



# TRIAD ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 2007 edition



## Preview July 2007 TOS Meeting,

Walter (Wally) Orchard grew up in South Africa, where the best-known *Disa* species originate. He has several degrees from the University of Natal and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Cambridge, England. He recently retired from a career of chemistry teaching and research at the University of California, Irvine, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma Community College and Green River Community College. He has also spent one-year sabbaticals in Athens, Georgia and Knoxville, Tennessee.

Wally first became interested in *Disas* when his father started cultivating them in the 1980s. He moved to Washington State in 1993, where he took up *Disa* cultivation in Olympia. He is a member of the Northwest Orchid Society (Seattle) and the Tacoma Orchid Society, but has recently moved to Yachats on the Oregon coast, where the climate is ideal for *Disas*.  
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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!

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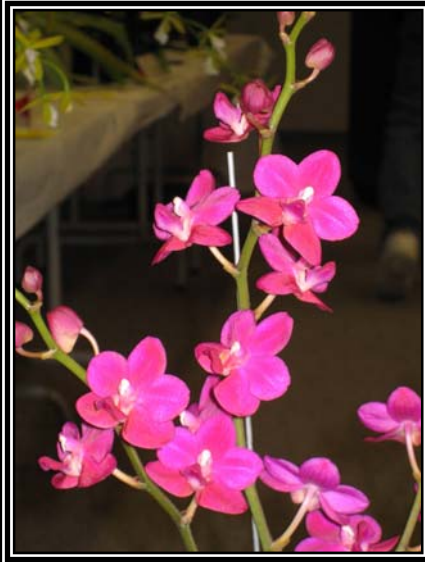
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July 2007 preview, Wally Orchid Bio: continued,

He also grows and breeds *Stenoglottis*, another terrestrial orchid genus from South Africa. Through his association with top growers in South Africa, New Zealand and the United States, and his own breeding program, he has developed a medium-sized collection of high quality *Disas*. He has bred and registered several new *Disa* and *Stenoglottis* hybrids.

*Disas* are rarely seen in orchid collections, which is a great pity as they are among the most strikingly beautiful of all terrestrial orchids. His talk will cover the main *Disa* species of interest, all of which grow in a winter rainfall area close to Cape Town, in close association with water. He will discuss the main hybridization lines and describe how to grow these colorful orchids. Color slides are the next best thing to seeing the orchids themselves, and there will be plenty of slides to see in this talk. The slides will show typical *Disa* habitat as well as *Disas* growing in both the wild and in nurseries from around the world.

*Disa* seedling plants will be available for sale, and orders for plants will be taken if necessary. It is recommended that *Disa* orders be shipped in the fall, to avoid the heat of summer.



## Recap of TOS May 2007 meeting; Andrea Nissen on the Maxillarias of Columbia

Andrea grew up with orchids. Her grandfather was a grower and today she is still growing some of his select clones. She remembers seeing *Max triloris* while she was still a young girl, an experience that sparked her interest in Maxillarias. Currently she and her husband live in Cali and have two nurseries, one for warm growing orchids, and one for cool growers.

Maxillarias are classified as part of the Maxillarieae tribe, subtribe Maxillarinae. The name Maxillaria refers to the fact that the lip and column of the type species, *Max triloris*, is said to be shaped like a jawbone. Andrea said that Maxillarieae represent 10% of the epiphytic plants that grow in the neotropics. The subtribe Maxillarinae has roughly 700 species, which are further separated into a number of genera. In the genus Maxillaria there are 250 identified species. According to Andrea there are still numerous unidentified species just waiting to be described. She has a number of these in her greenhouse, as evidenced by the slides she presented. She said that researchers at the U. of Florida in Gainesville are working on DNA identification of a number of species, but most recent classification has been based on physical similarities. Andrea said she anticipates a number of changes in the way species are currently organized once the DNA and molecular studies are complete.

