



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid  
Society  
Associated with Sarah  
P. Duke Gardens

## Meet Martin Motes

### author of *Vandas: Their Botany, History, and Culture*

Martin Motes is a second generation orchidist who has been growing orchids for nearly 50 years. He is president of Motes Orchids, a major breeder of vandas. He has produced hundreds of new hybrids, for which he has received scores of American Orchid Society awards including three FCC's and three Awards of Quality. He is an accredited A.O.S. judge.

He has observed tropical orchids growing in the wild and has spoken at orchid conferences around the world. His articles have appeared in The Fairchild Garden Bulletin, The South Florida Orchidist, The Orchid Digest, The Orchid Review and The American Orchid Society Bulletin.

Martin was an assistant professor of English at Wright State University for several years. He was the director of horticulture therapy at Grant Center Hospital and was a consultant on horticulture therapy at the Hospital Corporation of America.

He has lived most of his life in Miami, Florida, but also spent 6 years in Ohio and 2 years in Yugoslavia as a Fulbright lecturer. He has traveled extensively in the Mediterranean and has observed orchids in Peru, Equador, Panama, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Florida, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Belize, Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Malaya, Thailand, and Australia.

Martin has been interviewed by both print and TV journalists in topics ranging from community issues in southern Florida to horticultural therapy and orchids. he gives more than 20 lectures a year.

To get away from the orchid greenhouse, Martin reads and occasionally, writes poetry, tends his vegetable garden, and fishes.

Dr. Motes will be speaking on his breeding efforts and successes at the World Orchid Conference in Dijon.

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**Bring up to 5 flowering orchids for the show table and get up to 5 free raffle tickets.**

The Triangle  
Orchid Society  
meets at the Sarah P.  
Duke Gardens,  
Durham, NC  
The Second  
Monday of each  
Month  
at 7:30 PM  
**www.Triangle  
OrchidSociety.org**

## TOS Officers and Board Members

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## Minutes of the Last Meeting

The January 2005 meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>, at Duke Gardens in Durham, NC. The meeting was called to order by incoming President Terry Moorhead at 7:35 pm. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter, and the Treasurer's report will come later, when the year end audit has been done. Guests were introduced. Terry announced that the TOS's group Indonesian plant order complete with check needed to be turned in to Jack Webster during the January meeting.

Terry then passed out a volunteer interest form, which all members should turn in over the next couple of months. He will bug us at the meetings until it is done. The form provides an opportunity for everyone to get involved in the TOS, and participate in a number of events including Grower's Day, Orchid Faire, and the two yearly Auctions during the next few years. The big show that TOS traditionally hosts in the spring bi-annually is on the horizon as well. So please do fill out your form and turn it in at the February meeting.

The evening's speaker, Stewart Chipka, then presented the Show Table. Stewart did not cover all of the plants, but concentrated instead on species, which is what he knows best. After the refreshment break, Stewart then gave his talk on the orchid research he is conducting on the island of Saba, in the Dutch Antilles. It is a small and very steep island, with several different habitats. Most orchids on the island are epiphytes, and surveys have been done up to about 500 meters. One interesting finding has been unusual copper colored epidendrum ciliaria, and research is going on to see if this is caused by genetic or environmental factors.

There were two raffle plants drawn for. Then the Jack Webster show awards were as follows: for Non-Greenhouse grown first place went to oncidium cheiroporum grown by Terry Moorhead, second place went to dendrobium forbesii also grown by Terry, and third place went to a untagged but probable phaleanopsis Beatriz grown by Creighton Humphreys. For the Greenhouse grown category, first place went to an *encyclia polybulbon* grown by Paul Feaver, second place to a *coelogyne mossiae* grown by Rick Cavallero, and third place went to a *phaeocalanthe kryptonite* grown by Mildred Howell from a scrap of plant material leftover from a program 2 years ago. The meeting was adjourned around 9:45 pm. Minutes submitted by Judith Goldstein, Secretary.

**The Carolinas Orchid Email List** is a program that accepts email posts and then distributes those posts to all who are subscribed. When an email is posted, the post is then readdressed to all subscribers immediately. The purpose of the list is to facilitate discussion on topics of interest to orchid growers in the Carolinas.

### To subscribe to the list:

- Send an email to [orchidlist@lists.inetspace.net](mailto:orchidlist@lists.inetspace.net) with SUBSCRIBE ORCHIDLIST as the subject of the email. Include your name and city/state in the body of the email.
- When you subscribe to the list you will receive a confirmation message. Please carefully read this message. You must reply to this message to complete your subscription.

To receive the posted emails in a daily digest format (all of the day's emails condensed into one email instead of one at a time), send an email to [orchidlist@lists.inetspace.net](mailto:orchidlist@lists.inetspace.net) with SUBSCRIBE-DIGEST ORCHIDLIST as the subject of the email.

