



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## Monday, December 13, 2010 Holiday Party

What a wonderful and eventful year we have had! Now is the time to enjoy our annual holiday party with your friends at the Triangle Orchid Society.

Please join us at the meeting on Monday, that will start at 6:30 pm, an hour earlier than the usual start time. We ask that you bring a covered dish to share. Sue Morand is in charge so come early and help set up. President Robin Gurlitz will give a State of the Society Address.

Our holiday auction of orchids will take the place of a speaker for the evening's event. We will need volunteers to help set up for the auction.

We have many exciting events in the coming year. We will have orchid displays at the NC Piedmont Orchid Society in Charlotte and one in the Triad Orchid Society in Greensboro, both in January. Darwin Day, Grower's Day, NC State Fair, Spring and Fall Auctions are also planned. Our own ORCHID SHOW will be on MOTHER'S DAY weekend. Volunteer opportunities abound from small ones to huge ones, come learn from the experts and join the fun.

**Bring a covered dish for the buffet table.  
Bring your blooming orchids for the show tables.  
Bring your best holiday spirit and enjoy the party!**

### Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:

Pre meeting set up  
 5:30-6:30 Set Up Show Table  
 Set up food tables  
 Decorations

Meeting begins:  
 6:30-7:00 Dinner  
 7:00-7:15 Business Meeting  
 7:15-7:30 Presidents Message  
 7:30-7:40 Break, Auction Sign In  
 7:40-8:40 Auction  
 8:40-9:30 Show Table, Show Table  
 Awards Raffle  
 9:30 P.M. Meeting Adjourns

### 2011 Triangle Orchid Society

#### Membership Dues

**\$18 per year, single**

**\$24 per year, 2 people living  
at same address**

**Please remit to:**

**Melissa Bullard, TOS Treas.**

**510 North Street**

**Chapel Hill, NC 27514**

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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.TriangleOrchidSociety.org**

## TOS Officers and Board Members

### President

Robin Gurlitz (919) 929-9717  
[robing@i-gga.com](mailto:robing@i-gga.com)

### Vice President

#### Program Chairman

Alan Miller (919) 969-1612  
[orchidacea@att.net](mailto:orchidacea@att.net)

### Secretary

David Pickett (919) 688-8410  
[legaldeacon84@yahoo.com](mailto:legaldeacon84@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Melissa Bullard (919) 929-6806  
[mbullard@email.unc.edu](mailto:mbullard@email.unc.edu)

### Past President

Philip Warner (919) 785-0151  
[pwarner@fminet.com](mailto:pwarner@fminet.com)

### Board of Trustees:

#### At Large Trustees: 2010

Bob Davidson (919)-969-7365  
[bob@cattleya.us](mailto:bob@cattleya.us)

#### At Large Trustees: 2011

David Devine (919) 828-5332  
[devinejd@aol.com](mailto:devinejd@aol.com)

#### At Large Trustees: 2012

Lee Allgood (919) 721-7192  
[lallgood851@yahoo.com](mailto:lallgood851@yahoo.com)

George Bizub (919) 454-4514  
[gbizub@nc.rr.com](mailto:gbizub@nc.rr.com)

Jeremy Bueter (336) 301-3798  
[jibueter77@yahoo.com](mailto:jibueter77@yahoo.com)

Sally Carpenter (919) 464-5764  
[scarp919@aol.com](mailto:scarp919@aol.com)

## Minutes of the Last Meeting 11/8/2010

The November meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by TOS president, Robin Gurlitz. Members and guests were welcomed. The October minutes and financials were accepted and approved with the correction that only Nick Plummer presented the Show Table. We have a page on Face Book and the website is updated. Raffle tickets were available for \$1 each

Alan Miller introduced the proposed slate of officers and trustees for 2011 to the membership. The nominees are: President – Leo Saggi, Vice President & Program Chair -- Ralph Sears, Treasurer – Melissa Bullard, Secretary – Armando Nevis, Board of Trustees Term Expiring 2011: David Devine and David Pickett; Board of Trustees Term Expiring 2012: Lee Allgood and Sally Carpenter; Board of Trustees Term Expiring 2013: Paul Welty and Manuel Monserrate. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was approved by acclamation. Thanks to the Nominating Committee comprised of John Myhre, Paul Virtue, and Alan Miller for all of their work.