According to Andrea, Maxillarias are hugely variable. The plants may grow as clusters of pseudobulbs that form large "nests". Many have rambling rhizomes. The plants may be large and grow up to 24 inches tall, or they may be miniatures and barely ½ an inch. Foliage is also variable in size and shape. Some varieties may have 2 – 5 leaves per pseudobulb, while others only one. Some foliage is spotted with a white waxy material that Andrea said resembled bird droppings, an adaptation that discourages small animals from chewing on the plants. Most Maxillarias have only one flower per inflorescence, and each has a distinctive lip that helps to differentiate the species. Many varieties are fragrant.

Maxillarias can be found across Central America, as well as south into Columbia, Peru and Argentina. In Columbia they are found in multiple environments ranging from humid tropical forests, to large flat river valleys, to the dry tableland plateaus of the intermountain regions. Columbia is bordered by the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Oceans as well as the Caribbean sea, and has three major mountain ranges that run its entire length. Maxillarias, therefore, are found throughout Columbia, in many different environments, and require markedly different growing conditions.

The largest alliance of Maxillarias is represented by the Grandifloras. This group has long flower stems, large flowers and only one leaf per pseudobulb. The base of the inflorescence is covered with bracts. These plants are easy to grow under intermediate conditions, and do well in baskets which allow the flowers to emerge from under the foliage. One of the most striking of this section is *Max striata*, which is found from Columbia to Peru. It can vary in color from red to orange to yellow. The type species of the Lepidota alliance is *Max lepidota*, a spidery yellow-brown species that is cool growing and requires lots of humidity to be grown successfully. Other species in this alliance include *Max longissima* and *Max fractiflexa*. These plants are predominantly yellow, and Andrea says they are excellent bloomers and easy to grow.

The alliance Speciosa is frequently fragrant. These plants can be more difficult to grow. They require very warm temperatures and high humidity and are noted for their rambling rhizomes. Andrea manages their sprawling growth habit by repotted with each new growth, taking care to secure the new pseudobulb well down in the mix. The most notable variety in this alliance is *Max splendens*, which is white with a distinctive orange lip. (continued next page)

The Parkeria alliance does best mounted. These are warm growers that require high humidity. These plants have short inflorescences, and grow from rhizomes and tend to climb. The best known example from this group is *Max luteo alba*, one of the showiest Maxillarias. It is an easy to grow plant with short yellow and white flowers clustered around the base of the plant. Eric Christianson recently identified a new species in this alliance and called it *Max nissenii*, in recognition of Andrea's work with Maxillarias.

The Porrecta alliance is the least well understood group of these plants and Andrea believes that there are many undiscovered species still waiting to be identified. The type plant is *Max brunnea*, which has yellow flowers with a purple flush and dark purple spotting or streaking on the lip. The alliance Densifolia contains a number of "climbers" with very long rhizomes that wrap themselves around tree trunks, forming huge clumps. These become very large plants and are not really suitable for hobbyists because of their size. The flowers are less showy than other Maxillarias, but they bloom readily and frequently.

Another alliance is known as Crassifolia. The foliage on these appears almost grasslike. The type species is also called crassifolia. Its flowers arise from the base of the pseudobulbs, and are short lived, lasting only a few days. The flowers are often yellow and may have a lemon like fragrance. They do well in baskets or mounted to show the pendant flowers to best advantage. The Meridensis alliance includes the first group of Maxillarias described in the late 1700s, and forms the basis of the tribal classification. They typically have long flower stems with the blooms held well above the foliage. They are pollinated by hummingbirds so tend to be more colorful than many other varieties. They can grow to be very large plants.

The Microphyton alliance is characterized by the type *Max wercklei*. Typically these plants have one leaf and one flower stem per growth, but the flowers may bloom sequentially from the same inflorescence. The Acuminata alliance is known for large, climbing plants that do best on mounts or in large baskets. They are fast growing and do well in warm to intermediate conditions. *Max rufescens* is the fragrant type for this alliance. Andrea said that the fragrance of *Max rufescens* is more Coconut-like in Central America, but definitely Vanilla in Columbia. *Max camaridii* is also part of this alliance. It is from the eastern plains, needs good light, and is a fast grower. The sequentially blooming flowers are very short lived, lasting only a day or two before fading. Andrea believes that this plant is not truly representative and that it belongs in its own genus.

