

The proposed ByLaw & Constitution changes are posted on the website to be voted on in May.

Special points of interest:

- Floradise Orchids
- Lycaste Culture
- Special Invitation—Andy's Orchid's
- VOS Survey

Photo and Article

Credits:

- AOS
- Garland Hanson
- Jerry Rogers
- Larry Eicher
- Wilford Neptune

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The Orchid Keiki



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April 2009

“Growing Vandas in the Home ” by Steve Shifflett *Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 2pm in the Robins Room*

Janet Cherchuck and Stephen Shifflett own and operate Floradise Orchids on 3.5 acres of land in Gordonsville, VA. Steve and Janet are celebrating 30 years in the orchid business. Steve is an AOS Judge and well known for his many CCM awards for specimen orchids. They grow all varieties of orchids, including phalaenopsis, dendrobiums, oncidiums, paphlopedilums and miltonias.

Floradise Orchids is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10am-5pm and have a wide selection of orchids for sale. They will be bringing various orchid genera to



Vanda tricolor

Also don't forget that members on the day of our meetings have free admission to the garden. Now that spring is here, please take the time to enjoy the beauty of the Lewis Ginter grounds and conservatory.



New Members

I am pleased to let everyone know that we have several new members that have joined our society just prior to, during and in the weeks following our AOS show. They are Carol Gay, Janet Woodward, Heather Jones, Frank Drew, Janet Peple, Mary Lange and Mark & Beverly Fischer. Please extend a welcome to them and take a few minutes to introduce yourself at the next function.

The membership chair would like to form a welcome committee and use the great recommendations put forward by Roger Frankey to “partner” these new members with an existing member. The existing member could introduce the new member at their initial meeting, familiarize them with society activities, and answer any questions the new member may have. If you are interested in being paired with one of these new members, please contact Betty Jo at jofulghum@comcast.net.

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**2008-2009
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April Checklist

After enjoying the beautiful spring-like weather with nature walks, sitting out on the front porch or tossing a ball around with you kids (or grandkids), it's time to get to work. Repotting season is here and almost every orchid will benefit from the fresh media. The first thing to remember is to soak your mix overnight. Orchid roots react to osmotic pressure and dry mix can actually pull moisture OUT of your plants.

As you repot it is a great time to fix plants. Remove old backbulbs from cattleyas and rotten flaccid roots (especially from phalaenopsis) to prevent problems later in the season. The plants should be moved into a pot with room for the

coming year's growth, but not overpotted.

Watering schedules should pick up as your plants move out of dormancy. The increased growing activity also lends itself to propagate your plants by division. Now is the time to share your wonderful and unique plants. By sharing propagations with friends and fellow growers, you can ensure their survival.

For greenhouse growers, shading should be completed this month. Days will quickly grow warm and full sun could be detrimental to new young growth.

Compiled from Orchids Magazine



Special Invitation from CHOS Society Harry Phillips of "Andy's Orchids" speaking

As part of our interest in working more closely with our sister Orchid Societies in the Piedmont area, the Charlottesville Orchid Society is pleased to invite all members of our sister Orchid Societies to our monthly meeting Sunday

June 14, 2009, 2PM at the Church of Our Saviour, 1165 E. Rio Road, Charlottesville, Va 22901. The talk for our June meeting will be presented by Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids (Orchids on a Stick) 734 Ocean View, Encinitas California (outside San Diego). He will be speaking to us about Mounted Orchids and Miniatures. Harry will tour us through many rare orchid species from every corner of the globe and also show us how to adopt these epiphytic orchids into our home and grow them on a mounted hardwood stick, more like they grow in their natural habitats. Such orchids have their roots freely exposed to water and air as in nature, and never need reporting, and are next to impossible to overwater.

Because of this special meeting with a well-known long distant speaker, Andy's Orchids is offering to sell plants in advance with a discount if they are selected from the website and ordered prior to Harry Phillip's arrival in Charlottesville. Shipment of the

order would go directly to Pine Crest Nursery in Charlottesville and arrive just before the June 14 meeting date. Contact point for any individual order can be made to Larry Eicher, CHAOS program director at tuzlu@comcast.net or 434 975-4231.

Ordering Information: Please go to the Andy's Orchid website to choose the plant(s) you wish to order. Total the cost of the orchid(s) that you wish and write a check for that amount.

Please Note: Shipping will be free courtesy of Andy's Orchids.

Checks can be mailed directly to 808 King William Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901 and should be made payable to "CHAOS". Larry will then consolidate these individual orders into one single Group Order and submit that information directly to Andy's Orchids. There will be a **10% discount** for a consolidated order of \$500 or more (which has already be reached) with refunds distributed to individual purchasers based on each person's separate order. With the free shipping fees, this calculates to an actually benefit savings of 15%. The website to consult is www.Andysorchids.com.

All individual plant orders must be received no later than May 1st, 2009.

“Growing and Flowering Lycastes” continued from pg. 4

GROOMING Lycastes are clean plants and need little grooming. There are ways to improve presentation of flowers, however. The foliage will grow toward the light, as will the flowers; therefore, when feasible, grow them in one position, and turn them around for the emerging flowers and the blooms will be free of the overhang of leaves. Otherwise, I tie the leaves together and out of the way for a better view of the flowers.

REPOTTING Since these are grown as tightly as possible in their containers, they may need repotting every year. However, I do not disturb the rootball, but rather simply pot up as needed. At this time, there is seldom much medium and usually there is only a mass of roots, and one merely adds a small amount of medium around the rootball. Only when dividing do I really repot, and even then, I may simply saw the plant into the desired pieces. (When cutting orchids, always use a sterilized blade to help prevent spread of virus.) I have specimens I have managed this way for more than 15 years without any problems with rot.

