

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

Special points of
interest:

- Member's Auction
- Christmas Wish
- Christmas Poem

Photo and Poem
Credits:

- Allen Black
- Jerry Rogers
- Susan Fordyce

The VOS Board will
be meeting on
Tuesday, December
12th
At 6pm at the Hill
City Chop House @
Virginia Center
Commons

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December Meeting

Sunday
December 10th
1pm

Lewis Ginter
Botanical Gardens

The Orchid Keiki



Volume XXVI, Issue V

December 2006

December Members' Fall Growers' Auction

The annual Fall Growers' Auction will take place in the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden AUDITORIUM on December 10 from 1pm – 5pm. The Auditorium is located just behind the visitor center.

For this auction, members will be bringing in divisions of their own fine plants, extra plants, seedlings and bloomers! We never know what may show up! Already we have four blooming-sized divisions of plants with AOS awards; two of them First Class Certificates (FCCs)! Other orchid-related items are bound to show up also!

Carl Terrell will again serve as the auctioneer. He is very funny and entertaining and he moves plants VERY quickly so don't let that plant you wanted get away from you!!! He will auction plants using a variety of methods so please...

PAY ATTENTION!!!

Auction plant forms were available at the last meeting and will be included with this newsletter. Please get them to



Garland Hanson by mail, FAX or email prior to the auction so that the plants (and other items!) can be put into the Auc-

tion Plant Listing that will be given out to each auction participant.

Each contributor of plants needs an ID code so that the plants can be identified and tracked. If your plant list can be received prior to the auction, a photo of you plant will be displayed while that plant is being auctioned. Having a photo for a non-blooming plant has proved valuable for bidders that are not familiar with that particular plant.

**SEE YOU AT
THE AUCTION!!!!**

**Garland Hanson
804-814-5707**



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*The board meets on Tuesday
after every regular Sunday VOS
meeting at the North Park
Library starting at 6pm*

President's Message

Wow! It was only a short time ago, when we were complaining about oppressive heat and continued watering to keep our plants cool, and here it is. Thanksgiving is now behind us and Christmas and the upcoming New Year is right around the corner. By now, everyone's windowsill has plants in full bloom, with the fall and winter blooming cats and paphs. And spikes are ever so present on all our phals. My greenhouse smells wonderful this time of year, with a sweet scent of spices.

This is a time to take stock, not only of the inventory of

plants we have acquired throughout the year, but in years past too. To see how well they are growing and when they may bloom. This is also a time to take stock in our family. We tend to come together even more this time of year. We host get-togethers, cook elaborate meals, host parties and spend quality time with our friends and family. This time of year seems to bring out the very best in us all. A sense of giving, and a sense of forgiveness. Little things remain minute, and our better judgement takes precedent.

As you all are aware, we have

moved the Members Auction this year and it will take place on December 10th. The moved up start time is 1:00 pm, so please let all your friends know, as this is a great opportunity to find some great deals and possibly get some last minute Christmas gifts for that special plant person in mind.

On behalf of the entire board, to all of our friends in the orchid world, I wish you the very best of the holiday season, and much success and good will in the New Year.

David

A CHRISTMAS WISH TO

Joe Mathias	His own redwood farm	David Sauer	DITTO
Allen Black	His own lab	Emerson Warden	Another cat
Joy Black	Her kitchen back	Ashley Linton	Another dog
Arthur Burke	Another cat	Mike Fine	More time with the plants
Jerry Rogers	All expense paid trip to RF orchids	Chuck Gardner	The perfect paph
Penna Rogers	A webmaster	Patti St Clair	A museum closer to home
Terry Farmer	Automated watering system	Garland Hanson	No more board bills
Duane Poklis	More of the 60's	David Sombach	A greenhouse he can't fill
Carol Hollenback	Greenhouse full of slippers	Henry Randolph	A new species
Mae Augustine	No more pain	Mike Mealy	His own catering business
Harry Augustine	Whatever Mae wants	Emily Deane	To go on a walk and not feel a thing
Linda Lawrence	Peace on earth	Diane Ross	More plants
Richard Blake	Another blue	Nancy Long-Farkas	More windows
George Tyler	Huge knarly piece of wood		
Faye Tyler	Bigger knarly piece of wood		
Valerie Thacker	Smoothly run show		
Gene Hunt	Two tickets to the final 4		
Debbie Sauer	No more trips to Ca		

