

Richmond Orchid Alliance

We are all about Orchids!

May 2010

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ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

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Thanks

Birthdays

Bernard Camden 5/2

Eugene Pierson 5/16

Karen Woehrle 5/28

Happy belated birthday to **Gail and Stuart Grandis**. Their birthdays were in April.

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin



Little Jewels

Linda Wilhelm will be returning to ROA as speaker for the May 2 program. As you remember Linda and her husband Rolf own Woodlands Orchids in NC. They both have many speaking engagements and are scheduled from Boston to Haiti and all spots in between this month. She is an accredited judge for the American Orchid Society and Chair of the Carolinas Judging Center in Greensboro, NC.

Linda will be talking about Little Jewels. These are the small orchids that are easy to grow in a windowsill or under lights. The ones you can always slip into tight spaces when you think there is no room for any more. We have done this many times and they are truly delightful. Some are about 6 inches tall with blooms the size of a regular size plant. They

come in a wide variety of colors and types of plants and blooms. She will bring plants of all sizes and types for sale. To pre-order, go to their website at www.woodlandorchids.com. They may have some shortages since they attend many shows at this time of the year but may have the ones you want. The plants are very healthy and grown well. Linda will bring the plants with her, which means you will save on shipping. Email your orders to vansarahwilliams@hotmail.com. All orders need to be in by noon on April 26. There is a discount if the orders reach a certain amount and all must be placed through Van in order to be eligible for the discount.

See you at the program on May 2.

-Van Williams

**May 2 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**

Reminder:

This month's program has been moved to **May 2**.

The new ROA Directories are IN!
Pick up yours at the May program!

Barbi

Upcoming Events

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.

Huntington Symposium:

Please mark your calendars for this once in a lifetime event. Thursday Oct. 28th – Oct. 31st. Information regarding registration, speakers and the schedule for this event will be available soon on the Huntington symposium website. It is going to be held at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach. Great speakers, plant vendors and so much more! Don't miss this opportunity!

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President's Message


Miss a program, you miss a lot!

Janis Ranck's presentation on the Vanilla Orchid was very informative and I have only heard great comments on the content and overall presentation. Lucky are the members that were able to purchase those beautiful vanilla beans. I see lots of vanilla sugar in their future. Remember cool, dry and low light preserves the oil in the bean.

As we roll out the "Friends of Richmond Orchid Alliance" campaign, please remember your participation will make this program a huge success. Look for a letter from me, sent to your home by US Mail. This program is a key to the Alliance's membership growth and our bright future. Fill out the card, invite your friend to our May program, and we will do the rest.

May, we have another wonderful speaker and program. It's just perfect for those that want more orchids and have a space issue as well as a way to expand your collection. Please read the feature article for details. ROA has been waiting since last July for this program. **DON'T MISS IT!!!!**

Valli Laneve



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

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

Orchid Doctors

Orchid Doctors are always on call at our programs. If you have a plant you are concerns about, you are welcome to bring it in for them to take a look at. Please wrap the plant in newspaper, to help ensure that if pests are present it will minimize exposure to other member's plants.

You can also call them for questions! These members represent decades of growing!

Wanda Andrako	794-3240
Buddy Harvie	272-3784
Jim Culbert	330-7794
Arline Murphy	288-3512



Paph. delenatii, grown by Thuyen Trevino

Refreshments

Hi from the refreshment committee. So many wonderful treats were brought in to share. We especially would like to thank the Harmon's, the Bryce's, Mary Jane Zander, Judy Craig, Nancy Thompson, Thuyen Trevino and anyone else we may have left out. If any member wishes to participate by bringing something to share in May, please do so.

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 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 Richmond Orchid alliance has a number of new members, some of whom may not be familiar with the esoterica of orchid nomenclature. This will be a primer which, it is hoped, will remove some of the mystery of orchid names. First off, be assured that one does not need to be a scholar of Latin and Greek classics to understand and appreciate the naming of orchids although a smattering of Latin grammar may help. Secondly, the system of naming orchids is formal.

