



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for July 9, 2012 Michael Corondo

Michael literally grew up at R. F. Orchids, having been with the firm since he was 13 years old. He started out working in the greenhouses, repotting, staking, fertilizing, packing & shipping, later getting involved with exhibiting orchids and other facets of the business. In 1985, the firm incorporated and Michael became its Vice President. He is now Vice President in charge of growing and hybridizing. Mike has traveled extensively around the world to keep abreast of the newest trends in orchid hybridizing, including the nursery's specialty, vandaceous orchids. He has spent several months at the R. F. Orchids' growing facility in Thailand learning techniques for the propagation and production of orchids for the international market. In his career with R. F. Orchids, Mike has also participated in many domestic and international orchid shows including several World Orchid Conferences and the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show, and is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge. He has served on the Board of Directors of the South Florida Orchid Society, and is a Life Member of the American Orchid Society.

One of Mike's favorite activities is the design of private orchid gardens. He has designed orchid gardens for many important South Florida properties, including the outdoor façade of the Christian Louboutin boutique in the Miami Design District. Mike has also designed interior orchid arrangements for South Florida notables including Cristina Saralegui, and he is manager of our flower shop at the Ocean Reef Club. He was also instrumental in developing R.F. Orchids' "Orchid Camp", a series of educational classes about orchid growing in South Florida.

Michael will have 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 John Myhre to reserve a seat,
At 919-772-5514
All are welcome

Check out our 2012

Growers Day

Saturday, August 4

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

See page 9 inside

Or visit our website at:

www.triangleorchidsociety.org

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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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A Word From The President

July, 2012

Greetings Everyone!

If your vandas, like mine, tend to loose the bottom leaves and turn into a mini palm tree over time, here is a chance to improve on this. This month we have Michael Coronado from R.F. Orchids giving us a talk about Vanda Culture. I have been to R.F. Orchids several times and I must say they have the most beautiful Vandas so this should be a very informative talk.

Growers Day 2012 has been confirmed for August 4th at the JC Raulston Arboretum. This is a very important event for us and we are looking to get help with promoting and advertising it, so if you would like to help, all the information has been posted on the TOS web site and there is a flyer for download, which can be printed and posted in your local garden center, retirement community, work bulletin board, etc.

Best Regards and Happy Growing!

Armando Neves
TOS President 2012

Meeting Minutes 06/11/2012

The June 11, 2012 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society, Inc. was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice President Ralph Sears. Two guests, Neil and Jen, were welcomed. Ralph said he hoped that they enjoy the meeting and will consider joining the society. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting on this very rainy night. The minutes of the May membership meeting were approved.

Ralph made an appeal for volunteers for the coming Grower's Day. Volunteers in any capacity are welcome. You can volunteer by going to the website and indicate you can help and in what capacity. Ralph listed ways to help including: transporting orchids, helping with the snack and/or luncheon for the attendees, checking people in, etc.

Ralph introduced the speaker Geraldine Powell. She gave a great talk with a lot of information and she answered numerous questions. Geri gave hope to those of us who are *Masdevallia* challenged. We too might be able to keep alive and grow *masdevallias*!

Raffle tickets were available at \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Bring a plant for the show table and receive a free raffle ticket up to a maximum of five tickets.

After the break with great refreshments provided by Anesha Johnson and Jeanette Massengill and Connie Howard selling raffle tickets we had a review of the show table by Paul Virtue and Ralph Sears. We had a smaller than usual number of orchids for the show tables probably because of the pouring rain when we were heading over to the meeting. However the orchids that were brought were wonderful.

The June 11, 2012 The Jack Webster Showtable Awards are as follows:

GREENHOUSE: 1st place: *Calanthe triplicate* grown by Paul Welty

Tie for 2nd place: *Paph. kolopakingii x randsii* grown by Judi Powell, and

2nd place: *Ronnyara Snow Flakes* grown by Nancy Harvey

NON-GREENHOUSE awards are:

1st place: *Prostechea prismatocarpa* grown by Suzanne Hens

2nd place: *Odcdm Wildcat "Golden Fairy"* grown by Dianne Parks

3rd place: *Phalaenopsis NOID* grown by Suzanne Hens

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Robin Gurlitz, standing in for David Pickett, Secretary.

Geri Powell

June Speaker

You've got to hand it to Geri – not only does she have a great sense of humor, but she's willing to take on conventional wisdom and try the impossible. I don't know of anyone else who would even consider growing *Masdevallias* in Florida!!!! I've even been reluctant to try them here in North Carolina because I thought it was too hot. But, not only did Geri try, she succeeded. Of course she built a greenhouse with its own air conditioning unit, and she probably paid a king's ransom in electric bills, but she was successful. And I'm sure the judging centers in Florida were delighted to see her bring in her *Masdevallias* because they just never see "cool" growing plants at their centers.