PESTS & DISEASES I have not used a fungicide in

the greenhouse for more than 10 years. I use a preventive spray, however, in autumn prior to bringing the plants inside. My only problem with the lycastes has been slugs, and these are managed reasonably well with regular usage of a metaldehyde bait. (Be sure to keep this toxic bait away from pets and children, and make sure it's stored out of their reach. Some growers may want to try natural controls.) —

Wilford B. Neptune, MD, is well-known for his superb specimens that have won many cultural awards. He maintains his mixed collection in a greenhouse in Massachusetts.



**Lycaste Shoalhaven 'Clear Sky' HCC/AOS
Grower: David Sombach, Ashland, VA**

What can VOS do for you and what can YOU do for the VOS?!

We would like to ask each member to consider giving the Board of Directors your feedback



Cymbidium goeringii 'Janet' AM/AOS

regarding the VOS at our next meeting (April 19, 2009). We will have a **survey form** available to fill out (anonymously if you choose). Give your feedback about your plant collection, what programs you are interested in, how much time are you available to help your *volunteer driven* society, and how the society benefits you and your plants.

We strive to meet the interests of all levels of orchid enthusiasts, from the new plant owner to the more experienced greenhouse owner to the ultra experienced grower developing their own crosses. Please take a few moments, pick up the survey at the welcome table and let us know what you think.

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**Schedule
of
Virginia Orchid Society
Events**

Sunday, April 19th
Virginia Orchid Society
Steve Shiflett
Floradise Orchids
Growing Vandas in Your Home
Lewis Ginter Botanical
Gardens *Robins Room*

Sunday, May 10th
Richmond Orchid Alliance
Linda Wilhelm
Woodland Orchids
*Living Gems—Miniature
Orchids*
Virginia Science Museum

Sunday, May 17th
Virginia Orchid Society
Ron Midgett
New Earth Orchids
Potting Demonstraton and Clinic

Lewis Ginter Botanical
Gardens *Auditorium*

Sunday, June 14th
CHOS Orchid Society
Harry Phillips
Andy's Orchids
*Mounted Orchids and
Miniatures*

Church of our Saviour
1165 E. Rio Road
Charlottesville, VA 22901
Larry Eicher
434-975-4231



“Growing and Flowering Lycastes”

By **Wilford B. Neptune, Md**

When growing lycastes, I use plastic pots in a size that will accommodate the rootball. I will use bulb pans or geranium- or azalea-type pots, as long as the size is correct. However, I use enough crocking so that the depth of medium will only be at most 4 to 5 inches (10 to 12.5 cm). Some believe that this creates a swamp at the top level of crocking, and should be avoided. I believe that it only increases drainage, and any swamp effect is beneficial in humidity and cooling of the roots. I have never seen the roots invade this area, something that is common with some genera, such as *Cattleya*. On large plants, I usually place an inverted web pot (similar to the cone on Rand paphiopedilum pots) in the bottom center of the rootball, for added air to the rootball.



**Lycaste skinneri 'Trident Beauty' CCE/AOS
Wilford B. Neptune, Md**

MEDIUM I use a bark mix with a water-retention additive, chunky peat. To seven parts of 50:50 medium and fine fir bark, add one part each of medium perlite, medium charcoal, medium tree-fern fiber and one-and-a-half parts of chunky peat. This allows excellent drainage, but provides some water retention.

TEMPERATURE In an article in *Orchid Digest*, Steve Gettel says to grow these orchids warm: 60 to 85 F (15.5 to 29 C). I grow *Lycaste Brugensis (longipetala × skinneri)* warm (minimum night temperature of 65 F [18 C]), on the advice of Henry Oakeley (personal communication), but all others are in the cool house during autumn and winter, where they receive a minimum night temperature of 48 F (9 C).

WATERING I do not dry these out as long as there are leaves present, although I may allow some drying of the surface of the medium after the pseudobulbs have matured. During warm weather (active growth period), I may water every day. For the small-flowered yellow species from Mexico, which become deciduous, I withhold water after the leaves are gone, but for no longer than four weeks. Otherwise, too much crenation of the pseudobulbs occurs.

FERTILIZING These are large fast-growing plants and need a lot of fertilizer. I apply 200 ppm (parts per million) of nitrogen (N) per week in a ratio of 24-9-9, the entire year, if watering, but may substitute 200 ppm of N in a ratio of 9-30-25 for one fertilizing per month after maturation of the pseudobulbs.

LIGHT I am a strong believer that light is the most important aspect of culture for the production of flowers. I put all lycastes outside after night temperatures are above 45 to 50 F (7 to 10 C), in the spring. They are placed on a flagstone patio without any shelter from the weather where they receive full east sun until about 1:30 or 2 pm, and with bright, indirect light the rest of the day. There may be some burning of the previous years' leaves, but only rarely will there be any burn of new growth. When the plants are brought back inside in autumn, most are placed up on hangers in as bright a spot as possible. My greenhouse is on the north side of my home, and receives no direct sun November through January; however, sun is present the rest of the year. I use no shade cloth on the greenhouse, and between fans and a large wet-pad cooler, the temperature in the cool house seldom is above 85 F (29 C), even on hot days in the summer. Large sun-requiring plants, such as laelias, are positioned overhead to shade lower-light requiring plants below, such as paphiopedilums.



**Lycaste Wyld 'Wine Ruby' AM/AOS
Grower: Wilford B. Neptune, MD**

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