



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid  
Society  
Associated with Sarah  
P. Duke Gardens

## Program for August 11, 2003

"Orchids of Venezuela"

By Gene Crocker of Carter & Holmes SC

Gene Crocker is currently Vice President of Carter and Holmes Orchids, a position he has held for the past 17 years. He is responsible for the general orchid production, including the hybridizing program, a program started in the early 1950's by Bill Carter. He also writes the catalogues and advertisements and does the photography. Gene was a hobby grower for thirty years before coming to Carter and Holmes. He still has his first two orchids (cattleyas), which have flowered faithfully every year for the past 43 years.



Phal Aurelia Franklin Golden Globe' x Phal Aurelia Franklin

Gene's professional training was as a Textile Chemist (BS) and Meteorologist (BS), but orchids have been his main obsession through these many years. He and his wife, Kitty, have one daughter and two sons – and two grandsons.

Gene travels extensively on behalf of Carter and Holmes. He is interested in all genera of orchids, although cattleyas are his favorites. He made his first cattleya hybrid in 1961, and has already gone through three generations of orchid hybrids at Carter and Holmes. His "orchid claim to fame" may be the fact that he coined the term "mericlone" in 1964.



Neomoorea irrorata



Carter & Holmes 18 greenhouses

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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.Triangle Orchid Society.org**

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## Minutes of the Last Meeting

The July 2003 meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held July 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by president Nolan Newton, who also introduced the evening's guests. There were no new members. Nolan then made several announcements:

-Please return TOS Library books—there are no fines for late books at this time.

-The TOS Library will be open for 20 minutes before and 20 minutes after the general meeting. The Duke library books are not available for borrowing—only the books that are property of TOS.

-The previous month's minutes were accepted, and no Treasurer's Report for this month.

-The Fall Auction/Picnic date is Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on coming out and bringing a friend or neighbor—this is the main way that the TOS operating funds are raised. This year the Auction will be different in the quality and choice of plants available to buy. Please bring any of your plant donations for the auction to either the August TOS meeting, or to John Stanton's greenhouses The Orchid Trail before September 1<sup>st</sup>. John is caring about the health and quality of each Auction plant, and will also provide a list of most of the choicest plants ahead of time.

-There is a new prize for the folks winning the Jack Webster Awards—a beautiful illustrated paperback encyclopedia of orchid

species.

Jack Webster himself then gave a mini-program on automatic irrigation systems for watering your orchids as they summer outside. Much talk of filters, timers, water pressure, backflow preventers, etc. Jack waters his outside Vandas twice a day, while the greenhouse plants (mostly Phals) may be watered twice a week. Any plant in bloom is moved away from the automatic watering system, to preserve the flowers.

David Devine one of our members and an AOS Judge quickly presented the Show Table, and after a break for refreshments, the Society heard the presentation for the night on Rupicolous Laelias, given by orchidist and famous photographer Greg Alliakas. These plants are rock growing for the most part, and can grow with very little shelter or moisture. They need a lot of light and a lot of air movement—water regularly, but plants must dry out too. Greg then showed how he pots the Rupicolous Laelias, in a mixture of lava rock and Aliflor.

The Jack Webster awards were as follows: First place went to Paph. Frank Booth, grown by John Martin. Second Place went to *epidendrum steinbachianum X tampense v. alba*, grown by George Beischer, while Third Place went to *dendrobium antennatum* grown by Jack Webster.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm. Minutes submitted by Judith Goldstein, Secretary.

Note from Nolan Newton:n

The Gardena Timer that Jack uses and the DIG Timer I use are both

available from Dripworks: <http://www.dripworksusa.com>.

