

"A MIND, ONCE  
EXPANDED BY A NEW  
IDEA, NEVER RETURNS  
TO ITS ORIGINAL  
DIMENSIONS"  
— OLIVER WENDELL  
HOLMES

# The Orchid Keiki



## Special points of interest:

- September Forum: Fred Clarke and H.P. Norton
- September Speaker—Bill Thoms
- Belize - Part Two
- Fundraisers

## Photo Credits:

- Allen Black
- Bill Thoms
- H.P. Norton
- Fred Clarke
- Jerry Rogers

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**VOS Members can get a 10% discount for pre-orders. View plants for sale Sunset Valley's Website and email Fred Clarke.**

[www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)

Volume XXVI, Issue II

September 2006

## Speakers Galore in September

The Virginia Orchid Society kicks off its 2006-2007 season with two weekends of speakers. World-class speakers from across the country will share their knowledge with us and offer plants for sale.

First up on Saturday, September 9 is the Orchid Forum featuring Fred Clarke and H. P. Norton in the auditorium at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden from 1 to 5 pm. Then the next weekend, our regular meeting on September 17, will feature Bill Thoms.

Fred Clarke---"*Cycnoches, Mormodes and Catasetums: Some Current Trends.*"

Fred Clarke started Sunset Valley Orchids in 1995 after beginning his orchid hobby 25 years earlier. The business is located



in Vista, Calif., and specializes in his own breeding lines developed there. Orchid breeding is Fred's passion. He is currently working in several lines--Cattleya, Paphiopedilum, Catasetinae, Bulbophyllum

<http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com>

and hybrids for cool to

intermediate growing. He efforts have been rewarded

with six FCCs from the American Orchid Society. He has achieved recent acclaim for the Fredclarkera hybrids that are the closest to a black color in orchids. The first flowers to bloom out that cross has received four FCCs and two AMs from the AOS. Currently, some of these are being mericloned for eagerly awaited

sales.

The April, May and June issues of Orchid Digest have a gallery of Fred's hybrids. You can learn more about Sunset Valley Orchids by visiting their website.

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## Bill Thoms----"*Bulbophyllums, Bizzare and Beautiful*"

Bill Thoms from the Tampa area of Florida is a renowned orchid grower, world traveler and speaker. Be prepared to learn more about the largest genus in the orchid world! Bill Thoms and his wife, Doris Dukes, have been growing orchids around Central Florida for 35 years and to date have won more Awards for Culture than just about anyone else in the world--62 in

over 20 genera, including 19 in the bulbophyllum alliance (capped off with a 95 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence for *Cirr. rothschildianum* 'A-doribil' FCC/AOS). They were one of the first to receive the new award, "Certificate of Cultural Excellence," for a score above 90 points for a *Miltoniopsis*, which is very difficult to grow in

Tampa, Fla. They have received four First Class Certificates in the past few years as well as every other award given by the AOS. Bill is the only person to receive an Award of Quality for a *Bulbophyllum* hybrid, as well as receiving an Award of Distinction for a *Trias* hybrid.

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**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.I.rogers@verizon.net](mailto:Jerry.I.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

I have been totally immersed in repotting the last few weeks, and the weather has been perfect this weekend for standing outside and cleaning plants as I move them into new medium. You can tell a tremendous amount about your culture when you are repotting, good and bad. It is always distressing to me to step down in pot size rather than moving up a size when I repot, so right away I know there is something not right with that particular plant. I will examine for problems, and most often change the type of mix I am using to see if that helps initiating new growth.

During this weekends potting session I had a pleasant sur-

prise. While repotting, I found a plant, or a piece of one, a species, that I thought I had long since killed off! This plant, a cattleya bowringiana, is a very easy species to grow, it is a faithful flower producer, and because it grows like a weed, I had divided the main plant countless times over the past 18 years or so. THAT'S not a typo!! Yes, 18 years plus!! This was one of the first orchids I ever owned, in fact, my first initiation to orchids was when I purchased 3 plants, back in the 80's. A phal, a cat, and a dendrobium. Now the other two are long gone, and made great mulch many years ago, but the cattleya, kept on going for me. For some reason, I have re-

garded this plant as something special now, and carefully repotted it, staked it up and placed it in the best location for it's continued growth.

I figured if I can keep this piece of vegetation alive for 20+ years, it deserves my attention... Now I have to not worry the darn thing to death.

Our annual picnic is around the corner, and our symposium is next month. We have lined up two fantastic speakers, and there is information in the newsletter and on the website. Don't miss this extra weekend of orchid madness.

Happy growing,

David

## Two New Registered Orchid Hybrids for Allen Black

**Lycaste Ed Merkle** is a hybrid of Lycaste Christopher and Lemon Twist. The hybrid is named in honor of Ed Merkle of Nashville, TN. Ed bloomed the first plant of this hybrid. Ed is a commercial orchid grower who Allen met on the internet Orchid Source Forum. Actually, Ed is the first person to bloom any of Allen's Lycaste hybrids. Based on Ed's plant, Allen has high hopes for this hybrid. Photo by Ed Merkle.

