

DON'T FORGET!!!
Beginner Education
Class At 1:30
Before
EVERY SUNDAY
MEETING

Special points of interest:

- Orchids of Ecuador
- Greenhouse Ventilation
- Exploring for Orchids in Virginia

Photo and Article Credits:

- Allen Black
- Ken Meier
- Jerry Rogers
- Ed Merkle

The VOS Board will be meeting on Tuesday, May 22nd At 6pm at the North Park Library

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2007 Merrit Huntington Memorial Symposium

November 9th & 10th Williamsburg, Virginia

Limited Space!
Contact
Dot Pierce
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The Orchid Keiki



Volume XXVI, Issue IV

May 2007

"Orchid of Ecuador" by Ken Meier of Enterprise Orchids Sunday, May 20th at 2pm

Orchid Enterprise Inc. (OEI) was established in April of 2004.

Like most internet businesses, OEI started as a hobby gone wild. It all started about 20 years ago with a seedling Cattleya orchid from a local nursery. Placed on a windowsill in a townhouse in Northern Virginia, the Cattleya put on a new growth and that was all it took. Ken was hooked. Ken has a Bachelor of Science degree in Protozoology and was formally trained in microbiology while working on his Mas-



ters Degree, studying sulfur oxidizing bacteria along the volcanic riffs in the Pacific Ocean. Ken's training has given him the knowledge necessary to establish a laboratory where OEI germinates and grows orchid seed under controlled sterile conditions.

Ken is an accredited AOS judge and travels to South American where he takes fellow explorers to Ecuador and Peru.



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Rare Plant Sale—Success!!

The Virginia Orchid Society participated in Lewis Ginter's Rare Plant Sale this past weekend. Despite the rainy, gloomy weather, plant and gardening folks came out searching for their favorite plants. The Virginia Orchid Society booth was successful selling plants, orchid medium, discussing orchid culture and promoting our society.

A very special **thank you** for the members who volunteered for this event!!



Don Herrick—Salesman!!

**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

All things equal, this will be my last official message as president, as my term ends this month. As this is probably going to be my last address to the membership, I would like to thank my fellow board members for working with me these past two years to provide a strong base on which to have a society grow and flourish. I must admit having sort of fallen into this role as president was a little overwhelming at first, but my concern for a 'righted ship', if you will, was of more importance than any other agenda.

This society has grown in leaps and bounds the past two years, not simply in membership, but of more importance, in its resolve to make itself known by the surrounding community.

We have participated in a record number of events, hosted an AOS sanctioned show, and committed to some new, exciting projects in the upcoming season. Our financial status has improved as our board has participated in some new ventures to help obtain capital for funding these new projects. Therefore, the budgets have been met with resounding success.

We obtained a new home and a great partner in Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. They have been helpful in aiding us whether for our regular meetings or extra curricular events. Hopefully, we have a permanent home with the Gardens.

The society took on a major challenge in hosting our AOS sanctioned show this past February, and from my viewpoint,

was the culmination of the hard work that is visible by your present group of board members. I see no worry for concern with the new board members that are due to take office.

We broke new ground on many occasions and I am very proud to have worked with my many friends in the society. While I am handing in my gavel, I will not be retiring, as there are many new projects that will need the help of all of us in the society to maintain this high level of respect in the orchid community.

Please give your orchid society your support with future events and projects and your new Executive Board a helping hand whenever possible.

Thank you,
David Sombach

Greenhouse Ventilation

All greenhouses should have a way to ventilate excessive heat out. The best way to do this is with automated exhaust fans and power intake vents of the proper size. It is usually recommended that the exhaust fan(s) should be able to make a complete change in the greenhouse air every 60 to 120 seconds. Your 14 ft x 32 ft greenhouse, if it has a 10 foot roof, probably holds close to 4,000 cubic feet of space. Therefore your exhaust fan(s) should have a total exhaust capacity of about 3,000 to 4,000 cubic feet per minute. Your intake vents should equal roughly twice the area of your exhaust fan(s). (One 24 inch fan = 48 inch vent(s).) Most orchid greenhouses should also have an evaporative cooler or wet pad system to cool and humidify the greenhouse. During the winter and transitional seasons when the sun warms the greenhouse too much on cold days, an exhaust fan and vents are still necessary. Due to the cold outdoor temperatures, plants should not be exposed to cold breezes coming in through the intake vents. You can either move the plants, or provide a second set of vents that does not open directly onto the plants. Some growers have been known to place a blower fan (100 to 900 cfm) at roof height, opposite of the intake vents, and a tube system that

