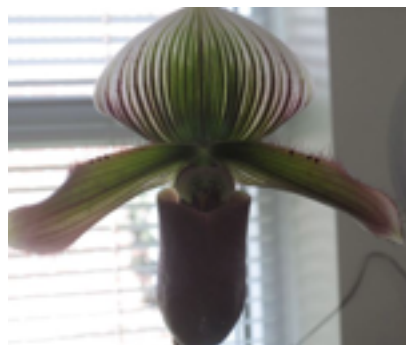
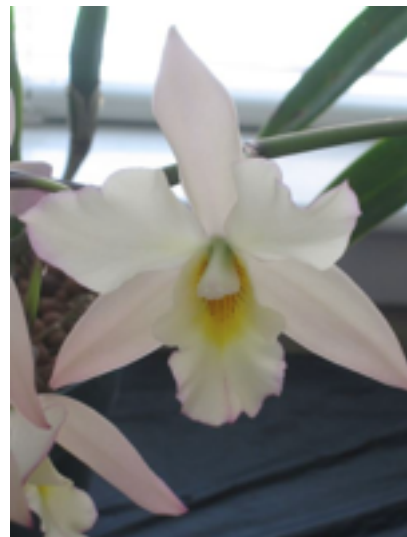
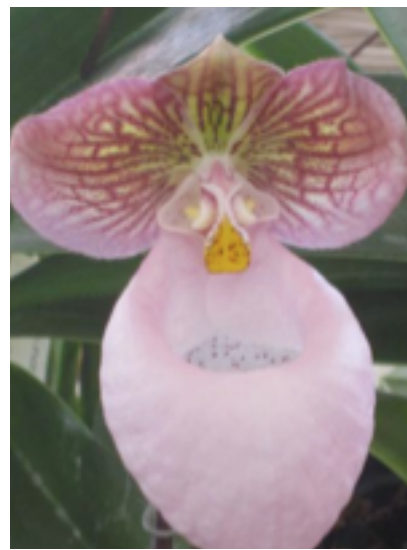
If you are coming via Rt 33 or another route and need directions, please email George & Fay prior to that Sunday morning :-). George has alternate directions for those coming in from the north that can preclude the need to drive all the way to I-64 and then onto Louisa.

Caution: Do not use map quest after you get on Shannon Hill Road as it will direct you to White Walnut Road which does not cut through to Mt. Airy Road any more. In case anyone gets lost, contact the Tyler residence using the Eicher cellphone at [434 465-1414](tel:434-465-1414) which will be on all Sunday afternoon to receive calls as we set up the picnic.



# *May* Show Table Results

*May Show Table Results not yet available.  
Will be published in the next newsletter!*



*Photo Credits: Stella Erickson*



American Orchid Society  
Education, Conservation, Research

## The Summer Doldrums:

### How to Care for Your Orchids During the Wilds of Summer

**Credit:** Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education, 2009

Summer presents challenges in the form of increased pest activity, fungal and bacterial problems in traditionally wet areas and desiccation in those areas with Mediterranean-like climates

where summers are typically quite dry. Observation is the watchword for the summer months. Careful observation of your plants is the best way to identify small problems before they become big problems and in the summer, the time between these two events is dramatically shorter due to higher temperatures --- the earlier you catch a problem, the easier it is to control.



*Soft brown scale*

#### Pest Control

For small collections, the best thing to do is to physically wipe insects off and clean the plant. Isopropyl alcohol and a cotton swab are very effective against most pests and if you want to increase its effectiveness, a drop of Ivory dishwashing liquid added to the alcohol helps wet the typically waxy surface of orchid leaves. If you haven't been watching carefully and the infestation gets out of control, you might have to use chemicals. Few pesticides are specifically rated for use on orchids but you can use any that are labeled for ornamentals. Use care and follow the label directions. This is NOT a situation where if a little is good, more will be better!

In areas with dry summers, mites can be a serious problem especially on phalaenopsis. These creatures attack the surface of the leaves producing a sort of rough, silvery appearance. Mites are not insects and insecticides offer little or no control. Mites do not like humid conditions so efforts to increase humidity are beneficial. Light infestations can be controlled by thoroughly cleaning plants but in hot, dry climates light infestations rapidly become serious and control is best accomplished by the use of a miticide.



American Orchid Society  
Education, Conservation, Research

## The Summer Doldrums:

### How to Care for Your Orchids During the Wilds of Summer (cont.)

**Credit:** Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education, 2009



Bacterial rot on *Phalaenopsis* leaf.

