



# Orchidacea

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



## Speaker for Oct 13, 2008 The World of Cypripediums

### Carson E. Whitlow

Carson became interested in orchids in 1958 when he was a sophomore in college. The following years he worked on the weekends and summers repotting orchids for a firm in Springfield, Illinois. After graduating in 1960, Carson went to Santa Ana, California to work for the prestigious firm of B. O. Bracey and Company. A year later, he changed his direction and entered upon a career in government service with the Orange County (California) Health Department. Career-wise, he has been an administrator in public health since that time, changing in 1988 to highway safety. Educationally, he has a Bachelors of Arts degree in education and mathematics (1960) from Blackburn College, Carlinville, Illinois, and a Master of Science of Public Health degree in biostatistics (1973) from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

After leaving the Bracey firm, Carson established his own collection, mostly of blue Cattleyas, with which he undertook hybridizing in association with Fred A. Stewart, Orchids, in San Gabriel, California. From 1964 thru 1969, he produced in excess of 60 blue cattleya hybrids, many of which are still in collections, arising from the original seedlings or as mericlones. Many are used as basic parents in today's blue Cattleya breeding.

In 1973, with his move to central Iowa, Carson took a distinct change in direction, working with the hardy terrestrial orchids, primarily the Cypripediums and Calopogons. His work resulted in the first registered artificial hybrids of Cypripedium in 1987 and Calopogon in 1991. He continues to hybridize these genera and has built a small business, Cyp. Haven, as retail outlet for his work.

In 1995, Carson's interest in the internet and an easier means of finding orchid related sites on the world wide web brought about the birth of "[The Orchid Mall](#)," which today has become the definitive link site for orchids on the internet.

Carson's hybrid work is recognized throughout the world. He has published over 30 articles in U.S. and European journals. He has been giving presentations on his breeding and propagation for over 30 years, throughout the United States, Canada, and in Scotland at the 14th World Orchid Congress in 1993. He is truly a world-class hybridizer, author and speaker.

Carson can be contacted at Carson E. Whitlow 22957 - 280th Street, Adel, IA 50003-4491  
Phone: (515) 993-4841 Fax: (515) 309-2302 E-mail: [SlipperGuy@aol.com](mailto:SlipperGuy@aol.com)

### Inside this issue:

<i>This Month's Speaker</i>	1
<i>Minutes of the Last Meeting,</i>	2
<i>Last Month's Speaker Transcript</i>	3,4
<i>Jack Webster Show table Awards</i>	5,6
<i>Fall Auction</i>	7,8
<i>Growing Tips</i>	9
<i>Announcements Coming events</i>	10
<i>Map and Directions to Sarah P Duke Gardens</i>	11

**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  
Orangegr@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: 20010

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

Vice President Judith Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on September 8, 2008. There were 60 members in attendance including our newest, John Dickson. Judith brought 2 co-workers, Terry Membrano and Nila Godwin and guests for their third visit, were Mark & Steve. A correction to the last meeting's minutes to clarify that Dahlia Thompson, is a new member and not just a guest of Robin & Josh Gurlitz. The minutes of the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was then approved, along with the Treasurer's Report. Announcements: Diane Parks brought out the library books on carts allowing members easier access. Name tags will now be collected at the end of break. Pam Schuffler was recognized for hosting the Hospitality Table. Andrea and Bill Erwin staffed the Welcome Table.

Harry Gallis from American Orchid Society gave a short presentation on becoming a member of the AOS. A membership costs \$60 for a year, which includes a subscription to Orchids. There will be a national meeting at Longwood Gardens outside of Philadelphia October 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. He brought 4 AOS awarded plants to be sold at the Fall Auction.

A donation will be made in Jack Webster's honor to Orchid Digest and the AOS. Pledges made from members will be matched up to \$500 by the TOS. Please send your pledge to Treasurer, Leo Sagasti, as soon as possible.

Robin Gurlitz, chairperson for the State Fair exhibit, gave an update on the October 16<sup>th</sup> –26<sup>th</sup> event. Ju-

dith Goldstein, Miriam Sagasti and Alan Miller will help with the set-up. Volunteers are needed to water orchids, answer questions/represent the society, put in and take down the display. Members were asked to bring their plants (**without bugs**) to the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and they will be transported to the Fairgrounds. Please make sure to have all plants labeled with a return address and include a list of the plants. Volunteers will wear aprons and have "Frequently Asked Questions" sheets.

