



Orchidacea

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

Speaker for September 11, 2006

Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids “New Hybrids with *Catasetum*, *Cynoches* and *Mormodes*”

are three related genera from the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or “botanical”, of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions.

Commercially, *Catasetum*, *Cynoches* (or ‘Swan’ orchids) and *Mormodes* (or ‘Goblin’ orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Epidendrums, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society.

This talk will feature a widescreen computer slide show on some of the new hybrids and breakthroughs in the hybridization of *Catasetum*, *Cynoches* and *Mormodes*. The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 29 years and has been hybridizing for 19 of those years. With over 22 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Bulbophyllum and Paphiopedilum hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the **blackest** flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received four FCC’s and two AM’s on the first flowers shown for judging! Fred is a Probationary Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

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fred.clarke@worldnet.att.net www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com

10% discount on pre orders.

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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 Triangle Orchid Society, August 14, 2006.

President, Judith Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and extended a special welcome to new members who attended the Growers Day to guest Hector Hidalgo and Kathy Thompson. A motion was made to approve the July minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and accepted. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as published in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and accepted. Thank you to Marlene Kinney who was at the Welcome Table and Miriam & Leo Sagasti who took care of refreshments.

Announcements:

Raffle tickets for the August meeting were \$1.00 each, due to the number and quality of plants raffled. The Orchid Trail provided a very nice Cattleya, and a number of plants from Michael Corey's collection were raffled. Grower's Day was held on Saturday August 5 at Durham Tech. 50 registrants attended to hear the full day of speakers.

The TOS fall auction will be held on Sunday September 17th at the Apex Community Park. A map and directions will included in the September newsletter. Judith requested that you bring divisions of your plants, ones that you haven't been able to flower or don't have room in your greenhouse when it's time to bring them in from outdoors. Pot Luck lunch will start at 12 Noon and the auction will start at 1PM. Spread the word. Convince friends, family, co-workers and anyone else you can think of

to spread the addiction. Terry Kennedy the speaker's wife did the show table. She has been an AOS judge for 8 years. She explained the cultural requirements of many of the plants and praised the quality of the show table plants. The show table was followed by a 15 minute break for refreshments, which was in turn followed by a slide show conducted by Mr. Douglas Kennedy on Lycastes.

The Jack Webster awards for best show table plants were selected by Terry Kennedy after husband Douglas presented his program on Lycastes.

Congratulations to the following winners.

In the Greenhouse Grown category:

First Place Ribbon went to Vascostylis Five Friendships grown by Judith Goldstein. Second place went to Vanda 'Pontip' x Ascda 'Motes Mandarin' HCC/AOS grown by Robin and Josh Gurlitz. Third place went to Encyclia cochleatum H&R x sib 'Spy Hill' grown by Terry Moorhead.

In the Non Greenhouse grown category:

First place ribbon went to: *Dendrobium bractensis* grown by John Stanton: Second Place Ribbon went to *Schoenorchis fragrans* grown by Nick Plummer.

Third Place Ribbon went to : *Phalaenopsis lindenii* grown by John Stanton.

Raffle plants tickets were drawn and the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

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 to make your reservations

Last Month's Speaker Presentation

VP Miriam Sagasti introduced our speaker for the evening, Doug Kennedy from Vandorf, Ontario, accompanied by his wife Terry, an AOS judge who graciously discussed the show table.

Doug has been growing orchids for about thirty years. His topic was "Lycastes, Description and Culture." He said he would cover a lot of culture with a 75 slide presentation. He covered the species that are the major players, notable hybrids, and hybrids from intergeneric breeding. They built their first greenhouse in 1976 and in 1994 they moved to a larger house. They have about 15,000 plants. He mentioned their awards and showed slides first of their greenhouse that is recessed into the ground about four feet. He covered some technical information about temperature and humidity controls. He said they treat their commercial business as a hobby. *Lycastes* like high light and wet conditions, similar to vandas. They hang them up like vandas. He uses a New Zealand moss mixture for culture media with a lot of sponge rock to break it up. There are others who grow them similarly. *Lycastes* are essentially 90% sepals. They are highly deciduous.

All of the flowers come out from bulbs from last year's growth. The color range is whites, yellows, and chocolate reds of various combinations. If leaves start to fall off your plant,

don't worry. It is probably behaving as it should. When starting to grow these, the only supplier was in Santa Barbara, CA. All plants would die. They discovered their roots looked like paph roots. The original problem came from buying a mother flask with about 1000 plants. He said, "Don't buy it." Don't buy them unless plants are quite large and starting to form bulblets at the base of the plant. There is

not enough energy in the small ones to sustain life. When repotting, look where roots are and where they aren't. They grow in high light and wet. Water them about once a week and give them as much humidity as you can manage.

They do not burn in high light. Fertilize at 1/4 strength every watering and flush with pure water every fifth watering. Air movement is critical.

Keep air movement good. They are subject to scale, mealy bugs, and spider mite.

