



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for March 9, 2009

Weyman Bussey - Mexican Species

Weyman Bussey is an orchid person whose life has been, and continues to be, orchids. He was educated in growing them and then figured out how to do it! His profession is the "pursuit of happiness" defined as growing orchids, in the tropics and sharing his experiences with others seeking similar pursuits. His talk takes the listener on a tour of Mexico, focusing on its showiest orchid species. The attendees will learn where they come from, how they grow in nature and how to grow them in cultivation.

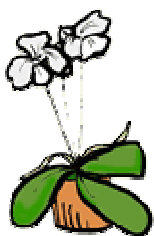
Weyman was raised and educated in Florida. His love for orchids began at age 12 when he collected his first orchid in the Big Cypress swamps. A trip to the 7th World Orchid Conference in Colombia at the age of 17, inspired him to live and work in the tropics where he could be nearest his real passion, wild orchids. He not only grew them commercially, but built many companies and laboratories throughout his career, not just for orchids, but also other flower crops. His favorite pass time for 30 years has been rescuing plants from fallen trees and finding a home for them.

In his sought after presentation about Mexican orchids, given to over 70 societies during the past 20 years, he shows you how the geography of Mexico has influenced the evolution of more than a thousand species. He keeps his audience captivated and motivated throughout the presentation with door prizes for their participation. He provides a handout on culture, which has been hailed by the best Hawaiian growers as, "hitting the nail on the head about growing orchids!" The power point presentation is also available for all members to download from the Abundaflora website at the address given in the handout.

Weyman is an adventurer at heart, an orchidist to the core, a professor of innovation and a great lecturer on Mexican orchids and practical tropical orchid growing. You'll have to come and see his presentation to judge for yourself and at the very least, be entertained. For more information on Weyman you can type Weyman Bussey orchid into the Google search bar.

Also, see: http://www.abundaflora.com/species_categories.htm

Contact Weyman Bussey by email: mexorkid@gmail.com



Plant Sale for March Meeting

John Adams, TOS Founding Member & Past President, will be bring part of his collection for sale.

He will have a selection of well grown, quality plants at "take me home" prices.

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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 2/19/2009

The February meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on the 9th at Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, NC. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Judith Goldstein at 7:35 PM. The minutes of the last month's meeting and Treasurer's report were approved.

Current Business:

1. Melissa Bullard will be in charge of the Refreshment Table and is looking for volunteers to host the table for future monthly meetings. The society has a \$40 allowance for refreshments per meeting.
2. Edith Hubbard was welcomed as a new member.
3. Chris & Janet Moore were recognized for hosting the Welcome Table.
4. Judith Goldstein announced the TOS Spring Orchid Show at Northgate Mall was cancelled due to many conflicts with other orchid shows. The society is looking into the possibility of a Fall show at the Museum of Life & Science.

The Show Table was presented by Bob Davidson and Patricia Harding. After a short break, Patricia Harding presented her talk on Huntleyas. Following the talk, the Jack Webster Show Table plants were awarded.

Non-Greenhouse Grown category

1st Place: C. intermedia var. amethystina 'Aranbeem' by Sue Morand,

2nd Place: Opst. Memoria Mary Natrassé by Nolan Newton, and
 3rd Place: Cymbidium Yellow by Sally Carpenter.

In the Greenhouse Grown category,
 1st Place: Lc Golddigger 'Orchidglade Mandarin' by Olivene Virtue,
 2nd Place: Laelia praestens by Paul Feaver, and

3rd Place: Cymbidium Ian Reid x Dolly 'Featherhill' by Bob Meyer.

Raffle plants were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

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

Have Dinner with the Speaker

5:30 PM - before the meeting
 at the Neo China Restaurant,
 (969-1612)

4015 University Drive,
 Durham behind Target's
 at the South Square Mall.

Call John Myhre
 (919-740-4030)

before 4:45 PM Monday
 to make your reservations.



Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Patricia was a family practice physician until she retired 10 years ago. Since then she became an AOS judge and began writing orchid books. She helped Carl Withner write the final volume of his *Cattleya* series, the *Debatable Epidendrums*. Recently Timber Press released her book on the *Huntleya* Clade.

