

Richmond Orchid Alliance

We are all about Orchids!

December 2010

Wanda Andrako, Editor

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ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

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Art Chadwick 12/2

Nancy Thompson 12/30

Happy Birthday to you!



ROA Bulletin



Pot. Thi-Ti 'Sweetheart', from the collection of Bayne Hawkins

November Program Recap – In Case You Missed It

The November program was the last for 2010. It was held at our new meeting location the Hermitage. Everyone agreed that the room is beautiful, and it was filled with fabulous blooming orchids from our show table. This was the second largest show table with a dramatic number of cattleyas in glorious flower.

Eric Stanley and Mike Chambliss were asked to share with the membership how and what information they track regarding their orchid collection. Several other members shared their systems as well. It was truly interesting to see how many different ways our membership record their collections and what information they think is important. From computer programs to binders, photos, and pot sticks. It just goes to show that the system that works best for you is the best system.

We also held our annual AOS fund raising event with an auction. Items were all donated and ROA will be sending AOS a check for \$473.00. We thank everyone that bid on all those wonderful donations.

Completing the program was a refreshment table overflowing with a fabulous assortment of food. Our orchid gift idea vendor was Sylvan Spirit. Rebecca presented a beautiful selection of orchids and other botanical flowers jewelry.

Everyone have a wonderful holiday season, and mark you calendars for our next program January 9th and our speaker will Dr. Clark Riley on 50 years of orchid mistakes. Make your new years resolution not to miss an ROA program.

**The next program will be January 9, 2011 at the Hermitage.
In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday season!**

Upcoming Events

- January 9 – Clark Riley - Fifty Years of Orchid Mistakes
- February 13 – Roger Horman – Orchid Viruses
- March 13 – To be announced
- April 10 – Blooming Plant Auction
- May 15 – Bill Thoms – Bulbophyllum Culture
- June 12 – Keith Davis – The Ghost Orchid
- July no program
- August 14 – Summer Social
- September 11 – Blooming Plant Auction
- October 9 – Tom Nasser, Carolina Orchids
- November 13 – Social and program to be announced
- December - No program

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 Hermitage, 1600 Westwood Avenue, Richmond, at 2:00 P.M. of the second Sunday of each month from January through November. Yearly dues are \$30.00 per individual, or \$35.00 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

Over the past two years, I have had the wonderful opportunity to be the President of Richmond Orchid Alliance. My term has now come to the end and I would like to thank everyone that worked with me to support the organization. It has been such a pleasure to work with a group of very talented and enthusiastic orchid lovers.

Valli Laneve



Barbi Partlow Retires From ROA Board

Barbi Partlow has made the decision to retire from the Alliance Board as the Director of Membership. Barbi and Steve are charter members of ROA. Over the past three years members and guest have been greeting by Barbi at our membership desk.

Barbi always has a smile on her face, friendly and so helpful answering questions that often arise upon arrival. Barbi's interest in orchids began a few years before the formation of the Alliance. From repotting, shows, auctions, state fair and the Great Big Greenhouse events, she has always volunteered to help in what ever way needed. I remember at one auction, she was so thrilled to bid on and won an orchid with the clonal name "Barbi".



Over the past year Rhonda Tignor agreed to help out at the desk, and Barbi trained and convinced her to take over membership. Barbi has made the commitment to help at the desk as a staffer. We thank you for everything you have done over the past 6 years to make Richmond Orchid Alliance a friendly and fun society.

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

Refreshments

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the November refreshment table. It was just fantastic having all those wonderful treats that everyone brought to share. It was nice seeing several of the residents from the Hermitage come by and share in the goodies.

Thanks from John and Mike

ROA Patrons

Richmond Orchid Alliance Patrons for 2010

Mr. Randy Schonk
Mr. & Mrs. James Creech

We thank these members for their generous donation.

Members that donate \$100 or more to the Alliance become a Patron for the membership year. These donations are tax deductible and are used to offset operational expenses. Please consider making your donation and becoming a Patron today!!!



Onc. (Alex.) H. Wallbrown grown by Thomas Voytilla

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ROA Library

Whatever your interests are, however specific or varied, the ROA Library has something to satisfy those interests, or maybe even whet your appetite for more knowledge. Are you interested in culture? The AOS pamphlet, *Your First Orchid: a Guide for Beginners* and the AOS *Beginners Handbook* are both excellent. Gloria Jean Sessler's *Orchids and How to Grow Them* and Rebecca Tyson Northen's *Orchids as House Plants* are also splendid sources of general culture. Then there are references on the specific culture of cattleyas, lycastes, dendrobiums, phalaenopses and slipper orchids.

Perhaps you are interested in the history of orchids. Most of us know that William Cattley bloomed the first orchid in cultivation in 1818. A Mr. Swainson had collected mosses and lichens in Brazil for Mr. Cattley and sent them to him in England wrapped in some heavy, thick-leafed plants. When they arrived he noticed that these wrapping plants were still alive and potted them. Six years later one of them bloomed. The renowned botanist Dr. Lindley recognized it as a new genus and named it *Cattleya*. How many of us know that the first artificial hybrid was made in 1852 by Mr. J. Dominy, a foreman for Vietch and Son? This was a cross of *Calanthe masuca* and *Calanthe furcata*, and bloomed in 1856. This sort of information and much more on the trials and tribulations of early orchidists

How about current goings on in the orchid world? The library subscribes to *Orchids*, the bulletin of the American Orchid Society. The two latest editions are brought to the monthly ROA meetings.

