



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for March 8, 2010 Tom Nasser - Bulbophyllums

Dr. Thomas R. Nasser, III & Shan Nasser started their orchid business in Clemson, SC as Clemson Orchids. After moving to Fort Mill, SC in 1992, the name was changed to Carolina Orchids. The 3 greenhouses contain over 7000 sq. ft. of orchid plants. Both of the Nassers have been growing orchids since the 1970's. Tom is previous vice president of NC Piedmont Orchid Society and although his doctorate is in Polymer Chemistry, he is Adjunct Professor at UNCC to help & advise growing orchids at UNCC greenhouses.

The majority of orchid plants in their collection are for sale. Not only are several sizes available, but sometimes several different clones are available. Since the Nassers' have such a variety they do not list all sizes and clones of the plants that are available on their website. Customers who are interested in a particular orchid should call or write to them and ask about it. The best thing to do, is call and arrange to stop by the greenhouse and take a look for yourself. Carolina Orchids is open 7 days a week unless the Nassers are visiting an orchid show or traveling. They ask that customers call first to make sure someone is available before visiting them. The greenhouses are surrounded by walks lined with rhododendrons, ferns, asarums, helleborus, etc. - just to name a few. A 5 acre lake is stocked with bass, if plants are not your cup of tea.

The Nassers give orchid talks in the US & Canada. Topics include angraecums, bulbophyllums, and species. Plants are sold to hobbyists all over the United States. Orchid species are Carolina Orchids' specialty with collections of paphiopedilums/phragmipediums (lady's slippers), bulbophyllums, lycastes, angraecums, and cattleyas.

Carolina Orchids is located at 3637 Pleasant Road, Fort Mill, SC 29708-1234.

Website: <http://www.carolinaorchids.com>

Phone: 803 548 1682. Email: shann@comporium.net.

Speaker will have plants for sale

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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.

2010 TOS Membership Dues are Due!

\$18 per year single,
or \$24 per year for 2 persons
living at the same address

Please mail to:
Melissa Bullard, Treasurer
510 North Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**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 2/8/2010

The February meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the president of the TOS, Robin Gurlitz. Guests were welcomed and the minutes for last month's meeting were reviewed and accepted. Volunteers are needed for the Welcome table. See Lee Allgood to sign up. Miriam & Leo Sagasti provided refreshments and Jeremy & Debbie Bueter manned the Welcome table. See Paul Feaver to help put up and take down the lights for our Orchid tables.

We were reminded to pay our dues. Checks can be made out to TOS, and handed to Melissa Bullard at the meeting or mailed to her at 510 North Street, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. A single membership is \$18 and a dual membership is \$24. If you have not paid your membership dues for 2010 by the March 8th meeting, you will not receive the newsletter.

John Stanton of The Orchid Trail was presented a \$100 gift certificate by the president in appreciation for his outstanding service to the TOS over a number of years. His generosity in providing, storing, and helping us to obtain orchids for meetings and auctions has been most helpful and everyone in the Society has benefited from his actions.

Raffle tickets were available for \$1 each. Bring a plant for the Show table and receive a free raffle ticket for up to a maximum of 5 tickets.

The TOS will put in a table top exhibit at the Virginia Orchid Society Show being held in Richmond, February 26th – 28th. Josh and Robin Gurlitz will put up and take down the exhibit. Take plants to The Orchid Trail by Tuesday, February 23rd for use in the exhibit.

Robin Gurlitz introduced the speaker, Francisco Miranda, who then assisted Bob Davidson in discussing the beautiful plants on the Show tables. Time prevented every plant from being discussed. (You may bring to the attention of the presenter a

question about a specific plant if that plant has not been discussed.) Thanks to Bob and Francisco for giving us such a good presentation.

The Jack Webster Award Plants were: Greenhouse Grown Awards: 1st Place: V. Roberts Delight 'Crownfox Big Red' by Paul & Olivene Virtue, 2nd Place: Brassia Rex 'Sakata' AM/AOS by Bob Davidson, and 3rd Place: Blc. Little Stars by Paul & Olivene Virtue.