**Non-Greenhouse Grown  
Jack Webster Awards**



**First Place Non-Greenhouse grown category went to: *Oncidium cheiroporum* grown by Terry Moorhead**



**Second Place Non-Greenhouse grown category went to: *Dendrobium forbesii* grown by Terry Moorhead**



**Third Place Ribbon for Non-Greenhouse grown category went to: *Phalaenopsis* hybrid grown by Creighton Humphreys**



**Greenhouse Grown  
Jack Webster Awards**

**Third Place Ribbon to:  
Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite  
grown by Mildred Howell**

**First Place Ribbon to:  
*Epidendrum polybulbon*  
grown by Paul Feaver**



**Second Place Ribbon to:  
*Coelogyne mossiae* grown by  
Rick Cavallaro**

### **New American Orchid Society Membership Benefit**

Effective immediately, the AOS membership card is good for taking part in the American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Admissions Program that allows bearers of the card free or discounted admission to participating botanical gardens, arboreta, and conservatories in the US and Canada. The AOS membership card is also good in some gifts shops at these gardens, where it entitles the member to receive a discount.

A complete list of participating gardens, arboreta, and conservatories can be found at the AOS web site [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).

#### **New Orchid Book Available from University Press of Florida**

Wild Orchids of the Southeastern United States, North of Peninsular Florida, by Paul Martin Brown, with drawings by Stan Folsom. Price: Cloth \$65, flexibind \$27.95. Orders: 1-800-226-3822 or [www.upf.com](http://www.upf.com). This field guide offers orchid enthusiasts everything they need to know about what, where, and when to find wild orchids in the southeastern US. 336 pages, 6x9, 285 color photos, 97 illustrations, 90 maps.

#### **We're looking for volunteers!**

Please let Terry Moorhead know if you are willing to help with the following:

- Orchid Fair
- Spring or Fall Auction
- Growers Day
- Publicity
- Nominating Committee
- Refreshments
- Welcome Table
- Show Exhibits
- Outreach Committee

If you did not fill out an **information form** at the last meeting, please pick one up at the Welcome Table and fill one out. We are updating our membership database with current addresses and phone numbers.

**Will you take your newsletter by e-mail instead of postal mail?** It will help us cut costs and you will be able to get the newsletter in color. Please put your e-mail address on the information form you can pick up at the Welcome Table. We will not publish e-mail addresses.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Floriculture Crops Survey for the year 2002, compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Survey, orchids are growing in popularity in the United States. Currently second in potted flowering plant sales at \$121 million in reported wholesale sales, orchid sales increased by nine percent this past year. This is the highest percentage increase of all the potted flowering plants in the category. Orchids are second behind poinsettias, which experienced a 10 percent decrease with \$252 million in sales, and they are significantly ahead of third-ranked chrysanthemums, which decreased nine percent to \$76 million in sales.

Source: [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

## Growing Tips for February 2005

By Courtney T. Hackney EMAIL at [Hackneau@bellsouth.net](mailto:Hackneau@bellsouth.net)

Water related questions continue to be the most frequently asked one, especially watering frequency. This time of year there are also other water questions, specifically what should be the temperature of water for orchids. The general rule of thumb is that the water should be no less than 5 degrees F cooler than the plant temperature. This presents a real problem for those of us that use natural precipitation that spends time in a stream, lake, or pond. Even when supplied by a municipal water system, it can be very cold. Well water is nearly the same temperature year round when it leaves the ground, but can lose or gain heat quickly if stored above ground.

Some hobbyists "up North" run water through water heaters all year long because water is too cold, but the same problem arises locally as well during very cold periods. If you have your own well, it is prudent to use water after someone has showered or used a lot of water because the pipes will have been cleared of cold water and replaced by ground water. Water coming from the ground is usually warmer than water sitting in pipes or storage tanks all night. Watering early in the morning, when the greenhouse is cool, e.g. 60 F, means that water can be as cool as 55 F, with no problem. Later in the day when plants warm up, the same water may damage tender leaves.

The problem can be exacerbated if

leaves have been in direct light before the cold water hits them. Cold water on warm leaves, especially new leaves can cause cells in the leaf to collapse and eventually become yellow or brown. It may be difficult to water plants without getting water on leaves.

**The general rule of thumb is that the water should be no less than 5 deg. F cooler than the plant temperature.**

If you grow indoors under lights realize that the same general problem can exist. Houses are usually kept warmer than the greenhouses and grow lights can really heat up the surface of a leaf. It is a good idea to keep some buckets filled with water inside and/or to water your orchids before turning on lights. After watering, turn on the lights to help dry the leaves.

This fall has been unusually dry, resulting in a limited rain water supply in local rivers and in my cistern. Cold rain, melting snow, and melting sleet have filled the cistern and limited the use of the already limited supply of water available in my cistern because it

is too cold to use. Eventually, it will warm from its current 45 F to 62 F or so as heat from the earth is absorbed by water in the cistern. For now, well water must do. Remember, too, that warming plants quickly after applying cold water is desirable.

