

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

VIRGINIA ORCHID SOCIETY

JANUARY 16, 2005 MEETING
MEETING : 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VIRGINIA
PROGRAM: ART CHADWICK, CHADWICK ORCHIDS
"THE FUTURE OF STANDARD CATTLEYAS"

Art Chadwick to Speak

This month our own Art Chadwick, Jr. will be previewing his World Orchid Congress in Dijon, France presentation on "The future of standard *Cattleyas*." The Chadwick name is well known in orchid circles, as Art, Sr. has been growing orchids since 1945, has published 24 articles in the AOS magazine *Orchids*, and has a book, *Classic Cattleyas*, coming out this summer. Art, Jr. has also been making a name for himself, authoring a monthly column on orchids in the Richmond Times Dispatch, narrating a popular video, "Orchids for Everyone," and is President of Chadwick and Son Orchids, a business he co-founded with his father in 1989.



Chadwick and Son Orchids currently operates nine greenhouses of orchids in Powhatan, selling retail, wholesale, and boarding over 10,000 plants. In November, they opened a second retail location in the Fan area of Richmond; it is located at 203 North Belmont Avenue (2 blocks west of the Fine Arts Museum). Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden boards their orchid collection (about 2,000 plants) at Chadwicks for use in the east wing of the conservatory. The company is also featured in the January 2005 issue of Southern Living magazine.

Art has turned namesake orchids into a fine art, naming orchids after high profile women including U.S. First Ladies Barbara Bush, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush as well as former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Each of these orchids has been personally presented to their namesakes.

– Jim Creech

FEBRUARY 6, 2005 MEETING
MEETING : 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VIRGINIA
PROGRAM: LEON BLUMREICH, PINECREST ORCHIDS
"CULTURE OF PAPHIOPEDILUM
AND PHRAGMIPEDIUM ORCHIDS"

JANUARY 2005
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Mini-Culture Lesson

Michael Mealy will discuss fabricating pebble trays to increase humidity at the January meeting.

Next month, Chuck Gardner will discuss his hydroponic techniques.

We are still looking for feedback on presentations useful for the membership. Contact me at mlfine@vcu.edu or 784-0304.

– Michael L. Fine

Message From the President



- January 21-23 Tidewater Orchid Society/Virginia Flower and Garden Show, Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th St., Virginia Beach, VA. Contact: Dot Pierce, 917 Beryl Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451.
If anyone is interested in coordinating the transportation of member plants that could be gathered at the VOS monthly meeting on January 16 to be delivered to the Virginia Flower and Garden Show in Virginia Beach on Wednesday January 19, where AOS PLANT JUDGING will take place. Plants will remain on display at the show until Sunday January 23. Please contact me.
- FEBRUARY 24–27 2005 MAYMONT FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW “CINEMAGIC”, Location: Greater Richmond Convention Center.
We had an energetic planning session with wonderful exchange of ideas and exciting plans for the VOS display.
 - Please contact Kathy Walker, email address kwalker4orchids2@aol.com, phone 737-0203 if you are interested in volunteering your time. This is a great opportunity for the membership to help with this annual four day event.

Worker passes and parking information for those members participating will be available at the February meeting. Noted below are the dates and times.
Dates:
Thursday, February 24 through Saturday, February 26
Times: 9AM – 12PM, 12PM – 2PM, 2PM – 5PM, 5PM – 8PM

Sunday, February 27
Times: 9AM – 12PM, 12PM -3PM, 3PM – 6PM
 - Members are needed to help with the following duties:
Set up will begin Saturday, February 19
Take down will begin 6PM, Sunday-February 27 and final cleanup could continue on Monday-February, 28
Please contact Drew Lambeth email address drewby07@yahoo.com, phone 266-5411 if you are interested.
 - The membership is encouraged to bring their plants to the February meeting. If you are delivering your own plants they must be at the Richmond Center no later than 10AM, Monday February, 21. Please contact Kay Patrick email address xenon11@comcast.net, phone 276-5307 if you are interested in assisting with any plant pickup or delivery.
 - Signup sheets will be available at the January meeting.
- Michael Fine will be coordinating the society’s participation in “Answer Alley” a fairly new segment at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show.

Other events coming up for 2005 will be the SMV “Surf and Turf” and Stranges Florist. Please watch newsletter for more details at a later date.

