



Orchidacea

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

Speakers for March 13, 20064..TOS Members

Paul Virtue,..... 2004 and 2005 Miami show

Paul was born in Jamaica, grew up on a cattle and sugar cane farm and married Olivene in 1969. They were moved out of Jamaica in 1976 on job-related transfers, serving in Malaysia, Trinidad and the Bahamas before moving permanently in 1984 to Raleigh, where he started a software company. They have always had interest in orchids, starting with the Broughtonia, Encyclia, Brassavola and other plants found in Jamaica. He recalls a giant Schomburgkia tibicinis and numerous Broughtonia sanguinea growing in trees in his parents front yard. Their first orchid was probably a Encyclia fragrans bought from a roadside vendor in 1970, though it was impossible to maintain a collection, given frequent job transfers. Serious collecting started in the mid-1990s with the usual window sill Phalaenopsis and grew in 2002 with the erection of a greenhouse at their Raleigh home. They now have a collection of about 500, mainly Cattleya, Vanda, Oncidiinae, Phalaenopsis and Phaphs. And yes, Broughtonia sanguinea and Schomburgkia tibicinis are a vital part of that collection. In their travels they have always attended orchid shows and each year try to make the Miami International show in early March. The slides are from the 2004 and 2005 Miami show, with a few others mixed in from the AOS complex in Delray Beach."

Jeff Bloodworthsemi-hydroponics

Jeff is a viticulturist who has been breeding grapes in North Carolina since 1977. He has preserved and built upon the genetic foundation set in place by his predecessors as part of a century long quest in North Carolina to systematically breed improved varieties of the native muscadine grape, *Vitis rotundifolia* Michx. With the progress made thus far, he is optimistic that new varieties will soon emerge that retain the heady floral aroma and flavor of the muscadine, yet bear texturally improved, wholly edible seedless berries on tough, disease-resistant, ornamental vines whose uniquely pigmented foliage erupts into a stunning firestorm of fall colors. Jeff cultivates fragrant orchid species as a hobby and has experimented with a relatively new growing technique called semi-hydroponics (S/H). A wide variety of orchid species seem to adapt well to S/H. He will give us an overview of what S/H is, how it works, along with its advantages and disadvantages. He will pass along tips for success and how to avoid common pitfalls.

Michael Wagner..... TOS Treasurer will Show slides of the St Louis Orchid Show.

Michael Wagner has been growing orchids in Chapel Hill for about 8 years. His collection includes nearly 400 plants of mixed genera which he grows in a home-built greenhouse that is now much too small. (His wife, Jeanne, told him it would be too small when he built it, but he didn't listen). A molecular biologist and geneticist by training, Michael has always loved to grow plants, and as he is currently unemployed, he spends far more time than is probably good for him communing with his orchids. In early February, Michael and Jeanne traveled to St. Louis to visit with their son, daughter-in-law, and 10-month old granddaughter, and had the opportunity to see the annual orchid show at the St. Louis Botanical Gardens. He will present slides taken at the show.

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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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Jack Webster ...Imported orchids from the Philippines.

TOS Past President, Jack Webster will talk about the care, potting and culture of the Imported orchids arriving next month from the Philippines.. Jack studied in Scotland and Argentina. Married with four sons and eight grandchildren. Married with four sons and eight grandchildren. Spent 40 years in S. America working for the J. Walter Thompson Company (Advertising Agency}, founding their branches in Lima, Peru, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Caracas, Venezuela, Asuncion, Paraguay, and La Paz, Bolivia. Ended up as a member of the Board of Directors in New York and as Executive Vice President. Lives in Southern Pines with his wife of 50 years, Jean. Has three greenhouses, 1400 orchid plants.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Triangle Orchid Society, February 13, 2006.

President, Judith Goldstein, opened the meeting at 7:32pm, welcomed Jose Raez as a guest to the TOS, and reminded the attendees that 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.

Michael Wagner, the Treasurer, gave an overview of the Annual Treasurer's Report as presented in the newsletter. He emphasized that membership dues are 28% of the TOS income and are vital to continue supporting the excellent speakers and vendors TOS members enjoy. He asked that people both pay their dues and please fill out the membership information forms that were mailed to all members of the TOS. The forms will keep the membership database up to date. Finally, if there are people currently receiving the newsletter in print form who could possibly receive it electronically, please consider doing so. The newsletter is expensive to print and mail out, and the electronic version offers considerable savings to the TOS. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and accepted.

Announcements:

The President announced that Dr. Le Duc of Duke Gardens wished the TOS membership to know about a presentation on how to use Permatil in the landscape. A representative from the manufacturer will be at Duke Gardens on March 2 from 2-4 pm. Registration is \$15 to the general public, \$10 for Friends of Duke Gardens.

