



The Virginia Orchid Society

Since 1949

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Newsletter

December 2005

Visit our website:
vaorchidsociety.com

Dr. William Goldner Will Speak at the December Meeting on "The Orchids of Panama"

Bill Goldner and his wife Linda Evans-Goldner founded Woodstream Orchids in 1990 in Pennsylvania. Bill has a Ph.D. in plant physiology from Penn State University. He also holds degrees in ecology and botany. He is an accredited judge for the American Orchid Society at the Washington, D.C., judging center. Also he was the co-chair for the 2005 Paphiopedilum Forum in D.C.

In 1999, they became the exclusive wholesale and retail partner of Maduro's Tropical Flowers in Panama. This allows them to offer hundreds of unique species and hybrids.

In 2000, Woodstream Orchids moved from Pennsylvania to Huntington, Md.

In 2002, Woodstream entered into a joint venture with Papa Aroha Orchids in New Zealand to provide quality Paphiopedilum seedlings and blooming sized plants. The owner of the NZ nursery is retiring this year and Bill has purchased a considerable amount of the breeding stock and seedlings.

Currently, Woodstream Orchids operates one 3,400-square-foot breeding and production greenhouse and an extensive indoor light growing facility for flasks and seedlings. They have two laboratories for flask production and have contract growing arrangements in the Dominican Republic and Panama. They are now recognized as one of the largest breeders of Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums in the United States. They are also recognized as the largest producer of seed grown orchid species in the DelMarVa, New Jersey and Pennsylvania regions.

All their dedication to growing quality plants has resulted in many AOS awards including a FCC in 2003. Bill will have plants for sale at the meeting and you may order in advance via e-mail. Please visit <http://www.woodstreamorchids.com/>

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Beginning in January 2006, Board meetings for the Virginia Orchid Society will be held on the Tuesday of each month following the Sunday society meetings from 6:00-8:30 pm., at the North Park Branch Library, 8508 Franconia Road. There will be two board meetings in January 2006. One on January 3rd and the second on January 17th. All members are welcome at the board meetings. However, any member who wishes to be heard regarding old or new business is required to contact David Sombach two weeks prior to the board meeting to have

Silent Auctions!!!

Any member wishing to donate plants for the silent auctions, please contact me. We would like to have 6 to 8 plants for the December 2005 meeting.

Garland Hanson
Auction Chairman



A letter from our President...

As I writing this, it is snowing. The first snow this season and the first real acknowledgement of winter. I truly love this time of year. You see, I am originally from Canada and lived in Pennsylvania for eight years before being transplanted here in the South. It is the South if you lived that far up North.

For me, this is the time of year that most of our family was able to come together. I am able to reflect on the past year, and already the New Year is just a month away. This is an important time to give thanks for what we have, to spend time with friends and family and to consider how fortunate we are in comparison to others not so fortunate.

Growing conditions up North were a little different than it is down here. You certainly could not leave plants outside as long in the fall. Therefore, one had to be very careful when trying to give their plants a brief cold spell to make plants set their flowering schedules.

Winter brings on shorter days and in part less natural light for our orchids. For those who grow under lights exclusively, this isn't much of a change. But for windowsill growers, it can create extra problems for those wanting to optimize their growing conditions. One trick that seemed to work for me when I grew on windowsills was to add an extra light, whether a lamp style or fluorescent but with grow-type bulbs. Simply adding this light for a few hours each day seemed to help out with flower production and also added a bit of extra heat where the window tended to be a bit colder than the surrounding room. Always note that if you do this, you may need to compensate a little for humidity loss especially if you are using incandescent lights.

Thanksgiving is behind us now and hopefully we can re-tighten our belts back to normal.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board, to wish everyone a great holiday season and the very best in the upcoming year.

David

Special Thanks to Floradise Orchids!!!

BEAUTIFUL ORCHIDS. The monthly door prize and raffle orchids are beautiful, healthy BLOOMING ORCHIDS. We thank Floradise Orchids in Gordonsville, VA for helping to make these plants available to our membership.



Dr. William Mathis signing his book "The Gardener's Guide to Growing Hardy Perennial Orchids" at the November 2005 meeting. His book focuses on the basic requirements for successfully growing hardy perennial orchids. The book and perennial orchids are available on his website at
<http://www.wildorchidcompany.com/>

Ribbon Judging Opportunities!!!

