

Richmond Orchid Alliance

We are all about Orchids!

June 2010

Wanda Andrako, Editor
Jim Creech, Layout Editor

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

Inside This Issue

Page 2	President's Message
	Orchid Doctors
	Upcoming Events
	Refreshments
Page 3	Orchid Buds
	Roots
Page 4	Farmer's Market
	AOS Judging Center
Page 5	Showtable Awards
Page 6	Huntington Symposium
	Horman Greenhouse
Page 7	Growing Tips
	ROA Board and Committee Chairs
	Raffle
	Auction Requests
Page 8	ROA Library

Birthdays

Valli Laneve	6/7
Michael Mathias	6/8
Dick Seltzer	6/9
June Pierson	6/13
John Hutcheson	6/26
Janis Ranck	6/28

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin

Orchid Wiz

Mark your calendars for June 13th!!!
For a live presentation of Orchid Wiz
database software.

This program will be presented by Roger Horman. Roger has been growing orchids for a relatively short period of time and has been a member of ROA for two years. One conversation with Roger and you get the sense he has been growing his whole lifetime based on the information he shares about orchids. Both Roger and Susan Horman use Orchid Wiz almost exclusively to help them understand the culture needs of the orchids they select for their collections. They have attended, just to mention a few, the Philadelphia flower show, Longwood Gardens, National Capital Orchid Show, recently attended the Redlands Orchid Show, and last summer visited a number of commercial orchid growers in Hawaii. They do grow their orchids in a greenhouse, and Orchid Wiz has provided information to help them create micro mini climates. You can use this information to do the same in your home, whether you have two or 200 orchids.

This software program is used by many AOS judges. You may be wondering, why Orchid Wiz.... Take the time to review the demo available at www.orchidwiz.com and you will



Roger Horman

see that Orchid wiz is a complete, easy to use computer program and the information is simple to understand and apply to your own collection.

Orchid Wiz is extremely accurate, in providing information on a plant's culture needs. I was impressed that on one screen it gave you the origin, habitat it grows in, whether it is fragrant, specific light requirement including shade, dappled, bright or full sun. It is an encyclopedia that is practical, comprehensive and easy to use. There is even a Journal to track your own plants. This software is for the member that just wants to know how to grow their orchids better, to the member that needs all the details, from parentage to flower size.

DO NOT miss this fabulous opportunity to see it live, use it yourself, and ask questions. You might be surprised how much you enjoy using technology to help you grow better orchids. Isn't that what it's all about?

A 30% discount will also be available if three or more members purchase Orchid Wiz!!!!

ROA members will be allowed to sell plants at this program.

**June 13th 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:

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

Barbi

Upcoming Events

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.

Refreshments

Thanks from the refreshment committee for all the wonderful things that were shared at the May refreshment table. Special thanks to Valli, the Bryce's, Thuyen and the Horman's and anyone else we may have missed.

The June refreshment table will be a tropical theme. If anyone wishes to bring something tasty with a tropical flare please do so. And to add some fun, if you would like to wear something tropical please do so. If you have any questions please contact Mike or John at 651-6386, or email at Shells3331@aol.com.

Thanks Mike and John.

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

President's Message

The Friends of the Richmond Orchid Alliance is off to a great start. Please make sure that you take advantage of the opportunity to give the complimentary membership to someone that will enjoy learning more about growing orchids, turn your card into the membership desk! Our website www.richmondorchidalliance.org is a wonderful tool to give someone considering membership, both an overview and details of the alliance. If you have not visited please do so. All our bulletins, book reviews, culture, programs, speakers, are just a few things one can find there.

I encourage everyone to visit the Merritt Huntington Symposium website and register for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Fabulous speakers, from all over the country and world will be conducting lectures. Outstanding plants will be available to add to your collections. If you have plants that you would like to put into the exhibit, details will follow. This is going to be a wonderful event to attend, do NOT MISS out, register now! Please read about the details on page 6.

June will be the first of our Orchid Buds class, details can be found in the bulletin, as well as an overview of Orchid Wiz. Regular attendance helps you become a better grower, expand your friendship. Tom Voytilla will be selling plants and supplies.

The program is going to have a tropical theme, don't forget wear your tropical shirts. Mike is awarding auction dollars for first time exhibitor and novice grower winner.

See you at the program!!!!

Valli Laneve



Susan Horman is our AOS representative. Susan has the membership application form and will explain all of the benefits of joining. The AOS website is www.aos.org.

Orchid Doctors

Orchid Doctors are always on call at our programs. If you have a plant you are concerned 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
Jim Culbert

794-3240
330-7794

Buddy Harvie
Arline Murphy

272-3784
288-3512

Orchid Buds:

Orchid Buds (Buddies) will debut at the June meeting. It will be a short program starting at 1:30 p.m. prior to the meeting and end before the meeting starts. It will feature information about various aspects of orchid culture for the new grower or for those who would like to brush up. Some experienced growers may pick up new tips to help them.

