



Orchidacea

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

SPEAKER FOR APRIL 10, 2006 Tomas Harper **"Phalaenopsis species and their influence on Phal. Hybrids"**

Tom Harper began growing orchids on a windowsill in 1967. By 1975 he had registered his first orchid hybrid, and he founded Stones River Orchids as a business in the same year. Tom retired from Nashville State Technical Institute February 1, 2002 to devote full time focus on Stones River Orchids. He has also been affiliated with Stewart Orchids in Natchez, Mississippi as a consultant and Phalaenopsis hybridizer from 2002 until 2006.

In 1984 he became an accredited AOS judge at the World Orchid Conference in Miami, FL. Tom has been an active member in the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee since 1967. He has held several offices including President, Vice-President, and newsletter editor, and was member of the Board of Director's in 2005. Additionally Tom is active in the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and has held the offices of president, vice-president and newsletter editor. He is a founding member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA). He is a former President and Vice-President, and is currently 2nd Vice-President.

Tom is a contributing writer to the *IPA Journal*. He assisted in writing and editing the Phalaenopsis species section of the new Ortho book entitled *Complete Guide to Orchids*. Tom has written several articles on Phalaenopsis orchids for the *Orchids Journal* (formerly the *AOS Bulletin*) and the *Orchid Digest*.

Tom was invited to speak at the 16th World Orchid Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September 1996. Additionally, he was invited to speak in March 2005 at the Taiwan International Orchid Show and Symposium in Hsinying, Taiwan, ROC.

Tom will bring plants for sale. Many species plus a few novelty hybrids using the species we discuss. He will likely have a few mericlone plants to sell as well.

Tom may be contacted at: 9373 Clovercroft Rd., Franklin, TN 37067
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Email: harper_sro@bellsouth.net

Inside this issue:

<i>This Month's Speaker</i>	1
<i>Minutes of the Last Meeting,</i>	2
Jack Webster Show table Awards	4,5
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	6
Recent AOS Awards	6
<i>Growing Tips</i>	8
<i>Announcements</i> <i>IPA Regional Meeting</i>	9
<i>Map and Directions to</i> <i>Sarah P Duke Gardens</i>	10

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

Triangle Orchid Society, March 13, 2006.

President, Judith Goldstein, opened the meeting at 7:32pm, welcomed JoAnne Bernard as a guest to the TOS, and reminded the attendees that, although over 100 people are up to date, some people still have outstanding annual dues. A motion was made to approve the January minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and accepted. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and accepted.

Announcements:

John Stanton provided 22 plants of miscellaneous origin, and one outstanding brassia to be raffled off.

There are a number of orchid shows happening in April and May. A complete listing can be found at the back of the AOS publication, *Orchids*.

The TOS will be holding the Spring Orchid Auction within the next few months. The most likely date right now is for Saturday, May 20. Details will be forthcoming.

Jack Webster presented the show tables. Members are reminded that, in an effort to encourage people to bring more plants to the meeting, for each plant (up to 5) a member brings, they receive a free raffle ticket.

The President announced a 15 minute break for refreshments.

Following the break, Paul Virtue gave a slide show. He opened his talk with some slides from Jamaica and the AOS gardens and greenhouses in Del Rey, Fl., then featured the 2005 Miami Orchid Show.

Jeff Bloodworth spoke about semi-hydroponics growing. Jeff got interested in this form of orchid culture because the inorganic media doesn't break down and rot the plants' roots. The term semi-hydroponics was first used by Ray Barklow, who also markets a system and supplies for this form of culture. Jeff showed photos of an experiment he had performed to determine suitable, readily accessible media to use to grow his plants. From his experiment, he decided to work with Aliflor. Other expanded clay or similar media could also be used, providing the media readily wicks water, creating a high humidity environment for the plant roots. Jeff uses media in transparent, food grade pots with side drainage holes. The side drainage holes allow the pot to retain a small reservoir of water and fertilizer. The plants themselves often grow roots down into the pot reservoir, keeping hydrated more evenly, and probably more able to withstand stressors. Water quality is very important for semi-hydroponics culture. Jeff has a well at his home, and so softens the household water with Potassium Chloride. This softened water is in turn run through an Reverse Osmosis system and into a holding tank before being used on the plants. The use of the RO system to polish the water means that all nutrients need to be added. Jeff varies his fertilizing regiment between the MSU system and GroMore fertilizer. He did find that there were problems with toxic salt crystal buildup on the media with high fertilizer rates: 1

