

November 2007

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Submission Deadline

Articles, pictures, and other content to be included in the ROA Bulletin must be received by the 15th each month.

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Upcoming Events

November 9-10

Merritt Huntington - Memorial
Symposium

November 11

Roy Tokunaga from H & R Orchids
Dendrobiums and Their Culture

All ROA activities and speakers will emphasize the how-to and hands-on aspects of growing orchids.

Consultations for Problem Plants

If you have a plant that is not looking right or you think has problems, feel free to bring it to the meeting and we will have someone knowledgeable in growing that particular type plant help you diagnose the problems. This is how we learn. Contact Sue Akin when coming in and she will help find the person to help you.

ROA Bulletin

Dendrobiums and Their Culture

Roy Tokunaga - H & R Nurseries, Honolulu, Hawaii

We are excited to have Roy Tokunaga as our speaker on November 11. He is considered by many to be one of the best hybridizers in the orchid field today. You will not want to miss this meeting. Many of us have been buying his lovely plants at our auctions for years.



Billra. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'

On November 9th, Roy Tokunaga will begin a tour of the Atlantic Seaboard societies beginning with the Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium in Williamsburg, Virginia and then coming to Richmond on the 11th to speak to the Richmond Orchid Alliance.

Roy graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1973 with a bachelors degree in education, high school biology. He never got the chance to teach as he was recruited by Ernest Iwanaga to start an orchid lab. Thus his career began with the first 7 years cloning and germinating orchids. In 1981 he left to start another orchid lab in Waimanolo with Harry Akagi who was growing bromeliads. The name was H & R Bromeliads, which Roy didn't like, so

it changed to one everyone in the orchid world now knows as H & R Nurseries.

Over time Roy became an accredited AOS and HOS judge. He has now been hybridizing for about 27 years with several thousand hybrids delivered, mostly in the Dendrobium and Cattleya Alliance.

His has never forgotten his background while in nursery management and orchid nutrition the last 10 years. He is now searching for an effective bloom booster.

Roy will talk to the Merritt Hunting Symposium on getting color in cattleyas. He will talk to the ROA on dendrobiums and their culture. He recently put together a program on Latouria Dendrobiums of New Guinea, which he will be presenting

New Members

Rachel Welch
Mike Chambliss
John Hutcheson
Tom and Tia Voytilla
Patrick Cicchetto

Thank You

State Fair Helpers

Dick Seltzer
Nancy Thompson
Thuyen Trevino
Diem Nguyen
Buddy Harvie
Mary Ann Adams
Vince and Betty Lu Guarino
Robert and Yumi Wu
Bayne Hawkins
Sue Akin
Mike Chambliss
John Hutcheson,
Judy Craggs
Steve and Barbi Partlow
Rick Santackas
Wanda Andrako

GBGH Helpers

Vince and Betty Lu Guarino
Steve and Barbi Partlow
Judy Craggs
Bill and Sue Akin
Buddy Harvie

Molly Brennan's Phabulous Phals

Molly gave a very good talk about culture of phals. Even those that had been growing phals for a long time learned some things.

The point all books and many speakers make about keeping new plants in quarantine for two weeks after bringing them home was stressed but the reason was made clearer. We are always told that if they come in "buggy" you will find them during that time and before their spreading to your other plants. Well, we found out that the grower sprays before shipping and that it will take a couple of weeks for any babies to hatch and to be found. And all this time I was looking for the mature critters!

Molly taught us that orchids absorb nutrients from the underside of the leaves and very little from the top. She recommends spraying from under the leaves to get the most benefit and it also keeps you from having fertilizer salt build up. Neat! Seaweed extract makes lush cytokines with calcium and help the plants ability to photosynthesize. Use seaweed



Z. Artur Elle, grown by Jim and Valli Creech

extract in the spring to give your plants a big boost. Great Big Greenhouse carries it.

Hydrogen peroxide can be used as a drench following repotting and initiates tip root growth. DO NOT USE WITH FERTILIZER. It will stop the action.

Crown rot is effectively treated with peroxide then dusted with cinnamon. If you are having trouble with pesticides working you may need to check the ph of the mix. Some only work in a ph range of 6.5-6.7.

A talk such as this could have gone on a long time! Thank you Molly. ✨

Speaker Roy Tokunaga

(continued from page 1)

to Hollin Hills Orchid Society several days after visiting with ROA.

We have continually used H & R Nurseries for our cattleya and dendrobium plants for our auctions and have always been pleased to have these plants offered for sale. If you call their nursery, you always receive a warm and assisting voice.

Remember Walter Off of Waldor Orchids from New Jersey when he spoke to us often referred to H & R Nurseries, not

only for their plants but also their potting material. To order plants for our meeting, with no shipping costs, go to their web site, www.hrnurseries.com, click on price list. You can fax to (808) 259-5422, or call (808) 259-9626, or e-mail to Greenthumb808@aol.com. Anyway you do it, you have a hard time losing.

