



Blc. Grezafifi's Blue 'Shawn'
by Stan Baker

Small Favorites

When one first thinks of orchids, in all their diversity, the first thought is often of large plants covered enormous and fragrant blooms. Those of us of a certain age also remember the obligatory orchid corsages that were worn to many formal occasions. Most of us have at least some of those plants and wouldn't trade them for anything.

Whether you have a single window sill or several greenhouses, the time comes when there is just no more room. In addition, some of us want to pack as much beauty and/or surprise into the space we have, and find that a space that will hold one large plant may provide a home of a dozen or more smaller plants, as well as provide widely differing environments allowing diversity.

This talk is about some favorites of mine that range from a few centimeters or less to a foot in height which attract the eye and the mind and demonstrate the variety of life enabled by evolution. They are relatively easy to grow and do not require demanding conditions.
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Join us at the Hermitage at 2 pm on November 8

This presentation will show photographs of some of my favorite miniature orchids, how one can grow them in a small area and a few tips about culture.

Raffle

We are looking for orchid or plant related items for the raffle at the meeting. These can be books, photos, cultural items etc. All will be welcome. Thank you.

Stan Baker



Epi Rio Clarens
by Karen Collier



November Birthday

Tignor, Ronda 27

Phal. noid by Wanda Andrako

Fall Orchid Care

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Cool weather is here for most of us. Even South Florida is experiencing lower daytime temperatures and cool nights. The shortening day length and cooler nights initiate all sorts of changes in your orchids.

Many fall blooming cattleyas are getting ready to bloom and buds are swelling in their sheaths. *C labiata*, *C bowringiana* and the fall blooming form of *C skinneri*, and their hybrids typically have double sheaths. It seems that the big change in day to night temperatures can cause moisture to accumulate between the inner and outer sheaths causing buds to rot. Watch these orchids carefully and be sure there is lots of air movement around these orchids. If you observe any moisture accumulating, carefully open the outer sheath and allow air movement into the space between sheaths. That usually solves the problem.

Vandas are known as heat-loving orchids, but have always bloomed better for me in the fall and winter as long as temperatures do not get below 60 F and there is enough light. Colors are always brighter when nights are a little cooler. This is especially true for any *Vanda* or *Ascocenda* with *Vanda coerulea* in the parentage.

Phalaenopsis require a significant day to night temperature change to initiate spikes. It usually takes a couple of weeks of these conditions to get all of the phals in a greenhouse to put their energy into

growing spikes instead of leaves. Phals will be fine on a porch or in a greenhouse even after nights are in the upper 50s F as long as the day temperature rises above 80 F. Once daytime high temperatures are below 78-80 F, phals need to be kept no lower than 60 F at night.



Paph. Deperle 'Blusher'x Hirs.'Whimsy'
by Thuyen Trevino

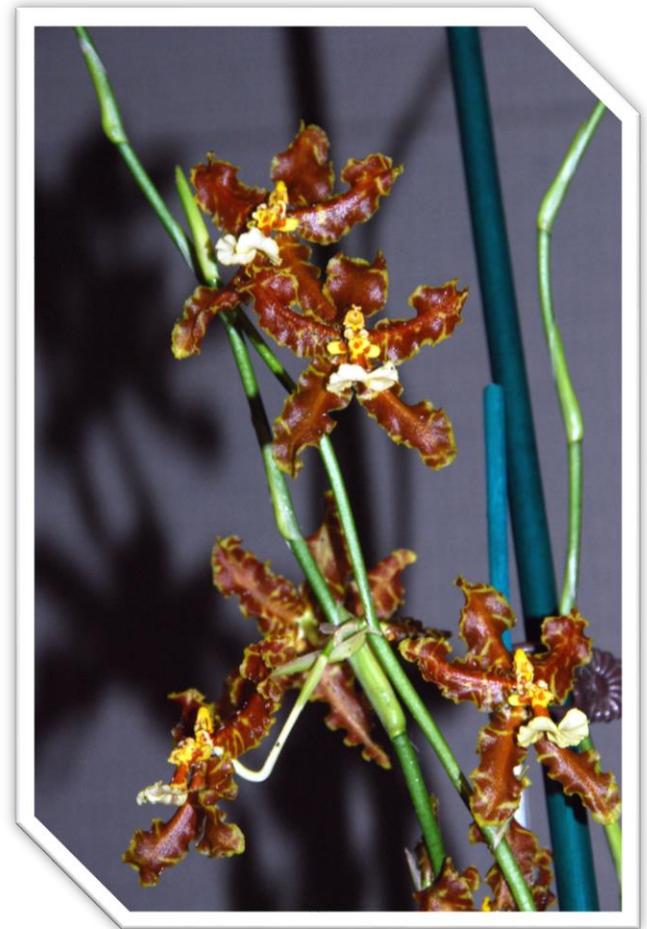
Paphs and phrags really seem to love the cool nights too. Mature growths, especially in the multifloral paphs will prepare to flower. Usually development of new growths is the first sign that a flower spike will soon emerge.

Essentially, I stop fertilizing cattleyas (except seedlings) starting in October and reduce watering frequency, but not watering intensity. Less light and heat each day means that orchids dry out less rapidly. Pay careful attention to periods of clouds and rain, which can also lead to less need for water.

bloom spikes emerging, protect them from extreme cold until they flower.

Some books recommend switching to high phosphate fertilizers for phals, paphs, vandas, and other orchids that do not have a rest period before flowering. For years I did this, but finally decided that maintaining a high nitrogen fertilizer gave me better flowers and more of them. Because watering is reduced and fertilizer is provided with each watering, there is a reduction in fertilizer, but that is the only change.

Cymbidiums are not widely grown in the deep south, but can do well here. If you have a few of this genera, now is the time to move them into increased sunlight. Best results occur when cymbidiums are kept under heavy shade during the intense summer heat. Now, give them a good shot of fertilizer and slowly move them into the sunlight. Unless you have one of the tropical forms, they can take temperatures near freezing and seem to bloom best when they have a light frost on their leaves at sunrise. Once you see



Onc. Antioerium by Mike Chambliss



Noid by June Pierson

Wanda Andrako, Editor
Renee Smith, Layout Editor

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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, P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226

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 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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