

GROWING ORCHIDS in YOUR GARDEN
by Robert G. M. Friend

The ROA has just acquired a new book *GROWING ORCHIDS in YOUR GARDEN* by Robert G. M. Friend. This book is not just about growing orchids outdoors, It covers all aspects of orchids.

The comprehensive introduction covers types of growth – sympodial and monopodial – temperature zones – tropical, subtropical cool and temperate – and the various orchids that will grow in each. It covers the different types of orchid gardens – trees for epiphytes, rockeries for lithophytic (rupicolous), and beds for terrestrials. Subsections cover culture requirements for the different types and suggests orchids for each type of garden.

A short section on pests discourages the use of pesticides and encourages reliance on natural predators. While this might be a practical solution in an orchid garden it might not be so in a greenhouse.

A section on garden sizes covers everything from large areas to modest quarter acre lots to patios, courtyards and balconies. Large gardens can include all three types , epiphytic, lithophytic and beds. Smaller areas are more restricted The author gives helpful tips on such things as the location of hose connections, non- orchidaceous companion plants.and construction of wind breaks.

There is a short chapter on orchids grown in containers and positioned in the garden as opposed to growing on trees, rocks and beds. This chapter discusses pots, baskets and mounts. The author shows his bias for terra cotta over plastic.

All in all this is a splendid book. It includes many excellent photographs and historical vignettes of subjects under discussion.. Though few of us have the resources for an actual orchid garden as opposed to putting them out on benches during toe summer it is well worth reading just for the general information on orchids.

This book was donated to the ROA Library by Valli LaNeve.

Librarian

Notice:

A book, *The ORCHID THIEF* was taken from the library after the November meeting but not signed out. If anyone has this book please return it.