



Orchidacea

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

Christmas Party Dec 8, 2008

The December meeting will be a Pot Luck Dinner and will start at 6:30 PM. There will not be a speaker, but President Paul Virtue will give the traditional "State of the TOS" annual review, to be followed by a Show Table and a fast paced Orchid Auction. Bring a covered dish and your checkbook. The auctioned orchids will be some interesting crosses from Hoosier Orchids and plants from Jack Webster's estate.

	PLANT NAME	TEMP	COLOR	FROM	MIN BID
1	Mormodes	colossus		Hoosier	16
2	Aerangis	luteo - alba var.	rhodosticta	Hoosier	16
3	Aerangis	luteo - alba var.	rhodosticta	Hoosier	16
4	Miltonia	bluntii		Hoosier	16
5	Angraecum (sesquipedale x Amazing Grace)			Hoosier	16
6	Angraecum didieri x Vascostylis Pine Rivers 'Blue'			Hoosier	16
7	Christensonia	vietnamica		Hoosier	16
8	Plectrelminthus caudatus - spiky flower with white lip & thin green petals			Hoosier	16
9	Jumellea	major x self		Hoosier	16
10	Jumellea	major x self		Hoosier	16
11	Aerides lawrenceana var. fortichii			Hoosier	16
12	Aerides lawrenceana var. fortichii			Hoosier	16
13	Angraecum Longiscott 'OC' (superbum x scottianum)			Hoosier	16
14	Angraecum Longiscott 'OC' (superbum x scottianum)			Hoosier	16
15	Oeoniella	polystachys		Hoosier	16
16	Oeoniella (magdalenae x sesquipedale)			Hoosier	16
18	Paphiopedilum Kerry Anne x (Shamden x Sea cliff)	COMPLEX		Kaliana 20	
19	Paphiopedilum Kerry Anne x (Hamden x Sea cliff)	COMPLEX		Kaliana 20	
20	Paphiopedilum Haman Chilwin x (Robin Ha l x Valwin)	COMPLEX		Kalapana	20
21	Bulbophyllum ?			Trop. Orchid Farm	
22	Bulbophyllum Lovely Elizabeth X frostii				

continued on page 6

Inside this issue:

This Month's Speaker 1

Minutes of the Last Meeting, 2

Announcements

Jack Webster Show table Awards 4-5

6

Growing Tips 7

Map and Directions to Sarah P Duke Gardens 8

**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**

TOS Officers and Board Members

President

Paul Virtue (919) 846-1245
pvirtue@prodigy.net

Secretary

Bob Myer (919) 469-9149
orthobob90@aol.com

Treasurer

Leo Sagasti (919) 810-1966
leo@bjac.com

Vice President

Judith Goldstein (919) 732-7622
Orangejr@embarqmail.com

Board of Trustees: 2008

Past President

Michael Wagner (919) 929-5977
mjwagner@bellsouth.net

At Large Trustees 2008

Miriam Sagasti (919) 942-9839
miriamsagasto@bellsouth.net

Robin Gurlitz (919) 929-9717
robing@i-gga.com

At Large Trustees: 2009

Jack Webster (910) 692-3965
JWebster@nc.rr.com

Paul Feaver (919) 779-1501
cell 337-375
Orchidtrail@yahoo.com

At Large Trustees: 2010

Bob Davidson (919)-9697365
bob@cattleya.us

David Pickett (919) 688-8410
legaldeacon84@yahoo.com

Program Chairman

John Stanton (919)468-3611
Orchidtrail.yahoo.com

Program Coordinators

Marie Crock (919) 479-5069
bluebirdfield@earthlink.net

Leo Sagasti (919) 810-1966
eo@bjac.com

Minutes of

the Last Meeting The November meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on Monday the 10th at Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, NC. The meeting was called to order by President Paul Virtue at 7:35 PM. The minutes of last month's meeting were approved.

The December meeting will be a Pot Luck dinner and will start at 6:30 PM. There will not be a speaker, but President Paul Virtue will give the traditional "State of the TOS" annual review, to be followed by a Show Table and Orchid Auction. The auctioned orchids will be some interesting crosses from Hoosier Orchids and plants from Jack Webster's estate. Volunteers to help set up the event will be needed at 5 PM and should contact Robin Gurlitz.

