

# CHAOS

# Charlottesville Orchid Society

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

May 2014

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Larry Eicher

**Photography**

Stella Erickson



*Photo Credit: Stella Erickson*

# President's Message

**The life of a Program Director is never easy.** For example, I learned Brenda had arranged to have Tom Miranda as our speaker for April but due to a sudden and unexpected conflict, Tom had to bow out suddenly. (We hope to reschedule him soon). I want to thank both Brenda and Neale for working together to arrange Neale's talk on Companion Plants with Orchids at our April meeting. It was a great presentation as always from Neale, and shows that we have a lot of home grown talent growing orchids right here amongst us. Thanks to all.

**May Meeting is May 4:** Just a reminder that for our upcoming May meeting, we will be having Molly Brennan of Brennan Orchids speaking to us, but due to Mother's Day and the Crozet Orchid show and sale event May 10-11, ***our next monthly meeting at Our Lady of Peace Retirement Center, 751 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville will take place on Sunday, May 4. Repeat: May 4.*** Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend. Molly specializes in phals and will be selling plants at the meeting.

**CHAOS June Repotting/Picnic:** George and Fay Tyler have also agreed to volunteer to hold our annual repotting and picnic social at their home at 2387 Mt. Airy Road, Louisa, VA 23093. We are tentatively setting the date for this event for Sunday, June 8 starting at 3PM. Repotting material will be available to all paid up members with chicken provided by CHAOS. Members are invited to bring side dishes and/or desserts to this event. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend. Directions to the Tyler home will be forthcoming but one has easy access to their home via I-64. Plan to car pool if possible.

## **CHAOS Website Info Update:**

The CHAOS Website still needs a webmaster. Can you help? We encourage all our members to take a look at the Charlottesville Orchid Society website. It really has great potential, especially when we have news like we garnered at the recent AOS show in Richmond by winning the AOS gold medal. Just like Facebook and Twitter, it is through the internet and social media that we can get ourselves better known to the public. That is why anyone who has some knowledge of the web and who would be willing to assist us keeping the website up to date would be most welcome. The only way to get more members is to sound our own horn, so to speak. Please check out our website at: [<www.cvilleorchidsociety.com>](http://www.cvilleorchidsociety.com) Also, all past newsletters are now being posted to the website in pdf format for easy access by members and the general public. Enjoy!

*Larry Eicher*



# *April* Show Table Results

## Hobby 1

- 1st** Pam Van Brunt, Paph Lathamianum  
**2nd** Pam Van Brunt, Milt Morris Chestnut  
**3rd** CJ Besanson, Phal Unknown  
**HM** Pam Van Brunt, Paph Fumi's Delight

## Hobby 2

- 1st** Leon Blumreich, Iwan Apple Blossom  
**2nd** Leon Blumreich, Diam Fair Jewel  
**3rd** Leon Blumreich, Phal Unknown

## Hobby 3

- 1st** George & Fay Tyler, Bc Maikai 'Louise'  
**2nd** Larry Eicher, Lc Island Springs 'Lenette'  
**3rd** George & Fay Tyler, Lc Rojo

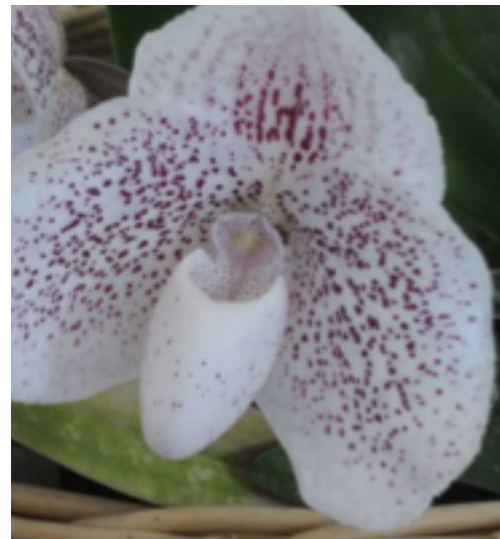
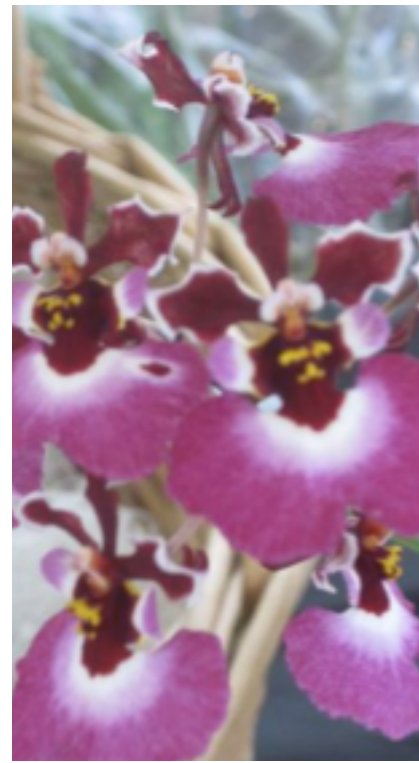
## Super Hobby

- 1st** Dudley Miller, Bulb claptonense  
**2nd** Paula Berardi, Den loddigesii  
**3rd** Paula Berardi, V Pakchong

## Professional

- 1st** Linda Wright, Microterangis hariatiana  
**2nd** Lee and Neale Merriman, Phal bastiani  
**3rd** Jeff Morris, Ang Wild Chalice  
**HM** Jeff Morris, Paph micranthum

*Thanks to Jeff Morris for the  
Show Table Results!*



2014



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.

