



Orchidacea

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

Speaker for April 14, 2008 Norito Hasegawa

Norito Hasegawa is a dentist, an overextended hobbyist (considered commercial for tax purposes), is a 3 million miler traveling to many foreign countries talking and/or judging in places such as Japan, South Africa, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Taiwan, England, France, Switzerland and many cities in the USA.

He is married to Joyce, with three children Lisa, Todd and Mark with Paphiopedilums named after each of them. He is owner of Paphanatics Unlimited; a judge in both the American Orchid Society and the Cymbidium Society of America for over 35 years.

Announcements

Import Order from Ching Hua Orchids should be back for the April 14th Meeting .

Spring Auction – Saturday May 17th. Judith Goldstein – Chairperson; Bob Meyer – Publicity; Robin Gurlitz – Refreshments & Signs

Grower's Day – Saturday June 7th. Bob Meyer – Chairperson & Publicity. TOS June speaker, Steve Frowine has agreed to give several talks for us at Grower's Day, along with tentative commitments from Linda Thorne and Jeff Baldwin. Ralston Arboretum in Raleigh is being researched as a potential site for the event.

Fall Auction – Sunday September 28th.

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

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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

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OrchidSociety.org

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Minutes of the Last Meeting

TOS meeting of March 10th 2008 was called to order by President Paul Virtue at 7:30 PM. Minutes of the 11th meeting were approved. New members Catherine and David Schneider, and Robin Vogel were welcomed, along with Miriam Sagasti February's guest, Bernadette Marriott.

Paper copies of last month's newsletter were delayed at the printer and did not get out on time.

Orchid donations to help restock John Hope Franklin's greenhouse can be brought to next month's meeting. John Stanton of Orchid Trail, Jeff Baldwin of Hanks Chapel, and Paul Virtue have delivered orchids to John Hope Franklin and he has been very appreciative. Diane Parks spoke about the availability of books from the TOS library. Our library will be restocked on carts so that all our books can be at the meetings.

Society Activities:

1. Tour of Jack Webster's greenhouses in Southern Pines on March 29th, after 11:00 AM. Maps and more information will be sent out by e-mail.
2. Spring Auction – Saturday, May 17th.
3. Grower's Day – Saturday, June 7th
4. NC State Fair – October, the Society will put in and staff a display.
5. Fall Auction – Sunday, September 28th.

Speaker Mac Rivenbark reviewed the show tables and Jack Webster selected the award plants before the break. The award plants were placed on a central display table so that members could get a good look at them before voting later in the program.

Due to computer difficulties, the award plants were voted on and the plant raffle completed before Mac Rive bark's talk on "Orchids of the Philippines".

Show Table Award Plants: Non Greenhouse Grown Category:

First Place Ribbon: Cymbidium sinense album x eburneum grown by Jaimie Graff

Second place ribbon: Phaius Dan Rosenberg 'Tropical Ice' grown by Jaimie Graff Meyer

Third place ribbon: Cymbidium Winter Castle x Cymbidium Fire-wheel grown by Marie Crock

Greenhouse Grown Category:

First place ribbon: Den fimbriatum var occulatum grown by Jeff Baldwin . Second place ribbon: Vanda Robert's Delight 'Renu Blue' grown by Bob Meyer Third place ribbon: Dendrobium Sander's Festival x *Den sanderae* grown by Paul Feaver

Minutes submitted by Bob Meyer, Secretary.

Final Notice of Membership Dues for 2008

This will be your last newsletter if you haven't paid your 2008 dues.

Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Mac Rivenbark of Mac's Orchids

Mac became interested in orchids through his Philippine wife, and when visiting there with her. At his day job, he works as a heating & air conditioning technician. However, it is in his second job, as an orchid grower, that he really shines. He brought with him a wealth of practical information – little hints that can make the difference between being successful with a particular species or having it die.

Mac prefaced his talk on Orchids of the Philippines by reminding us that the Philippines are a conglomeration of 7,000 islands, many of which remain remote and isolated today. Many have extremely rough terrain and remain unexplored. A number of the islands have active volcanoes, and many are so mountainous that the peaks remain shrouded in cloud cover most of the day. The area is hot and humid, the perfect environment for many orchids. He believes that because of the difficulty of accessing many of these isolated areas, many orchids remain to be found.