Election for 2009 TOS Officers and Trustees – Nominees:

President – Phil Warner, Vice-President – Alan Miller, Treasurer – Leo Sagasti, Secretary – Bob Meyer,

Board of Trustees 2012 – David Devin & Melissa Bullard, Board of Trustees 2009 – Marie Crock

There were no nominations from the floor. The nominated officers and trustees were elected.

Robin Gurlitz spoke about our State Fair exhibit. There was a large amount of interest in our exhibit, with many culture sheets and TOS brochures given out. Hopefully our participation in the fair will generate new members in our society and other orchid societies around the state.

Thank you to Marsha Tai for running the Hospitality Table and to Tom and Marsha Jepson for staffing the Welcome Table. Marie Crock has the TOS sphagnum purchase. The Show Table was presented by Bob Davidson and Paul Feaver.

After a refreshment break, Marie Crock introduced our speaker, Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids who gave his talk on Phragmipediums.

Following Glen Decker's talk, the Jack Webster Show Table plants were awarded. Non-Greenhouse category 1st Place - Phrag sedenii by Nolan Newton, 2nd Place – Vanda Makortisevuan by Lee Allgood, and 3rd Place – Lc Mary Elizabeth Bohm 'Royal Flare' by Creighton Humphreys. In the Greenhouse Grown category 1st Place – Paph Conkoloco 'Falls' by John Martin, 2nd Place – Blc Fortune 'Golden Throne' x Blc George King 'Serendipity', and 3rd Place – Dend. Victoria-reginae by Paul Feaver.

Raffle plants were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Bob Meyer, Secretary, Triangle Orchid Society.

Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Glen Decker is the owner of Piping Rock Orchids in Saratoga, NY. He has been growing orchids most of his life, and decided to go commercial when his personal collection outgrew his space. He is known internationally as the grower and breeder of exceptional Phrags and Masdevallias. Currently he is one of the few growers licensed by the Peruvian government to grow and distribute Phrag kovachii plants and hybrids.

Glen began his presentation with a lesson on Phrag culture. Phrags, he

said, need high light, temperature no lower than 58 degrees at night, and good air circulation. These elements are interrelated, and a change in one requires an adjustment in the others. Phrags also like to be kept wet. They are one of the few orchids that can actually be left standing in water. In the summer, Glen waters his Phrags daily, and in the winter as often as 2 – 3 times weekly. They also like regular feedings of fertilizer. Glenn encouraged us to experiment with different brands of fertilizer, as what works for him may not work for your conditions. He recommended a higher rate of fertilizer in the summer when

there is brighter light and warmer temperatures. During the dull, overcast days of winter, it is important to cut back on feeding because plants are resting and cannot absorb the fertilizer as well, which can result in burnt roots.

Glen does not use chemicals in his greenhouses. When dealing with pests, such as mealy bugs, he keeps a spray bottle of soap and water handy, and sprays any bugs he finds as he waters. He said it is important to inspect your plants regularly, which is one of the reasons he waters by hand. The important thing, said Glen, is to deal with any pests immediately, before they become a major infestation. The same remains true of bacterial rot infections. Glen recommends removing the affected foliage and even the entire growth if the rot is pervasive. He then dries the plant for several weeks before resuming normal watering. Glen recommends watering in the early morning so the foliage is dry prior to the temperature falling at night. Most Phrags tend to lose their depth of color in warm weather. They also tend to have smaller flowers. Cooler temperatures, on the other hand, slows plant development.

Repotting, Glen maintains, stimulates growth, so his plants are repotted as frequently as every 8 – 9 months. He utilizes a mix of fine fir bark, charcoal and sponge rock. He also adds cracked oyster shell, bone meal and limestone. He may or may not presoak the bark. Soaking he believes, helps to season the bark and it retains moisture more evenly. When using dry bark, he moistens the bark only enough to control the dust, and then waters the plants daily for 2 – 3 weeks until they are established, and then gradually reduces the watering regime. Newly repotted plants require close attention, he said. One of the benefits of repotting is that you have the opportunity to inspect the roots. Without a good root system, Glen maintains, you cannot grow a strong healthy plant. You can grow Phrags in anything, he insists, even a bowl full of marbles, or chopped up car tires. How well your plants grow depends entirely upon how you water. Glen encourages growers to try new mixes, but stressed the need to test the new mix prior to moving an entire collection. He cited the example of rock wool pellets which are used extensively in Europe. While it seems to work well for growing conditions in Germany and Holland, it proved to be a disaster in his greenhouse, and he had to throw away a large number of seedlings.

