



**OCTOBER 2018,  
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# THE ORCHID KEIKI

Newsletter of the Virginia Orchid Society

[www.vaorchidsociety.org](http://www.vaorchidsociety.org)



## TIPS AND TRICKS FOR GROWING BETTER ORCHIDS

This talk by Keith Davis is not a normal how-to-grow talk, but a compilation of tips and tricks to make any grower, both novice and expert, better enjoy the art of growing orchids. Keith shares tips on specific culture that makes the difference between regular ho-hum blooming to having blooms worthy of awards both by the AOS and on show tables. There are several tricks discussed and demonstrated from how to make upside-down cattleya blooms turn over for a perfect display to how to make a plastic pot hanger be able to support a 25 pound pot without slipping. Other tricks include how to easily find those lost souls in the midst of the masses that we all seem to accumulate, how to make more back bulbs sprout without cutting or using harmful hormone pastes... and much more. This is more of a demonstration talk with some slides to assist in the explanations. It runs about an hour or slightly longer, but no one has yet to ever get up to leave before it was over. This is a very fun and interactive talk that no one will want to miss.

**Members CAN  
bring items to sale.**



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Next meeting date:**  
**October 21, 2018**  
**2:00 pm Stranges Garden  
Center Short Pump**  
Keith Davis, Speaker

**Upcoming meetings:**  
**November 18, 2018**  
Ron Midgett, Speaker  
**December 2, 2018**  
Social Event, Food Drive,  
& Orchid Bingo

**Additional Events:**  
**October 24-28, 2018**  
A museum-wide  
exhibition of floral  
designs inspired by the  
VMFA collection



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Reed Ginn

Happy October VOS members!

Fall has arrived and the VOS is at the beginning of a new year. Unfortunately, the Society is starting its new year a month later than usual due to hurricane Florence. I trust everybody survived safe and sound. With the September meeting cancellation, we will work to reschedule Peter Lin's talk.

So the VOS can continue to grow and give back to the community, your help is needed. How can you help? First, suggest a theme for the VOS show and either email your suggestion to me or come to October's meeting and register your suggestion. Second, volunteer as the Show Chair. All you will need to do is coordinate with other volunteers and the Board. Once everything comes together and the public enjoys the show, you will be glad to have been able to bring joy to others. I know from first hand experience! A third way is volunteering to be the Education chair. A fun side of Education is to go to events such as the State Fair of Virginia to set up a display. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, just let me know.

Don't forget, the VOS Board has worked diligently to provide speakers for our monthly meetings. You can show your appreciation by coming out to the meetings, and remember, visitors are always welcome!

One way we can share our enjoyment of orchids is to bring your plants to the meetings for display on the show table. Not only will your plant be judged, but others will have the opportunity to ask you questions about growing your plant.

Looking forward to seeing you at the October meeting. The VOS Board will be providing refreshments for this meeting. Think about what you would like to bring to the November meeting and sign up on the November hospitality sheet at the meeting. Another way you can volunteer at the meetings is to come a few minutes before the meeting and help Bernie set up the table.

The VOS is YOUR society and we need you to volunteer, to help at meetings, or become committee members.



**HAVE AN IDEA FOR  
OUR ANNUAL SHOW  
THEME?**

**MAKE A  
SUGGESTION!**

**SOME SUGGESTIONS  
FOR THE ANNUAL  
SHOW THEME:**

**ORCHIDS UNDER THE  
BIG TOP**

**ORCHIDS AND ALL  
THAT JAZZ**

**ORCHIDS GREAT AND  
SMALL**

**ORCHIDS OF THE  
ROUND TABLE**

**WE WILL VOTE ON A  
THEME AT THE  
MEETING -- COME  
PREPARED TO VOTE**



# MERRITT HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM

Reminder that the 12th Annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium will take place November 2 and 3, 2018. For additional information and online registration go to [www.mhsymposium.org](http://www.mhsymposium.org) (note, there is a booking link and code on the website, please check prior to booking hotel to get the rate).

## Speakers

David Off – Waldor Orchids

Mark Reinke - Marble Branch Farms

Linda Thorne – Seagrove Orchids

Sam Tsui – The Orchid Inn

Linda Wilhelm – Woodland Orchids

## FEATURE PHOTO

'Thank you' to Ron Geraci for this photo from NCOS show



## VOS Board

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## BRINGING PLANTS BACK INDOORS

Your decision as to when to bring plants in will depend on the weather forecast and the temperature tolerances of your plants. I have listed below the temperature recommendations for the different genera you are growing. This should help you plan your move inside.

**CATASETUM** Most of these orchids are native to hot tropical areas and grow during the rainy summer months. During this growing period, day temperatures of 80–100 F (27–38 C) and night temperatures of 60–65 F (16–18 C) are beneficial. After growths mature, temperatures can be reduced to 55 F (13 C) at night, with day temperatures of 70–85 F (21–29 C).

