



Special Points of

Interest

- Hardy Perennial Orchids
- VOS Show Recap
- Taiwan Show
- President's Message



Photo and Article

Credits:

- Garland Hanson
- Allen Black
- Meg Chang
- Williams Mathis

Please Note!!

Due to the Speaker selling plants March is not a Member's Sales Month

The Orchid Keiki



Volume XXIV, Issue XXV

March 2011

“Growing Hardy Perennial Orchids” by Williams Mathis, Ph. D. of The Wild Orchid Company

Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm in the Robin's Room

William Mathis became interested in native terrestrial orchids in 1970 as a graduate student at the University of Arkansas. As a part of his masters program he conducted a series of ecological studies on ‘Small Yellow Lady’s Slipper’ Orchids in Northwest Arkansas. After completing his MS degree in Botany, he moved to the Agronomy Dept and completed a Ph. D. At this point he accepted a job with a major agricultural company and worked as a research scientist and manager for 25 years.

He maintained his interest in terrestrial orchids over the years and in 2001, when it became apparent that early retirement was a reality, he started **The Wild Orchid Company**, focusing on the production and sales of a variety of terrestrial orchids (North American, European and Asian species) that are hardy in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Currently, he is working with hybridization and induced polyploidy of several Bletilla, Cymbidium, Calopogon, Pleione and Calanthe species in an effort to select specific plants for horticultural use.

In 2005, Dr. Mathis wrote and published a book, **The Gardener’s Guide to Growing Hardy Perennial Orchids**, which is a ‘How to’ book using a non-technical and practical approach to present the basic requirements for successfully growing hardy perennial orchids.

Dr. Mathis’ presentation is designed to give the average gardener or orchid enthusiast a general overview of the cultural requirements for successfully growing hardy perennial or-



chids. Several different species are discussed in detail. The discussion is divided into three categories, upland, wetland and transition species, and includes soil amendments, soil mixes, fertilizer use, watering requirements, etc. for the specific groups.

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President's Message

Town Hall VOS Meeting

The Friday night "Town Hall" meeting went well to discuss a number of topics; primarily the VOS meeting day, whether a Sunday or a Tuesday.

Five of the six VOS board members and number of members were in attendance and everyone participated. Overall, the meeting was very positive with everyone wanting to do for what is best for the VOS.

After discussion about previous surveys, a current survey, club history, show plants, new members, member participation, etc., everyone agreed that it would be best to complete the rest of the meeting schedule for this season (through May 2011) as planned, then take up the issue over the Summer with the new VOS Board of Directors.

UPCOMING BOARD ELECTIONS

For those of you that may be unaware, the VOS conducts Board of Director elections each year and election time is just around the corner!

The VOS Constitution requires the President appoint a nominating committee during March comprised of three VOS members. The committee will present a slate of nominees during the April meeting. Nominations may also be taken from the floor. The May newsletter will cameo each nominee and the election and installation of new officers will take place at the May meeting.

If you are interested in a board position, contact one of the Nominating Committee members (to be announced) or have someone nominate you from the floor during the April meeting.

Also, there will also be a number of important committee positions that will be vacant after the May meeting including:

VOS Library Chair

(members check books, videos and other periodicals from you.....no lugging stuff to meetings. All done by email or during the regular meetings.)

Hospitality

Arrange for beverages and snacks for each general meeting

Affiliated Societies

Establish and maintain contacts at nearby societies to coordinate events, speakers, etc.

Publicity

Help spread the word about the VOS through local periodicals, orchid forums and other websites, advertise upcoming VOS events.

Spencer Trust Endowment

Monitor endowment account and report on progress periodically. Arrange to receive monies once each year based on account interest.

Show Plant Judging Chair

Arrange plants brought in to general meetings by members into categories, organize a 2-3 person judging team each meeting and keep track of results.

Newsletter Editor

Got computer skills? The newsletter is published each month with interesting articles and information about the upcoming speaker. Take what is given to you by others in the club, come up with your own stuff and PUBLISH!!!

Webmaster/mistress

Simply keep the website up to date with the same events as are published in the newsletter!

See ANY board member if you might be interested in any of these tasks. You won't be on your own! There will be plenty of help for you to help get you started. Some are relatively low-impact. ALL will give you a good feel for what goes on behind the scenes of our club!

Thanks,

Garland Hanson
VOS, President

Triangle
Orchid
Society

Exhibition
and Sale

www.triangleorchidsociety.org



A Symphony of Orchids

J.C. Raulston Arboretum
4415 Beryl Rd. Raleigh North Carolina 27606
919-515-3132 www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum

Mother's Day Weekend

Friday May 6, 2 to 5pm Saturday and Sunday May 7 and 8, 10am to 5pm

Admission \$5.00 • Door Prizes

Orchid Show Puts Spotlight on Taiwan

The seventh annual Taiwan International Orchid Show and Symposium, one of the world's three largest orchid expos, will kick off March 5 at the Tainan Orchid Plantation, running until March 14.

