

Richmond Orchid Alliance

We are all about Orchids!

July 2010

Wanda Andrako, Editor
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ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

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Birthdays

Bayne Hawkins 7/4

Arline Murphy 7/13

Joe Mathias 7/20

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin



National Capital Judging Center

On Saturday July 3rd, Jim Creech will be making a trip to the National Capital Judging Center (NCJC) in Washington, DC. There is room for five members to make this trip. Please call 360-1625 or email jcreech@ymail.com to reserve your spot. We will meet at the Nordstrom lower parking lot at the Short Pump Town Center at 8:00. The van will depart at 8:15. If you want to follow behind the Van in your car you are welcome to do that as well.

This is an opportunity to sit with Valerie Lowe, an accredited judge, and she will give those attending an orientation on how the judging center works. NCJC is one of a very few centers with open plant judging. What this means is that the judging is conducted in public rather than behind closed doors. The process of judging is considered part of the educational mandate of the National Arboretum, the host to NCJC. You will see a special group of plants, meet other growers and judges.

In addition, the herb and flower gardens are in bloom, and the bonsai collection is the best in our country. Snacks will be provided and a stop can be made for those that need a meal. This is a great opportunity to see some extraordinary plants and observe the AOS judging process live.

No Program in July!!

**See you at the Star Spangled August Social at
Wanda Andrako's home on August 8.**

Upcoming Events

- 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.

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. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. 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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President's Message

I want to wish everyone a wonderful summer! During these hot days double check your plants to make sure they are not getting sunburned and have sufficient water. This is the time that new growths are emerging and they are a little sensitive to the extreme heat.

June was a fabulous program. Roger Horman presentation on Orchid WIZ, showed us how technology can help us learn about orchids in our collections, how simple record keeping can be. Lucky those members are that took advantage of the special price break. It was great to see most members in their tropical dress. The food and the decorations completed a fun atmosphere. Mike and John thank you for everything you do each month. Our members look forward each month to all the special touches.

We are starting to plan programs for next year. If you have a suggestion for topics, speaker, or feedback on a program we had this year, please let Van Williams or myself know. We want to programs that reflect you interests. You may have liked a speaker, and most of them can speak on several subjects so make sure you let us know. If you want a program on a specific genera we want to know. We realize that everyone can not grow everything, but our focus is orchid culture. Your input is important.

Please turn your complimentary membership card in. This is a wonderful gift. You have the power to introduce someone to a wonderful hobby, and a great organization.

A special thank you to Arline Murphy. The members that attended the class on light and water meter enjoyed it. I was glad to see that it was a topic our members had an interest in learning more about. One might say you set off a few meters that will help our members understand how to use these tools.

July we are taking a vacation, but our August program will be an opportunity to see the Andrako's greenhouse and see set-ups for light tables, outside growing as well. We will have a picnic and remember to bring your plants for the showtable. We will also have an orchid bud class. Another fun theme!!

Valli Laneve

Orchid Doctors

Orchid Doctors are always on call at our programs. If you have a plant that you are concerned about, you are welcome to bring it in for examination. 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

Redlands International Orchid Festival Trip

On 12 May, we traveled to Southern Florida to attend the 14th annual Redlands International Orchid Festival held in Homestead. We became aware of this event after talking to the owners of Orchid Trail in North Carolina. They told us that this was one of the top orchid events to attend. We started by referring to the websites of the AOS (www.aos.org) and the Redlands International Orchid Festival (www.redlandorchidfestival.org/), then made plans to attend.

purchased some tall orchids as structural uprights for use around her pool. The vendor sold a trellis system for Vandas, so she bought 3 Vandas and they were then attached to a trellis which was approximately 5 feet in height, which in turn was placed in a decorative planter. It made a very nice container plant. Very large and unblemished Vandas were stacked and sold like vegetables at very modest prices.

We arrived on opening day about 15 minutes early and were surprised at how many people were already waiting in a very long line for the gates to open. As we waited in that line, we became aware of the numerous nationalities of other attendees around us. We had a conversation with a gentleman behind us that had arrived from India to attend this event. After paying for our tickets, we walked into the beautifully landscaped Redlands Fruit and Spice Park and were excited to see an endless view of vendor tents. There were 60 vendors of orchids, supplies and orchid-related items. While there are many growers from the US, the list of international nurseries was impressive with Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Jamaica, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand being represented this year. The park setting was incredible, a garden with raised beds of herbs, vegetables, lotus & waterlilies, exotic fruit and spice trees, as well as beautiful ponds and waterfalls throughout the park.

