



Orchidacea

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

Speaker for May 7, 2007 Russ Vernon "Cattleya Species"

Harry Russell Vernon, best known as Russ, was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He had an early interest in plants, starting at age 5 and was introduced to orchids by his uncle at age 12. Soon after, he became a member of the American Orchid Society and has been a member for over 40 years. He started growing orchids under lights and built his first greenhouse when he was 18.

Russ is a graduate of Ohio State University, with a degree in horticulture and served in the Army and Army Reserve for 8 years, leaving service as a Captain. He has worked for Hausermann's Orchids, the Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank at Ball State University, A&P Orchids and Jim Davis, the creator of Garfield the Cat.

Anita, his wife, and daughters Zina and Liza, started New Vision Orchids in 2004 and specialize/hybridize in Phalaenopsis, Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids, and Lycastes.

Russ is also a judge of the American Orchid Society, and is currently First Vice President of the Mid-America Orchid Congress and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance.

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.

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

Inside this issue:

<i>This Month's Speaker</i>	1
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	2
<i>Transcript of the Last Meeting,</i>	2,3
<i>Jack Webster Show table Awards</i>	4,5
<i>TOS Spring Auction</i>	6,7
<i>Blue Ridge Orchid Society Show</i>	
<i>Growing Tips for the month</i>	8
<i>Announcements And Coming Events</i>	9
<i>Map and Directions to Sarah P Duke Gardens</i>	10

**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**

Minutes for the Triangle Orchid Society, April 9, 2007

President Michael Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm and extended a warm welcome to visiting guests David Pickett and Robyn Kinney. The March, 2007, minutes were approved as published in the newsletter. There were no comments on the Treasurer's report.

Announcements: Please pay your membership dues.: \$18/individual, \$24/household. 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. We now have a nice Membership CD which comes with your paid dues.

Thank you to Adrienne Dowler and Erin Denco for taking charge of the Welcome Table, and to Creighton Humphries and Sue Morand for the meeting refreshments.

The TOS library is still missing books. Many. We really need them back. Thank you.

The TOS is badly in need of a new Vice President. Faye Hardy had to step down for health reasons, and it has been a loss for the Society. The Vice-presidency is a two-fold job: the VP acts in lieu of the President, and also acts as the Program Chair for our Society. The Program Chair duties include hosting speakers when they arrive, communicating with them prior to and after their arrivals (regarding, say confirmation of talk, housing, etc.), finding housing, and chauffeuring them around the area and on to their next talk. It can be a lot of work, which is why the Board would happily have different people take on the work one month at a time. A "pro forma" VP to organize the other volunteer VPs would also be very welcome. Volunteers are desperately needed. Please speak with President Michael Wagner at your earliest convenience.

The Blue Ridge Orchid Show is April 26-28. The TOS could use volunteers to help install the show, and we definitely need people to help take it down. Plants are also needed.

Tom Wentworth spoke about the trip he will be guiding through the Green Swamp on Saturday, May 5, 2007. The tour will start at 11 AM rather than the previously announced 10. The plants are moving a little more slowly than expected, with fewer getting ready to flower. The location will also be more remote than previously announced: the usual tour areas have not been burnt recently. Parking is very limited; members interested in the trip will have to car- or vanpool. The best news: There were NO BUGS on Tom's last visit to the potential sites.

Spring Auction is on Sunday, May 20, this year. There will be a pot-luck at noon, and bidding will start around 1. The TOS could use your extra plants. If you have plants to donate, please contact Jack Webster. Come out to the Auction. Put it on your calendar now. Bring friends and family. And buy plants!

Grower's Day will be August 4 this year. Detail will be forthcoming.

Are TOS members interested in doing an Orchid Crawl, where society members go visit a series of growing areas (Not necessarily just greenhouses)? If there is interest in visiting different growing areas, are TOS members interested in opening their growing spaces for the crawl. If you are interested at all, please talk to President Wagner.

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 30th. Ordering information is available on her website, which in turn is available as a link off the TOS website. She will be bringing a selection of plants of her own choosing, too, but if you're in-

terested in something specific, pre-order.