I think what I admire about Geri the most is the fact that she used good old American ingenuity and figured out the best way to grow cool growing plants in hot climates. She realized that a clay pot would work much more efficiently than plastic and she set out to design a pot that would allow her to grow cool growing plants well in a hot, humid environment. I was so intrigued by Geri's claims about her Cool Pots that I bought one, just to try it out. When I examined the pot closely, I realized that it was almost exactly a replica of the semi hydroponic pots that Ray Barkalow was recommending when he spoke to us only two months ago. The difference, as far as I could see, was that Geri's pots are made of clay (and obviously hand thrown) while Ray's are plastic. Both pots are basic cylinders with drain holes about an inch from the bottom. Geri's have a raised surface across the bottom where the wet clay has been pushed up to form a small mound, creating the reservoir Ray had explained would help keep the medium constantly moist. Compared to a regular clay pots from the hardware store or garden center, Geri's pots are slightly thicker but apparently this does not make any difference to the efficiency of the pot. Geri explained that clay pots retain more moisture than plastic pots. Humidity is retained in the clay and wet pots remain several degrees cooler than a dry pot. Just touching a wet clay pot will demonstrate their efficiency in this manner.

Masdevallias are generally found on the western slopes side of the Andes where the climate is cool and constantly humid. Heavy morning mists and virtually daily rainfall keeps these western slopes cool and shaded. Consider as well that many *Masdevallias* are found exclusively at higher elevations and you can appreciate why they are such cool growers. There are approximately three hundred and fifty species in this genus which ranges from Mexico to the far southern tip of Peru. They do not have pseudobulbs per se, but rather have narrow stems with a single fleshy leaf. Moisture is stored in the foliage and an extensive rhizome system. When well grown, the plants form dense matts of foliage. The flowers are notable for their brilliant colors that range from hot pink to orange to pale yellows and white. The inflorescences arise from within the mass of foliage and the flowers can be held either erect or pendant. The most notable feature of the flowers are the sepals, which often become long narrow tails while the petals and labellum are so small they are virtually insignificant.

Geri grows her *Masdevallias* in a mix of pine bark, charcoal and sphagnum. She states that she waters daily and maintains constant air movement around the plants. She keeps them at as low a temperature as possible, and repots annually. Geri did not really specify what "as cool as possible" means, but Greg Alikas and Ned Nash, in their book "Four Seasons of Orchids" claim that *Masdevallias* should be grown with maximum day time temperatures of 75 degrees, and night time temperatures of 60 degrees, under shaded conditions. Geri did say that when temperatures are up, the number of flowers as well as the intensity of their colors will be down. In fact, when the temperatures are too high, and the humidity is too low, buds will blast and spotting will develop on the foliage. To ensure adequate humidity, Geri waters with a fogging nozzle at the rate of ½ gallon per hour. This also ensures a drop in temperature at night.



Miltonias on the other hand, require much brighter growing conditions. While they too are considered “cool” growers, they tend to be found at lower elevations and are therefore much more warmth tolerant than Masdevallias. This genus is small, with only ten recognized species, with most being found at moderate elevations in Brazil. Miltonias grow best with high light and high humidity. They require heavy watering especially during growth periods and a dry period after flowering. Their rambling growth habit makes them best suited for baskets or shallow pans where they can spread out. Geri says that she grows hers under Cattleya conditions and that Miltonias require a rest period following blooming, just like Cattleyas. Masdevallias on the other hand, receive the same year round care. Geri did say that most hybrids, for both Masdevallias and Miltonias, are more light and temperature tolerant and therefore they can be grown under less stringent conditions.

To see photos of Geri’s award winning Masdevallias, as well as her other plants, check out her website – theorchidgallery@aol.com. It’s well worth the look.

THANK YOU JOY LEMIEUX FOR TRANSCRIBING GERI’S TALK AND SHARING YOUR COMMENTS WITH US.

TRAVELING TO DC THIS SUMMER OR EARLY FALL?
“Now or Never: Saving North America's Native Orchids”
When: Now through October 8, 2012
United States Botanical Garden on the National Mall

"There are more than 250 species of orchids native to the United States and Canada. They occur in every state and province, in a wide range of habitats and climate zones, and more than half are threatened somewhere in their range. Few national efforts exist to restore native orchids. As a result, the Smithsonian and the US Botanic Garden are working together to conserve orchids native to North America. Learn about these orchid habitats, their life cycle and their unique relationship with fungi."

