



Orchidacea

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

Speaker for March 10th, Mac Rivenbark

Mac's presentation will consist of a short introduction, followed by a digital slide show. He will show slides of the Philippines and a number of the more impressive species from there. The climate and culture tips will also be included in this mini class.

Mac and his Filipina wife started an orchid business ten years ago after many fascinating trips to the Philippines. With extensive study Mac is becoming a specialist in Philippine species and currently grows and blooms over 200 different types. They now have a greenhouse in Fort Lauderdale and a greenhouse in the Philippines run by their family there.

Mac and his wife are doing more shows and winning more awards, the best of which are the AOS show trophies for best exhibit at the Deerfield show held at the AOS headquarters in 2004, and the Boca Show in 2006. Most recently they won a bronze medal, third place exhibit for the 200 square foot size, one first place ribbon best in show and two second place ribbons given for their exhibit in the 19th WOC in Miami Florida.

Currently, Mac is the president of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. He and his wife are also members of the AOS, the SFOS, the Deerfield Beach Orchid society, the Hilo Orchid Society, the Tampa Bay Orchid society, the Vero Beach Orchid Society, and the Philippine Orchid Society.

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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

President Paul Virtue called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, Monday, February 11, 2008. Guests: Nita Glickman from Lafayette, IN grows paphs; Sandy Gapin; Jerry Hains and Jim Roberts from Erie, PA have about 300 orchids and grow under lights; and Wanda Stewart who is just getting started with orchids. The minutes of the 14 January 2008 were approved.

Announcements:

Jeff Baldwin announced that the heaters and backup alarms in John Hope Franklin's greenhouse failed during the recent cold weather, killing most of his collection and all of his phalaenopsis and cattleyas. Jeff is collecting plant donations from members to help restock John's collection. Please bring any duplicate plants to next month's meeting. Jeff can be reached at 919-542-6887.

Ching Hua orchid order has been sent out.

Alex Challis our speaker presented the Show Table.

Paul Virtue asked for a sense of the membership with regard to speakers and society functions. Interests included miniature orchids, speakers who present well, and some how to grow type lectures. A large consensus did not want a speaker who just shows endless slides of his crosses. John Stanton offered to present occasional plant clinics at 7:00 PM before the meetings start. Sick plants and questions are always welcome at his green

house, Orchid Trail, in Morrisville, 919-362-1062. Proposed society functions for 2008 include the Spring and Fall Auction, Grower's Day, and a Greenhouse Crawl – a coordinated tour of several members' greenhouses.

Bob Meyer introduced our speaker, Alex Challis, who spoke on "Miniature Orchid Gems".

Jack Webster selected the award plants.

In the Greenhouse Grown Category: 1st Place *Sophronitis coccinea* by Paul Feaver, 2nd Place *Cattleya Lc Mood Indigo* by Andrea Erwin, 3rd Place *Cattleya loddigesi* by George Beischer.

In the Non-Greenhouse Grown Category: 1st Place *Dendrobium superbum* by Bob Meyer, 2nd Place *Phragmipedium Cape Gold Nugget* (*Phragmipedium Eric Young 4n x Phrag pearcei*) by Judith Goldstein, 3rd Place *Cattleya Romantic Paradise* by Judith Goldstein.

Raffle tickets were drawn and plants were awarded. The majority of the raffle plants were donated by John Stanton and Bob Meyer.

Minutes submitted by Bob Meyer, Secretary.

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.

**Final Notice of Membership Dues
for 2008**

This will be your last newsletter

Transcript of Last Month's Speaker
Alex Challis

Alex Challis began his talk on miniature orchids by showing a slide of a huge encyclical that was over four feet tall and formed a clump of almost the same width and commented that most orchid growers want something a little smaller. Smaller orchids that do not take so much space fit better into most hobbyist growing space. He also commented that miniature does not mean miniature flower and that many small orchids have flowers that are quite large for the plant size. Although there are some that you need a magnifying glass to see.

He then provided a list of miniature and small growing orchid, most of which would be pictured in his slide show. His first group of slides were of the Pleurothallids which come from Central and South America. Most are cool growing and do not like to be over 75 degrees F although some can tolerate heat in the day if nights are cool.

Pleurothallis grobyi and Pleurothallis niveoglobula are two of the easier Pleurothallis to grow.

Platystele need very clean water to do well in cultivation.

Stelis are easy to grow but flowers are not very showy (small), but these plants produce large numbers of flowers. Stelis nexipous is from Ecuador and Peru and is easy to grow.

Barbosellas have colorful flowers and flowers with unique shapes. Need cooler nights.

Lepanthes are very difficult to grow as they need cool conditions and very pure water.

