

CHAOS

Charlottesville Orchid Society

www.cvilleorchidsociety.com

October 2013

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2013 Board and Committee Members

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Larry Eicher

Photography

Stella Erickson



President's Message

Greetings to all CHAOS members! Fall is upon us. Keep a watch on the weather and start getting any orchid plants you have outside cleaned up, sprayed, and repotted where necessary before bringing them inside for the winter. We're looking forward to another great presentation on October 13 with Charles Garrett who will be giving us more information on Orchids Native to Virginia. We are advised that he will NOT be bringing any plants for sale so all members are invited to bring your own plants that you wish to sell to the meeting. Just remember that 20% of the sale price will go to CHAOS. Our Treasurer, Dudley Miller, will be happy to work with you to sort out the math.

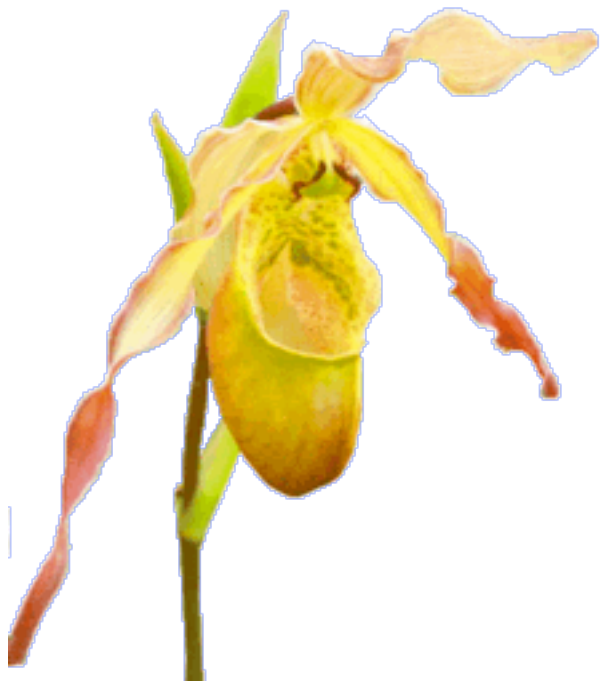
As stated in an earlier group email, Leon Blumreich is heading up our Nominating Committee for Board members. If you are interested in any position on the Board, from President, 1st & 2nd VP, Program, Secretary and Treasurer, please contact Leon at 293-7817 so he can put your name on the list of nominees. His report to the membership is due at our October 13 meeting, with the final election taking place November 10. We also can use more volunteers to help out with photography, our website, and publicity committees so there are plenty of opportunities to serve.

Thanks to those folks who stepped up and provided snacks and drinks for our September meeting. Members are requested to see Daryl at the reception desk so you too can sign up to volunteer to bring a sweet, savory or drinks to a future meeting. Again, it's unfair to expect the same people to provide food for each meeting. If we can't expand the volunteer list it may indicate that folks really don't want that kind of hospitality and it will, of necessity, have to be terminated. I think a short social period at each meeting helps bind us all together so let's fill up that volunteer list at the next meeting.

We're still open to any suggestions for an alternative site for our meetings, simply to lower our costs where possible. We've received a few suggestions that the Board will consider but nothing is definite at this time. Until more info is obtained, we'll continue at the Church of Our Saviour on a month to month basis. If you have any thoughts on this subject, please pass them on to any Board member.

Remember that CHAOS will be participating in the NCOS show in Washington in early October, and BROS, our sister society in Roanoke has just invited us to participate in their show October 31. Jeff will be advising us on further details on these shows. And of course we need to get volunteers to sign up for our Fall Show & Sale October 25-26 at Snow's Garden Center. A sign up list will be available at our reception desk. See Daria for further info. It looks like it's going to be a busy Fall!.

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.

