



# Orchidacea

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

## Speaker for February 11, 2008 Alex Challis

Alex was born and raised in Ann Arbor, MI. He began growing houseplants in grade school and bought his first orchids on a trip to San Francisco at Rod McClellan's in 1981. He received his BS & MS Degrees in Botany at the University of Michigan in 1983 & 1986. He became an AOS Life Member in 1986 and started in the AOS judging program in 1991. He is an accredited AOS judge.

Alex started visiting Great Lakes Orchids, and soon started working part-time there in 1985. They grew a wide variety of orchid species and hybrids from cool to warm growing. For example, they grew all sorts of Masdevallias & Pleurothallids, Angraecoids, and many other genera. He then helped with the construction of Hoosier Orchids in 1989 and worked there for 4 years. Hoosier also grew a wide variety of orchid species. While at Hoosier, he did almost all of their lab work. He made a number of unusual hybrids while at these nurseries, including Masdevallia Tangerine Dragon, and Orange Ice which later won an AOS Award of Distinction.

He came back home to Michigan in 1993, and after a brief stint in a hobby shop, he started working with Glenn Lehr. Together they founded New World Orchids. To get started, they bought a couple of orchid collections. Then they started to grow Ecuadorian and Costa Rican orchids. As their suppliers were starting to sell at the same shows that they were going to, they decided not to try and compete with them. They had been bringing Neofinetia varieties into the US, and they were getting popular. So they turned our focus on these and a few other Japanese orchids.

Alex also shares greenhouse space with Rob Halgren of Littlefrog Farm, where he grows a number of species from around the world. He is trying to stay with smaller growing and unusual orchids.

Alex may be reached at: New World Orchids, 19220 Sanborn, Manchester, MI 48158 USA,  
Phone: (734) 428-8182, Fax: (734) 428-0681, email: [icepengwyn@aol.com](mailto:icepengwyn@aol.com) Preorders from web site.: [www.newworldorchids.com](http://www.newworldorchids.com), or [www.littlefrogfarm.com](http://www.littlefrogfarm.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**

## TOS Officers and Board Members

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## Minutes of the Last Meeting January 14, 2008

President Paul Virtue called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Guests: Anne Meade of Chapel Hill. The treasurer's report and minutes of the December 2007 meeting were approved.

Announcements: Overseas orchid order from Ching Hua Orchids, Taiwan is due tonight.

Alan Miller discussed the Triad Orchid Society Show. Our society won a blue ribbon for its exhibit, which was put in by Alan Miller, Miriam Sagasti, Marie Crock and Robin Gurlitz. Our plants won 10 Blue ribbons and 17 others for a total of 27 show awards.

We need volunteers to staff the Welcome Table and Hospitality Table. Point of contact for the Welcome Table is Judith Shapiro and Robin Gurlitz for the Hospitality Table.

We also need a volunteer to take next month's speaker around town on Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and to drive the speaker to Dunn, NC on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The days can be split between 2 volunteers.

Jack Webster presented the show tables which were full of plants just recently exhibited at the Triad Show.

Robin & Josh Gurlitz were recognized for staffing the Hospitality Table. Bob Meyer and Faye Hardy were recognized for staffing the Welcome Table.

Judith Goldstein introduced our

international speaker, Alfredo Manrique, from Peru, who spoke on *Phragmipedium kovachii* and the orchids of Peru.

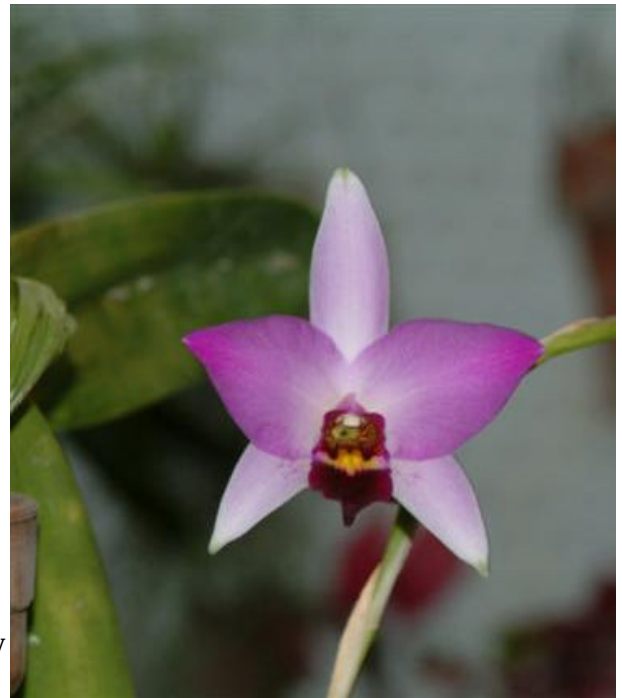
Jack Webster selected the award plants.

