



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for April 13, 2009 Jeff Bradley - Classic Cattleyas

Jeff Bradley has been an avid grower of classic *Cattleyas* and to some degree, historic *Phalaenopsis*, since the age of eight, when his father built his first greenhouse. Jeff had a most unusual childhood, as his godparents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Proebstle of Brazoria Texas, took him under their wing at a very early age, and introduced him to many of the great orchid legends of the past. Mr. Proebstle was a founder of the Houston Orchid Society and an early trustee of the AOS with one of the premier *Cattleya* collections in the country.

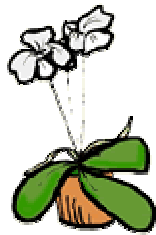
Jeff traveled across the United States and abroad with the Proebstles absorbing as much of the historical facts on famous orchid plants and their growers. His passion for orchid history has never waned, rather it has intensified through the years and he has remained in close contact with the descendants of the great orchid legends.

Jeff's *Cattleya* collection is nothing short of historic. He maintains three greenhouses of over 3000 classic *Cattleyas* and some *Phalaenopsis*, all of which have been significant to the historical aspects of orchid growing in both the United States and Europe. He maintains one of the most extensive collections of historical photographs, catalogue and correspondence on the celebrated orchid growers of the past.

Jeff may be contacted at:
623 Hawthorne Street, Suite Nine, Houston, Texas 77006.
Phone: (713) 410-5951 Email: jefftex@att.net

Membership Dues

This is the last notice for this year's membership dues. If you have not submitted your payment for this year, please send in your payment to Leo Sagasti, Treasurer. Your dues help support the programs the TOS offers through the year.



Member Plant Sale for April Meeting

This month's speaker will not be bringing plants. A member plant sale will be held

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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.TriangleOrchidSociety.org

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Minutes of the Last Meeting 3/9/2009

The March meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on Monday, 9 March 2009 at Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, NC. The meeting was called to order by President Phil Warner at 7:35 PM. The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Christine Corey was welcomed as a guest to our meeting. Thank you to Leo and Miriam Sagasti for hosting the Hospitality Table and to Lee Allgood for staffing the Welcome Table.

Former member John Adams had orchids for sale at the meeting due to his move to Arizona.

Heather Schneider was staffing another sales table of orchids purchased by the TOS.

A new gardening newspaper, The Triangle Gardener, will start publishing this April. The TOS has accepted their offer to participate in the Southern Ideal Home Show at the NC State fairgrounds as part of their "Ask the Expert" program. The TOS will answer questions about orchids and pass out society literature Friday, April 3rd from 2 PM – 4 PM and again on Sunday, April 5th from 10AM – 1 PM. Thank you to David Devine, Alan Miller, Bob Meyer, Leo & Miriam Sagasti, and Phil Warner for volunteering your time.

The TOS spring auction will be Sunday, April 19th at the Beech Pavilion in Lake Crabtree Park in Morrisville, same location as the fall auction. Any orchid donations can be brought to the April meeting or to the Orchid Trail greenhouses in Morrisville. The potluck lunch starts at noon, with the auction commencing at 1 PM. A large number of blooming or in spike orchids have been

ordered from Hawaii, so expect a good selection.

Speaker Weyman Bussey presented the Show Table, and after a refreshment break and his introduction by Marie Crock, gave his talk on "Showy Mexican Orchids".

Following Weyman's talk, the Jack Webster Show Table plants were awarded. In the Non-Greenhouse Grown category,

1st Place – Paph. philippinensis x sib by Judith Goldstein,

2nd Place – Catasetum saccatum by Bob Meyer,

3rd Place – Cattleya Jose Martin "Mother's Favorite" by Judith Goldstein.

In the Greenhouse Grown category, there was a rare tie for

1st Place – Sophronitis coccinea by Paul Feaver and Blc Straight Answer "No Question" by Bob Davidson,

2nd Place – Btcm Little Dragon "Carmella" by Lee Allgood.

Raffle Plants and calendars were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Bob Meyer, Secretary, Triangle Orchid Society.

Show Table Volunteers

Anyone who feels qualified and is interested in teaming up to do the plant table for the monthly meeting, please get in touch with Bob Davidson, Chairman, plant table committee.

[bob@cattleya.us]

For Bob's comments on last months plant table, see <http://www.cattleya.us/tos>

Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Weyman has been growing orchids since he was 12 years old. Currently he lives in southern California where he grows Cymbidiums commercially. However, he has an exhaustive knowledge of Mexican species as he lived in Mexico for twenty years. During that time he traveled extensively around the country, and developed an appreciation for the diversity of orchids that grow there. Weyman claims that there are over 1,000 species of orchids that are native to Mexico. His presentation was unique in that he challenged us to identify the species he had on the screen – with very broad hints if you were paying attention and reading his captions! He was determined that everyone go home with a kiekie of his *Den kingianum*! Weyman's message was very basic – you need to do your homework and know what conditions your orchid experiences in its natural environment. Too often we simply assume that a South American species, or a Mexican species comes from a hot, humid tropical environment. Weyman demonstrated that that this is simply not true. Using his maps and multicolored graphs Weyman demonstrated just how many growing environments there are within a very limited geographical area within Mexico. Beginning on the east coast, then crossing to the west coast, his photos showed us how conditions can be totally different.

