



Orchidacea

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

PAUL & MARY STORM AND THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SCHOMBURGKIAS

Paul was born and raised in Buffalo, NY, and Mary was born in Yonkers, NY, where neither of them ever saw an orchid. Later they lived and taught in Miami, Florida where they met and wed, but again they never saw an orchid even though they lived near some of Miami's most famous orchid nurseries. However, when they moved to Sarasota, Florida Paul attended an orchid sale for no known reason and purchased a division of schomburgkia tibicinis and their world changed forever. Against the derision and advice of friends and family, schoms and their hybrids became an obsession to the Storms and they realized that they were born to convert the world to "schombo-love"!

Together Paul and Mary (as Meke Aloha Orchids) have traveled extensively seeking the finest examples of schom species and hybrids and eventually they started to make their own hybrids. Their love of people and orchids (and their mission of 'schomboconversion') have brought them invitations to many societies around the country and introductions to many new life-long friends.

Paul's 'schom-hero', Dr. Carl Wither, donated his personal schom collection to the Storms, and some outstanding nurseries and hybridizers have named schom hybrids after Paul in honor of their schom mission. Washington, DC, the recent changes in schomburgkia/ myrmecophila taxonomy have necessitated a major revision of their program which had been scheduled to New Orleans and Baton Rouge (to be rescheduled after the hurricane interrupted their program last year), Nassau, Aruba, and a tour of Northern California Societies.

Paul and Mary are excited to be presenting their program in North Carolina where they have a summer cabin, and they invite members to bring and trade any of their schom hybrids or species with them. Please write them in advance at: mekealoha@comcast.com to arrange this, and/or visit their web-site at mekealohaorchids.com, which they hopefully plan to revise and update before this is published. (that's a strong "maybe" !!) They also welcome invitations to visit members' special collections and to become better acquainted

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 5 PM Monday

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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 the Last Meeting

June 12, 2006.

President, Judith Goldstein, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and extended a special welcome to Drs. Malcolm and Faye Hardy. A motion was made to approve the April 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:

The Orchid Auctions are the two major fundraisers for the TOS. The Spring Orchid Auction was held on Saturday, May 20th, and was a success. The Society sold 235 plants and some donated potting supplies from John Barns Ph.D. Past President of TOS. Specific financial information can be found in this month's Treasurer's report. If you donated plants and need a tax receipt, please contact the Treasurer, Michael Wagner. He can generate a receipt for you. Also, please talk up the forthcoming Fall Auction. Bring your family, friends and neighbors.

The book order has arrived, including a number of new selections for the TOS library. Please look them up. The Library is there for TOS members to use.

Grower's Day will be held August 5 at Durham Tech. Flyers with specific information will be available with this newsletter. Directions will be mailed to participants upon registration.

The date has been set for the TOS Orchid Show: March 9-11, 2007. The Show will be held at the newly

revitalized Northgate Mall. Volunteers will be needed for everything! Plants, set up, tear down, clean up, and more. Please think about penciling the event into your calendar now.

Michael Sinn, the speaker, did a very thorough job presenting the show table. The show table was followed by a 15 minute break for refreshments, which was in turn followed by a slide show conducted by Michael Sinn.

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

In the Greenhouse Grown category:

First place: *Laelia purpurata* var *striata* grown by Bob Davis

Second place: *Bulbophyllum lobbianum* grown by Michael Wagner

Third place: *Laelia milleri* grown by Paul Feaver

In the Non Greenhouse grown category:

First place: *Schoenorchis juncifolia* by Alyson Finch

Second place: *C. Beaufort* x *Ble Sunset Bay* grown by Alyson Finch

Third place: *Dendrobium Masquerade* x *D. Kiyomi Beauty 'Nicole'* x *D. Camelot 'Liquor Lips'* grown by Alyson Finch

Michael Cory donated 20 plants from his collection, which he sadly cannot bring with him on his move to Seattle. The plants were raffled off, and the meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Jaimie Graff, Secretary

Bring up to 5 Flowering Orchids for the Show Table and Get 5 Free Raffle Tickets

Speaker Presentation:

Vice President Miriam Sagasti introduced Michael Sinn, native of Venezuela, and owner of Canaima Orchids in Florida to speak about Venezuelan *Cattleya* species. He began by saying he would show pictures of the orchid habitats and would speak about conservation, the species, and different variety forms of the Venezuelan *Cattleya* species.

