



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for May 11, 2009

Nina Rach - Orchids from Brazil's Mata Atlantica Forests

Nina Rach is an AOS Accredited Judge affiliated with the Houston Judging Center. She's been a member of the Houston Orchid Society for more than 20 years and is a past-president. Nina started growing orchids on windowsills as a child and joined the North Jersey Orchid Society in the early 1970s. While attending Duke, she was a member of the Triangle Orchid Society. She travels regularly to photograph orchids in the wild, attends conferences, and judges orchid shows. She maintains websites on Stanhopeas and Sobralias (www.autrevie.com/AutreVie.html).

Nina earned degrees from Cornell University's College of Engineering, The Graduate School at Duke University, and the University of Houston Law Center. She first began working in the oil and gas industry in 1982, which has led her to live in Dallas, Bakersfield, New Orleans, and Houston. She lived in Africa in 1985-86, and worked as a darkroom photographer (pre-digital age) while finishing her graduate thesis on Lake Victoria. In 1990, she took her first trip to Brazil to work on a project for the national oil company, Petrobras, tantalizingly close to the Mata Atlantica forests. She's made subsequent trips to lecture, judge shows, visit growers, and hike in the forests.

Orchids from Brazil's Mata Atlantica Forests Presentation

Summary: The Atlantic forest along the southern coast of Brazil is home to a tremendous variety of endemic orchid species, including Brassavola, Cattleya, Chytroglossa, Cleistes, Epidendrum, Grobya, Houletia, Laelia, Oececlades, Promenaea, Sophronitis, Stellis, Stenorrhynchus, Vanilla, and Zygopetalum, among others. This swath of forest is a biodiversity hotspot, distributed over 23 degrees of latitude and isolated from other major South American forests by the savannas of the Brazilian central plateau. It has many stunningly attractive areas and is among the most endangered ecosystems in the world-93% of this forest has disappeared, most of it in the last 100 years. But many orchids remain, complimented by hundreds of fascinating birds. The Brazilian orchid community is very active, well-informed, and quite proud of the country's heritage.

Nina 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.Triangle
OrchidSociety.org**

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Minutes of the Last Meeting 4/13/2009

The April meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on Monday, April 13, 2009 at Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, NC. The meeting was called to order by President Phil Warner at 7:30 PM. The March meeting minutes were approved.

Kidder Blake was welcomed as a guest to our meeting and Lynn Davis was welcomed as a new member. Thank you to Geri Bowater for hosting the Hospitality Table and to Michael Arnor for hosting the Welcome Table.

The TOS Spring Auction will be Sunday, April 19th, at the Beech Shelter in Lake Crabtree Park, Morrisville, NC. A potluck will start at noon, followed by the auction at 1:00 PM. A varied selection of orchids in bloom will be available. Plan to attend and have a fun afternoon.

Duke Gardens will have a plant sale on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. TOS members Phil Warner and Bob Meyer will be selling orchids from Orchid Trail and promoting the Triangle Orchid Society and the upcoming Growers Day on Saturday, August 8th.

The Show Table was presented by Paul Feaver and Bob Davidson, followed by a refreshment break.

Each month there is a pre-meeting dinner with the speaker at the Neo China restaurant in Durham. This month's speaker was Jeff Bradley, who spoke about "Classic Cattleyas" and was introduced by President Phil Warner.

Following Jeff Bradley's talk, the Jack Webster Show Table plants were awarded.

In the Non-Greenhouse Grown category,
 1st Place: Phrag. Eric Young x piercii by Judith Goldstein,

2nd Place: Paph. spicerianum by Melissa Bullard,
 3rd Place: Oncidium Popoki 'Mitzi' by Heather Schneider.

In the Greenhouse Grown category,

1st Place: Neofinetia *falcate* by Armando Nieves,
 2nd Place: Cattleya Jose Martin by Mabel Hicks, and

3rd Place: Sarcochilus *hartmannii* by Paul Feaver.

Raffle Plants and calendars were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 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.

[\[bob@cattleya.us\]](mailto:bob@cattleya.us)

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

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.



Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Jeff has been growing orchids since he was 10 years old when his godparents introduced him to the world of orchids. As a very young child he traveled extensively with them, and was taken to meet the big movers and shakers who founded the AOS. Fortunately for him, his godparents, who were early Trustees, were members of the very wealthy class of people who were passionate about growing orchids. Jeff not only met many of the original founders of the AOS, he also learned about the very early aficionados who brought orchid growing to the US. He became fascinated by these early collectors, their histories and some of the wonderful plants they acquired. As the self-appointed historian of the AOS, Jeff has become passionate about preserving this history, and these classic plants, especially the lovely, old, large-flowered Cattleyas. Today he has 1,800 classic Cattleyas in his personal collection. Much of his collection are hybrids made prior to 1945, while the remaining were made before 1976.

Jeff reported that in England, during the time of Queen Victoria many of the very wealthy upper class built enormous collections of orchids. They hired orchid hunters and sent them to South America and beyond to find more varieties. In the US, wealthy industrialists began to emulate the English and European aristocracy. They built massive greenhouses and conservatories complete with waterfalls and bridges. The conservatories were so big, and so extravagant that many of the early collectors used them as lavish entertainment centers. By 1900 this passion was well established and flourishing in the North East. The first orchid society was actually founded in Massachusetts in the late 1800s. Prior to World War I orchids were the domain of the very wealthy. The cut flower industry did not emerge until after the war. From early 1900-1945 is often considered the golden age of collecting, when most of these massive private collections were established.

Albert Burrage, who had made his fortune as owner of tin and copper mines in South America, was one of the first of these collectors. "His Orchidvale estate in Massachusetts had 18 greenhouses containing over 30,000 orchids including 2000 *Cattleya trianaei*, 1400 *C. labiata*, 1000 *C. mossiae*, 1000 *C. warscewiczii* and 4000 *Cattleya* hybrids". (Chadwick & Chadwick – The Classic Cattleyas 2006) Jeff described these greenhouse or conservatories as mounted on railroad tracks that were actually moved each season to maximize their exposure to sunlight. To care for this massive collection Burrage had an army of 25 professional growers, assistant growers as well as potters or workers whose only responsibility was to repot plants, all day long. Most of the plants in Burrage's collection were jungle collected. However, they were of such outstanding quality, and were grown so well, that Burrage received numerous awards for them from the RHS.

Of course competition between these collectors was fierce. They sold and traded divisions amongst themselves, often paying outlandish amounts of money for an awarded plant. In

1910 Albert Burrage sold a division of a *C. trianaei* for \$2,000 – a veritable fortune at that time.

Mrs. William K. DuPont, her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre DuPont became charter members when the AOS was founded in March of 1920. Mrs. DuPont is credited with starting the AOS Bulletin and with establishing the groundwork for the current AOS judging system. Part of the DuPont legacy that exists to this day is their Longwood Gardens, and recently hosted the AOS members 2008 meeting with a formal dinner and ball in their private facilities.

John Lager married a Columbia woman, and lived in Columbia where he was able to collect many fine specimens. He found the only known alba form of *C. warscewiczii*, clonal name "Firmin Lambeau" which he later sold for \$5,000 and personally hand-carried across the Atlantic to be sure it made it to its new owner safely. This same plant was sold 2 years later for \$40,000. Lager is also credited with finding *C. schroderae* "Hercules", that had 32 flowers - each measured 9" inches across. Another *C. schroderae* Lager collected "The Baron" was found in Columbia and actually used as currency. When it was auctioned in London in 1918 there were 162 bidders and a Rembrandt painting was actually sold to pay for it.

In 1924 John Butterworth bought a division of John Lager's *C. mossiae* at the New York Horticultural Show. It was blooming with 368 flowers. Butterworth sold a division of the plant for \$10,000. The plant, clonal name "Mrs. J. T. Butterworth" was one of the first natural tetraploids recognized.

