Our Show Wrap up Issue

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THE KEIKI EXPRESS

Newsletter of the Virginia Orchid Society
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American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.
Affiliated Society

Orchids are Different But Not Difficult

An in-person and zoom presentation by Beth Davis from Waldor Orchids

In Classroom 1 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Sunday, March 15 from 1 pm to 5 pm: Presentation at 2 pm

Beth is a third-generation orchid grower from Waldor Orchids located in Linwood, NJ. She has worked at the greenhouses for over 25 years, doing many different jobs. She enjoys being in the greenhouses, repotting, and taking care of the plants. Beth has a growing collection of her own, most of which are either species or more unusual types of orchids. She is an American Orchid Society accredited judge. Along with her love of orchids, she does freelance floral design and loves to garden.

You have taken the plunge. You are growing orchids and enjoying their beauty, but there is still so much to learn. Come out and hear some tricks for great orchid culture and maybe even treat yourself to a new orchid plant. Beth will be here to tell us all about orchids being unusual and exotic, but relatively easy to grow. Beth will present basic cultural information and conduct a hands-on potting demonstration. There will be an emphasis on transplanting, grooming, and repotting your orchid, including mounting it on a piece of wood.

You may pre-order plants or supplies from Waldor Orchids directly with Beth. See their website https://www.waldor.com to see what is available. But don't order through the website. Instead, send your pre-order request directly to Beth at linwoodorchid@gmail.com. Please do so before the weekend to give her time to collect everything before she leaves for Richmond. You will get 10% off supplies. Note that all plants are full price. If you don't see what you want, ask Beth if that plant is available.

Beth will bring plants and some supplies to sell.
Members may not bring plants to sell!

Virginia Orchid Society 2025-2026 Officers:

President:
Robin Maiorana

Vice President & President Elect:
Robert Nordin

Treasurer:
Donna Poland

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Joanne Brothers

Recording Secretary:
Beth Kunberger

Past President:
Irina Neverova

AOS Affiliated Societies Rep:
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Judges Forum:
Michael Gelber

Show Chair:
Irina Neverova

Out of Town Show Chair:
Open and available

VOS Email Address:
virginiaorchidsociety@gmail.com

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

President's Message

Hi All,

I hope you have rested from all of the excitement of hosting an orchid show. I can't say enough about how much that I appreciate everyone's participation. We are still waiting for all of the numbers to come in. Irina has written words about the show. We miss those that couldn't be with us this year. We hope that you will return next year. I have posted the upcoming speakers for the months through December. You can mark your calendars ahead of schedule. Let's continue to connect with giving good advice for growing plants and support each other. We will Zoom our meeting this month but I encourage you to come in person. Part of Beth Davis' talk is a repotting demonstration which will be difficult to photograph. We will try our best.

We are working on completing next year's speakers for 2027. If you have anyone in particular that you would like to hear or a topic to discuss, let me know, rmyorana@gmail.com.

I hope to see you Sunday!

Robin

Congratulations to our winners from the show:

Allen Black:
18. Cattleya Alliance, Clustered
3rd Cattlianthe Golden Treat 'Valentine's Day' AM/AOS
19. Cattleya Alliance, Species
2nd Cattleya maxima alba 'Kathleen' AM/AOS
41. Phragmipedium, besseae/kovachii
2nd Phragmipedium China Dragon 'Joy Black' AM/AOS
60. First-Bloom Seedling
2nd Brassocattleya Max Mini

Beth Kunberger:
8. Phalaenopsis, Large-Flowered (Over 3 Inches)
2nd Phalaenopsis NOID 'Sunset on Siesta Key'

Deborah Fox:
17. Cattleya Alliance, Splash-Petaled
1st Cattleya trianae var. semi-alba flamea 'Kathleen'
20. Cattleya Alliance, Large-Flowered (Over 4 Inches) White Hybrids
1st Cattleya Bob Betts 'The Virgin' FCC/AOS
22. Cattleya Alliance, Large-Flowered (Over 4 Inches) Orange/Yellow Hybrids
2nd Rhyncholaeliocattleya George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS
34. Paphiopedilum, Parvisepalum
2nd Paphiopedilum delenatii 'Deborah's Delight' HCC/AOS
36. Paphiopedilum, Complex Hybrids
1st Paphiopedilum Sunlight Seredade 'Elation' HCC/AOS
2nd Paphiopedilum Dusky Maiden 'Muriel' BM/CSA
3rd Paphiopedilum Carmen Coll 'Pink Fantasy'

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

Deborah Fox (continued):

41. Phragmipedium, besseae/kovachii
3rd Phragmipedium Hai An N Le 'Darlene' AM/AOS

Best Paphiopedilum in Show (Cash Prize - $35)
Winner: Paphiopedilum Sunlight Seredade 'Elation' HCC/AOS

