



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for June 8, 2009 Jose Exposito - Orchid Culture

Jose Exposito is President of Soroa Orchids, Inc. which is located in the heart of the Redland Orchid growing area. In 2005, the company expanded its business into Canada, opening Soroa Orchids Canada in Toronto. He is an accredited judge of the American Orchid Society and travels around the world selling orchids and lecturing about orchid breeding and culture. He has presented at the World Orchid Conferences in Rio De Janeiro , Brazil and in Kuala Lumpur , Malaysia.

Jose was born in Cuba , but immigrated to the United States in 1980 from Cuba during the Mariel exodus. He was an accomplished writer, considered to this day to be the youngest published writer in Cuba where he won National prizes for Literature when he was only 16 years old.

Jose is a founding member of the International Orchid Alliance, past president of the East Everglades Orchid Society, past president of The Coalition for Orchid Species, past member of the Education Committee of the American Orchid Society, and he served several years as a board member of the South Florida Orchid Society. Currently he is Vice President of the Redland Orchid Growers Association and Redland Orchid Festival, Inc. Jose will be speaking about general Orchid Culture.

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.

Speaker Contact Information

Jose may be contacted at:

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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 5/11/2009

The May meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on Monday, May 11th, 2009 at Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, NC. The meeting was called to order by President Phil Warner at 7:30 PM. The April meeting minutes were approved.

Thanks to Lee Allgood for hosting the Hospitality Table and to John Myhre for hosting the Welcome Table.

The TOS Spring Auction held on Sunday, April 19th, at Lake Crabtree Park, Morrisville, NC went very well.

The potluck luncheon was delicious, thanks to all the members who brought such wonderful dishes. Over 200 plants were auctioned, and raised \$2,700.00 to help fund future programs. Thanks to all the TOS members for making it a success.

On Saturday, April 25th, the Duke Gardens hosted a plant sale. TOS members Phil Warner and Bob Meyer promoted the Triangle Orchid Society and the upcoming Growers Day on Saturday, August 8th.

Marie Crock has organized an Orchid Crawl to be held on Saturday, May 16th with tours in Chapel Hill, Hillsborough & Durham. Another Orchid Crawl will held on May 30th in Morrisville and Raleigh.

The Show Table was presented by Bob Davidson and Nick Plummer, followed by a refreshment break.

This month's speaker Nina Rach was introduced by President Phil Warner. Following the talk, the Jack Webster Show Table plants were awarded.

In the Non-Greenhouse Grown category,

1st Place: Doritaenopsis Brother Little Fortune grown by Lee Allgood,

2nd Place: Psychopsis Kalihi grown by Melissa Bullard, and

3rd Place: Tolumnia Ole grown by Heather Schneider.

In the Greenhouse Grown category,

1st Place: Dendrobium Hawaiian King grown by Mildred Howell,

2nd Place: *Cattleya mossiae* grown by Olivene Virtue, and

3rd Place: Paphiopedilum Vanda M. Pearman grown by Lee Allgood.

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

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

Raffle Plants were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM. Minutes submitted by Heather Schneider, Editor.



Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Nina Rach presented an overview of the Orchids from Brazil's Mata Atlantic Forests. This is a thin strip of land along the eastern seaboard which has been heavily forested and has a unique environment. A number of orchid species are found within this area which Nina described as mountain rain forests. It is distinctly different from other Brazilian areas such as the Amazon Basin, or the Central Plateau where we generally hear about as the home of a vast number of species. It is geographically separated from other forest areas by the Central Plateau. Unfortunately, development and human movement into the area has resulted in over 90% of the area being cleared. What is left is fragmented into isolated pockets. Nina stated that the largest variety of Brazilian species is actually found in this limited geographic area – at least half of the Brazilian *Cattleyas* and nearly all of the *Bifrenarias* and *Promenaeas*.

It is notable that some areas of this region are being protected in that they have been designated as national parks and preserves. One of the largest is the Serra dos Organos National Park which is noted for its extreme steep slopes covered in dense vegetation and cloud cover. This area is still a pristine wilderness and home of *Laelia purpurata*, the only home of this wonderful species outside of the tropics.