Most of us were unfamiliar with the term "Clade" until Patricia came along. She describes a clade as a branch of the *Orchidaceae* family tree. In her book, she states "A clade is a group of organisms sharing features that reflect a common ancestor". For example, Wood, in his book "The *Dendrobiums*" describes *Dendrobiums* groupings as *clades* based on shared physical characteristics, distribution, and cultural requirements. Patricia has done the same thing with *Huntleyas*. As taxonomists become more sophisticated in their utilization of molecular techniques to identify plant similarities and differences, we will see the word "*clade*" used more frequently as classification patterns become more obvious. There are 11 genera in the *Huntleya* clade. Patricia noted that many of these plants have been misidentified over the years and it is only recently, with molecular data from DNA testing, that any order has been created out of this 200 (mas o minus) species. Patricia's book is an effort to document the relationships, and classify these plants.

Members of the *Huntleya clade* share many traits. The most notable vegetative feature is the absence of pseudobulbs, or if there is one present it is poorly developed. These plants all come from areas with constant, high humidity so they do not need the moisture storage capabilities of pseudobulbs. They have fleshy, succulent roots and prominent rhizomes. The foliage, inflorescences and roots of all originate on the rhizome. As a rule, they begin as small plantlets on the rhizomes, and quickly grow into large clumps. All plants in this *clade* have roots that are produced between the leaf axils. If you look closely at the plant you will see that the roots seem to crawl up the inside of the leaves. The foliage is fan shaped and partially folded, creating a perfect funnel to direct moisture onto the roots. Typically, each plant will carry only one inflorescence, which develops between the foliage. Generally the inflorescence is pendant. The flowers lure pollinators into the tubular lips, but seldom actually produce nectar. Instead the

insects are deceived into brushing over the pollinia and leave the flowers with pollen attached to their legs, ready to be deposited on another flower.

Patricia described the *Huntleya* genus as difficult to grow. They are large plants that grow as epiphytic tufts or as successive growths along the rhizome. Each plant carries a single star-shaped flower, which can be up to four inches in width. Most flowers are noted for their thick, waxy texture. One species, *H wallisii* has shiny glossy red flowers that can be ten inches across.

The genus *Kefersteinia* has 64 species. Again, these are epiphytic. The flowers tend to be small but this is compensated for by multiple inflorescences, and they tend to continue to produce new inflorescences over a period of several months. Patricia noted that many hobbyists grow *Kefersteinia* but there has been a great deal of confusion regarding the proper names of various species. If you own a *Kefersteinia*, beware, it is probably mislabeled!

Cochleanthes is probably one of the better known genera from this clade. These tend to grow into larger plants, with no pseudobulbs, and the foliage has a fanlike appearance. They have short rhizomes with the plants growing close together in tight clumps. There is only one flower per inflorescence. *C aromatica* is an easy grower if you keep it wet and shaded.

Pescatorea is another large genus with large plants that grow into large clumps. They are known for being variable in color and shape. Most flowers are large, often more than four inches across. They have a waxy texture and are long lasting. *Bolleas* have now been incorporated into the *Pescatorea* genus when DNA testing revealed their similarities. *P coelestic*, *dayana* and *ecudorana* are the most frequently seen species from this genus.

There are numerous other very interesting genera that form the *Huntleya Clade*. Unfortunately many of the names are unpronounceable, and even harder to spell. Many of the plants and flowers are nothing short of bizarre. Patricia has done an outstanding job of describing these genera and supporting her documentation with numerous colorful photos. If you want to learn more about this truly unique group of plants check out Patricia's new book "Huntleyas and Related Orchids".

What? Go to Judging?

You have a beautiful Paph. Joe, that you purchased as a seedling over 5 years ago. This year, when it bloomed, you took it to the Orchid Society showtable. Everyone commented on how nice it was and then someone suggested that you take it to judging. Judging? Why you've never taken anything to judging! But it got you to thinking. Maybe you do have an award winner here but you will never know unless you attend one of the AOS judging sessions. So what do you do now?

