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Wanda Andrako 10/4

Nancy Bryce 10/7

Gail Miccio 10/12

Bob Woehrle 10/17

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin

Orchid Resources on Overdrive

Clark Riley has been an active orchid grower since 1957. At the age of six, he got his first plant, a (probably collected) *Cypripedium pubescens* from a perennial nursery. The plant died a miserable death in a short time, but not before blooming and cementing a love of orchids that has lasted over half a century. He has labored ever since to make amends by promoting the sound cultivation of *Cypripedia*.

Those that were present a couple of years ago for the talk he gave on orchid culture will remember what a great program he gave. We are in for another treat at our October meeting when he will return and talk about making the most of your resources. He is an entertaining, down to earth speaker that presents his material in an easy to understand and entertaining way. We are pleased to be able to have him speak to our group again.

A hundred fifty years or so ago, orchids entered our gardens. If you wanted to know how to grow them then, you talked to other growers, visited their habitats, or read the few available books. Those three sources of information are more important than ever. But there are so many more sources of information available today. There are thousands of books, dozens of magazines, the telephone, and, of course, the internet. This talk provides a concentrated guide for the new grower to the veteran for ferreting out cultural and

historical information in the most efficient way. Want to grow *Sophranitis rosea*? Want to find a plant of *Slc*. Brandywine? Want to see what *Habenaria medusae* looks like? Whatever you want, the answers are often just a few clicks away. We'll try to take some of the mystery out of resources like Google Earth, search engines, major libraries, sister societies, and even eBay (an amazing source for orchids).

Clark will bring with him a concentrated handout of resources as well as a selection of plants for sale from his home-grown collection. He's been growing orchids for over half a century and from the standpoint of culture wouldn't want to live in any other time.

He grows a wide range of orchids, including several thousand terrestrials, hardy species, and all five genera of ladyslippers, often from seed. He was the producer for the book and CD of Proceeding of the North American Native Terrestrial Orchid Conference. He is a member of the Maryland Orchid Society, the American Orchid Society, and a frequent contributor to the Orchid List Digest. He can be reached at driley@aol.com or visit his web site at <http://cyps.us>.

Members may not sell plants.

-Wanda Andrako

Oct. 11 at the Science Museum of VA Program starts at 2:00 PM.

Upcoming Events

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

- October 4th - Tidewater Orchid Society - donated plant auction (Old Dominion University)
- October 11th - Charlottesville Orchid Society - Bus trip to National Capital Orchid Show, DC
- October 18th – Virginia Orchid Society - to be announced (Lewis Ginter Garden)
- October 18th - National Capital Orchid Society - William Mathis, Wild Orchid Company (National Arboretum)
- October 24th - Peninsula Orchid Society - Members donated plant auction (Hampton Library)
- 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.

5th ANNUAL MERRITT HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM

Make plans now to attend the next annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium to be held in Virginia Beach, VA on November 13-14, 2009. The setting will be the Cavalier Oceanfront Hotel on Atlantic Avenue and this year promises to be even better than before. Special rates apply if you note you are with the Huntington Symposium.

Speakers will be Walter Off, Hadley Cash (on Paphiopedilums), Bill Thoms (on Bulbophyllums) and Norris Williams (on Oncidiinae Nomenclature). Seagrove Orchids, Floradise Orchids, Waldor Orchids and Orchid Trail have agreed to be vendors, as well as our speakers.

Friday evening will be a buffet preview party with Walter Off speaking

on cattleyas and Saturday will be three speakers noted above along with a buffet lunch. There will also be plant judging. Mark your calendar now for this great learning event.

Food will be no problem, there will be lots. Additionally, on Sunday there will be an International Phalaenopsis Alliance meeting where this often found flower in the house will be discussed and sold.

For a registration form, email pierce.db@verizon.net or go to mhsymposium.org for additional information. Prices go up come October 15th so now is the time to reserve your place.

Call Bill Akin or Valli LaNeve with questions.

- Bill Akin

September Growing Tips, Courtney Hackney

In case you missed it, fall arrived September 23. The days have been getting shorter since June and daylight is now less than 12 hours long. Many orchids use the decreasing day length as an indicator that it is time to bloom. Indoor growers need to adjust their grow-lights appropriately. It is not necessary to make constant changes in day length, but it is necessary to shorten day length if you want many orchids to bloom under lights. Some indoor growers rely on light through windows to supply all the light their orchids need. Those with good southern or eastern exposures are often very successful in getting flowers each year as long as they allow their orchids to experience a day

length change. Many cattleyas get confused if incandescent lights are turned on nearby at night. I suspect that many cattleyas that are grown indoors do not bloom because of external light at night. Fall-blooming cattleyas are very sensitive to shrinking day length and external night lights confuse them.