The president thanked everyone who volunteered with the State Fair. Jeremy Bueter recruited volunteers and Robin Gurlitz obtained parking passes and helped with scheduling. The following people helped in various capacities in hosting our booth or loaning plants for our exhibit: Marie Crock, Josh Gurlitz, Paul Virtue, Nolan Newton, David Devine, John & Ann Myhre. Also, Dianne Parks, Lee Allgood, Alan Miller, Virginia Hakan, Miriam & Leo Saggi, Bob Meyer, David Pickett, Phil Warner, John Stanton, and, Paul Feaver. A very special "thank you" goes to Marie Crock who not only stores much of the display material, but helped set up and take down the exhibit in addition to loaning plants and manning our booth.

Our Holiday Party will be held at our next meeting which is Monday, December 13, 2010. Don't forget to bring your plants for the Show Table and your checkbook because we will have a mini-auction during the evening. Sally Carpenter is in charge of procuring special plants for this event.

A big thanks to Alan Miller for arranging speakers for all four societies for this year and the coming year. It is a big task and Alan has ex-

celled in bringing quality speakers to our membership.

The president presented our speaker for the evening, our own Bob Davidson, who has had many years experience as a professional orchid grower with lots of things to share with us.

Thanks to Michael Arner for providing refreshments and to Lee Allgood for hosting the Welcome Table.

Paul Feaver did an excellent job of discussing the beautiful plants on the Show tables. Time prevented every plant from being discussed. (You may bring to the attention of the presenter a question about a specific plant if that plant has not been discussed.)

The Jack Webster Award Plants were: Greenhouse Grown Awards:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bulbo. medusa -- Armando Neves;

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Aerangus biloba -- Armando Neves

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Coelogyne Massengeana-- Alan Miller

The Non-Greenhouse Grown Awards:

1<sup>st</sup> Place V. lamellata – Robin & Josh Gurlitz

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Lc. Sylvan Sprite Blythe Spirit – Sue Morand

3<sup>rd</sup> Place::Paph. Goultenianum x Paph Hsinying Citron – Lee Allgood.

The meeting adjourned around 9:30 pm. Minutes submitted by David Pickett, Secretary, TOS.

## Treasurers Report Melissa Bullard

November 2010

### INCOME

Plant Raffle.....	\$	52.00
Total Income.....	\$	52.00

### EXPENSES

Refreshments.....	\$	22,70
Raffle Plant.....	\$	20.00
Speaker Exp.....	\$	232.37
Total Expense.....	\$	275.07

**Net Income.....[\$ 223.07]**

## Speaker Notes—Bob Davidson

Notes from Joy Lemieux on Bob's talk. Thank you, Joy!!

Bob Davidson is certainly an expert on repotting – he would have to be as he has 5,000 plants in his greenhouse. He has been a commercial grower for many years, currently selling his plants at the Farmer's Market in Carrboro during the summer months. His presentation, with his wonderfully illustrative photos, was certainly reflective his years of experience and skill.

Bob began by noting this was probably not the best timing for his presentation – most repotting he said should be done just before new roots emerge, which is typically in the spring and summer for Cattleyas and Dendrobiums. Phalaenopsis and most of the Slipper Orchids (Phragmipediums and Paphiopedilums) are not so fussy and can generally be repotted at any time.

Many hobby growers assume that when you purchase an orchid it has been properly potted and will not require repotting for some time. Bob believes that this is a fallacy especially for those orchids sold in the big box stores. There, not only are they in the wrong pot but also in the wrong mix. Plants coming from the mega growers, in Taiwan especially, are generally packed in cheap Sphagnum Moss (remember Allan Koch last month stressing the need to use only top grade New Zealand moss??), and most plants are positioned incorrectly in pots that lack appropriate drain holes. Ceramic pots that are glazed on the inside are especially nasty because the roots have nothing to adhere to, there is no air available around the roots, and there is no drainage guaranteeing that the roots rot away very quickly...

It is important, said Bob, to pot before your plant has begun to decline. This means repotting must be done before the mix breaks down, before new growth hangs over the side of the pot, and before roots are fully developed and have become brittle and easily broken. The optimal time to repot, said Bob, is just before new roots are ready to emerge. Once a plant has outgrown a pot and the newest growth overhangs the side of the pot it is too late because the roots cannot be trained back into the mix. Over-hanging growths are often twisted and spoil the presentation of the plant.

Choosing a mix is a matter of personal preference. Everyone's watering style is different, as is everyone's growing conditions. What ever mix you choose, it should last at least 2 -3 years before the plant needs to be repotted. Any mix, however, must be open enough to permit good air flow around the roots. Bob uses a variety of materials in his mixes, to ensure that not everything breaks down at the same time. By controlling the rate of decomposing, he can monitor his plants and extend his window of repotting time. Currently Bob uses a combination of fir bark, lava rock, charcoal, and extra coarse perlite. He also incorporates some chopped up coconut fiber (coir) for plants that like to be somewhat wetter. Charcoal absorbs toxins but is very dusty (and hazardous to one's health if you breathe it). He recommends soaking charcoal prior to use to remove the dust and finer particulants. The lava rock he uses comes from the local hardware store and is relatively cheap. One does need to pick through it to size it, and to remove the residual dust. The coarse perlite is available through Tropical Plant Products in Orlando. Bob recommends wetting down the mix prior to use. He feels it is much easier to work with when wet.