This session will be taught by Arline Murphy and feature the use of light and moisture meters. Some of us use them and others just use the hand shadow method of determining the amount of light. The short meeting will be held in the back left corner of the meeting room.

For related information see the main article on this page.

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.

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

The Fine Art Of "Letting Your Roots Show"

Orchid plants don't always let you know when they are in serious trouble. One example: an orchid may look rather healthy with green leaves on top, but within a month surprise you with the beginning of wilting leaves.

A phal I bought several years ago had a beautiful dark maroon colored flower with a white lip, it was stunning! Soon after the flower wilted I noticed that the leaves were also wilting. A trip to Chadwicks was in order. He immediately unpotted the plant and pointed out that the roots were almost gone. He packed it tightly in sphagnum moss and told me that the plant might live if I watered it properly and it had enough strength left to support new root growth. It had not been watered enough (1), watered too much (2) or chilled too much in shipping (3) or had some other shock to its system (4). There was no way to tell. Allen Black takes all of his new purchases out of the pot as soon as he buys them to check the roots and the medium and now I do too. Usually the potting mix is pretty old by the time the plant is purchased. As soon as the plant blooms it is shipped to sell. Note that the only way to see what is wrong with the plant is to examine the roots- the key to orchid survival.

The plant must have good roots to survive and to bloom.

1. Use a meter to see if it has the right amount of water near the center of the pot.
2. If not, water the pot at least twice letting the water flow slowly out each time.

The schedule for watering is dependent on the medium used and household humidity

Orchids can grow in many different types of media, but they must have the right watering schedule for humidity and media they are growing in.

A greenhouse with controlled 50% humidity might need less water, perhaps only once a week, but a window sill with 20% humidity might need watering two or three times a week. Some plants like cattleyas can be drier (wait a day after the meter says it is dry) and others like phals and paphs must be watered as soon as the center of the pot says dry. The orchid types differ in need. One cannot water every Wednesday morning and meet the water needs of the individual plants. Remember always that our collections come from vastly different tropical countries and often different continents with unique rain fall patterns.

I use a meter but check a couple of plants of different size before watering and water only those that need to be hydrated. Over watering can drown the plants.

I have tried several meters but one found in Charlie's Greenhouse has worked best and have replaced the worn one because I have found it to be most accurate. However many orchid growers, especially those using moss have great results just poking a finger down to the center of the pot and watering when it is dry at that spot.

Good photosynthesis in the leaves sends necessary food to grow healthy roots

This means that the orchid must have the right light for its type to grow well and sufficient nutrients in the form of fertilizer. The fertilizer part is easy as the only way you can go wrong is to make it too strong thus burn the roots and/or foliage. Read the directions carefully- and a little weekly,

(continued on page 4)

“Letting Your Roots Show” (continued)

weakly mixed and applied at watering time. This is especially important if you have some orchids in semihydroponic pellets that have no natural nutrients in them. Do not guess at the amount of light as it varies from season to season and one can easily burn the foliage off at this time of the year when the sun is increasingly strong and there are no filtering leaves on the trees. Each orchid has its light value needs, they differ from one to the other. I have the cymbidium in direct sun for three hours. Some orchids would burn in that light and have to produce new leaves to replace the singed ones. Phals seldom like direct sun. Light meters are available to record the amount of wavelength and observation will tell you how long the light is coming in. Meters are about the cost of one good orchid plant! There are charts to tell you which plant likes the wavelength you have coming in a certain window or a place in your greenhouse and you can arrange shade if it is too much (curtains) or move the plant.

Using a light meter will simplify the job of giving a plant enough sun to grow good roots and healthy foliage. It may make the orchid produce flowers that are earlier and larger.

(I will come with the gadgets and plants to demonstrate the use of them.)

-Arline Murphy

Farmer’s Market

Jane Zander will host a table for ROA between 3 to 6 pm on May 27, June 10 & June 24 at the Brandermill Green Market in Sunday Park in Brandermill. Other market vendors include organizations, bakers and homegrown vegetable sellers. The Green Market will continue on the second and last Thursdays of each month through October. For those not familiar with Brandermill, it is located at the Southern end of Powhite Parkway in Midlothian. Turn left at the light and take Old hundred Road past Genito and almost to the intersection of Hull Street. Turn a sharp right onto Mill Ridge Parkway and follow the signs to Sunday Park.

Mike Chambliss will also be back at the Great Big Greenhouse Farmer’s Market on June 17. If you are interested in helping to staff the booth, please contact Mike at Shells3331@aol.com or 651-6386.

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.

Supplies

Tom Voytilla will have plants and semi-hydroponic supplies for sale at the meeting.

