



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## Monday, December 12, 2011 Holiday Party

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. Suzette Morand is in charge so come early and help set up. President Leo Sagasti 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.

**Bring a covered dish for the buffet table. Bring your blooming orchids for the show tables. Check out the great Auction plants.**

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OrchidWiz  
[www.orchidwiz.com](http://www.orchidwiz.com)

The source for information about Orchids.  
Over 80,000 orchid photographs and prints.  
A Journal to track your orchids.  
An Album to manage your orchid photos.  
Cultivation data for hybrids and species.

We will also be auctioning a copy of  
**OrchidWiz Express 2012**

This is a great software tool for re-  
searching and managing orchids.

See attached flyer for more info.

OrchidWiz Express is donated by  
OrchidWiz, LLC

### Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:

Pre meeting set up

5:00-6:30 Set Up Show Table,  
food tables, decorations

Party 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

9:30 P.M. Meeting Adjourns

### Membership 2012 Triangle Orchid Society

#### Membership Dues

\$20 per year, single

\$26 per year, 2 people living  
at same address

Please remit to:

Sally Carpenter, TOS Treas.

412 Church Street

**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

### President

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#### At Large Trustees: 2013

Paul Welty (919) 251-8097  
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## Minutes of the Last Meeting 11/14/2011

The November meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the president of the TOS, Leo Sagasti. Members and guest were welcomed. The financials were accepted and approved. Raffle tickets were available for \$1 each. Bring a plant for the Show table and receive a free raffle ticket for up to a maximum of 5 tickets. Remember, if you purchase 5 raffle tickets, you will receive a 6th one for free. Thanks to Miriam Sagasti for providing refreshments, Lee Allgood for hosting the Welcome Table and Paul Feaver for setting up the show tables.

Leo Sagasti announced the nominated members for the 2012 TOS Board, and all nominations have been accepted by the membership. The elected Board Members are:

President Armando Neves  
 Vice President Ralph Sears  
 Treasurer Sally Carpenter  
 Secretary David Pickett

#### Board of Trustees

2012 Anne Williams  
 2012 Lee Allgood  
 2013 Paul Welty  
 2013 Connie Howard  
 2014 Nicolette Petervary  
 2014 Michael Lee

Paul Virtue announced receiving 2 AOS Awards for his plants last month. Leo Sagasti announced the next board meeting on December 10, at this house, both current and new Board members should attend. Leo passed a sheet for volunteers to sign up for the welcome and refreshments table.

The membership meeting in December will be a potluck and will start at 6:30pm.

Ralph Sears introduced our speaker, Nick Plummer, who gave us an outstanding talk about Encyclias.

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(s) a question about a specific plant if that plant has not been discussed.)

The Jack Webster Award Plants were:

Greenhouse Grown Awards:

1st Place: *Cycnoches chlorochilan* "Green Giant"  
 Paul Feaver

2nd Place: *Cattleya* Chuck Fullerman x *C. bowringiana*, Paul & Olivene Virtue

3rd Place: *Habenaria rudocheila*,  
 Paul Feaver

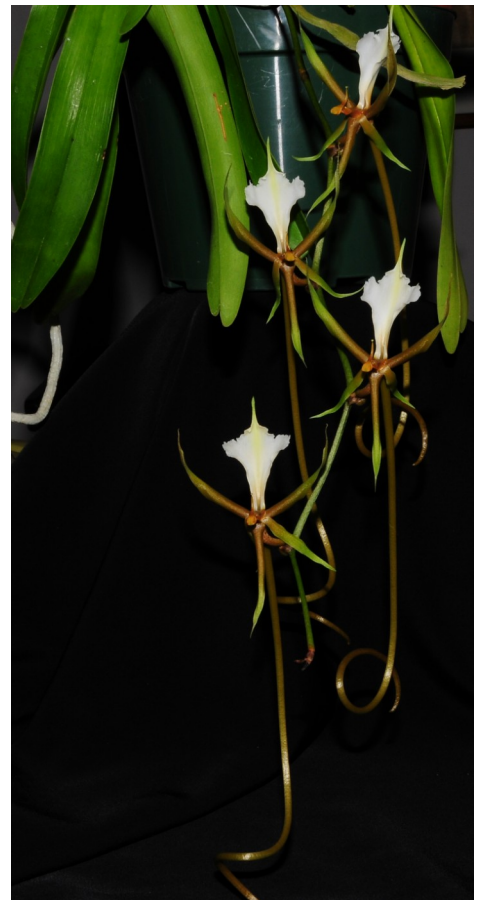
The Non-Greenhouse Grown Awards:

1st Place: *Bulb Elizabeth Ann* 'Buckleberry',  
 Lee Allgood

2nd Place: *Aerangis distincta*,  
 Sarah Patterson

3rd Place: *Cycnoides* 'Wine Delight',  
 Phil Warner

The meeting adjourned 9:30 pm. Minutes submitted by Armando Neves, Secretary, TOS.