The United State Botanic Garden (USBG) is a living plant museum. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. free of charge. Established by Congress in 1820, the US Botanic Garden is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America. It is located in Washington DC on the National Mall at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and First Street SW, adjacent to the US Capitol.

For general information on the USBG: (202) 225-8333



1st Place Ribbon:
Prosthechea prismatocarpa
Grown by Suzanne Hens

**Jack Webster Awards
Non-Greenhouse
Grown**



2nd Place Ribbon:
Odcdm. Wildcat 'Golden Fairy'
Grown by Dianne Parks



3d Place Ribbon:
Phal. NOID
Grown by Suzanne Hens

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**



2nd Place Ribbon:
Paph kolopakingii x randsii
Grown by Judi Powell

2nd Place Ribbon:
Ronnyara Snow Flakes
Grown by Nancy Harvey



1st Place Ribbon:
Calanthe triplicata
Grown by Paul Welty



Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for July 2012

Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net

It has finally begun to feel like summer here in Florida, not just because days are creeping into the 90s, but because humidity levels are now over 60% all day long. This is also a time when afternoon thunderstorms are common, followed by warm, humid nights. Some types of orchids are from just such a climate, but many more are not and prefer much cooler nights. Anytime an orchid is living under conditions that exceed what is normal for that species or its ancestors, it is time to watch for stress-related diseases.

Many hobbyists confine their orchids inside in windowsills or under lights until it is warm enough to put them outside. Orchids thrive under such conditions, but become susceptible to staying overly wet if afternoon rains occur every night. A medium that may be perfect inside the house requiring you to water once a week or so may be terrible if it is wet every afternoon. Often the orchid will look great with new roots emerging and spreading out of the pot, but later in the summer leaves can turn black and the orchid die. That is caused by roots staying too wet down in the pot.

I put some orchids outside that are in baskets or mounted. They can be wet every night and there is no danger that the roots will rot. Up until the past few weeks, the opposite was occurring; low humidity and no rain were causing leaves to shrivel. A couple of weeks of regular rainfall and humidity, however, has reversed the shriveled leaves and produced flushes of new roots on vandas, encyclias and even cattleyas growing in pots with lava rock as the medium. Notice that no phalaenopsis were listed as hanging outside. Unless they are mounted or potted in rock, they do not do well outside. Phalaenopsis can hold water in their crowns and after a couple of days of afternoon thunderstorms, suddenly rot.

Just because you have your orchids safely in a greenhouse or covered area does not mean there are no potential problems. If you have over-fertilized or purchased seedlings from nurseries that have pushed their seedlings to grow rapidly, you will likely have problems with various soft rots. Usually, rots begin in new growths, but can quickly spread to the entire plant and kill your prized orchid. The more valuable the orchid, the more likely it is to rot and die; it's a rule.

Increasing air movement is an easy way to limit rots, but many of us have more plants on our benches than is ideal, which limits air flow. If your growing area is enclosed at night, spores will also build up and potentially cause rots.

Every orchid will have rot problems at some time, but really good growers recognize and stop rots quickly or stop them before they start. You can spray the floor of your greenhouse with a 5% Clorox solution, which will destroy fungal and bacterial spores. It is a good idea to wet your orchids first in case you get any of the Clorox solution on them. There are also products like Dithane M-45 that has been around awhile that is available and effective on rots. Physan 20 is the same product that is used to sterilize food containers and effectively kills spores on non living surfaces. There are a number of products that are approved for application to orchids that kill bacteria and fungi, but use them all with caution.

For small problems, keep a spray bottle filled with hydrogen peroxide, the same concentration you have in your medicine cabinet and a shaker of cinnamon powder handy. Usually, if you find a small problem with rot, you will soon see other plants nearby also become infected. Spray the infected plant and nearby ones with hydrogen peroxide and keep the area a little on the dry side. Add an extra fan directed at the area to keep spores from starting to grow. If that does not work you may need one of the more potent and registered products and treat all of the plants in the entire greenhouse.

**GROWERS DAY
2012**

TOS has scheduled our Growers Day for August 4, 2012 at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum. Here are the details: Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Lunch and refreshments are included.

Registration: \$25.00 to pre-register, \$28.00 at the door. To register send your name and a check to our treasurer, Anne D. Williams
1506 Kent Street
Durham, NC 27707-1536

This is always a great event for beginning and advanced growers alike. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This a great event to volunteer for—you can get an education while helping out TOS.

To volunteer contact: Armando Neves, TOS President . armandonvs@gmail.com. For more detail visit www.triangleorchidsociety.org.

