



Orchidacea

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

January 8, 2007 Speaker, Rolf Wilhelm "Stanhopeas"

Rolf was born in Germany but moved to Australia when he was 18. It was there that he learned to speak English, thus explaining his somewhat "different" German accent. He traveled the world extensively in these earlier times and saw orchids both in botanical gardens as well as in the jungles but at the time he had not been seriously infected with that incurable disease that we all suffer - "ORCHIDIDOUS".

When Rolf first moved to the US, he moved to Louisiana, thus explaining a little more about his "different" German accent. After moving back to the Carolinas, Rolf met Linda, he was interested in what the funny looking little plants were that were growing all around the house. When she told him they were orchids, the bug finally got him and he caught up for all of that lost time.

Eventually out of this "HOBBY" sprang Woodland Orchids a business since 1989. Both Rolf and Linda (an accredited judge and Trustee for the American Orchid Society) enjoy going to shows and doing programs for orchid societies because of the many interesting, really great people that they get to meet. Their specialty in both speaking and growing is the Oncidiinae Alliance but like all good addicts, they enjoy growing and talking about just about anything related to orchids.

Rolf and his wife Linda may be contacted at: Rolf & Linda Wilhelm,
Woodland Orchids, 1816 Hart Road Charlotte, NC 28214,

Phone: 704-393-1740

Email: Linda at orchid_frau@woodlandorchids.com,
Rolf at orkidman@woodlandorchids.com



*Stanhopea
wardii*

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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**



TOS Officers and Board Members

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Minutes of the Last Meeting

November 13, 2006.

President, Judith Goldstein, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM, and extended thanks to everyone who contributed food to the pot-luck and special thanks to Miriam Sagasti and Robin Gurlitz for decorating the tables. The President then welcomed a number of guests to the TOS December meeting, including Jean Webster, who accompanied Jack up from Southern Pines.

President Goldstein gave her State of the TOS closing speech the growth of the society, and thanking all members who participated in the activities of the society.

Following the President's speech, Nick Plummer presented the show table. The membership then took a short break to stretch and look over the plants offered in the Member plant sale.

At the conclusion of the break minutes from the November meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter.

Announcements:

TOS membership dues are due in January. Please send or give your checks to either Michael Wagner, current Treasurer and President-Elect, or to Peggy Bloodworth, current Board Member and Treasurer-Elect. Their contact information is published in the news-

letter.

A few AOS Calendars are still available. They retail for \$12; they are being offered here for \$8.

Our own Nick Plummer then spoke about Sex, Lies and Violence in the reproductive lives of orchids. A very short question and answer period followed.

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

In the Greenhouse Grown category:
1st Place Ribbon Sl Little Cameo grown by John Martin

2nd Place Ribbon Paph Fanaticism grown by John Martin
3rd Place 3rd Place Ribbon Brassavola Little Stars grown by Olivene Virtue

In the Non Greenhouse grown category:
1st Place Ribbon, Bc. Maikai 'Louise' grown by Jaimie Graff

2nd Place Ribbon, Cymbidium hybrid grown by Marlene Kinney (first flowering after 20 years)

3rd Place Ribbon, Miltassia Royal Robe Jerry's Pick grown by Jaimie Graff

The raffle plant was claimed, and the



Stanhopea tigrina

Last Month's Speaker Presentation:

Nick Plummer got his first flower in 1993 and developed a love of orchids. He gave a slide presentation on ***Sex, Lies & Violence, Orchids and their Insects***. He said it was a survey of the orchid world and why they have the shape and form they do. To keep the talk relevant, he focused on orchids we might have on our greenhouse shelves or windowsills, and on native North Carolina orchids.

Sex. Orchid flowers are all about sex. Sexual reproduction requires the union of gametes from two individual organisms of plants or animals. Animals have mobility but plants are stuck in one position and rely on something else to transport their pollen to them. Typically it is either wind or animals such as insects or birds. They have packages of pollen called pollinia. They are large and not usually wind-pollinated. People who tend to be allergic don't tend to be allergic to orchids because they don't broadcast pollen into the air. Flying insects along with a few birds are their major pollinators. They don't pollinate for free. They are visiting because they get something out of it. The main reasons are the reward of nectar (sugars), pollen (rich in protein), oils (lipids), and fragrances. Because orchids have these packages of pollen rather than powdery pollen, pollen isn't a reward to the pollinator.

