



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for January 12, 2009

Bill Mathis - Gardening with Hardy Terrestrials

Bill became interested in native terrestrial orchids in 1970 as a graduate student at the University of Arkansas . As a part of his masters program, he conducted a series of ecological studies on 'Small Yellow Lady's Slipper' Orchids in Northwest Arkansas . After completing his MS degree in Botany, he moved to the Agronomy Dept and completed a Ph.D. At this point he accepted a job with a major agricultural company and worked as a research scientist and manager for 25 years. He maintained his interest in terrestrial orchids over the years and, in 2000, he set up a lab and started growing a number of species from seed, as well as buying seedlings and mature plants in an effort to accumulate large numbers of 'Showy' upland and wetland terrestrial orchids species.

In 2001, when it became apparent that early retirement was a reality, he started The Wild Orchid Company, focusing on the production and sales of a variety of terrestrial orchids (North American, European and Asian species) that are hardy in Southeastern Pennsylvania . Currently, he is working with hybridization and induced polyploidy of several *Bletilla*, *Cypripedium*, *Calopogon*, *Arethusa* and *Calanthe* species in an effort to select specific plants for horticultural use.

In 2005, he wrote and published a book, The Gardener's Guide to Growing Hardy Perennial Orchids, which is a 'How to' book using a non-technical and practical approach to present the basic requirements for successfully growing hardy perennial orchids.

Bill enjoys giving presentations to local Orchid Societies and Garden Clubs on various aspects of his work with terrestrial orchids. He especially enjoys the excitement of the typical outdoor gardener when they realize that orchids can be grown in their backyard without a greenhouse. He will be bringing books for sale at the meeting.

Bill may be contacted at:
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Email: info@WildOrchidCompany.com
Website: <http://www.wildorchidcompany.com>

**Member Plant Sale
Speaker is not
bringing plants
for sale**

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**The Triangle
Orchid Society
meets at the
Sarah P. Duke
Gardens,
Durham, NC
The Second
Monday of the
Month
at 7:30 PM**

**www.Triangle
OrchidSociety.org**

TOS Officers and Board Members

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leo@bjac.com

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Vice President

April 2009 - March 2010
Program Chairman
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At Large Trustees: 2011

Melissa Bullard (919) 929-6806
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David Devine (919) 828-5332
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Minutes of the Last Meeting 12/08/08

The December TOS meeting was preceded by a Holiday Potluck dinner at 6:30 PM. The meeting room was festively decorated and the food was delicious. Thanks go out to Robin Gurlitz, who organized the event, and her volunteers; Melissa Bullard, Lee Allgood, Janet & Chris Moore, and Michael Arnor, who set up and decorated for the occasion.

President Paul Virtue called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. The minutes of the November meeting were approved. Miriam Sagasti was recognized and thanked for redesigning and printing new nametags for the membership. John Mayhre announced he had AOS 2009 calendars with him at the meeting for sale at \$10.

President Paul Virtue gave a presentation on the state of the TOS for 2008. 2008 was an active and growing year for the TOS. Membership increased from 143 to 191 members, which makes us one of the top five East Coast orchid societies. Financially we started and finished the year with about \$14,800 in working capital. Activities and accomplishments included: New society brochures designed, printed, and placed with Orchid Trail, Hanks Chapel, and Atlantic Ave. Orchids; Contacting AOS to encourage high level contact with Lowes and Home Depot so we can promote growing orchids and our society events in their stores; Initiated a regional meeting of orchid society presidents to better coordinate activities; Financially successful spring and fall orchid auctions;

Overseas orchid order from Ching Hua – Taiwan; Received Grand Champion award for society's exhibit at the Triad Show; Greenhouse Crawl at Jack Webster's; Growers Day; State Fair exhibit; Holiday Mini-Auction; and preparation for our 2009 orchid show at Northgate Mall. A big "Thank You" goes out to all the volunteers who have made the accomplishments and successes of the Triangle Orchid Society possible.

The Show Table was presented by Paul Feaver. Non-Greenhouse category: 1st Place – Masdevallia Jerry Sedecklo by Lee Allgood, 2nd Place – Lc Summit View 'Prime' by Lee Allgood, and 3rd Place – Paph venustum album 'Green Flash' by Lee Allgood.

In the Greenhouse grown category, 1st Place – Bulbophyllum ? by Rick Cavallaro, 2nd Place – Cymbidium Milton Carpenter by Bob Meyer, and 3rd Place – Lc. Phra Nakhon Khiri x C. Netrasiri Beauty 'Rainbow' by Olivene Virtue.

Instead of a speaker, a Holiday Mini-Auction was held consisting primarily of orchids from Jack Webster's estate and Hoosier Orchids. 60 plants were auctioned, raising slightly more than \$1700. Thank you to Phil Warner and Bob Meyer for auctioneering, Heather Schneider for organizing and printing the auction list, Paul Virtue for his computerized illustration of the sale plants, and Robin & Josh Gurlitz for recording the successful bids and handling the financial aspects of the auction.