Bob grows in plastic pots or wooden baskets. Discussing the pros and cons of plastic versus clay he noted the benefits of plastic pots being the fact that they are cheaper and are therefore disposable. New pots have the benefit of not cross contaminating plants with virus. Clay pots on the other hand breathe and provide better air circulations (especially the orchid pots that have slits around the sides). Clay pots allow plants to dry out faster, plants can be safely clipped into place, and the additional weight of the pot helps to prevent tall plants from tipping over. However, heavy clay pots can weigh down benches.

,As a commercial grower, Bob is of course cognizant of the cost of clay vs. plastic.

Wooden baskets, which are generally available in teak or cedar, maximize air flow to the roots, and are easily expandable as the plant grows – there is no need to tear a plant apart when you can simply drop the existing basket into another that is slightly larger. Whatever container you use, it needs to provide good air flow, and it needs to fit your personal watering habits. The goal always is to keep roots moist while allowing foliage to dry off rapidly.

Tools used in repotting are the single most deadly way most growers spread virus in their collections. Flaming tools, says Bob, only causes them to rust. Soaking tools in bleach is also not effective as it too causes tools to rust. TSP (Trisodium Phosphate, available from Jamestown Distributors) is an effective solution for soaking tools. However, Bob recommends single use razor blades, available in the paint department of most hardware store. The safest way to repot, Bob said, is to lay a pile of newspapers down on your work surface, and capture all your waste material in the newspaper. Use a single razor blade to do any cutting required. When you have finished with a plant, roll up the top sheet of newspaper with all the debris. Wear disposable latex gloves and dispose of those with each plant as well. If you are not wearing gloves, be sure to wash your hands with soap before moving on to the next plant.

When repotting Phals, Bob recommends soaking the plant for several minutes prior to removing it from the pot. This helps to soften the roots and reduces damage. Shake the media off the roots, and cut away any roots that are soft and decaying. Size your pot for the root ball, not the foliage. Center your plant in the pot at the appropriate depth, so the base of the leaves are just at the top of the mix. Fill in around the roots with your mix and shake the pot gently to settle the mix.

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## Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

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Buck Flintom, a TOS Lifetime Member, passed away on December 6, 2010. A service will be held for Buck on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 2:00 PM at the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church. We send our deepest condolences to his family.

The Triangle Orchid Society will be participating in the following Orchid shows this winter and Spring:

Jan. 14–17th: Piedmont Orchid Society, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, 6500 South New Hope Rd., Belmont, NC. We need volunteers and plants.

Contact Marie Crock at [bluebirdfield@earthlink.net](mailto:bluebirdfield@earthlink.net)

Jan. 28–30th: Triad Orchid Society Show, Greensboro Garden Clubs, 4301-A Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC. We need volunteers and plants. Contact Alan Miller at [orchidacea@att.net](mailto:orchidacea@att.net)  
To volunteer.

Feb 12 : Darwin Day, North Carolina Natural History Museum, Raleigh, NC. Contact Phil Warner to volunteer or loan plants. [pwarner@fminet.com](mailto:pwarner@fminet.com)

May 6-8th : The Triangle Orchid Society Show, Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh, NC. Contact co-chairs Bob Meyer or Leopold Sagasti to volunteer for this show.

Working at these professionally judged shows is great fun and one of the best ways to learn about Orchids. Try it!!



## Growing Tips for December

By Courtney T. Hackney EMAIL at [Hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:Hackneau@comcast.net)

“Happy Winter Solstice”! That means the shortest day of the year arrives this month and after that, lengthening days. Unfortunately, there remain many cold days and even colder nights requiring vigilance for those of us that grow tropical orchids.

This is also a time when having flowering orchids inside the house is really nice, not just for fragrance, but a reminder that good times will return and we can enjoy spring flowers and warmer days.

There are a few aspects to bringing orchids inside that require your attention. First remember that home heating takes moisture out of the air. The same thing that dries your skin in winter dries out your orchid flowers and the plant itself. If you can set the pot containing your orchid inside a larger clay pot that sits in shallow water you will help your orchid flowers to last longer. A porous clay pot will wick water up and around the orchid plant limiting water loss. The ideal is for the clay pot to be large enough that there is space between pots. Misting occasionally will also help, but be sure you are not using water that goes through a softener.