Mac stated that there are 1,200 known orchid species native to the Philippines. Specific plants Mac talked about included *Aerides quinquevulnera* and *Aerides odorata*. Both of these, he said, are easy to grow. *Aerides quinquevulnera* likes bright light, and requires good quality water. It has the widest geographic distribution, is fragrant, and requires a dry rest period after flowering. *Aerides odorata* also has a widespread distribution, and is fragrant. *Aerides lawrencium* is the largest *aerides*. It is fragrant, easy to grow, and has long spikes with multiple flowers. Mac stated that the hotter the weather, the pinker the color of *Aerides lawrencium*.

Amesiella philippinensis is moth pollinated, and has large flowers that measure 2" across. *Coelogyne aspirate*, which is extremely variable

in its color forms, looks very much like *Coelogyne pandurata*. They can only be distinguished by counting the lines on the lip. *Coelogyne usitana* is a relatively recent discovery. It is a pendant, sequential bloomer, white with a red lip, and has been known to remain in bloom for up to 9 months.

Cymbidium ensifolium has been used extensively in hybridizing, particularly by Milton Carpenter, who has done so much work on developing *Cymbidiums* that are more warmth tolerant. *Cym dayanum* is so common in the Philippines that it is used as a house plant. It has pendant, long lasting flowers.

The Philippines has a number of *Dendrobiums*. *Den rhodosticta* flowers on the bare cane, as does *Den anosmum*, noted for the length of its canes. It is pendant and must be grown on a mount so that the canes can hang down. The natural hybrid between these two is *Den hotonii*, which Mac currently has in flask. *Den. bullerianum* (also called *Den topazicum*) a delightful plant that flowers with small yellow or orange clusters, also on bare canes.

Den crumenatum is the quickest blooming plant because it will reliably bloom exactly 9 days after exposure to colder temperatures. White with red stripes is the preferred form, and the most difficult to find. Unfortunately, its flowers last only one day. *Den heterocarpum* smells like primroses or old fashioned roses.

There are short and long varieties available, but Mac feels that the shorter variety is easier to bring to bloom. *Den papilio* is another variety that blooms on a bare stem. It has a large white flower with lavender marking, and is very fragile and short lived. A widely available *Den. is secundum*. It has several color forms, with the dark red form being the most coveted. It too blooms on bare canes, and is pollinated by ants.

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown**



First Place Ribbon: *Cymbidium sinense album x eburneum* grown by Jaimie Graff



Second place ribbon: Phaius Dan Rosenberg 'Tropical Ice' grown by Jaimie Graff



Third place ribbon: Cymbidium Winter Castle x Cymbidium Firewheel grown by Marie Crock

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**



**Third place ribbon: Dendrobium Sander's
Festival x *Den sanderae* grown by
Paul Feaver**



**First place ribbon: *Den fimbriatum*
var oculatum
grown by Jeff Baldwin**



**Second place ribbon: Vanda Robert's Delight
'Renu Blue' grown by Bob Meyer**

Continued from page 3

Dendrochilum cobbianum and *tenellum* are the most commonly grown of this genus. Their foliage looks like grass, and when in bloom they have long spikes with multiple miniature flowers.

Dendrochilum magnum has the largest flowers in this genus, however it is irresistible to ants. *Tenellum* comes in several color forms, as does *Dendrochilum wenzelii*. It can be red, rust, yellow, or green.

Eria ornata has orange flowers. It is best grown in an open basket with no medium around the roots. It must be watered frequently. It has long, thick, hair like roots and grows like a vanda.

Vanda sanderiana's labellum is markedly different from other vandas. It is flat and round and has multiple flower spikes. As such it has been used extensively by hybridizers. It requires high humidity, and cannot tolerate night temperatures below 50 degrees.

Flickingeria scopae's flowers last only 10 hours. At the end of that time the flower closes and is done. *Grammatophyllum scriptum* on the other hand has long arching inflorescences covered with star shaped flowers that can last several months in the greenhouse. It sends up multiple aerial roots that serve to trap rainwater. It is a very large plant, with very large pseudobulbs. Mac believes it grows best if given a fertilizer that is high in nitrogen, such as a 30-10-40.