Do your orchids have ailments? *The Orchid Doctors I and II* and the videotape on *Orchid Pests and Diseases* have a store of information for you. Pictures? The library has a couple of excellent books of cattleya photographs. It also has two pamphlets on orchid photography.

Are you interested in hybridizing? *Home Growing Orchids* has an excellent chapter on genetics which presents this complex subject in really clear, understandable terms and illustrations.

The foregoing covers only a fraction of the fascinating information to be found in the ROA Library, and is all available to be checked out at our monthly meetings.

L.K. Harvie
Librarian

Dangers of Using Wooden Baskets

Be careful of placing plants in wooden baskets. We had an awarded *Neostylis Lou Sneary* that was so beautiful that it was always prominently placed in shows. It died of what was eventually diagnosed as a fungus infection and identified by cutting the stem and finding a purple line through the middle of the stem.

The infection was probably due to the wooden basket because, with a large plant whose roots become intertwined in the basket, the wood remained wet too long. Plastic baskets were recommended because they do not retain moisture and can be purchased in many sizes.

Showtable

Thanks to everyone that participated in the November Showtable. There were so many incredible Vandas and Cattleyas brought in to the showtable, I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw all those colors.

Here are the results for November:

Cattleya:

- Blue- Cattleya Molly Tyler - LK Harvie
- Red- Blc. Mem. Crispin Rosales - Tom Voytilla
- Yellow- Lc. Tropical pointer 'Cheetah' AM/AOS - Ron Geraci

Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium:

- Blue- Paph. Vanguard - Tom Voytilla
- Red- Paph. Deperle 'Blusher' - Thuyen Trevino

Oncidium & Dendrobium

- Blue- Onc. (Alex.) H. Wallbrown - Thomas Voytilla
- Red- Brassia Mem. Fritz Boedeker - Thomas Voytilla
- Yellow- Dgmra. Winter Wonderland 'White Fairy' - Wanda Andrako

Phalaenopsis

- Blue- Phal. Splish Splash - Judy Craggs
- Red- Phal. Golden Pecker - Mike Chambliss

Vandaceous

- Blue- Vanda Robert's Delight 'Garnet Beauty' - Carol Hollenbeck
- Red- Vanda Robert's Delight 'Blue Wax' - Carol Hollenbeck
- Yellow- Vanda Robert's Delight 'Dr. Anek' - Mike Mealy

Other

- Blue- Zgopetalum Floriculture '281' - Carol Hollenbeck
- Red- Zygopetalum Jumping Jack - Carol Hollenbeck
- Yellow- Megaclinium maratinum 'Ted' - Valli Laneve and Jim Creech

There were no awards given in the Novice category.

Thanks to all participants.

Mike Chambliss
Showtable Chairperson



Cattleya Molly Tyler grown by LK Harvie



Paph. Vanguard grown by Tom Voytilla



Phal. Splish Splash grown by Judy Craggs

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Vanda Robert's Delight 'Garnet Beauty' grown by Carol Hollenbeck



Zgopetalum Floriculture '281' grown by Carol Hollenbeck

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

Board of Directors

Valli Laneve

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Barbi Partlow

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Van Williams

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Wanda Andrako

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Nancy Thompson

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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

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Growing Tips by Courtney Hackney

This month includes the shortest day of the year and a time when the sun is at its lowest angle. Even here in Florida, the shade cloth is totally off my greenhouse and has been for two months.

For the past month or so some rearranging of orchids was necessary to maximize growth and avoid potential leaf burn. Jewel Orchids were moved into corners previously occupied by phals and other lower light-loving orchids because this area had become very shady. Jewel Orchid's leaves actually develop better color under lower light, making them better exhibition plants for the upcoming winter orchid shows. Conversely, other orchids located in places that did not receive direct light are now feeling the direct rays of the sun through one side of the greenhouse. While they did not burn, leaves on some phals were yellowed indicating more light than they might like.

This same phenomenon, i.e. light coming from a new direction, is a good reason for those windowsill growers to examine their orchids as well for both excess light and too little light. While temperatures here in Florida are not likely to cause cold damage close to windows, it can be a concern further north or if windows are poorly insulated. Typically, damage is not significant enough to cause plant death, but can cause flower buds to drop.

One group of hobbyists does not have to worry about light angle or windows; under-light growers. They have another issue however, a need to alter day length to simulate the winter solstice. Many orchids depend not on the length of day, but on the change in day length. It will be equally important to begin increasing day length in January as this is the cue for the orchids to initiate some part of their life cycle.

The first phal flowers should be opening this month if you were successful at initiating spikes with cool nights a few months ago. Multifloral paphs with mature growths are putting up spikes now too. They appreciate a little more light than most other paphs and may also need to be moved into a better location.

