



# Orchidacea

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

## Speaker for April 9, 2007, Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids, Lincoln CA

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids in Lincoln, California, where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas. His love affair with orchids likely first began in 1960, when he picked a few *Calypso bulbosa* flowers and brought them home to his mother. He has been intrigued by their beauty ever since. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. Alan received his Bachelor of Science from California State University Sacramento in Botany and went on to Pepperdine University to get his Masters. While in college he became interested in other orchids, and discovered to his great joy that many would grow outdoors in Southern California.

Alan is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. He has been published in *Orchids*, and *Orchid digest*, as well as in many international orchid journals and in proceedings of World Orchid Conferences. He is an internationally known and popular speaker on the orchid "circuit." Alan is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, and current member of the AOS'S Special Funding Committee and auctioneer par excellence. Alan is an Accredited AOS Judge and past chair of the Pacific Central Judging Center. He is currently the Vice Chair and Training Coordinator for the new Sierra Nevada Judging Center in Sacramento. He has also served two terms on the *Orchid Digest* Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current Directors.

A staunch supporter of the AOS, Alan says "I am very excited about the future of the AOS as we strengthen the bonds between members, leadership and the industry as a whole. By working together I can see our membership growing along with the orchid industry."

Alan lives with his wife Cheryl and their two sons, Matthew and Mark in Lincoln, California.

**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.

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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 Feb 12, 2007

President Michael Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. and extended a warm welcome to visiting guests and new members. Catherine Morris and her neighbor Nancy Truitt, Suerer Mishue, Chandra Wilson, and Equilla Lavine A special welcome was extended to Father Richard Turner, Past President of TOS and now living in Montana He was in town and stopped by to visit. The February, 2007, minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

### Announcements:

Please pay your membership dues. If you can't remember if you have paid or not, ask Peggy Bloodworth, the Treasurer. She can look it up and let you know. Thank you to Toni Brown for taking charge of the Welcome Table, and to Leo and Miriam Sagasti for the meeting refreshments.

The Triangle Orchid Society show was a great success! "Orchids Around the World" had 13 displays featuring over 300 orchid plants. Thank you very, very much to all the many people who were involved in the show for everything they did, at all levels of the production. There are too many people to list in the Minutes, simply know that your work was deeply appreciated, and it culminated in a successful show.

Raffles tickets sold for \$1; there was a large selection of plants.

The TOS membership package, by laws, culture sheets, and other items of interest are available to TOS members on a CD. Peggy

Bloodworth passed a number of these out at the March meeting. More are available upon request.

The June speaker is coming in from Columbia, the country, not the city. Andrea Niessen has a reputation for wonderful plants. If you wish to make certain she brings you the plants in which you are most interested, pre-order them by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Ordering information is available on her website, which in turn is available as a link off the TOS website.

Tom Wentworth spoke about the trip he will be guiding through the Green Swamp on Saturday, May 5, 2007. The tour will stretch from 10 AM to 2 PM, and we hope to see a number of native orchids in flower along with some of the five genera of carnivorous plants living in the Swamp. Tom has a flyer with pertinent details. Parking is very limited; members interested in the trip will have to car- or vanpool. There will be a mini-meeting at the April TOS meeting to organize transportation. A copy of his flyer is attached to this email.

The Library is still missing all of its videos and a number of its books. If you have any idea where they might have gone, please contact Diane Parks. It would be awfully nice to have them back.

Paul Feaver presented the show table, after which the membership took a short refreshment and socialization break (and the time to buy raffle tickets and plants). After the break, John Stanton of The Orchid Trail, a local orchid establishment, spoke about his trips to Costa Rica, an orchid rich country. The travelogue was very interesting, and the countryside, with its opportunity to view plants growing in situ, was beautiful.

Following the talk, Jack Webster awards were voted upon and handed out. Congratulations to the following winners:

Greenhouse: First Place Ribbon: *Cattleya Skinneri*: grown by Paul Virtue,

Second Place Ribbon: Colmanara Wildcat 'Tiger', grown by Paul Virtue. Third Place Ribbon: Lc Gold Digger x Ctna Why Not, grown by Paul Virtue.