Venezuela has seven different *Cattleya* species. alphabetically, they are *C. gaskelliana*, then *C. jenmanii*, *C. lawrenceana*, *C. lueddemanniana*, *C. mossiae* (the national flower), *C. percivalliana*, and *C. violacea* (the only bifoliate *cattleya* they have). He described the geography of Venezuela, a country of about 500,000 square miles. There are desert habitats, part of the Andes with mountains up to 15,000 feet above sea level, the coastal range, a rocky area, a Guiana [sp. ?], and a savanna area never greater than 300 feet above sea level.

First, *gaskelliana* is a labiate type is easy to grow and is used in hybridizing. It makes big flowers between 16-18 cm and has a very nice fragrance. It is found in the eastern mountain range at elevations about 1200-1500 feet above sea level. They grow on the upper side of trees and need a lot of air movement and high light. It is best not to put them in direct sunlight. The local people collect them. The mission of conservation is to teach people that they aren't parasites and grow on trees only for support. There are a lot of coffee plantations and they

need to know the plants aren't bad for trees. The best flowering plants may be gotten from seeds so plants do not need to be collected. He showed slides of a semi-alba form, pure alba form, and coerulea form (very large, with 3-4 flowers and bloom up to 3 weeks).

The species *jenmanii* came from a high southern mountain range at elevations of 12,000 – 15,000 above sea level and the southeastern table mountains of lower elevation.

It grows in symbiosis with bromeliads which usually have some water in the center.. It is believed to get nutrients from ferns on the rocks and calcium from the rocks. There are few alba's. It is almost indistinguishable from the Brazilian *labiata*. There are cerulean forms, and pinks. Pemon Indians can collect



Cattleya Hausermann's Spring Beauty

whatever they want and our conservation efforts are to educate them how to grow them. This is because the police allow them to sell plants to tourists.

C. lawrenceana grows in the same habitat as *jenmanii* and forms natural hybrids with it. Guayana is the state where they are from and they are trying to register the hybrid as *C. Guayana*. It has a single flower and isn't very attractive. They are not grown too much. They grow in palm trees by the river. Its enemy is the iguana. They like to eat their blooms and have nectar that is sweet. He showed the plant and flowers grown in a greenhouse that were prettier than plants from the wild. There are alba and coeruleas and the shape is not very nice. It's offspring from hybridizing pass along the trait of a dominant lip.

Next, and most popular is *C. luedde-*

manniana, known as *C speciosa*, although *lueddemanniana* is the proper name. One characteristic of this species is two yellow eyes. In the lip. It has two different habitats, the coastal range and the Lara [sp. ?]. The habitats were divided due to five years of sustained fire. It is easy to spot. This area is very dry. It is used in hybridizing for its interesting color and bloom time (winter). The leaves are always shorter than the bulbs in natural plants. Usually the coastal one has a bigger flower with a rounded shape and not a nice color. The Lara *** has a much nicer shape. There are semi-alba, alba, and coerulea forms.

C mossiae was made the national flower in 1958. It has religious and historic meaning for local people. The people are very strongly Catholic. He explained a legend that on Jesus' last trip bearing the cross he wore a purple shirt. A flower is thrown in front of the man carrying the cross in the local reenactment and that was the flower used. It occurs in the same coastal range as *lueddemanniana* but the *mossiae* grows only in the southern part at mountainous elevations above 2,000 feet. It is an endangered species. People used to grow Arabic coffee which needs shade. They changed to growing Brazilian coffee that does not need shade and are cutting trees that are its habitat. There are two growths/year but only one bloom time/year. First the sheath grows and dries out. There is a second growth from the dried sheath that makes the flower. Never remove the sheath. There are 4-5 flowers per inflorescence. The flowering time can be controlled to have it flowering time shifted 4-6 weeks. People are educated this is not a bad parasite and should be saved and grown. The alba is very rare. He showed a picture of how country people grow them on fences in great abundance. They even compete with neighbors as to who

has more plants of *mossiae*. There are many variations in the lip and there may be a splash form. Those grown from seed are very nice and the flower can keep up to six weeks. He showed various coerulea forms, semi-alba forms (most interesting and sought after). March-April is the flowering time. Splash forms on the sepals and petals were shown.

The highest growing of all cattleyas is *percivalliana*, growing in the Andes at greater than 6,000 feet elevation. Eighty percent or more grow on the rocks. It is interesting due to a waxy, satin sort of substance that occurs on its lips. Its varieties have been through

name changes. It is the only *Cattleya* species without a nice fragrance. It is compared to that of a dead cockroach, especially exuded in the morning. The lip usually looks too small for the sepals and that is passed to the offspring. Local people collect them to sell at the market.