In 1753 Carl Linnaeus published *Species Plantarum* which established a binomial classification for plants, one for the genus and one for the species. The nomenclature of orchids is consistent with Linnaeus' system. Linnaeus did not anticipate hybrids, however, and with the extensive hybridization of orchids deviations from his system began to appear. In recognition of this an international commission was established in 1957 with the objective of rectifying this situation. In 1969 this commission issued the *Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration*. (The ROA Library has a copy of the third edition of this handbook.) This handbook establishes four potential parts for an orchid name: genus or hybrid; species; variety; and clonal name. Not all orchids have all these parts.

Genus. The initial letter is capitalized. Frequently it is latinized but not always. Often it is a dedication, such as *Cattleya* for William Cattley, such as *Laelia* for one of the Vestal Virgins, such as *Brassavola* for Sr. Antonio Brassavola, an Italian botanist. The genus may also be given a descriptive name such as *Phalaenopsis*, Greek for *like a moth*.

Hybrid. These are usually designated by a combination of the first letters of their component genera with the first of these capitalized such as *Blc* for *Brasso-Laelio-Cattleya*. If it is a very complex hybrid having more than three genera it is indicated by the suffix *ara*. An examples is *Potinara*, a cross of *cattleya*, *brassavola*, *laelia* and *sophronitis*.

Species. This is lower case, italicized and in Latin form. Used by itself it is called a specific epithet but all that means is that it's a name. When used with a genus it specifies a particular orchid. Species are usually adjectives or possessives (genitives) but can also be participial. Some examples are: *C skinneri*, a *cattleya* belonging to George Skinner; *C mossiae*, a *cattleya* belonging to Mrs Moss; *C guatemalensis*, a natural hybrid from Guatemala; *Epi cochleatum*, a cockleshell epidendrum (It is now *Enc cochleata* since the taxonomists have been fiddling with it.)

Variety. The variety or varietal name is a name given to a special form of a species and is abbreviated *var*. For example *C skinneri* *var* *alba* is the white form of the normally purple *C skinneri*.

Grex. This is the term given to all the offspring of a given cross. For example all Ports of Paradise plants are the offspring of *Blc* *Fortune* and *B digbyana*. If somebody else uses a different *Blc* *Fortune* to cross with a different *B digbyana* the resulting offspring would still be *Blc* Ports of Paradise. (I don't know what the plural of *grex* is but I sure hope it is *grexes* because I think *grices* is a horrible word.)

(Continued page 4)

ROA Library

Clone Name . This is the name given to a particularly good orchid clone. It is indicated by single quotation marks. Anybody can give any unnamed clone a name. However, once a clone is named, all the divisions and all the meristems of it bear the same name.

The following are some samples of orchid names:

Species

C	<i>skinneri</i>	var. alba	'Debbie'
Capitalized first letter of genus	Lower case Latin form of species	White variety	Especially good clone

Hybrids

Pot	Maggie Mckenzie		'Halcon'
Abbreviation	GreX	No variety	Clone name
First letter			Single quotes
Capitalized			
Ascda	Princess Mikasa		'Soontorn'
Abbreviation	GreX	No variety	Clone name
First letter			Single quotes
Capitalized			

If all of this seems unnecessarily complicated don't worry about it. Lots of people ignore these rules in part or in toto. The important thing is to enjoy the orchids themselves.

If you are interested in further reading there are lots of references in the ROA Library. Some of these are:

Home Growing Orchids by Rebecca Tyson Northen
Orchids and How to Grow Them by Gloria Jean Sessler
Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration

Preparation of this primer drew extensively on the *Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration* and *An Orchidist's Glossary* by the American Orchid Society.

L.K. Harvie
 Librarian

Road Trips!

The following members have agreed to open their Green house/growing areas to our membership. Once we have dates and times from these generous members, it will be made available to the membership. If you would like to add your name to the list, please let me know!

Valli

Carol Hollenbeck
 Rhonda and Forest Tignor
 Susan and Roger Horman

Arline and Dermot Murphy
 Thuyen Trevino
 Tom Voytilla (2011)

Orchid Buddies

Beginning in June, we will launch a new educational program. The first topic will be how to use both a light and moisture meter. Arline Murphy will make this presentation. It will start at 1:30. It will be held in a corner of the Discovery room. The focus will be on the basics, everyone is welcome to attend. Arline used both of these tools to grow those fabulous orchids that appear on the show table. Don't miss this opportunity! Each month it will have a different topic. Your suggestions on topics are welcome!