Large-flowered phals require a cool temperatures to initiate the growth of flower spikes. Some growers leave their windows open for a few weeks in the fall, not only to enjoy the welcome cool nights, but to provide this cool stimulus for their phals. Five to ten nights at 55-65 degrees are more than enough to initiate

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Refreshments

John and Mike would like to thank everyone for the delicious snacks that were brought to our Sept. meeting and fun auction. Special thanks to Betty Essex, Wanda Andrako, Valli Laneve, the Pierson's, and to anyone else I may have left out.

If anyone wants to assist with the October refreshment table please do so, remember bring treats and no tricks.

Thanks Mike and John.

Volunteers

We will need your support for the following events:

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

Donations

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

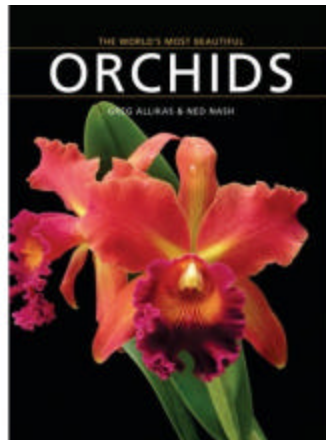
Directories

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

The Library has received two new books, *The World's Most Beautiful ORCHIDS* by Greg Allikas and Ned Nash, (reviewed below) and *300 ORCHIDS* by Jane Boosey (reviewed on page 4). These books were donated by Jim Creech and Valli LaNeve.



The World's Most Beautiful Orchids is a super book as one might expect from two renowned orchidians as Allikas and Nash. The 50 page introduction covers what the authors consider to be the elements of orchid beauty are generally according to current day standards and how these standards change with the introduction of new orchids. (They also admit that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.) They provide guidelines for selecting orchids. Several pages are devoted to describing what characteristics of orchids, floral and foliar, and how these characteristics can be pre-

sented in the myriad of orchid forms. The pages include descriptions of different habitats and how orchids adapt to them. The introduction also includes orchid morphology, history, culture, reproduction hybridization and conservation as well as suggestions on selecting orchids. This introduction is well worth reading on its own but the real meat of the book is its treatment of selected genera, species and their hybrids. As an example, the cross of *B nodosa* with *L milleri* to yield *Bl Richard Mueller*, an outstanding orange hybrid. Then *Bl Richard Mueller* was crossed with *Blc Toshi Aoki* to yield an even more beautiful *Blc Copper Queen*. This is only one of the many *Brassovola* lines of breeding. *Cattleyas* are treated the same way with even more examples as are *laelias*. *Bulbophyllums* and *Dendrobium* species are described but not as many hybrids are included. *Paphiopedilums* and their primary hybrids are covered but not many complex hybrids except the so called Bull Dog paphs. Many others are covered including *Coelogyne mooreana* which many of our members have.

The photography is excellent as one would expect from Greg Allikas.

-L.K. Harvie

Book Review



300 ORCHIDS by Jane Boosey is a good book for a quick orchid reference. The introduction presents an overview of orchid anatomy form and structure, classification of orchids, cultivation, pests and diseases and notable people in orchid history. The rest of the book presents thumbnail references to eighty genera, significant species within the genera and outstanding hybrids among the species. Each reference covers such things as distribution, general culture and a photograph of a significant species within the genus. Entries of species within the genera give more specific cultural information as well as lots more photographs of species and hybrids.

This book is a good quick reference. It won't tell you in detail how to care for your orchids but it will give you enough information so that you can talk about them intelligently.

-L.K. Harvie

September Orchid Showcase

As you are aware there was not a show table for September because of our wonderful Auction.

So that means everyone will bring lots of blooming plants for the October Show Table. Please bring them early for judging. Anyone that bought plants for the auction and are in bloom, please consider bringing them so that everyone can see what they look like. These particular plants will receive a half point for each plant, which goes toward your total for the year.

- Mike Chambliss

Bring Your Blooming Plants In!

Speaker Paul Sheetz gave an interesting talk on zygopetalums at the July meeting and additional comments on show table plants. Most significant, however, were his closing comments urging members – especially new members – to show their orchids.