pumps the heat down and out, gradually making a change of air over a longer period of time on those cold sunny days. In addition, an orchid greenhouse should have constant air movement throughout by using several fans running 24 hours a day. These fans should constantly mix the air so that temperatures at the roof are not too different than those near the floor. Even in this kind of situation you should still be able to find micro-climates for the cool and warm growing orchids. For my own 20 x 50 foot greenhouse here in Nashville, Tennessee, I have a 10,000 cubic feet per minute exhaust fan set on a thermostat that turns it on at 78OF. I have a bank of vents that measures 2 x 16 ft, and two 36 inch vents, that open when the fan comes on. I have a wet pad (Stuppy) measuring 4 x 16 ft. that runs during warm weather. I also have four 1500 cfm fans inside the greenhouse that run 24 hours a day...probably could use a couple more. My object is to provide enough air movement that the leaves and flowers are constantly moving in a breeze nearly everywhere in the greenhouse.

Ed Merkle
Merkle's Orchids

2007/2008 Nominations for the Executive Board

President—Jerry Rogers

I have been a member of the society since 2003. My main collection consists of vandas, cattleyas and phrags growing in a greenhouse. I also have paphs growing under lights in my house.

My background includes a degree in horticulture and time working as a research technician on greenhouse floral crops. I earn a living as a farmer in Wakefield and also work part time as a certified seed field inspector for the Virginia Crop Improvement Association.

Over the years, I have had leadership roles in civic and agricultural-related organizations. Currently, I'm serving on five boards. Most recently, the Virginia Secretary for Conservation Resources appointed me as a director for the Peanut Soil and Water Conservation District.

If elected, one of my main goals will be to get the membership more involved in the activities of the society.

President Elect—Garland Hanson

Garland Hanson is originally from Poquoson, Virginia. He moved west to Texas, California, and Arizona after school and returned to the Old Dominion to stay in 2004. He owns Atlantic Safety, a safety consulting firm located in Midlothian, VA.

Garland was bitten by the orchid bug in 1990 while living in San Diego. Ultimately, he served on the board of the San Diego Country Orchid Society and the Palomar Orchid Society in Vista, California.

Since moving back to Virginia, Garland has become an important player in the VOS; serving as Vice President, 2007 Show Co-Chairman, developing the last two VOS rosters and organizing the wildly successful grower and member auctions. Garland has also been an active participant in all VOS activities and exhibits including the State Fair, Strange's Bloomin' Days, Lewis Ginter Plant Sales and other fundraising activities.

Garland's presence has been a refreshing addition to the Virginia Orchid Society as he has brought fresh, new ideas for club activities and fundraising. His love for orchids and working with VOS members is evident and his enthusiasm infects those around him.

Garland grows mostly slippers but also collects classic cattleyas and some oddities including cyncoches, coryanthes, and others.

Vice President—Valerie Thacker

Valerie Thacker is currently an organic Master Gardener who enjoys creating "rooms" for the gardens she designs which have recently been certified as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Valerie grows from seed most of the annuals, vegetables and perennials, many of which are heirloom varieties, in her gardens which includes numerous varieties

of antique, shrub and climbing roses, irises, day-lilies, peonies and clematis.

She has been a member of the VOS since 2004 and on the board since 2005. Her orchid collection is grown in a greenhouse and consists of species, vandas, phrags and cattleyas. Valerie is currently the Newsletter Editor, Affiliated Societies Chairman and co-chairs with Garland Hanson on the Show Committee. Several of the activities/exhibits that she has volunteered or been involved with are the Maymont Flower and Garden Show, VOS AOS Show, NCOS Show, State Fair, Lewis Ginter Plant Sales, June Fest and Strange's Blooming Days.

