



Orchidacea

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

Speaker for July 12, 2005 John Stubbins

John is currently the owner of Clown Alley orchids in Seabrook Texas. He started into orchids after attending a show in Cleveland, Ohio in 1979, and really got into them after moving to the Chicago area and becoming customers of Oak Hill Gardens and Orchids by the Hauserman. He is currently President of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA), was First Vice-president prior to that, and has been a Regional Director of the IPA.

Following is a resume of John's orchid related activities and accomplishments:

Chair and Vice Chair of the Chicago Judging Center

Worked with the team to establish the Chicago Supplemental Judging Center

Accredited AOS Judge (1991 to present), While a student judge he had two student papers published in The Awards Quarterly: 'A Short History of American Orchid Society Judging' and 'Judging Spotted Phalaenopsis'

Photographer for the Chicago Judging Center (1990 -1997)

Photographer for the Mid-America Judging Region (1986-1990)

Participated in most AOS semi-annual meetings (1997 to present)

Director of the Orchid Digest Corporation (2001 to 2004)

Member Audit Committee Mid-America Orchid Congress (approx. 1990-1995)

Director of the Illinois Orchid Society (2001), and was an Officer the Illinois Orchid Society 1984 to 2004, 1984-85,

Developed first study groups for Paphiopedilums and judging in 1988 and Developed first computerized accounting and financial reports in 1992.

Attended the World Orchid Congress in Miami, 1984

Attended and Judged at the World Orchid Congress in Glasgow and Vancouver

Lecturer for the Chicago Botanic Garden for various levels of orchid growing from beginner to advanced

Speaker at various society meetings in the mid-west (2000 to present)

Speaker, panelist or moderator at various International Phalaenopsis Alliance functions (2000 to present)

Galeandra breeder - 13 registered hybrids, Phalaenopsis /

Doritaenopsis breeder - 50 plus registered hybrids

Member A.O.S. Education Committee (2005-present)

Vice-Chair elect of the Houston Judging Center 2005

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**The Triangle
Orchid Society meets
at the Sarah P. Duke
Gardens, Durham,**

**NC
The Second
Monday of the
Month
at 7:30 PM**

**www.Triangle
OrchidSociety.org**

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Minutes of the Last Meeting

The June 2005 meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on Monday the 11th at Sarah P Duke Gardens, Durham NC.

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Moorhead at 7:30pm. Terry introduced guests President of the Sandhills Society Dr Elliot Atstupenas and the speaker 's wife Nancy Carpenter. Two new members Kathleen Thompson and Jennifer Segal joined the TOS tonight. He requested that the Minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report be accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Terry thanked all the members who helped make the spring Auction a success. the auctioneers the deliverer's the members who brought the orchids to the auction and those members who brought their check books with them. The average bid around \$20.

Announcements about the Indonesian order. Jack Webster said that the entire shipment is going to be replaced. Delivery should be before the next meeting.

Milton Carpenter of Everglades Orchids, the speaker for the evening reviewed the show table.

Jeff Baldwin picked the 6 orchids for the Jack Webster Awards. First Place in the Greenhouse Grown category went to *Disa uniflora* grown by Richard Turner, Second place was to *Dendrobium wassellii* grown by John Stanton, Third Place went to *Sobralia macrantha alba x S. xantholenca* grown by Alan Miller.

In the Non Greenhouse Category First place went to *Oncidium Gower Ramsey* grown by Phil Warner. Second Place went to *Paph Armeni White* grown by Alan Miller. Third Place went to *Trichophilia Elizabeth Ann* grown by Alan Miller. Name tags were drawn for 5 raffle plants. The meeting was adjourned a

Speaker Presentation:

Vice President Mike Cory introduced our speaker, Mr. Milton Carpenter, whose topic was "Warm Growing Cymbidiums." Mr. Carpenter has many years experience of growing and hybridizing warm growing cymbidiums. He has had an active role in the American Orchid Society (AOS) and served as president. He is an accredited judge for the AOS. He is world renown for his accomplishments and has generously served as a mentor to Eliot. He has added the *Oncidiinae* alliance to his development of temperate growing orchids, but spoke about the Cymbidiums.

Mr. Carpenter began by describing why he selected cymbidiums as his subject for warm growing varieties. He had decided to focus his greenhouse growing on one orchid type and asked his wife Nancy which she liked best. To his surprise she said cymbidiums.

