



Orchidaceae

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

Speaker for May 9th, 2005

James Rose of

Cal-Orchid

INC.

1251 Orchid Drive
Santa Barbara, California, 93111
(805) 967-1312 ✉ FAX (805) 967-6882

will talk about *Pescatoreas*,
chondrorhyncha and allied
genera

James attended University of Ca. Santa Barbara as an anthropology major. In 1971 he began working at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. After 16 years there, and becoming manager, he left to establish his own nursery with his wife, Lauris. In 1987 they purchased *Orchids By Rowe*, a 2 acre cymbidium nursery 2 blocks from the Pacific Ocean (and right across the street from the Orchid Estate) in 1987, and totally redesigned the former cymbidium cut flower range to what is now a world renown orchid nursery providing one of the largest varieties of orchid species and hybrids in the U.S.

The nursery maintains an active breeding program and stud collection built upon years of traveling the globe. James is very well known for having a distinctively selective 'eye' for the new unusual plant, and Cal-Orchid's new and loyal customers reap the benefits. The nursery's inventory features the *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Odontoglossum*, *Masdevallia*, *Calanthe*, *Lycaste*, *Paphiopedilum* alliances as well as a good assortment of African species. Most recently the nursery has become recognized for their superior line of reed stem *Epidendrum*s.

James has published in numerous magazines, and respected for his vast knowledge as well as sense of humor, lectures all over the world...from Japan to South Africa, to Europe, at shows and World Orchid Conferences.

He is a *Cymbidium Society of America* Judge, former member of the *AOS Conservation Committee*, and active member of the *Japan Grand Prix Organizing committee* where he judges every year in Tokyo.

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

**The Second Mon-
day of the Month**

at 7:30 PM

www.Triangle

OrchidSociety.org

TOS Officers and Board Members

President

Terry Moorhead
(919)-688-9235
transichun@aol.com

Vice President

Michael Cory
(919)-929-9917 April -March 2006
mcory@nc.rr.com

Secretary

Judith Goldstein
(919) 732-7622
orange@earthlink.net

Treasurer

Michael Wagner
919-692-3965
mjwagner@bellsouth.net

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Nicholas Plummer
nickplummer@nc.rr.com
(919) 969-9741

Board of Trustees: 2005

Amy Marshall
(919) 461-1251
amy_marshall@urscorp.com

Thom Reincke

(919) 363-8798
reinckefamily@msn.com

At Large Trustees 2006

Michael Joehrendt
919-) 8473598
Joehrendt@bellsouth.net

Jack Webster

(910) 692-3965
JWebster@pinehurst.net

At Large Trustees 2007

Paul Virtue
(919) 846-1245
pvirtue@prodigy.net

Peggy Bloodworth

(919) 732-1639
grapib@mindspring.com

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The April 2005 meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on Monday the 11th at Duke Gardens, Durham, NC. The meeting was brought to order by President Terry Moorhead at 7:30 pm; Terry then made several announcements. The Orchid Faire (members' plant sale) will be held this coming Saturday the 16th at The Orchid Trail in Morrisville; all are welcome. Guests and new members were recognized. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter, as was the Treasurer's report.

Bill Thoms, the speaker for the evening was introduced by President Terry Moorhead then did and extended review of the Show Table, with lots of cultural information. Examples: if keikis are left on the parent plant they will flower sooner than if they are detached and potted up on their own. That plant leaves that are doing a great job of picking up water will be shiny. Every plant was talked about.

More quick announcements were made right before the refreshment break, about the Orchid Crawl, or tour of a few greenhouses of TOS members, probably on the south side of Raleigh. The crawl will be held May 7th, sign up during the break for e-mail information. Also, the Indonesian plant order has been delayed with permit problems; probably delivery will be in May.

