



Orchidacea

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

Speaker for December 11th, 2006

Nick Plummer PhD, Sex and Lies In Orchids

I purchased my first orchid, a white phalaenopsis hybrid, in 1993 from a florist in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The orchid addiction proceeded in the usual manner, and for about 10 years I maintained a growing collection that slowly engulfed my apartment, first in Michigan and then in North Carolina.

I now live in Chapel Hill with my wife Jennifer and son Tristan, and the orchids have been exiled to a home-made greenhouse. I am a Past President and current Board Member of the Triangle Orchid Society .

We usually think of orchid flowers in terms of how attractive they are to people, but the primary purpose of flowers is to attract pollinators. The dramatic and often bizarre variation that we admire in orchids is all directed towards that end. My talk will survey the different ways orchid flowers are pollinated and some of the fascinating interactions between orchids and the animals that pollinate them. Although orchid flowers are wonderful simply considered as beautiful objects, I find them even more interesting when I learn something about their ecology. I hope you will agree.

The Holiday Meeting will start at 6:30 Please bring a pot luck serving...

A short Business meeting at 7:30 and a the regular meeting schedule...

Member Plant sale... Bring your divisions ,seedling or flowering plants to sell...

Also bring flowering plants for the Show Table...

**Up to 5 free raffle tickets for show table plants.....
(17)....American Orchid Society 2007 Calendars left ...
see John Myhre \$8 TOS price. Retail \$12.**

We need several members to stay after the meeting to clean up, chairs, tablecloths etc.

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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

November 13, 2006.

The President, Judith Goldstein, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and extended a special welcome to guest David Hall. The President also extended a special welcome to new member Armando Nevis. A motion was made to approve the October minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and accepted. The Treasurer's Report as published in the newsletter was reviewed and is correct.

Announcements:

Due to the abundance of plants to be raffled off raffle tickets were \$1 each.

A few AOS Calendars are still available. They retail for \$12; they are being offered here for \$8.

The December meeting will be a potluck. Please put it on your calendar now. A sign up sheet went around during the meeting. Due to the potluck the Dec. meeting will start early: 6:30 rather than 7:30. Please come and enjoy the food and camaraderie. December's speaker will be Nick Plummer. As Nick is not a vendor, there will be a member plant sale. Bring in those plants that don't fit in your growing space anymore!

We are in need of a volunteer for the December welcome table. Please speak with Judith Shapiro if you are interested in helping out.

Business:

The 2007 TOS Officers and Board were elected. There were no

nominations from the floor. The slate was elected exactly as presented by the Nominating Committee. The slate is as follows: Officers: Michael Wagner (current Treasurer) for President, Faye Hardy for Vice President, Peggy Bloodworth for Treasurer, Jaimie Graff for Secretary. Board Members: Jack Webster, Bob Meyer and Paul Fever.

Bob Davidson presented a mini program on wire bending to make hangers and rhizome clips. Please contact him for specifics regarding his talk.

Paul Fever did a fine job presenting the show table, after which there was a brief break. Following the break the Vice President, Miriam Sagasti, introduced the Speaker, Gene Crocker, and the TOS enjoyed a foretaste of his talk for the World Orchid Conference in Miami.

The Jack Webster awards for best show table plants were selected after Mr. Crocker finished speaking. Congratulations to the following winners.

In the Greenhouse Grown category:

1st: ***Vanda coerulea*** (excellent color) grown by Paul Virtue

2nd: John Martin's ***Acampe Mendenhall***

3rd: Paul Virtue's giant, old *Vanda coerulea* hybrid ***Vanda Pachara Delight***

In the Non Greenhouse grown category:

1st: Jaimie Graff's ***Dendrobium Bullenianum***

2nd: The Miriam Sagasti's ***Maxillaria Augusti***

3rd: Bob Meyer's ***Milt. Bartley Schwartz Highlands AM/AOS***

The plants were raffled off, and the meeting adjourned.

Last Month's Speaker Presentation:

Gene Crocker from Carter and Holmes Orchids spoke on, "The Influence of Cattleya Species on Modern Hybrids". He showed a slide of several hybrids demonstrating the range of size and color you can get. One favorite was an orange with a darker lip made crossing a yellow Beaufort parent with an orange cluster. It is a medium-sized grower. "Why grow hybrids," he asked. It is because you can get traits in hybrids that you cannot get in species. As an example he showed Lc Hawaiian satisfaction var. romantic, a combination of pale green and lavender that is very pretty. We don't have that in the species. What you do have in the species is wonderful form, especially for white Cattleyas. He showed a cattleya species from Columbia with very wide overlapping petals which was bred with other species. Another result was a hybrid made in the 1930s that flowered in the 1940s called Cattleya Bow Bells. It has been around a long time. When he started growing orchids 50 years ago, they were always talking about C Bow Bells form. This form became the standard for the orchid judging system.

