

Richmond Orchid Alliance

We are all about Orchids!

August 2010

Wanda Andrako, Editor
Jim Creech, Layout Editor

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

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Birthdays

Thuyen Trevino	8/4
Alice Smith	8/7
Buddy Harvie	8/10
Jane Zander	8/22

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin

In the Good Ole Summertime...

Everyone enjoys a picnic during the summer! Plan now to join fellow members and friends of ROA at our annual picnic, August 8, at the home of Wanda Andrako, 1970 Albion Road, Midlothian, VA. The picnic will take the place of our regular August meeting and begin at 2:00 PM. This is a time where members can get to know each other better.

Food is being planned by Mike and John. They plan to grill hot dogs (beef, poultry, and vegetable types to meet the dietary needs of members), baked beans, chips, and sodas. Others are asked to bring either a desert or a dish to go with the above menu. If you have an additional special dietary requirement please bring something that would meet your need and share with others. In order to know how many to plan for, please RSVP to Mike Chambliss at 651-6386 or email, shells3331@aol.com

Wanda and John grow under lights, in the greenhouse, have a lathe house for use for some plants in the summer. You may learn some of the essentials to growing under lights. They have grown plants this way for about 25 yrs. or more.

Our show tables the last couple of months have been great, and we plan to have a good one this month. Bring your blooming plants to participate. Also, Tom Voytilla will be bringing plants to sell, giving us a chance to enhance our collections.

Directions to Wanda's house:

FROM THE NORTH OR CENTRAL PART OF THE CITY – Take 195 South which will become the Powhite Parkway. Continue South on the Powhite Parkway to Cary St. Go west on Cary, across the Huguenot Bridge and continue west to Robious Rd. There is a long white fence on the right before and after you turn on Robious. There is a by-pass lane for those turning right. Go right on Robious and to first entrance to Salisbury about 2 miles. There is a left turn lane and a cedar fence on the right across from the entrance. Turn left and go past the country club and past the golf course on left. Turn left on Banstead Rd. Go to the end of the street and turn left on Albion. Two blocks down to 1970 Albion Rd. 1970 is the first house on the right.

FROM THE WEST END – Take 288 South off of I 64 West. Continue South to Route 60, Midlothian Turnpike. Go 60 East towards Midlothian 1 mile to Winterfield Road, there is a stop light there. Turn left onto Winterfield Road; continue through one roundabout to Elmstead Road. Turn right onto Elmstead and 2 houses later turn left on Kirkman Drive. Go to end of Kirkham (1 block). Turn right onto Albion Road and 1970 is the first house on the right.

FROM ASHLAND AND FURTHER NORTH – It is easier to take 295, 64, to 288, then use the West End directions.

See you all at the picnic! Don't forget to RSVP to Mike in a timely manner. Wanda has asked that individuals park on the RIGHT side of Albion Road as neighbors there are more understanding. In case you need it, the phone number is 794-3240.

Upcoming Events

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

The first day of winter is December 21, 2010 also a full moon, just thought you would like to know!!

A special thank you for Ronda and Forrest Tignor. They graciously opened up their home for our membership to look at their growing areas. More and more members are attending the greenhouse tours. You never know what you will learn or what plant you might see and want to add to your collection.

August, next stop Wanda and John Andrako's for a "STAR SPANGLE EVENT" and growing tour. This is a casual get together, however, we will have a show table and Tom Voytilla will have a few plants to sell as well as semi-hydroponic supplies. Please make sure that you call Mike Chambliss at 651-8386, to him know your choice of hot dog.

Time and patience produces great plants. Seven years ago, Jim purchased a plant from an auction. This plant was a division from another member's plant (not ROA). When we got home, as I often do, I removed the plant from the pot and found it had one very small root. Over the years, I have worked and worked on it. I am finally happy to report, this past Saturday, I removed it from about its 5th repotting and it has great looking roots and the plant itself is larger. The point is it's easy to give up, but is better to keep trying. Eventually success comes and soon I hope to see this plant produce a beautiful orchid. If you see a plant on the show table and like it, ask the member for a division. The member will be flattered that you asked, and who knows, you could have a great addition to your collection and a new friend.

Hope to see you at the Social!

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 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
Jim Culbert

794-3240
330-7794

Buddy Harvie
Arline Murphy

272-3784
288-3512

Refreshments

Happy summer from the refreshment committee.

This is an open invitation to the Star Spangled August Social at Wanda Andrako's home. Please RSVP, if you haven't already to Shells3331@aol.com, or call me at 804 651-6386(Mike Chambliss), this will help in planning appropriately. Guests are definitely welcome.

The menu is as follows:

- Hot dogs, beef, turkey/chicken (if anyone wants Veggie Dogs please tell me ahead of time) - condiments will be provided as well.
- Baked beans
- Chips
- Drinks - Sodas and water.

If anyone wishes to participate and bring their own covered dish, or desert, please do so, make sure it is heat tolerant since we may be outside.

