



## BCOS Annual Orchid Auction

October 16, 2014

Churchville Nature Center

501 Churchville Lane

Churchville, PA 18966

Preview - 6:30 p.m.

Auction Begins - 7:00 p.m.

## Over 180 plants will be auctioned.

Come to the premier event of the year for a fun filled evening with spirited bidding, some surprises and orchids, orchids, orchids. This is a great opportunity to get plants from our members and various local professional growers at **great** prices. Most are mature plants, some of which are in bloom. Bring a friend. Free 1 year membership to all non-members attending. Your support at the auction helps provide for speakers throughout the year, other Society activities, as well as our contributions for orchid conservation. For a list of all the plants, check the Society's website on October 10, 2014, [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org) for a draft list of plants. The final list will be posted on October 15. **Please print the final list from the website and bring it to the auction for reference.** Also, please remember to bring a box or bag to take home your purchases (and any extra boxes you may have will be appreciated) and because there is construction at the Nature Center, bring a flashlight to get from the parking lot to the Center.. **Note - There will not be a Show Table.**



## ORCHID TIP OF THE MONTH

### Habenaria rhodocheila

By Carl Gustafson

Habenaria is a genus that is distributed throughout the world, both new and old. Although most are tropical, there are some species found in the southeastern United States (Luer). According to "The

Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia (IOSPE)" (Pfahl) these are generally plants of the grasslands, rather than forests. However, the subject of this article can be found in deciduous forests, bamboo forests, or grassy pine forests, again according to the IOSPE.



It's not a particularly large plant, perhaps a foot high when blooming. The specific name "rhodocheila" means "red lip". This species has a lip color ranging from pink to red, with detours into pink, orange and yellow, and even white, too; some color forms, though, like the yellow, have been split into another species.

I obtained my plant at the Society auction in 2013. It had a couple of past-prime flowers on a small, gangly plant. I bought it on an impulse, attracted by the bright orange flower, and am glad I did. After I brought it home, I went on a crash Googling program to learn what I could about the species, since I knew next to nothing about it.

The first thing I learned is that it's a terrestrial, and that it goes dormant in the fall, to resume growing 5-6 months

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## ORCHID TIP OF THE MONTH

### Continued from page 1

later. Also, during dormancy it needs no water, and in fact shouldn't be more than barely moist (a humid growing area is all it needs) - too much water, and the dormant bulb (not a true bulb, but sufficient for our discussion) will rot. It does not need to be cool during dormancy, just dry. Once it starts growing again, it'll need gradually increasing moisture, and once it's going strong, plenty of water and fertilizer are needed. Finally, the sources I consulted suggested that it likes a somewhat shady location. (I'll note here that one article suggests that the pots be allowed to become bone-dry, then drenched, then allowed to become bone dry, but most other articles say no water, and that's how I've grown mine.)

Next item was to figure out what kind of medium to grow my plant in. I eventually settled on a mixture I learned of on the Internet called "ABG Mix". Apparently the Atlanta Botanic Garden uses this, hence the name. This turned out to be a great choice, and the plant has grown very nicely. (My *Ludisia* love it too, as do other terrestrials.) It's composed of two parts each fine tree fern and fine orchid bark, and one part each of small charcoal, peat moss, fine (or milled) sphagnum moss. I mix all the components in a 3-quart casserole dish, add about a cup and a half of water, and cook it in the microwave oven when my family isn't looking. It goes for 5 minutes on high, and 15 on the lowest setting. The oven treatment does two things: kills most pests - you almost always get fungus gnats in peat moss, and snail eggs in orchid bark, and it also thoroughly moistens the components. I let it cool, and bag it up. I use this now on many of my terrestrial orchids.

With the potting medium figured out, I un-potted the dormant plant, and put the tuber (or bulb) in the ABG mix, about an inch below the surface. I did let the mix dry first, just to be sure the tuber didn't get the wrong message. I then put the pot in one of my enclosed plant cabinets, in a place where it wouldn't get watered accidentally, and waited. This is the hardest part of growing the species, it turns out - waiting for something to happen. Eventually, the bulb started growing. By the time late April came, I was getting a little impatient (after all, 4-5 months had passed at this point), so I started giving it very small amounts of water - a light spray on the surface, nothing more. Eventually, it started to grow, a little pointy pink tip appearing above the surface. Initially, don't give too much water, because it really has no roots (or at least functional ones) to speak of yet, so you run a good chance of rotting the little thing. However, as it grows, give it more and more water. And fertilizer. You could probably use a time-release formulation; I did not. I fertilize every watering, using reverse osmosis water and a weak fertilizer solution. The plant was outside, so it got rain, too. The goal is to grow as big a plant as you can in about 3 or 4 months.

As the plant grows, you'll get a rosette of long, pointed leaves with a faint, but attractive (to me), pattern. In late summer, the flower stem will appear in the center of the rosette. At the time I'm writing this, mid-September, the first flower has just opened, with close to 20 more to come.