The Non-Greenhouse Grown Awards:

1st Place: *Phaius tankervilleae* by Tom Wentworth;

2nd Place: Stenosarcos Vanguard 'Fireball' by Marie Crock; and, 3rd Place: Ctsm. Dragon's Teeth 'Rolf's Flight of Fancy' AM/AOS by Bob Meyer.

Robin Gurlitz reintroduced our speaker, Francisco Miranda, who gave his talk on Rupicolous Orchids. The meeting was adjourned about 9:50 pm. Minutes submitted by David Pickett, Secretary, TOS.

Last Reminder for your 2010 TOS Membership Dues!

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or \$24 per year for 2 persons

living at the same address

Please mail to:

Melissa Bullard, Treasurer

510 North Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**You will not
receive any more
newsletters, unless your
dues are paid this month.**



Transcript of Last Month's Speaker

I was particularly anxious to hear Francisco's presentation because I have many Laelias, both species and hybrids. Over the years friends have shared a division, or I won an auction plant or worse yet, I divided some of my own. Without even trying I've become the owner of 18 plants, most in 6" pots, which represents a lot of bench space. Several of these bloom on cue every year, but they have never bloomed as profusely as I would like. Others, well, sadly they have never bloomed. As my bench space becomes more & more crowded, and therefore more valuable, I've been considering the compost for several of them. I was anxious to hear what Francisco had to say about Laelias, anticipating that he might have some words of wisdom that could possibly provide a reprieve for my plants.

Francisco arrived with the same message we received from so many growers last year – if you want to grow and flower your plants to their full potential, you need to replicate the conditions where the plant occurs naturally. This means understanding geography and climatic conditions. In a country as large as Brazil, there are multiple distinct environmental areas. Francisco named off tropical rain forests, dry oak forests, savannahs, dry table lands, and of course the Amazon basin. He described how cold fronts, moving north from Antarctica, may or may not impact some of these orchid areas. He talked about cloud cover and humidity, and how these plants can attach themselves to rock faces that are virtually perpendicular. He also described hunting for plants and finding them amid dry, dead looking grasses. He remarked over and over again that blooming takes place after a dry dormancy. That's when the light bulb came on for me. I've been very careful to provide a dry rest period for some of my Dendrobiums, but frankly it's never occurred to me to rest the Laelias. Like many hobby growers I faithfully water them every week, just like everything else in the greenhouse. So now I need to add a dry rest period, and I'm going to have to figure out just when that should be. My plants are putting on new growth just now. I will begin water more during the heat of the summer, but in the fall I will begin to hold back watering. The new growths that are developing should be mature by that time. I will water sparingly through the fall and winter and hopefully I'll finally get some blooms. So you heard it here first, at this time next year I'll either have blooming Laelias, or there will

be huge contribution to the compost pile.

Another comment that got my attention was Francisco's repeated reference to Laelias growing on rocks. He described their roots penetrating through accumulated leaf litter and gravel, and finding enough water or seepage to keep their roots cool even while the rest of the plant may be exposed to full sun. For me, that was another light bulb. Keep the roots cool! I'm going to take my plants out of the plastic and put them in clay pots, which retain more moisture and is therefore cooler in hot weather. Francisco talked about the fact that Laelias growing in rock crevices often have rich organic materials that been washed into the crack. The day after his presentation I went outside and inspected the cracks in the sidewalk in front of my house. Sure enough, the cracks between the slabs were packed with dirt. There were even some small ferns growing there. I suddenly realized I've been growing in too sterile a mix. I've experimented with a number mixes, and at one point I put all my Cattleyas in aggregate rock from the cement yard. Obviously no organic material there! So I will be repotting all my Laelias very soon, taking them out of the concrete gravel and placing them in a bark mix.

