



Orchidacea

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

Speaker for September 10th, 2007

Kurt Studier "Warm Growing Masdevallias"

Kurt began growing orchids in 1975, with the purchase of a ladyslipper, Paph. Maudiae 'Magnificum'. Having grown up in a family of gardeners, Kurt has always loved plants. Upon seeing the beautiful green ladyslipper in bloom, he purchased it and the love affair with orchids began. On October 10, 1991, the single bloom ladyslipper had grown from a four-inch pot to a ten-inch pot and received the coveted Cultural Certificate of Merit from the American Orchid Society. When awarded, the plant had fifteen flowers and three buds. It was Kurt's first AOS award and his passion for exhibiting orchids was intensified. From that one plant, Kurt now grows several thousand orchids of various varieties. His plants have received multiple AOS quality awards in recent years. Kurt's concentration is on the Paphiopedilums and miniatures. He also has a prized variety of Masdevallias that he is proud to display and discuss. He has grown orchids on the windowsill, in a variety of greenhouses, and under high intensity lights in his basement.

Kurt continues his breeding program concentrating on white and red Paphs. and Phragmipedium besseae. In addition, he plans to propagate the many species he grows to make them available for future generations. The greenhouse and showroom are open Monday through Saturday from 10am - 5pm. Kurt is available for workshops, and he loves to talk about the care and feeding of his beloved lady slippers, Masdevallias, and many other orchid related topics. Kurt is included in the American Orchid Society speakers' list.

Kurt owns and operates Mountain View Orchids which currently grows over 1,500 Paphiopedilums from flask to blooming size plants. We also have a large group of Phalaenopsis, compact Cattleyas, and Masdevallias. It has been our great joy to use coconut husk mixes and see improved roots, blooms and vigorous new growths. For many years we used bark mixes with limited success. The best results were always achieved with repotting every six months, often just as a plant came into bud or bloom. Going beyond six months in bark meant certain root loss. Now our plants can grow undisturbed for at least two years or longer. Root growth has been excellent with new root tips evident near drainage holes in the pots and throughout the mix. We also use reverse osmosis water exclusively and believe water quality is paramount to getting that extra edge from our plants. Currently, we grow Paphs. with both plain green foliage and mottled foliage, Masdevallias and numerous species.

Kurt may be contacted at: Mountain View Orchids, 900 Pendleton St., Greenville, SC 29601.

Website: <http://mountainvieworchids.com/Home/tabid/216/Default.aspx>

Phone: (864) 325-0705, Email: kstudier@mountainvieworchids.com.

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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

8/13/2007

President Michael Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. He extended a special welcome to the new members, many of whom were in at the TOS meeting following attending Grower's Day.

The Minutes from the July meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter. There were no further comments or corrections to the Treasurer's report, also as published in the newsletter.

If you haven't already, please pick up your Membership CD. It contains all sorts of useful information, including growing tips and the TOS by laws.

Please check out the TOS library, and check out the books. When you do check out books, please return them after the month is up – someone else might want to check that book out, too. (There is a \$1/month fine for overdue books.)

Grower's Day was very successful: 87 people were in attendance. Thank you Speakers, Caterers, the Welcome Table Crew, the Set Up Crew, The Clean Up Crew, and very special Thanks to Bob Meyers for spearheading this effort!

The Fall Auction will be held on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007, at a location currently under discussion. There will be a pot-luck lunch at Noon, followed by the bidding beginning around 1. Judith Goldstein is organizing this event, and promises that there will be orchids in bloom, new plants, hard to find plants, plants donated by members (so consider donating, if your growing space is getting tight), and plants purchased specifically for this fundraiser. The average plant price is usually between \$12 and \$20, making this an excellent resource for expanding your collec-

tion. The Auction is open to the public, so please bring your family, friends, relatives, co-workers, and your check book or cash (no credit cards), and come help out the TOS at this, a major fundraiser for your society. Proceeds from the auction will continue to pay for speakers, the rental of the meeting space, refreshments at the meeting, and a host of other benefits. Please support your Society.

Paul Feaver has been heading up cleaning up after the Orchid Society Meetings by himself for far too long now, and needs some help. Please speak with him if you are willing to lend a hand. Just helping out, too, would be welcome.