Join us on Sunday, November 11th, at the Science Museum of Virginia at 2 PM when we welcome Roy and his wife, Nora.. ✨

To order plants for delivery at our meeting---thru to Greenthumb808@aol.com

October Showcase

We had a good number of excellent orchid flowers but there were no paphiopedilum, phragmipedium or phalaenopsis. Our members had more cattleyas blooming than any other category.

Cattleyas

Blue - No Tag, grown by Joe Mathias

Red - LC. Mari's Song 'Ta Kaki', grown by L.K. Harvie

Yellow - Blc. Copper Queen, grown by L.K. Harvie

Oncidium and Dendrobium

Blue - Odbrs. Kenneth Bivens x Edrah Loo'Nishida, grown by Tia Voytilla

Red - Onc. Sweet Sugar, grown by the Murphys

Other

Cyc. Chlorochilon 'Jumbo' x Cycd Jumbo Micky, grown by the Akers

Vandaceous

Blue - V. Kasem's Delight x Thongchai, grown by Mike Mealy

Red - V. Robert's Delight 'Blue', grown by Mike Mealy

Yellow - Ascda. Betty May Steel, grown by Mike Mealy

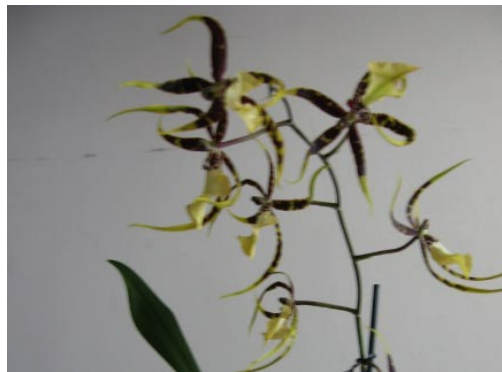
October Blue Ribbon Winners

Cattleyas

No Tag, Joe Mathias

This orchid was composed of pink/violet blooms with yellow centers all facing the same direction and all upright. Not all cattleyas will perform this well. The flawless petals were flat and like tissue in appearance. There were several others almost perfect so this was a hard choice. What a pity that we don't have the name.

Oncidium and Dendrobium



Odbrs. Kenneth Bivens x Edrah Loo 'Nishida'

The Voytillas again won the first place this time with their oncidium brassia cross grown in a semi-hydroponic medium. These five spidery flowers were brown spotted and bright yellow and very large.

Other

Cyc Chlorochilon 'Jumbo' x Cycd Jumbo Micky

The Akers grew this orchid with the yellow

and yellow-green blooms clustered on a divided spike to one side of a beautiful plant. Cynoches (Cyc) are named for the swan like neck on the column and they have separate male and female flowers –the males are brighter. Chorochilon is the most awarded of the cynoches. They can be grown in warm to intermediate temperatures on a window sill of any light but north. Strong light produces the female flower. Expect blooms in the fall and then give them a cool (45-50 F) dry rest in southern exposure. This is an orchid from the Amazon moist forests.

Vandaceous



V. Kasem's Delight x Thongchai

We chose this one because the color (purple), the presentation (flat) and substance seemed best of the vandas. This was a large group of flowers. ✨

Help! My Orchids Are Freezing!

As I write this the season is autumn but the temperature is balmy. It is hard to believe our orchids will ever become cold. However, almost every year we have a power outage or take them in freezing weather to an orchid show. These are mostly tropical plants and should not be cooled below 55 F. Phalaenopsis need a temperature drop of about 15 degrees F for two weeks in order to flower but, when Allen Black set the low temperature of his greenhouse to 55 F permanently, he reported that he had

trouble with bacteria and fungi. He raised the temperature several degrees. Many orchids like a seasonal temperature drop to trigger blooming including dendrobium kingianum, laelia anceps (45-50F), and a miniature intermediate variety of cymbidium called Jelly Bean (45-55 F). These happen to be in my collection, but there are many more. It is important to restrict the period of low temperature to just what the plant demands and no more. This is tricky. The laelia anceps went into a decline in my window well last year and is

Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium

November 9-10, 2007
Williamsburg, VA

Make plans now to attend the 2007 Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium, which will be held in Williamsburg, VA, at the Ramada 1776 at 725 Bypass Road. All members of the Alliance are strongly urged to attend what will be a wonderful event dealing with orchid culture and knowledge.

Friday evening beginning at 6PM will be a tribute to Merritt who was so continuously supportive of all orchid interests in the area, this to be followed by Roy Tokunaga of H & R Orchids speaking on Creating Colorful Compact Cattleyas.

