



# Orchidacea

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

## Speaker for May 9, 2008 Ron Parsons

Ron Parsons is considered by many to be one of the finest flower photographers in the United States. His photography and encyclopedic knowledge of orchids is known both nationally and internationally. He has been photographing orchids, wildflowers, and almost every other kind of plant for over 25 years, and has a slide collection that numbers well over 80,000 slides! Ron loves to travel, photograph orchids and wildflowers *in situ*, visit orchid and other plant enthusiasts' collections, and most of all, to take photographs of plants and flowers that he likes. His photos have been featured in journal articles, book covers and in several books.

Ron is a popular speaker, and gives talks frequently on variety of orchid-related topics, as well as on California wildflowers, cacti and succulents, carnivorous plants, gesneriads and bromeliads. Ron is often asked to present the "show and tell" plants at orchid meetings-he is always full of up to date taxonomic information, culture requirements, and other little known facts about the species and hybrids that members bring in. His talks feature his beautiful color slides of the subject matter, in-depth information, and first-hand knowledge about the species discussed.

Not only does Ron photograph plants, but he has been growing orchids, cacti, and bromeliads for over thirty years, and carnivorous plants for ten. He grows an assortment of cool growing species under lights at his home in South San Francisco and a few more at an unheated greenhouse at his parents' home in Burlingame. His collection is beautifully grown, and often the plants featured in his talks are from his own collection. He willingly shares his knowledge about plant habitats and suggestions for culture with all who are interested.

Ron is a member of the San Francisco Orchid Society, The Peninsula Orchid Society, The Orchid Society of California, and the Bay Area Pleurothallid Alliance. He is also a member of the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society, and the American Gesneriad Society of San Francisco.

This month's speaker will **not be bringing plants**, so the May meeting will host a **Member's Sale**. Bring in your orchid divisions, extra orchids, orchids that no longer fit on your windowsill or in your greenhouse for sale. Create space for new orchids so you can buy more.

John Stanton will give a short demonstration on **orchid re-potting** techniques at 6:45 PM before the start of the May meeting which should be a good hands on experience.

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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

The TOS meeting of April 14th, 2008 was called to order by President Paul Virtue at 7:30 PM. Minutes of the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved without changes.

Orchid Wiz, a computerized orchid database, has offered a 40% discount off its regular purchase price, if 5 or more programs are ordered together. Contact Paul Virtue if interested.

Ching Hua orchid orders from Taiwan are boxed up in the back of the room for pick up. Instructions for care are included.

The Orchid Crawl at Jack Webster's greenhouses in Southern Pines was a success, with over 25 visitors enjoying the beauty of Jack's orchids. Thank you Jack for sharing your greenhouse and orchid collection with us.

The society spring auction date has changed to Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and will be located at Umstead Park off US 70 in Raleigh, at Crabtree Shelter #1. It's a large shelter about a mile or so down the entrance road. A society potluck lunch will start at 12:00, followed by the auction at 1:00 PM. The auction is open to the general public with a great selection of orchids at good prices. Invite your gardening friends and neighbors.

Growers Day will be Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Ralston Arboretum near NC State from 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Our morning speaker will be Linda Thorne, an American Orchid Society Judge, Officer of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, commercial grower, and orchid hybridizer. She will be

speaking on the culture and care of phalaenopsis. Our afternoon speaker will be Steven Frowine, a national horticultural expert and author of four books on orchids: Orchids for Dummies; Fragrant Orchids: A Guide to Selecting, Growing, and Enjoying; Miniature Orchids; and soon to be published this summer, Moth Orchids- The Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis. These books will be available for sale at Growers Day where Steve will be conducting a book signing. Tuition for Growers Day is \$25 for the entire day, which includes morning and afternoon lectures, a box lunch, and a blooming size orchid.

Next month's speaker will not be bringing plants, so the May meeting will host a Member's Sale. Bring in your orchid divisions, extra orchids, orchids that no longer fit on your windowsill or in your greenhouse for sale. Create space for new orchids so you can buy more.

John Stanton will give a short demonstration on orchid repotting techniques at 6:45 PM before the start of the May meeting which should be a good hands on experience.

Before the break, our speaker, Norito Hasegawa, reviewed the Show Tables and Jack Webster selected the Award Plants. Thank you Anne Myhre and Judith Shapiro for staffing our Welcome Table and Laurie Chapman and Bob Molder for hosting our Hospitality Table.

### Jack Webster Show Table Ribbons:

Non-Greenhouse Grown Category: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Dendrobium anosmum var. giganteum by George Bizub, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Ascocenda Crownfox Honey Gold by Lee Allgood, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Cymbidium Flamingo by Marie Crock.

