



# Orchidacea

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

## Speaker for October 2007 Lewis Hamilton Lima Plantation, FL (*C nobilor*, *C walkeriana*, *L purpurata*)

### ***The Fascinating and Ever-Surprising Cattleyas of Brazil***

Luiz Hamilton Lima has been an aficionado of the Brazilian Cattleyas since age nine, when he cultivated Cattleya violacea in a lath the back yard of their Brazil. In this lecture species Cattleyas from ate, discusses habitat ering tips for the out-orchid grower.



he cultivated Cattleya house, built by his father, in home in Manaus, Amazon, Luiz reviews the beautiful Brazil - unifoliate and bifoli- and gives growing and flow- door, indoor and greenhouse

A 'not to be missed' lecture for those orchidists who love exotic Cattleya species - The Queen of Orchids! I am a hobby grower and thus will NOT be selling plants at my lecture, sorry.  
Luiz

### **Member Sales Tables at the October meeting**

**Bring your orchids that you have duplicates , seedlings or want to sell with a price tag on them. And put on the sales tables.**



*Laelia Purpurata*

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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,

President Michael Wagner opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, Monday Sept 10th, 2007. He asked the minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report be approved as written in the newsletter. Motions made and seconded.

**Announcements:** Michael requested all outstanding library books be returned so others can take them out. He made a request for chauffeurs for the upcoming speakers. To pick them up, take to the motel, meeting and to deliver them the day after the meeting to a representative of the Sandhills Club. 1/2 way to Southern Pines. Contact Marie Crock 479-5069.

The September plant auction will be a potluck lunch at noon, auction at 1PM at Sterling Lake map on the web and in the Sept newsletter. Bring plants (without bugs) which are a tax deduction, a folding chair and your friends and checkbook.

John Stanton will be finding speakers for the next years programs, contact him if you have any suggestions or requests. 919 468 3611

Needed volunteers for the welcome table the Refreshment Tables. Even for only 1 month would be appreciated.

Speaker Kurt Studier did the show table.

Following a refreshment break. Marie Crock introduced Kurt who talked about warm growing Masdevallias. "most Masdevallias are not warm tolerant but it is possi-

ble to grow them. They have vivid colors and come in a variety of shapes and sizes. They are fragrant bloomers. Fall winter and spring are the primary bloom seasons. As temperatures moderate, new growth is produced. Plants are usually small, so they fit in small spaces.

They can be grown on windowsills or under alights. Masdevallia species inhabit Central and South America. Temperature is the most important variable. Temperature range is from 45F degrees to 77-80F maximum. They can't take extreme heat for extended periods. Ideal temperature are in the 60's. Masdevallias prefer low light like phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums.

The fewer chemicals used the better. Reverse osmosis water systems are good. They like 60% to 80% humidity levels. Best growing tricks: balanced watering, balanced fertilizer (ex. Nutricote 13-13-13). Leach pots regularly by pouring water through until it flows out the bottom of the pot, usually once a month. This removes hard water salts and fertilizer buildup.

Kurt prefers clay pots with sphagnum. They keep the roots cooler and provide even moisture. Don't pack the sphagnum too tightly around the roots. To repot, shake off the old mix, put charcoal in the bottom of the pot, and wrap the roots loosely in the sphagnum. Masdevallias are mountain orchids, and like slot baskets as well as clay pots. They like cooler temperatures around the roots. Kurt's mix is on his website. He uses Antec Labs coconut mix recipe, there is little root rot. You can grow Masdevallias in seedling bark if you repot ever six months.

Heat stress will cause blackened foliage or defoliation. Plants will flush out again in cooler temperatures. If you

have pests or diseases, use Safer Soap or Bayer Rose and Garden Spray systemic). Spray, wait 7 days and use again DO NOT USE ORTHENE on your plants or they will go to orchid heaven. Also you can use Physan fungicide if available.

### **JACK WEBSTER AWARDS:**

Paul Feather chose the Jack Webster Award plants.

In the **Non Greenhouse Grown** category. Bob Myer's Vascostylis 5 Friendships got 1st place, Miriam Sagasti got second place with Cyc Jean E. Monnier. 3rd Place Ribbon: Paph Somers Isles Jumbo HCC/AOS x Hsinying Majakun #6, grown by Marie Crock.

