

*Richmond Orchid Alliance*  
*We are all about Orchids!*

*Jim Creech, Editor*  
*(orchidalliance@aol.com)*

*October 2005*

*Upcoming ROA events:*

**November 13** - Monthly program;  
**ALERT! - Program starts at 3:00;**  
Speaker: **Alan Koch** of Gold Country  
Orchids, Lincoln, California

**December 11** - No ROA program -  
**Happy Holidays**

**January 8** - Monthly program;  
Speakers: **Janette and James Harris**  
of the Triad Orchid Society, and  
**Linda Thorne** of Seagrove Orchids,  
Seagrove, North Carolina

**February 12** - Monthly program;  
Speaker: **Courtney Hackney** of the  
University of North Carolina -  
Wilmington, Wilmington, North  
Carolina

**March 12** - Monthly program;  
Speaker: **Glen Lehr** of New World  
Orchids, Manchester, Michigan

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

*Inside this issue:*

Page 2	-Orchid Spotlight -Budding Advice
Page 3	-Oct. Program Review -Season's Greeting -Member's Mart
Page 4	-Orchid Showcase - Freedom House
Page 5	-Growing Tips -Embroidered ROA Logo
Page 6	-Event Calendar
Page 7	-Huntington Symposium
Page 8	-Book Review - "An Orchidist's Lexicon"

# ROA Bulletin

## *ROA Welcomes Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids*

ROA welcomes Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids in Lincoln, California, who will be featured at our November program. He has also agreed to be the discussant for the November Orchid Showcase.

As a special offer to ROA members, if you preorder five or more plants, Alan will take 10% off and provide free shipping because he will bring the plants with him. Catalogs can be downloaded from his website [www.goldcountryorchids.com](http://www.goldcountryorchids.com) and may be ordered by emailing [Gcorchids@aol.com](mailto:Gcorchids@aol.com) or calling 916-645-8600.

He will speak on "Orchid Growing in the Twenty-first Century." Most people still grow orchids with technology that was available for our Grand-



Alan Koch,  
image by Kathy Walker

parents and Great-grandparents. The science of plant physiology has  
(continued on P. 6 "Koch")

## *Maximizing Your Membership*

ALL too often we equate the value of our membership with the dues we pay. We come to hear the speaker, and ROA has a great schedule, and think of it as the only source of information. However, your attendance allows you to ask questions of the speaker, not only about the program's content, but also about the quality plants that you may have purchased.

But the Richmond Orchid Alliance is much more. We have a well stocked resource cart full of books, periodicals, and information to assist you in growing orchids. The greatest resource, though, are your fellow members.

Four years ago, when I attended my

first orchid meeting, someone asked me, "What type of orchids do you grow?" I responded very proudly and enthusiastically with "purple." To this day I remember that wonderful smile and those words that were spoken. "We will teach you everything you need to know about growing orchids, just ask." Jim and I now have a collection of over 200 healthy plants, all grown on windowsills and light carts. Pest free and blooming or reblooming. You get the opportunity to ask by giving the organization a few hours a year of your time. Make friends, share plants and celebrate successful orchid growing. I would love to share all that information with you, just call me and I will explain how volunteering will increase your knowledge.

- Valli LaNeve

## Orchid Spotlight:

### *Phal. stobartiana* and Allen Black



*Phal. stobartiana*, plant



Allen Black

Images courtesy of Allen Black

Several years ago I became interested in *Phalaenopsis stobartiana* because I envisioned using it to produce beautiful and interesting green Phal hybrids. More than once I purchased plants that were sold as *P. stobartiana*, but bloomed out as other species. I purchased this *Phalaenopsis stobartiana* in 2003 from Dowery Orchids in Hiwassee, Virginia. In June, this plant bloomed, I sent pictures to Dr. Eric Christenson for identification, and he wrote back that this was a "true" *P. stobartiana*.