The Jack Webster awards were voted on. First place in the Non-

Greenhouse grown category went to Iwan. Apple Blossom grown by Alison Finch, second place went to Den-drobium Jaq-Hawaii 'Universal Pearl' grown by new member Larry Sanders, and third went to Phalaenopsis Newberry Bouquet 'Blushing Bride' grown by Jamie Graff. In the Greenhouse Grown category, first place went to a Paph Vanguard grown by Michael Levy, second place went to an Tolumnia Bahamensi grown by Tom, and third place went to *Vanda sand-deriana* x *V. coerulea* grown by Alan Miller.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm. Minutes submitted by Judith Goldstein, Secretary.

Speaker Presentation:

Our speaker, Mr. Bill Thoms, world record holder of growers' awards (63 cultural awards in more than 20 genera). He has been growing orchids since 1969. The last award he received is the award of distinction which is a very high honor.

He began by saying what a neat hobby this has been for him and how he is vastly interested in orchids. We'll talk today about culture of orchids. He used magic effects during his presentation. He summarized his talk as the Waffle House presentation, spelled W-A-F-L H-S.

W: Water or how to water.

The way to water is with a watering wand. He began with a tree fern slab held horizontally and had assistants pour copious amounts of water directly on it, simulating a rainstorm. His question, "Is the side that got the water wet or dry? The answer, wet. Is the underside wet or dry? Dry." The question he asked was, "Do you water

one side or all sides?" The answer, "All sides." He said if you don't, you are not watering effectively. How do you water effectively? Use a water wand that is 16-18 inches long available from home and garden centers. A 24-36 inch long wand is too long and unwieldy. You use it to get all around and under the plant as you water. A convenience is an on-off nozzle. You may shut off the water and pick out a weed you see. If there are problems you can shut off the water and fix the problem then and there. If you really want to water, use a fogger (or fogging nozzle), not a mister. It produces big drops on your plant.

A: Air, or fresh moving air. You want fresh moving air, not stagnant air. Just because air is moving does not mean it is fresh.

F: Food. The question is, "What is the best kind of food? Any kind of food." Don't be an inchworm grower. That is someone who buys food and uses a triple dose once every three-four months in the middle of the day. They go from no food to a whopping dose. Inchworm growers do not feed their plants regularly. The best strategy is to give your plants a mild amount of fertilizer every 7 days and practice *weekly, weakly*. This will make you a starfish grower. You will get regular growth and regular flowering. He says one of the reasons they have many awards is they hand water. You can see your plants before things go wrong. Another reason is they have a nice greenhouse. But they had 25 awards before they had a greenhouse so it isn't necessary. The third reason is they make their own fertilizer.

The fertilizer contains nitrate. He buys ingredients all together. The last year the U of Michigan. It is similar to his of bloom inducers. You use inducers to get flowers. You get flowers by having a strong plant by adding Nitrogen gives soft secret ingredient in his that growth. He says that is the best kind of food? release, Dr. Chateliers, its blue dye, any thing at better than none at all. ter plants. There is no media, contrary to popular material dissolves very



Phal Newberry Bouquet 'Blushing Bride' 3rd place Show Table Award Non Greenhouse Grown to Jamie Graff

very little plant food in tree bark, very little in tree fiber, nothing in charcoal and the worst ingredient is coconut husk chips. He switches around from one food to another to give plants different things. Sometimes he uses fish emulsion. No one food is perfect so he uses several different kinds. The idea is to give a mild amount of food on a regular basis. He was asked how to fertilize in sequence with watering. He said, "Water your plants thoroughly first, then go through and fertilize them with half-strength fertilizer and they will go that much further. You'll get more food more thoroughly into your plants that goes further and you'll use a quarter as much as you were before." He said your plants get more food with less food. As for frequency, he said that in Florida where they water 3-4 times a week he only fertilizes about once a week. In general, they fertilize weekly.