**Green House Grown Ribbons:** 1st Place Ribbon: *Habanera rhodochila*, grown by Nick Plummer. 2nd Place: Cattleya Hauserman's Holiday 'Ishpeming', grown by George Beischer. 3rd Place Ribbon: Vascostylis Pine Rivers 'Hawaii', grown by Paul Virtue.

Raffle ticket plants were drawn and meeting adjourned at 9:35PM.

Diane Parks, Acting Secretary



*Cattleya walkeriana*

**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.



*Cattleya nobilior*

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



## Orchidacea

### **Jack Webster Awards Non Greenhouse Grown**

**1st Place Ribbon: Cycnoches Jean E Monnier grown by Miriam Sagasti**



**3rd Place Ribbon: Paph Somers Isles  
Jumbo HCC/AOS x Hsinying Majakun  
#6, grown by Marie Crock**



**1st Place Ribbon: Vascostylis 5  
Friendships, grown by Bob Meyer**

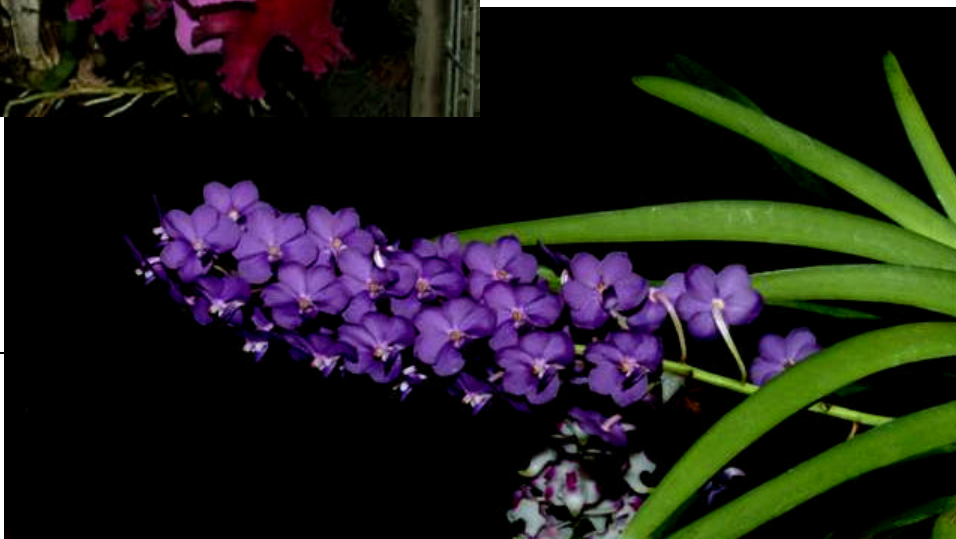
## Jack Webster Awards Greenhouse Grown

**1st Place Ribbon: *Habanera  
rhodochila*, grown by Nick  
Plummer**



**2nd Place: *Cattleya  
Hauserman's Holiday  
'Ishpeming'*, grown by  
George Beischer**

**3rd Place Ribbon:  
*Vascostylis Pine  
Rivers 'Hawaii'*,  
grown by Paul Virtue**





## Transcription of September's Speaker, Kurt Studier. Warm growing Masdevallias

Kurt Studier is a student judge with the Atlanta Judging Center and the owner of Mountain View Orchids in Greenville, South Carolina. He grows a number of genera at his nursery but particularly enjoys warm growing Masdevallias. He said he likes them because of their vivid colors, and for their variety of size and shapes. Additionally, he said these plants sell themselves because they are year round bloomers, with individual plants often blooming multiple times. They are easy to grow under varied conditions, whether that is in a greenhouse, under lights, or on a windowsill.

Most Masdevallias originate in Central and South America, especially Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador and south into Brazil. The single most critical aspect of growing them well is temperature control. They cannot tolerate nighttime temperatures below 45 degrees, and they do not do well if daytime maximum temperatures exceed 75. They do best under bright shaded conditions, much like conditions favored by Phals or Paphs. They do require good quality water, which Kurt supplies either through his RO system or by purchasing commercial spring water.

Fertilizing is also key. Kurt believes this should be kept simple so he uses the slow release form of Neutracote 13-13-13 as a top dressing in each pot at the rate of ¼ teaspoon per 4 inch pot. He applies this every six months, but supplements this with a monthly foliar spray of Protec. He also leaches all his potted plants once a month to remove accumulated salts which he states can cause root burn if not flushed regularly.

