

THE MANNER WHICH IT  
WAS GIVEN IS WORTH  
MORE THAN THE GIFT

**Special points of interest:**

- Nick Plummer's "Sex, Lies and Violence"
- Member's Auction
- Orchid Multiplier
- New! Orchid Mishaps
- Orchid Photography

**Photo Credits:**

- Allen Black
- Garland Hanson
- George Tyler

**The VOS Board will be meeting on Tuesday, November 21st At 6pm at the North Park Library**

**Inside this issue:**

President's Message	2
New Members	2
Orchid Multiplier	3
Orchid Mishaps	3
Orchid Photography	4

**November Meeting**

**Sunday  
November 19th  
2pm**

**Lewis Ginter  
Botanical Gardens**

# The Orchid Keiki



Volume XXVI, Issue IV

November 2006

## Nick Plummer's "Sex, Lies and Violence--Orchids and their Insects"

I was born in the south of England, and my family set-



tled Pennsylvania when I was in high school. I studied biology at Penn State, where I met my wife Jennifer, and then earned a Ph.D. in human genetics from the University of Michigan. While at Michigan, I

purchased a white Phalaenopsis hybrid from a local florist. The orchid addiction progressed in the usual manner, and for about ten years I maintained a growing collection under fluorescent lights. Jen and I now live in Chapel Hill with our 18-month old son, Tristan, and the orchids are housed in a small home-made greenhouse. In addition to orchids, I like to grow the succulent genus Pachypodium, epiphytic ant plants, and vireya (tropical) rhododendrons.

Most of us think of orchid flowers in terms of how attractive they are to people, but the primary function of flowers is to attract pollinators. The dramatic and often bizarre variation that we love is all directed towards that

end. My talk will survey the different ways that orchid flowers are pollinated and some of the fascinating interactions between orchids and the animals that pollinate them. Although orchid flowers are wonderful simply as objects, I find them even more interesting when I learn something about their ecology. I hope you will agree.



## December Members' Auction

The Annual Members' Auction will be held at the general meeting on December 10, 2006 in the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Auditorium! This auction will feature seedlings, blooming sized plants and divisions donated by the VOS membership and is one of two fundraisers for the year, enabling us to book quality speakers and exhibit at a number of special events throughout the year.

Forms will be available at the November meeting for members wishing to supply plants and orchid-related items. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to donate plants, call or email Garland Hanson at 804-814-5707 or email [rusafe@verizon.net](mailto:rusafe@verizon.net).



**2006-2007  
VOS Officers**

**President**

David Sombach  
P.O. Box 6506,  
Ashland, VA 23005-6506  
804-994-5721

[Email: clearskyfarms@mindspring.com](mailto:clearskyfarms@mindspring.com)

**Past President**

Michael Mealy  
2213 Nortonia Road  
Richmond, VA 23229-3350  
804-282-1912

[Email: glendree@aol.com](mailto:glendree@aol.com)

**President-Elect**

Jerry Rogers  
722 White Marsh Road,  
Wakefield, VA 23888-3099  
757-899-4477

[Email: Jerry.J.rogers@verizon.net](mailto:Jerry.J.rogers@verizon.net)

**Vice President**

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

**Recording Secretary**

Terry Farmer  
12054 Hanover Courthouse  
Road  
Hanover, VA 23069-1600  
804-746-9586

[Email: terryorchids06@aol.com](mailto:terryorchids06@aol.com)

**Treasurer**

Emerson Warden  
9060 Rutland Road,  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116-  
2824  
804-746-7136

[Email: ECWARDEN@aol.com](mailto:ECWARDEN@aol.com)

**Corresponding Secretary**

Daune Poklis  
1806 Windingridge Drive  
Richmond, VA 23238-4137  
804-741-7838

[Email: daune@poklis.org](mailto:daune@poklis.org)

*The board meets on Tuesday  
after every regular Sunday VOS  
meeting at the North Park  
Library starting at 6pm*

## President's Message

The weather this past summer has definitely had a role in the growth of our orchids. Normally by this time of the year, I have spikes on all my phalaenopsis, that are upwards of 20" high, and some are budded enough to be flowering very soon. My Cats, the fall bloomers are bulging out of their sheaths, and some are already in bloom. But this year, with the extreme heat, and little precipitation, my plants seem to have been set back in their flowering patterns.

I did push the limit though, and left most of my collection outside right through September, and into the second week of October before I moved the more sensitive plants in and only moved the last of my col-

lection inside during the latter parts of the month. I do not recommend this to everyone, but in order to have the plants receive that "cool spell", I felt it necessary to leave them out longer than normal.

I can say now that I have been rewarded for my tardiness in moving them inside, as most of my phals are setting spikes now, and hopefully, the rest of my collection will be following their flowering habit. The fall cat bloomers are pushing up buds through their sheaths and the growing area will be full of color for the winter the way things are going.

