



Virginia Orchid Society

February Newsletter

Volume XXV, Issue VI

Allen Black Will Speak at the February Meeting **"Home Orchid Sex - Orchid Breeding 101 – From Pollination to Flowering"**

At our February 19th meeting, VOS member, Allen Black, will discuss **SEX** (orchid sex, that is) and the process of home orchid breeding. Allen has received a lot of questions concerning "how do you do this or that" in orchid breeding. His presentation will cover the following topics:

- Flower parts
- Pollinating a flower
- Seed capsule development
- Preparing sterile flasks
- Sowing the orchids seeds
- Replating flasks
- Deflasking/compotting
- Blooming the hybrids

He will also discuss helpful hints and opportunities for failure in the process.

Caution: This presentation contains full frontal nudity of orchid flowers (they are beautiful!).

Allen has been breeding orchids at his home for over 10 years. He specializes in novelty breeding. He has registered 19 of his orchid hybrids with many more hybrids on the way. The following compliment was recently posted on the internet concerning Allen's breeding results: "You're like the Dr. Frankenstein of orchids; but the things you create are never ugly and are always interesting".



The February 2006 Board meeting for the Virginia Orchid Society will be held on Tuesday, February 21st from 6:00-8:30 pm., at the North Park Branch Library, 8508 Franconia Road. 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 their topic placed on the agenda.

Dendrobium Chinsal 'Floradise I'



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A letter from our President...

Hello all:

At the time of this newsletter going to press, I am still here in California, soaking up whatever sun I can manage. I suppose it isn't so bad, but since I have been on this current trip since the 3rd of January, I am ready to get back home to my normal life and to check on my plants. I cannot wait to see what has come into bloom since my departure, and hope all is well.

This trip is not all that bad though, I have managed to visit a few growers out here. I also attended a fairly large exhibition and sale held at a local shopping mall called the Chinese New Years celebration of orchids. There were about 30 growers displaying and selling plants and I cannot tell you where I have seen so many wonderful cymbidiums in one place in such a long while. The prices were fairly reasonable as well, as one could purchase blooming cymbidiums with 2 or 3 inflorescence for about \$25. There were so many to choose from that it made it hard to keep track of the beautiful plants that one would see from vendor to vendor. You couldn't really go wrong as far as picking out a healthy plant.

The main concerns I had were that many plants were not properly labeled, and many of the growers avoided the topic of virus possibilities. This was primarily a "pot plant" type market. The customers were not the average orchid enthusiasts, rather people that shared all of our enjoyment in owning an orchid. I also wondered how these plants would fare with little or no instructions or care sheets being handed out. In any case, I will feed my plant addiction with a couple more visits to some name growers before I have to return to the damp east.

Happy Growing!

David Sombach

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

We would like to welcome new member Mary Hsu. Also, 'staying with us' are Kenny and Angie White of Hopewell and Royce Woolfolk of Richmond.

NEW MEMBER CLIP-ON NAME BADGES:

You will notice that our new members wear a plastic clip-on style name badge. This will make it easy for current members to recognize them and hopefully introduce themselves and issue a friendly welcome. Upon renewal for the 2006-2007 year, the clip-on style will be exchanged for the standard black and white name badge.

Thanks and welcome to our new members!

Fay Tyler
Membership Services

New Orchid Hybrid – Phalaenopsis Kenny Ewell



The VOS's Allen Black has registered his 20th orchid hybrid. **Phalaenopsis Kenny Ewell** is a hybrid of Phal Brother Purple and Kuntrarti Rarashati. The hybrid is named in honor of Kenny Ewell, a person with whom Allen has worked with for over 20+ years at his real "day job". So far, Allen has bloomed-out two plants of Phal Kenny Ewell. Both have been very nice with good shape and color.



VOS **Bring-A-Guest** **Month**

Last month, VOS members were encouraged to bring a guest to the January meeting. The program brought 10 new guests to our monthly meeting. A drawing was held to give the winning guest a free membership and to give the member that brought them a blooming plant.

The winning guest was Mary Hsu and the member who brought her her was Nalda Thung. Congratulations to both of you and all the other guests and members.

Thanks,
Garland

LIBRARY

We're trying to complete our issues of Orchids magazine. There are issues missing from VOS's archives. Please check your bookshelves and see if you have any back issues and return them.

VOS has renewed its' Orchids Digest subscription for another two years. Please check out the current issues of this fine magazine as well as our other books, publications, and videos.

Thank you,
George Tyler
Librarian

A Word from the Hospitality Committee.....

