



Orchidacea

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

Speaker for June 12th, 2006, Michael Sinn:

Michael was born in Venezuela to German parents. He started loving orchids when he was 12 years old, while taking care of the orchids in his mother's backyard (mainly Cattleyas and Oncidiums), and when he bought his first orchid which was a blooming V. sanderiana. That was when he was bitten by the Orchid fever. Later he attended Universidad Metropolitana in Caracas where he received a degree in civil engineer. He changed careers about six years ago, to become founder and owner of Canaima Orchids.

For the past three decades, Michael has been visiting Cattleya habitats in Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela. He is especially interested in breeding cattleyas and laelias. Currently he is judging chairman for the Venezuelan Orchid Association (A.V.O.) and a Student Judge with the American Orchid Society. Michael worked for four years in the Venezuelan Amazon state as a contractor and while there, observed the habitat of the C. violacea. He also did a lot of conservation work and showed the local people how to pollinate the orchids and not to take them from the habitat during that time.

Since 1994, Canaima Orchid's goal has been to produce the finest cultivars of Cattleya species through line-breeding of select parents. A long list of international awards validates their breeding stock as being the finest available anywhere. Their Cattleya species have received awards throughout South America, the US and Japan. Their seedlings and divisions are eagerly sought by orchid connoisseurs worldwide.

Michael has made numerous trips to the habitats of the Venezuelan Cattleyas and seen their dwindling numbers. He is convinced that the best contribution that he can make toward conserving these native species is to offer collectors superior forms from seed-raised populations. Many well-known Cattleyas such as C. percivaliana 'Summit' FCC/AOS are proven breeders that impart their full form, rich color and vigor to offspring. By using such parents with lesser known species possessing other desirable traits, he is able to create populations of Cattleya species that were only a dream a generation ago. Rare and unusual color forms are now offered to the collector of fine Cattleyas. Canaima's new nursery facility, in Ellenton, Florida, allows Michael to offer a wider selection of choice orchids to a broader audience. Please write for an appointment if you wish to visit them. You may visit Canaima's online photo gallery and feel free to write concerning divisions of any of their awarded stud plants.

Michael may be reached at: Canaima Orchids, P.O. Box 239, Ellenton, FL 34222
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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 Meetig for the Triangle Orchid Society, May 8, 2006.

The President, Judith Goldstein, was ill this Monday. Vice President Miriam Sagasti called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and extended a special welcome to Drs. Malcolm and Faye Hardy, Debbie Suchoff, and Barbara and Simon Shane. She also extended special thanks to Ed and Janice Swab, for hosting the evening's speaker, Eric Christianson. 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.

The speaker did not sell plants. Members held a sale table instead.

Announcements:

The TOS will be holding the Spring Orchid Auction on Saturday, May 20th at the same Apex Community Park facility as last year's Auctions. There will be a potluck at 12 noon, and the Auction will start at 1 pm.

Book orders were due at the May meeting. Books should be available for pick up at the June meeting.

Mike Joehrendt's old greenhouse is up for adoption. It is located in N. Raleigh, and is free to the right home. But you have to take it apart and carry it away yourself.

Eric Christianson presented the show table, after which the Vice President announced a 15 minute break for refreshments.

Miriam Sagasti called the meeting back to order at 8:20 pm. Jack Webster introduced the speaker, Eric Christianson. Dr. Christianson was pleased to tell the members that he had identified 3 new orchids just the week prior to his talk. He spoke about Vandas.

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

In the Greenhouse Grown category:

First place: *Tolumnia bahamense* 'Snowflake' grown by Tom Lapp

Second place: *Phalaenopsis* Lava Glow grown by Paul and Olivine Virtue

Third place: went to Vanda Princess Mikasa Pink : Grown by Michael Wagner

In the Non Greenhouse grown category:

First place: *Angraecum sequipedelae* 'Orchidglade II' grown by Jaimie Graff

Second place: *Dendrobium senile* grown by Jaimie Graff

Third place: : *Potinara Burana* Beauty 'Burana' grown by Allison Finch

Raffle plants including some surprise extras from John Martin, and the meeting adjourned shortly before 9:30 pm.