Cymbidiums naturally grow in the Himalayas and other Asian areas on hills with growth conditions of bright days and cool nights. The major vendors having cymbidiums were based in California and sold cymbidiums that did well in their mild day and cool night climate. Being from southern Florida, Mr. Carpenter sought to develop warm tolerant varieties. He described those conditions as plants that performed well at a temperature range from 95 F to 45 F with little variation between day and night temperatures needed to de-

velop flower spikes. Few others in the world were working on cymbidiums and no one to his knowledge was developing heat-tolerant species. He purchased some 200 orchids from a California vendor and of these varieties found only a few that would flourish and bloom well in Florida's warm climate.

Two varieties he first used in hybridization to develop his warm-tolerant collection were *C. ensifolium* and *C. parishii*. *C. ensifolium* is the best heat bloomer, is small and fragrant and usually blooms in summer and winter. Some hybrids from this parent may bloom year round. Tetraploids are often used in crosses.

A favorite hybrid is Cymbidium Milton Carpenter 'Everglades Gold,' patented, which blooms October through May. It has golden yellow flowers with red markings on the lip. He did not name that particular variety but has mericlones, which he sells. Another favorite variety is Tender Love, a cross he made between *C. parishii* and *C. ensifolium*.

He showed many slides of lovely hybrids from his crosses. Other species often used as are *C. madidum*, *C. sinense*, and *C. devonianum*. The hybrid Mizuha Okada has produced lovely hybrids from its crosses. He visited Eric Gardnier in Tahiti who showed him his hybrids growing successfully in that climate which has warm days with little drop in night temperatures. This was a benchmark of successful hybridization of warm tolerant cymbidiums.

He grows orchids in two 4,000 square foot greenhouses plus an outdoors garden and has found that water with total dissolved solids (TDS) not above 50 is desirable for good cultivation. For a long time he used rainwater but now has a reverse osmosis system to meet his water needs.

*Transcription by Cara Hayes,
Secretary, Sandhills Orchid Society*

Orchid Trip to Ecuador

Pepe Portilla, President of Ecuagenera has arranged a tour of Northern Ecuador for Sept 28-October9th, \$1545. plus air fare.

Contact Edwinn Boyett in Atlanta, GA 404/373-7693, exbalb@aol.com for trip details and reservations.

Merritt Huntington Memorial Orchid Symposium to be held in Williamsburg, VA on November 12th 2005 information on speakers and program can be downloaded on the Tidewater Orchid Society website. www.mycommunityis.com/tos.

Virginia Hakan (TOS past president) has donated the following books to the TOS Library.

Encyclopedia of cultivated Orchids,

Alexander Hawks

All About Growing Orchids, Ortho Books

Orchid Growing Illustrated,

Tom & Marion Sheehan

Orchid Species Culture Pescatorea to Pleione,

Margaret & Charles Baker

Orchids, Time Life Series

Phalaenopsis Culture A Worldwide Surven,

Bob Gordon

Free Raffle Tickets if you bring up to 5 orchids for the show table

Have Dinner with the speaker.

5:30 PM Monday before the meeting, at the Neo China Restaurant behind Staples.

4015 University Drive Durham.

Call Alan Miller 969-1612 before 5PM Monday to make your reservations.

**Greenhouse Grown
Jack Webster Show
Table Awards**



Second Place: *Dendrobium wassellii* grown by John Stanton



First Place: *Disa uniflora*, grown by Richard Turner



Third Place: *Sobralia macrantha alba* x *S. xantholenca* grown by Alan Miller



**First Place: Oncidium Gower Ramsey
grown by Phil Warner**

**Jack Webster Show Table
Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown**



**Third Place: Trichopilia
Elizabeth Ann grown by Alan
Miller**



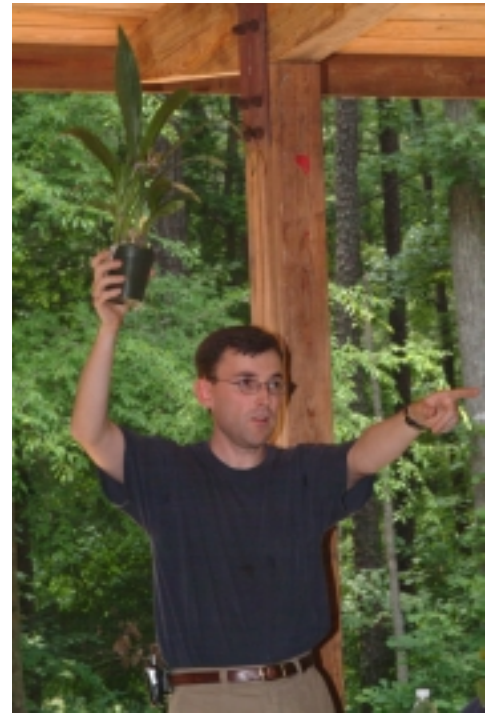
**Second Place: Paphiopedilum
Armeni White Grown by Alan
Miller**



Spring Auction Apex Community Park, June 5th 2005



The Plants



The Auctioneers Nick Plummer and Paul Feaver



The Auctioneers Tom



The Deliverer Jaimie Graff



Keeping track of the Bids, Pres Terry Moorhead and Treasurer Michael Wagner



The Bidders "I need that one" Robin and Josh Gurlitz



Learn How to Grow Orchids!

TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY GROWER'S DAY AUGUST 6, 2005

What: A series of short seminars and demonstrations on practical aspects of orchid culture. Lunch will be provided, and *all participants will receive an orchid seedling and free membership of the year in the Triangle Orchid Society for 2005.*

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
10:00- 10:10 AM Society	Welcome Terry Moorhead, President Triangle Orchid
10:10 – 10:55	What is an Orchid? Jack Webster Past President(TOS)
11:00 – 11:45	Growing Orchids in your Home Nicolas Plummer Past President (TOS)
11:45 – 12:00	Questions on two previous talks
12:00- 1:00PM	Lunch at the Cafeteria
1:00 – 1:30	Open Period for more Questions
1:30 – 2:15	How to grow Oncidiums Jeff Baldwin, (dancing ladies) Hanks Chapel Greenhouses, Pittsboro, NC
2:15 – 3:00	How to grow Phalaenopsis (moth orchids) Linda Thorne, Sandhills Orchid Society and Seagrove Orchids, Seagrove, NC
3:00 – 3:15	Questions on two previous talks
3:15 – 4:00	How to grow Dendrobiums Paul Feaver. TOS and Orchid Trail, Morrisville, NC
4:00_ 4:15	Distribution of Orchid Seedlings and Adjournment

When: Saturday, August 6, 2005 10:00 am – 4:15 pm

Where: Durham Technical Community College, 1637 Lawson St, Durham, NC 27703.

From the Durham Freeway (Hwy 147) take exit 10 (Briggs Avenue). If traveling north on 147, turn left onto Briggs. Turn right onto Lawson St. After approximately ¼ mile, turn right into the Durham Tech parking lot. The Grower's day will be on the lower level of the Educational Resources Center. For map, see <http://www.durhamtech.org/html/aboutdt/campusmap.htm>

The Grower's Day costs \$20.00, and reservation in advance is required.

Send checks payable to Triangle Orchid Society to: Michael Wagner, Treasurer, 15 Wysteria Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**email info@triangleorchidsociety.org
or call Terry Moorhead at (919)-688-9235**

Growing Tips for July

By Courtney T. Hackney

EMAIL at Hackneau@bellsouth.net

Many "Tips" readers have asked about the progress of my experiments with lava rock as a potting medium. While this experiment is still in progress, there are a few generalizations worth passing on. However, this is not a recommendation yet for the average hobbyist. As with all cultural recommendations, make the change on a few plants before wholesale conversion of your collection. If you are currently happy with your culture then do not change them.

Most lava rock sold in the Carolinas is mined in Oregon and is unweathered, meaning it has not had the actions of water working on it for years. My experiments have utilized red lava rock and not the black form. The only advice I was able to get from Hawaiian growers was to not use the black form, although I do not know why. Perhaps it has something to do with heat absorption. The rock is mined, crushed, and packed without regard for size so each bag needs to be sorted for size. It is, however, inexpensive.

Some bags contain more, larger pieces, while others contain more fine material. This is both good and bad, depending on how the rock will be used. It does require grading as none of the low priced lava rock is graded. The largest material, 1.5-2" diameter works well for vandas and bifoliate cattleyas.

Cattleyas and phals go in 0.5-1.5" grade and the remaining fraction is used for seedlings and paphs. Typically, there is also lots of dust or very fine material that is attached to the rock that washes away relatively quickly. This fine material does contain significant soluble material and is best washed off first. Lava rock is relatively light with an extremely porous surface, but occasionally some dense rock, which lacks the porous nature required for potting orchids, will be included. Discard this material. Some bags will have almost none of the dense stuff, while others may have lots of it.

Not all of my experience using lava rock has been positive. So what are the advantages of using this medium? First it is inexpensive and readily available. Most important for me, is that it does not decompose at all. In the hot South, many media break down before an orchid reaches its maximum growth in the pot. Bifoliate cattleyas hate to be repotted and grow relatively slowly so this can be a real problem. I also have limited amount of time to repot and would rather spend my "orchid time" doing other things in the greenhouse.

