



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for August 8, 2011 *Linda Thorne*

Our guest speaker this month is Linda Thorne who is the owner of Seagrove Orchids in Seagrove, NC. She will be speaking on mounted orchids.

Linda moved to Seagrove started Seagrove Orchids with just 500 orchids and now cares for approximately 10,000 plants in 2 greenhouses. Linda grows a wide variety of genera, but Cattleyas, Phals, and Paphs are the most prevalent. Seagrove Orchids participates in local, state and national shows. Linda is an AOS certified judge, has won many awards for her wonderful plants, she is chair of the Carolinas Judging Center in Greensboro and has been a popular speaker at our growers days.

**Linda will have plants for sale. Check out her website
(www.seagroveorchids.com) and contact her if you have
something special you would like her to bring.**

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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 to reserve a seat, at

919-969-1612

All are welcome

Linda will bring plants
to sell at this meeting.



**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](http://www.TriangleOrchidSociety.org)**

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Minutes of the May TOS Meeting 7/11/2011

The July meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the president of the TOS, Leo Sagasti. Members and guest were welcomed. The 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 6th one for free. Thanks to Michael Arner for providing refreshments, Lee Allgood for hosting the Welcome Table and Paul Feaver for setting up the show tables.

Leo Sagasti reminded us about the upcoming Growers Day, August 6. The Wine & Orchids Evening was announced. The event will host a silent auction and the date is August 7, at Paul Welty's house. More information about this event will be sent out via email to the society members.

Ralph Sears introduced our speaker, Bill Thoms, who presented a general "how-to" program, and also gave us an excellent presentation of the 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 Awards:

1st Place: Vanda Mamo x Asdda Krailor Grown: Paul Virtue;

2nd Place: Bulbophyllum tingabarinum. Grown: Paul Feaver;

3rd Place: Den filiforme.
 Grown: Marie Crock.

The Non-Greenhouse Awards:

1st Place : Phrag. Uranus (lindleyanum x Grande).

Grown: Marie Crock;

2nd Place: Paph. Supersuk.
 Grown: Michael Le;

3rd Place: Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice. Grown: Marie Crock.

The meeting adjourned 9:30 pm. Minutes submitted by Armando Neves, Secretary, TOS.



Goodyera pubescens
Rattlesnake Plantain



Bill Thoms—July Speaker

Bill and his wife Dory have received 84 cultural awards, over 35 years of growing, through the AOS judging system. These are not quality awards given to the flower because it is bigger, better, has more vibrant color or improved form. Cultural awards are given to the grower for growing exceptional plants that exceed expectations. Cultural awards are only given to specimen size plants with outstanding flower count, when the plant itself is in pristine condition, and when the plant is judged to be superior in every way. Cultural awards are recognition of the skill of the grower, and are considered a very big deal when they are awarded.

Obviously Bill is a first class grower, and so when he talks about culture, I pay attention. Even given the proviso that what he says applies primarily to Bulbophyllums, much of his information translates to other genera and is worth considering. For me, the most critical piece of information he has to offer is his admonition to pay attention to detail. Observe your plants closely and often and you will be rewarded by the plants telling you what they need.

The first area of concern is watering. Bill says to water often and thoroughly, taking care to water all sides of the plant. When Bill waters, everything gets wet. I know that I tend to forget to water foliage, especially in winter when I'm concerned about plants being wet and cold, which invites bacterial damage. Given that Bulbos require much more water than Cattas or Dens., Bills advice is still sound. Foliage needs to be cleaned and dusted too!

Your plants need fresh, moving air – night and day. Moving air helps keeps plants cool, it helps to remove old gases, it dries off wet leaf surfaces, and provides essential nitrogen which plants need at night for photosynthesis.

Any brand of fertilizer works for orchids. The key is to feed only a very dilute solution in order not to burn the root tips. Weakly, weekly is the old adage. The rule of thumb is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the strength suggested by the manufacturer (who is in the business of selling you more fertilizer after all). Bill pointed out that orchids require nitrogen, potassium and trace minerals. Nitrogen helps the new growth harden so that it is less attractive to predator insects, especially mealy bugs. Most fertilizers contain nitrite which orchids are unable to utilize. Look for labels that contain nitrate. The key to effective utilization of all this expensive fertilizer is to wet the plants down thoroughly first, then come back and apply fertilizer.

For years growers have avoided watering at night, concerned that moisture left on foliage would cause bacterial or fungal problems. Bill states that if there is sufficient air movement in the growing area, late day watering will not be a problem.

