



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for November 14, 2011

Dr Nick Plummer

The Genus Encyclia:

"A few of the best species...and how to grow them."

Nicholas Plummer has been growing orchids since 1993, starting under fluorescent lights and moving to a home-made greenhouse when his wife banned the orchids (together with their accompanying mildew, spilled water, and scattered potting mix) from the house. He joined the Triangle Orchid Society in 1998. Nick grows primarily species, and particular favorites include *Habenaria*, *Encyclia*, and Caribbean species.

Originally from the south of England, Nick came to North Carolina by way of Iran, Norway, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. He has been obsessed with natural history since childhood, so he studied biology at Penn State and genetics at the University of Michigan. He is currently employed to design transgenic mice at the NIEHS. Nick and his wife Jen are raising two small hybrids who have not yet reached blooming size.

TOS MEMBERS ORCHID SALE

Want to Start an orchid collection? OR do you want to trim your orchid collection because you can't walk around your house anymore, the window sills are sagging, you seem to recall you had a bathroom but now all you can find is an orchid jungle?

If this is you, then you need to consider bringing some of those orchids to sell at Monday's Members Orchid Sale or come buy some .

Dinner with TOS members

5:30 PM—before the meeting

At the Neo China Restaurant

4015 University Drive

Durham, behind Target

At the South Square Mall

Call Alan Miller to reserve a seat at

919-969-1612. **All are welcome.**

Great way to get to know fellow TOS Members. Note: the speaker will not be able to attend this dinner



Epi. conopseum
Syn. Epi. magnoliae

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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

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TOS Officers and Board Members

President

Leo Sagasti (919) 942-9839
leo@bjac.com

Vice President

Program Chairman

Ralph Sears (919) 477-0483
ralphsears@gmail.com

Secretary

Armando Neves (919) 538-2992
armandonvs@gmail.com

Treasurer

Melissa Bullard (919) 929-6806
mbullard@email.unc.edu

Past President

Robin Gurlitz (919) 929-9717
robing@i-gga.com

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At Large Trustees: 2011

David Devine (919) 828-5332
devinejd@aol.com

David Pickett (919) 688-8410
legaldeacon84@yahoo.com

At Large Trustees: 2012

Lee Allgood (919) 721-7192
lallgood851@yahoo.com

Sally Carpenter (919) 464-5764
scarp919@aol.com

At Large Trustees: 2013

Paul Welty (919) 251-8097
pwelty@averillpark.net

Minutes of the Sept. TOS Meeting of 10/10/2011

The October 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 Suzette Morand for providing refreshments, Lee Allgood for hosting the Welcome Table and Paul Feaver for setting up the show tables.

Leo thanked Sally Carpenter and all volunteers who worked in our Fall Auction. Also announced was a talk "How to kill your orchids", to be hosted by the Cape Fear Orchid Society November 5, 2011. Robin Gurlitz asked for more volunteers to help host our booth at NC State Fair.

Alan Miller announced the nominations for the 2012 TOS Board. The nominees are:

President: Armando Neves

Vice-President: Ralph Sears

Secretary: David Pickett

Treasurer: Sally Carpenter

Board of Trustee: Anne Williams, Lee Allgood, Paul Welty, Connie Howard, Nicolette Petervary, Michael Le.

Ralph introduced our speaker, Fred Clarke, who talked about Miniature Cattleyas.

Fred Clarke and Paul Feaver 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(s) a question about a specific plant if that plant has

not been discussed.)

Plant table ribbons were awarded for Greenhouse grown plants:

1st Place: Cattleya Regina 'Blue Clouds' X LC Indigo Mist Magic, grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue

2nd Place: V. dennisoniana X Ascda. Suksamran Sunlight, grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue

3rd Place: Liparis nutans, grown by Nick Plummer

Plant table ribbons were awarded for Non-Greenhouse grown plants:

1st Place : Den. Kanok Porn, grown by Suzanne Hens

2nd Place: Brassovola David Sander, grown by Phil Warner

3rd Place: Zygo Jumpin Jack, grown by Olivene & Paul Virtue

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



**ALAN MILLER SETTING UP
THE TOS EXHIBIT AT THE
N.C. STATE FAIR**



FRED CLARK ON MINI CATTLEYS

Fred Clarke is a hybridizer. Over the years he has worked with Cattleyas, Bulbophyllums and Catasetums, for starters. While he has garnered award after award for his plants, his focus has always been on the next cross he plans to make. A conversation with him is all about what he's planning to use to make his next hybrid. He's passionate about what he does, and his passion is infectious.

