



# Orchidacea

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

## Speaker for July 14th, 2008

### Bio on Mario Blanco

Mario Blanco was born in Costa Rica in 1972. He became interested in orchids as a young boy by exploring her grandmother's greenhouse. As a teenager he joined his local orchid society, where he participated in judging workshops. He majored in Biology at the University of Costa Rica, and worked for several years as a research assistant with the orchid collection at Lankester Botanical Gardens. He came to the United States in 1997 for a three-month internship at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, to learn about Costa Rican species of *Lepanthes*.

Mario's main interests include the taxonomy and systematics of orchids (especially members of subtribes Maxillariinae, Oncidiinae and Pleurothallidinae), nomenclatural issues, and morphological adaptations of orchids for coping with their environment. He is also interested in the detailed structure of orchid fruits and flowers and their adaptive significance. For many years, Mario has been fascinated by the pollination biology of orchids.

Mario is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in orchid systematics at the University of Florida, under the direction of Dr. Norris Williams. The goal of his dissertation is to produce a monograph of the genus *Lockhartia*.

Steve may be contacted at: Department of Botany, University of Florida, 214 Bartram Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611-8526

Office phone: (352) 273-1992, E-mail: [mablanco@ufl.edu](mailto:mablanco@ufl.edu)

**MEMBER Plant Sale. Bring you divisions, seedlings, the orchids you haven't been able to bloom , maybe another member knows how.**

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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

June 9,2008

The meeting was called to order by Judith Goldstein, standing in for President Paul Virtue, at 7:30 PM on 9 June 2008. Guests were welcomed: Pat Alt, Susan Kosempa, Linda Scherich, and Renee deGoehery. New members from Growers Day 2008 were also welcomed: Jade and Robert Pan, and Phoebe Chen. The minutes of the may 12th meeting were approved.

### Announcements:

There will be a book sale and signing by Steve Frowine of his books, "Orchids for Dummies", "Fragrant Orchids" and "Miniature Orchids" at tonight's meeting.

Anita Hall and Robin Gurlitz were recognized for hosting the Hospitality Table. Heather Schneider and John Myhre were recognized for staging the Welcome Table.

Members were asked to remain and help pack up at the conclusion of the monthly meeting.

The Spring Auction grossed about \$4,000. A thank you to all members who donated plants to the society for sale.

Growers Day 2008 had 53 paid attendees with 23 new members. Informative and enjoyable talks were presented by Steve Frowine and Linda Thorne. Catering was through member Peggy Bloodworth of EntreeVous in Durham at Southpointe. The education center at Raulston Arboretum was

a first class facility and drew many favorable comments from the attendees. John Stanton of Orchid Trail - Morrisville provided very nice blooming orchids as gift plants and also offered to replot them if they are brought to his greenhouses in Morrisville. [www.orchidtrail.com](http://www.orchidtrail.com)

The Show Table was presented by Jack Webster and the evening's speaker, Steve Frowine. After a refreshment break, Steve Frowine was introduced by Marie Crock and gave his talk on "Fragrant Orchids".

Jack Webster selected the award plants.

In the Greenhouse Grown category: **First Place Ribbon to Renanthera Nancy Chandler 'Red Dragon'**. Grown by Bob Davidson, **Second Place Ribbon to Laelia Purpurata 'Striata'** grown by Bob Davidson, **Third Place Ribbon to Coelogyne 'South Carolina'**, grown by Marie Crock.

In the Non-Greenhouse Grown category: **First Place Ribbon to Phrag 'Grande'**, grown by Jaimie Graff, **Second Place Ribbon to Asctm. Curvifolium**, Grown by Judith Goldstein, **Third Place Ribbon to Bicolor hybrid** grown by Jaimie Graff

Raffle tickets were drawn and raffle plants were awarded, with the meeting being adjourned at 9:45.

Minutes submitted by Bob Meyer, Secretary



**Jack Webster Awards  
Non Greenhouse Grown**

**First Place  
Ribbon to  
*Phrag-  
mipedium*  
'Grande',  
grown by  
Jaimie Graff**



**Third Place Ribbon to Bicolor hybrid  
grown by Jaimie Graff**



**Second Place Ribbon to *Asctm. Curvifolium*,  
Grown by Judith Goldstein**

**Jack Webster  
Awards Green-  
house Grown**



**First Place Ribbon to Renanthera Nancy  
Chandler 'Red Dragon' grown by Bob David-  
son**



**Third Place Ribbon to *Coelogyne*  
'South Carolina', grown by Marie  
Crock**



**Second Place Ribbon to *Laelia Purpurata*  
'Striata' grown by Bob Davidson**

## Grower's Day at the Raulston Arboretum



Registration Desk: Miriam Sagasti, Lee Allgood and Robin Guerlitz

President Paul and Melissa Bullard in Lobby welcomed 50 plus members and registrants.