Opportunities for Member Sales

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

December 8 Holiday Pot Luck and Awards Celebration

January 12 Roundtable Discussion of Successes and Problems with Orchids

2013-14

S P E A K E R S

October 13, 2013 2:00 pm	Charles Garrett Native Orchids of Virginia
November 10, 2013 2:00 pm	Geraldine Powell, The Orchid Gallery Cool Growing Orchids
December 8, 2013 3:00 pm	<i>CHAOS Holiday Social</i> Members bring pot luck and a table decoration or corsage including orchids. Members can bring plants for sale.
January 12, 2014 2:00 pm	<i>Roundtable Discussion of Member's Orchid Problems, etc.</i> Members can bring plants for sale.
February 9, 2014 2:00 pm	Jeff Morris TBA
March 9, 2014 2:00 pm	Hal Horwitz Orchids of Israel
April 13, 2014 2:00 pm	Tom Mirenda, Smithsonian Institute TBA
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.

September Show Table Results

Hobby 1

1st Stella Erickson, Phal Unknown

Hobby 2

1st Leon Blumreich, Angrm didieri

2nd Melanie Murguia, Prsth cochleata 'Green Hornet'

3rd Melanie Murguia, Den bracteosum

HM Leon Blumreich, Den unknown

Hobby 3

1st Larry Eicher, Den bracteosum

2nd Larry Eicher, Odcdm Wildcat 'Green Valley D'

3rd Larry Eicher, Den bracteosum

HM Larry Eicher, Psy Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS

Super Hobby

1st Brenda Steigman, Den Micro Chip

2nd Brenda Steigman, Max tenuifolia

3rd Dudley Miller, Phal Unknown

Professional

1st Jeff Morris, Cirr Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS

2nd Lee and Neale Merriman, Ascda Miami Mandarin 'Merriman' AM/AOS

2nd Jeff Morris, Cyc Wine Delight 'Jem' FCC/AOS

3rd Lee and Neale Merriman, Slc Sierra Ruby

3rd Lee and Neale Merriman, Bc Pastoral x Bc Bow Best

HM Lee and Neale Merriman, Orcp inflexus



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

October

Sweets: Daryn Norton

Savory: Anne Shea

Drinks: Leon Blumreich

October 13th Meeting

Charles Garrett

"Native Orchids of Virginia"

Charles Garrett is a searcher and photographer of the native orchids of the Central Appalachians. By training, Mr. Garrett is a systems engineer. He is currently the General Registrar for Bath County. Photography has been a life-long passion since he received his first darkroom equipment as an early teen. His photos have been published in newspapers, magazines and books, and he has won journalism and art show awards for photography.

In addition to photography, nature has been a constant companion and love all his life. About ten years ago, while heading out to photograph some yellow lady's slippers, he was bitten by the orchid bug. Since then, he has photographed more than 40 species of orchids in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia, found one species new to Virginia, and 7 species new to Bath County, including the orchid many consider to be the rarest in non-tropical North America. He has also spent a total of 2 months in Costa Rica, where he saw and photographed many hundreds of orchid species.



American Orchid Society

Education, Conservation, Research

Weeds

By Susan Jones

You've probably heard the maxim, "A weed is just a plant where it's not wanted." Not only do weeds compete with orchids for living space in the wild, but the same habitat invaders may take hold in your orchidgrowing area as well. The root systems of weeds can spread rapidly throughout the orchid medium, siphoning off water, nutrients, light and air needed by the orchid plant for its own growth and optimum health.



Weeds

While any undesired plant in an orchid pot can be considered a weed, some of the most common interlopers are *Oxalis*, *Acanthus* and ferns.

The dictionary defines a weed as "any undesired, uncultivated plant, especially one growing in profusion so as to crowd out a desired crop." Weeds tend to grow especially rapidly and can be invasive in an orchid collection and often do not slow their growth during the cooler seasons as some orchids do, allowing them to get a leg up on a dormant host plant.

While weeds are a challenge for any grower, the larger the collection and more hospitable the growing environment, the better the opportunity to cultivate a crop of weeds inadvertently along with the orchids. New plants can be a source of intruders, and should be isolated for at least a couple of weeks to check for any sort of weed, pest or disease before being mingled with the rest of your orchids.

Weeds, if left unchecked, can totally overrun an orchid pot depriving the orchid of water and nutrients.

Oxalis -- One of the most widespread weeds in orchids is oxalis (*Oxalis corniculata*). It may also be the most aggressive weed orchid growers encounter. A green plant with cloverlike leaves, it seems to spring up overnight, spreads rapidly, roots deeply and seeds prodigiously. Its seed capsules explode, firing seeds in all directions that adhere and germinate wherever they land, including one's orchid pots.