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org



Above: Members listening intently to Linda Wilhelm’s talk on miniature orchids.



Left: Linda Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids

May Showtable Awards

Hi to everyone from the Showtable committee. The judges this month were Mike Chambliss, Janis Ranck and Jim Creech.

Here are the winners for May.

Cattleya:

Blue- *C. skinneri* var. *alba* 'Debbie' HCC/AOS- L.K. Harvie

Red- *Diacattleya chantilly* Lace 'Twinkle'- L.K. Harvie

Yellow- *Encylia cordigers*- L.K. Harvie

Oncidium & Dendrobium:

Blue- *Psycopsis krameriana*- Mike Chambliss

Red- Mtdm .Rosy Sunset- Thuyen Trevino

Red- Odtna. Lorraine 14th WOC- Jim Culbert

Yellow- *Psycopsis mariposa*- Valli Laneve

Phalaenopsis:

Blue- Phal. Tropical 'Ruby Beets'- Barbi and Steve Partlow

Red- Phal. Carolina Gold Cup "Lenette #19"- Jim Culbert

Yellow- Phal. Confetti Burst- Jim Culbert

Vanda:

Red- Ascda Princess Mikasa 'Sapphire'- Thuyen Trevino

Novice:

Blue- *Cattleya* NoID- Sharon Smith

Congratulations to all the winners.

We all look forward to the wonderful blooming orchids in June.

June is Novice/First time Exhibitor Month.

If you have never brought in a blooming plant, or wish to place plants in the Novice category please share your plants. The Blue ribbon plant for June in the Novice category will receive a \$25 gift certificate to be used at the Sept. auction. This is sponsored by the Showtable and Auction committees.

To be eligible for judging please bring in the plants, register them and place them on the tables prior to 1:40 pm. This gives the judging team time to evaluate the orchids.

Mike Chambliss



C. skinneri var. *alba* 'Debbie' HCC/AOS
grown by L.K. Harvie



Phal. Tropical 'Ruby Beets' grown by
Barbi and Steve Partlow



Pyp. *krameriana* grown by Mike
Chambliss



Cattleya NoID grown by Sharon
Smith

Photos on this page by Jim Creech

Susan and Roger Horman's Greenhouse Visit

For those interested in visiting members' greenhouses the Horman's growing area will be opened up at 10:30 on Saturday, June 5th. They have a lovely greenhouse that is attached to their home.

9095 Windsor Dr.
King George, VA
(540) 408-3636 (Cell)

The greenhouse is air conditioned and their gardens will also be open. Their home is about an hour north of Ashland in King George County. Please call to confirm. Remember that you are a visitor. Take your shoes off unless invited otherwise. Express gratitude for this opportunity. And above all else, enjoy the experience!



Thank You

The first green house visit was to Carol Hollenbeck's growing area on May 15th. We want to thank her for letting ROA members have a peek at her growing conditions.

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

6TH ANNUAL MERRITT HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM and 2010 AOS TRUSTEES MEETING

Make plans now to attend the next annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium to be held in Virginia Beach, VA on October 26-31, 2010. The setting will be the Cavalier Oceanfront Hotel on Atlantic Avenue and this year the symposium will be held in conjunction with the 2010 Fall AOS Trustees meeting.

Speakers will be John Salvanti (Parkside Orchids), Norman Fang (Norman's Orchids), Glen Decker (Piping Rock Orchids), Phillip Lecoufle (Orchidees Vacherot & Lecoufle), Claude Hamilton (Hamlyn Orchids, Ltd), Jason Fisher, and Dr. Olaf Gruss.

One speaker will promote his book, while all the others are expected to sell plants. In addition to these sellers, we expect to have as vendors H & R Nurseries, Norito Hasagawa, Andys Orchids, Waldor Orchids, Oak Hill Orchids, J & L Orchids, Fred Clark, Gold Country Orchids, New World Orchids, and Orchidophile. Plants, plants and more plants will be available.

Thursday, Oct. 26th, will be principally registrations. Friday will be continued registration and

commercial sales set up time. Thursday is committee meetings with tours of the Virginia Aquarium available as well as Naticus and the Kaplan Conservatory. Thursday evening concludes with the official ribbon cutting and a Banquet will be held Saturday evening, together with DJ and all. Friday will be lectures and meetings. Saturday is lectures, committee meetings, and we are looking for a tour of a Navy aircraft carrier (very popular at the last Orchid Congress held in the area. Sunday will be a lecture and plant sales.

Food will be no problem, there will be lots. Additionally, there will be meetings held by the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, the Slipper Alliance, Ondontoglossum Alliance, Pleurothalids Alliance and the Orchid Digest. It will be a great time to see what is going on within each of these five major orchid groups.

