



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## Alan Koch Speaker for October 11, 2010

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 300,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding.

Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, and the American Orchid Society magazines. He has also been published in the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Vice-chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors, as well as a Trustee for the AOS.

Alan may be contacted at: Gold Country Orchids, 390 Big Ben Rd, Lincoln, CA 95648

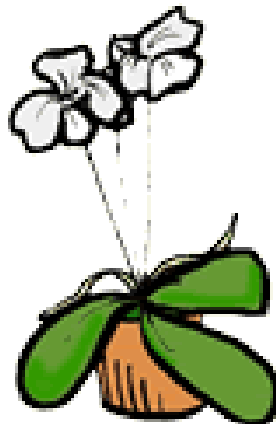
Telephone: 916.645.8600, FAX: 916.645.7076, Email: gcorchids@aol.com

**Alan Koch is bringing plants to sell**  
**10% discount & free freight with e'mail preorders**

### 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 to reserve a seat, at  
919-969-1612  
All are welcome



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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**

## TOS Officers and Board Members

### President

Robin Gurlitz (919) 929-9717  
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### Vice President

#### Program Chairman

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[orchidacea@att.net](mailto:orchidacea@att.net)

### Secretary

David Pickett (919) 688-8410  
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### Treasurer

Melissa Bullard (919) 929-6808  
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### Past President

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### Board of Trustees:

#### At Large Trustees: 2010

Bob Davidson (919)-969-7365  
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#### At Large Trustees: 2011

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Sally Carpenter (919) 464-5764  
[scarp919@aol.com](mailto:scarp919@aol.com)

## Minutes of the Last Meeting 8/9/2010

The September meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the president of the TOS, Robin Gurlitz. Members and guests were welcomed, and a new enthusiastic member, Michael Le, was introduced to the membership. The July minutes and financials were accepted and approved. 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. Remember, if you **purchase** 5 raffle tickets, you will receive a 6<sup>th</sup> one for free.

Thanks to Michael Arner for providing refreshments, Mac Howell and Paul Welty for setting up the lights, Paul Virtue for setting up the computer, Miriam and Leo Sagasti for taking the show table pictures and, Nick Plummer for talking about the show tables.

Our Fall Auction will be held on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at Lake Crabtree County Park in Morrisville. A potluck will start at noon and the auction at 1:00 p.m. Sally Carpenter is chairing the event and needs volunteers. See Sally during the break to volunteer. Plant donations are always welcome and appreciated, but please check all plants for bugs before donating. Sally needs auctioneers and vans to haul the plants from the Orchid Trail to the site. We will be auctioning off the latest version of ORCHIDWIZ. It cost about \$260 but the bids can be lower than that. The program does have to stay with one person but can be installed on two of their computers. It's wonderful for tracking, researching your collection and putting pictures into the program. Updates will be provided but you do not have to buy them. Josh Gurlitz then pulled up an example of what the program can do.

Jeremy Beuter, Chair for the State Fair, needs volunteers to both set up and take down our exhibit. Also, volunteers are needed for various times throughout the fair to meet and greet attendees and discuss orchids. Being an expert is not required. Bring plants to the October meeting. Sign up sheets will be passed around if you can volunteer to help.

We need a volunteer to chair our Holiday Party. How about you?

John Myhre, Paul Virtue, and Alan Miller comprise the Nominating Committee for new board members. Anyone wanting to become a

board member or in charge of hosting the speaker, secretary, or president, please speak to one of these three people.

Robin Gurlitz introduced our speaker, Walter Off and his wife Debra. They are from New Jersey and own Waldor Orchids. His talk is on "Classic Cattleyas, Reinvented" and he brought some wonderful orchids for us to add to our collections.

Nick Plummer did an excellent job of 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.)

The Jack Webster Award Plants were:  
 Greenhouse Grown Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Trichoglottis -- Paul Feaver; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Stenoglottis longifolia-- Paul Feaver; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Encyclia -- . The Non-Greenhouse Grown Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> Ascda. Su-Fun Beauty 'Orange Belle' AM/AOS -- Josh & Robin Gurlitz; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Cirrhopetalum makoyanum -- Jeremy Beuter; and, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Miltonia Ruth Senn x Milt. Sandy's Cove 'Woodlawn' -- Mildred Howell.

The meeting adjourned around 9:30 pm. Minutes submitted by David Pickett, Secretary, TOS.