There are four sections. They are *Deciduosae* with two subsections; *Longisepalae* with one member, *Lycaste schilleriana*; a *Macrophyllae* section; and a *Fimbriatae* one, so-called that for it high fimbriation, like a Gabby Hayes beard. *L. schilleriana* come from two areas, Ecuador and Panama. The Panama variety is far prettier. One good thing is this plant is always in bloom. You can always take it to a show. They bloomed one this spring that is 22 cm across. It can be regal looking. Another species problem plant they brought to bloom many years ago. When they showed it, it got awarded and has never flowered since.

He showed many hybrids. In hybrids, the F designation is important. It means the generation, usually from inbreeding. For example, F4 means the fourth generation. One, *L. skinneri* F4 has a good round form and is much better than an F2. Most hybrids flower in the spring. The life cycle is something like this. They flower in the spring, new growth emerges, repot at this time. Into the fall, the bulbs get large, and around Christmas time buds emerge.

An open potting mix is best. He uses New Zealand moss with perlite. The perlite opens up the moss. An open pot is best. They grow best in the temperature range from 58-85 degrees F. A *skinneri* state of the art fine raspberry color is *L. Elizabeth Powell*. A good variety for hybridizing is *Wild Court*. Most *Lycaste* are whites and red. From hybridization we are getting some good yellows and greens. *Cassiopeia* has also been shown to be a great parent.

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



Orchidaceae

Jack Webster Awards, Non Greenhouse Grown

First Place Ribbon went to: *Vascostylis Five Friendships* grown by Judith Goldstein



Third Place Ribbon went to:
Encyclia cochleatum H&R x sib
'Spy Hill' grown by Terry Moorhead



Second Place Ribbon went to: *Vanda*
'Pontip' x *Ascda* 'Motes Mandarin' HCC/
AOS grown by Robin and Josh Gurlitz

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**Jack Webster
Awards, Green-
house Grown**



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bractensis* grown by John Stanton



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Schoenorchis fragrans grown
by Nick Plummer



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grown by John Stanton

Fall Orchid Auction!

Open to the Public

When: Sunday, September 17, 2006
1 :00 PM until everything is sold
Starts with pot luck lunch at noon

Where: Apex Community Park,
2200 Laura Duncan Rd.

Who: Open to all. Anyone can bid.

What: Hundreds of Unusual Blooming Orchids
Species and Hybrids Locally Grown
Many under \$12.00



Directions From RTP:

take exit 285: Aviation Parkway toward Morrisville
turn right onto Aviation Pkwy, go 1.4 miles
turn left on Evans Rd., Go 1.4 miles
turn right onto NW Cary Parkway, go 5.1 miles
turn right onto Old Apex Rd., go 0.3 miles
turn left onto Laura Duncan Rd . Park is 0.3 miles
Drive to the picnic shelter at the end of the road!

Hosted by: The Triangle Orchid Society
For more information, contact:
Judith Goldstein at 919-732-7622 or
info2@triangleorchidsociety.org



Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Sarah P Duke Gardens in Durham. Everybody's welcome to attend the auction and the meetings! www.triangleorchidsociety.org

The Triangle Orchid Society is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Organization dedicated to The enjoyment of orchids as well as orchid conservation, cultivation and education.



Growing Tips for September

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

“Orchids 101”

So you have your first orchid! Perhaps it was a gift from a special friend or an impulse buy, but now you need to know how to make it grow. In any given month I get several emails from people that have just one orchid or who know almost nothing about orchids except that they were given or purchased a plant labeled “Exotic Orchid”. Most of us were once in the same predicament but have forgotten how difficult it was in the beginning. While each inquiry is different, there is a familiar theme.

Most of the questions I get come via email or phone. Non-botanists typically provide fascinating descriptions of the plants they have, e.g. “a green stick with round leaves at the bottom” or “green tubes with white stuff around the pot”. It is often a challenge just to figure out whether the plant is alive or just a flower stem with a few flowers. Many phals that are taken into homes lose their leaves, but maintain a few flowers on the inflorescence. Sadly, most of the plants are too far gone to save, but it is still not too late to hook a potential new hobbyist on this fascinating group of plants. Many of these inquiries come from experienced plant people who are ready to learn more about orchids.

The first question that must be answered is what kind of orchid do you have? It is important to answer this question because different kinds of orchids require different kinds of care. Does the orchid in question have bulbs (technically pseudobulbs) that emerge from the pot? If the answer is yes, then the orchid is most likely a member of the Oncidium group or a dendrobium. How many flowers were on the plant? The answer should be many. Cattleyas, which usually have just a few large flowers, are rarely given as gifts unless you live in Florida or Hawaii. In all cases where there are pseudobulbs, culture requires that the stuff in the pot dry out thoroughly before it is watered again. Technically this is not called soil, but growing medium.

If there are no obvious bulbs on the plant it is likely a phalaenopsis or moth orchid. Guessing a phalaenopsis is always a good bet as this is the most popular orchid sold in the U.S. and the world. Occasionally, paphs (Asian lady slippers) are also available. Both phals and paphs require more water than



orchids with bulbs so culture of this kind of orchid requires that the plant be allowed to dry, but not to the point where the surface of the medium in the pot is “crisp”.