While I have kept my *P. stobartiana* alive for more than two years, I am not certain that I have determined the best culture regime for the plant. It is growing on a cork slab in a greenhouse under bright, but shaded light. The greenhouse temperature ranges from intermediate to hot. During warm months, the plant is watered at least once a day. During cold months, it is watered every two to three days. The humidity levels in the greenhouse range from 40 to 100 percent.

I went to my first orchid society meeting after running into Bill and Sue Akin at the Great Big Greenhouse orchid table; they encouraged me to attend the next meeting. Although I have grown plants all my life, having grown up in "farm" country in south-central Pennsylvania, I started growing orchids 16 years ago. Within two years, I had switched into the fanatic, orchid-addict mode. Eight years ago, I began to hybridize, specializing in novelty *Brassavola* hybrids. I have also dabbled in *Phalaenopsis* hybrids, which got me interested in *P. stobartiana* in the first place. All told, I have 18 registered hybrids with lots more awaiting the first

bloom (registration requires that the plant bloom). I am also hybridizing daylilies; I have five cultivars registered at this time.

My collection reflects my varied interests. I have done well with Phrags., Paphs., Phals. and Lycastes. You can see pictures of my crosses, as well as many of my other orchids on [www.AblackOrchid.com](http://www.AblackOrchid.com).

*(Editor's Note: Allen has an interesting article on his P. stobartiana in the latest issue of Phalaenopsis, the quarterly publication of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance. His pictures have also appeared in several recent books, including Eric Christenson's Phalaenopsis: a Monograph, Lance Birk's The Paphiopedilum Grower's Manual, and Steve Frowine's new book on Fragrant Orchids.)*



*Phal. stobartiana*, flower

**ALERT!**  
**The November**  
**Program Starts at**  
**3:00 p.m.**

## Budding Advice

When purchasing a new plant, remember to check the roots to ensure that the plant is healthy and there are no surprises in the media (pests or different hidden media), and isolate it for at least three weeks so that if there are any unseen pests, they can emerge away from your collection and you only have a few plants to treat instead of all.

- Wanda Andrako and Valli LaNeve



### It Was a Bloomin' Good Time, It Was!



Previewing some of the auction plants (above and below)



Bill Akin welcoming members and guests to the first ROA auction



Joe Mathias skillfully auctioning plants, with Buddy Harvie and Bill Akin assisting



Members and guests waiting for the next item up for bidding



When is the best time to buy an orchid? I've found that it was when they are in bloom, and this is repeated by comments in the book *Easy Orchids*. So on October 9<sup>th</sup>, Joe Mathias auctioned some 150 plants from ten commercial vendors, most being in bloom, to eager bidders. The spirits were high and plants moved quickly. There were the small *masdevallias* and those large *cattleyas*, something for everyone. And we closed the meeting before 4:00PM so we could go home and enjoy our new guests.

Elegant and exotic, the orchid has fascinated gardeners for hundreds of years. And the speed in which bids were being made, there is no question that these plants were the delight and pleasure of their buyers - and having them was a passion.

It is said that anyone visiting the residence of an orchid lover can immediately tell that someone is

head over heels in orchid fascination. Everyone filled their boxes with multiple purchases and left smiling as they headed to position these new home decorations.

A special thanks to our auctioneer, Joe Mathias, for his love of helping others enjoy orchids as he seems to, to our plant runners who kept everyone surrounded by those blooming plants, and to the other support staff who so ably helped check everyone out at the end. There was time for cookies and tea and some enjoyment of "I really wanted that too" commentary.

But, like other plants, orchids flourish easily when their needs are met, so your challenge now is simply to modify your environment to charm them into bloom again, and again, and again. Thanks to all of you who were present for this wonderful first ROA auction event.

- Bill Akin

### Season's Greetings

Please stay after the program to talk with our speaker, Alan Koch, peruse the Member's Mart and share some festive holiday cheer. This month, if you have a favorite appetizer or dessert, please bring it to share with your fellow members. Start your holiday celebrating with ROA, as we conclude the last program for 2005.