When repotting, it is critical to pay attention to the plant's growth habit. Phrag besseae, for example, likes to climb out of the pot. When repotting Phrag besseae, bury the plant deeply enough to cover all the roots. Glen likes to examine his plants by cracking the root ball in half, allowing all of the old mix to fall off and the roots to be washed clean. When selecting a pot to repot into, choose a pot based on what is appropriate for the root system, not what appears to fit the vegetative top of the plant. Glen uses Sphagnum moss only for his seedlings, and uses it sparingly, laying it down in loose layers. Sphagnum does not work for larger plants, he says, as it is too slow and tedious to remove.

Phrags constitute a small genus of 30 – 35 closely related plants. Phrag longifolium is a large plant, but easy to grow and flower. Its flowers bloom sequentially and each lasts 2 – 3 weeks. Phrag pearcei, on the other hand, is a small plant, only 10 – 12 inches high. Phrag sargentianum is the species responsible for the deep red color of many of today's hybrids, *continued page 7*



**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown**

1st Place - Phrag sedenii
grown by Nolan Newton,

2nd Place – Vanda Makortisevuan
grown by Lee Allgood,



3rd Place – Lc Mary
Elizabeth Bohm ‘ Royal
Flare’ by Creighton

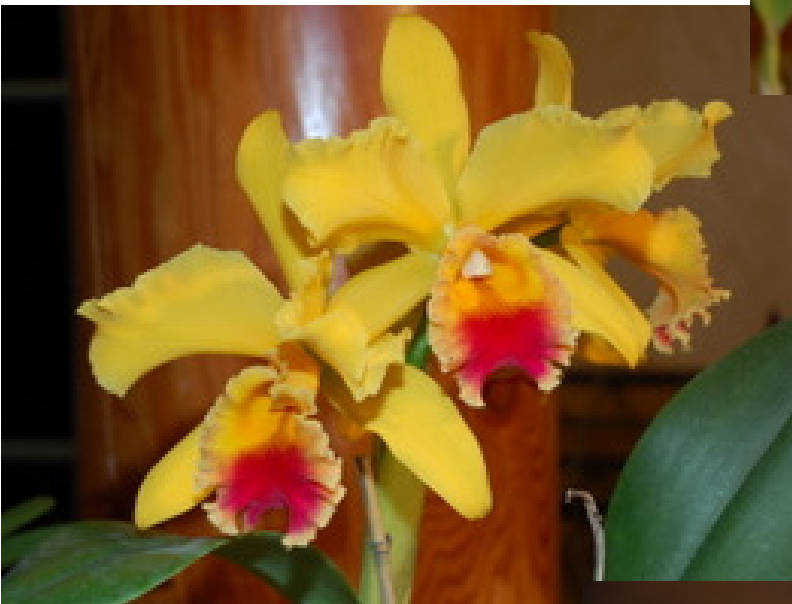


**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**

1st Place – Paph Conkoloco
'Falls' by John Martin,



2nd Place – Blc Fortune
'Golden Throne' x Blc George
King 'Serendipity'



and 3rd Place – Dend. Victoria-reginae by Paul Feaver.