The key to the successful use of lava rock is to remember that the environment provided by lava rock is very different than what the orchid has already experienced. There is more air

movement and less moisture than in more typical media. Roots grown in a pot with sphagnum or bark typically shrivel and die in lava rock. The first phals I put in lava rock became badly desiccated until they grew new roots. The second group were immediately placed in lower light and given more water until they began to grow new roots. The most recent group has been the most successful. Phals were removed from the pot and a core of the old material was left around the roots. The phal was then placed in the pot with lava rock already added so that the phal is properly placed relative to the top of the pot. Then lava rock is added around the plant and a few pieces placed on top of the old medium. This allows the phal to adjust gradually with new roots emerging from the old medium into the lava rock. So far this is working well.

The most important rule to follow when repotting into lava rock is to remember that it works best when the plant is growing new roots. This generally is when it is warm, so avoid repotting in the winter. While this is generally true for all orchids, it is even more important for orchids planted in a rapidly drying medium, such as lava rock, or if the orchid is mounted.

My bifoliate cattleya growth has excelled in lava rock; perhaps because they prefer drier conditions and are always repotted when they are getting new roots. The great-

est surprise has been for paphs. Their requirement for more water suggested that the lava rock medium would not work. Fine, gravel sized lava rock was used and the paphs planted in clear plastic pots so that they could be repotted if new roots were not observed. Rock was placed about a quarter inch higher around the plant than if bark had been used. Slow release Dolomite Lime was placed on the surface along with Nutricote fertilizer. Paphs grew so fast that some of the multiflora types split their pots.

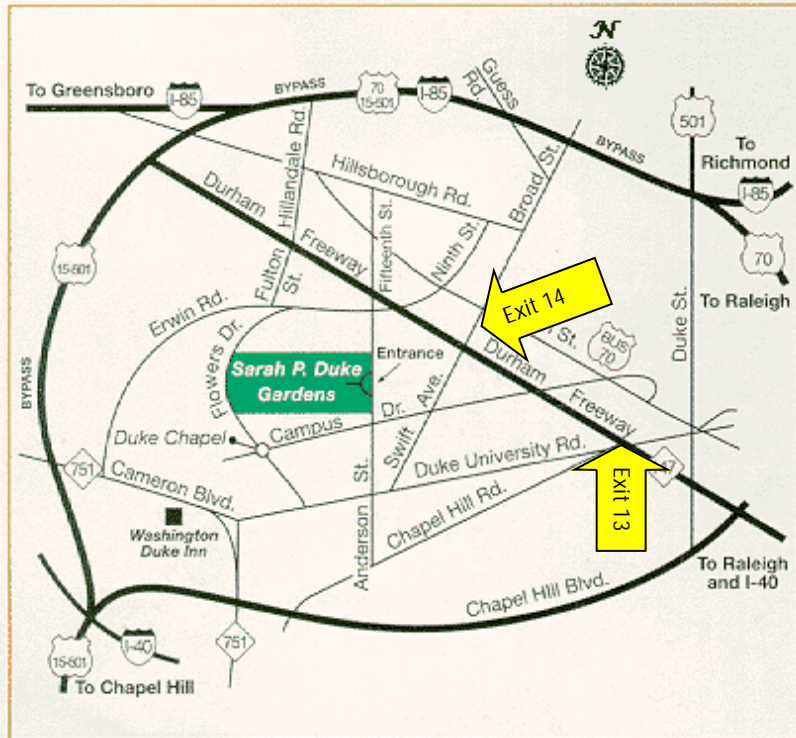
Lava rock holds a surprisingly large amount of water, but still requires more frequent watering. Lava rock also holds fertilizers along with less desirable salts so flush at least once a month. Once lava rock has weathered moss and ferns will grow on the surface prompting me to wonder whether there may be some benefit to letting the rock weather a little before using it in pots. As with all media, it takes time to determine if a particular medium will work under your conditions. Lava rocks requires more time watering, but less time repotting. While it is to early to recommend this medium, it has potential for hobbyists that like to water or hate to repot.

	Calendar 2005	Speaker	Topic
Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda: 7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs 7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements 7:45-8:10 Show Table Review 8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break 8:30-9:20 Program 9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes 9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends	July 12 th	John Stubbins	Unusual Relatives of Cymbidiums
	Aug 8 th	Stan Hutto	Basic Paphiopedilums
	Sept 12 th	Sue Fordyce	Look-Your Orchids are Talking to You

Welcome Table

Refreshments

July	Adrienne Dowler & Erin Denoo	Barbara & Stan Martinkosky
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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.



Associated with Sarah P Duke Gardens

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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)

Speaker for July 12,2005
John Stubbins
"Unusual Relatives of Cymbidiums"

Triangle Orchid Society Membership 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