



Orchidacea

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

Program for September 12, 2005

SUE FORDYCE

FORDYCE ORCHIDS

LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

Fordyce orchid history dates all the way back to World War II, when Sue's father first began his orchid career, and he is still a very active member of the company today. Sue has had the benefit of "growing up in the business" and learning from her Dad, who with his 60+ years of experience is a renowned hybridizer of Cattleya orchids. Sue officially began her career in orchids 21 years ago and now manages Fordyce Orchids. She is involved in teaching seminars about orchid growing and speaks worldwide on the subject. She has an easy style of communication, and believes any hobby should be fun and only as complicated as you want it to be – even growing orchids. Her orchid lectures are much in demand because she is informative, easily understood and brings with her the passion of doing something she loves. Bonus! New fun – orchid poetry!

The world of orchids is a fascinating one to most anyone who loves flowers and plants. This world is constantly on display at "The Orchid Ranch". It is home to three separate orchid companies – Fordyce Orchids (Cattleyas), Orchids Orinda (Phalaenopsis), and Tonkin Orchids (Paphiopedilums). The Orchid Ranch is a sprawling five-acre compound with 28,000 square feet of greenhouse space located in Livermore, California. They are open to the public daily from 10 – 5 (except Monday) and are a wealth of information. The grower-owners themselves are always on hand to answer questions. Fordyce Orchids can be found on the web displaying a color catalogue and other orchid information. The address is www.fordyceorchids.com. The Ranch is located at 1330 Isabel Avenue in Livermore, and their phone number is (925) 447-1659. "Walk-ins" are always welcome, and short tours are available for groups of ten or more with one week notice. Strolling through the greenhouses is a treat you won't want to miss!

**Mini Program on Repotting
Orchids by Jack Webster**

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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 August 2005 meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on Monday August 8th, at the Duke Gardens in Durham, NC. The meeting was started at 7:30 pm by President Terry Moorhead. The minutes of the July TOS meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter, without corrections. There was a review of the Grower's Day event, held August 6th, which was pronounced GREAT. At one point Terry asked all new members and visitors to the meeting to stand, and probably about 25 people stood up! There were about 30 raffle plants for the meeting, almost all courtesy of John Stanton.

A few announcements: the Indonesian order plants were at the meeting to be picked up. Lynette's Greenhouse in Kannapolis is going out of business, and most plants are 80% off. Breckenridge Orchids, in Brown Summit, NC is also closing, and plants there are 50% off.

Nick Plummer presented the show table, and did his usual thorough, careful, and knowledgeable job. The show table was very full, especially for this time of year.

After the break for refreshments, the speaker for the evening Stan Hutto gave his presentation on Paphiopedilums from Southeast Asia. There was a lot of information ingeniously displayed with Power Point slides. The pictures were great, and the review of species and crosses very informative.

The Jack Webster Awards in the Non-Greenhouse Grown category were as follows: First Place went

to a Brassia grown by Frances Porter, Second Place went to a Miltoniopsis grown by Harriet Herring, and Third Place went to a Lc. Mini Purple grown by Frances Porter. In the Greenhouse Grown category, First Place went to *Dendrobium deirii* grown by John Stanton, Second Place went to Miltassia Dark Star, grown by Tom Wentworth. Third Place went to *Bulbophyllum Vaginatum* grown by John Stanton. The meeting was adjourned around 9:45 pm. Minutes submitted by Judith Goldstein, Secretary

SPEAKER PRESENTATION: Our speaker was Mr. Stan Hutto whose topic was *Basic Paphs*. He said he began growing orchids about 27 years ago and he chose Paphiopedilums as orchids that he could keep under low light in his greenhouse. Paphiopedilums are native to Southeast Asia, Phragmipediums are from South and Central America. Paphiopedilums are scattered in different parts of Europe, North America and the Far East. A genus in Central America is called *Cypripedium* that is the giant of the paphs and grows to 5-6 feet tall.

Tonight's talk was focused on Paphs and there are well over 100 species presently. There is a wide range of colors and shapes and even culture conditions. He gave a slide presentation that surveyed the major groups by species and derivative hybrids. He discussed color and form of various hybrids.