One thing I've discovered about the plant - chewing insects like crickets seem to like the leaves. I've got some marks in the middle of some leaves where the pests have sampled the plant. Fortunately, the leaves are deciduous, and if I'm careful next year, you'll never know.

Back in July, I was talking to Steve Male (Fishing Creek Orchids) at the Parkside Orchidfest, and he had some of these for sale. His plants were more compact than mine, and huskier looking. I asked him about how he grew them, and he told me he gave them "Oncidium" light. I suppose that's less than you'd give a *Cattleya*, but more than a *Phalaenopsis*. I've been giving mine more "Phalaenopsis" or "Paphiopedilum" light, so next year, I'll give it brighter conditions.

So, let's summarize (my) growing conditions: Rich terrestrial mix, severely dry when dormant, lots of water when growing. A good supply of fertilizer. "Intermediate" temperatures year-round. "Intermediate" light when growing - when it's dormant, there's nothing to use the light but: if the plant starts growing in shady conditions, you'll need to gradually adapt it to bright conditions to avoid burning the growth. If it starts growing in bright conditions, it'll be already adapted as it sprouts.

Turns out that this is an easy plant to grow, except for the waiting-out-the-dormancy bit, and it's so variable color-wise, you could make a huge collection of just this species in all its floral variations. One nice thing is that they grow mostly during our outdoor growing season, and spend the winter dormant and dry, so you don't even need to give up much windowsill or bench space. Try one!

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Luer, Carlyle, "The Native Orchids of Florida"

Pfahl, Jay; "The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia", [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com)

Additional references:

<http://www.newearthorchids.com/blog/wordpress/?p=69>

<http://www.theorchidcolumn.com/2013/08/how-to-grow-habenaria-rhodocheila.html>

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## ***SOCIETY NOTES***

### ***Hospitality Table***

The Society is in need of 2 or 3 people to assume coordination of refreshments for the Hospitality Table.. Please contact President Allen Applebaum at [sirapples36@gmail.com](mailto:sirapples36@gmail.com) to volunteer.

### ***Orchid Bark***

The Society has **orchid bark** for sale. Contact **Gary Dunbar** to order at [dragonkin@comcast.net](mailto:dragonkin@comcast.net). Med and med/fine are available for \$13 for 1 cubic foot, and \$25 for 2 CF. Gallon bags are \$3.

### ***Plant Clinic:***

You are encouraged to bring in that sick plant for evaluation by the expert orchid growers in our Society. Please, bring the needy plant in a closed plastic bag and we will try to advise you on bringing it back to good health.

### ***Show Table Judging Rules:***

The information for submitting plants for the show table is now located on our website, [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/showtables/STRules.htm](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/showtables/STRules.htm)

### ***Orchid Pickup:***

If you may be available to pick up orchids for the raffle as needed, please send your name and email address to Alan Block at [alan\\_block@hotmail.com](mailto:alan_block@hotmail.com)

### ***Officers, Other Societies and Vendors:***

The list of officers, other societies and vendors is now exclusively available on the BCOS website. [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/About.htm](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/About.htm) for officers and [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/Links.htm](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/Links.htm) for other societies and vendors.

### ***Library:***

Contact President Allen Applebaum at [sirapples36@gmail.com](mailto:sirapples36@gmail.com) to borrow any item in the BCOS Library (See the society's website for a list of books, equipment and videos.) [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org/)



Due to construction at the Nature Center, the Society held its September meeting and potting party in the parking lot. Pictured are the members who participated in this unique way to hold a meeting.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Oct. 8, 2014 SEPOS AUCTION**

Plant preview from 7 - 7:30 PM. Auction begins at 7:45 PM FREEDOMS FOUNDATION, Route 23, Valley Forge, PA (See [Sepos.org](http://Sepos.org))

### **Oct. 11, 2014 DCOS Fall Auction**

10 am to 4 pm St. Mary's Catholic Church, State Highway 34 & Phalanx Road N, Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722 (See page 6)

### **Oct. 16, 2014 - BCOS Annual Orchid Auction**

Churchville Nature Center -preview 6:30 pm; bidding starts at 7:00 pm (See page 4)

### **Nov. 7 & 8, 2014 Tenth Annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium**

Holiday Inn Patriot-Williamsburg  
3032 Richmond Road  
Williamsburg, VA (See page 5)

### **Nov. 20, 2014 - BCOS - Speaker Tom Purviance:**

**"The Orchids of Madagascar and Their Culture:**  
Angraecum, Aerangis, Jumellea Aeranthes to name a few"

Churchville Nature Center 7:30 pm

### **Dec. 18, 2014 - BCOS - Speaker, Andy Braun: "A Few of My Favorite Things" (Orchids I grow and why.)**

Please note that our usual holiday meeting, **Cookies and Culture**, has been moved to the January meeting.