The meeting ended at the conclusion of the auction, around 9:15 PM.



TOS Announcements

John Mayhre has a few remaining 2009 American Orchid Society Orchid Calendars for sale. They are \$10 each and will be available for pick up at the next meeting.

The speaker for January, Bill Mathis, will have only books for sale. Triangle Orchid Society members may bring their own plants for sale.

As the new year starts, so does your membership. Please remember to submit your dues for the coming year to Leo Sagasti. \$18 per year single, \$24 per year for 2 persons living at the same address. Your membership dues help support the programs the society brings you.

“Say, where are the snacks & drinks?” After a long time of wearing many volunteer hats, Robin Gurlitz offers up the Refreshment Chair

to a new volunteer. Please let the Board know if you can help. We have no sign-ups for the new year.

The Triad Orchid Society will be holding their “Orchids in the Jungle” show at the end of this month. The TOS will be participating at the show. Judith Goldstein and Alan Miller will be setting up the exhibit and could use some help from additional volunteers.

There will also be a need for volunteers for the “Orchids at Home” show, to be held at the Northgate Mall in Durham, Thursday, March 19th through Sunday, March 22nd. Please look to sign up at the next meeting to help set up, work the show or help breakdown the displays.

Miriam Sagasti has worked hard to update the name badges. All the members in attendance at the December meeting were sporting their new badges with style! Thank you, Miriam!

Remember to look for the Library book cart near the sales tables during meetings. You’ll find a thorough selection of helpful books for a wide variety of orchids. If you have books that are long overdue, please return them so that other members may use them.

Have Dinner with the Speaker

5:30 PM - before the meeting at the
Neo China Restaurant, (969-1612)