Dracula species are not as cool growing as most people think but need very pure water and high humidity. Dracula species grow in cloud forest where cool mist is always present. Dracula lotax is the easiest of the species to grow, but it must have pure water.

Masdevallia mendozae is a very high altitude plant pollinated by hummingbirds. Masdevallia strobilii is more warmth tolerant and has been

used to breed many warm growing Masdevallia. Masdevallia coccinea is the most striking flower of the Masdevallias but is a very cool grower that does not tolerate temperatures above 75 degrees F. However it has been crossed with more heat tolerant species to produce some very beautiful hybrids. Some Masdevallia flowers have a sweet smell and others smell very bad.

Dendrochilum wenzelii is a small grass like plant that has small red flowers in rows along the 5 to 6 inch spike. Paphinia is from South America and has paper thin star shaped flowers. They must have good humidity and cooler nights.

Ornithocephalus bicornis is easy to grow but does best mounted, so it can dry quickly after watering. A number of Paphiopedilum species stay small. Some that fit this classification are spicerianum, henryanum, delenatii and emersonii.

Of the Phragmipedium species the smallest are schlimii and besseae. Besseae is usually red to orange-red but there is a yellow form. Most Phragmipedium species require frequent watering and like pure water.

Bulbophyllum species have become more popular, and available, in the last few years. Some of the Bulbophyllum flowers are pollinated by flies and smell very bad (rotting meat or worse) while other species in the genus have very pleasing fragrance. Bulbs range in size from very tiny (fraction of an inch leaf span to very large plants of six feet). Some of the small ones are lilacinum, wendlandiana, medusae and the Cirrhopetalum section. Bulbs are usually easy to grow. Most grow warm to intermediate. Use the plant structure to guide watering as this is a large genus with wide habitat distribution and watering needs vary.

Most of the smaller Dendrobiums grow intermediate to cool and need bright light. Dencucumerinum has cucumber shaped leaves and forms a mat on the underside of tree limbs. Dendrobiums grow best if mounted on the lower side of a mount.

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Jack Webster Awards Non Greenhouse Grown



3rd Place Ribbon: Cattleya Romantic Paradise grown by Judith Goldstein



2nd Place Ribbon: Phragmipedium Cape Gold Nugget (Phragmipedium Eric Young 4n x Phrag pearcei) grown by Judith Goldstein. Last year's TOS Auction plant.



1st Place Ribbon: *Dendrobium superbum* grown by Bob Meyer

Jack Webster Awards Greenhouse Grown



1st Place Ribbon: *Sophronitis coccinea* grown by Paul Feaver



3rd Place Ribbon: *Cattleya loddigesi* grow by George Beischer



2nd Place Ribbon: *Cattleya Lc Mood Indigo* grown by Andrea Erwin

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Den. tetragonum has an unusual shaped flower and is "orangish" in color. *Den unicum* has unusual orange flowers and must have a dry winter to bloom. *Den lawesii* must have cooler temperatures but grows and flowers well if the cooler climate can be achieved. *Den dichaeoides* is only three to four inches tall. *Den cuthbertsonii* is very small and cool growing but has bright colored flowers that are larger than the plant and can last up to six months.

Onc. ornithorhynchum is an easy to grow species and was a parent of Twinkle. *Onc cheiophorum* is small and produces large number of yellow flowers on branching spikes. *Onc limminghei* is a miniature butterfly type. The equitant species of the Caribbean have been changed to *Tolumnia*. These have fan shaped growth and produce many flowers with bright colors from yellow to red. Like warm conditions and need to dry quickly after watering.

Miltonia are of two types. *Milioniopsis phalaenopsis* is the pansy type and need cool humid growing conditions. *Miltonia spectabilis* is a warm growing species.

Comparettia species are cool growing and are bird pollinated. They are difficult to grow but have beautiful bright flowers.

Cischweinfia species are easy to grow

Mexicoa ghiesbreghtianum has flowers that are yellow and maroon and is easy to grow. It was once readily available in the US but is not presently being imported, therefore it is difficult to find.

Cochlioda vulcanica is small but is cool growing and difficult in cultivation.

Telipogon species are from Ecuador with exceptional flowers but impossible to grow outside its natural habitat.

Cattleya aclandiae stays small and has very fragrant flowers. *C. luteola* is small and pale yellow. Though *C. luteola* does not have showy flowers, it has been used extensively in hybridizing to reduce size. *C. schilleriana* is

very difficult to grow. *C. walkeriana* is small but has large flowers in several color forms including white, blue, pink and splash petals.

Sophronitis coccinea has bright red-orange flowers but is cool growing, while *cernua* has smaller flowers of similar color but is warm growing.

