

November/December 2006

Upcoming ROA events:

January 14 - Ken Meier, Orchid Enterprises, Alexandria, VA.

February 11 - Hal Horwitz, Richmond, VA.

March 11 - Tom Mirenda, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC.

April 1 - Blooming Plant Auction

May 6 - Art Chadwick, Sr.

June 10 - To Be Announced

July 8 - Repotting by the Tracks, Science Museum of Virginia

August 12 - Walter Off, Waldor Orchids, Linwood, NJ.

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

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ROA Bulletin

A Time of Gratitude

As I complete my second year as President of Richmond Orchid Alliance, I am grateful to have been part of an organization that has shown so much creativity, commitment and hard work in support of the purposes of this society.

It has been a year of transition as some have stepped down and others have stepped up to answer the call of ROA. We have now completed one and a half years of "being" and have a strong platform on which to move forward.

I would personally like to thank all of you who have been actively involved with ROA and its endeavors in 2005 and 2006, particularly, those who were the "founding members". Some of the newer members had not been involved with a society such as this before, but you showed no hesitation when asked to help and work. This willingness is what has kept us going and made us grow. There is also a lot to be learned from just talking with each other, more than just about orchids. Diana Paisley's daughter works at Disney World and gave us a lead to one of the best times we had while recently

visiting there. Arline and Dermot Murphy and Allen Black have visited various foreign countries and can talk about how to look for orchids. What can we do to make each other's time fun?

As we go into 2007, it will be with a new President and some new Board members. But, this is not a time of hesitation, rather a period to dedicate ourselves to working for ROA and its objectives. We can have a great time together, this has already been shown, and in the same breath learn how to beautify our surroundings while taking little away from our day to day activities.

In 2007, PLEASE, resolve to be part of ROA by volunteering your time, knowledge, ability and efforts. Just talk with an officer and see what happens. And know that I appreciate and thank each of you for your involvement in ROA.

Bill Akin, President

HAVE FUN, BE ACTIVE, SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE. BE YOU. GROW BEAUTIFUL ORCHIDS.

Member in the News

Allen Black has recently registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) another of his hybrids, *Bic. Crazy Wedding*. It is a cross of *Brassavola Crazyarachno* and *Bl. Wedding*. In order to register this plant, Allen also needed to register the capsule parent, *B. Crazyarachno (perrinii x cucullata)*, although the hybrid was created by another. (RHS requires that both parents are either a recognized species or a registered hybrid for registration.)



Bic. Crazy Wedding
Image and grown by Allen Black



A Year of Reflection and Celebration

Welcome New Members

Robert and May Wu
Van Williams

Dues Change in 2007

When ROA was formed in June 2005, it was anticipated that the society year would be the calendar year, however the dues were later changed to be payable on the month that you joined and run for twelve months thereafter.

This has proven to be a cumbersome system, requiring constant monitoring and could generate a problem with the general operations of the Alliance. To simplify the record keeping, and to stay up to date with just where we really are for our budget needs, the Board approved dues being payable on a calendar year basis, starting with 2007.

Each member will receive a renewal notice that will give several options. Please review your specific notice, as you will not lose any benefits compared to where you presently are. The renewal notice will provide details on where to call with questions.

ROA Birthdays

Art Chadwick - December 2
Sandra Boyden-O'Neil - December 5
Ann Reed - December 11
Maureen McSweeney - December 11
Nancy Thompson - December 30



As we come to the end of 2006, it is possible to look back to a year of fun and celebration. We began in January with Seagrove Orchids showing live examples of problems we could encounter and how to strive for better culture. Then Courtney Hackney was guest speaker at Maymont and also brought his wealth of knowledge before our membership. Glen Lehr brought Japan to our doorsteps and showed us how that country is growing plants. In April we hosted a very successful AOS judged show. Carol Allen came from the US Botanical Gardens on two occasions and talked about diseases, repotting and just down to earth culture tips. Steve Frowine discussed his book "Orchids for Dummies" while giving us tips found in his book. Long lines formed and were taken care of as we "repotted on the tracks", utilizing all our available manpower, 152 pots and three bags of medium. Stephanie Jarrell talked about Aussie Gold and its benefits for cattleyas

and other genera. October saw a blooming plant sale while we battled wind, rain and mud at the State Fair and discussed orchids and culture with the public. Finally, Glen Decker ended our speaker's engagements by taking us through the jungles of Peru as we accompanied him in his search for *Phrag. kovachii*.