We spent the entire morning going from vendor to vendor, comparing and trying to narrow down the options for purchase. Luckily, we flew to Florida, and were therefore limited on the amount of orchids we could carry home. This kept us from being completely foolish. We were surprised that there was not a local shipping site like FEDEX or UPS in Homestead for those who needed to ship significant numbers home.

There were numerous ethnic food vendors and Roger enjoyed the curried goat and Susan could not get enough of the fresh lemonade. During the afternoon, there were air conditioned classes. Since it was much hotter there than in Virginia, the A/C was a welcomed treat, and we attended all the classes on the first day. They were tutorials on growing orchids into specimen plants, leafless orchids and Cattleya culture. The presentations were excellent.

There was a large exhibition tent and AOS judging was held on the day before the festival opened. We were disappointed with the plants that were exhibited. The ROA display tables often have speci-

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At first we were in shock at the volume and diversity of orchids available from so many vendors. One of the first things we noticed was the size of many of the orchids, ranging up to 6 feet in height. Of course there were all kinds of smaller ones as well. Floridians use orchids in their landscaping so they are able to accommodate large numbers of huge orchids. We watched while one



Photos by the Horman's from Redlands International Orchid Festival trip



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Refreshments

I want to thank everyone for participating by bringing in some wonderful goodies for the refreshment table. Special thanks to Valli Laneve, Susan and Roger Horman, Barbi and Steve Partlow, Thuyen Trevino, June Pierson, Judy Craggs, Arlene and Dermot Murphy, June Pierson, David and Betty Essex, Janice Ranck, and anyone else we may have missed.

I also thought it was wonderful that many in the room wore their colorful tropical outfits, especially Thuyen Trevino with that grass skirt.

Thanks to all.

Mike and John.

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Farmer's Market

Jane Zander will host a table for ROA between 3 to 6 pm on 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 the third Thursday of each month. If you are interested in helping to staff the booth, please contact Mike at Shells3331@aol.com or 651-6386.



Phal. Noname grown by Wanda Andrako

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Redlands Trip (continued)

mens that are as good or better. Susan mentioned this to a woman who wanted feedback about the festival, and she responded that the severe winter cold had caused a lot of orchid growers major problems. One grower said that she had never lost a plant in her trees before and lost them all this year.

We ended the day with a lot more orchids than we had planned. When you make several trips back to the car carrying plants to avoid carrying them around, it is amazing at the end of the day how many bags of orchids have accumulated. The first day, the count was somewhere around 18. Susan even managed to buy 2 ghost orchids which we really hope will decide to live.

We toured part of the everglades the following day via airboat, and then decided that we had to go back and buy a couple of more orchids. In driving back, we noticed a lot of orchid nurseries that were open all around the Homestead area. So we toured several nurseries and were amazed at how healthy and gorgeous the plants were. The only thing that kept us from stopping at more growers and, buying many more orchids, was the temperature. It was 100 degrees and 100 percent humidity; we just melted and had to give up the hunt for the perfect orchid.

We really enjoyed the Redlands International Orchid Festival and will probably attend again, BUT we will drive next time so that we are not as limited on space! How we will squeeze more plants into the greenhouse is another matter. We also visited AOS headquarters and the Fairchild Gardens, but this is another story.

- Susan and Roger Horman



Photos by the Horman's from Redlands International Orchid Festival trip



Photos

Just wanted to thank Dermot Murphy for taking all those great photo's of our show table plants. They make our bulletin even more special. Blooms are a celebration of great growing

June Showtable Awards

What a great turnout for the showtable there where a total of 57 blooming plants. There were many outstanding orchids, even some unusual types we don't normally get to view..

Congratulations to our Novice winners. Eric Stanley and Karen Woehrle both won Auction Bucks to be used at our Auction in September.

Here are the winners for June.