Linda Thorne, Owner, Seagrove Orchids Commercial grower and orchid hybridizer, Judge, American Orchid Society and Officer of The International Phalaenopsis Alliance, was speaker for the morning session.

“Moth Orchids and How to Grow Them” - She brought species and hybrids to illustrate her talk.



Heinrich Malling, TOS member examines the over-the-pot-roots of a phalaenopsis that will be repotted by Linda.

After a Catered lunch in the education center (included in the registration fee)

- Steven Frowine, Horticulturalist, lecturer and author of “Orchids for Dummies” “Easy Orchids For Beginners” and “Miniature Orchids”, did the afternoon illustrated talk.



Steve did a book signing at the break and at the end of his talk. Everyone who attended received a flowering orchid and became a member of the Triangle Orchid Society for the rest of 2008.

Steve signing Jeanette Massengill's book

Steve was the speaker at the TOS meeting on the following Monday and continued on his rounds to the 3 other Orchid Societies in North Carolina. His lecture there was entitled “Fragrant Orchids”.



## Transcript of Last Month's Speaker, Steve Frowine

What a treat to have a speaker provide not just a list of the orchids we would see in his presentation, but a list of the nurseries that carry these plants!!! Thank you Steve for your thoughtfulness!! I hope everyone got the Image List – and I hope you took careful note of the specific orchids you liked. I'm going to provide a brief summary of Steve's general comments and will not be commenting on his entire list. I hope that those of you that bought his book *Fragrant Orchids* will enjoy it as much as I have!

Did you realize that orchid scents are stronger or more pronounced on sunny, warm days? And had you noticed that the scent of some of your orchids will be present for several hours, but not all day? Were you aware that the fragrance simply disappears under cloudy, cool conditions?? Although these statements may seem self evident, it takes someone like Steve to articulate the concept and make us aware of what is all around us.

Steve pointed out that we English speakers have no vocabulary for fragrance. When we attempt to describe a scent we resort to comparisons. We say "it smells like ....." and then we go on to name an object that is familiar in our everyday lives and that we recognize by its scent. Steve pointed out that no other group of plants or flowers contain such a range of scents. Indeed when we stop to consider the fragrances in our growing areas, we recognize that some flowers are sweet, or have a cloying fruitiness, while another may be spicy or remind us of citrus. And because of our individual preferences, we may like one scent, but not another.

Scent, said Steve, serves to advertise the orchid's sexual desirability. The scent associated with each orchid serves to attract specific pollinators, many of which are specifically adapted to service a specific species or flower. The African An-

graecums are especially noteworthy, for their long nectararies or spurs are adapted to receive the attentions of the night flying moths with the long proboscis, as Darwin predicted. Steve believes that we humans are unconsciously attracted to our partners by our natural scents. We each have a unique fragrance that becomes familiar to our partner. Once familiar, just the suggestion of the partner's scent can elicit an emotional response.

Americans, Steve noted, like strong fragrances while Asians seem to prefer more delicate scents. Here in the US we are bombarded with fragrances as they are frequently embedded into common household objects – hand soap, lotion, toilet paper, cleaning products, even our coffees and milk products. These scents tend to be so pervasive, and are so strong, that we have become insensitive to more subtle fragrances. We also strive to cover up natural scents, such as the smell of sweat, through the use of personal health care products.

The ability to smell and the ability to taste are closely related. It is a well documented phenomena that when we lose our sense of smell, we often also lose our ability to taste. The fact that Chinese poets have been extolling the scent of orchids since the 11<sup>th</sup> century confirms the fact that our sense of smell is critical to our quality of life.

And finally, Steve stated another truism. Growing orchids, he said, should be enjoyable and fun – not stressful. So enjoy your orchids, and when something special flowers and you are overcome with the scent – throw a party!

Joy Lemieux, Sandhills Orchid Society

## Growing Tips for July

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

If there was ever a doubt in my mind that most cattleyas need a rest in winter with little water or fertilizer, this year put those concerns to rest. Last winter my orchid collection was in North Carolina while I was in Florida. My orchids were left in the hands of “a master cactus grower”. The drought in North Carolina further necessitated keeping my orchids drier than usual because rainwater was my only water source. As a result, this spring and summer has produced the highest flower count and largest flowers on my cattleyas ever.

