

Richmond Orchid Alliance
We are all about Orchids!

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May 2006

Upcoming ROA events:

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

July 9 - Repotting by the Tracks. Repotting and refreshments on the railroad tracks behind the Science Museum.

August 13 - ROA Bus Trip. A behind the scenes tour of the U.S. Botanical Gardens' orchid collection.

September 10 - Norman Fang, Norman's Orchids, Monclair, CA.

November 12 - Glen Decker, Piping Rock Orchids, Galway, NY.

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 Steve Frowine

Steve Frowine's Program for the Richmond Orchid Alliance on Sunday, June 11, 2006 "The ABC's of Orchid Parenthood" a special program designed just for ROA on orchid culture—light (natural and artificial), temperature, humidity, watering techniques, water quality, fertilizers, potting materials, pest controls, saving plants in bad shape etc. - a hands-on clinic where members can bring in orchids with problems for consultation and diagnosis.

Steve Frowine has been fascinated with horticulture since his high school days. He was a student in floriculture and horticultural education at Ohio State University. He continued his education at Cornell University, receiving a Master's in ornamental horticulture and horticultural education.

Steve is sought-out throughout the United States as a horticultural expert. He gives horticultural talks throughout the U.S. and has made various T.V. appearances including ones on Martha Stewart Living and HGTV. He has given over 500 lectures to horticultural societies, universities and botanical gardens including lectures at Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Chicago Botanical Garden, Missouri Botanical Garden, Longwood Gardens, New York Botanical Garden, Federation of National Wildlife, and the Federated Garden Clubs.

Steve is an avid gardener and is interested in many facets of horticulture and has a special love for orchids and other tropical plants. He has recently written two books on



Image courtesy of Steve Frowine

orchids. One of his books, *Orchids for Dummies*, was published by Wiley Press in March of 2005 and the other one, *Fragrant Orchids*, was published by Timber Press in September 2005. Steve did most of the photography for both of these books.

- Barbara Noe

Freedom House



Should you have extra furniture, household items like pots, pans, dishes, towels, drapes, and would like to clear your clutter, please consider calling Kathy Crouch, Assistant Director of Freedom House (233-4064, ext. 204). Kathy will make arrangements for your donations to be picked up.

Your donations are tax deductible and will be used to assist in setting up a household for individuals reentering the mainstream of life.

Orchid Spotlight: Phrags and Karen Collier



Phrag. Unknown hybrid



Karen Collier

Budding Advice

Use Yellow Cups to Catch Insects- smear plastic yellow cup with regular Vaseline and place in your greenhouse. The yellow color will attract all kinds of insects and they will be caught in the Vaseline. This works for aphids and mites.

- Norman Fang
Norman's Orchids

I have about a dozen *Phrags* that I have owned for years and years, but none would bloom. I may have purchased this one from a member auction, and decided I knew why they sold it. I was convinced it, and my other *Phrags* were duds. Several years ago my husband added a glass shelf to my nice deep east-facing window at my office. It gets really blasting morning sun. Some are in SH method, and some in other potting medium, but all have constant access to water at all times. This past fall they all decided to finally bloom, and have been in bloom for months! They just keep going and going. In fact, when we closed the store for vacation last week, we had to take them home in a van because they were so tall. I love the shapes of the *Paphs* and *Phrags*, and think they remind me of woodland hikes as a child where we saw lots of native pink ladyslippers.

I have over 200 orchids total in too many places at home. Most are in a sunroom on glass shelves around the perimeter and on steel shelves with lights under three skylights. There is always a collection of blooming orchids on the kitchen table, which is also under skylights, and a few in another room.

I feed all my orchids a varied diet using weak strength every other watering. It could be anything from Peter's 10 10 10, various bloom boosters to fish poop. Time only allows me to water everything on Mondays unless something is really gasping for water between waterings.

I think I purchased my first *Phal* at a Maymont show 8 - 10 years ago, and the collection has continued to grow. Until the *Phrags* decided to cooperate, I would have said that I

have the most success with the *Phals*, *Oncidiums*, and *Paphs*. I have some of lots of different things - some I don't even know what they are, but enjoy them anyway. I have been involved in gardening since I was five years old, and both sets of grandparents and my mother was very much involved with gardening. I had my first flower garden at five, and can remember creating terrariums with plants and mosses dug from the woods as a young child. I love puttering around in my sunroom, and when we build our next house, a larger sunroom is a priority.

