

Richmond Orchid Alliance

We are all about Orchids!

December 2009

Wanda Andrako, Editor
Jim Creech, Layout Editor
Dermott Murphy and Jim
Creech, Photography

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

Inside This Issue

- Page 2 President's Message
 A perennial Christmas
 present
 Upcoming Events
 Membership Dues
- Page 3 ROA Library
 Refreshment
 Committee
 Donations
- Page 4 Showcase
- Page 5 AOS Special Raffle
 Board of Directors
 Committee Chairmen
 Membership Desk
- Page 6 Holiday Workshop
 Address Changes
 Reminder

Birthdays

- Art Chadwick** 12/2
Cathy Leonard 12/24
Nancy Thompson 12/30

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin



Cattleya percivaliana 'Summit' FCC/AOS, sometimes referred to as the Christmas cattleya, see story on page 2, picture courtesy of AOS

Gorgeous Cattleyas

Speaker for our January 17 meeting is Art Chadwick, owner of Chadwick Orchids in Powhatan, Virginia. Art's father is a long time grower and prolific writer for the AOS Bulletin on cattleya orchids. Art has followed in his father's footsteps in his interest in orchids and specifically cattleyas. He grows many catt species as well as a variety of genera but catts are his major interest.

Art also has a business that boards orchids for clients and delivers them to the owner when they are ready to

bloom. For those who have some beauties that just will not bloom under your lighting conditions at home you might want to board them. You may want to keep those at home that grow and bloom well for you there.

Art knows his orchids and has spoken widely on the subject. You will enjoy seeing his plants and talking with him about any problems you may have with their culture.

-Wanda Andrako

**Jan. 17 at the Science Museum of VA Program starts at 2:00 PM.
To be considered for judging, plants for the Showcase
need to be on the table by 1:40**

Upcoming Events

December

No meeting

January 17

Gorgeous Cattleyas, A.E.
Chadwick, Chadwick and
Son Orchids

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

Membership dues

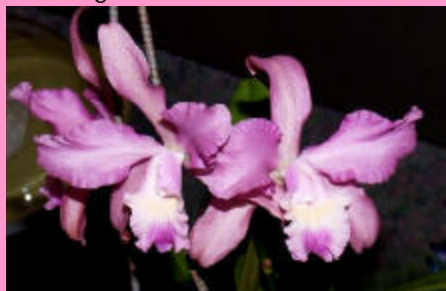
Membership dues should be paid by the January 17 meeting for the coming year. An application has been enclosed for your use.

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, LLC 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.



Smbc. Harry Dunn 'Claret' x Schom. Lyonsii grown by L.K.Harvie

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President's Message

Happy Holidays!

At this very special time of year, a time to reflect and be grateful for all of our blessings, I would like to thank everyone that has made this year a great success for the Richmond Orchid Alliance. I am grateful for my very hard working board members that work together and are committed to making the Alliance a wonderful organization. Over the past year, I have asked many of our members to assist with special projects, events and on going activities. Thank you for your time, ideas, I am so very grateful. I would also like to thank everyone that donated door prizes, books, food, supplies, and money. But what I am most grateful for is everyone's interest in such a wonderful hobby growing orchids.

Thank you!

Valli Laneve

A perennial Christmas present

I cannot imagine Christmas without *Cattleya percivaliana*. Its aromatic fragrance and deep, rich, purple coloring are as much a part of my holiday as bayberry candles, pine cones and the aroma of fresh-baked mince pie.

It wasn't too many years ago that you could buy flowering plants of *C. percivaliana* at the local florist shop for Christmas. When I was a teenager in the 1940s, I earned my Christmas money selling *C. percivaliana* plants to these shops. I bought newly established, imported plants in sheath in September for \$2.50 each and sold them in flower in December for \$5. No matter how many plants I bought in September, I never had enough to meet the demand in December. It seemed no one wanted a poinsettia when they could have an orchid for the same price.

By the time it appeared, the orchid world was more than ready to receive it. Growers were desperate to find a cattleya to fill the flowering gap between *Cattleya labiata*, which finished blooming in November, and *C. trianaei*, which did not begin flowering until January. *Cattleya percivaliana* flowered during this empty in November, and *C. trianaei*, in November. and *C. trianaei*. which

did not begin flowering until January. *Cattleya percivaliana* flowered during this empty December period and orchidists everywhere responded with excitement and pleasure. Frederick Sander of the English orchid firm Sander's Ltd., proclaimed elatedly that "with the discovery of *Cattleya percivaliana* and *Cattleya gaskelliana*, we now have cattleyas flowering the whole year." It was all very wonderful.