Wanda's address is 1970 Albion Road, Midlothian, Va, 23113. Directions can be found by going to Mapquest or Google. Directions are also given in the lead article.

Parking for this event is driveway and on street parking. However please park on the side of the street that Wanda's house is on.

Please make sure you have Wanda's phone number or mine just in case. Wanda's phone number is 804 794 3240.

Thanks from the Refreshment committee.

Mike and John.

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A Visit to the AOS Headquarters

We were aware of the financial decline in donations and memberships in the AOS, but had not realized that AOS had decided to close their gardens in 2009. However, the local community pledged \$40,000, provided volunteer hours to work in the gardens and greenhouses, and raised 10,000 signatures on petition. As a result, the gardens and greenhouses remain open today. We were fortunate enough to have time for a short visit when we went to Florida for the Redlands International Orchid Festival.

On 16 May, we decided to tour the American Orchid Society Headquarters located just minutes from Boca Roton, Florida. As you enter the drive you are immediately impressed with the beautiful building housing the offices and -gift shop. Original oil paintings of orchids decorate the walls, and another wall is dedicated to the names of many donors over the years.

Admission is free to AOS members, so we entered the gardens through the gift shop. As you walk out the gift shop, you are greeted by a huge fountain on the way to the 4000 square foot greenhouse. On each side of the greenhouse are Vandas on trellises reaching 10 feet tall. As you enter the greenhouse a massive tree stretches across in many directions. After looking closely at the tree, you see it is made of plastic pipe covered with cork and is very lifelike. The greenhouse is full of many orchids and tropical foliage and blooms around throughout. One interesting idea we saw was a large wire window box hanging on the wall filled with moss and housing several low light orchids.

An arbor made from large diameter bamboo held several tropical vines as well as orchids. The greenhouse was divided into 'rooms' each providing different levels of light and individually landscaped to give a lush garden look. The greenhouse was divided into 'rooms' each providing different levels of light and individually landscaped to give a lush garden look. A water wall dumping into a stream and covered by an arched bridge made a perfect woodland setting for the orchids.

Moving outside the greenhouse, the lush tropical gardens were located on 3 ½ acres. Most everywhere you looked the garden plants and structures had been donated by orchid clubs, garden clubs, and individuals. The gardens were very well designed and had seating and shade through-out. Even though it had been sprinkling most of the morning, many people were out strolling in the gardens.

It was interesting to see orchids planted in the landscape and used like we would hostas or daylilies in Virginia. The staghorn ferns were located in the trees and were at least 3 feet in diameter. Everywhere you looked there were lush tropical plants.

We would recommend if you are in that area of Florida to make a point to stop and enjoy a few hours touring the greenhouse and gardens of the American Orchid Society Headquarters.

Susan and Roger Horman

Here and There

Tidewater Orchid Society speaker Dr. Martin Motes will be presenting information on Vandas on August 29th at 2 pm on the campus of Old Dominion University. Dr. Martin Motes is a premier hybridizer and grower of vandas and has written a book on Vandas: Botany, History and Culture.

Susan Horman

New Category of Giving

Richmond Orchid Alliance is a non profit 501(c)(3). We value all our members; enjoy the camaraderie as well as your financial support. Recently the Board has made the decision to acknowledge those members that donate \$100.00 or more to the Alliance. The amount does not include annual dues. Every member that makes a donation in this amount will become a Patron of the Alliance for a membership year. We all know that these are very challenging times. Your contributions are always welcome. They offset expenses related to the operation of the alliance. This donation is tax deductible. Once your donation has been received, Judy Craggs, our treasurer, will send a letter of confirmation for tax purposes.

Thank you for your support and consideration!

Valli Laneve, President Mary Jane Zander, Director of Fund Raising.

Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium Hosts the 2010 AOS Fall 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.

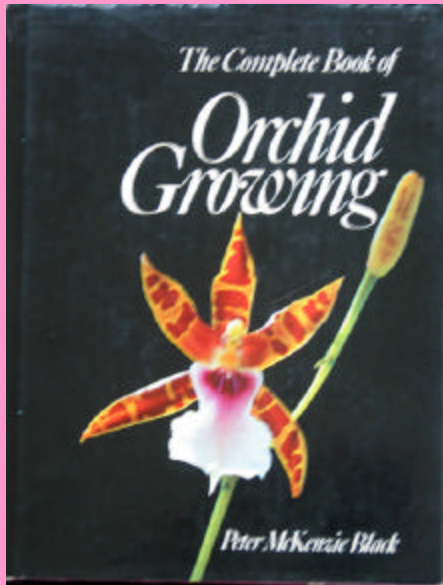
Thursday, Oct. 26th, will be principally registrations. Friday will be continued registration and commercial sales set up time. Thursday is committee meetings with tours of the Virginia Aquarium available as well as Naticus and the Kaplan Conservatory. Thursday evening concludes with the official ribbon 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.

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

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.

