



TRIAD ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2008 edition



Preview February 2010 Speaker: Dr. Tom Nasser

On Sunday February 7th, 2010 we will have a seminar on Angracoids by renown orchid grower Tom Nasser. Dr. Tom Nasser's degree is in textile chemistry from Clemson University in South Carolina. He and his wife Shan own Carolina Orchids, which started out as Clemson Orchids in 1980. They have three greenhouses covering almost 8000 square feet, and 95% of the plants in the greenhouses are orchids. They grow quality orchids concentrating mainly on species. Carolina Orchids does not mass-produce orchids. The greenhouses contain their collection, i.e. several different clones of a particular orchid rather than hundreds of plants of each species or clone. The majority of orchid plants in their collection are for sale. Not only are several sizes available, but sometimes several different clones are available. Since the Nassers' have such a variety they do not list all sizes and clones of the plants that are available on their website. Customers who are interested in a particular orchid should call or write to them and ask about it. The best thing to do, is call and arrange to stop by the greenhouse and take a look for yourself. Carolina Orchids is open 7 days a week unless the Nassers are visiting an orchid show or traveling. (continued next page)

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Triad Orchid Society

Meetings 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 are always welcome!

Officers of Triad Orchid Society:

President: Dr. Kenneth Karb
kskarb@msn.com

Vice President: Dennis LaJeunesse, PhD
drlajeun@uncg.edu

Secretary: JJD Consortium

Treasurer: Annette Hastie
ahastie@triad.rr.com



Bulbophyllum levanae



Phal. leucadia sun

Continued from first page....They ask that customers call first to make sure someone is available before visiting them. The greenhouses are surrounded by walks lined with rhododendrons, ferns, hostas, asarums, helleborus, etc. - just to name a few. Tom has given talks on *Bulbophyllums* and *Angraecums* to many societies for many years, and these talks are upgraded into PowerPoint with new pictures. Shan gives a talk about her 2006 trip to Ecuador which shows orchids in their natural habitats. Since Carolina Orchids specializes in species, a new talk is being put together featuring species not often seen. Tom will bring plants to sell and society members. Carolina Orchids is located at 3637 Pleasant Road, Fort Mill, SC 29708-1234. Phone: 803 548 1682. Email: shann@comporium.net. Website: www.carolinaorchids.com

RECAP of February's Speaker Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids

I was particularly anxious to hear Francisco's presentation because I have a number of *Laelias*, both species and hybrids. Over the years friends have shared a division, or I won an auction plant, or worse yet, I divided some of my own. Without even trying I've become the owner of 18 plants, most in 6" pots, which represents a lot of bench space. Several of these bloom on cue every year, but they have never bloomed as profusely as I would like. Others, well, sadly they have never bloomed. As my bench space becomes more and more crowded, and therefore more valuable, I've been considering the compost for several of these guys. I was anxious to hear what Francisco had to say about *Laelias*, anticipating that he might have some words of wisdom that could possibly provide a reprieve for my plants.

Francisco arrived with the same message we received from so many growers last year – if you want to grow and flower your plants to their full potential, you need to replicate the conditions where the plant occurs naturally. This means understanding geography and climatic conditions. In a country as large as Brazil, there are multiple distinct environmental areas. (continued on next page)

February recap continued

Francisco named off tropical rain forests, dry oak forests, savannahs, dry table lands, and of course the Amazon basin. He described how cold fronts, moving north from Antarctica, may or may not impact some of these orchid areas. He talked about cloud cover and humidity, and how these plants can attach themselves to rock faces that are virtually perpendicular. He also described hunting for plants and finding them amid dry, dead looking grasses. He remarked over and over again that blooming takes place after a dry dormancy. That's when the light bulb came on for me. I've been very careful to provide a dry rest period for some of my Dendrobiums, but frankly its never occurred to me to rest the Laelias. Like many hobby growers I faithfully water them every week, just like everything else in the greenhouse. So now I need to add a dry rest period, and I'm going to have to figure out just when that should be. My plants are putting on new growth just now. I will begin water more during the heat of the summer, but in the fall I will begin to hold back watering. The new growths that are developing should be mature by that time. I will water sparingly through the fall and winter and hopefully I'll finally get some blooms. So you heard it here first, at this time next year I'll either have blooming Laelias, or there will be huge contribution to the compost pile.

Another comment that got my attention was Francisco's repeated reference to Lalaelias growing on rocks. He described their roots penetrating through accumulated leaf litter and gravel, and finding enough water or seepage to keep their roots cool even while the rest of the plant may be exposed to full sun. For me, that was another light bulb. Keep the roots cool!. I'm going to take my plants out of the plastic and put them in clay pots, which retain more moisture and is therefore cooler in hot weather. Francisco talked about the fact that Laelias growing in rock crevices often have rich organic materials that been washed into the crack. The day after his presentation I went outside and inspected the cracks in the sidewalk in front of my house. Sure enough, the cracks between the slabs were packed with dirt. There were even some small ferns growing there. I suddenly realized I've been growing in too sterile a mix. I've experimented with a number mixes, and at one point I put all my Cattleyas in aggregate rock from the cement yard. Obviously no organic material there! So I will be repotting all my Laelias very soon, taking them out of the concrete gravel and placing them in a bark mix.

