

# ROA Bulletin

June 2013



Phal. Blue ribbon winner  
King Car 'Green Apple' by Stan Baker

## Orchid Breeding for the Beginner or the Veteran

Have you ever wondered how people like Allen Black and others breed their plants to create new or different plants? Many of you know Dr. Clark Riley who has spoken to our group several times and will be back for the June meeting. Those of you who have heard his talks know that he is a very entertaining speaker on a number of subjects but this time he is going to show us how the crosses are made. Dr. Riley lives in Maryland and is active in the Maryland Orchid Society. He grows species and hybrids between writing his novels (3) as well as technical books, giving talks helping with every aspect of Apple computers and also being active in his church. He is now planning to be a very active retiree. If his life to this point is any example it will be a VERY active retirement! It is really difficult trying to report on a man that is so busy doing such wildly different things. Currently he is

ROA4U @ [RichmondOrchidAlliance.org](http://RichmondOrchidAlliance.org)

Wanda Andrako, Editor  
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writing a how-to book on building a hobby greenhouse based on his personal experience.

Dr. Riley is a special speaker and you will not want to miss his talk even if you do not plan to do any breeding of your own plants. He makes every subject interesting and fun. Join us **2 p.m. June 9 at the Hermitage** for this special presentation.

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Those of you who missed the May program missed an opportunity to increase your collection of orchids and other nice plants by participating in our plant sale. Prices for these plants were very good! In addition to a few orchids which were obtained through Kalapana Orchids and Carter and Holmes, we had 8 members of the society who brought plants which were sold and proceeds went to ROA. Revenue from the sale was just over \$400. Thank-you to those who donated these plants. In addition we had a mini-clinic and discussion about problems we all encounter. One of the first questions dealt with scales. I learned quite a bit about how these pests can take over a plant, even being found among the roots. Thanks to each who shared during that dialog.

Whether or not the temperatures show it, according to the calendar we have moved into spring. Most of us who grow indoors are in the process of moving our orchids outside. Mine enjoy my front porch, but I learned my lesson earlier that sunlight, even in the morning hours when I thought the intensity was lower, can be too much for plants initially moved outside. I have also learned that the lower humidity as we progress into summer causes much quicker drying out, so I have to adjust my watering schedule accordingly. Remember when moving plants outside that these become nice homes for insects. Be sure to check regularly for these.

Bob Woehrle is already working on programs for 2014 and has made contact with some of our past speakers who have been most appreciated. If there is a topic that you would like to see addressed in one of our future meetings, or know of or have heard a good speaker elsewhere, contact Bob to see if it would be possible to schedule a future program around your interests. The board has begun discussion on officers for 2014. We currently have vacancies for raffle and publicity, and will likely have vacancies in other positions for next year. We need to have new people join the board each year so that we have new ideas and approaches to planning for our organization. I would like to encourage you to consider filling one of the vacant positions. Let me know if you are interested. The last program before the summer break is **June 9. Our next meeting will be in September.** Clark Riley, who has consistently been one of our more interesting speakers, will be joining us. Let's work to have our highest attendance for the year. I look forward to seeing you then. Be sure to bring plants for the show table and something to fill the refreshment table.

*Van*



## Refreshment committee:

Thanks to everyone for helping out at the refreshment table in May. Special thanks go out to Wanda Andrako, Van Williams, Thuyen Trevino, the Woehrles, June Pierson, Judy Craggs and anyone else we may have missed. A Tropical theme is in store for the June refreshment table. If anyone wishes to help at the refreshment please do so. The assistance will be appreciated.

Thanks,

*Mike and John*

Refreshment committee.

## Patrons

**Stan Baker & Baulo Rodrigues**  
**Mike Chambliss & John Hutcheson**  
**Bob & Karen Woehrle**  
**Susan & Roger Horman**  
**L.K. (Buddy) Harvie**  
**Sue Fulghum**  
**Van Williams**  
**Judy Craggs**

## Upcoming Programs

June 9 – Clark Riley “Orchid breeding for the Beginner or Veteran”  
July – No Meeting  
August – No Meeting  
Sept 8 – Garland Hansen “Stanhopeas”  
Oct 13 – Tom Voytilla “Culture & Mechanics of Growing in Semi-hydroponics”  
Nov 10 – Social with Program  
Dec – No Meeting



Catt. skinneri 'Debbie'- L. K. Harvie

## Library

We have a number of books available to the members which include some periodicals. If you would like to know what we have and/or want to check some out contact Karen Woehrle at 897-7963.



Phrag. Magdalene Rose by Wanda Andrako

## May Awards

Hello to everyone from the Showtable committee. May was a great month for catts. There were many stunning blooming plants brought in and shared for all to enjoy.