Cattleya percivaliana's fragrance is usually described as "spicy" and most people like it. But, not everyone does, and it is the only *Cattleya* species about which there is any doubt at all about the fragrance's being pleasant and desirable.

If I could ask Santa Claus to bring all my orchid friends one holiday gift, it would be a plant of *Cattleya percivaliana*, filled to the brim with a dozen rich purple flowers- a plant that could stand on their coffee tables by their Christmas trees and welcome holiday guests like an outstretched hand of the genial R.P. Percival of times gone by.

- A.A. Chadwick, Sr.

This has been excerpted from an article that appeared in *Orchids* in December 1999. The full content of this article can be found at www.chadwickorchids.com.

Refreshments

The Refreshment committee would like to thank all of those who brought wonderful and delicious goodies to the November Social. I especially want to thank Valli for the Ham and Thuyen for the Turkey. I know everyone had fun as John and I did. If anyone has any ideas for next year let me know, either by phone or email.

Thanks Mike and John.



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.

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ROA Library

The ROA Library has two excellent AOS booklets on orchid photography, *Handbook on ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHY* by Grenville Seibels II and *ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHY* by Charles Marden Fitch.

Seibels' book was published in 1980, well before the introduction of digital cameras and Fitch's very early in their availability, quality and affordability so the chapters on cameras and film are not as appropriate as they once were. (Yes, some photographers still use film but they are a dwindling group.) Both authors do, however, emphasize the benefits of focusing and metering through the lens which one can do with digital SLR cameras. Except for cameras and film everything in these booklets is pertinent.

Both recommend tripods with adjustable platforms and attachments for mounting cameras in several positions. Seibels emphasizes sturdiness whereas Fitch argues for portability. This is understandable since Seibels took most of his photographs in his back yard while Fitch ventured out into the wilds of Viet Nam or Borneo taking photographs of orchids in their natural settings.

Both authors stress the importance of good light. Daylight is best but not sunny midday which gives harsh shadows and contrasts. They also comment that photographs taken in the evening will have a red color shift. Filters can correct color cast. They also cover the use of strobe flashes (thyristers) as well as other lights. They offer ways to use lights effectively such as using two strobe lights mounted not on the camera but one on each side at camera height which will avoid a head on picture and eliminate shadows. They offer

suggestions on how to diffuse light. Use of color and polarizing filters is covered.

Lenses are equally as important as light, and both authors recommend macro lenses. (90-105 lenses work best for orchids) Here the authors caution against underexposure because the lens is so close to the subject for macro photos and how this can be avoided by increasing the depth of field, that is, manually opening the iris.

Both authors stress composition, the essence of a good picture. Poor composition can be remedied to some extent with a good photo editing program but you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Seibels recommends black backdrops or, in some instances, neutral gray whereas Fitch recommends backdrop colors that will complement the picture colors. Seibels also suggests having extra pieces of cloth to hide pots, etc.

Both authors give suggestions on presenting slide shows. Fitch closes with chapters on digital storage of slides, techniques for photography on field trips and sources of photographic equipment. Seibels emphasizes the artistic aspect of orchid photography while Fitch is more concerned with making accurate photographs for the record – shows, AOS awards, etc. Both authors agree that familiarity with orchid plants helps make good orchid pictures.

Both of these booklets are excellent. It is recommended that anyone interested in orchid photography read them – even the chapters on film cameras and film.

-L.K. Harvie

November Showcase

Vandaceous

Blue – V. Robert’s Delight ‘Blue Wax’ grown by Carol Hollenbeck
Red – Vasco. Pine River grown by Carol Hollenbeck
Yellow – Ascda. Princess Mikasa ‘Sapphire’ AM/AOS grown by Thuyen Trevino

Cattleya

Blue – C. Purple Beauty grown by Jim Culbert
Red – Diaca. Chantilly Lace ‘Twinkle’ grown by L.K.Harvie
Yellow – Epc. Siam Jade grown by Judy Craggs
Yellow – Smbc. Harry Dunn ‘Claret’ x Schom. Lyonsii grown by L.K.Harvie

