

Richmond Orchid Alliance

We are all about Orchids!

March 2010

Wanda Andrako, Editor
Jim Creech, Layout Editor

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

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Birthdays

Vickie Rust	3/12
Sue Akin	3/25

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin



You Be the Judge!

On March 14th our program's focus will be centered on the show table. This program is designed to give each member a participatory role. Please bring at least one blooming plant. As a bonus, all normal show table points will be doubled for this month's program.

The Format:

Everyone attending will carefully look at each plant and select a favorite based on personal preference. Voting will be anonymous. Votes will be tabulated to determine which plants are awarded the blue (1st place), red (2nd place) and yellow (3rd place) ribbons, and then the winning plants will be announced. After the winners have been announced, there will be an opportunity to ask questions about

the source of the plant and growing conditions.

If you are interested in expanding your collection, we will also have culture sheets available for most orchids. If you are an AOS member, these culture sheets are available online.

Buddy Harvie and Valli Laneve will also discuss what they look for when purchasing an orchid. Other members have volunteered to provide growing tips for their favorite plants. The program will conclude with a question and answer period.

-Van Williams

**Mar. 14 at the Science Museum of VA Program starts at 2:00 PM.
To be considered for judging, plants for the Showcase
need to be on the table by 1:40**

Bring a Friend to ROA:

Bringing a friend to the March meeting is a great way to multiply your own fun. Think about folks you know that are interested in learning more about orchids, and get them to come with you to the meeting. We'll see you AND your friends there!

Barbi

Upcoming Events

- March 14
Focus on Show Table:
Critiquing Plants
- April 11
The Vanilla Orchid, Janis
Ranck
- May 2
Living Gems: Miniature
Orchids, Linda Wilhelm,
Woodland Orchids
- June 13
OrchidWiz, Roger Horman
- July
No Program
- August 8
Picnic, Wanda Andrako's
home
- September 12
Blooming Plant Auction
- October 10
Semi-Hydroponics, Tom
Voytilla
- November 14
Social with a mini-program
on record keeping of
plants

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

President's Message


March 20th is the official start of spring. I am certain that everyone is looking forward to all the beautiful flowering bulbs in the garden. I do love the snow, but warm temperatures and sunshine are back. This is the time I look very carefully at my collection. I take a look at each plant with an eye toward identifying plants that need to be repotted, divided, and, yes, tossed. I have limited space, so it is necessary to use that space for those orchids that are thriving.

Now is the time to get your pots cleaned and inventory potting supplies. And since you are giving each plant some individual attention, you should check for pests and remove any dead leaves.

If you have questions or need assistance with your plants, go to our website (www.richmondorchidalliance.org), click on leadership, then scroll down to the end of the committee chairs – there you will see a list of members and telephone numbers that you can call for cultural help.

See you at the March 14th program! Program starts at 2:00. Be sure to bring a plant for the show table and a guest to share the fun with.

Valli Laneve



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

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

The Atrium at the Science Museum

Our rental contract with the Science Museum of Virginia requires ROA to maintain the museum's atrium. Currently, we are limited in what can be accomplished in the atrium, but once the shark exhibit leaves on February 1st, we will need to re-establish its appearance. We need:

- a power washer that we can use 3 to 5 times in March
- plants (Christmas cactus, palms, ferns)
- soil (for repotting existing plants)

The museum staff has admired our work. Please call Valli (360-1625).

Refreshments

The Refreshment committee would like to thank everyone that brought in those wonderful treats on Valentines Day. Special thanks to Valli Laneve, Van Williams, Wanda Andracko, and anyone I may have missed.

Please feel free to bring in treats for the March 14th meeting.

Thanks Mike and John.

Donations

If you have a favorite book on orchids and ROA does not have copy, consider purchasing a copy for our library. Your in-kind donation is tax deductible. See Buddy Harvie.

About This Bulletin

The Richmond Orchid Alliance meets at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond, at 2:00 P.M. of the second Sunday of each month from January through November. Yearly dues are \$25.00 per individual, or \$30.00 for a joint membership. Dues should be paid to the ROA Finance Director, Judy Craggs, P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226.

