



Bulb Elizabeth Ann 'Jean'
by Roger Horman

MEMORIES

Many of the newer members of ROA may not be aware of why we organized and how it all came about. Before 2005 there was one organization for orchid lovers and that was Virginia Orchid Society and we were all members but many of us were not happy with the content of the meetings. They were almost all directed at orchid breeding and what you cross to get what. We wanted to concentrate on culture of our orchids. In the summer of 2005 we organized a new organization and named it Richmond Orchid Alliance. Our Constitution and By Laws were set up to promote culture in all meetings and

concentrate on what it takes to improve the health of our plants.

In addition to improving the culture of our plants we also streamlined the meetings and did a number of other things that would improve our experience with ROA. There were great meetings with growers from all over the US. Our first speaker was from Miami, then other well-known growers were added from CA, MI, FL, NC, and so on. We had road trips to growers and picnics while there and came home with a busload of great plants. We were active in the shows of other societies and there are fewer of

them now then were held then. We put on a great show in the first year we were a society.

When the economic depression hit many of the growers stopped growing their own plants and ordered them almost ready to sell in order for their businesses to survive and others went out of business. Auctions were no longer the primary method of raising funds for ROA to provide for the expenses of the society and we had to find other methods of funding the activities. We do not have a lot of space at home for growing plants and the money to support them. The prices are frequently lower than previously but the ability to purchase them is less.

Go back to the July 2005 and look at the Bulletins from that time. You will see that

we have not been a society of travelogues or breeding but of improving our culture. There are things that can be done to improve the situation we find ourselves in now with the economy still in a slump and we do need competent officers and committee persons to make this happen. Mike Chambliss is a great president who will be very busy for the coming year and he needs help. Volunteer for anything and he will find a spot for you. And visitors are always welcome.

Thanks very much for all our members and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Let's make this one of the best years we have ever had despite the challenges of our times. There is no meeting this month.

Phal. Noid by Wanda Andrako



Showtable

Cattleya

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Blue- | Blc. Bryce Canyon | L.K. Harvie |
| Blue- | Blc. Edisto Newberry AM/AOS | Thuyen Trevino |
| Blue- | Blc. Hausermann's 'Holiday Christmas' | Lynn Liddington (pg. 4) |
| Red- | Bc. Maikai 'Mayuma' | L.K. Harvie |
| Red- | LC. Pastoral 'Doris' | L.K. Harvie |
| Red- | Cat. Cherry Song | Lynn Liddington |
| Yellow- | Lc. Tristar Bouquet 'Hawaii' | Lynn Liddington |
| Yellow- | Blc. Princess Kate #11 | Art Chadwick |



Blc. Edisto Newberry
by Thuyen Trevino

Paphiopedalum & Pragmipedium

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|---------------|
| Blue- | Paph. spicerianum | Stan Baker |
| Red- | Phrag. Sgt. Eric Young | Wanda Andrako |
| Yellow- | Phrag. calarum | Wanda Andrako |

Oncidium:

| | | |
|---------|---|----------------|
| Blue- | Onc. Jungle Monarch 'Pacific Pride' | unknown grower |
| Red- | Psychopsis Mendenhall alba 'Yellow Butterfly' | Karen Collier |
| Yellow- | Onc. Hula Halau 'Volcano Splendor' | Karen Collier |

Dendrobium:

- Blue- Den. Field King 'Virej' L.K. Harvie
- Red- Den. Stephen Batchelor L.K. Harvie
- Yellow- Den. Thasaid 'Sterpe' Unknown Grower

Den. Stephen Batchelor by L. K. Harvie



Phal. Sogo Yukidian 'V3' by Stan Baker

Phalaneopsis:

- Blue- Phal. Noid Wanda Andrako (pg. 2)
- Red- Phal. Sogo Yukidian 'V3' Stan Baker
- Yellow- Phal. Noid Wanda Andrako

Other:

- Blue- Cymbidium Noid Thuyen Trevino
- Blue- Bulbo. Louis Sander Tom Voytilla (pg. 5)
- Red- Bulbo. David Copeland Stan Baker
- Yellow- Doris Dukes #2 Stan Baker

Fragrant:

- Blue- Cat. Cherry Song- Lynn Liddington

First Bloom

- Blue- Cat. Sandra Turner- Stan Baker



Blc. Hausermann's 'Holiday Christmas' by Lynn Liddington

Congratulations to all the growers. I would like to thank Wanda Andrako, Buddy Harvie, and Van Williams for help with judging and photography at the Showtable.

