

Richmond Orchid Alliance
We are all about Orchids!

Jim Creech, Editor
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Rebecca Randolph, Asst. Editor

February 2006

Upcoming ROA events:

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

April 7-9 - Orchid Show and Sale
(set up April 6); AOS judged show
sponsored by ROA at the Science
Museum of Virginia

May 14 - **Carol Allen**, US Botanical
Gardens. Interactive Workshop
on Down and Dirty Potting and Pests

June 11 - **Steven Frowine**. Author
of *Orchids for Dummies* and
Fragrant Orchids

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

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ROA Bulletin

ROA Welcomes Dr. Glenn Lehr

This month, ROA returns to the Discovery Room (our usual meeting location). At that time, ROA will welcome Dr. Glenn Lehr, whose talk is entitled "The Wonderful Orchids and Shows of Japan."

Dr. Lehr will take us on a unique travelogue of orchid shows in Japan and native plants through a slide presentation. If you have ever wanted to visit Japan, this program will provide you with a unique glimpse of this beautiful country and its outstanding orchids. The best part is no passport and no line at customs or the airport.

Please preview plant selections that are available on the website (www.newworldorchids.com). Have

a pencil and paper with you to jot down your selections. Then ensure that Dr. Lehr will bring the plants you want to add to your collection by preordering.

New World Orchids offers plants not available through other commercial growers. Except for the most common varieties, many of the native Japanese orchids have been unobtainable outside of Japan. Dr. Lehr has concentrated on Japanese orchids because many of them are compact, fragrant and highly desirable. New World Orchids now has more than 80 varieties of *Neofinetia falcata*, 50 varieties of *Dendrobium moniliforme* and several forms of *Sedirea japonica*

Potting Mixes That I Have Known

We started growing orchids here in Virginia about 30 years ago. I had come from Miami, where we had orchids hanging from the tree branches. Our Miami orchids stayed outside all the time and really didn't require much care at all. Growing in Virginia was another situation all together.

Fir bark - When we started, the main media was fir bark, sometimes alone and other times mixed with various other things. This was not really the best, but better than other media available at the time. Fir bark was frequently used alone, particularly for paphs. One problem with it was snow mold, but adding redwood fiber or chips to the bark helped with this. Some time later, perlite and Styrofoam pieces were added. The Styrofoam would fly

away, and got all over the house or yard. Most growers used that for many years, and some still do, but with other additives. Fir bark is now expensive, so coconut fiber or chips (coir) has been substituted in the past few years.

Cork - Cork was used briefly. We had bought a couple of plants in it, and it was praised by some growers, so we bought a box. We never used it, and threw it out a few months ago when cleaning the garage. It turned to mush in a very short time.

Pea gravel - Pea gravel was used in Florida, and we bought some plants in it. This media was good for Florida in some ways, but not Virginia. It is very heavy, and when

(continued on P. 8 "Potting")



Phal. (Asian Elegance x Taisuco Sheen)



Jim Culbert

Budding Advice

If you have a mounted plant that is having difficulty getting enough water, try using a pot. Select a pot that is larger than the mounting, fill the pot between 1/2 to 2/3 full of a well-draining material (lava rock, aliflor, pebbles), then set the mounted plant so that it sits at an angle, but will not tip over. By sitting on an angle, water will be held on the mounting for a little longer, allowing additional absorption by the roots.

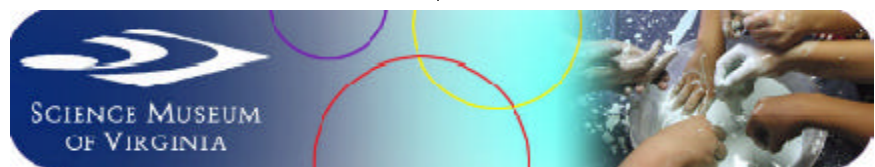
Orchid Spotlight: *Phal.* (Asian Elegance x Taisuco Sheen) and Jim Culbert

This plant is *Phal* (Asian Elegance x Taisuco Sheen). (*Editor: This hybrid has not been registered with the Royal Horticultural Society yet*). I have it planted in a sphagnum moss and wood chip mix. I water about once per week and fertilize with a weak MSU Fertilizer weekly. It is grown in a greenhouse until it blooms. I do not put it out in the summer. I have had the plant for less about two years and it has bloomed 2 times this year.

I have been growing orchids for about 27 years and have approx 150 plants, mostly *Phals* plus about 10 each of *Cats* and *Oncidium* alliance. As you can guess, I love the *Phals* because they bloom for months at a time and I now have blooming *Phals* all 12 months of the year. I don't remember where I got this one.

