

Richmond Orchid Alliance

We are all about Orchids!

April 2010

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ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

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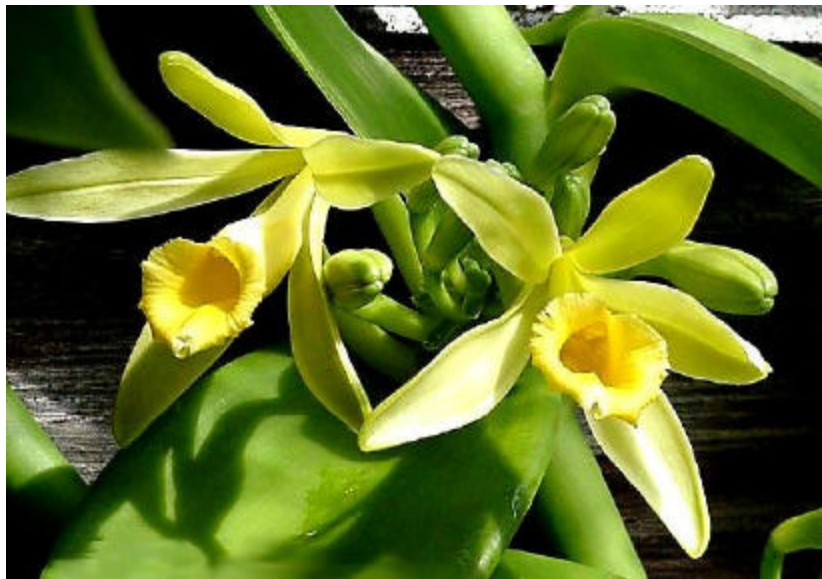
Birthdays

Barbi Partlow	4/2
Steve Partlow	4/6
Jim Creech	4/10
Susan Horman	4/15
Karen Collier	4/24

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin



VANILLA

YUMMMMMMM!

From flower to pod to food flavoring

Many of you know Janice Ranck, one of our members, but may not know that she is a specialist in growing vanilla orchids. Many of us did not realize that vanilla is a product of orchids, in fact, this genus produces the only edible orchids. There are a number of vanilla species of orchids.

She has been collecting different varieties of vanilla orchids for several years now and will share with us the history and culture of these plants. She will discuss the changes that had to be made in pollination in order to grow them commercially. This is the first time we have had

anyone that has presented this very interesting subject.

Maybe that vanilla orchid is just the plant you need to round out your collection! Janice will have vanilla orchid plants, as well as other varieties of orchids, and vanilla beans available for sale. She will also bring a variety of vanilla species for display.

See you Sunday, April 11 at 2 p.m. at the Science Museum of Virginia for the next ROA meeting.

-Van Williams

Apr. 11 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

Thanking our volunteers:

A big THANK YOU to our Great Big Greenhouse volunteers on March 13th! Buddy Harvie, Van Williams, Bill Akin and Steve and Barbi Partlow anchored the R.O.A. table for the semi-annual garden event at GBGH. Several folks stopped by to ask questions about orchids, and enter our drawings for a free R.O.A. membership and an orchid donated by GBGH. Thanks for volunteering!

Barbi

Upcoming Events

- 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

Spring is almost here and we are ready!

Soon it will be time to clean, set up and organize your outdoor growing space. It's never too early to start.


I would like to thank everyone that participated in the Orchids in Paris show. We accomplish great things when everyone helps, you learn a little and hopefully have some fun in the process. Many opportunities occur once a year so take advantage as they happen.

Just like most organizations we are faced with similar challenges. It is so important for you to know that the leadership team is working to find, new and different ways to add value to your membership. I did ask at this most recent program for your ideas and suggestion for future activities. Many of these suggestions were great ideas, and with your help we will work to make them happen. I remember someone saying that he had no idea what goes into making things happen. I encourage you to make that same discovery.