Yes, it has been an exciting and fun year. And throughout the summer ROA was represented at the Goochland Market where we occasionally sold plants but usually talked orchid culture.

2007 promises to be a great year as well. Excellent speakers have been lined up and you should be sure to mark your calendars with the dates and events. But, to make it more fun, bring along a friend. A little food, a little drink, a lot of information is yours just for being there. Share your interest, get answers to your questions, and enjoy orchids.

- Bill Akin

Moving Forward

This is my last issue as editor of the ROA Bulletin. I have enjoyed the challenge of developing a newsletter for a new organization, but the endeavor has not been without much help in terms of creativity, writing, and editing. My wife, Valli, sparked many of the best ideas and did much to track down writers for potential articles, book reviews and deserves much gratitude for her contributions. Rebecca Randolph did much of the copy editing for several months until the constraints of a new job overwhelmed her time; her efforts were missed these past several months. I am also grateful to all of those members who contributed by writing for the Bulletin; by providing a different perspective and voice, the Bulletin became more fun to put together, and, I think,

more fun to read. I encourage all to help the next editor in a similar fashion, by telling of your recent experiences at a symposium or show, a trip outside of Virginia that included visiting an orchid vendor, a summary of a recently read orchid book, or just some piece of cultural advice that has helped you through the years. I have learned much as editor, and I have tried to pass on as much of that knowledge through the Bulletin. The Bulletin belonged to you, the members of ROA, help keep it among the most useful of newsletters by contributing to it. Thanks again for allowing me to be the first steward for this endeavor.

Happy Holidays!

- Jim Creech

Showcased Orchids

Phrag. Pink Panther created quite a stir at the November program. Despite its diminutive size (the plant was less than six inches in height), Joe Mathias declared that *P.* Pink Panther was the best flower on the Showcase table. It is a primary hybrid (a cross between two species plants) with *P. schlimii* and *P. fischeri* the parents. This cross was registered in 2004 by Orchids Limited on behalf of its originator Quene. Since Pink Panther's introduction, there has been a clamour among *Phrag.* growers for another release. *P. fischeri* seems to be the dominant parent, with strong contributions to the pouch color and shape of the flower.

Galeopetalum Giant 'Rhein Moonlight' was registered in 2005 by Roger Cole of Arbec Orchids, but he was unable to supply the RHS registry with the name of its originator. It is a cross between *Zygopetalum* Artur Elle and *Galeottia grandiflora*. Trying to sort out the contributions of the parents on this plant is interesting. The lip has taken the typical *Zygo.* shape, but Artur Elle's blue has given way to *glandiflora*'s red. More interesting are the sepals and petals; on Artur Elle, these are green and burgandy in a camouflage style of marking, *glandiflora*'s has similar colors, but marked with stripes, while resulting the Giant is uniformly burgandy.

Paph. bellatulum is a species that is found in Burma, Thailand and China. This plant is commonly known as the Enchanting Orchid and was introduced to cultivation in 1888 by Low and Company. This species needs bright indirect light and is highly intolerant of salts in its media. It also needs to be grown somewhat cool, especially at night.



Phrag. Pink Panther
Grown by Allen Black



Gal. Giant 'Rhein Moonlight'
Grown by Carol Hollenbeck



Paph. bellatulum
Grown by the Creeches



November Orchid Showcase Winners

Judges: Arline Murphy, Chuck Gardner, Allen Black, Jim Creech

Cattleya

Blue - *Slc.* Seagulls Apricot 'Orange Moon' - Allen Black

Blue - *Smbc.* Infatuation - L.K. (Buddy) Harvie, Jr.