Cattleya:

Blue - Cattlianthe Bernie Blanck - LK Harvie

Red - Encyclia cochleata - Thuyen Trevino

Red - Encyclia tampensis - Mike Chambliss

Yellow - Lc Irene Finney 'Spring Beauty' - LK Harvie

Oncidium & Dendrobium:

Blue - Pycopsis Mendenhall 'Yellow Butterfly' - Mike Chambliss

Red - Dendrobium parishii - Ronald Geraci

Yellow - Miltonia Memoria Dale Carlson- Thuyen Trevino

Phalaenopsis:

Blue - Phal Noname - Wanda Andrako

Red - Phal Soya Golden 'Orchidphile' HCC/AOS - the Murphy's

Yellow - Phal. Red Hot Pepper - Jim Culbert

Paph & Phrag:

Blue - Paph Maudiae - Judy Craggs

Other & Small Intergeneric:

Blue - Sarcoglottis sceptrodes - Karen Collier

Red - Masdavilla Peaches and Cream - J. Zander

Novice:

Blue - Cat. mossiae var. semialba - Eric Stanley

Red - Burrageara Jimbo 'Swarm' - Karen Woehrle

Yellow - Maxillaria tenuifolia - Eric Stanley

Since we are not meeting in the month of July, I would like to try something different. A Virtual Showtable. The idea is to take pictures of orchids you might have in bloom during July that would not make it to the August Showtable at our social. Load them into your computer and send them to me at shells3331@aol.com. I will then accumulate them and send them back out to anyone on the ROA email list. This is an experiment and maybe something fun to try.

I would also like to thank Jim Creech and Sue Akin for being the guest judges.

Thanks to all, Mike Chambliss, Showtable Chairperson

Photos on this page by Dermot Murphy



Cattlianthe Bernie Blanck grown by LK. Harvie



Paph Maudiae grown by Judy Craggs



C. mossiae var. semialba grown by Eric Stanley



Sarcoglottis sceptrodes grown by Karen Collier

Shore Orchid Festival

Silva Orchids
635 Wayside Rd., Neptune, NJ.

This event will be held July 23 through 25 and feature twenty orchid vendors, including vendors coming from as far away as Japan.

It will also feature workshops and lectures, covering a wide range of topics for both the novice and the advanced grower/collector.

Some of the vendors are: Andy's Orchids, Brennan Orchids, Cal-Orchid, Oakhill Orchids, Piping Rock, Main Street Orchids, Waldor Orchids, Woodstream Orchids, Stony Brook Orchids, Parkside Orchids, J&L Orchids.... More information available at www.silvaorchids.com.

Thank You

The second green house visit was to Susan and Roger Horman's growing area on June 5th. We want to thank them for letting ROA members have a peek at their greenhouse, both methods of obtaining nearly pure water, and the various landscaping elements used (from plantings to water features to a driftwood Loch Ness monster).

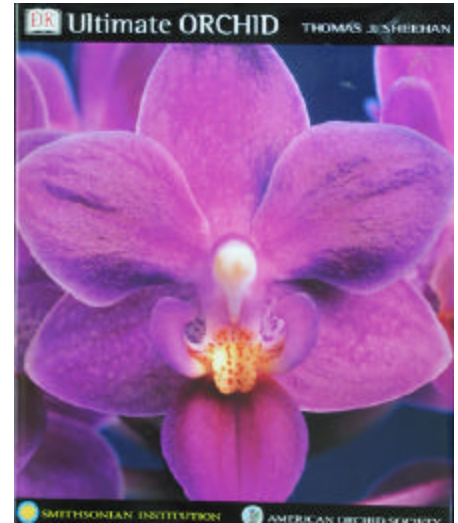
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ROA Library

Among the many excellent books in the ROA Library is **ULTIMATE ORCHID** by Thomas J. Sheehan, written in association with the Smithsonian Institution and the American Orchid Society.

The book begins with forewords by both Smithsonian and AOS. These are followed by a brief history of orchids and early historical references to orchids. It continues with an illustrated description of an orchid flower and a brief botanical classification of orchids. This classification includes a table and definitions of terms in the table. It follows up with an illustrated explanation of botanical and hybrid variability.

The next section covers orchids themselves. It is organized by Alliances, Divided by Genera and subdivided by species. An introductory page gives the etymology of each genus and the salient characteristics of the flowers. Subsequent pages give more detailed descriptions of the species and hybrids in the genera as well as excellent photographs of the flowers. In all the book describes nine alliances and detailed illustrated profiles of more than 350 orchid varieties.



The next section briefly covers orchid propagation, basic care, potting and pests and diseases. All of these are covered more in depth by other books in the library. There is a short but heart-felt appeal for conservation. There is a very good glossary. **ULTIMATE ORCHID** is an excellent book. You should read it.

The author, Thomas J. Sheehan, PhD is a long time member of the University of Florida and has authored over 350 scientific and popular articles on ornamental horticulture. He is an honorary vice president of the American Orchid Society and a recipient of the society's Gold Medal Achievement.

