

June 2026

Peninsula Orchid Society of Virginia - News

www.peninsulaorchidsocietyofvirginia.com

Peninsula Orchid Society 2025 - 2026 Officers

President: Jim Pajot Vice-President: John Whistler
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Webmaster: Paul Chung Newsletter Editor: Ron Miller
Membership: Hugh Youmans Hospitality: James & Joyce Phelps
(Please send photos, articles, information, tips, etc. for the newsletter to the Editor at rkm.aeconsult@gmail.com)

Next Meeting will be held at 1 pm
on June 20th at John Whistler's
house at 3204 Glenview Rd.,
Chesapeake, VA 23321



@Hampton Roads VA Orchids

Vice President's Message – from John Whistler

Dear POS Members,

Hope you and your orchids are doing well. We have good news and bad news about the Main Library meetings. Information I have gotten from several librarians sounds like the Main Library will be reopening this summer. I have heard mid-July, late August, and September. The Phoebus Library is cozy and I appreciate how well the membership has not complained about the cramped quarters there while we wait for our home base to reopen.

For the June 20th meeting with Wade Hollenbach from Wade's Orchids in Middleburg, PA, the Phoebus Library only had a 2-hour time spot available. Not wanting to rush a meeting with an out-of-town speaker or change Wade's schedule, I checked with the Northampton Library and Willow Oaks Library and their meeting rooms were busy with reading programs on the 20th. So Plan D will go into effect and the POS will meet at my home on Saturday, June 20th around 1 PM.

Hopefully we will have a good turnout for Wade who is going to share with us his thoughts and experience with Orchids that can be building blocks for an Orchid Collection. Wade has made YouTube videos about different types of orchids and their culture that are very informative. Look up Wade's Orchids in a YouTube search and you will find a good list. He is bringing plants to sell so we won't have member plants for sale.

Meeting Dates

Jan 17

Feb 21

Mar 28

Apr 25

May 23

Jun 20

Jul 18

Aug 15

Sep 19

Oct 17

Nov 21

Dec 19

My address is 3204 Glenview Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23321. The Tidewater Orchid Society will also be invited. I think we can manage 30 to 35 people or so in the house and sunporch. Please bring your blooming orchids for the display/show and tell tables and a folding type chair just in case we have a big turnout. The greenhouse will be open to visits too.

Hope to see you at the meeting,

John

Minutes

The meeting was brought to order by Vice President John Whistler about 1:30 P.M. at the Phoebus Library.

John announced some of the speakers for the near future POS meetings

Show and tell was done by: Vance Mason, Paul Chung, and John Whistler. Ron Miller brought in his wife's collection of orchid needlepoint.

John made a presentation on Phalaenopsis focusing on novelty types and harlequin types.

John and Paul mentioned their trip to Florida and promised an article summarizing their adventures. See below.

The meeting was adjourned around 4 P.M.

John and Paul's Excellent Adventure - Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival

We started off on an early Wednesday morning and drove twelve hours and arrived in Apopka, Florida. We checked into our hotel and found a local restaurant to have dinner.

We then made our way to check in for the American Orchid Society at the local Hilton Hotel. We then stayed for the first lecture dealing with how personal likes and dis-like (bias) can vary between judges and affect the overall scoring. This was an interesting topic and unfortunately is not really defined by the judging handbook. After listening to the sometimes passionate debate between the judges. It was recommended that the AOS give guidance in writing to minimize the confusion and keep everyone on the same page.



On Thursday we made our way after breakfast to Krull-Smith to assist those vendors that needed help and to get a look at some of the orchids they would have for sale. We walked into the main retail building of Krull-Smith and were immediately blown away by what we saw. Mr. Smith was busy with his staff putting the final touches on the huge display that would greet customers coming into his business. We spent several hours walking around the grounds admiring and trying to add to our shopping list.

On Friday we arrived around 8:30 to get a good parking spot; so we would not have to haul our treasures too far or have them in direct sun cooking inside the minivan.

