

CHAOS

Charlottesville Orchid Society

www.cvilleorchidsociety.com

November 2014 Newsletter

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AOS Information

2014 Board and Committee Members

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Larry Eicher

1st Vice President

Jeffrey Morris

2nd Vice President

Neale Merriman

Treasurer

Lewis Dudley Miller

Corresponding Secretary

Daria Kiselica

Newsletter Editor

Robyn Voytilla

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Brenda Steigman

Website Editor

Pam Howie

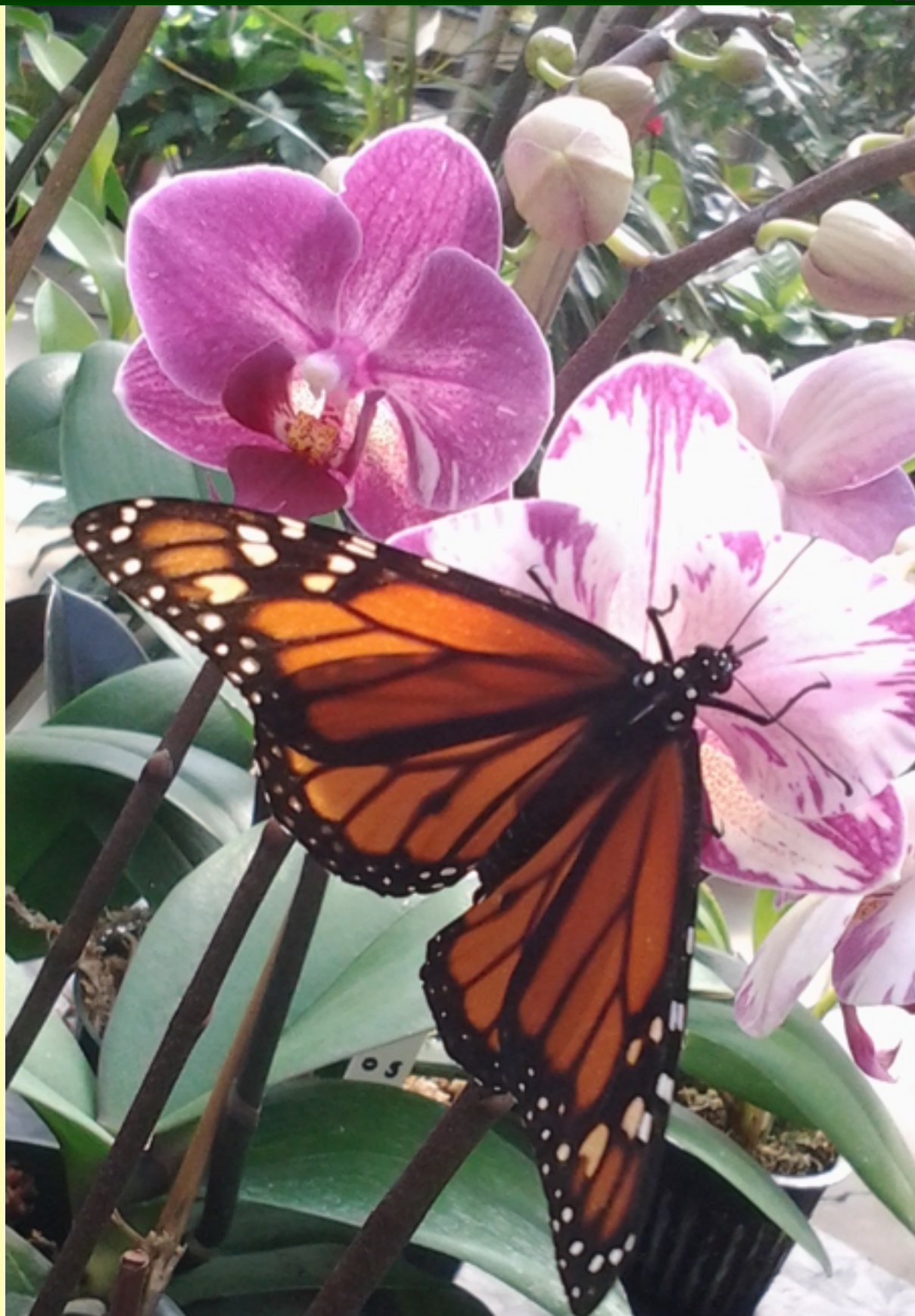
Publicity Committee

CJ Besanson

Larry Eicher

Photography

Stella Erickson



President's Message

By the time you read this CHAOS newsletter, we will have once again finished another year of shows and sales. Special thanks to all our members who volunteered to help in these sales, whether in providing orchid plants, transportation, or manning the tables at our two Fall locations, in Crozet and Snow's Garden Center. This was a learning experience for all of us in handling two sales in the fall season. Our treasurer will be giving us an accounting on this effort and then the Board needs to decide next steps.

