



Orchidacea

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

Speaker for March 12, 2007:

John Stanton from The Orchid Trail, Morrisville, NC

John saw his first orchids in the early 70s at the NCSU Conservatory. He purchased his first orchid from a Miami orchid dealer named Trader Dave, who sold ten plants, bare root, for \$25.00. After that he discovered Jones & Scully's Orchidglade and their great catalogs. This started him on thirty-five years of growing orchids--first as a student and hobbyist, then as part of his wholesale plant nursery, and finally as his current Orchid Trail retail greenhouse operation. His orchid collection now numbers over 2,000 plants, and from these plants, he has made 400+ new hybrids in the past six years.

John's trips to Costa Rica were made in 2003 and 2006. The first one with Rick Cavallaro and the second one with his wife, Ruth, and daughter, Sarah. He will talk about traveling in the country and about the orchids he saw in bloom.

The Orchid Trail, 402 Church St. , Morrisville, NC 27560

Web: <http://www.orchidtrail.com> Email: OrchidTrail@OrchidTrail.com

Phone: 919-468-3611, Fax: 919-468-3088

John's cell phone: 919-362-1062, Paul's cell phone: 919-337-3750

NO MEMBER PLANT SALE This Month. John will be selling plants and will take seedling pre-orders. See the list at www.orchidtrail.com.

Spring Auction Dates have been set: May 20th and September 29th.

TOS Show at North Gate mall will be March 9.10.11. If you have any plants you want judged, bring them to the mall before noon Thursday the 8th.

Pre Order Orchids from Colombia before April 30 from Orquideas del Valle web site.

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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](http://www.TriangleOrchidSociety.org)**

TOS Officers and Board Members

President

Michael Wagner

919-929-5977

mjwagner@bellsouth.net

Vice President

Faye Hardy April 07-March 2008

929-4593

FLGH2@aol.com

Secretary

Jaimie Graff

919-530-1806

Graff.Jaimie@epamail.epa.gov

Treasurer

Peggy Bloodworth

(919) 732-1639

grapjb@mindspring.com

Board of Trustees: 2007

Past President

Judith Goldstein

(919) 732-7622

Orangegr@earthlink.net

At Large Trustees 2007

Paul Virtue

(919) 846-1245

pvirtue@prodigy.net

Paul Feaver

(919) 779-1501

cell 337-3750

Orchidtrail@yahoo.com

At Large Trustees 2008

Nicholas Plummer

nickplummer@nc.rr.com

(919) 969-9741

Robin Gurlitz

robing@i-gga.com

(919) 929-9717

At Large Trustees: 2009

Jack Webster

(910) 692-3965

JWebster@nc.rr.com

Bob Myer

orthobob90@aol.com

919 469-9149

Minutes of the February 12, 2007 TOS Meeting

Vice-President Faye Hardy, stepping in for President Michael Wagner, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm by welcoming the membership and TOS guests. A special welcome was extended to new TOS member Donna Wagner. The January 2007 minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Peggy Bloodworth, the Treasurer, presented the Year End Financial Report. Details are available in the February newsletter. The Report was approved as published.

The new TOS Library policy of fining overdue book holders \$1/book/month until the book is returned is now in effect.

John Stanton brought in a very nice group of catleya plants donated by one of his boarders. He said that there were some very, very good clones in the donated collection, and that the plants were stellar. Raffles sold for \$1.

Paul Feaver sent around a sign-up sheet for people who might be interested in a day trip to visit the Green Swamp and view the native orchids and carnivorous plants. Tom Wentworth, an NC State plant ecologist, will lead the trip if there are enough interested people. The trip would probably be on a Saturday during the first two weeks in May. Carpooling will be necessary, as there is little parking where the tour would be going.

Judith Goldstein spoke briefly about the Triad Orchid Show, held Jan 26-28 in Greensboro. Ten members contributed plants, and we came home with a nice number of ribbons including best 50 foot exhibit and best Orchid Society exhibit. The TOS was unable to attend the South Carolina Orchid show. There were insufficient volunteers to set up and take down the show.