tsp/gal was too much. He has cut back to 1/4 tsp/gal, and sprays the top of the media in each pot to flush away any possible accumulation of salts when he waters and feeds. Since the plants are grown in clear pots, it is possible to see the water level in the reservoir, and water the plant when it gets low. Each plant needs to be monitored individually, since different types of plants and different sizes of plants use water at different rates. Jeff created a planting system where only a small window showing the fluid level in the reservoir is open to light, limiting algal growth in his pots. Jeff has a handout available for how to grow orchids using semi-hydroponics techniques. Michael Wagner gave a slide show about his visit to the 2006 Missouri Botanical Garden's Orchid Show. The Missouri Botanical Garden, in St. Louis, MO, has a very old collection of plants – they started collecting in 1876, and expanded rapidly in the 20's. The display for this orchid show is different from what most of us are familiar, as only one grower exhibits at their show – themselves. The show lasts 6 weeks, and displays 800 orchids at any given time, rotating plants in and out of the show as they come into flower and fade. The show follows a theme each year, 2006's theme being *The Wind in the Willows*, and is very popular. The slides showed the scale of the show, and beautifully displayed the mix of hybrids and species in the Missouri Botanical Garden's old and large collection. Jack Webster was the last speaker of the evening. He gave instructions for how to care for the plants arriving from the Philippines in April. The plants should be available to take home at the next meeting. There are 1000 plants coming in. Packing for that many plants had probably already begun by the March meeting. The plants then head for an airport where they will be shipped to China. From China they

will fly to Miami and the welcoming arms of the USDA. In sum, by the time each person has their plants in their hot little hands, the plants will have been sitting in dark boxes for 2-3 weeks, drying out. They will be dehydrated when you get them, and will need to be treated for dehydration in order to survive. Jack has written up instructions which will be included with each individual's plants for how to revive the plants. If individuals did not purchase plants but want the instructions anyway, Jack will have a few extra copies available at the April meeting. It was also noted that while the USDA does inspect the plants upon arrival in the country, it is still a good idea to inspect them yourself, and quarantine them from the rest of your collection for a month or so. Insect eggs are very tiny and can be missed.

The Jack Webster awards for best show table plants were selected after Scott Hartley finished speaking. Greenhouse plants: John Stanton's plant *Laelia jungheana* won the First Place Ribbon, Mike Corey won the Second Place Ribbon for *Mt. Issaku Nagata 'Volcano Queen'*. Paul Feaver won the Third Place Ribbon for *Lcna. Flying Colors 'Mendenhall'*. Non Greenhouse grown: Phil Warner won a First Place Ribbon for his *Phalaenopsis Bother Vanessa Hanney*. Judith Goldstein won Second Place Ribbon for her *Phal schilleriana*.

Connie Howard won a Third Place Ribbon for her *Otaara Hidden Gold*

Congratulations to the winners.

The plants were raffled off, and the meeting adjourned shortly before 9:30 pm.

Secretary, Jaimie Graff

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



**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown**



**Phil Warner won a First Place
Ribbon for his Phalaenopsis
Bother Vanessa Hanney**



**Judith Goldstein Got Second Place
Ribbon for her *Phal schilleriana***



**Connie Howard won a Third
Place Ribbon for her Otaara
Hidden Gold**

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**

**Mike Corey won the Second
Place Ribbon for Mtda. Issaku
Nagata 'Volcano Queen'**



**John Stanton's plant
Laelia jungheana won
the First Place Ribbon**

**Paul Feaver won the Third
Place Ribbon for Lctna. Fly-
ing Colors 'Mendenhall'**





AOS Awards at Recent Shows



Jack Webster received an HCC (American Orchid Society Highly Commended Certificate), an AOS Award for Horticulture Culture.