Be sure that you look at the pot in which the plant is growing. In many cases, the pot that contains the orchid was for display in the store and not one in which the orchid will grow. In some cases the display pot will not contain any drainage holes at all, which are mandatory for all kinds of orchids. If an orchid has been in a pot without drainage for any length of time, it may be rootless and doomed.

The second question asked is how one grows this exotic orchid plant. That is an extremely complex question, as experienced hobbyists know. An experienced grower would examine the medium and the condition of the plant and decide if repotting is necessary or if the plant could be saved at all. Generally, novice growers can not successfully repot an orchid and even if someone does it for them, they will be unable to provide conditions that will allow the orchid to re-establish.

The best cultural tip for the newly purchased first orchid is to understand that orchids do not have to be continuously drenched. Like people, they like a good soaking from time to time and then lots of air movement and light. Humidity around 60% is ideal. Most pot plants arrive in relatively dense media, such as sphagnum or a peat-based material. Typically, these are grown under very controlled conditions before sale and plants are forced to grow rapidly with the addition of lots of fertilizer. This means that little additional fertilizer will be needed for a while and that the orchid can handle what might seem to be extreme drying. Orchids, rarely die from lack of water if grown in this type of medium. Avoid the beginner’s mistake of buying orchid fertilizer. It will not help your plant!

The secret to watering any orchid is to water thoroughly with good quality water. Never use water that has been through a water softener. Soak the orchid plant thoroughly and then water again thoroughly again after 20 minutes or set the whole plant and pot in a bucket of water for 20-30 minutes. This soaks even the driest medium and removes excess fertilizer salts.

Put your new orchid in a bright window, southern or east facing is best and hope for the best. If you are able to avoid over watering, new roots and leaves will soon be forthcoming. If, as is often the case, the orchid dies and you still want to grow an orchid, go to one of big chain home improvement



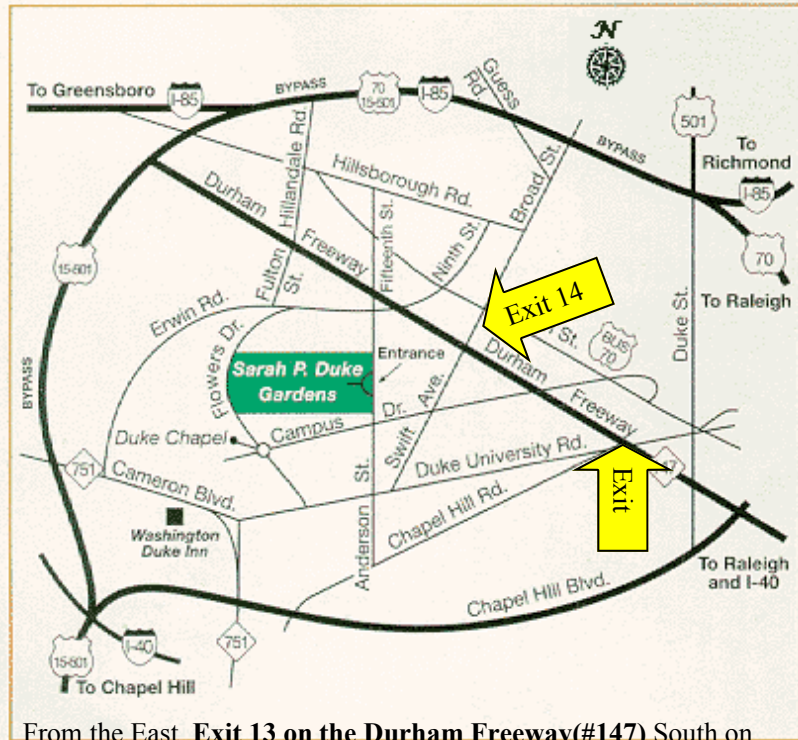
stores. They often have orchids for sale off to the side that have finished blooming and are available for just a few dollars. Pick the orchid up by the leaves. If it pulls out of the pot it is already doomed. Find an orchid that is green and not wilted. These are excellent learner orchids and with a little luck will ultimately grow and bloom for you. You may have to repeat this last step several times before you learn to grow orchids. Good orchid growers learned from trial and error and killed more than a few orchids before they became "semi-pros".

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

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2006	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	September 11th	Fred M. Clarke Sun valley Orchids, CA	Mormodes, Cycnoches & Catasetums
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	October 9th	William Rodohamel Hoosier Orchids Indianapolis, IN	African Orchids
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Speaker			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	November 13th	Gene Crocker, Mgr Carter & Holmes Newberry. SC	Carter & Holmes Cattleyas
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table**Refreshments**

Sept	Jennifer Howard	Robin and Josh Gurlitz
October	George Beischer	Barbara 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**

Speaker Sept 11,2006

**Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley
Orchids "New Hybrids with
Catasetum, *Cycnoches* and
Mormodes"**

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