Non-greenhouse: First Place Ribbon: Paph Shadow Magic x Black Cherry grown by Miriam Sagasti. Second Place Ribbon: Brsdm Shooting Star 'Meteor' grown by Bob Molter. Third Place Ribbon: Phal Taisuco Glory x self: grown by Phil Warner.

The raffle plants tickets were drawn (Congratulations to the winners!), and the meeting was adjourned.

### **Last Month's Speaker:**

TOS member John Stanton, the owner of The Orchid Trail Greenhouse in Morrisville, NC was introduced by Miriam Sagasti as the owner of one of the best Orchid species collections in North Carolina. Be that as it may, John demonstrated that he is also an incredible photographer and an intrepid adventurer as he described his trips to Costa Rica.

John explained that Costa Rica has a number of closed preserves that serves not only as protected areas for the indigenous flora and fauna, but also as research headquarters for a number of foundations. While these preserves may be small, averaging only 2 – 300 acres, researchers from around the come to study a host of diverse issues such as reforestation, animal and plant growth habits, or local bird populations. John said that frequently these parks are very isolated. There may or may not be a very crude road leading into these parks. Often you can only get in by small plane, or by boat. The isolation of these areas serves to restrict human encroachment and activity, which is to critical to the preservation of the natural condition of these areas.

For travelers like John, many of these parks do provide very reasonably priced tourist accommodations as well as very well trained native guides who take you on nature walks throughout the preserve

John chose to stay in these lodges and cabins whenever possible, and his photos captured the diversity of habitats where these biospheres are located – on the edge of extinct volcanic craters, on mountain-sides above cloud forests, or along salt water rivers lined with mangrove swamps and populated with crocodiles and dolphins..

John's photos also documented the diversity of animal and plant life that is found in these preserves. Of particular interest of us, of course, were the photos of orchids. John made the point that in Costa Rica today there are virtually no orchids left in the wild. All the plants have been collected by the native people, and re-established in their local gardens. Orchids are prized by the locals, and carefully tended so the rich horticultural heritage of the area remains. Currently the government, in conjunction with some of these research facilities, is cultivating these native species with the intention of returning these plants back to the wild. Remarkably, the integrity of the local species is being protected in that no hybrid, or improved varieties, is utilized.

Cattleya skinneri is one of the best known, and one of the most beautiful orchids that is native to this area. The native people propagate several varieties, and entire orchid shows are devoted to this one species. John had photos of the more typical lavender variety, as well as a truly unique pure alba form. He also had photos of several forms of Epidendrums, Draculas, Maxillarias, Cochleanthes, Stelis, Lepanthes, Mormodes and of course numerous Pleurothallides. He also had photos of red-eyed frogs, boa constrictors, and scorpions. And, to give us a flavor of the area John incorporated numerous scenes of local markets, roadside produce stands, typical jungle air terminals, and photos of the locals with their preferred mode of transportation – horseback..