The Triangle Orchid Show will be held March 9-11, 2007, at Northgate Mall. The theme is "Orchids Around the World". Set up is on the 8th, take down on the 11th. We need volunteers for EVERYTHING! We specifically need volunteers for the following: On Thursday: to help vendors and other organizations haul their plants in to the show area, and for food donors for the potluck (food that does not require refrigeration can be dropped off any time on Thursday). On Friday we need hands to help with the judges' breakfast, and to help with ribbon judging in the morning and clerking for AOS judging in the afternoon. We need volunteers for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to man the TOS Welcome/information table. Two individuals are needed to work at the tables for

each 2 hour time slot; one to talk to people and one to keep an eye on the exhibits. No more volunteers are needed for take down. Flyers for the show are available, both hard copies from the TOS meeting and a printable version available from an email or from the web. Please put them up around work and around town!

The TOS will be putting in displays, too. PLEASE consider lending your plants. Contacting Judith Goldstein ahead of time with the name and type of plant would be very helpful, but just showing up on Thursday morning at the mall with plants in hand would be wonderful. Plants can also be dropped at Marie Crock's house on the Wed evening before the show, or at Judith Goldstein's house in Hillsborough for people out that way.

Thank You to everyone who has already volunteered!

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

Bob Davidson gave a mini-presentation on how to prep your plants for an orchid show. Some of the highlights include: NO BUGS! Make sure the only living thing you bring with your to an orchid display are the plants. Trim yellowing leaves, brown tips, etc. (Use a fresh, clean blade.) Stake your plants – no metal or plastic stakes, though. Shows only allow organic materials, like bamboo stakes, to be visible. Same goes for those cute pink dragonfly clips – save them for when the plants come home. Don't reorient the plants once they are staked – the buds will try to reorient, too. Clean the leaves – a cotton ball soaked with milk or water will do fine. Try to have them ready to display as soon as they get to the show area. Make sure the tags on the plants are legible. For a group display like anything put on by the TOS, the tags should include a tag for the plant's name, and another tag for the owner's. Tape on the pot with a name on it is good, too. You need to make sure the people taking down the display know which plant should go home to whom.

Wendy Griffin, the speaker, 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, Ms. Griffin gave a very different, hands-on class on how to grow your own orchids from seed.

Following the talk, Jack Webster awards were voted upon and handed out. See Pages 4 and 5 for the winners. Plants were raffled off, more plants were purchased, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

February Speaker Presentation: Wendy Griffin began in the orchid business as a hobby. Her topic dealt with reproduction through attaining bloom-size plants. She spoke about how easy it is to make new and different orchids. She demonstrated and then gave members a chance to try their hand.

She began by describing orchid flower parts as five petals and sepals you can count. She likes to remove all the petals first. It is then easy to find the most important parts of the flower. What is inside is a column and anther which contains the pollinia on the inside. This is very small. You will look at the underside for easiest spotting. If holding it toward you, look underneath. The cap fell off as she showed the flower. The cap we allow to drop off. Look for two little yellow eyes. That is what you need. You don't want the white helmet on top of those. Look under inside for a cavity. Inside the cavity is a really sticky film. All you have to do is take the two little eyes and slide them inside there. You are finished. That is all there is to making your own seeds.

Within about 1-8 days if you've left the flower petals on, it will start folding up and the back part will start swelling. This is where all of the ovaries are. A piece of fruit will be made. It will look like a green bean. They stay on 3-6 months, depending on the species. Once that is done she said we'll go on to the next part. Flowers were distributed so members could try pollination themselves. Of course, you leave the flower on the plant to develop, she explained, unlike having them off as demonstrated at the meeting, which loses viability.

Is it going to work? If you want to make a hybrid, look on a plant for an 'X.' If it says 'Apple Blossom x self,' you've made a cross with itself. You may also cross with relatives or other species. Make a tag. Write the cross, your name and the date. Watch how long the pod is on the plant so it isn't harvested too early or too late. If you want to do a dry seeds, there may be thousands to millions of seeds in one pod. There may be times that you cross two different plants that nothing happens. They may be incompatible. One may have a different gene structure than the other and they just didn't work.

The next step is to place it in sterile media. You have to eliminate fungus, bacteria, foul air or skin particles, or anything on seeds that will contaminate it. If contaminated, it must be thrown away. She showed agar. There are many agar formulations such as agar with a charcoal base, banana, etc. Agar may vary in other ways such as pH or with different growth factors. She said they buy one made by Phytochek [could not verify that name]. It is a proprietary formula. They've only been doing this for about 8 months. It grew big plants. She showed a mother flask with hundreds to thousands of plants. When the plants are ready to come out they go into a replate mix. She tried a mix where plants grew roots into the air meaning they didn't like the mix. She called and asked what the pH was. It was 4.8. A normal medium is 5.8. With effort she attained a medium with pH 5.8 and it worked fine.