-Jim Culbert

A few weeks ago, I placed my very first order for a few rare species plants from Andy's Orchids online. A few days later, the plants arrived. Upon inspection, they looked great, so off they went to the isolation chamber. A few days later I received a message from a representative from Andy's Orchids wanting to know if the plants had arrived safely and to my satisfaction. They left a toll-free number to call with any questions. I have to say I was stunned. Another week went by, and I rediscovered the message and decided to call. Andy answered the telephone. I confirmed my satisfaction with the plants I had ordered. Andy answered a few cultural questions that I could not find answers for anywhere in print. He also gave me some very helpful tips. I could not help myself, and asked him if this was standard practice to call. He replied, "Yes, and it has always been how I have done and will do business." You may not be, but I am amazed that in this day and age, a business owner is so committed to customer service and satisfaction. You know I will place an order again. Thank you, Andy!



In many ways, the Science Museum of Virginia is our partner in helping to educate others about orchids and their cultivation. The following are some of the benefits of membership with the Science Museum.

- Unlimited free exhibit admission for an entire year
- Free passes and discounted tickets to the Ethyl IMAX® DOME and Planetarium
- Members-only reservation service
- 10% discount on purchases in Shop 4 Science
- Invitations to special events
- Free subscription to Quest, the quarterly members newsletter
- Discounts on classes and special programs
- Free admission to more than 250 science and technology centers worldwide, including eight in Virginia



Members Please Note!

If you have moved, changed your telephone number or email address, please email Richmond Orchid Alliance with the change at OrchidAlliance@aol.com or to P.O. Box 14572, Richmond, VA 23221.

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

From Courtney Hackney

Dear Barbara,

Please thank your society for us. You were so great and hospitable even though the weather did not cooperate. Members kept apologizing for the low attendance, but I was actually amazed that as many came out as we had. Our local society would not have done nearly as well.

Sincerely,
Courtney Hackney

Courtney also wanted the rest of our membership to know that if they want a copy of his book that he will extend the \$50 price to them, and he will pay the packing and shipping to one address here in Richmond. So if you missed out at the program send an email to rose4art@bellsouth.net or phone Courtney at 910-686-1098. The books will be delivered to ROA and available for pickup when members come for the 2 P.M. docent-led tour during Discover Orchids!



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Maximizing Your Membership

An Orchid Show is a grouping of artistically created displays of orchids usually from 25-100 sq. ft. each composed of orchids, props, greens and moss. The orchids will have been registered with the show so that they can be judged by a group of AOS Judges; who in our case come from the National Capital Judging Center in Washington. The displays will be judged for general arrangement (i.e. balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm and scale), for quality of flowers, for variety, and for labeling. These displays are vying for ribbons, rosettes and trophies that reward their merit. Every display has an equal chance of winning — it is not necessarily the largest or the one with the biggest plants. The only Gold Medal exhibit winner this writer has ever seen was displayed on a six foot table. Exhibiting is hard work, but lots of fun and very rewarding.

Each orchid within these exhibits will be judged for size, condition and floriferousness against each flower in the show within its category. Ultimately, there is usually a Blue, Red and Yellow Ribbon given within a category. Sometimes a White Honorable Mention Ribbon is awarded as well. This process culminates in rosettes and some trophy awards being given for the top orchids in the show. The reality is that everyone has an equal chance for these awards if their plant is best — this could be the only plant you own or one of hundreds in your collection. So the first reason for being interested in this event is to be involved, to engage in the camaraderie that prevails during set-up time for a show, the thrill of victory if you win, and the agony of defeat if you have to wait until next time for your award.

(continued on P. 7 "Maximize")

ROA Bulletin Volunteer for Discover Orchids!

ROA's AOS-judged Show

As a member of the Richmond Orchid Alliance, you are encouraged to participate in the planning, preparation for, and production of **DISCOVER ORCHIDS!**, our first AOS-Judged Show and Sale. The show will be held April 7-9, 2006, with set-up on Thursday, April 6th.

These events are fun and a real learning experience, so please take time to review the areas that might interest you, and let us know how you would like to assist in making this a special event and a real team effort. Please contact Bayne Hawkins, Buddy Harvie or Barbara Noe by **March 6, 2006**.

Advanced Planning

* Sponsor one of the major awards given during the judging of this show. (The cost is \$50 each. Your name will appear in the program and on the award card as sponsor of the award - e.g., "Best Phalaenopsis In Show sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Henri Everspring.") **You must confirm by March 1st if interested.**

* Help distribute posters and flyers in targeted commercial areas and neighborhoods. (This help is particularly needed during the two weeks prior to the event, and in your own area as well.)

* If you have suggestions or ideas to promote **DISCOVER ORCHIDS!** in the Greater Richmond area, please pass them on to one of the show coordinators.