continued from page 1

23	Bulbophyllum	pardalotum				
24	Epilaelia	L. Milleri x Epl. Prismatocarpa				
25	Epidendrum	Plastic Doll (pseudoepidendrum x ilense)				
26	Neomoorea	irrorata	Oak Hill			
27	Slc.	Linda Ann 'Top Notch' HCC	(C. walkeriana x Sl. Psyche)	Vivid Purple		
28	Oncidium	Golden Sunset 'Fumi' HCC	White/Yellow			
29	Tolumnia	Pralor				
30	Oncidium	Golden Sunset 'Lisa' AM/AOS	White/Red Brown spots			
31	Angraecum	sesquipedale 'Orchidglade II' FCC/AOS x Ang. sesquipedale 'March'			Jamie	
32	Dendrochilum	wenzelii 'Muggsy Doggues' CCM			Jamie	
33	Stenosarcos	Sarcoglottis speciosa x Stenorrhynchos speciosum			Jamie	
34	Slc.	Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' AM/AOS			Joseph McCoy	
35	C.	Fort Motte 'Leopard'			Joseph McCoy	
36	Sc	June Bug 'Mendenhall'			Joseph McCoy	
37	C.	Intermedia x C. aclandiae			Joseph McCoy	
38	Aerides	quinquevulnera v. farmeri -	H	In Spike	Jack Webster	15
39	Ascocentrum	curvifolium	I		Jack Webster	15
40	Cattleya	Mishima Luster 'Jean' AM/AOS				
		(Lc Wine Festival x Cattleya schilleriana)	I		Jack Webster	20
41	Dendrochilum	wenzelii			Jack Webster	10
42	Dendrochilum	williamsii	I		Jack Webster	10
43	Epidendrum	ciliare	I		Jack Webster	15
44	Iwanagaara	Apple blossom				
		(Dial Snowflake x Blc Orange Nugget)	I		Jack Webster	20 512
45	Laelia	purpurata	C		Jack Webster	25 359
46	Laelia	purpurata #20 'Lenette' ('do Crento' x 'Cindarosa?') C			Jack Webster	
47	Laelia	purpurata			Seagrove/JW	20
48	Laeliocattleya	Bonanza Queen 'Panamint' AM/AOS	I		Jack Webster	20 313
49	Laeliocattleya	Bouton D'Or 'Lewis' AM/AOS	I		Jack Webster	20 462
50	Maxillaria	augusta-segmenta	I	3 flowers/ 5 buds	Jack Webster	20 208
51	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>				Jack Webster	10 95
52	Phalaenopsis	Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS			Jack Webster	
53	Robiquetia	mooreana	H	In Spike	Jack Webster	20 672
54	Vanda	denisoniana	H	2 plants	Jack Webster	25 931
55	Maxillaria	variabilis (Black-eyed Susan x Red)			Harry Gallis/AOS	
56	Pot	Lisa Taylor Gallis 'Taylor' HCC/AOS				
		(Blc California Girl x SC Beaufort)			Harry Gallis/AOS	
57	Slc.	Isabelle Stone 'Sara' HC/AOS			Harry Gallis/AOS	
58	Pot	Beaufort Gold 'Riverwood' (H&R Cross) AM/AOS	81 pts		Harry Gallis/AOS	

continued from page 3 such as Phrag Dick Clements for example. Phrag schlimii is a fragrant small, pink flowering species. It is the only Phrag with color, most being cream colored with brown or dark green markings. Phrag caudatum can have petals that measure 24 inches in length. Phrag wallisii likes to grow dry and Phrag lindenii is pouch less but its hybrids have the characteristic pouch.

Phrags have been hybridized since the early 1800s. One of the first crosses made was Phrag Cardinale (P. Sedenii x schlimii) a sequential bloomer that can be in bloom for up to 6 – 8 months. Phrag Grande (P longifolium x P caudatum) has numerous color forms. Phrag Schroderae (P caudatum x P Sedenii) reflects P schlemiel's dominance of color. Most of the other hybrids look pretty much the same however, reflecting the difficulty of breeding species whose chromosomes are so far apart.

In the 1970s, the Eric Young Foundation began making and breeding Tetraploids, making the breeding of species significantly easier – a major breakthrough. Then, came the discovery of Phrag besseae. Now there was the new color form. Additionally, as well as P besseae's has very flat petals, a trait it passes to its progeny. Phrag Hanna Popow (P. besseae x P. schlimii) was one of the first Phrag besseae crosses. It is highly variable in its color forms and in the size of the flowers, but it does tend to have the flat petals which are characteristic of Phrag besseae. Phrag Eric Young (P besseae x P longifolium) proved to be easy to grow, and typically is very floriferous. It is quickly grown into a large specimen plant. Also, it has bloomed 6 – 7 months out of flask.