C violacea has the lowest and largest habitat.



Cattleya percivalliana Coerulea form

It is found in Venezuela, Columbia, Peru, Ecuador, and, some say, south to Paraguay (he can't confirm that). The habitat is similar to that of the Everglades in that it is a big swamp. There are six months of dry season when leaves wither on trees followed by six months of rain every day. It is easy to find because it has a nice strong fragrance. Most of the time you smell the plant before you see it. The best way to see it is to hire local natives to get plants from the trees. He showed a semi-alba form and one red form on the lip and softer color on petals and sepals. One locale was found with 14 cm flowers, which is larger than the usual 10 cm ones.

Transcription of speaker's talk by Cara Hayes, Secretary, Sandhills Orchid Society..



The Triangle Orchid Society is hosting a Growers Day!

Where: Durham Technical Community College

When: August 5th from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch) and a free orchid ***Reservation required by July 30***

Who: Anyone Who Wants to Learn About Growing Orchids

What? Some of the best Orchid Growers in the state will speak
on growing orchids. Lunch is included.

Program:

10:00 AM-10:10	Welcome, Judith Goldstein - President of Triangle Orchid Society
10:10- 10:50	Ramblings of an Orchid Grower, Jack Webster Past Pres. and member of TOS for 25 years
10:50-11.00	Break, Questions
11:00-11:45	Slipper Orchids (Paphiopedilums), How to grow them, Nicholas Plummer PhD., Past President, TOS
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch at the Cafeteria
1:00-1:45	Moth orchids (Phalaenopsis) How to grow them , Keith Clayton. VP and Past Pres., Sandhills Orchid Society
1:45-2:30	Cattleyas, How to grow them. John Stanton, Owner "The Orchid Trail" Morrisville, NC
2:30-3:15	Vandas, How to grow them. Paul Virtue, Board Member, Triangle Orchid Society
3:15-3:30	Break and distribution of free orchids,
3:30-4:15	Insects that attack orchids, Nolan Newton, PhD. Chief, Public Health Pest Management Section. NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources
4:15-4:45	Open meeting for orchid related questions

Free

**Orchid Plant to all & Membership In the TOS
For the Remainder of 2006 to non-members**

TOS is a 501- C3, non-profit organization

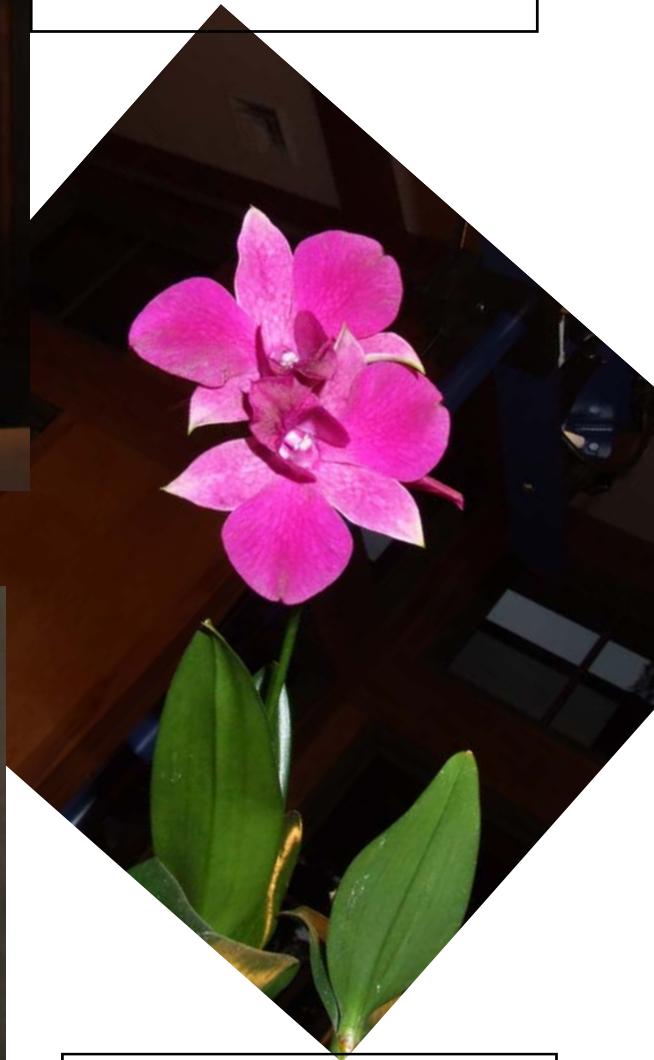


All Three Jack Webster Awards Non Greenhouse Category went to Allison Finch

Second Place Ribbon went to C. Beaufort x Blc Sunset Bay



Third Place Ribbon went to Dendrobium Masquerade x D. Kiyomi Beauty 'Nicole' x D. Camelot 'Liquor Lips'

