



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for April 11, 2011 *Dr. Harry Gallis*

Harry A Gallis MD is a native of Athens, GA, graduate of Princeton University, Duke University School of Medicine and training programs in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Duke University. Although fully retired in December of 2008, he has continues to do consultative work in continuing health professions education.

He began growing orchids in 1980, initially purely as a hobbyist, ultimately growing his collection to a small commercial backyard operation with 3500 plants. Upon moving to Charlotte in 1994 he downsized to approximately 1200 plants in an 800 square foot greenhouse. He is a member of the NC Piedmont OS, Triangle OS, and South Carolina OS. He has been a member of AOS since 1980, entered the AOS judging program in 1991, has chaired the Carolinas Judging Center, served as AOS training coordinator, AOS Trustee from 2004-2010, and as Chair of the Judging Committee of AOS since May 2010.

His plants have received 38 AOS awards. His collection consists primarily of Cattleyas and Dendrobiums. He has named two hybrids which have received AOS awards: Potinara Lisa Taylor Gallis and Slc Susie's Valentine. His favorite plants are mid size and miniature Cattleyas and big and tall antelope Dendrobiums.

He became a member of Triangle Orchid Society in 1981 and became a member of the Piedmont Orchid Society when he moved to Charlotte. He is also a life-time member of the Triangle Orchid Society. While an active member of the Triangle Orchid Society, he and Jack Webster chaired the Society's hosting of an Eastern Orchid Congress and the AOS Trustees Meeting in 1993, an experience that led to gray hairs and chased away any that Jack had left!

He and his wife Susie have two children and two grandchildren and live in Cornelius, NC.

The speaker will not sell orchids

Dinner with the Speaker

5:30 PM - before the meeting
at the Neo China Restaurant
4015 University Drive,
Durham behind Target's
at the South Square Mall.

Call Alan Miller to reserve a seat, at
919-969-1612
All are welcome

Members orchid sale.

Any member wishing to sell
your excess orchids or ones
you are mad at or to make
room for newly potted
ones, or make room for ac-
quiring more.....here is An-
other opportunity!!

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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

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Minutes of the March TOS Meeting 3/14/2011

Meeting opened at 7:30 by President Leo Sagasti. All were welcomed. The minutes of the February meeting were accepted.

Leo reminded everyone about the two upcoming show in Asheville and Charlotteville. He reminded everyone about our own TOS show on Mother's day weekend and all volunteers were encouraged. Our Vendors for the May show will be The Orchid Trail, Seagrove Orchids and J&L Orchids. The societies who will be exhibiting will be: Triad Orchid Society, the NC Piedmont Society, the Sandhills Orchid Society, the Virginia Orchid Society, the Coastal Carolina Orchid Society and the Blue Ridge Orchid Society,

The TOS Green Swamp hike is scheduled for May 21. There was a sign up sheet for interested TOS members and anyone with questions was encouraged to talk to Paul Welty.

We will be having our Grower's day Aug 6th and need a chair for that event. Our Fall auction will be on September 25. Leo reminded everyone that there will NOT be a spring auction because it would be too close to our TOS show date.

President Leo reminded everyone to buy raffle tickets for a chance to win the large blooming Phaius.

Leo said that Robin and Josh Gurlitz organized the silent auction of donated orchids. Robin explained how a silent auction worked.

Robin noted that a good number of TOS members had been busily silently bidding and she encouraged everyone else to participate. She said there were some very nice orchids as indicated by such vigorous bidding. The bidding would be over at the end of the refreshment break and money would be collected at the end of the meeting.

Leo introduced Ralph Sears, our VP, to introduce our speaker. Ralph introduced Kelvin Taylor and mentioned that Kelvin had a deep interest in orchids especially native North Carolina orchids since Kelvin is a native of NC himself.

Refreshments were provided by Nancy Harvey and the welcome table was hosted by Lee Allgood. A big Thank you to both Nancy and Lee.

The show tables were reviewed by Paul Feaver gave a thorough and fascinating show table review. Winning ribbons were:

Non-Greenhouse grown:

1st- Lycaste Malibu Canyon; Mildred Howell

2d-Phrag. caudatum hybrid: Nolan Newton

3d-Paph. delatanii: Mike Le

Greenhouse grown:

1st- Den. farmerii: Paul Virtue

2d-Paph. Norito Hasegawa: Paul Feaver.