79 points on his Zygopetalum at the Sand Hills Orchid Society Show at Weymouth House on Mar 18 2006 He named it F. Advance Australia "Jean Webster" Parentage is F Titanic x F Helen-Ku



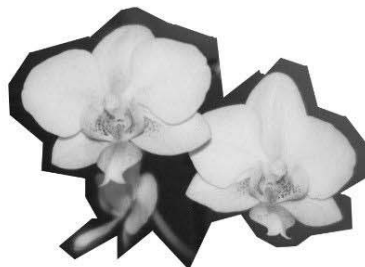
Paul Feaver was awarded an HCC (American Orchid Society Highly Commended Certificate) for his Sl. Pole Star, 79 points . He also got the Best Miniature Trophy in the TOS Exhibit at Weymouth House Sandhills Orchid Society Show.



Regional IPA Meeting

April 29th, 2006

Speakers
Auction



Drawings
Lunch

**Spring International Phalaenopsis Alliance Meeting
and the 3rd Annual Seagrove Orchid Festival at
Seagrove Orchids.**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Rain or Shine!

Lunch is \$8.00. Please preregister for the lunch by sending a note to Linda Thorne orchidlinda@rtmc.net. or 336-879-6677

We will have another of our exciting fund raising auctions. Auctioneer David Janvrin goes all the way to spark interest in our auction plants. We always have too much fun. Please bring any divisions of your extra orchids that you can share to donate. They do not need to be just Phalaenopsis. The funds we raise help bear the expenses for the next meeting. Not a member of The International Phalaenopsis Alliance. No problem, come on out and sign up for our local chapter. It is free! There will be drawings for free books and gift certificates. Come on out for a fun day!

Speakers are:

**HP Norton of Orchidview-speaker and vendor
Tom Harper of Stones River Orchids -speaker and vendor
and Keith Clayton-speaker**

Details are on the front page of Seagroveorchids.com. Driving directions to the greenhouse are also posted on the website.

Also, please bring a chair of your own. We may not have enough chairs for everyone.



Growing Tips for April

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

Most of the topics covered in this column originate from questions posed by hobbyists or from problems and experiments in my own greenhouse. The one serious problem in my growing area this past month is one I warn hobbyists about on a regular basis. In my own defense, however, it has come about because of events beyond my control. The problem is overcrowding, i.e. too many orchids.

As most orchid hobbyists knows, it is impossible to have one of every kind of orchid and each new hobbyists needs to decide early in the infection period what they want from their orchid addiction. Is it a nicely flowered orchid on the table 365 days of the year or to grow unusual orchids, etc? It is OK to change these goals as the addiction grows or your knowledge of orchids expands and interests change. But space is always an issue.

My space problem began as the direct result of "International Trade" and "Speculation by Oil Traders", at least that is the story I tell my wife. The influx of large numbers of inexpensive phalaenopsis and members of the Oncidium-Alliance from Asia has cut the profit margins of once-profitable American orchid nurseries at the same time heating prices soared. This has forced many once-prominent

orchid nurseries out of the orchid hybridizing business.

My problem began when they began to sell their "once outrageously priced" breeding stock. Orchids that were never offered for sale or at prices that only wealthy Arab sheiks or Japanese business moguls could afford were now within my grasp.

Orchid nurseries have closed at such a pace that some of these plants were selling for the price of an average meristem and risked being lost to future generations of orchid hybridizers. What else could I do but add these prizes to my collection? The only thing a self-

**Bring up to 5 Orchids
for the Show Table
and Receive 5 Free
Raffle Tickets**

respecting orchid grower could do was to rescue these poor orchids.

One cattleya clone long coveted and on the market for \$10,000 was rescued for a mere \$100. Cutting-edge phal stud plants in all colors and forms were available for the price of a floral arrangement. At one time these plants were closely held by hybridizers who only traded with each other. In

some cases, large parts of phalaenopsis stud collections were bought and sold as pot plants. "These rare orchids had to be saved."