David Pickett and Heather Schneider spoke about the Fall Auction on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Crabtree Park. Members were asked to bring a dish for the potluck luncheon at Noon. The auction follows at 1:00 PM. Plants from Hoosier Orchids and the Jack Webster estate will be on auction.

On Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, Jack Webster's family is selling his plants in Southern Pines. TOS will be purchasing plants for future auctions, raffles, shows and to keep in a collection. A group will join John Stanton and Paul Feaver to help with the purchases. The collection will be housed at the Orchid Trail Greenhouses.

The Show Table was presented by Bob Davidson and Past President of TOS and AOS Judge, Dr. Harry Gallis. After a short break, Keith Clayton was introduced by Marie Crock and gave his talk on "2007 Taiwan Orchid Show" and the orchid growers of Taiwan. He also supplied the plants at the sale table. Jack Webster Show Table Award Plants

In the Greenhouse Grown category: 1<sup>st</sup> Place ribbon went to C. Swan Lake x Donna Craig grown by Bob Davidson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place *Den. bracteosum (Pink) x bracteosum (White)* grown by Phil Warner, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place *Den. dearei* grown by Paul Feaver

In the Non-Greenhouse Grown category: 1<sup>st</sup> Place *Neostylis Lou Sneary* grown by Allison Finch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place *Den. Woon Leng* grown by Janet Moore, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place *Vanda Pontip x Ascda. Motes Mandarin HCC/AOS* grown by Robin Gurlitz.

Raffle tickets were drawn with the meeting being adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Heather Schneider filling in for Bob Meyer, Secretary.

**TOS State Fair Exhibit.** Flowering Orchids are needed from members. Bring you plants to the October meeting for the show table on Monday and and leave them for the State Fair or bring the to the Flower and Garden Building on Wednesday before 12 noon at the Fair for the setup of the exhibit . Please bring your orchids in a green plastic pot or put a clay or black pot in a new green plastic outer pot. This will allow us to have a uniform display. Baskets will be wrapped or left natural. If you are bringing several, bring a list of the names and your name on a sheet of paper. You don't need an entry pass on the day of the setup.

**Member Sales Table at  
the October Meeting**

**Jean Webster donated 100 orchids to the Triangle Orchid Society** from Jack Webster's collection. They will be sold at the Sales Table at the October meeting for \$5 each.

**Transcript of Last Month's Speaker :**

Keith Clayton from the Sandhills Orchid Society, told us about his trip to the 2007 International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) Symposium and Taiwan International Orchid Show. The show and Taiwan Orchid Grower's Association, and held at the Taiwan Orchid Plantation and Floral Exhibit Center brought together some of the best orchid growers in the region. For Keith, however, the show itself was not the highlight of the trip. As part of his package with the IPA, he was able to visit a number of the most up to date phalaenopsis nurseries in the world.

The first stop, after the show, was the Clone International Biotech Co (also known as the Unimax Group). Keith was blown away by the sheer size of this operation. He said that they have 34 positions in their lab where workers spend all day planting and replating orchid seedlings into flasks. The seedlings are then planted directly into two inch pots packed with pure sphagnum moss. This operation is so efficient that it only takes 13 months from this replating process to the first bloom.

Clone International is one of the very few nurseries that the US government has certified as pest free and therefore permitted to import plants growing in sphagnum into the US. Without this certification, growers must ship their plants bare root and the plants must be received by a nursery able to pot them and get them re-established so they can be marketed.

Keith had some great pictures of this operation, detailing the process of packing the tiny plantlets into clear plastic pots. Keith described how the developing plants are moved into larger and larger pots as they grow. Only water purified through a RO system is used, and remarkably, all the plants are watered by hand. The plants are kept very dry to promote root growth.

Keith showed us numerous slides of huge phal plants with long cascading perfectly shingled inflorescences. Keith explained that the plants they use

for this are actually three or four years old, and the inflorescence is attached to wires that train the spike to present itself so attractively. To produce such strong flowering, the plants are not allowed to bloom prematurely. This is managed by maintaining the temperature in the greenhouse at 80 degrees or more. When the growers are ready to develop the plants they drop the temperature and the plants spike immediately. Keith said that these plants, in 5 gallon size pots, sell domestically for about \$150.00 each!

Keith also visited Chin Hua Orchids, supplier of our overseas order earlier this year. There many of their plants are all grown outdoors with only a shade cloth over them. They grow a range of plants including Cattis, Dens, and even Catasetums.