Ribbon judging of show plants has been traditionally conducted at each of our meetings. The plants are reviewed carefully by a core group of seasoned growers and ribbons are awarded. Any VOS member may participate in the ribbon judging. If you are interested, contact any VOS board member or any of the ribbon judges at any general meeting or by phone or email. You will then be scheduled to participate at the next or one of the upcoming meetings.

Ribbon judging is fun and you will learn a lot about orchids by participating with and listening to the judging regulars. Who knows, this bit of judging may spur your interest in participating in the American Orchid Society Judging Program!!!

VOS Bring-A-Guest Month

In November, we conducted the first VOS general meeting at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Society's Robins Room. The Robins Room is beautiful and fits our needs perfectly; except for size...we have room for LOTS of new members and guests!

This coming January we are asking each member to bring at least one guest! Members will receive a raffle ticket for each guest brought for a chance at a nice, blooming plant. The guest will *also* be included in a separate raffle for a *free membership!!!*

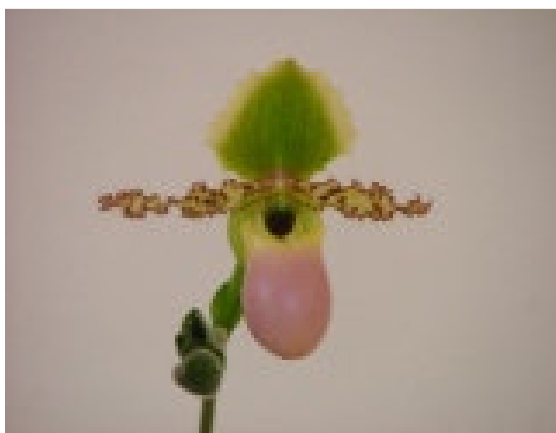
Bring a guest and let's fill up the Robins Room!!!!



Virginia Orchid Society Logo Contest

All of the logo entries have been received and they are all wonderful.

The VOS membership will have the opportunity to vote at the December 2005 meeting for their favorite Virginia Orchid Society logo!!!



VOS Committee Chairs

Affiliated Societies

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Email: vlthacker@comcast.net

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Garland Hanson
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Show Committee

Gene Hunt
804-270-5418

VOS Showtable Results for November 2005

Judges: Art Burke, Debbie Sauer, Royce Woolfolk,
Joe Matthias, Fran Seiden and Mike Fine

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids – Standard:

Blue – Blc Haw Yuan 'Jade' HCC/AOS	Allen Black
Blue –Blc Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS	Garland
Hanson	
Blue –Lc Persepolis 'Splendor' AM/AOS	The Tylers
X Blc California Girl	
Red – C. Porcia Cannizaro AM/AOS	Henry
Randolph	
Red –Lc Persepolis 'Splendor' AM/AOS	Mike Fine
Red –Lc Betheune 'Mendenhall'	Emily Deane
X Blc Star of Bethlehem 'Frankincense'	
Red –Blc Bryce Canyon 'Splendiferous' AM/AOS	Valerie
Thacker	
Yellow – Bc Memory Lane 'White Satin' HCC/AOS	Emily Deane
Yellow – Bc Pastoral 'Rosee' AM/AOS	Emily Deane
Yellow – Pot. Marlene Lundquist 'Orange Delight'	Garland
Hanson	

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids - Mini/compact:

Blue - Brassokeria Pap Charles Dodson	Allen Black
Red - Otaara Hidden Gold 'Lemon Starburst'	Allen Black
Yellow - Prosavola NoDoPrismo (p#3)	Allen Black
Yellow - B. Little Stars	Garland
Hanson	

Species:

Blue – Maxillaria picta	The Tylers
Blue – Soph cernua	Emily Deane
Blue – C. percivaliana	The Tylers
Red - Paph haynaldianum Alba	Jerry Rogers
Yellow – Paph spicerianum	Unidentified

Phalaenopsis Hybrids;

Blue - Phal. Cornustirs 'KF #1'	Allen Black
Red – Phal equestris 'rosea'	The Tylers
Yellow - Dor. Pulcherima	Mike Fine

Paphiopedelum Hybrids:

Blue – Paph Golddollar 'Springtime' Am/AOS	Jerry Rogers
Red – Paph Mem. Larry Heuer	Garland
Hanson	
Yellow – Paph Brecko Vistasuk	Allen Black

Vanda Alliance Hybrids:

Blue - Vanda Barbara Hanele	Mike Mealy
Blue - Vanda Robert's Delight 'Torblue'	Cassie Wright
Red – Vanda Golamke Blue	Mike Mealy
Yellow – Vanda Queen Forrest	Mike Mealy

Homemade Greenhouse Benches

By Jerry Rogers

Pick up most any hobby greenhouse catalog and you might be surprised at the cost of benches. A more affordable option is to build your own using treated lumber, concrete blocks and plastic tops. The following article will provide some tips to make sure that project a safe and long lasting one.