Saturday will be seminars from the best of orchid growers: Carrie Raven-Riemann on "Mini multi floral Phaleanopsis; Dr. Yin-Tung Wang on Nobile dendrobiums; and Dr. Norito Hasegawa on Paphs and their future. The afternoon will end with Jeff Bradley speaking on Early Orchid Legends of America and an official AOS presentation.

This will also be the National Capital Judging Center November AOS judging, so bring plants for this event. The registration fee of \$35 for Saturday includes a great lunch, while the \$25 preview party fee includes heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Just to make it an event not to be forgotten, there will be plants for sale by H & R Orchids, Waldor Orchids, Orchidophile, Seagrove, Machodoc, Celebrate Orchids and the speakers as well. Interesting plants at good deals, a chance to talk with others who share the same interests you do (and who have many of the same problems), but only if you are there.

This is an event not to be missed, probably the best group of speakers for any orchid presentation in many years. For further information call Bill or Sue Akin at 378-0999, pick up a flyer at the October meetings, or visit www.mycommunityis.com/tos/. See you in Williamsburg on November 9-10. Special hotel rates for those wishing to stay over Friday or Saturday evening. ✨

Help! My Orchids Are Freezing!

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slowly recovering. This is the effect of long periods of cool temperature i.e.: bacteria, fungi or slow decline when the plant drops leaves, rots roots, or growth stagnates. Keeping the temperature over 60 degrees eliminates crown rot and other problems.

If you were to drop a plant outside in really freezing temperature you would see frozen tissue that upon thawing turns to jelly. I saw that in an orchid I threw out. One year a power failure for several days killed a lot of orchids. I brought mine in from the greenhouse to my small living room, lit the gas log and covered the area with drop cloths to keep the cold out. Natural gas is not very good for orchids but they survived for the duration of three days. A friend did not have power restored for nearly two weeks and that killed many plants outright. Even worse, some continued to struggle for a short time and then died. A short chill is not often fatal. One year our show at the fair was hit with a one night temperature in the low forties but my angrecum was not damaged nor were the other orchids.

If the heat is cut off for some reason other



V. Kasem's Delight x Thongchai, grown by Mike Mealy

than loss of power, a fan moving the air would help prevent cold damage. Orange growers start huge fans in orchards to prevent crop loss. A fan feels colder to our skin but actually prevents the cold from settling into the tissues. A chilled orchid should be warmed slowly in only slightly warmer temperatures at first. Do not use fertilizer until the orchid shows recovery by sending out a little growth. Fertilizers are soluble salts of metals like potassium, calcium, and phosphorous and you wouldn't rub salt into a wound. Ouch! ✨

A Chance to Give Without It Hurting

Few times can we contribute to our favorite charity without having to give up something. As we approach the year-end and look at how we can help others, SunTrust Bank has come up with a "My Cause" promotion. It offers clients who open a new checking account the choice to have the bank give \$100 to their favorite charitable organization, or to receive a \$50 gift card for their own cause. We hope you will think of ROA as your favorite charity.

Additionally, if you take one of their SunTrust Visa Signature Credit Cards, SunTrust Platinum Visa with SunTrust Rewards Credit Cards, or SunTrust Visa Check Cards enrolled in the SunTrust Rewards program, you can continue to donate SunPoints to your charitable organization throughout the year.

The information provided makes no reference to any minimum balance. The "My Cause" promotion runs thru December 31, 2007, and you must complete the redemption form by February 15, 2008. You can go to suntrust.com/mycause to learn more.

Please think of ROA as we bring 2007 to a close. We are an IRS recognized charitable 501(c)(3) organization. Call the ROA treasurer if there are any questions.

AMERICAN
ORCHID
SOCIETY

ROA is affiliated with the American Orchid Society. Memberships are \$60.00 per year and include the monthly magazine Orchids. Details are at www.orchidweb.org. AOS is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

About This Bulletin

The Richmond Orchid Alliance meets at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond, at 2:00 P.M. of the second Sunday of each month from January through November. Yearly dues are \$20.00 per individual, or \$25.00 for a joint membership. Dues should be paid to the ROA Finance Director, Sue Akin, P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226.

The Richmond Orchid Alliance is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Any donations to ROA are tax deductible. 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.

Submissions to the Bulletin should be sent to the editor early enough to arrive by the 15th of the month prior to a meeting.

Address Changes

If you have moved, changed your telephone number or email address, please email Richmond Orchid Alliance with the change at ROA4U2@verizon.net or to P.O. Box 8682, Richmond, VA 23226.

We don't want your Bulletin to be delayed or not received. This is an important part of your membership.