Red - *Lc.* Gran Blue Sapphire - Allen Black

Yellow - *C.* Granier's Felicity 'Sugar Plum' AM/AOS - Allen Black

Dendrobium

Blue - *Den.* Green Elf - The Creeches

Intergeneric (and their species)

Blue - *Gptm.* Giant 'Rhein Moonlight' - Carol Hollenbeck

Red - *Burr.* Nellie Isler - Carol Hollenbeck

Red - *Onc.* Sweet Sugar - Carol Hollenbeck

Paphiopedilum

Blue - *Paph. bellatulum* - The Creeches

Phragmipedium

Blue - *Phrag.* Pink Panther - Allen Black

Blue - *Phrag.* Living Fire - Allen Black

Red- *Phrag.* China Dragon - Allen Black

Vandaceous

Blue - *Ascda.* John De Biase - Carol Hollenbeck

Red - *Ascda.* Tomelia (*Ascda.* Meda Arnold x *V.* Faye Bennet) - Carol Hollenbeck

Yellow - *Ascda.* Su-Fun Beauty - Cheryl Nachman

Other Genera

Blue - *Gal. baueri* - The Creeches

2006 ROA Orchid Showcase

The final placings for the 2006 ROA Orchid Showcase will be revealed in the next issue of the Bulletin.

- Jim Creech



New Bulletin Dating

You may have noticed that this issue is dated November/December. This just to let you know that you are not missing an issue as ROA recalibrates the Bulletin. Up to now the issue has been the same month as the program it reports on. The one-time change will move the Bulletin's dating so that it shares the month of the upcoming program.

- Jim Creech

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 the Science Museum of Virginia, 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)

Fall is a time when some kinds of orchids need very different care from what they required in the summer. In some cases, these differences are very great, while in others, the cultural changes required are more subtle.

Standard *Phalaenopsis*, those with large flowers and no fragrance, require a cool down period of 7-10 days to initiate flowering. How cold should they get? Most experienced hobbyists let temperatures get into the low 60s or even upper 50s, which generally works well. This process is even more effective if day length is getting shorter and plants are allowed to get a little drier than usual. It is also a good idea to only let phals get cooler when there is some assurance that day temperatures will warm up at least 10-15 deg F. Many commercial growers accomplish spike initiation simply by providing this day to night temperature differential and do not worry about how cool the night temperature. Many indoor growers of phals find that their plants do not initiate spikes until much later in the year because they do not let their home get as cool or experience this temperature range. Putting phals in an unheated porch can get them to spike.

Once the first spikes appear, it is important to maintain a night temperature of at least 65 deg F to limit disease. This becomes more critical when those gloomy days appear in winter. It is also important to increase fertilizer, especially nitrogen to growing spikes and buds. Conventional wisdom used to dictate a fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus until buds began to form and then switch to high nitrogen fertilizer to get the most and largest blooms. Recent studies point

to just using nitrogen-rich fertilizers throughout the process. While commercial or exhibition growers practice this, the hobbyist is better advised to use their normal fertilizer regimen if their phals are growing well.

Catasetums and related genera are in the process of becoming dormant. Withhold water and fertilizer as their leaves begin to yellow. A light misting is OK, but let the plant and medium become much drier than when the plant is actively growing. Any orchid that loses its leaves needs to be treated similarly. Many semi-terrestrial orchids, e.g. *Eulophia* species, need similar treatment. Too much water at this time of year will cause the plant to lose its roots to rot and the entire plant could follow. The ideal situation is to set orchids with this requirement in a different growing area where water can be carefully controlled until growth begins in late winter or early spring.

Many members of the *Cattleya* Alliance will also benefit from drying more thoroughly. Bifoliate cattleyas and cattleya species are generally grown drier in winter, although there is much variation among them. Some species reputed to be hard to grow, e.g. *C warscewiczii* and *C dowiana*, need to be kept very dry from about October through February or they will not produce good flowers and might even die. Modern hybrids have had the tendency to "die if they do not dry" "bred out", but they still grow better if they are kept drier in winter. The exceptions to the rule are those small stature mini-catts that have a good dose of *Sophranitis coccinea*. They usually are generally identified by their

(continued on P. 6 "Growing Tips")



Calendar of Events
Outside of ROA:

December 2

National Capital Judging Center, US National Arboretum, Washington, DC; website: geocities.com/nationalcapitaljlc/.

January 26-28

Triad Orchid Society Show, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Donald W. Richman (276) 632-5728; email: richman@earthlink.net.

February 22-25

Virginia Orchid Society Show, Richmond, VA. Contact: Garland Hanson (804) 379-3864; email: rusafe@verizon.net.