The next stop on Keith's tour was Ox Orchid Farms. They grown primarily phalaenopsis and use light to control spiking. Keith explained that research done by Dr. Wang, formerly of Texas A&M showed that this method would prevent Phals from spiking. They pull a dark cloth over their plants during the week, and pull back the dark cloth on the weekends which saves energy costs. Because Phals will not spike without adequate light, the folks at Ox are able to control the bloom time of their phals.

At Ox the lab workstations are kept sterile by using laminar flow ventilators to blow sterile air over the hands of the workers replanting plantlets. Plantlets are moved from flask to flask as they grow, each time with fewer and fewer plants in the flask to accommodate their increasing size. At Ox, plants may be replanted as often as three times before finally being placed into individual 2 inch pots. Keith showed slides of huge shelves with row upon row of flasks, all covered with shade cloth to control their growth rate.

Next stop was National Chai-Yi University's Horticultural Technical Center, run by Dr. Yang. He believes that the latest breeding trend for phalaenopsis is to branched multiflorals with smaller flowers.

The final stop on this tour was the Brother Orchid Nursery Co. Ltd., which is situated at 11,500 feet. This nursery, in operation since 1980, has four facilities, each with labs and greenhouses. They ship 4 million plants each year.

Of course, with exposure to sooooo many phals, how could Keith resist bringing some home. He did in fact purchase several flasks, as well as plastic pouches each containing 15 plants. These he was able to carry in his suitcase, and to pass through agriculture with no problem. Other plants he purchased were shipped home and were still in great shape even though it took several weeks for them to arrive.

*Transcript of the speaker by Joy Lemieux ,  
Sandhills Orchids Society*

#### **Have Dinner with the speaker**

At 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



**1<sup>st</sup> Place ribbon went to Cattleya Swan Lake x Donna Craig, grown by Bob Davidson**

**Jack Webster Show  
Table Awards,  
Greenhouse Grown**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place ribbon *Dendrobium bracteosum* (Pink) x *bracteosum* (White) grown by Phil Warner**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place ribbon went to *Dendrobium dearei* grown by Paul Feaver**

**Jack Webster Show Table  
Awards, Non Greenhouse  
Grown**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place ribbon went to Neostylis  
Lou Sneary grown by Allison  
Finch**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place ribbon went to  
Vanda Pontip x Ascda.  
Motes Mandarin  
HCC/AOS grown by Robin  
& Josh Gurlitz.**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place ribbon went to Dendrobium Woon Leng grown  
by Janet Moore**

## The TOS Fall Auction

(Heather Schneider)

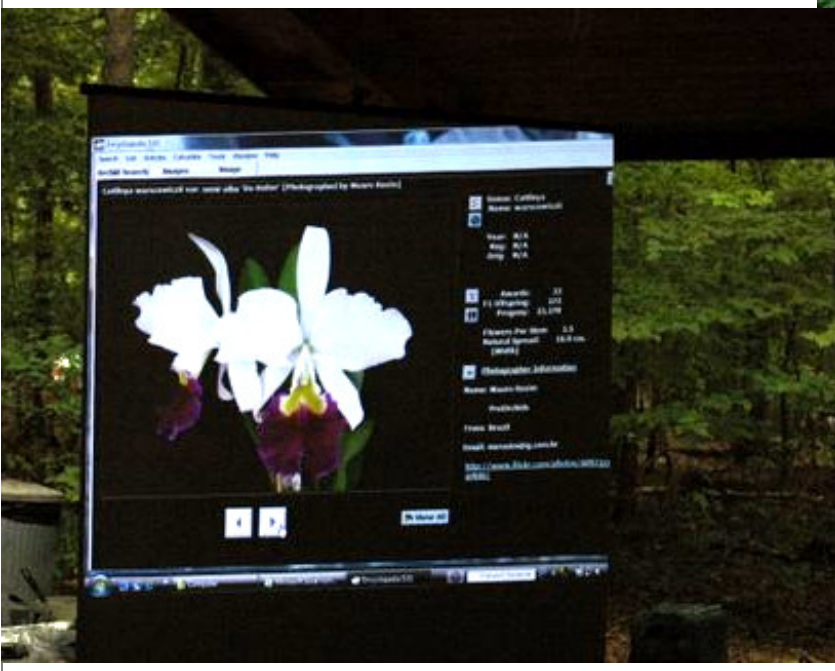
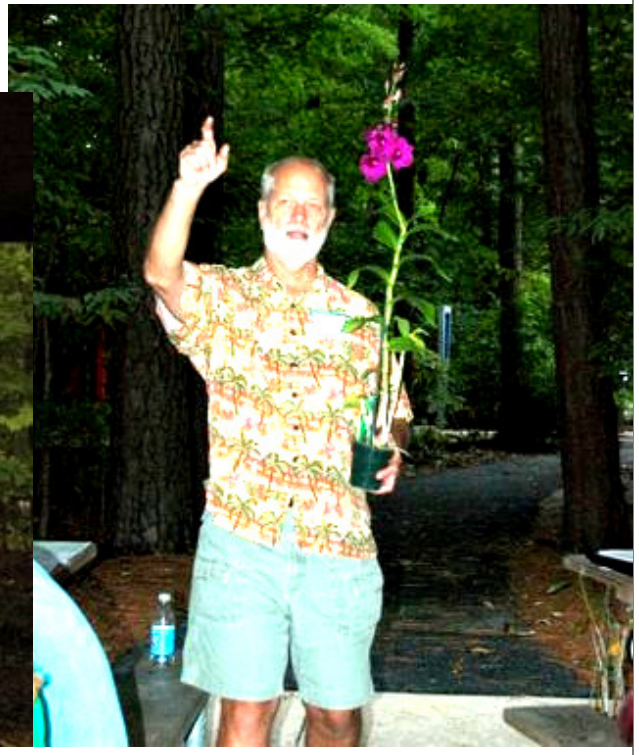
We are happy to report that the Fall Auction was quite a success! On Saturday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, the TOS held their Fall Auction at the Lake Crabtree Park in Morrisville. The Beech shelter was a great setting to hold the crowd that showed up. We hope to hold another auction there next year, as the location is perfect. David Pickett organized a wonderful event; a job well done! By the end