There are a number of *phalaenopsis* endemic to the Philippines. One of these is *Phal lindenii*, which is cooler grower than many other phals. It has a small white flower with pink stripes. This plant has been utilized extensively in hybridizing due to the striping that it passes to its progeny. *Phal amabilis* is also a small white flower, extensively used in hybridizing. *Phal cornu cervi* flowers on old stems, and has been known to remain in bloom for up to 6 months. It is notable for its heavy substance and long lasting flowers. *Phal hieroglyphica* can be grown either in a pot or

mounted. It is very adaptable, and also blooms on the old stems. *Phal stuartiana* has been used in hybridizing to encourage multiple branching.. It can be recognized by the dark color in the bottom half of the flower.

Renanthera monachica and *philippense* are so prolific in the Philippines that one has only to cut the top of a spike, and stick it into the dirt. These are sequential bloomers, and in their native environment can grow to be 6 feet tall. *Trichoglottis philippinensis* is variable in color, and like *wenzelii* is an easy epiphyte. It sends out sucker roots and is easy to establish. *Trichoglottis bataanensis* is green with bars and blotches. It needs to be kept dry to encourage root development.

Vanda luzonica is a species that was wiped out by volcanic ash in a recent eruption of Mount Pinatubo. Fortunately, it has been grown in numerous private collections so the species is not lost to us. Another wide spread native Vandas is *lamellata* which can bloom up to 5 times a year.

Vandopsis lissochiloides is a vanda like plant with foot long spikes. It grows on limestone cliffs near the ocean, and requires high humidity. It is generally found on trees in cliffside forests.

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 Judith Goldstein (919)732-7622 before 5 PM Monday to make your reservations.

Mac's Helpful Hints

Phals need more water and more fertilizer immediately after blooming in order to initiate new growth and new blooming.

Nobile-type Dendrobiums bloom on first, second, and third year canes. Don't cut them off when they loose their leaves.

Mac recommends Michigan State fertilizer rather than a bloom booster

Peter's fertilizer is now sold as Jack's fertilizer. Jack's Classic has the same chemical make up as Cal-Mag, and closely duplicates the Michigan State formula. Peter's formulation for RO water is still available from OFE, and contains a list of trace minerals.

Use Neutracoat as top dressing to stimulate root growth. Neutracoat releases fertilizer evenly year round. Osmocote on the other hand, releases more fertilizer during hot weather, and can burn tender roots. Neutracoat is sold at Home Depot and Lowe's under another name, possibly "Dynamite" (check the label!)

For growing grammatophyllum, use Peter's 30 – 10 – 10 which is formulated for plants with large pseudobulbs.

Pholidota need a fertilizer with high nitrogen

Do not use high nitrogen fertilizers on caned Dendrobiums. Shade them to make them stretch.

Do not use Physan or copper fungicides on Dendrobiums. It will kill them!

To propagate Dendrobiums from canes, cut the cane into several pieces, wax one end, put rooting powder on the other, and lay the cutting on damp sphagnum (this works, I tried it!)

On Dendrobiums, break the canes to stimulate kiekies.

Den aggregatum requires high humidity. It is native to a monsoonal environment so requires a dry period with very high light.

Then cool the plant.

Cut the leaves off Dendrobiums canes to shock the plant into blooming. Do not tear the leaves off as this will also break off the developing buds.

Aerides are fragrant, easy to grow, need bright light.

Turn plants every 3 months for "starfish" growth

Orchids love fish emulsion. The nutrients are absorbed directly through the leaves. The organic chemicals are easily absorbed.

Sphagnum moss is good only for 6 – 9 months before it breaks down. It's natural chemistry defeats mould and fungus, but this is gone after 6 – 9 months.

Use sphagnum when it is dry or slightly damp. If used wet, it gets pushed too tightly around the roots, cutting off aeration and the moss will not dry out properly

Tree fern is useful mixed into growing media because it does not absorb nitrogen and water flows through it. Use it broken up mixed with sphagnum.