### Member's Mart

Given that Alan Koch is traveling from California and is participating in the Huntington Symposium the day before the ROA program, there will be an opportunity for members to sell some of their divisions, keikis, or seedlings before and after the program. Please contact Bill Akin for guidelines prior to November 12 if you would like to participate.



*Diaca*. Chantilly Lace 'Twinkle,' grown by John and Wanda Andrako



Subscriptions are \$32 per year and issues appear quarterly. Details can be found at [www.orchiddigest.com](http://www.orchiddigest.com). Orchid Digest is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

**Orchid Showcase**

**Let's Pull Out All the Socks for Freedom House**



At our November program, ROA will be collecting new or clean (in good condition) socks for the residents of Freedom House. Both men's and women's socks are needed. This is an item that is seldom donated but is very much needed by the residents. Please help ROA make a difference in the quality of life of a Richmond area resident trying to recover from a crisis in their lives.

The mission of Freedom House is to embrace those in crisis and to gather those individuals into a healing community where they may begin to address the problems and issues that contributed to or resulted from their crisis situation. Freedom House was founded in 1983 by a group of concerned downtown churches and individuals that saw a need to provide a meal to those in crisis and urban poor in Richmond.

The Freedom House runs four programs. The Conrad Center provides a hot breakfast and dinner to those in crisis, and will serve over 75,000 meals this year. Sean's Place provides housing for 12 adults who are well along in their crisis recovery as they transition into permanent housing. The Community Shelter offers transitional housing for 40 persons; during their stay goals are set, family ties reestablished, and receive education and vocational training. The Greater Richmond Respite Program provides medical and mental health services to 20 individuals being released from the hospital and continue to need care after discharge.

- Valli LaNeve

**Showcased Orchids**



*Phrag. richteri*, grown by Chuck Gardner



*Paph. Hsinying Jewel*, grown by Valli LaNeve and Jim Creech



*Dpts. Ever Spring Prince* 'Black Eagle', grown by Jim Culbert

*Phrag. richteri* is a relatively recently described species from Peru. Plants of the species were in cultivation by 1985, but many taxonomists believed it to be a natural hybrid of *P. boissierianum* and *P. pearcei*. Subsequent analyses have demonstrated that it breeds true and should be regarded as a separate species; it does not have the variability that would be expected of a natural hybrid. *P. richteri* was formally described in 1994 and named in honor of Walter Richter on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; he is a well-known orchid grower, hybridizer, photographer and author.

*Paph. Hsinying Jewel* (*P. Mystic Jewel* x *P. Maudiae*) was registered in 1998 by Ching Hua. This cross is 75% *P. Maudiae* and has only been awarded once by AOS (not this plant though); interestingly enough, that one time resulted in an FCC at the Louisville Orchid Show in 2003.

*Dpts. Ever Spring Prince* (*Phal. Golden Peoker* x *Dpts. Taisuco Beauty*) was registered in 1997 by the Ever Spring Orchid Nursery. Although it may not be clear from this specific cultivar (cultivated variety),

*Dpts. Ever Spring Prince* is a Harlequin type of *phalaenopsis*. The random spotting that is characteristic of Harlequins is a relatively recent phenomenon following the awarding of *P. Golden Peoker* 'Brother' JC/AOS in the early 1990s. Since then, over 50 crosses have been registered with *P. Golden Peoker* as a parent, including the pictured *Dpts. Ever Spring Prince*.



**Growing Tips by Courtney Hackney**  
**(email: Hackneau@Bellsouth.net)**

*ROA Embroidered Logo Available*

The ROA Logo can be placed on a number of clothing items including denim and polo shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps and visor caps. Contact Barbara Noe at (804) 359-3674 or CelebrateOrchids@aol.com. The logo can also be placed on your own NEW item on a cost per design basis. Although she expects the turnaround to be less, Barbara asks that you allow three weeks for completion of your order.

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 \$20.00 per individual, or \$25.00 for a joint membership. Dues should be paid to the ROA Finance Director, Sue Akin.

The Richmond Orchid Alliance is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. 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.