– Kathy Walker

Focus on Members

Meet

Mike Fine

How long have you been a member of VOS? What benefit do you enjoy most?

I was a member many years ago (I don't remember which ones) and have recently become active again.



(Editor's note: Active may be an understatement because in the 11 Showtable categories, Mike won three of the year-end categories and placed second in two others.)

When and what first made orchids of interest to you?

My wife, Judy, bought a *Phalaenopsis* from a nursery in upstate New York courtesy of a \$2.00 off coupon. When we moved to Virginia in 1979, we had three orchids. A year

or two later, it was about eight, and another year or so, it was about 50.

What is your favorite orchid and why?

We grow a bunch of different types of orchids although *Catts* are the dominant room takers. We have some *Paphs* on the stones, a few *Phals* in the house, some *Oncidiums* and related genera, and a few miscellaneous plants. So I don't have a favorite orchid, but we have concentrated mostly on *Cattleyas*.

Other information about Mike Fine:

Mike is on the faculty of the Department of Biology at Virginia Commonwealth University. He also recently agreed to coordinate the Mini-Cultural Lesson, a 15 minute educational program within the membership meeting, and will be coordinating the VOS participation in Maymont's "Answer Alley."

Committee Messages

Membership Desk

Chris, Don, Dick and I enjoyed greeting everyone at the December meeting.



In December, we had 64 members in attendance along with nine visitors. The raffle brought in \$71; thanks to all that donated, and congrats to all the winners.

Reminders

- If you have not picked up your copy of the Roster, please remember to do so. It will be at the table as you first enter the meeting room.
- The entry forms for the Showtable will be available at the raffle table. Stop by when you arrive so that you can ensure that your plant will be entered.

Please call Valli (360-1625) prior to the meeting should you wish to contribute plants or supplies to be a Door or Raffle Prize. We encourage and appreciate your generosity.

– Valli LaNeve

Judges Forum

This month it was particularly noticable that members need to fill their Showtable Entries out completely. When filling out plant cards include class, date, and name on the back. It's hard enough to guess whether it's a species, hybrid, standard, mini, and so forth without class.

– Joe Mathias

Endowment

The Endowment as of Dec. 31, 2004 has assets worth \$20,380.48. Of that amount \$1,699.52 is in money market funds. Trust holdings have improved by \$2,278.72 since June 2004 when I became chair of the Finance Committee. The trust currently holds the following securities: American Cap Strategies, Duke Energy, Cornerstone Realty Income Trust, and Capital one Financial Corp Upper Decs Conv.

– Wanda Andrako

Plant and Auctions

I want to remind everyone that the Grower's Auction will be coming up on March 20. As typical for our auctions, there will be a preview period and an early start time for the meeting. Be sure to put this date on your calendars.

– Bill Akin

Publications

The Publications Committee has been working to notify the World Wide Web of the new VOS address. The old website now has a notice and will automatically divert a person to the new website. In addition, many of the organizations and companies with a link to our website have been notified of the change.

Drew has been exploring the suggestion of adding a forum to the VOS website. Initial findings seem very promising. More on this as progress is made.

– Jim Creech

VOS Showtable Results for December 2004

Judges: Joe Mathias (Chair), David Sombach, Carol Hollenbeck, Michael Mealy, Michael Fine, Charles Gardner



Densiflorum 'Bananas'
Grown by Michael Mealy



Lycaste Hamana Cherry
Grown by Allen Black



Brsdm. Shooting Star 'Mustard'
Grown by Drew Lambeth

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids – Standard

Blue – *Blc.* Orglade's Full House x *C.* Horace 'Maxima' – Michael Fine
 Blue – *Lc.* Persepolis 'Splendor' AM/AOS x *Blc.* California Girl – George and Fay Tyler
 Red – *Blc.* Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS – Allen Black
 Yellow – *Blc.* Taiwan Queen ;Golden Monkey' – Royce Woolfolk
 Yellow – *Blc.* Owen Holmes 'Mendenhall' x *C.* Horace 'Maxima' – Joe Mathias

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids– Mini/Compact

Blue – *Pot.* Little Toshi 'H & R' AM/AOS – Michael Fine
 Red – *Slc.* Dream Catcher – Michael Fine
 Yellow – *B.* Little Stars – George & Fay Tyler

