

DEDICATED TO THE
EDUCATION AND
APPRECIATION
OF ORCHIDS

The Orchid Keiki



Special points of interest:

- Second Annual Picnic
- June Orchid Fest
- Belize

Photo Credits:

- Terry Farmer
- George & Fay Tyler
- Allen Black

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**The State Fair
is coming soon!**

Please see
Terry Farmer
to find out how
you can partici-
pate.

Volume XXVI, Issue I

Summer 2006

Picnic at Terry Farmer's Farm on Sunday, August 20th "Will the New Greenhouse be Finished in Time"

The number one lesson of building any greenhouse is once you settle on the dimensions of the greenhouse, double those dimensions. For instance, if you think 8' x 10' will be large enough, please build a 12' x 20, etc. I filled my 8' x 6' within the first year. By September, my father and I were enclosing the patio where I had to winter my increasing collection of Vandas.

One way to increase the square footage in the greenhouse is through height. If it is not possible to build it larger, one possible way to increase the footage is by digging a deeper foundation and using concrete blocks as the wall to support that foundation. This

will allow for more hanging plants and additional height to



Frame work being installed

the shelves. My first greenhouse was built in this manner (and I still quickly filled this space with my ever increasing orchid collection).

My new greenhouse is going to be 10' x 12' with a 10' foot ceiling which will allow for plant of hanging space for my Vandas. I am very interested in expanding my orchid collection into some of the cooler varieties as well. Therefore, my plans are to turn my older greenhouse into a cool greenhouse. The foundation which is 3 feet below ground level should help with the cooling effect.

Hopefully, the structure of the greenhouse will be in place by the picnic.....keep your fingers crossed!!!!

Terry Farmer

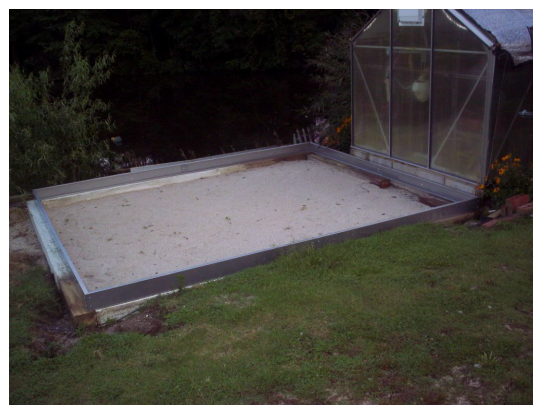
Virginia Orchid Society Second Annual Summer Picnic

When: Sunday, August 20th
Where: Terry Farmer's Home
Time: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Please bring a covered dish. There will be barbecue pulled pork and chicken from the Smokey Pig.

**RSVP by Sunday, August 13th to
Terry Farmer at 746-9586**

Foundation of new greenhouse



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Presidents Message

Well, we are definitely in the "dog days" of summer. It just doesn't seem to be fair, that it either rains non-stop, or is hot and muggy. For those of us that have entrusted mother nature to our plants care, and moved them outside for the warmer months, have little control over her watering habits, but for some reason, though all good, the air circulation seems to counter any drenching of rains.

I must admit, my plants seem to fair better when moved outside during these hot summer days, and I have less problems with cooling in an enclosed greenhouse. Not to mention the power bill drops off considerably during this time, and that is a break on the pocketbook.

I do tend to feed more during the summer, where I can really drench my plants well, and I think I really can see the increase vegetative growth. Last year, I had really good spike production on my phals and felt that it was due to the fact that I let them get a good cool period before I started bringing them in for the fall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that served as committee chairs, or worked on projects during the past year, and hope we can count on your continued support in

the events we host this coming year. The Virginia Orchid Society is built on support from its membership, and we are volunteers. This is an important factor when remembering how much our members do to make this society run efficiently.

Your newly elected board, or re-elected as the case may be, are already cultivating new ideas for the upcoming year. Our August board meeting will be held soon to look over the new year's budgets, and work on some of the newer projects that they have decided to take on. Please take a look at the new committee chairs, and give them a call if you are interested in helping out in a particular project. Any help would be grateful, and the only way to learn more, is to jump in with both feet. We all started the same way and no one will turn away an eager helper.

Our Show committee is well underway with it's plans for the Virginia Orchid Society to host an AOS sanctioned show. News will be upcoming as far as dates, location and a request for help from our membership to all the different areas that make a show run like a well-oiled machine. Having personally being involved in

several shows, I know it takes commitment from everyone to make this a successful event, so please offer to help out anywhere you can. With the success our June Orchid Fest turned out, we have a great handle on what can be expected in a show of this nature.

Please do not forget our Annual Picnic, and there will be more messages regarding this in the newsletter. Our picnic has become a fun day for everyone to get together to share growing tips, trade plants, learn about our upcoming years activities, and just plain socialize. Through her generosity, Terry Farmer and her family have welcomed us to her house again this year for the picnic, and I certainly look forward to meeting everyone and finding out who has the best Japanese beetle traps.....

