



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for September 12, 2011 Manuel Aybar

Manuel Aybar works in the Technology Industry. He is originally from the Dominican Republic (A grower's paradise, as he describes it). He has been growing orchids for approximately 19 years. The genus that got him started was Dendrobium in which he specializes (phalaenopsis-type).

Member of the American Orchid Society since 1997 and the Greater North Texas Orchid Society since 2000. Manuel Aybar is an Accredited Judge of the American Orchid Society Judging program. His current research includes the orchids of the Dominican Republic, for which he has gone in numerous orchid collecting trips back to his home country. He has been extensively involved in the judging of many shows around the US, including the Miami International Orchid Show and most of the southwest region (SWROGA) shows (New Orleans OS, Baton Rouge OS, Shreveport OS, Greater North Texas OS, Fort Worth OS, Oklahoma OS, and Arkansas).

He is affiliated with the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association (SWROGA), and within this association he belongs to the publications committee and serves as the Webmaster for the organization's web site. He has given several Orchid Seminars and Potting classes at Smith and Hawkins, North Haven Gardens, and other popular gardening stores. He offered a series of orchid workshops for Range Rover, US as a part of the Land Rover Destination Tour. He is a regular lecturer for the local orchid societies and visiting speaker for societies around the country.

Sept. 12 will be a MEMBER PLANT SALE .Remember it gets cold soon and only so many orchids will fit back in your house!!! (check your collection and bring plants to sell)

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

FOUND:

**A PINK GLASSES CASE
with GLASSES AT AUG.
TOS MEETING.**

Robin will bring this case to the
Sept. meeting



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|-----|
| <i>This Month's Speaker</i> | 1 |
| <i>Minutes of the Last Meeting</i> | 2-4 |
| <i>Notes on Linda Thor- nes Program</i> | |
| <i>Growing Tips by Court- ney Hackney</i> | 5 |
| <i>Jack Webster Show Table Awards</i> | 6-7 |
| <i>Announcements</i> | 8 |
| <i>Map and directions To Sarah Duke Gar- dens.</i> | 9 |

**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 August TOS Meeting 8/11/2011

The August 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 Miriam Sagasti for providing refreshments, Lee Allgood for hosting the Welcome Table and Paul Feaver for setting up the show tables.

Leo Sagasti requested volunteers to provide refreshments at next month's meeting. Leo also mentioned that we still have plenty of room at the storage facility, if anyone is keeping any items from the organization please contact a board member to transfer the items to the storage. Leo thanked everyone who helped with the latest two very successful events, Growers Day and Wine & Orchids. Both events were very successful.

Ralph Sears thanked all speakers and volunteers who worked at Growers Day. Ralph introduced our speaker, Linda Thorne, who gave us a workshop on Mounted Orchids. For this meeting, the auditorium was setup with round tables. Linda provided us with material for mounting orchids, and bare root orchids to be mounted. Attendees had the option to take their mounted orchid home for a \$15 price.

Nick Plummer and Armando Neves 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.)

The Jack Webster Award Plants were:
Greenhouse Awards:

1st Place: Lc. Lynn Richard x Blc Bouton D'Or: Grown- Melissa Bullard;

2nd Place: Cattleya hardyana alba. Grown- Paul Virtue ;

3rd Place: Cymbidium: Grown- Michael Wagner

The Non-Greenhouse Awards:

1st Place : Robiquettia: Grown- Carolyn Bernard ;

2nd Place: Ascda. Suk Samran Beauty 'Bubblicious'. Grown-Robin & Josh Gurlitz;

3rd Place: Bolopetulum ;Midnight Blue'. Grown-Nicolette Petervary.

Linda Thorne announced the next Judging meeting August 20, at the Carolinas Judging Center in Greensboro, and everyone is welcome to attend the Phalaenopsis talk hosted by Carlos Fighetti, past American Orchid Society president.

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



Phrag. Autumn Fire



Linda Thorne on Proper Techniques and Questions Answered About Mounting Orchids.

