



TRIAD ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2010 edition



Preview TOS meeting for October

2010: Sunday, October 10th, TOS is happy to host Alan Koch owner of Gold Orchids. Alan has been growing orchids since 1969 when an aunt gave him three cymbidiums. In 1977 he and his wife, Cheryl, opened Koch Orchids in Newbury Park, California. At this location they concentrated on orchids that grow outdoors in California including some *Cattleyas*. Soon the *Cattleyas* became their major interest, and they found themselves requiring more greenhouse space. A 16 x 30 foot greenhouse and two 10 x 60 foot lath houses were quickly outgrown and a new location was needed. In 1983 Alan and Cheryl moved their business to the Sacramento Valley, and in 1985 they purchased 10 acres in Lincoln, California and renamed their nursery Gold Country Orchids. (continued next page.)

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 always welcome!

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2010 Speaker Schedule

Officers of Triad Orchid Society:

President: Dr. Kenneth Karb
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Alan has been growing orchids since 1969 when an aunt gave him three cymbidiums. In 1977 he and his wife, Cheryl, opened Koch Orchids in Newbury Park, California. At this location they concentrated on orchids that grow outdoors in California including some cattleyas. Soon the cattleyas became their major interest, and they found themselves requiring more greenhouse space. A 16 x 30 foot greenhouse and two 10 x 60 foot lath houses were quickly outgrown and a new location was needed. In 1983 Alan and Cheryl moved their business to the Sacramento Valley, and in 1985 they purchased 10 acres in Lincoln, California and renamed their nursery Gold Country Orchids. They have three modern greenhouses with rolling benches and computer controls to house the collection. With 16,000 square feet of growing area and three climate zones they have plenty of room for their plants. Alan is recognized as an expert in Brazilian cattleyas and is a trendsetter in miniature *Cattleya* breeding. He has been published in the *Orchid Digest*, in *Orchids*, the American Orchid Society magazine, and the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is also an AOS accredited judge. Currently, he is Vice-Chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the *Orchid Digest* and a Trustee for the AOS.



Speaker Notes for August 2010 Meeting

By Ana MacDowell & Van Ewert

Linda Wilhelm, an AOS Judge from Charlotte, NC and our speaker first discussed about some of the AOS issues; including the current economy and the fact that many people growing orchids today do not use the AOS facility or site to get information. Members 'simply Google' for any required data. The outset is that AOS may have to sell its property and location in Florida and become linked with a local arboretum or some other plant facility. She did indicate that AOS would not sell the property at a loss.

Linda had prepared two talks for the meeting, and after a brief discussion, it was unanimous that the talk on miniature plants was the desired one. This talk – 'Living Gems – Little Jewels for Small Spaces' started with those reasons that many growers would rather use the limited growing space that they have for smaller plants; rather than use extended space for the larger plants such as *Cattleyas* – where 3-4 large *Cattleyas* could fit, you could have 15-20 smaller miniature orchids. Growing under lights is a popular and easy management for the orchid collection under the proper conditions. Linda made the point that there is no specific designation for the term 'miniature' – it is a relative term. We look at miniature plants as being generally smaller than the average orchid – while purists would call 'Pleurothallids' as a true miniature group. So, compact plants would constitute the range of small plants for the limited space grower. Growing can be under fluorescent or LED lighting; and the windowsill with natural light would also qualify. This would make it possible to have a wide range of color and form in a small growing space.

Linda started with Pleurothallids, the first being the *Pleuro. allenii*, brightly colored. This was followed by *Pleuro. tribuloides* [Lobster Claw] and then *Phymatidium tillandsoides*, a small charming white flower. General culture required that high humidity was needed, however, not soggy conditions. Linda mentioned that humidity is defined as 'water in the air' not on the plant [via misting]. It is necessary for the roots to 'breathe'. *Masdevallia floribunda* with its many small white flowers was viewed. Next was two *Draculas*: *D. inaequalis* ["the Monkeyface plants"] – a warm growing *Dracula*; and then *D. Jester* – a delightful member of this group. *Masd.* Steve Vance – a warm growing member was shown. Mention was made of spider mites, and Linda stated that spider mites love *dry* conditions; keeping the conditions humid would reduce the risk of this pest. Using pebble trays with water below the bottom of the pot would assist with mite problems. *Trichocentrum tigrinum* was viewed. Closely related to the Mule-ear *Oncidiums*; these flowers are as big as or bigger than the physical plant and impressive. *Cischweinfia dasyandra*, a cute miniature requires shade and *Baptistonia echinata* [Bumblebee Orchid] does best when mounted or in a 'net' pot. (continued on next page)

Continued from previous page...When growing under fluorescent bulbs, Linda reminded the growers that changing these bulbs annually could make quite a difference in the growth of the plants, as the bulbs do become less effective as they age. Next, we viewed the bright yellow *Oncidium onustum* – currently moved from this classification by taxonomists. This plant grows in Peru on cactus and is generally very dry. They have special cells in the roots to absorb and retain water. The repiculous Laelias have this same characteristic. Therefore, these plants are best watered early in the morning or pm and not in the heat of the day. *Onc. croesus* is a red & yellow charmer. Tolumnia [the old Equitant *Oncidium* group] are often called the ‘twig epiphytes’ and *Onc. sylvestris* is considered a ‘weed’ in Cuba. The beautiful Tolumnia Sundown Reef ‘Spotted Ewok’ AM/AOS showed the real beauty of this group. Linda said to water well and then let dry. Also stated was to leave the spikes on after flowering as they will flower again. These plants are intolerant of fertilizer salts, so flush liberally. She also mentioned the use of Formula 409 or Isopropyl Alcohol [70%] as an effective ‘pesticide’ for ‘critters’ that might be found present. Use of Formula 409 may require washing it off after a short period.

Bulbophyllums are a staple in the compact collection and grouped together are *Trias ovate*, *Bulbo. ambrosia*, *Cirr. bootanoides* [looking like baby booties], & *Cirr. vaginatum*. Mounting these plants or placing in small pots will depend on how much you prefer to water. In the vandaceous miniatures, *Angraecum dideri*, *Dikia hendersonianum*, *Aerangis citrate*, & *Aerangis luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta* are wonderful favorites – generally high light and good humidity. *Tuberolabium kotense* from the Philippines is very fragrant and will do well under the center of the lights or with east sunlight. Some small orchids exhibit ‘mat-type’ foliage with the flowers appearing on top of the matted leaves. *Epidendrum* [now *Dinema*] *polybulbon* from Cuba is a good example as well as *Dendrobium lichenastrum* and *Neolauchia pullchella* – grown shady and with high humidity. A fine red beauty is *Maxillaria sophronitis* – bright orange-red. All Mat types should be grown on an open media. For the small *Cattleya* alliance, we have the brilliant red *Sophronitis coccinea* [cold & bright], and *Soph. cernua* [warm & bright], and *Soph. brevipedunculata* [also warm & bright]. Linda showed *Soph. Arizona* [*S. brevipedunculata* x *S. coccinea*], a warm growing hybrid of these fine miniatures. She completed the presentation with *Sc. Fire Fighter*; *Sc. Richard Kosel*, & *Sc. Jörg Dietrich Beischer* [a splash-petal]; each of these compact plants being a fitting end to an excellent talk and fun journey through the miniature world of orchids.



Triad Orchid Society Meeting Schedule, 2010

Speaker	Date	Topic
Alan Koch	October 10 th , 2010	TBA
Manuel Aybar	November 7 th , 2010 (First Sunday)	Tolumnias of the Dominican Republic
TBA	December 9 th , 2010	TBA