Species

Blue – card missing-believe was specimen *brassavola* – Emily Deane
 Red – *Lycaste lasioglossa* – Allen Black
 Yellow – *C. perciviliana* – Joe Mathias
 Yellow – *Phrag. caudatum* var. *sanderiae* – Bayne Hawkins
 Yellow – *Paph. gratixianum* – Mae Augustine

Phalaenopsis Hybrids

Blue – *Phal.* Memoria Chuck Noe – Allen Black

Paphiopedilum Hybrids

Blue – *Paph.* Varuna – Allen Black
 Red – *Paph.* Hamana Spice – Charles Gardner
 Red – *Paph.* Sungai Melinau – Allen Black
 Yellow – *Paph.* Chig Hua Kao – Michael Mealy

Phragmipedium Hybrids

Blue – *Phrag.* Noirmont – Allen Black
 Red – *Phrag.* Red Lightning – Allen Black
 Yellow – *Phrag.* Silver Eagle – Charles Gardner

Vanda Alliance Hybrids

Blue – *Ascda.* Lowell Jacks 'Not Blue' – Allen Black
 Red – *V.* Sunray Delight x Tweewan – Michael Mealy
 Yellow – *V.* Hall of Fame – Royce Woolfolk

Oncidium Alliance Hybrids

Blue – *Onc.* Twinkle 'Red Fantasy' – Carol Hollenbeck

Dendrobium Hybrids

Blue – *Densiflorum* 'Bananas' – Michael Mealy

Cymbidians

Blue – *Cym.* unknown – Michael Fine
 Red – *Cym.* unknown – Michael Mealy

Other Miscellaneous Hybrids

Blue – *Zygosepalum* Rhein Harekin – Carol Hollenbeck
 Blue – *Lycaste* Hamana Cherry – Allen Black

Novice (up to 2 years experience)

Blue – *Brsdm.* Shooting Star 'Mustard' – Drew Lambeth
 Red – *Ascda.* Princess Mikasa 'Sapphire' – Emerson Warden
 Red – *Cym.* unknown – Drew Lambeth
 Red – *Vasco.* Pine Rivers – Terry Farmer
 Yellow – *Blc.* Golden Tang – Drew Lambeth

National Capital Judging Center

The National Capital Judging Center (NCJC) judging is normally held in U.S. National Arboretum auditorium on first Saturday of each month at 12:00 Noon. This month, however, it met in conjunction with National Capital Orchid Society Show. The public is welcome to watch the judging, as well as to the presentations and screening of award slides that usually follows judging.

December 4 Awards

Judges Present: R. Cole, J. Dunkelberger, R. Griesbach, V. Lowe, T. McBride, N. Meares, N. Mountford, S. Shifflett, F. Slaughter, T. Slaughter, G. Slaymaker (Chair), B. Tisherman, T. Ward, L. Werner, D. Yohn, P. Bannon, S. Drozda, and K. Meier.

Clerks: B. Bannon, S. Dunkelberger, G. Smith, and T. Wood

***Mediocalcar decorate* ‘Woodstream’ CCE 91 pts.;**

species; Woodstream Orchids, Huntingtown, MD

Natural Spread: 0.8 Natural Spread V: 0.8

Two Hundred fifty two flowers and fifty one bell shaped flowers on a superbly grown densely spreading plant 38 cm in diameter grown in a twelve cm square basket; flowers generally well distributed around specimen; sepals, petals and lip orange with yellow tips resembling candy corn; substance heavy; texture glossy; flower form and size precluded additional measurements.

***Paphiopedilum Hampshire White Light* ‘Sligo’ HCC 79 pts.;** Shapelight x Skip Bartlett; Roddy Gabel, Silver Spring, MD

Natural Spread: 12.0 Natural Spread V: 9.2 Dorsal Sepal W: 7.2 Dorsal Sepal L: 6.3

Petals W: 5.0 Petals L: 6.5 Synsepal W: 5.1 Synsepal L: 4.8 Pouch W: 2.9 Pouch L: 5.6

One well-shaped horizontally oval flower and one bud on one 24 cm inflorescence; dorsal sepal ivory with faint green flush at base and stippled burgundy along midvein; wavy edged petals ivory-green stippled and netted burgundy on upper half above strong burgundy median line, lower half sparsely stippled burgundy; pouch ivory-green with slight burgundy glush; substance hard; texture of dorsal sepal matte, petals and pouch glossy.

