



# The Virginia Orchid Society

Since 1949

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Visit our website:  
[vaorchidsociety.com](http://vaorchidsociety.com)

Newsletter

January 2006

## **Howard Ginsberg Will Speak at the January Meeting on "Golden Peoker, Golden Parent"**

Our speaker for January is Howard Ginsberg, a Montreal-based lawyer with a passion for orchids. He began growing orchids in 1977 with many genera. His passion turned toward growing and breeding Phalaenopsis, many of which have become award winners.

Howard has written many articles and spoken around the world including the 18<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Congress in Dijon, France. He also visits Taiwan regularly. So much so that he has learned to speak Mandarin. Also Howard finds the time to be an accredited AOS judge in the Montreal Judging Center.

He has a very informative website <http://www.bedfordorchids.com/>. There you can read his past articles and learn quite a lot about Phalaenopsis breeding and see the newest hybrids. You might think that he is only interested in phals but he also has taken an interest in Mini-Cattleyas. A website devoted to them is under development and he has a talk about Mini-Cattleya breeding as well.

He will be speaking to us about Phalaenopsis breeding with a talk titled "Golden Peoker, Golden Parent," the most important parent in novelty phal breeding. He also will be holding a deflasking workshop to show us how easy it is to take small plants and get them off to good start.

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## *A letter from our President...*

Ahhh, The New Year!! Time for reflection and a time for contriving impossible resolutions; albeit made with ever so good intentions.

Generally, this a quieter time of year in our growing areas, with the exception of those close to blooming phals. Sure our collections are dotted with the odd flowering plants, but our attention now is drawn to those fabulous "Moths". Staking is an every day event to make sure they are positioned just right for the perfect display of flowers.

This is a time to take stock of what we have in our collections, what we would like to have and what we need,,, or think we need to make our collection that much better. One of my first orchids was a phal. How can you go wrong? They come in every conceivable color, fragrant, multi branching and their resilience to moderate conditions make them the perfect starter plant for anyone, new or established.

I have been growing orchids now for about 20 years and although my tastes have changed when it comes to orchid varieties, I still stop to admire the phalaenopsis in nurseries, wondering if I could grow that one better, or can I use it in my modest breeding program. My first registered hybrid was a phal, and my purpose at that time was to make a multi branched mini with loads of flowers and hope that it would last longer than either parent. I succeeded, at least in my mind, and what made my day was when it received a best in class award at a local show.

My addiction to orchids has taken many paths from huge light loving vandas to cattleyas large and small. Species were always intriguing to me and great to have around as they taught me how some of the hybrids we are so familiar with act the way they do. I have many slippers and they too are unique. I guess my collection is quite eclectic, but all said and done, I still gravitate to those darn phals. Lately, I have been acquiring many of the harlequin type phals. They are just like people. No two are alike. And on some plants, no two flowers are the same either. Rather frustrating to our judging community, but none the less very striking! Now the plan is to take my little multi branching equestris hybrid and cross it onto one of these polka dotted wonders and then I'll really have a prizewinner!

In this New Year, I would like every member to make a resolution. To find at least one non-orchid person and bring them to our meetings, or invite them to see your collection and show off how beautiful these plants are and how much enjoyment one can have from owning just one. That's how it starts!

Good growing everyone.

David

*There once was a lady from  
venus  
Who grew orchids of ever-ry  
genus  
"I've filled up the house  
and tossed out the spouse  
Cause only my plants come  
between us"*



*Rhynchostylis gigantea*

©1997 Greg Allikas



Phal celebensis  
© Allen Black

## Virginia Orchid Society Logo Contest

In December, the VOS membership was given the opportunity to vote on their favorite logo.

The winners will be announced at the February 2006 meeting on Sunday, February, 19<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your support and participation!



Dendrobium bracteosum

© 2000 Greg Allikas

### VOS Bring-A-Guest Month

Please bring a guest to the Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Members will receive a raffle ticket for each guest brought for a chance at a nice, blooming plant. The guest will *also* be included in a separate raffle for a *free membership!!!*

Bring a guest and let's fill up the Robins Room!!!!

### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

We would like to welcome several new members who have joined VOS since September. We hope that our 'old' members will introduce themselves and help make our 'new' folks feel at home! New Members are: Jessie Turner, Robin Raver, Katherine and Michael Lavigne, Yolanda Price Parker and John Hummer.  
Welcome!

### Library Notes

VOS purchased a new book for the library from our November speaker, William Mathis. "The Gardener's Guide to Growing Hardy Perennial Orchids" specifies what hardy orchids can be grown in this area and tips on how to grow them. The illustrations are clear, and the accompanying photographs are beautiful. It will be a beneficial addition to our library from a very entertaining speaker.