## Announcements:

### Carolina Judging Center Raleigh, NC

The following plants received awards at the July 19, 2003 CJC monthly judging:

Paphiopedilum Makuli 'Maggie' CCM 86 points, Jack and Margie Kepley, Summerfield, NC  
 Laelia fournieri, CBR, Linda Schwoeppe, Summerfield, NC

Encyclia alata 'Dottie Rice' HCC 77 points, Jack and Margie Kepley, Summerfield, NC

Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice 'Spirit' AM 81 points, Jack and Margie Kepley, Summerfield, NC

Congratulations to those whose lovely plants received awards! The next monthly judging will be August 16, 2003. We hope to see you there. Sincerely, Elizabeth Sheeks, Secretary, CJC

## TOS Auction/ Picnic, Saturday, October 4th. At George Beicher's place at Silver Lake, Durham

**A different kind of Auction.** . The auction this year will have only 150 to 175 high quality plants. John Staunton is putting 2 benches aside in his green house to grow up, groom, repot, number and catalogue the accumulated orchids for the Auction. He will have a list of orchids in the newsletter and on the web and handouts at the auction so you will know ahead of time the plants that you will want to bid on.

**The List so far:** Source: Hilo Orchid Farm, Hawaii

Phragmipedium Eric Young 'Rocket Fire 4n' x Wallisii 'Warria' 6" pot BS seedling min bid \$20

Phrag Grande (caudatum x longifolium 6" pot BS seedling min bid \$20

Paph philippinense (Philippines) 4" pot lg seedling min bid \$15 flowers 3 1/2" 5 flowers per spike.

Paph Niunt Toro (stonei x philippinense) 4" pot lg seedling min bid \$15.

Paph Pacific Shamrock x philippinense alba 4" pot lg seedling min bid \$15.

Phragmipedium Bouley Bay (Eric Young 4n x Grande 4n) 6" pot BS Seedling min bid \$20. Phrag Belle Houge Point (Eric Young 4n x caudatum) 6" pot BS Seedling min bid \$20.

Phrag Sargeabt /eruc (Eric Young 4n x sargentianum) 6" pot BS seedling min bid \$20.

Source: Buck Flintom, Phrag Sorcerer's Apprentice (in bud) 8" specimen plant

Coelobyne mossieae (N India) 8" pot specimen plant 10 1 3/4" fragrant white flowers per spike blooms in spring.

Source Jack Webster Rycholaelia (Brassovola) digbyana (Mexico to Honduras 6" pot mature BS plat large 6" fragrant greenish flower with fimbriated lip bloom Sp-Summer.

**Bring** your meristems and divisions of good plants to the next 2 meetings or to his green house so they can be included on the published list.



### **First Place Jack Webster Awards:**

Paph. Frank Booth, grown by John Martin

## Twospotted spider mites

From: Stephen B. Bambara and Christine A. Casey, Extension Entomologists, NCSU

Tetranychid spider mites are tiny, warm season arthropods that insert their tiny, scissor-like mouthparts into leaves and petals and cause tiny yellow spots to form as they suck out the contents of plant cells. Hot, dry weather accelerates the life cycle of the spider mites. Hollyhocks, roses, butterfly bush, some euonymus and bedding plants are often infested by spider mites during the summer. Twospotted spider mites are found on new growth and on thin-leaved orchids. For early detection, tap leaves over a white sheet of paper and look for crawling twospotted spider mites. Cymbidiums are highly susceptible. Because spider mites flair up in dry weather, their control is somewhat difficult. Plants that have wilted slightly are much more susceptible to pesticide injury than turgid plants. Also, plants are much more likely to be burned if pesticides are applied during midday. Plants should be watered thoroughly before spraying them with pesticide and should be sprayed in early morning or late afternoon so that the pesticide residue is dry before the bright, noon sun hits it. Horticultural oils and soaps are moderately toxic to spider mites and they are relatively safe for humans. Soaps and oils have virtually no residual activity so both pesticides must be applied two or three times for complete control (about 5 days between sprays). Horticultural oils have been shown to be less harmful to beneficial predatory mites. Homeowners can also use mild water sprays to dislodge mites from plants.