Submissions to the Bulletin should be sent to the editor early enough to arrive by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to a meeting. Unless otherwise credited, all images in this publication were by the editor.



Fall is finally here. This is just about the busiest month for those of us that choose to grow tropical orchids where they are not supposed to grow. Instead of worrying about too much heat it is time to prepare for too much cold. Given the high cost of fuel this year makes it even more important to get preparations started.

Inspect your growing area to be sure your glazing is intact; no new cracks, spaces, etc. All of the heating and cooling inherent in greenhouses causes some shifting over seasons and years. Strong winds can have the same effect. Insulation often separates from surfaces in places with high humidity and constant exposure to water. Some of these problems can be easily solved with a tube of good silicone caulking. A can of "Good Stuff", or one of the other expandable foams available, can also be useful in joints or spaces below the glazing where cold air creeps in. Most of these types of product work better if the application surface is dry.

Heaters should be inspected and checked. If you are experienced you can do this yourself, but most hobbyists are better advised to get your gas company to do the inspection and light the burners. They are more skilled at finding problems. Do not forget to check exhaust ducting and vents. They, too, can move during the summer and leak exhaust fumes into the growing space endangering people and orchids. Do this before the first really cold weather arrives to avoid the rush. Get your gas or oil tank filled and prepare for a shock when the bill comes. Even more reason to seal all of the cracks in the greenhouse.

Many indoor growers have placed their orchids outside under trees or other shaded areas. It is time to prepare to bring them inside. Carefully inspect plants for insects and other pests. A fine jet of water can clean leaves and bulbs exposing problem pests. Slugs, snails, roaches and many other undesirables love the insides of pots. They may quickly disperse around your home once pots are brought inside. Treat now with appropriate drenches or pesticides. Also, inspect for other orchid pests, such as scale insects.

Treat before bringing plants inside for the winter where plants will be crowded allowing pests to spread from plant to plant. Greenhouse growers are wise to follow the same process because it is always easier treating a greenhouse when it can be easily vented. This is also a good time to review what each type of orchid requires for best growth and flowering.

*Phalaenopsis* require a week or two of cool temperatures to initiate spiking. Night temperatures 60-65 F for a week to 10 days are ideal. A few nights in the upper 50s will do no harm as long as the day temperatures warm into the 80s. Once either gloomy weather or night temperatures below 55 arrive, it is time to move both *phalaenopsis* and *vandas* inside. *Cattleyas* generally love cool nights and warm days and can be left outside until night temperatures fall below 50 F. Blue *vandas* and *ascocendas* have a good dose of *V. coerulea* in their background and are the exception to the admonition above. They appreciate cool nights and will produce better colored flowers if given cool nights for as long as you can. Antelope- and

(continued on p. 6 "Growing Tips")

**Koch** (con't from Page 1)*Calendar of Events  
Outside of ROA:***November 5**

National Capital Judging Center, US National Arboretum, Washington, DC.

**November 6**

Tidewater Orchid Society, Norfolk, VA; Speaker: Rolf Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids; contact: Evalyn Walch, email: walch@verizon.net.

**November 7**

Hollin Hills Orchid Society, Annandale, VA; Speaker: TBA; contact: Ruth Lazarowitz, email: rlazarowitz@cox.net.

**November 13**

Charlottesville Orchid Society, Charlottesville, VA; Speaker: Jim Gresham of the Blue Ridge Orchid Society; contact: Lawrence Eicher, email: tuzlu@att.net.

**November 20**

Virginia Orchid Society, Richmond, VA; Speaker: William Mathis, Wild Orchid Company; contact: Valerie Thacker, email: VLThacker@excite.com.

**November 21**

National Capital Orchid Society, Washington, DC; Speaker: Lauris Rose, Cal-Orchid; contact: Ruth Lazarowitz, email: rlazarowitz@cox.net.

**November 27**

Peninsula Orchid Society, Hampton, VA; Speaker: TBA; contact: Susan Grasso, email: orkidldy@aol.com.

**December 3**

National Capital Judging Center, US National Arboretum, Washington, DC.