Species that grown on the east coast, for example, experience their dry season at a different time of year than species that grow on the west coast. Also, orchid species grow at different elevations, creating temperature variations that need to be accommodated in our growing environments.

Because seventy percent of Mexico is dessert, most of the species are found in the mountainous areas where the climate is considered “moderate”. However, the Mexican orchid species, like species from elsewhere, have evolved to survive and be sustained in the environment they inhabit. Weyman demonstrated this by reminding us that there are numerous types of orchids. By remembering his anachronism TALES, we are reminded that orchids can be terrestrial, aquatic, lithophytic, epiphytic or saprophytic. To grow our orchids to their full potential we need to make the effort to understand their basic needs, and growing them in conditions that replicate their natural environment as closely as possible.

If you enjoyed Weyman's presentation, and would like to review all that information that came at us so fast and furiously, go to his website. He has posted his entire presentation at rudvalisorchids@gmail.com.

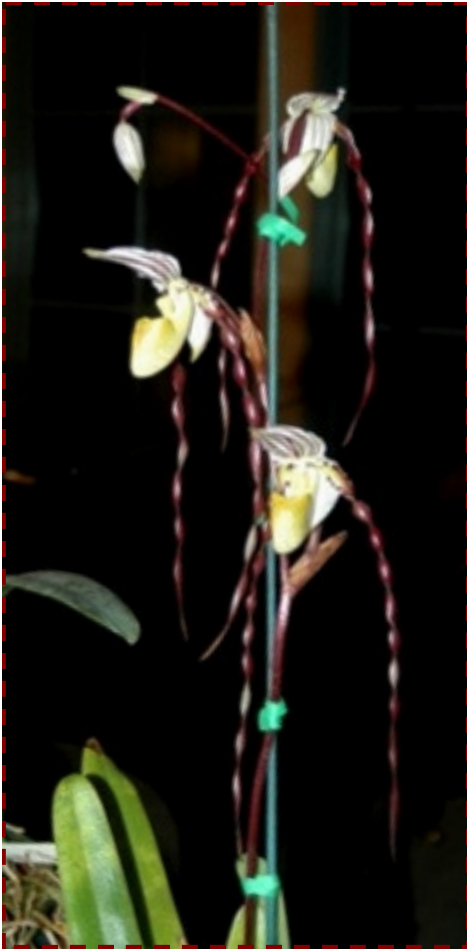
Transcript by Joy Lemieux, Sandhills Orchid Society

Triangle Orchid Society Spring Orchid Auction

To be held at the Beech Pavilion on Sunday April 19th, 2009
at Lake Crabtree County Park off Aviation Parkway ,
just south of RDU and I-40 (exit 285)

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 s welcome!



1st Place Ribbon:
Paph. philippinensis x sib,
grown by Judith Goldstein

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown**

2nd Place Ribbon:
Catasetum saccatum
grown by Bob Meyer

3rd Place Ribbon:
Cattleya Jose Martin "Mother's Favorite"
grown by Judith Goldstein



**Jack Webster
Awards
Greenhouse
Grown**

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



**1st Place Ribbon:
Ble Straight Answer "No Question"
grown by Bob Davidson**



**2nd Place Ribbon:
Btcm Little Dragon "Carmella"
grown by Lee Allgood**

Growing Tips for March

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

This month is one of the busiest for every orchid grower. After a period of relative dormancy, orchids of every kind are beginning to grow. New orchid growers must learn to recognize when the growth cycle begins. Proper repotting and fertilizing of orchids depends on that recognition. The purpose of repotting should not be to multiply a plant, but to replace decaying medium. A well grown plant, however, will often need a larger pot and yield extra pieces (divisions) for friends.

In nature, growth begins with some signal from nature, usually a change in day length or the beginning of the rainy season. Orchid hobbyists who become skilled growers of species also become competent naturalists because they must learn the key elements of the environment from which their difficult-to-grow orchids come.

Most of us do not undertake growing the difficult species, but enjoy the more generic hybrids that are much easier to grow and for which, signs of growth are clear. Standard phalaenopsis, those with large flowers, begin their growth cycle when days begin to get longer and the temperature within the pot remains above 60 F. They will begin growth even with flowers on spikes. However, growth will begin earlier and proceed faster if spikes are removed. New leaves emerging from the center of the old leaves and new roots breaking from the stem just above the last living roots are a sure sign that growth has begun.

When this happens, your phalaenopsis can be repotted with the least damage. If your phalaenopsis was a gift, it likely needs repotting. If the medium in the pot seems to stay wet longer or your orchids' leaves are wilting, it likely needs repotting. Repotting can be as simple as removing the plant from the medium, shaking the old medium from the roots and replacing the orchid in a new pot with new medium. New hobbyists can find lots of information, including videos, on the process of repotting or attend a local orchid society potting demonstration and learn how to repot a phalaenopsis. It is easy.