Advanced Basic Set-up

The committee does this late on Wed. April 5th, but anyone available is welcome to pitch in.

(continued on P. 9 "Show")



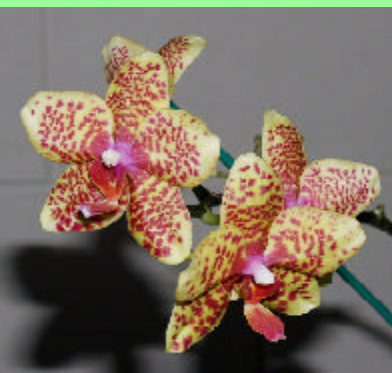
Showcased Orchids



Paph. Norita Hasegawa
Grown by Ann Fowler



Lyc. Eightsixth Kiss
Grown by Allen Black



Phal. Goldberry 'Freckles'
Grown by Jim Culbert

Paphiopedilum Norita Hasegawa is a primary hybrid between *P. armeniacum* and *P. malipoense*. Both parents are from the *parvisepalum* branch of *Paphiopedilums*; those *Paphs* known for having big, puffy pouches. These hybrids can range from yellow to green depending on the dominant parent. In this instance, the primary influence comes from *P. armeniacum* as can be seen by the largely yellow flower, but the green of *P. malipoense* can be seen in the upper sepal. The flowers have good size, are long lasting and typically have a pine scent. It is reported to be easy to grow and flower, while the plant stays compact in size. The hybrid was registered in 1992 and was originated by Terry Root at Orchid Zone.

Lycaste Eightsixth Kiss is a recent Erich Michel cross, having been registered in 2004 by Hoosier Orchids. Its parents are *Lyc.* Geri Male and *Lyc.* Golden Emperor 'Hoosier' FCC/AOS. When it earned the FCC, *Lyc.* Golden Emperor was described as "probably the finest yellow *Lycaste* in the world at the present time." The intensity of that yellow is softened in *Lyc.* Eightsixth Kiss. *Lycastes* need cooler temperatures than many orchids; Hoosier Orchids reports that it tries to keep the temperature between 52F (night) and 68F (day) throughout the year.

Phalaenopsis Goldberry 'Freckles' is a complex hybrid using *P.* Misty Green and *P.* Golden Ambion. It was part of Herb Hager's work on developing yellow *Phals* and was registered in 1990. Many of the *P.* Goldberry plants that are available do not have the spotting that is evidenced on this flower; the 'Freckles' clone emerged out of a sibling cross made at Carmela Orchids in Hawaii.

Judges: Wanda Andrako, Buddy Harvie, and Chuck Gardner
Commentary by: Courtney Hackney
Cattleya

Blue - *Slc.* Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' AM/AOS - Carol Hollenbeck
Red - *C. mossiae* 'Willowbrook' - The Andrako's
Yellow - *Blc.* George King 'Serendipity' - L.K. (Buddy) Harvie

Dendrobium
Blue - *Den. atrovioleaceum* ('Pygmy' x 'H&R')- The Creeches
Red - *Den.* Yellow Chinsai 'Little Joe' - The Creeches
Yellow - *Den.* Chinsai 'Floradise I' - Allen Black

Paphiopedilum
Blue - *P.* Norita Hasegawa - Ann Fowler
Red - *P.* Myra - Joe Mathias
Yellow - *P.* Virgin Saint - The Andrakos

Phalaenopsis
Blue - *Phal. schilleriana* - The Andrako's
Red - *Phal.* Goldberry 'Freckles' - Jim Culbert
Yellow - *Phal.* Brother Redland Spots - Chuck Gardner

Phragmipedium
Blue - *P. longifolium* - Joe Mathias
Red - *P.* Lynn Evans-Goldner - Allen Black

Vandaceous
Blue - *Ascda.* Princess Mikasa 'Rosado' - Mike Mealy
Red - *Ascda.* Princess Mikasa 'Blue Velvet' - Carol Hollenbeck
Yellow - *Ascda.* Udomchai Beuty - Mike Mealy

Other
Yellow - *Lyc.* Geri Male - Allen Black
Red - *Lyc.* Eightsixth Kiss - Allen Black

January Showcase
Judges: Wanda Andrako, Buddy Harvie, and Carol Hollenbeck
Commentary by: Jeanette and James Harris, and Linda Thorne





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 15th of the month prior to a meeting. Unless otherwise credited, all images in this publication were by the editor.



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

Orchid plants need roots! That statement seems so obvious that many of us forget the pivotal role this part of the plant plays. Much of the other aspects of orchid culture, e.g. light intensity, fertilizer, etc, all depend on the mass of tissues we call roots.

