



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for October 12, 2009 Nolan Newton - Recognition and Management of Insects & Related Pests of Orchids

Dr. Nolan Newton, a native of Rutherford Co., NC, received his BS in zoology from Duke University and his MS & Ph.D. in entomology from NC State University. He has served as medical entomologist with the NC Dept. of Human Resources and as Chief of the Public Health Pest Management Section of the NC Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources for over 28 years. He oversees the state medical entomology program that assists citizens, units of government and businesses in the management of insects and related arthropods of public health importance and provides training for local health agency and mosquito control workers. His program also coordinates emergency mosquito control in NC when needed. Dr. Newton's professional interests include biological control of nuisance and vector arthropod species, control of vector-borne diseases of man, and emergency mosquito control.

Dr. Newton has grown orchids for over 45 years (he started at a VERY young age), specializing in just about anything that doesn't die quickly. He grows orchids, mostly Phals, under lights at his home in Raleigh and grows many types of orchids outside in the summer and under lights in the winter at his home in Rutherford County. He's presented many talks on orchid pest control and tries to keep up with the rapidly changing technology of insect control on orchids. He may be the only person you'll ever meet who's bought orchids just because they have interesting pests on them!

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**This meeting:
TOS MEMBER
PLANT SALE
& No Dinner
with the Speaker**



Speaker Information

Nolan 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 9/14/2009

The TOS meeting of September 14, 2009 was called to order by President Phil Warner at 7:30 PM. A total of 53 members were present. Welcome to new members Allison King and Steve Meyer. Thank you to John Myhre for staffing the Welcome Table and for running the Hospitality Table. The minutes and treasurer's report of the August meeting were approved.

Phil Warner reminded the membership that Nolan Newton has posted a survey on the internet for his October talk on orchid pests & problems.

TOS Fall Auction: Saturday, September 26th at Lake Crabtree Park. Pot luck lunch at noon, followed by the auction at 1 PM. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Heather Schneider, Chairperson at liflnc@yahoo.com.

October brings the Flower & Garden show to the State Fair, Oct 15-25th. Plants & Volunteers are needed. Please contact Robin Gurlitz at 919-929-9717. The Nominating committee for the selection of next year's officers consists of Paul Virtue, Robin Gurlitz and Bob Meyer. Please let them know if you are interested in a position on the board. The voting selection will be announced at the October meeting.

This month's Show Table was hosted by Bob Davidson. After a short break, Fred Clarke gave his in depth talk on Mini Cattleya's.

The Jack Webster Show Table Awards for greenhouse grown orchids were:

1st Place: Cattleya 'Cinnamon Stick' by Olivene Virtue,

2nd Place Tie: *Stenoglottis longiflora* and *Trichoglottis brachiata* by Paul Feaver.

Non-greenhouse grown orchid awards were:

1st Place: Phrag. *Sedenii* by Phil Warner,
 2nd Place: Paph. Venus Ward by Phil Warner, and

3rd Place: Milt. *bluntii* x Milt. *bluntii* 'Admiral' by Marie Crock.

A beautiful Bulbophyllum Daisy Chain from Orchid Trail was raffled and won by new member Steve Meyer. The meeting was concluded at 9:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Heather Schneider, Newsletter Editor, TOS.

Flower & Garden Show at the NC State Fair 2009 October 15-25th

We will be setting up our display for the NC State Fair on October 13th and will need blooming orchids to fill our display. If you can, please bring your plants that are in bloom for the meeting Monday night October 12th and leave them for us to take to the Fair, that would be great. If you can not be at the meeting Monday night but still would like to loan some orchids for the show, please contact Phil Warner at 919-308-7746, and we will make arrangements to get them. Please, **clearly label all of your plants with your name and address or contact information** so we can get your plants back to you after the Fair. All plants must be in plain pots, no fancy pots, please. Thanks, and come see us at the Fair, or better yet, volunteer to help at the booth if you haven't already.



Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Fred said that he began his orchid growing career by repotting Cattleyas for a neighbor who paid him not with cash but with old AOS magazines. He devoured the magazines and then attended a show in San Diego where he bought as many orchids as he could with his entire savings - \$300. His mother told him that his interest in orchids was a passing phase and that he would lose interest as soon as his collection went out of bloom. Realizing that buying just a few plants that are in flower each month, Fred ensured continual blooming in his collection.

The presentation provided us with insight into the considerations that a professional hybridizer goes through to provide us with quality hybrids we enjoy. Fred breeds miniature and compact Catts because: 1) they don't require a great deal of space; 2) they come in a wide variety of color and forms; 3) the bloom frequently (up to 3 - 4 times a year); 4) they are vigorous plants that are easy to grow; and 5) they are adaptable to a variety of temperature and light conditions. Most can tolerate night time lows down to 50 degrees and day time highs up to 100 degrees. They do best with night time lows of 60 and daytime highs of 75.

Fred's breeding program begins with several basic species. He chooses species based on their known blooming characteristics, and the color and traits they pass to their progeny. *Sophrantis coccinea* for example is used when breeding for red color and is noted for its round, flat form that it passes on. *Catt walkeriana* is only 5-8" high, but blooms with 2-4 flowers per inflorescence. It comes in many color forms including *coerulea* and *flamea* which is so coveted in Japan. Another popular species include *L pumila*, only 5" tall and noted for the downward presentation of its petals and the deep rich purple color of the lip. Other species Fred likes include *Catt luteola*, *Catt aclandiae* (the spotted orchid), *Catt intermedia*, and *L breigeri* which can tolerate such extreme temperatures.

Established primary hybrids form the backbone of any breeding program because they provide predictable results, impart hybrid vigor to species that are hard to grow or have very specific growing requirements. Three primaries that Fred has used extensively include *Sc Beaufort* (*S. coccinea* x *C luteola*), *Lc Mini Purple* (*S pumila* x *C walkeriana*) and *C. Orpetii* (*L pumila* x *S coccinea*). Advanced hybrids build on the known traits of the primaries, and develop size, color and shape. They define plant habit, and are generally easy to flower. They often have a species as a parent as the primary hybrid is bred back to the parent.

Fred removes new crosses from flask when they show evidence of three roots. Of 500 plantlets in a flask he will select 210 of the most vigorous for replating. When selecting these initial plantlets Fred looks for stiff upright pseudobulbs and straight leaves. As the initial plantlets grow, they are culled to only 100 seedlings. When the seedlings finally bloom Fred selects the very best for breeding, keeping in mind that he is selecting for vigor, plant habit and flower quality. From flask to bloom time is normally 3 years, which Fred states is a reduction of at least one year in a normal breeding program because he selects plants that appear to possess a gene that makes them quick to flower.

Fred presented a series of slides showing the development of the characteristics he is breeding for. Each generation of advanced breeding shows improved form and quality. The lesson for hobbyists to is to check the parentage of hybrids you buy. If you find a hybrid with *Sc Beaufort*, *Lc Mini Purple* of *C orpetii* in its background you can assume with some certainty that it comes from select stock and has been chosen for its quality and vigor. Additionally you can be reasonable certain that it will bloom true to color and habit.

Culturally mini and compact Cattleyas require good irrigation and a well drained media. Fred says he uses a dry mix and repots when new roots are showing, not when new growth is showing. Pots should be sized to allow for three years of growth as more frequent repotting risks damage to small, flexible roots. It is the new roots that are the most effective in taking up nutrients into the plants. They are therefore the most important, but also the most vulnerable to mishandling. When repotting it is not necessary to remove all trapped media, especially if this would cause damage to roots. Remove all old, degrading roots and place the plant in the pot with the newest part of the plant facing the front of the pot with enough space for additional growths to spread forward. Add your media in layers, shaking to pack it around the roots. Spread the roots out as you place the plant in the pot and allow the roots to circle around the outside perimeter of the pot. Fred warns not to use a potting stick to pack medium as this crushes roots and spread virus. Most critical of all, write a new name tag with each plant, and date it for future reference.

