



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens



Holiday Potluck Supper **Monday, December 14th** **Meeting begins at 6:30 PM**

As this busy year comes to a close, we pause to reflect and reconnect with the many members of the Triangle Orchid Society. Please join us at the meeting on Monday, that will start at 6:30 pm, an hour earlier than usual start time. We ask that you bring a covered dish to share. Please contact Miriam Sagasti at MiriamSagasti@bellsouth.net or (919) 942-9839, if you have any questions or would like to help with setting up. President Phil Warner will give a State of the Society Address, followed by the Show Table. A small auction of plants will take place of a speaker for the evening's event. We will need volunteers to help set up for the auction. Please contact Heather Schneider at (919) 465-1984 or LIFLNC@yahoo.com. Sign up sheets for the 2010 volunteer opportunities will be available, and we hope that you will offer your help in at least one event during the coming year. We have many exciting events planned in addition to the Orchid Crawls, Grower's Day, NC State Fair, Spring and Fall Auctions. Please consider volunteering your time at one of these events.

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Have Dinner with the Speaker in January

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.

2010 Triangle Orchid Society Membership Dues

\$18 per year single,
or \$24 per year for 2 persons
living at the same address

Please mail to:

Leo Sagasti, Treasurer
2306 Damascus Church Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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

TOS Officers and Board Members

President

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pwarner@fminet.com

Vice President

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Alan Miller (919) 969-1612
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Secretary

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Past President

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At Large Trustees: 2010

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Minutes of the Last Meeting 9/14/2009

The TOS meeting of 9 November 2009 was called to order by President Phil Warner at 7:25 PM. 57 members were present. Thank you to Heather Schneider for staffing the Welcome Table and to Caroline Bernard for running the Hospitality Table.

The minutes of the October meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved.

The society had a great exhibit at the State Fair. Thank you to Robin Gurlitz for organizing the event and to all the volunteers and members who donated orchids for the exhibit.

Tom Wentworth brought in 20 plants from his collection to be raffled off for the benefit of the society.

Miriam Sagasti will be organizing the holiday party pot luck for the December meeting, which will start one hour earlier at 6:30 PM. Phil Warner will give a State of the Society talk and there will be a mini-auction.

Paul Virtue supervised the vote for new Board members and officers for 2010. The 2010 officers are: President – Robin Gurlitz, Vice-President – Alan Miller, Secretary – David Pickett, Treasurer – Melissa Bullard. 2010 Trustees – Lee Allgood, George Bizub, Jeremy Bueter, and Sally Carpenter.

The TOS will participate in the Piedmont/Charlotte Orchid Show January 15-17th and the Triad/Greensboro Orchid Show

January 29-30th. Plants and volunteers are needed.

The Show Table was presented by Paul Virtue and Bob Davidson. After refreshments, Francisco Morales from Costa Rica gave a talk about the ecology and orchids of Costa Rica.

The Jack Webster Award Plants were:
 Greenhouse Grown:
 1st Place: Stanhopea wardii by Alan Miller,
 2nd Place: Cymbidium Osborne by Bob Meyer, and 3rd Place: Vanda luzonica by Paul Virtue.

Non-Greenhouse grown awards:
 1st Place: Cycnodes Wine Delight by George Bizub,

2nd Place: Vanda Sansai Blue by Judi Powell, and 3rd Place: Dendrochilum guinaceum by Sue Morand.

Auction plants were raffled off and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Bob Meyer, Secretary, TOS.

Dec. 14th Holiday Potluck Supper.



Please bring a covered dish to share. President Phil Warner will give an address of the past year's activities of the TOS. A small plant auction will take place of a speaker for the evening's event. We will need volunteers to help set up for the dinner & the auction. Please contact Heather Schneider at (919) 465-1984 or LIFLNC@yahoo.com.



Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Francisco Morales is a dentist and in his spare time, a botanist and orchid conservationist. Recently he has been involved in a major project to identify and classify the native species of Costa Rica. Part of Francisco's message to us, as hobby orchid growers, was the same message we have been hearing from so many of our previous speakers – we cannot make any assumptions regarding the growing environments of any of our orchids based solely on their country of origin.

Costa Rica is bounded by the Pacific on one side, and the Caribbean on the other, yet the two coasts are separated only by a one hour drive. Nicaragua is directly north, while Panama is directly south, within this tiny spit of land there is tremendous geographic diversity, and even more plant diversity. It has coastal islands, lowlands and mountains with elevations up to 3,000 meters (that's close to 10,000 feet or twice the elevation of Denver Colorado). Climactically, it has cloud forests, wet forests, oak forests, savannahs and coastal islands. It can vary from tropical heat to mountain areas that can experience frost at night. It has rainy seasons and dry seasons. Within this incredible geographic and climatic diversity there are 9,500 endemic plant species that have been classified to date. Fifteen hundred of these species are orchids.