ROA Renewals Have Begun

We want to thank everyone who joined in 2005 for becoming a Charter Member. The first 12 months of programs has seen some truly outstanding orchidists sharing a wide range of knowledge and experiences. Steve Frowine program marks ROA's first anniversary of existence.

ROA memberships are on a 12 month basis, so for those members that joined at last summer's repotting event at Bill and Sue Akin's home last, it is now time to renew. As the month of your anniversary with ROA nears, you will be sent a reminder (along with a copy of the ROA application form) that your membership is up for renewal. We look forward to your renewal, which should be sent to Sue Akin, P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226.

Please take the time to update your information with the application form. This information not only helps us to stay in contact with you, but also to make better decisions when planning the content of ROA events.

Members in the News

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.

Welcome New Members

Maureen McSweeney
Charlotte G. Edwards
Lorraine G. Jackson

Thank you from the Refreshment Table

Thanks to all that brought goodies for the Refreshment Table. Barbara Sims, Janice Ranck, Wanda Andrako, Kathy Walker, and Valli LaNeve all contributed to this Month's table. Please let us know when you have brought something, so that we may thank your generosity properly. -Kathy Walker

ROA Birthdays

Cheryl Kirchner - June 1
George Gunderman - June 7
Valli LaNeve - June 7
Michael Mathias - June 8
Gwendolyn Boykin - June 15
Janis Ranck - June ?

The 'Laura Orchid,' grown and registered with the Royal Horticultural Society by Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc, of Powhatan, was presented to Laura Bush at the United States Botanical Garden in Washington, D.C. The event took place on Tuesday May 9 as part of the "First Lady's Luncheon" which is an annual gathering of the wives of the U.S.



Senators. Assisting in the presentation was the garden's Executive Director Holly Shimuzu.

The new orchid hybrid is a classic Cattleya with medium sized white flowers, a contrasting purple throat, and a sweet fragrance. Designed to bloom twice a year on a compact plant, the official botanical name is Brassolaeliocattleya Laura Bush.



Image by Linda Baldwin

"First Ladies have a long tradition of being honored with Cattleya orchids which dates back to the 1940's" said Art Chadwick, President of Chadwick & Son Orchids. Previous recipients of Chadwick hybrids include former First Ladies Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barbara Bush as well as former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and, most recently, Martha Stewart.

Thank you from Discover Orchids Hospitality

On behalf of the hospitality committee for the "Discover Orchids" show we would like to extend our gratitude to Barbara Noe for her donation of aprons embroidered with the ROA logo and many other items too numerous to list that made this event very successful.

-Kathy Walker

Membership Directory

Just a reminder, if you have not picked up your membership directory, see Valli at the meeting. New member sheets can be added and will be available when you pick up your name badges.



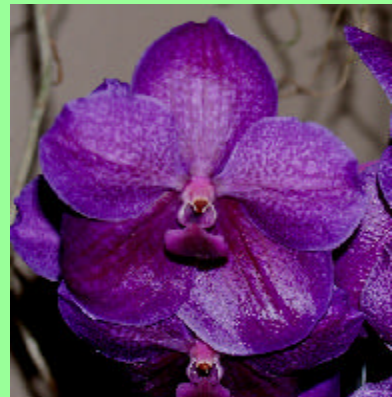
Showcased Orchids



Paph. philippinense
Grown by Bayne Hawkins



Odcdm. Wildcat 'Doris'
Grown by Cassie Wright



V. Robert's Delight 'Uva'
Grown by Michael Mealy



Dtps. Chain Xen Pearl 'Shih Hua'
Grown by Jim Culbert

Paph. philippinense was described originally in 1864 by Veitch. This species comes from a widespread area of the Philippine archipelago. To bloom, this plant needs 10 to 11 hours of bright light per day, but otherwise is reported to be an easy grower and tolerant of a variety of potting medias.

Doritaenopsis Chain Xen Pearl 'Shih Hua' was registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in 2002 by its originator Huang. This is a complex hybrid with harlequin characteristics. The parents are *Dtps.* Ching Hua Spring and *Dtps.* Nobby's Pink Lady.