The winners for the May Showtable where as follows:

Cattleya:

- Blue- Catt. skinneri 'Debbie'- L. K. Harvie
- Red- Iwan Apple Blossom 'Fantasy'- Thuyen Trevino
- Yellow- Enc. Rio Clarence- Karen Collier

Paphiopedilium/Phragmipedium:

- Blue- Phrag. Magdalene Rose- Wanda Andrako
- Red- Paph. Hsinging Love x Lace- Thuyen Trevino



Brassidium Guilded Urchin  
by Karen Woehrle

Oncidium:

- Blue- Brassidium Guilded Urchin by Karen Woehrle
- Red- Mtdm. Rosey Sunset by Thuyen Trevino
- Yellow- Onc. Sweet Sugar Emperor by Karen Collier

Dendrobium:

- Blue- Den. Frosty Dawn by Karen Collier (no picture available)
- Red- Den. Little Sweet Scent by June Pierson

Phalaenopsis:

- Blue- Phal. King Car 'Green Apple' by Stan Baker (picture on page 1)
- Red- Phal. Noid- Thuyen Trevino
- Yellow- Phal. Dawn Trader x Frosty Dawn x  
Golden daybreak x Starry Eyes by Jim Culbert

Vandaceous-No awards for May

Other:

Blue- Zygo Louisendorf by Karen Collier

Red- *Maxillaria tenuifolia* by Stan Baker  
(no picture available)

A great big thanks to Wanda Andrako, Buddy Harvie,  
and June Pierson for their help at the Showtable.  
We all look forward to the June Showtable.

*Zygo Louisendorf by Karen Collier*

Thanks,

*Mike Chambliss*

Showtable Chairperson



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## Does Your Orchid Need to be Repotted?

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

May is one of the busiest months for orchid hobbyists. There is still time to repot, fertilize and attend to orchid pests.

“Should I repot this orchid?” is a common question. Repotting is most critical and often hard for new hobbyists because it takes a while to learn how to do it properly and it’s hard to determine if the orchid should be repotted. The tendency is to want to repot, especially

If you try to push a finger down into your orchid in a bark mix, is it difficult or does the medium yield easily? If it is relatively easy, the medium has degraded and you need to repot. If it is somewhere in between there may be a solution beyond repotting or not repotting. Hold the pot

when there are roots going everywhere and a growth is at the edge of the pot. Orchids hate to be repotted, so repotting should only be done when absolutely necessary. Just because an orchid is coming out of the pot is not a reason to repot. Some types of orchids, e.g. dendrobiums prefer to be pot bound and go downhill for a year or two when given plenty of space in a new pot.

upside down being careful to hold the orchid itself in case the roots are not firmly attached to the pot. Use a jet of water and direct it at the top of the medium. Sometimes most of the degraded medium will flow from the pot leaving a mass of roots with just a few

pieces of hard medium. If the roots are white and hard there is no need to remove the orchid. You can add medium, but do not damage roots as you work the new medium into the pot. I like to use puffed clay pebbles, which are round and easily flow into space between the roots without much effort.

If you do this and find mushy roots the orchid needs to be repotted. Remember that the longer the time between repotting, the more strength your orchid gets and the better the flowers will be next time. Roots are the key to good flowers and repotting removes the majority of them.

There are many orchids sold now in sphagnum. This is a soft medium that tends to stay moist. Typically, phalaenopsis are sold in this medium, but I have seen just about every orchid group sold in it. It is rare for sphagnum to last more than a year. If you can easily pull small pieces of medium from the pot when you purchase it, you likely need to repot the orchid as soon as it finishes flowering.

If you have a small collection, apply Nutricote now if you have not already done so. If you use a soluble fertilizer this is the time to be sure you water weakly, weekly. For cattleyas and other orchids with pseudobulbs, once new growths are mature, fertilizing is not as important, but right now, they are in the growth mode. Other genera, such as members of the vandaceous group, phalaenopsis, papilion, phrags and jewel orchids can be

fertilized as long as it is warm. My preference is to use a balanced fertilizer with extra calcium and magnesium. Be careful not to use exotic fertilizers unless you know how it will affect the water pH. That is one of the reasons to recommend simple, slow release type fertilizers such as Nutricote.

Insects also respond to warmer conditions and need to be watched carefully. If scale or thrips are discovered treat quickly before they spread. If just a few are found on one plant remove the orchid and use a fine jet of water to remove the problem, being sure the underside of leaves and rhizomes are washed. If possible, isolate the plant for a month or so and watch it carefully. In my greenhouse, the orchid is sprayed thoroughly and the bench where it was found is also drenched in an appropriate pesticide and the entire area watched through the summer. Over time, most of my insect problems have disappeared, so it is rare for the entire collection to be treated.

This is also the time of year when snails and slugs seem to come from nowhere. Actually, they have been there all along, but the cool temperatures limited their activity. Now, instead of just grazing the algae near the bottom of a pot they emerge and munch on new roots and growths. There are many treatments that work well for these pests depending on your growing area and conditions. Some of these are toxic to pets so read labels carefully.



### Board of Directors

**Van Williams**  
President  
**Susan Horman**  
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**Forrest Tignor**  
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**Bob Woehrle**  
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**Wanda Andrako**  
Publications

### Committee Chairmen

**Buddy Harvie**  
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**Mike Chambliss &  
Wanda Andrako**  
Auction  
**Karen Woehrle**  
Library  
**John Hutcheson**  
Refreshments  
**Michael Chambliss**  
Showcase Judging

### Past Presidents

**Susan Horman**  
**Valli Laneve**  
**Wanda Andrako**  
**Bill Akin**

### Honorary Members

**John Andrako**  
**Wanda Andrako**  
**L.K. Harvie**

### **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



Phal noid by Thuyen Trevino