**PHALAENOPSIS** These should usually be above 60 F (16 C) at night and range between 75–85 F (24–29 C) or more during the day. Although higher temperatures force faster vegetative growth, higher humidity and air movement must accompany higher temperatures, the recommended maximum being 90–95 F (32–35 C). Night temperatures to 55 F (13 C) are desirable for several weeks in the autumn to initiate flower spikes. Fluctuating temperatures can cause bud drop on plants with buds ready to open. This is especially true when the buds are about the size of a pea and is the leading cause of bud drop at that stage.

**PAPHIOPEDILUM** Paphiopedilums generally enjoy the same temperatures that we do in the home; ideally, 60–65 F (16–18 C) at night and 75–85 F (24–29 C) during the day. Paphiopedilums can be grown outside in mild climates and can stand temperatures up to the high 90's F (35–37 C) and down into the 40's F (5–9 C) for short periods. In fact, many of those that produce multiple flowers per spike actually need short periods at cooler temperatures in order to flower.

**AOS has an updated 'List of Speakers' to help you plan society meeting programs. Give your speaker selection to your program chair. You will now find the Affiliated Societies linked on the home page under the "About Us" heading. Here's a link to check it all out - <http://www.aos.org>**



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## BRINGING PLANTS BACK INDOORS CON'T

**COELOGYNE** This is a diverse group of plants with many different requirements depending on where the species grow. You first need to determine whether the plants you have are cool, Intermediate or warm growing. Those that produce single flowers in succession (Coelogyne Bird in Flight is a good example) are typically warm growers as are those that produce large numbers of green flowers (Coelogyne pandurata for instance). Many of the white flowered species and their hybrids, especially the larger flowered whites like Coelogyne Memoria W. Micholitz are generally cool growing.

**LYCASTE** In an article in Orchid Digest, Steve Gettel says to grow these orchids warm while actively growing: 60– 85 F (16–29 C). This author grows Lycaste Brugensis (longipetala × skinneri) warm (minimum night temperature of 65 F [18 C]), on the advice of Henry Oakeley (personal communication), but all others are in the cool house during autumn and winter, where they receive a minimum night temperature of 48 F (9 C).

**BIFRENARIA** These are intermediate to warm growing plants and should generally be kept about 60 F (16 C) at night.

**ONCIDIUM** Temperatures for this group are generally considered intermediate to warm: 55– 65 F (13–18 C) at night and 80–85 F (27–29 C) during the day. Temperatures up into the high 90's to 100 F (35–38 C) are tolerated for short periods if humidity and air movement are increased as the temperatures rise; a good general rule in any case. The exceptions to this temperature regime are those plants formerly included in Odontoglossum and their intergeneric hybrids. These plants are usually recognizable by their bright white or red, solid or patterned flowers. These are distinctly cool growing plants and intolerant for all but the briefest periods of high temperatures. For these plants day/night temperatures should be 70/50-55 F (21-24/10-13 C).



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## BRINGING PLANTS BACK INDOORS CON'T

**DENDROBIUM** This is another very large, widespread cosmopolitan genus and to grow them well you need to determine to which group your particular plants belong. You can find a good summary describing the cultural requirements of the main groups here:

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/culture-sheets/dendrobium.aspx>.

**MILTONIA** There are two distinctly different genera that are commonly referred to as miltonias. Those with star- or spider-shaped flowers are intermediate to warm growing and should be treated like the other similar plants in the Oncidium Alliance. The other genus, properly called Miltoniopsis, has flowers reminiscent of pansies and gives them their common name pansy orchids. While miltoniopsis certainly will not tolerate the extremes of temperature that a cattleya or vanda might, they by no means require - or like the almost frosty treatment in which most "odonts" delight. Night temperature is not a critical factor in our experience, as we have grown our miltoniopsis with both paphs (55–58 F [13–14 C] nights) and phalaenopsis (65–68 F [18–20 C] nights) with good success. Night temperature should be kept at or below the high range, however, for best growth. Miltoniopsis will tolerate down to 50 F (10 C) at night if kept on the dry side (but not bone dry). Young seedlings will, of course, prefer the warmer range of night temperature while mature plants should be run at 58–62 F (14–17 C) nights. The day temperature seems to be the critical factor for Miltoniopsis and should be kept to an 80–85 F (27–29 C) maximum whenever possible. Much of this information can be found on the AOS website at <http://www.aos.org/orchids/culture-sheets/miltonia.aspx> and the links found there.

~ By Sandra Tillisch Svoboda - President of the World Orchid Conference Trust, Past President of the American Orchid Society, and Chair of the AOS Education Committee. Along with being an accredited judge in AOS and CSA judging systems, she is Editor in Chief of the Orchid Digest along with a myriad of other positions she loves holding in the orchid community. (Email: [stillisch@cox.net](mailto:stillisch@cox.net))