of the auction, we had counted 45 bidders among the 65 in attendance. Over \$4,000 is gross sales. Some new faces were seen among the TOS members. Paul Virtue announced that anyone buying an auction plant would receive a TOS membership until the end of this year. Heather Schneider's brother-in-law, Sal Mungal was happy with that offer and looks forward to the next meeting!

With close to 250 plants to auction, it was a busy day. After a tasty pot luck luncheon, the bidding started at 1 PM. Mike Joehrendt & Nick Plummer provided the crowd a lively auction. With a plant list in

hand, and Melissa Bullard & Heather Schneider handing the plants to the auctioneers, things went





smoothly. Paul Virtue provided the audience with a flower photo of non-blooming plants up for bid on a slide show screen. This helped selling an orchid a great deal. All the plants donated and ones specially purchased from Jack Webster's collection and other orchid growers for the event by John Stanton sold by 4 PM. Quite a few beautiful plants engaged a bidding war – the highest bid was \$70. Among the bids, were bargain opportunities, as one round yielded a seedling collection that 7 quick bidders got a plant for \$7!

Thank you to Robin Gurlitz, Candy Joehrendt, Michael Wagner, for recording the bidding & signing people out. Also thank you to Marie Crock, Bob Meyer, Paul Virtue for help in transporting the orchids from Orchid Trail to the park. Bob Meyer did the publicity for the event. Bob Meyer even gave a hand in being an auctioneer. And it goes without saying, a big thanks to all that brought a dish to share, the spread was delicious!





## Growing Tips for October

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

Few orchid growers can explain why pH is important to orchid culture. If one looks up pH in the dictionary, the definition has to do with the number of hydrogen ions in water; a fact that has little meaning to most of us.

The pH of water used to grow orchids is important and so is the pH of the medium used. Most hobbyists use whatever medium is available and the water that comes from the tap. They do not need to understand pH because the combination of medium and water they are using is well within the ideal range for most orchids.

Many years ago, Ralph Wasdon, was known as one of the best orchid growers in Eastern North Carolina. He was noted for using only K-Mart generic fertilizer, one of the cheapest around. Other growers, noting his technique tried to duplicate his growth without success. Ralph knew nothing of pH, but by trial and error had found the right combination of growing medium, which when combined with his water source and fertilizer, provided an almost perfect pH balance for the absorption of nutrients. His very dilute fertilizer mix, resulted in water with a pH of 6.2, ideal for nutrient uptake.

There are a few of us who have extremely poor wa-

ter or who decide to try a new type of fertilizer, growing medium, or pesticide/fungicide who do need to understand pH. Some water sources are extremely basic or acidic and there are a few fertilizers that contain excess micronutrients. Micronutrients can be toxic under very low pH.