Over the Holidays, I was able to visit some great orchid nurseries in the Carolinas and discuss orchids with some real experts. It is always just a little humbling, and also overwhelming to be around people with so much knowledge. Names of plant species, hybrids, clones, pesticides, etc fly by until it seems my brain will explode. It is good to be reminded every now and then of what it feels like to be new to orchids, because most newcomers to this hobby feel the same way at orchid meetings.

Many reading this column do not consider themselves experts, but have already become comfortable rattling off names of favorite orchids. New orchid hobbyists, however, are often very good at explaining to an even more novice hobbyist how to care for their first orchid because they have only recently learned how themselves and they still remember what they did wrong or right. New hobbyists often defer to those with more expertise, but they are probably best at helping newcomers if they just remember a few things.

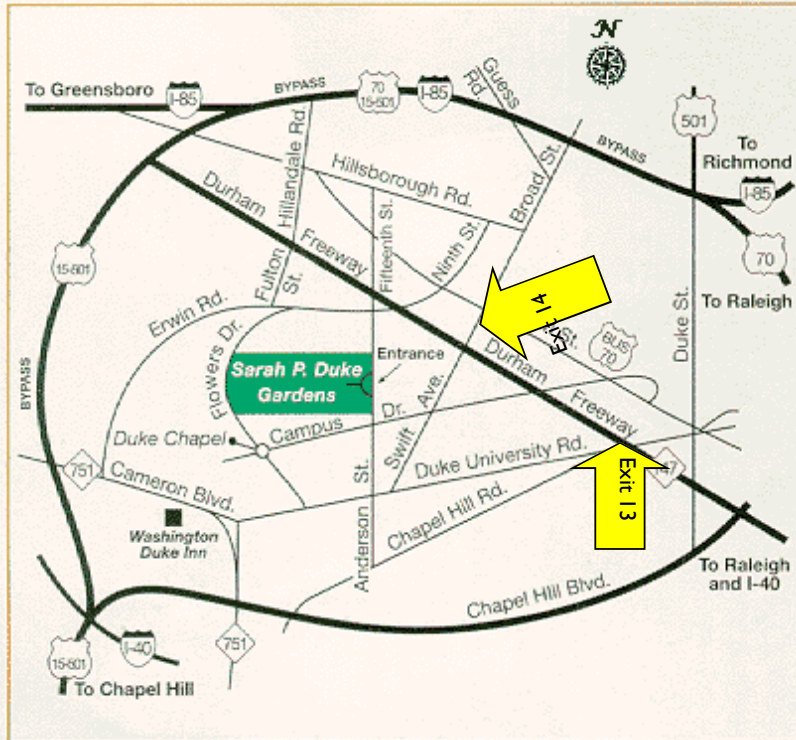
**Growing Tips** (continued from Page 6)

First, don't try to overwhelm the newcomer with your newly found vocabulary or if you do use an orchid term, carefully explain what it means. Many experts try to make everything far more complicated than the new hobbyists can possibly understand. Second, stick to what you have learned from your own experience. This is likely what they need to know anyway. Finally, make sure to tell them that even the experts have a difficult time growing some kinds of orchids. It is always reassuring, perhaps even a challenge to realize that there are many levels at which one can be an orchid hobbyist and that orchids die in the hands of even the most experienced growers.



<b>Triangle Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Agenda:</b>	<b>Meeting Calendar - 2005</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
7:00-7:30pm Set up Show Table and Chairs	<b>February 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Martin Motes Homestead, FL	New Vanda Hybrids
7:30-7:45pm Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10pm Show Table Review	<b>March 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Dr. Glen Lehr New World Orchids	The Orchids and Shows of Japan
8:10-8:30pm Refreshments			
8:30-9:20pm Program			
9:20-9:30pm Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	<b>April 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Bill Thoms Sarasota, FL	Bulbophyllums
9:30pm Meeting ends			

<b>Month</b>	<b>Welcome Table</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>
<b>February Meeting</b>	<b>Nick Plummer Jamie Graff</b>	
<b>March Meeting</b>	<b>Phillip Warner Josh and Robin Gurlitz</b>	<b>Barb and Stan Martinkosky</b>



From the East. **Exit 13 on the Durham Freeway (#147)** South on Chapel Hill Rd. right on Anderson St. Gardens on left.

From the West. **Exit 14 on the Durham Freeway (147)** South on Swift Ave right on Campus Drive , right on Anderson St. Gardens on left.

The Triangle Orchid Society  
meets at the  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens,  
Durham, NC  
The Second Monday of the Month  
at 7:30 PM. Visitors are Welcome!

[www.TriangleOrchid  
Society.org](http://www.TriangleOrchidSociety.org)

**Program for Feb. 14th**  
**Martin Motes**  
**New Vanda Hybrids**



*Associated with Sarah P Duke Gardens*

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**Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:**

\$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address.  
Mail to: Michael Wagner, Treasurer, 15 Wysteria Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1637  
Please mail your 2005 dues or give Michael a check at the next meeting!