According to Tainan Mayor Lai Ching-te, this year's event will feature over 1 million orchids and up to 400,000 participants from more than 30 countries.

"The 2011 TIOS will be a great opportunity to showcase Taiwan's cutting-edge R&D capabilities in orchid breeding," Lai said at a news conference Feb. 25, adding that 60 percent of the orchids being sold every day worldwide originated from species grown at the Tainan Orchid Plantation in the city's Houbi District.

Show organizers anticipate that on-site procurement sessions during the event's run will generate NT\$7 billion (US\$235 million) in business for Taiwan's agricultural sector.

The International Commercial Orchid Growers Organization will also hold its meeting at the expo venue to shed light on global marketing strategies for orchid growers, organizers said.

In related news, a special orchid exhibition commenced Feb. 26 at the Expo Dome of the 2011 Taipei International Floral Expo. More than 1,000 locally grown orchids,

including several rare species, will be on display until March 7.

Floral art groups from around the world will present their creative landscaping ideas incorporating orchids in another show March 5 to March 14, also at the Expo Dome.

According to statistics from the Council of Agriculture, in 2010 orchid exports grew 36 percent year on year to US\$116.56 million, accounting for 77 percent of Taiwan's total floral exports. (THN)



Upcoming Events!

Spring is a busy time for the Virginia Orchid Society! Watch for announcements and volunteer sign-up sheets for each of these events and more!

Lewis Ginter "Orchids Galore!"

March 12-April 10

Over 2000 orchids will be displayed including 500 museum quality specimen plants. The VOS will lead tours and present a variety of topics over the course of the event.

Strange's Bloomin' Days-

March 26-27

This is a great event held each year at the 12111 W. Broad St. garden center. The VOS will be repotting orchids both days and distributing membership information. See www.strangesgardencenter.com for more information.

Lewis Ginter Spring Plant Sale-

April 28-30 (Thurs-Sat)

The VOS will have a vendor space to sell orchids and other tropicals all three days. This is a great sale and a LOT of fun! Lots of opportunity to speak to the general public and invite them to join our next meeting!

Triangle Orchid Society Annual Show

May 6-8

This show is held at the Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, NC (Mothers' Day Weekend) The VOS will be placing an exhibit in their show.

Interested in participating in helping to place the exhibit on Thursday or bringing it home on Sunday?

Schedule of Virginia Orchid Society Events

Tuesday, March 15th

**"Terrestrial Orchids for
Your Home and Garden"**

Dr. William Mathias
Wild Company Orchids

Tuesday, April 19th

"Vandas"

Dr. Martin Motes
Motes Orchids

Tuesday, May 17th

"Cattleyas"

Fred Clarke
Sunset Valley Orchids

Tuesday, September 20th

"Miniature Cymbidiums"

Kevin Hill
NCOS

Tuesday, October 18th

"TBA"

Sam Tsui
Orchid Inn



VOS Orchid Show Orchidopoly "Recap"



Our annual show closed yesterday and it was the best yet! I hope you were able to attend and participate! We continue to get excellent reviews from the participants, vendors and exhibitors. We had four tour buses full of residents from three different communities attend the show and they received special, guided tours. There were 78 more plants entered into the show for ribbon judging than last year!

Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids earned 3 of 4 AOS awards presented at our show. We were hoping he could "three-peat" with his string of First Class Certificates (FCCs) earned for the last two straight years but, alas, it wasn't to be.....he earned two Highly Commendable Certificates (HCCs) and one Award of Merit (AM)! Not to shabby!!!

Floradise Orchids set a new show sales record! They also promoted the show heavily at the recent Maymont Flower & Garden Show and the Paph Forum in Washington D.C.. Thanks Steve and Janet!!! They do so much for the VOS in so many ways!!!

Overall, the show profit margin was up and will help to fund our activities for the coming year. Most importantly, we signed a number of new members and have pages full of show participants interested in our upcoming events! Along with the regulars, a good number of new members assisted with setup and teardown!



I am already looking forward to our 2012 show! The annual show always renews my interest and energy in our hobby!

If you have a recommendation for the 2012 show theme, please pass it on!



VOS Committee Chairs

Affiliated Societies
Empty

Newsletter
Valerie Thacker

Website
Jerry Rogers

Continuing Education
VOS Board

Programs
David Sombach

Endowment
Charles Gardner

Hospitality
DJ and Jerry Merski

Membership
Betty Jo Fulghum

Librarian / Archives
Betty Jo Fulghum

Publicity
Empty

Show Committee
David Sombach/Valerie Thacker

Judges Forum
Betty Jo Fulghum/Valerie Thacker

Auctions
Garland Hanson

Ad Hoc
David Sombach
Dick Burch
Valerie Thacker

Visit Our Website:
www.vaorchidsociety.org