

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

VIRGINIA ORCHID SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 20, 2005 MEETING

AUCTION BEGINS: 1:00 P.M.

PREVIEW BEGINS: NOON

PLACE: SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VIRGINIA

PROGRAM: GROWERS AUCTION

**Plenty of blooming cats, phals and paphs.
Cull those unsatisfactory plants and make
room for what you can see needs to be in
your collection. It's time! - Bill Akin**

**MARCH 2005
VOL. XXII, ISSUE 8**

Book Marks

The Paphiopedilum Grower's Manual by Lance Birk has recently been updated and expanded. The first edition was published in 1984 and can still be purchased for \$110. The second edition has been expanded in a number of ways, but, remarkably enough, can be purchased as a hardbound volume with beautiful color photographs for only \$65.

Birk felt driven to write the first edition because of the dearth of reliable cultural information that was available at the time about the various *Paphiopedilum* species. Dr. Jack Fowlie once said "The only way to know for certain where a plant comes from is to go to the habitat yourself and collect a plant. When it flowers, you can then try to identify it." Lance Birk's response was to follow that advice until CITES changed the orchid landscape.

The book is divided into three major parts: Species in Cultivation, Basics of Cultivation, and Related Interests. Approximately half of the book is devoted to Species in Cultivation, which presents information on and pictures of 93 species known to be in cultivation. The type of information is different than what you might find in a taxonomical work such as Phillip Cribb's *The Genus Paphiopedilum*. In this book, the taxonomy is very brief – it identifies the subgenus, section, who first identified the species, and varieties. More importantly, though, is the detailed information describing the original habitat and climate, as well as information needed for home cultivation of the species.

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APRIL 2005 CLASS

**INFORMATION AND SIGNUP FOR
THE APRIL BEGINNER/REFRESHER CLASS**

**WILL BE AVAILABLE
AT THE MARCH MEETING.**

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Mini-Culture Lesson

Chuck Gardner will be speaking on his use of semi-hydroponics for growing orchids at the March meeting.

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

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who participated in the 2005 Maymont Flower and Garden Show. Without everyone's efforts and help, this event would not have been a success.

Coleman Florist: Thanks to Tim Wilkinson owner of Coleman Brothers Florist for lending all the greenery that appeared in the exhibit and assisting with delivery of the memberships orchids to the Richmond Center.

Maymont Committee:

Drew Lambeth and Jonathan Bennett - Exhibit Designers – I would very much like to thank these young men on their design, efforts and hard work. I have received many comments from the staff of the Richmond Center and Maymont Committee on how hard they worked and for their kindness and congenial attitude.

Barbara and Steve Partlow, Chris Wilkinson, Kay Patrick, Kathy Walker

Setup:

Drew Lambeth, Jonathan Bennett, Valerie Thacker, Terry Farmer, Jerry Rogers, Buddy Harvie, Wanda Andrako, Bob Pollock, Chris Wilkinson

Exhibit Hosting:

Vincent Guarino, Don Herrick, Jerry Rogers, Patti St Clair, Arline and Dermont Murphy, Royce Woolfolk, Allen Black, Terry Farmer, Mae Augustine, Gloria Thompson, John Springer, Thuryen Trevino, Charles Gardner, Kay Patrick, Janet Beehler, Barbi Partlow, Bayne Hawkins, Kathy Walker, Linda and Patrick Shobe, Bill and Sue Akin, Shirley Shelton, Lenora Sorenson, Nalda Thung, Wanda Andrako, Barbara Sims

Plant Coordinator:

Kay Patrick – Thanks coordinating and tending to the membership's plants throughout this event and for finalizing the exhibit cleanup.