3d_C. aurentiaca: Nick Plummer

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30. Thanks to Robin Gurlitz who provided these notes. Armando will be back in April.



Kelvin Taylor—March Speaker

Kelvin Taylor is certainly passionate in his efforts to locate the Native Orchid populations of North Carolina. Anyone who would willingly expose himself to chiggers and ticks has got to be very very committed. One can easily appreciate that during most of his free time he devotes himself to the hunt.

According to Kelvin there are more than 60 species of orchids that are native to North Carolina. They can be found in all 100 counties, from the mountains to the coast. Everyone, he says, lives within fifty miles of at least one native North Carolinian orchid population. Because Native Orchids bloom from March through November, they can be sought out almost year round. Some can even be grown in your garden.

Kelvin stated that you can look for native orchids anytime. If the orchids have already bloomed, look for seed pods or dried winter foliage. Learn when the anticipated bloom time will be, then return to the same area next year. If you make the effort to learn where they grow, you will be rewarded most years. It helps, Kelvin said, to also learn what plants grow in close proximity to native orchids. If you know what these are, they will frequently lead you to the treasure you seek. The one caution Kelvin has is that one cannot be late. Return to your marked areas early and often so as not to miss the flowering.

In North Carolina, orchids can be found just about everywhere. They like dry or moist coniferous wooded areas; pine forests, moist beech and oak slopes, and sunny meadows. You can also find them in cypress swamps, along many stream banks, on old river banks, along dried old river floodplains; You can frequently see them lining road ditches, beneath rhododendron thickets. on the floor of longleaf pine savannahs, and along power-line corridors.

Over the years Kelvin has learned where most of the native orchids can be found. His favorite locations are the Panthertown Valley, The Blue Ridge Parkway, The Great Smokey Mountains National Park, and Curtis Creek, especially the waterfall trails. In the Piedmont, he recommends the Eno River State Park, Swift Creek Nature Preserve and the Sara Duke Gardens in Raleigh. On the Coastal Plains he recommends the cliffs of the Neuse State Park, and Green Swamp, at the areas around Boiling Springs. Of the 60 plus orchids native to North Carolina the Pink Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) is the most common. It carries a single bloom per plant, and is generally found nestled in among the pine straw in pine and oak forests. It prefers shaded areas and blooms in early May. It is very difficult to cultivate. Kelvin has located populations of these in the Panthertown Valley in Jackson county. He says that in the mountains the blooms tend to be a lighter pink color, and that the flower stems can be up to 3 ft. high. It is often found growing adjacent to running cedar, an acid loving plant. Locally, populations can be found in Weymouth Woods, in Southern Pines, and in Greensboro, at the state park by the lake in Summerville.

There is also a large Yellow Lady Slipper Orchid (*Cyp parviflorum*). Kelvin looks for this in the Eno River Valley, in early spring in forests made up primarily of beech and oaks. The Lady Slippers generally grow uphill from the deciduous trees. They are tremendous variations in the coloring of these plants, the sepals and dorsals especially can be a very dark brown or maroon color. Again, these plants are very difficult to cultivate as they are fungus dependent and resent being moved.

Continued on page 6.



1st Place Ribbon:
Lycaste Malibu Canyon
Grown by Mildred Howell

**Jack Webster Awards
Non-Greenhouse Grown**



2nd Place Ribbon:
Phrag. caudatum
Grown by Noland Newton



3^d Place Ribbon:
Paph. Delanatii
Grown by Mike Le

**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**



1st Place Ribbon:
Den farmeri
Grown by Paul Virtue



2nd Place Ribbon:
Paph. Norito Hasegawa
Grown by Paul Feaver



3rd Place Ribbon:
C. aurentiaca
Grown by Nick Plummer

Kelvin Taylor—March Speaker (continued)

The Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) is probably my favorite. It is a diminutive plant, seldom achieving 6 inches in height. It has a distinctive white lip that is hooded by the sepals and petals that form a helmet of purple or magenta. A single stem can hold from 6 – 10 flowers. It blooms April to July in rich, open hardwood forests, on moist slopes and on stream banks. When looking for this little charmer, look for trilliums for it is often found hiding under the trilliums broad spreading foliage. The Showy Orchis is fragrant and often you can locate the plant by following the spicy, sweet scent.