In nature, most epiphytes, i.e. orchids growing attached to trees, have far more living root tissues than leaves, bulbs, and stems. That ratio of roots to leaves & stems tells us that the plant is limited by either water or nutrients, both of which are taken up by roots. The fact that roots quickly penetrate into the growing medium and around and on the pot of our orchids in culture tells us that they too require these water & nutrients for growth.

Over the years, I have visited many commercial and hobby orchid growers and observed all kinds of orchids being grown both poorly and well. The one great surprise is that there is no universal set of cultural techniques used by great growers. One hobbyist claimed that he never or rarely fertilized and grew in very high light. While his orchid's leaves were yellow green, they were clearly blooming and growing well. Another excellent grower fertilized every time he watered, except for flushing without fertilizer once a month. He too, had beautifully grown plants and excellent flowers. The one difference between the orchids in these two greenhouses was the quantity of roots on orchids from these two growers.

Orchids fertilized with every watering had fewer roots than my own plants, while orchids that were never fertilized had at least twice as many. It has always been very easy to move plants into my culture when

they had more roots than when they had less.

Most orchid hobbyists purchase orchids for the flowers and may casually look at leaves and bulbs. The roots, however, hold the key to growing this orchid after it finishes flowering. An orchid with few roots relative to the weight of leaves will need to spend much of the energy derived from photosynthesis growing roots unless it has constant moisture and nutrients. Satisfying this requirement can be difficult for most hobbyists, especially if the medium in which you grow is coarse, or you grow in high light or heat. It does not matter if there were never roots on the plant or that they were killed by over watering, the effect is the same and the remedy is to grow more roots.

Once roots are lost it is very difficult for the hobbyist to get adequate nutrients into the orchid plant since roots are the main route into the plant. Some growers claim great success "foliar feeding" orchids. Most scientific studies have not been able to verify nutrient uptake through this method. The waxy leaf tissues prevent water loss and consequently water gain. The only exceptions are the stomata underneath leaves. These open to admit carbon dioxide and release water vapor for cooling.

When roots are lost it is necessary to reduce all factors which tend to remove water from the plant and to encourage new root growth. Withholding water from the plant will encourage new root growth in most hybrids and some species. This must be accompanied by high humidity and lower light to avoid

(continued on P. 6 "Growing Tips")

New Showcase Entry Form

Showcase Entry and Judging

The new Showcase entry form is reproduced on the right so that, if you choose to, you can fill the form out in advance. Plants for the Showcase need to arrive by 1:30 so that they will be ready for judging. To be eligible for judging, you need to have owned the plant for at least six months. Any blooming plant, though, is a welcome addition

If you are interested in judging, or observing while the judging is taking place, see Wanda Andrako or Jim Creech when you arrive.

Welcome Desk

Thanks to all and especially Thuyen Trevino for helping at the February program. At the March program, Thuyen Trevino will be joined by Mary Ann Adams; both are looking forward to seeing or assisting you at the program.

- Valli LaNeve

Members in the News

ROA members Allen Black, Jim Creech, Chuck Gardner, Valli LaNeve, Barbara Noe, David Sombach, Thuyen Trevino and Kathy Walker attended the Paph Forum at the U.S. National Arboretum on February 18.

Congratulations to ROA winners at the Forum:

3rd *Paph.* species: *Parvisepalum - Paph. armeniacum* (D. Sombach)

2nd *Paph.* species: Other - *Paph. acmodontum* (D. Sombach)

2nd *Phrag.* hybrid: *besseae* influenced (red, orange) - *Phrag.* China Dragon (A. Black)

3rd *Phrag.* hybrid: *besseae* influenced (red, orange) - *Phrag.* Jason Fischer (A. Black)

3rd *Phrag.* hybrid: Other - *Phrag.* After-Glo (D. Sombach)

Category (Check Entry Category)

- Cattleya Cymbidium Paphiopedilum
 Dendrobium Intergeneric Phalaenopsis
 Vandaceous Other Phragmipedium
 New Grower

Plant Name

fold over

Grower Name

Growing Tips (con't from Page 5)

overly desiccating the plant. *Vandas* and *phals*, or any member of the *vandaceous* or *angraecoid* group can be encouraged to grow their few, thick roots by applying one of the commercial root-inducing hormones, usually dissolved in lanolin and sold as a paste. This works extremely well and is well worth the cost to save a few plants.

For orchids such as *cattleyas*, *oncidiums*, *dendrobiums* and even *paphs*, fertilizing with a fertilizer made from seaweed will often stimulate both root growth and multiple new growths. These fertilizers contain auxins, plant hormones in tiny quantities that are enough to initiate new growth. I recently added one of the powdered root-inducing hormones (RooTone) to my fertilizer water to try to stimulate new growth and was rewarded by lots of new roots in the next few weeks.