The Speaker, Alan Koch, presented the show table, after which the membership took a short refreshment and socialization break. Mr. Koch spoke about miniature cattleyas and their culture.

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

Non-greenhouse: First Place Ribbon went to: *Cymbidium* Constance Briggs 'Rose Beauty Peloric' grown by Marie Crock, Second Place Ribbon went to: *Brassia* Rex grown by Judith Goldstein, Third Place Ribbon went to: *Epc.* Charlie Brown grown by Amy Marshall

Greenhouse: First Place Ribbon went to: *Cattleya mossiae* grown by Olivine Virtue, Second Place Ribbon went to: *Ang sesquipedale* grown by Nick Plummer, Third Place Ribbon went to: *Odontocidium* intergeneric grown by Michael Wagner

Last Month's Meeting

President Michael Wagner introduced the speaker Alan Koch, owner of Gold Country Orchids in Lincoln, CA. Alan is a well known hybridizer who has been breeding Mini Catts for many years.

Alan began by asking how many of the members present intended to attend the Redland Show in May. He cautioned members to be careful what we buy, noting that we would see many intriguing species offered by the South American vendors. He warned that many of these plants have been recently collected from the wild, and have never bloomed. These plants are sold to the vendors, who in turn sell them at these large shows. Once taken out of their natural environment however, it is unlikely that these plants will ever bloom because we

cannot replicate the conditions they require. Alan cautioned members to always purchase plants from reputable growers, and to look for healthy roots and plump pseudobulbs. Despite Home Depot's one year warranty, he warned that few of their plants will survive the care provided by uninformed staff assigned to care for them. Alan stated that hybridizers make new crosses in order to create plants that are easier to grow, but still have many of the characteristics of their species parents. Hybrid Mini Catts, he said, are generally easier to grow, and will bloom while still very young plants.

To make his point he showed us some of the plants he had brought, stating that this was their second blooming and that they were only two years out of flask. This is achieved, he said by mimicking Mother Nature. By observing the natural conditions the plants enjoy, and replicating these Mini Catts can be brought to bloom 2 – 3 times a year. Hybrids, Alan said, are made to be manageable. Plants that have a sprawling growth habit, like *C. walkeriana*, are crossed with plants with an upright habit, such as *L. briegei* to produce a neater, more attractive plant. It is important therefore, to know and understand the species behind your hybrids in order that they can be grown well.

Rupicolous Laelias grow under exposed sun baked conditions, so their hybrids need to be grow dry. *S. coccinea* on the other hand, grows in wet moss and never dries out. Hybrids made with *S. coccinea*, therefore, need to be kept wet. *C. luteola* grows under very low light conditions, while *L. jungheana* requires very bright light. *C. forbesii* grows under hot and humid conditions, while *C. aclandiae* does best if mounted, indicating it likes to dry out between waterings.

The message, therefore, is to do your research, and understand what you need to supply to ensure optimum growth and performance. Alan has grown his plants in sphagnum moss for years and years. Quality sphagnum is becoming increasingly difficult to find, so

recently he has changed his mix. His new media is 50% coir or shredded coconut and 50% # 4 or medium size perlite. The coir is soaked and rinsed 3 – 4 times before use, to remove accumulated salts. Alan likes this mix because the roots can be securely anchored and don't shake loose when transported. Coir is available in 12 x 12 in. blocks or bales and is easily stored. Never fertilize a dry plant Alan says, as this burns the root tips. In his nursery he wets his plants, then 20 minutes later, he applies a fertilizer solution. Check your roots frequently he says. At this time of the year especially, the roots should be growing. If there is a green tip on the end of the root, the plant is in active growth. If the tip of the root is hooded over, the plant is dormant.