Plant Contributors:

Henry Randolph, Charles Gardner, Joe Mathias, Mike Fine, Carol Hollenbeck, Terry Farmer, John and Wanda Andrako, Allen Black, Bill and Sue Akin, Valerie Thacker, Drew Lambeth, Barbara Noe, Buddy Harvie, Earl Ellis, Chris Wilkinson, Bayne Hawkins, Janet Beehler, Steve Sims, Kay Patrick, Kathy Walker

Judges:

Joe Mathias, David Sombach, Chuck Gardner

Plant transportation and Exhibit Takedown

Buddy Harvie, Dawna Jaffarian, Steve and Barbi Partlow, Mike Fine, Charles Gardner, Valerie Thacker, Wanda Andrako, Drew Lambeth, Jonathan Bennett, Kay Patrick, Garland Hanson, Joe Mathias, Allen Black, Henry Randolph, Reed Ginn, Tim and Chris Wilkinson, Kathy Walker

Maymont Flower and Garden Show "Answer Alley:

I would like to thank Mike Fine for a fantastic job with the Answer Alley segment of the Maymont Flower and Garden Show. This is the societies first time participating in this area. Mike gave an overview of the culture for Phals, Paph, catts, endrobiums and oncidiums. Many exciting questions were asked by audience.

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Focus on Members

Meet

Valerie Thacker

Is there an anecdote about yourself that you think particularly captures how you feel about orchids?

I consider orchids very intriguing particularly growing in their native habitat. Therefore when one of my species comes into bloom in my greenhouse I am always very excited to have been able to mimic nature in some small way.



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

I especially enjoy the new educational classes and of course meeting and talking with the more experienced members of the VOS.

When and what first made orchids of interest to you?

I started taken a serious interest in orchids a couple of years ago. I am a plant lover. My garden in full of annuals, perennials and roses (especially antique roses). Most of the annuals and perennials were grown from seed in my greenhouse therefore is seemed inevitable for me to become interested in growing orchids as well.

What is your favorite orchid and why?

I love them all but the standard cats and orchids species especially draw my interest. The cats because of the fragrance and the blooms are just beautiful so you can not help but admire and love them. The species are so very intriguing and many are very delicate which always draws my interest.

Committee Messages

Membership Desk

In February, we had 68 members in attendance along with four visitors. The raffle brought in \$49; thanks to all that donated, and congrats to all the winners. A special thanks to Valerie Thacker, who helped with the membership desk. Since then, she has agreed to help for the remainder of the year, so I want to welcome her to the membership desk as well.



I am only looking for raffle prizes. Mature or blooming plant, books, pot or supplies. Please bring them to the meeting and give your donations to either Chris Wilkerson or Valerie Thacker at the raffle desk. They will fill out an in kind donation form so that it can be deducted from your taxes. I thank you for your support. The raffle is one of the fund raising events for the Society.

REMINDER PICK UP YOUR ROSTERS. THEY WILL ALSO BE AT THE RAFFLE DESK.

– Valli LaNeve

Event Planning Calendar

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

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.

See February issue for more events

VOS Board Meeting

March 31, 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Science Museum of Virginia - Discovery Room

A reminder to members who intend to attend the March Executive Board meeting.

- Only members of the Executive Board may vote.
- Business not on the agenda can only be taken up after the business on the agenda has been completed.
- If a member has a topic for the Board, the topic should be sent to the President at least one week prior to the meeting.
- Members wishing to be recognized must raise their hands.
- Persons behaving in a disorderly manner may be asked to leave the meeting.

ALERT

Changes to the Orchid Registry

The orchid registrar has made a number of changes to the list of registered hybrids which have resulted in a re-assignment of genus names to more than 2200 hybrids in the Oncidium group, or just under 20% of the total registrations in this group. For example, two species formerly treated as *Miltonia*, *Milt. schroederiana* and *Milt. warszewiczii*, have been transferred to *Oncidium* as *Onc. schroederianum*, and *Onc. fuscatum*. This change results in a change of genus for the well known and highly awarded hybrid *Colmanara Wildcat* among others, which is now called *Odontocidium Wildcat*.

