

AN OPEN MIND  
COLLECTS MORE RICHES  
THAN AN OPEN PURSE

### Special points of interest:

- Tom Purviance of Parkside Orchids
- Fall Member's Auction Recap
- How to Exhibit Your Orchids
- Orchid Information on the Web

### Photo Credits:

- Allen Black
- Garland Hanson
- George Tyler
- Denver Orchid Society

The VOS Board will be meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd At 6pm at the North Park Library

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### Plants are Needed!!

For the  
**Triad Orchid Society Show**

Please contact  
**David Sombach** by  
**January 24th**

# The Orchid Keiki



Volume XXVI, Issue V

January 2007

## Tom Purviance of Parkside Orchids "Latest Oncidium Intergeneric Orchid Hybrids!" Sunday, January 21st in the Robin Room

A VOS favorite, Tom Purviance, will be here from Parkside orchids to discuss the latest Oncidium Intergeneric Orchid Hybrids! Parkside Orchids is a wonderful orchid business based in Ottsville, Pa. They have events year-round and their very fine 10th Annual Summer Orchid Fest to be held at their facility on July 28 and 29. Other vendors are invited to the event and it is an event not to be missed!

See [www.parksideorchids.com](http://www.parksideorchids.com) for a complete listing of Parkside plants. Tom is taking pre-orders that he will bring with him to save you shipping costs! All of their plants are of the highest quality!



## SPRING AOS SHOW DRAWING NEAR!

Folks, our big show is just around the corner! The show will run February 22-25 at Strange's Garden Center at their Short Pump location on W. Broad Street. We have a wonderful and unusual space for our orchid show!!! The greenhouse environment will be great for the plants and provide perfect lighting for photography! Humidity will be set at a comfortable level.

At this writing we have a total of 7 orchid vendors and 4 ven-

dors selling orchid-related items. There will be artwork competition for photography, artwork and crafts. There will also be a youth division for artwork submitted by youths under the age of 18. Bring out your orchid artwork and pass the word! This should be a fun addition to our show!

You are strongly encouraged to put in your own tabletop display either alone or with a friend or two! Draped 6'

tables will be available to any and all that wish to have such a display. There will also be a sizeable VOS display where members may enter plants. More details and signups at the meeting!

Again, the volunteer sheet will be passed around at the next two meetings. The VOS will not be able to put on a successful show without YOUR help!

We hope to see you there!!!

**2006-2007  
VOS Officers**

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**The board meets on Tuesday  
after every regular Sunday VOS  
meeting at the North Park  
Library starting at 6pm**

## President's Message

Well by this time, we have started to take down the ornaments, lights and tacky deer out of our front yards. By the way, I wish I had a percentage of the profits made from those carousel/inside a bubble with snow contraptions that so many people had on their lawns. We are planning for our New Years' parties and sitting back and taking a breath of well deserved air after the flurry of the christmas rush. Families are travelling home, life getting back to normal, children preparing for back to school, and oh what about our orchids? Yes, this is a great time to be thinking of them. Things are slow now, and with a couple extra days before we have to get back into the ratrace, we can devote a bit of well timed care for our plants. Phals are spiking up now, and it is important to stake them to help out with their conformation later.

Our winter cats are keeping the whole house fragrant of scents only mother nature can create. Cymbidiums are going crazy now, and their awesome floriferous nature make them showstoppers in anyones room.

At this time of year, I take stock of how my plants have done from the summer repotting, feeding and my diligent cleaning. It amazes me as it seems as though a new plant will sprout up a spike from one day to the next. Now it is a time to be very careful when watering. Believe it or not, cold water can be just as detrimental to plant health as no water. Try not to water to early in the day, or too late in the day as well. Try not to place too much water in the crowns, especially when a spike is showing, and the last piece of advice I have is to watch your water temperature as well when watering in the winter

months. I live on well water and if I do not add some warm to my water, it comes out far too cold. Really good air circulation helps as well, to dry out crowns and keep things constant in your growing area. When our heaters are on more, they tend to dry things out faster, so we have to continually monitor our humidity this time of year.

