



Schomburgkia crista
(photo by wikidot)

SCHOMBURGKIAS

What are schomburgkias? This is a group of orchids that few of our members are growing. The first ones I saw many years ago were huge and not likely to be able to be grown in a small greenhouse or in the normal size home, so they did not generate the interest that those that take less space and are easy to grow do. Stan came along after smaller species had been found and the group of orchids had attracted the interest of hybridizers. They have very different blooms within the species from those that are commonly grown by our members and with all this, Stan became addicted.

Stan Baker's interest in orchids began only 3 1/2 years ago when his spouse brought home a phalaenopsis that had been thrown in the trash at the retirement home where Alfonso was working. Being the inquisitive person that he is, Stan immediately went to the internet to learn how to take care of this forlorn little orchid. The rest is history! As we all know it only takes one to become addicted to orchids.

Having always had a penchant for tall things, he was drawn to the (former) genus of orchids known as schomburgkias because of their long inflorescences. Fascination soon turned into obsession and now Stan owns almost all of the schomburgkia species and an obscene number of hybrids!

Stan's daytime job is computer programmer with the Virginia Employment Commission. He is also the Director of Music/Organist at Centenary United Methodist Church.

The meeting is **February 8 at 2 pm** at the Hermitage.

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More schomburgkias



The promising, eye-catching hybrid, *Rhyncatlaelia* Graf's Fusion 'Delicia Purpura'HCC/AOS (*Rlc. Edisto* x *L. undulata*)
courtesy of AOS

Schomburgkia wallisii
(photo by wikidot)



Laelia sperbiens
(photo by wikidot)



Showtable

Hello from the Showtable committee. Had a great month for blooming plants last month, and am looking forward to February and another great display of plants to be judged and admired. Awards will be announced at the February meeting. Awards are given to individuals who have grown exceptional plants and have received the most points through-out 2014. At the February meeting we will review the requirements for the Showtable for those who are not familiar with the judging procedures.

Here are the results of the January Showtable.

Cattleya:

Blue-	Bc. Magnificent 'Maj'-	Thuyen Trevino
Blue-	Pot. Paradise Beauty 'Golden Angel'-	Sue Fulghum
Red-	B. Little Stars-	Thuyen Trevino
Red-	Lc. Santa Barbara Sunset 'Showtime'-	Stan Baker
Yellow-	Bc. Little Mermaid 'Janet'-	Sue Fulghum

Phalaenopsis:

Blue-	Phal. White Butterfly-	Stan Baker
Red-	Phal. Noid-	Wanda Andrako
Yellow-	Phal. Noid-	Stan Baker

Oncidium:

Blue-	Mtssa. Dennis Kleinbach 'Crownhurst'-	Sue Fulghum
Red-	Onc. Hawaiian Sunset 'The One'-	Stan Baker
Yellow-	Alcra. Hani 'Star of Unicorn'-	Stan Baker

Dendrobium:

Blue-	Den. Himszakura 'Senoku'-	Thuyen Trevino
Red-	Den. King Dragon x Den. Aunchan 'Flare' -	Wanda Andrako

Paph/Phrag:

Blue-	Paph. Stella Scope-	Thuyen Trevino
Red-	Paph. White Legacy Moonchild'-	Thuyen Trevino

Vanda:

Blue-	Rhyn. Purpura-	Mike Chambliss
Red-	Rhyn. gigantea-	Mike Chambliss
Yellow-	Neostylis Lou Sneary 'Blue Bird'-	Lynn Liddington

Other:

Blue- Cymb. Jean Sarah 'Ice Cascade'- Thuyen Trevino

Thanks to all the growers, and special thanks to our judges, Wanda Andrako and Buddy Harvie.

Mike Chambliss,
Showtable chairperson

Refreshment committee

Hi to everyone from the refreshment committee. Thanks for all the help with the refreshment table. Special thanks to Lynn Liddington, Sue Fulghum, and Thuyen Trevino, and anyone else John and I may have missed. February's theme is Valentine's Day. So wear your red.

Thanks from
Mike and John

Are You the Key?

(reprinted from the Jan. 2007 issue)

The other day I heard it said that the key to being a vibrant organization is the active participation of its members. ROA has a decent number of members, many of whom are the keys to where we will be going in the coming years.

I hope that one of your New Year's resolutions was to become more involved with those organizations that you belong to, and that ROA is one where your continued work and efforts will be a part of your ongoing activity.

Let's see a lot of keys in the coming months, not the skeleton type that are all alike and only open the older type doors, but those new shiny ones that open doors to opportunity.

Look not only to what ROA is doing for you, but ask what you can do for ROA.

There are a number of opportunities coming up in the near future that you can be a part of, and have fun doing it.

Growing Healthy Orchids

By the 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.



Catt. Gcp Kathy's Passion
by Stan Baker

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.



C. schroederae x *C. aurantiaca*
by L. K. Harvie

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.

2015 Programs

Feb. Schomburgkias by Stan Baker
March Phalaenopsis by Wanda Andrako and Mike Chambliss
April Greenhouse visit to Chadwick's Orchids and talk on Cattlyas

February Birthdays

Forrest Tignor	5
Roger Horman	16
Dorothy Reynolds	29

Winter Orchid Display

There is a Winter Orchid Display at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens from now thru March 29 each day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is prime cattleya and phalanopsis blooming time. A naval doctor who lived there had a huge collection of orchid species and he gave them to the Gardens. This should be an interesting trip for orchid lovers. There are coupons available online.



Den. peguanum by Roger Horman

Sphagnum

It is almost time to start potting again and some of you use sphagnum as part of your medium. As you know it has been hard to get good New Zealand sphagnum since China bought up the last two years' production. The Acadia Wholesale Supply Co. has several grades available.

This is the company that sells Orchiata potting medium that lasts for up to six years between pottings since it doesn't break down as regular bark does, that is if the plant doesn't outgrow the pot. It clean and specially treated as many of you know when they sent samples. Call Tim Maye 770.271.0850 for information.

Van. Aseda "Sweet Pea"
by Thuyen Trevino



**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 except July, August, and December. Yearly dues are \$30.00 per individual, or \$35.00 for a joint membership. Dues should be paid to the ROA Finance Director, Thuyen Trevino, 1929 Rolfe Way, Richmond, VA 23238

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 six 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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