Transcript by Joy Lemieux, Sandhills Orchid Society



1st Place Ribbon:
Phrag. *Sedenii*
grown by Phil Warner

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse
Grown**



2nd Place Ribbon:
Paph. Venus Ward
(Paph venustum album 'Green Flash'
x Paph Warden 'Double Finery')
grown by Phil Warner



3rd Place Ribbon:
Milt. *bluntii* x Milt. *bluntii* 'Admiral'
grown by Marie Crock



1st Place Ribbon:
Cattleya 'Cinnamon Stick'
grown by Olivene Virtue

2nd Place Ribbon:
Stenoglottis longiflora
grown by Paul Feather

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse
Grown**



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



2nd Place Ribbon:
Trichoglottis brachiata
grown by Paul Feather

Growing Tips for June

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

There is a saying among orchid hobbyists that “there is no such thing as a greenhouse too large”. For those addicted to orchids, this will not come as a shock. All of us constantly must limit our acquisitions or face the prospect of finding more growing space. It does not matter if one has 12 or 12,000 orchids; there is always the need for more space.

Many of us “senior growers” like to think that we have mastered enough discipline to curate our collections so that the quality of the orchids is always improving. Favorites from long ago mingle with newly discovered special orchids so that it is difficult to find an orchid we like better. Even the super seedlings purchased a few years before do not match favorites collected over the years.

There are a few such growers in every orchid club. They look over each speaker’s sales table very carefully and only rarely purchase an orchid. These few have mastered the art of orchid collecting. Each meeting they bring a few of their favorites for everyone to enjoy and take great pride in having found old or rare clones of special hybrids or species. Such a collection takes a lifetime to build.

One of the most heartbreaking tragedies I have observed over the years has come from visiting an old orchid-growing friend or an older hobbyist whose orchid collection was well-known. In many instances, collections once carefully maintained had clearly exceeded the ability of their owner to take care of them. To see fantastic & rare orchids covered with scale or shriveled from lack of water is difficult.

Many great orchid collections were lost when their owners were rushed to a hospital or unable to spend time with their collection because of family illness. Snowstorms, power outages, and other devastating events seem to always occur during these times.

Robert Scully, Sr, a famous South Florida orchidist, turned his orchid business over to his son, Jones & Scully, Inc, and moved to Ocala, FL. He selected only a small number of his famous clones to take with him; small enough to take care of in retirement. I always wondered which clones he selected given the fantastic collection from which he had to choose in his nursery.

At various times, I have tried to contemplate the dilemma of aging and reducing the size of my collection

so that adequate care could be given to my favorite orchids. How does one reduce their collection from several thousand to a hundred or twenty-five. It came as some comfort to discover that Robert Scully, Sr., also could not resist adding a favorite clone or two each time he visited the family business in Miami such that his small greenhouse in Ocala was soon stuffed.

Clearly, even the strongest-willed orchid lovers among us cannot manage to slowly shrink their collection as they age. Helen Congleton, who passed away a few years ago, introduced me to a different approach. She maintained that the orchids in her greenhouse did not really belong to her. She was just taking care of these treasures for awhile and was responsible for transferring them to others that would do the same.

Each time one of her cattleyas grew out of the pot, she would cut the lead three bulbs, pot the division and give the remaining bulbs in the old pot to an orchid growing friend that had expressed an interest in that orchid. She did the same with keikis of phals and cuttings or divisions for everything she treasured. Today, I am the guardian of a number of these plants and I try to do the same; search for a suitable host to whom I will someday transfer the orchid.