Continued on page 6

ammonium nitrate and grinds AOS published granular fertilizer for- It is the opposite don't need bloom You get good strong plant. You add nitrogen to it. growth but the mix hardens off is the secret. What Any kind--time-- Peters, even with all. Any food is This will yield better food in growing larger belief. Organic slowly. There is

The Triangle Orchid Society Orchid Crawl,
Saturday May 7th 2005 **4 of our members will tour you through their**
greenhouses, Jeff Baldwin of Hanks Greenhouse, John Stanton of The Orchid
Trail, Thom Reincke and Paul Virtue

Hank's Greenhouse 919-545-0489 2698 Hanks Chapel Rd, Pittsboro

Hanks will be the first stop, so plan to meet there at **9.30AM**. Driving instructions from various places follow. We plan to spend about 1 hour at Hank's. The next stop is Thom Reincke..

Driving Instructions to Hanks

From Chapel Hill

Take I-501 South. Go 1/2 mile past Fearington Village turn left on Mt. Giliad Church Road. Go 3-4 miles to stop light and turn right onto 64 West. Go 1 mile, cross the Haw River, and take first left onto Foxfire Trace. Go to top of hill and turn left onto Dee Farrell Road. Go to end of road. Turn left onto Hanks Chapel Road. We are 1 mile on the right.

From Raleigh

Take Highway 64 West towards Pittsboro. Go over Jordan Lake. Go over Haw R River and take first left onto Foxfire Trace. Go to top of hill and turn left onto Dee Farrell Road. Go to end of road. Turn left onto Hanks Chapel Road. We are 1 mile on the right.

From Siler City

Take Highway 64 East towards Pittsboro. Exit onto 64 East Business. Continue east past courthouse 1-2 miles out of town and turn right on Hanks Chapel Road. We are down 2 miles on the right.

From Sanford

Take I-501 North into Pittsboro. Take 64 East (1/4 around the courthouse). Go 1-2 miles out of town and turn right onto 2698 Hanks Chapel Road. Hank's is 2 miles on the right.

Driving Instructions from Hank's to Thom Reincke 919-363-8798

1405 Patterson Grove Rd, Apex

Allow 1/2 hour to get to Thom, so we should get there at about **11AM**. We plan to spend about 45 minutes at Thom's and then head to John Stanton's place, Orchid Trail, in Morrisville.

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1: Start out going WEST on HANKS CHAPEL RD toward HANKS LOOP RD/NC-1945. 2.1 miles | 2: Turn SHARP RIGHT onto US-64 BR. | 0.9 miles |
| 3: Merge onto US-64 E. | | 13.5 miles |
| 4: Turn RIGHT onto KELLY RD. | | 0.8 miles |
| 5: Turn LEFT onto OLIVE CHAPEL RD. | | 0.7 miles |
| 6: Turn RIGHT onto PATTERSON GROVE RD. | | 0.3 miles |
| 7: End at 1405 Patterson Grove Rd, Apex, NC 27502-4035 US | | |

Triangle Orchid Society Orchid Crawl, Saturday May 7th 2005
Members can pick up the Tour at any time. Call for directions if you get lost.

Driving instructions from Thom's to The Orchid Trail 919-468-3611

402 Church St, Morrisville. Allow about 30 minutes travel time from Thom's to Orchid trail, so we should get there at about **12 noon**. Bring along a snack or **your own lunch** and the Society will provide drinks and "paper ware" (napkins and cups) at Orchid Trail. Plan to spend about 1½ hours total at Orchid Trail and then we will leave for the last stop, Paul Virtue's in Northwest Raleigh.

