

Richmond Orchid
Alliance

We are all about Orchids!
January 2012

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Inside This Issue

Judging Committee 2
Refreshment Committee .. 2
Programs for 2012 2
Patrons 3
New Library Procedure 3
Growing Tips 4-5

January Birthdays

Van Williams - Jan. 12
John Andrako - Jan. 19
Michael Chambliss - Jan. 19
Randy Schonk - Jan. 20
John Giragosian - Jan. 26

ROA Bulletin

An AOS and Orchid Digest Affiliated Society



Insect Identification and Integrated Pest Management

These are just some fancy words to say that as we grow orchids we have invasions of unwanted beasts that cause a lot of damage and even death of many of our plants if not identified and controlled in time.

There will be a round table of experienced growers with a moderator to discuss and show samples of various types of damage, how to locate and identify the little devils and then what to do to get rid of them. Some of the insects can become resistant to the insecticides and we want to avoid this problem as much as possible. All this will be discussed. You may bring plants that have other problems that may not be caused by insects but need assistance in culture. Individual help will be provided for the “other” problems as well.

Bring any problem plants for diagnosis and if you have insect infestation please put it in a box or cover with plastic bag. We don't need to share these.

This will be an interactive program that we can all learn from and enjoy. See you January 8th at the meeting.

Bring blooming plants for the Showcase. Also bring problem plants for diagnosis and assistance.

Members may sell plants. ✿

Programs for 2012

January 8 – Insect ID and integrated pest management

February 12 – June Pierson, Orchid Photography

March 11- Charles Wilkins, Orchid Culture

April 1 – Keith Davis, Tips for Better Growing & Happier Orchids

May 6 – Plant Auction

June 10 – Clark Riley, Cinderella's Slippers Found! The Cypripediums and Selenipediums.

July- No Meeting

August 12 - Social

September 9 – Allen Black, Home Orchid Sex! Orchid Breeding 101...From Pollination To Flowering

October 14 – Hal Horwitz, North American Orchids

November 11- Social & mini program

December - No Meeting

ROA Web Site

We need your orchid photos for the photo gallery on the webpage, so submit those photos and names of plants please to:

roa4u@richmondorchidalliance.org

Judging Committee

2

Hi to everyone from the Showcase. 2011, Awards will be given out at the January meeting for 2011. Awarded categories and winners are on total points derived from plants awarded and entered in the Showcase. This meeting will start the judging for the year 2012.

Categories to Be Awarded

Phalaenopsis

Vanda

Oncidium/Dendrobium

Cattleya

Paphiopedilum/Phragmipedium

Other(including, Bulbo's, Terestrials, Small Intergenerics, etc.)

There is also an award for overall point winner.

Points Awarded

Blue=3 points

Red=2 points

Yellow=1 point

Any orchid entered receives at least 1/2 point.

Everyone is encouraged to enter plants in the Showcase. Its great fun to share our plants and information on how they were grown with each other.

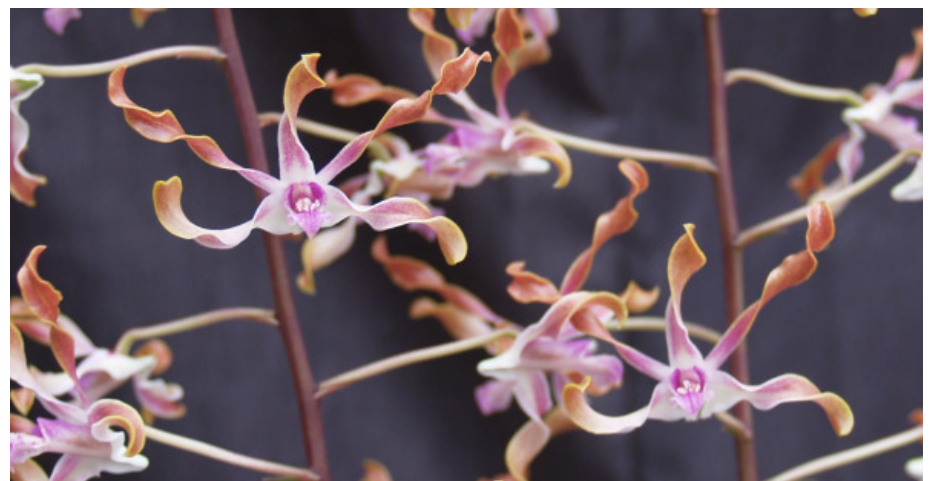
Any plant to be judged should be registered at the Showtable by 1:45, this allows time for judging and taking of photos.