Root growth for some orchid species, though, is almost impossible to initiate except at very specific times in the growth cycle. Some bifoliate *cattleya* species only put out a very small number of roots and if these are damaged or destroyed, there will be no growth until the following year at the same time. Once roots are lost from these orchids it is necessary to fool the plant into initiating another growth cycle by altering day length and temperature. Do not try this unless you know exactly what conditions are necessary to stimulate root growth.

The sun is getting higher on the horizon and unprotected orchids on the windowsill and near the greenhouse glazing can burn. It is easy to tell if your plants are getting too much sunshine by examining leaf pigments. More red color and natural pigmentation is a sign that it is time to add shading.



*Calendar of Events
Outside of ROA:*

January 21 - April 2

U.S. Botanic Garden, "Simply
Suplime: Orchids in Art Deco
Garden"

February 25 - April 2

Eric Haupt Conservatory, New York
Botanic Garden, "The Orchid
Show"

March 4

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

March 4

National Capital Orchid Society
auction and sale, US National
Arboretum, Washington, DC.
contact: Ruth Lazarowitz, email:
ncos_information@yahoo.com.

March 6

Hollin Hills Orchid Society,
Annandale, VA; Holiday Party;
contact: Stefanie Jarrell, email:
Stefanie.Jarrell@wilmerhale.com.

March 12

Charlottesville Orchid Society,
Charlottesville, VA; Speaker: Dennis
D'Allesandro of Gypsy Glen Or-
chids; contact: Brenda Steigma,
email: Bsteigma@aol.com.

March 16

National Capital Orchid Society,
Washington, DC; Speaker: TBA;
contact: Ruth Lazarowitz, email:
ncos_information@yahoo.com.

March 19

Virginia Orchid Society, Richmond,
VA; contact: Valerie Thacker, email:
VLThacker@excite.com.

Maximize (con't from Page 3)

There is also the possibility that your plant might be 'pulled' by the AOS Judges for special consideration after ribbon judging is complete. This is the same type of scrutiny that takes place monthly at the various judging centers. Orchids can receive AOS awards at local shows such as the one ROA is hosting April 7-9, 2006. And, this is another excellent reason to care about and participate in this show!

The orchid vendor sales tables are always a highlight of every orchid show. Yes, you will see some familiar faces since most orchid groups always welcome their vendor-members to participate, but there are usually a few vendors participating that you may have heard about but not had a firsthand opportunity to purchase their plants. Supplies and other orchid related items will be available at this orchid market which is another excellent reason to care about this show.

There will be orchid information and education as well as docent-led tours through the exhibit and sales areas. Attendance by local residents is generally very high at orchid shows and, of course, all true orchidists from the region will attend. So what is the final good reason to care about this show? The people you will meet, exchange orchid growing ideas with, learn about their orchid groups and events they are having that you might like to attend. Most orchid people are very eager to share their knowledge and enjoy other orchid people in an atmosphere of goodwill. This makes all the effort worthwhile. We hope you will be involved as a participant, as an attendee, all for the love of orchids. Richmond Orchid Alliance is 'All About Orchids' and we relish this opportunity to share our love for orchids with others.

- Barbara Noe

AOS Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Help the American Orchid Society by participating in the Member-Get-A-Member Campaign.

For each new member recruited by a current AOS member, both the new and recruiting member will receive a 4-inch-pot-size orchid from one of many excellent participating orchid nurseries. Joint memberships receive only one plant. The reward plant selection includes blooming-size or near-blooming-size cattleyas, phalaenopsis, oncidiums and paphiopedilums - all of the utmost quality from some of the finest commercial growers.

That is all there is to it! You recruit a new member, and you each receive an orchid: one for you and one for the new AOS member. And the topper is that each new member will realize the many outstanding benefits that come with an AOS membership.

For subscription rates and information contact Membership Services Department (561-404-2000, email TheAOS@aos.org).



ROA is affiliated with the 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.



Potting (con't from Page 10)

repotting, the roots tear from the moving stones.

Sugar cane bagasse - Sugar cane bagasse (the waste from refining sugar cane at the mills) was used briefly. It looked something like shredded corn stalks. The sugar in it helped the plants grow, but the bagasse was hard to keep damp, and if it dried out, it was almost impossible to rewet. We used this on some small plants only.

Rockwool - We purchased rockwool from a grower that had mixed it already and guaranteed that it could not be over watered. He lied. It was soft, and provided no support for the plants.

Sphagnum - Sphagnum was used for many genera, and found to be a very good product. New Zealand sphagnum is still used, but the price has risen. We tried Brazilian sphagnum, and found that it was not any good alone and not much good mixed with bark. Sphagnum is still used and is a great medium for many plants. It can be used to rehabilitate phals that have lost many roots and need help. This we have used for small phals and some other genera.