Phrag Dick Clements (Phrag sargentianum x Phrag besseae owes its deep rich red color to Phrag sargentianum, as does Phrag Living Fire (Phrag Sorcerer's Apprentice x Phrag besseae). Phrag April Fool (Phrag Cardinale x Phrag besseae) shows the dominance of Phrag Cardinale, though Phrag schlimie is responsible for the pink color while Phrag besseae flattened the petals. Phrag St. Ouen's (Phrag Hanna Popow x Phrag besseae) has highly variable color forms, including the bicolor peach tones. It is recessive for size. Phrag Don Wimber (Phrag Eric Young x Phrag besseae) can have flowers that measure 5+ inches across. Phrag Jason Fisher (Phrag Dick Clements x Phrag besseae) is tetraploid made with variety of Phrag besseae. It has heavier texture, and is yellow overlaid with red. It has a freely branching inflorescence, and blooms several flowers at a time, a trait passed on to its progeny. There have been several new Phrag species discovered since the Phrag besseae was found in the 1970s. Phrag fischeri is very similar to Phrag schlimii and has not been utilized a great deal to date. Phrag kovachii however, has produced a veritable fire storm. Its flowers have a natural spread of 6 – 6.5 inches, and can be as large as 9.5 inches. It opens dark and flat. As it expands, however, it tends to fade and the sepals and petals tend to curl. It carries 1 – 2 flowers per spike. Hybrids that have flowered tend to have shorter stems, big flowers, and retain intense color of the kovachii parent.

Phrag Haley Decker (P kovachii x St. Ouen) bloomed 14 months out of flask with a 4 inch flower. It was not flat and had a small pouch. Phrag Susan Decker (P kovachii x Phrag Cape Sunset) has white blotching on the edge of the pouch, and has been very inconsistent. Phrag Alison Strom (P kovachii x Phrag Living Fire) has shorter sturdier stems, an enlarged flower, but is highly variable in color. Phrag Alfredo Manriquei (Phrag Walter Schimberg x P kovachii) has the deep kovachii color. Its first blooming produced four flowers, and according to Glen is the best hybrid to date. Most of these hybrids are so new they are not yet registered.

Phrag kovachii is proving to be a most interesting plant to for hybridizers. It does not dominate the shape or form of the flower, it has a shorter more compact spike, and the plants develop and grow very quickly. Seedling, when grown in low light, will send out new growths very early, and will do so twice a year. The low light also seems to produce better roots. Plants will bloom 2 years out of flask, while the hybrids will bloom as soon as 16 - 18 months out of flask. It is a vigorous grower, and easily grown to specimen size. The downside remains the cost – Phrag kovachii or any of its hybrids remain very costly. Glen smiles when he says that the project to develop Phrag kovachii and its hybrids was over \$80,000 – and somebody has to pay for it!

Growing Tips for December

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

Orchids are viewed by the public and many new hobbyists as very exotic plants; difficult to grow. There are certainly many orchid species that fit that category. However, most orchids given as gifts designed for the mass market are very easy to grow if one remembers the “KISS” principle. This axiom (keep it simple stupid) works well for those of us that like to think that we have advanced beyond beginner status too. The following is my list of orchid growing rules that follow the “KISS” principle. Pass this list on to friends who receive an orchid gift this season.

1. Water only when dry.

Even if you under water, your orchid will not die. Over-watering kills roots, degrades the potting medium and attracts insects. All of these problems are difficult to reverse even for experts. Under-water your orchid, and one simply needs to water more frequently and your orchid will grow and flower.

2. Under-fertilize or don't fertilize. Every orchid growing manual recommends a particular nutrient formula or brand. Newly purchased orchids usually come in a medium loaded with nutrients (fertilizer). Many new orchid growers purchase “orchid” fertilizer with their plant and feel obligated to use it regularly. Few orchids die from being under-fertilized, but many die from too much fertilizer.

Over fertilizing is the second leading cause of death of orchids, often accelerated when the orchid starts to show signs of stress from over-watering.

3. Repotting. As soon as an orchid begins to look stressed many growers decide to repot. If over-watering and over-fertilizing have not killed your orchid, this will usually finish the job. Repotting can save an orchid if the first two rules have been violated, i.e. roots are dead, and the medium shot. Rarely, however, is this effort successful once this stage is reached. There is a greater chance of success if the mistreated orchid and its medium is carefully transferred to a clay pot of the same size and allowed to dry thoroughly. Most orchids come in a plastic pot, often poorly drained, and sometimes have no drainage at all.