John Stanton is collecting suggestions for future speakers. Email him at the Orchid Trail (address available as a link on the TOS website), or you can try speaking to him directly during the next couple of meetings.

Carter and Holmes is having an Open House in August. Please contact Marie Crock if you are interested in carpooling down to visit.

EvenTrade now has a section allowing you to trade orchids on their website. There is a monthly fee.

Armondo Nevis is selling his greenhouse. Contact him if you are interested.

The Speaker, Ernie Gemeinhart presented the show tables. A brief social break followed the presentation of the show tables, and then Mr. Gemeinhart delivered a very animated talk about his favorite orchids. Mr. Gemeinhart held a brief question and answer session after his talk.

John Stanton presented the Jack Webster Awards for orchids on the show table.

NON-GREENHOUSE Grown Ribbons:

1st: Oncidium Mendenhall 'Papa's Dream' x Onc. papilio 'Giant' grown by Chris and Janet Moore

2nd Angraecum Lemforde White Beauty grown by Jaimie Graff

3rd Ascocenda Crownfox Honey Gold 'Tangerine' HCC/AOS grown by Lee Allgood

GREENHOUSE GROWN Ribbons:

1st *Ansellia africana* grown by George Beischer

2nd *Habenaria rhodocheila* grown by George Beischer

3rd *Renanthera Jenny Wren* 'Merritt Island' x 'Manila' grown by Nick Plummer

Award pictures on pages 6,7.

The raffle plants were raffled and awarded, and the meeting adjourned shortly past 9:30 PM.

Jaimie Graf, Secretary

Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Ernie Gemeinhart of Enlightened Orchids

likes Paphs! Especially multifloral paphs. He said he likes them because of their successive blooming habit which is like that of phrags. He likes them because of their adaptability, and he likes them because they make wonderful hybrids. Ernie especially like the class of multifloral paphs called *Cochlopetalums*, a sub genus of *Paphiopedilums*. He says they are easy to grow and bloom; they are very tolerant of varied temperature conditions; they don't need much in the way of fertilizer; and are even very tolerant of bad water. Their hybrids generally have significantly increased flower count.

Cochlopetalums are successive bloomers and usually only have one flower in full bloom, although multiple buds may also be evident. Occasionally there may be two blooms on a plant, and on very rare occasions there may be 3 or even 4 flowers. While each bloom may last for one to two weeks, the successive blooming habit of these plants means that a plant will remain in bloom for many months. Most are compact in size, and are not tied to any specific bloom season. As a very general rule, most *Cochlopetalums* have a pink pouch and green sepals and petals.

Paph glaucophyllum is native to eastern Java. Its foliage tends to a lovely blue-grey color. When used in hybridizing *Paph glaucophyllum* acts as a red enhancer. It is highly variable in its color forms, with spotting that may blend into a solid color. *Paph moquettianum* is endemic to SW Java. It has a distinctive stippled or pebbled dorsal sepal which sets it apart from all the other species in this class. For years it was considered to be a variety of *Paph glaucophyllum* but the RHS has recently recognized it as a distinct species, a move that will have far reaching effects on how previously registered hybrids will now be called.

Paph liemianum is from Northern Sumatra. Its foliage is very unique in that has small, fine hairs growing on the outer margins. It also has a very distinctive purple coloration at the base of the dark green leaves. The pouch on *Paph liemianum* is very distinctive in that it looks quite bulbous, and is stippled with red dots. The dorsal has a white halo around its margins. This plant remains very compact. *Paph primulinum* is best known for its alba form, which is pale yellow. The darker form, *purpurascens*, is rarely seen today except in specialized collections. *Primulinum* is the smallest flower form of all the *Cochlopetalums* and has no spotting or stripping. *Paph Victoria-mariae* is now quite rare in collections. It has a very distinctive pinched or recurved dorsal. The pouch is very pointed on the closed end, and has no spots. It is a native of southern and western Sumatra at higher altitudes. It is one of the few paphs that can be grown in intermediate to cool conditions. *Paph victoria regina* has the distinctive white halo as well a spotted, pointed pouch. The foliage is a light green with a rose purple blush at the base. *Paph kaliana* may be a variety of *Paph victoria regina*. It has the pointed pouch, the narrow dorsal is often recurved and twisted. The margins of the petals are covered with fine, dark hairs. Some growers consider *Paph kaliana* to

be a variety of *Paph victoria regina*. Others point to the fact that its breeding habits are

quite distinctive in that it has bracts at the base of the flower that tend to push it forward, causing a very poor presentation of the flower.