Go to www.MHSymposium.org for a registration form or for additional information. Prices go up come October 1st, so now is the time to reserve your place. Call Bill Akin (378-0999) or Valli LaNeve (360-1625) with questions.



Pyp. Mariposa grown by Valli Laneve. This plant had four flowers and one bud on three inflorescences. Linda Wilhelm commented that it was unusual for this genera to branch, and this plant to have two branching inflorescences was highly unusual.

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 would like to donate plants, books, or orchid related items and would like to donate them to the raffle, please call them at 231-7042 (prior to the program if possible). Your donations are tax deductible.

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

Susan Horman

Affiliated Societies

Bill Akin

Auction

Buddy Harvie

Library

Roger Horman

Publicity

Ed and Nancy Bryce

Raffle

John Hutcheson

Refreshments

Michael Chambliss

Showcase Judging

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

Growing Tips by Courtney Hackney

There are many products available today for orchid growing, most far more expensive than necessary. Hobbyists usually just pay the price since they have only a few plants. As your collection gets larger or you wish to be more frugal there are many ways to reduce the cost of your hobby.

Many hobbyists got stared when presented with a gift of an orchid and are still in the early stages of learning to grow. Many of the big-box stores get a regular supply of orchids, which are sold as pot plants. Some orchids do not sell and go out of bloom. These are either tossed or placed on a sales table at a reduced price. Caution should be exercised when purchasing these orchids, but some bargains can be found. Inexpensive orchids also make great plants on which to experiment. Learn to repot using these orchids. Try different media and pots. All of these “experiments” will teach you to be a better grower and make you more confident when you purchase an orchid that you really like. Most hobbyists err in the beginning because they are afraid to damage a newly purchased orchid so they do nothing when a problem develops.

Fertilizer is a classic example of the concept that excellent orchids do not require the most expensive products. One of my favorite growers that proved the concept was the late Ralph Wasdon from Greenville, NC. He used K Mart, soluble fertilizer and grew orchids as well as anyone I ever met. When asked to speak about his prowess in growing orchids he always replied that it only took five minutes to explain his methods; water when needed, fertilize when you remember, and put your plants under the pines when it was warm enough.

Practical wisdom is often overlooked when growing “exotic” orchids in favor of the elaborate and expensive. Powdered cinnamon is a very effective fungicide applied directly to the wound. Many growers buy cinnamon powder by the bag and sprinkle it over roots and rhizome just before placing a newly repotted orchid in a new pot. This non-toxic and relatively inexpensive fungicide has the added benefit of a nice fragrance.

Another simple, and amazingly effective, anti-bacterial/anti fungal agent is Hydrogen Peroxide. It is available everywhere for topical use. Joe Grezaffi introduced me to its use. Whenever he saw crown rot in a phal or rot on a cattleya he poured hydrogen peroxide right in the crown or damaged area. For awhile, I used half strength, but found that there was never any damage from using it full strength. It even stops pseudomonas rot on phal leaves that I once cut off entirely when I saw just a small rot spot.

One of the most significant changes in fertilizer for orchids is the availability of a slow release fertilizer named Nutricote. This product is being used by many commercial orchid nurseries, but is even more important to the hobbyist who has just a small number of orchids. Available as Dynamite in small quantities from Home Depot stores, this is an easy to use fertilizer that delivers a constant supply of nutrients for a set amount of time. Most last for six months and provide micronutrients as well.

Reprinted from June 2009

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

ROA Library

The library has received a number of new items. One of these is *Vanilla* by Tom Ecott. This book traces the story of the vanilla plant and its secretive trade from the golden cups of the Aztec emperors to the ice cream dishes of the U. S. presidents. The only orchid that produces an agriculturally valuable crop, vanilla finds its way into over half of all dessert products sold worldwide, from ice cream to chocolate mousse, as well as the finest perfumes, well-known brands of rum and vodka, and even to coca-cola and Pepsi.

Americans consume more vanilla than anyone else on earth, a fact that helped drive the price of vanilla beans and extract to an all-time high and forced growers and traders to mount armed guards over their plants in the tropical jungle. The traders who travel the world in search of America's favorite flavor are a small and secretive elite group.

From Papanila in Mexico – “the city that perfumed the world” – to the South Seas, to Madagascar and the Indian Ocean islands *Vanilla* is a globetrotting adventure that follows buccaneers, aristocrats and gourmands, all in search of the ice cream orchid.

This book is a complement to the excellent program on vanilla orchids given a couple of months ago by Janis Ranck.

Other items recently acquired by the library are:

- *Orchid* – a book by Thomas J. Sheehan
- *Tropical Slipper Orchids* – a book by Harold Koopowitz
- A number of tapes and discs of previous programs and orchid subjects

-L.K. Harvie

ROA

Richmond Orchid Alliance

P.O. Box 8682

Richmond, VA 23226