## Treasurers Report Melissa Bullard

August 2010

### INCOME

Plant Raffle.....	\$ 50.00
Membership dues.....	\$ 18.00
Auction dep. refund.....	\$ 50.00
Total Income.....	\$ 118.00

### EXPENSES

Refreshments.....	\$ 37.56
Raffle Plant.....	\$ 20.00
Growers Day.....	\$ 200.73
Speaker Exp.....	\$ 209.00
Website Hosting.....	\$ 109.85
Contributions.....	\$ 275.00
Equip. Expense.....	\$ 34.41
Total Expense.....	\$ 1,186.55
<b>Net Income.....</b>	<b>[\$ 1,068.55]</b>



## Speaker Notes—Walter Off

Special thanks to Joy Lemieux for these notes

I don't believe I've ever seen a definition for the term "Classic" Cattleya. I knew that it meant hybrids that somebody, somewhere had considered good enough to be used in later breeding. However, I was always a little hazy about how a Cattleya came to be considered a "Classic". And I assumed that the term meant that the hybrids were made way back – maybe 100 or 200 years ago. Walter's presentation was certainly enlightening because he talked about the names of the people who had actually made the hybrids that we now consider "Classic". Walter actually knew some of these people, which helped me put the concept into some time frame. I now appreciate that "Classic" Cattleya does not necessarily mean a cross that was made a couple hundred years ago, but can also mean a hybrid made only a generation ago. While many Classic hybrids date back to the early 1900s, there are some that were made as recently as the 1960s and 70s – only a couple of generations ago.

According to Walter, Classic Cattleya must have six characteristics. First, the flower must have exceptional color. Lc Elizabeth Off meets that criteria. It is a stunning lavender flower with a dark purple lip. It also has rose eyes (or dots) in the center of the lip, and golden yellow lines (striations) leading into the throat of the flower. The cross was made in 1947, but it was not awarded until 1957.

A Classic Cattleya must have exceptional form. Blc George King has exceptional form. It is full and round, with overlapping petals and a large ruffled lip. The cross was made in 1970 by George King from Sacramento, CA. It was initially awarded in 1975. Its form is so exceptional that it continues to be awarded today, most recently in 2004. Blc George King is a large pink flower with a purple and gold lip. Its average size is 6 – 7 inches across. Another Classic with exceptional form is Blc Malworth which Walter said was one of the finest yellows ever bred. It was registered by Jones & Scully in 1963 and initially awarded that same year.

A Classic Cattleya must have durability. Imagine how critical this must have been for the cut flower industry in the days before overnight delivery! Blc George King and Blc Malworth both meet this criteria.

A Classic Cattleya must have fragrance. C walkeriana qualifies as a Classic Cattleya based on several criteria, but for me what is most notable is its incredible fragrance. This species, native to Brazil, has an incredibly flat flower that can be five inches across. It can last up to six weeks if kept cool and in low light. C walkeriana has been awarded 62 times, and has produced 1,645 progeny. Quite a record and testament to its qualities!

A Classic Cattleya must have good growth habit. It must have strong pseudobulbs that are not shriveled or deformed. If the pseudobulbs are elongated, they must be able to carry the weight of the flower head without drooping, or worse – having the flower snap off. Walter cited Blc Malworth as notable for its growth habit.

And, last but not least, a Classic Cattleya must have good genetics. Walter stated that his father owned a jungle collected C maxima which he believes is still one of the best maximas he's ever seen. His father utilized this plant many times in his breeding program, producing such outstanding progeny as Blc Goldenzelle which in turn produced Rlc Golden Circle. Over all C maxima has produced 60 first generation offspring and has 28 awards.

Walter pointed out that it is very difficult to collect many of the true Classic Cattleyas. First, they are difficult to locate as they are now scattered worldwide. Secondly, many of them are jealously guarded by their owners, who will not sell at any price. Third, the nurseries that do sell the Classics frequently only have limited numbers of plants available, and these tend to be very expensive. Waldor Orchids believes they have solved these problems through their current breeding program. By propagating the Classics they have kept from Walter's father's collection, Waldor is able to offer these Classics at reasonable prices.