1. Take Patterson Grove Rd. to Olive Chapel. Turn Rt.
2. Take Olive Chapel to HWY 55. Turn left at light.
3. Approx 8 miles turn right onto MORRISVILLE CARPENTER RD (follow to Airport sign)
4. Approx. 2.5 miles, turn left onto Church St.
5. End at 402 Church St, Morrisville, NC 27560 US

Driving instructions from Orchid Trail to Paul Virtue's 919-846-1245 **3420 Kennebuck Ct, Raleigh,**

It should take about 25 minutes from Orchid Trail to Paul's. **2PM** Paul & Olivene grow a mix of Cattleyas, Vandas, Paphs, Phals and Oncidiums and other stuff. They have an 18' X 12' kit greenhouse with about 350 orchids at various stages of development – seedlings to specimen plants.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1: Turn left from Orchid Trail on CHURCH ST toward CAROLINA ST. | 0.3 miles |
| 2: Turn LEFT onto AVIATION PKWY. Stay on AVIATION PKWY, pass RDU airport | 5.5 miles |
| 3: Merge onto I-540 E toward US-70. | 8.5 miles |
| 4: Take the NC-50 exit- EXIT 9- toward RALEIGH/CREEDMOOR. | 0.2 miles |
| 6: Turn RIGHT onto CREEDMOOR RD/NC-50. | 0.9 miles |
| 7: Turn RIGHT onto BRENNAN DR. | 0.7 miles |
| 8: Turn RIGHT onto WELLSLEY WAY. | 0.2 miles |
| 9: Turn LEFT to KENNEBUCK CT. | 0.1 miles |
| 10: End at 3420 Kennebuck Ct, Raleigh, NC 27613-1330 US | |

Spring Auction Sunday June 5th Covered Dish Noon 1Pm Auction.

Repot your divisions and bring your orchids that didn't flower... someone else may be able to flower them. Community Park, Laura Duncan Rd. Apex Bring a friend.

Growers Day will be held at Durham Tech August 6th. For non members or new growers who can benefit from our Expert Growers symposium.

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. Neo China Restaurant behind Staples **4015 University Drive Durham.** Call Alan Miller **969-1612** to confirm your reservations.



Speaker Presentation continued from page 3

L: Light. How do you know if you have enough light? Here is how he said you could tell how much light you have. Go out in the brightest part of the day and spread your hands out about a foot above orchid leaves.

If you can't see a shadow, forget about growing orchids and switch to African violets.

If you can just see a shadow of your hand on the leaves, that is enough light for phalaenopsis and thin leaved plants.

If you can begin to see fingers, that is cattleya light and sufficient light for most orchids. You can differentiate fingers on the leaves from the hand above your plant.

If you can see sharp demarcation and bright shadows of your fingers on the leaves you are in vanda territory.

Bright light can always be reduced in various ways. The best way is to use Aluminet. It is very light and is good quality shade cloth. It doesn't block the sun, it reflects it. It keeps the area cool while shading it about 50 percent. The idea is to have light bright, but cool.

H: How do you tell if you have too much light? Take your plant against your palm. Count to ten. If it is cold, it is too cold. If it is hot, it is too hot. Your hand is 100 degrees. At 104-5 degrees, plants shut down growing and all they do is sweat. You can't see them sweat because the sweat doesn't roll down them like it does us, but they are giving up water rapidly to cool down.

How do you keep plants cool in the middle of the day when it is hot? He showed a pair of aluminum oven liners bought at the grocery store. Put ¼ inch of water on the bottom and set plants on it. Plants will pull water up and keep cool. You can put 5, 6, or 7 plants in one liner. Plants burn because sunlight uses all the water in the cells. If there is water to replace that they can take a lot brighter light than otherwise. So, give that a try.

If you grow on mounts, grow them horizontally. You will grow them much bigger and much better. If grown vertically, you lose water

faster. He demonstrated using tree fern fiber. If you can't stand to grow horizontally, grow them sideways [he demonstrated]. This is no trick. You can put a hanger in with a wide bottom to hold it horizontally. You may get ten times the growth when grown horizontally.

He grows his cattleyas in clay pots. Most everything else is grown in plastic pots because plastic pots are lighter, easier to carry and holds water better and doesn't retain salts as much as clay. If you grow in pots, use shallow ones that keep air within about 2 inches of plant. If grown in large plastic pots, shove some Styrofoam up from bottom center of plant so that the center of the pot is empty of stuff that will hold water. Vandas are grown in baskets. He uses shallow baskets as well. He takes a couple of layers off tall ones to shorten it and uses that wood to build more baskets.