Elizabeth Utschig:
8. Phalaenopsis, Large-Flowered (Over 3 Inches)
3rd Phalaenopsis NOID 'Pretty Girl'
20. Cattleya Alliance, Large-Flowered (Over 4 Inches) White Hybrids
2nd Cattleya NOID 'White with Colored Lip'

Janet and John Primm
17. Cattleya Alliance, Splash-Petaled
3rd Cattleya Nice Holiday 'Suntopia' HCC/AOS

Joanne Brothers:
60. First-Bloom Seedling
1st Clowesetum Somnis

Best First-Bloom Seedling in Show (Cash Prize - $35)
Winner: Clowesetum Somnis

June Pierson:
7. Phalaenopsis, Harlequin Hybrids
3rd Phalaenopsis NOID 'Falling in Love'
8. Phalaenopsis, Large-Flowered (Over 3 Inches)
3rd Phalaenopsis NOID 'Purple Splash'
9. Phalaenopsis, Small-Flowered (Up to 3 Inches), Unbranched Inflorescence
2nd Phalaenopsis NOID 'Purple Glory Girl'
3rd Phalaenopsis NOID 'Oh Sunny Day'
29. Cattleya Alliance, Small-Flowered (Under 2-1/2 Inches) Hybrids
Rhyncattleanthe Triple Love 'NN'

LeAnne Wingo:
6. Phalaenopsis, Polychilos (Waxy Flowers)
2nd Phalaenopsis pallens
9. Phalaenopsis, Small-Flowered (Up to 3 Inches), Unbranched Inflorescence
3rd Phalaenopsis Liu's Cute Angel

Michael Gelber
13. Vanda/Aerides Alliance, Other
3rd Rhynchostylis gigantea 'Spots'

Patrick Carey:
17. Cattleya Alliance, Splash-Petaled
2nd Rhyncholaeliocattleya Jennifer Off 'Joan' HCC/AOS

Robert Nordin:
48. Oncidium Alliance, Large-Flowered (Over 2-1/2 Inches)
2nd Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS
58. Foliage
2nd Cymbidium goeringii 'Chun Lan Zhong Tou'

Alfonso Baker:
7. Phalaenopsis, Harlequin Hybrids
1st Phalaenopsis NOID 'Alfonso's Spots'

Stan Baker:
15. Cattleya Alliance, Mexican Laelia
3rd Laeliocatanthe Hot Sauce

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Stan Baker (continued):

16. Cattleya Alliance, Brassavola-Type (Star-Shaped)
2nd Rhynchobrassoleya Apache Sunrise
2nd Rhynchovola David Sander
18. Cattleya Alliance, Clustered
2nd Rechingerara Chichiriviche Sunset
19. Cattleya Alliance, Species
3rd Cattleya loddigesii ('Elen' x 'Martinelli')

Virginia Orchid Society:
2. Society Exhibit, Large Floor, Over 45 Sq. Ft.
2nd Society Exhibit

Many thanks to the many hours spent on registering and recording winning orchids by Gary Smith. Also thank Patrick Carey and Ron Geraci in their efforts.

Upcoming Meeting Speakers

April 19, 2026 Graham Ramsey TBA

May 17, 2026 Martin Motes of Motes Orchids "Temperature tolerant Vanda hybrids"

September 20, 2026 Kim Fedderson "Growing Orchids from Flask"

October 18, 2026 AOS Judging Outreach (Bring your best groomed plants for judging)

November 8, 2026 (note the different Sunday of the month)

Chris Satch of NY BG "Plant Physiology: How to bloom and grow them"

December 13, 2026 Holiday Party at Deep Run Community Center

Board meetings:

Open to members only and only board members can vote; time and location to be announced.

April 12, 2026

June 14, 2026

Message from the Show Chair

After months of preparations, the show time came so quickly and it seems, was over quickly too. However, a lot of work was put in to make the show a success. While Robin sends a "thank you" to all members who volunteered with the show, I would like to make a special appreciation note to the members of the show committee. These people committed so much time and dedication that this behind the scene machine made everything possible. This is why I not only want to name them personally, I would like all members to know what responsibilities these people took on and did it so well.

Ron Geraci provides a foundation for the whole machine, because without numerous versions of layout plans, posters and signs, as well editing of everything and anything we would be scrambling to know what and where.

Sam Little took over the vendors pod this year and ran it very well, using his organizational skills, understanding vendors needs and simply being there for every day of the show to look after the vendors.

J&L Orchids Sales Booth

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As always there are challenges not foreseen. This year Robert Rand stepped in on a rather short notice to take care of the VOS members' sales booth organizing the sales items lists and other elements of setting up the booth. Michael Gelber provided much support by filling a lot of time slots with VOS sales booth. In addition to Robert and Michael, Donna Poland, and Sam Little were also in that team, all of whom were in charge of the financial transactions in the booth. And in addition were all other VOS members who volunteered at the booth.