There are a number of miticide products for commercial nurseries and greenhouses. Rotation of products is

important for resistance management. Floramite controls mobile stages, while Hexygon kills eggs and sterilizes females. Akari (greenhouse only), Pylon, horticultural oil, and Ovation are also options. Avid is now labeled for spider mites outdoors except on coniferous evergreens. It is known to be phytotoxic to some ferns and shasta daisy. Pylon is phytotoxic to certain varieties of roses, dianthus, carnations, and others. Nurseries and greenhouses have a long list of possible treatments in the North Carolina Agricultural Chemicals Manual

(<http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/chptr5.html>). It is always a good idea to do test treatments before treating an entire crop. More information is contained in "Ornamental and Turf Insect Information Note No. 25"

(<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/flowers/note25/note25.html>).

**The Carolinas Orchid Email List** is a program that accepts email posts and then distributes those emails to all who are subscribed. Amy Marshall TOS Bd member and her husband Quincy put together a Web Site for Orchid growers from all of North Carolina. When an email is posted, the post is then readdressed to all subscribers immediately. The purpose of the list is to facilitate discussion on topics of interest to orchid growers in the Carolinas. **To subscribe to the list:**

?? Send an email to [orchidlist@lists.inetspace.net](mailto:orchidlist@lists.inetspace.net) with SUBSCRIBE ORCHIDLIST as the subject of the email. Include your name and city/state in the body of the email.

When you subscribe to the list you will receive a confirmation message. Please carefully read this message. You **must** reply to this message to complete your subscription. To receive the posted emails in a daily digest format (all of the day's emails condensed into one email instead of one at a time), send an email to [orchidlist@lists.inet.space.net](mailto:orchidlist@lists.inet.space.net) with SUBSCRIBE-DIGEST ORCHIDLIST as the subject of the email. Include your name and city/state in the body of the email. **To unsubscribe from the list:**

There will be a footer at the end of every posted message that will remind you how to unsubscribe. To post a message: Send an email to [orchidlist@inetspace.net](mailto:orchidlist@inetspace.net). You must post messages using the email address from which you subscribed. *Continued on page 7*



**3rd place Jack Webster Award** to *dendrobium antennatum* grown by Jack Webster



**2 nd Place Jack Webster Award**  
*epidendrum steinbachianum X tampense v. alba*, grown by George Beischer

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:  7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs  7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements  7:45-8:10 Show Table Review  8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break  8:30-9:20 Program  9:20-9:30 Show Table, Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes  9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends	<b>Calendar 2003</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
	August 11th	Gene Crocker of Carter & Holmes	Orchids of Venezuela
	September 8th	Steve Schifflet Floradise Orchids, VA	Orchid Species How to grow them
	October 13th	Chuck McCartney	Epiphytic Orchids of Florida
	<b>Welcome Table</b>	<b>Buy &amp; Serve Refreshments</b>	
<b>Aug 11th</b>	Ron Simmons Mary Sugioka	Claudia & Rey Aponte	

## Growing Tips for August

By Courtney T. Hackney

EMAIL at [Hackneau@bellsouth.net](mailto:Hackneau@bellsouth.net)

People are always looking for better (and cheaper) ways of doing things and growing orchids is no exception. There are always companies selling new fertilizers, potting media, pots, etc that are quickly snatched up by hobbyists. While commercial growers are less prone to trying new things, they succumb as well. Occasionally, some new product or technique comes along that dramatically improves orchid culture, especially for certain genera. Often, it is a relatively simple idea or product. The realization that Phragmipediums, Bulbophyllums, and Dendrochilums require lots of water is largely responsible for the increasing numbers of these genera on show tables. New pots and media specifically for these water loving genera quickly followed.