As more information becomes available about the Huntington Symposium I will keep you in the loop, so you can make your plans. Great speakers have been invited, there will be a plant exhibit, and lots of wonderful orchids to add to your collection and the beach should not be crowded.

I hope to see everyone at our April Program. This is a first presentation on the vanilla orchid so don't miss it!

Valli Laneve



The image contains the logo of the American Orchid Society (AOS) on the left, which features a stylized green orchid leaf and the text "American Orchid Society" with the tagline "Education. Conservation. Research." below it. To the right of the logo is a close-up photograph of a pink and white orchid flower.

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

Kudos for the Teamwork at Strange's

We had lots of help at the AOS show – thanks to all. Nancy Thompson was the designer with set up help from Buddy Harvie, Karen and Bob Whorle, Susan and Roger Horman, Eric Stanley, Louise Smith, Arline and Dermott Murphy, Thuyen Trevino, John Gregory, Valli Laneve, and Bill Akin. Loaning plants were Sue and Roger Horman, Arline and Dermott Murphy, Mike Chambliss, Jim Culbert, Thuyen Trevino, John Gregory, Buddy Harvie, Ronda and Forest Tignor, and Wanda Andrako. The take-down crew members were Van Williams, Buddy Harvie, Ronda and Forest Tignor, John Gregory, Nancy Thompson, Thuyen Trevino, Jim Creech, and Sue and Roger Horman.

Refreshments

Thanks to everyone for participating in March's refreshment table. I did not keep tabs on what was brought by individuals. So this is a Thank You to everyone that helped.

At our April meeting the theme of the Refreshment table will be Vanilla. If you have a favorite goodie to bring that includes a Vanilla flavoring, please do. Please contact me about the item you want to bring to avoid duplications. Shells3331@aol.com

Thanks Mike and John.

Donations

If you have a favorite book on orchids, consider purchasing a copy for our library. Your in-kind donation is tax deductible. See Buddy Harvie.

About This Bulletin

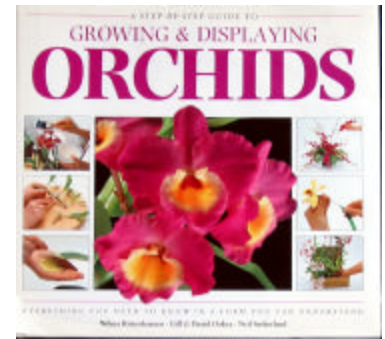
The Richmond Orchid Alliance meets at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond, at 2:00 P.M. of the second Sunday of each month from January through November. Yearly dues are \$25.00 per individual, or \$30.00 for a joint membership. Dues should be paid to the ROA Finance Director,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

ROA Library

The library has a number of books that provide guidance in the culture of orchids. One of these is a Step-by-Step Guide to GROWING and DISPLAYING ORCHIDS by Wilma Rittenhausen with support from Gill and David Oakley and Neil Sutherland.



The book begins with a short introduction covering the history of orchids, flower anatomy and other plant characteristics. The book then looks at some of the most popular orchids and how to grow them. These are by color photographs with cultural comments marked on appropriate parts of the pictured plants. These popular orchids are grouped by those which have similar cultural conditions. The conditions are listed for each group and include seasonal activity, location for best growth, temperature, light/ shade, watering/spraying and fertilizing.

Similar treatments are given for repotting, pests and diseases, growing locations i.e. windowsills, conservatories and greenhouses and other cultural concerns. There is a short section on what to look out for when buying orchids.

Part Two of the book is a real winner. It is an extensive treatment of arranging and displaying orchids. It gives instructions and illustrations for each step in construction of flower arranging utilizing orchids. I use the term construction because that's what it is. The author shows in detail the preparation of flowers, foliage and props, then the assembly of all the components into the desired arrangement. This is the only book I've ever seen that covers flower arranging utilizing orchids. Not many of us, however, have access to a greenhouse to provide the various types of orchids illustrated.

This is a good book. The practice of using annotated pictures to explain cultural points is very effective.