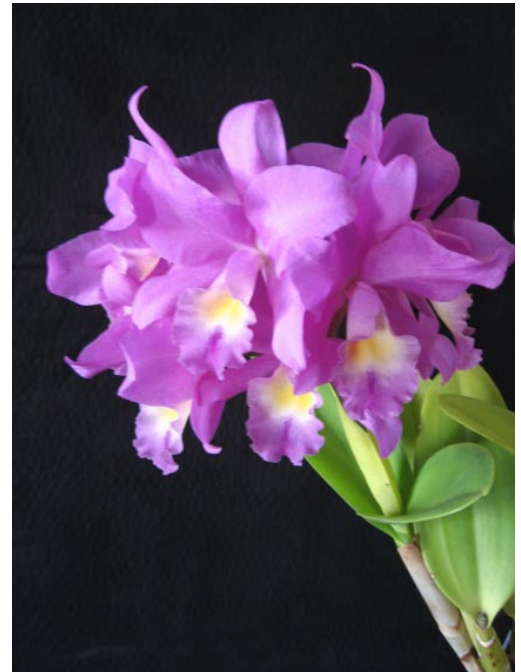
Growing Tips: Fall Care

by Courtney Hackney

In case you missed it, fall arrived September 23. The days have been getting shorter since June and daylight is now less than 12 hours long. Many orchids use the decreasing day length as an indicator that it is time to bloom. Indoor growers need to adjust their grow-lights appropriately. It is not necessary to make constant changes in day length, but it is necessary to shorten day length if you want many orchids to bloom under lights. Some indoor growers rely on light through windows to supply all the light their orchids need. Those with good southern or eastern exposures are often very successful in getting flowers each year as long as they allow their orchids to experience a day length change. Many cattleyas get confused if incandescent lights are turned on nearby at night. I suspect that many cattleyas that are grown indoors do not bloom because of external light at night. Fall-blooming cattleyas are very sensitive to shrinking day length and external night lights confuse them.

Large-flowered phals require a cool temperatures to initiate the growth of flower spikes. Some growers leave their windows open for a few weeks in the fall, not only to enjoy the welcome cool nights, but to provide this cool stimulus for their phals. Five to ten nights at 55-65 degrees are enough to initiate spikes. The key is both the low temperature and a 20 degree change day to night. After that, it is best to keep them above 65 degrees.

This is also the time to move those giant pots of cymbidiums from under the deep shade to more sun. Do it gradually so there will not be any leaf burn. Cymbidium growers claim that the best flowers come when they allow their cymbidiums to almost reach frost conditions. Some cover their plants with a product called "Frost Proof", which protects them from frost even down below freezing.



Cattleya, No Tag, grown by Joe Mathias

Cattleyas still maturing bulbs will produce large, plump bulbs now that night temperatures are in the 50s and the day is not nearly as hot. This can be quite a contrast to the thinner bulbs that are produced when both night and day temperatures are very warm.

Most members of the vanda and angracoid groups do not appreciate cooler nights and will decrease their growth rate. They do, however, seem to produce flowers with more vibrant colors when night temperatures are cool. If you tend to have cooler conditions than most warm growing vandas prefer, select vandas that have a good dose of vanda coerulea in their parentage as these prefer cooler nights.

Members of many orchid groups come from cooler climes. Many miniature phals, e.g. lobbii, parishii, and their hybrids, such as Phal Mini Mark, really thrive when day and night temperatures are lower. Phrags, especially anything with phrag. besse in the background, struggle in summer's heat, but grow quickly once temperatures cool.

Lower temperature and light usually means that your orchids need less water, although this also depends on humidity as well. Avoid over-watering this time of year.

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Thuyen Trevino
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Dermot Murphy, Photographer

We're on the Web! Visit us at:
www.richmondorchidalliance.com

Growing Tips: Fall Care

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Your orchids can handle less water, but you could lose all those roots you worked so hard to grow if you continue watering at the same rate as you did in summer. The exception is for those that grow indoors, as most homes these days are air conditioned in summer and heated in winter keeping indoor conditions (temperature and humidity) about the same year round.

It is unnecessary to fertilize most orchids now, although most seedlings and phals still require fertilizer. Generally, there is enough in pots and on the medium to provide the little your orchids need now. This is an ideal time to flush pots with high quality, low solids water because the extra drying experienced by orchids in winter expose their roots to concentrated salts retained on media surfaces. In cases of high fertilizer

application or hard water, salts can damage roots.

Some orchid groups, such as the genus *eulophia*, *nobile-dendrobiums*, *catasetums*, etc, become almost totally dormant and lose their leaves in winter. They may need to be moved to a location where they receive only a light misting occasionally.

Take a careful look under pots and leaves if you have had your orchids outside during the summer and now plan to move them into the house or greenhouse. If you have just a few plants, a drench of liquid Sevin (one teaspoon/gal) will kill anything you do not want, including slugs and snails. Do this now, before a sudden cold snap forces you to quickly drag your orchids inside or you could be dealing with bugs and beasts for the entire winter. ✨



ROA

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