Pro-Mix - Pro-Mix was recommended by Mark Rose many years ago for phals. We added large perlite and Styrofoam packing peanuts. The Styrofoam is placed throughout the mix to prevent packing and staying too wet. With Pro-Mix, you get good roots and do not have a lot of aerial roots to contend with.

Tree fern - Tree fern was popular in Florida and also in Virginia for a while. It doesn't do as well here,

and tears up your hands in potting. It also makes a good home for bugs in the pots, creating many hiding places for mealy bugs and scale.

Rock-like material - We also tried some rock-like material on a few plants. I'm not certain what it was, but this was about 10 years ago, and it resembled diatomite or expanded clay product. We had little information on how to use it at the time and only had about five plants in it.

Aliflor - Aliflor was tried after being highly recommended by an excellent grower. Some plants liked it, and others didn't. The plants looked great, but the roots didn't. The watering schedule needed to be carefully adjusted, and aliflor provided a great home for bugs.

Aussie Gold® - Aussie Gold® holds some promise. You can reuse the medium when repotting. You need to learn to watch the plants carefully for watering so that you create a routine right for them. I do not see the large numbers of roots that the ads show, but there are roots and the plants look good. We have had plants in this medium for about six months or so. Time will tell.
(Editor's note: For more on Aussie Gold, see www.aussie-gold.com.)

Tropical plant mix - Tropical plant mix, found bagged at some of the local stores such as Home Depot, provides an airy environment for the



Cattleya aurantiaca
grown by L.K. (Buddy) Harvie

roots and doesn't get over watered too easily. The phals put out many aerial roots, so when you pick up one pot you have several others hanging! They appear to be doing well in it, as do the other genera.

Wine corks - There is a mix we have never tried but is supposed to be good — wine corks. I suspect the sugar would be good, but the cork would deteriorate rapidly. We could never get enough of them to pot one plant, so I can't vouch for it.

Coir mixtures - Coir comes mixed with perlite, charcoal, or aliflor, etc. Combinations vary somewhat, but the plants do well. This is great stuff for many genera. Coir lasts longer than fir bark, and we haven't found snow mold in it at all.

Diatomite - We have not tried straight Diatomite, and doubt that we will any time soon.

With all these mixes, you have to watch the watering schedules carefully, and that changes from genera to genera as well as from summer to fall to winter. For us, it works best when plants are placed together that require the same schedule even if in different media.

At this point, I know a lot of things that don't work, and some real stand-bys that work very well.

-Wanda Andrako



Paphiopedilum Virgin Saint (P.
Yerba Buena 'White Cap' AM/AOS
x P. Twin Saints 'Devine')
grown by Wanda and John Andrako



Show (con't from Page 3)

Set-up Day

Thursday, April 6, 2006

* Vendor Assistance Team - helps vendors and exhibitors move their orchids and supplies from their vehicles to either the Forum or Discovery Room, shows them their allocated space, helps them with information about location of data entry area for plant registration, etc., informs vendors of refreshments during the day, places nearby for lunch and dinner that evening, etc.

* Plant Registration Team. Data entry and other assistance in the plant registration area. Computer and reference skills helpful. This is a great way to learn lots more about orchids and their parentage. Resource materials will be available for you.

* ROA Display - Assist in creating a display of orchids for ROA that will give our members an opportunity to have their plants judged. Although plants are judged, the exhibit WILL NOT BE JUDGED as we do not feel we should be in competition with our guests.

* Member Exhibits - Create an exhibit of your own (25-100 square feet). This is a great learning experience, and this can be done on your own or you can develop an exhibit with others.

* Refreshments - Provide cookies or packaged snacks to be available to guests during set-up all day, or a salad or dessert for the informal dinner that will be available 5:30-7:00 PM for our visitors.



* Assist in preparing the buffet table for guests by 5:30 PM.

* Assist in tidying up the show and sales area when dinner is finished and all set-up is complete in the evening.

* Do you/or your office have access to high speed B & W printing for about 600 copies around 8:00 PM Thursday evening?

Friday, April 7, 2006

* Provide breakfast pastries, sweet breads or whole fresh fruits for the continental breakfast served to about 30 judges and clerks, beginning 7:30 AM.

* Clerk during the judging of the show beginning 8:00 AM. There is no better way to learn about orchids and the process of judging orchids than to clerk. Technical knowledge and experience are not required; there is a job for everyone. Joe Mathias is great at showing/telling you what to do. Try it!

* Be available to sell for a vendor that might also be judging on Friday 8 AM - 1 PM. Even though the show does not open until around Noon, some sales are made before then. Although it is not written in stone, but this sometimes results in a nice gift plant to you for being so helpful.