I remember the first time I showed plants. I selected a light purple phalaenopsis and a Blc Norman's Bay 'Lows'. Actually they were the only two plants in my total collection of five that were in bloom. I trimmed them up, staked the inflorescences and cleaned and polished the leaves. Surreptitiously I placed them on the show table. They did not get any ribbons but one of the judges commented that they were the cleanest plants on the table. I learned from that experience, though. I learned that others were friendly and anxious to help a neophyte such as I, offering helpful comments on showing plants, culture and many other things. I'll always remember that experience. So I echo Paul Sheetz's exhortation. Show your plants. You'll find it satisfying as well as letting the rest of us enjoy your treasures.

- Buddy Harvie



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

AOS SPECIAL RAFFLE

November is our last program of the year. We hope that everyone will attend. One of the many fun things we have planned is a special raffle and all the proceeds will go to the American Orchid Society.

Please check out our website for all the donations we have received.

For more information about the membership benefits of joining AOS go to www.aos.org.

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Raffle

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Van Williams

Culture Note

When buying a new plant, always isolate it from other plants for about ten days and then check again for insects. Always check the root system when you get a new plant. Sometimes the plant was in sphagnum and then potted in bark when moved to a larger pot but they have left the sphagnum on it. You could then be watering based on a bark schedule and not realize the center was soaked.

Courtney Hackney (continued)

spikes. The key is both the low temperature and a 20 degree change from day to night. After that, it is best to keep them at a temperature above 65 degrees.

This is also the time to move those giant pots of cymbidiums from under the deep shade to more sun. Do it gradually so there will not be any leaf burn. Cymbidium growers claim that the best flowers come when they allow their cymbidiums to almost reach frost conditions. Some cover their plants with a product called "Frost Proof", which protects them from frost even down below freezing.

Cattleyas still maturing bulbs will produce large, plump bulbs now that night temperatures are in the 50s and the day is not nearly as hot. This can be quite a contrast to the thinner bulbs that are produced when both night and day temperatures are very warm.

Most members of the vanda and angracoid groups do not appreciate cooler nights and will decrease their growth rate. They do, however, seem to produce flowers with more vibrant colors when night temperatures are cool. If you tend to have cooler conditions than most warm growing vandas prefer, select vandas that have a good dose of Vanda coerulea in their parentage as these prefer cooler nights.

There are members of many orchid groups that come from cooler climes. Many miniature phals, e.g. lobbi, parishii, and

their hybrids, such as Phal Mini Mark, really thrive when day and night temperatures are lower. Phrags, especially anything with Phrag besse in the background, really struggle in summer's heat, but grow quickly once temperatures cool.

Lower temperature and light usually means that your orchids need less water, although this also depends on humidity as well. Avoid over-watering this time of year. Your orchids can handle less water, but you could lose all those roots you worked so hard to grow if you continue watering at the same rate as you did in summer. The exception is for those that grow indoors, as most homes these days are air conditioned in summer and heated in winter keeping indoor conditions (temperature and humidity) about the same year round.

It is unnecessary to fertilize most orchids now, although most seedlings and phals still require fertilizer. Generally, there is enough fertilizer in pots and on the medium to provide the little your orchids need now. This is an ideal time to really flush pots with high quality, low solids water because the extra drying experienced by orchids in winter will expose their roots to concentrated salts retained on media surfaces. In cases of high fertilizer application or hard water, these salts can damage roots.

Some orchid groups, such as the genus Eulophia, nobile-dendrobiums, catasetums, etc, become
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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.

Culture Questions

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

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

Non-toxic pesticide

Neem oil is available from many sources on line. Mix one ounce of Neem oil to one gallon of water, adding a few drops of dish washing liquid. Spray all surfaces of the plant. Plant stands, outside of pots, and if using in a greenhouse spray the floor. Will kill mealy bugs, scale, slugs and snails, and even fire ants if you have them.

Non-toxic cheap pesticide

Mix 1 part 409 household cleaner, 1 part water, 1 part alcohol. Add a few drops of dishwashing liquid as a sticker. Spray all areas of the plant, pots, trays, etc.

Courtney Hackney (continued)

almost totally dormant and lose their leaves in winter. They may need to be moved to a location where they receive only a light misting occasionally.

Take a careful look under pots and leaves if you have had your orchids outside during the summer and now plan to move them into the house or greenhouse. If you have just a few plants, a drench of liquid Sevin (one teaspoon/gal) will kill anything you do not want, including slugs and snails. Do this now, before a sudden cold snap forces you to quickly drag your orchids inside or you could be dealing with bugs and beasts for the entire winter.

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ROA

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