

**Founded in 1964**

# South Carolina Orchid Society

an American Orchid Society Affiliate

PRESIDENT

**Cindy Adams**

(864) 677-5265

1056 Dillard Rd

Waterloo, SC 29384

[orchidlover1956@gmail.com](mailto:orchidlover1956@gmail.com)

VICE PRESIDENT

**Stan Hutto**

803-359-3680

821 Muddy Springs Road

Lexington, SC 29073

[SandhillOrchids@aol.com](mailto:SandhillOrchids@aol.com)

SECRETARY

**David Janvrin**

864-964-0122

POB 2346

Anderson, SC 29622

[DJanvrin@mindspring.com](mailto:DJanvrin@mindspring.com)

TREASURER

**Ed Harris**

803-782-7045

2027 Cheltenham Lane

Columbia, SC 29223

[EdEHarris1953com@cs.com](mailto:EdEHarris1953com@cs.com)

The South Carolina Orchid Society meets at 12:30 PM on the second Sunday in odd months in room 004 on the lower level of the Coker Life Sciences Building on the campus of USC in Columbia, South Carolina.

For more information, please contact the society's secretary listed above.

AOS CAROLINAS JUDGING CENTER

CHAIR

**Linda Wilhelm**

1816 Hart Road

Charlotte, NC 28214

[Orchid\\_Frau@WoodlandOrchids.com](mailto:Orchid_Frau@WoodlandOrchids.com)

JULY 2006

## President's Message

Bet you thought I had fallen off of the face of the earth. Nah! My Mom was hospitalized the same day that my niece had her baby! So off to Northern Virginia I went. My niece had a really bad time and so did my Mom, so I was there for awhile - then I came back home after about 2 weeks.

Unfortunately, that means we missed the picnic and auction. I've heard through the grapevine that attendance was a little light, but we picked up another member, the food and weather was wonderful, and there were lots of great plants available. Many thanks to Carter & Holmes, Carolina Orchids and all of our members who donated plants to support our society! Remember that C&H has their open house coming up in August (see Notes on the back page).

Bill and I have the web page under construction but need your help. We are hoping to have society members send in their photos and information about SCOS and regional events so they can be posted. Send these to my E-mail address so that Bill can finish.

More good news! At the January meeting, Gene Crocker talked about finding the only known copy of an educational film produced by the society in the 1970's. It was found in its original canister and safety shipping carrier with stamps and labels attesting to its use at schools throughout the region. Gene reports that even he hasn't seen the film in over 20 years!

Rather than risking damage, it was decided to restore the original and have it transferred to DVD for use and distribution. Linda Thorne of Seagrove Orchids and SCOS member started us off with a generous donation for the restoration. Additional donations have come in from SCOS members.

David researched the various processes and services available to complete the transfer. Finally, the film was sent to a professional service to be cleaned, have the individual frames scanned and audio digitized, then reassembled into the DVD format. The service reports that the original film is in excellent shape with minimal degradation of color.

We hope to have additional copies of the DVD made & available at the July meeting. You can have your own copy with a minimum donation of \$25 to the society. If we run out of copies in July, David can bring more to the meeting in September. It's a one-time opportunity to have a piece of orchid history!

And of course we have a great speaker planned for July. Linda Wilhelm will be here from Woodland Orchids to talk to use about one of the most highly evolved and fascinating group of orchids, the Stanhopeas.

*Cindy Adams*

## July Speaker

Linda Wilhelm will be here from Woodland Orchids in Charlotte, NC to talk to us about the Stanhopeas.

This group of South American orchids is considered among the most highly evolved and specialized plants on the planet. The floral structure combines engineering and marketing into a package found irresistible by both euglossine bees and humans. Male bees of several species have come to rely upon these flowers as their sole source of fragrant resins used to create a unique perfume to 'attract the babes.' Many Stanhopea species are so specialized that they attract only one species of bee.

Linda & Rolf have a particular eye for both Stanhopeas and complex Oncidinae hybrids, with their crosses consistently attracting attention, and awards, from the AOS.