* Provide dessert for the judges' luncheon (30 desserts would be needed). This is an informal event dovetailed with AOS judging after ribbon judging is complete and the show has officially opened.

* Help at the show information desk beginning just before Noon on Friday and continuing daily during show hours. There will be several shifts each day of the show. We need willing smiling faces that can pass out programs, culture sheets, and ROA information, and direct folks

where they want to go. You do not have to be an expert to do this necessary work! We will also have some demonstrations by advanced growers of potting, etc. in this area and will need assistance with clean up afterwards and keeping the area tidy.

* Assist with docent-led tours. There will be scheduled tours twice each day of the show leading interested people through the displays and into the sales area. This is a job for a more advanced grower to answer the questions that might come up and assist folks in finding orchids to buy.

* On Sunday (which would have been our regular meeting date) we will have a special tour just for ROA members throughout the entire show area explaining the process of the show, the displays, and the plants, and on to the sales area.

* If there is another area where you would like to assist, but don't see it listed, please contact one of the show coordinators.

Your Show Coordinators

- Buddy Harvie 272-3784
llewellynh@worldnet.att.net
- Bayne Hawkins 560-0205
baynehawkins@comcast.net
- Barbara Noe 355-2270
celorchids@aol.com



Subscriptions are \$32 per year and issues appear quarterly. Details can be found at www.orchiddigest.com. ROA is affiliated with Orchid Digest. Orchid Digest is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

ROA Birthdays

Barbara Collmann - March 7
Sue Akin - March 25

Thanks for the Refreshments

Thanks to all who brought food for the Reception Table. Barbara Sims, Valli Laneve, Nancy Thompson, and Kathy Walker brought goodies that were enjoyed by all, but a special thanks to Michael Mealy for bringing the wonderful pulled barbeque.

-Kathy Walker

Gell Well Soon!!

We wish Gloria Thompson a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

Orchid Consultants

Wanda Andrako, Buddy Harvie, and Bayne Hawkins are available after every program to consult on any plant with a problem.

ROA Milestone

Arline and Dermot Murphy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 4.

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.

In Your Words: National Capital Judging Center

Why were you interested in attending? I was interested in learning more about what the judges are looking for in a plant and seeing the plants that were brought for judging - I figured there would be some really beautiful plants to see, which there were. There were also some unusual ones that I wasn't familiar with.

On average how many plants do you take? I have only attended twice, and each time, I just took one plant. I don't really own many that I think would be eligible for an award, but I've taken two of my favorites that were blooming well. They each got some nice comments from the judges, but didn't meet the criteria for an award. You don't need to take a plant to attend - the last time I went, there were a number of people who just came to watch and listen to the judging, but didn't bring any plants of their own to be judged.

What do you enjoy most? Of course I enjoyed seeing the other beautiful plants, and listening to the judges' discussion. They were very friendly and welcoming, and took time to explain things to those of us who were there observing. They invited us to pull our chairs right up to the table so we could look over their shoulders and listen to their discussions and occasionally ask questions.

What are some of things you have learned, observed by attending? It was very interesting to hear the judges' critiques and it helped me learn a lot more about what would be more likely to win. The flower quality awards are geared towards awarding plants that are an improvement over their parents, so even a plant that meets many of the judging criteria for its category will not win anything if it is not significantly better than its parents. The

cultural awards are given to especially well grown plants, usually large specimen plants with many blooms. Also, if a particular clone has already been awarded, yours needs to be even better in order to achieve a higher award. So, if you have a clone that has already been awarded an AM in the low 80's, they're not going to give another AM with the same point level - your plant would have to be really spectacular to achieve a higher level award. If you're really interested in learning more about what is being awarded, I would suggest subscribing to the Awards Quarterly magazine from the AOS, and/or buying a copy of the Wildcatt database if you want to be able to easily look up what awards a particular plant may have previously received.

What advice would you give a member attending for the first time? The judging usually starts at noon and goes for several hours, so eat lunch before you get there, or bring it with you. Some of the judges and audience members brought their lunches and ate while the judging was occurring (which I also did the second time I went). When you get there, talk to people, and don't hesitate to ask questions - the judges have an amazing knowledge of orchids and all seemed very willing to take time to help educate the rest of us!

-Carol Hollenbeck



Asca. Princess Mikasa 'Rosaldo'
grown by Michael Mealy

Thank You From the Resource Cart

ROA has received books and material donations from Kathy and Paul Philhour, Barbara Noe, Bayne Hawkins, Wanda and John Andrako, Bill and Sue Akin, Le Blumreich and Jay Gammon, Buddy Harvie, Valli LaNeve and Jim Creech, Barbara Sims, David and Betty Essex, and Kathy Walker.

Thanks for your support!

