



Orchidaceae

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for September 14 2009 Fred Clarke - Mini Cattleya's

Today Mini and Compact growing Cattleya's come in many colors and shapes. Learn about the small growing Cattleya species, the important breeding plants and what hybrids are available for the orchid enthusiast. In conclusion we cover the 'best practices' for growing these little gems. This is a PowerPoint presentation.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 33 years and hybridizing for 25 of those years. With over 25 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Bulbophyllum and Paphiopedilum hybrids.

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "the **blackest** flower ever witnessed". This grex has received eight FCC's, four AM's and the coveted 'Award of Distinction' on the first flowers shown for judging!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

Nolan Newton will speak in October, on "Recognition and management of insects and related pests of orchids." In order to make the talk more relevant to your actual orchid pest management needs, Nolan asks that each of you fill out the very brief questionnaire linked to below. It will take about 3 minutes to answer the questions.

[Click here for Pest Survey Link](#)

Thanks for your input! Nolan Newton

Speaker Information

Fred will be bringing plants for sale. He may be contacted at:

Sunset Valley Orchids
1255 Navel Place, Vista, CA 92081
Phone: (760) 639-6255

Email:
fred.clarke@worldnet.att.net

Inside this issue:

<i>This Month's Speaker</i>	1
<i>Minutes of the Last Meeting</i>	2
<i>Last Month's Speaker Transcript</i>	3-4
<i>Grower's Day</i>	5
<i>Jack Webster Show Table Awards</i>	6-7
<i>Growing Tips by Courtney T. Hackney</i>	8
<i>Orchid Events, Speaker Dates, TOS Meeting Schedule Volunteer Schedule</i>	9
<i>Map and Directions to Sarah P Duke Gardens</i>	10

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 8/10/2009

The TOS meeting of 10 August 2009 was called to order by President Phil Warner at 7:30 PM. A total of 57 members were present. A special welcome is extended to the following first time attendees and guests: Jean Gustafson, Mary Ender, Ralph & Jenny Sears, Wanda Wilkins, Rossy Garcia, Jim Ziegler, Jill Osborne, Nancy Harvey, Francis Bindle, and Steve Murphy. Thank you to Judith Goldstein for staffing the Welcome Table and Marlene Kinney for running the Hospitality Table. The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Phil Warner requested any overdue library books be returned or renewed at the next meeting.

Growers Day 2009, held at Raulston Arboretum, was a success, featuring Linda Thorne, Nick Plummer, and Bob Davidson as speakers. Paid attendance was 92, of which 76 became new members in the TOS. Our thanks to Bob Meyer – Chairperson and volunteers: Robin & Josh Gurlitz, Heather & David Schneider, Lee Allgood, Melissa Bullard, and Marie Crock.

TOS Fall Auction: Saturday, September 26th at Lake Crabtree Park's White Oak Pavilion. Pot luck lunch at noon, followed by the auction at 1 PM. This is a great opportunity to add some blooming or unusual orchids to your collection. Volunteers are still needed to help out at this fun event. Please contact Heather Schneider, Chairperson at liflnc@yahoo.com.

Speaker Mario Ferrusi brought AOS brochures to our meeting and gave a brief talk about the benefits of membership. The foremost benefit being their magazine "Orchids", which features articles on orchid culture, and advertisements on orchid shows, sales, and special offers.

Learn How Our Society Operates: President Phil Warner extended and open invitation for members to attend our board meetings. The TOS board meets in the library of the Sarah Duke building on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 PM.

This month's Show Table was hosted by Paul Feaver and Mario Ferrusi. After a short break, Mario Ferrusi gave his talk, "Mario's Orchids from A to Z".

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

1st Place: *Cattleya maxima* by Bob Davidson,

2nd Place: *Paph adductum* x 'Rothschildianum' by Paul Feaver, and

3rd Place: *Vascostylis* Five Friendships by Bob Meyer.

Non-greenhouse grown orchid awards were:

1st Place: *Miltonia schroederiana* by Mildred Howell,

2nd Place: *Phrag lindleyanum* x Grande 4N 'Gigantea' by Marie Crock, and

3rd Place: *Chiconastele sulphurera* by Melissa Bullard.

31 orchids were raffled off to end the evening at 9:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Bob Meyer, Secretary, TOS.



Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

Mario Ferrusi has been growing orchids for over 30 years. He lives and grows in Hamilton, Ont., Canada. He is an AOS judge and an AOS trustee. He has 2 greenhouses and grows primarily cool growing varieties. His presentation, "Orchids A to Z" incorporated photos of his awarded plants and a discussion of the genus involved. Many of his favorites, especially the *Draculas*, are very difficult to grow under North Carolina conditions. However, not all of Mario's plants are cool growers. There actually were a number of intermediate growers in his collection.

Aerangis Winter Dove, (*Aerangis kotschiana* x *Aerangis Amado Vasquez*) is an easy to grow hybrid based on species from Eastern Africa and the island of Madagascar. Most *Aerangis* grow along the banks of streams in dense shade in very humid environments. Typically *Aerangis* are white star shaped flowers with a long spur (nectary), and are night fragrant. They grow in intermediate to warm conditions and required constant year round humidity. Many *Aerangis* are miniatures and they are often grown on mounts. *Angulocastes* are crosses made from *Anguloas* and *Lycastes*. *Anguloas* are native to Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru, primarily at moderate altitudes. They grow in leaf litter on the forest floor in light shade. The flowers are very long lasting. They prefer cool growing conditions but can tolerate intermediate temps if grown in a well drained mix in a humid environment. They need a winter dormancy and will drop their foliage as a sign of that they need no further watering until new growth emerges.

Bifrenaria are found from Mexico to Brazil, at low to moderate altitudes in rain forests. They are often grown in baskets in a standard epiphytic mix with intermediate conditions. They do best in

bright light and need a dry rest period when the pseudobulbs have matured. *Brassias* occur throughout tropical America. Most are from rain forest conditions from sea level to 5,000 ft. elevations. They do well in baskets with intermediate temperatures. Allow the mix to dry out between waterings, especially after the pseudobulbs mature. Virtually all *Brassias* have yellow flowers accented with brown spotting.

Cycnoches pentadactylon, one of the Swan Orchids, has a slender column and down-turned apex that resembles a flying swan. These are closely allied with *Catasetums* and are often crossed with them. *Cycnoches* are found in the American tropics, growing in hot humid lowlands. These plants may have male or female flowers which are totally different in appearance. *Cycnoches* should be watered heavily while in active growth but then allowed to dry out during winter dormancy. The plants are deciduous and will drop their leaves late in the fall. These are very prone to spider mites so keep the Neem oil handy when you grow these.

Lycastes range from Mexico to Peru at altitudes from sea level to 8300 ft. The pseudobulbs are often very crowded, with only 2 - 3 leaves. Most species are deciduous during flowering. Some species produce a single large flower while others may produce as many as 15 flowers, but all are long lasting. *Lycastes* are another species that require heavy watering while they are in active growth, but also need a dry dormancy at the end of their growth cycle. Some species can tolerate full sun but others prefer shady conditions. Generally, the yellow flowered species are from Mexico and are intermediate growers. The cool growers, such as *L. skinneri* are evergreen and do not need the dry dormancy.

continued on page 4

Speaker transcript continued

Miltonia are found at moderate altitudes throughout Brazil. They are closely related to Oncidium and Miltoniopsis. Some experts consider the differences between these three genera to be insignificant, while others treat them very differently. The pseudobulbs are spaced along rambling rhizomes so they do not do well contained in a pot. Many growers place them in shallow bulb pans to compensate for the rambling growth habit. The flowers tend to be quite showy and large. Miltonias need high light and high humidity, Watering needs to be heavy during active growth but reduced after flowering. The fine, delicate roots are very sensitive to the quality of water they receive. These are finicky plants to grow, definitely not for beginners.

Phragmipediums are generally larger than their close relative the Paphiopedilums. They are found from Mexico to Bolivia and Brazil, and grow in moist, shady areas. They are best grown as terrestrials. They do best with intermediate conditions, year-round watering and semi-shade. They are one of the few orchids that do well if placed in shallow pans of water. These are truly spectacular if allowed to grow into large clumps, with multiple spike per flowering.

Promenaea are small, compact plants from central and southern Brazil. They are found in moist forests at moderate altitudes. The flowers are large in comparison to the size of the plants. These easy to grow plants required heavy watering and high humidity with warm to intermediate conditions.