Actually there are several things that you can do to make an intelligent decision about whether or not you have an award winner. The first and foremost thing: Do your research! Wildcatt Database is a good place to start. There you can find out if the plant has ever been awarded and read the award descriptions. The next step may be a little more complicated but well worth the effort. Get a copy of what is commonly called "Fisher-Bishop" which lists all awards given by the AOS, when and where they were awarded, and the Awards Quarterly volume number which has the description and possibly a picture. All judges will have this information and many orchid societies have Fisher-Bishop and the Awards Quarterly in their library. Read up on the awards paying particular attention to the most recent awards, the highest awards, and awards with pictures. Compare your plant to these descriptions. Look at the measurements for the awarded plants and compare your plant to this. Remember these awards have set the standards by which your plant will be judged.

It becomes a little more difficult if Paph. Joe has never received an award. Then you have to look up its parent's awards, read those descriptions and determine if Paph. Joe has some outstanding attributes that make it better than its parents.

The next thing that you can do is take a critical look at your plant. Draw an imaginary line which bisects the dorsal sepal and pouch. Are the two halves mirror images of each other? Or is one petal lower than the other? Is the pouch off center? Look at the color of the flower. Is there any color break? Are the colors or markings consistent? Are the markings (lines, spots, warts, etc.) well defined? Now turn the flower to the side and look at it. Are the petals and dorsal in a flat plane or do the petals cup forward? How about the pouch? It should also be in the flat plane. The exception would be some of the multiflorals whose pouches normally jut forward. Now turn the flower around to the back and notice the alignment of the sepals and petals. Sometimes it is easier to see if the petals are/are not aligned properly by looking at the back of the flower.

If this is a multifloral paph there are other considerations. How many flowers does Paph. Joe have? Is this more, less or about the same as some of the awarded plants? You want the plant to have the same number of flowers or more than previously awarded plants. How about arrangement of the flowers on the inflorescence? Is each flower well presented or are they too crowded?

Did you stake the inflorescence properly? Plants like Paph. rothschildianum and its hybrids need to be staked going straight up the stake while Paph. lowii should be staked right below the first flower so that the inflorescence can arch gracefully for best presentation of the flowers. Every plant is different and you can look at pictures of plants or ask some knowledgeable paph growers to find out how to stake your plant.

You've been through all of the above suggestions and you definitely feel that Paph. Joe deserves to go to judging. Is there anything else that you need to do? Yes! Make sure that the plant is in pristine condition. The judges will not be judging the plant (unless they are considering a cultural award) but when the plant is brought to the judging table, the first thing that the judges will see is the PLANT. (Remember what your mother told you about first impressions?) Have all of the old flower stems been trimmed down close to the fan? Remember that scale outbreak you had last year? You finally managed to get rid of all of the varmints but make sure there are no dead bodies remaining on the backs of the leaves or down in the fans. If the pot really looks ratty, clean it up or sit it inside of another pot.

Are there some things that you shouldn't do? Yes, definitely! Do not approach an AOS judge and ask them to take a look at your plant or to give you an opinion of whether or not it is awardable. This is a "no win" situation. If the flower is really bad and I tell you that, you are going to be peeved at me. If it is really bad but I tell you it is great; take it to judging. If you take it to judging and the judges don't give it a second glance or even a minor consideration, you are going to be mad at me for lying to you. If, however, the flower is outstanding and you have me look at it, tell me all about how long you have had Paph. Joe, what great care you have taken of Paph. Joe and how proud you are of the plant, then you have eliminated me from being able to judge your plant. And if your plant gets a high AM or (Good Heavens!) an FCC, then I am going to be mad at you for eliminating me from the judging team.

Remember all of the criteria in the first paragraphs about the research and critical assessment of your plant? That is exactly what the judges will do when you take it in for judging. It may seem like a lot of work just to determine if a plant is awardable, but if you have some outstanding paphs or phrags in your collection go through this exercise with some of them. After a while it becomes easier and you will be able to make better decisions about flower quality on your own plants and plants that you may want to purchase. In the long run you will end up with higher quality plants in your collection and you might even want to consider becoming a judge!