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

**Treasurer's Report,**

Michael Wagner

Monthly Income and Expenses**Monthly Income and Expenses**

4/1/2006 - 4/30/2006

Beginning Balance **\$8,988.39****Income**

Raffle \$140.00

Memberships \$18.00

Total Monthly Income **\$158.00****Expenses**

Newsletter expense for April \$87.43

Speaker expenses \$166.28

Purchase plants for auction \$172.50

Park rental & deposit for auctions \$440.00

New lights for show table \$202.23

Total Monthly Expenses **\$1,068.44****Income Less Expenses** **-\$910.44****May speaker notes:**

Speaker Presentation: Jack Webster introduced Eric Christianson to speak about *Aerides* that includes foxtail orchids. Discovery of these orchids dates to about 1790 in Viet Nam. The British Museum has material dating to that discovery. They allowed him to take a dried sample, rehydrate in ammonia and study it.

What makes something '*Aerides*' is that has a spur. In the 1810s through 1830s, if it came from Asia and had a spur, it was named *Aerides*, even if not closely related. Consequently many unrelated varieties were adducted to *Aerides*. Other characters are a big column foot. He continued with a slide show. Pollination requires a very strong bee to pollinate, as observed in the 1930s. The other character is the shape of the column. It looks like a columbophore, Latin for pigeon's head.

There are four groups within *Aerides* species. He showed examples from each group and characterized their color as well as pollination vectors. There have been some incidences of bird pollination noted. Some *Aerides* produce wonderfully sweet sugar nectar. The purpose biologically is to attract ants that reside on the flower. In cultivation, you don't want sugar in the greenhouse. The tip of the inflorescence blackens and dies. Judges don't want to see this.

During graduate school, a new type of classification came into vogue called cladistics. This identifies branching points in evolution pathways. From this related species are determined. This method was used along with DNA to clarify *Aerides* taxonomy.

He explained various crosses among related species. Some crosses involve warm flowering varieties such as *Aerides* crossed with cold-growing ones. One produced progeny that had sprays with 125 flowers, each the size of a half dollar. [See tape for more information.]

Rhyncostylis is characterized by having a one-lobed lip. They are all sweet smelling. There are colored and white forms. About 15 years ago someone crossed a solid purple one with a typical spotted one. The result was one flowering with big grape jelly spots. All the awards over the past 10 years are for these progeny types. Be careful as these may bring bumblebees to your collection due to their sweet nectar.

He discussed other related species and characteristics, including *Arachnis* and *Vandas*. Throughout, he mentioned the natural habitat of various species and many hybrids that had been developed.