S: Sickness. Get the book *Pests and Diseases* by the AOS. It costs about \$12. It tells you what you have and how to fix it. If you don't like heavy chemicals use Neem Oil. You get it from Dyna-Gro. Reach them by calling 1-800-Dynagro. The secret with this is you have to use hot water when mixing. If you use cold water, it doesn't work. Hot water turns it to yellow milk and then it works. It can even be beneficial when you get it on you. Isopropyl alcohol is good full strength. Put in a spray bottle and mist. When do you spray? You spray when it is cool. He has not sprayed in 10 years in the daytime. This prevents burning of plants by hot sun. How do you become better at seeing things? Get a friend. Ask him/her to put out 10 pennies among your plants in the greenhouse. Look for them. Then you realize how hard it is to see things. We scan rather than look. You have to remember to look for stuff.

When is the best time to get fresh air? He says night is.

Transcription by Cara Hayes, Secretary, Sandhills Orchid Society

Jack Webster Show Table Awards, Greenhouse Grown

Jack Webster Show Table Awards, Non-Greenhouse



In the Greenhouse
a Paph Vanguard grown by
Tolumnia Bahamensi grown
Vanda sanderiana x V. coe-
non Greenhouse Grown
Apple Blossom grown by
Dendrobium Jaq-Hawaii
ber Larry Sanders,
Bouquet 'Blushing Bride'

Grown Category, first place went to
Michael Levy, second place went to
by Tom ?????, and third place went to
rulea grown by Alan Miller. **In the**
Category: First Place went to Iwan.
Alison Finch, second place went to
'Universal Pearl' grown by new mem-
3rd place went to Phal Newberry
grown by Jamie Graff



Growing Tips for

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

Once again, I forgot to treat for mites in early spring and, once again, I lost leaves to these tiny beasts. Mites usually appear during times when the humidity is low, and affect mostly thin-leaved orchids such as Oncidiums. They first show up in my greenhouse on Phals and each year, I fail to recognize their symptoms until the plants start "screaming".

It is easy to miss mites on your orchids because they are tiny. I use a magnifying glass or high-powered reading glasses. Usually, I can only find one or two on a plant. Mites multiply when the greenhouse humidity is low in late winter or spring. On Phals, mites cause the lower leaves to drop and leaves appear desiccated. Often leaves develop pigments often mistaken for too much sun. Orchid leaves can also burn because mites steal so much water from the plant, that plants cannot open their stomata and cool themselves.

All winter long, hobbyists bring me plants that are not doing well and want to know why their orchid is not thriving. A large majority of these plants are being grown indoors and have had mites this year. The extra long winter in the Southeast combined with home heaters, which dry the air, often leads to mite problems for indoor growers.

The common mite on or-

chids is the red spider mite and occasionally the false, red spider mite. These are usually found on Oncidium leaves. Phals seem to have other mite species. They also do not seem to be abundant enough to cause much damage. However, when I treat for mites, Phals improve almost immediately whether the infestation was heavy or not. There are a number of miticides available to commer-

The extra long winter in the Southeast combined with home heaters, which dry the air, often leads to mite problems for indoor growers.

cial growers that work well, but they are expensive and may not be available to hobbyists. A thorough spraying, top and bottom, of leaves with Sun Oil or similar light oil works well enough for me. Once the normal summer's humidity returns, mites cease to be a problem.

Most orchids have already begun their summer's growth, so now is the time to fertilize and increase watering frequency. If you use Nutricote, it is time to make your new application since last year's application should be gone, if you used the 6 month release form. New

seedlings or orchids that have lost their root systems will benefit from foliar feeding with a dilute liquid fertilizer. There are many good fertilizers available, but be sure to use them at 1/4 strength and always flush heavily with plain water once a month.

