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THE KEIKI EXPRESS

Newsletter of the Virginia Orchid Society
www.vaorchidsociety.org
virginiaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Announcements For the Upcoming Year

#1 VOS Participation in the NCOS Show Call for Orchids!

The VOS will participate in the National Capital Orchid Society show and sale this year, but we need your help! Their show and sale will be held from September 19-21 at Homestead Gardens, 743 West Central Ave. in Donaldsonville, MD. VOS members will travel to the DC area on September 18 and construct a display. There is no theme to the show this year and NCOS wants our creativity to run wild. With that in mind, our table theme will be: A woodland glen.

A woodland glen is a narrow, secluded valley, typically located in a wooded area. It is characterized by its gentle slopes and lush vegetation, often containing a stream or other water source. The term "glen" itself refers to a valley, often a narrow one, and the addition of "woodland" specifies the type of environment it is found within.

Orchids will be displayed on multi-levels to create a valley. Lush asparagus fern and moss will provide a vegetative background to highlight the color and beauty of our orchids.

But we need your help providing blooming orchids for the display. Even a single orchid in full bloom will add to our display. Mounted, hanging, or differently potted orchids are not a problem. Plants should be free of insects and well-groomed for display. This will be an AOS Judge Show so all orchids will be entered for judging. Please contact Helen as soon as you know which of your orchids you can loan so name tags can be made and your orchids registered.

Plants can be dropped off at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden at their greenhouse complex on Tuesday September 16 between 9 am – noon. Or arrangements can be made to drop off at Helen's house in Richmond or for Helen to pick them up in Richmond on Wednesday, September 17 after 4 PM. Please contact her directly to make arrangements at 504-208-0746.

P.S. NCOS needs judge's clerks on Friday morning.

Virginia Orchid Society 2025-2026 Officers:

President:
Robin Maiorana

Vice President & President Elect:
Robert Nordin

Treasurer:
Donna Poland

Membership Chair:
Joanne Brothers

Recording Secretary:
Beth Kunberger

Past President:
Irina Neverova

AOS Affiliated Societies Rep:
Daune Poklis

Hospitality Chair:
Carmella Carey

Facebook Administrator:
Robert Rand

Library Chair:
Robert Thiessen

Publicity Chair:
Helen Hull-Sanders

Endowment Chair:
Debby Sauer

Education Chair:
Linda Lawrence

Newsletter Editor:
Ron Geraci

Webmaster:
Ethan Gaddis

Judges Forum:
Michael Gelber

Show Chair:
Irina Neverova

Out of Town Show Chair:
Helen Hull-Sanders

VOS Email Address:
virginiaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Refer to your membership directory for the email addresses for the above members

President's Message

Hi VOS members,

I hope you are having a great end of summer and are looking forward to some cooler weather. Everyone's situation is different. I can't wait to hear all about it when we meet again this September.

We are deeply saddened about the loss of our longest standing member, Dr. Art Burke. He helped our society in so many ways. The board is looking into a way to donate to his legacy.

We are excited to be helping with the National Capital Orchid Society's Fall Show September 19-21. Helen will be leading a group to have a display from the VOS. Four members have volunteered to clerk for the show. We are asking for your plants. We want only those of highest quality. I hope you will support us.

I want to know who is interested in going on a trip in the spring? I will have a signup sheet at the September meeting. I want your ideas. It is not too early to start planning.

The Lewis Ginter MOU has been signed for our monthly meetings. The following dates are listed:

September 21, 2025
October 19, 2025
November 9, 2025
December 14, 2025 Holiday bingo party at Deep Run Park
January 18, 2026 or February 1, 2026, pending speaker's final acceptance date
February 15, 2026
March 15, 2026
April 19, 2026
May 17, 2026

All regular meetings are 1-2pm set up and socialize, 2-5pm business meeting, speaker and show table.

The board meetings will be:
January 11, 2026
April 12, 2026
June 14, 2026
August 8, 2026

Board meetings are from 1:30-5pm and all members are welcome to attend

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Our Meeting Location:
Classroom 1 in the
Kelly Education Center
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Ave., Henrico, VA 23228

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

Housekeeping:

With the goal of transparency, at each regular meeting, we will have available the minutes of the last regular meeting, board meeting, and the treasurer's report.

We have officers and committee chair. Their budget has been given to them. The board approved this year's budget which exceeds our expected revenue. We have a healthy bank account at this time. Before exceeding the approved budget, any chair needs to see me first for prior approval. I will ask for a board decision if an expenditure is warranted.