Treated lumber changed in 2004. The CCA, arsenic-based pressure treating is gone and replaced with ACQ treating. The most critical difference is in the corrosiveness of the new material. In a matter of months it can eat right through most of the commonly used fasteners sold for arsenic-based lumber. When building anything now with treated lumber be sure to look for fasteners that say they are safe for using with ACQ. Don't use zinc-plated screws or bolts either. They will rust in weeks. In addition it is incompatible with aluminum. So if you are building an aluminum frame greenhouse, you need to have a flashing of copper or stainless steel on your sill lumber.

It's Saturday morning and you are down at your local home improvement store picking out lumber for your project. You will find that most of it is still moist stacked in the racks. Pick the straightest ones you can find and pay attention to the squareness as well. Recently, I've seen some irregular edges that will ruin a level bench project. Try to pick the boards that have the tight inner rings for the end grain. These will warp the least and should be used for the longest runs.

When you get home, you might be tempted to stack the boards and let them dry until the next weekend before you start your project. If you do, you will find that many have warped badly. Why is that? Treated lumber is not kiln dried like other lumber. It is cut and sized green and immediately treated. Plus you have the uneven moisture content to deal with as it dries out.

To avoid problems with warping, you need to cut and build your benches while the lumber is still moist. Also you will need to have it framed properly to resist warping once assembled. I recommend not having any length beyond 3 feet that is not boxed in. If you are building it for most bench tops that require a 2-foot spacing for support then you are safe. So for a bench that is 12 feet long by 5 feet wide, you would have crosspieces every 2 feet. In addition, down the middle add pieces to tie the cross pieces together to keep them from moving. You will need to do a slightly alternating pattern so you attach them. Pre-drill all your pilot holes and use wooden deck screws to assemble. Careful to not over torque them with power drills. I usually set the torque on the drill light and finish the last turn with a screwdriver.

Now your bench frame is all done, almost. You still need to consider waterproofing it. Daily watering will be hard even on treated lumber. Over time it will continue to crack and split and allow moisture inside hastening the rotting of the wood. First thing that comes to mind is a clear liquid sealant. The problem with those is that they need reapplying often and the uneven nature of their intact into the wood. A better option is painting.

Painting treated lumber? Yes, it can be done successfully and withstand the rigors inside and outside of a greenhouse. Just a few things to remember to make it work for you. Do not use oil-based paints! Latex is what you need, both the primer and the topcoat. Latex will allow it to breath somewhat. In fact you may notice a bit of green droplets passing through some of the paint in lumber that hasn't dried enough. That causes no problem and can be touched up later once it has dried or leave it if it is not noticeable. Depending on the humidity, the lumber should be ready to paint a week or so after you put it together. It should not feel damp to the touch when you are ready to paint. I like to caulk all the joints first to keep water out.

A good support for your bench is concrete blocks. Use solid ones as a base for the hollow blocks. Level them to each other to make sure the bench will be level. I like to use builders sand beneath as it is easy to work with leveling the base blocks. Next stack hollow blocks 3 or 4 high. Do not stand them on end! You may need to take a chisel and lightly scrap off the uneven cement on the mating surfaces to make sure they will level and seat properly. Some companies do a better job of cleaning the blocks than others.

The last subject I'm mentioning is the bench top. Which you should have on hand first to figure out how to build your bench frames. There are several ways to go such as galvanized wire, plastic-coated wire, etc. I prefer the plastic tops that come in 2-x-4 foot sizes and are made by several manufacturers. My favorite is the Original Durabench with interlocking sides. The company also has an Ultra series of bench tops but they are too light for clay pots.

http://www.swapinc.com/dura_bench.htm

The Original has 1-inch square openings and predrilled holes for using number 10 screws for attaching. Be sure to use stainless steel for those! Like most everything else, the prices on the tops can be outrageous or reasonable. For the small quantity you will need,

try A M Leonard. <http://www.amleo.com>

About \$11 for each 2-x-4 foot top.

A good source for anything stainless is Bolt Depot. I've used them many times and they are far cheaper than your local stores.