Alan becomes a missionary when he talks about fertilizer. He believes that our concern with the traditional blends of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium is overstated, and that we should focus more on micronutrients. Because orchids are mostly epiphytic, they need more of the trace elements, especially calcium, nitrate, magnesium and iron. Having evolved under the canopy, most orchids have developed a feeder root system that is able to pick up these minerals that are recycled naturally in the rainforest. Their nutritional needs are different from traditional terrestrial plants, and to grow them well we must supply these micronutrients. In his nursery, Alan only drenches his plant 1 - 2 a month. Between waterings, he uses a foliar feed that is applied primarily to the underside of the foliage. Through his foliar feed Alan is able to supply nitrite, calcium, and magnesium. Finally, Alan pointed out that Orchids are really slow growing plants. We need to be sensitive to their needs by constantly observing and checking our plants. If a plant is not growing well in a particular location, move it to another location. Do not do this precipitously, but slowly, over time so that the plant has the opportunity to adjust to its new environment. You can tell if a plant is growing well because it will have long root tips, and each new pseudobulb will be taller than the last growth.

*Transcription by Cara Hayes Secretary,
Sandhills Orchid Society*



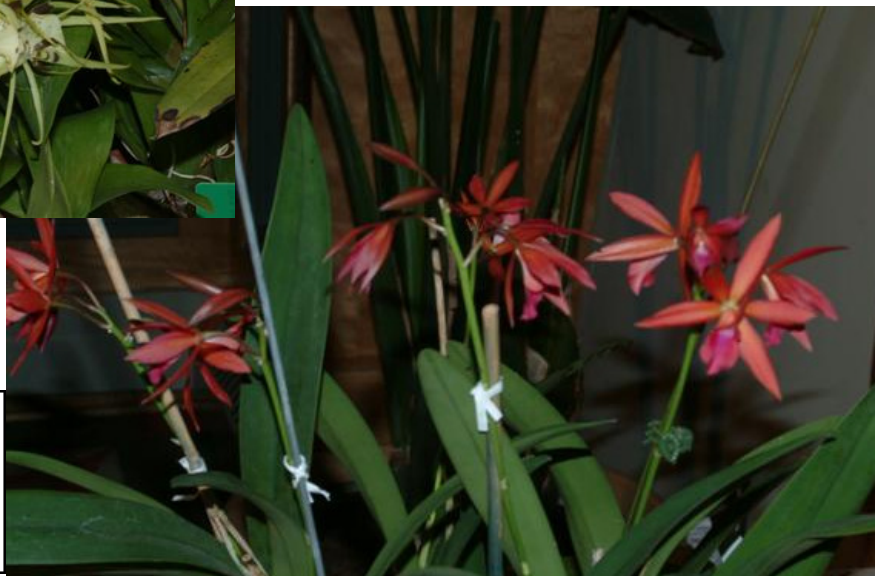
**Jack Webster
Awards Non
Greenhouse Grown**