Harold Paterson was a lily grower from Bergenonville, NJ. His business fell off during the war years and he shrewdly moved into the cut flower business. During the Great Depression, he made money selling orchids for ladies corsages, charging as much as \$20 per flower. Paterson sold a hybrid, one of the first splash petals, to the Emperor of Japan for \$50,000 and in return was given a collection of Ming China.

Ralph Keith Fox grew red Cattleyas on Long Island. He is credited with upscale marketing strategies by grading his presentations, with the cheapest flowers in front and the best, most expensive ones in the back. He utilized terraced benches and began the marketing of smaller "cocktail" flowers. Ralph Fox was followed by Clint McDay who marketed the new smaller flowers in Chattanooga, Tenn. by holding a ball for an orchid queen. McDay established River Mount Orchids at Signal Mountain. The nursery was later run by Oliver Lyons, and eventually his son John.

The history of orchid growing and breeding is rich and exhaustive. Jeff gave us just a taste of the past glory and passion that the early wealthy collectors were able to provide. For you history buffs out there try *The Classic Cattleyas* by A. A. and Arthur Chadwick, or *A History of the Orchid* by Merle Reinikka. I guarantee you a good read!



1st Place Ribbon:
Phrag. Eric Young x piercii
grown by Judith Goldstein

**Jack Webster
Awards
Non Greenhouse
Grown**



2nd Place Ribbon:
Paph spicerianum
grown by Melissa Bullard



3rd Place Ribbon:
Onc. Popoki 'Mitzi'
grown by Heather Schneider

1st Place Ribbon:
Neofinetia falcate
grown by Armando Nieves

**Jack Webster
Awards
Greenhouse
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2nd Place Ribbon:
Cattleya Jose Martin
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3rd Place Ribbon:
Sarcochilus hartmannii
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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 month's plant table, see <http://www.cattleya.us/tos>



Growing Tips for May

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

Most orchid hobbyists can't resist a novel hybrid or really odd species. That is why we are all "out of space". Even so, we still bring home a new orchid whenever we visit an orchid nursery or orchid show. "Space, is the final frontier" for most of us. What makes growing orchids difficult is the fact that different orchids require different growing conditions and we want to grow them all.

Those growing inside, either under lights or on windowsills, are generally used to orienting their orchids to the proper light levels. Orchids requiring high light, e.g. vandas, are placed close to the light, while phalaenopsis that prefer lower light levels are placed near the edge of the light table. There may be seasonal changes you initiate too, brought on by increasing day length or by changing light bulbs to coincide with spring. It's important to remember that the intensity of desirable wavelengths generated by grow lights decreases as bulbs age, so it is necessary to replace bulbs long before they stop working.

In greenhouses too, the location of orchids is important. Besides changes in day length, the sun changes both in intensity and orientation. A perfect location for your bulbophyllums in winter may be too bright in spring and summer. This is the time of year where it may be necessary to revisit the location of some orchids.

In my new greenhouse, there are two areas where the change in season has necessitated moving some orchids. What were once cool, shady spots are now very bright.

Because space is at a premium in most greenhouses, there are many hanging plants in my greenhouse oriented in layers. Visitors are often surprised to find phalaenopsis and bulbophyllums hanging high in the greenhouse. While they are hanging, they are shaded by vandas or other high light orchids. If you decide to try "layering" in either your greenhouse or indoor growing area be aware that there are other aspects of orchid growing you must consider.

Phalaenopsis hanging under vandas would stay too wet in the typical medium used for phalaenopsis,

so my hanging phals are potted in coarse lava rock. Vandas and phalaenopsis both love high humidity and heat, but differ in their preference for light and drying tolerance. Vanda roots prefer to grow exposed and be dry by day's end, while phalaenopsis roots prefer not to dry thoroughly each day. Thus, my vandas are grown without medium and the phals hanging below them are in well-drained clay pots with lava rock. Both are watered most bright days and dry by the end of each day to an appropriate level for the individual plants.