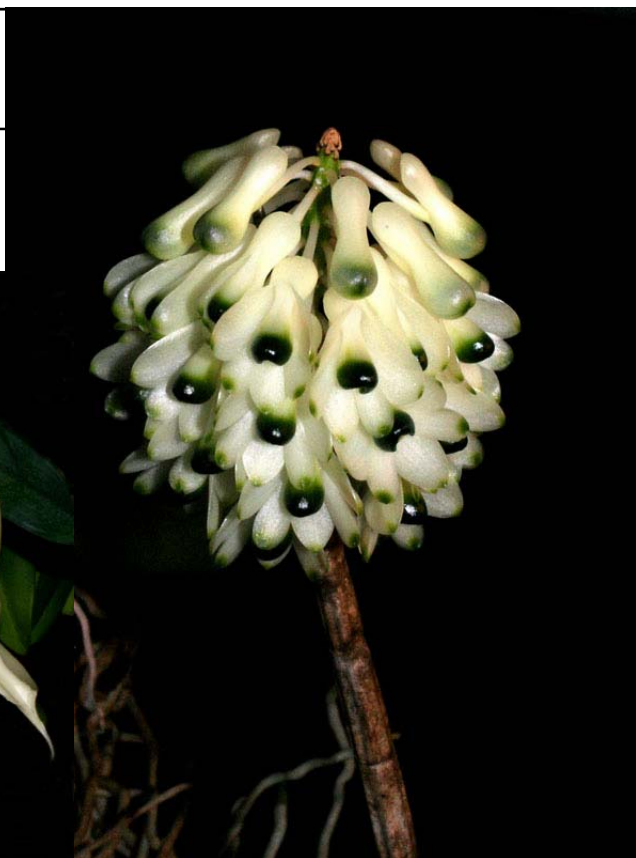


**Jack Webster
Awards Non
Greenhouse
Grown,
Pictures by Jeff
Bloodworth**

**3rd Place Ribbon went to: Pottinara Burana
Beauty 'Burana' grown by Allison Finch**



**1st Place Ribbon went to: *Angraecum sesqui-*
pedale 'Orchidglade' grown by Jamie Graff**



**2nd Place Ribbon went to: *Den-*
robium simile grown by Jamie Graff**

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown,
Pictures by Jeff
Bloodworth**



**2nd Place
Ribbon went to Phalaenopsis Lava
Glow: grown by Paul and Olivene Vir-**



**1st:Place Ribbon went to *Tolumnia
bahamense* 'Snowflake: grown by
Tom Lapp**



**3rd Place Ribbon went to Vanda Princess
Mikasa Pink : Grown by Michael Wagner**



Growing Tips for June

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

For the first time in my orchid growing career, I understand why so many books on orchid culture discuss the difficulty of growing orchids under low humidity and how to counter the effects of low humidity. Typically, the only time humidity is lower than the ideal for orchids in most of the Southeastern U.S. is in winter, when days are short and the sun is low on the horizon. Raising humidity in winter-spring in a closed greenhouse is relatively easy with a humidifier or various types of misters. Keeping humidity up in late spring and summer has proven to be far more difficult.

Most orchid growers know that orchids prefer good humidity, but what is “good humidity”. The books say that the perfect humidity for most orchids is around 60%. Leaves open their stomata to let in Carbon Dioxide and evaporate water to cool themselves during the heat of the day. The ideal humidity is when the amount of water in the air is such that orchids undergoing photosynthesis are able to move enough water from the medium into their roots and to the leaves to compensate for the water lost to the atmosphere. The warmer the air, the faster the plant can photosynthesize, but the more water the orchid will need to evaporate to keep from overheating. When the need for water ex-

ceeds the supply, most plant leaves wilt, but the rigid leaves of most orchids simply overheat.

Thus, the same relative humidity levels in winter (cool) will not have the same effect as in the summer when it is warm or hot because orchids are not growing as fast when light levels are lower and so do not need the same degree of cooling. This past spring, relative humidity levels in the Southeast have been at a record low, not for just a day or two, but for months. Hobbyists with small greenhouses or windowsills have had to water with great frequency and still watch their orchids show signs of water stress.

Most of us in the South that have been hoping for an increase in humidity should remember the old expression; “Be careful what you wish for” because high humidity is a normal part of the Southern climate and will be here soon. It is much harder to manage high humidity than low humidity. The primary difficulty with hot humid summers results from the low evaporation rate as humidity approaches 100%. The closer the relative humidity is to 100%, the lower the rate of evaporative cooling both in the leaves (via the stomata) and from the

leaf surface. Not only does water stand in the crowns or on leaves until nightfall, but the evaporative cooling used by plants to cool leaves is also very ineffective.

As the temperature and humidity rise, orchids can be shaded more and air flow increased to limit over heating and increase cooling. If not, orchids will become stressed, even if excess water on plants at night is avoided. Stressed orchids are always more susceptible to attack by disease and pests. Fungal and bacterial problems will develop quickly in the heat, especially on thin leafed orchids or on orchids that prefer cooler conditions. My attempts to grow cool-loving masdevalias and other aliens to high heat always fail this time of year, with few exceptions.