Over the years, it is his Catts that have been the back bone of the business. He has focused on Mini and Compact Catts, recognizing that there is a nice little market niche for these smaller sized, easy to bloom plants. When asked about Mini and Compact Catts, Fred can supply any number of reasons why hobby growers like them. First of all, they take little space. For the hobby grower who is limited to the space available on a windowsill, this makes these plants ideal. Second, they come in an amazing range of colors and forms. Any color you find in a Standard Catt can also be found in a Mini or Compact. Third, they tend to bloom frequently. Two or three times a year is not uncommon, far surpassing the single blooming of the species. Fourth, they are vigorous and grow quickly, but never surpass their compact form and size. Fifth, they are adaptable to temperature and light conditions. You don't have to have a greenhouse with controlled conditions to grow these well. They are bred for hobbyists with varied conditions.

Fred stresses that it is the species behind the Mini and Compact Catts that form their building blocks. His litany, which he repeats over and over, is that you must know and understand the species so that you can know and understand your Minis and Compacts. The species have a known bloom period, we know what size they will grow to be, and (hopefully) we understand their cultural needs. This information provides us with the basic knowledge we need to grow Minis and Compacts well. Fred's began his presentation with an overview of the seven most utilized species in Mini and Compact breeding.

Sophronitis coccinea requires high light and cool temperatures and has a reputation as being hard to grow as a species. Used in breeding, it passes along its bright red color. It is also dominant for its form, it's flat, wide petals that are considered so desirable. **Cattleya walkeriana**, is only six to seven inches high. It dominant for its spade shaped lip, with its exposed column and wide open side lobes. The midline of its petals is raised, providing uplift to the petals. This also contributes to the flat open look that hybridizers and orchid judges are looking for. It comes in a range of colors including an alba form, a flamea and a coerulea. **Laelia pumila**, is a four inch tall miniature. It is known for its downward sloping petals and is dominant for color, especially its dark lip. It is often identified by its side lobes, which closes over the column. **Cattleya luteola**, is an equatorial low light plant. It likes warmth and high humidity. It is recognized by the red eyes inside its lip. It too is a miniature, only five inches tall. However, it can carry as many as nine one inch flowers per inflorescence. **Laelia alaori** has only recently been introduced into cultivation but is proving itself as a parent because it flowers on every new growth, and will often bloom three or four times a year. It is dominant for its broad, flat lip. **Cattleya intermedia** is tolerant of just about everything, a very adaptable plant. It has a very open form and has been described as "bull-legged". Its peloric version, in which the petals mimic the lip, is **variety aquinii**, which has formed the basis of splash petals in breeding. It also has a cerulean form that has been utilized extensively. **Laelia brigeri** is from the rupicolous laelia group, and grows on exposed rock faces with no protection at all, exposed to bright light and wind. Don't coddle this plant, it thrives under harsh conditions. It is dominant for its pure yellow color and the midline on its petals and lips. It can have as many as seven flowers on each strong, wiry stem.

Fred states that there are three Primary or first generation hybrids that have been the backbone of all Mini and Compact breeding. These have established breeding traits so future hybridizers are working with predictable results. All three have proven to be vigorous, easy to grow plants. Chief among these is **Sc Beaufort** (S coccinea and C luteola). **Lc Mini Purple** (C walkeriana x L pumila) and **Sl Orpetii** (S coccinea x L pumila) complete the triumvirate. Note that S coccinea was used in two of the three crosses. Despite its reputation as being a finicky species to grow, it fails to pass this trait along to its offspring. It has produced several generations of red and red/orange hybrids that are a joy to grow because they are so vigorous and bloom so freely.

Fred and other breeders are now working on fifth and sixth generation hybrids. The search continues for larger, flatter, rounder flowers as well as more vibrant exotic colors. New species are constantly being introduced into the mix. Fred pointed out that many of the new 'releases' contain at least one 'different' species introduced onto an established hybrid. The basic building blocks are in place, and breeders like Fred continue to develop new hybrids by taking the basics one step further each time.

Fred had some words of wisdom on culture as well. He believes that watering, or good irrigation is the key. Water when the media is beginning to dry out, keeping in mind that small pots dry faster than large ones. Water heavily enough to displace the media around the plant. This forces fresh air (oxygen) into the media and around the roots. Fred recommends leaching the media at least once a month. He says he fertilizes every watering. He does recommend wetting the plants first, then returning with a fertilizer solution. He believes this prevents a build up of salts in the media, and also assists with plant absorption of the nutrients. He recommends a balanced fertilizer, 15-15-15 or 20-20-20. If you are using RO or rain water, he recommends a Cal Mag formulation as calcium is critical for growth.

For a potting medium Fred uses a 3 - 1 mix of pine bark, perlite and a fast draining material such as Diatomite, or tree fern fiber. If he's using a clay pot he use sphagnum moss, or Alfor combined with organic materials. The smaller the pot, the finer the mix!!