For those members who are new to CHAOS, we use the funds derived from our spring and fall sales to pay for the fees charged by speakers to our monthly meetings; as well as to cover mileage which can add up quite quickly. Many of our older members say they can't help anymore because standing for 2 hours is a problem. We can assure you that we will provide chairs for any person who volunteers. Younger members say they can't help because they don't know enough about orchids. Believe me, if you can count money, you will be an asset and also be paired with an experienced orchid expert who can teach you a lot about the care and feeding of orchids. That's a win-win situation.

CHAOS is facing more and more pricing competition on orchids from big box stores and even grocery stores in our area. Remember, we are selling orchids owned by growers who also are members of CHAOS for which we receive only a small commission. While a commission is wonderful, it still takes a lot of sales to cover a speaker's fee and/or mileage costs. If we want to continue having top rated speakers at our monthly meetings, we need to have everyone's cooperation in lowering our costs and helping to promote these sales efforts. The new Board that takes office in January 2015 will need to focus on how to increase our profits so that we can continue our speakers program as in the past. Without that, I fear our local society will decline.

Finally, again a reminder that we still need to hear from you if you are interested in the three vacancies coming up on the CHAOS Board in 2015. We need folks who are interested in being president, treasurer or secretary. Somebody needs to step up to the plate here. We can't expect those few worker bees to deliver quality effort for just so long. The success of CHAOS depends on each and every one of us, not just a few. Please seriously consider volunteering for higher office. If you are interested, contact me directly at tuzlu@comcast.net. Nominations are due by November, with the election in December. Don't be shy!

Larry Eicher

2014-15

Nov 9, 2014	Garland Hansen Miniature Orchids and Stanhopeas
Dec 14, 2014 3:00 pm	CHAOS Holiday Social Members bring pot luck and a table decoration or corsage including orchids. Members can bring plants to sell. <i>Need a host house or hall.</i>
Jan 11, 2015	Round Table Discussion
Feb 8, 2015	Art Chadwick "The 14 First Ladies"

Meeting Information

Location: **Our Lady of Peace Retirement Community**
751 Hillsdale Drive,
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Time: 1:00 pm (Setup - 12:00 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

We will still need to solicit volunteers to bring drinks only for refreshments. This change will make for an easier and faster cleanup.

The pleasure of your company

The set up for the show in MD was, as it always is, a pleasure. Jeff and Linda are a delight, and Pam Van Brunt was a great driver and good worker and a delightful traveling companion.

You do not know what you miss when you don't sign up for set up. Just think of all the time you can pump information from Jeff, and compare growing conditions with all there - growers and exhibitors. Everybody is so nice, all you have to do is admire their plants, and they will tell you how they got them to look like that !!

You do not have to be an artist, we have Jeff. You just need to be there !!
Looking forward to seeing you in Richmond next year.

- Neale Merrimen



2014 National Capital Orchid Society Show

Results for Charlottesville Orchid Society

Classes

E7. Society Competition Exhibit – 26-49 Square-Foot

1st Society Competition Exhibit - 26-49 Square-Foot

Awards

Best Society Exhibit – Second Place
(The Kensington Orchids Award - \$50)

Winner Society Competition Exhibit - 26-49 Square-Foot



2014 National Capital Orchid Society Show Results for Jeff Morris

Classes

22. Cattleya and Intergeneric Hybrids – Large Flowering; Lavender/Purple/Pink

1st Rhyncholaeliocattleya Norman's Bay 'Gothic', AM/AOS

23. Cattleya and Intergeneric Hybrids – Large Flowering; Yellow and Yellow/Colored Lip

2nd Rhyncholaeliocattleya George King 'Southern Cross', AM/AOS

25. Cattleya and Intergeneric Hybrids – Large Flowering; Red/Red Shades

1st Cattleya Naomi Kerns 'Fireball'

26. Cattleya and Intergeneric Hybrids – Large Flowering; White/Semi-Alba

1st Cattleya Chyong Guu Swan 'White Jade'