After growing in sphagnum moss for a number of years, Kurt has recently changed his medium to a coconut husk mix. He uses this mix in clay

pots because the clay helps to maintain even moisture in the medium while also acting as a cooling agent. If you are using plastic pots he recommends that you use a fine bark mix, or try growing your Masdevallias in slat baskets or on mounts.

In North Carolina, Masdevallias do well during the fall, winter and spring. Hot summer temperatures can cause plants to drop their foliage, causing the inexperienced grower to assume that the plant has died. Kurt was very reassuring about this, noting that with cooler fall weather there will appear a flush of new growth.

For insect control, Kurt recommends Dr. Brauner's peppermint soap. He uses ¼ tsp. per quart of water as a contact spray. He also recommends Bayer's Rose and Flower Spray which has systemic properties. This is readily available to any garden center, including Home Depot or Lowe's.

Kurt ran through the Orchid Digest program on Draculas and Masdevallias, focusing initially on the monkey faces one can recognize in Dracula flowers. He has received AOS awards for a number of his own plants, including Masd Copper Angel, Masd Copper Wing and Masd Dean Hass. He has received two awards on his Dean Hass clones, one of which is a red.

Kurt provided a very informative presentation with lots of practical cultural information which will help us all grow our Masdevallias better, despite the hot summers we experience in North Carolina.

*Respectfully submitted Joy Lemieux,  
Sandhills Orchids Society*



## TOS Fall Auction Sept. 29th, 2007

(by Josh Gurlitz)

Thanks to Nick Plummer and Mike Joe-hrendt, auctioneers, they brought in about \$4,300.

There were 46 bidders and the total attendance was between 55 and 60 with a good turn- out of new members.

In the picture (below) of Nancy Miller and her son Anders are sitting next to Jack Webster. Nancy is a new member who attended Growers Day. She claimed to have sat next to Jack so that she would have the best advice on what to bid on and how much to bid. She did



all right!!

Lee Aldridge and Millissa Bullard (new members since Growers Day) added 19 orchid to their collection.

The auction was held at Crystal Lake at a lake-front site owned by George and Sue Beischer and there are no better hosts anywhere.







## Growing Tips for October

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

In case you missed it, fall arrived September 23. The days have been getting shorter since June and daylight is now less than 12 hours long. Many orchids use the decreasing day length as an indicator that it is time to bloom. Indoor growers need to adjust their grow-lights appropriately. It is not necessary to make constant changes in day length, but it is necessary to shorten day length if you want many orchids to bloom under lights. Some indoor growers rely on light through windows to supply all the light their orchids need. Those with good southern or eastern exposures are often very successful in getting flowers each year as long as they allow their orchids to experience a day length change. Many cattleyas get confused if incandescent lights are turned on nearby at night. I suspect that many cattleyas that are grown indoors do not bloom because of external light at night. Fall-blooming cattleyas are very sensitive to shrinking day length and external night lights confuse them.

Large-flowered phals require a cool temperatures to initiate the growth of flower spikes. Some growers leave their windows open for a few weeks in the fall, not only to enjoy the welcome cool nights, but to provide this cool stimulus for their phals. Five to ten nights at 55-65 degrees are more than enough to initiate spikes. The

key is both the low temperature and a 20 degree change from day to night. After that, it is best to keep them at a temperature above 65 degrees.

This is also the time to move those giant pots of cymbidiums from under the deep shade to more sun. Do it gradually so there will not be any leaf burn. Cymbidium growers claim that the best flowers come when they allow their cymbidiums to almost reach frost conditions. Some cover their plants with a product called "Frost Proof", which protects them from frost even down below freezing.

Cattleyas still maturing bulbs will produce large, plump bulbs now that night temperatures are in the 50s

*Avoid over-watering this time of year. Your orchids can handle less water, but you could lose all those roots you worked so hard to grow if you continue watering at the same rate as you did in summer.*

and the day is not nearly as hot. This can be quite a contrast to the thinner bulbs that are produced when both night and day temperatures are very warm.

Most members of the vanda and angracoid groups do not appreciate cooler nights and will decrease their growth rate. They do, however, seem to produce flowers with more vibrant colors when night temperatures are

cool. If you tend to have cooler conditions than most warm growing vandas prefer, select vandas that have a good dose of *Vanda coerulea* in their parentage as these prefer cooler nights.