One last suggestion is that you sterilize any pot you are using to hold your blooming plant while inside. More and more orchids sold in the pot plant market are reportedly virused. While these flowers may look fine, viruses may be transferred to the next orchid that occupies the pot and lead to deformed flowers and the ultimate death of the orchid. Few hobbyists spend the time or money to test pot plants so it is best to just sterilize pot surfaces with a 10% chlorox solution.

Cymbidium growers need to pay careful attention to outside temperatures now in case there is a hard freeze. The cold should have initiated bloom spikes by now. If that has not happened yet you may need a few more weeks of cool nights. A light frost will not hurt the plant, but a solid freeze will likely damage your cymbidium. Once spikes begin to form, cymbidiums should be kept from temperatures lower than 45 F. In the South, they may be moved into a garage on very cold nights and in colder climates maintained in the cool part of the greenhouse until buds open.

There are many types of dendrobiums that also need a cool, dry period to initiate buds. Some of these maintain their leaves such as *Dendrobium aggregatum*, while others, such as the nobile-types, drop leaves in response to the cold dry period. If you purchased the plant in flower and it has never bloomed again it may need this type of treatment. Unfortunately, the Dendrobium family is so large and found over such a wide range of environments that no single recommendation can be made. If you check the parentage of your dendrobium you can figure out its required growing conditions.

The flowering process for phalaenopsis should also be well along by now, with spikes emerging and perhaps even buds developing on larger plants. Once buds form, it is necessary to maintain temperatures above 60 F to prevent bud drop and to limit various diseases that ruin flowers. You will also need to watch new leaves for rots that flourish in a closed growing space





**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse Grown**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*V. lamellata*  
**Grown by Robin & Josh Gurlitz**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
LC Sylvan Sprite "Blythe Spirit"  
**Grown by Sue Morand**



**3<sup>d</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Paph Goultenianum X Paph Hsinying  
Citron  
**Grown by Lee Allgood**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Bulbo medusa  
grown by Armando Neves



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Aerangus biloba  
grown by Armando Neves

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Coelogyne Massengeana  
grown by Alan Miller





Associated with

**Sarah P Duke Gardens**

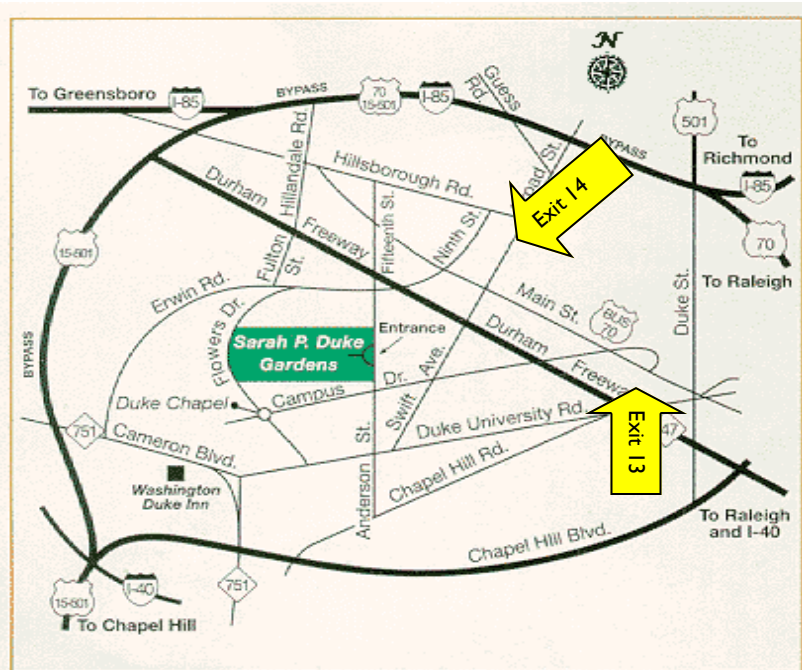
Interim Newsletter Editor  
Robin Gurlitz

Phone: (919) 929-9717

Calendar 2010-2011	Speaker	Topic
Dec. 13	Holiday Party Dinner	Auction
Jan 10th 2011	Steve Arthur Will sell plants	Mericloning
Feb. 14th 2011	Linda Wilhelm Will sell plants	Miniature Orchids

<b>Welcome Table</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>
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<b>December</b>	<b>Lee Allgood</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>Need Volunteers</b>	<b>See Michael Arner</b>



**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](http://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.

<b>Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:</b>		
\$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address.		
Mail to:	Melissa Bullard, Treasurer	510 North Street Chapel Hill, NC 27514