For the complete list of changes see

www.wildcatdata.com/NewWeb/OncidChanges.rtf

VOS Showtable Results for January 2005

Judges: Joe Mathias (Chair), Carol Hollenbeck, Shirley Shelton, Wanda Andrako, Michael Mealy, Michael Fine, Charles Gardner, and Steve Sims



Den. farmeri
grown by Allen Black



Phrag. China Dragon
grown by Allen Black



Phaius tankervilleae
grown by Valerie Thacker



Angraecum sesquipedale
grown by Mae Augustine

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids – Standard

- Blue – *Blc.* Chagris ‘Mendenhall’ – L.K.Harvie, Jr.
- Red – *Lc.* Culminant ‘La Tullerie’ HCC/AOS – Patti St.Clair
- Yellow – *C. guatemalensis* (natural hybrid) – George and Fay Tyler

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids – Mini/Compact

- Yellow – *Bl.* Yellow Bird – Joe Mathias

Species

- Blue – *Angraecum sesquipedale* – Mae Augustine
- Blue – *Den. chrysopterum* – Allen Black
- Red – *Den. farmeri* – Allen Black
- Yellow – *Den. atrovioleaceum* – Charles Gardner

Phalaenopsis Hybrids

- Blue – *P.* Brother Jungle Cat – Allen Black
- Red – *P.* Paifang’s Queen Brother x Malibu Imp – Cassie Wright
- Red – *P.* Paula Hauserman ‘Sunshine’ HCC/AOS – Emily Deane
- Yellow – *P.* Caribbean Sunset ‘Sweet Fragrance’ – Charles Gardner

Paphiopedilum Hybrids

- Blue – *P.* Edna Ratcliffe ‘Pygmy’ – Charles Gardner
- Red – *P.* Western Thunder x Burpham – Allen Black
- Red – *P.* Baladen x Mach I – George and Fay Tyler
- Yellow – *P.* Primcolor – Jerry Rogers

Phragmipedium Hybrids

- Blue – *P.* China Dragon – Allen Black

Vanda Alliance Hybrids

- Blue – *V.* Manuvadee – Jerry Rogers
- Red – *Ascda.* Yeo Geck Bee – Terry Farmer
- Red – *Ascda.* Princess Mikasa ‘Rosado’ – Michael Mealy
- Yellow – *Ascda.* Princess Mikasa ‘Blue’ – Michael Mealy

Oncidium Alliance Hybrids

- Blue – *Col.* Blood Ruby ‘Lorene’ – Emily Deane
- Yellow – *Onc.* Bull’s Eye ‘Blood Shot’ – Charles Gardner

Dendrobium Hybrids

- Blue – *D.* Gold Star ‘Orange Royal’ – Arline Murphy
- Blue – *D.* Yodagimi – Henry Randolph
- Yellow – *D.* Takumatsu – Patti St. Clair

Cymbidians

No plants entered

Other Miscellaneous Hybrids

- Blue – *Lycaste* Walnut Valley ‘Black’s Glow’ – Allen Black
- Red – *Lycaste* Shoalhaven – Allen Black

Novice (up to 2 years experience)

- Blue – *Phaius tankervilleae* – Valerie Thacker
- Red – *Den.* noname – Valerie Thacker
- Yellow – *Lc.* Gold Digger ‘Orchid Jungle’ – Valerie Thacker

VOS Showtable Results for February 2005

Judges: Joe Mathias (Chair), Fay Tyler, Henry Randolph, Charles Gardner, Allen Black, Steve Sims, and Michael Fine

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids – Standard

Blue – *Lc.* Mildred Rives x *Blc.* Meditation – Michael Fine
Blue – *C.* Morning Glory x *Lc.* Melody Fair – Royce Woolfolk
Red – *Slc.* Coastal Sunrise ‘Lemon Chiffon’ – Fay and George Tyler

Cattleya Alliance Hybrids – Mini/Compact

Blue – *Lc.* Rojo – Royce Woolfolk
Blue – *Pot.* Free Spirit ‘Miami Sun’ – Michael Fine
Blue – *C.* Little Miss Charming – L.K. Harvie, Jr.
Red – *Slc.* Hazel Boyd ‘2171’ – Michael Fine