Hobbyists that try to improve their growing by testing water for dissolved solids or pH may also fail to appreciate that it is the pH of the medium combined with water that is most important. While water source is one component, most water and nutrient uptake occurs where roots are in contact with the

***His very dilute fertilizer mix, resulted in water with a pH of 6.2, ideal for nutrient uptake.***

medium. Here, the pH may change dramatically from that of the applied water.

In peat based media, for example, the breakdown products of peat lead to acid conditions that may become extreme. If micronutrients are in the water source or applied as fertilizer they may become so soluble under acidic condi-

tions that the orchids receive toxic levels. This can be exacerbated by using some of the high nitrogen Cal-Mag fertilizers especially blended for orchids. These fertilizers, when mixed with water, lower the pH. Typically, this is not a problem if the water source is full of minerals. If the source is rainwater or Deionized water, the acidity can be so extreme that orchid roots are killed. Adding a solution that raises pH can produce fantastic growth in orchids, but requires control of the pH.

Many pesticides are most effective at a specific pH, usually slightly acidic. One popular fungicide, Kocide, can be toxic under a very acidic pH, but very effective if the pH is over 7. Kocide contains copper that is soluble and taken up by plants at lower pH values.

So what does the average orchid hobbyist need to know about pH. If your orchids are growing well, the answer is nothing. If you begin experimenting with new fertilizers, media or pesticides, a simple pH meter may prevent you from damaging your orchids and make you a better grower.

**Announcements:**

**March 20, 2009 TOS Show date** at the North Gate Mall, Durham.

**The Nominating Committee** consisting of Judith Goldstein and John Myhre and Alan Miller have proposed the following Officers and Board of Trustees for 2009 .

President Phil Warner, Vice President Alan Miller, Secretary Bob Meyer, Treasurer Leo Sagasti, Board of Trustees Marie Crock for 2010, Melissa Bullard and David Devine for 2011. Voting will take place at the November meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

<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>October</b>	<b>Carson Whitlow</b>	<b>The World of Cypripediums</b>
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	<b>November</b>	<b>Glen Decker Piping Rock Orchids, Galloway, NY</b>	<b>Phragmipediums</b>
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program	<b>December</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>	<b>Member Covered Dish</b>
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes			
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

**Welcome Table****Refreshments**

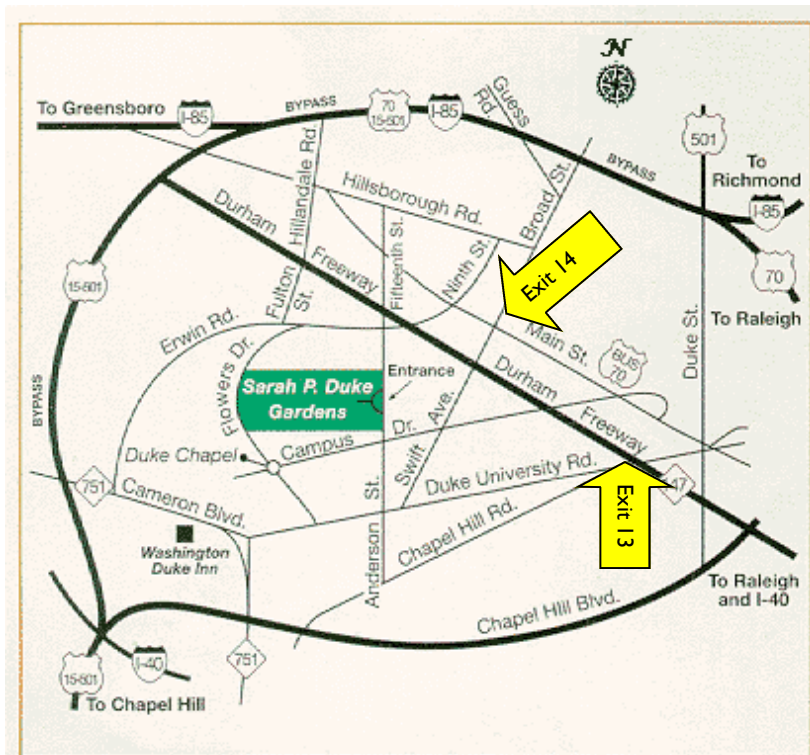
<b>October</b>	<b>Debby and Jeremy Bueter</b>	<b>Marsha Tai</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Tom and Marsha Jepson</b>	



**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 Ander-  
son 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