Greenhouse Grown Category: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Maxillaria cochleata by Paul Feaver, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Ascofinetia Cherry Blossom by Rick Cavallaro, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Den-

drobium tortile by Jeff Baldwin.

A nice selection of orchids were raffled off and the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Bob Meyer, Secretary.

## Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

“Man has this incredible need to change things that are natural so that they become unnatural” – Norito Hasegawa

Norito spoke about change; about how man has changed and continues to change our environment: about the many living things that have become fundamentally unrecognizable. For example, man has bred all domesticated dogs from their common ancestor the wolf. The process has produced such extremes that dogs such as the Mexican Hairless Chihuahua and the St. Bernard can not be bred with each other. Man has created two unique species that are not only incompatible for reproductive purposes, they retain limited physical characteristics that resemble one another or their ancient ancestor.

Discussing the hybridizing of orchids, Norito showed slide after slide that demonstrated how the original species has been modified by selective breeding. Because hybridizers select plants to breed that have specific traits such as size or color, they choose the largest, or the roundest, or the darkest flowers and breed these with each other. Many of the resulting hybrids have only a limited resemblance to their species parents. For example, *Phrag besseae*, which created such excitement when it was initially discovered, has been selfed and “improved” so that its petals are wider and now are rounded rather than pointed. Or *Paph fairieanum*. The alba form has been selectively bred so that the surface area of the flower is twice what used to be and the dorsal has been greatly enlarged. It still looks like *Paph faireanum*, but is changed in subtle ways that makes you question whether it is the species or a hybrid. Or *Paph bellatulum* which typically had a nodding, downward presentation. It has been modified so that the flower is held

above the foliage. It is double in size, and the dorsal has been modified so that it is upright, not hooded as in the original species. Additionally, the characteristic spotting has become diffused.

Recent hybridizers have been focusing on several specific species, beginning with *delenatii*. They have learned that *delenatii* will pass on its pink and white coloring while suppressing yellow and green. Additionally, it does not pass on its fragrance. Many, many hybrids have been made with *delenatii* and all have retained the “fuzzy” characteristic. Norito said that this particular species is one of the best examples of how man’s manipulations have impacted the species as we know it today. In the 1920s when the species was introduced into the west, a single plant was sent to England, where it was dried, pressed and placed in a herbarium. Another plant was sent to France and eventually came into the possession of the Le Couffle company where it was selfed over and over again. This one plant became the backbone of the Le Couffle breeding program and the resultant progeny began to resemble mericlones because of the continued reintroduction of the same limited number of genes. Recently the species, which was over-collected and had been thought to be extinct, was rediscovered, and now hybridizers are remaking many of the original crosses with the new strain of *delenatii*. The introduction of this new strain and resulting replenishment of the gene pool has brought back many of the original characteristics, such as fragrance. Hybridizers were surprised when they realized that when *delenatii* is bred with a green flower, it produces white flowers.

Today, hybridizers are working with four species - *armeniicum*, *micranthum*, *malipoense* and *emersonii*. They have found that *Paph armeniicum* is dominant of its yellow color and its bulbous pouch or nose, but recessive for fragrance. *Paph micranthum*, passes on its bright reticulation, its bulbous pouch but not any fragrance. *Paph malipoense* tends to be dominant for its green color and bulbous pouch. It fails to pass on its bright reticulation or pattern of crisscrossing veins that form a networking pattern. *Paph mali-*