***Soprolaelia Pole Star* ‘Yolanda Lucille’ HCC 76 pts. L. briegeri x Soph. coccinea;** Tina Wood, College Park, MD

Natural Spread: 6.5 Natural Spread V: 6.3 Dorsal Sepal W: 2.0 Dorsal Sepal L: 3.4 Petals W: 2.5 Petals L: 3.3 Lateral Sepal W: 1.5 Lateral Sepal L: 2.8 Lip W: 1.1 Lip L: 1.9

Three flowers on one inflorescence; sepals and irregularly ruffled petals orange with faint red-orange veins and lighter flare on petals; lip red, throat yellow veined red; substance medium; texture matte.

November 6 Awards

Judges Present: R. Cole, J. Dunkelberger, W. Goldner, R. Griesbach, M. Huntington, L. Kennedy, V. Lowe, P. Mathews, T. McBride, N. Meares, D. Miller, N. Mountford, S. Shifflett, F. Slaughter, T. Slaughter, G. Slaymaker (Chair), B. Tisherman, T. Ward, L. Werner, D. Yohn, P. Bannon, S. Drozda, and K. Meier.

***Paphiopedilum spicerianum* ‘St. Albans’;** species; AM 82 pts.;

William Scharf, Parkton, Maryland

Natural Spread: 7.2 Natural Spread V: 8.2 Dorsal Sepal W:

6.0 Dorsal Sepal L: 4.9

Petals W: 1.7 Petals L: 4.4 Synsepal W: 4.0 Synsepal L:

4.2 Pouch W: 2.8 Pouch L: 4.7

One dramatic, deeply colored flower and one bud on one 35cm inflorescence; DORSALS sepal white, apple green at base, flushed very pale rose along burgundy midrib; synsepal light green, white apically and faintly stippled burgundy along midrib; goffered petals light avocado green, stippled burgundy on basal two thirds, heavier along deep burgundy midrib; pouch deep avocado green overlaid and veined burgundy; staminode purple with white picotee; substance heavy, texture glossy, noted for being a superb flowering of an old named clone.

***Bulbophyllum Lovely Elizabeth* ‘Amy’ CCM 82 pts.**

Elizabeth Ann x rothschildianum; Barry Woolf, Aallston, MD

Natural Spread: 1.8 Natural Spread V: 14.0 Dorsal Sepal W: 0.8 Dorsal Sepal L: 2.0 Petals W: 0.3 Petals L: 0.8

Lateral Sepal W: 0.9 Lateral Sepal L: 13.0 Lip W: 0.6 Lip L: 0.4

Sixty flowers and 41 buds on nineteen inflorescences borne on a well grown 66 cm by seventeen cm unblemished plant in a 33 cm round clay bulb pan; dorsal sepal cream with mahogany stripes, edges hirsute; petals cream with mahogany stripes; lateral sepals cream stippled brick red; lip fushcia with darker fuchsia spots; column cream with dark fushcia towards cap; substance firm; texture matte.

***Paphiopedilum Sierra Sunrise* ‘Missouri River’ AM 80 pts.;** charlesworthii x Via Luna Este; Woodstream Orchids, Huntingtown, MD

Natural Spread: 10.5 Natural Spread V: 12.0 Dorsal Sepal W: 9.2 Dorsal Sepal L: 7.7

Petals W: 4.5 Petals L: 9.0 Synsepal W: 6.4 Synsepal L: 6.6 Pouch W: 4.0 Pouch L: 6.0

One stately, somewhat cupped flower on one inflorescence; large, flat dorsal sepal white overlaid with raspberry to within 2.5 cm white margin forming a white halo suffused at base with rust; large synsepal white

Continued on page 6

National Capital Judging Center continued from p. 5

overlaid with yellow-green becoming paler at margins; petals green overlaid with rust tessellations, heavier on upper half; pouch green overlaid with rust centrally; staminode white; substance hard; texture glossy; recognized as fine example of species-complex hybrid breeding.