Orchids in baskets, especially vandaceous types thrive in the high heat and humidity as long as there is enough air movement. This time of year, the few orchids in my collection that are reputed to be intermediate types are placed in lots of shade and misted on the hottest days every morning. A fan aimed right at them insures not just the maximum cooling, but that they will be dry by the evening. If you use distilled or DO water in your misting, there will also be few rots that accompany the extra misting. Bacteria and fungi do not grow well in water with absolutely nothing in it.

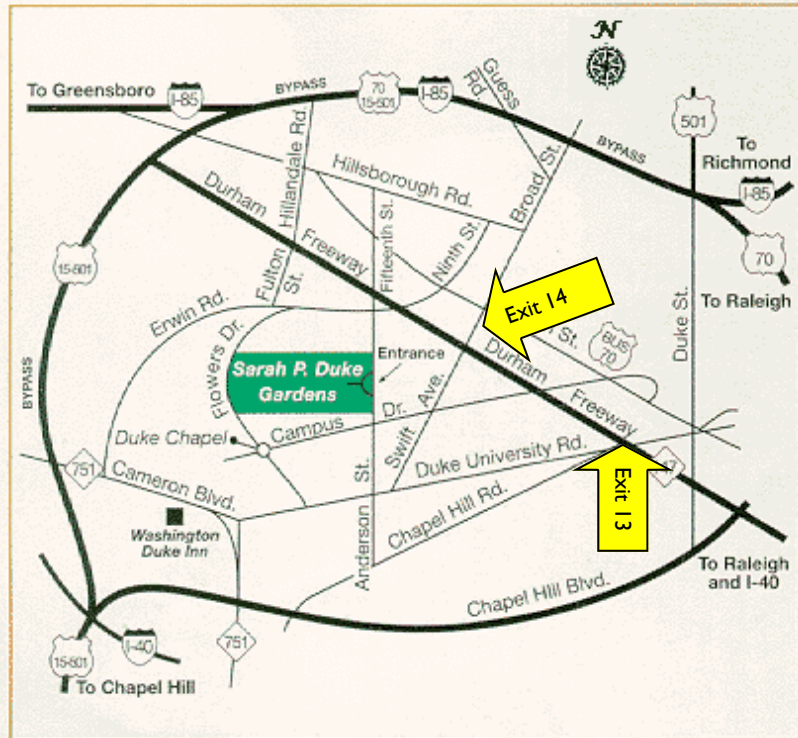


New Product - Moist greenhouse conditions are tough on wood, even treated wood. After 13 years, some of the treated wood in my benches began to fail and was replaced. A product available today at a good price is plastic coated, steel shelving. It only comes in white, but is very attractive. Most new homes use this product in closets or in cabinets. Not only is this a strong product, but the plastic coating prevents rust. It is non-toxic, unlike many treated wood products, and slugs and snails seem to dislike moving across it. Even better, is the open nature of the shelving, which lets light through to shelves below and more importantly, allows additional air movement over slatted shelves. It comes in different widths and lengths and is relatively easy to custom cut with bolt cutters. It would be ideal for use indoors as well.

Thank You to Jeff Bloodworth who took the Show Table Pictures and to Amy Marshall who Edited, Addressed and Mailed out Last Month's Newsletter while I was on vacation. Alan Miller

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2006	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	June 12th	Michael Sinn Canaima Orchids	Venezuelan Cattleyas and their Habitats
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	July 10th	Paul Storm Meke Aloha Orchids Sarasota, FL	Sachomburkias and Their Hybrids
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program	August 14th	Doug Kennedy Orchids in our Tropics Gormley, Can.	Lycastes- Description and Cultivation
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes			
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table		Refreshments
June	Alan Miller And Jeff Bloodworth	Lori Chapman
July		



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.TriangleOrchidSociety.org

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