1<sup>st</sup> Place – *Dendrobium anosmum* var. *giganteum*  
by George Bizub

**Jack Webster Awards  
Non Greenhouse Grown**



3<sup>rd</sup> Place – *Cymbidium Flamingo* by Marie Crock



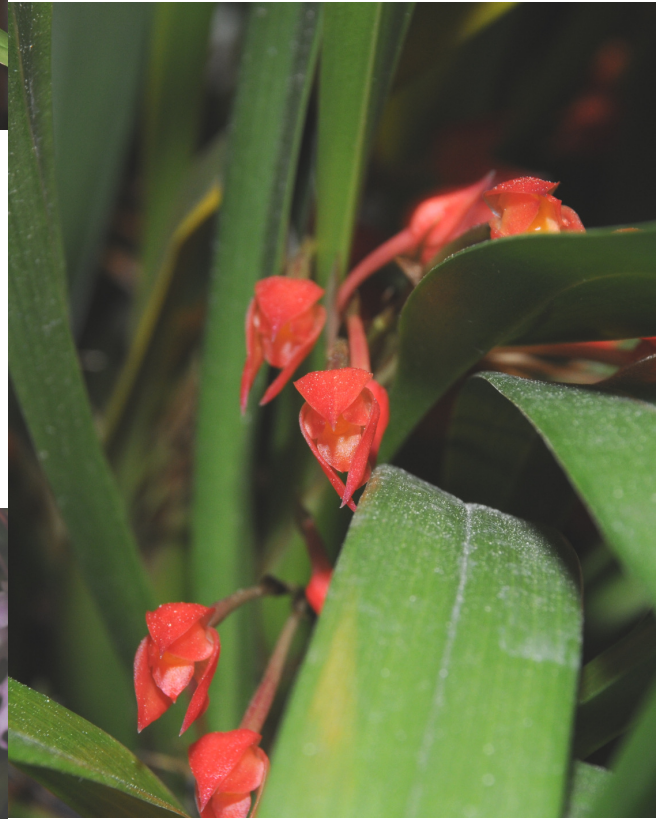
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – *Ascocenda Crownfox*  
*Honey Gold* by Lee Allgood





2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Ascofinetia Cherry Blossom by Rick Cavallaro

**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Maxillaria cochleata by Paul Feaver



3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Dendrobium tortile by Jeff Baldwin

# Triangle Orchid Society

## Spring Orchid Auction

Sunday May 18th, 2008

On Sunday May 18th at 1pm the Triangle Orchid Society will sponsor its public Spring Orchid Auction at Umstead Park, Highway 70 entrance, picnic shelter Crabtree #1. A potluck lunch starts at noon, and the auction follows at 1 pm. The auction is open to the public. You do not need to be a TOS member, everyone is WELCOME!



Maps and directions are available at the TOS website  
[www.triangleorchidsociety.org](http://www.triangleorchidsociety.org)



poense also passes along its purple staminodes and its fragrance. Paph emersonii passes on its small yellowish pouch and its color blending effect, making it useful for developing pastels. It's progeny lack its distinctive fragrance.

Moving on to the hybrids, Norito described some characteristics they present. Magic Lantern (Paph micranthum x Paph delenatii) has a strong, self-supporting stem and wide, rounded petals. The bulbous pouch which is characteristic of both parents remains, although it is smaller and more proportional. Another noteworthy cross is Paph Lynleigh Koopowitz (Paph malipoense x Paph delenatii). It is a lovely white flower with rose-purple stippling and contrasting purple staminode. It has a strong raspberry scent, inherited from its malipoense parent. When Paph Magic Lantern was crossed with Paph armeniacum, the resulting progeny, Hsingying Armanda, received an FCC despite the cleft in its pouch. When Paph Lynleigh Koopowitz was crossed with Paph emersonii to make Paph Desert Queen, it developed a vanilla scent and the stripping on the petals was smoothed out. Similarly, Paph emersonii crossed with Paph malipoense produces a fragrant flower with soft, subdued shades of green called Memoria Larry Heuer. Paph malipoense crossed with Paph armeniacum produced Paph Norito Hasegawa, a yellow with a hint of purple stippling in some hybrids. Taken one step further, Paph Norito Hasegawa crossed with Paph delenatii becomes Paph Helen Congleton, a pale pink with purple throat. Another notable recent cross is Paph Frank Smith (Paph Norito Hasegawa x Paph rothschildianum). or Paph Glitter Gulch (Paph Magic Mountain x Paph malipoense)..

When Paph vietnamense was introduced there was a rush to acquire the plant and to produce hybrids from this wonderful new pink. One of the first crosses made was with Paph delenatii, which produced Paph Ho Chi Minh, a dark pink with a dark rose colored pouch. Paph vietnamense is now legal in the US so we should be seeing many more crosses from this species in

the near future. Another new find is Paph henryanum, which appears to be closely related to Paph emersonii. Paph henryanum is still illegal in the US. It is a small, with a green dorsal and brown petals that are heavily spotted. The pouch is a bright pink. Norito reports it smells like stale Kitty Litter, hopefully a trait that is recessive. One very successful cross using Paph henryanum is Paph Peacock Stars (Paph Ruby Peacock x Paph henryanum).

Some warmer growing hybrids include crosses made from Paph callosum which is dominant for its dark burgundy color, and the species behind many of the "vini" colors. Paph viniferum is very similar in appearance, and in fact had been confused with callosum for a number of years. Viniferum is distinguished, in part, by the dark warts on its petals. However it is Paph callosum which is behind some of the most notable vini colors including Paph Gloriosum (Paph callosum x Paph Holdenii) and Paph Jac Flash (Paph Gloriosum x Paph callosum). It is interesting to note that JAC stands for Just Another Callosum. Norito and his business partner Harold Koopowitz had done significant work breeding the vini colors and reported that they once a flask with one of their crosses to Terry Root of the Orchid Zone. One of the plants that came out of the flask was so exceptional when it bloomed that Norito wanted it back. Terry said Norito could have it, but for \$20,000!