If you use R/O (reverse osmosis) water or rainwater you will also need to supplement your water with dolomite limestone either by adding it to your fertilizer water, which can be tricky, or applying it directly to the plant in granular form. All plants need calcium and magnesium and agricultural lime has both in just about the right proportion.

Light and heat will soon become an issue. Remember that the sun reaches its highest point next month (21st) so it will be easy to burn the leaves of your orchids if you are just getting them outside after the long, dark winter under lights. The darker your leaves the more heat they will absorb and the more quickly they will burn. Conversely, indoor growers may find their windowsills are no longer getting the direct light their orchids once enjoyed because the sun is almost overhead.

<http://www.Carolinas Judging Center.org> Check for Awards, Newsletter and Judging dates.

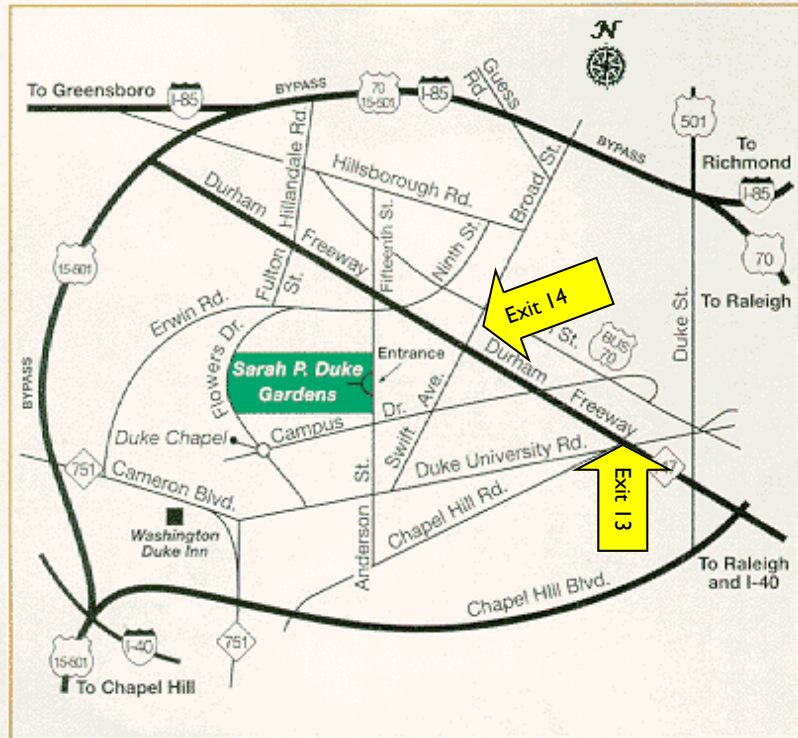
In May the CJC judges will have their regular judging at the Greensboro Garden Council Center on May 21. In addition, we will be at Seagrove Orchids for the Region 13 International Phalaenopsis Association meeting on May 14 and will conduct judging there. Everyone is invited to attend the IPA meeting and listen to talks by HP Norton, Russ Vernon, Pat Brennan and Tim Szafran on various aspects of growing phals. Check the Seagrove Orchids website for more information and a schedule. (www.seagroveorchids.com)

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2005	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	May 9th	James Rose Cal Orchids	Pescatoreas, chondrorhyncha and allied genera
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	June 13th	Milton Carpenter, Everglades Orchids Fl	Warm Growing Oncidiums
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program	July 12th	John Stubbins Houston Tx	Unusual relatives of Cymbidiums
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes			
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table

Refreshments

May 9th	Adrienne Dowler & Erin Denoo	May 9th--Barb and Stan Martinkosky
June 13th		Robin and Josh Gurlitz



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

Alan J. Miller, Editor
 5703 Orange Grove Rd.
 Hillsborough, NC 27278
 (Fax (253) 550-5038
 Phone (919) 969-1612
 Email:Orchidacea @att.net

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**

Speaker for May 9th
James Rose
of Cal Orchids
Pescatoreas, chondrorhyn-
cha and allied genera

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