4015 University Drive, Durham
behind Target’s at the South Square Mall.

Call Alan Miller (919.969.1612)
before 4:45 PM Monday
to make your reservations

**TOS Officers and
Board of Trustees
2009**



**Judith Goldstein
Vice President
April 2008 -March 2009**



**Philip Warner,
President**

**Robert Meyer,
Secretary**

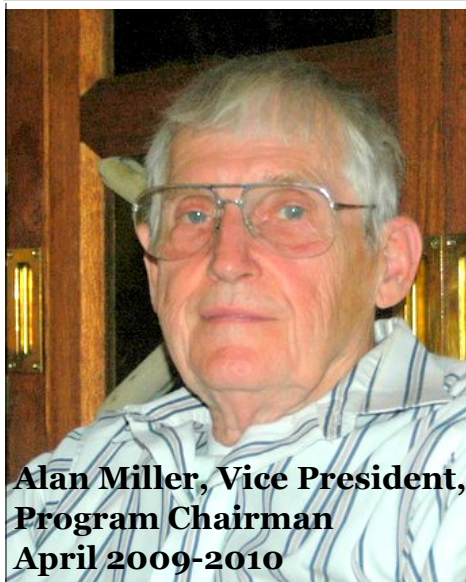


Leo Sagasti, Treasurer

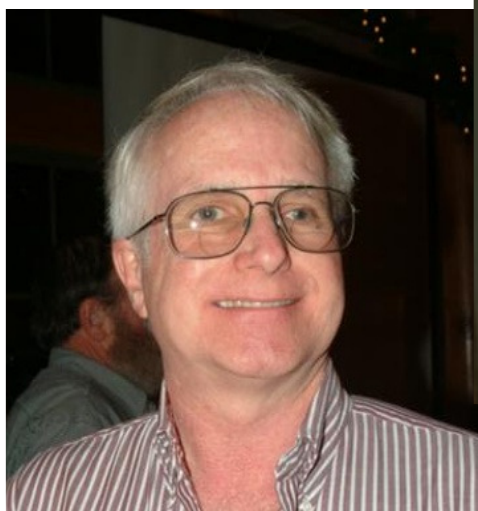


**Paul Virtue,
Past President**





**Alan Miller, Vice President,
Program Chairman
April 2009-2010**



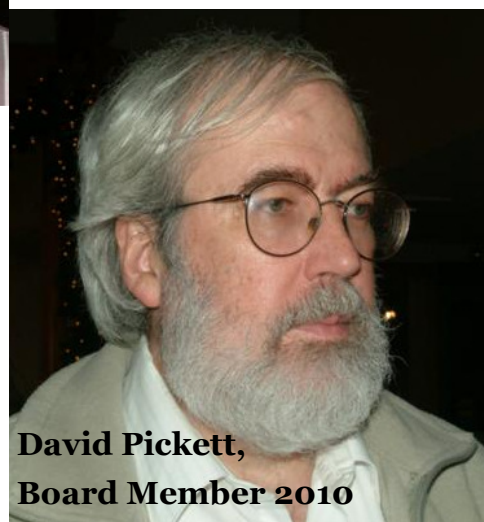
**Robert Davidson
Board Member 2010**



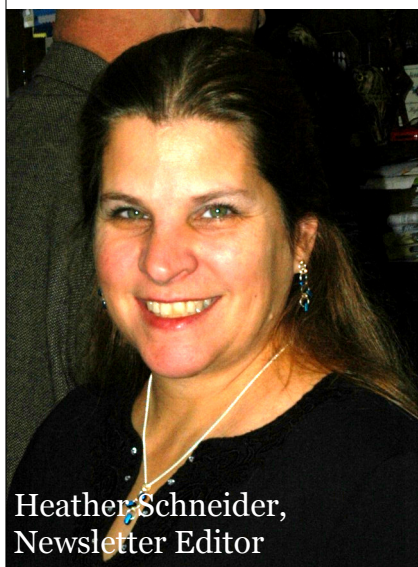
**Paul Feaver,
Board Member 2009**



**Marie Crock
Board Member 2009**



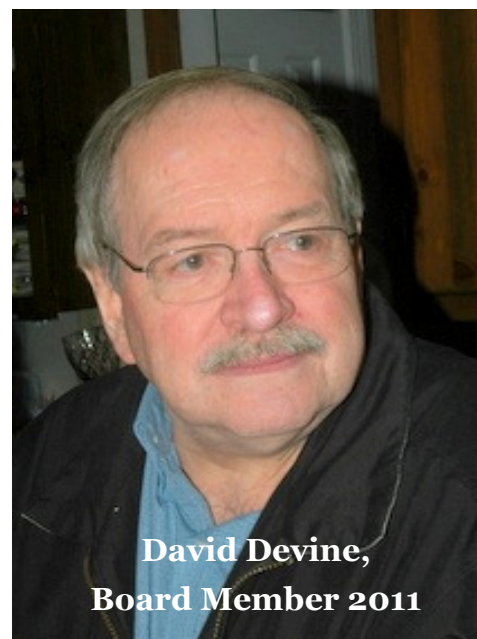
**David Pickett,
Board Member 2010**



**Heather Schneider,
Newsletter Editor**



**Melissa Bullard
Board Member 2011**



**David Devine,
Board Member 2011**



**Jack Webster Awards
Non Greenhouse Grown**

1st place ribbon:
Masdevallia Jerry Sedeklo
grown by Lee Allgood

2nd place ribbon:
Lc Summit View 'Prime'
grown by Lee Allgood



3rd place ribbon:
Paph venustum album 'Green Flash'
grown by Lee Allgood

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**

**1st place ribbon:
Bulbophyllum
grown by Rick Cavallaro**



**2nd Place ribbon:
Cymbidium Milton Carpenter
grown by Bob Meyer**

**3rd Place ribbon:
Lc. Phra Nakhon Khiri
x C. Netrasiri Beauty 'Rainbow'
grown by Olivene Virtue**



Growing Tips for January

By Courtney T. Hackney EMAIL at Hackneau@comcast.net

Days are finally getting longer now that we have reached the winter solstice. Many orchids use a lengthening day as a cue to begin the flowering process. Greenhouse growers can sit back and let Nature do its thing, but those growing indoors need to provide an increase in day length in the next month to initiate spring flowering.

While we typically think that winter is a difficult time for our orchids, remember that many tropical orchids come from relatively high elevations and so the cooler nights and days are ideal for them. Miltoniopsis, Lycastes, Odontoglossums, Phragmipediums, and numerous other genera that suffered from the heat for much of the year now thrive. Some orchid growers include cool growing orchids in their collections and provide lots of shading or even air conditioning in summer to provide cooler temperatures. Even many orchids that do well in summer thrive when the stress of high temperatures is relieved.

Cool days and even cooler nights slow down plant metabolism (activities in the plant that use energy). When light is hitting orchid leaves the temperature inside the orchid leaf is much higher and the plant can regulate that temperature to maximize photosynthesis even in cooler conditions. At night, however, cooler temperatures also slow down an orchid's metabolism allowing your orchid to retain and store more of the energy it captured during photosynthesis. If you have a cattleya that grows new pseudobulbs in winter and summer, winters bulbs are usually thicker as a result.

Unfortunately, orchids from very warm, tropical environments, such as phalaenopsis

and vandas, may almost cease growth if temperatures remain below 60 F for long periods. Remember that there are exceptions to every rule and hobbyists that have added species to their collections need to consult the orchid literature to determine the natural conditions for a species and do their best to maintain those conditions. While most phals like it warm, >65 F, some of the miniature species and their hybrids, e.g. *Phal parishii* and *lobbii* do better with cooler nights.