#### Areas with wet summers

Wet foliage and high humidity encourages the spread of fungal and bacterial diseases. Bacterial diseases do not respond to fungicides and vice versa so it's very important to know which disease you are dealing with. Perhaps the easiest way to distinguish between the two is by smell. The most common bacterial disease in orchids produces a foul smell often likened to dead fish. If you've ever had cut flowers stand too long in water you know the sort of smell we're talking about.

Diseases can spread quickly! Bacterial diseases kill plants especially rapidly and time is of the essence. Both bacterial and fungal diseases are spread by splashing water and this includes rainfall. Use a clean cutting tool like a single-edge razor blade, cut off the infected tissue as well as at least an inch of clean, green area and then treat the cut surface with a fungicide. Even if the problem is bacterial, you don't want a fungal infection to start in the wound. Cinnamon, yes the common spice, is effective against fungal diseases and this can be used to coat the cut surface as well. It's perhaps not as effective as a chemical fungicide but it's readily available and does work.

In wet summer areas, the to control is to keep your plants as dry as possible. Alternatively, provide a lot of air movement. When you water, try to do so as early in the day as possible. This will allow adequate time for the foliage to dry before nightfall.



Black rot, a fungal disease on *Cattleya* leaves.





American Orchid Society  
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## The Summer Doldrums:

### How to Care for Your Orchids During the Wilds of Summer (cont.)

#### Dry summer areas

The bane of orchid growers in these areas is extremely low humidity and this leads to two issues. The first of these is an increase in the rate at which plants dry out and the other is the ever-present mite issue.

Orchids in dry summer areas dry out much more rapidly than they did in the winter. Depending on temperature, plants watered every two weeks in the winter may need to be watered every few days in the summer. Here again, nothing will take the place of careful observation. If you have an extensive collection of plants, you might want to consider installing a misting system similar to those used in open-air restaurants in dry areas. Low pressure units that install on hose lines are inexpensive and work reasonably well to raise humidity as well as cool the growing area somewhat.

#### Summer sun - how does that affect orchids

Solar radiation is much more intense in the summer and plants that have been happily in full sun all winter may need a little extra protection (shade) when the sun is the strongest or, often during the late afternoon when the temperatures are highest. Orchids are easily sunburned and you should take care when moving plants around, especially if you are moving plants grown inside during the winter to a spot outside for the summer. Sunburn, while not in itself a serious problem is irreversible and will make your plants look ugly. In serious cases the plant can be killed outright and any leaf damage is an invitation to a secondary infection in the damaged area.

Orchid foliage should be a light yellow-green. The first sign of too much light is often yellow foliage. If left alone, this yellow foliage will eventually turn white and then dark brown and dry as the sunburned area dries out. If the problem is caught before the



A desiccated *Cattleya* - note lack of live roots.



## The Summer Doldrums:

### How to Care for Your Orchids During the Wilds of Summer (cont.)

**Credit:** Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education, 2009

chlorophyll has been completely destroyed it is often possible to reverse the damage. Once white spots or sunken areas have appeared, the damage is irreversible and the best thing one can do is stop further progression with more shade.



Sunburn on a *Bifrenaria* leaf.

#### Capitalizing on the high-growth season

Because of the increased light and temperatures, your plants will benefit from more fertilizer (increased frequency NOT concentration). This is especially true for those varieties that put out new growth during this time. Avoid fertilizers that contain significant amounts of urea. Urea requires soil organisms to convert it to forms useable by orchids and the process liberates significant amounts of acid. If you are growing in a predominantly inorganic media like rock or aliflor,

soil organisms aren't prevalent and these media have poor buffering capacity. If you are growing in fir bark media, as the medium ages, it naturally becomes more acidic and less able to buffer the pH shifts caused by metabolism of urea.

Plants will also dry out faster and to avoid root damage, water your plants first before fertilizing. This way the roots will be wet and much less easily damaged by the salts in the fertilizer solution.

If you grow your plants inside during the cooler months, moving them outside for the summer is very often a "shot in the arm" and your plants will respond with renewed vigor. There's something about natural air movement, humidity and rainfall that just can't be duplicated indoors. Just remember, make the transition slowly. Place them under very heavy shade for a few days, then somewhat less shade for a few days and then move them to their summer homes paying careful attention to the color of the foliage. You'll be glad you did.



# 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 !*