November also finds us slowing down a little bit within the workings of the society, as

there is not any major events going on this month, and it gives us a chance to catch up on some of our committee needs. I know our show committee is busily working on plans for our upcoming show in February, and our Auction, which will be held in December this year, is in the works. Our Education committee has some new plans and I hope everyone will take part, whether helping out with the setup, or simply by just attending the sessions.

I sure hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving this month and let's all push the December auction to everyone, bringing in friends and orchid lovers from where ever we can.

David

## Hospitality Committee

The following members have are bringing refreshments to the November meeting:

Penna Rogers  
Ann Reed,  
Glenna Hasslacher,  
Jim Nix  
Emerson Warden

Anyone willing to help with the setup and take down, please call (741-7838 ) or email Daune at [Daune@Poklis.org](mailto:Daune@Poklis.org)

Daune Polkis

## Raffle

We would like to thank Joe Mathias and Jim Nix for their generous donations of door prize items.



## New Members.....Welcome!

**New Vendor:**

Celebrate! Orchids!  
1703 Grove Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23220  
Barbara Noe  
877-ORCHID9

[celebrateorchids@aol.com](mailto:celebrateorchids@aol.com)  
[www.celebrateorchids.com](http://www.celebrateorchids.com)

**Renewing Members:**

Joyce Johnson  
Nalda Thung  
Mike Izzie



## Cattleya Multiplier Method #1

### Cattleya Multiplier Method #1

The 96-year old that taught me all that I know about orchids showed me a handy method of dividing plants when your cattleya is nearing the edge of its pot. This can be especially helpful for those plants that seem to prefer to grow in a straight line and only have one blooming lead at a time. Also, this method gives the back bulb division a head start with a new lead prior to repotting instead of repotting the back bulbs with NO leads and lots of stress! This method of plant division is much preferred over the method that allows the plant to grow from pot to pot for a number of obvious reasons.

the rhizome (I don't know if this is correct terminology or spelling...) with a clean blade. Write the current date on a used plant stick from one of your dead plants and place the stick all the way through the cut as shown. The purpose of the stick is to simply



identify the location of the cut, not to keep the cut from healing itself. Return the plant back to its shelf and continue loving care doing nothing different than before.

With luck, you'll get an extra growth

or TWO fairly quickly from dormant eyes located on the back bulbs. When the plant is ready to repot, pull the two plants apart and pot in appropriately sized pots. Make up an extra tag and share the plant with a friend! The nice thing about this method is that it is done in one pot and the new plant develops its new growths without being shocked.

You can see from the photo that I got good results in about 6 weeks. This plant, the venerable B/c. Toshie Aoki "Pizzaz" AM/AOS, was growing in a straight line and had been since conception. Not only have I successfully induced the back division to throw a new growth (plant tag is pointing at new back bulb growth) but it appears the front division has gotten a boost as well with two new growths and a third beginning!!! Yippeeee!

There is no need to throw away back bulbs! There still life in them!!! **Garland Hanson**

### Here is what you do...

Start with a plant that has at least 7 growths of any size. Count 3 or 4 growths from the lead growth and make a cut all the way through

## New ..... Funny Orchid Mishaps

Submit your stories to George Tyler at [gt Tyler@juno.com](mailto:gt Tyler@juno.com)

Just to show that I'm not infallible, I'll start with "one" of my many mishaps. After Allen Black suggested that I move an Angraecum in bud for the first time into the greenhouse, I thought it would be OK that night and I would move it the next day. Wrong!! The next morning the bud was eaten by some critter (squirrel, slug, or whatever).

I have had numerous other mishaps, but I encourage you to submit your own. Let me hear from you!! **George Tyler**



## Free Money!!! Free Money!!!!

### Food Lion Shop and Share

Please help the VOS by linking your MVP card and shopping at Food Lion. You may link your MVP card by visiting Food Lion's website at [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com) or calling 1-704-633-8250 your friends and co-workers up

(We must have 25 MVP cards to participate so sign up your friends and co-workers up as well.)

Also, you must rejoin every fall so if you signed up before October you must sign up again!!!!

### Ukrops and Benevolink

Ukrops and Benevolink have joined together to help non-profit organizations such as ours to raise money. You may link your Ukrop's card by going to [www.ukrops.com](http://www.ukrops.com) and VOS will be given a % of certain products that you purchased from Ukrops.

Please contact Valerie Thacker @ 746-4313 if you have any questions.

### Classified Ads

1/4 Page \$10.00  
1/2 Page \$20.00  
Full Page \$35.00

Design and content is up to the discretion of the newsletter editor.

### Schedule of Events

#### November 18th

Peninsula Orchid Society  
"Mexian Species by Weyman Bussey"

New Horizons Regional Education Center  
520 Butler Farm Road  
Hampton, VA

Contact: Jim Pajot at (757) 827-1243

[www.abundaflora.com](http://www.abundaflora.com)  
No Admissions Fee  
Visitors Welcome!!!