Cattleya Portia 'Edward Wood's Coerulea' HCC 79 pts.;
C. (bowringiana x labiata); Tina Wood, College Park, MD

Natural Spread: 11.2 Natural Spread V: 10.7 Dorsal Sepal W: 1.8 Dorsal Sepal L: 6.7 Petals W: 4.3 Petals L: 6.6 Lateral Sepal W: 2.0 Lateral Sepal L: 5.6 Lip W: 3.3 Lip L: 5.1

Thirty-five beautiful, somewhat cupped, flowers of superior dimensions on five stately 25cm inflorescences emerging just above spotless foliage; sepals and petals pale lavender with a violet caste; lip interior creamy white shading to deep violet on distal one-third; substance medium firm; texture crystalline; recognized as a well grown example of a fine old clone.

Paphiopedilum Macabre 'Super Size It' HCC 79 pts.

sukhakulii x Voodoo Magic; Woodstream Orchids, Huntingtown, MD

Natural Spread: 13.2 Natural Spread V: 9.1 Dorsal Sepal W: 4.9 Dorsal Sepal L: 5.5 Petals W: 3.4 Petals L: 7.3 Synsepal W: 3.7 Synsepal L: 4.5 Pouch W: 3.3 Pouch L: 6.0

One large flower held well above foliage on one inflorescence; dorsal sepal, somewhat pinched at top, white striped raspberry apically and apple green basally; petals very broad, heavily flushed apple green over white and densely spotted maroon; pouch uniform raspberry with darker tessellations; staminode light green, darker green at base; synsepal light green, flushed raspberry; texture medium firm; texture satiny.

Maymont is Coming Up

The Maymont Flower and Garden Show is coming up February 24 through 27. There is a need for volunteers to help with set up and break down the VOS exhibit, as well as to staff the exhibit during the show.

For more details, see Kathy Walker's Presidential Message. We hope to see everyone there.

**No Board Meeting
has been scheduled
for January**

Sunshine Motion

At the December meeting, Michael Mealy made a motion that was adopted, on a vote of 39-12, in an amended form. As passed, the motion requests first, that the By-Laws be amended to ensure that VOS Board meetings would be announced in advance and that meetings would be open to members in good standing. And second, that until the By-Laws are amended, that the Board voluntarily comply with the intended change. The two-part motion as passed follows in italics:

Resolved that a by-laws committee be formed to consider the following suggestions for amending the by-laws

- a. *That all Board of Directors meetings be open to the general membership, and any member in good standing who wishes to do so.*
- b. *That no business affecting the society, is to be conducted in a closed meeting.*
- c. *That the date, time and place of all Board of Directors meetings be listed in the monthly bulletin.*

Resolved that until there is a change to the by-laws that the Board of Directors voluntarily adheres to the proposed changes to the by-laws.

- a. *That all Board of Directors meetings be open to the general membership, and any member in good standing who wishes to do so.*
- b. *That no business affecting the society, is to be conducted in a closed meeting.*
- c. *That the date, time and place of all Board of Directors meetings be listed in the monthly bulletin.*

Michael Mealy, expressing the desires of many members, also encouraged the Board and those members with concerns about how the Board operates to confine their disagreements to Board meetings and leave monthly membership meetings to the enjoyment of orchids and the sharing of information about growing orchids.

Chadwick Opens Fan Location

Art Chadwick announced to the Beginner/Refresher Class that Chadwick and Son Orchids was opening a second location at 203 North Belmont Avenue (which is 2 blocks west of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts). His announcement was made too late to be included in the November newsletter, so many members may have missed the Grand Opening on November 26. The store has orchids and accessories, and is a drop off location for boarding. The hours for the new location are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and the phone number is 359-ORCH (6724).

Getting Ready for Fuchs

As VOS prepares for February's visit from Bob Fuchs of RF Orchids, we have recognized that this is a speaker that we need to make advance plans for. We have been in contact with his staff, and they have provided the information that appears below. The important aspect is that the number of plants that Bob can bring without an advance sale is restricted, so if you want something in particular, you will need to place an advance order.

Chuck Gardner has agreed to coordinate the advance order. You can contact him at (804) 553-1583 or email at cgardner@vcu.edu. Chuck will have catalogs available at the January meeting (although RF Orchids will be printing a new catalog in February). You can also check on their current offerings at www.rforchids.com.

If your members want to put together an advance order, we can do that as well. Our terms for that are as follows:

"The minimum order would have to be \$200 (total), and we

can offer a 20% discount on this advance order. That basically translates to free shipping on it, as we'd prefer to ship it in advance (weather permitting, of course). We also require that someone from VOS coordinate and manage the order... meaning that you (or whomever from VOS) takes all the individual orders from the members and consolidates them into one order to us, and then when the plants are shipped, handles the distribution to the individuals who ordered. Or, if the society wants to place an order for itself (for resale to members or however you want to handle it) that's fine, too.