MORE ORCHID EVENTS

Our **TOS FALL AUCTION** is now being planned. Contact **Armando Neves** to volunteer for THIS wonderful event.

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:		Calendar 2011	Speaker	Topic
7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Table and Chairs	July 9	Michael Coronado Will sell plants	Vanda Culture
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting Announcements			
7:40-8:30	Program	August 13	Courtney Hackney	Tips for growing Orchids
8:30-8:50	Refreshment Break			
8:50-9:20	Show Table Review, Show Table Awards	September 10	TBA	TBA
9:20-9:30	Raffle			

Welcome Table		Refreshments
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July	Sue Morand	Suzanne Hens
August	See Sue Morand to volunteer	Erica Wolf

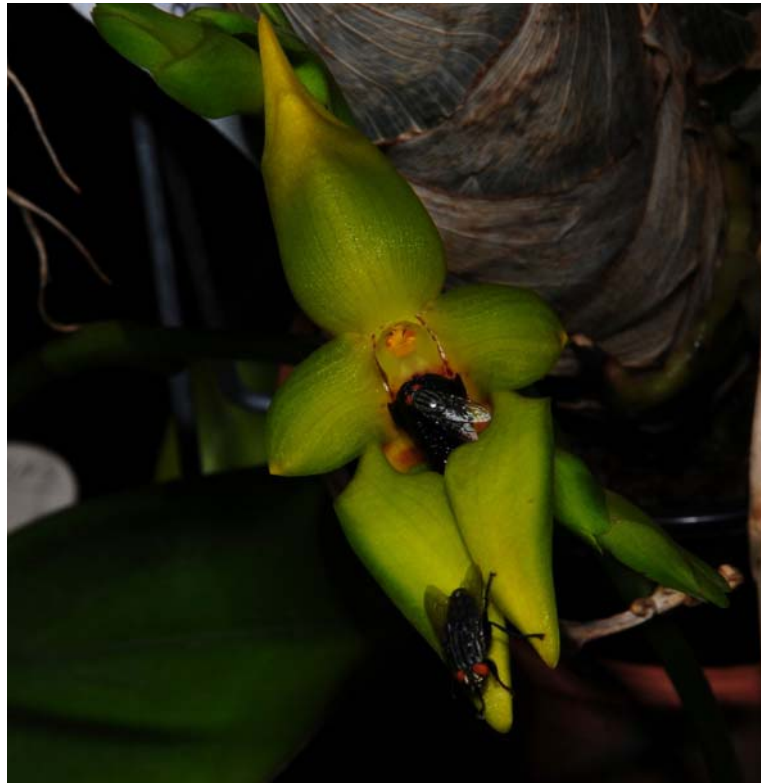


Associated with

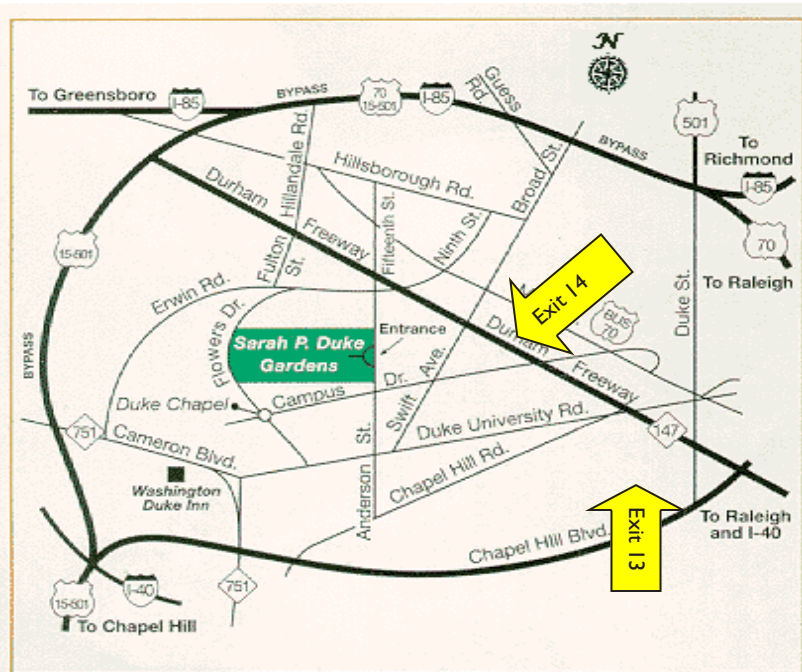
Sarah P Duke Gardens

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**Bulbophyllum coruniculatum
with pollinators**



**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:

\$20 per year single, or **\$26** per year for two persons living at the same address.