Species

Blue – *Phaius tankervilleae* ‘Joy’s Valentine’ – Allen Black
Red – *Paph. philippinense* – Henry Randolph
Red – *Den. spectabile* – Allen Black
Red – *Brassavola digbyana* ‘Laura’ – L.K. Harvie, Jr.
Yellow – *Den. atrovioleaceam* – Charles Gardner
Yellow – *Paph. niveum* – Charles Gardner

Phalaenopsis Hybrids

Blue – *P.* Mikiwatanabe x Taisuco Carol – Jim Culbert
Blue – *P.* Everspring King ‘SJ’ – Jim Culbert
Blue – *P.* Sunrise Red Peoker #3 – Allen Black
Red – *P.* Little Mary ‘Cherry Blossom’ – Charles Gardner
Red – *P.* Sogo Benz – Jim Culbert
Yellow – *P.* Sea Jewel – Terry Farmer

Paphiopedilum Hybrids

Blue – *P.* Goldollar – Jerry Rogers
Blue – *P.* Brecko Vistasuk – Allen Black
Red – *P.* Milmoore Ramone x Grand Canyon – Michael Fine
Red – *P.* Valerie Tonkin – Allen Black
Yellow – *P.* Candy Apple x Pulsar – Terry Farmer
Yellow – *P.* Sonoma ‘Latin Beauty’ AM/AOS – Allen Black

Phragmipedium Hybrids

Blue – *P.* China Dragon – Allen Black
Red – *P.* Longueville x (Hanna Popov x *longifolium*) – George and Fay Tyler
Yellow – *P.* Jason Fischer – Charles Gardner

Vanda Alliance Hybrids

Blue – *V.* Robert’s Delight ‘Garnet Beauty’ FCC/AOS – Michael Mealy
Red – *V.* Manuvadee – Michael Mealy
Yellow – *V.* Pack Chong Blue – Michael Mealy

Oncidium Alliance Hybrids

Blue – *Odcdm.* Cherry Fudge ‘Winter Garden’ – Michael Fine
Red – *Col.* Wildcat ‘Lorene’ AM/AOS – Michael Fine
Yellow – *Col.* Wildcat ‘Yellow Butterfly’ – Kay Patrick

Dendrobium Hybrids

Blue – *D.* Delicatatum – George & Fay Tyler
Blue – *D.* Super Ise x Sunset Rainbow – Cassie Wright
Red – *D.* Sir Francis Moore var. Model FCC/AOS – George and Fay Tyler

Cymbidians

No plants entered

Other Miscellaneous Hybrids

Blue – *Lycaste* Always Kool – Allen Black
Red – *Angulocaste* Transatlantic Beauty ‘Joy Black’ HCC – Allen Black

Novice (up to 2 years experience)

Blue – *Paph.* Van Ness x White Legacy – Valerie Thacker



Odcdm. Cherry Fudge ‘Winter Garden’
grown by Michael Fine



Phal. Sunrise Red Peoker
hybridized and grown by Allen Black
Allen brought in six plants to demonstrate the variety that can occur in color and pattern in siblings from the same seed pod when hybridizing with parents with a complex family background



Paph. (Van Ness ‘Lillian’ x White Legacy ‘Pink Snow’)
grown by Valerie Thacker

Maymont 2005



Images from the Maymont Flower and Garden Show on this page are provided by Kathy Walker and Kay Patrick. The exhibit was designed by Drew Lambeth and Jonathan Bennett. See the Presidential Message for a complete list of contributors and volunteers for this event.

Below, Mike Fine discusses orchid culture during the VOS session in Answer Alley. All other images are of the VOS exhibit.



Maymont Results (February 2005)

Judges: Joe Mathias (Chair), David Sombach and Charles Gardner



Best in Show

Phaius tankervilleae 'Joy's Valentine'
Grown and image by Allen Black



Best Miniature

Ltna. Ernest Davidson
Grown by Michael Fine
Image by Kathy Walker



Cattleya Alliance Hybrids

Blue – *Lc.* Ptarmigan Ridge – L.K. Harvie, Jr.
Red – *Lc.* Mildred Rives x *Blc.* Meditation – Michael Fine
Yellow – *Slc.* Hazel Boyd – Michael Fine