Francisco made the point that early orchid hunters were sponsored by European nobility. These wealthy collectors funded orchid hunting expeditions all over Central and South America. Collecting was so intense that today some plants are more common in cultivation than in the wild. Today, orchids can still be collected from the wild. Because orchids are expensive, many people drive out into the countryside to collect plants for their private collections. However, groups like Francisco's, in

association with the university are making efforts to educate the local populations on the benefits of conservation.

Identifying and classifying the native orchids is difficult for a number of reasons. With 1,500 orchid species, the orchid family is huge. Francisco pointed out that classifying the native orchids is difficult because the orchids are known by different names in different parts of the country. The native campesino groups who live in the remote jungle areas all have their own names for the plants they utilize in their local environments, including orchids. Correlating these names has been a major project for Francisco's university group. Although DNA testing and new genetic information has provided a scientific basis for classification, there are numerous species that have local variations. DNA testing is still relatively expensive and therefore its use has not been as extensive as needed.

Conservation in Costa Rica is affected by a number of factors. The most critical of these is deforestation produced by human encroachment. Indiscriminate collecting by locals is another factor. The poverty of local campesino families make orchid collecting very attractive, as the plants can be sold in local markets for much needed cash. Francisco related that his group is working with these local populations, helping to develop an eco-tourist industry that rewards the locals for conservation efforts. These efforts are designed not only to protect native orchids in their habitats, but to improve the quality of life of the campesino populations. Sustainable Development, in the heart of the jungle, says Francisco, not only protects the forests and the orchid species they contain, but it provides alternative ways of making a living for the country's poorest citizens.



1st Place Ribbon:
Cynodes Wine Delight
grown by George Bizub

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse
Grown**

2nd Place Ribbon:
Vanda Sansai Blue
grown by Judi Powell



3rd Place Ribbon:
Dendrochilum gluinaceum
grown by Sue Morand





1st Place Ribbon:
Stanhopea wardii
grown by Alan Miller



2nd Place Ribbon:
Cymbidium Osborne
grown by Bob Meyer

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, at bob@cattleya.us



3rd Place Ribbon:
Vanda luzonica
grown by Paul Virtue

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse
Grown**

Growing Tips for December

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

This month includes the shortest day of the year and a time when the sun is at its lowest angle. Even here in Florida, the shade cloth is totally off my greenhouse and has been for two months.

For the past month or so some rearranging of orchids was necessary to maximize growth and avoid potential leaf burn. Jewel Orchids were moved into corners previously occupied by phals and other lower light-loving orchids because this area had become very shady. Jewel Orchid's leaves actually develop better color under lower light, making them better exhibition plants for the upcoming winter orchid shows. Conversely, other orchids located in places that did not receive direct light are now feeling the direct rays of the sun through one side of the greenhouse. While they did not burn, leaves on some phals were yellowed indicating more light than they might like.

This same phenomenon, i.e. light coming from a new direction, is a good reason for those windowsill growers to examine their orchids as well for both excess light and too little light. While temperatures here in Florida are not likely to cause cold damage close to windows, it can be a concern further north or if windows are poorly insulated. Typically, damage is not significant enough to cause plant death, but can cause flower buds to drop.

One group of hobbyists does not have to worry about light angle or windows; under-light growers. They have another issue however, a need to alter day length to simulate the winter solstice. Many orchids depend not on the length of day, but on the change in day length. It will be equally important to begin increasing day length in

January as this is the cue for the orchids to initiate some part of their life cycle.

The first phal flowers should be opening this month if you were successful at initiating spikes with cool nights a few months ago. Multifloral paphs with mature growths are putting up spikes now too. They appreciate a little more light than most other paphs and may also need to be moved into a better location.

These paphs are also initiating new growths. While a reduction in watering and fertilizing is warranted for both of these groups of orchids, do not stop altogether. If you water weakly, weekly, maintain the same fertilizer level. The reduction in watering will automatically reduce the total quantity of fertilizer you apply.

It is always surprising to see high light, hot loving vandas not only growing, but putting up flower spikes in winter. They seem to handle cool nights in the mid to upper 50s with no impact as long as the day temperature warms into the upper 70s or 80s. Over the years, I have noticed that these warm loving orchids continue their growth with new leaves and roots until there is an extended cold period with little light to warm the greenhouse during the day. I continue my regular fertilizing of vandas until I notice new, green root tips disappearing. Only then do I stop weekly fertilizing and do not fertilize again until they show new root growth.

Mostly, this time of year is a great time to relax and enjoy the myriads of species and hybrids that flower this time a year. If you are lucky, Santa might even bring you a gift certificate to your favorite orchid nursery.

American Orchid Society Corner

Happy Holidays from the American Orchid Society!