Our big show is coming up and we need volunteers for many different areas. Please get in touch with Valerie or Garland, and keep that last weekend of February open. We count on support from our members to make events like this a huge success.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year, good health and good growing in 2007!

David

*Continued from Back Page*

**Allen Black's Orchid Photo Site**

VOS member Allen Black has put together a wonderful site featuring his gorgeous photos of Brassavolas, Lycastes, Paphs, Phrags and Phalaenopsis. Many of the photos are of his own plant crosses.

[www.ablackorchid.com](http://www.ablackorchid.com)

**The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia**

This site is the mother-of-all orchid species reference sites! The owner is Jay Pfahl and he has put together a huge and growing site that currently showcases 6365 species in 631 genera! You'll see information about peak blooming time, growing temperature, preferred amount of light, whether or not the species has a scent and LOTS of additional information! Unfortunately, Jay lost most of his orchid collection in a hurricane in 2005 and is rebuilding but I'm sure he is well on is way back!

[www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com)

**Dr. Tanaka's Paph Site**

"Join Us, Enthusiastic Paph Fans!" the site proclaims! Dr. Tanaka is from Japan and a lover of paphiopedilums. His sight can be challenging to navigate but the information and photos are to die for! He covers the major orchid shows in Asia, especially the Japan Gran Prix. His site discusses new paphiopedilum discoveries, new hybrids we haven't seen yet here in the US, growing culture, and a section for beginners. The language translation isn't always perfect but the site is well worth the visit.

[www.orchid.or.jp/ORCHID/people/tanaka/indexe.html](http://www.orchid.or.jp/ORCHID/people/tanaka/indexe.html)



## How to Exhibit Your Orchids—The Basics

Excerpt from the Denver Orchid Society Newsletter

### Do

- Read the show schedule
- Use only those plants in good condition, clean leaves and trim if necessary, stake inflorescences for best presentation
  - Water all plants before transporting them
  - Select props wisely, then only use half of them
- Choose appropriate back-drop material—colors should be dark neutrals
- Use the principals of design—see page 63 of the *Handbook on Judging and Exhibition*
  - **Balance**—visual stability—*asymmetrical preferred*
  - **Rhythm**—movement—*graduation of colors, sizes, light to heavy*
  - **Dominance**—stronger color, weight, shapes
  - **Contrast**—difference, opposites together to emphasize difference
    - **Proportion**—relationships
    - **Scale**—relationship to size only
- Group colors, with darker ones at the lower levels of the display
  - Labels should be readable but not too large—spelling counts
- Prepare a Title card for your exhibit with your name, for use after judging

### Don't

- Show up at the last minute
  - Whine
- Use every plant just because it's in bloom
- Identify your exhibit until judging is completed
- Let props dominate the exhibit—flowers should be the main element

### Show Kit

Plants, green plants for filler, stakes, clear tape, scissors, twist ties, extra pots for staging, back-drop, fabric or green moss for covering pots, spray bottle, extra label materials, marking pens, props, dust-pan and brush for final clean-up, lights, extra bulbs, extension cords, power bars.

## Fall Auction Recap

The annual members' fall orchid auction was a HUGE success; in fact, the most successful auction in VOS history! Because of a scheduling conflict, the Fall auction was rescheduled from October to December (Maybe we should have called this one a Winter Auction!). Because it was nearing Christmas, we got a number of red-flowering plants in and they went like hotcakes!!! Winter is a peak blooming time for standard cattleyas and they sold well also! We didn't really know what to expect but thankfully the participation was very good and EVERY plant in the house was auctioned off! Registered bidders spent an average of \$70 each!!!



Professional auctioneer, Mr. Carl Terrell, did a wonderful job and kept the auction running smoothly. He is such a delight to work with and he keeps the mood very light and fun during the auction! All auction monies go to securing speakers and meeting room for the upcoming year!