He reviewed the basic parts of a flower as follows: Three sepals, three inner petals with one modified into a lip, and a column in the center that unites the male and female parts. There are flowers with shared characteristics indicative of the pollinators. One example is moth-pollinated flowers that are typically white or green, are fragrant at night, and have a long nectary or tubular flower. The nectar-seeking moth seeks it with a long tongue. Two examples he gave are *Dendrophalax fawcettii*, and the native NC species *Habenaria quinqueseta*. The most famous example is Darwin's orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale*, the Madagascar star orchid. The flower was known and he predicted the existence of its

pollinator with a very long tongue to match the very long nectary. He determined that a moth with a very long tongue could pollinate it. Forty years later the moth *Xanthopan morgani praedicta* (so named because of Darwin's prediction) was discovered. He mentioned anatomical considerations of various moths for certain orchids they pollinate and theories of their co evolution with the orchids they pollinate. Butterflies are also orchid pollinators. Examples of NC species were illustrated. Other *Habenaria* species were discussed, along with culture considerations.

Orchids with a shorter spur at the back are usually pollinated by bees. If the spur is bright purple and red and orange and has a thick substance with a short lip, it is probable the birds pollinated them.

Many fragrant oncidiums such as *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* produce oils that the pollinator gets. A large group of South American orchids are pollinated by euglossine bees (orchid bees). Some of those are *Stanhopea*, *Gongoras*, and *Zygopetalums*.

Lies. Orchids may be deceitful. Some mimic other flowers, may be fragrant, but have no food, and may mimic insects. *Cattleya labiata* is one with a wide tube that lacks nectar. *Bechinolabium* has the odor of road kill that has been in the hot sun. It is deceitful because it attracts flies with the odor but had nothing to eat. Another bulbophyllum has a strong urine odor and one smells like bad mushrooms. He talked about their culture.

Some mimics of other flowers provide a reward to insects. Some do not. *Calopogon* has false pollen on its lip to attract bees to pollinate it. *Encyclia cordigera* from SA grows in a tree and mimics its host tree flower. Oil-seeking bees visit a variety of orchids that resemble flowers.

Flowers may mimic other insects. Some are *Cryptostylis javanica* *Trichoceros antennifer*, and *Hispaniella* and *Lepanthes* species.

(Last Month's speaker continued on page 7)



