

Richmond Orchid Alliance

We are all about Orchids!

September 2009

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Bill Akin 9/7

Lindy Fine 9/10

Carol Hollenbeck 9/13

Ed Bryce 9/15

Judy Craggs 9/21

Betty Essex 9/24

Ruby Giragosian 9/24

Jonas Karlson 9/24

Rick Santackas 9/25

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin

Auction of Blooming Plants



Phal. Salu Spot '#5m'
grown by Jim Culbert

AUCTION OF BLOOMING PLANTS

Sept. 13 at the Science Museum of VA Auction starts at 1:00 PM.

Our meeting on September 13th will be a great auction of wonderful blooming orchids. Bill Akin has worked hard to gather plants from several growers in the Pacific and the U.S. As many of you know, this is the major fund raiser for the year. It pays for speakers and the cost of maintaining ROA. It is very important that the auction is successful and well supported by the members, as well as any friends or neighbors you can interest in coming.

You will want to bring anyone that is interested in beautiful plants. They may learn about orchids and become addicted like we are. Everyone can find plants he or she would love to add to the plants at home and have a

good time doing it.

The plants will be ready for viewing at 12:30 p.m. so you can determine which ones you want to bid on. Varieties and colors that are not found at the local vendors will be available. Prices are reasonable and you don't have to pay shipping on your choices.

The atmosphere is relaxed and refreshments are available throughout. We always have a good time. You will not want to miss this meeting.

COME ONE, COME ALL. See you there.

-Wanda Andrako

Upcoming Events

September 13

Blooming Plant Auction

October 11

Dr. Clark Riley

Using your resources to the max

November 8

Holiday Party and Discussion

December

No meeting

ROA activities and speakers emphasize the how-to and hands-on aspects of growing orchids.

Here and There

- September 13 – Charlottesville Orchid Society - Art Chadwick on Cattleyas
- November 13-14 – Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium – Speakers: Walter Off, Hadley Cash, Bill Thoms and Norris Williams

About This Bulletin

The Richmond Orchid Alliance meets at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond, at 2:00 P.M. of the second Sunday of each month from January through November. Yearly dues are \$25.00 per individual, or \$30.00 for a joint membership. Dues should be paid to the ROA Finance Director, Judy Craggs, P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226.

The Richmond Orchid Alliance is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Any donations to ROA are tax deductible. 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.

President's Message

It's hard to believe, but September is just around the corner and it is time for our blooming plant auction. Please bring a friend. It's wonderful to see all the beautiful orchids in bloom. It can be a tempting to add to your collection, and I hope that you will. We will have a wide range of bloom-ing orchids to select from, I promise something for everyone. Don't miss it, mark your calendars - September 13th.

We still have opportunities for the state fair staffing. The fair is at a new location and for the time you staff the booth, you will be able to walk around and take a look once your

shift is over. This is a great opportunity to talk with people interested in growing orchids, looking for suggestions that may solve their problems, as well as explaining membership benefits of the Richmond Orchid Alliance. I encourage everyone to take a shift.

I also want to thank everyone that participated in the Show table for August. We will not have a show table in September, due to the length of the auction, but will resume again in October.

See you on the 13th!

- Valli



Brs. Rex 'Tahoma' grown by Mike Chambliss

Record Keeping

Anyone that grows orchids needs a method of keeping records of your plants. Tags get lost, particularly if outside in the summer where squirrels love to play with them. There is a computer program that helps with this chore. Cattleya-Log is available at www.cattleyalog.com. You may watch a demonstration at the website. Cost \$50 or \$60 depending on whether you download it or get the DVD. It is so easy to lose the name of a wonderful plant that may be a prize winner if you had a name for it. Take care as your collection grows.

Mark the pots and the tags with ID that you use in the program.

Refreshments

John and Mike of the refreshment committee would like to thank everyone that contributed to the August meeting. Special thanks go out to Valli Laneve, Thuyen Trevino, Wanda Andrako, Janice Ranck, Betty Essex, Nancy Thompson, Mary Beth and Richard Ols, and anyone else we may have missed.

If anyone wishes to participate by bringing some fun treats for the September meeting please do so. The meeting will be longer since it is an auction so more nibbles may be required.

Thanks Mike and John.