Thanks,

Mike Chambliss,
Showtable Chairperson

Bulbo. Louis Sander
by Tom Voytilla



Refreshments

Thanks to everyone for helping out at the refreshment table in November. I think everyone enjoyed the BBQ and the rest of the great goodies that were brought to share. Special thanks to Van Williams, Lynn Liddington, the Tignors, Thuyen Trevino, Judy Craig, Stan Baker, Alfonso Rodriguez, Sue Fulghum, Robin Malorana, Wanda Andrako and anyone else John and I may have missed.

Thanks,

Mike and John,
Refreshment Committee

December Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Chadwick, Arthur E. | 2 |
| Voytilla, Tom | 3 |
| Maiorana, Robin | 27 |
| Thompson, Nancy | 30 |

Growing Healthy Orchids

American Orchid Society

Healthy orchids are the result of a carefully planned culture regimen in which the plants are observed on a regular basis and grown in a clean environment. Many ailments can be quickly detected and dealt with before they affect other specimens in a collection. A few minutes spent each week checking plants is the best prescription for a clean bill of health.

An effective program begins with the purchase of vigorous orchids. Invest in specimens bearing green leaves devoid of black or yellow marks. The plants should be securely rooted in a mix that is firm, not mushy and acid.

Isolate new purchases for two weeks before adding them to a collection to prevent any insects or diseases from infecting other

orchids. If any ill effects are noticed, take the plant back to the seller and ask for advice, or request a replacement.

Maintain a spotless growing area. Remove faded flowers and dead leaves promptly. Water early enough in the day so the plants and flowers dry by night. Do not let puddles of water accumulate. Operate fans or open windows (during warm weather) to provide adequate ventilation. Fertilize enough, but not too much, or weak growth, which is susceptible to insects and diseases, will result.

When an infection is noticed, act swiftly. Identify the culprit. Take the plant (or a sample leaf or flower) to an orchid society meeting, the nursery where the plant was purchased or a county cooperative extension service. Wrap the sick specimen in a plastic bag to prevent it from infecting plants at the destination. However, do not leave it in an unvented car in the summer, or an unheated car in the winter, or additional injury may result. The ailment will most likely be one of four basic kinds.

Insects

Aphids, scale, mealybugs, thrips and spider mites are a few of the insects that attack orchids. The first three are easily seen; the last pair require the aid of a magnifying lens. Talk with local orchid growers to learn how to identify these insects and their symptoms. New growth and buds are common attack points. Understand the insects' life cycles and apply repeated doses of a control to eliminate all phases. Soft, cottony mealybugs on this new paphiopedilum growth will deform the leaves. Prompt action is necessary to eliminate the insects.

Diseases

Fungi and bacteria injure orchids. A warm

and humid environment with inadequate ventilation creates the perfect atmosphere in which fungi and bacteria thrive, causing soft spots, sunken areas on leaves, root rot and other ailments. Inadequate air circulation and damp conditions can induce *Botrytis cinera*, which ruins flowers with its fine speckling.

Viruses

Orchids are prone to viruses that can cause flowers to be abnormal. Typical symptoms are streaking of color and deformity of flowers, and irregular light and dark streaks in leaves. When uncertain if a virus is to blame, consult a professional. Businesses exist that will test orchids for the presence or absence of virus. Destroy virus-infected plants; viruses can infect other orchids and cause harm.

Viruses are spread by animal insect vectors, and by improper hygiene, such as ineffective sterilization techniques on recycled pots and clips, and cutting tools. When severing a flower cluster or dividing orchids, always sterilize the cutting tool by passing the blade through a flame or dipping in alcohol. Use disposable gloves on each plant to be divided.

