



# TRIAD ORCHID SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

April 2007 edition



### Preview April 2007 Speaker: Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids

TOS has had a busy spring. Four shows in four weeks! Our society won best exhibit at the South Carolina show and our exhibits at the Greensboro Home and Garden Show, Triad Orchid society show in Durham and the Charlotte Orchid Show were tremendous successes. Kudos to everyone for all of the hard work.

Spring weather brings spring flowers and warm weather, and we are happy and excited to welcome everyone to our next meeting on Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This is Easter Sunday, but think of our outstanding speaker Alan Koch as the Easter Bunny bringing Easter baskets ... crates of wonderful Cattelyas and other orchids from always sunny Lincoln, California. His plant list can be found at the website below and Paul has emailed everyone an extensive copy of Gold Country Orchid plants. If you wish to you can contact Alan himself at (916) 645-8600, Fax: (916) 645-7076, Web Site: [www.goldcountryorchids.com](http://www.goldcountryorchids.com)  
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### Triad Orchid Society

Meets the Second Sunday of Every Month

Location: The Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs, Inc., 4301 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC. , 27455

Setup at noon / Potluck Lunch at 1:00 pm / Meeting at 2:00pm.

New members always welcome!

### Officers and Trustees of Triad Orchid Society:

**President:** Dr. Donald Richman,  
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**Treasurer:** Shirley Anglin,  
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## Synopsis of February's Meeting: Orchids from Seed, Wendy and Tom Griffin

Wendy Griffin presented a wonderful seminar on raising orchids from seed. It isn't as hard as it sounds and the benefits are obvious—lots and lots of new and sometimes unique plants. Wendy gave a basic overview of the orchid flower and then allowed each of us to examine the reproductive parts of an orchid flower. Orchid pollen of a *Phalenopsis* orchid is found in two clumps called pollinia that are located under a flap in the front of the column, which is the fused male and female portions of an orchid flower. Wendy also demonstrated the means by which we can fertilize an orchid flower by showing us the sticky spot on the ventral portion of the column when the carpel surface receives the pollinia. Once fertilized, one has to wait anywhere from three months to over twelve months before the orchid fruit ripens and the seeds are ready for sowing. This depends on the species of orchid. Wendy described the two methods of preparing seeds: green/unripe capsule versus brown/ripe capsule. Wendy went into the advantages/disadvantages of each technique. Both allow the sowing of seeds, the major disadvantage for using seed extracted from green/unripe fruit is that there is a possibility of transferring virus from the parent to the offspring. Dry capsules have the disadvantage of extensive requirements for excessive sterilization of the seeds themselves. Once the orchid seeds have been sowed, the next hurdle most growers are concerned with is contamination. The asymbiotic orchid media is optimized to germinate and grow orchid babies, but grows almost everything else too. Bacteria and fungi are the major culprits here and can devastate an otherwise healthy sowing of orchid seeds or seedlings. Care must be taken at each step to ensure that contamination does not occur. This means sterilization/autoclaving all media and surface sterilization of all instrumentation that comes in contact with the media or the seeds. Furthermore, most of the sowing must be performed in a laminar flow hood (optimally) or another sterile place. Sowing the orchid seeds is just the first step in a long process until you get those plants. The orchid seeds must remain in the “mother” germination flask for a period of time that ranges from a few weeks to even a year depending on the strain. Once germinated, orchid seeds are then transferred, sometimes more than once, to replate flasks that contain richer nutrient supply and hormones to ensure strong and rapid growth. After about a year for most plants, the orchids seedlings are ready for the harsh reality of life outside the flask. This is a critical step for the orchids being particularly sensitive to fungal infection. Wendy recommended drenching the plants once in a solution fungicide called **Subdumax** after deflasking and prior to making the community pots. She also recommended Oasis Form blocks as a growing media for new plants touting its combined water holding/non-degradation properties. Then it's the long wait...2...3...4 years... sometimes more before the orchid will be ready to bloom, but what an exciting wait. If you perform your own cross and sow the seeds from that cross who knows, you just might have developed an orchid completely unique and interesting as yourself.

**February Show 2007 table –photos courtesy of Debbie and Jeremy Bueter**



While not exactly about orchids, I thought these pictures (contributed by TOS' own Brenda Costello) related to December seminar given by Nick Plummer of the Triangle Orchid Society. In December, we learned about Madagascar's Darwin orchid *Angraecum sesquipedale* and its sphinx moth pollinator. Well, North Carolina might not have *Angraecum* orchids with foot long nectar spurs, but have moths with very long tongues. Check out these pictures of a sphinx moth at a moon flower. Makes you think to leave some orchids outside for some free pollination...



# Triad Orchid Society Meeting Schedule, 2007

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Business/affiliation</u>
January 14	John Stanton	Orchids of Costa Rica	The Orchid Trail, Morrisville, NC
February 11	Wendy Griffin	Orchid Culture From Seed to Adult	Indian River Orchids, Vero Beach, FL
March 11	Local Speakers	TBA	
April 8	Alan Koch	Miniature <i>Cattleyas</i>	Gold Country Orchids, Lincoln, CA
May 20	Local speakers	TBA	
June 10	Andrea Niessen	Colombian Orchids	Orquideas del Valle, Cali, Columbia
July 8	Walter Orchard	<i>Disas</i> and how to grow them	Tumwater, WA
August 12	Ernie Gemeinhart	<i>Cochlopetalum paphs</i>	EnLightened orchids
September 9	John Salvantii	Collecting orchids in Peru	Parkside Orchids Nursery, Ottsville, PA
October 14	Local speakers	TBA	
November 11	Jason Fisher	<i>Phragmipediums</i>	Orchids Limited, Plymouth MN
December 9	Don Garling	Magic potions, home remedies, and their ways to control pests	Okemos, MI

## Treasurer's Report

### End of March

Beginning balance: \$8349.17

Deposits: \$1007.00

Debits: \$502.25

### Year to date:

Deposits: \$4114.00

Debits: \$5077.82

**Bring your IDEAS for**  
**the**  
**TOS SHOW 2008**  
**To the May TOS**  
**Meeting on MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**2007!!**

## Blue Ridge Orchid Society in Roanoke, Virginia:

Don Richman is renting a van to take the plants up to the show from the Kepley's on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> between about 10 to 10:30 AM on April 26<sup>th</sup>. To everyone sending plants to the show drop them off at the Kepley's on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks in advance for all who help.