

Speaker March 14, 2005

Dr Glenn Lehr, New World Orchids

Dr. Glenn Lehr, along with Alex Challis, is the owner of New World Orchids in Manchester, Michigan. In 1992, after retiring from dentistry and selling off five ancillary businesses, which were located in major stores, Lehr bought a few orchids to grow. Soon after that he started attending the Ann Arbor Orchid Society and in 1993 he built a greenhouse on the side of his home which he shares with his wife, Marie. Glenn is a former U.S. Air Force jet pilot and he met Marie in Goose Bay, Labrador in Newfoundland, Canada.

In 1997, he started New World Orchids, which today has two part-time employees to help manage the more than 10,000 plant orchid nursery. The business depends mostly on Internet sales. They specialize primarily in Central and South American orchids, but are getting into Japanese orchids. When Lehr makes his two or three trips each year to Japan he takes along South American orchids which he sells to purchase highly prized Japanese orchids. He also regularly travels to shows in Michigan, Florida, and California.



Neofinetia falcate grown by Rick Cavallero

Perhaps Lehr is most proud of his Neofinetia falcate stock, a monotypic genus that grows in trees in subtropical China, Japan and Korea. This orchid is pretty much the most expensive in the world with prices topping at about \$250,000. In Japan, Neofinetia are called "Fu-ran," "the wind orchid," and "Fuki-ran" for "rich and noble orchid." It is sometimes called the "Samurai's Orchid" because it reflects the samurai warrior's training

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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 February 2005 meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on Monday February 14th, at Duke Gardens in Durham, NC. The meeting was called to order by President Terry Moorhead at 7:33 pm. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Guests were introduced. Terry then announced that:

-The Duke library has many books on horticulture however only TOS books on Orchids can be checked out to members of TOS. The other books must be used in the library.

- Please complete the volunteer interest form by the March meeting.

This form provides an opportunity for everyone to get involved in the TOS by participating in a number of events including Grower's Day, Orchid Faire, and the two yearly auctions.

- There are a raffle plants, buy a ticket.

The evening's speaker, Martin Motes, then presented the Show Table.

Martin did not cover all of the plants, but concentrated instead on vandas and dendrobiums, which he knows best. After the refreshment break, Martin's presentation was on vandas. His vanda book was available for sale and included a signing. Vandas should bloom 3-4 times a year with proper care. They should be watered until their roots are dark green. If the roots become too dry they will initially repel water. Water is a vector for diseases so soaking in a common bucket is discouraged. Vandas can go dormant

if chilled less than 50 degrees F. They don't have a water storage pseudobulbs like cattleyas and then the green growing tip dries up. If the plant is stressed it will skip a bloom cycle. The preferred fertilizer is 16-5-15. American's prefer spotted flowers where Asians prefer non spotted flowers. Much of his presentation was on breeding with a lot of slides. A culture sheet on vandas and ascocendas was provided. His plants are not available via mail order.

The Jack Webster show awards were as follows: for Non-Greenhouse grown, First place ribbon went to *Dendrobium nobile alba* grown by Jerry Day. Second place ribbon went to *rhynchostylis retusa* grown by Jamie Graff. Third place ribbon went to Phalaenopsis Beatrice Krull Smith x Gladrose. For the Greenhouse grown category, First place ribbon went to paphiopedilum Rosy Dawn grown by Rick Cavallaro. Second place ribbon went to *dendrobium aggregatum* grown by Paul Feather. Third place ribbon went to Phaius Amabilis Chatam Merlot grown by Jeff Baldwin.

There were two orchids and a few cuttings of phaius tankervilliae for the raffle. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Submitted by George Bizub

Have Dinner with the Speaker

If you would like to join with a few of us before the meeting call Alan Miller 969-1612 to make a reservation before 5PM Monday. We will meet with Dr Glen Lehr at the Neo China Chinese Restaurant at 5:30 PM. 4015 University Drive, Durham. The restaurant is on the road above Targets at South Square Mall.

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and bravery in crossing water to reach the wild areas where the orchids are known to grow.

