



# Garden Thyme



Lake of the Woods Garden Club



**A Double Stem Phalaenopsis—  
one of the most  
popular orchids**



**Orchids being  
prepared and  
packaged**



## Color Orchids Hosts Club Field Trip

**The LOW Garden Club enjoyed the first field trip of 2020 to Color Orchids! The event put everyone in the gardening spirit!**

Organized by Barbara Brady, the Club enjoyed a January 14th tour of the wholesale plant nursery in Stevensburg, VA, walking through their greenhouses and viewing the millions of orchids grown right there. Our guide for the tour, Sue Meredith, said that their orchids are available locally at Safeway, Lidl, Giant and Kroger and online via Amazon.

As for care, orchids like bright light—but not direct—light, they like temperatures of between 60-80 degrees. As it happens, orchids are epiphytic plants meaning as grown in nature, they attach themselves to trees and don't require a lot of water. Color Orchids sells a small shot glass with each of their orchids and it has a 3-oz mark on it which indicates exactly how much water should be given to that orchid each week.



## THE PREZ SAYS...

—It was SO GREAT to see so many of you at the COLOR ORCHID field trip. I counted over 47 attendees!

—The sight of the sea of 1,000,000 plus orchids spread out in front of us was stunning- all sizes all colors.

Walking between the huge shipping crates of pottery that will hold them was impressive, too. I went home and repotted a number of mine that really needed it.

Thanks to Barbara Brady for handling the arrangements.

—Looking forward to seeing lots of you at the Valentine's Wine, Cheese and Chocolate event on February 12th—a fun chance to socialize and chat tickets will ***not*** be sold at the door, and remember to wear your name tag.

—I still haven't heard from many of you regarding what you want for the club in 2020. We really want your input as we plan for the coming year. Get ready to roll up your sleeves come March (if not before). I am working on a second floral design workshop; houses are needed for the Home and Garden tour; co-chairs are needed for the Community Plant Sale (as are garden thinners, plant potters, plants and sales reps just to name a few).

See you soon and stay warm!

Linda Ticomb, President



## Green Thumb Gardening — By Jeanne Allen

### **Garden Smart Magazine:**

#### **Ideas for Creating Your Very Own Winter Wildlife Habitat**

Winter is the season people spend the most time indoors. The outdoor landscape seems bare and quiet, but don't be fooled by the stillness, there's still much going on in the "off" season.



Birds and other wildlife are bracing for the elements—you can help them thrive all season by creating a winter habitat they can enjoy. With the right structure, food, and water, they'll thank you all season long. You'll notice a gradual increase in the number of friendly animals visiting your yard when you create a welcoming environment. Make it easy for them by adding a pond or birdbath. Birds will also use water to fluff feathers that add extra protection from the cold.

**Care for the birds.** Add feeders, nesting boxes, and birdhouses to invite more feathered friends to your yard. Plant both deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs that provide hiding spaces, habitat, and food supplies to create a sustainable environment for active winter birds.

**Go native.** Choose trees and shrubs that are native to your area for a beautiful, low-maintenance landscape that's also beneficial to local wildlife. Plant a diverse variety to offer multiple benefits. Many woody plants produce fruit or nuts that animals love to snack on during the winter months. Trees such as hawthorn, crabapple, holly, and sumac offer emergency winter food as well.

**Design like nature.** Birds and other wildlife will find food and shelter in various areas and various heights. Copy nature's design by planting trees and layering shrubs and other tree species in groups. An arborist can advise you on the best way to plant in groups and still ensure you are planting the right trees in the right place.

**Don't deadhead.** Now is not the time to clip and remove spent plants. Leave plants untrimmed for the season. Birds will feast on seeds and stalks from certain species and others provide camouflage from predators.

**Add water.** Just like trees, wild animals need fresh water during winter to prevent dehydration. Make it easy for them by adding a pond or birdbath. Birds will also use water to fluff feathers that add extra protection from the cold.