Sophranitis are from Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. They are closely related to Cattleya and Laelias, and are often used in hybridizing. *S. coccinea*, for example, is dominant for its deep red color and is used to produce red Cattleyas. These are generally very small plants, with large flowers. Each pseudobulb carries only one, leathery

or succulent leaf in most species. Most sophranitis grow in very harsh, exposed conditions on rocks. They can be found at moderate to high altitudes. They do best with high light, and humid conditions but must have good circulation to thrive. Most do well on mounts. *S. coccinea* & *ceruna* can be watered year round but most of the other species in this genus require a dry dormancy period at the end of the growth cycle.

Transcript by Joy Lemieux, Sandhills Orchid Society

TOS FALL AUCTION

On Saturday, September 26th:
TOS Fall Orchid Auction, at
the White Oak Pavilion, Lake
Crabtree County Park, Morris-
ville, NC, at Aviation Parkway,
south of RDU, off I-40. A pot-
luck lunch starts at noon, and
the auction follows at 1 pm.
The auction is open to the
public. You do not need to be a
TOS member, everyone is
WELCOME!

Grower's Day, J.C. Raulston Arboretum, August 8th, 2009

The TOS Growers Day 2009, being held at Raulston Arboretum, was a great success. The featured speakers were Linda Thorne from Seagrove Orchids, and TOS member's Nick Plummer and Bob Davidson. The attendance was considerably larger than last year's with 92 attending, of which 76 became new members in the TOS. A morning talk by Linda, was followed by a wonderful lunch. The afternoon went quickly with Nick Plummer giving a talk about his change from windowsill grower to building his own greenhouse. Bob Davidson followed up with detailed talk about orchid culture. Our thanks to Bob Meyer – Chairperson and volunteers: Robin & Josh Gurlitz, Heather & David Schneider, Lee Allgood, Melissa Bullard, and Marie Crock.



A full room awaits Linda Thorne from Seagrove Orchids to speak on phalaenopsis orchids & culture.

A lovely display of TOS member plants in the lobby for attendees to view & ask culture questions.

Getting some growing tips





1st Place Ribbon:
Miltonia schroederiana
grown by Mildred Howell

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse
Grown**



2nd Place Ribbon:
Phrag lindleyanum x
Grande 4N 'Gigantea'
grown by Marie Cook



3rd Place Ribbon:
Chiconastele sulphurera
grown by Melissa Bullard



1st Place Ribbon:
Cattleya maxima
grown by Bob Davidson



2nd Place Ribbon:
Paph. adductum x 'Rothschildianum'
grown by Paul Fever

**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

3rd Place Ribbon:
Vascostylis Five Friendships
grown by Bob Meyer



Growing Tips for June

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

Fall in the tropics can mean many things depending on where in the tropics one looks. There may be more rain, less rain, clear skies, and even cool nights. But there is one universal facet to fall everywhere, shortening day length. Here, as in the tropics, many species of orchids and their hybrids are reacting to shorter days. Fall blooming cattleyas are already showing buds deep in their sheaths or even blooming.

In my greenhouse in Florida, many fall blooming cattleyas have already bloomed even though fall does not begin until September 22. Blc Norman's Bay completed blooming in early August and immediately began growth on two new leads. Late summer blooms followed by late fall blooms is not uncommon if fall blooming cattleyas are mature and well-established.

Typically, cattleya flowers last longer and are better colored when blooms develop during cool nights. This is especially true when yellow pigments are involved. The rich deep purple of Blc Oconee 'Mendenhall' or red from Blc Owen Holmes 'Mendenhall' is not as intense in summer since the yellow pigments in flowers do not develop as well in the heat.

Depending on your location, September is often a good month to initiate flower spikes in standard Phalaenopsis. A day to night temperature difference of 15 degrees F for a week to 10 days will cause your phals to initiate spikes. It is important to initiate spikes as soon as possible since the growth of phal spikes will slow as days get shorter and available energy decreases.

Hobbyists with orchids outside can let nature take its course. If you grow in a closed greenhouse, the temperature can be lowered to that of the outside by simply keeping exhaust fans on at night. Some

commercial growers with cooling pads run cooling pads along with exhaust fans all night to lower the temperature inside the greenhouse below the external environment.

