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THE KEIKI EXPRESS

Newsletter of the Virginia Orchid Society
www.vaorchidsociety.org
virginiaorchidsociety@gmail.com

American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.
Affiliated Society

Meeting Reminder:

Growing and Flowering Better Cattleyas

An in-person and zoom presentation by Courtney T. Hackney

In Classroom 1 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Sunday, February 15 from 1 pm to 5 pm: Presentation at 2 pm

Dr. Hackney is Emeritus Professor of Biology and the former Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. Previously he was Professor of Biology and Marine Biology at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Courtney began growing orchids in the Florida Keys in 1962, while working for a small orchid nursery. He has continued his interest in both orchid hybridizing and orchid culture since then. He has grown and hybridized many different Orchid genera, but his favorite is the Cattleya Alliance. He has about 500 mature cattleyas and even more seedlings. His favorites are Cattleya clones, some of which appeared in orchid collections over 100 years ago. He makes 10-15 Cattleya hybrids and species sib crosses each year. His hybrids often incorporate classic cattleyas with more recent clones.

Dinner with our Speaker

I found the restaurant Small Batch - Local Kitchen near Glenside that is open on Sunday evening, 2/15/26. I will invite Courtney to dinner on me. If you would like to join us, I will make the reservation for 5:30. Please let me know by Friday at 4:00pm.

Robin
rmyorana@gmail.com

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VOS Email Address:
virginiaorchidsociety@gmail.com

Refer to your membership directory for the email addresses for the above members

President's Message

Hi all,

The VOS sends condolences to the Carey family in the loss of Dana, husband of Carmella, father to Patrick, Olivia, and Michael. We also include Helen. He was a member of our society and he will be missed.

I want to thank those members that joined us for our first full Zoom meeting due to the ice and freezing temperatures. It was well attended by 26 members. I apologize for the 30 minute wait getting into the program. We needed a Zoom expert on both ends of the meeting. Luckily, Wenqing was able to make her presentation. Thank you for those that stayed through it all and tried to coach us to get it going.

I will work at getting more comfortable with Zoom. It will mean that I have less time to visit with the members at the meeting. I am studying on the Zoom website. It is an important feature for our society. We have a limited space for recording Zoom. I am learning what we can and can't offer.

Spring Field Trip: the date has changed to April 11, 2026. This is due to the Orchid Display at the African American Museum. I tried to get a train but the hours were not suitable for our trip. It left at 5:58 AM. For those of you that were at the meeting, the VRE does not operate on weekends. I chose the same bus company that we had last year. We will meet at the Staples Mill Amtrak Station to leave our cars. We meet at 8:00AM and leave at 8:15. We will have timed free tickets of 10:30 for admission into the African American Museum. The bus will take us to the orchid exhibit first and then the US Botanical Garden. Tickets to the US Botanical Garden are free also. We will determine the time to go to the US Botanical Gardens on the trip. Lunch is on your own. We will depart Washington DC at 5:00 PM to return home. The deadline for coming on the trip is February 15, 2026. We have up to 28 seats and this is a first come, first available seating. I have 11 people so far. For those signing up, please send me your emergency contact information (name and phone number) and if you have any allergies send to rmyorana@gmail.com. The bus is costing $1852.07. The VOS covers $1000.00 of that. The rest is divided by those going. Right now that is $77.00. If all goes well, please plan on tipping the driver. I look forward to the trip and hope we have good weather.

I want to thank everyone that signed up for the Best of Class Categories. They are all filled. If you signed up, please pay Donna by check or credit card or Joanne by check.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on February 15, 2026 where Dr. Courtney Hackney will be our speaker.

Robin

Our Meeting Location:
Classroom 1 in the
Kelly Education Center
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Ave., Henrico, VA 23228

SignUp Genius for On-Line sign up for our Show

With our show date rapidly approaching, now is the time to consider offering your time to the Society by selecting a time slot or two. Our show is not only about displaying wonderful orchids for the public, it is also the VOS's major fundraising event. It is a great way to interact with our visitors, share our enthusiasm for the orchids, and perhaps recruit new members. You have already received contact information for our online signup option - SignUp Genius (a live link is included in the transmittal for this newsletter). Please consult your calendar and pick some time to help us have a great show! Yes it's a bit of work at times, but a lot of fun as well. As a welcome table volunteer, you will be amazed at the comments the public makes!

VOS Member Sales Table at the LGBG Show

Robert Rand has volunteered to oversee the 2026 VOS Sales table. In the past Robert and Jessica Thiessen staffed the sales table, every hour of the setup, show, and take down, thus providing continuity throughout. Robert Rand will be coordinating a handful of VOS members who will share the responsibility for the duration of the show. The team will do their best to maintain accurate records. Instructions will be provided to VOS members volunteering to support this team. It is strongly suggested that those looking to sell will volunteer for at least one time slot at the VOS sales table.