Group I is the Brachypterulums. They are very small, basically round flowered with color dusting, leathery and in nature like more alkaline conditions such as limestone and dolomite culture medium. Species he showed included *P niveum* (3000 ft elevation growth native of SE Asia; keep feet wet), *P bellatulum*,

P godefroyae, and *P. concolor*. He described the color/color background of each.

Group II is the Parvisepalums. Predominant species grown and used to yield hybrids are *P micranthum*, *P armeniacum*, *P malipoense*, *P delenatii*, *P Emerson*, and *P vietnamense*. Many Parvi hybrids have been produced and the intergenerics, Parvi x Brachy.

Group III are the multiflorals/strap-leaved paphs. In general they need more fertilizing. They may have 5-6 flowers borne on a single stalk. The king of the Paphs, *P rothschildianum*, is in this group as is the queen, *P sanderianum* (has very long petals reaching 92 cm in some cases). Other species shown were *P kolopakingii*, *P philippinense*, *P stonei*, *P adductum*, *P lowii* (with pink tips), *P haynaldianum*, *P praestans*, *P wilhelminae*, and *P parishii*. There have been many strap-leaved hybrids, sanderianum hybrids, and non-rothschildianum strap-leaved, as well as hybrids from crosses between strap-leaved x Parvis and strap-leaved x Brachy.

Mottle-leaved paphs shown included *P callosum*, *P lawrenceanum*, *P sukhakulii*, *P wardii*, *P hookerae*, *P tonsum*, *P acmodontum* (a pink from the Philippines), and *P mastersianum*. Hybrids shown were the Maudiae type, a cross of callosum x lawrenceanum and many crosses have been made of mottle-leaved x Brachy and mottle-leaved x strap-leaved.

Small green-leaved Paphs are cooler growing and species shown were *P charesworthii*, *P*

spicerianum, *P henryanum* (a true miniature), *P villosum*, *P insigne*, *P hirsutissimum*, *P esquirolei*, and *P fairieanum*.

The Cochlopetalum section was the final subgenus present and has multiflowered inflorescence that opens in succession and is often crossed with Parvis.

Mr. Hutto's paph mix is 4 parts bark: 1 part sponge rock (#3 perlite): 1 part cypress mulch: and (optional) 1 part charcoal. When repotting he advocates only shaking off the roots and not combing out the previous potting medium. He repots every spring. *Transcription by Cara Hayes, Secretary, Sandhills Orchid Society.*

Announcements and Current Events

John Stanton (The Orchid Trail Greenhouses) will bring 25-30 orchids from his greenhouses for the raffle at this meeting, as he did at the last meeting. He needs to free up more bench space in his greenhouses. **Raffle Tickets will be \$1 each or a Free Raffle Ticket if you Bring a Show Table plant. (up to 5 plants)**

Have Dinner with the speaker.

5:30 PM, before the meeting, at the Neo China Restaurant 4015 University Drive, Durham, behind Target's at the South Square Mall. Call Alan Miller 969-1612 before 5PM Monday to make your reservations

Sandhills Orchid Society Annual Auction

Sunday, September 11, 2005, Starting at 1:00 P.M. at Joyce Patton's, 2519 Lockwood Road, Fayetteville, NC. For map and directions, visit www.sandhillorchid.org

**Non Greenhouse Grown
Jack Webster Awards**



**Second place went to a Miltoniopsis
grown by Harriet Herring.**



**Third place went to Lc Mini Purple
grown by Frances Porter.**

**First place went to
Brassia 'Golden
Glory' grown by
Jaimie Graff**



**Greenhouse Grown
Jack Webster Awards**



**Third Place went to *Bulbophyllum
vaginatum* grown by John Stanton.**



**First place went to *Dendrobium
deirii* grown by John Stanton.**



**Second Place went to *Miltassia Dark
Star*. Grown by Tom Wentworth**

**INSECTICIDAL MANIA
BY SUSAN FORDYCE**

My first orchids were a treasure so I went out and bought myself some more. Six months later they were everywhere enough to open up a store

I brewed them fertilizer tea and potted them just so. I bathed their leaves with lemon juice and urged my precious plants to grow

With horror, I noticed withered leaves and a nasty spot or two. The next day it was even worse! What was I to do?

I searched around in the junk drawer for my magnifying glass.

