



# The Orchid Keiki



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## Special points of interest:

- Volunteers Needed
- Orchid Trivia
- Orchid Road Trip - Part Two

## Photo and Article

### Credits:

- David Sombach
- Jerry Rogers
- Garland Hanson

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**2007 Merrit Huntington Memorial Symposium**

**November 9th & 10th Williamsburg, Virginia**

**Limited Space!  
Contact  
Dot Pierce  
Pierce.db@verizon.net**

## Ray Barkalow: "Growing with Semi-Hydroponics" Sunday, September 16, 2007

*One of the the most innovative and effective methods of growing a wide range of orchids is with semi-hydroponic (s/h) culture! A number of VOS members have already discovered the advantages of s/h culture! It's easy and a great way to jump-start some of those pesky, cranky growing orchids! Ray Barkalow will give us the nuts and bolts on s/h culture and tell how to get started with our own plants! He will have s/h products and containers for sale at the meeting.*



**"Blc. Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS grown in Ray's PrimeAgra ready to move up to the next size container.  
No need to replace media....  
IT DOESN'T WEAR OUT!!!"**

### Ray Barkalow's Bio

I have been surrounded by houseplants my whole life, and I suppose that I was "destined" to grow orchids, as I have had some pretty close contact with well-know orchid establishments without even knowing it.

My orchid growing began when I was a Ceramic Engineering student at Georgia Tech. After about a year of volunteering my time at the public greenhouses in Piedmont Park - now the Atlanta Botanical Gardens - the orchid grower there gave me a big, "floofy" purple cattleya. It took me about two years to kill it via the typical root rot-desiccation cycle torture, and at the time, I simply "did not kill plants," so I was determined to learn more and got addicted like everyone else. Needless to say, in the 30+ years since, I've learned that I am a very effective plant killer... (Isn't it true that you're not an orchid-growing "pro" until you killed your weight in plants?)

During my professional career, I have had many opportunities to travel internationally, and put together an extensive collection of orchids from around the world. That travel schedule (averaging 13 flights a week for three years at one point) led to a great deal of experimentation surrounding keeping plants healthy and happy during my absences, and that's

what led to the development of Semi-Hydroponics.

First Rays Orchids came into being by accident - literally - courtesy of a greenhouse heater and alarm failure on a 7°F night in January of 1994. That 20-year collection of plants from around the world was a total loss. After a few months, a new heater and alarm were purchased and written off as business expenses, even though I had no idea how I'd make a business out of orchids. Shortly thereafter, I divided the first couple of replacement plants I had purchased, created a text-only web page listing them, and offered the extra divisions to the internet orchid community via a post to the rec.gardens.orchids newsgroup. Within three hours I had two orders, and I knew how I'd make it a business.

The best part about the exposure that First Rays Orchids has given me is the ability to communicate with folks from around the world on the fascinating subject of orchids. Sharing the obsession is second only to growing the plants.

Ray is very active on many of the internet orchid forums. You can find out more about his business, First Rays Orchids, and his products at [www.firstrays.com](http://www.firstrays.com).

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## Third Annual Merrit Huntington Memorial Symposium

Presented by an alliance of his orchid friends in Virginia

November 9 & 10, 2007

Ramada 1776, 725 Bypass Road, Williamsburg, Va. 23185

Preview Party: Friday, November 9, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM - Linda Thorne: 'A Tribute to Merritt'

7:45 PM - Roy Tokunaga: 'Creating Colorful Compact Cattleyas'

Symposium: Saturday, November 10, 8:15 AM – 5:30 PM  
Plants to be entered for AOS Judging by 8:15 AM

Welcome: 8:15 AM – Rob Griesbach, Moderator

8:30 - 9:30 AM - Carri Raven-Riemann: 'Mini - but Mighty - Multi-floral Phalaenopsis'  
10:00 - 11:00 AM - Yin-Tung Wang, Ph.D.: 'The Nobile Dendrobiums, from Hawaii to the East Coast'

Buffet Lunch (included in registration) and plant sales 11:30 - 1:00 PM & 5:30 - 6:00 PM.  
Speakers & additional vendors featuring various genera will participate in the sales area.\*

1:00 – 2:00 PM – National Capital Judging Presentation

2:30 – 3:30 PM - Dr. Norito Hasegawa: 'What's in the Future of Paphs?'