**First Place Ribbon went to:
Cymbidium Constance
Briggs 'Rose Beauty Peloric'
grown by Marie Crock**



**Second Place Ribbon went to:
Brassia Rex grown by Judith
Goldstein**

**Third Place Ribbon went to:
Epc. Charlie Brown grown by
Amy Marshall**



**Jack Webster
Awards Green-**

**First Place Ribbon went
to: *Cattleya mossiae*
grown by Olivine Virtue**



**Second Place Ribbon went
to: *Ang sesquipedale*
grown by Nick Plummer**

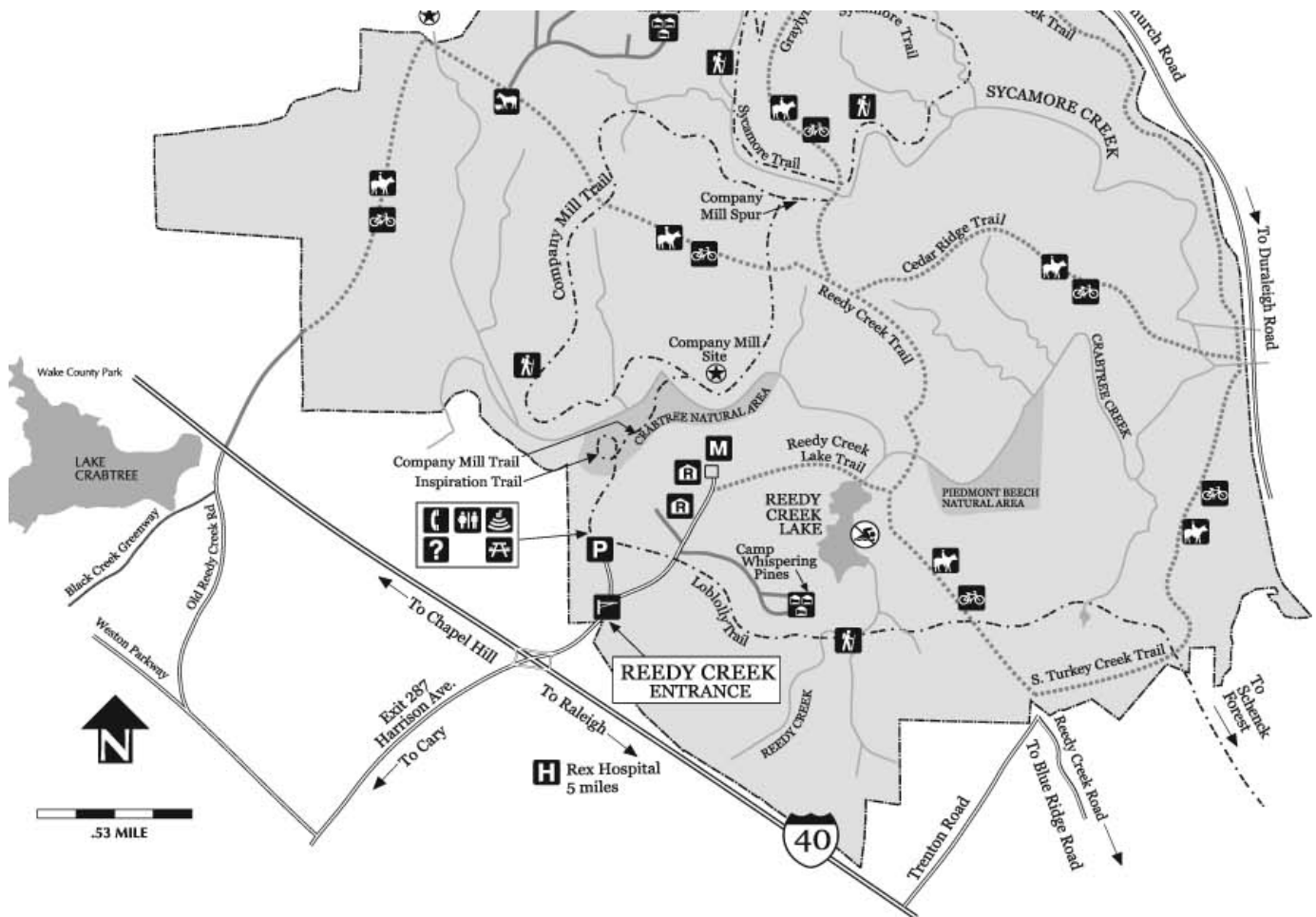


**Third Place Ribbon went to:
Odontocidium intergeneric
grown by Michael Wagner**



May 20th TOS Annual Spring Auction,

Umstead State Park , 12noon pot luck lunch, 1PM Auction. Exit 287 Harrison Ave north from Rt 40 Raleigh ,NC Take Reedy Creek en-



trance... only Building on the Right. Bring a covered dish, table ware and drinks will be provided. Bring your orchid divisions, seedlings, ones that haven't flowered, but leave the bugs behind. Last year plants averaged \$15 per bid. TOS has also ordered several hundred dollars of orchids from commercial growers. Most of them in flower. Bring your relatives and friends. You may infect them also with Orchiditis. Warning, there is no known cure..... only relief is by buying another orchid.