## VOS Committee Chairs

### Affiliated Societies

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### Show Committee

Gene Hunt  
804-270-5418

## VOS Showtable Results for December 2005

Judges: Art Burke, Debbie Sauer, Royce Woolfolk,  
Joe Matthias, Fran Seiden and Mike Fine

### Cattleya Alliance Hybrids – Standard:

Blue – C. Porcia 'Cannizaro' AM/AOS	Henry Randolph
Blue – Blc Orglade's Full House X C. Horace 'Maxima'	Mike Fine
Blue – Blc Pokai Tangerine 'Lea' HCC/AOS	Mike Fine
Red – Blc George L. King 'Serendipity'	Patti St Clair
Red – Blc Young Kong 'Sun #16'	Allen Black
Yel – Blc Lucky Strike x Blc Frank Smith	Mike Fine
Yel – Lc Molly Tyler FCC/AOS	Henry Randolph

### Cattleya Alliance Hybrids - Mini/compact:

Blue - Slc Crown Jewel	Mike Fine
Red - Sl Orpetii 'East Wind' AM/AOS X C Ioddigesii Danielle'	Mike Fine
Red – Otaara Ernest Sombach	Allen Black
Yel – Bl. Crystal Lady	Allen Black
Yel – Slc Dream Catcher	Mike Fine

### Species:

Blue - Angr. sesquipedale	Terry Farmer
Red – C. deckerii 'Mem. Fred Fuchs' AM/AOS	Art Burke
Red – Phal celebensis	Allen Black

### Dendrobium

Red - Den Formidible 'Yokiko'	Mike Fine
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### Paphiopedelum Hybrids:

Blue – Paph Varuna	Allen Black
Blue – Paph Oberhausens Rubin	Allen Black
Red – Paph Thanksgiving	Chuck Gardner
Yel – Paph Exul x Tyke	Chuck Gardner

### Vanda Alliance Hybrids:

Blue - V. Kasem's Delight X Ascda Yip Sum Wah	Carol Hollenbeck
Red – Ascda Media Arnold X V. Faye Bennett	Carol Bollenbeck
Yel – V Kultana Delight X Pornpimol	Mike Mealy

### Oncidium Alliance Hybrids

Blue – Burr. Lining Fire 'Glowing Embers	Mike Fine
Red – Col. Jungle Monarch 'Everglades	The Sauers

### Other Miscellaneous Hybrids:

Blue – Lyc Walnut Valley 'Black's Glow'	Allen Black
Red – Hwra Lava Burst 'Puunnani'	Mike Fine
Yel – Cvc. Cooperi	Mike Fine

## December Showtable Results Continued:

### Cymbidium

Red – Cymb. Kate	Mike Mealy
Yel – Cymb. Pipeta 'York'	Mike Mealy



**Mr. Grinch's Christmas**  
**Written by: Susan Fordyce**

There's a terrible person, a greedy 'ol  
grouch  
Who hates the word Christmas, and he  
walks with a slouch  
His name is 'ol Grinch, a mean so and so---  
And I guess he's so mean, 'cause his  
orchids won't grow.

He can't even grow weeds, he has such a  
black thumb  
And his greenhouse disasters are second  
to none.  
The snails don't come 'round cause there's  
nothing to munch,  
Just brown sticks in the pots don't make a  
good lunch.

So he's grumpy and jealous, especially this  
time of year  
When the Orchid Society folks are full of  
good cheer,  
For their plants are all healthy...they all  
seem to thrive  
While he barely keeps his darn oxalis alive!

While Mr. Grinch is reviewing the year by  
the fire,  
He thinks of those blossoms, and it raises  
his ire,  
The only thing 'round him that ever turns  
green  
Is his envious heart (and sometimes his  
spleen).

His lips begin to curl and his brow starts to  
crease  
His covetous heart cannot find any peace.  
He pounds on the table with frustration, and  
his dog starts to whine  
"Why, oh why are their orchids so fine?"

For that Jewel Box he saw, he's give his  
eye teeth  
(His had never ever thrown a "blind  
sheath"),  
Oh, that Laelia he saw was just pure  
perfection---  
His hadn't bloomed since Carter's election!

Why can't I grow Epi's out of my lawn  
Mine look like bean poles with all the leaves  
gone!  
And those people grow Phals like they were  
so easy,  
He raged and he ranted until he was  
queasy.

"My gosh --- what Cymbidiums! So  
splendid and fine,  
They put mine to shame," he said with a  
whine.  
"And someone had shown off this great  
Pleurothalis"  
He said with an oath that was dripping with  
malice.