So, I got some clues about growing my Laelias. However, for me, the most interesting comment Francisco made referred to the attempts by man to breed orchids to better conform with our standard of what we believe to be beautiful. As an AOS judge it has been drummed into me -- round and flat, round and flat. That's what we want every orchid to look like, and why we love our hybrids. After all, it is a relatively simple matter to take a cupped or star shaped flower, cross it with something that is very, very flat, and we can anticipate with some certainty that the offspring will be relatively flatter. Breeders have done such a good job of getting orchids to conform to the round, flat standard that sometimes the resulting progeny don't look anything like their early ancestors. According to Francisco, some of the plants sold as species today do not resemble the species that were found by early collectors. Generations of careful selection, crossing sibs or selecting for tetraploid features has resulted in basic forms being markedly altered. This was brought home to me last weekend as I was judging a show in South Carolina. My team was presented with a plant of Phal amabilis. The flowers were round and flat, with no windows between the sepals and petals. It was a beautiful plant, well grown, with no blemishes on the foliage or the flowers. As we began the process of comparing this plant to previously awarded ones, I opened my data base to look for pictures. I found numerous photos, including some reproductions of early Lindleyian prints. As I looked at these I came to an appreciation for what Francisco was talking about. The careful botanical illustrations Lindley had made in the mid 19th century had little resemblance to the plant in front of us on the table. The early specimens were not round and flat, but cupped and star-shaped. There were notable spaces between the segments. And, most notable of all, the flowers were not shingled in nice even rows on the stem as we have come to expect with Phals. Yet, this was the same plant! or was it??

– Joy Lemieux

Show Table

February 2010

Cattleya Alliance

Species

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. <i>C. loddegesii</i> 'Sweetheart' | Davis |
| 2. <i>C. percivaliana</i> 'Ondine' Davis | |
| 3. <i>L. praestans</i> | Lemieux |

Small flowered

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Slc. Circle of Life 'Cherry Heart' | Davis |
| 2. Slc. Hobcaw 'Lenette' Davis | |
| 3. Slc. Hsin Blue Lady | Lemieux |

Large flowered

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. C. Sierra Blanca x Blc. Sea Rach | Davis |
| 2. Blc. Calm Seas x Blc. Major Edisto | Davis |
| 3. Blc. Skylar Rayne 'April's Touch' | Davis |

Phalaenopsis

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| 1. Phal. gibbosa | Costello |
|------------------|----------|

Paphiopedilum

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. Paph. Wossner Bellarmi | LaJeunesse |
| 2. <i>Paph. venustum</i> | Costello |
| 3. Paph. Concon Bell | Costello |

Phragmipedium

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. Phrag. Eric Young | Costello |
| 2. Phrag. Cape Sunset | Costello |

Dendrobium

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Den. atrovioleaceum x polysema | Regina Z. |
| 2. <i>Den. primulinum</i> | Lemieux |
| 3. Den. Red Emperor | Lemieux |

Oncidium

- | | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Odctm. Elske Stolze | Costello |
|---------------------|----------|

Cymbidium

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. No name | Kilpatrick |
|------------|------------|

Miscellaneous

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Clo. Grace Dunn | Lemieux |
| 2. Max. sanguinea | Costello |

Best Flower

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Slc. Circle of Life | Davis |
|---------------------|-------|

Best Species

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| <i>C. percivaliana</i> 'Ondine' | Davis |
|---------------------------------|-------|

Best Plant

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Pot. Amangi 'Orchidglade II' | Davis |
|------------------------------|-------|



Cymbidium Show girl



Sarcochilus cherie

Triad Orchid Society Meeting Schedule, 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Business/affiliation</u>
January 10	TOS members	Orchid Presentation	
February 8	Francisco Miranda	Rupicolous Orchids	Miranda Orchids
****March 7**** First Sunday!!!	Tom Nasser	Angricoid orchids	Carolina Orchids
April 11	Cordelia Head	Things Come in Small Packages	J&L OrchidsGood
May 20* Third Sunday to avoid Mom day conflict	Local speakers	TBA	
June 13	Martin Motes	<i>Intergeneics of Vanda and Ascocenda</i>	
July 11	Robert marsh	<i>Breeding Barkerias and Mexican habitats</i>	
August 8	Bill Thom	Program your show table	
September 9	TOS Auctions		
October 10	Fred Clark	TBA	
November 7 First Sunday!!!	Aybar Manny	<i>Tolumnias of the Dominican Republic</i>	
December 9	TBA		