So, I got some clues about growing my Laelias. However, for me, the most interesting comment Francisco made referred to the attempts by man to breed orchids to better conform with our standard of what we believe to be beautiful. As an AOS judge it has been drummed into me -- round and flat, round and flat. That's what we want every orchid to look like, and why we love our hybrids. After all, it is a relatively simple matter to take a cupped or star shaped flower, cross it with something that is very, very flat, and we can anticipate with some certainty that the offspring will be relatively flatter. Breeders have done such a good job of getting orchids to conform to the round, flat standard that sometimes the resulting progeny don't look anything like their early ancestors. According to Francisco, some of the plants sold as species today do not resemble the species that were found by early collectors. Generations of careful selection, crossing sibs or selecting for tetraploid features has resulted in basic forms being markedly altered. This was brought home to me last weekend as I was judging a show in South Carolina. My team was presented

**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse
Grown**



2nd Place Ribbon:
Stenosarcos Vanguard 'Fireball'
grown by Marie Crock

3rd Place Ribbon:
Ctsm. Dragon's Teeth
'Rolf's Flight of Fancy' AM/AOS
grown by Bob Meyer



1st Place Ribbon:
Phaius tankervilleae
grown by Tom Wentworth





**Jack Webster
Awards
Greenhouse
Grown**

1st Place Ribbon:
V. Roberts Delight
'Crownfox Big Red'
grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue

2nd Place Ribbon:
Brassia Rex 'Sakata' AM/AOS
grown by Bob Davidson

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:
Blc. Little Stars
grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue



Virginia Orchid Society Show February 25th-28th, 2010 “Orchids in Paris”



The Virginia Orchid Society held their show “Orchids in Paris ” at the end of February at “Strange’s Florist & Greenhouse” in Richmond, Virginia. The Virginia Orchid Society hosted several orchid societies from the Mid-Atlantic region including Charlottesville Orchid Society, National Capital Orchid Society from Washington D.C., Catoclin Orchid Society from Maryland, Tidewater Orchid Society, Virginia Orchid Society, Richmond Orchid Alliance from Richmond and Triangle Orchid Society. Vendors included Marriott Orchids, Floradise Orchids, Orchid Gallery (Tennessee), D&L Orchids, Bud-Blasters, D&A Orchids, Orchid Enterprises and Chadwicks. Artwork was for sale by Sunisa’s Clay Orchids and Mary Jane Zander.

The show was set up by Robin & Josh Gurlitz on Thursday; TOS members loaned 30 plants. Judging was on Friday, February 26th and the competition was intense with many great plants in each class. David Pickett drove up to visit the show on Friday and attend the gala opening party which included an interesting and successful silent auction. 16 plants were awarded ribbons out of the 30 that were loaned by Marie Crock, Paul Feaver, Josh & Robin Gurlitz, Bob Meyers, Alan Miller, David Pickett, Miriam & Leo Sagasti and John Stanton. The table top display was awarded a second place red ribbon.

In addition to the displays and vendors there were continuous informative classes on many topics, making this a really wonderful show to attend. Our hosts at the VOS were great!



American Orchid Society Corner

Time to plan for an **Orchid Conference!**

Ready for a fun get away? April 28 thru May 2 is the Spring 2010 AOS Members Meeting which is being hosted by the Oklahoma Orchid Society in OKC. This is an **Orchid Conference** which includes the Orchid Digest, the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association, International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Pleurothallid Alliance and the Slipper Orchid Alliance as well as the AOS – they are all meeting at a fabulous orchid show.

The conference starts off with a preview party on Thursday evening, then on Friday the keynote speaker is **Joyce Stewart** after which sales and the show open to the public. Several orchid lectures are scheduled. Saturday evening is a fun auction followed by dinner and a Hoedown party. You can see all of details as well as download a registration form

at: <http://www.2010aosshow.oosorchids.org/>

As an affiliated society member you are invited to attend this conference including the **AOS Affiliated Society Breakfast** on Friday, April 30th where we will be sharing the results of our Innovative Society Survey. Please join us for orchids, socializing, lectures and all kinds of orchid fun. Registration is \$89 before 4/1/2010 after which the price goes up to \$109. Every registrant gets a fabulous goodie bag! Hotel rooms start at \$89. Is this meeting too far west for you? The Fall 2010 AOS meeting is in Virginia Beach, VA on October 27 - 31. Attend either or both and you're sure to have a great time. I hope to see you in OKC!