Linda will be bringing plants for sale. If she is able to sell enough plants she will waive her speaker's fee. Please consider purchasing a plant or two from her. You can check out Woodland Orchids website at [www.WoodlandOrchids.com](http://www.WoodlandOrchids.com) or call Linda at (704) 394-6530 to preorder plants that will count toward the society sales.

## Featured Species

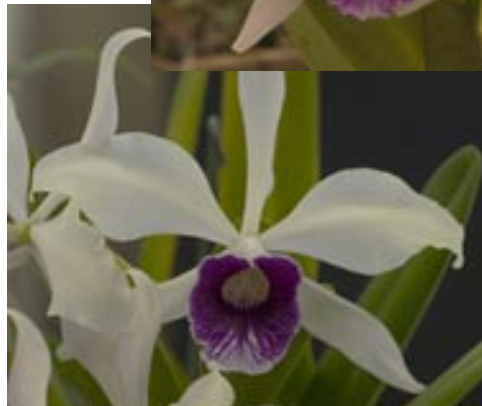
*Laelia purpurata* is in High Bloom during the months of May, June and July throughout our region.

As usual, taxonomists and growers are in the grips of a war over the appropriate name. The old battle over this species, "is it a *Laelia* or a *Cattleya*." Fairly recent DNA analysis indicates that it may be neither, but instead more closely related to the miniature, cool-growing *Sophranitis*. Makes me glad to be a mathematician...

Regardless of the name on the label, this is a gorgeous and highly-variable species. Though the flowers look delicate, selection and line-breeding have produced plants that are tough as nails with long-lasting flowers. Literally hundreds of color forms have been named from alba through concolor purple with every imaginable combination in between.

Arthur Chadwick recommends similar culture for *Laelia purpurata* as for the large-flowered *Cattleya* species. It benefits from lots of sun, moving air and temperatures between 58–60 F (14.5–15.5 C) at night and 80–85 F (26.5–29.5 C) during the day. It usually begins sending up new growths in late summer and early autumn in the United States. These growths will be completed by mid-January or early February and buds will begin to form in the sheath after a short rest period. The plants will flower from late May into July, depending on the clone.

Give *L. purpurata* a few weeks' rest after it flowers by minimizing the watering, but do not let the pseudobulbs shrivel too much. Once the plant begins to grow, it requires lots of water, particularly as the growth elongates beyond 6 inches (15 cm). *Laelia purpurata* can develop some really large pseudobulbs, often exceeding 20 inches (50 cm) from the base of the pseudobulb to the tip of the leaf, if grown well.



Varieties of *L. purpurata* in bloom this week at Carter & Holmes (from top):

var. *carnea*  
var. *striata*  
and

a spectacular example of the 'typical' form

## In Memoriam

Mary Noble McQuerry, 88, matriarch and long-time ambassador and contributor to the AOS and the orchid community, peacefully passed away on the morning of June 20, 2006 in Jacksonville following a series of health setbacks.

Mrs. McQuerry authored eight extremely popular books about orchids and home gardening. Mary self-funded the first 1953 printing of "You Can Grow Orchids" - which has been in near-constant print ever since. This fact-filled, easy read has become a standard for the home orchidist.

She founded the Jacksonville Orchid Society and was instrumental in countless outreach and ambassadorial endeavors in that area of Florida.

But her impact reaches far beyond her own back yard. Her style of writing for the hobby grower and numerous contributions to publications forever changed the way information is passed on to hobby growers.



## Mealies and Aphids and Scale, Oh My!

It's the time of year when everything is growing well - including the little critters that make us cringe! But the wizard has a bucket of water to throw on those witches and protect your Phrag. Ruby Slippers. The wizard is Bayer Cropscience. The witches are the little critters. And that bucket is full of a dilute concentration of imidacloprid. You won't find a bottle with "imidacloprid" in large letters on the label. But it's there in a variety of concentrations and concoctions with other chemicals - even in tick and flea protection for your dog.