4. Use the water you have! Buying mineral water or distilled water may make you feel better, but it generally offers no better chance of survival for your orchid than water from the tap. Some folks have even installed water softeners for their orchids; a sure-fire death warrant. Good water quality is extremely important, but not critical for most orchids. Thoroughly soak your orchid

at least once a month. This can involve setting your orchid in a sink full of water for 15 minutes or so or allowing water to run through the pot for awhile. This removes any salts, including excess fertilizer. Use water at about the same temperature as the air.

5. Humidity Many beginners insist of misting their plants constantly to maintain a proper humidity and provide water. Often this seems necessary because some aspect of rules 1-4 above have been violated and the orchid appears to be wilting or suddenly drops all of its flowers and buds. If humidity is kept at the ideal for people, 50-60%, your orchids will lose water at an appropriate rate. Consider the location of your orchid and if you would be uncomfortable there, so would your orchid.

6. Light Orchid books spend lots of time describing the ideal light environment. All plants need light to grow. However, orchids can adapt to a variety of light conditions and grow and flower there. They cannot grow in the dark. Orchids in windowsills often experience bright light for short periods of time and then low light levels for the rest of the day. As long as leaves do not become hot to the touch, this setting is appropriate as long as one does not violate rules 1-5 above.

2009 AOS Calendars will be available at the December meeting. John Myhre ordered them and they can be yours for \$10. AOS sells them for \$12.00

Triad Orchid Society will have their annual show in Greensboro, at the Natural Science Center, January 29-Feb 1st. Alan Miller & Judith Goldstein will put the exhibit in. If you would like to help & or learn how put one in, volunteers will be appreciated.

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2008	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	Nov.	Glen Decker Piping Rock Orchids, Galloway, NY	Phragmipediums
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	Dec.	Christmas Party	Member Covered Dish
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	Jan 2009	Bill Mathis Wild Orchid Company	Gardening with Hardy Terrestrials
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

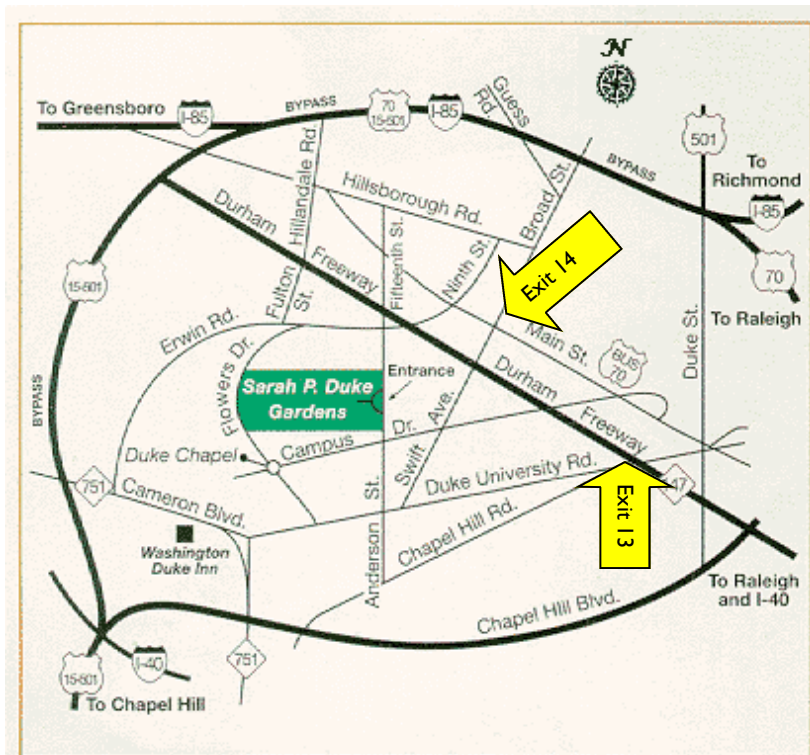
	Welcome Table	Refreshments
Dec. 8th	Judith Shapiro	Christmas Party
Jan. 12th	Lori Chapman	???



Associated with Sarah P Duke Gardens

Alan J. Miller, Editor
5703 Orange Grove Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Phone (919) 969-1612
Email:orchidacea.alanjmiller
@gmail.com



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

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.

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
2306 Damascus Church Rd Chapel Hill NC 27516