Cymbidiums are a group that suffers during hot summers, but grow extremely well in winter. They will even thrive outside in the southern part of the country, as long as they are not allowed to freeze. Once spikes are observed, however, move them inside or somewhere where they can be maintained above 50 F to avoid damage to sensitive buds.

Most cattleyas need to be kept on the dry side now. It is OK if there is some shriveling of the bulbs, but the leaves should not shrivel too. A dry period is especially important for cattleya species to ensure quality blooms and to maintain a healthy root system. One common mistake is to substitute misting for watering. Misting can help maintain higher humidity in winter, when low humidity can be a problem, but plants still need a thorough soaking just less frequently. If you do mist, use deionized or distilled water to prevent salt buildup on leaves.

Phalaenopsis and most of the popular intergeneric oncidiums are in bloom this time of year and require more moisture than cattleyas. They too, are growing more slowly and care is required to prevent rotting roots.



Upcoming Orchid Events

The Triad Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show
 Jan 30: 1-5pm, Jan. 31: 9am-5pm, Feb. 1: 1-5pm
 Location: Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs
 adjacent to the Nature Science Center.
 For more info: (336) 288-3769
 4301 Lawndale Dr. Greensboro, NC 27455
www.triadorchidsociety.org

Orchid Spectacular at the Orchid Conservatory
 in the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens
 Jan. 9th through Feb. 15th
 For more info: 704-825-4490
 6500 South New Hope Rd. Belmont, NC 28012
<http://www.dsb.org>

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:

7:00-7:30 Set Up Show
Table and Chairs

7:30-7:45 Business Meeting
Announcements

7:45-8:10 Show Table Review

8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break

8:30-9:20 Program

9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards,
Raffle & Door Prizes

9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends

Calendar 2009

January

Bill Mathis
Wild Orchid
Company

Gardening with
Hardy Terrestrials

February

Patricia Harding

Debatable
Epidendrums
Prosthechea

March

Weyman Bussey

Mexican Species:
Where they come
from & how
they grow

Welcome Table

Refreshments

January

Lori Chapman & Bob Molter

Need Volunteers

February

To be determined

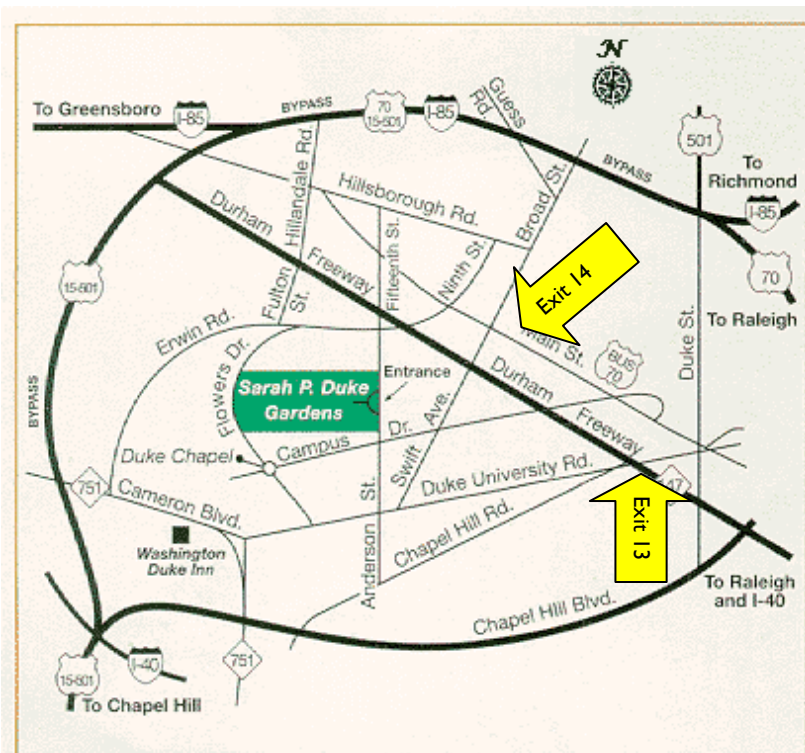
Need Volunteers



Associated with Sarah P Duke Gardens

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**The Triangle Orchid Society
meets at the
Sarah P. Duke Gardens,
Durham, NC
The Second Monday of the Month
at 7:30 PM**

Visitors are Welcome!

www.TriangleOrchidSociety.org

From the East. **Exit 13 on the Durham Freeway(#147)**
Head South on Chapel Hill Rd. Turn right on Anderson St.
The Gardens are on the left.
From the West. **Exit 14 on the Durham Freeway (147)**
Head South on Swift Ave. Turn right on Campus Drive ,
Turn right on Anderson St. The Gardens are on the left.

Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:

\$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address.

Mail to: Leo Sagasti, Treasurer 2306 Damascus Church Rd Chapel Hill NC 27516