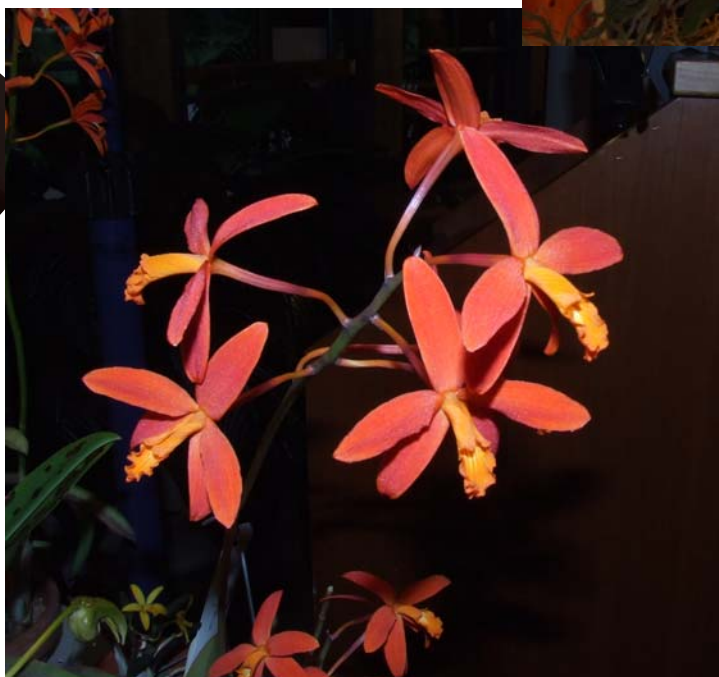


First Place Ribbon went to *schoenorchis juncifolia*

Orchidaceae

Jack Webster Awards Greenhouse Grown

First Place Ribbon went
to *Laelia purpurata* var.
striatta grown by Bob
Davidson



Third Place Ribbon went to *Laelia milleri*
grown by Paul Feaver



Second Place Ribbon went to *Bulbophyllum*
lobbii 'Jean Webster' AM/AOS grown by
Michael Wagner



Growing Tips for July

By Courtney T. Hackney

EMAIL at Hackneau@bellsouth.net

Your repotting should be almost complete for most orchids now. Potting is the time when you learn how good your culture has been the past year or so. For me, it is also a time when I evaluate different media and the many experiments always ongoing in my greenhouse. I often have orchids that must be repotted that were purchased growing in different media. These orchids are examined more carefully than those in my medium because I am always interested in better ways to grow orchids. What type of medium was it? Was it in a clay or plastic pot? How many roots does the orchid have? Are there lots of dead roots? These are just some of the things I look at.

One medium that periodically surfaces in various forms is cypress mulch. This is the same stuff that can be purchased at Lowes, Home Depot or any of the large hardware/lumber stores that carry garden supplies. It is usually from Florida and made entirely of chopped pond and bald cypress. Some of the most accomplished orchid growers use this medium and their plants are reported to grow extremely well. Beginners and sometimes commercial growers often fail miserably with this product, usually, because they do not use it properly. Also, beware of products labeled as cypress mulch that are cypress mixed with other kinds of bark. Several hobbyists and commercial growers have shown me plants potted in cypress mulch that were near death because the roots had rotted. In one case, a commercial grower had planted several genera (phals, cattleyas, and oncidiums) in cypress mulch with disastrous results.

Epiphytic orchids growing in the wild use their roots for more than just getting nutrients and water. Roots are also used to attach the orchid to the bark of a tree or a rock. Roots squeeze between ridges in the bark and even under bark, if possible, to better hold the orchid in place during strong winds. While there are also occasionally roots hanging free in the air, most roots seek out a hard surface to grow into.

That is a key point that the early 19th Century European growers finally figured out. Unfortunately, the importance of this has been lost on most orchid growers today. Now, the emphasis is on fast growing genera, and media that are designed to be easy to use. Easy to use does not mean best when it comes to flower quality or growth.