She showed plants that were in the media 6-8 months to a year and were ready to come out of the flask. Once plants start to hit the top of the flask they are ready to come out. Don't give them air which could introduce fungi and kill them. The media is high in sugar and can easily grow fungus. Now take them out and grow them in a pot or liner. As soon as they come out, use a grow foam or sphagnum moss. They are immediately treated with a fungicide such as Subdue MAXX. Never forget that step. Otherwise, you may have little black plants in 3-4 days.

Make sure plants get protected. Take the whole tray and dip it into the fungicide. The fungicide is expensive (about \$180 for the smallest container). Buy the smallest container and it might be enough for the club.

Put into a 2 1/2-3" pot. Don't use a large pot. Take teeny steps up in pot size. Once they outgrow the 3" pot, put into a 5" one. They no longer do compots, they only do liners. They will sell 6-packs of new plants coming out. Many plants will bloom at this size. It takes 3-6 years to attain blooming size. This is where a lot of the cost comes from. Half of the plant cost comes from material and labor. They buy Subdue Maxx from Diamond Fertilizer. Eliot ventured that he had seen it at Coor's [don't know if this is spelled correctly] Farm Supply in Smithfield, NC.

She stressed fertilizing young plants. Never let them sit in water. Make sure there is good drainage. They use either

Bring up to 5 show table plants and get 5 Free Raffle Tickets

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 Fay Hardy 929-4593 before 5 PM Monday to make your reservations.



Jack Webster Awards Non Greenhouse Grown

Neofinetia falcata Var *coerulea*
won First Place Ribbon, grown by
Jaimie Graff



Masd. Maui Jewel won Second Place Ribbon , grown by Marie Crock



Unnamed Phalaenopsis won Third Place Ribbon, grown by Phil Warner

Thanks to Mildred and Mac Howell for their donation of Orchid books to our library. If you have any library books at home. please return them. Librarian Diane Parks did an inventory and has indicated that we have many missing library books. Next month they will be listed. Please check your book shelves. Most of the library books will be stamped with TOS on them. We have instituted an overdue book fine of \$1.

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**

***Dendrochilum formosanum* won
Second Place Ribbon grown by
John Stanton**



***Sophronitis coccinea* won First Place
Ribbon , grown by Paul Feaver**

**Lc Cusilas Spring x
Cender ml x Lc Royal
Pavilion won Third Place
Ribbon, grown by Bob
Davidson**





Growing Tips for

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

There is likely no more important subject to orchid growers than pest and disease control. Many new hobbyists lose orchids to both before realizing there was a problem. Typically, by March, problems in your growing area manifest themselves because orchids are crowded together in cold windows and greenhouses. This provides the ideal environment for disease and pests to spread from plant to plant.

I often get numerous inquiries asking what I use to combat pests of various kinds and disease. My reluctance to specify any given pesticide or product is not because of the fear of a lawsuit, but because there are so many variables that go into a successful control program. There are, however, some general products and approaches that have worked well for me, and are worth sharing. There are also cautions.

The first and most important rule is good sanitation, which includes adequate air movement, maintenance of appropriate temperature and humidity, and the removal of dead or infested plant tissues. Air needs to be exchanged with fresh outside air to lower bacterial and fungal spore levels. Indoor hobbyists may have the same problem when their growing area is semi-enclosed. These steps alone solve at least half of the potential bacteria/fungal problems.

Botrytis, black spots on flowers, is a common problem in winter or in overly humid greenhouses. This is rarely a problem when there is good air movement or when night temperatures are above 65 F. Once Botrytis appears in a greenhouse it can be difficult to eliminate. It can be done, however. First, remove all dead tissues from benches, floors, and plants. Flowers with these black spots will also need to be removed. Spray walkways, benches and other non-living surfaces with Physan or another agent that kills bacteria at the recommended dose. Note that there are usually two different Physan mixing formulas, one for orchid applications and one for sterilizing non-living surfaces. Some growers use a 10% Clorox solution to kill bacteria on non-living surfaces.