"If possible, we'd prefer to have the order in hand at least a week (two or more would be better) prior to the shipping date. We'd ship to arrive a day or two before Bob arrives, so the plants will be fresh for the meeting. He will bring plants as well, but there's a limit to the number he can bring as checked baggage on the plane, so if you (and/or members) want something specific from our catalog, we'll need to know that well in advance."

Event Planning Calendar

December 4-May 1 "Orchid Express" Smithsonian Institute's orchid show, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.

January 16 VOS monthly meeting, Science Museum of Virginia, 2:00 p.m. 2500 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA.
Speaker: Art Chadwick, Chadwick and Son Orchids.

February 6 National Capital Judging Center, 12:00 p.m., National Arboretum, 24th at R St., NE, Washington DC 20002. (Send plants or cut flowers by Friday to: Mary Ann Jarvis, Program Director, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC 20002.)

February 6 Tidewater Orchid Society, Norfolk Botanical Garden, 2:00 p.m. Art Chadwick, Chadwick and Son Orchids

February 13 Charlottesville Orchid Society, 2:00 p.m. Church of Our Savior, 1165 E. Rio Road, Charlottesville, VA.
Speaker: Art Chadwick, Chadwick and Son Orchids.

February 20 VOS monthly meeting, Science Museum of Virginia, 2:00 p.m. 2500 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA.
Speaker: Robert Fuchs, RF Orchids.

February 24-27 Maymont Flower and Garden Show, Greater Richmond Convention Center, Richmond, VA.

March 2-6 North Carolina Piedmont Orchid Society Show, Charlotte Merchandise Mart, 2500 E. Independence Blvd.,

Charlotte, NC. Contact: Harry Galls, 19401 Mary Ardrey Cir., Cornelius, NC 28031; (704) 895-0099.

March 6 National Capital Judging Center, 12:00 p.m., National Arboretum, 24th at R St., NE, Washington DC 20002. (Send plants or cut flowers by Friday to: Mary Ann Jarvis, Program Director, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC 20002.)

March 6 Tidewater Orchid Society, Norfolk Botanical Garden, 2:00 p.m. Speaker: Plato Mathews, Orchid Alley.

March 13 Charlottesville Orchid Society, 2:00 p.m. Church of Our Savior, 1165 E. Rio Road, Charlottesville, VA.
Speaker: Tom Nasser, Carolina Orchids .

March 20 VOS monthly meeting, Science Museum of Virginia, 2:00 p.m. 2500 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA.
Grower's Auction pre-sale viewing begins at 1:00 p.m.

April 2-3 Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show, Ag Arena, Penn State Campus, State College, PA. Contact: Cathy Riemer, 434 Chestnut St., Bellefonte, PA 16823; (814) 353-8741.

April 3 National Capital Judging Center, 12:00 p.m., National Arboretum, 24th at R St., NE, Washington DC 20002. (Send plants or cut flowers by Friday to: Mary Ann Jarvis, Program Director, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC 20002.)

Growing Cattleyas on Windowsills

Editor's note: Michael Mealy brought back information from the National Capital Orchid Show on constructing windowsill humidity trays that can be easily drained of excess water. The handout coupled the humidity tray instructions with Cattleya Alliance information as a way to encourage people without greenhouses to reconsider growing them. The information Michael brought back is reproduced below.

Cattleya Alliance

The "standard" Cattleya is the big showy orchid that was mandatory for corsages in the 1940s and 1950s. Back then, most were either white, lavender, or white with colored lip. Since then, the color range for Cattleyas has exploded with wonderful yellows, oranges, deep purples, reds and greens.

Standard Cattleyas are borderline between orchids that can be grown on a windowsill and orchids that require a greenhouse. Many NCOS members successfully grow standard Cattleyas on windowsills, but these orchids require south windows and lots of light. They like to dry out between waterings and are usually grown in bark mixes.

The Cattleya alliance includes these large "standard" Cattleyas but also includes a wide variety of other related orchids, usually with smaller flowers that are often produced in large clusters and often with spectacular colors. Hybrids using these smaller species are called "mini-Catts" and are bred for smaller plant size and for windowsill growing (i.e., lower light requirements). In addition, many mini-Catts will bloom more than once a year.