Culture for *Cochlopetalum* is generally the same as that of any other paph. They like to dry out between waterings. They like low to medium light and good air movement. They do best in warm to intermediate conditions which means night time lows of 65 degrees. They require very little fertilizer but because so many of them grow on limestone cliffs they do benefit from a mix that contains trace concentrations of Calcium and Magnesium. They do well if humidity can be maintained at 40% or higher (not a problem in North Carolina). Additionally, they should be repotted yearly.

Hybridizing with *Cochlopetalum*s is just now coming into its own. Historically, hybridizers have tended to put *Cochlopetalum*s onto other *Cochlopetalum*s. Because these species are already so similar, these hybrids looked very much the same. More recently hybridizers are utilizing *Cochlopetalum*s with uniflora paphs such as *armenicum*, *malipoense*, *micranthum*, *bellatulum* or *niveum*. The result has been significantly increased floriferousness. Efforts to put *Cochlopetalum*s onto the large Bulldog or complex paphs have reduced the size of the Bulldogs and produced a hybrid which looks much more like the species but which has retained the rich color saturation of the complex hybrids.

Looking to the future, Ernie believes we are on the threshold of some marked improvements. Selfing of species over several generations will produce significantly improved form and color of the species. Hybridizers are now remaking old hybrids with these improved species and some of the results have been spectacular. There is also the potential for multifloral complex hybrids, which will surely excite paph enthusiasts. I know I'll find some space in my greenhouse for some of these new hybrids.

Joy Lemieux, Sandhills Orchid Society



Cochlopetalum Hybrid

***Paphiopedilum sanderianum x Paph moquettianum*
grown by John Martin**

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**

Fall Orchid Auction!

Hosted by The Triangle Orchid Society

When: Saturday, September 29, 2007
12:00-4:00 PM (starts with covered dish lunch from 12-1)

Where: Crystal Lake, Hillandale Rd. Durham

Who: Everyone is invited. Anyone can bid.

What: Hundreds of Orchids will be auctioned. Species and Hybrids. Best Selection & Prices!



Directions From RTP:

take Durham Expressway HWY 147 to Durham
Exit #15B onto Hillandale Rd heading North

At about 1 mile cross over I85

Go 2 miles north of 85, pass Hillandale School

Pass Peppertree Street on Right, Turn left onto
dirt Road to Crystal Lake (will be marked)

go to cabin at the lake

Map to site available at www.triangleorchidsociety.org

Hosted by The Triangle Orchid Society

For more information, contact:

Paul Virtue: 919-846-1245

pvirtue@prodigy.net



The Triangle Orchid Society is a 501 (3) (c) Non-Profit Organization. All proceeds go for meetings, speakers and other activities supporting the conservation, cultivation, education, and enjoyment of orchids.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Sarah P Duke Gardens in Durham. Visitors are welcome.