Janette Harris, Probationary Judge, Carolinas Judging Center
Judging is every 3rd Saturday of the month in Greensboro, NC.

See www.carolinajudgingcenter.org. Article used with permission.

Virginia Orchid Society Show

“Orchids are for Lovers”

Richmond, VA - February 20-22, 2009

The Triangle Orchid Society won 2nd place in the 25' sq. ft. Society exhibit. 7 societies participated at the show. The display was put in by Judith Goldstein and Josh Baas. A special thanks for help on registration to Alan Miller. 8 show awards were won by the 18 plants from the collections of Bob Davidson, Judith Goldstein & Josh Bass, Robin & Josh Gurlitz, Joseph McKoy, Bob Meyer and Olivene & Paul Virtue. A complete list of TOS member awards is listed below. Take down of the exhibit was done by Bob Meyer.



A Blue Ribbon for 25' Society Exhibit

VOS Awards List

1st Place

Class 139	Ctsm. Dragon's Teeth 'Rolf's Flight of Fancy' AM/AOS (fimbriatum x sarcatum)	Bob Meyer
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2nd Place

Class 22	Blc. Mem. Terry Stillman x Blc. Siam Golden Destiny 'R & F'	Joseph McKoy
Class 66	Paph. Pacific Shamrock 'Su' x (Yerba Buena Golden Days) 'In Charm' BM/TPS	Robin & Josh Gurlitz
Class 73	Phrag. Eric Young 4N x pearcii	Judith Goldstein
Class 112	Asctm. Mona Church (ampullaceum x miniatum)	Bob Meyer
Class 144	Cal. Rozel	Alan Miller

3rd Place

Class 41	C. intermedia x sib. 'amethystina'	Bob Davidson
Class 144	Z. Arthur Elle x sib.	Bob Davidson



1st Place Ribbon:
C. intermedia v. *amethystina* 'Aranbeem'
grown by Sue Morand

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown**

2nd Place Ribbon:
Opst Memoria Mary Natrass
grown by Nolan Newton



3rd Place Ribbon:
Cymbidium Yellow
grown by Sally Carpenter

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**



1st Place Ribbon:
Lc Golddigger 'Orchidglade Mandarin'
grown by Olivene Virtue

2nd Place Ribbon:
Laelia praestens
grown by Paul Feaver



3rd Place Ribbon:
Cymb. Ian Reid x Dolly 'Featherhill'
grown by Bob Meyer



Growing Tips for March

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

It is always difficult to think about repotting when the wind is howling and it is cold. As March begins it is snowing all over the South. Even Florida is cold. Nevertheless, orchids in your greenhouse and on windowsills are responding to the increase in day length. Most of the orchids in my collection are beginning their annual growth cycle.

If you do not have all of the supplies you need to repot now is the time to get your order in. There is still plenty of time depending on the orchids in your collection. Species are often more sensitive to repotting so be sure you check your reference books on any species for which you are not familiar.

Phalaenopsis that have bloomed out may be getting new branches on the old inflorescence. These will flower later if you leave the inflorescence on the plant or cut it just below the old blooms. If the plant is small or you want to groom it for exhibiting next year, it is best to cut the spike and let your phalaenopsis grow new roots and leaves for next year's flowers.

Many new orchid growers are anxious to repot because there is so much discussion of the topic, but only repot when your orchid needs it. Any orchid that has been in a pot with organic medium such as bark or sphagnum will need to be repotted after two years, perhaps sooner if the bark is fine or the plant has been heavily fertilized.

Most phalaenopsis sold as pot plants will be either in sphagnum or a mix that looks like garden soil. These plants were not intended to be grown after they flower, have been heavily fertilized, and some even treated with hormones. If you wish to grow these orchids and flower them again you will need to repot them after they flower. Expect a period of decline before growth as the orchid recovers from being pushed into producing lots of blooms.

