



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Program for Oct. 14, 2013 Tom & Shan Nasser

October's speakers will be Tom and Shan Nasser of Carolina Orchids. Their business began in Clemson, SC as Clemson Orchids. Moving to Fort Mill, SC in 1992, the name was changed to Carolina Orchids. The Nasser's have been growing orchids since the 1970's and have several thousand square feet of orchid greenhouses.

Tom's doctorate is in Polymer Chemistry, but he is Adjunct Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte to advise and help grow orchids at UNCC greenhouses. Both Tom and Shan have served as North Carolina Piedmont Orchid Society vice presidents. Shan is previous president and current vice president of the South Carolina Orchid Society and probationary judge of the American Orchid Society.

The Nassers have given orchid talks in Florida, Alaska, Kansas, New York, San Juan/Puerto Rico & Edmonton/Canada as well as the Carolinas. Topics include angraecums, bulbophyllums, lycastes, Favorite Unusual Orchids (containing some of everything) and miniature orchids. Plants from Carolina Orchids are sold to hobbyists all over the United States.

Orchid species are Carolina Orchids' specialty with bulbophyllum, phalaenopsis, lycaste, angraecum, cattleya, and more: Price lists are listed on website www.carolinaorchids.com.

You are encouraged to pre-order orchids from the Nasser's website. You will receive a 15% discount if you pre-order for this program.

Tom will be bringing plants to sell.

Monday Dinner with Speaker (note new venue)

5:30 PM - **before the meeting** at the **Carrabba's Restaurant**

5312 New Hope Commons Drive, Durham, across from New Hope Commons Shopping Center at the intersection of I-40 and US 15/501.

Call Alan Miller to reserve a seat at 919-969-1612 All are welcome

See a wonderful member announcement on
page 10 inside!!

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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 Fall Auction



Beautiful, healthy orchids waiting to find new homes



President Ralph leads the bidding



Is the orchid not in bloom??

Paul Virtue shows just what you are bidding on.





Who won the bid on this beauty?



Anne Williams checks the numbers



Mary & Ken Sugioka wait patiently for their favorite plant.

[Visit our website at:](http://www.triangleorchidsociety.org)
www.triangleorchidsociety.org

Speaker Notes Steve Arthur

Steve's ability to see the absurd or the bizarre in ordinary, everyday situations is truly a rare gift, and I enjoyed his presentation so much because of it.

Steve has made thirteen trips to various countries in Central and South America. Many of the tours, which he began in the late 60s, were made to collect orchids from the wild. Then it was relatively easy to bring jungle collected material into the US. The US signed CITES in 1973 (the international trade agreement) that seeks to limit and control the trading of rare or unusual plants and animals. Since then bringing orchids into the US has become a game of chance – either no questions, or confiscation, or gassing. This latter sanitizes plants to the point of their death. Steve commented that he lost numerous rare or unusual plants this way.

At the time that Steve was making his trips to Central and South America orchids were considered a nuisance, especially in Ecuadorian citrus plantations. The Orchids, and bromeliads, would be so numerous they weighed down tree branches and had to be removed so the citrus crops could develop. The orchids removed were disposed of.

I loved Steve's photos of local ferries and river crossings. Steve obviously enjoyed these adventures as well, as these were among the more bizarre images that he photographed. Travel in the Southern Hemisphere can create a very healthy respect for the local law enforcement. Steve described a fellow traveler whose camera bag was full of pot. He said that the police came onto the plane with machine guns and dragged the offending woman off. She was later released after a \$10,000.00 fine, a severe beating, and all her possession confiscated. Moral of the story: stick to orchids AND have all your permits in order.

Steve has been to visit the facilities of Ecuagenera. The story behind this organization goes that a priest named Angel Andreetta began collecting and growing local orchid species in Llanpassay Sector in the 1950s. He hired Mario Portilla, and then his brother Jose. Together they all worked to establish a company dedicated to collecting, preserving, and marketing the local orchid species. Ecuagenera, was officially founded in 1992 and in 1993, they were officially licensed to begin exporting plants. Today, the company is run almost exclusively by the heirs of the original Portilla brothers.



Rooftop Seedling bed

Ecuagenera logo



The company owns two “reserves” or tracts of mountain jungle where they have established greenhouses and other growing areas. The two reserves are quite distinct in their climate as well as elevations. The second greenhouse marches up the mountain, and thus is able to provide distinctively different habitats at each elevation. Ecuagenera products are sold at Orchid shows and Exhibitions in the US.

