

S.C. Kool Trout  
© Allen Black



**Special points of interest:**

- President's Message
- Silent Auction
- Hares, Birds and Orchids
- What's Eating My Orchids

**NOTE:  
FEBRUARY AND  
APRIL MEETING  
DATES HAVE BEEN  
MOVED!!!!!!**

**Photo and Article**

**Credits:**

- Garland Hanson
- Leon Glicenstein
- Linda Lawrence
- Allen Black

**TOM WILL NOT BE  
BRINGING PLANTS  
SO MEMBERS ARE  
WELCOME TO BRING  
PLANTS FOR SALE**

# The Orchid Keiki



Volume XXVIII, Issue XXV

January 2010

## **“Orchid Innovations in Taiwan” by Tom Miranda** *Sunday, January 17 at 2:00 pm*

Have you wondered where all the new, amazing, inexpensive and ubiquitous orchids appearing at your local garden center, Home Depot, and Whole Foods are coming from? Two years ago, Tom was invited to the TIOS (Taiwan International Orchid show) and to tour local orchid nurseries and laboratories by the Taiwan Orchid Growers association. What he found there was truly astonishing. The Taiwanese have developed their orchid production, growing spaces and infrastructure into an unprecedented, horticultural powerhouse. This combined with their innovations in breeding have made for exceptional new lines of orchids arriving in the US at very reasonable prices.

Come with Tom as he explores these innovative nurseries, and attends one of the most outstanding orchid events in the world. He was dazzled by what he saw! You will be too.

Tom is trained as a Marine Biologist, and has been an orchid addict since his childhood. Tom is presently the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian



In-

stitution where he cares for a huge collection of orchid species and hybrids, and produces a four month long orchid exhibit each year and supplies information about orchid cultivation, ecology and conservations to the public year round. His mission in life is trying to bring the horticultural, scientific and conservation community's closer together. He has been writing two popular monthly columns in Or-

## Show Trophy Sponsorship

Our big show is just around the corner! Last year, the “elegant glass” Heisey orchid plates trophies were a big hit! For the 2010 show, the trophies will be “depression glass” crystal plates in the famous “Miss America” sunburst pattern! This popular pat-



tern was made by Hocking Glass Co. from 1935-1938 and was made in pink, green, crystal and ruby.

It has taken a few months of scouring online antique and auction sites but now we have enough plates to serve as trophies for the plant and exhibit “Best-of” categories. Once again we are giving VOS members the first opportunity to sponsor trophies, perhaps in the name of a loved one. Another option is to create your own trophy i.e. Best Red Cattleya, or Best Yellow Phalaenopsis, etc. The cost of trophy sponsorship for VOS members will be \$35 unless specified other-

wise. Contact Garland Hanson at 804-814-5707 or [safe@verizon.net](mailto:safe@verizon.net) if you are interested in trophy sponsorship!

- Best Cattleya
- Best Paphiopedilum
- Best Dendrobium
- Best Oncidium
- Best Phalaenopsis
- Best Phragmipedium
- Best Vanda
- Best Miscellaneous Genera
- Best First-Bloom Seedling

- Best Exhibit-in-Show \$50
- Best Plant-in Show \$50
- AOS Show Trophy \$60
- Orchid Digest Trophy \$50

Virus testing continues to be available at minimal cost at each of the general meetings. Bring plants to the meeting for testing or purchase your

**2009-2010  
VOS Officers**

**President**

Garland Hanson  
1006 Kingham  
Midlothian, Va 23114  
804-379-3864;  
[rusafe@verizon.com](mailto:rusafe@verizon.com)

**Past President**

Jerry Rogers  
722 White Marsh Road,  
Wakefield, VA 23888-3099  
757-899-4477  
[Jerry.l.rogers@verizon.net](mailto:Jerry.l.rogers@verizon.net)

**President-Elect**

Valerie Thacker  
11419 Georgetown Road  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116  
804-338-7100  
[vlthacker@comcast.net](mailto:vlthacker@comcast.net)

**Vice President**

Shannon Reber  
10804 Weathervane Road  
Richmond, VA 23238  
804-303-9060

**Recording Secretary**

Mary Ann Marshall  
[mamtechtrainer@yahoo.com](mailto:mamtechtrainer@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer**

Patti St. Clair  
208 Stonehouse Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23188  
757-566-9041  
[pattistc@cox.net](mailto:pattistc@cox.net)

**Corresponding Secretary**

Betty Jo Fulghum  
530 Coalbrook Drive  
Midlothian, VA 23114  
804-379-1274  
[jofulghum@comcast.net](mailto:jofulghum@comcast.net)

## President's Message

### State-of-the-Society Report

I'm happy to report that state of the Virginia Orchid Society is VERY good!

We are financially secure!

We are being hosted by the renowned Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and provided with world-class meeting facilities! More of our speakers than not, have commented on the elegance of our well-appointed meeting space!