Valerie is currently employed as an office manager and director of human resources for a local 100+ employee business. Her organization and problem solving skills have allowed her to tackle multiple projects with varying deadlines. She strives to encourage employees to reach their full potential, maintaining workflow requirements. While assisting the operations manager with such projects as relocation, market analysis and regulatory issues affecting the business, Valerie has gained experience in management and personnel development. She enjoys meeting each new opportunity head on and following it through to completion.

Corresponding Secretary—Dianne Ross

I joined the orchid society in March of 2004, at that time I had one orchid. I now have over 30 plants and still growing. I would have more but I am running out of room in my house to put them. I also love working outside in the flower beds. Another interest I have is the Clan Ross Association of the US and searching our Scottish roots.

Recording Secretary—Terry Farmer

I am Terry Farmer, I joined the VOS in September 2004. I became Recording Secretary in June 2006 and will continue in that position next year. I also work on the Show Committee with the Virginia State Fair Exhibit and Blooming Days Event at Stranges' Florist. I have two small greenhouses the second was just finished last fall. Hope to see everyone for our summer picnic and a greenhouse tour.

Treasurer—Emerson Warden

I've been involved with the VOS since 2004, and have served the past two years as the treasurer of the club. I enjoy growing Vandas and have recently begun purchasing quite a few cattleyas, all of which I grow in my greenhouse. I enjoy being involved with the VOS and having the opportunity to socialize with our members and see all of the other types of plants that our members grow.

I am currently employed in the Richmond area as a division controller where I handle all of the accounting functions for an entire product line.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, August 12th

Central Pennsylvania Orchid Symposium

Mario Ferrusi of Marsh Hollow Orchids—*Odontoglossum Alliance*

AOS Judge & hybridizers John Dunkleberger & Mario Ferrusi—*Hybridizers forum on Oncidium alliance*

Hadley Cash of Marriot Orchids—*Brachypetalum & Parvisepalm crosses with complex Paphiopedilum parents*

AOS Judge Gordon Slaymaker—*Paphiopedilums*

Registration: \$30.00/person (includes breakfast, lunch, vendor sales & AOS judging.

Make checks out to and mail to:

Central PA Orchid Symposium
316 North Walnut Street
Dallastown, PA 17313

Membership Renewal

Due by

September 21, 2007

Due to the expense of printing & postage **New Members may only receive their newsletter via email or downloading from the website, therefore, a valid email address is important. Members have the option of not including their email address in the roster.**

Renewing Members have the option of still receiving their newsletter via the postal service.

A membership form is included in this newsletter/website for your convenience.

Welcome !!
New Members

Trish Mounts

Kenna Petrea

VOS Committee Chairs

Affiliated Societies/Newsletter
Valerie Thacker

Auctions
Garland Hanson/
David Sombach

Finance & Endowment
Gene Hunt

Hospitality Committee
Patricia St. Clair
Nancy Long-Farkas

Membership Committee
Dianne Ross, Dick Burch,
Barbara Doane & Don
Herrick

Librarian / Archives
Charles Gardner

Publicity
Linda Lawrence
Debbie Sauer

Show Committee
Garland Hanson
Valerie Thacker

**Beginner Education
Class At 1:30
Before
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**Visit Our Website:
www.vaorchidsociety.org**

Exploring for Orchids in Virginia – Thompson WMA

On May 4th, Joy Black, Garland Hanson, & I explored for orchids in Virginia's G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area (near Linden, VA). What a beautiful and magical place!!! This area is best known for its very large population of *Trillium grandiflora* (not an orchid, but a beautiful wildflower). This area reportedly has one of the largest *Trillium grandiflora* populations in North America. The best time to see the orchids (Yellow Ladyslippers & Showy Orchis), *Trillium*, Jack-in-the-Pulpits, and many other wildflowers in bloom is the first two weeks in May.

Below are some pictures from the trip.

Allen Black



Yellow Ladyslippers



Showy Orchis



Jack in the Pulpit



Variations in *Trillium grandiflora* (non-orchid)