<http://www.boltdepot.com/>

2004 – 2005 Virginia Orchid Showtable Results

Cattleya Alliance:

- 1st Place: Michael Fine
- 2nd Place: L. K. Harvie, Jr.
- 3rd Place: Joe Mathias/Michael Mealy (Tie)

Mini Cattleyas:

- 1st Place: Michael Fine
- 2nd Place: Allen Black/Royce Woolfolk (Tie)

(Tie)

Species:

- 1st Place: Allen Black
- 2nd Place: Jerry Rogers
- 3rd Place: Emily Deane/L. K. Harvie, Jr. (Tie)

Phalaenopsis Alliance:

- 1st Place: Jim Culbert
- 2nd Place: Allen Black
- 3rd Place: Charles Gardner/David Sombach (Tie)

Paphiopedilum:

- 1st Place: Allen Black
- 2nd Place: Charles Gardner/Jerry Rogers (Tie-only one pt. behind)

(Tie)

Phragmedpedium:

- 1st Place: Allen Black
- 2nd Place: Charles Gardner
- 3rd Place: Janet Beehler

Oncidium Alliance:

- 1st Place: Michael Fine
- 2nd Place: Carol Hollenbeck
- 3rd Place: Terry Farmer/Bayne Hawkins
Kay Patrick (Tie)

Dendrobiums:

- 1st Place: Michael Fine
- 2nd Place: Michael Mealy/Cassie Wright

Vandas:

- 1st Place: Michael Mealy
- 2nd Place: Terry Farmer
- 3rd Place: Jerry Rogers

Cymbidiums:

- 1st Place: Michael Fine/The Sims (Tie)
- 2nd Place: Michael Mealy

Misc. Other Genera:

- 1st Place: Michael Fine
- 2nd Place: L. K. Harvie, Jr.
- 3rd Place: Joe Mathias/Michael Mealy

Novice:

- 1st Place: Valerie Thacker
- 2nd Place: Emerson Warden
- 3rd Place: Drew Lambeth

Top Exhibitors:

Allen Black: 127 points
Michael Fine: 84 points
Michael Mealy: 65 points

Congratulations!!!!

New Novelty Orchid Hybrid – Brassoepidendrum Otis Tyler



The VOS's Allen Black has registered his 19th orchid hybrid.

Brassoepidendrum Otis Tyler is a hybrid of *Epidendrum criniferum* and *Brassavola cucullata*. The hybrid is named in honor of George & Fay Tyler's family member and great companion, Otis Tyler. Otis was a black lab. He recently passed away.

The flowers are 2.75" tall and have a 1" long lip. They look like a "red cucullata". The 1st plant to bloom is very small, so I'm hoping that the flower count and size will improve as the plant matures. This hybrid took just over 4 years to flower from pollination. Per Wildcatt, *Epidendrum criniferum* has only been used as a parent in two other registered hybrids.

The Virginia Orchid Society 2005-06 Lecture Season & Auctions

December: Dr. William Goldner *of Woodstream Orchids*
"The Orchids of Panama"

January: Howard Ginsberg *of Bedford Orchids*
"Golden Pecker: Golden Parent"

February: Allen Black *of the VOS*
"Home Orchid Sex: Orchid Breeding 101"

March: the Virginia Orchid Society's
Growers Auction

April: Dr. Martin Motes *of Motes Orchids*
"Vandaceous Orchids"

May: Steve Shifflett *of Floradise Orchids*
"Holistic Orchid Care"



The NEW Hospitality Raffle!

In order to encourage members to bring goodies to the meetings, the Hospitality Committee will now be offering a FREE raffle ticket to each participating member who brings food to the meeting. This is a great way to encourage participation and increase the diversity of our refreshments and our orchid collections!

Please be sure to fill out and return your membership application as soon as possible, so your correct information can be included in the 2005-2006 Virginia Orchid Society roster.

The VIRGINIA ORCHID SOCIETY welcomes your membership.

The Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt association. Your membership dues are tax deductible. There are no goods or services provided to you in consideration for this gift. Thank you for your support of the Society.

**Please make all checks payable to the Virginia Orchid Society, and mail them to:
Emerson Warden, 9060 Rutland Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-2824
Please cut off and mail with your check.**

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2005-2006 Virginia Orchid Society Membership Dues

Single Membership \$22.50 _____
Family membership \$30.00 _____ (Defined as mailing to one address)
Is this a new membership? _____
Are you an AOS member? _____

I would like to make an additional donation to the Virginia Orchid Society for:

The Henry S Spencer Trust \$ _____; and/or to support the VOS \$ _____

Name(s) _____ (as to appear in the roster)

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter via e-mail? _____