Another area is Serra do Mur, an area of montane tropical and subtropical broad-leafed forest. At one time it was known for its *Araucaria*, *Myrtles*, and *Laurels* as well as ever greens. It was initially cleared for its hardwoods but now is almost totally utilized for the production of sugar cane.

The cane is utilized to make ethanol fuel for cars, a part of Brazil's program of energy independence.

The Tigua-Tingua-Organos Biosphere Reserves was established as a national park way back in 1939. It was designated a biosphere reserve in 1991. It is home to *Laelia crispa*, *Zygopetalums mackayae* and *crinitum* as well as *Oncidium crispum*. Up to 80% of the biomass in this area is bromeliads, while 10% is orchids. The area is also home to numerous *begonia* species.

Most of us are familiar with photos of Rio de Janeiro and the steep mountains that ring the city and harbor. What most of us don't realize is that the mountains are part of a national park. Each of the peaks has unique orchid species, with over twenty-eight species of *Bifrenaria* found in the area. They grow on exposed rocks in direct sun, with the inflorescences forming from the base of the pseudobulbs. *Cattleya aelandiae* and *amethystoglossa* grow in this area, as do *Cattleya intermedia*, *schilleriana* and *mossiae*.

Encyclia inverse and *bulbosa*, *Laelia crispa*, *jongheana* and *pumila* are also native to these peaks. Other species found in the area include *Leptotes bicolor*, *Miltonia cuneata* and *Oncidium crispum* and *croesus*. There are 7 species of *Sophranitis*, including *coccinea* and *cernua*, and numerous *Promenaeas*. There are miniature, high humidity, low-light plants with very small pseudobulbs. They produce remarkably large flowers on small, compact plants.

Transcript by Joy Lemieux, Sandhills Orchid Society

**Jack Webster
Awards
Non Greenhouse
Grown**



**2nd Place Ribbon:
Psychopsis Kalihi
grown by Melissa Bullard**



**1st Place Ribbon:
Dtps. Brother Little Fortune
grown by Lee Allgood**



**3rd Place Ribbon:
Tolumnia Ole
grown by Heather Schneider**

**Jack Webster
Awards
Greenhouse
Grown**



1st Place Ribbon:
Den. Hawaiian King
grown by Mildred Howell



2nd Place Ribbon:
Cattleya mossiae
grown by Olivene Virtue



3rd Place Ribbon:
Paph. Vanda M. Pearman
grown by Lee Allgood

Growing Tips for June

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

There are many products available today for orchid growing, most far more expensive than necessary. Hobbyists usually just pay the price since they have only a few plants. As your collection gets larger or you wish to be more frugal there are many ways to reduce the cost of your hobby.

Many hobbyists got stared when presented with a gift of an orchid and are still in the early stages of learning to grow. Many of the big-box stores get a regular supply of orchids, which are sold as pot plants. Some orchids do not sell and go out of bloom. These are either tossed or placed on a sales table at a reduced price. Caution should be exercised when purchasing these orchids, but some bargains can be found. Inexpensive orchids also make great plants on which to experiment. Learn to repot using these orchids. Try different media and pots. All of these “experiments” will teach you to be a better grower and make you more confident when you purchase an orchid that you really like. Most hobbyists err in the beginning because they are afraid to damage a newly purchased orchid so they do nothing when a problem develops.

Fertilizer is a classic example of the concept that excellent orchids do not require the most expensive products. One of my favorite growers that proved the concept was the late Ralph Wasdon from Greenville, NC. He used K Mart, soluble fertilizer and grew orchids as well as anyone I ever met. When asked to speak about his prowess in growing orchids he always replied that it only took five minutes to explain his methods; water when needed,

fertilize when you remember, and put your plants under the pines when it was warm enough.

Practical wisdom is often overlooked when growing “exotic” orchids in favor of the elaborate and expensive. Powdered cinnamon is a very effective fungicide applied directly to the wound. Many growers buy cinnamon powder by the bag and sprinkle it over roots and rhizome just before placing a newly repotted orchid in a new pot. This non-toxic and relatively inexpensive fungicide has the added benefit of a nice fragrance.