In the Greenhouse Grown Category: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Lc Nippon x Persepolis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Pot Goldernell "Summer Cross", 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Lc. Summit View "Primero". All three awarded plants were grown by Bob Davidson.

In the Non-Greenhouse Category: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Cymbidium Miss Taipei by Judith Goldstein, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Lc. Summit View "Primero" by Lee Allgood, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place *Rhynchostylis gigantea* by Jaimie Graff.

Raffle tickets were drawn and plants were awarded. The majority of the award plants were donated from the collection of Dottie Rice.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30



*Laelia anceps* var. *guerrero* see  
"Growing Tips" for February page 8

### Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Alfredo Manrique is the owner/operator of Centro de Jardinière Manrique, which he started in 1972. He specializes in Peruvian species and is one of the few growers licensed by the Peruvian government to grow and export *Phrag kovachii*. His presentation focused on the species endemic to northern Peru known as San Martin, which encompasses much of the Peruvian Amazon Basin.

Alfred stated that there are over 3000 orchid species that grow in Peru, and over 800 species in San Martin. Due to the mountainous terrain, and elevations ranging from 100 feet to 9000 feet above sea level, this is an area with numerous climatic regions and growing conditions. This area, one hour by air north of Lima, is known as the highlands, an area of high night humidity but dry days. There are numerous waterfalls in the area which contributes to the high humidity and the damp, boggy conditions where many orchids are found.

There are four *Cattleyas* species found in the area – *C. rex*, *C. luteola*, *C. iricolor* and *C. violacea*. Alfredo said that all require a dry, rest period to flower well. *C. luteola* and *C. iricolor* are found in an area of constant rainfall and therefore grow under very wet conditions. *C. violacea* likes warmer conditions, but will not do well without the winter rest period. *C. luteola* is only 6 inches high and therefore considered a dwarf. *C. iricolor* has multiple small fragrant flowers. It is critical, when growing these Cats that they receive adequate trace elements, including boron.

The *Catesitinae* found in this area include *Catasetums*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes*. *Catasetums* and *Cycnoches* are warm growers, while *Mormodes* like intermediate conditions. All need a winter rest period and day time temperatures that never fall below 65 degrees. In the nursery Alfredo grows these plants in wooden baskets in sphagnum moss in order to create humid conditions. Alfredo noted that *Catesitinae* are heavy feeders, and that while they are in active growth they need frequent fertilizing. *Catasetum incurvum* requires high light, while *tenebrosa* must be grown warm with less light. *Stanhopeas* can be grown in intermediate to warm conditions. They require medium to low light. The new growths are nourished by decaying old pseudobulbs and foliage, so do not remove the old pseudobulbs when they become soft. *Stanhopeas* definitely

need a dry rest period to bloom.

San Martin also has a number of terrestrial orchids, including *Bletia catenulata* which is often used as a landscape plant as far north as Florida. It blooms in late fall, producing a wonderful, vivid display. Alfredo said that it's an easy plant to grow because it grows in any type of soil. Peru also has numerous *Epidendrums*, including *secundum*, a bright attractive plant that can bloom white, yellow, orange or even pale blue.

Another class of terrestrials includes the *Phragmipediums*, that grow in intermediate to warm conditions. They require high humidity. High light varieties include *kovachii*, *pearcei*, and *richteri*. Low light varieties include *caudatum* which likes damp, acid conditions and rocky soil; *lindenii* which has no pouch, and *besseae* which is vermilion in color and has a Peruvian form that is markedly different from the Ecuadorian variety.