The best growers of the 19th Century used osmunda fiber, the dense fibrous root mats of common European and American ferns. Most growers today that try to use this product are very disappointed. While finding quality osmunda is a problem today, that is usually not the main problem. The problem is in how the plant is placed in osmunda. It must be packed so densely that it resembles a solid piece of tree fern. This is difficult to do. Experienced 19th Century orchid potters could pot only 6 or 7 cattleyas in an hour and used heavy potting sticks to pack chunks of osmunda around the roots. The orchid had to be so tightly packed that one could pick the orchid plant up and the pot would remain attached. New roots emerging from new growths would quickly force their way into this dense environment.

The hard-packed osmunda had few spaces that could fill with water. Any water remaining in the osmunda after watering was bound directly to fibers where orchid roots could absorb them. The acidity of the osmunda fiber limited bacteria and fungal growth even if it remained moist. After repotting, orchids in osmunda do not need to be watered as frequently, at least until new roots grow into the medium. Cattleyas potted this way rarely send roots outside the pot.

Growers successfully using cypress mulch follow almost the same principle, i.e. dense packing of the cypress mulch around roots. Initially, plants may be watered only once every 3 or 4 weeks until roots penetrate the medium. The key is that new roots must encounter a dense medium. The acidity of the cypress also inhibits bacteria and fungi just as osmunda does. Reportedly, cypress is far eas-



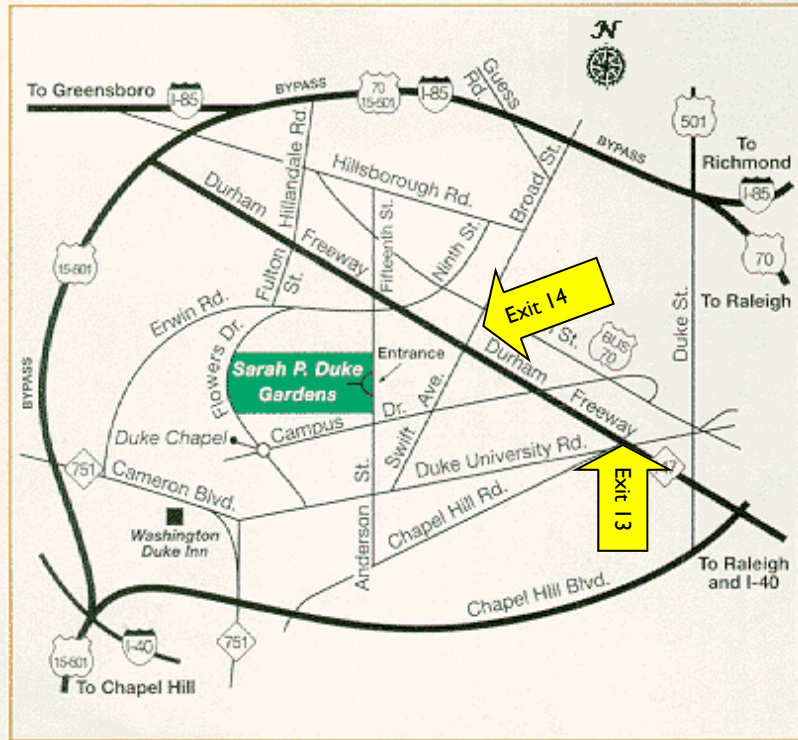
ier to use and pack than the sponge-like osmunda.

If you decide to try cypress mulch remember that the frequency of watering must be reduced or altered to fit the new medium. The real lesson is not to switch to a new medium until you have learned how to use it. Second is to understand the necessity of being sure the medium you use appears to be dense to new roots so they will grow into it, rather than away. Many growers interpret roots that grow away from the pot as an indication that there is not enough water or fertilizer or that the medium has soured. It can also be that the medium does not offer the proper surface for new roots.

Good By and Many Thanks to Mike Corey. Mike is moving to Seattle WA. We will miss him. He was an long time member of TOS, VP and Board Member, Web Master and volunteer of all TOS projects and activities.

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2006	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	July 10th	Paul Storm	Schomburgkias and Their Hybrids
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements		Meke Aloha Orchids	
		Sarasota, FL	
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	August 14th	Doug Kennedy	Lycastes- Description and Cultivation
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break		Orchids in our Tropics	
8:30-9:20 Program		Gormley, Can.	
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	September 11th	Fred M. Clark	Mormodes, Cycnoches & Catasetums
		Sun valley Orchids, CA	
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table		Refreshments
July	Tom & Martha Jepson	Barb & Stan Martinkosky
August	Marlene Kinney	Miriam & 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.



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Visitors are Welcome!

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 Society.org**

July 10th
PAUL & MARY STORM
AND THE WONDERFUL
WORLD OF
SCHOMBURGIAS

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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