Acanthus -- Other common weeds found in orchids are members of the genus *Acanthus*, commonly called bear's breeches. There are a number of species that make their homes in orchid pots, all of which are small plants with rounded, silvery leaves, with a growth habit similar to that of a rosette. The roots take hold quickly and deeply, and need to be removed completely before they are allowed to establish or spread.

Ferns -- The term "fern weed" encompasses any undesired fern that has found its way into an orchid. Ferns have spores that land in orchid pots, and once established will compete with your orchid for growing space and resources. Their rhizomes choke out orchids and rapidly take over the growing container. They are also a problem in hanging baskets, as well as on tree-fern mounts and totems. Many of the ferns growing as weeds in orchid pots can also be potted and raised as houseplants (ideally somewhere other than in your orchid-growing area).

Moss -- Moss growing in orchid pots is not usually a problem, and for moisture-loving species, such as many members of the Pleurothallid Alliance, it provides the added benefit of moisture retention for the orchid it shares space with. In their natural habitat, some epiphytic orchids grow in among mosses on their host trees, benefiting from the humid microclimate created around their roots by the moss.

Prevention and Control

The best time for weed control, according to orchid grower and photographer Greg Allikas, of West Palm Beach, Florida, is when they are seedlings. Keep a pair of large tweezers in the growing area to remove them before they have a chance to become established.

Remember that physical control of these weeds includes removing not just the foliage, but also the roots or bulbs below the surface of the media as well. If a weed has become well established, it may be necessary to decant the orchid and remove all parts of the weed from the medium.



A large pair of tweezers can eliminate weeds at the stage when they are easiest to control.

Once an infestation of weeds has taken hold, the safest, if most labor intensive, control involves repotting all affected plants, using only fresh medium that has been washed, sterilized and treated for weeds, sterilized tools, pots and medium. Gently remove the old medium, taking care to separate out and dislodge any weed roots from around the base and roots of the orchid. The bare-root orchid may be sprayed down gently with the sprayer hose in the kitchen sink to wash the roots down after cleaning off the old medium — just put a screen in the sink drain so as not to clog the pipes with any material that may fall into the sink.

Dispose of the old medium; do not leave it in the growing area in case it contains weed materials or seeds that could reinfest your collection, and never reuse old orchid medium. If the weed should reappear, pull it immediately, being sure to get the roots out as well as the top of the weed. If only the top comes off when the weed is pulled, that root can regenerate if enough of it is left in the orchid pot.

Chemical controls that eradicate weeds may also harm or kill the orchid host, especially as orchids are often more sensitive to such chemicals than the weeds themselves. The herbicides Monuron (Monurex, Telvar) wettable powder, Diuron (Di-on, Crisuron, Diater, Karmex, Unidron) Simazine (Princep) have been tried with some success against weeds invasive in an orchid collection, but are not proven safe for use on all orchids. Some plants may not tolerate the chemicals and may be lost as a result of treatment.

Chemical controls may be more effective against weeds in a greenhouse or outdoor growing area, as long as they are not used directly on the orchids. Other less toxic options include mulching to suppress weed growth and pulling weeds by hand. If your orchids spend their summers outdoors, always check for the presence of hitchhiking weeds before returning them to their winter accommodations.

References

Gitman, Jackie, Master Gardener. "Don't Let Weeds Get the Best of You." University of California, Napa Valley Master Gardeners Web site. (<http://groups.ucanr.org/mgnapa/Articles/Weeds.htm>).

Neufeldt, Victoria, and David B. Guralnik, Editors. 1994. Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition. Simon and Schuster, New York.

Sheehan, Thomas J., PhD. 2002. "Physiological Disorders of Orchids" In Orchid Pests and Diseases. Florida: American Orchid Society, Delray Beach.

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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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 !



You Are Invited!



Charlottesville Orchid Society
Fall Show & Sale

Snow's Garden Center

Friday, October 25, 8AM to 6PM

Saturday, October 26, 8AM to 5PM

www.cvilleorchidsociety.com

Info: 434-975-4231