

ROA Bulletin

September 2012



Bulb. cumingii 'Tower Grove' CBR/AOS, grown and photographed by Jim Creech.

SEX!

Did that get your attention? Well, the subject for the September meeting is Orchid Sex as taught by Allen Black. He will show us how to pollinate, care for the seeds, and grow our own crosses. Allen has been a member of VOS for many years and is known for his many beautiful orchid crosses. He has made some crosses of brassavola that are very colorful and lovely. He has some with colorful frilly lips on small growing plants that are suitable for those who have a small amount of space for growing plants. There are brassavola and catt crosses as well as a number of others. He may have some of his plants for sale at the meeting. Allen is a good speaker and you will enjoy his coverage of this subject even if you never plan to make crosses. You never know when you might change your mind and it may be at the meeting after hearing Allen. He hopes to inspire some of the members to try to do some breeding of their own.

Meeting will be September 9 at the Hermitage at 2 p.m. Come early to view the Showtable and the plants he will bring.

ROA4U@RichmondOrchidAlliance.org

Wanda Andrako, Editor
Melinda Fleming, Layout Editor

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Upcoming Programs

September 9 – Allen Black, Home Orchid Sex! Orchid Breeding 101...From Pollination To Flowering

October 14 – Hal Horwitz, North American Orchids

November 11- Social & mini program

December - No Meeting

Refreshment Committee

A great big THANK YOU from John and Mike to everyone that assisted with the Social.

Special thanks to Van Williams, the Tignor's, Karen Collier, the Woehrle's, Nancy Thompson, the Mealy's, and the Akin's, Stan Baker, Baulo Rodrigues, and to anyone we may have missed.

Please help us celebrate our September meeting by helping with the Refreshment table and contributing some thing special for everyone to share.

Mike and John

Allen Black holding one of his orchids.



President's Message

We missed those of you who could not make the August social. Attendance was less than our usual meetings, but all present seemed to enjoy the opportunity socialize and enjoy the good food. We offered an invitation to residents of the Hermitage to join us and had a couple of them to stop by briefly. Special thanks go to John and Mike for planning some of the main items for the table. Thanks also to those who brought such good dishes to share. We have some good cooks in the group!

Nancy Bryce was able to collect several small watering pots from Chadwick's and had arrange them in a nice gift bag which we gave to each of the visiting Hermitage residents. Special thanks to Nancy and Ed for working this out. We had a few left over and it was suggested that we have those available to give to new members or guests in the future.

Last month I mentioned the need for volunteers to step up and assist in some of the vacant board positions for 2013. The ROA Board will be looking at these positions at the meeting after our September gathering and begin contacting individuals. Without the help of many individuals our organization cannot continue to be active and vibrant. Begin thinking how your experience and background can help ROA. Working as a member of the board will expand your understanding of the organization and its place within our community.

The 8th annual Merritt Huntington Symposium is October 26 and 27 at the Virginia Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach. More information concerning this symposium can be found at www.mhsymposium.org. I have tried to make this event in years past and have had work conflicts to prevent my attendance. This year I am looking forward to attending.

The speaker for our next meeting, September 9, will be a well known local orchid breeder and photographer, Allen Black. Allen will be speaking about orchid propagation. I am sure that all of us can learn something from Allen's time with us. I look forward to seeing each of you then.

Van Williams

Patrons

Many of you know that we have had patrons for the last several years. For a tax deductible donation of \$100 you may become a patron. This is a major way that we finance our speakers and activities. As many members have filled their existing space for orchids we have had to find means other than plant auctions to finance ROA needs. Thank you for considering this means of support for activities.

Show Table

Thank you to everyone that participated in the August Showtable.

Winners for August

Cattleya:

Blue- Cat. Noid- Mary Jane Zander

Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium:

Blue- Phrag Geralda- Karen Collier

Red- Paph Caudatum- Karen Collier

Oncidium:

Blue- Mtdm.Red Brick- Stan Baker

Red- Odcdm Wildcat Chadwick- Mike Chambliss

Yellow- Onc. Space Race- Stan Baker

Phalaenopsis:

Blue- Phal Chain Xen Queen- Stan Baker

Red- Phal Noid- Stan Baker

Yellow- Phal.Abed Nego Chadwick- Alice Smith

Dendrobium:

Blue- Den Andree Millar- Mary Jane Zander

Congatulations to all the winners. September is another Showtable month. We all look forward to all the wonderful flowering plants that will be brought in.