The TOS had a 10 X 5 ft exhibit at the Triad Orchid Society show. Judith thanked the members who helped set up and tear down the exhibit, and gave special thanks to the people who participated in setting up the display who had never done so before. There is a list of the awards won by TOS members available. Anyone who is interested should speak with Judith.

The Sandhills Orchid Society is hosting an orchid show at the Weymouth House in Southern Pines. The show is set up on Feb. 22, and taken down on

Feb 25. The TOS will have a display at the show, and needs people to volunteer plants as well as time to help set up and tear down the display. Please speak with Judith Goldstein or Jack Webster if you have time or plants to lend to the endeavor.

The Central Florida Orchid Society will host the AOS members meeting, Orchid Magic, April 5-9 at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel. The meeting features a number of speakers and presentations. The Feb. 2006 Orchids Magazine has more details.

The Orchid Society of East Tennessee will host a show April 21-23. If anyone is in the area, it might be nice to explore the show.

The February and March meetings are member plant sales.

If you have plants you would like to sell, please bring them, with the prices marked on them, to the meeting.

Robin Gurlitz announced that the TOS has people for the March refreshment table, but that volunteers were needed for the rest of the year. A sign up sheet was available at the Welcome table. Robin asked that people please write legibly, and include an email contact, if possible. If anyone who has not signed up is still interested in volunteering for the Refreshments table, Robin's email is available in the TOS newsletter and on the TOS website.

Nick Plummer 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. More plants to look at makes for a more interesting meeting.

The President announced a 15 minute break for refreshments.

Following the break, the Vice President, Miriam Sagasti reconvened the meeting and asked the TOS librarian to update the members. Diane Parks showed a number of excellent new books that have been added to the TOS library, located in the Doris Duke Center. She also explained that members can take the books out of the library by simply filling out a card. The books are due back the next month. If you have overdue books, please bring them back. Other people might be waiting to read them.

Miriam Sagasti then announced the speaker, Scott Hadley,

Superintendent of Weymouth Woods in Southern Pines. Superintendent Hadley spoke about the specialized ecosystem of Long Leaf Pine Forest of Weymouth Woods, a "Pine Barrens" in the Sandhills region of North Carolina. Weymouth Woods is home to a number of endangered and specialized species, both plant and animal. The State Park Service encourages people to go visit Weymouth Woods, look around, and speak with the rangers. They are there to help people explore and learn about the region.

Weymouth Woods is an open, park-like forest where a lot of sunlight reaches the forest floor resulting in lush, grassy growth under the trees. This type of forest once covered most of the South, but is now reduced to less than 3 million acres. It is a limited, endangered forest system, though NC can be proud of having a fair amount of protected acreage. Weymouth Woods is in the Sandhills region. No one is entirely certain how the landscape of the Sandhills developed, but it is characterized by deep (greater than 60 feet) sandy soil with very sharp drainage, open spaces and lush grasses. The open spaces and lush grasses of the pine forests are maintained by periodic burns. These burns are largely due to lightning fires. The plants and animals of the region have adapted to these burns, and are specialized to the region. For example, the long leaf pine needs the burns to provide the patches of bare soil necessary for the germination of its seed, and the burns also reduce competition once the seed is down. In turn, the long leaf seedlings have developed special adaptations to fire, such as burying the apical bud inside a cluster of relatively fire-resistant needles.

The long leaf pine has 4 distinct stages of growth: the grass stage, where the seedling establishes root growth; the sapling stage, characterized by rapid upward growth; the mature stage, when the tree begins producing cones, and the old growth stage, characterized by gnarled, twisted growth. Long leaf pines are extremely tough trees, and can live up to 500 years.

One of the contributing factors to the trees durability is their resin. The trees are extremely resinous, helping them survive pests, diseases, and fires.

In the absence of fire, hardwoods begin to grow and shade out the undergrowth. To restore the pine forest, controlled burns are conducted by trained state personnel. No one wants to burn down the homes in Southern Pines!

The pine forests, also know as Pine Barrens, were largely undeveloped until the turn of the last century, as the soil was too poor for early agricultural methods. The forest itself, however, fostered large amounts of biodiversity. There are physical features in the landscape called “seeps”, where the drainage is slowed and the terrain slightly sunken, resulting in moisture collecting in the area. These seeps are home to a wide variety of plants, carnivorous plants and orchids. The Yellow Pitcher Plant can be found in Weymouth Woods, as can the Sandhills Lilly (an extremely rare species),

different types of slipper orchid, the white and yellow fringe orchid, showy orchid, lady’s tresses, and the crane fly orchid. Our speaker recommended watching where you walk in Weymouth Woods, since it is also home to poison oak, poison ivy and poisonous snakes!