Species

Blue – *Phaius tankervilleae* 'Joy's Valentine' – Allen Black
Red – *Brassavola digbyana* 'Laura' – L.K. Harvie, Jr.
Yellow – *Paph.* *lowii* – Earl Ellis

Phalaenopsis Hybrids

Blue – *P.* Chih Shiang's Stripes 'Marginata' – Barbara Noe
Red – *P.* Artemis x (*amabilis* x *equestris*) – John & Wanda Andrako
Yellow – *P.* Baldan's Kaleidoscope AM/AOS – John & Wanda Andrako

Cypripedium Hybrids

Blue – *Paph.* noname – Michael Fine
Red – *Paph.* Brecko Vistasuk – Allen Black
Yellow – *Paph.* Valerie Tonkin – Allen Black

Other Miscellaneous Hybrids

Blue – *Lycaste* Always Kool – Allen Black
Red – *Col.* Wildcat 'Bobcat' – Barbara Noe
Yellow – *Ascda.* Suksamran Beauty 'Birthday' – Janet Beehler



Above middle: *Lc.* Ptarmigan Ridge
grown by L.K. Harvie, Jr.;
Left: *Phal.* Chih Shiang's Stripes
'Marginata' grown by Barbara Noe;
Right: *Lycaste* Always Kool grown by
Allen Black
Images by Allen Black



44 Attend Beginner/Refresher Class in February

The Orchid Education Class continues to be of interest to Society members eager to increase their knowledge of orchid culture. Forty-four members and guests (2) came to the second session held Sunday, February 6 at the Science Museum of Virginia. Again, the classroom arrangement included –

- A large U-shape of tables and chairs where students assembled to be enlightened by teacher Leon Blumreich of Pine Crest Orchids of Charlottesville on the proper culture of Paphs and Phrags. Le conducted a one-hour give-and-take session encouraging participation by classmates.
- Other educational sites included the availability of the Society Library by Steve Partlow; an array of orchid catalogs and culture information for picking up; and two opportunities were arranged for the purchasing of many fine Pine



Crest orchids and hobby bags of media (prior to the opening of class and during a 30 minute break).

During the four hour period, refreshments of fruit punch and homemade cookies were available compliments of Valli LaNeve and Jim Creech. Additional refreshments were brought by attendees. In conclusion, many door prizes donated by members (plants, books, blooming Phals, jars of cinnamon), by VOS (culture books), and by Pine Crest (blooming orchid) all being won by attendees in the drawing conducted by Chris Wilkinson, and assisted by Barbara Noe and Jim Creech.

Plans are in the mill for the Third Class in early April. Information will be available at the March monthly meeting and from the Committee Members. The Education Committee Members, Barbara Noe, Bayne

Hawkins and Chris Wilkinson express their appreciation for the members attendance and for all contributions of service and supplies.
– Bayne Hawkins



Book Marks *continued from p. 1*

Using *Paph. mastersianum* as an example (which appears on p. 108). First, there are two pictures of the species. **(These two photographs also happen to have been taken by our own Allen Black and are reproduced below.)** Next is a brief list of specific information that ranges from taxonomic (*Introduced by: Veitch, 1879*) to botanic (*Leaf Shape: Oblong-ovate*) to cultural (*Light Intensity: Moderate shade*). The last section provides details on the *Range: Islands of Ambon(?), Ceram and Buru (Moluccas), Indonesia; Habitat: Grows at 3,000 – 6,000 ft. elev. in forested areas; Climate: a very detailed one-paragraph description; and Comments: The species needs an open mix, but one that retains moisture. It does not like salts and will not stand a sour compost. Give water copiously during growing period and maintain high humidity. It*



does best with more shade, which will also keep flower colors richer. Give this species good air circulation and see that it does not get cold. There are two types of flowers of this species (Bundt, pers. comm.) Perhaps when we can get to the habitats we will find they exist on different islands, or possibly from different altitudes since Albon Island is undoubtedly a shipping point, not the species habitat.