We have built a strong relationship with Strange's Garden Center! We participate in their Bloomin' Days celebration each Spring and repot orchids for the entire weekend! Strange's also hosts our wonderful, annual orchid show!

Speaking of our show, in three short years, our annual AOS-judged show has drawn acclaim by our sister societies, vendors and the National Capital Judging Center. Ours is one of very few shows in America that is held in a greenhouse under natural lighting conditions. Our show is complimented by an Art Show and a fully-catered evening gala.

We have built strong relationships with a number of other societies and are sharing speakers in an effort to save costs.

Our fund-raising auctions and orchid sales are strong with excellent VOS member support. We are bringing in top speakers in their respective fields. Look for international speakers in February!

We have a native orchid tour scheduled for early May and another special event for June!

We're doing well...but can we improve?! YOU BECHA'!! There is ALWAYS room for improvement! For instance:

Garland Hanson  
VOS President



**Membership.** We still have empty seats to fill! Granted, it is the nature of all hobby clubs for members to come and go for a number of reasons. Our goal is to maintain, and hopefully, increase our ranks! Most current VOS members were originally invited to attend by someone else...so never pass up the opportunity to invite someone with an interest in orchids or gardening. Each one of us is an ambassador of the VOS so please do your part to spread the word!

**Future Leadership.** Get involved with the inner workings of your society. Attend a board meeting. If serving on a committee or as a board member is something you would like to try then make sure your intent is known! The board and committee positions are not intensive. Just a few skills, some dedication and the desire to make the VOS the best it can be is all it takes!

Thanks to all for a successful 2009! Happy New Year!

## Silent Auction Items Needed for AOS Show in February 2010



**Coccineorchis cernua**

Do you have a business that offers a service? Do you have extra theatre or sports tickets that you won't be using? Do you have a contact with a restaurant or hotel that might offer dinner for two or an overnight stay?

the Feb show. If you can help us with a contribution please contact Linda Lawrence at [llawrence@reynolds.edu](mailto:llawrence@reynolds.edu).

The VOS is looking for silent auction items for

## Hares, Birds and Orchids: The Casualties of Peace in Cyprus

**Wildlife has flourished in the no-man's land that divides the country – but reconciliation could end all that!**

It's called the Green Line, but despite the name, it is a completely accidental wildlife sanctuary. The narrow strip of land that zigzags across the island of Cyprus was imposed in 1974 to separate the parties to armed conflict. As humans moved out, abandoning farms and villages, nature moved in.

Thirty five years on, this no man's land has become a safe haven for some of the rarest endemic plants and animals in Europe and a place of special scientific importance. Now however there's a threat hanging over the unique eco-system, not from war, but from peace.

At its narrowest, the Green Line measures only 3.5 metres, and 7.5 km at the widest. But since Cyprus was divided in 1974, the area has seen minimal human activity, barring the occasional patrol by UN peacekeepers. The resulting surge in wildlife became evident early on, but its full scale has become apparent only since Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot scientists began working together to compile the first comprehensive inventories of plant and animal life. An absence of building development has allowed wildlife to flourish. "It means healthy populations of various species have survived without having their habitats fragmented, degraded or destroyed," explains Dr. Iris Charalambidou, a leader of the joint-North South scientific team which has been studying the area.

One of the most exciting finds are populations of two indigenous plants, the Cyprus Tulip (*Tulipa cypria*) and the Cyprus Bee Orchid (*Ophrys kotschy*), both extremely rare. Likewise, a few decades ago, there were only a few hundred Cyprus mouflon, an endangered wild sheep found only on the island. But the Green Line has helped the sub-species to thrive to the point where Cyprus now has a healthy 3,000-strong herd.

In Variseia, one of the crumbling abandoned villages inside the Green Line 200 mouflon have settled happily. Ms Charalambidou, a birdlife specialist, has also found a number of interesting species and a large number of migratory birds arrive every season. For while closed to humans, animals move in and out, and seeds fly freely. "The buffer zone may look wild, but one can still see traces of agriculture, and there are still no deep forests," says Dr Nicolas Jarraud, environmental officer with the UN Development Programme. "Besides, there are species here now that are not endemic to Cyprus – rats and eucalyptus certainly aren't", he added. Packs of wild dogs now also roam the buffer zone. "Cyprus has never had a predator this size, so this creates a whole new dynamic," Dr Jarraud says.

The other new dynamic is political. Since September 2008, the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities have been negotiating a re-

unification deal. A rare alignment of good will between the two groups and a conducive international climate (the EU and Nato are pushing for a settlement) have created the best opportunity in years for a breakthrough. Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary General last Friday reported "solid" progress. "I am cautiously optimistic that a solution can be achieved," he said. The parties are hoping for a Spring accord.

But the political progress is bad news for the plants and animals. Any permanent settlement will inevitably have to resolve the matter of property rights within the Green Line- most of the abandoned land once belonged to private individuals whose descendants will certainly want to reclaim their rights.