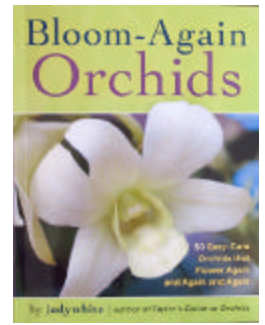
The Richmond Orchid Alliance, LLC is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Any donations to ROA are tax deductible. We are affiliated with Orchid Digest and a member of the American Orchid Society.

The ROA Bulletin is a publication of the Richmond Orchid Alliance and is distributed to the Society's members monthly, prior to all club meetings.

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ROA Library

The library has received two new books, Orchids by Thomas J. Sheehan and Bloom- Again Orchids by judywhite. The latter was mentioned recently in the Home and Garden section of The Richmond Times Dispatch.



Bloom-Again Orchids is an excellent book for the novice and would-be novice. Its introduction gives a brief recent history of orchids. It explains the difference between sympodial and monopodial orchids and lists some of the cultural basics. It has a list ten helpful tips for growing orchids. This section will probably disappoint the beginner who would like to have a list of specific instructions. With orchids, however, that is not to be had.

The main part of the book is a list of attractive, easy-to grow-and rebloom orchids. Each item in the list includes a pronunciation key, a brief cultural outline, a checklist of twelve characteristics describing the plant, a half page discussion of the plant and a full page color photograph of the plant in bloom.

Certainly all fifty of these orchids are beautiful and easy to grow. Just follow the author's instructions. Not all of us can grow all fifty, however, because we can't provide the varied cultural conditions required by all fifty. The novice is advised to acquire only those orchids for which he or she can provide favorable cultural conditions. (A tip from my own experience: When I first started growing orchids I got an orchid of everything that struck my fancy without regard as to whether I had the right conditions for it. Some immediately died a horrible death. Others didn't die but just sat there and sulked. A few, however, bloomed gloriously. I was hooked.)

The book closes with a table of abbreviations for species and hybrids which should be helpful to all orchidists. The photography is very good.

L.K. Harvie
Librarian



Members and guests listening to Joe Mathias' presentation, photo by Jim Creech

February Showtable Awards

Thanks to everyone that brought in such wonderful plants. The tables were full of exotic beauties.

Cattleya:

- Blue – Rhyncholaelia digbyana 'Laura' – LK Harvie
- Red – Epicattleya Siam Jade – Wanda Andrako
- Yellow – Blc Empress Lakeland – Thuyen Trevino

Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium:

- Blue – Paph (Golden Chalice x Freckles) Bohemian Rhapsody x Pastel Light 'Mammoth' – Wanda Andrako
- Red – Paph Barbie Playmate x Nulight 'Hampshire' HCC/AOS – The Murphy's
- Yellow – Paph (unknown) – Thuyen Trevino

Oncidium & Dendrobium

- Blue – Den. Emma White – The Murphy's
- Red – Den. Gold Star 'Orange Royal' – The Murphy's
- Yellow – Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' – LK Harvie

Phalaenopsis:

- Blue – Phal I-Lan Pecker – Mike Chambliss
- Red – Phal SoGo Grape – Mike Chambliss

Vanda:

- Red – Ascocenda Princess Mikasa 'Sapphire' – Thuyen Trevino

At the March meeting, everyone will get to participate in the judging process. Everyone will have an opportunity to vote for their personnel favorite in each of the categories.



Rhyncholaelia digbyana 'Laura' grown by LK Harvie, photo by Dermot Murphy



Paph (Golden Chalice x Freckles) (Bohemian Rhapsody x Pastel Light 'Mammoth') grown by Wanda Andrako, photo by Dermot Murphy



Den. Emma White grown by The Murphy's, photo by Dermot Murphy

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Phal. I-Lan Pecker grown by Mike Chambliss, photo by Dermot Murphy



Ascda. Princess Mikasa 'Sapphire' AM/HOS grown by Thuyen Trevino, Photo by Jim Creech



Mike Chambliss discussing showtable. Photo by Jim Creech



Guest, Alice Smith and Mary Jan Zander purchasing from Joe Mathias

Raffle

Ed and Nancy Bryce would like to thank the businesses and members that so generously donate wonderful raffle prizes for our January program. We would also like to thank everyone that purchased tickets.