Bill recommends bright shade for Bulbos. He stresses that good blooming requires good light. Most orchids, he says can tolerate much brighter light than we normally provide, provided the foliage does not become so hot that it burns. Bill says to go to the growing area during the brightest time of the day and hold your hand about 12 inches above your plants. A faint shadow is adequate light for Phals., a descent shadow is just right for Bulbos., Catts and most Dens.

Bill grows most of his plants in a medium of bark, charcoal, coarse perlite and some kind of porous rock such as Alifor, or Lava Rock. He also grows some things in long fibered sphagnum moss. Bill also grows a number of plants on tree fern mounts. He believes growing on a horizontal pad, which holds more water, produces far superior results than growing vertically as most of us do.

Insect control is part of the constant observation of plants. Most growing areas require routine spraying to control mealy bugs and scale, not to mention spider mites and thrips. Bill recommends Raid House and Garden for spot spraying. As most of these critters live on the bottom of the foliage, they are often difficult to see. When you do find them, a specific, short blast is all that it takes to address the needs of a specific plant. Later you can worry about drenching the entire growing area. Bill also recommends that you spray at night, when it's dark, as that is the preferred feeding time for many predators. Bill recommends Neem oil as a good general spray. It is a waxy liquid that smothers insects and fungus. Mix it with 2 tbsp dishwashing soap and hot water and apply it directly onto your plants. If you become saturated with the solution yourself, don't panic, this solution may kill insects, but it also acts as a beneficial moisturizing lotion on your skin.

As always, our thanks to Joy Lemieux for transcribing Bill's talk.

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**IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO
PLAN TO VOLUNTEER FOR OUR
NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR
ORCHID EXHIBIT.**

**THERE ARE LOTS OF VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING SETTING
UP THE EXHIBIT; SPENDING GREAT TIME
AT THE FAIR INTRODUCING FAIR GOERS
TO THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS; AND
TAKING THE EXHIBIT DOWN.**

THIS IS ALWAYS A FUN FALL ACTIVITY.



Growing Tips for August

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

Supposedly, the living should be easy now, for people, and those of us growing orchids. For sure, we do not have to worry about cold weather or the diseases that come with it. Of course, summer presents another set of issues that must be managed.

If you grow in a greenhouse you must be sure you have proper ventilation and air circulation to prevent an array of bacterial rots. Many greenhouses pull air through wet pads to cool their greenhouse. This can be very effective in avoiding those extreme temperatures. One problem in summer is that the outside humidity gets so high that cooling pads become ineffective and only serve to maintain very high humidity in the greenhouse.

Most orchids we grow thrive in humidity around 60%. When humidity is high, cooling pads maintain a higher than ideal humidity, which promotes bacterial rots. Each summer there are new growths or leaves that suddenly get soft and turn black when temperature and humidity are at their maximum. The key to avoiding these rots is to properly space orchids, have continual air exchange during day and night, and stop fertilizer applications that contain ammonia.

If your orchids grow outside without a roof protecting them, air circulation is not a problem. You will, however, need to watch for rots when there is a stretch of rain every day that keeps the medium in the pots saturated. The only orchids I put outside are those in open baskets, mounted or in lava rock. If you grow in bark, sphagnum or other media that retain moisture, growing outside requires careful diligence.

Many years ago, I purchased a greenhouse that had removable sides. In winter, sides were secured and a warm environment maintained, while in summer air flowed freely through the greenhouse day and night. My greenhouse today utilizes the same approach with the addition of 12' height in the greenhouse and ceiling fans to keep air moving when it is really hot.

At the other end of the spectrum are hobbyists that grow indoors, in windows or under lights. When heat is greatest outside, air conditioners run more to keep your home cool. Unless there is special machinery that maintains humidity at a specific level, the humidity inside becomes extremely low, which causes both your orchids and sinuses to dry out fast. The drying is obvious if one looks carefully at roots along the edge of the pot. Instead of having green root tips, they will be black or brown, indicating that there is not enough moisture in the air even though the medium may be saturated.

There are some solutions. Place your orchid in its pot inside a larger clay pot. Place a few small rocks or marbles in the clay pot first so there is some space between the bottom of the orchid and the clay pot. Sit the clay pot in a saucer of water; enough to wet the bottom of the clay pot, but not the orchid pot. The clay pot will wick water up and maintain higher humidity around your orchid. It is best to use R/O, distilled or de-ionized water. If not, the clay pot will turn white from evaporation of water which leaves the salts behind; the harder the water, the faster this will occur.

It is always surprising to visit a long-time orchid hobbyist whose growing conditions violate all of the basic rules that promote orchid growth. These hobbyists employ the "survival of the fittest" approach. They buy orchids and if they do not grow under their conditions they are discarded and replaced by others. Often, one will find many divisions of the same clone in these collections because they survive. This is a good place to find hardy orchids, perfect for the new hobbyist. Be aware though, the normal progression of hobbyists is to start with a few very hardy orchids slowly adding harder to grow orchids and finally adding impossible to grow orchid species. That is what makes this such an "enjoyable" hobby.