The final alliance is Alpestris, with the type plant *Max alpestris*. These are small to miniature plants with proportionally very large flowers. When growing these it is critical not to allow them to dry out. Andrea said that there are a number of miniatures in this alliance that have not been studied or classified.

Finally, Andrea said that in their nursery they start their seedlings in sphagnum moss in small plastic net pots, such as the ones on the plants she had for sale. In the nursery they allow the roots to grow out through the moss before moving the plants into a growing medium. When the plants are moved up, the small net containers are left in place to avoid damaging the roots.

Joy Lemieux

## MAY 2007 SHOW TABLE AWARDS

### Cattleya Alliance Species

1<sup>st</sup> Davis *C. schilleriana* 'Toro grande'  
\*\*\*\*Best Species\*\*\*\*

2<sup>nd</sup> Davis *C. forbesii* 'Linc'

3<sup>rd</sup> Goldberg *Encyclia mariae*

### Cattleya Alliance Hybrids, Small

1<sup>st</sup> Davis *Enc. Alata* 'Granier's  
Gran Sun' AM/AOS

2<sup>nd</sup> Davis *C. Young C. Lot*

3<sup>rd</sup> Davis *C. Landate* 'Beavertail'

### Cattleya Alliance Hybrids, Large

1<sup>st</sup> Kepley *L. Paravia*  
\*\*\*Best Specimen\*\*\*

2<sup>nd</sup> Davis *Lc. (warneri X Floralia's Azul)*

3<sup>rd</sup> Davis *Blc. Mem. Robert Strait*  
'Islander's delight'

### Phalaenopsis

1<sup>st</sup> Kepley *Dtps. Ever-Spring Prince*  
'Alisum' AM/AOS

2<sup>nd</sup> Kepley *Phal. Spanish Dance* 'Hedrick'

3<sup>rd</sup> April Davis *Phal. Unknown hybrid*

### Paphiopedilum

1<sup>st</sup> Kepley *Paph. Magic Lantern*

2<sup>nd</sup> Kepley *Paph. St. Swiftn*  
'Scott Kepley' AM/AOS

3<sup>rd</sup> Kepley *Paph. curtisii*

### Phragmidedium

1<sup>st</sup> Kepley *Phrag. Grande* 'Rocky  
Chestnut'

AM/AOS

2<sup>nd</sup> Lemieux *Phrag. wallserii*

3<sup>rd</sup> N/A

### Dendrobium

1<sup>st</sup> Schwoeppe *Den wasseli*

2<sup>nd</sup> Goldberg *Den. Maiden Charlotte*

3<sup>rd</sup> Doby *Den Proud Appeal* 'Ace'

### Oncidium

1<sup>st</sup> Hastie *Ornithorephalus*  
*myrticola*

2<sup>nd</sup> N/A

3<sup>rd</sup> N/A

### Vandaceous

1<sup>st</sup> Kepley *V. Robert's Delight* Garnet  
Beauty

FCC/AOS

2<sup>nd</sup> Goldberg *Sedirea japonica*

3<sup>rd</sup> Lemieux *Dar. Charm* (Apricot)

### Miscellaneous

1<sup>st</sup> Goldberg *Mas. floribunda*

2<sup>nd</sup> Goldberg *Pleurothallis trialoides*

3<sup>rd</sup> Spuller *Lycaste (aeromatic X*  
*cruenta)*

# 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	Janette Harris	How to Set up and Orchid Exhibit	TRIAD ORCHID SOCIETY
June 10	<b>Andrea Niessen</b>	<b>Colombian Orchids</b>	<b>Orquideas del Valle, Cali, Columbia</b>
<b>July 8</b>	<b>Walter Orchard</b>	<b><i>Disas</i> and how to grow them</b>	<b>Tumwater, WA</b>
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	David McAddoo	Native North Carolina Orchids	Triad orchid society
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