**Jack Webster
Awards Non
Greenhouse
Grown**

**First Place Ribbon, Bc.
Maikai 'Louise' grown by
Jaimie Graff**



**3rd Place Ribbon, Miltassia Royal Robe
Jerry's Pick grown by Jaimie Graff**



**Second Place Ribbon, Cymbidium hybrid
grown by Marlene Kinney (first flower-
ing after 20 years)**

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**



**2nd Place Ribbon Paph
Fanaticism grown by John
Martin**



**1st Place Ribbon Sl Little
Cameo grown by John
Martin**



**3rd Place Ribbon
Brassavola Little Stars
grown by Olivene Virtue**

**TOS Officers and Board of
Trustee Members for 2007**



Peggy Bloodworth, Treasurer



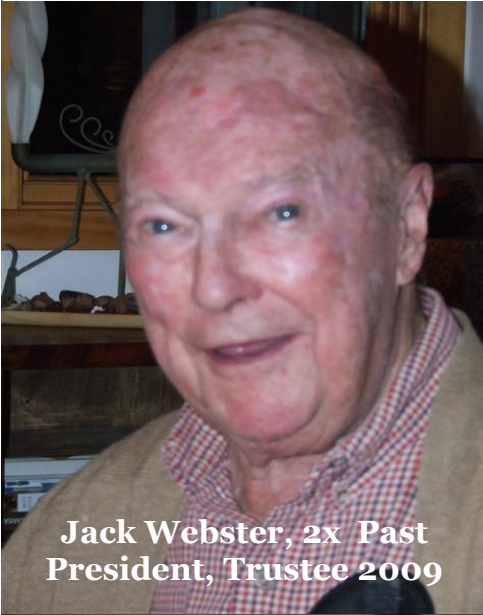
Michael Wagner, President



Jaimie Graff, Secretary



Fay Hardy, Vice President



**Jack Webster, 2x Past
President, Trustee 2009**

**TOS Board of
Trustees
2007**



**Robin Gurlitz, Trustee
2008**



Paul Feaver, Trustee 2007



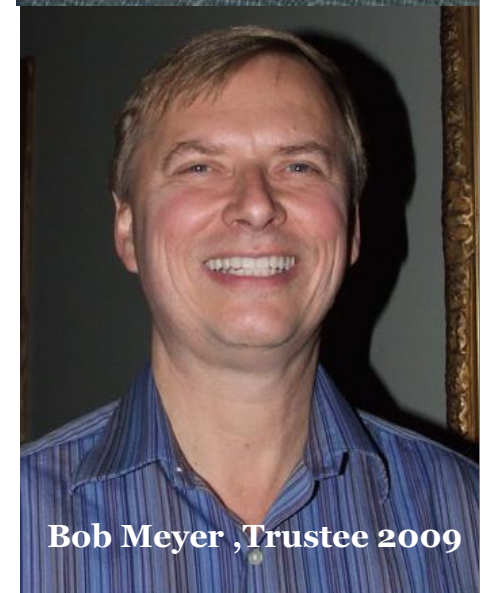
**Judith Goldstein,
Past President 2006**



**Nick Plummer, Past Presi-
dent 2005, Trustee 2008**



Paul Virtue , Trustee 2007



Bob Meyer , Trustee 2009



Growing Tips for January

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

Hardly a month goes by without an email from someone asking what the best orchid is. Often the individual asking the question has limited space and wants to spend their money wisely. If you have been one of those asking the question, then you know that my answer has been somewhat evasive. In fact, you likely got more questions than answers. The following is how I approach the question.

My collection is a real mix of genera and reflects my personal taste, available space, and growing conditions. About half of my plants are my permanent collection, i.e. mature plants. Because there is no space for new plants, every new addition to the permanent collection requires getting rid of a plant.

New hybrid and species seedlings are acquired each year to see what various parental combinations will produce. In most cases, once they bloom, I take a photo and sell or give the plant away, hopefully creating new orchid addicts in the process. Some seedlings become mulch or are occasionally so interesting or different that I cannot part with it. Often this new discovery replaces a similar orchid that is not as good with respect to flower quality or growth characteristics. My goal is to have a collection of vigorous orchids with at least one of each

color combination, especially in cattleyas and phals.

My interest in classic [old] hybrids and clones of cattleyas continues, and these are added at the expense of new hybrids. Most orchid hobbyist gravitate towards some group, color, etc of orchid. Getting to see what types of orchid each orchid hobbyist likes best is what makes club meetings so much fun.

So what are the characteristics of some of my favorites? In phals, Dtps Newberry Parfait 'Picotee' has a unique picotee around the edge of each well-formed white flower, which is an unusual combination. It grows

Because there is no space for new plants, every new addition to the permanent collection requires getting rid of a plant.

like a weed, will remain in flower all year long, and can easily be grown into a specimen plant. Phal Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' or 'Orchidheights' is another unique orchid. It is a non-fading, relatively large yellow flower with stripes that is extremely vigorous. Virtually all other similar hybrids grow poorly and fade as the flower ages. These have both been

made available through cloning and are inexpensive. Similarly, Dtps Martha Dolge is an easy growing white with stunning red lip with flowers as large as most standard white phals. Best of all, it is also very easy to grow, unlike many semi-alba phals. There are also clones with a unique orange lip. There are many different clones of Dtps Anna-Larati Suekarde in a variety of colors and all are desirable. This true miniature phal produces multiple spikes each year and the plant itself multiplies in the pot. After a few years a plant may produce 10 or more spikes in a 4 inch pot. Sadly, I have not seen this one available as a mericlone yet.

There are also orchids in my permanent collection that I would maintain even if the flowers were not beautiful because of their fragrance. Many, such as Phal lueddemanniana and pulchra, are extremely fragrant for months. There are also some I love despite their fragrance, such as Bulb Elizabeth Ann 'Buckelberry', which produces whorls of unusual flowers covered with tufts of tiny hairs, and Bulb echinolabium, with spidery red-orange striped flowers almost 30 cm in length that is almost always in bloom.