The fauna of the region is also specialized and often endangered. The endangered red cockaded woodpecker lives and works in family groups in the area. These birds live specifically in roost cavities in the long leaf pine, and the cavities take years to build, thanks to all that pine resin. The pine resin is irritating to snakes and they drop off when climbing over the resin, near the nest cavity. Humans are now installing artificial cavities in the trees to help this endangered species, and the program seems to be working well. Other species special to these forests include the pine barrens tree frog, the northern pine snake, and the fox squirrel.

Superintendent Hadley closed his talk and slideshow by encouraging people to stop by Weymouth Woods if they are in the area. If given some advance notice, the rangers can also schedule special tours for interested groups. Anyone wishing to contact him can reach Superintendent Hartley at ScottHartley@Ncmail.net.

The Jack Webster awards for best show table plants were selected after Scott Hartley finished speaking.

Greenhouse plants: First Place went to *Dendrobium fimbriatum var oculata* grown by Nick Plummer. Second Place ribbon went to *Oncidium splendidum*, grown by Nick Plummer, and third place ribbon went to *Gongora pleiochroma* grown by Jeff Bloodworth.

Non-Greenhouse grown winners were as follows: First place, *Phal. schilleriana* grown by Alan Miller, second place, *Ludisia discolor*, grown by Jaimie Graff, and third place *Phal Little Emperor* grown by Bob Myer. Congratulations to the winners.

John Stanton, proprietor of The Orchid Trail, provided a number of plants for the evening raffle, some in bloom, some in spike, some unidentified. Congratulations to all the lucky winners. The plants were raffled off, and the meeting adjourned shortly before 9:30 pm.

Secretary, Jaimie Graff



First Place Ribbon went to *Phalaenopsis schilleriana*, grown by Alan Miller

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown**



Second Place Ribbon went to *Ludisia discolor* grown by Jaimie Graff



Third Place Ribbon went to Phalaenopsis 'Little Emperor' Grown by Bob Meyer

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**

**First Place Ribbon went to:
Dendrobium fimbriatum var
oculata grown by Nick Plummer**



**Third Place Ribbon went to
Gongora pleiochroma, grown
by Peggy & Jeff Bloodworth**



**Second Place Ribbon went to *Oncidium
splendidum* Grown by Nick Plummer**

TOS Exhibit at the Triad Orchid Society Show, Greensboro, Feb 2-4th, 2006

Judith Goldstein and Jeff Bloodworth putting in the exhibit. Blue ribbons went to John Stanton, Jaimie Graff, Alan Miller Peggy & Jeff Bloodworth, Jack Webster, and Jeff Baldwin. Our Exhibit won a blue ribbon for the, 50 sq. ft., "Orchid plants in flower, arranged for effect".



Jaimie and Ron Graff took down the exhibit at the end of the show.





**TOS Exhibit at Weymouth House, Sandhills Orchid Society
Orchid Show, Southern Pines, February 23-25th, 2006**



The TOS exhibit got four trophies and a dozen Blue Ribbons. John Martin got three Best of Shows: Best specimen plant, Best Paphiopedilum and Best Amateur Exhibit.

John Stanton got the Best Miscellaneous Genera Trophy for Ddc. Wenzelli Jeff's Red Wheat

Judith Goldstein, Terry Moorhead, Jack Webster, Michael Wagner, and Jaimie Graff put in the Exhibit and Bob Meyer, Miriam and Leo Sagasti, Robin and Josh Gurlitz took the TOS exhibit down.



Paul Feaver got the Best Miniature Trophy for Sl. Pole Star

Jean & Jack Webster's Table Top Exhibit



Jack Webster got the Best Dendrobium Trophy in TOS Exhibit, *Den speciosum*. And also got the Best Species in Show Trophy, *Den speciosum*



Growing Tips for March

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

There is no topic I hate to discuss more than the subject of pesticides. Unfortunately, it is one of the most requested subjects. There are many reasons for my reluctance, foremost being that these are toxic substances and there is always the possibility of a reader misunderstanding or misinterpreting some key point. There are, however, some important things everyone should know.

First, is that every orchid grower should assume that every product is toxic to people and pets, no matter what they have been told or even what is on the label. Historically, it has been the products we were not worried about that turned out to be the problems. My advice is to use protective gloves and a respirator, even if you are using some seemingly innocuous product such as insecticidal soap.

I am often asked "what are your favorite pesticides". My answer is none of the above, because I have no favorite. In fact, my preference would be to never use a pesticide if I could. After years of using all kinds of different products from very toxic to supposedly non-toxic, I am convinced that all of them have some potentially negative effect on orchids. Unfortunately, orchids, like most other cultured plants, have a battery of insect and other pests that can kill them if left unchecked. The most lethal are scale insects: most lethal because they can be almost unseen and literally "suck the life" out of your orchids. The good news is that there are many products that kill them. The bad news is that scales reproduce rapidly, spread quickly, and have pesticide-resistant life stages, making frequent applications a necessity. Many of the most damaging species of scale are largely resistant to common pesticides.