4:00 - 5:00 PM - Jeff Bradley: 'The Early Orchid Legends of America'

5:15 - AOS Presentation

Symposium Registration (includes buffet lunch): \$35.00  
Preview Party (heavy hors d'oeuvres): \$25.00

Ramada Hotel: \$69.00 room rate for Huntington Symposium

**Early Registration suggested Due to Limited Space**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Registrant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Email \_\_\_\_\_

Preview Party Only \_\_\_\_\_ Symposium Only \_\_\_\_\_ Combination \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* **We prefer to forward confirmation and additional symposium information by Email**

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Visa or Mastercard# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to Huntington Memorial Symposium**

Return to: Dot Pierce, 917 Beryl Avenue, Virginia Beach, Va. 23464

Symposium: [pierce.db@verizon.net](mailto:pierce.db@verizon.net)

Ramada Hotel – For \$69.00 room rate ask for Huntington Symposium.

Phone: 800-446-2848 or 757-220-1776

\*For additional information go to: [www.mycommunityis.com/tos/](http://www.mycommunityis.com/tos/)

## Volunteers Need for Lewis Ginter Fall Plant Sale & Virginia State Fair

**Volunteers are still needed for the Lewis Ginter Fall Plant Sale  
and the Virginia State Fair!!!!**

### Lewis Ginter Fall Plant Sale

Thursday, Sept. 18th thru Saturday, Sept. 15th

Thursday: 9am to 1pm: set up  
1pm to 6pm: vendor sales

Friday: 9am to 1pm: vendor sales  
1pm to 5pm: vendor sales

Saturday: 9am to noon: vendor sales  
Noon to 3pm: vendor sales  
3pm to 3:30pm: take down

Please contact Garland Hanson for more information or to sign up @  
[rusafe@verizon.net](mailto:rusafe@verizon.net) or 379-3864

### Virginia State Fair

Thursday, Sept. 27th thru Sunday, Sept. 30th

Wednesday: 5pm - Set up

Thursday through Sunday:

10am to 10pm - 3 hour shifts

Please contact Terry Farmer for more information or to sign up @  
[terryorchids06@aol.com](mailto:terryorchids06@aol.com) or 746-9586

**You will receive a free pass to the State Fair  
for participating!!!!**

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

### Schedule of Virginia Orchid Society Events

September 16, 2007

Ray Barkalow

“Semi-Hydroponic Orchid Culture”

October 21, 2007

Nina Rach

“Stanhopeas and Allied Genera”

November 18, 2007

Glen Decker

“Phrag kovachii and its Hybrids”

December 18, 2007

*Member's Auction*

### Membership Renewal

Due by

**September 16, 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.

## Orchid Trivia

\*\*Orchids have been used as animal food in several parts of the world. Cherokees in North America and natives in New Guinea used them to fatten pigs.

In Malaysia roots of *Cymbidium* are used as part of the tonic for sick elephants. In Vermont, leaves of *Habernia* were used as a poultice for sick horses. Ardeti commented that the phytoalexins produced by the orchids may kill pathogens and could have been a real help to the horses and elephants.

Attenbororugh, D. 1995. **The Private Life of Plants**. Princeton: Univ. Press

\*\*In 1989, Tiffany produced 25 Orchid Brooches for the Paris Exposition. There, the company won the gold medal for jewelry, largely due to the pins, which were exact duplicates for a natural orchid. Nature has long been a signature inspiration for Tiffany designs.

Produced as a limited edition, the Expo brooches disappeared into private collections or have been lost with time. Several of the originals are in the permanent Tiffany & Co. collection.

In 1993, an orchid brooch from the Expo sold at Sotheby's for a record \$415,000.