Laelia pumila is a small plant with very large flowers. Many of the rock dwelling *Laelia* species (*briegeri*, *lucasiana*, *milleri*) are easy if given warm temperatures with cooler nights and not over watered. They must dry out between waterings. Most of these hold their flowers on long spikes. Many have been hybridized with *cattleya* species.

Encyclia mariaae has a large white bloom compared to small plant and was once readily available but is not often imported in recent years.

Broughtonia species are from Jamaica and are warm growing. They are often hybridized with *cattleya* or *laelia*. *Constantia cipoensis* from Brazil is related to the *Broughtonia* species.

Leptotes bicolor has small flowers but is very easy to grow.

Among the *Phalaenopsis* species that are considered miniature or very small are *violacea* and *lobbii*. *Phal. parishii* (small growing) was used in the Mini Mark line of breeding by Mark Rose of Brown Summit, North Carolina.

Ascocentrum miniatum, *curvifolium* and *lobbii* are small and bright colored. These species need warmth, high light and grow best mounted or in baskets with frequent watering.

Chamaeangis hariotiana grows and looks much like a *Phalaenopsis* with orange flowers. Grow it slightly dryer than *Phalaenopsis*.

Amesiella philippinensis is small (three to five inches wide) and has growth habit of *phalaenopsis* with white flowers that are large for the plant.

Many of the African orchid species are small and easy to grow. *Aerangis* has many small or miniature species including *biloba*, *citrata*, *curnowiana*, *fastuosa* and *mystacidii*. These are

usually grown mounted with good humidity. Small Angraecum species include leonis (sweet smelling), didieri, elephantinum (large flower for plant size), distichum (small with 1/2 inch flower) and scottianum. Most of the Angraecum and Aerangis are from Madagascar.

Neofinetia falcata is from Japan and extremely popular in that country. They are grown for both flowers and for the foliage. There are variegated foliage types and varieties with colors flower color ranging from yellow to white, to green, to pink. Neofinetia falcata can grow

with temperatures ranging from 30 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit but prefer a night time temperature above 50 degrees. They can grow in any well draining potting mix but needs regular fertilizing. Recommend Bio-Gold and fish emulsion for feeding Neofinetia falcata.

Nancy Walker of the Sandhills Orchid Society transcribed the speaker notes

ALL YOU NEED to KNOW to GROW and BLOOM your ORCHID!

The **Sandhills Orchid Society**, in association with **Fayetteville Technical Community College**, present the **Annual Growers' Day**. This day-long seminar is designed for **everyone** interested in learning more about growing and **blooming** orchids better **at home**. Five speakers will conduct workshops on the most common orchids available in local stores and garden centers.

When: April 5, 2008, 9:30 AM (Registration) to 4:00 PM

Where: Fayetteville Technical Community College Horticulture Center adjacent to the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens, Fayetteville, NC.

Cost: ONLY \$15.00 if pre-registered by April 2, 2008 - \$20.00 after that. (Fee includes seminar, morning and afternoon snacks, lunch, and an orchid plant to take home.)

For additional information contact Frank Richey (910) 868-9727, or Email Joyce Patton: jlpatton@nc.rr.com or Keith Clayton: keithclayton@embarqmail.com

-----Cut Here-----

Growers Day Pre-registration Form

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Fee: (\$15.00 if pre-registered by April 2nd, \$20.00 after April 2nd) \$_____ (Make checks payable to Sandhills Orchid Society)

Mail To: Frank Richey, 6895 Mangrove Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28314, Phone: (910) 868-9727.

Growing Tips for March

By Courtney T. Hackney

Spring has definitely sprung here in Jacksonville, Florida, but it is also happening everywhere in the Northern Hemisphere even if it does not feel like it outside. Officially, spring begins around 22 March, but a change in the sun's intensity is already noticeable. My low-light "Jewel" orchids, sitting in a window that received only indirect sun are beginning to look bleached from the intense light. High light orchids in south facing windows are also beginning to show signs of too much light.

Novice growers may be surprised that orchids normally grown in bright greenhouses can get burned in window sill situations. It is not just the light intensity that burns them, but the sudden increase of light on plant leaves, which have adapted to very low light levels during the long winter. This time of year can be as difficult for indoor orchid hobbyists as it is for those with greenhouses. If there are deciduous trees that shade your house in summer, the situation gets more complicated as new leaves emerge and deep shade appears where there was once intense light flowing into your window sill growing area.

Many indoor growers in the very Deep South, i.e. Florida, have already moved orchids to outdoor growing areas. If you have done this for many years you already know about watching for late cold snaps. Many "migratory hobbyists" (Winter indoors-Summer outdoors) never realize the shock their orchids experience, especially from the change in humidity. This is especially true of hobbyists that have mastered the maintenance of humidity in their indoor growing areas. Winter humidity, even in the South can be much lower than orchids prefer. The addition of more air movement also can lead to much higher water loss. Avoid moving orchids in bud or orchids that will soon be sending up buds outside until they have finished blooming. An orchid plant that has not received enough light to flower during winter is not going to suddenly gain enough energy to

bloom this spring season. In fact, it may "decide" not to flower and put out new roots and leaves in response to the sudden change in light and temperature.