Today's complex white paphs include hybrids with some niveum in their family tree, but also huge doses of godefroyae or insigne. Hybrids like Paph Skip Bartlett 'White Pepper' (Paph godefroyae x Paph F. C. Puddle) or Paph John Hanes (Paph Wendbourn x Paph Gigi) both have Paph insigne in their backgrounds. Similarly, Paph Green Mystery (Paph Yerba Buena x Paph Greenhorn) and Paph White Knight (Paph Green Mystery x Paph Bartlett) both have healthy doses of Paph insigne but also Paph godefroyae. These are the "Bulldog" paphs, with six inch flowers. Similarly Paph Elfstone (Paph Green Mystery x Paph Palos Verdes) and Paph Mystic Knight (Paph Elfstone x Paph White Knight) are bred primarily from Paphs insigne and godefroyae. Paph Silver Knight (Paph

Tara Marie x Paph White Knight) represents the next generation in this breeding line. It is a smooth pink, seven inch flower without the characteristic spotting of Paph insigne.

The Japanese have done a great deal of work hybridizing the multiflorals, especially Paph rothschildianum. These are now greatly improved and judging standards have evolved to reflect the changes. To get a "Roth" awarded it must now have at least a thirty-two inch stem, a dorsal sepal that measures seven cm across, no branching, a minimum of six flowers open at once, and straight petals. Similarly, Paph St. Swithin (Paph philippinense x Paph rothschildianum) and Paph Michael Koopowitz (Paph philippinense x Paph sandermanianum) have greatly extended their petal length. One Michael Koopowitz, that received an FCC, had petals that measured 40 cm! Another breeding line being developed utilizes Paph philippinense x Paph fairieanum to make Paph Kenneth Marple.

In closing, Norito noted that there are approximately 60 known Paph species, and over 20,000 orchids world-wide. These plants have developed and evolved over millions of years and it is important that we keep them available. To do this, each and everyone of us needs to think in conservation terms. One way to do this is to spread your plants around. If you have a particularly good plant, or just one that you are particularly fond of, share it with your friends. By giving others a division you ensure that the plant will continue -- and you will know where to go to get a replacement when your plant dies. Norito stressed that once a species is lost, it is gone forever, and there is no way to ever replace it.

*Transcription by Joy Lemieux ,  
Secretary Sandhills Orchid Society*

**Growers Day will be Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Raulston Arboretum near NC State from 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Our morning speaker will be Linda Thorne, an American Orchid Society Judge, Officer of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, commercial grower, and orchid hybridizer. She will be speaking on the culture and care of phalaenopsis. Our afternoon speaker will be Steven Frowine, a national horticultural expert and author of four books on orchids: *Orchids for Dummies*; *Fragrant Orchids: A Guide to Selecting, Growing, and Enjoying*; *Miniature Orchids*; and soon to be published this summer, *Moth Orchids- The Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis*. These books will be available for sale at Growers Day where Steve will be conducting a book signing. Tuition for Growers Day is \$25 for the entire day, which includes morning and afternoon lectures, a box lunch, and a blooming size orchid.

**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.



## Growing Tips for May

By Courtney T. Hackney

The final part of this series addresses pesticide application and products for those with large collections in greenhouses or growers that keep their orchids outside the home. Pesticides all have a prescribed re-entry time on the label, which must be followed after applications. If these products are applied inside the home there is always the possibility of contamination of surfaces where you and your family could contact the pesticide. Always err on the side of caution.

As noted in earlier parts of the series, most pesticides potentially have some negative effect on the plant. There are, however, a number of steps that can be taken to minimize damage to your orchids. First, always use exactly what the instructions recommend. Do not use “about” 1 teaspoon. Use exactly one teaspoon. Use a dropper for quantities less than 1 tablespoon. These can be purchased at the drug store with increments on them. Never use any utensils that might accidentally be used later for medicine or anything that humans would use. Keep it strictly for pesticides and away from children and pets.

Next be sure your orchids are watered thoroughly before applying the pesticide, preferably in the early morning when the greenhouse temperature is low. Orchids should be sprayed early enough so that plants are dry by the time intense solar radiation is heating up the leaf surface and your greenhouse. When mixing pesticides use pure water, as water that is high in dissolved solids or that has been mixed with fertilizer can alter the relative toxicity of the product. **Always wear gloves and respirator when handling the concentrated form of the pesticide.** Follow this rule no matter how non-toxic a product is supposed to be.