### **Jan. 15, 2015 BCOS - Cookies and Culture:**

Everything you wanted to know about orchids- ask the in-house experts. Oh yes, lots of cookies.

Churchville Nature Center, 7:30 pm



**EDITOR'S NOTE** – Contributions to the newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

Please submit relevant news, photos, awards or information relating to the Society, its members, the care and culture of orchids to the Editor at [kaplrs@comcast.net](mailto:kaplrs@comcast.net). I am also looking for your favorite tip on growing orchids, for the feature, **Orchid Tip of the Month**. Please submit your copy by the first day of the month.

**Bucks County Orchid Society**

# **Orchid Auction**

**Open to the public**

**Thursday October 16, 2014**

**Churchville Nature Center**

**501 Churchville Lane**

**Churchville, PA**

*([www.churchvillenaturecenter.org](http://www.churchvillenaturecenter.org) for directions)*

List of plants available in the auction will be available starting October 10 at our web site: [www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org](http://www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org)

**Preview 6:30PM - Auction Starts 7:00PM**

**Over 150 plants (many in bloom) and orchid supplies will be up for auction.**

**Refreshments and helpful hints on orchid culture will be available**

**Free one – year membership to all non-members attending**



# Tenth Annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium

Presented by an alliance of his orchid friends in Virginia

**November 7 & 8, 2014**

Holiday Inn Patriot-Williamsburg

3032 Richmond Road

Williamsburg, VA

Call (800) 860-7109 for Reservations

## **Symposium: Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 PM - 7:15 - *PM Buffet Dinner (included in registration)*

*Cash Bar and Plant Sales*

7:15 PM - Introduction

7:30 PM - Glen Decker - "How to Grow Great Slipper Orchids"

8:30 PM - Panel Discussion Saturday,

## **Symposium: Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 AM - Introduction

9:00 AM - Mark Rose - "Native Orchids of the Eastern U.S."

### **AOS Judging**

**All plants must be entered for AOS Judging by 10:00 AM**

10:30 AM - Russ Vernon - "Phalaenopsis Hybridization, Novelty and Harlequin Breeding"

12:00 - 1:00 PM - Buffet Lunch (*included in registration*) and plant sales

1:30 PM - Presentation of AOS Awards

2:15 PM - David Off - "Orchid Obsession"

VENDORS:

Waldor Orchids - [www.waldor.com](http://www.waldor.com)

New Vision Orchids - [www.newvisionorchids.com](http://www.newvisionorchids.com)

Piping Rock Orchids - [www.pipingrockorchids.com](http://www.pipingrockorchids.com)

Fishing Creek Orchids - [fcvorchids@aol.com](mailto:fcvorchids@aol.com)

## Mark your calendars for our ***BIG*** **DCOS Fall Auction New Location**

Saturday Oct 11, 2014 from 10 am to 4 pm  
St. Mary's Catholic Church, State Highway 34 & Phalanx Road N,  
Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722

Our Annual Fall Auction is the ***biggest*** (over 400 plants) and ***friendliest*** in the area and the best place to pick up excellent plants from top growers and local members at a great price. Bargains will abound, so you won't want to miss out on the great deals.

**Help Support Your Orchid Society by Attending the DCOS Auction**  
Food and Snacks will be available along with plenty of parking

### Got plants to sell??

The DCOC Fall Auction is also a great place for DCOS Members to exchange extra divisions, orchids that have grown too big, orchids that you can't seem to bloom, or perhaps are just tired of, for new additions to your collection. DCOS members get to apply 50% of their auction sales towards purchases of other auction items.

**To get this credit you must send the LIST of PLANTS that you want in the auction to Joan Mesander**

**at [jmesandl@verizon.net](mailto:jmesandl@verizon.net) (732-787-4460) *no later than September 30th.***

**Not the plants, just the list.** It is preferred that your **list** be sent via email. Instructions can be found on DCOS Web page. If you do not have access to email, please call, but email makes it easier to assemble the auction list and set up the program.

**Please keep this basic thought in mind:** Do not bring in plants that have critters, bad root system, or in poor condition. These will definitely not be auctioned. If you wouldn't buy it, don't bring it in.

If you don't have plants, that's OK. Just come down for an hour or two and join the fun, check out the great plants, chat with other DCOS members, and maybe buy a plant or two. This is our primary fund raising function that pays for all the other events we have through the year.

<b>Auction Date</b>	Sat., Oct. 11, 2014
<b>Preview</b>	9:30 A.M.
<b>Auction Time</b>	10:00.A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
<b>Place</b>	St. Mary's Catholic Church, on the corner of State Highway 34 & Phalanx Road N, Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722 For Google Maps location click on <a href="#">DCOS Auction Location</a>
<b>Auction Plant Drop Off</b>	Sat., Oct 11, 2014 at 8 A.M.