www.triangleorchidsociety.org

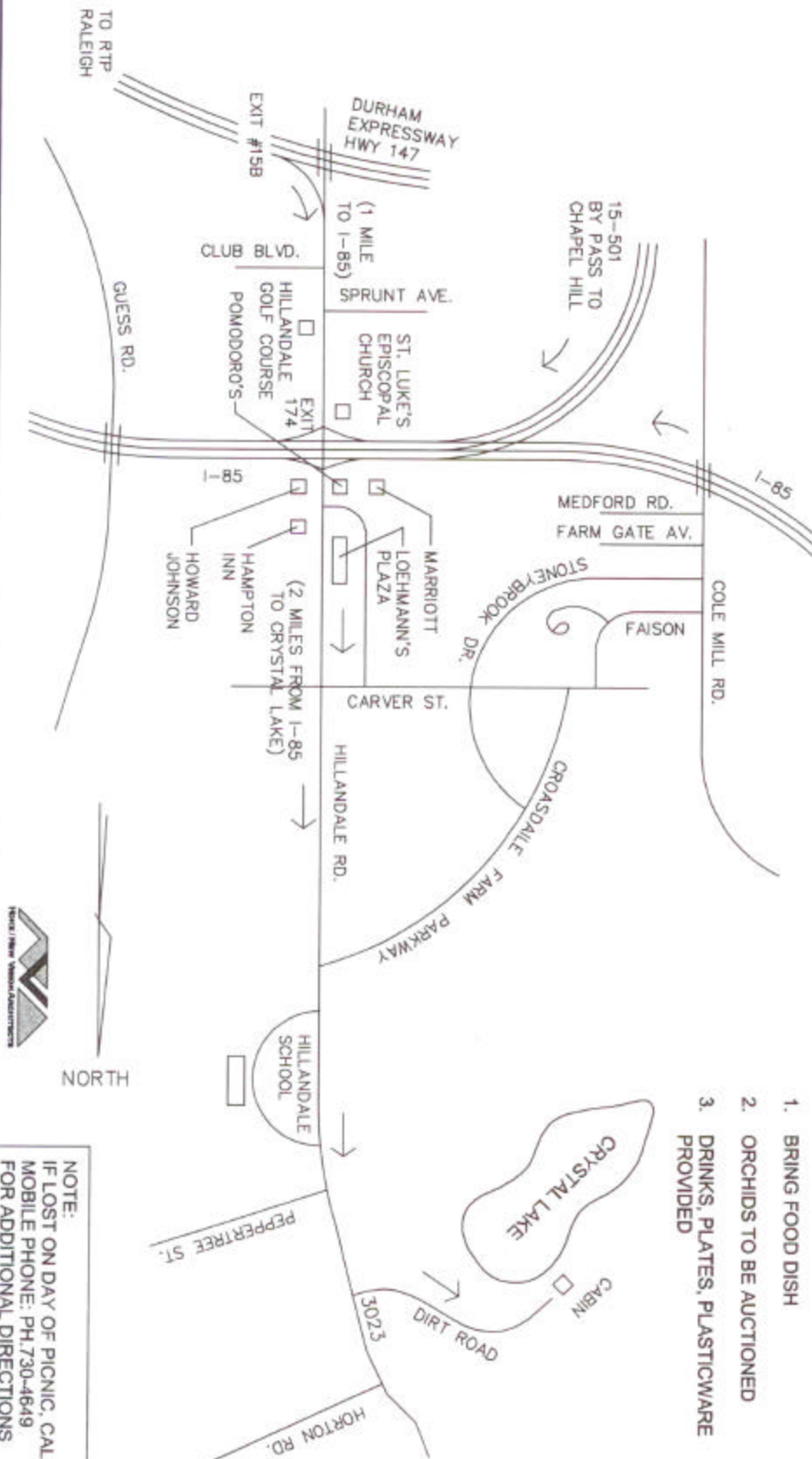
DIRECTIONS TO:

THE TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY PICNIC and AUCTION at CRYSTAL LAKE DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

AUCTION: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

12:00 PICNIC
1:00 AUCTION

1. BRING FOOD DISH
2. ORCHIDS TO BE AUCTIONED
3. DRINKS, PLATES, PLASTICWARE PROVIDED



NOTE:
IF LOST ON DAY OF PICNIC, CALL
MOBILE PHONE: PH.730-4849
FOR ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS



**2nd Angraecum Lemforde White Beauty
grown by Jaimie Graff**



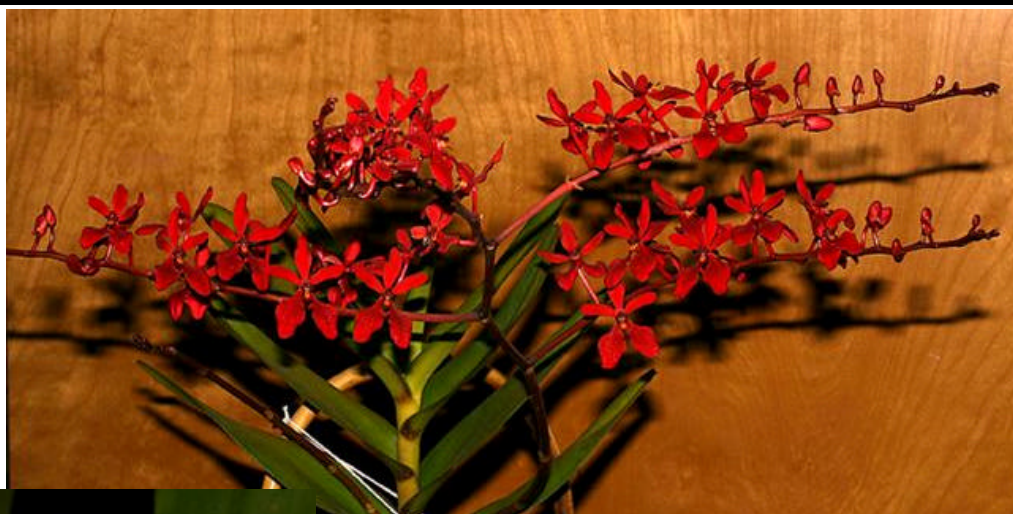
**1st: Oncidium Mendenhall 'Papa's
Dream' x Onc. papilio 'Giant' grown
by Chris and Janet Moore**

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown
Show Table Ribbons**

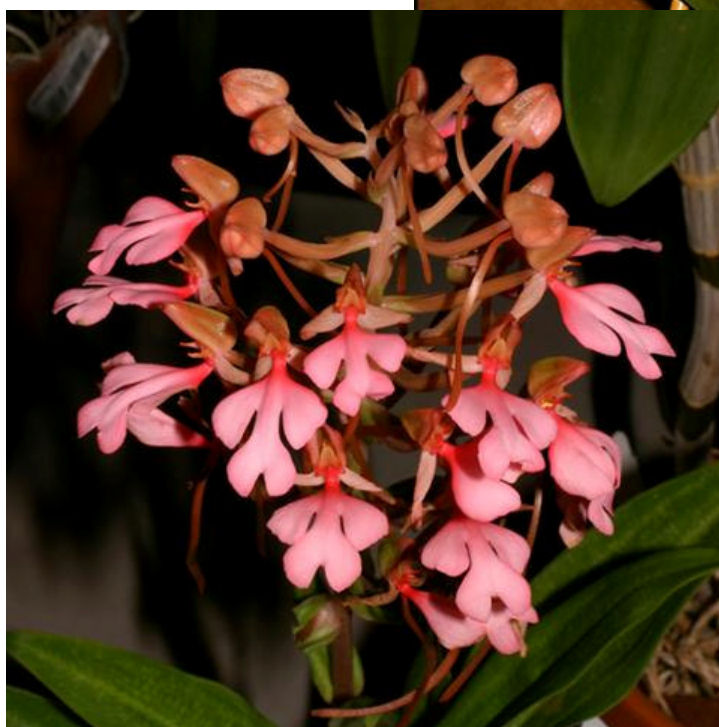


**3rd Ascocenda Crownfox Honey
Gold 'Tangerine' HCC/AOS grown
by Lee Allgood**

**Jack Webster
Awards Green-
house Grown
Show Table
Ribbons**



**3rd Renanthera Jenny Wren 'Merritt
Island' x 'Manila' grown by Nick**



**2nd *Habenaria rhodo-
cheila* grown by George
Beischer**



**1st *Ansellia africana*
grown by George
Beischer**





Growing Tips for Spetember

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

During the past 3 or 4 weeks I have had some time to spend in the greenhouse and time to re-view my orchid growing culture. It is often difficult to accurately assess whether cultural changes have really improved the growth of your orchids because too often all we remember is the problem plant or the night slugs ate your prize buds just before they opened. One approach that I find useful is to examine my use of pesticides, fungicides, and fertilizers from year to year in light of my culture. The application of these products often reflects large-scale problems.