Another simple, and amazingly effective, anti-bacterial/anti fungal agent is Hydrogen Peroxide. It is available everywhere for topical use. Joe Grezaffi introduced me to its use. Whenever he saw crown rot in a phal or rot on a cattleya he poured hydrogen peroxide right in the crown or damaged area. For awhile, I used half strength, but found that there was never any damage from using it full strength. It even stops pseudomonas rot on phal leaves that I once cut off entirely when I saw just a small rot spot.

One of the most significant changes in fertilizer for orchids is the availability of a slow release fertilizer named Nutricote. This product is being used by many commercial orchid nurseries, but is even more important to the hobbyist who has just a small number of orchids. Available as Dynamite in small quantities from Home Depot stores, this is an easy to use fertilizer that delivers a constant supply of nutrients for a set amount of time. Most last for six months and provide micronutrients as well.

Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

The Triangle Orchid Society is planning the following:
 Grower's Day: August 8th: JC Raulston Arboretum, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, Lunch and Orchid plant included with the \$25 fee. Please register with Bob Meyer by July 31st.
 September 26th: TOS Fall Orchid Auction, at the Beech Pavilion, Lake Crabtree County Park, Morrisville, NC
 October 15th - 25th: Flower & Garden Show, at the NC State Fair, Raleigh, NC

June 20th: Carolina Judging Center, Natural Sciences Center, Greensboro, NC, Judging & Business Meeting, July 18th: speakers Allen Black & Linda Thorne
 See: www.carolinasjudgingcenter.org for more info
 For a complete list of all orchid 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	June 8th	Jose Exposito	Orchid Culture
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	July 13th	Dr. Tom Nasser	Angraecums
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle & Door Prizes	August 10th	Mario Ferrusi	Mario's Orchids A to Z
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

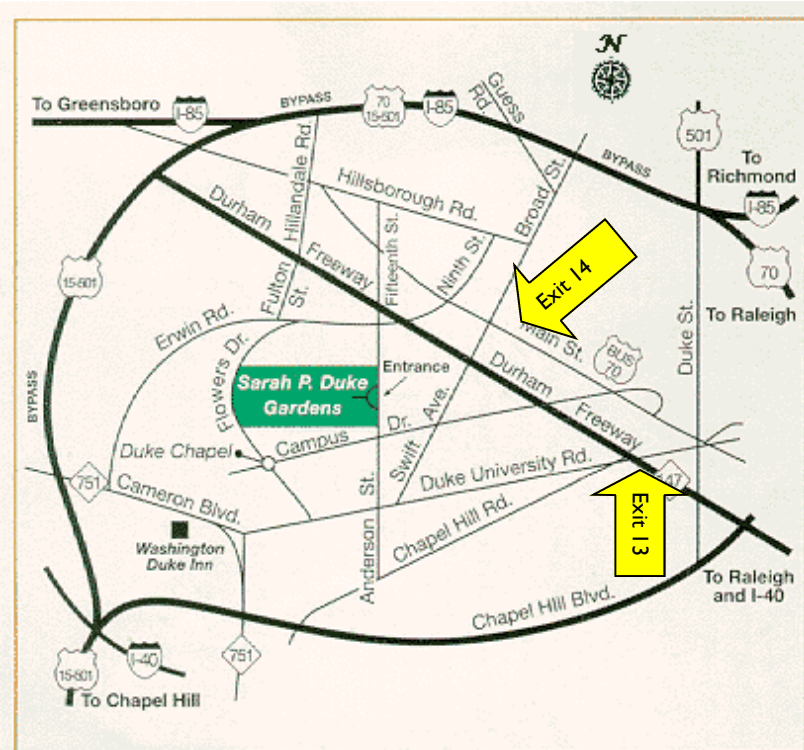
	Welcome Table	Refreshments
June	Need volunteers	Gerry Bowater
July	Need volunteers	Sue Morand



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