On occasion, there are old methods that are suddenly re-discovered or used in a different way that dramatically improve

culture. Recently, I saw an extremely well grown plant of Psychopsis (*Oncopapilio*) at Carter & Holmes. It was hanging and growing on a tight ball of coconut fiber. Gene Crocker noted that this was the preferred way of growing this species in South America. Many years ago in South Florida I saw a greenhouse wall covered with *Psychopsis papilio*. They were mounted on coconut husks cut in half. This is the same material now used to make coconut chips. This reputedly hard to grow species grew like weeds with this technique and never had to be repotted.

There was a time when many orchids imported from Hawaii would have pieces of lava rock still attached to their roots. They were shipped bare root because the lava rock in which they were grown was expensive to ship. Today, lava rock is available everywhere as a landscaping material, but few hobbyists use this medium. Cat-

tleayas, Vandas, and even *Phalaenopsis* grow well in lava rock. The major problem is that it holds too much water for some genera. Some Florida growers mix lava rock with the puffed clay material sold as Aliflor to increase drainage. The ratio of each depends on the degree of drainage desired and the type of pots used, i.e. plastic or clay.

My experience with growing most *Phal* species with lava rock in clay pots has been very positive, with the big rewards coming in the future because these plants will not have to be repotted. Lava rock and these other non-organic materials do not degrade.

Recently a beautifully grown plant of a *Cycnoches* hybrid came to our local show table grown totally in Aliflor. The grower, Ken Spackman, noted that this was the best the plant had ever grown and how easy it was to reduce water to the plant in winter without the need to repot and dry the roots. Aliflor does not hold water. Another rock product that does not hold water is StaLite,

a product made in North Carolina by heating small pieces of shale until it expands. It is very inexpensive and used for roadbeds. For years I have grown *Epidendrum*s and *Encyclia*s in 100% StaLite with excellent results. The biggest problem is buying small quantities, as it is sold by the dump truck load. During a recent visit to Carter & Holmes Nursery in Newberry, SC, I saw *Renanthera* hybrids growing extremely well in StaLite mixed with a little redwood bark and tree fern in plastic pots. The difference in growth between this medium and a fir bark mix was remarkable.

Recently a fertilizer, once widely used, was advertised as excellent for orchids. This old (new) product is made from seaweed. Products coming from the ocean are sure to contain lots of micronutrients, but can also contain large quantities of salt. Overuse and quality control problems caused this product to lose favor among orchid growers years ago. Excellent flushing once a month can

solve the salt problem and the new product seems to be very consistent. Forgotten, was the fact that besides micronutrients, many seaweed extracts contain small quantities of plant hormones, which stimulate new growths on orchids. This is especially important to sympodial types of orchids, such as cattleyas, but this fertilizer can also stimulate the production of keikis in vandas and phals.

If you are like most orchid hobbyists, you will try something new this year. When you do, try it only on a small number of plants and use on both those orchids growing well and those not doing well under your current culture. Keep good records and note how your orchids respond. Often it takes one or two modifications to get a new technique or product adjusted for your growing conditions. Constant experimentation and evaluation, especially with groups of orchids or individual plants that are not responding to your current culture is what makes good orchid growers better.

*E-Mail List continued from page 5*

### **If you need a reminder on list commands:**

Send an email to [orchidlist@lists.inetspace.net](mailto:orchidlist@lists.inetspace.net) with the word HELP as the subject.

**RULES:** NO FLAMING - This means you may debate on a subject, but personal attacks will NOT be tolerated. The discussions on the lists are meant to stimulate conversation not to create contention. All defamatory, abusive, profane, threatening, offensive, or illegal materials are strictly prohibited. Do not post anything in a message that you would not want the world to see or that you would not want anyone to know came from you. No chain letters, virus alerts, or general spamming.

No commercialism by vendors/suppliers (this list isn't meant to be free advertising). Orchid societies are welcome to post information about their activities/fundraisers.

Do not post information about location of endangered or threatened species. Do not send messages with attached files. If you have files to share, send a message asking that people who are interested in receiving your files send you an individual email.

Only post messages with topics relevant to the list. Do not post a message with a blank subject line – include a descriptive subject.