But as soon as the borders are removed, the habitats will feel the sudden impact of bulldozers and human encroachment. "Many of the species won't find a corridor to escape to safety", says Dr Salih Gücel. The idea of the area being turned into a national park has been mooted but it's unlikely the entire area would be covered even if some was. Most of the scientific mapping of the Green Line was completed last year, and the team's final report is expected soon. "We're hoping that the decision-makers will pick it up and use it as one of their inputs," Dr Jarraud says.

Scientists hope at least to set up micro-reserves making the locals custodians of the natural heritage. And while the politicians struggle to find common ground, the scientists have found their collaboration to have fostered a new climate of trust across the ethnic divide. "Our aim was the same, and therefore we managed to build trust," said Salih Gücel, a Turkish Cypriot.



*Eltroplectris roseoalba*

### Schedule of Virginia Orchid Society Events

Sunday, January 17th  
Virginia Orchid Society  
Tom Miranda  
Smithsonian Institute  
"Orchid Innovations of the Taiwanese"  
2pm

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Robin's Room

Sunday, February 14th  
*Note Change of Date!!*

Virginia Orchid Society  
International Speaker  
2pm

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Robin's Room

February 26th, 27th & 28th  
Virginia Orchid Society  
AOS Orchid Show

Strange's Greenhouse and Garden Center

Sunday, March 21st  
Virginia Orchid Society  
Gordon Slaymaker  
AOS Judge  
"2009/2010 Awarded NCOS and VOS Show Plants"  
2pm

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Robin's Room

Sunday, April 11th  
*Note Change of Date!!!*

Virginia Orchid Society  
Spring Auction  
1pm

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Robin's Room

Sunday, May 16th  
Virginia Orchid Society  
Leon Glicenstein  
AOS Judge  
"Jewel Orchids"  
2pm

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Robin's Room

**Virus testing continues to be available at minimal cost at each of the general meetings.**

**Bring plants to the meeting for testing or purchase your own testing kits. See Mike Mealy for additional information and testing.**

**VOS Committee Chairs**

**Affiliated Societies**  
Empty

**Newsletter**  
Valerie Thacker

**Website**  
Jerry Rogers

**Continuing Education**  
Empty

**Programs**  
Valerie Thacker/Shannon Reber

**Endowment**  
Charles Gardner

**Hospitality**  
DJ and Jerry Merski

**Membership**  
Betty Jo Fulghum

**Librarian / Archives**  
David Sombach

**Publicity**  
Shannon Reber

**Show Committee**  
Valerie Thacker

**Judges Forum**  
David Sombach

**Auctions**  
Garland Hanson

**Ad Hoc**  
David Sombach  
Dick Burch  
Valerie Thacker

**Visit Our Website:**  
[www.vaorchidsociety.org](http://www.vaorchidsociety.org)

## What's Eating My Orchids?

No matter how faithfully you care for your orchids, they can become infested with a variety of pests, such as mealybugs, scale, aphids and spider mites.



Mealybugs are white and fuzzy with a soft body, and they can multiply faster than rabbits. They use their piercing mouthparts to feed on plant juices.



Boisduval scale, female

Aphids are also soft-bodied insects, usually less than 1/8-inch long and greenish white or black. They have soft, pear-shaped bodies, long legs, antennae and sucking mouthparts to feed on plant juices.



Adult brown scale is recognized by light yellowish to dark brown oval shells appearing on all parts of the plant. Other species of scale are rounded, light-colored and appear cottony.

*The information for this article was obtained from the American Orchid Society ([www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)).*

*Need additional information about orchids?*



Mites are almost-microscopic creatures and, because of their size, their presence is usually not suspected until they have caused considerable damage.

The most popular remedy against aphids, mealybugs and scale insects is to swab plants with a cotton ball dipped in 70% isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Other alcohols, such as ethanol or methanol, should never be used as they will penetrate the plant tissues and cause considerable damage. On hard-leaved plants, gentle rubbing with fingers, a cotton ball or a soft toothbrush is effective. First remove all the visible insects, large and small. Then treat the affected area with alcohol. With scale insects and mealybugs you will still need to repeat the alcohol treatment to remove the tiny yellowish spots, which are the recently hatched crawlers.



Spider Mite Damage

Spraying alcohol solutions can also help to control these pests; however, it may not be effective against

eggs, which are usually well hidden. Dribbling the solution into tight spaces will increase the control of these pests. Several applications might be necessary.

To prepare an alcohol solution, mix a 50/50 solution of isopropyl alcohol and water, with a few drops of liquid soap to act as a spreader. You can also add a small amount of mineral, neem or horticultural oil at the rate of a teaspoon of oil to a 1.5 liter sprayer. Use a very mild detergent free of ammonia to keep from removing natural protective waxes from plant tissues. Spider mite presence can be recognized by silvery, pitted areas on the undersides of leaves. Two-spotted spider mites and flat mites are small and relatively delicate creatures.

The easiest method for keeping mites under control is to regularly wash, or syringe, the plants with water.