## Meeting Information

Please remember our meeting place is now at the Church of Our Saviour **to Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community, located at 751 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901**. Set-up will be at 12 noon with the actual meeting starting no later than 1 pm. We will have to clean up and be out of the room by no later than 3:30 pm.

**No food will be permitted at this venue.**  
**Drinks for refreshments will be permitted** so we will still need to solicit volunteers to bring drinks only for refreshments. This change will make for an easier and faster cleanup.

### Directions to Our Lady of Peace:

Coming from Rt. 29, turn onto E. Rio Road, going past Albemarle Square on the left and Fashion Square Mall on the right, continue east on E Rio Road until you come to Hillsdale Drive (red light), turn right on Hillsdale Drive and look for Our Lady of Peace on the Left side of the road, 751 Hillsdale Drive. Upon entering the compound, turn Right and go to the end of the parking lot where it is clearly marked for Visitors. If you are unloading orchid displays for the show table etc., you can offload under the awning at the front door entrance, and then park in the Visitor area. Enter the lobby and go to elevators and go Down one floor, turn Left and the meeting room will be directly in front of you on the left hand side of the hallway.

## May Speaker: *Mrs. Molly Brennan*

Our May, 2014 meeting of the Charlottesville Orchid Society will be held on May 4 this year to avoid the conflict with Mother's Day on May 11, 2014. We are also having our Charlottesville Orchid Society Show and Sale at Tabor Presbyterian Church on May 10-11, 2014. Our meeting on May 4, 2014 will be held at Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community starting at 1:00 PM. Please come early if you can and help with the set up of our meeting space down on the first floor in the multi-purpose room that is also used for Mass at 4:00 PM. It is advised that you take the elevator down to the meeting rather than the steps, as the steps are narrow and you might miss your step while carrying a basket of orchids down or up the steps.

Our speaker for the meeting will be Mrs. Molly Brennan who comes to us from Brennan's Orchids, LLC in Mt. Jackson, VA. Brennan's Orchids was started by Molly's husband over twenty years ago and Molly became a part of the Nursery when she met Patrick through Match.com fourteen years ago. Her talk is entitled 'Things I Learned During Show Season' which covers a variety of topics with special emphasis on nutritional supplements. Brennan's Orchids is a constant evolving business, trying to capture the consumer's interest in orchids while avoiding questions about how many ice cubes to put on their plants or why the orchid isn't blooming blue this year.

Please come ready to see some beautiful orchids which are ones the Brennan's have crossed themselves and are usually in pastel color ranges.

Remember our June meeting will be at the home of Fay and George Tyler, starting at 3:00 PM on June 8, 2014. The address is 2387 Mt. Airy Road, Louisa, VA. Phone [540-967-5401](tel:540-967-5401).

*Brenda Steigman*



## Updates on CHAOS Spring Orchid Sale in Crozet May 10-11:

We still need a few more volunteers for two hour stints to make this event a success. Please contact Larry Eicher at [434 975-4231](tel:4349754231) or via email at <[tuzlu@comcast.net](mailto:tuzlu@comcast.net)> to assist in sales of orchids in time for Mother's Day. Thanks to Dudley Miller, our treasurer, we will hold our spring event at the Tabor Presbyterian Church, 5804 Tabor Street, Crozet, VA 22932 on Saturday May 10 starting from 10AM to 6PM, and then on Sunday May 11, from 12 noon to 6PM. This event will coincide with the Crozet Arts & Crafts show close by so we hope to attract some of that crowd also. The end of the newsletter contains the flyer that everyone should download and place in various public viewing areas to increase public awareness of our event. Help spread the word. Sales aid funding speakers to our monthly meetings.

Paul and Kathy Philhour of Orchid Station have kindly indicated that they will be contributing sale plants to our show, but due to scheduling conflicts, they will be unable to deliver these plants to Crozet. We still need a volunteer to pick up the sale plants and deliver them to Crozet either May 9 or early on May 10, and then return any unsold plants back to Barboursville after the sale ends on May 11. Again, if you can help on this important supply question, please contact Larry at [434 975-4231](tel:4349754231) or via email at <[tuzlu@comcast.net](mailto:tuzlu@comcast.net)>. Orchid Station is located at **4505 Burnley Station Road, Barboursville, VA 22923.**



*Photo Credit: Stella Erickson*



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## © G. Allikas

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

### **Cattleya**

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage.

May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering.

While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.



*Cattleya purpurata*, formerly in the genus *Laelia*, is without a doubt one of the most stately orchids to bloom in this season. © G. Allikas



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



*Paphiopedilum Maudiae* is a perennial favorite slipper orchid.

### **Paphiopedilum**

The *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum*-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development.

The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large

growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

### **Phalaenopsis**

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis.

The summer-flowering types, based on *Doritis* background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge





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spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.



### *American Orchid Society Photo of the Week*

***Diaphananthe fragrantissima* at  
Entebbe Botanical Garden,  
Uganda.**

**Photo © D. Darbela**



# 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 !*

# Orchids and Art

## Sale and Display



Sponsored by the  
**Charlottesville Orchid Society**

Pickford-Chiles Fellowship Hall

Tabor Presbyterian Church

5804 Tabor Street, Crozet, VA 22932

Saturday, May 10, 2014 / 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 11, 2014 / 12 - 6 p.m.

*Buy orchids. Get tips and  
troubleshoot problems with  
experienced orchid growers!*

Featuring the botanical  
drawings and prints of  
Sharon Morris Kincheloe