**THANK YOU for your participation!**

### Classified Ads

1/4 Page \$10.00  
1/2 Page \$20.00  
Full Page \$35.00

*Design and content is up to the discretion of the newsletter editor.*

### Schedule of Events

**January 26-28**

**Triad Orchid Society Show**

Greensboro, NC  
Contact: Donald Richman  
(276) 632-5728  
Email:  
[richman@earthlink.net](mailto:richman@earthlink.net)

**February 22-25**

**Virginia Orchid Society  
Presents  
"Orchid Elegance"**

Stranges Garden Centre,  
12111 West Broad St.,  
Richmond, VA.

Contact: Garland Hanson  
(804) 379-3864  
Email: [rusafe@verizon.com](mailto:rusafe@verizon.com)

**February 22—March 4  
North Carolina Piedmont  
Orchid Society Show**

Contact: Virginia Rappoid  
(704) 912-2536  
Email: [vrappoid@aol.com](mailto:vrappoid@aol.com)

### New!!!!

### Orchid Help Line!

Terry Farmer  
Garland Hanson  
Carol Hollenbeck  
Jerry Rogers  
David Sombach  
Valerie Thacker

THERE WAS ONCE A LADY  
FROM VENUS  
WHO GREW ORCHIDS OF EVERY  
GENUS  
"I'VE FILLED UP THE HOUSE"  
AND TOSSED OUT THE SPOUSE  
CAUSE ONLY MY PLANTS  
COME BETWEEN US"

### VOS Committee Chairs

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Daune Polkis

Visit Our Website:  
[www.vaorchidsociety.org](http://www.vaorchidsociety.org)

## ORCHID INFO??? - GET CONNECTED!!!

by Garland Hanson

Do you want to learn more about orchids? Do you want access to information about orchids around the world? Would you like to see photos of your favorite orchid hybrids and species? All you need is internet access and the opportunities are almost endless!

Public Forums are where many people go each day to view the latest photos that have been posted, to discuss orchid culture, to review the latest plant trade and sale opportunities and to learn about special events that are happening. Information about pest and disease control and information for new growers is generally included. A growing number of VOS members are frequent contributors to several public forums. All forums are free of charge. You must register for the public forums but you'll get NO spam sent to your email address!

There are also a number of excellent reference sites online.

Here are some of my favorite orchid forum and reference sites:

### The Orchid Board

"Orchid Discussion Board. Come and share information with the global orchid community. Packed with features. All growing levels welcomed." "The most complete orchid forum on the web!" Beautifully done website with very large following. Excellent articles are highlighted. You may sell or trade your plants here. VOS events are announced in the "Orchid Show Announcements" forum.

[www.orchidboard.com](http://www.orchidboard.com)



### The Orchid Source Forum

Nice site with large following! Good discussion in the "Orchid Soup" section and world-class photos from a number of contributors. VOS events are announced in the "Announcements" section.

[www.theorchidsource.com](http://www.theorchidsource.com)

### Slippertalk

"The best slipper orchid forum for paphiopedilum, phragmipedium and other lady slipper orchid discussion. Join, share, and grow with orchid collection friends from around the world. Vendors are welcome to advertise free of charge." Well done site with contributors world-wide. Beautiful photos!

[www.slippertalk.com](http://www.slippertalk.com)

### The Slipper Orchid Forum

This was the first online forum solely dedicated to the discussion of slipper orchids. It is a great resource. VOS events are announced here.

[www.theslipperorchidforum.com](http://www.theslipperorchidforum.com)

### GardenWeb

"The Internet's Garden and Home Community". This site is HUGE and contains forums for every plant known! Three of the forums are dedicated to orchids; "orchid discussion", "orchid gallery" and "orchid exchanges". GardenWeb doesn't contain the glitzy graphics that many of the public forums contain but the information is solid and easy to access.

[www.gardenweb.com](http://www.gardenweb.com)



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