"I love those little minis --- they have  
unusual flair"  
And he absent-mindedly tugged out some  
more of his hair.  
He couldn't forget the Papilio he envied so  
much,  
His withered and died at his slightest touch.

And oh! what a Lycaste, it was truly unique  
His jealousy burned and it made his knees  
weak.  
How, oh how did they get them to flower?  
He lowered his eyes and his face looked so  
sour.

So he sat by the fire and he fussed and he  
fumed  
It seemed none of his plants had even  
bloomed.  
Yet those society folks had buds by the  
score,  
But how did they do it? He just had to know  
more.

Out in the hall he heard a loud plop  
On the rug by the door, his mail did drop.  
He dejectedly shuffled over to open his  
letters,  
He sighed with a sigh, this day has got to  
get better.

In his thorny old hands, held by his back thumb  
Was a society newsletter that had just come  
And it was an invitation to join them at seven.  
You'd think it was a summons from angels in heaven.

A grin cracked his face, and the wrinkles gave way.  
"They want ME! Yes, 'ol ME!" And he started to sway,  
And he laughed a big laugh that came from his belly.  
And disturbed all that knockwurst he'd had at the deli.

So he ran to get ready and his toe burst through his sock,  
But he didn't even curse as he tripped down the walk.  
"Maybe they'll like me, I really don't know---  
Maybe they'll even teach me to grow!"

So he went to the meeting with high hopes in his heart,  
Hoping against hope that he would "get smart".  
He put on a name tag and a mint in his mouth,  
And made sure that his bow tie did not point to the South.

Was he in the right place? Did he come the right night?  
These folks are having fun and it gave him a fright,  
Orchid growing is hard and quite serious work  
But there was the president, and he said with a smirk,

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"Were just here to gain knowledge and to help one another  
So if you're inclined, just hang with us brother.  
Just look at this crowd -- fun takes us far!  
And if you don't believe it, step up to the bar."

"We'll show you a good time," he said with a grin,  
"And shell out some money and we'll sell you a pin.  
We'll teach you the secrets and point you the way  
To grow up your plants, so let's start today."

More often than not, their advice made some sense  
He was beginning to think he was not quite so dense  
He began to ask questions, in fact quite a lot  
(And they didn't back away when he declared he had rot)

'Ol Grinch was so gleeful to be part of the team  
That he reached out to pinch himself, to see if it was a dream.  
Look at my new friends, oh what a crew!  
I feel like I've discovered a new species or two!

They all were quite friendly, he had such a great day  
As he brushed off some cookie crumbs and made straight his toupee  
All in all he had a very good time  
And the feeling he got was more than sublime

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They answered his questions about this 'n  
that  
They downfalls of algae, the culture of  
Catts,  
He asked questions so much, that silly old  
goat,  
That his tongue became tired, and he got a  
frog in his throat.

He learned a bit about Draculas (they  
looked a little like Grinch)  
But they didn't quite have his grinchy 'ol  
stench  
They were weird and yet wonderful and  
quite a rare sight,  
But they gave some folks nightmares, like  
things that go bump in the night.

By the time he got home, he was walking  
on air,  
The 'ol Grinch wasn't grumpy and his heart  
wasn't bare  
For the friends he had made on this cold  
December night  
Had filled his black heart with a warm  
glowing light.

So he threw out his pots with their bare  
naked sticks  
And replaced them with raffle plants (he got  
real good picks)  
He called up the Fordyce's and ordered  
some loot  
'Cause he heard that the manager was  
really quite cute.

And the next thing he knew, his plants filled  
with blooms  
And his new friends came the next  
Christmas and crowded his rooms.  
They Ooh'd and they Aah'd -- they took  
pictures of flowers,  
Even the ones that he kept in the shower.

And lo and behold on that very same day

With great friends gathered round his  
bountiful bouquets  
He looked down at his hands to that telltale  
thumb  
His knees became weak and his lips  
became numb.

For what he beheld was a miracle so jolly  
His black thumb was bright green! --- As  
green as the holly.  
He jumped up and down, and kissed the  
poor dog  
Who evidently had been lapping from the  
pitcher of nog.

He high-fived the V.P. with a grin big and  
wide  
And showed off his green thumb with  
obvious pride.  
It's the best Christmas present I ever did  
get ---  
I won't ever return it, 'cause it is the perfect  
fit!

So, this is the end and we hope that you've  
seen  
That even the blackest of thumbs can  
someday turn green!!

