

**Founded in 1964**

# South Carolina Orchid Society

an American Orchid Society Affiliate

JULY 2008

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The South Carolina Orchid Society meets monthly at 12:30 PM on the third Sunday at the Garden Club Councils of Greater Columbia building at Maxcy Gregg park (corner of Blossom & Pickens) in Columbia, South Carolina.

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

AOS CAROLINAS JUDGING CENTER

CHAIR

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## President's Message

I hope everyone is having a good summer and all your orchids are growing well. I have been using the new greenhouse this summer and the plants have really enjoyed the extra space, not to mention the new greenhouse stays about 85 degrees.

This has been a busier summer for the society than most as we participated in the Greenwood Festival of Flowers. A big thank you to Cindy Adams and all those who helped set up the display, contributed plants and manned the booth.

First, Cindy and Glen put in two exhibits. Both displays were beautiful, but the largest display was absolutely wonderful. It was very clear a lot of thought and great detail went into the planning and construction. Several other members helped in set up including John and Sandy Lawrence and Blanche and Barbara Nichols. Plants were contributed by the John and Sandy Lawrence, David Janvrin, Lynn Spooner, Joyce Marshall, Carter & Holmes and myself. If I left anyone out I apologize as I was actually not there until Sunday.

Hope to see all of you at the meeting Sunday,

**STAN**

## May-June Minutes

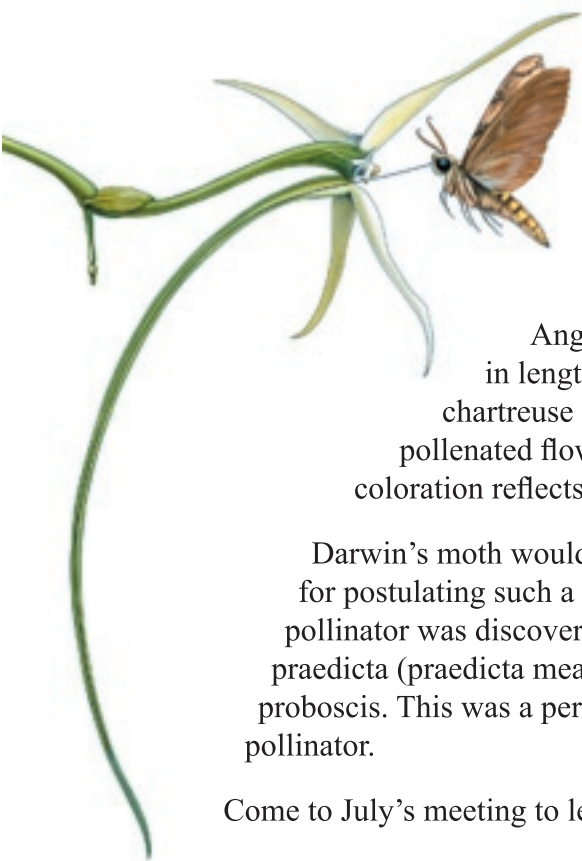
Since the summer growing season is virtually devoid of shows, there was minimal discussion of business issues at the May meeting. The society discussed preparation for the exhibit in Greenwood, SC for the SC Festival of Flowers.

David Janvrin presented a discussion of the *Jensoa* section of the *Cymbidiums*. Though the different species are native to areas throughout Asia, these are commonly referred to as 'Chinese *Cymbidiums*.' Along with *Neofinitia falcata*, the Chinese *Cymbidiums* enjoy the longest cultivation history among the orchids, with documented cultivation dating back more than a thousand years. The plants are characterized by long, graceful foliage which is sometimes found in variegated forms. The flowers typically have a base color of green through straw yellow with markings in pink, red or mahogany.

Most excitingly, several of the species, including *goeringii* and *sinensis*, are hardy in our area. Evidence suggests that this trait can be passed to hybrids, so there is hope for adding to the number of orchids which can be grown outdoors in zones 7 and lower.

In mid-June, the SCOS took part in the South Carolina Festival of Flowers in Greenwood, SC. VP Cindy Adams led the charge to add this to our list of shows, providing all of the coordination, design and installation. The design was quite unique in this editor's opinion, with a 360 view of a sweeping bald cypress forest of more than 150 sq.ft. Installed in the rotunda of the Greenwood Mall, the individual trees reached up more than fifteen feet tall with spray-type orchids wired into the high branches and minicatts growing in the crotches of large branches. Large *cattleyas* grew gracefully from carefully-placed stumps. Another feature of the display was a wide variety of *caudatum*-type *phragmipediums* on loan from the breeding stock of Carter & Holmes.

## July Meeting



For the July Meeting, Tom Nasser will lead us on a safari to the island of Madagascar, home to most of the world's angraecoid orchids.

When studying *Angraecum sesquipedale*, Charles Darwin theorised that, since the nectar was at the bottom of the spur, a pollinator must exist with a tongue at least as long as the spur. Otherwise the orchid could never be pollinated.

*Angraecum sesquipedale* has a nectar tube of 25-30 cm (10-12 in.) in length with only the distal end filled with nectar. The white and chartreuse coloration and pleasant night fragrance are indicative of night-pollinated flowers. The fragrance draws pollinators into range and the light coloration reflects the light of the moon.

Darwin's moth would need a tongue nearly eleven inches long, and he was ridiculed for postulating such a theory. In 1903 - 41 years after Darwin's death - the predicted pollinator was discovered. The species of hawk moth is now named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta* (*praedicta* meaning predicted). It had an appropriately eighteen inch long proboscis. This was a perfect example of mutual dependence of an orchid and a specific pollinator.

Come to July's meeting to learn more about this fascinating group of orchids!

Please remember  
to bring plants



## Notes of Note

### September

6-7 Mid-America Orchid Congress, Mason Ohio (just outside of Cincinnati)

11-13 Carter & Holmes Open House

19-21 Alabama Orchid Society Show, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Rd., Birmingham, AL.

### October

24-26 Coastal Carolina Orchid Society Show, Knights of Pythias Hall, 1820 Belgrade Ave., Charleston, SC.

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**[www.SCOShome.com](http://www.SCOShome.com)**

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