Thanks to Van William for taking photo's for the Bulletin.

Thanks Mike Chambliss for judging the Showtable.

Top: Blue ribbon winner Phrag Geralda, grown by Karen Collier.

Center: Blue ribbon winner Cat. (no name on label), grown by Mary Jane Zander.

Bottom: Blue ribbon winner Mtdm. Red Brick, grown by Stan Baker.



Collecting Orchids

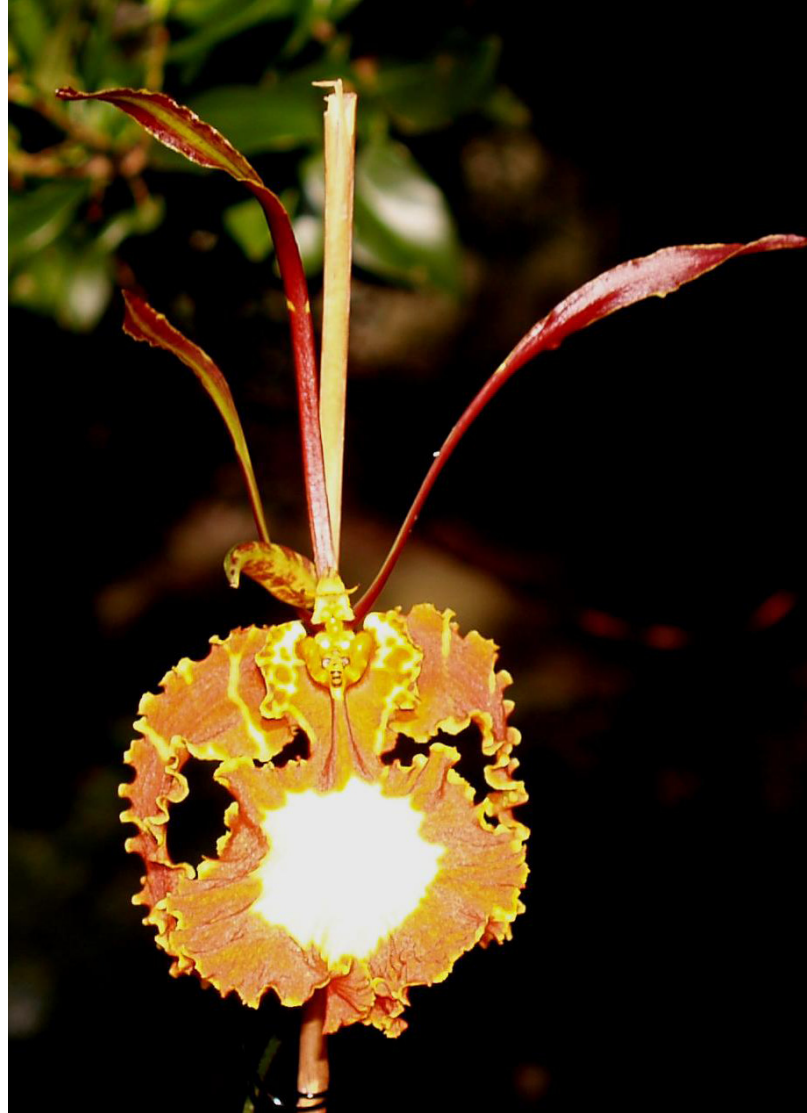
by Dr. Courtney Hackney
hackneau@comcast.net

Few orchid hobbyists are able to contain themselves when it comes to purchasing new orchids. The fever gets even worse for us “old timers” who really get into one group of orchids or another. Typically, the windowsill fills, then a light table is purchased, which quickly fills, then an outdoor growing area of some kind is built, but ultimately there is a limit for all of us.

While new hobbyists ask about diseases, growers who have followed the progression above ask how one limits the obsession. Remember there are an unlimited number of orchids out there to be purchased. Some years ago, I developed a list of classic cattleyas clones that I would like to have and save for posterity. For the most part, I have found those clones and enjoy them for what they represent when they bloom because many are not as nice as their modern counterparts. It is fun to examine their immediate progeny, especially those that produced awards, and to understand exactly how the clone in question was able to produce such memorable offspring.