There are also some high-light areas in the greenhouse where water is applied at infrequent intervals, especially in winter. Here, various encyclias and *C. dowiana* var *aurea* hang in pots along with certain cattleya species that prefer to be kept on the dry side. Phalaenopsis and bulbophyllums hanging below these plants would become too dry unless they were treated differently. It is not easy to water orchids hanging below other orchids, so here moisture-loving orchids are potted in a fine bark mix or sphagnum and grown in plastic pots, which keeps them moist between weekly watering.

My system works now because I have learned how to do it by trial and error. Many orchids suffered during the learning process. The key to successful layering is to learn which areas dry fastest and which tend to stay wet longer. To practice "layering" successfully you will also have to learn about the requirements of different orchids too.

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before 5 PM Monday
to make your reservations.



Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

The Triangle Orchid Society held it's Spring Auction on Sunday, April 19th at Lake Crabtree County Park in Morrisville, NC. Special thanks to Melissa Bullard, Rick Cavallaro, Bob Davidson, Robin & Josh Gurlitz, Candy & Mike Joehrendt, Bob Meyer, Nick Plummer, and Heather Schneider. There were more than 250 plants being bid on by 35 people. The Society did fairly well, given the economy and the funds raised will help our future programs. Thanks to all the members attending.

TOS Orchid Crawl: May 16th - 10 am to 1 pm for Chapel Hill & Hillsborough, 1 pm to 3 pm for Durham, NC
 TOS Orchid Crawl: May 30th - 10 am to 2 pm for Raleigh & Morrisville, NC
 Maps available at the May Meeting & Orchid Trail
 Carpooling is encouraged, as there is limited vehicle space at many of the greenhouses.
 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 | May 11th | Nina Rach | Orchids in Brazil's Matatlantica Forests |
| 7:30-7:45 Business Meeting Announcements | | | |
| 7:45-8:10 Show Table Review | June 8th | Jose Exposito | Orchid Culture |
| 8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break | | | |
| 8:30-9:20 Program | | | |
| 9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle & Door Prizes | July 13th | Dr. Tom Nasser | Angraecums |
| 9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends | | | |

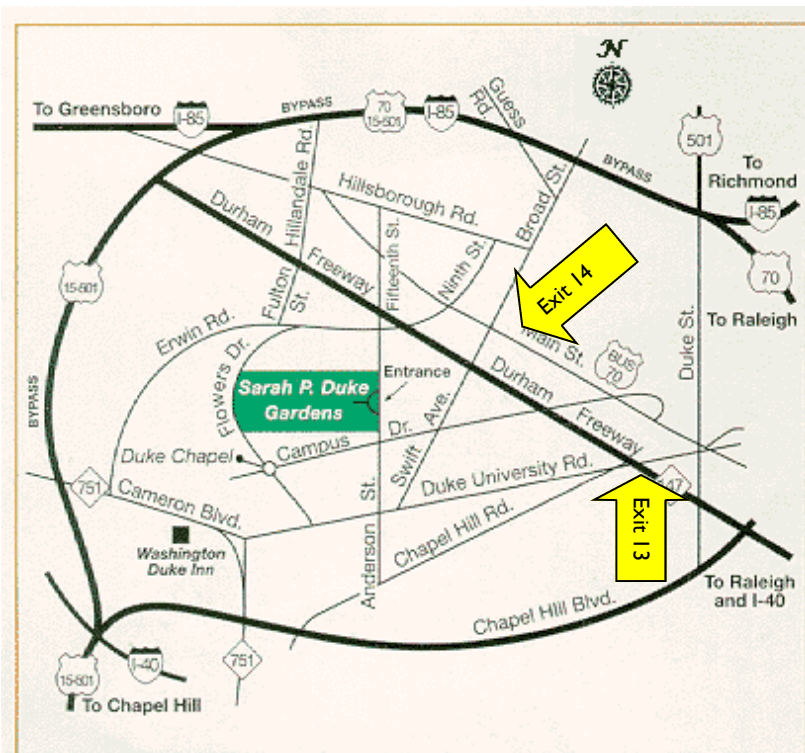
| Welcome Table | | Refreshments |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| May | Need volunteers | Need volunteers |
| June | Need volunteers | Gerry Bowater |



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