**BLC. Healing Touch** is a hybrid of Brassavola nodosa and BLC. Fordyce Fantasy. The first plant to bloom had 4" wide flowers on a plant that is only 6" tall. This cross took under 3 years to bloom, which is really quick for a BLC hybrid. The hybrid is named for a type of energy-based, healing therapy. Allen's wife, Joy, is working towards certification in Healing Touch.



**If you have any of these plants, be sure to note the new hybrid name on your plant label.**

## Speakers Galore in September - *continued*

H.P.Norton----"Phragmipediums."

H. P. Norton and his wife Katherine started Orchidview as their retirement pastime in Moncks Corner, S.C. Today, H.P. is one of the best known and respected growers of phalaenopsis orchids in the world. His crosses have won dozens of American Orchid Society awards. He also is a founding member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance. Up until 1996, H. P. was just associated with hybridizing Phals. A chance encounter with a Phragmipedium collection spawned his interest in developing new hybrids, especially those that were red. Breeding material was gathered from California and the Eric Young Foundation in England. Great success was achieved



<http://www.orchidview.com/home.htm>

and he continued his award-winning ways with many AOS awards for his Phrags. Now that Phrag Kovachii is available for hybridizing, H. P. has turned attention to working with them. Using his collection of outstanding Phrag besseae, many hybrids are being developed with Kovachii. As a first for us, H. P. will have few plants of his besseae x kovachii cross for sale at the Forum.

**VOS Members can pre-order plant. View plants for sale at Orchidview's Website and email H.P. Norton**

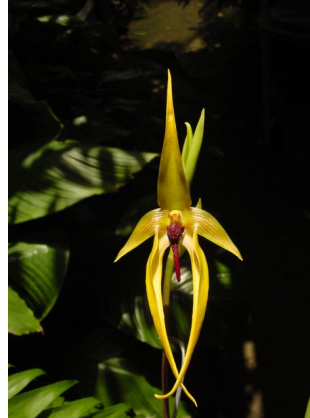
## Bill Thoms----"Bulbophyllums, Bizzare and Beautiful"

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The talks are spiced with funny stories, funny associations and funny accents so whether you grow thousands of orchids, only a few or none at all, you will have a wonderfully entertaining time and be able to grow anything better. Many of the most important requirements for growing world class plants are made easy to understand and remember.

He also will share secrets to producing more award-winning plants faster.

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn how to grow these fascinating plants by one of the world's best and to hear one of the most knowledgeable, interesting and funny speakers in the orchid world.



## Fun Raisers!!!

### Yard Sale!!!!

Begin gathering your unwanted items together for a Virginia Orchid Society Yard Sale. All proceeds will go towards the AOS Show Fund!

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

### 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.

### Schedule of Events

**Sept. 9th**

**Virginia Orchid Society  
"Orchid Forum"**

Lewis Ginter Botanical  
Gardens  
1800 Lakeside Ave.  
Richmond, VA  
(804) 262-9887

**Sept. 17th**

**Virginia Orchid Society  
Bill Thoms  
"Bulbophyllums, Bizzare  
and Beautiful"**

Lewis Ginter Botanical  
Gardens  
1800 Lakeside Ave.  
Richmond, VA  
(804) 262-9887

**Sept 28th - 31st**

**State Fair**

Contact: Terry Farmer  
(804) 746-9586  
[terryorchids06@aol.com](mailto:terryorchids06@aol.com)

**October 7th—9th**

**National Capital Orchid  
Society**

Contact: Jerry Rice  
(301) 986-0659  
[jmricewas@aol.com](mailto:jmricewas@aol.com)

**November 10th—11th**

**Merrit Huntington  
Memorial Symposium**

Speakers and information regarding the event are to be announced.

**Be sure to renew your membership by Sept. 17th to be in the VOS roster.**

### New Member

Diane Weakley  
723 Hanover Avenue  
Unit I  
Richmond, VA 23220  
(804) 358-2339

A SMILE IS CONTAGIOUS;  
BE A CARRIER

**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)

&

Diane Weakley  
804-358-2339

[rxmusicmom@msn.com](mailto:rxmusicmom@msn.com)

**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)

*Orchids of Belize—Part Two*

**Orchids of Belize – Orchids of the Mangrove Swamps**

Orchids are plentiful along the southern Belize coastline and mangrove swamps. Since most of these areas are not easily accessible by land, the best way to see the orchids is by small boat. The most common orchid is probably *Brassavola nodosa* and then several different species of *Schomburgkia* (*brysiانا* and *exaltata*?). Also, growing there are *Epidendrum nocturnum* and *Encyclia alata* (which was our most exciting "discovery"). These orchids are exposed to very bright to full, direct sun most of the day. The humidity is very high in these areas. Below are pictures from the coastline-mangrove swamps.  
Allen Black



*Encyclia alata*



*Epidendrum nocturnum*



A huge *Schomburgkia* and termite nest



*Schomburgkia brysiانا(?)* flowers