**What I found upon my orchids nearly knocked me on my ...
(well I nearly passed out !)**

What seemed like small round space ships had landed upon my favorite Phal and zillions of aliens were pouring out (I learned later I had scale)

Crawling from the mother ship with glee upon their faces. They had suntan oil and lawn chairs, and what looked like beer in cases!

This was WAR!

I ran to find the alcohol just like the books had said and sprayed them with a liberal dose 'til I knew that they were dead.

They were dead DRUNK alright and dancing a clumsy polka. I heard their tiny voices as they sang La Vida Loca!

I went and bought a haz-mat suit and an alien gas mask thing. I'd show those cooties

I sprayed them all with lethal doses of the latest brew. I would annihilate the buggers the posse and their crew.

The results were immediate the choking, coughing, and gasping for air the buckling of unsteady legs the cold and lifeless stare.

...When I awoke from poisoned stupor and got back on wobbly knees, I could hear their little voices chuckling as the toxic fog faded in the breeze.

I'd come to a crucial crossroads as I contemplated my state. I had an epiphany right there and then and packed my plants in crates.

My neighbors just down the street were orchid growers too, & though and they were on vacation... Could I? Should I not?

With tiptoed stealth through dead of night my plants on squeaky wagon I'd finally free my pests and slay the proverbial dragon!

I broke into his greenhouse and set my plants next to his

I felt so diabolical

This was such a nasty biz.

You'd have thought it was a free trip to Disney World The way those pests jumped ship! They headed for greener pastures a big old Cattleya lip.

I crept away in shame and sorrow, my morals in sad decay. But I had saved my pock-marked orchid from certain death that day.

My plants are all pest free (for now) and earn my deep devotion. But I have video surveillance in my greenhouse lest you entertain the same cruel notion!

Growers Day at Durham Tech , Aug 6th

Seventy people were in attendance and the Second Annual Growers Day. Jack Webster Opened the program with , "What is an Orchid". Nick Plummer followed with a PowerPoint presentation



"How to grow Orchids in the Home". Jeff Baldwin (Hanks Chapel Greenhouses) told us "How to Grow an Oncidium" and related genera. Jack Webster continued after a question period with "How to Grow Phalaenopsis". Paul Fever representing The Orchid Trail ended the program with "How to Grow Dendrobiums". A Phalaenopsis plant was given to all participants and membership till the end of the year in the Triangle Orchid Society. Several of the TOS members attended for a refresher course.



Growing Tips for September

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

The arrival of the equinox later this month (21st) makes September the perfect time to discuss light. In nature, orchids grow in light levels from direct tropical sunlight to the dimmest light levels found on dense forest floors. Hobbyists read about these orchids and expect that they can also grow their orchids in similar situations. There are several reasons why this approach does not work.

Hobbyists need to remember that most of the hybrids they find for sale likely arose from less than 50 of the 30,000 species found in nature. In most hybrids, less than 1/2 dozen species are in the background. These parent species are almost all tropical epiphytes, with the exception of the Paphs. Epiphytes or tree-dwelling orchids grow in relatively high light in the highest branches of trees. While species in nature can be found in a variety of light conditions, they usually flower best in bright filtered light levels and not in full strength sunlight. The best orchid growers duplicate these light levels.

Light is the fuel that orchids use to grow and flower. If there is too little light an orchid will use all of its energy to grow and will not flower. There are some exceptions to the rule, most notably, the tendency for orchids to produce large num-

bers of flowers just before dying. In cases such as this, something is killing the orchid and as a consequence, the orchid puts all the energy it would normally use for growth into one last reproductive effort.

Orchids flower best when they are exposed to ideal conditions and when the plant is mature. An orchid reaches maturity when there is enough energy stored in leaves, bulbs, and roots to initiate the development of tissues that produce flowers. Typically, this is a seasonal event, triggered by plant hormones, but always dependent on energy stores. Larger orchid plants always produce more and larger flowers than smaller plants if all other factors are the same.

Why won't my orchid bloom? This is a frequently asked question. If the orchid has leaves and a good root system the answer is almost always "light". Dark leaves or elongated growth and/or leaves usually confirm low light as the cause. Unfortunately, the usual response by hobbyists is to increase fertilizer levels. While orchids and other plants do have some ability to adjust the density of chloroplasts that capture light or to produce thin leaves so more light gets through, there is a lower limit

below which orchids will grow, but not flower. While this may be fine for Jewel orchids, grown for leaves and not flowers, it is not satisfactory for most orchids.