Carol Holdren

AOS Affiliated Society Committee

Triangle Orchid Society Spring Auction Saturday, May 1st, 2010 Potluck Luncheon at Noon with Auction following at 1 PM.

Being held at the Beech Pavilion at Lake Crabtree County Park, Morrisville, NC on Aviation Parkway, Exit 285 South from I-40.

Please bring a dish to share for the TOS member luncheon. We will be needing a few volunteers to help with set-up, auctioneering & clean-up.

Come & Enjoy a fun afternoon helping support the Triangle Orchid Society! We look forward to seeing you there! Bring a friend!

Growing Tips for February

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

Perhaps Paph lovers enjoy repotting, but those of us that grow cattleyas find repotting a chore; hence, my search for another medium. The use of lava rock as a medium for Paphs was almost accidental. A large plant of Paph Lady Isabel fell off the bench and a growth broke off leaving its roots behind. I threw the growth into a clear plastic pot, which immediately fell over from the weight of the plant. I was experimenting with lava rock for my cattleyas at the time, so I threw a handful of lava rock into the pot to keep it from tipping over and set it among the other Paphs with the intention of repotting as soon as I got some Paph mix. Needless to say, I forgot about the plant until I saw a large spike emerging on the Paph bench. When I lifted the plant the root system had almost filled the bottom of the pot and there were two new growths.

It may not feel like it yet, but spring is just around the corner and it is time to think about repotting. For many new to the hobby of orchid growing, the thought of repotting can be terrifying. For those of us that have been growing for awhile, it is a lot of work, made much easier if all the supplies needed are ready when the orchids are.

Many new growers are anxious to repot so they can divide their orchids. The real question should be, "Does this plant need to be divided?". If the medium is degraded the orchid should be divided. Orchids that have 3 or more bulbs out of the pot are likely candidates too. However, if grown in some type of inorganic medium, e.g. Aliflor, one can simply cut the 3 bulbs that are out of the pot off and leave the remainder in the pot.

Determining if the medium is degraded or not can be tricky, even for experts. This was discussed in January's column. If growing in some type of bark, shove a finger into the medium. If it is easy to push through the medium or if the medium feels mushy, then it is time to repot. If some of the bark feels hard, but there are mushy spots jet some water through the pot or hold the pot upside down and then jet water into the pot. If the orchid falls out it is ready to repot. If not, you can get another year in this pot by adding a handful of new bark as a top dressing.

Paphs and phals usually need to be repotted each year unless grown in large bark or rock. Typically, most phals are purchased in a soilless mixture or sphagnum,

both of which seldom last more than a year. Paphs are especially prone to root death unless repotted frequently or top dressed with dolomite lime.

Early spring is usually the best time to divide because most orchids are going into a growth mode and will be able to replace roots damaged during repotting. Most orchid hybrids and species have or are about to initiate new growths, so care needs to be exercised so that these fragile green nubs are not damaged. There are some exceptions to this rule, notably with species. Some bifoliate (two leaves per bulb) cattleyas should only be repotted when getting new roots even with the risk of damaging the new root tips. Repotting before or after this time will severely set the plant back or even result in its death.

Repotting assumes that you have everything you need, which should be done now if you have not already done so. Do not wait until the last minute to purchase what you need since supplies can often be hard to find once all of the growers in the U.S. begin repotting. Always overestimate what you will need. If stored properly, unused supplies will last for years.

Be sure to keep track of each plant's name. That is critical, not just for exhibiting, but also so that you can check the growing requirements if needed.

Speaker Notes cont'd from page 3

with a plant of *Phal amabilis*. The flowers were round and flat, with no windows between the sepals and petals. It was a beautiful plant, well grown, with no blemishes on the foliage or the flowers. As we began the process of comparing this plant to previously awarded ones, I opened my data base to look for pictures. I found numerous photos, including some reproductions of early Lindleyan prints. As I looked at these I came to an appreciation for what Francisco was talking about. The careful botanical illustrations Lindley had made in the mid 19th century had little resemblance to the plant in front of us on the table. The early specimens were not round and flat, but cupped and star-shaped. There were notable spaces between the segments. And, most notable of all, the flowers were not shingled in nice even rows on the stem as we have come to expect with Phals. Yet, this was the same plant! Or was it??