The vast majority of orchid hobbyists grow their orchids inside in windows or under lights. Many have difficulty getting their orchids to re-bloom and assume they are not providing enough light. Often though, it is the lack of seasonal change in day length because of interior lights, or because of a sufficient drop in temperature, especially for phalaenopsis. Leaving windows open next to phals or even placing orchids outside for a couple of weeks can accomplish the prerequisite temperature drop.

Windowsill growers should watch the change in the sun's angle carefully. Orchids growing happily during summer may become vulnerable to burning in a south-facing window. Similarly, leaves may be thinning in trees shading orchids outside and orchids may burn. Greenhouse growers may consider reducing shade, since the sun's angle and intensity have changed since the summer's peak in late June.

The declining solar radiation and longer nights also means that your orchids need less water. Pay more attention to over-watering now since there is less time for orchids to dry each day.

Typically, less fertilizer is also required this time of year. Cattleyas fertilized with Nutricote last spring will have used up what was released and no additional fertilizer will be necessary until next spring. There will be some residual fertilizer that has been incorporated in the medium and this should suffice until spring. Phals and other orchids that grow and flower all year long will need additional fertilizer, but not as much as they did during the peak growing season. Phals often produce larger spikes if fertilizer is withheld for a month or so this time of year.

Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

The Triangle Orchid Society is planning the following:

September 26th: TOS Fall Orchid Auction, at the White Oak Pavilion, Lake Crabtree County Park, Morrisville, NC. A Member Potluck luncheon starts at noon, with the auction following at 1 PM. Volunteers are needed to help.

October 15th - 25th: Flower & Garden Show, at the NC State Fair, Raleigh, NC. Volunteers are needed to help.

Carolina Judging Center, Natural Sciences Center, Greensboro, NC, Judging & Business Meeting, Sept. 19th, Tom Wise: "Coelogyne species and hybrids"
See: www.carolinasjudgingcenter.org for info.

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	September 14th	Fred Clarke Bringing Plants For Sale	Mini - Cattleyas
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting Announcements			
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	October 12th	Nolan Newton <u>Pest Survey</u>	Recognition and Control of Insects and Pests of Orchids
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break			
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle & Door Prizes	November 9th	Dr Francisco Morales	Costa Rican Orchids
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table

Refreshments

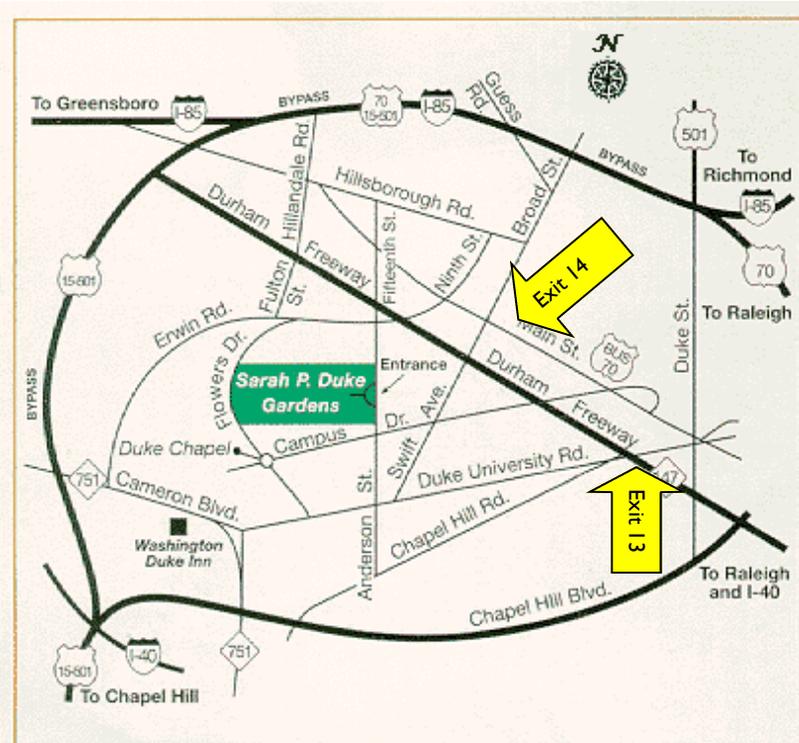
Sept	Need volunteers	Michael Arner
Oct	Need volunteers	Debbie & Jerry Bueter



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