Your orchid donation is tax deductible, ask Treasurer for a form. TOS is a 501-C3 Tax Exempt Educational and Non Profit Organization

Blue Ridge Orchid Society Show

Organization Report

Triangle Orchid Society

Sunday, April 29, 2007

Alan Miller

Mtd. Bartley Schwarz "Highland" AM/AOS Red Ribbon

V. lamellata var. remediosae Blue Ribbon

Den. chrysotoxum Red Ribbon

Jamie Graff

angraecum sesquipedale Blue Ribbon

epidendrum radicans Yellow Ribbon

Tolumnia Mem. Ralph Yagi Blue Ribbon

Jeff and Peggy Bloodworth

Den Aphyllum Blue Ribbon

Vanda Amy Glynn Creekmur Red Ribbon

Marie Crock

Phal. freed shenk 'Pink Strips' x Dtps. Fure shing

pretty 'Happy' Blue Ribbon

Dendrobium Blue Twinkle Carmela Yellow Ribbon

Nolan Newton

(Onc. Illustre 'Wildwood' X Colm. sphacetante 'Evelyn')
Blue Ribbon

Triangle Orchid Society

Exhibit Yellow Ribbon



Judith Goldstein, Marie Crock and Peggy Bloodworth put in the 25 sq foot exhibit at the Blue Ridge Orchid Society Show. in Roanoke VA. The exhibitors got 6 Blue Ribbons and the Exhibit got a Yellow Ribbon .

Robin and Josh Gurlitz took down the exhibit.



Growing Tips for May

By Courtney T. Hackney

The final part of this series addresses pesticide application and products for those with large collections in greenhouses or growers that keep their orchids outside the home. Pesticides all have a prescribed re-entry time on the label, which must be followed after applications. If these products are applied inside the home there is always the possibility of contamination of surfaces where you and your family could contact the pesticide. Always err on the side of caution.

As noted in earlier parts of the series, most pesticides potentially have some negative effect on the plant. There are, however, a number of steps that can be taken to minimize damage to your orchids. First, always use exactly what the instructions recommend. Do not use "about" 1 teaspoon. Use exactly one teaspoon. Use a dropper for quantities less than 1 tablespoon. These can be purchased at the drug store with increments on them. Never use any utensils that might accidentally be used later for medicine or anything that humans would use. Keep it strictly for pesticides and away from children and pets.

Next be sure your orchids are watered thoroughly before applying the pesticide, preferably in the early morning when the greenhouse temperature is low. Orchids should be sprayed early enough so that plants are

dry by the time intense solar radiation is heating up the leaf surface and your greenhouse.

When mixing pesticides use pure water, as water that is high in dissolved solids or that has been mixed with fertilizer can alter the relative toxicity of the product. **Always wear gloves and respirator when handling the concentrated form of the pesticide.** Follow this rule no matter how non-toxic a product is supposed to be.

There are two hormonal insect products that have worked well for me over the years, because they are effective against cattleya (Boisduval) scale. This type of product does not kill insects directly, but interrupts their molting cycle. Both are, unfortunately, relatively expensive initially, but worth the cost in the long run. **Enstar** was the first one that worked well for me. Insects must come into contact with Enstar to be effective, which requires that orchids be soaked during the application, especially the undersides of leaves. The only problem I had with this product was that it seemed to lose its potency after the concentrate was opened. Because it worked so well initially, and my collection is relatively small, it remained on the shelf for over a year before it was all used.

The second hormonal product, **Distance**, has been more effective because it is a

systemic, one incorporated into the plant tissues. Some botanical gardens use this as a drench and claim they need only apply it twice a year. That application rate, twice a year, seems to work well when it is used as a spray as well. This product is incredibly effective to the degree that I could not find a single live scale three months after application.

Most products labeled for scale suggest three applications spaced 7-10 days apart for complete scale control. Do not apply Distance more than once every 3 months as there does seem to be a toxic effect, especially in thin leaved orchids, e.g. miltonias and oncidiums.

The only downside for this product is cost, over \$200/pint. Because it lasts so long and works so well it may be necessary for several growers to join together and share. So far, there does not seem to be a loss of toxicity with storage of the concentrate.