*Transcription by Cara Hayes Secretary,  
Sandhills Orchid Society*

**Free Raffle tickets ,up to 5 for each flowering Orchid you bring to the Show Table**





**Jack Webster Awards  
Non Greenhouse Grown**

**First Place Ribbon: Paph Shadow  
Magic x Black Cherry grown by  
Miriam Sagasti**



**Second Place Ribbon: Brsdm  
Shooting Star 'Meteor' grown  
by Bob Molter**

**Third Place Ribbon: Phal Taisuco  
Glory x self: grown by Phil War-  
ner**





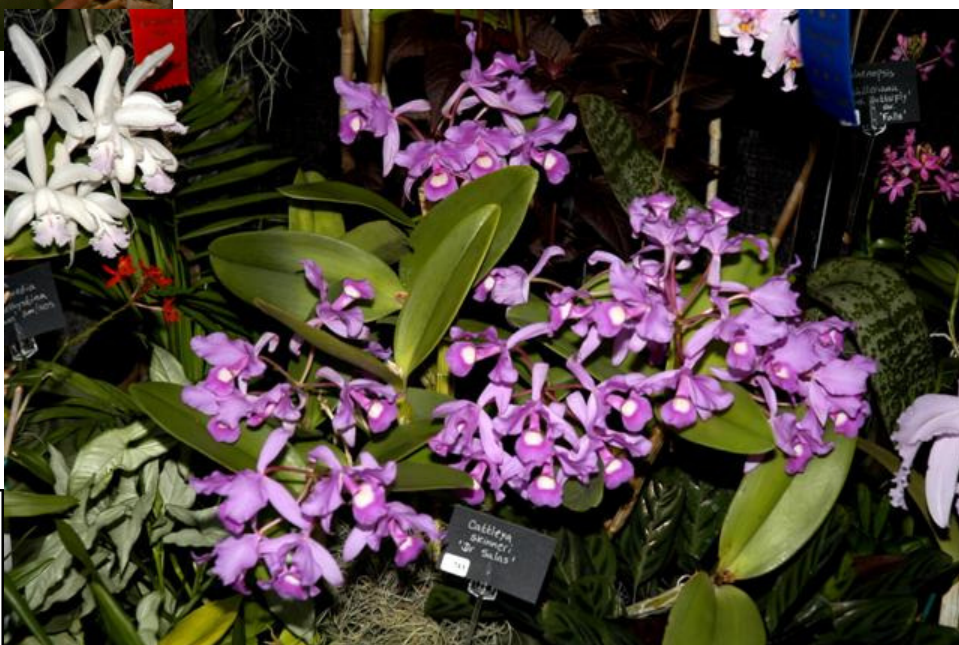
**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



**Third Place Ribbon: Lc  
Gold Digger x Ctna Why  
Not: grown by Paul Virtue**



**Second Place Ribbon: Colmanara Wildcat  
'Tiger' grown by Paul Virtue**



**First Place Ribbon:  
*Cattleya Skinneri*: grown  
by Paul Virtue**



**2007 TOS Orchid Show: Orchids Around The World held at Northgate Mall, March 9-11**, was a great success. Over 300 blooming orchids were displayed in 13 fabulous exhibits, Five vendors sold orchid plants and one sold orchid art. Trophies were awarded to exhibits and individual plants by AOS accredited judges. It was a lot of work, but a lot of fun too. Thanks to all who volunteered their time, and all who just came to see or buy orchids. .



There were 5 AOS Awarded Plants at our show at the Northgate Mall. Phal Art Quest 'Karyn Celeste' HCC 79 pts. and Phal Zeynep 'Hackeau' AM 80 pts was awarded and exhibited by Courtney Hackney . Two awards were given to Carter & Holmes for: Tolumnia (Shannon Elizabeth x Newberry Delight) 'Raleigh' 79 points and an HCC also Tolumnia (Shannon Elizabeth x Newberry Delight) 'Newberry' 79 points HCC. Marge & Jack Kepley from the Triad Orchid Society had their Paph (Gwanda Overett x White Knight) 'Frosty' awarded an AM 80 point AOS award .

TOS also put in this exhibit, composed entirely of species orchids, which was awarded a ribbon for the best 25 square foot exhibit by an Orchid Society.



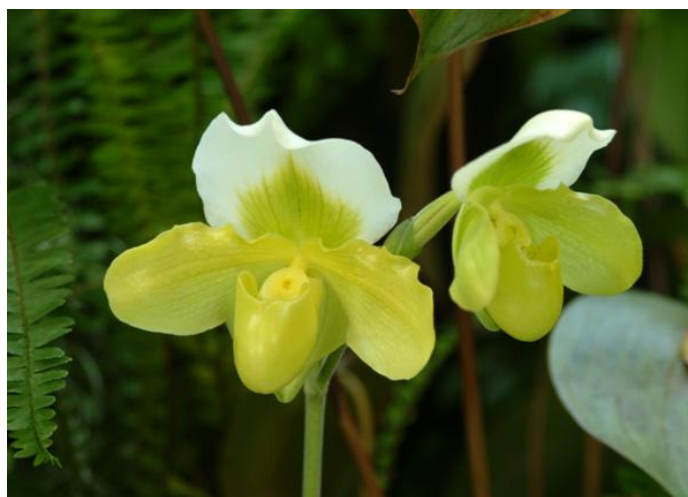
TOS won the trophies for Best Exhibit by an Orchid Society and Best Interpretation of the Show Theme with this 50 square foot exhibit.