Charlottesville Orchid Society

Blue Ridge Orchid Society

Robert Rand has been working with visiting societies and after a few years knows members of sister societies through numerous official and private communications. It is tedious to keep up with the contact changes in other societies and he has done it year after year being persistent and polite. That is why all visiting societies members when they arrive come with a smile of pleasure to meet old friends. Even though some of them we see only once a year. And most notably he successfully secured the participation of the most societies we've had in the recent years: Charlottesville, Tidewater, Peninsula, Blue Ridge, National Capital, and Triangle orchid societies.

Peninsula Orchid Society

Robin Maiorana was in charge of AOS judges, registration of the show, ordering supplies of ribbons and rosettes. That meant a lot of communication to secure enough judges and keeping them informed. For years Joe Mathias has looked after assembling a team of clerks. Even though he caught the flu before the show, he came in on the set up day worrying about the clerks and the reporting demonstration he was scheduled to do on Friday afternoon. Replacement Michael Gelber performed the demonstration so well that the attendees were still in the lecture room for another half an hour with more questions to ask.

Barry Woolf, Ten-Shin Gardens

Cordelia Head, J&L Orchids

Actually, all lectures were well attended, practically filling the room on all three days. Thanks to the vendors, who gave interesting, informative, and often hands on presentations. Including Ken Meier, who retired from Orchid Enterprise business, but wanted to help with our show, and besides being one

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of the AOS judges on Friday, came back on Saturday to give the presentation and talk to the visitors in the display area.

Joanne Brothers in charge of the Welcome tables pod, not only prepared all materials that needed at both tables, but set up the online SignUp Genius system and looked after staffing all areas of the show with appropriate number of volunteers. As always Saturday late afternoon and Sunday morning are hard to fill in, but I am grateful to all members who came to rescue in these times. Also there were volunteers who were wherever and whenever needed. They are Douglas and Pam Tuggle, LeAnne Wingo, Coreen Gelber, Beth Kunberger, June Pierson – just to name a few outstanding helpers.

Art exhibit – where even to start! Ever since the first one 3 years ago on the stage in the Auditorium, it is an ongoing progression and challenge to adapt to the different settings. This year, so far, is the largest exhibit of paintings in the RVC gallery space. The art exhibit committee members Linda Lawrence (judges), Beth Kunberger and Anne Wilhite (registration), Ron Geraci (layouts and AOS registration), Sara Coleman (set up), worked really hard to define and get through the entire process and will still be working until the end of the exhibition at the end of March. Special thanks to Daune Poklis, Nan Archer, LeAnne Wingo, and Kim Maxwell for helping put up all those paintings, as well as clerking for the Art judges on Friday.

Hospitality run by Donna Poland was well organized and thought through thanks to our previous experiences. Donna prepared goodie bags with some water and snacks to keep our vendors going. She also negotiated with RA caterers the menu for judges lunch on Friday and a new feature – vouchers to the Café for the vendors. All judges liked the quality of the food and vendors were appreciative of the vouchers.

I left the VOS display as the last part for a few reasons. Mostly, because as a product of communal efforts, it has several important ingredients: Several key persons responsible for the design of the display (Coreen Gelber and Irina Neverova), preparation of the labels and plants registration (Patrick Carey, yes, with a broken leg in a cast and Ron Geraci), sourcing, storing and transporting numerous shelves and other props (Coreen and Michael Gelber), set up day dressing the pots in black skirts and prettying the plants if a

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stake was needed or extra pot to make it sturdy (June Pierson). However the largest part is actually our members who brought their plants, no matter how many, even if it was only one darling Cattleya blooming for the first time, a stellar blooming performer to impress, a first time blooming seedling or a filler plant – all are important! It is not always easy to put them all together. No matter what we have imagined as designers, reality is different. This year we didn't have a few large specimen plants, we didn't have many yellow flowers: We had only a few tall plants. All that we did have needed to be assembled in a few hours into a cohesive display. The judges' comments were that all plants in the display were quality plants. We have good growers! Be proud of ourselves! I think most important is sharing our love of orchids with the public through showcasing your plants in the display and keeping our society together.

As the show chair my role is to coordinate the work of the pods, provide guidance to the members of show committee with the tasks and timelines, bring the topics for discussions during the meetings and initiate communal decisions on important matters, be a bridge between VOS and LGBG and negotiate contracts, paperwork, timelines, and whole bunch of other stuff that comes along beginning in September when we start regular monthly meetings. It is easier to get my job done when I have a support of the team. And that the show committee has proved to be – a Team.

Thanks, Team!

Irina

Show Photos by June Pierson!