Along with the joy of having such special plants comes the sadness of realizing that many great hybridizers that once used them to make novel hybrids have moved on. Very soon, American orchid hobbyists will be limited to orchid hybrids that originated outside the U.S. and mass produced for the wholesale pot plant market. It was the domestic sale of extra plants for this market that allowed most American orchid nurseries to experiment and in the process create new hybrids and color forms.

Hopefully, a many of these once-prized orchids are finding their way into private collections where they will be maintained. The Internet is one way to make contacts and exchange plants, seeds and pollen, but orchid hobbyists seeking the unusual are going to have a more difficult time finding them once the glut of stud plants has left the sales tables.

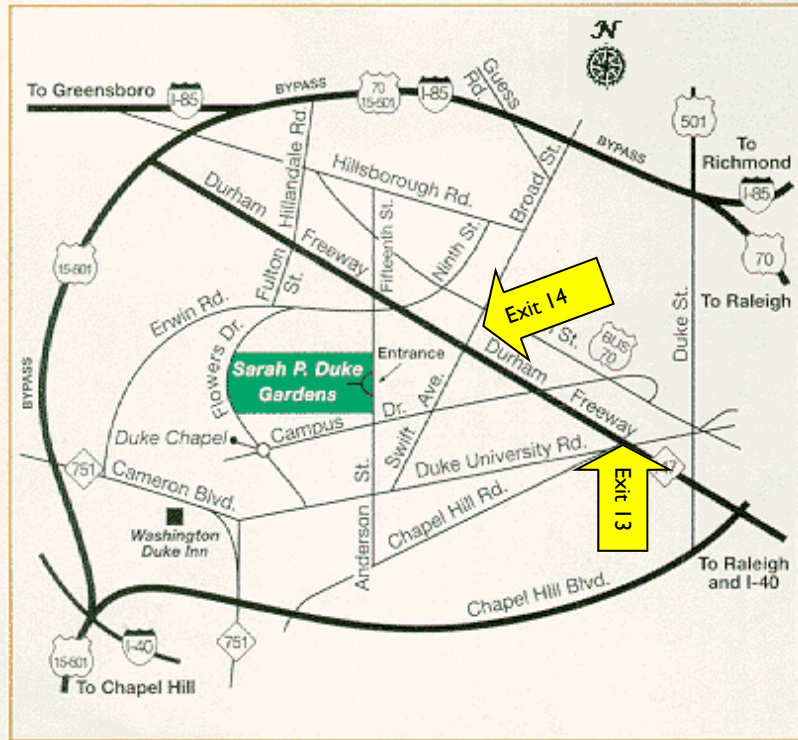
**Announcements:**

TOS Spring Auction will be held at the Cary Park on Saturday May 20th, with a Pot Luck Lunch at noon Auction to start at 1PM.

Get your divisions repotted or an orchid that you have not been able to flower for several years. Someone else may be able to bloom it. Any other donations of pest free plants are needed. TOS will also purchase some blooming plants from Carmella and Oak Hill Gardens.

TOS Annual Growers Day will be held at Durham Tech on Aug 5th for new growers or members who want the newest cultural information from our guest speakers.

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:		Calendar 2006	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30	Set Up Show Table and Chairs	April 10th	Tom Harper Stones River Orchids TN	Influence of certain species in Phal hybridizing
7:30-7:45	Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10	Show Table Review	May 8th (Member plant sale)	Eric Christenson Taxonomist (Member plant sale)	Vandaceous Orchids (Member plant sale)
8:10-8:30	Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20	Program	June 12th	Michael Sinn Canaima Orchids	Venezuelan Cattleyas and their Habitats
9:20-9:30	Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes			
9:30 P.M.	Meeting Ends			
Welcome Table		Refreshments		
April 10th	Peggy and Jeff Bloodworth	Adrienne Dowler and Erin Denoo		
May 8th	Marlene Kinney and Nick Plummer	Jaimie Graff		



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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Phone (919) 969-1612

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.TriangleOrchidSociety.org

Speaker for April 10 th
Tom Harper
Influence of certain species in
Phal hybridizing.

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