Here and There

May 1 – Purchased Plant Auction,
 Tidewater Orchid Society,
 1:00 at Old Dominion
 University

ROA's Newest Orchid Enthusiast



This is Ryan Stanley. He was born March 29th to Eric and Rachel Stanley. He was 9 lbs even. Congrats!

April Showtable Awards

Hi to everyone from the Showtable committee.

What a wonderful Showtable for April. There were a grand total of 57 plants presented for Judging. We had a tough time deciding since there were so many beautiful orchids.

Here are the winners for April

Cattleya:

Blue- Blc. Liu Thong 'Hia'-Tom Voytilla

Red- Potinara HwaYaun Gold 'YK#2'-Tom Voytilla

Yellow- Cattleya Easter Halox LC. Mildred Rives-Tom Voytilla

Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium:

Blue- Phrag Sargeant Eric-Thuyen Trevino

Red- Paph. Delenatii-Thuyen Trevino

Red- Paph. Susan Booth/Primulium-Thuyen Trevino

Yellow- Paph. Sandra MaryxHigh Hat x Anne Szabo 'Penny'-Joe Mathias

Oncidium & Dendrobium:

Blue- Oncidium amplicatum -Stuart Grandis

Red- Oncidium Makalli Gotch-Jim Culbert

Yellow- Dendrobium atrovioleaceum-Wanda Andrako

Phalaenopsis:

Blue- Phal. Canyon Sun Fangtastic-the Murphy's

Red- Phal. Aspen Snow x Hilo Lip-Jim Culbert

Yellow- Dtps. Little Prince-Van Williams

Vanda:

Blue- Ascocentrum garayi-Joe Mathias

Red- Ascda. Fuchs Dazzler 'Robert' HCC x Vanda Doctor Anek

'Crown Fox' AM-Joe Mathias

Other & Small Intergenerics

Blue- Ansiella gigantea-Stuart Grandis

Red- Coelogyne flaccida x lactea-Tom Voytilla

Yellow- Phaius tankervalea-Mary Jane Zander

Congratulations to all the winners.

I would also like to congratulate Thuyen Trevino for winning the Showtable contest. She brought in a total of nine plants for judging and won a gift certificate to Chadwicks.

Everyone is encouraged to bring in their blooming orchids each month. Please have them registered by 1:40 pm to be eligible for judging..

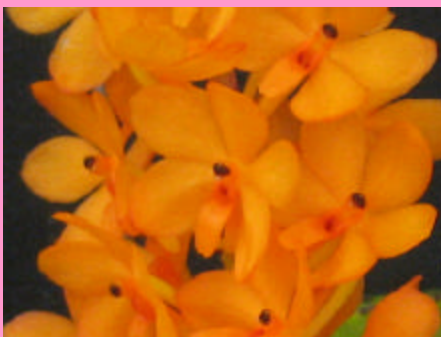
Mike Chambliss



Ansiella gigantea grown by Stuart Grandis



Phrag Sargeant Eric grown by Thuyen Trevino



Ascocentrum garayi grown by Joe Mathias

Photos on this page by Dermot Murphy

Farmer's Market

Hi everyone in ROA land. Just wanted to let you know Valli LaNeve, Thuyen Trevino, and myself attended and staffed a Orchid Information table at the Great Big Greenhouse's weekly Farmers Market. We chatted with over 20 customers that have some interest in orchids. We gave some advice, chatted about ROA, gave out information concerning our meetings and what our organization is all about.

Hopefully this bit of outreach will result in some of these nice folks attending a future program and could help increase membership.

I plan to attend next month. The date is May 20th, from 10 am to 3 pm. If anyone has questions or would like to participate please let me know by emailing me at Shells3331@aol.com, phone 804-651-6386, or letting me know at the next program.

Thanks,
Mike Chambliss

National Capital Judging Center Trip

On Saturday July 3rd, Jim Creech will be making a trip to the National Capital Judging Center in Washington, DC. There is room for five members to make this trip. If you are interested, email him at jcreech@ymail.com. This is a great opportunity to see some extraordinary plants and observe the AOS judging process live.