Measuring about 2 inches by 1 1/2 inches, the reader's pin has no maker's mark, but is marked "sterling silver".

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

\*\*Rather than expensive and potentially dangerous herbicides, spray full-strength vinegar to kill weeds between pavers and on greenhouse floors. (Do not spray on orchids.)

To clean clay orchid pots more easily, add some detergent to a chlorine bleach solution. It will loosen the roots that

cling to the pot, saving the need for scrubbing.

Aspirin (just three quarters of one 325 mg tablet per gallon of water) helps protect plants from fungal and viral pathogens when used as a spray. (Do not exceed this amount!)

Rubbing alcohol will kill slugs in sprayed on them.

*Dot Henley of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society.*



*Dockrillia cucumerina*

**National Capital Orchid Society Show and Sale**

**October 6 - 8, 2007**

**For more information, go to their website:  
[www.ncos.us](http://www.ncos.us)**

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

## Orchid Road Trip - Part Two by David Sombach

After answering questions from the group, we took a break which gave folks a chance to do some more shopping, grab a little refreshment and prepare for the next program.

Frank Smith, of Krull Smith Orchids in Florida, spoke next. For those that don't know Frank, he is not only an accomplished orchid grower but is also well known for his work with daylilies and is in great demand for lectures on them, as well. Frank admitted that he had not spoken to an orchid group for some 15 years so there was a little catching up to do. The meat of his talk was on the superior breeding that has been done in slippers, particularly with the prominent parents like Paph. *rothschildianum*. There have been major accomplishments producing superior plants using selective breeding programs. He spoke on how much he has used Paph. *rothschildianum* in his breeding program but, in particular, how these newer roths bloom on younger plants and are producing far better progeny than in years past. After all, it has always been every slipper orchid enthusiasts' dream to flower out the "King of Paphs", but in years past it wasn't uncommon to have to wait 7-10 years to flower out one's first rothschildianum.

Frank also spoke of his success with breeding a better Paph. *leuchochilum* and the methods he used to select plants to strengthen the next generation of babies. He also showed us a great batch of slides that gave us a look at how some of the classic hybrid remakes, using his superior parents, have strengthened their progeny. It was funny to glance through the seated guests to see the likes of Harold Koopowitz, Karen Muir and Norito Hasegawa in attendance at this event.



Frank and Terry both agreed that to be a successful breeder you need to flower out as many of a cross as possible in order to see a trend or to select the strongest, most vigorous plants; sometimes up to several hundred at a minimum. These select plants are then used to produce better progeny with more vigor. We are now starting to see these next generation remakes, where rothschildianum crosses are flowering out on single growth plants and are flowering within a couple years.

After Terry's program, we all took a break while the next program was set up. Loren Batchman, probably one of the finest cymbidium breeder growers in the country, gave the next talk. Loren also emphasized using the strongest plants as parents to produce superior seedlings. It is a shame that this gentleman does not travel far out of his own state to lecture as he is by far one of the best in his field. Here too, a wonderful slide presentation and

great program on cymbidiums! Loren also spoke on culture for cymbidiums and since he was speaking in front of a partisan crowd, he fielded many questions from the group.

Last up was Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. Of course we all know Fred as the breeder famous for making the Fredclarkeara and his very rare black orchids. Fred is an excellent speaker and manages to keep his audience attention throughout his talk. He spoke on the Catasetinae Alliance, and even though he spoke at our own symposium last fall, I still found his presentation very enlightening. As with all the others, Fred had a fantastic array of slides to show of the different hybrids he spoke of.

There was one last chance to grab those last minute sales and spend some time discussing the different programs and how they hit so close to home. The host group announced that they would start to take down the tents in about an hour so we started to wind down and break up for the day. For me this trip wasn't over though as I was invited to visit at Fred's nursery the next day! I checked in to my hotel and brought my newest purchases in the room for the night as the weather was supposed to be cooler than normal this evening. During dinner, I reflected on the day and how much I learned from these wonderful speakers...and all this for seven bucks!