Most of us prepare a will or let our loved ones know our wishes when we die, but often the orchids we so diligently collected and cared for are forgotten in that preparation. Recently, I made a list of my favorite orchids. Beside each plant is the name of someone I know that expressed an interest in the clone. In the case of some sudden event, my wish is that these be distributed to those named. So many great collections are lost or sold en mass as pot plants to people who do not appreciate how unique a special old clone is or the role a clone played in breeding today’s magnificent hybrids.

The only way to ensure that others will be able to appreciate these special orchids in the future and add them to their collections is to share and be sure that there is someone designated to care for what was once very special to you. Today, my collection is full of orchids that came from special people I have known over the years and each time that orchid blooms I remember them. That is just a special benefit of being a host for “special orchids”.

Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

The Triangle Orchid Society is planning the following:
 Oct. 15th - 25th: Flower & Garden Show, at the NC State Fair, Raleigh, NC. Volunteers are needed to help. Please contact Robin Gurlitz at (919) 929-9717.
 Oct. 31: Sandhills Orchid Society's Growers Day, 9:30 AM - 4 PM at the Fayetteville Technical CC Horticulture Center next to the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens, Fayetteville, NC. Registration is \$15 before Oct 26 or \$20 at the door. Contact Frank Richey (910) 868-9727

Oct. 23-24: Charlottesville Orchid Society Show, Fashion Square Mall, Rt. 29 North, Charlottesville, VA. Contact: Larry Eicher; (434) 975-4231; tuzlu@comcast.net.
 Nov. 15th International Phalaenopsis Alliance Meeting in Virginia Beach, VA, for more information, please see: <http://www.mhsymposium.org/2009IPA.html>
 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	October 12th	Nolan Newton	Recognition and Control of Insects and Pests of Orchids
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	November 9th	Dr Francisco Morales	Costa Rican Orchids
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle & Door Prizes	December	Auction	Holiday Potluck Dinner
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

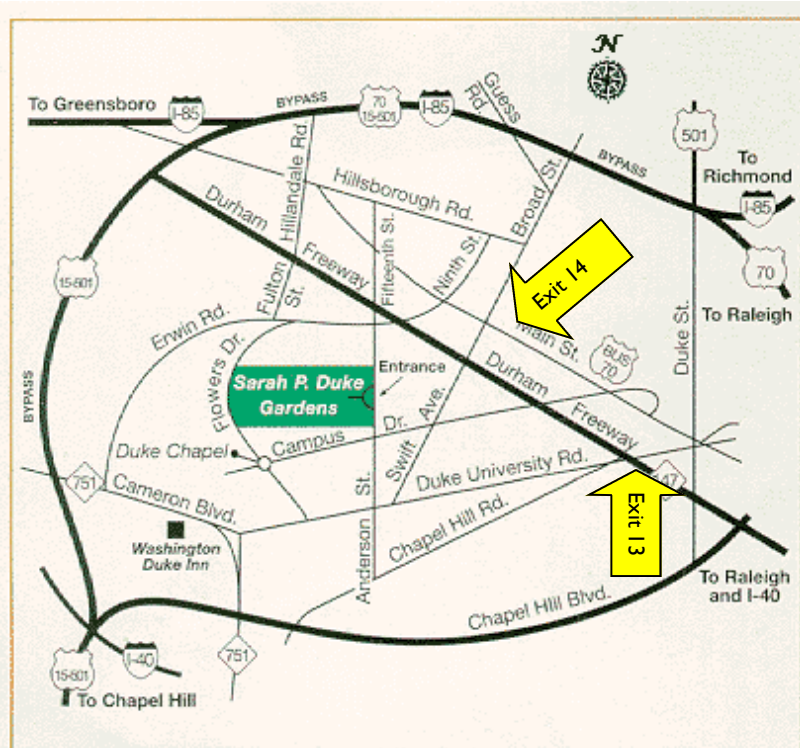
	Welcome Table	Refreshments
Oct	Need volunteers	Debbie & Jerry Bueter
Nov	Need volunteers	Caroline Bernard



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