In the semi-albas you have great species to work with. He showed C warscewiczii FMB which has been around since the 1800s. Carter and Holmes' plant is at least 100 years old and blooms every year. Offspring that have good form usually come from well-shaped species. One example of well-shaped hybrids is Melody Fair. It has almost perfect shape.

The best known lavender species is C mossiae, the Easter orchid used for orchid corsages. Carter and Holmes learned how to grow them for the timing of the Easter bloom. The form leaves a lot to be desired, but contributes a beautiful color. The species C trianaei has very good form. The Carter and Holmes collection includes a plant that was collected in 1888 and has been used for making many hybrids. Another good species is C lueddemanniana, a native of Venezuela. It has excellent form and beautiful lip color. It gives a lot to its hybrids.

C Horace Maxima has as its parents, C trianaei and a primary hybrid. It has a beautiful full shape. The former give it its shape while allowing the color of the latter to come through. Another lavender species, C percivalliana, is from Venezuela. He showed a Summit hybrid that is tetraploid, and known as the Christmas orchid. Not only is it fragrant; it is a compact grower. Summit crossed with Horace Maxima gave Mark Rose, named for the man who did the cross and gave the seed pod to him. It has a beautiful shape. He gave several other examples.

He moved on to describe the yellow ones. The species people thought would give yellow offspring was dowiana var. aurea, native to Columbia. None of the hybrids gave a good yellow. The crossing evolved to give Campobello Newberry, an 8-inch flower. Crossing has continued to give even better form. The spade lip (cut away on each side) comes from a bifoliate species. He showed many examples including Frank Gilmore (their best breeder of yellow). The next generation from this was such as Lc Mary Ellen Carter (dowiana influence giving a dark lip and bifoliate contributing a spade lip).

He attributed much of the rich color hybrid crosses to Bill Carter. Even though Bill was color-blind, he was a fine judge and bred rich colors for which Carter and Holmes became known. He showed many rich red colored orchids crossed by them. One was Owen Holmes Encore, a very good grower.

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***Vanda coerulea*, First Place Ribbon
grown by Paul Virtue**

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**



**Vanda Pachara Delight, Third Place Grown
by Olivene & Paul Virtue. Plant is over 4
feet tall, and belonged to Olivine's father.**



**Acampe Mendenhall Second Place
Ribbon Grown by John Martin**

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown**



***Dendrobium Bullenianum*
First Place Ribbon grown by
Jaimie Graff**



**Milt. Bartley Schwartz 'Highlands'
AM/AOS Third Place Ribbon grown by
Bob Meyer**



***Maxillaria Augusti* Second
Place Ribbon Grown by
Miriam Sagasti**

Growing Tips for December

By Courtney T. Hackney EMAIL

In the latest issue of *Orchids* magazine, there was an article on pots that got my attention. It was not the article itself, but comments from several new orchid growers. For them, this was all new, which reminded me how important it is to review the basics every now and then

Containers used to grow orchids all have one thing in common. They are meant to simulate the environment in which an orchid evolved. Even hybrids have ancestors that grew in the wild. Traditionally, orchids were grown in clay pots because that was all there was. Now, all types of plastic pots are available, which makes the decision on type of pot more difficult. The article emphasized the fact that the pot chosen was as dependent on the grower and their propensity for over watering as it was on the type of orchid grown.

Clay pots breathe, so those that over-water are better advised to choose this type of pot. Most clay pots designed for orchids have additional holes or slots to allow more drainage and air flow. Orchids potted in a coarse medium in shallow orchid pots are almost impossible to over-water, especially if the medium is inert such as Aliflor, Lava Rock, or Stalite.

At the other end of the spectrum are plastic pots that do not allow air to pass through

them except where there are holes, slits or grates. Plastic pots come in all sizes and colors; even clear. Clear pots are usually treated with a UV blocker to prevent the plastic from degrading and have the advantage of letting light hit the plant roots. This is more typical of the life style of wild orchids, as they have lots of roots growing attached to rocks or trees. Best of all, clear pots allow the grower to tell if the medium is wet before watering.

Plastic pots are best for growers that forget to water or travel a lot and neglect their orchids. Most novice growers fail to notice that their orchids grow better in certain types of pots and assign good or poor growth to the medium or the orchid

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– New release – signed by the author, Soft Cover Edition of *American Cattleyas*. Special introductory price \$40, shipping included, through Dec. 31. <http://roseg4art.com>

plant itself. While a good medium and a healthy plant are necessary, the type of pot in which most of orchids in a collection are growing best can indicate something about the grower.