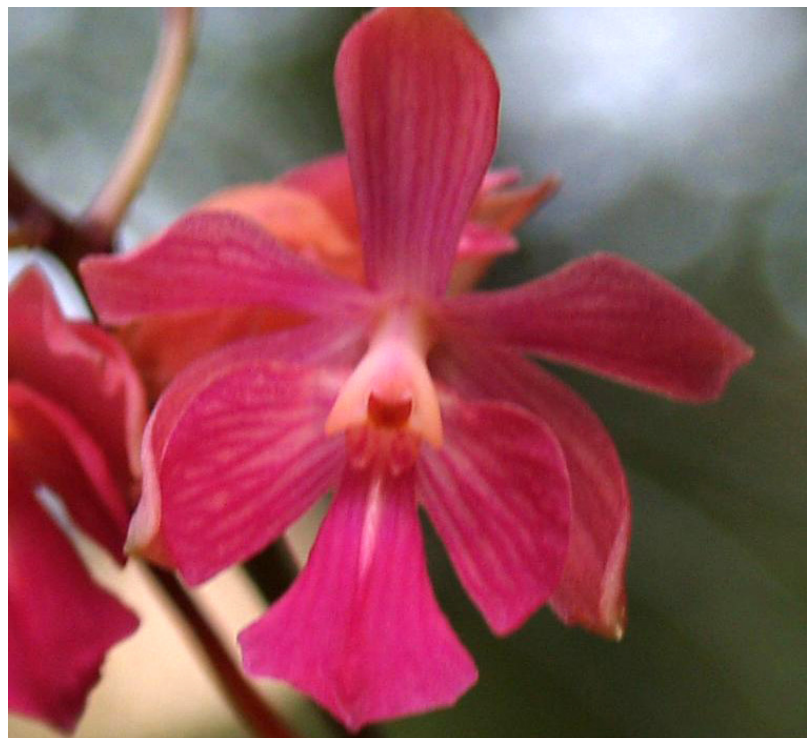
The difficulty of finding these special clones has made keeping them more important to me than a modern clone that can quickly be found on the internet. I avoid repotting these clones because there is always a risk of infection and disease during repotting. Instead, I wait until there is a 3 or 4 bulb division growing outside the pot that I can take without disturbing the mother plant. Once I get a division, I wait a year or so to be sure the division is thriving before disturbing the mother plant. Often there were other divisions in the pot or there will be additional growths from back bulbs. In a few cases, there were three or four divisions in the original pot. Repotting now means that I have an already established division from the year before and several divisions to trade or sell. Repotting these special clones happens only once every 6-10 years and I try to always have at least two divisions just in case something bad happens. For years, I have traded with other like-minded experienced hobbyists just in case there is a disaster in my greenhouse. In my mind, I am not the owner of these great old orchids, just a caretaker who will eventually pass them on to another caretaker.

There are also many species in my collection and I am constantly buying seedlings of these species, searching for even better or newer forms. Rarely do I find one that is superior to what I have, but it is interesting just to see the kinds of variation that exist with any species. There are also seedlings from other growers that are bloomed out just to see what those parents pass along. Even when they are very beautiful, I rarely keep such seedlings because of space.



Top: Pyp. Orchidom Dandy, grown and photographed by Jim Creech.

Bottom: Psy. kraenzlinii x Epi. stamfordianum var. alba, also grown and photographed by Jim Creech.



Collecting Orchids (continued)

My own crosses are treated differently. If it is a hybrid that I expect to be very uniform, there may be only 10-15 bloomed out. I keep a few that represent the best of the grex. Larger numbers of other hybrids that are expected to produce a variety of colors and shapes are flowered just to understand how the various genes are resorted. This can take considerable space, but giving a few seedlings to friends allows me to see more variation. I regularly get emails with photos from friends who have flowered one of my crosses, which is always a treat.

Phal. Doc Charles, grown and photographed by Jim Creech.



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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

The Richmond Orchid Alliance is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Any donations to ROA are tax deductible. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of

Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. We are affiliated with Orchid Digest and a member of the American Orchid Society.

The ROA Bulletin is a publication of the Richmond Orchid Alliance and is distributed to the Society's members monthly, prior to all club meetings.

Patrons for 2012

Judy Craggs
Buddy Harvie
Susan Horman
Roger Horman
Mike Chambliss
John Hutcheson
Van Williams
Robert Woehrle
Karen Woehrle
Mary Jane Zander

Members who donate \$100 or more to the Alliance become a Patron for the membership year. These donations are tax deductible and are used to offset operational expenses.

ROA Web Site

We need your orchid photos for the photo gallery on the webpage, so submit those photos and names of plants please to:

roa4u@richmond
orchidalliance.org