L.K. Harvie
Librarian

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.

March Showtable Awards

What a wonderful showtable we had in March. In Jan. we had, 21 orchids, in Feb. we had 25 and in March a grand total of 42 beautiful blooming plants.

The Judging committee would like to thank everyone that participated in March, those that brought plants and all those that helped in the judging process. I hope everyone found the process fun and informative. Special thanks to Van and Carol for assisting in tabulating the results. The Winners for March 2010 are as follows:

Cattleya:

- Blue – Lc. Ptarmigan Ridge– LK Harvie
- Blue – Lc. Rojo – the Murphy's
- Red – Yamadara Redland Sunset– LK Harvie
- Yellow – Epi. Lemon Lime– Randy Schonk

Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium:

- Blue – Paph. wardii– J. Zander
- Red – Paph. lowii– the Creech's
- Yellow – Paph. Hsinying Moonlight– the Horman's

Oncidium:

- Blue – Wilsonara Sitelia Ann– J. Zander
- Red – Psychopsis Kramerana– M Chambliss
- Yellow – Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'– M. Chambliss

Dendrobium:

- Blue – Den. Gloucester Sands– the Creech's
- Red – Den. Gold Star 'Orange Royal'– the Murphy's
- Yellow – Den. atroviolaceum 'Pygmy'– W. Andrako.

Phalaenopsis:

- Blue – Phal. Nobby's Amy– M. Chambliss
- Red – Dtps. Taisuco Fireworks x Amabalis– W. Andrako
- Red – Dtps. Long Pride Fancy– M. Chambliss
- Yellow – Dtps. I-Hsin Sun Beauty– the Murphy's

Vanda:

- Blue – V. Roberts Delight 'Pink'– C. Hollenbeck
- Red – Ascda. Banjong's Delight– C. Hollenbeck

Other/Intergeneric:

- Blue – Galeoptalum Giant 'Rhein Moonlight'– C. Hollenbeck
- Red – Anci. rothschildianum – T. Trevino
- Yellow – Z. Everspring– the Murphy's

Novice:

- Blue – Phal. Noid - White– E. Stanley
- Red – Phal. Noid - Pink– A. Smith

All the orchids on the showtable received double the points, as a thank you for participating.

For the April showtable, the person bringing in the most plants for the showtable will win a \$25.00 gift certificate to Chadwick's Orchids to be used that day to purchase plants.



Wilsonara Sitelia Ann grown by Mary Jane Zander



Phal. Nobby's Amy grown by Mike Chambliss



Galeoptalum Giant 'Rhein Moonlight' grown by Carol Hollenbeck



Den. Gloucester Sands grown by Valli Laneve and Jim Creech

Images by Dermot Murphy

ORCHIDWIZ

Don't you just hate it when you buy a new orchid and can't find out anything about it? It looked so appealing there on the shelf, but now you have it home and you have to take care of it, or bad things happen. We've all done internet searches, checked with the AOS and the RHS and still come up with very little that will help. In addition, you find that it has a different name every place you find it. ORCHIDWIZ is a software program that will simplify your life. When your orchid addiction turns your home or greenhouse into a jungle, and you need to know when is the last time you repotted a specific plant, you hope that you remembered to update the label that you put in the pot and you hope nobody has removed it and forgot to put it back. You may want to know exactly what orchids were used to create your splendid hybrid, and in what order? This can take some dedicated research at the RHS or one mouse click with ORCHIDWIZ. You want a detailed report on every plant you own starting from the day you bought them, or want to know exactly where it is in that jungle? It's one mouse click away with ORCHIDWIZ. It is not a toy program, but it is easy to use. The longer you use it, the more features you find it has. The speaker at the June meeting will show you how to use this wonderful and useful tool, and how it can replace stacks of books and lots of wasted, frustrating work. The adventurous or curious can try it out at the break to see how easy it makes things. You can get hooked pretty easily, I know I did.