The next step is to kill the spores that are hiding on plants. One of the best products is an old copper based product called Kocide. It is relatively inexpensive, but not always readily available for the hobbyist. Apply at the recommended level to all plants, but not on flowers. It will leave a blue sheen on leaves. It also has the added benefit of inhibiting slugs as copper is deadly to them and they will not cross a leaf covered with this product.

The next step is very important. Increase air movement beyond what you had before. Every flower in the greenhouse needs to move in the breeze you create. Never water if there is even the slightest chance that the day will be cloudy. Remove any water remaining on leaves before nightfall. If new spots appear, apply hydrogen peroxide. This is the same concentration used for cleaning a wound and can be purchased at any drug store. Dab the infected area with a cotton ball or remove the flower. If more spots appear, then air movement is not adequate or night temperatures are below 65F.

Fungi also prefer moist conditions and respond to the same control measures. All four of these products (Clorox, Physan, Kocide, and Hydrogen Peroxide) have been around for a long time, which gives me some confidence that there are few unknown side effects. They are all dangerous poisons and I treat each as if it was the most toxic product on the planet and wear protective gloves, respirator, and clothing. It never hurts to be over cautious. Be especially careful when preparing the Kocide solution as the fine powder can easily become airborne and inhaled.

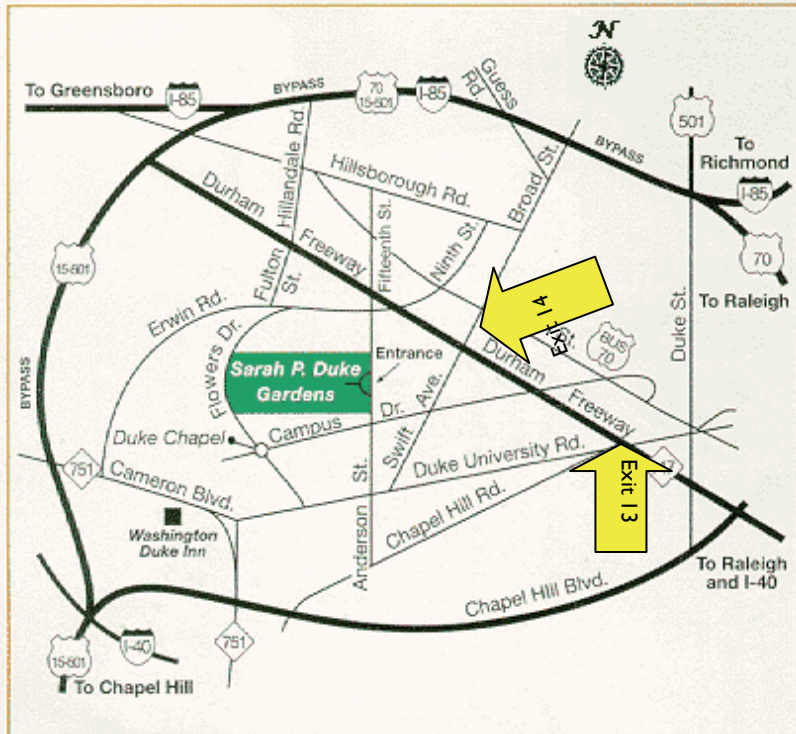
Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:

7:00-7:30 Set Up
 7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements
 7:45-8:10 Show Table Review
 8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break
 8:30-9:20 Program
 9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes
 9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends

Calendar 2007	Speaker	Topic
March 12	John Stanton Orchid Trail NC	Costa Rica
April 9th	Alan Koch Gold Country Orchids CA	Miniature Cattleyas
May 14th	Andrea Nissen Orquideas del Valle Colombia	Colombian Orchids

Welcome Table**Refreshments**

March 12	Toni Brown	Leo and Miriam Sagasti
April 9th	Adrienne Dowler And Erin Denoo	Creighton Humphreys



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

Alan J. Miller, Editor
 5703 Orange Grove Rd.
 Hillsborough, NC 27278
 (Fax (253) 550-5038
 Phone (919) 969-1612
 Email:Orchidacea @att.net

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Orchid Society meets at the
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The Second Monday of the Month
at 7:30 PM
Visitors are Welcome!
www.TriangleOrchid
Society.org

This Month's Speaker is
 John Stanton, Orchid Trail
 Morrisville, NC
Orchids of Costa Rica

Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:

\$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. **IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2007 DUES, THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!**