Scales, like many insects, are particularly vulnerable to being smothered by oil sprays or desiccated by soaps that remove their outer protective coatings allowing them to dry up. Because they must shed their outer

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they are also vulnerable to new hormonal products that target their molting cycle. The high cost and instability of some of these pesticides makes them unavailable to most orchid hobbyists.

A number of hobbyists have told me that they have had some success using insect predators. My few attempts at using natural predators were notably unsuccessful, as the predatory insects vanished soon after their release in the greenhouse. Clearly, this is not a method that would work in the home environment either.

Growers with small numbers of plants treat scale relatively easily with products available at the "local store". The first product you will need is a magnifying glass. New growers often do not even know that they have a problem because these pests are relatively small creatures, and hide well. Often problems are not suspected until there is a massive infestation. Some patient folks use Q-tips dipped in rubbing alcohol to remove and kill scale as they are found. Others fill large buckets with insecticidal soap or light oil and dip the entire plant, pot and all, covering every surface with the oil or soap.

These are all effective methods for the small grower who really does not need to use the more toxic products. There are also times where it is easier to discard an orchid that has somehow become covered with scale before it infects others in your collection. Lastly, assume that any orchid you add to your collection has this devious little insect hiding somewhere, and treat it appropriately.

TOS members met with the speaker for dinner last month. If you would like to dine with the speakers, we have dinner at the Neo China Restaurant at 5:30 before the meeting. Call Alan Miller for reservations before 5PM Monday at 969-1612



If you got a *Calanthe* 'Gores' back bulb at the last TOS Auction, you have a clone of Jack Webster's awarded plant, and you can change your label to ***Calanthe Gores* var 'Jean Webster 4 N'** AM/AOS. Jack's plant was awarded on 1/25/06 at the Carolina Judging Center, Greensboro. He will have some back bulbs for the next auction. Be sure to attend.

The Spring Auction is scheduled for Sunday, May 21st, Covered Dish at noon, Auction starts at 1PM.

Cary Park

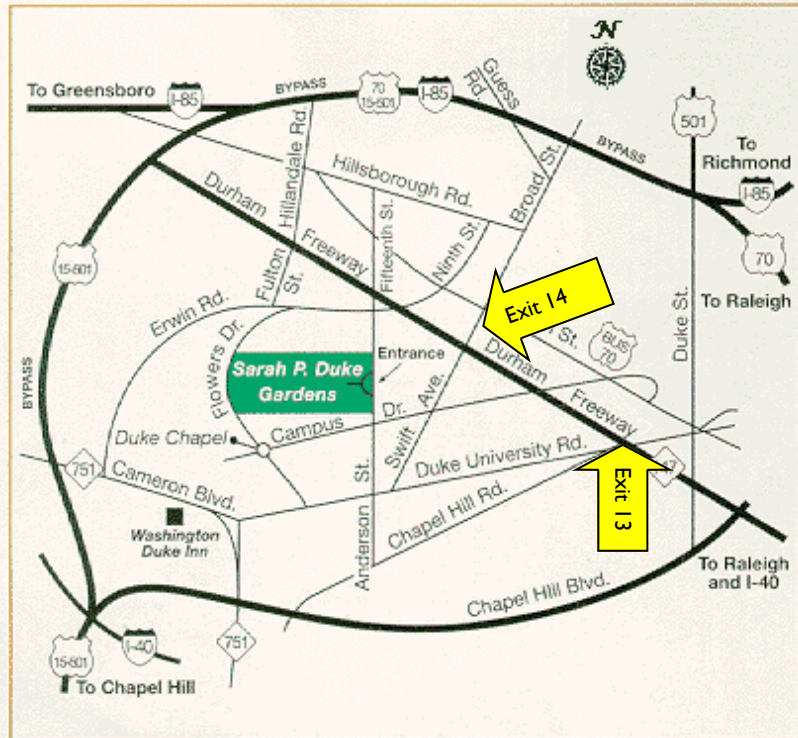


Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2006	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	March 13th	TOS Members	Growing Orchids in NC & Member Plant Sale
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	April 10th	Tom Harper Stones River Orchids TN	Influence of certain species in Phal hybridizing
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	May 15th	Brian Gerhard New South Wales	Australian hybrid dendrobiums
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table

Refreshments

March 13	Judith Shapiro and David Meyer	Robin and Josh Gurlitz
April 10	Peggy and Jeff Bloodworth	Adrienne Dowler and Erin Denoo



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

Member Plant Sale,
TOS Members Growing
Orchids in NC,
Orchid Shows

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