The Large Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*) is found in the Sandhills area, but is rare in Cumberland County. It often blooms in April through May in proximity to the Pink Lady Slipper. It likes a dry acid environment and is found in oak and pine forests.

The Green Adder's-mouth Orchid (*Malaxis unifolia*) is the smallest of any of the North Carolina orchids. The flower is less than one-eighth inch wide. All parts of the plant are green. The flowers are arranged in a spiral on the stem. The stem itself may reach 4 – 10 inches in length. There is a single stem clasped toward its base by a single oval-shaped leaf. This little beauty blooms mid to late May through July. It is found in dry mixed woods and thickets.

The Crane-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*) is known for its winter foliage, which is dull green on top and magenta on the bottom. The easiest way to find this plant is to find the foliage in winter, based on its distinctive colors. Then mark the spot and return in the mid-July to mid-August. When it flowers, the solitary leaf is withered. The narrow sepals and petals are brownish green, the column is lime green. Each flower has a long thin spur. The spikes are only 12 inches high.

The Downy Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*) is found mostly in the mountains, but also in the Piedmont. The entire plant is covered with fine hairs. The flowers are small, rounded and have a waxy texture. The lip is pouch-like. This species frequently forms large beds containing dozens of plants. It blooms mid-July through August in dry oak-pine woods to damp hemlock woods and in rhododendron thickets. This orchid is notable for its foliage which has white veins, similar to its cousin the Jewel orchid.

To learn more about these North Carolina natives, visit Kelvin's website at www.pbase.com/plantman. You can also view photos at www.flickr.com/junf_29605. The Native Plant Society also has a website at www.nativeorchidsconference.org. I would also recommend Jim Fowler's book, "Wild Orchids of South Carolina", published in 2005 by the University of South Carolina press.

A big thank you to Joy Lemieux who transcribed these speaker notes. Orchid lovers ARE a great group of people!!

Growing Tips for April

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

Each year, some facet of orchid growing comes along that I am at a loss to explain. This year, it was the length of multi-floral *Paphiopedalum* bloom spikes. My spikes were much shorter than in previous years. This was true on Paphs I have had for many years and bloomed many times. It was true also for newly repotted Paphs and for those that had not been repotted for years. My conclusion, before our local orchid show, was that I had reduced fertilizer levels during winter too much or perhaps the cooler than normal winter was responsible.

Imagine my surprise when several hobbyists and commercial growers were complaining about the same thing at our local orchid show. How is this possible? We all grow in different media and locations, but something in common to all of us influenced the growth of spikes. The only common thread is that plants in all of our greenhouses were located in the same general area and experienced the same external swings in temperature and humidity. We often like to think that we can bend orchids to our will, but once again, they are responding to nature in ways not easily explained. It is clear though, that my individual growing conditions were not responsible. This is also another good reason to join your local orchid society and get to know your fellow growers. We all share in many different ways.

Commercial growers in the U.S. have been forced to purchase many of the orchids they sell from large pot plant growers. While we may lament the loss of many different unique hybrid lines that were characteristic of smaller orchid nurseries, amazing orchids have become common place because growers offshore can grow out thousands of seedlings, select the best of the hybrid and clone it. The select orchids show up at the big box stores, often without names. Even so, this is how many people get hooked on growing orchids as a hobby.

There are reports from some serious hobbyists who test these clones for orchid viruses that many test positive for common orchid viruses. New hobbyists that begin their collection with such plants are doomed to have collections of virused plants by the time they understand how to prevent the transmittance of viruses from plant to plant. A recent visit to one of the "big box stores" found many orchids in bloom for sale, including nice, well bloomed cattleyas clearly showing flowers infected by common orchid viruses.

The discovery of the first flowers that we now know were infected with orchid viruses, was met with generous praise in the orchid world. They were viewed as beautiful sports to be prized and propagated. We now, know better! It is unfortunate that these diseased plants are being sold today as healthy in garden centers. No one there was even aware that they were selling diseased plants.

There are times where virused plants should be preserved because of their unique place in hybridizing history or they still have unique potential for hybridizing. There are a number of these in my collection that are waiting for the day when a technique for eliminating viruses is developed for orchids. The large commercial suppliers should be developing such techniques and not selling and shipping diseased plants.

Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

Green Swamp Field Trip

May 21 : Wonderful trip to see native orchids led by David McAdoo. Sign up with Paul Welty, pwelty@averillpark.net

Growers Day

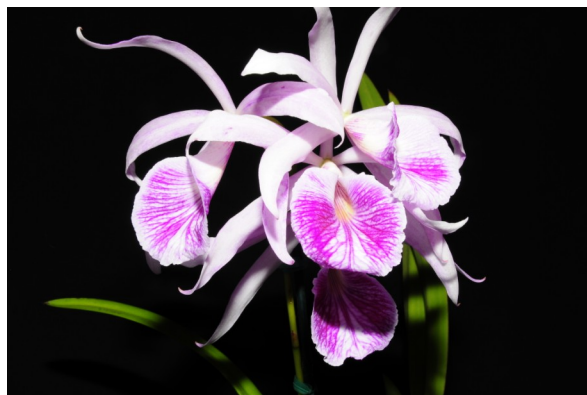
August 6th Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh, NC. This is one of our signature events. Be prepared to come learn about orchid culture and volunteer to help out.

Fall Auction

Sunday Sept. 25 : At Lake Crabtree County Park, Morrisville. Beech Pavilion. Noon pot-luck lunch and auction begins at 1:00 PM. More information later, but put this on your calendar

Triangle Orchid Society Show

May. 6,7 & 8 : Mothers Day weekend in Raleigh, NC. See information on page 10 following



Bl. Morning Glory

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:

7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Table and Chairs
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting Announcements
7:40-8:30	Program
8:30-8:50	Refreshment Break
8:50-9:20	Show Table Review, Show Table Awards
9:20-9:30	Raffle

Calendar 2011

Speaker

Topic

April 11

Dr. Harry Gallis
Members sale

Dendrobiums

May 9th

Clark Riley

Cinderellas Slippers Found.
The Cypripediums and Selenipediums

June 13th

Steve Frowine

TBA

Welcome Table

Refreshments

March

Lee Allgood

Michael Arner

April

Need Volunteers

Need Volunteers



Associated with

Sarah P Duke Gardens

Interim Newsletter Editor
Josh Gurlitz

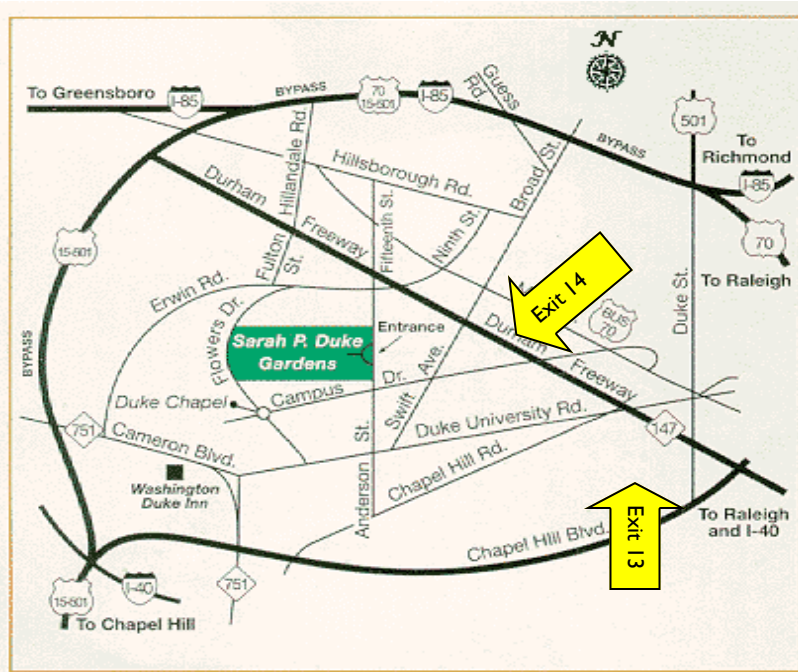
Phone: (919) 929-9717
E-mail: robing@i-gga.com

**Our TOS Show Poster
has been designed
and produced by
Miriam Sagasti**



Contact co-chairs **Bob Meyer, Leo Sagasti or Robin Gurlitz**
to volunteer for this show.

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



**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: Melissa Bullard, Treasurer 510 North Street Chapel Hill, NC 27514