Do not use fertilizer containing urea on grammatophyllum. The urea builds up over time and becomes ammonia which is toxic to roots.

Change your brand of fertilizer occasionally. This provides a healthy jolt to your plants.

Urea in fertilizer gives strength to the plant and produces a lush green color.

Phal schilleriana is fragrant and has been used extensively in hybridizing because it is so floriferous. It is not a sequential bloomer but blooms all at once with multiple flowers.

Transcript by Joy Lemieux, a member of the

Jack & Jean Webster hosted the TOS Annual Orchid Crawl at their home in Southern Pines., Saturday March 30th. A dozen members and guests attended.

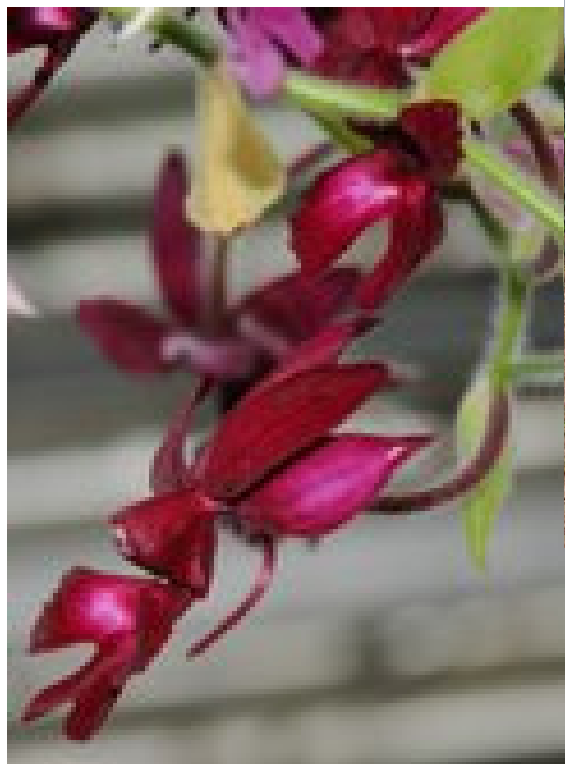
Leo Sagasti, Jean Webster, Steve and Barbara Correll having a lunch break.



Jack, Miriam Sagasti, & Robin Gurlitz view one of Jack's 3 greenhouses



**A few of Jack's ribbons and
Awarded Calanthe Grouville
Red 'Jean Webster'**



Melissa Bullard, Lee Allgood, guest and Jack Webster

Growing Tips for April

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

April is the busiest time of the year for orchid hobbyists and commercial nurseries alike, because most orchids are beginning their annual growth cycle. Fertilizing now will make a difference later when plants put out new growths and flowers. Hobbyists using Nutricote or Dynamite, 6-month release form, should apply it now. By the time cattleyas and most dendrobiums are ready for a rest, the release of fertilizer from these products ends. Phals and other continuous growers will require this type of fertilizer again after 6 months.

Standard **Phalaenopsis**, those with large flowers and no fragrance, should be in peak flower now. If you grow indoors, your standard phals' flowers may be just beginning to open if they did not experience an early fall cooling period. If this happened to you, remember next year to cool them down at night to 60 F for 7-10 days to initiate flower spikes.

For now, enjoy the phal flowers, which should last into late spring if the plants are healthy and you get them a good supply of humidity during the dry spring days. If your phals begin to drop flowers while still opening new ones, it may signal low humidity or an inadequate root system. A healthy phal will put out new roots and new leaves even while flowering.

If you plan to repot a phal, it is best to remove the spike when the last buds have opened. Remove the old medium and any dead roots and place into a pot in which the roots fit with just a little extra room. It is always better to under pot than over pot. If your phal has lots of leaves, but few roots, pot into

what may seem to be too small a pot. Once repotted, place the pot into a larger clay pot for support. If the plant is healthy, roots will quickly emerge and grow out the bottom of the small pot onto the clay pot, which is fine. This is preferable to overpotting and losing your roots and likely the whole orchid.