Our contract with Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is very clear that we should provide only **light refreshments** at our monthly meetings. In order to comply, the Hospitality Committee is proposing a new format for our monthly food table. Each month three members will be asked to bring something "sweet" (pieces of fruit, cookies, brownies, small slices of cake, etc) and three will be asked to bring something "savory" (chips and dip, slices of cheese and crackers, finger sandwiches, vegetable tray, etc). These members will provide the **finger food** for the meeting while the Hospitality Committee will continue to provide hot and cold beverages and paper products. The idea is to have food which is easy to serve with little mess. When it is your turn, try to include something for those who are on special diets and need low fat or sugar free items.

Please remember that having refreshments at the meetings is a privilege that we do not want to lose. Thank you for your help!

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VOS Showtable Results for January 2006

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

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids – Standard:

Blue - Blc Spring Dawn 'Top Row' X Blc Mahino Yahiro 'Ulii'	Mike Fine
Blue - Lc Mem Crispin Rosalis	Mike Fine
Red - Lc Molly Tyler FCC/AOS	Henry Randolph
Red - Blc Pamela Hetherinton 'Coronation' FCC/AOS	Mike Fine
Red - Epi Costa Rica	Allen Black
Red - Lc Trick or Treat X B. digbyana	Mike Fine
Yel - C. David Sweet	Valerie Thacker
Yel - Vaughnara Pseudo Renmar	Allen Black

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids - Mini/compact:

Blue - Pot. Orglade's Tradition 'Sunset'	Mike Fine
Yel - C. Bow Bells 'Fins' X C. Celle 'Markell'	Fran Seiden
Yel - Slc Sutter Creek 'Gold Country HCC/AOS	Emily Deane

Species:

Blue - Den. chrysopterum	Allen Black
Blue - Brassovola nodosa 'Fulford'	Allen Black
Red - Angraecum sesquipedale	May Augustine
Red - Lycaste lasioglossa	Allen Black
Yel - Den. aggregatum	Valerie Thacker
Yel - Paph primulinum	Garland Hansen

Dendrobium

Red - Den. Yodagimi	Henry Randolph
Yel - Den Ise x Princess	Chuck Gardner

Paphiopedelum Hybrids:

Blue - Phal. memoria Chuck Noe (P#2)	Allen Black
Red - Phal Sunrise Red Peoker (Peloric P#8)	Allen Black
Yel - Phal Asian Elegance 'Taisuco Sheen'	Jim Culbert

Vanda Alliance Hybrids:

Blue - Vanda Robert's Delight 'Red'	Michael Mealy
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Oncidium Alliance Hybrids

Blue - Mtdm. Wildwood 'Hawaii'	Valerie Thacker
Red - Onc. Maculatum	Henry Randolph
Red - Onc. Gold Dust	Chuck Gardner

Phragmipedium Hybrids

Blue - Phrag. Jason Fischer 'Linwood Coleman' HCC/AOS	Allen Black
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Other Miscellaneous Hybrids:

Blue - Lyc Paul	Allen Black
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Cymbidium

Blue - Cym Kate	Michael Mealy
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February Meeting

Our meeting on Sunday,
February 19th will be held in the
Education Building at the Lewis
Ginter Botanical Gardens

Charlottesville Orchid Society March 12th Meeting

Dennis D'Allesandro
Gypsy Glen Orchids, Beaver, PA

"New Paphs of Vietnam"



First Annual Orchid Fest

Show and Sale

The Virginia Orchid Society invites you to attend the first annual Orchid Fest Show and Sale on Saturday June 3, 2006 from 10:00-4:00 in the Educational Building of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The talented members of our Show Committee will exhibit a major orchid display titled: "Orchid Jubilation: the Wedding" just in time for June brides. Additional table top exhibits will continue the wedding theme.

As part of our Show and Sale, VOS members will be selling orchid corsages and orchid paraphernalia. Vendors selling orchids and supplies to date include: Pinecrest Orchids, Floradise Orchids, Seagrove Orchids, Smithfield Orchid and Nature Company, and Machodoc Orchid Supplies.

The Virginia Orchid Society is also pleased to announce that our Orchid Fest will feature artist Albert Garcia who will be selling orchid paintings and ceramics. Photography by VOS members will also be available for sale.

Throughout the day The Orchid Fest will include seminars, demonstrations, a Silent auction and door prizes. VOS members will be available to answer culture questions and to provide educational materials.

A complete schedule of events and speakers will be available in March.