As Walter was describing the process of producing large quantities of the Classics, I was struck by how truly global the growing of orchids has become. The stud plants are kept in New Jersey where Waldor Orchids is located. When Waldor decides to meristem a particular plant, it is transported to Thailand where the actual meristemming is done. The combs are placed in flasks that are then sent to Hawaii, where they develop into tiny plantlets. When the plantlets are big enough, they are sent back to Thailand where they are placed in compots and grown until they are large enough to be put into five inch pots. They are then sent back to Linwood NJ, and distributed across the US. By the time you and I purchased our plants from Walter the plants had qualified for frequent flyer miles!



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Asda Su-Fun Beauty  
**Grown by Robin & Josh Gurlitz**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse Grown**



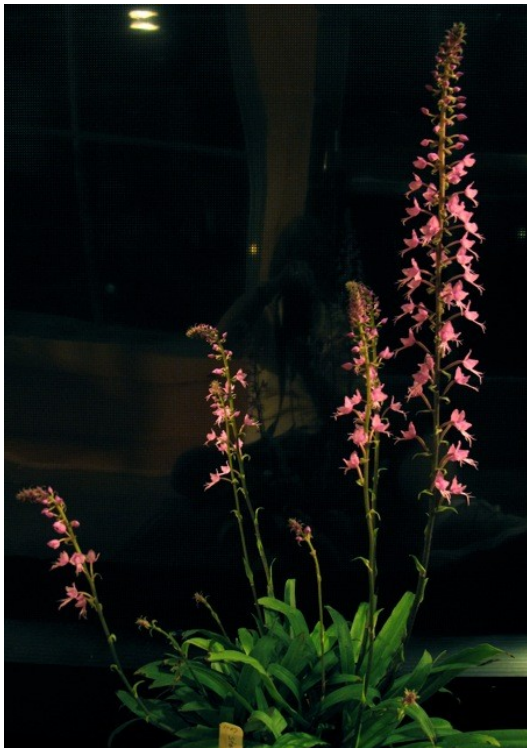
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Bulbo Makoyanum  
**Grown by Debbie & Jeremy Bueter**



**3<sup>d</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Milt Ruth Senn  
**Grown by Mildred & Mack Howell**



**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Stenoglottis longifolia*  
**grown by Paul Feaver**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Trichoglottis brachiata*  
**grown by Paul Feaver**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Encyclia dichroma*  
**grown by Armando Neves**

## Growing Tips for October

By Courtney T. Hackney EMAIL at [Hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:Hackneau@comcast.net)

Cool weather is here for most of us. Even South Florida is experiencing lower daytime temperatures and cool nights. The shortening day length and cooler nights initiate all sorts of changes in your orchids.

Many fall blooming cattleyas are getting ready to bloom and buds are swelling in their sheaths. *C labiata*, *C bowringiana* and the fall blooming form of *C skinneri*, and their hybrids typically have double sheaths. It seems that the big change in day to night temperatures can cause moisture to accumulate between the inner and outer sheaths causing buds to rot. Watch these orchids carefully and be sure there is lots of air movement around these orchids. If you observe any moisture accumulating, carefully open the outer sheath and allow air movement into the space between sheaths. That usually solves the problem.

Vandas are known as heat-loving orchids, but have always bloomed better for me in the fall and winter as long as temperatures do not get below 60 F and there is enough light. Colors are always brighter when nights are a little cooler. This is especially true for any Vanda or Ascocenda with *Vanda coerulea* in the parentage.

Phalaenopsis require a significant day to night temperature change to initiate spikes. It usually takes a couple of weeks of these conditions to get all of the phals in a greenhouse to put their energy into growing spikes instead of leaves. Phals will be fine on a porch or in a greenhouse even after nights are in the upper 50s F as long as the day temperature rises above 80 F. Once daytime high temperatures are below 78-80 F, phals need to be kept no lower than 60 F at night.

Paphs and phrags really seem to love the cool nights too. Mature growths, especially in the multifloral paphs will prepare to flower. Usually development of new growths is the first sign that a flower spike will soon emerge.

Essentially, I stop fertilizing cattleyas (except seedlings) starting in October and reduce watering frequency, but not watering intensity. Less light and heat each day means that orchids dry out less rapidly. Pay careful attention to periods of clouds and rain, which can also lead to less need for water.

Some books recommend switching to high phosphate fertilizers for phals, paphs, vandas, and other orchids that do not have a rest period before flowering. For years I did this, but finally decided that maintaining a high nitrogen fertilizer gave me better flowers and more of them. Because watering is reduced and fertilizer is provided with each watering, there is a reduction in fertilizer, but that is the only change.