2nd Cattleya Sans Souci

55. Paphiopedilum Complex Hybrids – Tans/Bronze/Green/Yellow

1st Paphiopedilum Dalia 'Barbara', AM/AOS

64. Phragmipedium besseae Hybrids – Red

1st Phragmipedium Magdalene Rose

101. Vanda Alliance Species – Excluding Neofinetia

1st Ascocentrum aurantiacum

HM Rhynchostylis coelestis

102. Vanda Alliance Hybrids – Excluding Neofinetia

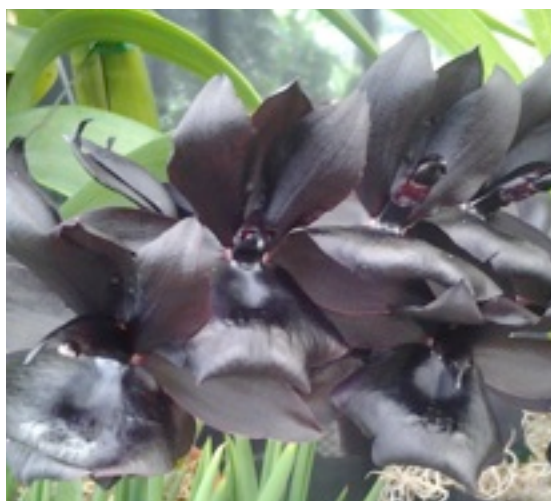
2nd Ascocenda Fuch's Sunglow 'Starrylyn'

121. Oncidium Alliance Species and Hybrids – All Others

1st Cischweinfia pusilla

144. Bulbophyllum Alliance Hybrids

2nd Bulbophyllum A-doribil Anna Roth 'Jay's Surprise', AM/AOS



Awards

Best Connoisseur-Grown Cattleya Alliance (The Walt Schilling Memorial Award)

Winner Rhyncholaeliocattleya Norman's Bay 'Gothic', AM/AOS

Best Connoisseur-Grown Phragmipedium (The Woodstream Award)

Winner Phragmipedium Magdalene Rose

Best Connoisseur-Grown Vandaceous Alliance (The Ward Award)

Winner Ascocentrum aurantiacum

Best Connoisseur-Grown Oncidium Alliance (The Roma Murphy Award)

Winner Cischweinfia pusilla

Best Connoisseur-Grown Species Plant in Show (The Mountford Award)

Winner Cischweinfia pusilla



2014 National Capital Orchid Society Show Results for Lee and Neale Merriman

Classes

95. Phalaenopsis Hybrids – All Others Miniature or Novelty

3rd Doritaenopsis Kenneth Schubert

114. Oncidium Species

2nd Oncidium ornithorhynchum

144. Bulbophyllum Alliance Hybrids

3rd Bulbophyllum A-doribil Anna Roth 'Eileen's Choice', HCC/AOS

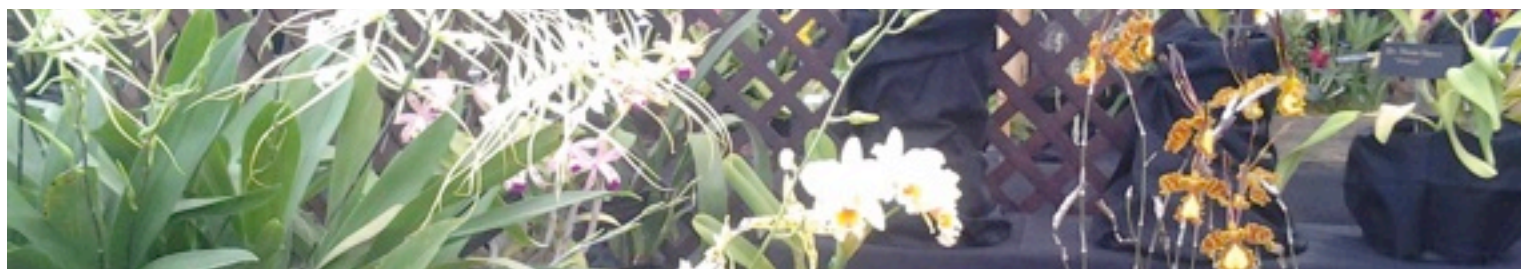
171. Miniature Species

3rd Ornithocephalus inflexus

Awards

Best Connoisseur-Grown Miniature Plant (The Virginia Zavrel Memorial Award)

Winner Ornithocephalus inflexus





American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.



Cymbidium ensifolium produces delicate flowers with a delightful citrus fragrance.



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in

the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying



Neofinetia falcata will thrive in cooler temperatures and produce graceful vanilla-scented flowers.



Monthly Checklist for November and December

rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

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

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 !