I am the outside representative of the VOS. I am listed as the contact for the meetings at Lewis Ginter. Irina and I are listed on the show MOU as the only contacts. Any contact with Lewis Ginter must go through me for prior approval.

I am asking that all members be courteous to one another. We are a fellowship of orchid lovers. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

We are having a greenhouse tour, Saturday October 25, 2025! It will begin at my greenhouse with an open house from 10-12. Then, go to Karen Collier's house for a tour of her Florida room. I will have an appetizer. Bring a picnic lunch to eat at Karen's. Drinks will be provided. We will eat at 1:00. Her house will be 12:30-3:00. She has ample parking. I do not. Because of parking at my house is limited, I am asking to stagger your comings and goings. My address is 2114 W Poythress St, Hopewell VA 23860. Karen's address is 12299 Griffin Rd., Petersburg, VA 23805. We will have a signup sheet at the September meeting.

I wish you the best blooms and happy orchid growing!

Robin

#2 2025 Fall Meeting Schedule

Sept. 21 – Kim Feddersen - Fair Orchids
"A look at Slippers (Mexipedium, Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium)"
Oct. 19 – Nicholas Rush - Rusty Exotics
Specialist in terrestrial orchids
Nov. 9 – AOS Outreach Judging
AOS judges will select orchids from our show table and demonstrate the judging process
Dec. 14 – Member Holiday Bingo Party, at Deep Run Park, with orchids as prizes!

Kim Feddersen needs a place to stay Saturday September 20
If you are able to host Mr. Feddersen, please contact Robert Nordin for details: rn5pc@virginia.edu

#3 Reminder: Time for Membership Renewal

Our Constitution defines the fiscal year for the VOS as June 1st through May 31st, so it is time to renew everyone's membership in the VOS. For those who have not yet renewed, to avoid slipping into delinquency, your dues shall be considered in arrears if not paid by our September meeting at the latest - the September newsletter will be your last. An updated membership form has been included with this newsletter's transmittal: Please complete the form and bring a check or charge card for Square to our meeting to complete your renewal. If your contact information has not changed from last year, then you do not need to resubmit the form. And please note that there has been a modest increase in membership costs as noted on the form.

#4 Invitation from Waldor Orchids

For those who are not on Waldor's email list, here is the invitation they sent to the VOS.

Dear Orchid Society,

We hope this message finds you well. Waldor Orchids warmly invites your society and its members to attend our Fall Open House, taking place on September 5 & 6, 2025, in Linwood, NJ.

Fall Open House Weekend

September 5 & 6, 2025 – 10 AM to 4 PM
Waldor Orchids, 10 E. Poplar Ave., Linwood, NJ 08221

Inspiring orchid speakers, specialty vendors, great plants for sale, and a fun-filled weekend by the shore with orchid lovers like you!

Confirmed Vendors/Speakers

- Alan Koch (Gold Country Orchids, CA)
- Jim Roberts (Florida SunCoast Orchids, FL)
- Phillip Hamilton (Bredren Orchids, FL)
- Sarah Hurdel (Needmore Orchids, MD)

Friday Orchid Talks

Presented in the White Building, Corner of Poplar & Shore Road (just up the street from Waldor Orchids). Join us for a full day of engaging 30- to 45-minute presentations from our confirmed speakers listed above. Whether you're new to orchids or a seasoned grower, these sessions will educate, inspire, and deepen your love for the hobby. Seating is first-come, first-served — we recommend arriving early!

Full talk schedule and times will be listed on http://www.waldor.com once available.

Saturday – AOS Outreach Judging

Judging will occur in the White Building, Corner of Poplar & Shore Road. Judging begins promptly at 12:30 PM. AOS-accredited judges will be on-site conducting live orchid judging and explaining the scoring process. Plant entries must be submitted by 12:30 PM sharp. Entry is free. Standard AOS processing fees apply if an award is granted.

Warm regards,
Waldor Orchids

#5 Annual CHAOS Picnic! An Invitation

Sunday, October 5th

Hi Everyone,

This year CHAOS is hosting the Xavier Van Bastelaer/Leon Blumreich memorial picnic on Oct. 5th, 2025. I know this is running a little late this year. A lot is going on in September this year with shows hosted by the Triangle Orchid Society in Raleigh and the National Capital Orchid Society in Homestead MD. Same as last year we are inviting members from all our sister societies in Virginia who would like to attend.

The location is the same as last year. Linda and I will be welcoming everyone to our home. The address is:

126 Reas Ford Rd.
Earlysville, VA 22936

We will be having a pot luck starting at 1:30 with Arthur Chadwick giving us a presentation at 3:00. Charlottesville Orchid Society will be supplying chicken, potato salad, & green beans for all. If guests would like to bring a side or a dessert to share that would be great, but it absolutely isn't necessary. We will have enough food either way. Of course the greenhouse will be open.