1st Place Ribbon:
Phrag. "Uranus"
Grown by Marie Crock



3d Place Ribbon:
Phrag. "Sorcerers Apprentice"
Grown by Marie Crock

**Jack Webster Awards
Non-Greenhouse Grown**



2nd Place Ribbon:
Paph. Supersuk
Grown by Michael Le

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**



1st Place Ribbon:

Vanda "Mamo" x Ascda Krailore
Grown by Olivene & Paul Virtue



2nd Place Ribbon:

Bulbophyllum "Tingabarinum"
Grown by Paul Feaver



3rd Place Ribbon:

Den. filiforme
Grown by Marie Crock



Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

Growers Day

August 6th

Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh, NC. This is one of our signature events. Be prepared to come learn about orchid culture and volunteer to help out.

Fall Auction

Sunday Sept. 25

Lake Crabtree County Park, Morrisville. Beech Pavilion. Noon potluck lunch and auction begins at 1:00 PM. More information later, but put this on your calendar

"Wine and Orchids

Silent Auction"

Sunday, August 7th, 2011

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Paul & Freddy Welty's home

Durham, NC

"Join us for a relaxing, entertaining afternoon. Contribution of wine and/or appetizer optional"

Directions have been sent to all society members via email. Let Paul know if you need additional information.

919-251-8097

pwelty@averillpark.net

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 2011

Aug.
8th

September
12th

October
10th

Speaker

Linda Thorne

Will have plants

Manny Aybar

Fred Clark

Topic

Mounted Orchids

Orchids of The Dominican Republic

Paphiopedilums

Welcome Table

Refreshments

Aug

Lee Allgood

Miriam Sagasti

September

Need Volunteers

Need Volunteers



Associated with

Sarah P Duke Gardens

Interim Newsletter Editor
Josh Gurlitz

Phone: (919) 929-9717
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2011 TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY GROWERS DAY SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS:

PAUL WELTY

LINDA THORNE

PAUL FEAVER

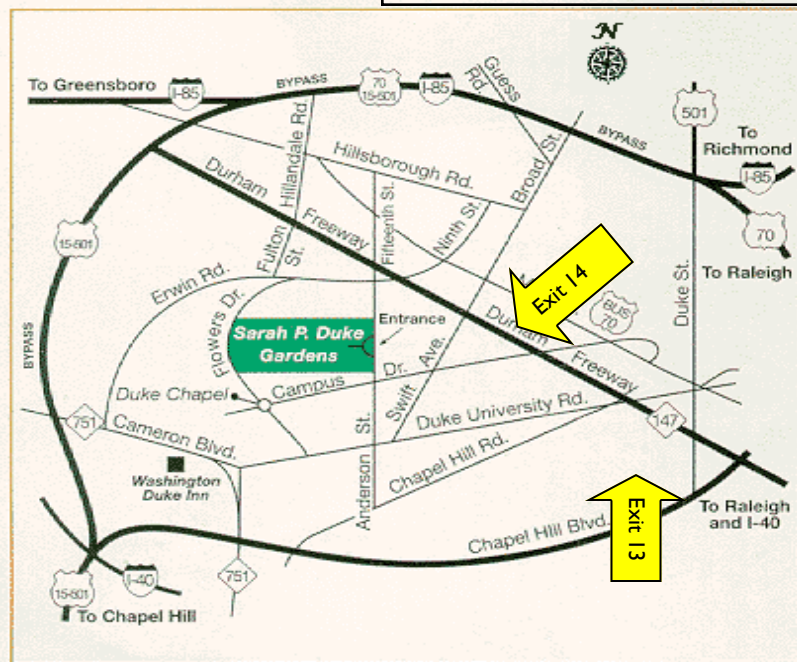
ARMANDO NEVES

PAUL VIRTUE

**THIS WONDERFUL LINE UP OF KNOWLEDGEABLE
SPEAKERS WILL BE SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCE AND
EXPERTISE ON SELECTING ORCHIDS, ORCHID CUL-
TURE, TYPES AND NEEDS OF DIFFERENT ORCHIDS.**

**GROWERS DAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH OF US
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ORCHIDS. PLUS, EACH PAID
PARTICIPANT GETS TO GO HOME WITH ONE OF JOHN
STANTON'S SPECIAL PLANTS!!**

**PUT THIS EVENT ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR
THIS SATURDAY!!**



**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: Melissa Bullard, Treasurer 510 North Street Chapel Hill, NC 27514