- Roger Horman

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

ROA Library

The ROA Library has a number of video tapes. If you still have a VCR player you should view these tapes. Orchid Pests and Diseases is one of them. It is reviewed below. Others may be reviewed in the future.

Orchid Pests and Diseases is narrated by Bob Webster. He starts by describing various orchid ailments and has vivid examples to illustrate them. He distinguishes clearly between really serious afflictions – those that will kill orchids – and those that only make them sick.

He rightly emphasizes good culture that will prevent problems to start with. Accepting the fact that problems do occur, though, he shows examples of diseased and infested plants, and demonstrates surgical procedures to save them. He discusses the application of pesticides. His emphasis on safety and his admonition to read and follow directions for chemical pesticides is very good but he doesn't demonstrate their application. His comments on viruses reiterate what we have all been told – that there is no cure. He recommends euthanasia or absolute quarantine of afflicted plants if one cannot part with a favorite plant. He takes us to the laboratory at the United States Department of Agriculture for a demonstration of virus detecting procedures, electron microscope, bioassay or plant testing and serological testing. This is the weakest part of the tape. There is no explanation of what we are looking in the electron microscope example and few of us in ROA have the laboratory technique for serological testing. We had a demonstration on bioassay testing at one of our monthly meetings and test kits are available from Agdia, Inc.

Overall this is an outstanding video, doubly so because of Bob Webster's clear, well-organized narration. It is a good complement to the AOS pamphlet of the same name.

L.K. Harvie
Librarian

6th Annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium And AOS Members Meeting

Host:

Merritt Huntington
Symposium

Date:

October 27-31, 2010

Location:

Cavalier Hotel
42nd & Atlantic Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA

Phone:

(757) 425-8555

Web address:

mhsymposium.org

Preview Party:

Thurs., Oct. 28, 2010

Banquet:

Sat., Oct. 30, 2010

Speakers

- Glen Decker (Piping Rock Orchids)
- Norman Fang (Norman's Orchids)
- Jason Fisher (Orchids Limited)
- Olaf Gruss (Author, Speaker)
- Claude Hamilton (Hamlyn Orchids Ltd.)
- Philippe Lecoufle (Orchidees Vacherot & Lecoufle)
- Dr. Henry Oakley (RHS, Research Associate at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Garden Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Author)
- John Salventi (Parkside Orchids)

*See website for more information and to register.

Orchids in Paris: The ROA Winning

Congratulations to the following ROA members who won ribbons at the VOS show that was judged by AOS. ROA also won a Blue ribbon for best exhibit in the under 25 square-foot category and a Red ribbon for best exhibit by a visiting orchid society.

First Place Ribbons - Blue

B. digbyana 'Laura' grown by L.K. (Buddy) Harvie
 Paph. Salvadore Dali grown by Roger and Sue Horman
 Den. Erma White grown by John Gregory
 Phal. Baldin's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS grown by Roger and Sue Horman
 Ornithocephalus gladius grown by Roger and Sue Horman

Second Place Ribbons - Red

C. aurantiaca grown by L.K. (Buddy) Harvie
 Paph. Hsinying Moonlight grown by Roger and Sue Horman
 Den. Hawaiian Mini Stripe x Blue Twinkie grown by John Gregory
 Den. Gloucester Sands grown by Valli Laneve and Jim Creech
 Phal. Canyon Sun 'Fangtastic' grown by Arline and Dermott Murphy

Third Place Ribbons - Yellow

Paph. delenatii var. alba grown by Thuyen Trevino
 Phal. Sogo Grape 'Sogo' grown by Mike Chambliss

Honorable Mention - White

Lc. Drumbeat 'Heritage' grown by L.K. (Buddy) Harvie
 C. aurantiaca grown by L.K. (Buddy) Harvie
 Den. Green Elf grown by Valli Laneve and Jim Creech