Each year, cold weather takes a toll on orchids when heating systems fail while the owner is on

vacation or in a hospital. I have always wondered how much cold can orchids experience and still survive. This year, a number of cattleya species and hybrids were sacrificed and left outside the greenhouse to test their tolerance to cold. Some growers claim that orchids are more cold tolerant if they are kept dry, so very little water was applied to these orchids. They were maintained under a small tangerine tree in medium light and watered only when no cold weather was expected. Phalaenopsis succumbed to rot once night temperatures dropped into the low 50s F. Cattleya hybrids generally began to show stress when low temperatures were in the mid 40s F. Stress included leaves turning black or black spots on green leaves. All but one hybrid died when temperatures were in the mid 30s F. The hybrid that survived the longest and even put out new roots right to the end was Lc Molly Tyler, which has C bowringiana prominent in the background.

Cattleya species died at around the same temperature as hybrids with one exception, *Laelia purpurata*. This species experiences cold temperatures along Brazil's south Atlantic coast in winter, and so might be expected to tolerate cold weather. On several occasions, night temperatures were near freezing and the single *L. purpurata* in the experiment seemed unaffected. Finally, night temperature reached 28 F on the bench, which seemed to be too extreme for even this cold hardy orchid. It showed leaf damage similar to what was observed for hybrids earlier. Some pseudobulbs remained green as did the rhizome itself. Curiosity and respect for the tenacity of this plant led me to put it back in the greenhouse a few weeks after the severe cold just to see if it could still be alive. Three weeks after enduring a low temperature of 28 F, it began to grow new roots. Clearly, some orchids are far tougher than we give them credit for.



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

Western NC Orchid Society, Asheville, NC: March 27 - 29th "Orchid Mystery: Journey to the Far East" see: www.wncos.org

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

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	March 9th	Weyman Bussey	Mexican Species: Where they come from & how they grow
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	April 13th	Jeff Bradley	Classic Cattleyas
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle & Door Prizes	May 11th	Larry Moskovitz	Bizarre Species
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table

Refreshments

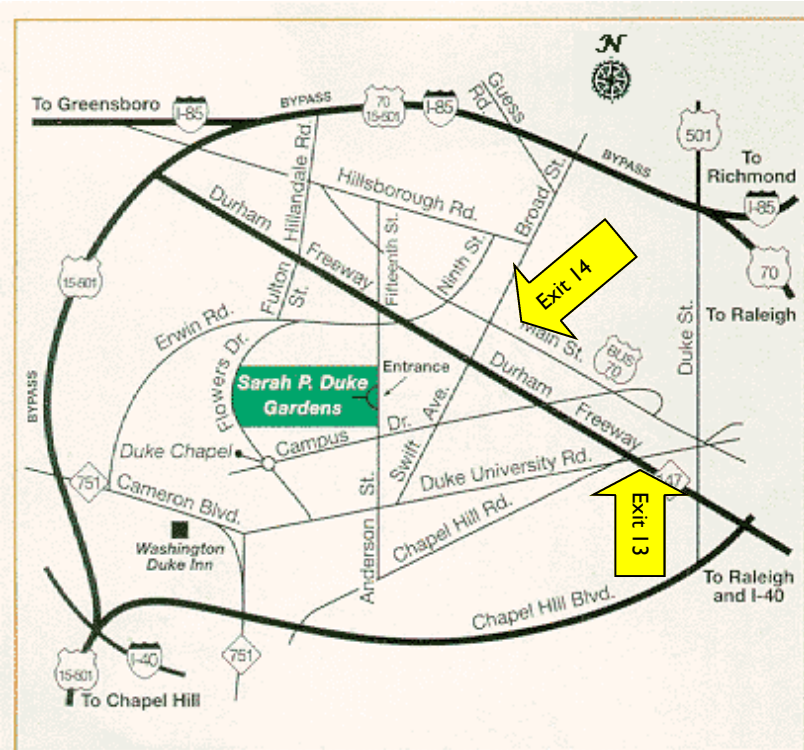
March	Melissa Bullard	Miriam & Leo Sagasti
April	Need volunteer	Gerry Bowater



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