**AOS  
Awarded  
Plants**

Phal Art Quest 'Karyn Celeste' HCC 79 pts.



Paph (Gwanda Overett x White Knight) 'Frosty' AM 80 pts



Phal Zeynep 'Hackeau' AM  
80 pts



Tolumnia (Shannon Elizabeth x Newberry Delight) 'Raleigh' 79 points HCC



Tolumnia (Shannon Elizabeth x Newberry Delight) 'Newberry' 79 points HCC.





This exhibit, by Carter and Holmes Orchids of Newberry, SC, won the AOS Show Trophy,



Exhibits by TOS Members  
Orchid Trail , John Stanton



and Hanks Chapel Greenhouses , Jeff Baldwin





## Growing Tips for April

By Courtney T. Hackney    EMAIL at [Hackneau@bellsouth.net](mailto:Hackneau@bellsouth.net)

This is the second in a multi-part series and deals with pests. There are five general types of pests that cause problems for orchid growers, scales, thrips, mites, snails, and slugs. In nature, these pests seldom kill orchids. However, without natural predators and in crowded conditions, greenhouse or windowsill culture provides the ideal environment for diseases and pests to spread from plant to plant.

While many hobbyists and a few commercial growers have attempted to use natural controls, e.g. ladybugs, few if any report control. Thus, pesticides are a part of just about every orchid grower's routine. What is the most effective control? What is the safest product?

The answers are not simple, but there are some guidelines. First, remember that every product is potentially dangerous if used improperly and/or without proper precautions. Products on the market have been tested for safety under very specific conditions and on specific types of plants. My opinion is that just about every product I have used has damaged my orchids if only to a small degree. Thus, application of a pesticide should not occur unless there is a problem.

Hobbyists with a small collection may never need to use any highly toxic product. A hose can be used to generate a fine jet of water that jets insects from under leaves or rhizomes. It works especially well for scale, which are a serious pest for many types of orchids. For cattleyas, this can be done every time the plant is repotted even if no scale is noted. Be sure to clean below the rhizome as well and remove any dead tissues attached to rhizomes or pseudo bulbs as scales love to hide in such places. If scales are noted on a cattleya that does not need repotting, this can also be done while the orchid is in the pot. There is the risk that scales hiding below the rhizome will miss the treatment. The process of using fine jets of water works well on just about all types of orchids. Care must be exercised on thin leaved orchids or if there are new leaves. Some windowsill growers find this method is all they need and treat each new plant before adding it to their collection.

Other hobbyists add a spray of light or ultra oil after jet cleaning their plants. This is a relatively safe product for you and your plant and leaves a beautiful sheen on leaves and bulbs. It is sold under a variety of trade names such as sun oil or ultra-light oil. **The label must specify that this product can be used year round.** It works by coating the pest and clogging its ability to get oxygen and is effective against both insects and mites. Avoid placing orchids sprayed with light oil in direct, bright sunshine until the oil has dried. Unless your orchids are packed too tightly into a small space, or you have no time to devote to regular pest control, this should be all that is required to maintain your collection.

Some hobbyists have reported success with insecticidal soap that is available in ready-to-spray bottles. This product has not worked well for me. Also, I seem to have an allergic response to this and many soap products. The lesson here is to treat all products as if they were toxic, just in case they later turn out to be.

Generally, your collection should be checked at least twice a year to be sure pests have not gained a foothold. Light oil can be applied as often as you like to maintain beautiful leaves. Inside homes in the winter, low humidity can lead to water loss and/or mite infestation and light oil helps with both of these conditions.

While there are dozens of pesticides and miticides on the market, there are very few that I will use on my orchids because I believe that orchids are potentially damaged by all pest control products. Thus, I try not to use any. There are two types that are used when pests are found. For large collections, hand treating each plant is not possible and this is when and where these more toxic products are appropriate. Even so, special plants or those recovering from a rot are protected from any pesticide effects and cleaned with a water jet and sprayed with oil as noted above.