About lunch time as everything started looking the same, we took a trip up the road to Ecuagenera. This was another must go to spots from houseplants to orchids and a few interesting things in-between. However, since this was an orchid trip, we spent the majority of our time in the orchid greenhouse. I asked where the orchids were and was given a general "out the back door and make a right turn to the area where they kept them. I made my way thinking about all the cool stuff I was looking for. This was more of a hide and seek since the orchids were grouped in section based on genera. The Phrag's, Paph's, Bulbophyllum's and then Cattleya's and stuff that I have never seen let alone how to pronounce.

Did I mention this greenhouse was about as big as a football field. We easily spent three hours in that place. We did pick up a few things, but most of the cool stuff was a Krull-Smith.



On Saturday John was determined to find something really special on his list. Unfortunately, I think he was a bit disappointed that the dealers did not restock as he was expecting. I suggested that we go to EFG Orchids that Ashton had mentioned the day before. John was curious as well, so we took the one-hour trip North to that nursery. I will say it is in the middle of farm country and wondered how folks found this place. When



we got there it had about ten cars in the parking lot. We walked in and were a bit confused by all the houseplants in the front of the store. They had an area with orchids on mounts and that was interesting to see.

We wandered around the store and found the orchids. It was a small section with a few Dendrobiums and Phals mixed in between houseplants. You would have to search to find something special in this place. It was not bad, but you can tell that most of the stuff was already picked through. John did better since he grows more than me, he was more open to newer things. I did come out with a few items just to support the business.

We took a side trip and had lunch "Porkies of Deland". It was really good food I had to try the peach egg roll. It was not what I was expecting, but John helped me eat it.



We made it back to Krull-Smith and did one more sweep of the grounds. We got the opportunity to observe the judging and were really surprised by the way the judges worked in teams and each person had a specific job. I actually saw when they gave the first 100 points ever given by the AOS to any plant.

It was getting late and people were starting to thin out to go get ready for the banquet for that evening. We were told about another orchid spot not too far. This was called the "Orchids in Bloom". This was on our way back to the hotel so it was an easy decision. This was not the easiest place to find, but we got there in about fifteen minutes.

This place was more of a hide and seek. Nothing was really organized and I had to just do some hunting. I did find some stuff and I got some really cool items that I was thrilled about. John was



having a great time, and he had such a big smile on his face. This was one of the better kept secrets of this trip.

We got back to the hotel and got ready for the banquet. This was a really cool event. We had chamber music being played and had a really great dinner. We had great company at our table, and we all enjoyed our common comradery sharing in this special event. We said our goodbyes and left the event leaving with a feeling of achieving one of our bucket list goals.



What's Blooming?

(Send your photos and text to orchidad@cinci.rr.com [Ron Miller] for the next Newsletter and many thanks to those who helped me with this newsletter.)

Debbie Dillon-Townes Collection (Orchid names not available at time of publication)





Carolyn Tripp Collection



Bletilla 'Candles In The Wind'



Calapogon tuberosus



Encyclia alata



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Donna Poland 'RFT #12'

John Whistler Collection



Laelia purpurata 'Blue Sky'



Laelia purpurata var. carnea



Paph Norito Hasegawa x hangianum



Paph Qf Mini



Phal Mainshow Blue Tint x Mainshow Blue Sapphire



Phal Miki Mok Choi Bear Queen '774'



Phal Krull's Yellow Dragon



Vanda Warut Leopard x Suksamran Gold



Phal fimbriata

Roseann Wade Collection



Ctsm. Portagee Star 'Brian Lawson's Sunrise' HCC_AOS x Ctsm. Fonseca Alfaro 'Yellow Lip'

Hugh and Marti Youmans Collection



Alicera Memorial Don Yamada 'FJ-72'



Unknown Phalaenopsis

Jim Pajot Collection



Unknown Cymbidium



Pot. Love Passion 'Island Romance'



Eulophia gaminea