Vanda Robert's Delight 'Uva' has an unusual color that was not properly captured in the photograph. The plant was originated and registered with RHS by R.F. Orchids in 1984. It is a complex hybrid using using *V.* Kasem's Delight and *V.* Madame Rattana as the parents.

Odontocidium Wildcat 'Doris' is in a genera that fell victim to taxonomic changes that occurred within the Oncidium Alliance in 2004. The parents are currently known as *Odcdm.* Rustic Bridge and *Odcdm.* Crowborough, and the hybrid was originated by Rod McLellan Co., which was registered in 1992. Nearly 20% of the hybrids registered within this group were affected by these changes. Prior to the change, this plant was known as *Colmanara* Wildcat. Sometimes taxonomic changes seem to be capricious, but many of the recent reclassifications being made have been driven by DNA analyses of related genera and the discovery that some species are more closely related to *Oncidiums* than their previous classification (e.g., the former *Milt. warszewiczii* is now known as *Onc. fuscatum*).

May Orchid

Showcase Winners

Judges: Wanda Andrako, Betty Essex and Arline Murphy

Cattleya

Blue - *Lc.* (Lc. Mini Purple x *C. lucasina*) - Joe Mathias
Red - *Lc.* Irene Finney 'Chicago'
HCC/AOS - Arline Murphy

Dendrobium

Blue - *Den. lindleyi* var. *agragatum* - Arline Murphy

Intergeneric (and their species)

Blue - *Onc.* Colon 'Key Lime Pie' AM/AOS - Arline Murphy
Red - *Pyp.* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS - The Creeches
Yellow - *Odcdm.* Wildcat 'Doris' - Cassie Wright

Paphiopedilum

Blue - *Paph. philippinense* - Bayne Hawkins
Red - *Paph.* Maudiae - The Creeches
Yellow - *Paph.* Lynleigh Koopowitz - The Creeches

Phalaenopsis

Blue - *Dtps.* Chain Xen Pearl 'Shih Hwa' - Jim Culbert
Red - *Dtps.* Taida Saul 'Allison' - Jim Culbert
Yellow - *Phal.* Picotte - Jim Culbert

Vandaceous

Blue - *V.* Robert's Delight 'Uva' - Mike Mealy
Red - *Ascda.* Queen Florist 'No. 2' - Mike Mealy
Yellow - *V.* (Fuch's Delight x Robert's Delight) - Mike Mealy



Orchid Digest
When you're serious about Orchids

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 Embroidered Logo Available

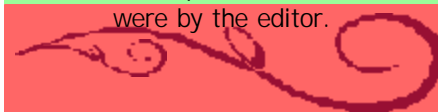
The ROA Logo can be placed on a number of clothing items including denim and polo shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps and visor caps. Contact Barbara Noe at (804) 359-3674 or CelebrateOrchids@aol.com. The logo can also be placed on your own NEW item on a cost per design basis. Although she expects the 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, P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226.

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)

Got Milk? - For many years there has been a rumor that milk was an effective agent for killing viruses on tools used to repot orchids. It turns out that firms in Europe have been using this method exclusively in their everyday work with plants. Now, a 2004 scientific paper published in the journal Plant Disease confirms that a 20% (wt/vol) solution of non-fat dry milk, killed 100% of the viruses on contaminated cutting instruments if soaked for 1 minute. This is great for both metal tools and tools, such as potting sticks, which do not respond well to flaming. Milk was superior to heating with a propane torch and worked as well as a concentrated solution of Tri Sodium Phosphate (cleaning agent) or a 10% Clorox solution. Mom was right! Milk is good stuff. It does not, however, kill bacteria.

Spring Checklist

Spring is the busiest time of the year for Orchid growers. Given the recent weather in the Carolinas it may be difficult for us to tell that spring has indeed arrived, but your orchids know. Cattleyas have begun to put out new growths and roots in response to increasing day length. Vandas too are starting to grow because high daytime temperatures convince them that they are at home in the tropics. What you do in the next month will have a lot to do with your success as Orchid growers for the next year. Much of this is just common sense, but that is usually what we usually forget.

1. Clean Growing Area - Greenhouses have been cramped, as have windowsills and space under lights. Remove Orchids from your growing area and remove all dead material as well as algae. Some hobbyists spray growing space with a 5%

Clorox solution to kill bacteria, fungi, and just about everything else. Physan or RD-20 will work as well. Repair benches or replace surface if it is needed while you have the area clean and open.