Many commercial growers do use this type of "shock" treatment to initiate flowering, but they are shocking plants that have accumulated lots of energy reserves to bloom and are just waiting for the appropriate environmental cues. Clearly, some commercial orchid nurseries were able to fool their orchids into flowering at the correct moment for the World Orchid Congress in Miami in January. Many orchids in exhibits and in sales booths were flowering early. There were also many tales of commercial growers who failed to get their best clones to flower in time or whose best orchids flowered too early.

Each time there is a major international show there are always aspects that surprise long-time orchidists. The surprise this year was the development and exhibition of multi-flora paphs, which always seemed to be an obvious underdeveloped breeding line. The lack of more cymbidiums during a time when they should have been readily available was also noted. Some commercial growers noted a surprising lack of new lines of phals. With the exception of the new "blue" violacea from Orchidview, there were no big surprises in phals.

There were a number of new products offered orchid hobbyists at the WOC, but most had been available before. I purchased a number of these and will be testing them in the next year and reporting any good results.

One service that was advertised at the WOC is one that would benefit most orchid growers. One company, which formerly produced Peters fertilizers and now makes Jacks fertilizers, has a lab that will test your water and not only tell you what is in it, but what fertilizer to use, and how to use it. The cost may be high for an individual, but inexpensive for orchid clubs that have several members with the same water source. They even provide bottles for shipping water samples. Call 866-522-5752 or email info@jrpeterslab.com.

Society Events for 2008

Orchid Crawl – Saturday April 5th. Jack Webster has invited interested TOS members to visit his extensive greenhouses.

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 re-searched as a potential site for the event.

Fall Auction – Sunday September 28th.

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:

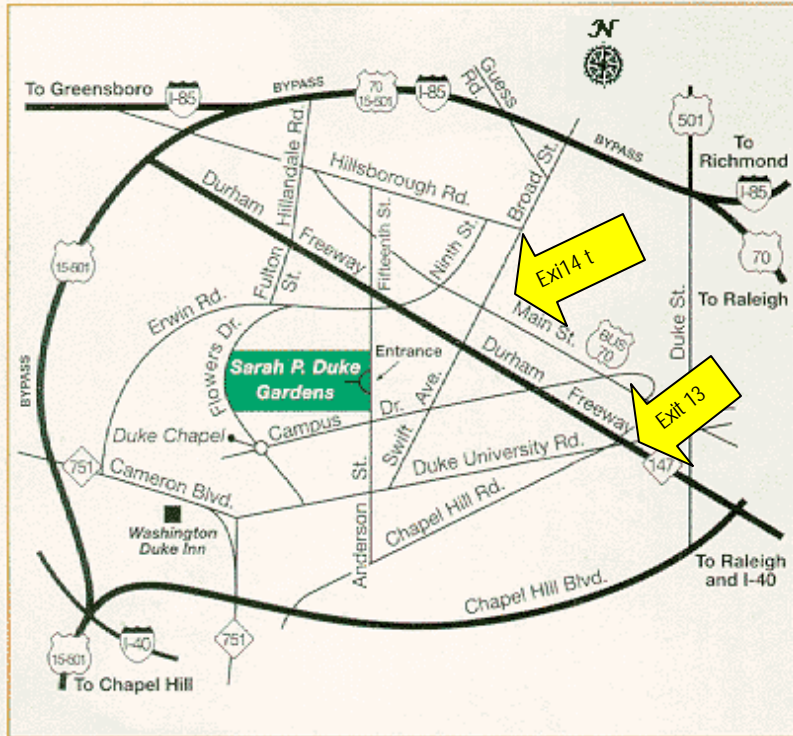
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs
 7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements
 7:45-8:10 Show Table Review
 8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break
 8:30-9:20 Program
 9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes
 9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends

Calendar 2008	Speaker	Topic
March 10	Mac Rivenbark Fort Lauderdale, FL	Orchids of the Philippines
April 14	Norito Hasegawa	"What's New in Paphs"
May 12	Mario Blanco	"Orchids and their Pollinators"

Welcome Table

Refreshments

March 19th	Antoinette Brown	Miriam and Leo Sagasti
April 14th	Marsha Tai	Lori Chapman



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.TriangleOrchidSociety.org

March 10

Mac Rivenbark
 Fort Lauderdale, FL

"Orchids of the Philippines"

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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Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:

\$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address.

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