These paphs are also initiating new growths. While a reduction in watering and fertilizing is warranted for both of these groups of orchids, do not stop altogether. If you water weakly, weekly, maintain the same fertilizer level. The reduction in watering will automatically reduce the total quantity of fertilizer you apply.

It is always surprising to see high light, hot loving vandas not only growing, but putting up flower spikes in winter. They seem to handle cool nights in the mid to upper 50s with no impact as long as the day temperature warms into the upper 70s or 80s. Over the years, I have noticed that these warm loving orchids continue their growth with new leaves and roots until there is an extended cold period with little light to warm the greenhouse during the day. I continue my regular fertilizing of vandas until I notice new, green root tips disappearing. Only then do I stop weekly fertilizing and do not fertilize again until they show new root growth.

Mostly, this time of year is a great time to relax and enjoy the myriads of species and hybrids that flower this time a year. If you are lucky, Santa might even bring you a gift certificate to your favorite orchid nursery.

Below are some of those sharing their methods of organizing and maintaining their orchid collections.



Eric Stanley



Ronda Tignor



Wanda Andrako



Mike Chambliss

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50 +1 Ways to Become More Involved in

1. Attend each program
2. Bring a guest to the program
3. Bring a treat to share for the hospitality table
4. Purchase an extra raffle ticket and give it to a guest
5. Donate a raffle prize
6. Bring a blooming orchid to every meeting for the show table
7. Introduce yourself to a guest
8. Check out a library book
9. Write a book review on the book you checked out and submit
10. Write an article for the bulletin
11. Donate Birthday, get well and sympathy cards
12. Donate postage stamps
13. Volunteer to judge the show table
14. Work one Program at the membership desk
15. Collect name badges after the program ends
16. Make sure everyone has a name badge
17. Bring a plant for a new member
18. Donate pots you no longer need
19. Help members bring in their plants from the parking lot
20. Help the speaker bring in plants
21. Donate your favorite book to the library
22. Ask a member to speak at your garden club
23. Become a patron of ROA by donating \$100
24. Call an orchid doctor for advice
25. Sell or donate books
26. Share a growing tip
27. Submit new ideas for fundraising
28. Say yes when asked to help
29. Talk to your neighbors they may grow orchids
30. Join AOS
31. Help clean up after the program
32. Make copies of the show table slips as a donation
33. Introduce a guest to another member
34. Sponsor a speaker by paying the honorarium
35. Ask the speaker to go out with you to dinner after program
36. Talk about the benefits of membership to a guest
37. Share a division of one of your plants with a member
38. Donate paper plates, napkins for refreshment table
39. Make a suggestion for a speaker. Program you would like to see
40. Send each speaker a thank you note after the program. Tell them what you enjoyed
41. Thank the speaker for their program
42. Purchase a plant from the speaker
43. Suggest other ways you would like to become involved
44. Ask a question from the speaker during the program
45. Make a donation for tax credit
46. Send a congratulation to show table winners
47. Arrive early to help set up room for program
48. Send a welcome note to a new member
49. Email a copy of the bulletin to someone that is interested in orchids
50. Give out our website address to someone that is interested in growing orchids.
www.richmondorchidalliance.org
51. IF YOU DON'T FIND ANYTHING ON THIS LIST SEE THE PRESIDENT

I am always surprised at how willing people are to help when asked. You feel honored. It's an opportunity to participate in something that will make you feel good. This is a way to help you, while helping Richmond Orchid Alliance. WE ALL NEED TO FEEL LIKE WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Dues and Membership

The Board voted to increase due to \$30 for single persons and \$35 for two or family per year. Those who have been paying dues in January will continue to do that. Those dues will be due on January 9th. Those who joined later in the year will be due on the anniversary month of joining. You can check with Rhonda Tignor for your date if it is other than January. Thank you for paying on time.



This is the bloom from the Rlc. Pastoral 'Doris' donated by Buddy Harvie and auctioned for ROA's benefit in November, image by its new owner Roger Horman

Jim Creech Steps Down as Layout Editor

I have enjoyed being the layout editor for the 19 months. This is my last issue. Thanks for the compliments.

Jim

Unless otherwise noted, all images in this issue were by Jim Creech

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The AOS and ROA auction items



The winning plants in November



Other show table plants



Other show table plants

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 reflect this address.

We're on the Web! Visit us at:

www.richmondorchidalliance.org

AOS Auction

I would like to thank everyone for a very successful AOS auction. Your generous contributions helped to raise \$473 for AOS. Please don't forget the difference between what you paid for the item and the item's fair market value is tax deductible.



I hope everyone enjoyed our new meeting location. I thought it was a very nice facility, great kitchen area, and it provided a warm environment for our meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and learning more about orchids with the exciting upcoming speakers. May you all have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season!!

Susan Horman
AOS Representative

How to Handle Dry-Root Plants

If you receive a dry root plant then you need to prepare a solution of brown sugar, water, fertilizer, vitamins, and soak them in this for an hour or so to rehydrate. Spray the roots with physan for fungicide and then pot. They may still lose all leaves and not survive if have been out of pot for several weeks. This is particularly likely if the plant is coming from SE Asia and been dry for weeks.



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