We really appreciate the support we have been receiving from our AOS Affiliated Societies! Thank you so much. We appreciate our orchid friends all year, but especially at these tough times – both societies and individuals continue to be generous in their support of the American Orchid Society – if you would like to make a donation, either as a gift or in honor of someone, you can mail it to American Orchid Society c/o Susan Wayman 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446 or call 561-404-2031. You'll receive a thank you

letter for your tax records and your donation will be listed, however you please, in the magazine.

AND, please consider an AOS gift membership for an orchid lover – they'll love getting the wonderful Orchids magazine each month. To give a membership contact Terri Rivera, Dir. of Membership trivera@aos.org If you ask, Terri will put a gift postcard into the new member packet that is sent out with the new membership. Membership starts at \$65 for one year mailed in the US. Check out the AOS web site www.aos.org for details on other memberships or an application.

Carol Holdren, Affiliated Society Committee



Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

The Triangle Orchid Society is to participate in the following Orchid Shows:

Jan 15-17: NC Piedmont Orchid Society “Orchids in the Trees” Show, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, 6500 South New Hope Rd., Belmont, NC. We are needing volunteers and plants to participate in this upcoming show. Please contact Robin Gurlitz at (919) 929--9717 or robing@i-gga.com.

Jan. 29-31: Triad Orchid Society Show, Greensboro Garden Clubs, 4301-A Lawndale Dr., Greensboro, NC. We are needing volunteers and plants to participate in this upcoming show. Please contact Judith Goldstein at (919) 732-7622 or Orangegr@embarqmail.com

Jan. 15-17: NC Piedmont Orchid Society Show, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, 6500 South New Hope Rd., Belmont, NC. Contact: Virginia Rappold, (704) 912-2536 or vrappold@aol.com

Jan. 29-31: Triad Orchid Society Show, Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs, 4301-A Lawndale Dr., Greensboro, NC. Contact: Shirley Anglin, (336) 940-6272 or sanglin767@roadrunner.com

Feb. 12-14: SC Orchid Society Show, Riverbanks Zoo & Botanical Garden, Botanical Garden Visitors Center, 1300 Botanical Garden Pkwy., West Columbia, SC. Contact: Stan Hutto, 831 Muddy Springs Rd., Lexington, SC 29073; (803) 359-3680 or hucks@sc.rr.com.

For a complete list of all orchid shows, see: www.aos.org, click on “Events” & “Show Schedules”

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2009 & 2010	Speaker	Topic
7:00-7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	December 14th	Mini-Auction	Holiday Potluck Dinner
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	January 11th	Arthur Chadwick	Large Flowered Cattleyas
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break		Plants for Sale	
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle & Door Prizes	February 8th	Francisco Miranda	Rupicolous Orchids
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends		Plants for Sale	

Welcome Table

Refreshments

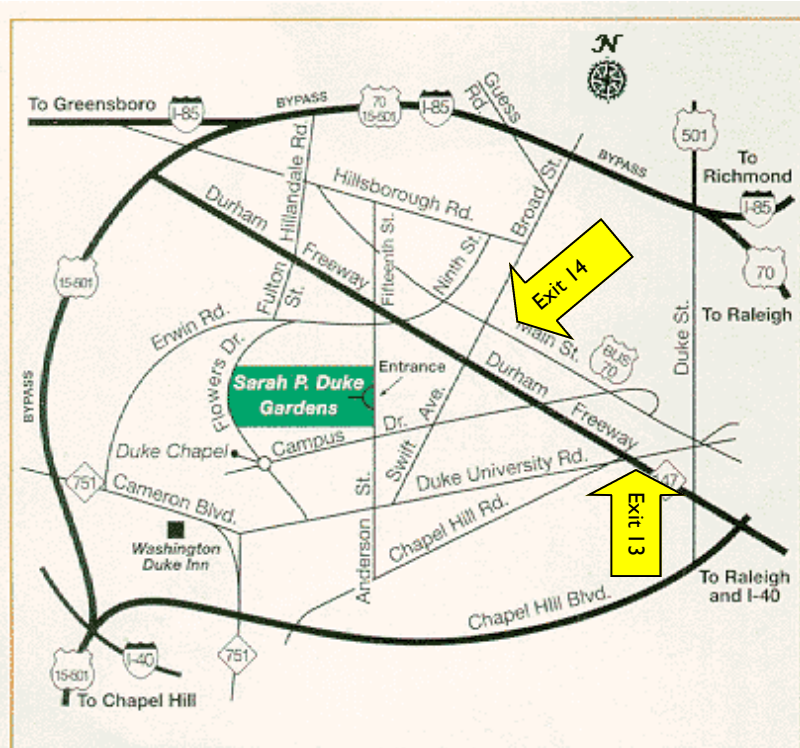
Dec	Need volunteers	POTLUCK DINNER
Jan	Need volunteers	Need volunteers



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