Phal (Aspen Snow x Hilo Lip),
grown by Jim Culbert



Lc ((C Easter Halo x Lc Midred
Teves, grown by Tom Voytilla



Onc Makalii 'Gotch', grown
Jim Culbert



Ascda (Fuchs Dazzler x V Doctor
Anek) grown by Joe Mathias

Raffle

Ed and Nancy Bryce would like to thank the businesses and members that so generously donate wonderful raffle prizes for our 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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Michael Chambliss

Showcase Judging

Buddy Harvie

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Roger Horman

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John Hutcheson

Refreshments

Growing Tips by Courtney Hackney

Most orchid hobbyists can't resist a novel hybrid or really odd species. That is why we are all "out of space". Even so, we still bring home a new orchid whenever we visit an orchid nursery or orchid show. "Space, is the final frontier" for most of us. What makes growing orchids difficult is the fact that different orchids require different growing conditions and we want to grow them all.

Those growing inside, either under lights or on windowsills, are generally used to orienting their orchids to the proper light levels. Orchids requiring high light, e.g. vandas, are placed close to the light, while phalaenopsis that prefer lower light levels are placed near the edge of the light table. There may be seasonal changes you initiate too, brought on by increasing day length or by changing light bulbs to coincide with spring. It's important to remember that the intensity of desirable wavelengths generated by grow lights decreases as bulbs age, so it is necessary to replace bulbs long before they stop working.

In greenhouses too, the location of orchids is important. Besides changes in day length, the sun changes both in intensity and orientation. A perfect location for your bulbophyllums in winter may be too bright in spring and summer. This is the time of year where it may be necessary to revisit the location of some orchids.

In my new greenhouse, there are two areas where the change in season has necessitated moving some orchids. What were once cool, shady spots are now very bright.

Because space is at a premium in most greenhouses, there are many hanging plants in my greenhouse oriented in layers. Visitors are often surprised to find phalaenopsis and bulbophyllums hanging high in the greenhouse. While they are hanging, they are shaded by vandas or other high light orchids. If you decide to try "layering" in either your greenhouse or indoor growing area be aware that there are other aspects of orchid growing you must consider.

Phalaenopsis hanging under vandas would stay too wet in the typical medium used for phalaenopsis, so my hanging phals are potted in coarse lava rock. Vandas and phalaenopsis both love high humidity and heat, but differ in their preference for light and drying tolerance. Vanda roots prefer to grow exposed and be dry by day's end, while phalaenopsis roots prefer not to dry thoroughly each day. Thus, my vandas are grown without medium and the phals hanging below them are in well-drained clay pots with lava rock. Both are watered most bright days and dry by the end of each day to an appropriate level for the individual plants.

There are also some high-light areas in the greenhouse where water is applied at infrequent intervals, especially in winter. Here, various encyclias and *C. dowiana* var *aurea* hang in pots along with certain cattleya species that prefer to be kept on the dry side. Phalaenopsis and bulbophyllums hanging below these plants would become too dry unless they were treated differently. It is not easy to water orchids

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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)

hanging below other orchids, so here moisture-loving orchids are potted in a fine bark mix or sphagnum and grown in plastic pots, which keeps them moist between weekly watering.

My system works now because I have learned how to do it by trial and error. Many orchids suffered during the learning process. The key to successful layering is to learn which areas dry fastest and which tend to stay wet longer. To practice "layering" successfully you will also have to learn about the requirements of different orchids too.

Reprinted from May 2009

Thanks

A Special thank you to Buddy Harvie, Roger and Susan Horman for the wonderful plants they donated for our mini plant auction. Both plants were beautiful and thank you to the lucky winners for your donation!

Auction Requests

Ever had that feeling about a particular orchid, one you really, really wanted, but just didn't get around to saying "yes" to. Well, it may not be too late. Sunday, September 12th. is our annual growers plant auction. I'm getting together a list of plants that will be requested from those people we often have had success ordering from. If you have a particular plant that you would like to see in the auction, either e-mail me at billakin@verizon.net or call me at 378-0999. Most of our plant will be in bloom! The person sitting next to you may also want it – so come prepared to get your plant.

Going, going, gone. Don't be wishing you had one. Request it and make dreams come true by being the highest bidder.

Bill Akin

ROA

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