Linda began by making the point that we should not be afraid of roots. Orchids are epiphytes, and take their nourishment from the air and moisture around them. Being exposed therefore, gives them advantage. When mounted, the roots are exposed so this is as close to growing under 'natural' conditions as we can hope to replicate.

The best plants for mounting include Oncidiums (including Equitants with their fine, hair like roots), Mini Catts and Brassavola hybrids. Mini Phals love to be mounted, as do many of the Phal species, and of course Dendrobiums with their creeping growth habit. The other big category of mounted plants is the Vandas and Ascocendas. Linda says she sells more Vandas than any other group of mounted plants.

So when is the best time to put your orchids on a mount? The answer is when new roots are developing so that the plant will attach quickly to the mount. You can also mount a plant after it has finished blooming, but most notably, you can mount a plant if pot culture is failing and the plant is obviously struggling. Freeing a plant that has resisted pot culture can often lead to a very rapid flush of new growth.

When mounting your orchids, the sky's the limit when choosing the material to use. If you are using wood, select a hardwood with a textured surface that the roots can adhere to. Sassafras, hickory, honey locust or black locusts are excellent choices. Crepe myrtle, which is certainly readily available in this area, works well as it has the appropriate Ph for most plants. Fruit woods such as persimmon are generally not great as they tend to be softer and separate. Grape vine can be successful if the bark is peeled and the smooth under layer of wood is exposed. For years growers have used cork, which is really the bark of the cork tree that is sliced off the living tree. Cork has the advantage of being very light weight and long lasting. However, it has become very expensive and harder to find.

Woods to avoid include Oak, Black Walnut, ocean driftwood, Pine or Cedar. Oak and Black Walnut have an extremely high Ph, and roots will not attach to these woods. Ocean driftwood is saturated with salt and may be used if it is soaked and soaked and soaked and the salt removed. Unfortunately there is no way of knowing when that has been achieved. Most fruit woods are softer and will decay within 2 – 3 years. The same holds true for Pine. Look for a wood that is hard enough to tolerate daily waterings for up to 10 years or more.

Securing your plant to the mount can be accomplished with just about any material. Linda obviously prefers strips of old discarded hosiery. You can also use fishing line, wire (if it is not too fine and harsh), staples or even glue. A flexible, softer material is obviously best so as not to cut into pseudobulbs or roots. Leafless orchids, such as *Dendrophylax funalis* (Ghost Orchid), are the hardest to mount and should be secured with staples. Once a plant is tied on, it takes anywhere from 3 – 6 months to become fully established. Once established however, you can remove whatever material you have used to secure it if you wish.

Linda prefers not to use a clump of sphagnum moss either under or over the roots as the moss tends to hold too much water and can rot the roots. If you tend to over-water, avoid sphagnum moss! Use moss only if your plant is from an area where it receives copious rain on a regular basis. Some Phals and Angraecoids like to be very wet, but a small wad of coconut fiber will hold them as securely as sphagnum moss. (continued next page)

If you don't want to mount your own, but want to try mounted plants, purchase plants that are already established. These are available at all orchid nurseries and are often sold by vendors at society meetings. Linda has a wide selection in her nursery and it's really fun to poke through them as you can find some truly creative surprises.

If you are mounting your own plant, the orientation of the plant on the mount is critical. Place the plant on the mount to allow for growth up the mount. Even though the roots may overhang the mount, place the plant as close to the bottom as possible. Attach the plant securely – no wiggle room allowed. A plant that is not secure will not attach.

As your plant becomes established and grows, it will often grow in surprising directions, and eventually can try to grown on itself. Correct this by simply removing the new growth and starting a whole new plant!

I don't know about you, but I had a great time with Linda's presentation. And, even though I've been mounting plants for years, I certainly learned a thing or two!