Alfredo reported that *Phrag kovachii*, which was found only six years ago, grows in an area that receives daily rain. Two clones, Jessica and Meluzka were collected in the wild, and were found with a single flower on each spike. Grown under nursery conditions however, the same plants produced four flowers per spike. These two clones have been used as the basis of the nursery's hybridizing program. Alfredo reported that 25 hybrids have been made already, and 4 have flowered. *Phrag Haley Decker* (*Phrag kovachii* x *Phrag Saint Ouen*) bloomed two years from the seed. In the wild the natural spread of the flowers measured up to 4 inches. The hybrids that have bloomed so far, including *Phrag Laura*, *Haley Decker*, *Suzanne Decker* and *Alfred Manrique* have all been grown from seed and most have carried 4 or more sequentially blooming flowers. Alfredo said that *Phrag kovachii* grows in very alkaline conditions, and therefore require top dressing with calcium carbonate or crushed oyster shell. He noted that the hybrids appear to grow much faster than the species and required a less alkaline medium, which can be supplied with a top dressing of Epson Salts.

*Transcription by Joy Lemieux, Secretary Sandhills Orchid Society*



2nd Place Ribbon Pot Goldernell "Summer"

## Jack Webster Awards Greenhouse Grown

All 3 orchids were grown by Bob Davidson



3rd Place Ribbon Lc. Summit  
View "Primer"



1st Place Ribbon Lc Nippon x Persepolis



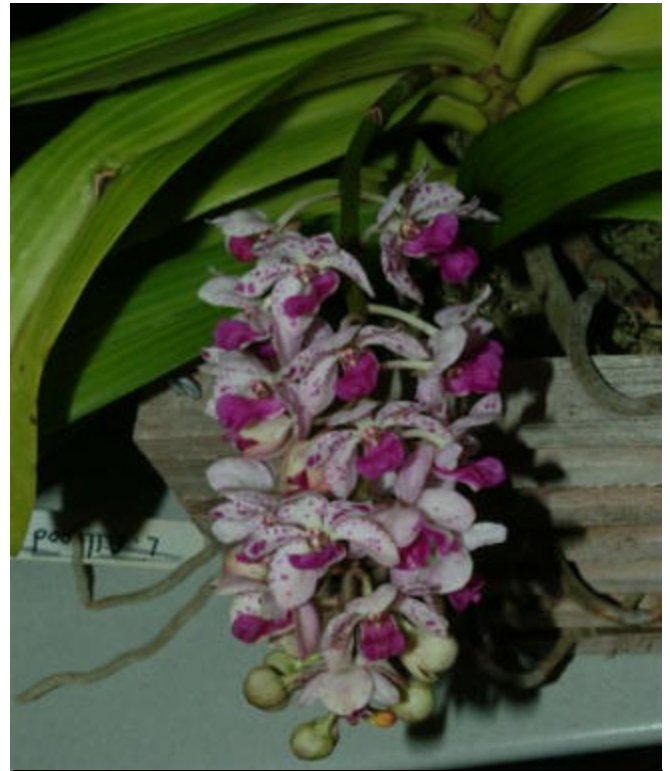
Jack Webster  
Awards Non  
Greenhouse  
Grown



1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon Cymbidium Miss Taipei by Judith Goldstein



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon Lc. Summit View "Primero"  
by Lee Allgood



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon *Rhynchostylis gigantea*  
by Jaimie Graff

**Message from President Paul:** A meeting was held at the TOS Board of Trustees and with representatives from Cape Fear, Sand Hills and Triad Orchid Societies to review the speaker program for 2009 with a view to making it more interesting for all members. We plan for an interesting year of events.

**Help Wanted** at the welcome table to assist the person who signed up for March, April and May. contact Judith Shapiro , Welcome Table Chair, 919 471 2802 [radamson2@nc.rr.com](mailto:radamson2@nc.rr.com)

**Bring your Flowering Orchids to the show table and get up to 5 free raffle tickets**

**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.

### Triad Orchid Society Show, Greensboro, NC

January 11 - 13, 2008



Triangle Orchid Society won a Blue Ribbon for its 50 square foot exhibit, which was put in by Miriam Sagasti, Marie Crock, Robin Gurlitz and Alan Miller. Our plants won 10 Blue ribbons and 17 others for a total of 27 show awards. Take down of the exhibit was done by Marie Crock, Bob Meyer and Alan Miller.