There are members of many orchid groups that come from cooler climes. Many miniature phals, e.g. *lobbii*, *parishii*, and their hybrids, such as *Phal Mini Mark*, really thrive when day and night temperatures are lower. Phrags, especially anything with *Phrag besse* in the background, really struggle in summer's heat, but grow quickly once temperatures cool.

Lower temperature and light usually means that your orchids need less water, although this also depends on humidity as well. Avoid over-watering this time of year. Your orchids can handle less water, but you could lose all those roots you worked so hard to grow if you continue watering at the same rate as you did in summer. The exception is for those that grow indoors, as most homes these days are air conditioned in summer and heated in winter keeping indoor conditions (temperature and humidity) about the same year round.

It is unnecessary to fertilize most orchids now, although most seedlings and phals still require fertilizer. Generally, there is enough fertilizer in pots and on the medium to provide the little your orchids need now. This is an ideal time to really flush pots





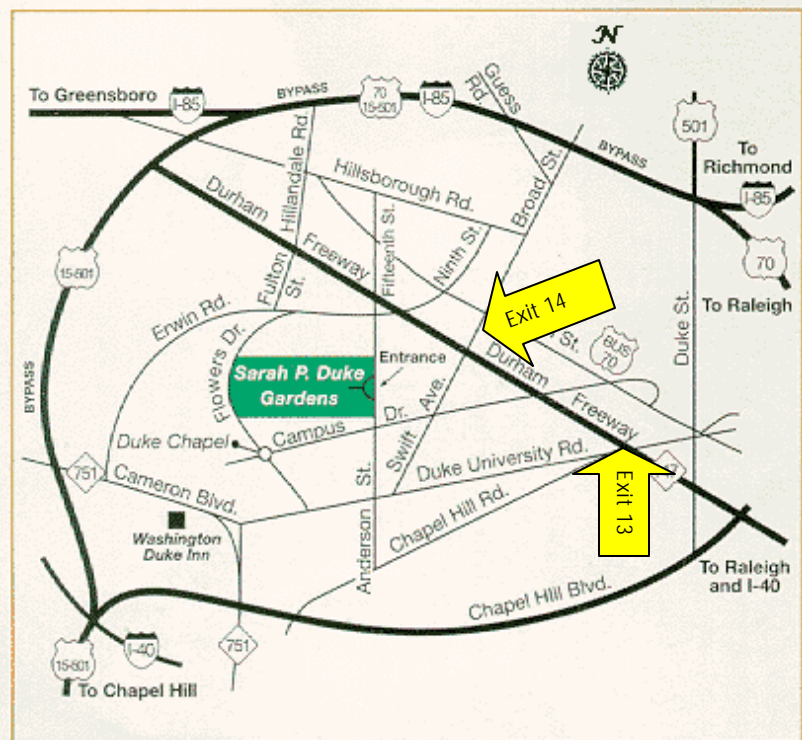
with high quality, low solids water because the extra drying experienced by orchids in winter will expose their roots to concentrated salts retained on media surfaces. In cases of high fertilizer application or hard water, these salts can damage roots.

Some orchid groups, such as the genus *Eulophia*, *nobile-dendrobiums*, *catasetums*, etc, become almost totally dormant and lose their leaves in winter. They may need to be moved to a location where they receive only a light misting occasionally.

Take a careful look under pots and leaves if you have had your orchids outside during the summer and now plan to move them into the house or greenhouse. If you have just a few plants, a drench of liquid Sevin (one teaspoon/gal) will kill anything you do not want, including slugs and snails. Do this now, before a sudden cold snap forces you to quickly drag your orchids inside or you could be dealing with bugs and beasts for the entire winter.

<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>Oct 8th</b>	<b>Lewis Hamilton Lima, Plantation, FL</b>	<b>C nobilor, C walkeriana, L purpurata</b>
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	<b>Nov 12th</b>	<b>Jason Fisher Orchids Limited MN</b>	<b>Phragmipediums</b>
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	<b>December 10th Member Sales tables</b>	<b>Don Garliing Okemos MI</b>	<b>Magic potions, home remedies</b>
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

<b>Welcome Table</b>		<b>Refreshments</b>
<b>October 8th</b>	<b>Lori Chapman</b>	<b>Creighton Humphrey and Sue Morand</b>
<b>Nov 12th</b>		<b>Melissa Bullard</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.



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

### 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