The entire VOS board A well greased wheel
And to all the VOS members not mentioned above, a truly wonderful holiday season and all the best of wishes in the New Year!

State Fair - Thank You!

The VOS received a lovely handwritten note from Lorene at the State Fair who thanked all the members for "not only a beautiful display but an educational one as well."



Mr. Grinch's Christmas

There's a terrible person, a greedy 'ol grouch
Who hates the word Christmas, and he walks with a
slouch

His name is 'ol Grinch, a mean so and so---
And I guess he's so mean, 'cause his orchids won't
grow.

He can't even grow weeds, he has such a black thumb
And his greenhouse disasters are second to none.
The snails don't come 'round cause there's nothing to
munch,
Just brown sticks in the pots don't make a good lunch.

So he's grumpy and jealous, especially this time of year
When the Orchid Society folks are full of good cheer,
For their plants are all healthy...they all seem to thrive
While he barely keeps his darn oxalis alive!

While Mr. Grinch is reviewing the year by the fire,
He thinks of those blossoms, and it raises his ire,
The only thing 'round him that ever turns green
Is his envious heart (and sometimes his spleen).

His lips begin to curl and his brow starts to crease
His covetous heart cannot find any peace.
He pounds on the table with frustration, and his dog
starts to whine
"Why, oh why are their orchids so fine?"

For that Jewel Box he saw, he's give his eye teeth
(His had never ever thrown a "blind sheath"),
Oh, that Laelia he saw was just pure perfection---
His hadn't bloomed since Carter's election!

Why can't I grow Epi's out of my lawn
Mine look like bean poles with all the leaves gone!
And those people grow Phals like they were so easy,
He raged and he ranted until he was queasy.

"My gosh --- what Cymbidiums! So splendid and fine,
They put mine to shame," he said with a whine.
"And someone had shown off this great Pleurothalis"
He said with an oath that was dripping with malice.

"I love those little minis --- they have unusual flair"
And he absent-mindedly tugged out some more of his
hair.
He couldn't forget the Papilio he envied so much,
His withered and died at his slightest touch.

And oh! what a Lycaste, it was truly unique
His jealousy burned and it made his knees weak.
How, oh how did they get them to flower?
He lowered his eyes and his face looked so sour.

So he sat by the fire and he fussed and he fumed
It seemed none of his plants had even bloomed.
Yet those society folks had buds by the score,

Written by: Susan Fordyce

But how did they do it? He just had to know
more.

Out in the hall he heard a loud plop
On the rug by the door, his mail did drop.
He dejectedly shuffled over to open his let-
ters,
He sighed with a sigh, this day has got to get
better.

In his thorny old hands, held by his back
thumb
Was a society newsletter that had just come
And it was an invitation to join them at seven.
You'd think it was a summons from angels in
heaven.

A grin cracked his face, and the wrinkles gave
way.
"They want ME! Yes, 'ol ME!" And he started
to sway,
And he laughed a big laugh that came from his
belly.
And disturbed all that knockwurst he'd had at
the deli.

So he ran to get ready and his toe burst
through his sock,
But he didn't even curse as he tripped down
the walk.
"Maybe they'll like me, I really don't know---
Maybe they'll even teach me to grow!"

So he went to the meeting with high hopes in
his heart,
Hoping against hope that he would "get
smart".
He put on a name tag and a mint in his mouth,
And made sure that his bow tie did not point
to the South.