ROA Library



The Complete Book Of ORCHID Growing by Peter McKenzie Black was donated to the library by John and Wanda Andrako. It was published in 1980 with the objective of making orchid growing easy and enjoyable to the amateur grower.

The book is divided into three sections. Part I on general culture has a short introductory chapter outlining the characteristics of Orchidacea and a longer chapter on the general culture and care of orchids. This chapter covers seed germination, composts, lighting and heating, watering and humidity, and pest and disease control. Comments on osmunda date the book but comments on potting in bark are good.

Part II covers a selection of genera and species that are from a wide geographical spread and are generally available to the amateur. The included genera and species were selected from the German book *Orchideen* by W. Rysy who was responsible for the photography and descriptions. Here again, the book hasn't caught up with the taxonomists. It refers to *Psycopsis* as *Oncidium papilio*.

Part III is the appendix. It includes a taxonomic chart of the family Orchidacea, three lists of intergeneric hybrids and a short but helpful glossary. The lists of intergeneric hybrids have been annotated helpfully by the donors, Wanda and John Andrako.

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 to the raffle, please call the Bryce's at 231-7042 (prior to the program if possible). Your donations are tax deductible.

Thank you again, Nancy and Ed

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Growing Tips by Courtney Hackney

An acquaintance recently asked me what I found so intriguing about orchids that made me continue growing them for over 40 years. As I thought about the question, I realized that there were several answers. Mostly, the unending variety of species and hybrids offer a challenge to even the most accomplished horticulturalist. Most long-term orchid hobbyists began with a relatively easy-to-grow orchid and after we mastered growing that one, wanted more of a challenge. Learning to provide the environment for an exotic species from another part of the world must be a rewarding experience for those of us engaged in this hobby because we continue to do it.

Most remarkable is the fact that each year the challenge is a little different because it is hotter, colder, or new pests show up. This year's pest du jour for me is the juvenile stage of crickets. These appear as pale versions of the adult. They leave damage that looks like slugs, but they also really like new roots. After several nights of looking, I decided to un-pot a damaged plant or two. There were two or three of the little beasts. Once I knew what to look for, I found them on my new phal leaves and on cattleya roots in the dark of night.

These little beasts are quick, and difficult to catch. Several readers have asked about similar damage on orchids they were growing outside in summer and I suggested that the damage was done by slugs. It is not clear if very dry weather promotes this pest or my conversion to large lava rock for a medium. Lava rock provides large spaces where the juvenile crickets retreat during the daylight and makes killing them by hand difficult. Apparently, my small army of frogs that feed at night has not been able to control these pests and I will soon have to resort to liquid Sevin.

Sevin is an old pesticide widely used in gardens, but not usually for orchids. Most scale, the primary insect pest in orchids, are resistant to Sevin, but it works well on other insect pests. Just follow the directions and drench the pot. This kills most insects hiding in pots and seems to also be disliked by bush snails and slugs as well.

I never experienced many insect pests, except scale, until recently. My suspicion is that pesticides, such as Orthene, previously used to kill scale, also killed these other pests. Now that I control scale with an infrequent application of a hormonal pesticide, crickets and other insects have appeared.

Most standard cattleya pseudobulbs are maturing now, which means its time to cease fertilizing heavily. Smaller cattleyas with lots of sophronitis in their background can grow all year long and bloom several times a year. This type of cattleya, popular among windowsill growers, can be fertilized all year long.

It seems that many orchid growers in the area now use Dynamite (also known as Nutricote) slow-release fertilizer [13-13-13] and had lots of flowers last winter and spring. I first saw this product in seedlings I purchased from Carter & Holmes a few years ago and after trying it I was hooked. It provides an even dose of fertilizer for 6 months. This is ideal for hobbyists since mixing fertilizer is time consuming and typically results in over-fertilizing. Use about a half teaspoon for a 5" pot.

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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)

Last year a new formulation appeared alongside the standard 13-13-13 formula. While available for some time in bulk, it is now being sold under the trade name Dynamite at Home Depo. It has also appeared from time to time in Big Lots stores at a reduced price. The chemical formula is higher in Nitrogen [18-6-8] and contains minor nutrients as well. It is labeled "All Purpose", comes in a green tube, and provides nutrients for nine months. It delivered too much Nitrogen for cattleyas, but was great for phalaenopsis and paphiopedalums, which are faster growers. About ½ teaspoon per 5" pot worked well. Apply the fertilizer when the orchids begin to grow in winter. There is enough residual fertilizer incorporated into the medium to provide the orchid with nutrients for an entire year.

Reprinted from August 2009

Showtable

Hi from the Showtable committee.

If you're like me, there are orchids growing and blooming. Sometimes I'm just amazed and excited at what suddenly spikes and blooms. Hopefully some of them will make it or new ones coming into bloom for our August meeting.

There will be a Showtable at Wanda's house. If you are able and feel comfortable please bring blooming plants to be judged.

There will not be a Showtable in September since we are having the Auction.

Mike Chambliss



Richmond Orchid Alliance
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