The second part on Basics of Cultivation makes up about a quarter of the book. The section has chapters on “Plant Diseases, Insects and Pests,” “When and How to Water Your Plants,” “Air and Light,” “Dividing and Repotting,” “Potting Media,” “Seedling Care – From the Flask,” “Orchids in the Home,” and “Housing Your Plants Outdoors.” This section is on basic orchid culture and while the concentration is on *Paphs.*, the information also pertains to most other types of orchids. These chapters are clearly based on Birk’s experience because there are tidbits of information that are not typically found elsewhere. For example, his method for deflasking seedlings does not involve breaking the flask. Instead, he recommends that the flask be half filled with lukewarm water and shaken vigorously until some of the plants are dislodged.

He argues that this method rarely damages the seedlings, and that the traditional method of breaking the flask and transferring to a compost is a false economy; that the plants are more likely to be seriously damaged when separating them at a later date when they are larger and perhaps more tightly entwined. In addition, the restricted space of a compost may inhibit growth, and the glass from the broken flask may cause an injury.

The final part, Related Interests also makes up about a quarter of the book. This section has chapters on “Making a Cross,” “Seed Sowing and Replanting,” “Orchid Societies and Their Benefits,” “Photographing Your Orchids,” “Importing Paphiopedilum Orchids,” “Orchid Collecting in Habitat,” “The Disappearing Forests,” and “Matter Over Mind: A Blueprint for Orchid Extinction.” These topics range from how to’s such as making a cross and photo-



graphing orchids to essays on conservation. Some of these chapters were originally written for the first edition when the political environment was different; Birk clearly identifies these chapters with a prefatory note. The final essay is an attack on CITES. Although the points he makes are similar to and better articulated than those made in *The Orchid Thief*, Birk’s chapter is not nearly as entertaining.

All in all, I found this book to be more than a worthy successor to its first edition. The information in the first half is extremely important for those who grow *Paph.* species, and will provide significant clues for those who grow *Paph.* hybrids if the time to trace a plant’s genealogy is taken. The second half of the book is very interesting as well, but the information is not as critical because the information may be found elsewhere. However, putting all of this information into a single source is well worth the price. This book is a must for orchid society libraries, and should also be purchased by those with *Paphs.* making up a significant portions of their orchid collection.

– Jim Creech



AM/AOS 80 pts
Image by Jerry Rodgers

Jerry Rodgers Gets AM/AOS at National Capital Judging Center

The Paph. Golddollar that Jerry Rodgers brought to the February showtable received an Award of Merit from AOS at the National Capital Judging Center on March 5th. The flower was described as “One impressive flower on one nineteen cm inflorescence; flower has uniform color, bright yellow with faint brown spotting on basal third of petals and on lower two thirds of inside of pouch; substance average; texture glossy.” Jerry reports that the orchid was purchased on eBay two years ago. He has given it the clonal name of ‘Springtime.’

Natural Spread H:12.0 V:9.0; Doral Sepal W:3.6 L:3.2;
Petal W:2.4 L:6.2; Synsepal W:2.6 L:3.6; Pouch W:3.5 L:6.2

March/April Checklist

Cattleya

- ✓ Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal; these yellowing sheaths trap moisture and can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support.
- ✓ An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light.
- ✓ Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer.
- ✓ Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas; if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium

- ✓ Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails.
- ✓ Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants.
- ✓ As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer.
- ✓ Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season.

Lycaste

- ✓ Look for the beginning of new root growth; this is an excellent time to repot into fresh media.
- ✓ As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water.

Miltoniopsis

- ✓ Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage.

Paphiopedilum

- ✓ Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem?
- ✓ Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants.
- ✓ Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong.
- ✓ Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a “nodding” stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis

- ✓ Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best. Most like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.
- ✓ Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best display. The lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.
- ✓ Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallis

- ✓ If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix to allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

– based on AOS checklist by Ned Nash and James Rose

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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.

2004-2005 VOS Officers

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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

The VOS Newsletter is a publication of the Virginia Orchid Society and is distributed to the Society's members ten times per year, prior to all club meetings.

Submissions to the newsletters should be sent to the editor early enough to arrive by the 25th of the month prior to a meeting.

Unless otherwise credited, all images in this publication were by the editor.

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