Cymbidiums are not widely grown in the deep South, but can do well here. If you have a few of this genera now is the time to move them into increased sunlight. Best results occur when Cymbidiums are kept under heavy shade during the intense summer heat. Now, give them a good shot of fertilizer and slowly move them into the sunlight. Unless you have one of the tropical forms, they can take temperatures near freezing and seem to bloom best when they have a light frost on their leaves at sunrise. Once you see bloom spikes emerging, protect them from extreme cold until they flower.

## Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

### TOS at the N. C. State Fair

**Thurs Oct 14 - Sun Oct 24, 2010**

Jeremy Bueter is the chair for our N. C. State Fair exhibit this year. Contact Jeremy for volunteering at this great event and /or for loaning your orchids for the display. Contact: [jjbueter77@yahoo.com](mailto:jjbueter77@yahoo.com)

This has become one of our most exciting and fun outreach events for our volunteers.

### **TOS Holiday Party, Dec.13,2010**

Begins 1 hour **EARLY** at 6:30 with a member's Potluck dinner.



**Stenia pallida**

### **Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:**

7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Table and Chairs
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting Announcements
7:40-8:30	Program
8:30-8:50	Refreshment Break
8:50-9:20	Show Table Review, Show Table Awards
9:20-9:30	Raffle

### **Calendar 2010**

**Oct. 11th**

### **Speaker**

**Alan Koch**

### **Topic**

**Mini Catts**

**Nov. 8th**

**Bob Davidson & Member Plant Sale**

**Everything Bob feels like telling us about orchids**

**Dec. 13th**

**Holiday party**

**Holiday Auction**

### **Welcome Table**

### **Refreshments**

**October**

**Lee Allgood**

**Lori Chapman**

**November**

**Need Volunteers**

**Michael Arner**





Associated with

**Sarah P Duke Gardens**

Interim Newsletter Editor  
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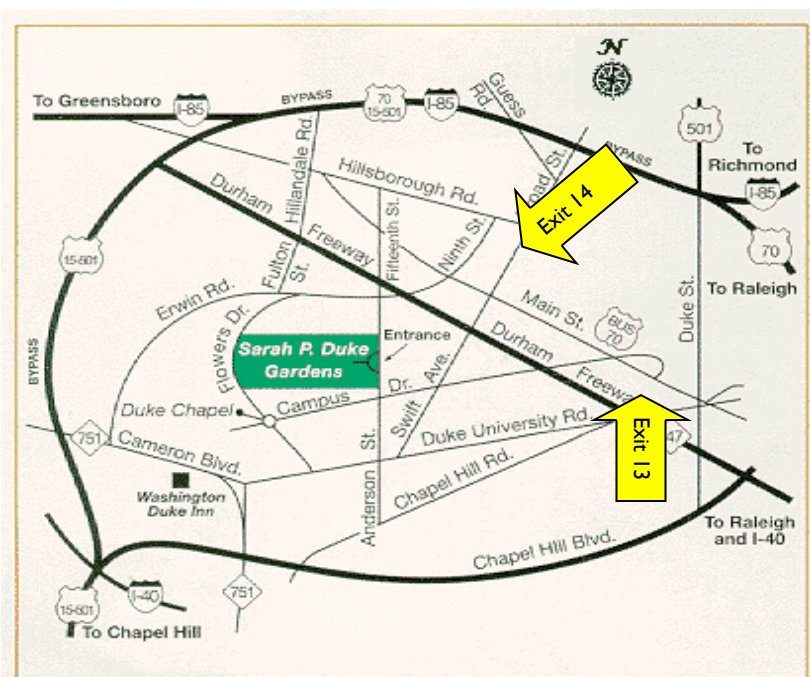
## Fall Auction—2010



The fall auction was great fun and enjoyed by many members and several non-members. The plants included many beautiful Oncidiums, great Cattleyas and a whole collection of Vandas at the end. Congratulations to John Myhre on his winning bid for Orchid-Wiz- he will have many years of great fun researching his and Ann's collection.

**Thanks to Sally Carpenter and her team of volunteers for this successful auction.**

Judith Shapiro Adamson may still have an 11 x 14 foot greenhouse for sale.



**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](http://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: Melissa Bullard, Treasurer 510 North Street Chapel Hill, NC 27514