Repotting should happen only as new roots are showing. Choose a pot that will permit up to three years of new growth. As the new roots are the most efficient for picking up nutrients and moisture, position the plant so the oldest roots are against the edge of the pot. Handle the new roots as little as possible to avoid damage. Once a root is cracked or broken water won't flow through the velum, leaving that section of root dead and nonproductive, and subject to rot.

Media should be placed around roots only to hold the roots in place. Do not pack media as you will damage the roots. Fred recommends adding media to a pot slowly, in small amounts, and then shaking the pot to allow the media to settle around the roots and fill in any open spaces. Fred cautions against using a potting stick as that transfers viruses from plant to plant. And finally, always note the repotting date on the tag. This will let you know when the plant typically sends out new roots, and when your plant will need to be repotted again.

Thanks to Joy Lemieux of The Sandhills Orchid Society for transcribing Fred's talk

**ENTHUSIASTIC
VISITORS TO THE TOS
NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR
EXHIBIT!!
Vicky Brawley, Cricket Taylor &
Friend**





Growing Tips for November

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

Experienced hobbyists have learned a lesson over the years that many newer hobbyists do not like to hear. If an orchid wants to die, don't spend a lot of time trying to save it. This is often a hard lesson for new growers who just spent what seemed like a large amount of money for a gorgeous orchid plant in flower or for some unusual species that a speaker was selling. The fact is that once an orchid plant starts "toward the light" it's hard to stop it. Also, growers with many plants want to remove that potential carrier of disease from the growing area as well as spend their limited time on other orchids that are growing well.

There are times, however, when you just are not willing to let an orchid die. It might be a very rare and hard-to-find orchid, or it might be the first orchid you purchased. Just about everyone has "nostalgic" orchids in their collection. While difficult, orchids headed toward that great mulch pile in the sky can often be brought back. Here are some of the tricks of the trade.

Before reading this, remember that orchids do not have immune systems like animals. Treating orchids requires that you understand and take advantage of the mechanisms that orchids use to fight disease and pests.

Instead of moving disease fighting cells to the infection like we do, orchids instead separate healthy cells from unhealthy cells by building walls between healthy and unhealthy tissues. Infection of a plant has an entry point every time. This fact can be as important in treating an orchid as the diagnosis.

The first step is coming up with a diagnosis. If you can see where the problem started, there is an excellent chance that the plant can be saved.

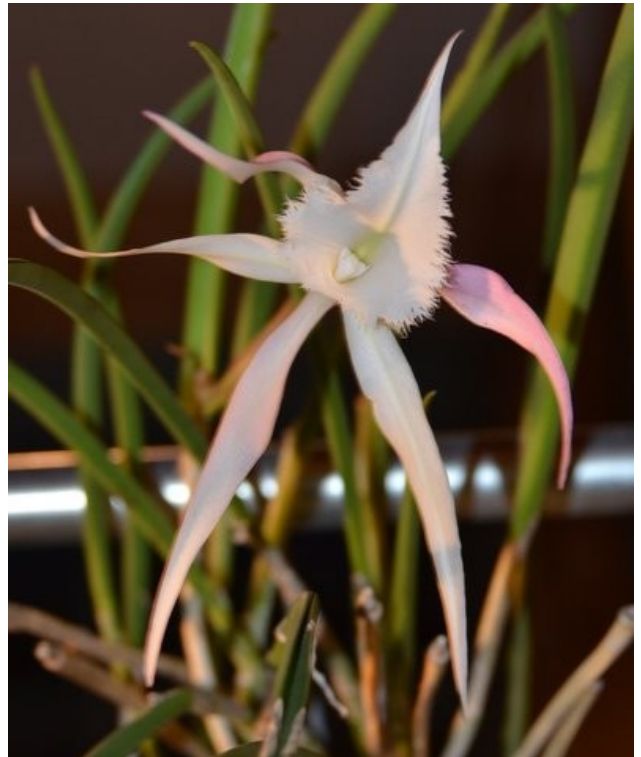
Often, the tip of a leaf or a new growth turns black indicating where the rot has started. If there is healthy tissue on the rhizome or at the base of the leaf the orchid can generally be saved.

Most fast acting diseases are caused by bacteria. If bacteria have penetrated to new growths or reached the center of a phal or vanda, it is often too late, but it can be worth a try if it is a very special plant. My first tactic is to remove all of the black or dead tissue, which requires removal of the plant from the pot. Totally wash all media from roots. I use a small jet from a hose to wash the orchid. Next, I spray the entire plant with household hydrogen peroxide. Then, place the plant on a newspaper in a spare room where there is plenty of air movement and little humidity. The main point is to kill the bacteria and stop the infection.