There's that word - chemicals. While mealybug, aphid, scale and even thrips are listed on the labels, orchids are not. While the chemical may work perfectly on one orchid, it may burn roots or leaves on a more delicate species. Use of any chemical on your plants implies that you accept the potential risk that the plant will drop its leaves and head for orchid heaven. Read and understand every word on product inserts and follow the personal protection guidelines. That includes not using a product inside the home when it's labeled for outdoor or greenhouse use only.

That said, my personal experience has been very positive. I now use it on all of my plants twice a year (spring and fall). I use it in a 4-week rotation schedule of acephate (Orthene), imidacloprid (Merit), dicofol (Kelthane), and another spray of acephate (Orthene). Imidacloprid has a long residual, systemic effect and should not be used more than once every three months.

The Kelthane is an older miticide - better products (aka more expensive with less resistance problems) are available, but I have few mite problems & control their population primarily with strong under-leaf misting and high humidity. Also, acephate (Orthene) is recommended for spider mite control, though I'm not sure how effective it is on resistant mites.

The choice of which product to use is largely a question of how many plants you need to treat, how you intend to store the product, and how fast you need it. Bayer developed the chemical & appears to be the only manufacturer producing it in 'over the counter' consumer form under their Bayer Advanced label. They lease patent rights to a number of manufacturers marketing under labels like Merit and Marathon for the greenhouse and agriculture trade.

For a few plants, the Rose & Flower (R&F) premix in a pump sprayer is fine - but expensive if you use more than one \$5 bottle. If you buy the R&F *concentrate*, you receive a significant price break. Both R&F products contain cyfluthrin, a synthetic pyrethroid - a whole class of chemicals used for initial 'knock down' of adult insects taking the place of acephate in my regimen. The least costly approach for a large number of plants is the Tree & Shrub formula. The 32oz bottle makes almost 40 gallons of spray.

The longest shelf life is available with Merit which comes in powdered form.

	%imidacloprid	oz/gallon	Appx. \$/gal
Bayer Tree & Shrub	1.47%	0.82	\$0.48
Bayer R&F Concentrate	0.72%	1.67	\$1.56
Bayer R&F Premix	0.01%	premix	\$15.00
Merit 75WP	75.00%	0.02	\$0.48

## Notes of Note

Date	Event
July 8	AOS Atlanta Region judging, judging begins at 2PM at the Atlanta Botanical Garden next to Piedmont Park, 1345 Piedmont Street NE, Atlanta, GA
July 9	South Carolina Orchid Society meeting; Linda Wilhelm speaking on Stanhopeas.
July 15	AOS Carolinas Region judging, judging begins at noon at the Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs, 4301-A Lawndale Dr., Greensboro, NC
Aug. 24-26	Carter & Holmes Summer Open House. Discounts on plants and supplies; call ahead for lunch 803-276-0579
Aug. 25-27	MidAmerica Orchid Congress Show hosted by the Blue Grass Orchid Society, Ramada Conference Center, 2143 N. Broadway, Lexington, KY. Contact: Tim Brooks, 867 Edgewater Dr., Lexington, KY 40502, (859) 268-4567, timcbrooks@aol.com. check <a href="http://midamericanorchids.org/files/FallMAOCinfo.pdf">http://midamericanorchids.org/files/FallMAOCinfo.pdf</a> for speaker details.
Sept 15-17	Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee Show, Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, 1200 Forrest Dr., Nashville, TN. Contact: Ed Merkle, 1008 Maplewood Pl., Nashville, TN 37216, (615) 2624030, emerkle@merklesorchids.com.
Sept 23-24	Alabama Orchid Society Show, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Rd., Birmingham, AL. Contact: Teresa Neal, 535 Moss Creek Cir., Helena, AL 35080; (205) 4281912; caquarry@aol.com.

## Contributions

Members are encouraged to share their orchid experiences, travels to 'orchid country' both here and abroad, growing tips, and questions & answers. Please submit any suggestions to David Janvrin, newsletter editor. We're happy to publish news of any area horticultural event.



**Not an AOS member yet?  
Call 1-877-ORCHIDS**

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David Janvrin, Secretary  
 POB 2346  
 Anderson SC 29622