They were among the first commercial growers to work with *Phrag bessae* when it was discovered in the 70s. This helped to establish their name within Orchid circles. The family has prospered over the years and has built a school for the workers children. Steve showed some photos of the school built for the village children. In their remote part of the world, there are no government sponsored schools so building school was a very important contribution to their community.

Check out the Ecuagenera website for photos and stories about this remarkable establishment. Today, the Portilla family hosts Orchid sighting tours through out Ecuador and you can still enjoy the hair-raising adventures that Steve described. You can even experience the hard labor of transplanting and caring for the nursery stock if you wish to volunteer to work at the nursery.



Steve in the field



A beautiful Phrag in the wild

Thank you to Joy Lemieux, of the Sandhills Orchid Society,
for this transcription of Steve's talk.

Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for October 2013
Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net

Hubris is a term that I think about whenever I get to a point where I think that I have finally figured out the culture of orchids. I have thought a lot about that this year. Never in my 50 years of growing orchids have I encountered such consistent issues with various rots. Yes, it has been a wet and rainy summer, but those have occurred before. Hurricanes always seem to bring more rot issues, but there have been none of those, so why this year?

The rot that has been an issue looks like it is fungal and resembles rots that turn up occasionally. First a pseudobulb on a cattleyas yellows and turns black, which eventually spreads up the leaf. Often by the time the dying bulb has been discovered, rot has spread to the rhizome. In many cases large cattleyas were lost and in others large plants reduced to just one bulb. Ironically, phalaenopsis that usually develop rots first have been unaffected as have all other orchid groups.

The speed of infection has been faster than most fungal infections, but slower than bacterial problems I have encountered. So how did I know that the problem was fungal? The fact that the bulbs stayed fairly firm was the first indication that the problem was fungal in nature, but once I opened up an infected bulb and looked carefully under magnification, I could see the fine filaments called hyphae that are characteristic of many fungi.

Standard treatments that always proved effective largely did not work. Even the “nuclear” option, Kocide, failed to halt the progression of this rot. I call this the “nuclear option” because the active ingredient in Kocide, copper, is fairly toxic, even to plants, so it is only used when absolutely necessary. If you must use this product be sure you raise the pH of the water you mix with it above 7 to limit plant toxicity. Most of the well water in my area is above a pH of 7. The product that finally seems to have stopped the carnage was Banrot, an old, reliable fungicide that I stopped using years ago. It was necessary to use it as a drench because the rot seemed to be entering my cattleyas through roots, even though most cattleyas were growing in lava rock. My guess is that old, dead roots were providing a starting point.

So what is next? Just because a problem seems to be solved does not mean it is really gone, especially if it is a bacterial or fungal problem. The greenhouse and all orchids are being maintained drier, i.e. less frequent watering, than would otherwise be occurring. Those few orchids that require more water, e.g. Bulbophylums, are getting hand-watered when they look dry. Anytime a suspicious spot is found it is hit with Banrot. This will continue until the problem is gone, however long that takes. Kocide was also sprayed under benches and on walkways to kill as many fungal and bacterial spores as possible.

But where did this new rot come from? It is always easy to blame a new acquisition, but spores from rots can come from anywhere. My bet is the origin was the swamp next to the greenhouse, which was flooded all summer thanks to the wet weather, but there is no way to know for sure. The incident has prompted me to look at what led to the spread of rot in my growing area. The typical culprit is a lack of air movement, which can be caused by orchids packed too closely together or a need to more fans. The trick now will be to eliminate rots before winter comes and the greenhouse is closed up.

Coming up at the Carolinas Judging Center

Greensboro Garden Council Building

4301 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC 27455

Several times each year the judging center will invite outside speakers who will discuss topics relevant to the judging process. Our guest speaker for October will be Peter Lin from California. His talk will begin at approximately 11:00 on October 19 here at the Garden Council Building. We will have a pot luck lunch after his talk. Everyone is invited to attend both the talk and bring a dish to share for lunch. Below is his biography.

Neofinetia falcata and its Hybrids

Peter T. Lin will be presenting a talk on: *Neofinetia falcata* and its Hybrids. This fast paced PowerPoint presentation will feature this Japanese native orchid species, a bit of history, the many forms and varieties, and a selection of its hybrids within the Vanda alliance. We'll also take a look at how to grow these marvelous temperature tolerant orchids.