One important caveat is that water quality may also dictate the type of pot used. Water high in dissolved salts,

hard water, generally dictates that clay pots will not be as effective at allowing roots to get oxygen because these dissolved salts tend to accumulate and clog the pores of the pot. So much salt may accumulate that the pots become toxic to roots. Clay pots may appear white or even a shiny red-brown if calcium or iron is in the water.

Once impregnated with salts, clay pots should be discarded as it is very difficult to return the pot to its original condition. Plastic pots do not accumulate salts and any dry salts are washed away with the next watering. Note that some types of medium, e.g. Aliflor, Lava Rock, etc may also accumulate salts.

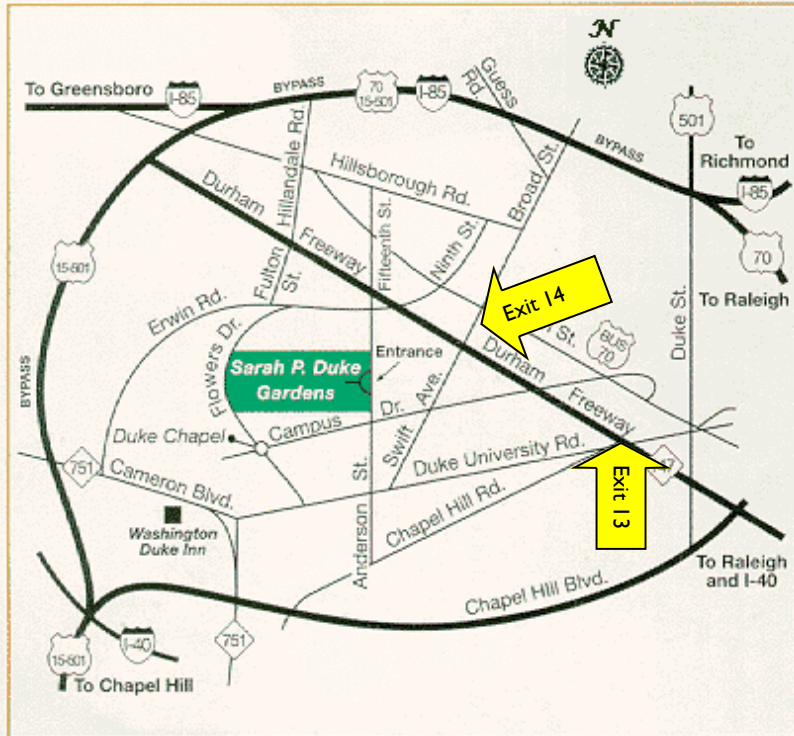
Lastly, remember that different kinds of orchids prefer different environments. At one end of the spectrum are vandaceous orchids, which must dry quickly, followed by cattleyas, dendrobiums, the oncidium alliance, then phalaenopsis and, finally, the almost-terrestrial paphs. It is hard to over-water two major orchid groups, phrags and dendrochilums. Sort these different types of orchids and determine if they are telling you anything about how you water or what types of pots should be used.

continued from page 3 Brassavola digbyana is a huge or very large flower and is native to Central America. They need bright light to do well in the greenhouse. It has a wonderful citrus fragrance and makes good hybrids. He showed a B nodosa and explained which traits came through .[seems to be purple or reddish spots on petals but could not understand tape]. Next was C aelandiae, a bifoliate native to Brazil. It is a warm grower that grows better on a bark slab or basket. It was crossed to give a pink background with darker spots. One cross gave Fort Motte that was used in many subsequent crosses. He described the problems with some self-pollinating species in hybridizing. C schroederae, another beautiful species has a good shape and allows the color of the other parent to come through. There were several other examples he gave. One trait mentioned was substance. If a flower has little substance, the petal may be very thin. With lots of substance, the petals may be described as thicker.

Transcription by Cara Hayes Secretary, Sandhills Orchid Society

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2006	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	Dec 13th	Nick Plummer, PhD. Triangle Orchid Society	Sex and Lies In Orchids
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	Jan 8th	Rolf Wilhelm Woodlawn Orchids Charlotte NC	Stanhopeas
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program	Feb 12th	Wendy Griffin Indian River Orchids, Vero Beach Fl	Orchid Seed to Adult
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes			
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table		Refreshments
Dec 11th	Member Plant Sales Tables	Holiday Pot Luck Dinner Starts at 6:30
Jan 8th	Judith Shapiro	Barb and Stan Martinkosky



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

Dec. Speaker:Our Own Member
Nick Plummer
Sex and Lies in Orchids

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