#### December 10th

Note Date!!!!

Virginia Orchid Society  
Member's Plant Auction

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

Contact: Garland Hanson (804) 379-3864

Email: [rusafe@verizon.com](mailto:rusafe@verizon.com)

### New!!!!

#### Orchid Help Line!

Terry Farmer  
Garland Hanson  
Carol Hollenbeck  
Jerry Rogers  
David Sombach  
Valerie Thacker

AN APOLOGY IS THE  
SUPERGLUE OF LIFE. IT CAN  
REPAIR JUST ABOUT  
ANYTHING

### VOS Committee Chairs

#### **Affiliated Societies/Newsletter**

Valerie Thacker  
804-746-4313  
[vlthacker@comcast.net](mailto:vlthacker@comcast.net)

#### **Auctions**

Garland Hanson/  
David Sombach

#### **Finance & Endowment**

Joe Mathias  
540-710-2323  
[Orchidude@aol.com](mailto:Orchidude@aol.com)

#### **Hospitality Committee**

Patricia St. Clair  
757-566-9041  
[pattistc@cox.net](mailto:pattistc@cox.net)

#### **Membership Committee**

Dianne Ross, Dick Burch,  
Barbara Doane & Don  
Herrick

#### **Librarian / Archives**

Charles Gardner  
804-553-1583  
[cgardner@vcu.edu](mailto:cgardner@vcu.edu)

#### **Publicity**

Linda Lawrence  
804-328-1670  
[Llawrence@Reynolds.edu](mailto:Llawrence@Reynolds.edu)  
&  
Debbie Sauer  
804-530-1111

#### **Show Committee**

Garland Hanson  
&  
Valerie Thacker

#### **Continuing Education**

Royce Woolfolk  
&  
Daune Polkis

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

## *Digital Orchid Photography*

### The Allen Black Method

In addition to growing and breeding orchids, digital orchid photography has become one of my hobbies. I enjoy taking orchid pictures for use in my orchid talks, in our newsletter, and to share on the internet with other orchid lovers.

People have asked me how I get such nice photos. Here's a list of things that I do and use in my digital orchid photography:

- Whenever possible, I use **natural light**. For me, natural light is the key factor for getting a "good" picture. The best natural light is on a cloudy day or just after sunrise, or just before sunset. I like shooting in a bright, but shaded area. If I'm forced to use artificial lighting or flash, my pictures are of less quality (this is one of the reasons I don't do AOS Awards photography).

**The lighting on the flower should be uniform (i.e., no shadows or bright spots).**

Do not allow the sun to shine directly on the flower.

- In order to get the proper natural lighting, I must shoot my pictures outside. The negative to shooting outside is that I have to "fight" the wind, heat, cold, rain, snow, and bugs.

- I manually adjust the "color/white balance" at the location where I'll be shooting. I use a gray back ground to set the "color/white balance". I shoot my pictures right away since the lighting conditions may change quickly (particularly if shooting at sunrise or sunset).

- I use either a gray or black background.

- I use a tripod and shutter release cable (less blurring of the flowers due to camera movement).

- I use a small table or a variable height platform to position the orchids.

- I shoot a lot of pictures at different settings in hope of getting the best combination of exposure/lighting/depth of field/focus.

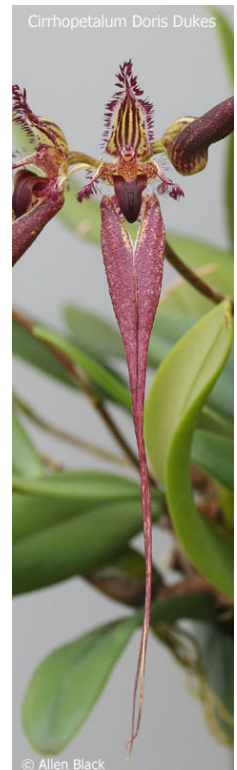
-It is important to use a camera with good close-up capabilities (i.e., macro). I use a Canon Digital Rebel XT. Until July of 2005, I used a Canon G2 digital camera.

- I use Photoshop software to crop and adjust the brightness, contrast, & sharpness of the pictures.



Cattleya Granier's Charm 'Hillary' AM/AOS  
© Allen Black

Finally, luck helps in getting a great picture! **Allen Black**



Cirrhopetalum Doris Duker  
© Allen Black

### Bring-a-Friend and be a WINNER!!!

What if everyone that attended our meetings brought a friend to introduce them to the exotic world of orchids? We wouldn't have any empty seats, that's what!!!

Someone probably invited you to attend your first VOS meeting so let's pass that on to others that may develop an interest in the orchid world!

For the November meeting, all VOS members and their non-member guest will qualify for a plant drawing at the meeting!