Thanks Mike Chambliss ❀

Refreshment Committee

Thanks to everyone for all the help last year. Anyone wishing to help at our January meeting, by bringing in treats to share, will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks Mike and John ❀



Den. Gloucester Sands. Grown by Valli and Jim Creech.

ROA Information

The Richmond Orchid Alliance meets at Hermitage, 1600 Westwood Avenue, Richmond, at 2:00 P.M. of the second Sunday of each month from January through November. Yearly dues are \$30.00 per individual, or \$35.00 for a joint membership. Dues should be paid to the ROA Finance Director, Forrest Tignor, 322 Willway Dr., Manakin Sabot, VA 23103

Patrons for 2012

Judy Craggs

Members who donate \$100 or more to the Alliance become a Patron for the membership year. These donations are tax deductible and are used to offset operational expenses.

The Richmond Orchid Alliance is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Any donations to ROA are tax deductible. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. We are affiliated with Orchid Digest and a member of the American Orchid Society.

The ROA Bulletin is a publication of the Richmond Orchid Alliance and is distributed to the Society's members monthly, prior to all club meetings.



Grown by Valli and Jim Creech.

New Library Procedure

There's a new Library methodology in town. Most of you know that the Library List is on the ROA website: <http://www.richmondorchidalliance.org/>. Ronda will include a copy of this library list in each 'new members' package going forward.

Members wishing to 'check-out' a book should call several days before the meeting to let me know to bring it/them to the meeting. There will no longer be a review of the books in the Bulletin."

Sincerely,

Karen Woehrle
ROA Librarian
804-357-5242 ✿

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Raffle

John Hutcheson
Refreshments

Nancy Thompson
Shows

Mike Chambliss
Showcase Judging

Growing Tips: Jewel Orchids

4

by Dr. Courtney Hackney
hackneau@comcast.net

Each year about this time, I notice that some of my terrestrial Jewel Orchids (Jewels) are initiating inflorescences. There are about a half dozen of these variegated beauties scattered around the greenhouse.

Last year, Orchids magazine featured articles on this diverse orchid group. They do not resemble other orchids in that they are grown for their leaves, not flowers, and are generally terrestrial species. Hybridizers have also begun to create more vigorous hybrids with a variety of different patterned leaves. A few now even have colorful inflorescences. Leaves of Jewel Orchids can be striped, mottled, variegated, or with jewel-like spotting, hence the name.

One Jewel orchid has been in collections for years, i.e., Ludisia discolor, but others have only recently been introduced. Ludisia is easy to grow under a variety of conditions, which explains its popularity. Most of the others grow very differently and require special care.

Cultural requirements vary greatly since they belong to many different genera and come from all over the world; from tropical to temperate climates. It has taken me many years to figure out how to grow them and I have not been successful with all I have tried. The common cultural attribute for Jewels is that they are almost all low light species and typically grow on the forest floor, which should provide some idea of their

preference for light. A few like the Ludisia, creep along the forest floor and put fine roots down into the decomposing leaves, while most tend to grow from a basal stem, below which are thick, tuberous-looking roots, where the orchid stores its energy.

The key to growing Jewels is to gain some insight into the habitat from which they came. A species that came to me with a request that I provide identification refused to bloom or even grow well. They were listed as coming from Belize, and I assumed warm climate with constant moisture. My assumption was not correct and they actually came from dry forests on the West Coast of Belize. When I provided a distinct wet and dry period associated with more light, they all flowered. The assumption when they were collected was that they were different species because each one had a different pattern on their leaves, but they were all the same species based on their flowers.

All of the "Jewels" that have grown well for me are grown in a porous medium, ProMix HP, with lots of drainage in the bottom of the pot. As the plant gets larger, the depth of medium is increased. Most flower in winter. During the summer, I put all of them under the benches and do not worry about them as they get adequate moisture from dripping pots above. In early December, they are moved into more light. That automatically induces drier conditions and they all begin to flower, although at different times.

Past Presidents

Susan Horman
Valli Laneve
Wanda Andrako
Bill Akin

Honorary Members

John Andrako
Wanda Andrako
L.K. Harvie

Growing Tips: Jewel Orchids (continued) 5

Jewels that grow well for me here in the South in a greenhouse with no cooling are *Sarcoglottis* (Srgt.) *speciosa* and its hybrid *Stenorrhynchos* (Stsc.) *Vanguard*, *Sarcoglottis* *sceptrodes*, and *Pelexia laxa*. *Pelexia laxa* is supposed to be a cool growing

species, but grows well in my hot conditions, even here in Florida. Hobbyists growing on windowsills may find that a few Jewels are worth trying as they grow under lower light levels and are beautiful year-round. ✨