2. Organize - Straighten growing space by moving some plants outside or by eliminating non-performing plants. Remove weeds and ferns from pots.

3. Plant Inspection - If your collection is small, future problems can be avoided by carefully examining each plant. Use 10x-reading glasses even if you do not need them for reading. Look for scale, mites, or any signs of damage to leaves or roots. If you find damage on an Orchid look for the culprit that caused it. Tiny nicks on roots or under Phal leaves suggests snails while large chunks and slime trails indicate slugs. These pests have been relatively dormant during winter, but will now feast in summer's warmth. Repotting will eliminate snails and help you find slugs. If you find only minor damage try stale beer for slugs and snail bait for bush snails.

4. Clean Plants - Remove dead tissues around Cattleya bulbs and/or dead leaves. Check the base of dead tissues for sign of scale, especially if leaves died but did not fall from the plant. If scale is found use a soft tissue to wipe them off and then spray with insecticidal soap or light oil. If a major infestation is found the plant should be repotted. When the plant is out of the pot, use a fine jet of water to clean the underside of rhizomes in Cattleyas and around the base of Phals. If you find heavy infestations on many plants, you may have to resort to

(continued on P. 6 "Growing Tips")



Growing Tips (con't from Page 5)

Orchid Consultants

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

ROA Bus Trip Announced

Mark August 13th on your calendar. ROA will be headed to Washington, D.C. by bus for a behind-the-scenes tour of the U.S. Botanical Gardens. Our host for this tour is Carol Allen, Director of Horticulture for the gardens - our speaker from last month's program. She has the knowledge, she has the experience, and she has the ability to communicate to all levels of orchid growers. The tour will include a look at the Garden's production facility and their six greenhouses of orchids. Cost is \$30 with your reservation being your check sent to ROA, P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226. A full day of orchid enjoyment awaits you.

harsher pesticides. Bayer's Rose spray and water, and take up less room. In addition new growths and leaves will grow better.

6. Repot - Repot all plants whose media has decomposed and those that have reached too far from the pot. Rapid summer growth will quickly replace lost and damaged roots. Newly damaged roots are also less likely to be infected by fungi and bacteria in your now clean growing area in the less humid air of spring. Fungi and bacteria will become a problem in mid-summer. Newly repotted Orchids need a convalescence period while they recover. Accomplish this simply by giving them a little extra shade and humidity.

7. Water More - Orchids will use more water in the next month than they will in the heat of summer because of the lower humidity.

Water thoroughly when you water and review the moisture requirements of the different groups of Orchids that you grow. In general, Cattleyas and Dendrobiums need to dry thoroughly before being watered, while Phals and Paphs like to dry some but need constant moisture. Phrags and Bulbophyllums crave moisture while most of the Vanda group wants high light, abundant water, and lots of air movement. Air movement is just as important for Orchids in summer as during the winter, but for different reasons. Now it is important to keep leaves from overheating while in winter it was to keep bacteria and fungal infections at bay.

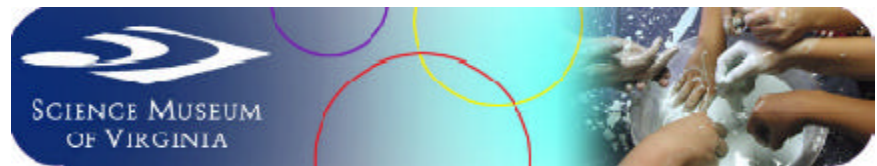
8. Fertilize - Now is the time to apply Nutricote (sold as Dynamite at Home Depot). If you prefer liquid fertilizer this is the time to liberally apply your favorite brand.



ROA is affiliated with the American Orchid Society. Memberships are \$60.00 per year and include the monthly magazine Orchids. Details are at www.orchidweb.org. AOS is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

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 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





Calendar of Events Outside of ROA:

June 3

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

Virginia Orchid Society Orchid Fest, Richmond, VA; Contact: Gene Hunt, email: ghunt2400@aol.com.

June 4

Tidewater Orchid Society, Norfolk, VA; Program: Picnic; Contact: Evalyn Walch, email: walch@verizon.net.