February 28-March 4

North Carolina Piedmont Orchid Society Show, Charlotte, NC. Contact: Virginia Rappoid (704) 912-2536; email: vrappoid@aol.com.

March 9-11

Maryland Orchid Society Show. Contact: Bill Scharf, email: bscharf@mskpartners.com.

March 9-11

Triangle Orchid Society Show, Durham, NC. Contact: Judith Goldstein (919) 732-7622; email: orangegr@earthlink.net.

March 23-25

Western North Carolina Orchid Society Show, Asheville, NC. Contact: Axel Graumann (828) 337-0035; email: axelgraumann@charter.net.

April 26-28

Blue Ridge Orchid Society Show, Roanoke, VA. Contact: Louise T. Mashburn (304) 647-4532; email: maslou@verizon.net.



Ukrops Golden Gift Program Has Changed

How does the Golden Gift program work?

The program has three basic steps: Join, Shop & Give. Customers register with Benevolink for free as members and then shop for items within Ukrop's Brand Community, as well as participating national brands. As a member, every time you purchase participating items, up to 3% of every dollar spent goes into your Benevolink account. Four times a year, members "direct" their earned giving to the non profits of their choice. Just look for the special Golden Gift and Benevolink shelf tags to find participating items.

What's new and different now that Golden Gift is powered by Benevolink?

1. Customers must register to participate-- it's quick, free, and secure.
2. Only items from the Ukrop's Brand Community and a select number of national brands are currently participating - just look for the special Golden Gift shelf tags.
3. Your purchases count all year long!

4. Golden Gift now has many online features for you to monitor your earning and giving— no need to keep up with paper forms and receipts.
5. You will be able to give your earned cash four times per year— you will have more giving flexibility and non-profits will receive funds more often.

How do I redeem a reward or special offer via a promotional code (promo code)?

Please follow the instructions listed below:

1. Access the Benevolink web page at www.benevolink.com and login
2. Select "My Profile" from the left navigation bar
3. The second section on this page relates to "recalling your password". The second line in this section allows the input of a "promo code"
4. Enter your promotional code in the "promo code" box
5. Scroll to the bottom of the "My Profile" page and click the update button

Ed.- If you have additional questions you may call Sue Akin at 378-0999.

Growing Tips (con't from Page 5)

bright red, yellow or orange flowers. These need a constant temperature, above 60 F, regular water supply, and may not experience any dormancy.

Cymbidiums require cool weather to initiate flower spikes too, but they require far cooler temperatures and lots of light. Place them outside as temperature drop and keep them there until there is the forecast for a hard freeze or hard frost. They will tolerate light frosts.

Vandas are the last group that needs to be singled out. They like it hot and bright all year long, although they are perfectly capable of surviving nights in the mid 50s on occasion. They may, however, drop flowers or buds if the cold is prolonged. The exceptions are those members that have blue flowers. The parent contributing blue color to flowers comes from higher elevations and so, tolerates or even prefers cool nights.



Mark Your Calendar for January's Program

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.

Board of Directors

- Bill Akin – President
- Wanda Andrako – Vice President
- Sue Akin – Treasurer
- Nancy Thompson – Secretary
- Valli LaNeve – Outreach Director
- Jim Creech – Publications Director
- Bayne Hawkins – Director at Large
- Thuyen Trevino – Director at Large

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.richmondorchidalliance.com

On January 14, Ken Meier of Orchid Enterprises will be speaking on "Thailand Orchids." Before then, you should check out his website www.orchidenterprises.com with a pre-order in mind. Orchid Enterprises has an eclectic assortment of orchids and can provide interesting opportunities. For example, they are currently offering several *Cypridium* hybrids (North American

slipper orchid hybrids) that can be planted in your garden. They also have small flasks available at reasonable prices for those who would like to try their hand at working with seedlings. The current "Special of the Month" is *Onc.* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS; Valli and I bought this cultivar in spike in March 2005, and it has been in bud or bloom virtually since then.



Ascda. John De Biase
Grown by Carol Hollenbeck



Smbc. Infatuation
Grown by L.K. Harvie



Den. Green Elf
Grown by the Creeches

Budding Advice

Your cattleya's are in sheath, but you are becoming impatient waiting for the spike and buds to appear. Try holding a flashlight behind the sheath as a way to watch the development of your future bloom.



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