If you have plants, books, or orchid related items and would like to donate them to the raffle, please call them at 231-7040 (prior to the program if possible).

Thank you again, Nancy and Ed

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Valli Laneve

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Raffle

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Growing Tips by Courtney Hackney

It is always difficult to think about repotting when the wind is howling and it is cold. As March begins it is snowing all over the South. Even Florida is cold. Nevertheless, orchids in your greenhouse and on windowsills are responding to the increase in day length. Most of the orchids in my collection are beginning their annual growth cycle.

If you do not have all of the supplies you need to repot now is the time to get your order in. There is still plenty of time depending on the orchids in your collection. Species are often more sensitive to repotting so be sure you check your reference books on any species for which you are not familiar.

Phalaenopsis that have bloomed out may be getting new branches on the old inflorescence. These will flower later if you leave the inflorescence on the plant or cut it just below the old blooms. If the plant is small or you want to groom it for exhibiting next year, it is best to cut the spike and let you phalaenopsis grow new roots and leaves for next year's flowers.

Many new orchid growers are anxious to repot because there is so much discussion of the topic, but only repot when your orchid needs it. Any orchid that has been in a pot with organic medium such as bark or sphagnum will need to be repotted after two years, perhaps sooner if the bark is fine or the plant has been heavily fertilized.

Most phalaenopsis sold as pot plants will be either in sphagnum or a mix that looks like garden soil. These plants were not intended to be grown after they flower, have been heavily fertilized, and some even treated with hormones. If you wish to grow these orchids and flower them again you will need to repot them after they flower. Expect a period of decline before growth as the orchid recovers from being pushed into producing lots of blooms.

Each year, cold weather takes a toll on orchids when heating systems fail while the owner is on vacation or in a hospital. I have always wondered how much cold can orchids experience and still survive. This year, a number of cattleya species and hybrids were sacrificed and left outside the greenhouse to test their tolerance to cold. Some growers claim that orchids are more cold tolerant if they are kept dry, so very little water was applied to these orchids. They were maintained under a small tangerine tree in medium light and watered only when no cold weather was expected. Phalaenopsis succumbed to rots once night temperatures dropped into the low 50s F. Cattleya hybrids generally began to show stress when low temperatures were in the mid 40s F. Stress included leaves turning black or black spots on green leaves. All but one hybrid died when temperatures were in the mid 30s F. The hybrid that survived the longest and even put out new roots right to the end was Lc Molly Tyler, which has C bowringiana prominent in the background.

Address Changes

If you have moved, changed your telephone number or email address, please email Richmond Orchid Alliance with the change at ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org or to P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226.

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

Make Note

PLEASE note our email address is

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

your records should be updated to reflect this change.

We're on the Web! Visit us at:

www.richmondorchidalliance.org

Growing Tips (continued)

Cattleya species died at around the same temperature as hybrids with one exception, *Laelia purpurata*. This species experiences cold temperatures along Brazil's south Atlantic coast in winter, and so might be expected to tolerate cold weather. On several occasions, night temperatures were near freezing and the single *L purpurata* in the experiment seemed unaffected. Finally, night temperature reached 28 F on the bench, which seemed to be too extreme for even this cold hardy

orchid. It showed leaf damage similar to what was observed for hybrids earlier. Some pseudobulbs remained green as did the rhizome itself. Curiosity and respect for the tenacity of this plant led me to put it back in the greenhouse a few weeks after the severe cold just to see if it could still be alive. Three weeks after enduring a low temperature of 28 F, it began to grow new roots. Clearly, some orchids are far tougher than we give them credit for.

Reprinted from March 2009

CHAOS Annual Show and Sale

On Friday/Saturday, April 2-3, 2010, the Charlottesville Orchid Society will hold its semi-annual Show & Sale at the Fashion Square Mall, located on Route 29 and Rio Road. The exhibit and plants for sale will be in the Belks Household/Food Court area of the Mall. Mall hours are 9AM to 9PM both Friday and Saturday. We look forward to seeing you.

ROA

Richmond Orchid Alliance
P.O. Box 8682
Richmond, VA 23226