Stay tuned next month for my "A-list" of cattleyas that should be in every collection.



(Last Month's Speaker continued from page 3)

Violence. The most well known type is pitfall traps and things such as snap traps. The greenhood orchid (*Pterostylis curta*) has a mobile labellum (lip) where the insect lands and is snapped up. Lastly, he mentioned those with projectile pollinia(catasetums). The orchid shoots pollinia a couple of feet.

He concluded with two references: 1. Darwin, Charles writings at <http://darwin-online.org.uk> and 2. Alcock, John. An Enthusiasm for Orchids. Sex and Deception in Plant Evolution. Oxford U. Press, 2006.

Transcription by Cara Hayes Secretary, Sandhills Orchid Society

Announcements and Up-coming Events

2007 Society Dues are Due (bring your check book to the next meeting)

Return your TOS Questionnaire of the projects you are interested in participating.

Overdue Library Books will have a \$1 per month fine **after** January 2007. Please check your book shelf if you have any old library books.

Orchid Society Shows that TOS we will have exhibits

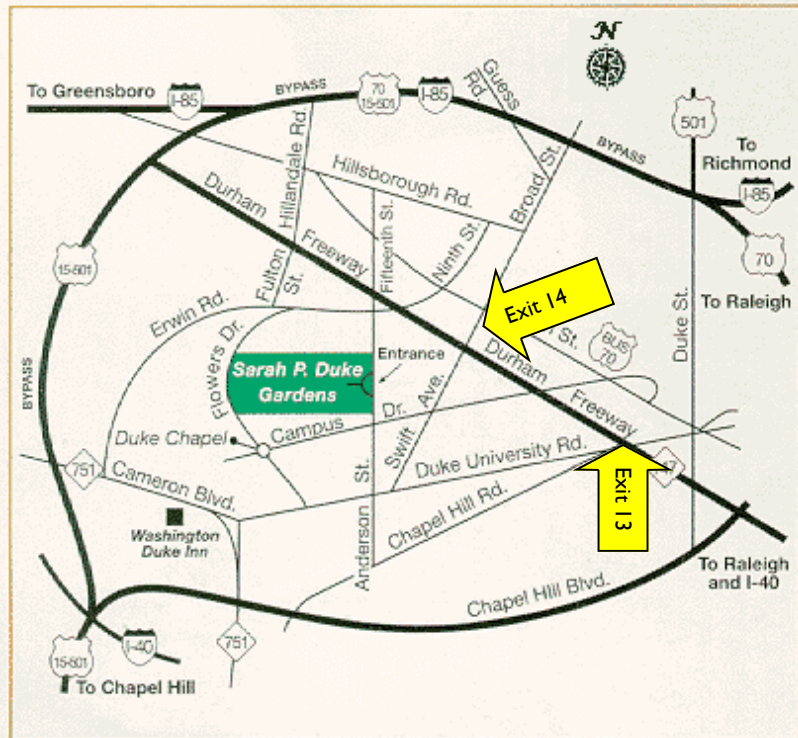
The Triad Orchid Society will hold a three-day show Feb. 3-5 at the Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs Building, 4301-A Lawndale Drive (next to the Natural Science Center). Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Feb. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 4 and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 5. Admission is \$5. TOS Will have a 50 sq ft exhibit

South Carolina Orchids Society Show, Feb 9-11th, TOS will put in a 50 sq ft exhibit

Triangle Orchid Society Show, March 7-11th We will put in 2- 50 sq ft exhibits

Blue Ridge Orchid Society Show, April ,TOS Will have a 50 sq ft exhibit

Welcome Table		Refreshments
Jan 8th	Judith Shapiro	Barbara & Stan Martinkosky
Feb 12th		Robin and Josh Gurlitz



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**

Rolf Wilhelm
Woodland Orchids, Charlotte
“Stanhopeas”

Triangle Orchid Society Dues are Due for 2007:

\$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address. Mail to
 Peggy Bloodworth 2311 Hermitage Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278