There are two hormonal insect products that have worked well for me over the years, because they are effective against cattleya

(Boisduval) scale. This type of product does not kill insects directly, but interrupts their molting cycle. Both are, unfortunately, relatively expensive initially, but worth the cost in the long run. **Enstar** was the first one that worked well for me. Insects must come into contact with Enstar to be effective, which requires that orchids be soaked during the application, especially the undersides of leaves. The only problem I had with this product was that it seemed to lose its potency after the concentrate was opened. Because it worked so well initially, and my collection is relatively small, it remained on the shelf for over a year before it was all used.

The second hormonal product, **Distance**, has been more effective because it is a systemic, one incorporated into the plant tissues. Some botanical gardens use this as a drench and claim they need only apply it twice a year. That application rate, twice a year,

seems to work well when it is used as a spray as well. This product is incredibly effective to the degree that I could not find a single live scale three months after application.

Most products labeled for scale suggest three applications spaced 7-10 days apart for complete scale control. Do not apply Distance more than once every 3 months as there does seem to be a toxic effect, especially in thin leaved orchids, e.g. miltonias and oncidiums.

The only downside for this product is cost, over \$200/pint. Because it lasts so long and works so well it may be necessary for several growers to join together and share. So far, there does not seem to be a loss of toxicity with storage of the concentrate.

Finally, there is one product widely available and relatively inexpensive. It is **Bayer's**

***First, always use exactly what the instructions recommend. Do not use “about” 1 teaspoon. Use exactly one teaspoon.***

**Rose and Flower Insect spray.** There are two proven ingredients, an organic insecticide that kills insects on contact and one that is systemic. It is available at Lowes Garden centers for under \$10 in a premixed form. Concentrates are not usually available. The premixed bottles are ideal for smaller collections or for spot problems. Avoid reapplication within a month of application as there also seems to be cumulative plant toxicity.

<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>May 12</b>	<b>Ron Parsons</b>	<b>Rarities and Oddities</b>
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	<b>June 9th</b>	<b>Steve Frowine</b>	<b>Orchids for Dummies</b>
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	<b>July 14th</b>	<b>Mario Blanco Univ. of Florida</b>	<b>Orchids and their Pollinators</b>
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

**Welcome Table****Refreshments**

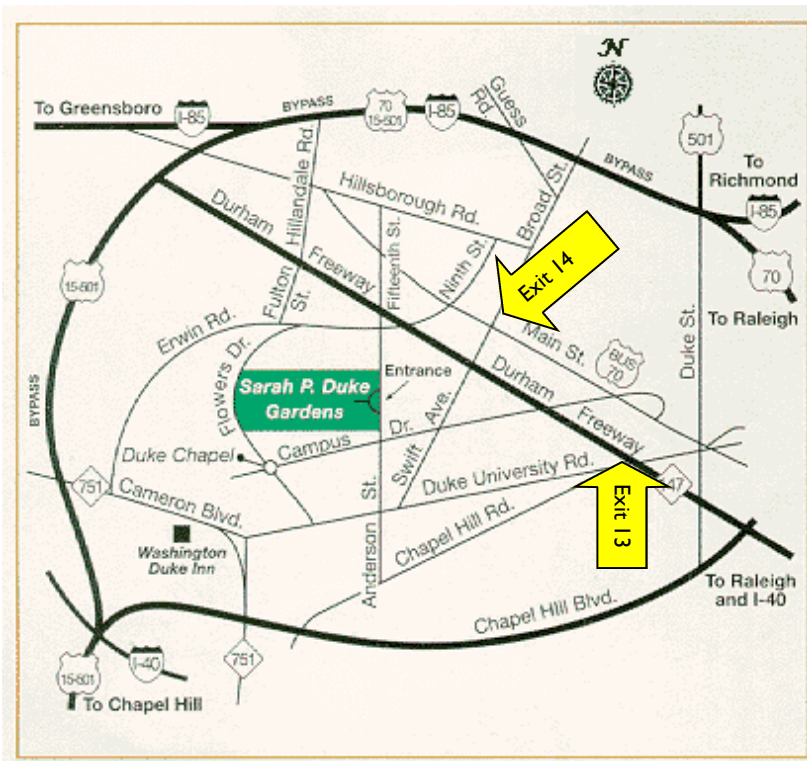
<b>May</b>	<b>Faye Granberry Hardy</b>	<b>Sue Morand and Creighton Humphreys</b>
<b>June</b>		<b>Anita Hall</b>



**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