How does the orchid hobbyist determine the amount of light that their orchids are receiving? This is not easy without complex instruments, but there are some simple ways to evaluate light levels by simply noting how many hours a day direct light hits a plant. Chances are it is far less than the 12 hours of daylight during the equinox. Indoor growers expect light limitation, but the light may be just as limited in some areas of a greenhouse.

Some of the best grown orchids showing up at judging tables these days were grown indoors under full spectrum lights. The development of high intensity sodium or halogen light fixtures made this possible. With these lights, it is possible for plants to receive 100% of the maximum light they can use for 12 hours each day. In a greenhouse, that level would only be reached for a brief period each day; often less than half the light delivered by a full-spectrum system. There would be even less light if houses, trees, or overhanging plants blocked light for some portion of the day. Remember, also, that the an-

gle of the sun changes during the season, but not with full-spectrum lights.

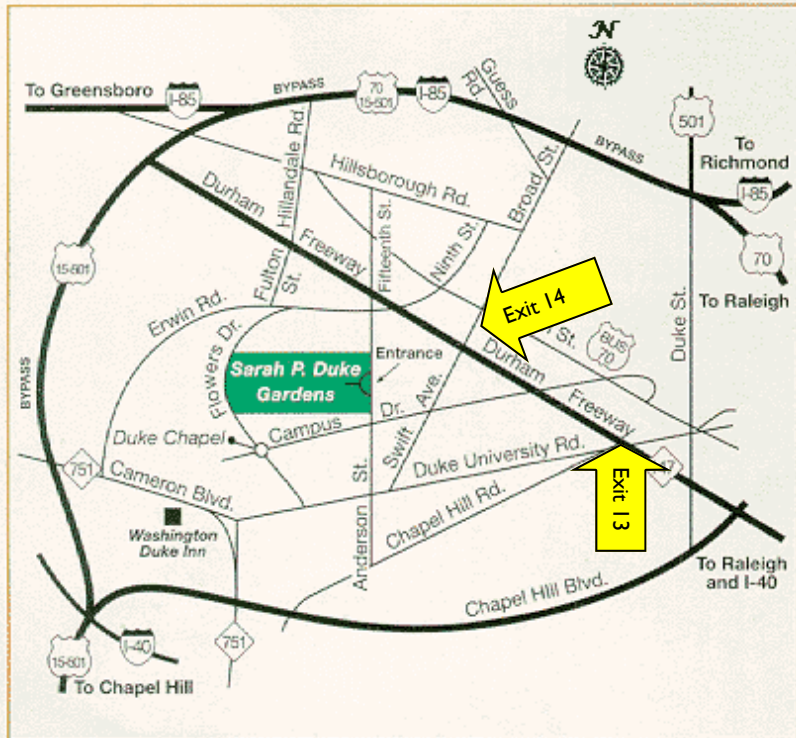
Some greenhouse growers supplement light with high intensity light systems turning them on in early morning or late evenings. In winter, there is the extra benefit from the waste heat from the lights. Windowsill growers often do the same with florescent lights providing afternoon light in an east facing window. Orchids that get some natural sunlight and florescent light as a supplement will flower fine, while florescent light alone will not usually produce as many flowers.

All light bulbs, including the full spectrum lights, lose their ability to produce the full range of light listed on their packages after a certain length of time. Grow light florescent bulbs produce their specified wavelengths for just a short time, while some of the Halogen lights are supposed to last six months before they lose their vitality. Recall that only the red and blue wavelengths of light activate plant chloroplasts and lead to plant growth. If you want orchids to flower like they do in the orchid magazines they must have light.

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2005	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	September 12th	Susan Fordyce Fordyce Orchids Florida	Look! Your Orchids are Talking to you
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	October 10th	Francisco Miranda Boa Vista Orchids Rio, Brazil	Brazilian Cattleyas
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	November 14th	Cathy Creger Waldor Orchids NJ	Phrag besseae & its hybrids
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table**Refreshments**

September 12th Erin Denoo and Adrienne Dowler Miriam and Leo Sagasti



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**

This Month's Speaker
Susan Fordyce
Fordyce Orchids
Florida

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