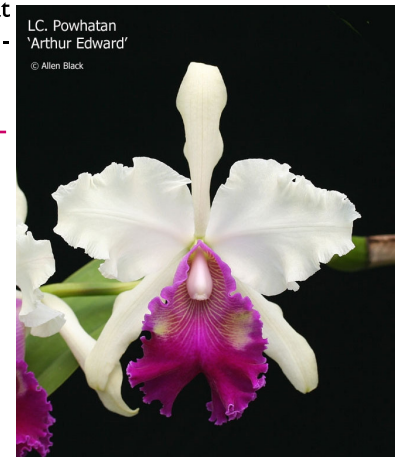
Our September this year will be a busy one. We have our inaugural Symposium on September 9th and our regular meeting on the 17th. We will have more information on the symposium at the picnic.

Have a great summer everyone. Grow well.

David Sombach

Reminder 2006-07 Dues

The dues for the 2006-07 year must be paid before or on Sunday, September 17th in order to be included in the roster and be considered a member in good standing with all the attending right and privileges.



The Topic was Orchids at the Tyler's

George and Fay Tyler hosted the June meeting of the Louisa Horticulture Society at their home. The program presented to the 35 attendees was a discussion of orchids in the home and simple culture tips and repotting information. David and Debby Sauer were on hand to help with questions and answers. There were several good questions from society members at the end of the

Program. The group was able to tour the Tyler's orchid collection which had been put outside for the summer on a shade house structure. Information on the VOS was available. Orchids are always a great topic when friends get together! Let's keep on spreading the beauty and the fun!

Fay Tyler

Pergola, Greenhouse & Chalet



June Orchid Fest

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden was the location for The Virginia Orchid Society's June Orchid Fest Show and Sale on June 3, 2006. This well-attended event was the culmination of the 2005-2006 show season and featured five vendor exhibits along with the VOS's central exhibit "The Wedding". The Peoples' Choice Award for best vendor exhibit was given to Pinecrest Orchids for their interpretation of a wedding champagne toasting table.

In addition, paintings displayed by Albert Garcia created a grand orchid entrance into the education building. Orchid jewelry, photography, books and pots were featured on the VOS sale table. Fabulous orchid corsages and arrangements were prepared to order by Chris Wilkinson. Educational mini-lectures, an orchid re-potting service, and door prizes throughout the day made this event one that everyone could enjoy.

The Orchid Fest Show Committee would like to thank all of the members who brought orchids for the exhibit. We would also like to give special thanks to the following individuals who helped make this show a great success. Many people worked more than one shift and more than one job:

Orchid Fest Planning Committee: Gene Hunt, Linda Lawrence, and Daune Poklis
Exhibit: Art Burke, Terry Farmer, Valerie Thacker, Gene Hunt, Daune Poklis, Linda Lawrence, Christen Lawrence, Diane Ross, Mike Ross, and Jerry Rogers
Educational Consultants: Allen Black, Fay Tyler, Carmen Turkoff, Royce Woolfolk, Charles Gardner and John Hummer
Silent Auction: Garland Hanson and Diane Weakley
Door Prizes, Raffle Drawing, and Announcements: Garland Hanson and David Sombach
Hospitality: Patti St.Clair, Jesse Turner, Barbara Doane, and Gene Hunt
Vendor Assistants: Jerry Rogers, Stuart Grandis, Chris Wilkinson, George Tyler, and Mike Mealy
Repotting Table: Gene Hunt, Dick Burch, and Charles Gardner
VOS Booth: Debbie Sauer, Mae Augustine, Emily Deane, Al Poklis, and Art Burke
Publicity: Fay Tyler, Debbie Sauer, Gene Hunt, Daune Poklis, and Linda Lawrence
Flyers and Posters: Valerie Thacker
Plant Storage: Fran Seiden, Henry Randolph, Reed Ginn, Jr., and Glenna and Jim Hasslacher
Judges: David Sombach, Valerie Thacker, and Mike Fine

BLC. Healing Touch is a hybrid of *Brassavola nodosa* and BLC. *Fordyce Fantasy*. The first plant to bloom had 4" wide flowers on a plant that is only 6" tall. This cross took under 3 years to bloom, which is really quick for a BLC hybrid. The hybrid is named for a type of energy-based, healing therapy. Allen's wife, Joy, is working towards certification in Healing Touch.

If you have any of these plants, be should note the new hybrid name on your plant label.

Allen Black



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Royce Woolfolk
&
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Visit Our Website:
www.vaorchidsociety.org

Orchids of Belize—Part One

Brassavola nodosa



Brassavola nodosa is a species that grows in the hot, humid tropical lowlands of Belize. It grows on mangroves and in trees near the coastline. It grows in very bright to full, direct sun. In the areas where it grows, it is very common. It could almost be considered a “weed”. At dusk, the flowers have a wonderful perfume-like fragrance.

Galeandra batemanii



Galeandra batemanii is a species that grows in the Mountain Pine Ridge (Hidden Valley area) of Belize. It seems to grow mainly on pine trees. The environment where I saw it growing has an elevation of over 2000 feet. Unfortunately in 2001, the southern pine bark beetle killed most of the pine trees in the region.

Allen Black