*Originally Written: December 2000*

[http://www.fordyceorchids.com/whats\\_new.htm](http://www.fordyceorchids.com/whats_new.htm)

**Maymont Flower and Garden Show**  
**February 9 – 12, 2006**  
**"Table for Two"**

The Maymont Flower and Garden Show has always been an important event for the Virginia Orchid Society. Maymont has also depended upon the Virginia Orchid Society for a spectacular and original display. Please let's not disappoint them!

The VOS Show committee is busy designing and brainstorming ideas for the display. The theme for 2006 is "Table for Two". Ideas for the design will be finalized very soon.

Meanwhile, the VOS needs your help with the following: set-up and take down, contacts and donations for building materials, signage, making phone calls to coordinate activities, etc. and, of course, please sign up to share your love, enthusiasm and knowledge of orchids with the folks who will be visiting our orchid display. If you would like to participate or can help with materials, please contact Gene Hunt, Valerie Thacker or Terry Farmer (contact information located below).

Also, **please** share some of your gorgeous orchids so that they may be displayed beautifully at this yearly event. The VOS Show committee will do everything possible to see that your orchids are handled and cared for in the best possible way. Please contact the following members as soon as possible to make arrangements. The deadline is Monday, February 6, 2006.



*Vanda Danny German  
'Bart Motes' AM/AOS*

**Maymont Show Committee**  
**Contacts**

Gene Hunt  
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Valerie Thacker  
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# The Virginia Orchid Society 2005-06 Lecture Season & Auctions

**December:** Dr. William Goldner *of Woodstream Orchids*  
"The Orchids of Panama"

**January:** Howard Ginsberg *of Bedford Orchids*  
"Golden Pecker: Golden Parent"

**February:** Allen Black *of the VOS*  
"Home Orchid Sex: Orchid Breeding 101"

**March:** the Virginia Orchid Society's  
Growers Auction

**April:** Dr. Martin Motes *of Motes Orchids*  
"Vandaceous Orchids"

**May:** Steve Shifflett *of Floradise Orchids*  
"Holistic Orchid Care"

Paph Varuna  
© Allen Black



## The NEW Hospitality Raffle!

In order to encourage members to bring goodies to the meetings, the Hospitality Committee will now be offering a FREE raffle ticket to each participating member who brings food to the meeting. This is a great way to encourage participation and increase the diversity of our refreshments and our orchid collections!

***Please be sure to fill out and return your membership application as soon as possible, so your correct information can be included in the 2005-2006 Virginia Orchid Society roster.***

**The VIRGINIA ORCHID SOCIETY welcomes your membership.**

**The Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt association. Your membership dues are tax deductible. There are no goods or services provided to you in consideration for this gift. Thank you for your support of the Society.**

**Please make all checks payable to the Virginia Orchid Society, and mail them to:  
Emerson Warden, 9060 Rutland Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-2824  
Please cut off and mail with your check.**

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**2005-2006 Virginia Orchid Society Membership Dues**

Single Membership \$22.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Family membership \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (Defined as mailing to one address)  
Is this a new membership? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you an AOS member? \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make an additional donation to the Virginia Orchid Society for:  
The Henry S Spencer Trust \$ \_\_\_\_\_; and/or to support the VOS \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (as to appear in the roster)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Would you like to receive your newsletter via e-mail? \_\_\_\_\_

## ***MAYMONT FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW***

### **Attendance Sign-Up Sheet**

(VOS members who are willing to share their enthusiasm and knowledge of orchids.)

Thursday, February 9, 2006

9:00 – 12:30	12:30 – 4:00	4:00 – 8:00
Jerry Rogers	Don Herrick	
Valerie Thacker	Patti StClair	

Friday, February 10, 2006

9:00 – 12:30	12:30 – 4:00	4:00 – 8:00

Saturday, February 11, 2006

9:00 – 12:30	12:30 – 4:00	4:00 – 8:00
Fran Seiden	Thuyen Trevino	Henry Randolph
		Reed Ginn

Sunday, February 12, 2006

9:00 – 12:30	12:30 – 4:00	4:00 – 8:00
	Fay Tyler	
	George Tyler	

### **Information Regarding Set-up and Take Down of the Maymont Exhibit**

The Virginia Orchid Society Show committee is ***tentatively*** making plans for set-up on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> (if necessary). This approval must come from the Maymont Show committee. The VOS Show committee will have confirmation of these dates at the meeting on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a “final” set-up for the exhibit on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet for all of these dates for anyone interested in participating in the “creation of the display”.

For those who would like to work behind the scenes, please contact us. There are plenty of tasks (large and small) available.

**Remember the Virginia Orchid Society’s  
success at the  
Maymont Flower and Garden Show  
depends upon everyone’s participation!!!**