VOS members need to email their list of their plants, or orchid growing related items for sale, to Robert 7 days before show set-up (February 19). Updated lists may be provided during show setup if necessary. Reminder that 15% of every sale goes to the VOS. All plants and items need to be in good sellable condition, i.e. clean, well labeled, and priced before the show.

Set-up is Thursday February 26th. Please bring your plants, items, and pictures of non-blooming orchids to the Auditorium in the Kelly Education Center any time on Thursday between 9 and 5. If there is a large amount of participation, there may need to be a limit on the number of plants/items for the first day of the show, to keep the tables from being overcrowded. If member's plants/items sell well, they may bring additional plants/items later. It will be up to members to check at the show if they want to replenish later. Additional plants/items MUST be accompanied by a list reflecting the additions. Plants or items for sale that are not accompanied by a list will be considered donations to VOS! The list should contain the following:

- Member's Name, Email Address, Phone Number (for texting should there be a question)
- Plant (or item) name and/or if multiples of same plant, with same price number, quantity
- Asking Price – rounded to a dollar amount.

When plants are delivered, please try to include a description of the flower or picture of it, if the plant is not in bloom, to help sell the plant. Make sure to have plants/items ready, labeled (name) and priced (sticker on pot or post), prior to the show. Priority for sales space will be in favor of orchids plants but balanced across members so everyone gets a fair shot.

Thank you.

Contact Robert at RobertRand41@comcast.net

Call for Orchids!!

Please consider entering your blooming orchids in the VOS Orchid Show February 27-March 1 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The VOS has a 50 ft. exhibit for our "Symphony of Orchids". This is an AOS Judged show.

Patrick Carey has volunteered to register all your orchids, so please send him the plant names and judging class no later than Thursday February 19. If you think an orchid will be open in time for the show, please have it registered. If it doesn't make it in time, we can pull it off the list. Contact Patrick at Carmella.Carey@yahoo.com. See further instructions below.

Please bring your plants to Lewis Ginter on the set-up day **Thursday February 26, no later than 11AM** for inclusion in the VOS exhibit.

Please be sure your name is written on the pot in black marker or on a piece of masking tape on the pot. Also plant name tags cannot be seen in the display. If you have many labels in the pot with your repotting history etc., please keep those safely at home and only include 1 label with plant name. Please be sure your plant is clean and disease/insect free. Take a few minutes and clean up your plant as you would like to see it displayed. There is no storage space, so please don't leave your boxes and plant flats when dropping off your plants. Take them home and bring them back on Sunday.

Please pick up your plants after the show, Sunday **March 1 between 3:30-4:30PM**.

Call for VOS exhibit plants and greenery!!

As we are building the exhibit for the VOS Orchid show, we are often in need of filler greenery. We are looking for ferns or other small to medium green potted plants. They cannot have flowers. Be sure they are clean and disease/insect free. They will be returned to you after the show, so please put your name on them. If you have any questions whether a plant is appropriate, please send a picture and size to coreenhg@gmail.com or text at 516-369-2160.

Call for VOS Exhibit props!

Symphony of Orchids calls for Music/orchestra props. If you have appropriate items we could use in the display please contact Coreen at coreenhg@gmail.com. Do not loan us anything very valuable or something that cannot sit with plants and possible dampness.

VOS Display Plant Registration Instructions

Everyone will be sent a copy of the **orchid judging class listing** for our show after our meeting on the 15th. To speed the registration process, please determine the class for each orchid you would like to enter, and then email your orchid list to Patrick Carey at **Carmella.Carey@yahoo.com.** If you would like him to determine the judging class, please email Patrick the following information for each orchid you are entering:

- Name of Orchid (if a species or named hybrid), please type the name in your email or a word document **photographs/jpegs of plant labels cannot be accepted)**
- Names of both parents (if it is an unnamed hybrid)
- A photograph of the flower to confirm the color of your orchid
- Size of one flower (cattleya, oncidium alliance, phalaenopsis, and vanda alliance flowers only):
- **Required for Phalaenopsis: Provide accurate measurement of flower size (petal tip to petal tip), jpeg to show flower color, and indicate flower spike type (branched or not).**
- **For phals with no labels: Make up a cultivar name and write a label or paper tag that reads: " Phalaenopsis NOID 'Snow White' " (for example - be creative!) and tape it to your pot. This will help to identify your phal and be sure your phal receives the correct display label.**
- If entering an orchid in the Miniature Class, provide height of individual growth (including leaves but excluding inflorescence)
- Please indicate if entering a first bloom seedling

DEADLINE: 5 pm on Thursday, February 19
Please make your best guess about which of your orchids will be in great condition for the show.