June 5

Hollin Hills Orchid Society, Annandale, VA; Program: TBA; Contact: Stefanie Jarrell, email: Stefanie.Jarrell@wilmerhale.com.

June 11

Charlottesville Orchid Society, Charlottesville, VA; Program: Picnic and Repotting; Contact: Brenda Steigma, email: Bsteigma@aol.com.

June 24

Multigroup Orchid Yard Sale, Quarter Acre Orchids, Alexandria, VA; Contact: quarteracreorchids.com.

September 9

Virginia Orchid Society Orchid Forum. Limited seating available. Registration begins July 1. Information: www.virginiaorchidsociety.org.

November 10-11

Merrit Huntington Memorial Symposium. Limited seating available. Speakers and information about the event are TBA.



Maximizing Your Membership

Editor: Karen Collier and her husband visited the Philadelphia Flower Show this spring. The following is excerpted from an email to one of our board members.

Philadelphia was wonderful. This was our second trip. I took lots of pictures. The professional orchid display was something else. It was a large square display with full access around the outside, and was all done by color. You started with say yellow, and they had a large mass of all the yellow ones, then it went to orange, and red, etc. They had filled in with a few bromeliads and such, but it was 90% or more orchids. Then there were the orchids that had been entered for judging, and theeeeeennnnn there were the floral designer competitions that were out of this world. Some individual arrangements had more cut stems than I have ever seen in one spot. It was just wonderful. THEN there were the vendors!!!! Last time we went, we didn't get there when the door opened, and hit the vendors last not having a clue how many there were. Well, this time I told my husband we were getting there really early, so I could see all the vendors. There were a LOT of folks selling orchids, and I found some good prices.

Because we go up after work on Saturday to be there for Sunday, which is opening day, we are there when it is really crowded - really crowded. ... They have a lot of well-known speakers there too, but I just couldn't take time for that.

- Karen Collier

Snow Mold

If you see a white, paint-like substance either on your media (tree fern or fir bark) or around the drain holes of your pot, your orchid may be suffering from a fungus (ptychogaster) commonly called "snow mold." It spreads through the potting mixture. It leads to poor growth and drying out of the orchid. This fungus, when it is in its active phase, covers the roots of a plant. It is water repellent, which keeps most water from reaching the roots.

You control this mold by repotting the plant; remove and destroy all mold and potting media.. The fungus also needs to be removed from the roots or it will reemerge on the same plant; treat the roots with Phyan or RD20.



Onc. Colon 'Key Lime Pie' AM/AOS grown by Dermot Murphy



Resource Cart Update

The following books have been donated to the Richmond Orchid Alliance by Barbara Noe. These books are not for checkout but for viewing and researching information at our monthly program.

Sanders List of Orchid Species

- 1961-1970
- 1946-1980 Vol. 1&2
- 1971-1975
- 1976-1980
- 1981-1985
- 1986-1990
- 1991-1995

- Kathy Walker

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

From the Chairman

The sun has finally come out and phals are blooming. Of course, mine seem to want to limit their time as I leave them in the Florida room and don't bring them into the house to beautify things there.

Sun means time for the cats to start their bud sheaths which gives us a continual period of beautiful orchids.

ROA has begun its introduction into both the Goochland and Ashland markets and the attendees have been most interested in what could be done to improve their orchid collection at home. A number of them have taken plants home to beautify Mother's Day.

A full summer is set for everyone. In June we have Steve Frowine talking about the ABC's of Parenthood (and who couldn't use a little advice here) with a reference to his two books, Orchids for Dummies and Fragrant Orchids. Imagine, tips on growing a fragrant orchid, all for just being at the Science Museum on Sunday, June 11th.

Then in July, we meet on the Tracks at the Science Museum for another repotting session. I've already heard from some that this is the one

meeting they will attend.

August is for planning a bus trip "up north" to see how others grow their collections. See our Director of Finance if you think you are interested. She will have more details.

September we have the "king of phals", Norman Fang, from California. You have read his ads in the Orchid Magazine and hopefully have visited his website, Normans Orchids. I can only wonder what crosses and colors he will bring with him for our talk. You might have noted that he also grows a number of cattelyas.

There are many ways you can be involved with ROA and have fun. Speak with one of the Directors and see if we don't know that of which we speak.

- Bill Akin



P.O. Box 8682
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