Windowsill Growing Trays

To make inexpensive growing trays for the windowsill you will need (1) a 16" x 23" x 6" plastic container (obtained from Walmart or a home-improvement store), (2) 3/4" electrical nut (obtained at a hardware or home-improvement store), and (3) a regular plastic garden cut-off valve (obtained at a hardware or home-improvement store).

Drill a hole, with a 1" bit, on the side of the container near the bottom. Screw in cut-off valve. Add some caulking to water seal. Add electrical nut. Put gravel or egg-crate light diffuser on bottom. Now you can drain the tray without moving the tray or the plants in it. If you want, you can connect a piece of regular garden hose and drain into a bucket to avoid splashing.



Lc. Thriller 'Purple Goldthroat' Grown by Joe Mathias

Beginner/Refresher Class in February

The second Orchid Education Class will take place February 6 at the Virginia Science Museum on the following schedule:

From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. - Leon Blumreich, Pinecrest Orchids

"Culture of Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium Orchids"
An informal discussion during which Le will advise on their culture and answer your questions.

From 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. - Break Time

Check out what's available from the VOS Library, picking up pertinent culture information, catalogs and purchasing plants from Pinecrest Orchids of Charlottesville.

From 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Orchid Doctors

Three advanced Society growers, Wanda Andrako, Buddy Harvie and Mike Fine, will take a look at ANY of your problem plants (up to a maximum of three per member) and give an opinion on what's going on plus suggestions that should improve the condition of your orchid.

Further, there will be opportunities to visit with and get to know other members in a casual atmosphere, enjoy refreshments, win door prizes, and more.

Committee Co-Chairs:

Barbara Noe (355-2270) and Bayne Hawkins (560-0205)

Committee Member:

Chris Wilkinson (227-3927)

– Bayne Hawkins

January/February Checklist

Cattleya

- ✓ Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers.
- ✓ Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot.

Cymbidium

- ✓ Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures.
- ✓ Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers.
- ✓ Also watch closely for slugs and snails.
- ✓ If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

- ✓ Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences; tying them loosely together often is helpful.
- ✓ Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should.
- ✓ Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

- ✓ If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet.
- ✓ Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed.
- ✓ If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

- ✓ Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis

- ✓ Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows; correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows.
- ✓ Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems.
- ✓ Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation.

Zygopetalum

- ✓ For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting; the plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive.

– Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose.

Welcome New Members

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Raffle and Door Prize Winners

ITEM	DONOR	WINNER
Raffle		
<i>Epi.</i> Valarie Parker	Allen Black	Terri Farmer
<i>Brsdm.</i> Henry Melczer 'Fangtastic' HCC/AOS	Allen Black	Nalda Thung
Lemon Pound Cake	Gourmet Cookies by Valli	Arline Murphy
<i>Dtps.</i> (Taisuco Firebird x Taisuco Firebird)	Anonymous	Valerie Thacker
<i>Colm.</i> Sphacetante 'Evenly' AM/AOS	The Akins	Mickey Grasberger
Doorprize		
<i>Dtps.</i> (Minho Princess 'Watercolor Artist' x Happy King 'Pro' HCC/AOS)	Allen Black	Don Herrick
<i>Lyc.</i> (Walnut Valley 'Black's Glow' x Virginalis)	Allen Black	Janice Ranch
<i>Blc</i> (Mem.Helen Brown 'Red Lips' x Satin Dew 'Lime Mist')	Allen Black	Cassie Wright
2 Science Museum Tickets	Science Museum of Virginia	Ann Atkinson
<i>P. equestris</i> xP. Stobantiana	The Akins	Dermont Murphy
<i>C.</i> Penny Furoda 'Spots' x <i>Blc.</i> Junko HCC/AOS	Carol Hollenbeck	Wanda Andrako

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Virginia Orchid Society

The Virginia Orchid Society

Founded in 1949, we are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.
We are affiliated with the American Orchid Society and Orchid Digest.

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The Virginia Orchid Society meets at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond, at 2:00 P.M. of the third Sunday of each month from September through June. Yearly dues are \$22.50 per individual, or \$30.00 per family.

Dues should be paid to the VOS Treasurer, Sue Akin.

Website: vaorchidsociety.tripod.com

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