Cattleya hybrids can generally be repotted in spring too. The trick is to begin the process before the orchid initiates root growth. Once new roots begin, there is the risk of damage to these new roots, which may set the plant back. It is OK to repot before roots are seen unless the hybrid is a "bifoliate-type" (very tall pseudobulbs and two or more leaves on each bulb). If you have one of this group, wait until you see new roots, which may be later in the spring or early summer. Members of this group can be killed by repotting at the wrong time.

Paphs and Phrags (slippers) are best repotted right after they flower. While they decrease their growth rate when light levels are lower, they will grow all year long. Usually, there is a new growth beginning to mature as the older growth finishes flowering on a plant.

Vandas are particularly sensitive to low temperatures. This group of orchids grows best in high light, accompanied by night temperatures above 65 F and days above 80 F. Most mature vandas are grown mounted or in baskets. Hobbyists that grow indoors are often enticed into purchasing vandas in hanging baskets and then left wondering what to do with them. They can be repotted into large clay pots as long as the medium has a diameter of an inch or more. However, it is best to avoid repotting this type of orchid. Once it gets warm, find a place outside under a lightly shading tree and water frequently.

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 at (919) 969-1612
before 5 PM Monday
to make your reservations.



Upcoming Orchid Events

The Triangle Orchid Society is having a Spring Auction on Sunday, April 19th at Lake Crabtree County Park on Aviation Parkway in Morrisville, NC. A Member potluck luncheon at Noon, and the Auction starts at 1PM. Volunteers needed to help - please contact Bob Meyer, Auction Chairman or Heather Schneider, co-chair.

Grower's Day, August 8th - JC Raulston Arboretum, Fall Auction in late September, & State Fair in October 15th -25th

April 17th-19th, Deep South Orchid Society Show, Savannah, GA "Orchids on Parade" at the Savannah Mall

Duke Gardens Spring Plant & Craft Sale:
Fri., April 24th Presale 4 - 6 pm, Sat. April 25th Full Day Sale 9 am - 6 pm Held at the Sarah Duke Garden Center

For a complete list of shows, see:
www.aos.org, click on "Events" & "Show Schedules"

| Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda: | Calendar 2009 | Speaker | Topic |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 7:00-7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs | April 13th | Jeff Bradley | Classic Cattleyas |
| 7:30-7:45 Business Meeting Announcements | | * Member Plant Sale | |
| 7:45-8:10 Show Table Review | May 11th | Nina Rach | Orchids in Brazil's Matatlantica Forests |
| 8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break | | | |
| 8:30-9:20 Program | | | |
| 9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle & Door Prizes | June 8th | Jose Exposito | Orchid Culture |
| 9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends | | | |

Welcome Table

Refreshments

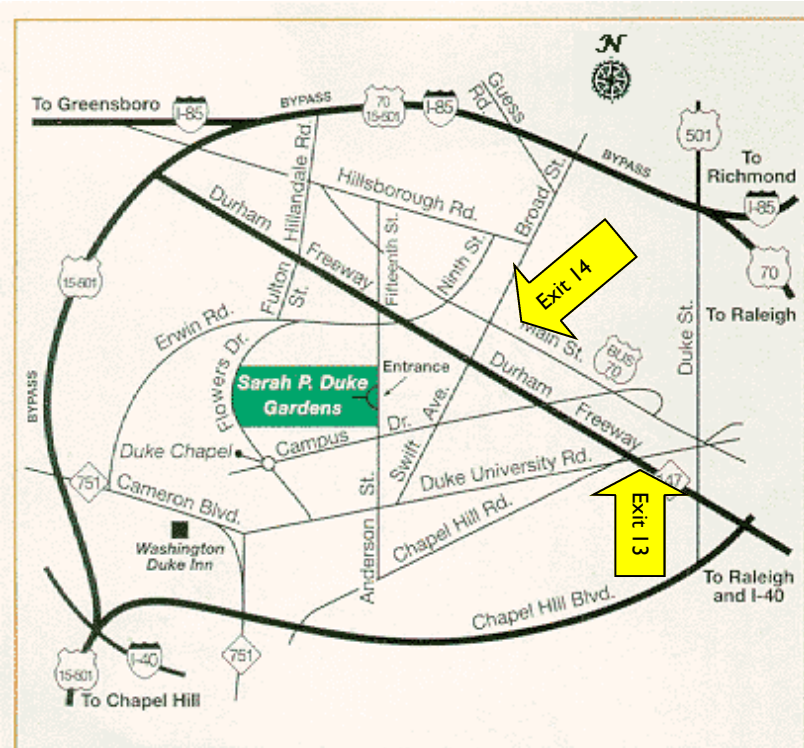
| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| March | Need volunteers | Gerry Bowater |
| April | Need volunteers | Lee Allgood |



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.TriangleOrchidSociety.org

From the East. **Exit 13 on the Durham Freeway(#147)**
 Head South on Chapel Hill Rd. Turn right on Anderson St.
 The Gardens are on the left.
 From the West. **Exit 14 on the Durham Freeway (147)**
 Head South on Swift Ave. Turn right on Campus Drive ,
 Turn right on Anderson St. The Gardens are on the 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