Finally, there is one product widely available and relatively inexpensive. It is **Bayer's Rose and Flower Insect spray**. There are two proven ingredients, an organic insecticide that kills insects on contact and one that is systemic. It is available at Lowes Garden centers for under \$10 in a premixed form. Concentrates are not usually available. The premixed bottles are ideal for smaller collections or for spot problems. Avoid reapplication within a month of application as there also seems to be cumulative plant toxicity.

Green Swamp Field Trip Cancelled

I'm back from the Green Swamp after a day's excursion to check out the possibilities for the TOS orchid foray scheduled for this coming Saturday, May 5. Unfortunately, I found very little in flower in the savannas. After visiting two sites, I was able to turn up a couple of Calopogons, and that was about it. I also found very few other plants in flower.

There are several things conspiring against us, I'm afraid. The sites we usually visit are pretty heavily overgrown, and they are much in need of burning. But even one recently burned site that I located had little to show. The cool weather we had in recent weeks has also slowed things down, but the worst thing is that the entire site seems to be excessively

dry. Although we had a lovely day hiking around, I hardly think that the current floral display justifies our driving approximately 350 miles round-trip next weekend. I am therefore canceling the trip, with the hope that we can schedule another visit to this fascinating site at a more appropriate time in the future. If any of you would like detailed instructions for visiting the Green Swamp on your own, I would be pleased to provide them.

Best wishes, Tom Wentworth

**Triangle Orchid Society
Meeting Agenda:**

7: 7:30 Set Up Show
Table and Chairs

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

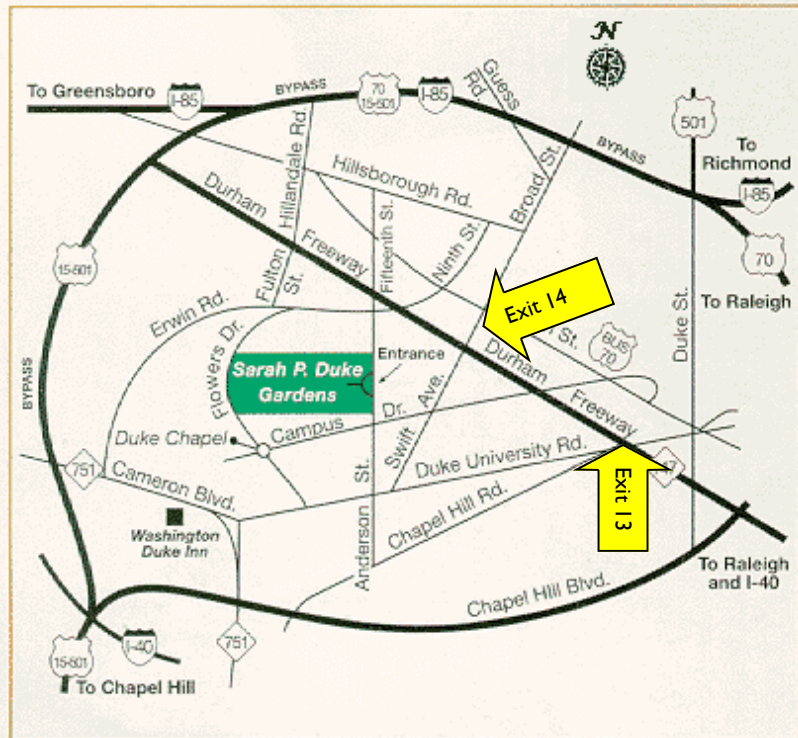
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards,
Raffle and Door Prizes

9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends

Calendar 2007	Speaker	Topic
May 14th	Russ Vernon New Vision Orchids Yorktown, IN	Cattleya Species
June 11th	Andrea Nissen Orquideas del Valle, Cali- Colombia	Colombian Orchids 'Maxillarias'
July 9th	Walter Orchard Tumwater WA	Disas and how to grow them

Welcome Table**Refreshments**

May 14	Marie Crock	Robin and Josh Gurlitz
June 11th	Bob Meyer	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

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

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 for May 14th
Russ Vernon
New Vision Orchids
Yorktown, IN Cattleya Species

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