We do ask that you give us an RSVP on the number of people that will be able to join us by September 28th. This will allow us to make sure we have enough chicken for all.

Happy Growing!

Jeff Morris
Charlottesville Orchid Society
orchidstoo@3welec.com

#6 Summer Sales Event from Ten-Shin Gardens

Matt Chen of Ten-Shin Gardens has offered everyone in the VOS the opportunity to purchase orchids from their expansive collection. Ten-Shin will be participating in an orchid show in St. Paul, Minnesota in October and VOS members may preorder orchids directly from Ten-Shin by September 25. Your pre-ordered orchids will be shipped directly from St. Paul, and you should receive your orchids later in October.

Everyone will remember that Ten-Shin Gardens was our newest orchid vendor at our show in March. In appreciation, Matt will donate 5% of the VOS sales to the VOS. Just be sure you state that you are a member of the VOS on your order form. Ten-Shin's retail and flask listing as well as the order form will be forwarded in a separate email. Don't miss this opportunity to add to your collection.

#7 Revised Reimbursable Form

For those who incur expenses while orchestrating various activities of the VOS, please find the updated reimbursable form, that is also included with this newsletter transmittal email. Complete the form and deliver it to our treasurer, Donna Poland. Be sure to include the committee for which this reimbursable applies.

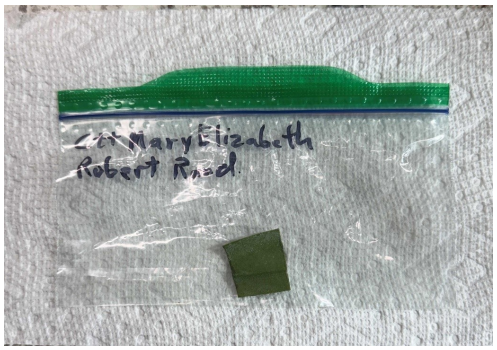
#8 The VOS Website is in Transition

The VOS is in the process of transferring our domain and hosting contracts to the VOS (currently held by our former web technician), so you will notice that our website has not been updated with new 2025-26 information since last May. The transition will take place in November when our initial contract expires. Then we all can expect new information and great changes by our new webmaster, Ethan Gaddis!

#9 The VOS Facebook Page - Please Join!

The official Virginia Orchid Society Facebook page was initiated in the summer of 2020. This page is a great way to share photos of your blooming orchids, ask others about their culture techniques for orchids they post, and become part of discussions about all aspects of orchids and their care. For our newer members especially, this is a great place to ask all sorts of growing questions. Our Facebook page is private - New Members must be invited by another VOS Facebook member or by an administrator of our Facebook page. Get in touch with one of the administrators, Robert Rand (robertrand41@comcast.net) or Donna Poland (in2gifted@gmail.com) and you will be sent via email a link to request membership. Once formally approved as a member of the VOS FB Group you will have access to the site and see what is blooming in everyone's collection and keep up to date on the latest growing tips.

#10 Virus Testing Demonstration



This is a reminder that we will have orchid virus testing available at our upcoming meetings. Members who would like tests done need to arrive at 1:00 as testing will be done before the meeting. Robert Rand will be doing the testing. Members must bring the sample(s) they want tested in individual bags, labeled with the name of the orchid and their name. If possible, use **snack sized** bags. The sample size should be at least a square piece, 3/4 of an inch on a side (See picture). Ideally the sample should be from the newer growth areas. Members will need to fill out an entry for each test on a log sheet that will be at the meeting. VOS will charge $4 per test. We require a credit card for our Square terminal (no cash). If Square is not up and working, we will settle at the next meeting! Results will be written on the baggy with the sample in it and returned to the member. Robert will take pictures of every test for the purpose of having a "backup" to the results/log entries. There will be tests for both CymV/Osrv and Fleck virus.

#11 Email Hacking

These unexpected emails from "members of the VOS" continue to arrive. Most request that you respond by sending money. These are from hackers, so please do not respond. If by chance one of these email sounds like it could indeed be real, instead of replying, close that email and send a new email to that person using his or her email address that you see listed in your membership directory. Both our webmaster and I as newsletter editor have been removing personal contact information to reduce your personal exposure on our website and in the newsletter. Our membership directory and old newsletters that contain email addresses will be removed from the website. Updated directories will be email directly to you when directory updates are completed in late September and in March after new members join following our show.

Orchids from our July Picnic

Photos by June Pearson