Neofinetia falcata is native to Japan and has been grown there for centuries. They are highly treasured and come in many flower forms and leaf forms. It has been used with other vandaceous genera to produce charming compact hybrids.

Peter started growing orchids over 30 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 10 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again. He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society and a hybridizer of minicatts. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country. He also has thousands of photos of his orchids that he maintains on Flickr. You can view them by typing this address into the internet:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/minicatt/collections/>

His website address is: <http://www.diamondorchids.com/>

Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His other interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and of course *Neofinetias*! He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, outdoors, as well as in the house under fluorescent lights.

Members can pre-order off his website and he will bring them to the meeting. He gives a 10% discount on all preorders. Please call or email him by Oct. 11. Cell is: 909-573-6751 and email is: lin.peterT@yahoo.com



Jack Webster Awards
Non-Greenhouse
Grown

1st Place Ribbon:
Bc Binosia "Kirk"
Grown by Sunny Allen



2nd Place Ribbon:
Phrag. Mem Dick Clements
Grown by Charles Walker



3d Place Ribbon:
Miltonia "Anne Warne"
Grown by Suzanne Hens

!!!ALAN MILLER PROVIDES ALL OF THE SHOWTABLE PHOTOS..THANK YOU ALAN!!!!

Jack Webster
Awards
Greenhouse Grown



1st Place Ribbon:
Stanhopea "Bird of Prey"
Grown by Bob Meyer



2nd Place Ribbon:
Den lipidium
Grown by Paul Feaver



3^d Place Ribbon:
Encyclia dichroma
Grown by Nick Plummer

~~Best~~ members Jen Modliszewski and Neil Jacobs are happy to announce that Nicolaus Andrew Jacobs arrived on September 22, 2013, at 11:09 AM. Nicolaus weighed in at 8 lbs 5 oz. and 20.25 inches long.

Jen, Neil, and Nicolaus are all doing well and are hoping to attend a meeting soon; perhaps as early as November. Congratulations, Jen & Neil!!



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 2013	Speaker	Topic
Oct. 14, 2013	Tom Nasser	My Favorite Miniature Orchids
Nov. 11, 2013	Mark Reinke	Decoding Dendrobium
Dec 9, 2013	Holiday Party	

Welcome Table

Refreshments

October	Jenny Sears	Erica Wolfe
November	Jenny Sears	TBA



Associated with

Sarah P Duke Gardens

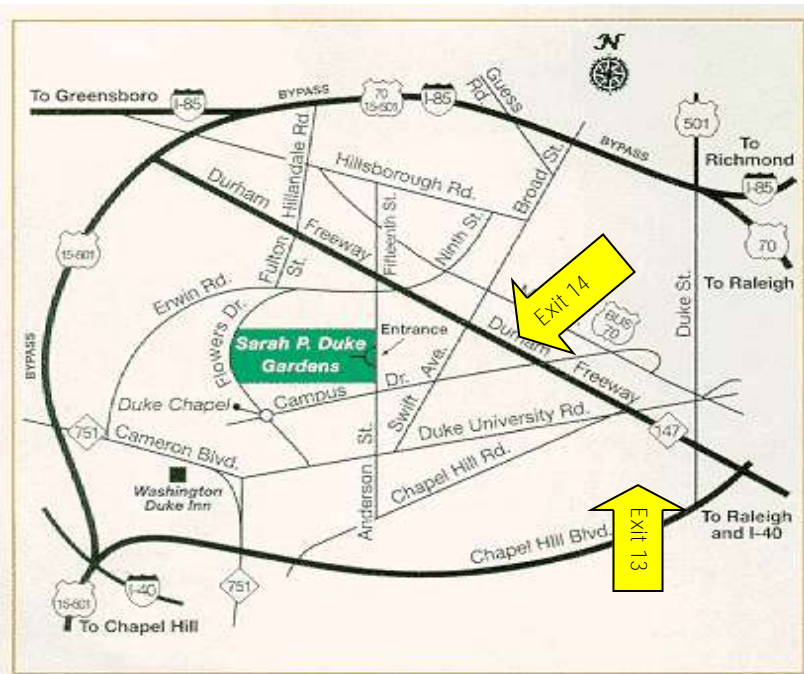
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Cattleya maxima in the field

Photo by Steve Arthur



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.

Send your dues to: Anne Williams, TOS Treasurer, 1506 Kent St. Durham, N.C. 27707