Currently the Manchester, MI greenhouse is the only one Glenn owns. He once owned a 5,000 square-foot greenhouse in Ambato, Ecuador, but it was destroyed in October 1999 when the Tungurahua volcano erupted.

Lehr served as president of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society in 1999-2000. Dr. Lehr can be reached at: New World Orchids, 19220 Sanborn, Manchester, MI 48158.

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Website: www.newworldorchids.com

This is your last

newsletter if you haven't paid your membership dues for 2005

An indication is on your mailing label.

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

Carolina Judging Center

extends an invitation to bring your orchids for judging at their new judging center at the Natural Science Center, the location of the Triad Orchid Society meetings. Judging will be held on the third Saturday of each month. They have a website at www.CarolinasJudgingCenter.org. where you can view the awarded orchids for January. Driving directions are also on the site.

Phaius Amabilis Chatam Merlot, AM/AOS 82 points grown by Jeff Baldwin was just awarded at the Carolina Judging Center Greensboro in February.

The TOS Orchid Show location is being firmed up with the University Mall in Chapel Hill next to Southern Seasons. Jack Webster is working out details.

Board of Trustees has firmed up some dates for:

The Orchid Faire for April 16th at John Stanton's greenhouses All members can bring their divisions an flowering plants to sell. Members and the public are invited. (There will be no member plant sales for this year at our meetings as all our speakers will be selling their own plants)

Orchid Crawl May (visiting members greenhouses)

Thom Reincke coordinator

Spring Auction June 4 or 5th

Growers Day August at Durham Tech (Symposium for new orchid growers)

Fall Auction September 24th.

Indonesian Plant Order is being shipped March 27th and should be available for our April meeting.

Orchid Supplies John Stanton can be contacted for orchid supplies, pots, potting materials at

The Orchid Trail 468-3611

**Jack Webster Show Table Awards
Green house Grown**



Second Place Ribbon to *Dendrobium aggregatum* grown by Paul Feaver

Third Place Ribbon to *Phaius Chatam Merlot*, AM 82 pts, grown by Jeff Baldwin awarded in February at Carolina Judging Center



First Place Ribbon to *Paphiopedilum Rosy Dawn* grown by Rick Cavallero



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



First Place Ribbon to *dendrobium nobile alba* grown by Jamie Graff



Third Place Ribbon to Phalaenopsis Beatrice Krull Smith x P. Glad rose grown by Nolan Newton



Second Place Ribbon to *rhynchostylis retusa* grown by Jerry Day

Growing Tips for March

By Courtney T. Hackney EMAIL at Hackneau@bellsouth.net

Remember that old expression, “There is no such thing as too much chocolate”? That same idea seems to apply when it comes to Paphs and calcium carbonate (Lime). Many years ago, Paul Phillips of Ratcliff Orchids, told me that they could not repot Paphs as frequently as most hobbyists so they just added a teaspoon of dolomite limestone to each pot and it had the same effect as repotting.

There is nothing fancy or expensive about dolomite limestone, which comes in 50-pound bags that cost just a few dollars. Perhaps that is why it has never been marketed to orchid hobbyists. Typically it is used to raise the pH of the soil on our lawns so that nutrients are available to the grass. Liming is also called sweetening the soil. Dolomite limestone contains not only calcium carbonate, but also magnesium. All limestone rock contains calcium, but only certain deposits have the combination of calcium and magnesium, which is called dolomite limestone. There are also minor amounts of other nutrients as well, but it is the calcium and magnesium that is important.

There is a powdered formulation as well as a granulated form that lasts much longer when added to orchid pots. The rotting bark medium in which Paphs are usually grown gradually becomes more acidic as the decomposition process releases

organic acids. As more acids are released, the pH drops in the medium and roots have a more difficult time acquiring nutrients, especially calcium. Calcium and magnesium are extremely important for leaf growth. Roots also seem more susceptible to rots when calcium is lacking in the soil or water. While frequent, thorough flushing removes these organic acids, they are quickly regenerated in a rapidly decomposing medium. Lime counteracts the process to some degree, but

Stalite is shale expanded by heating. It is used to mix with cement to make it lighter. Several commercial growers in the Carolinas stock this inexpensive product.

mostly it raises the pH and neutralizes the acidity.