Most cattleya hybrids can safely be repotted now, but it is always best if repotting is done just

If your phals begin to drop flowers while still opening new ones, it may signal low humidity or an inadequate root system. A healthy phal will put out new roots and new leaves even while flowering.

when the plant is initiating new growth. There is no way to save most of the old roots that are attached to the pot, so most growers remove the bottom third of the root mass.

Most orchids that die right after repotting do not die from repotting itself, but from infections that occur during the process. Moist, damaged roots are easily invaded by both bacteria and fungi during this time.

Some hobbyists cut the roots, tie a label on the plant and let it sit with lots of air movement in a shady,

but well-lit location until new roots appear. This allows any wounds to heal and ensures that the cattleya is ready to grow when potted. Why waste a pot and medium if the orchid is not going to grow? Other growers do the same thing, by setting the orchid in a pot without medium until new growth is initiated.

Commercial growers often do not worry about infections and, instead, use anti-bacterial and anti-fungal drenches. Others buy cinnamon powder in bulk and sprinkle it on the roots to kill bacteria and fungi. The cattleya is then potted in dry medium and left un-watered for a week or so.

One of the hardest orchids to repot is a vanda. Most experienced growers never repot members of this group, but just hang them up and let them grow. Often the original container disap-

pears amid the roots. Miniature versions of the vanda group, notably hybrids with Neofinetia, are now being grown for indoor hobbyists. These grow well under lights, but are sold in dense media, which requires repotting. The roots of this type of vandaceous orchid still like to dry out more than most orchids, but will tolerate more moisture as long as there is either good air movement around roots and/or the medium is acidic. New Zealand sphagnum is a favorite for this type of orchid and is used very effectively by the best growers in Japan.

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

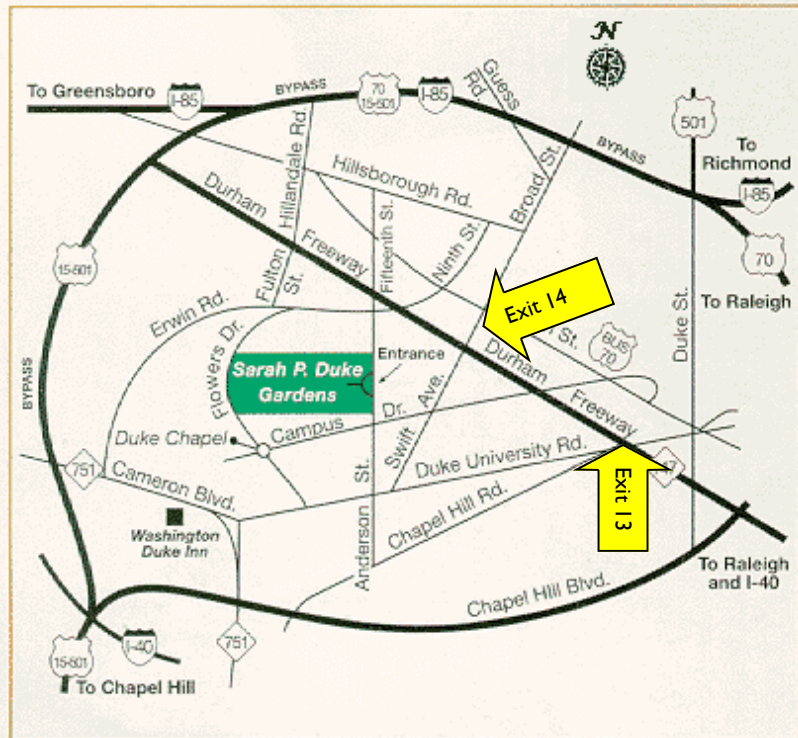
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends

Calendar 2008	Speaker	Topic
April 14	Norito Hasegawa	"What's New in Paphs"
May 12	Mario Blanco	"Orchids and their Pollinators"
June 9th	Steve Frowine	Orchids for Dummies

Welcome Table

Refreshments

April	Marsha Tai	Lori Chapman
May		



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.



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Visitors are Welcome!

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Speaker for April 14,
2008 Norito Hasegawa
“Paphiopedilums”

Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:

\$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address. Mail to: Leo Sagasti, Treasurer
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