Physiological

Disorders

An imbalance of water, light and temperature creates symptoms of problems. For example, overwatering can cause roots to rot, and, because the plant cannot absorb water, the pseudobulbs to shrivel. The effect is noticed on the pseudobulbs, but the cause is in the medium. Frequently, a change in the care program will solve physiological ailments.

Once an insect or disease problem is identified, choose an appropriate solution. Do not reach for the nearest available pesticide. Consider effective options that will not harm the environment. A cluster of aphids on a cattleya shoot can be carefully wiped off with

a cloth soaked in sudsy warm water. Dab away mealybugs lodged in a bloom sheath with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. Diatomaceous earth sprinkled on the medium discourages snails and slugs.

Occasionally it is necessary to rely on a chemical, especially when many plants are involved. Some growers plan regular spray programs to control insects and diseases. Houseplant insect sprays are handy to spot-check a single plant, especially in the home (but remove the plant from the growing area prior to spraying); more elaborate systems may be employed for larger operations.

Before spraying, be forewarned that some chemicals will damage flowers. The oil carrier (usually xylene) in emulsifiable pesticides can injure flowers or plants, often in conjunction with high temperatures.

Frequently repeated applications are necessary to eradicate all traces of an insect. Be prepared to spray two or three times at seven-to 10-day intervals.

Before applying any chemical:

- Write down the phone number of a physician or a local poison control center.
- Make sure no people or pets are in the area. Keep them away from the spray site for 24 hours.
- Move orchids grown indoors to a well-ventilated area.

- Read the label directions.
- Make sure the substance is recommended for orchids.
- Be certain the toxin is the right one for the job.
- Wear appropriate clothing to protect yourself.
- Know how to dispose of the unused toxin.
- Clean yourself thoroughly after applying any toxic substance.
- Clean the equipment and then store it beyond the reach of curious hands.
- Make sure the area has been replenished with fresh, clean air before family, friends and pets re-enter the area.

Some orchids benefit from being placed outdoors for the summer. Before their return indoors in the autumn, thoroughly inspect each specimen to prevent any unwanted guests from entering the growing area. Once indoors, populations of aphids, mealybugs, spider mites and other insects increase dramatically in the warm and moist environment. Inspect the container's sides, drain hole, developing buds and all of the foliage, especially the undersides of leaves, where insects often lurk.

Spend the time to understand how orchids grow during each season. Then should a problem arise, it can be dealt with effectively in a way that is safe for the plant, the owner and the environment.

ROA4U@
RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

Wanda Andrako, Editor
Renee Smith, Layout Editor

Patrons

Several years ago ROA started a new category of Patron for funding our speakers and activities. This has become the major source of income and has helped greatly. Anyone that is able to afford to donate \$100 for the year is designated a patron. We appreciate the support of our Patrons. Thank you. Patrons for the 2014 are as follows:

Stan Baker & Baulo Rodrigues
Susan & Roger Horman
Mike Chambliss
& John Hutcheson
Bob & Karen Woehrle
Van Williams
Wanda & John Andrako
Buddy Harvie
Judy Craggs

Bayne Hawkins Memorial Fund
Donation **\$150**

Honorary Members

John Andrako
Wanda Andrako
Buddy Harvie
Bayne Hawkins (deceased)

ROA Information

The Richmond Orchid Alliance meets at Hermitage, 1600 Westwood Avenue, Richmond, at 2:00 P.M. of the second Sunday of each month from January through November. Yearly dues are \$30.00 per individual, or \$35.00 for a joint membership. Dues should be paid to the ROA Finance Director, Forrest Tignor, 322 Willway Dr., Manakin Sabot, VA 23103

Donations

ROA is a tax-exempt organization so that all donations can be counted on your income tax. At this time of the year many of us try to catch up on the annual donations to charitable organizations. We start now so that we don't have such a large number in December. We have the Patron list for gifts of \$100 but there is no real limit to the amount you may donate. We have been in a depression or recession for five years and times are tough for many. If you are able and wish to donate feel free to donate any amount and it will be greatly appreciated.

The money is used to pay the costs of our organization such as programs, speakers, rent and other expenses. Thank you.

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