Exhibitor	Plant Name	Award
Nick Plummer	Dendrobium Elfin Charm	2nd Place Ribbon
	Dendrobium Glomeratum	1st Place Ribbon
Alan Miller	Vascostylis Pine River 'Light Blue'	3rd Place Ribbon
	Laelia anceps var. guerrero	2
	Wilsonara Jungle Moss	3
Jaimie Graff	Tolumnia Ralph Yagii 'Eka'	2
Marie Crock	Brassia Chieftain 'Golden Falls'	2
	Brassavola Little Stars	3
	Doritipstps. Martha Dolge	3
John Stanton	Cymbidium Ayoko tabaka 'Miss Taipan'	1
	Paphiopedilum wardii	3
	Cymbidium Ayoko tabaka 'Miss Taipan'	1
Bob Meyer	Cymbidium (kabuki Legend x Canga) x Dolly Feather	2
Lee Allgood	Paphiopedilum Deperle	3
	Laeliocattleya Summit View 'Primerio'	3
	Brassavola Little Stars	1
	Cattleya Gertrude Hausermann	2
	Paphiopedilum Primulinum var. Flavum	1
	Den antennatum 'Green form'	2
Bob Davidson	Pot. Goldernell 'Southern Cross'	1
	Sand. Black Star' Pacific Red Star'	3
	Laeliocattleya Nippon x Persepolis	1
Robin Gurlitz	Paphiopedilum Nightfire x Charlesworthii	1
Paul Feaver	Phragmipedium. Don Wimber	2
	Dendrobium Alexandorae 'Magnifico's Selby'	3
	Dendrobium Banana Royal x Blue Twinkle	1
	Schomburgkia rosea	1

## Growing Tips for February

By Courtney T. Hackney

For the first time in many years, I am growing indoors like many of you reading this column. If you read this column regularly you may remember that my orchid collection and I are moving to Jacksonville, Florida. In the interim, many of my orchids are not in a greenhouse, but growing on windowsills and under lights until the new greenhouse is up.

Even Florida has days where the air is far too dry for orchids. My first challenge has been to get and keep the humidity high enough under my lights. Fortunately, a neighbor was discarding some old carpet padding, the type that goes below most carpet. This padding is an ideal way to hold moisture if it is the type that is totally synthetic. Cut the padding to fit in your growing area and then set your orchids on the pads. It is not necessary to soak the pad as the pad will become moist if you set pots that were just watered on them. The weight of the pot will make a depression that will retain some water too.

When the home heating system is running, mist indoor orchids with de-ionized water, rainwater, or distilled water. Rarely will bacteria and fungi grow on leaves with few nutrients or sugars and these waters have virtually nothing in them. Under lights, the water evaporates quickly and since it is pure water it will not leave unsightly

spots. Using tap water, which usually contains some level of dissolved salts, can stain leaves and flowers. One dose of minerals on leaves is not really significant, but if this occurs each day when you mist, minerals can build up to the point where they are not only unsightly, but block light from reaching the leaves.

Some of my orchids have also been consigned outside under the eaves because they are too large. In this location they receive low light most of the day and bright sun for 3-4 hours every afternoon. *Laelia anceps* is the one species

***When the home heating system is running, mist indoor orchids with de-ionized water, rainwater, or distilled water.***

that remains outside unless there is a heavy frost warning. Many times growers in California have told me that they got the best blooms on *L. anceps* when they had seen frost on the ground near their *L. anceps*, which they grew outside. Without a doubt, these are the best flowers ever for my *L. anceps* this year.

Most *cattleya* species and hybrids, however, do not like night temperatures below 55 degrees F, but many will get by without any damage if day temperatures rise quickly and the plant is not wet at night. Buds and flowers are more sensitive to these low tempera-

tures and will drop off. A quick check of orchid books devoted to species will provide some idea of the natural conditions and are an excellent way to determine which orchid groups, species and hybrids can best tolerate low temperatures.