Transcript by Joy Lemieux, Sandhills Orchid Society

Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

The Triangle Orchid Society will participate in the following events:

April 9-11th: Southern Ideal Home Show at the NC State Fair Grounds. We will join the Triangle Gardener in their booth. Volunteers are needed to help.

May 1st: Spring Orchid Auction will be held that Saturday at the Beech 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.

Last Reminder for Dues: TOS Membership Dues are \$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for 2 persons living at the same address Please mail to: Melissa Bullard, Treasurer, 510 North Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Checks can be made out to TOS.

Feb. 6-April 11th: Orchids, a Cultural Odyssey, US Botanical Gardens, Washington DC. 100 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC. For Information (202) 225-8333, Website: <http://www.usbg.gov/index.cfm>

March 26-28th: Western NC Orchid Society "Swamped with Orchids" Show: at the North Carolina Arboretum, 100 Fredrick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC. Contact: Graham Ramsey, 531 Blackberry Inn Rd., Weaverville, NC 28787; (828) 691-1121; g_ram@yahoo.com.

April 23-25: Deep South Orchid Society Show, Savannah Mall, 14045 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA. Contact: Patricia Bucky, 216 E. 58th St., Savannah, GA 31405; (912) 844-2979; patsybucky@aol.com.

Also: www.aos.org, click on "Events" & "Show Schedules"

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2010	Speaker	Topic
7:00-7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	March 8th	Tom Nasser	Bulbophyllums
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting Announcements		Plants for Sale	
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	April 12th	Cordelia Head	Good things come in small packages
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break		Plants for Sale	
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle & Door Prizes	May 10th	Harold Hills	Fragrance Of Orchids
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table

Refreshments

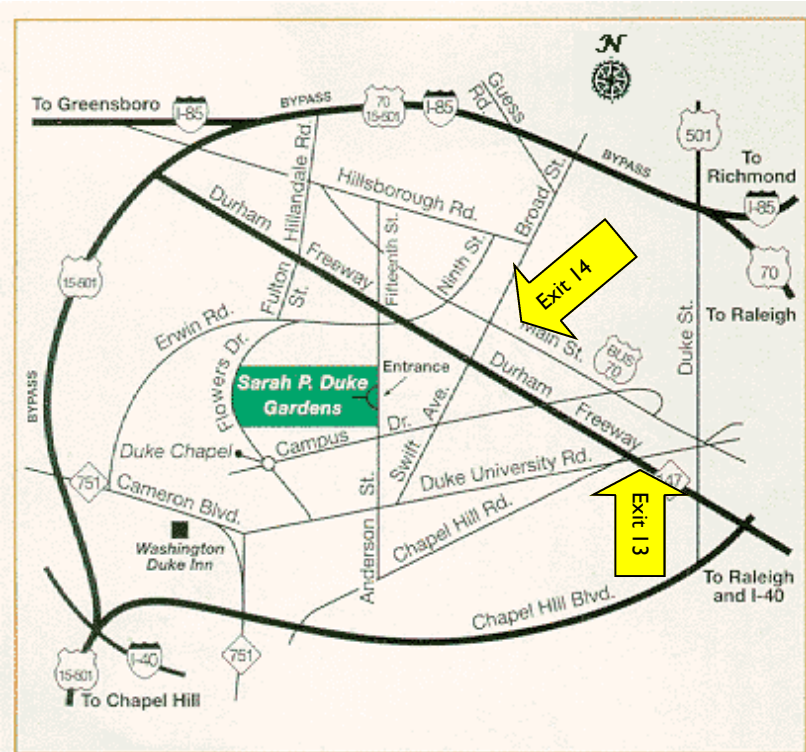
March	Olivene Virtue	Gerry Bowater
April	Need Volunteers	Andrea & Bill Erwin



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.

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