**December 4**

Tidewater Orchid Society, Norfolk, VA; Speaker: Rolf Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids; contact: Evalyn Walch, email: walch@verizon.net.

changed greatly in the last 20 years and it's time for all of us to step up and grow our plants the best we can. The better we grow our plants the more rewarding our hobby becomes. This talk will make you a better grower and has tons of helpful tips for difficult to grow species and hybrids. This is an easy to follow common-sense approach to orchid care. You will be amazed at how quickly your plants will respond to just a few changes. This is as helpful to the novice with one plant as to the commercial grower with thousands of plants.

Alan owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact *Cattleyas*. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with three *Cymbidiums* given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow

outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 300,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian *Cattleya* alliance and a trend setter in miniature *Cattleya* breeding. Alan has been published in the **Orchid Digest**, and the American Orchid Society magazines. He has also been published in the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and past chair of the Pacific Central Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors.

**Growing Tips** (con't from Page 5)

phalaenopsis-type *dendrobiums* are generally treated like *cattleyas*, although different growers have different threshold levels.

*Paphiopedilums* are a real mixed bag with respect to temperature. For years several species and their hybrids, notably *P rothchildianum*, were supposed to require cool nights. These do well for me growing alongside my *phals* and get only a week or so of cool nights each year. In general though, paphs can handle cooler nights all year long with no harm.

Some orchids tolerate and even need cooler temperatures. *Zygopetalums* will not spike unless they get some cool weather, typically in the low 50s or upper 40s. The most cold-tolerant group is *cymbidiums*. Some hobbyists claim they get the best blooms only when they leave their *cymbidi-*

*ums* outside until they get a light frost. Bright light and cool nights will provide an abundance of blooms later in the winter for this group. It is important to move them into a place where their spikes can grow and not move them continually. Not only can buds or spikes break, but often buds will blast (drop) if growing conditions are changed too dramatically once buds emerge.

There are many other orchid groups and even orchids within these groups that have specific requirements that are different. *Cattleya violacea* and *C chocoensis* do not like any cool weather. Many *bulbophyllums* and *dendrochilums* also come from climates where they seldom experience any cold weather. Species are generally more temperamental than hybrids, which makes them more of a challenge to grow.





### Welcome Desk

Meet your fellow members and guests by assisting at the Welcome Desk. Contact me at 360-1625 or Valli@GourmetCookiesByValli.com for more information. Thanks to all.

- Valli LaNeve

### Orchid Supplies

Joe Mathias and Machodoc Orchids has been granted exclusive rights for the sale of orchid supplies at ROA programs. If you have a special need, contact him at orchidude@aol.com or (540) 710-2323.

### Gifts to ROA are Tax Deductible

As the end of the year approaches, we want to remind our members that ROA is a qualified non-profit organization under 501(c) (3). A contribution to ROA is tax deductible and is eligible for matching gift programs offered by some employers.

AMERICAN  
ORCHID  
SOCIETY

Memberships are \$46.50 per year and include the monthly magazine Orchids. Details are at www.orchidweb.org. AOS is a 501 (c) (3) organization.



## Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium

The inaugural Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium will be held Saturday, November 12, 2005 at the Ramada 1776 in Williamsburg. Admission is \$40, and because space is limited, so the organizers suggest that interested persons should register early. Register with Dot Pierce, 917 Beryl Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23464; email: pierce.db@verizon.net.

- 8:00 am Early Bird Plant Sales and Coffee
- 8:30 am Deadline for Plants Entered for Judging
- 8:50-9:10 am Welcome
- 9-10:45 am **Alan Koch**, Gold Country Orchids, Lincoln. California  
"Miniature and Compact *Cattleyas*"
- 10:45 am-12:15 pm **Ervin Granier**, Gran Blue Orchids, St. Gabriel, Louisiana  
"The Search for the Blue Orchid"
- 12:15-1:45 pm Buffet Lunch (included in Registration)
- 1:45-3:15 pm **Luiz Hamilton Lima**, Amazon Orchids, Pembroke Pines, Florida  
"*Cattleya walkeriana* and Its Hybrids"
- 3:15-4:30 pm **Rob Griesbach**, USDA  
Will lead the Judging Results, Wrap-up and Panel Discussion

Each presentation will be culture oriented!