Most Paphs are found in nature growing in areas with lots of rocky outcrops made of limestone. There, Paphs thrive nestled amidst the decaying plant litter and eroding limestone. Only a few Paph species are found growing as epiphytes or on rocky soils that are not limestone. Surprisingly, these other species also thrive when sup-

plied with additional lime.

I usually add lime to all my Paphs when the first signs of rot appear on new leaves on any plant. The granulated lime lasts a month in the summer when Paphs are being watered twice a week and longer in winter when watering is less frequent. The powdered form washes through too quickly. Lime seems to have the same effect when used in just about any medium from mixtures of peat and bark to straight bark and even to rock.

In an experiment begun over a year ago, several multiflora Paphs were planted in fine lava rock with nothing else added except granulated lime and Nutricote. Their growth has been extraordinary and led to other types of Paphs going into other types of rock such as Stalite following the same approach. The ultimate goal is to never have to repot until the Paph bursts the pot. Even the Parvisepalum Paphs seem to love the rock as long as it is mixed with lime. One old-fashioned bulldog-type Paph that was almost given up for dead was even resurrected when planted in rock mixed with limestone. The only downside to growing paphs in rock is that they require more frequent water, especially when potted in Stalite. This spring most of my remaining Paphs will go into rock.

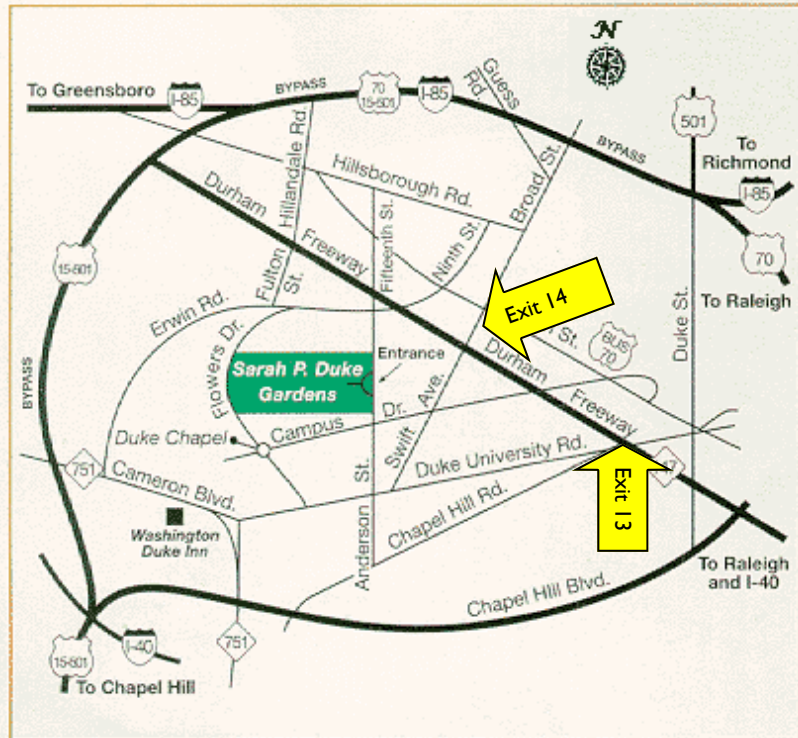
5 Free Raffle Tickets

if you bring up to 5 flowering orchids for the Show Table.
3 Ribbons will be awarded for green house grown and 3 for windowsill grown or grown under lights

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2005	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	March 14	Dr Glen Lehr New World Orchids Michigan	The Orchids and Shows of Japan
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	April 14	Bill Thoms Sarasota FL	Bulbophyllums
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program	May 9	James Rose Cal Orchid Inc Santa Barbra CA	Pescatorea & related genera
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes			
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table**Refreshments**

Mar 14	Robin & Josh Gurlitz	Creighton Humphreys Suzette Morand
April 11	Philip Warner	Adrienne Dowler Erin Denoo



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**

**Dr Glen Lehr, New World
 Orchids, Michigan
 The Orchids and Shows of
 Japan**

Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:

\$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address.
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