- Kathy Walker

New Additions to the ROA Resource Cart

Culture of Phalaenopsis, Orchid Seedling Care, Phalaenopsis Culture: A Worldwide Survey, Author: Bob Gordon
Donated by Bill and Sue Akin

Lycaste Species: The Essential Guide, Author: Henry L. Oakeley
Donated by Bill and Sue Akin

All about Growing Orchids, Ortho
Donated by Buddy Harvie

Orchid Thief, Author: Sue Orlean
Donated by Buddy Harvie

Masdevallias: Gems of the Orchid World, Authors: Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parson
Donated by Valli LaNeve and Jim Creech

New from AOS: e-AOS Awards

The American Orchid Society is pleased to announce the e-AOS Awards Subscription Service. It is anticipated that the program will be available in late February 2006.

This new program provides access to all of the AOS awards data from 1932 to the present in Awards Quarterly format. Utilization of this program will allow subscribers to access an incredible amount of data never before available in a user-friendly electronic format. The e-AOS Awards program is powered by a high speed, menu-driven Visual FoxPro database that enables subscribers to search for award information in seven different ways: by plant name, by genus only, by name only, by string only, by cultivar only, by exhibitor only, or by show location.

The program was designed to allow flexibility and allow a subscriber to access data in the most useful format for their needs. Users have the ability to select how the results of the search are displayed: in alphabetical order; by date in descending order; or by award classification. During the easy look-up and selection process, asterisks indicate where there are photographs; the preferred name when synonyms are involved; the total number of awards; the number of awards by award category; and snapshot views of the award dimensions as selected.

When ready for launch in February 2006, it is anticipated that the subscription program will contain more than 10,000 pictures — taken from the actual award slide images that make up the AOS's archives. These award images may be viewed separately or as part of the award look-up process. The programmers will continue to add scanned award slides into the program as they

become available, with the goal of ultimately including all past and present usable slides. As digital photography becomes more prevalent in documenting orchid awards, digital images of awards will become part of this service as well.

With the permission and cooperation of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), information from the Sander's Register of Orchid Hybrids has also been included in the product. This value-added feature was also designed with ease-of-use and flexibility in mind. Therefore, a subscriber has a variety of options for looking up information. A subscriber can: search for parents of a hybrid; search for grex when only the parents are known; bring up (for example) a six-generation family tree of a hybrid; list the progeny of any species or hybrid; find a hybrid name using a partial string search; or look up the hybrid derivation of any natural genus.

How does the subscription service work? Annual subscriptions can be purchased from the AOS for only \$45 per year (AOS member discount does not apply). Updates for AOS awards and images will be available via Internet service on a monthly basis through a simple command button within the program. Sander's information and other updates will be provided via the Internet on a quarterly basis or as available. All updates will be available for downloading from within the program (using the Internet from your computer) utilizing a username and password during the one-year period that constitutes an active subscription.

For more information or questions about this new offering, please contact the AOS at TheAOS@aos.org — Subject: e-AOS Awards Subscription Service.



ROA Signposts



Dendrobium Silver Bells
grown by Arline and Dermot
Murphy

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

Richmond Orchid Alliance began in June 2005 and immediately went with what was a successful and enjoyable repotting session. We are now approaching the near end of a year of operation. We began with the concept that people were interested in "culture." To many of us, names meant something, to others it carried little weight. Our speakers have come from Florida, California and North Carolina and they have spoken to us almost like a "one on one" discussion. Each has presented a little different commentary and we have even learned the proper way to view pictures of our plants.

I know that some of the cultural suggestions are being followed, and the open discussions with speakers have generated interest and different ways to do things. Our remaining speakers for the year bring a wealth of knowledge and experience: Dr. Glenn Lehr will show us those great exhibits done by the Japanese which we so love to see, Carol Allen who will discuss repotting and pests (right at the time we are looking to repot and treat our plants), Steve Frowine who will discuss my favorite topic, "Orchids for Dummies," Norman Fang who has those lovely

phals in every AOS magazine, and Glen Decker from New York. Yes, another repotting session is being planned for the summer when we are thinking this needs doing, and another bus trip is being considered where we will visit a grower and hear "on site" discussions of "how to grow."

A lot has been accomplished in a short time and you, the members, have been the beneficiary of the Board's efforts. I hope that you have benefited from each and every session that you have attended (and that you have attended each of those sessions).

It is now time that we heard from you. I hope you will talk with one or more members of the Board at the next program, and all future programs as we go forward, to let us know what you like, would like to see changed, can do for you to make your orchid growing more fun and rewarding. We are talking to you through these programs, now you talk to us. Together, we will enjoy beautiful orchids and feel good about it.

BUT DON'T FORGET - BRING A FRIEND TO THE NEXT PROGRAM. Share your fun.

- Bill Akin



**P.O. Box 14572
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