Paph. Salvadore Dali grown by Roger and Sue Horman



Den. Erma White grown by John Gregory



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



Phal. Sogo Grape 'Sogo' grown by Mike Chambliss

Images by Jim Creech



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

Board of Directors

Valli Laneve

President

Judy Craggs

Treasurer

Nancy Thompson

Secretary

Wanda Andrako

Publications Director

Barbi Partlow

Membership

Van Williams

Programs

Committee Chairmen

Michael Chambliss

Showcase Judging

John Hutcheson

Refreshments

Buddy Harvie

Library

Betty Essex

Affiliated Societies

Ed and Nancy Bryce

Raffle

Roger Horman

Publicity

Bill Akin

Auction

Growing Tips by Courtney Hackney

There is likely no more important subject to orchid growers than pest and disease control. Many new hobbyists lose orchids to both before realizing there was a problem. Typically, by March, problems in your growing area manifest themselves because orchids are crowded together in cold windows and greenhouses. This provides the ideal environment for disease and pests to spread from plant to plant.

I often get numerous inquiries asking what I use to combat pests of various kinds and disease. My reluctance to specify any given pesticide or product is not because of the fear of a lawsuit, but because there are so many variables that go into a successful control program. There are, however, some general products and approaches that have worked well for me, and are worth sharing. There are also cautions.

The first and most important rule is good sanitation, which includes adequate air movement, maintenance of appropriate temperature and humidity, and the removal of dead or infested plant tissues. Air needs to be exchanged with fresh outside air to lower bacterial and fungal spore levels. Indoor hobbyists may have the same problem when their growing area is semi-enclosed. These steps alone solve at least half of the potential bacteria/fungal problems.

Botrytis, black spots on flowers, is a common problem in winter or in overly humid greenhouses. This is rarely a problem when there is good air movement or when night temperatures are above 65 F. Once Botrytis appears in a greenhouse it can be difficult to eliminate. It can be done, however. First, remove all dead tissues from benches, floors, and plants. Flowers with these black spots will also need to be removed. Spray walkways, benches and other non-living surfaces with Physan or another agent that kills bacteria at the recommended dose. Note that there are usually two different Physan mixing formulas, one for orchid applications and one for sterilizing non-living surfaces. Some growers use a 10% Clorox solution to kill bacteria on non-living surfaces.

The next step is to kill the spores that are hiding on plants. One of the best products is an old copper based product called Kocide. It is relatively inexpensive, but not always readily available for the hobbyist. Apply at the recommended level to all plants, but not on flowers. It will leave a blue sheen on leaves. It also has the added benefit of inhibiting slugs as copper is deadly to them and they will not cross a leaf covered with this product.

The next step is very important. Increase air movement beyond what you had before. Every flower in the greenhouse needs to move in the breeze you create. Never water if there is even the slightest chance that the day will be cloudy. Remove any water remaining on leaves before nightfall. If new spots appear, apply hydrogen peroxide. This is the same concentration used for cleaning a wound and can be purchased at any drug store. Dab the infected area with a cotton ball or remove the flower. If more spots appear, then air movement is not adequate or night temperatures are below 65 F.

Continued on p. 8

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)

Fungi also prefer moist conditions and respond to the same control measures. All four of these products (Clorox, Physan, Kocide, and Hydrogen Peroxide) have been around for a long time, which gives me some confidence that there are few unknown side effects. They are all dangerous poisons and I treat each as if it was the most toxic product on the planet and wear protective gloves, respirator, and clothing. It never hurts to be over cautious. Be especially careful when preparing the Kocide solution as the fine powder can easily become airborne and inhaled.

Reprinted from March 2007

TOS Program on the Ghost Orchid

Keith Davis will be speaking to the Tidewater Orchid Society on April 11 at 2:00 in the Webb Center at Old Dominion University. His topic is on the Ghost Orchid, an elusive Florida orchid that came into a bit of notoriety in the book and movie *The Orchid Thief*. Keith also wrote an article on the subject for *Orchids*, the AOS publication.

ROA

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Richmond, VA 23226