Volunteers

We will need your support for the following events:

1. Plant auction, September 13th - contact Bill Akin 378-0999
2. State Fair, September 25-27 - contact Bill Akin 378-0999
3. Floral arrangements for the Science Museum's Kugel Ball, October 9th - contact Valli Laneve 360-1625
4. Holiday Party, November 8th - contact Thuyen Trevino

Donations

If you have a favorite book on orchids and ROA does not have copy, consider purchasing a copy for our library. Your in-kind donation is tax deductible.

Directories

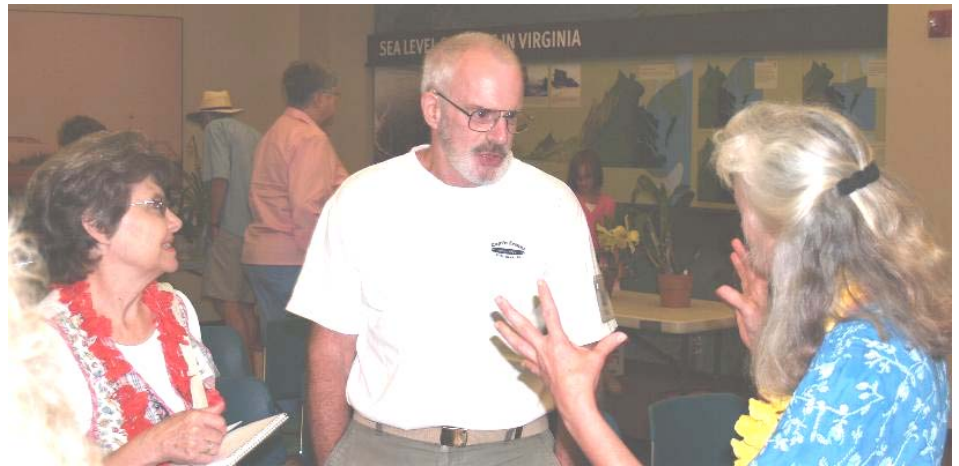
The 2009 Directories are now available. Please remember to pick yours up at the check-in desk at the July meeting if you haven't already done so.

- Barbi Partlow

ROA Library

We are all relieved that the library cart has been found. The cart, however, will no longer be kept at the Science Museum. I have taken all the books and magazines home and will bring selected ones to the museum on Meeting Days. I have updated the catalog and shall bring copies for distribution to members at the next meeting. If you would like to check out any books please let me know and I'll be sure to bring them to the

meetings. My telephone number is (804) 272 3784 and my email address is llewellynh@verizon.net. Since we'll no longer be storing the books at the museum the Sanders Lists of Orchid Hybrids will be available for checkout. I'll continue to write occasional book reviews and shall welcome any similar contributions from the members.
- L.K. (Buddy) Harvie, Librarian



Above: Janis Ranck talking with Nancy and Ed Bryce

Right: Winner of the Showtable Challenge, Jim Culbert

Below right: Judy Blackwell (visiting) and Vicky Rust examine the show table

Below left: Roger Horman asks a question of Jeff Morris, the August speaker



August Orchid Showcase

What a great group of orchids for the August Show Table. There were a total of 22 orchids presented. Judging the table where Mike Chambliss, Jim Culbert, and Joe Mathias.

Jim Culbert won the prize donated by Valli, for the most orchids brought for the show table. Who will win the prize next time? Bring your orchids and find out.

The next show table is for the month of October. There is no show table during the month of September due to the Auction.

- Mike Chambliss

Orchid Showcase winners were:

Cattleya:

Blue *Blc.* Mem. Vida Lee 'Limelight' HCC/AOS, Wanda Andrako

Red *Cattleya* (not named), Jim Culbert

Yellow *Blc.* Ports of Paradise 'Emerald Isle', Buddy Harvie.

Phaphiopedilum & Phragmipedium

Blue *Phrag.* Paul Eugene Conroy, Karen Collier

Red *Paph.* Hsinying Alien, Judy Craggs

Yellow *Phrag.* China Dragon, Thuyen Trevino

Oncidium & Dendrobium

Blue *Brs.* Rex 'Tahoma' Buddy Harvie

Blue *Bllra.* Peggy Ruth Carpenter 'Morning Joy', Jim Culbert.