Was he in the right place? Did he come the
right night?
These folks are having fun and it gave him a
fright,
Orchid growing is hard and quite serious
work
But there was the president, and he said with
a smirk,

"Were just here to gain knowledge and to
help one another
So if you're inclined, just hang with us
brother.
Just look at this crowd -- fun takes us far!
And if you don't believe it, step up to the
bar."

Classified Ads

1/4 Page \$10.00

1/2 Page \$20.00

Full Page \$35.00

*Design and content is up
to the discretion of the
newsletter editor.*

Schedule of Events

December 10th

Note Date!!!!

**Virginia Orchid Society
Member's Plant Auction**

Lewis Ginter Botanical
Gardens

Contact: Garland Hanson
(804) 379-3864

Email: rusafe@verizon.com

January 21st

**Virginia Orchid Society
Lewis Ginter Botanical
Gardens**

Contact: Garland Hanson
(804) 379-3864

Email: rusafe@verizon.com

February 23rd—25th

**Virginia Orchid Society
AOS Show**

Strange's Greenhouse
Contact: Garland Hanson
(804) 379-3864

Email: rusafe@verizon.com

New!!!!

Orchid Help Line!

Terry Farmer

Garland Hanson

Carol Hollenbeck

Jerry Rogers

David Sombach

Valerie Thacker

HAPPY NEW
YEAR!!

VOS Committee Chairs

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Visit Our Website:
www.vaorchidsociety.org

Mr. Grinch's Christmas

Written by: Susan Fordyce

"We'll show you a good time," he said with a grin,
"And shell out some money and we'll sell you a pin.
We'll teach you the secrets and point you the way
To grow up your plants, so let's start today."

More often than not, their advice made some sense
He was beginning to think he was not quite so dense
He began to ask questions, in fact quite a lot
(And they didn't back away when he declared he had rot)

'Ol Grinch was so gleeful to be part of the team
That he reached out to pinch himself, to see if it was
a dream.
Look at my new friends, oh what a crew!
I feel like I've discovered a new species or two!

They all were quite friendly, he had such a great day
As he brushed off some cookie crumbs and made
straight his toupee
All in all he had a very good time
And the feeling he got was more than sublime

They answered his questions about this 'n that
They downfalls of algae, the culture of Catts,
He asked questions so much, that silly old goat,
That his tongue became tired, and he got a frog in his
throat.

He learned a bit about Draculas (they looked a little
like Grinch)
But they didn't quite have his grinchy 'ol stench
They were weird and yet wonderful and quite a rare
sight,
But they gave some folks nightmares, like things
that go bump in the night.

By the time he got home, he was walking on air,
The 'ol Grinch wasn't grumpy and his heart was-
n't bare
For the friends he had made on this cold Decem-
ber night
Had filled his black heart with a warm glowing
light.

So he threw out his pots with their bare naked
sticks
And replaced them with raffle plants (he got real
good picks)
He called up the Fordyce's and ordered some
loot
'Cause he heard that the manager was really
quite cute.

And the next thing he knew, his plants filled with
blooms
And his new friends came the next Christmas
and crowded his rooms.
They Ooh'd and they Aah'd -- they took pictures
of flowers,
Even the ones that he kept in the shower.

And lo and behold on that very same day
With great friends gathered round his bountiful
bouquets
He looked down at his hands to that telltale
thumb
His knees became weak and his lips became
numb.

For what he beheld was a miracle so jolly
His black thumb was bright green! --- As green as
the holly.
He jumped up and down, and kissed the poor dog
Who evidently had been lapping from the pitcher
of nog.

He high-fived the V.P. with a grin big and wide
And showed off his green thumb with obvious
pride.
It's the best Christmas present I ever did get ---
I won't ever return it, 'cause it is the perfect fit!

So, this is the end and we hope that you've seen
That even the blackest of thumbs can someday
turn green!!

Originally Written: December 2000

Asco Redland Pink