Our thanks to Joy Lemieux for transcribing Linda's talk

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**SEE THESE TWO HAPPY ORCHID GROWERS??
THEY ARE PREPARING TO SET UP OUR TOS NC STATE
FAIR EXHIBIT.**

**SEE ROBIN GURLITZ
TO VOLUNTEER FOR OUR
NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR
ORCHID EXHIBIT.**

October 13—23

**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 GREAT FALL
ACTIVITY.**



Growing Tips for September

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

For many years, the only water available to me for my orchids was too salty and getting even worse from salt water intrusion into the aquifer. A concrete cistern was constructed to collect and hold rainwater. Rainwater contains almost no dissolved solids, so you can imagine my surprise when an analysis of my water showed high levels of dissolved solids. Concrete cisterns are made of lime and some of that is lost to the water through leaching. Fortunately, other than making the water basic and leaving a white film on leaves, there was never a problem using this water. My orchids thrived with this calcium laden rainwater. After 4 or 5 years, water from the cistern was just slightly higher in solids than rainwater.

I often recommend keeping a log book indicating when various pesticides were sprayed, fertilizers used, etc. This is important in diagnosing the cause of problems that arise from time to time. An orchid growing friend had been using some of the bench in my greenhouse when I installed the cistern and was amazed at the incredible growth of his paphs under my care. After obtaining a few paphs of my own and studying the natural habitat it was clear why paphs had grown so well. It was the extra calcium and magnesium leaching from my cistern. To compensate for the slow change in water as my cistern reached equilibrium, I began adding dolomite lime to pots containing paphs and they thrived. I also began using Peters Cal Mag, which provided even more calcium and magnesium each time fertilizer was applied. My cattleyas and other orchids grew well under these conditions, except in the summer when I would experience new growths that rotted. I would also lose seed pods from rot.

Every orchid hobbyist knows that moving to a new greenhouse requires a reexamination of culture, and my move to Florida four years ago has been no exception. The one big surprise was an issue that had occurred before, always in the summer, that was never resolved to my satisfaction. During very warm summers there would be the occasional rotting of new growths on cattleyas as well as on new leaves of phalaenopsis. Most surprising was that the issue occurred on both species and hybrids that should have been fine under high heat and temperatures based on their countries of origin. On these occasions, various anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agents were used.

Based on the premise that most horticultural issues are caused by culture, various attempts were made including altering fertilizers, increasing air movements, etc, with no real clear success.

The problem typically disappeared once temperatures cooled in fall. Most frustrating was the loss of countless seed pods of some potentially great hybrids. They would begin rotting from the tip and the rot would eventually progress, destroying the seed pod.

I have finally discovered as the cause of this problem, blossom-end rot; the same malady that causes tomatoes to rot from the old bloom tip, which is low calcium and magnesium. Orchids are "cold-blooded" and when it gets warm they are capable of growing at a very fast rate. To do this, they must take up nutrients at an accelerated rate, too. Calcium and magnesium are required for proper cell development in new leaves and other tissues, e.g. seed pods. That was what was missing from my culture during the heat of summer.

During summer's high temperatures, many orchid hobbyists report loss of new leaves especially when growing outdoors. Heavy rains flush nutrients, especially calcium and magnesium, from media, and at the same time, high temperatures and humidity foster very rapid growth. It did not occur to me to increase the calcium and magnesium content of the water I am now using since it comes from a limestone aquifer and is loaded with minerals, including calcium. My fertilizer now is fish emulsion instead of the cal-mag fertilizer I have used in the past. Essentially, I am now providing more of the essential growth nutrients, mainly nitrogen, but not enough calcium for my orchids in this high growth time of the year.

When I first realized what was causing the increased loss of new growths and seed pods, I hand spread dolomite limestone powder all over the plants in the greenhouse. My orchids looked like it had snowed. I also placed a couple of pounds in the reservoir from which my Dosatron draws water after I have applied fertilizer. Within a week, there ceased to be an issue of rots despite the highest summer temperatures of the year.

Even some of what I consider intermediate temperature orchids have responded to the extra calcium and magnesium by growing extremely well in the heat. Most orchid growing advice suggests acidifying water. Adding dolomite raises pH, but has not had any negative effects so far. I still flush regularly and fertilize with fish emulsion and this keeps the pH of the medium at the right level for growth.