Vandas in my collection, however, were not as appreciative of the dry conditions and by the time they arrived in Florida in late spring showed stress with slightly shriveled leaves, no new root growth and less overall growth. With the additional water and heat of a Florida summer, vandaceous orchids in my collection have exploded with new root growth and leaves previously shriveled have taken up water and returned to their normal, plump look. Flower spikes are everywhere on the vandas.

Phalaenopsis suffered the most from being kept dry, largely because they had been moved to a lava rock medium and had not had time to produce the extensive roots that occur in this medium over a few years. Those phals that had

been in lava rock for a couple of years grew and flowered well this spring, despite the lack of fertilizer in previous months. With a good supply of water and heat phals, too have put out lots of new roots and leaves.

Most of the bulbophyllums were repotted last fall into Chilean sphagnum, which holds water well and this group was given more water during winter. Only Bulb echinolabium suffered, while all other species in this group grew normally even with no winter fertilization.

**Requirements of paphs for the calcium and magnesium found in dolomite limestone were known in England 50 years ago, but largely ignored today where many growers prefer to repot frequently.**

Paphs, all potted in lava rock, were a real surprise. Application of peletized lime is necessary in lava rock as well as in other media. The lime washes through the medium faster in lava rock than in a bark medium and application of additional lime was spotty with some plants getting enough and others missing out entirely. Paphs with lots of lime

had extensive roots in pots, despite limited water last winter, while those that clearly had not been limed regularly had very poor root systems. Requirements of paphs for the calcium and magnesium found in dolomite limestone were known in England 50 years ago, but largely ignored today where many growers prefer to repot frequently.

Observation is the key to becoming a good grower. Books and articles provide good information that will aid in interpreting your observations, but using that information requires examining your plants carefully from time to time. Even the most skilled grower consults fellow hobbyists and commercial growers, so do not be embarrassed to ask basic questions. Remember though, commercial growers are not concerned about individual orchid plants and may not even grow their own plants. Be careful about interpreting what you see at a commercial operation unless you know that they grow their own orchids, a rarity today. The orchids in many commercial nurseries may have been in Hawaii, Florida, or Taiwan just a few weeks before so observing their medium, watering and fertilizing schedule may not be useful for your area.

**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.

### 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

**July**

**Mario Blanco  
Univ. of  
Florida**

**Orchids and  
their pollina-  
tors**

**August**

**Max  
Thompson**

**Angraecums  
and other  
Madagascar  
species**

**Sept**

**Joseph Arditii**

**How Orchids  
Survive in  
Nature**

### Welcome Table

### Refreshments

**July**

**Creighton Humphreys  
and Sue Morand**

**Miriam & Leo Sagasti**

**August**

**Miriam & Leo Sagasti**

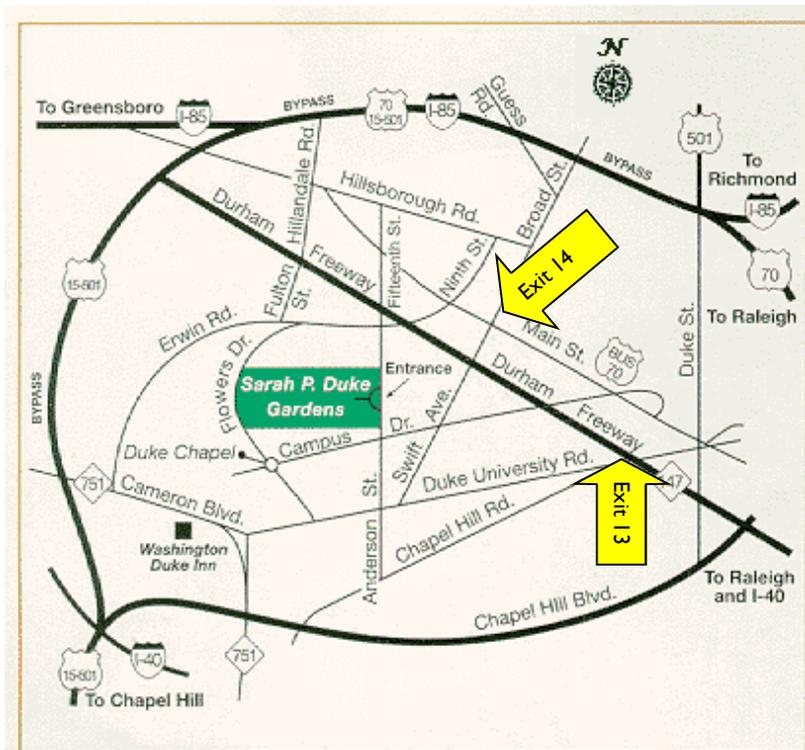
**Robin and Josh  
Gurlitz**



**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.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