L.K. Harvie
Librarian

Cork products

If you are interested in cork for mounting orchids or obtaining a supply of wine corks you will be interested in this company:

You can pick out your cork. However, you must call ahead to make sure someone is available to take you around to the warehouses. This is not a self guided tour, so you don't want to make the drive for nothing. They sell wine bottle corks, great for Vanda's, large and small pieces of cork to mount orchids. It arrives to the plant in huge cargo containers.

Janice Ranck has been to this business and recommends it.

Google this address for directions.

Maryland Cork Company Inc.
Triumph Industrial Park
Elkton, Maryland 21922
1-800-662-2675
Granulated Cork and Cork Products
CLOSED FRIDAYS!!!

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

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Showcase Judging

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Growing Tips by Courtney Hackney

Once upon a time I spent a great deal of time trying to understand both the light requirements of the many orchids in my collection and the light levels in my growing space. This is no longer a priority for me because I have discovered how adaptable most orchids can be if given half a chance.

When Mark Rose, formerly of Breckenridge Orchids, allowed me to measure the light levels in his greenhouses, I was surprised to find that he did not worry about light levels. All areas of his greenhouse received the same amount of shading (40%) year round. While most of his orchids were phalaenopsis and paphs, there were also large sections of cattleyas and even a few vandas as well. All of his orchids looked great and flowered well!

What was apparent within the greenhouse was that there were still zones, but they were arranged based on temperature, not light levels. "Cool loving" or at least "high temperature hating" orchids were located close to the cooling pads, while those that thrived in heat were at the other end of the greenhouse away from the cooling pads. The lesson is that the heat in the leaves is far more critical than the light itself. Each little leaf is essentially a little greenhouse that can only be cooled by direct convection (dissipation of heat) or by opening the little stoma under the leaves and allowing water to evaporate, which cools the leaf.

The key to the successful technique for Breckenridge Orchids was not just that there was extensive air movement in the greenhouse or the use of cooling pads, but that Mark allowed his orchids to adapt with the seasons.

Orchids and most plants have a variety of mechanisms through which they change with the seasons. Under lower light levels, chloroplasts are closer to the surface than under higher light levels. In high light, leaves also decrease heat absorption by changing the color of their surface from deep green to yellow green. Most hobbyists notice the difference in the color of orchid leaves when they bring a new orchid home and it is different in color from the rest in a collection. One only has to worry when the new plant is darker than other plants in your collection, which makes it susceptible to burning.

Orchids can acclimate and grow just as well with less light or more light if given time. Commercial growers know that to obtain maximum growth, they need to produce conditions where the growth is maximized and the potential damage from leaf burn on an extra hot day is minimized. There is also a real important phenomenon called photo inhibition, when heat and light levels are so high within the leaf that photosynthesis is inhibited.

Seedlings have less potential for handling heat stress and generally are grown under lower light levels. Their thin leaves are more susceptible to over heating just as a small greenhouse heats up more quickly than a large greenhouse with more volume.

If light levels are monitored continuously in a greenhouse there will be a peak at mid-day with light and heat levels lower before and after the peak. An orchid may be photo inhibited near mid day, at optimum just before and after that time and not reaching maximum photosynthesis for most of the day. This is where growing under lights has a real advantage. Light can be optimized for the entire day. It is not surprising that many indoor growers are able to grow under lights so well that they receive AOS awards.

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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 (cont)

Today's lighting systems are far superior to what was available a couple of decades ago, with lights that generate exactly the correct wavelengths of light for plant growth. Some hobbyists add lights to their greenhouse and augment light early in the morning and in the evening to maximize the light delivered to their orchids. A lighting system can also be a useful way of augmenting the afternoon or morning shading in your greenhouse from a nearby tree or house.

Lights on early in the morning and in the evening can maximize the light delivered to greenhouse-growing orchids. A lighting system can also be a useful way of augmenting the afternoon or morning shading in your greenhouse from a nearby tree or house.

Reprinted from July 2009

Star Spangled August Social

The Social will be held at Wanda Andraiko's home on August 8th. I would ask that anyone attending please RSVP Mike Chambliss at shells3331@aol.com by August 1st. or call me at 651-6386. This will enable the refreshment committee to have appropriate goodies for our picnic.

I will detail the menu in the August bulletin.

Wanda's address is in the member directory for GPS or Mapquest navigation. Anyone that does not have this capability just contact me and I will send you directions.

Thanks Mike and John



Richmond Orchid Alliance
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