A few folks in my neighborhood are retired and grow orchids and other Tropicals on carts. They wheel them outside each morning from their garage after the sun has warmed the air to some minimum temperature. While these folks are not true indoor growers, they are growing orchids successfully without a greenhouse.

My Jewel Orchids have really enjoyed being inside. They reside in a bathroom window box facing north. They get very little direct light, but are thriving in this location. Remember that the term "Jewel Orchid" refers to a diverse group of unrelated orchids, mostly terrestrial, which have beautiful leaves. A few have colorful flowers, but most do not. Because they naturally grow on the forest floor, they are extremely tolerant of low light levels.

Next month there will be more on indoor growing as well as on some of the new products featured at the World Orchid Congress.



## ?? **Growers Day and Orchid Raffle participants**

Your free membership in the Triangle Orchid Society has expired. If you would like to continue your membership in the Society.... Send your Check to New Treasurer Leo Sagasti at 2306 Damascus Church Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27516 \$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address.

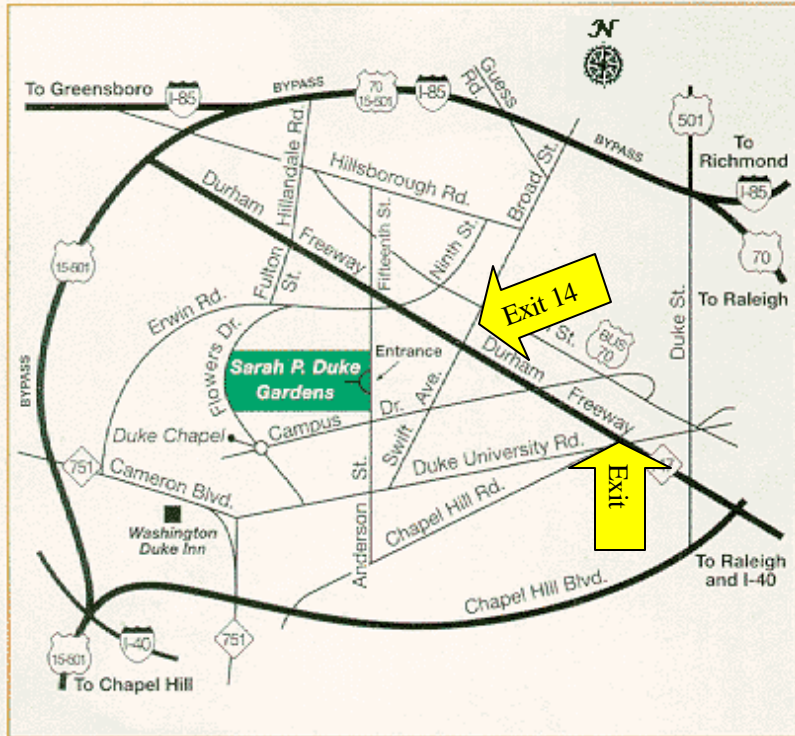
?? **TOS Members..... Dues are Due!** Only a few members have sent in their Dues for 2008. If you haven't..... the March Newsletter will be your last..... Send your Check to Treasurer, Leo Sagasti at 2306 Damascus Church Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27516 \$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address.

<b>Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:</b>	<b>Calendar 2008</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	<b>February 11th</b>	<b>Alex Challis New World Orchids Michigan</b>	<b>Miniature Gems</b>
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	<b>March 10th</b>	<b>Mac Rivenbark Mac's Orchids- Fort Lauderdale Florida</b>	<b>Orchids of the Philippines</b>
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	<b>April 14th</b>	<b>Mario Blanco Costa Rica and University of Florida</b>	<b>Orchid Flowers and Their Pollinators</b>
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

### Welcome Table

### Refreshments

<b>Feb. 11th</b>	Melissa Bullard, Lee Allgood	Robin and Josh Gurlitz
<b>Mar. 10th</b>	Antoinette Brown	



**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 February 11, 2008  
Alex Challis  
New World Orchids  
“Miniature Gems”**

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



*Associated with Sarah P Duke Gardens*

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\$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