Check the plant each morning and night before bed for any soft or watery spots and remove any you find followed by spraying the new wound with hydrogen peroxide. Your plant should remain dry and will look desiccated. Avoid the temptation to mist. If after a week no new rot spots have appeared and the orchid is green, you have a chance to save it. Put the plant at the bottom of a new clay pot and set it in a shady part of the greenhouse. At this point, I will move it out when I water because I do not want the plant to get wet until I see signs of growth. When new roots or leaves appear, water it. Once roots begin to attach to the pot, gently place a small quantity of media in the pot and leave it alone until it is clear that the orchid has resumed growing. Next move it back to the proper light level. If caught early, an orchid with rot can be saved.



1st Place Ribbon:
Den. Kanok Porn
Grown by Suzanne Hens



2nd Place Ribbon:
Brassovola David Sander
Grown by Phil Warner



3^d Place Ribbon:
Zygo. Jumpin Jack
Grown by Olivene & Paul Virtue

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**



1st Place Ribbon:

Cattleya Regina "Blue Clouds" x Indigo Mist
Magic

Grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue



2nd Place Ribbon:

V. dennisoniana X Ascda. Suksamran
Sunlight

Grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue

3rd Place Ribbon:

Liparis nutans
Grown by Nick Plummer





Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

TOS HOLIDAY PARTY

**Monday, December 12th,
6:30 PM**

**Sara P. Duke Gardens
Garden Center**

Durham, N.C.

Member Pot Luck Dinner
Pot Luck Dinner starts at 6:30 PM
Please bring your favorite covered dish to share

The Nominating Committee places the following members for nomination to the 2012 Vote at November 2011 member's meeting.
Board of Trustees and officers:

President Armando Neves
Vice President Ralph Sears
Treasurer Sally Carpenter
Secretary David Pickett

Board of Trustees

2012 Anne Williams
2012 Lee Allgood
2013 Paul Welty
2013 Connie Howard
2014 Nicolette Petervary
2014 Michael Le

Respectfully submitted: Alan Miller, Chair,

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

November 14th

Speaker

Nicholas Plummer

Topic

Encyclias

December 12

Holiday Party Starts at 6:30 Potluck. Bring your favorite food

Orchid Auction

Welcome Table

Refreshments

November

Lee Allgood

Michael Arner

December

Need a volunteer

Everyone!!



**Proudly
Associated with
Sarah P Duke Gardens**

Newsletter Editor
Josh Gurlitz

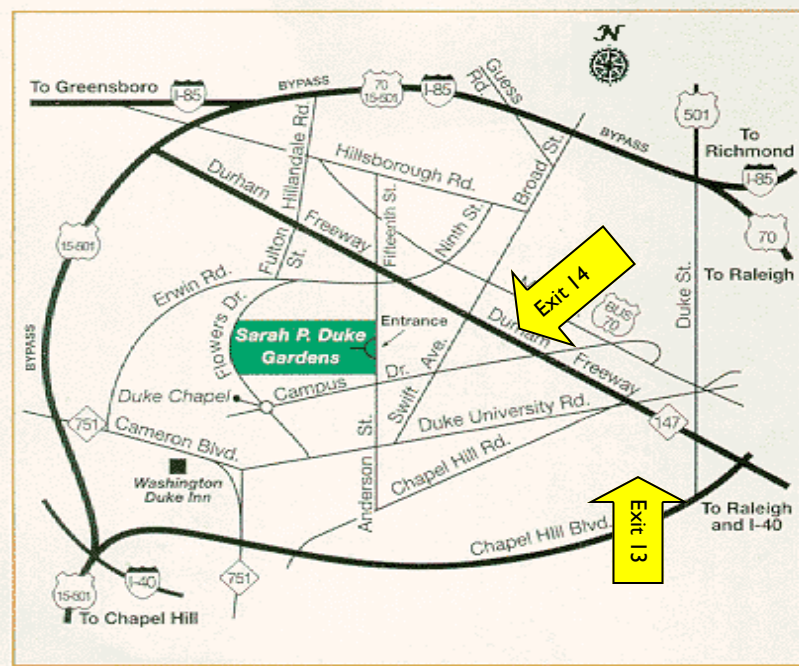
Phone: (919) 929-9717
E-mail: robing@i-gga.com



The TOS North Carolina State Fair Exhibit Oct. 13-23, 2011

Thank you to the following TOS volunteers who made the Exhibit at the N.C.State Fair a huge success: *Alan Miller, Bob Meyer, Mildred and Mack Howell, Dianne Parks, David Devine, Mike Le, Nicolette Petervary, Paul Virtue, Miriam & Leo Sagasti, Sally Carpenter, Paul Welty, Lori Chapman and Bob Molter, Phil Warner, Armando Neves, Robert Grices, John and Ann Myhre, Marie Crock, Tom Wiles, Vicky Brawley, Lee Allgood, John Stanton, Paul Feaver, and Robin and Josh Gurlitz.*

These people transported orchids and display material, designed the exhibit, generously loaned orchids, talked to a multitude of Fair goers and/or help take down the exhibit. Thank you



**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