1st Place Ribbon:
Robiquetia cerina
Grown by Caroline Bernard



2nd Place Ribbon:
Ascda Suk Samran Beauty
Bubblicious
**Grown by Robin & Josh
Gurlitz**



3^d Place Ribbon:
Bolopetulum "Midnight Blue"
Grown by Nicolette Petervary

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**



1st Place Ribbon:

Lc Lynn Richard x Blc Bouton D'Or
Grown by Melissa Bullard



2nd Place Ribbon:

Cattleya hardyana alba
Grown by Paul Virtue



3rd Place Ribbon:

Cymbidium
Grown by Michael Wagner

Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

TOS Fall Auction

Sunday Sept. 25

Lake Crabtree County Park, Morrisville. Beech Pavilion. 12:00 Noon potluck lunch and auction begins at 1:00 PM. Plants from Kalapana, Carter & Holmes and from TOS member collections. Put this on your calendar . Contact Sally Carpenter (scarp919@aol.com) if you have questions or want to volunteer.

North Carolina State Fair

October 13-23

A highlight of our year and part of our educational mission is our annual exhibit at the NC State Fair. See or email Robin Gurlitz. Whether you work at our exhibit or just visit, make sure you don't miss this event.

Triad Orchid Society Auction

Sunday, Sept. 11

Begins at 1:00 pm at the Greensboro Council of Garden Club building on the Natural Science Center's campus, 4301 Lawndale Drive in Greensboro.

Questions? Please call 336-282-3301.

Lots of nice orchids, supplies and books will be auctioned . All are welcome.



**Bulbophyllum
tingabarinum**

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

September
12th

October
10th

November
14

Speaker

Manny Aybar
Member Plant
Sale

Fred Clark

Dr. Robert
McMillan

Topic

Orchids of The
Dominican Republic

Paphiopedilums

Orchid Diseases

Welcome Table

Refreshments

September

Lee Allgood

Michael Arner

October

Need Volunteers

Sue Morand



Associated with

Sarah P Duke Gardens

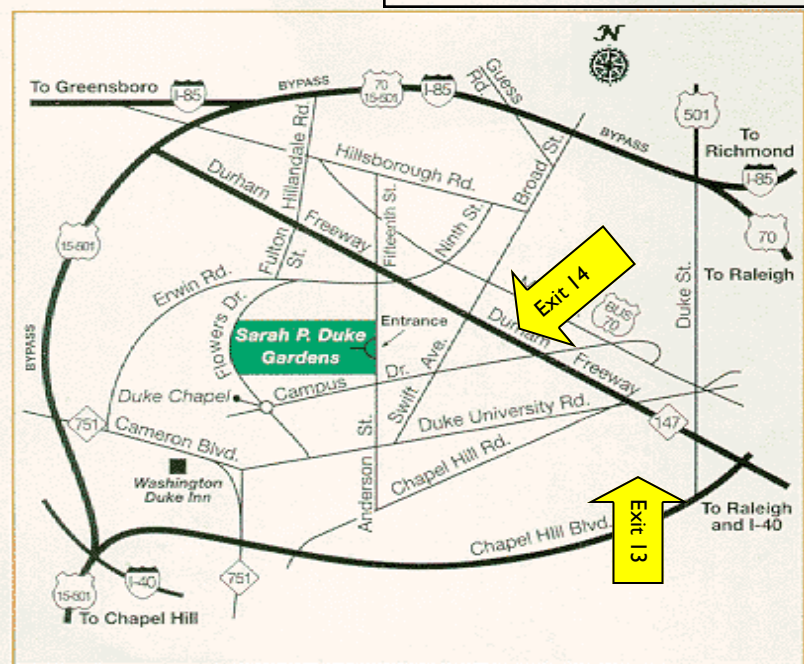
Interim Newsletter Editor
Josh Gurlitz

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Miltonia spectabilis var. moreliana

“Jean Webster” AM/AOS



**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