Plant Sales 12:15 - 1:45 pm and 4:30 - 5:30 pm  
Additional plant vendors featuring various genera will participate in the sales area.

## ROA Provides Landscape Design for Science Museum of Virginia Atrium

For quite some time, ROA members have been working in the Atrium at the Science Museum of Virginia. We have planted banana trees (now bearing fruit), palm trees, ferns of all kinds, bromeliads, various vines and many other varieties of green plant material. A woodland setting was established featuring a pond (complete with fish and a frog) with water flowing through logs, a rock formation and moss. The area is massive and the centerpiece, a large lattice area against the back wall, was adorned with an abundance of orchids intermingled with numerous ivy baskets and Spanish Moss just in time for 2005 Annual Conference of the Association of Science-Technology Centers. This display has been extremely well received by the SMV staff, general attendees at various events at the museum but most especially by the 1,400 Delegates and their families who came to the Conference.

The very creative Drew Lambeth played a major role in the project and ROA will continue to maintain seasonal motifs. Also contributing to this effort with various plants, props, orchids and most importantly volunteer time: Kathy Walker, Barbara Noe, Buddy Harvie, Valli LaNeve, Jim Creech, Sue and Bill Akin. This project represents another way ROA members work together learning more about orchids as they are sharing the beauty of orchids with others. It is this "hands on" volunteerism where most of us have acquired much of our orchid knowledge working alongside more seasoned orchidists and at the same time making lasting friends in the orchid world.

### Please Note: Program Timetable

Orchid Showcase - plants need to be on table by 2:30 for judging  
Program Speaker to begin by 3:10.

## ***An Orchidist's Lexicon by the Oregon Orchid Society***



### ***Board of Directors***

*Bill Akin – Chair*

*Barbara Noe – Vice Chair*

*Sue Akin – Director of Finance*

*Kathy Walker – Director of Records*

*Valli LaNeve – Director of Outreach*

*Jim Creech – Director of Member  
Services*

*Wanda Andrako – Director at Large*

*Bayne Hawkins – Director at Large*

### **We're on the Web!**

**Visit us at:**

[www.richmondorchidalliance.com](http://www.richmondorchidalliance.com)

***An Orchidist's Lexicon*** is a long awaited resource for orchid growers and hobbyists. The first edition was published in 1969 by the Oregon Orchid Society and became a valuable resource for many orchid hobbyists, and has continued to be sought even after all these years. It has taken 35 years for the pamphlet to be updated (certainly deserving revision long before now), but the revision is here now and it is much appreciated.

Although the pamphlet is not designed for the uninitiated, there is some basic information on describing the components of an orchid, identifying the parts of the world various genera originate, linking common orchid names with their botanical names, identifying orchids with fragrances (including in a separate category those with unpleasant fragrances), some basic information on major orchid societies, and a conversion table of measures of length, liquids and temperature.

While the above sounds like a lot of information, it only encompasses about a quarter of the pamphlet's 96 pages of content. Almost a quarter of the pamphlet's content is devoted to multigeneric crosses. The authors have painstakingly identified the name of each multigeneric hybrid name accepted by the Royal Horticultural Society (at press time) and the genera involved in creating the hybrid. About a quarter of the pamphlet is a listing of generic names, coupled with the author who named the genera, a guide to pronunciation, the etymology of the word, and a key to the parts of the world the genera may be found in nature. The remaining quarter is a glossary of words used largely by botanists and orchiphiles.

All told, this is a handy reference that is literally packed with information for the orchid hobbyist. A limited number of these pamphlets are available from ROA, and if the interest is there, more can be ordered – see Sue Akin.

– Jim Creech



**P.O. Box 14572**

**Richmond, VA 23221**