Red *Onc.* Heaven Scent, Mike Chambliss

Yellow *Wils.* Golden Afternoon, The Murphy's

Phalaenopsis

Blue *Dor. pulcherrima* 'Dolly' x 'Waldon', Wanda Andrako

Red *Phal.* Salu Spot '#5m', Jim Culbert

Yellow *Phal* (not named), Jim Culbert

Vandaceous

Blue *Ascda.* Princess Mikasa, Thuyen Trevino

Other & Small Intergenerics.

Blue *Mtdw.* Rosey Sunset 'Pink Bouquet', The Creech's



Blc. Memoria Vida Lee 'Limelight'
HCC/AOS grown by Wanda Andrako



Phrag. Paul Eugene Conroy grown by
Karen Collier



Bllra. Peggy Ruth Carpenter 'Morning
Joy' grown by Jim Culbert

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Buddy Harvie
Library

Betty Essex
Affiliated Societies

Ed and Nancy Bryce
Raffle

Board Members

Van Williams

Culture Questions

If you have a question about orchid care, please see Wanda Andrako or Buddy Harvie for suggestions and answers.

September Growing Tips, Courtney Hackney

Fall in the tropics can mean many things depending on where in the tropics one looks. There may be more rain, less rain, clear skies, and even cool nights. But there is one universal facet to fall everywhere, shortening day length. Here, as in the tropics, many species of orchids and their hybrids are reacting to shorter days. Fall blooming cattleyas are already showing buds deep in their sheaths or even blooming.

In my greenhouse in Florida, many fall blooming cattleyas have already bloomed even though fall does not begin until September 22. Blc Norman's Bay completed blooming in early August and immediately began growth on two new leads. Late summer blooms followed by late fall blooms is not uncommon if fall blooming cattleyas are mature and well-established.

Typically, cattleya flowers last longer and are better colored when blooms develop during cool nights. This is especially true when yellow pigments are involved. The rich deep purple of Blc Oconee 'Mendenhall' or red from Blc Owen Holmes 'Mendenhall' is not as intense in summer since the yellow pigments in flowers do not develop as well in the heat.

Depending on your location, September is often a good month to initiate flower spikes in standard Phalaenopsis. A day to night temperature difference of 15 degrees F for a week to 10 days will cause your phals to initiate spikes. It is important to initiate spikes as soon as possible since

the growth of phal spikes will slow as days get shorter and available energy decreases.

Hobbyists with orchids outside can let nature take its course. If you grow in a closed greenhouse, the temperature can be lowered to that of the outside by simply keeping exhaust fans on at night. Some commercial growers with cooling pads run cooling pads along with exhaust fans all night to lower the temperature inside the greenhouse below the external environment.

The vast majority of orchid hobbyists grow their orchids inside in windows or under lights. Many have difficulty getting their orchids to re-bloom and assume they are not providing enough light. Often though, it is the lack of seasonal change in day length because of interior lights, or because of a sufficient drop in temperature, especially for phalaenopsis. Leaving windows open next to phals or even placing orchids outside for a couple of weeks can accomplish the prerequisite temperature drop.

Windowsill growers should watch the change in the sun's angle carefully. Orchids growing happily during summer may become vulnerable to burning in a south-facing window. Similarly, leaves may be thinning in trees shading orchids outside and orchids may burn. Greenhouse growers may consider reducing shade, since the sun's angle and intensity have changed since the summer's peak in late June.

Address Changes

If you have moved, changed your telephone number or email address, please email Richmond Orchid Alliance with the change at ROA4U2@verizon.net or to P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226.

We don't want your Bulletin to be delayed or not received. This is an important part of your membership.



Dor. pulcherrima 'Dolly' x 'Waldor' grown by Wanda Andrako

We're on the Web! Visit us at:
www.richmondorchidalliance.org

Courtney Hackney (continued)

The declining solar radiation and longer nights also means that your orchids need less water. Pay more attention to over-watering now since there is less time for orchids to dry each day.

Typically, less fertilizer is also required this time of year. Cattleyas fertilized with Nutricote last spring will have used up what was released and no additional fertilizer will be necessary until next spring. There will be some residual fertilizer that has been incorporated in the medium and this should suffice until spring. Phals and other orchids that grow and flower all year long will need additional fertilizer, but not as much as they did during the peak growing season. Phals often produce larger spikes if fertilizer is withheld for a month or so this time of year.



Ascda. Princess Mikasa grown by Thuyen Trevino

Paph. Hsinying Alien grown by Judy Craggs



ROA

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