What I discovered is that I had drastically reduced my use of pesticides and fungicides. That does not mean that there have been no pests; juvenile crickets have occasionally chewed on new buds. There has also been an occasional rot here and there, but nothing widespread. The greatest surprise was how little soluble fertilizer I had used. The next question is whether my orchids have grown better or worse between years. The mantra among the best orchid growers is if orchids are provided with proper light, air circulation, good water, and nutrition there will be few pest and disease problems.

With the exception of a small collection of vandaceous orchids, new pseudobulbs on cattleyas are larger this year, with more flowers and roots.

Phalaenopsis not only survived in the 100 degree heat this summer, but they also produced several new leaves simultaneously. There has been the occasional orchid that "bit the dust", but, generally, this has been a great growing year. WHY?

If you want to become a good grower you must keep records so you can determine what worked and what has not worked. Most significant for me has been the fact that very cold conditions, below 50 F, in late spring did not result in widespread rots in phalaenopsis. Similarly, in day after day

..... my cultural goal for many years has been to find the perfect nutrition for optimal growth and disease resistance using the water available to me.

of searing summer's heat, there have been very few bacterial or fungal rots. In the 25 years I have grown phals, this has never happened before.

Several years ago, a number of members of the Phalaenopsis Alliance had the elemental content of their phal leaves tested. What surprised me was the amazing variability among growers and the surprising concentration of some micronutrients. The take home lesson for many phal growers was that these orchids could grow under high nutrient conditions without any significant

cultural problems. What was not said was that many commercial growers whose orchids were tested used almost constant antifungal and antibacterial treatments to prevent rots.

My suspicion was that many growers did not provide a balanced nutrition which left their orchids susceptible to rots once the protection of constant fungicides was removed. It was extremely frustrating to purchase magnificent phals that would develop just about every rot known within a couple of weeks in my greenhouse. Meanwhile, phals right next to these new phals grew just fine. If I repotted the new phal and kept it alive long enough to grow new leaves it would often thrive under the same conditions that previously led to rots. Even so, I still thought I had more rot problems than average.

Thus, my cultural goal for many years has been to find the perfect nutrition for optimal growth and disease resistance using the water available to me. Unless you use RO water or rain water, water varies greatly with respect to both the quantity of dissolved elements and the proportion of one to another. The dissolved minerals often affect the growth of orchids and may even limit whether your fertilizer is available to your orchids. Within any area, growers have figured out what fertilizer works best given the water available. Even the

most accomplished grower must change their culture if they move to a different water supply. Those that grow orchids well with few problems have found the perfect mix of water and nutrition.

Several years ago I decided that the key to finding the right balance of nutrients was to eliminate changes in nutrient availability and pH brought on by decomposing media. So, as I began to repot my orchids each was placed in lava rock. Lava rock, while inert, retains a surprisingly large amount of water and will even accumulate a little salt, but the medium does not change as it degrades or accumulates nutrients. Flushing pots thoroughly once a month produces the same environment for roots no matter how long the orchid is in the pot. The lack of an organic matrix to hold nutrients eliminated possible salt buildup, but required regular nutrition since very little is retained by the lava rock. The use of 13-13-13 Nutricote has worked well to provide the constant feeding required in lava rock, despite the tendency for the grey pellets to fall to the bottom of the pot. Apparently, enough of the pellets are retained in the rock to allow great growth.

Once a week, if I have time, a very weak fertilizer solution of Jacks 12-2-15 RO is applied (1/16 teaspoon/gal). This fertilizer is specially formulated for rainwater and contains high levels of calcium and magnesium required for proper plant growth. This solution is sprayed on plant leaves after plants have been watered. The nutrient level is very low but supplies the extra calcium & magnesium I think orchids need. This weak solution has a pH of 6.5, which is similar to the pH of rainwater here on the coast.

Soluble high nitrogen fertilizers must be used with caution as they can produce very low pH levels in RO or rainwater; levels low enough to kill orchid roots. For instance, delivery of 100 ppm of N, a feeding rate used by many commercial growers, (1/2 teaspoon/gal) will produce a pH of 3.93 that will damage the

roots.