If you absolutely must use a vacation message or auto responder, set it to reply only **once** to each email address. We will attempt to filter vacation messages.

Failure to follow the rules as listed above will have consequences ranging from temporary suspension of one's ability to post to being banned from the list (TBD by the Triangle Orchid Society board). **Suggested posting conventions:** Append new material AFTER the minimum quoted portion of the message to which the new text refers. Trim down the text from the original message so that your reply includes only the minimum quotation necessary to establish context. (For example, don't send 2 lines of reply at the top of 100 lines of quoted material.)

It is considered good form to have a "signature" at the bottom of your message that reasonably identifies you. Many people are reluctant to respond when a post comes only with an anonymous ID with no name and little address information. Please do not type in all CAPS – it is considered yelling.

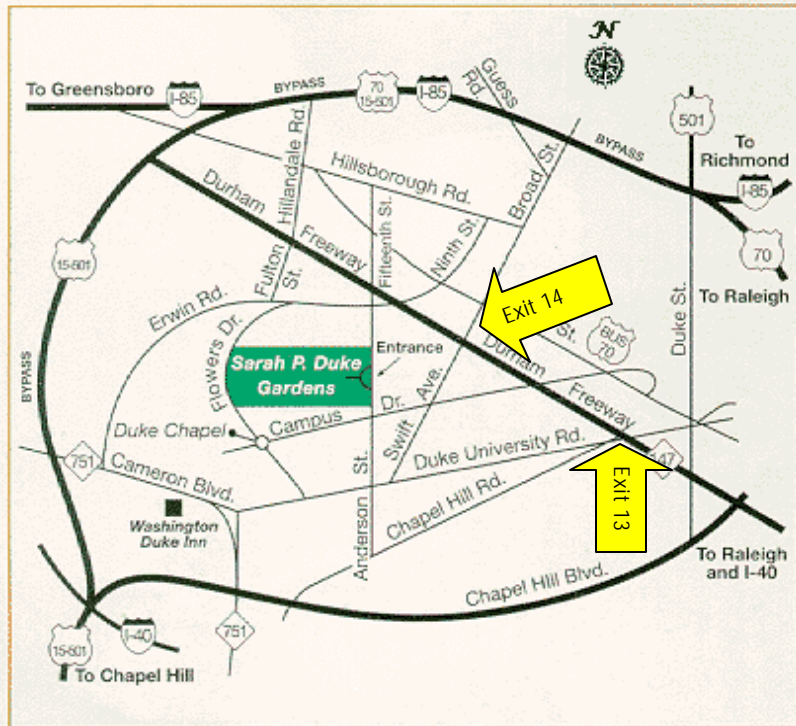
Don't send messages such as "thanks for the information" or "me, too" to the entire list.

When replying to a message that was sent to the list, do not reply to the list AND CC: the original sender. Just reply to one or the other.

Handouts out the next meeting.

**President Nolan Newton** will be talking on "Recognition and management of insect and related pests of orchids" at the next Triad Orchid Society meeting in Greensboro at the Natural Science Center 1:30 on Aug 10.

# Orchidacea



**The Triangle**  
**Orchid Society meets at the Sarah P.**  
**Duke Gardens, Durham, NC**  
**The Second Monday of the Month**  
**at 7:30 PM**

[www.TriangleOrchid  
Society.org](http://www.TriangleOrchidSociety.org)

**Program for August 11, 2003**  
Orchids of Venezuela  
By Gene Crocker of Carter &  
Holmes SC

From the East. **Exit 13 on the Durham Freeway (#147)** South on Chapel Hill Rd. right on Anderson St. Gardens on left.

From the West. **Exit 14 on the Durham Freeway (147)** South on Swift Ave right on Campus Drive , right on Anderson St. Gardens on left.



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The Triangle Orchid Society dues are \$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address. Mail to : Michael Levy, Treasurer, 2132 Beneventum Court Raleigh, NC 27606 Visitors are Welcome!