Next month we will discuss treating large collections and some products that work well.

***My opinion is that just about every product I have used has damaged my orchids if only to a small degree. Thus, application of a pesticide should not occur unless there is a problem.***

**Announcements and Upcoming Shows**

**April 13-15 Deep South Orchid Society** Mall at Shelter Cove Hilton Head, SC Contact: Kinte Taylor, (912) 441-0360 kinte@kintetaylor.com

**April 20-22 Smokey Mountain Orchid Society** Show, West Town Mall 7600 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, Contact: Janice Clarke, (865)982-6077, sec207@aol.com

**April 26-28 Blue Ridge Orchid Society** Show, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Ave, Roanoke, VA. Contact: Louise T. Mashburn, (304) 647-4532, maslou@verizon.net

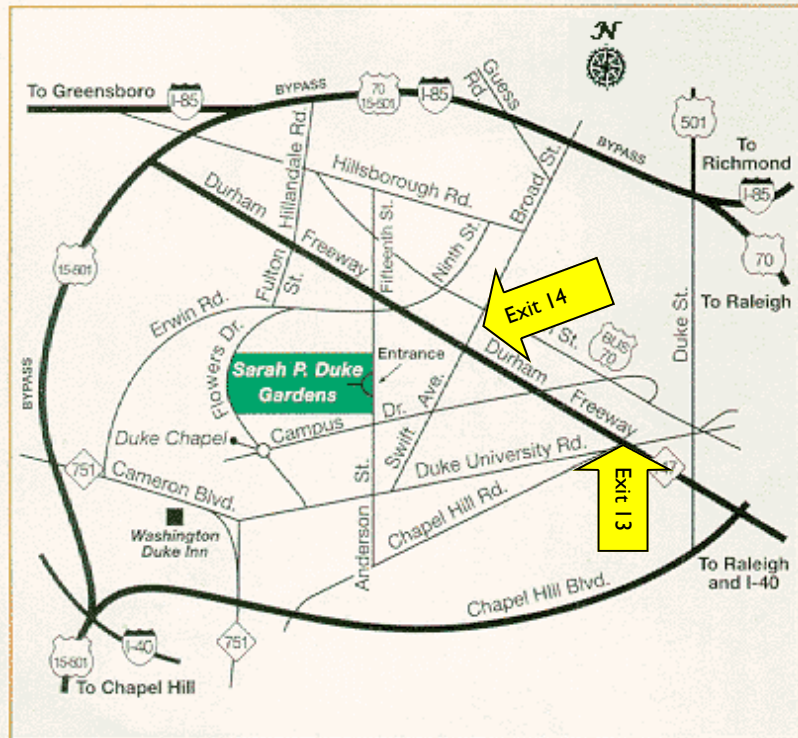
**May 20th TOS Spring Auction**, Umstead State Park ,Exit 287 Harrison Ave from Rt 40 Raleigh ,NC 12noon pot luck lunch, IPM Auction

<b>Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:</b>	<b>Calendar 2007</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	<b>April 9th</b>	<b>Alan Koch</b>	<b>Miniature Cattleyas</b>
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements		<b>Gold Country Orchids CA</b>	
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	<b>May 14th</b>	<b>Russ Vernon</b>	<b>Cattleya Species</b>
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break		<b>New Vision Orchids Yorktown, IN</b>	
8:30-9:20 Program	<b>June 11th</b>	<b>Andrea Nissen</b>	<b>Colombian Orchids</b>
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes		<b>Orquideas del Valle, Cali-</b>	
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

**Welcome Table****Refreshments**

<b>April 9</b>	<b>Adrienne Dowler and Erin Denoo</b>	<b>Creighton Humphreys</b>
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Bob Meyer</b>	<b>Robin and Josh Gurlitz</b>





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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**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**

**Gold Country Orchids**  
**“Miniature Cattleyas”**  
**April 9th Speaker**

**Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:**

\$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address. Mail to  
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