The manufacturer recommends using a buffer to raise the pH, but this is more than most hobbyists can manage. Thus, I rely on Nutricote to deliver the key nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

As noted earlier, the only orchids that have not responded to this change in culture have been vandas in open baskets. I interpret this as evidence that my weak solution of high nitrogen fertilizer does not deliver enough of this key nutrient. Despite attempts to place Nutricote in bags above the vandas, they are clearly not growing as well as they have in the past; no doubt due to a nutrient limitation. Vandas in lava rock have grown extremely well, again indicating that nutrient limitations are a problem for my vandas growing in baskets.



Masdevallia Copperwing 'Alexander Grant' (Masd. veitchiana x Masd. decumana) AM/AOS 80 pts.

Place awarded - Atlanta, Ga on February 8, 2003. The judges' comments were "Six exceptionally large flowers and one bud on seven lateral inflorescences up to 19 cm long; dorsal sepal is dull orange with moderate small blood red spots basally; lateral sepals bright orange with numerous small blood red spots, finely hirsute, producing veining effect; caudae bright orange; minute lip dull red; substance heavy; texture velvety".

Kurt Studier , Mountain View Orchids

**Announcements and Current events:**

Thanks to Jeff Bloodworth who took the show table pictures

TOS Auction volunteers needed, Sept 29th, contact Judith Goldstein, Chair (919) 732-7622

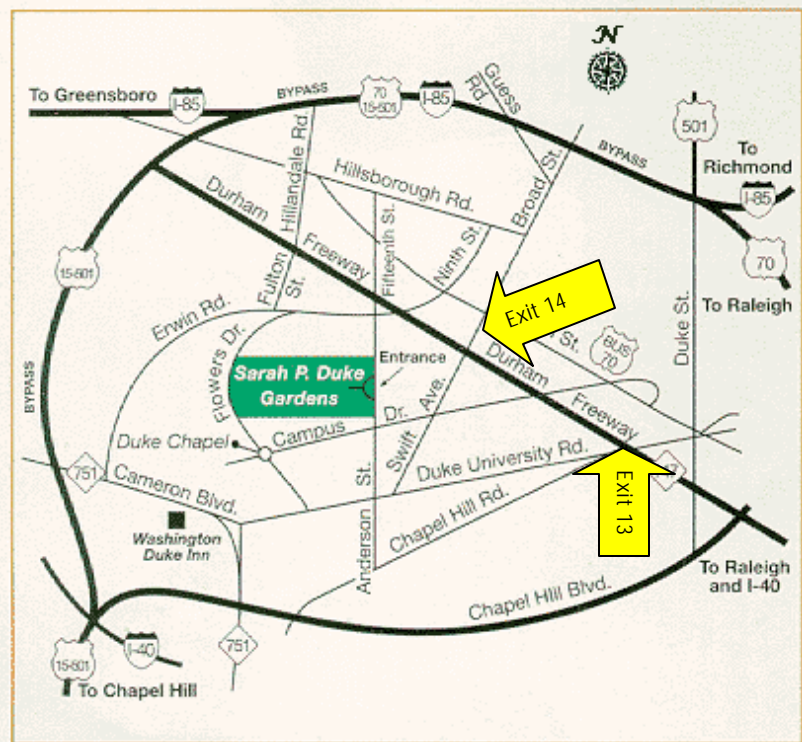
Triad Orchid Society Show, January 11-13, 2008. TOS will have a 50sq ft exhibit. Volunteers needed for plants and to set up and take down exhibit. Alan Miller Chair. (919-969-1612)

Sandhills Orchid Society planning a trip to Carter & Holmes Greenhouses. Oct 27th lunch and discount on plants contact Marie Crock (919) 479-5069 or Jack Webster (910) 692-3965 if you can attend.

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2007	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	Sept 10	Kurt Studier Mountain View Orchids South Carolina	"Warm Growing Masdevallias"
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	Oct 8th	Lewis Hamilton Lima Plantation, FL	C nobilor, C walkeriana, L purpurata
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program	Nov 12th	Jason Fisher Orchids Limited MN	Phragmipediums
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes			
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table**Refreshments**

Sept 10	Mike Joehrendt	Robin and Josh Gurlitz
Oct 8th	Lori Chapman	Creighton Humphrey and Sue Morand



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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September's Speaker
Kurt Studier "Warm Growing
Masdevallias"

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