Oncidium & Dendrobium

Blue- Alcra. Sunday Best ‘Muffin’ grown by Carol Hollenbeck
Red- Onc. Sweet Sugar grown by Mike Chambliss
Yellow- Pyp. Kaush grown by Mike Chambliss

Phalaenopsis

Blue- Dtps. Taisuco Firebird grown by Mike Chambliss
Red- P. Happy Kathleen grown by Mike Chambliss
Yellow- Dtps. Snow Buttons grown by Janis Ranck

Other

Blue – Bulb. Elizabeth Ann ‘Buckleberry’ FCC/AOS grown by Tom Voytilla
Red – Spir. odorata grown by the Creeches
Yellow – Hal. Retrocalla grown by the Creeches



V. Robert’s Delight ‘Blue Wax’
grown by Carol Hollenbeck



C. Purple Beauty grown by Jim
Culbert



Blue- Alcra. Sunday Best
‘Muffin’ grown by Carol
Hollenbeck



Blue- Dtps. Taisuco Firebird
grown by Mike Chambliss



Bulb. Elizabeth Ann ‘Buckleberry’
FCC/AOS grown by Tom Voytilla



Diaca. Chantilly Lace ‘Twinkle’
grown by L.K.Harvie

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Valli Laneve
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Library

Betty Essex
Affiliated Societies

Ed and Nancy Bryce
Raffle

Board Members

Van Williams

Membership Desk

I would like to thank Ronda Tignor for all of her help at the Membership/Sign-In Desk this year! Also, many thanks are due to Janis Ranck for taking time to send out birthday cards to our members. Without our volunteers, we couldn't get things done! If you'd like to help with the Membership Desk, please see Barbi at the January meeting.

Thanks!! Barbi

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American Orchid Society Raffle

If you attended the November program, you know we held a special raffle to benefit the American Orchid Society. We are an affiliated society and we raised \$150. Thank you to all our members that purchased raffle tickets and especially to our member that recently joined AOS.

We are so very grateful for the businesses and members that donated the special prizes.


- Three Cattleya orchids, Chadwick and Son Orchids (www.chadwickorchids.com), Art Chadwick
- Chocolate Basket, Pickups Plus Catering (www.pickupspluscatering.com), Gail Grandis
- Orchid Umbrella, Bear Essentials (36 Rives Road, Petersburg, VA), Karen Collier
- Dendrobium orchid, Tom Voytilla
- Paphiopedilum orchid, Clark Riley
- Gift Certificate, Nick's Roman Terrace (8051 West Broad St., Richmond, VA – Westland Shopping Center)
- Gift Certificate, Carter and Holmes Orchids (www.carterandholmes.com)
- Tea Basket, Gourmet Cookies by Valli (www.GourmetCookiesByValli.com), Valli Laneve
- Hand-Painted Storage Crook, painting by Arline Murphy, crook donated anonymously.




AOS Raffle items



Judy Craggs, Mary Jane Zander, Tom Voytilla, and Carol Hollenbeck looking At the showtable



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.



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

Holiday Design Workshop

The Crown Grant Garden Club is hosting their "Holiday Design Workshop" on Tuesday, December 15th at 6 p.m. at the Deep Run Recreation Center on Ridgefield Parkway. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Refreshments will be served between 6 and 7 with the workshop starting at 7 p.m. All you need to bring is your own snips. All mechanics will be provided as well as fresh plant material to make your own beautiful table decoration. Susan Chewning is our designer/ instructor.

For more information, please contact Carter Rosser for tickets (804-740-2502 or tnrosser@aol.com).

Note: One of our members spoke to the Crown Grant Garden Club on orchid culture. ROA welcomes the opportunity to talk with your garden club members. Contact Valli Laneve at 360-1625.



Buddy Harvie, Wanda Andrako, Vickery Rust and Steve Partlow enjoying the holiday meal.

Address Changes

If you have moved, changed your telephone number or email address, please email Richmond Orchid Alliance with the change at ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org 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.

Reminder

At this time of the year we are all trying to get our charitable donations paid in time to be counted for this year's taxes. Richmond Orchid Alliance is a 501 3C organization eligible for tax free donation status. Donations help pay for the programs and other expenses for activities for the members. Your donations are solicited and much appreciated.

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

ROA

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