**Plectrelminthus caudatus**



## Speaker Notes—Dr. Nick Plummer

### The Genus *Encyclia*: A few of the best...and how to grow them

Most orchid growers have one or two *Encyclias* in their collections, but as a whole, the genus doesn't get much respect. Perhaps this is because many of the species have small, brown or greenish flowers with perhaps a blotch of purple on the lip. There are, however, a number of species with very attractive flowers that are well worth growing in a mixed collection. This talk will cover a few of the best *Encyclia* species. It is not a comprehensive survey, as I will limit myself to discussing plants that are available from nurseries and that I have successfully grown and bloomed.

#### What is an *Encyclia*?

*Encyclia* is a genus of orchids related to *Epidendrum* and *Cattleya*. They are distinguished from *Epidendrum* by their heteroblastic pseudobulbs that are often tightly clustered, giving them a compact growth habit, and by a lip which is not fused to the column as in *Epidendrum*. *Encyclias* typically have 1-3 strap-like leaves. Their flowers are pollinated by bees and are often highly fragrant. Many species are easy for beginners to grow and bloom.

#### Basic Culture

Most *Encyclia* species can be grown mounted or potted in a free draining mix. I use clay pots with red lava rock for most of my plants, but an open bark mix will also work. They should be given plenty of water during active growth but should be kept fairly dry during dormancy. Most species like bright light similar to that enjoyed by cattleyas, although some of the Caribbean species will thrive in full sun in North Carolina. Plants that are receiving sufficient light will have upright or arching leaves. Floppy, folded leaves indicate that you need to increase light intensity. Different species will produce roots at different stages of the growth cycle, so repot only when you see new roots being initiated. Since most *Encyclias* bloom in Spring and Summer, when many of us keep orchids outdoors, one must take care to keep the plants away from bees. Our native bees will efficiently pollinate *Encyclia* flowers, so bring flowering plants indoors to protect the flowers.

#### A Few Species:

***Encyclia tampensis*.** Not one of the most spectacular species, but the only one that is widespread in the United States. Easy to see in the wild in Everglades National Park. The alba form has been used to make attractive hybrids such as *Catyclia* El Hatillo.

***Encyclia rufa*.** Native to the Bahamas, this species has yellow flowers with amazing fragrance that can fill a greenhouse.

***Encyclia plicata*.** Bahamas and Cuba. Produces fairly large flowers for the genus on a tall, upright inflorescence. The folded lip gives this species a very unusual appearance, and its fragrance is rather like root-beer candy.

***Encyclia phoenicea*.** Cuba and Grand Cayman. This is the famous "chocolate orchid," named for its fragrance. In Cuba, this species hybridizes naturally with *E. plicata*. Leaves are rigid and semi-succulent and flowers are quite beautiful with brownish or purplish petals and a deep purple lip. I grow this species in aliflor so that the roots dry rapidly. The chocolate fragrance seems to be a dominant trait and has been transmitted to hybrids like *Enanthleya* Middleburg.

***Encyclia pyriformis*.** Cuba. A miniature species with fairly large flowers that have almost the same fragrance as those of *C. phoenicea*. I have not had much luck growing this species in a pot. Its roots seem happier clinging to a cork mount.

***Encyclia cordigera*.** Mexico to northern South America. *E. cordigera* is arguably the best *Encyclia* species. It is vigorous and easy to grow. Flowers are large, long lasting, and delightfully fragrant. This species has three color forms: plants that are often mislabeled “var. *randii*” have brownish sepals and petals and a white lip with a purple spot in front of the column. Var. *alba* has green sepals and petals with a white lip. Var. *rosea* has purplish sepals and petals with a lip that ranges from pink to dark purple. *E. cordigera* roots in early Spring, just before blooming, so do not repot when new growth is initiated in late Spring or Early Summer. The new growth will remain rootless all summer and winter, so if you damage the old roots, you may stunt its growth.

If I could only grow one orchid, I would probably choose a dark-flowered clone of *E. cordigera* var. *rosea*

***Encyclia hanburyi*.** Mexico. Some websites claim that this species grows terrestrially in dry clay soil, but my plant seems to prefer a cork mount. Very long inflorescence and no fragrance that I can detect.

***Encyclia alata*.** Mexico to Costa Rica. Beautiful flowers with dark brown petal tips and yellow lip. They are supposed to be highly fragrant, but I can never smell much. Vigorous and easy to grow.

*Encyclia atrorubens*. Mexico. Incredible dark purple long-lived flowers on a long branched inflorescence. No fragrance. Newly developed pseudobulbs seem to be susceptible to rotting, so be careful not to let it stay wet for too long.

***Encyclia adenocaula*.** Mexico. Comes from dry oak forests. Likes cooler temperatures and dry dormancy. Roots will rot if kept wet during the winter. I use aliflor in a clay pot, but a mount should work well. No fragrance

***Encyclia bractescens*.** Mexico to Honduras. Miniature species. Brown sepals and petals with purple lip. Makes a great specimen if allowed to spread on a cork mount.

***Encyclia randii*.** Brazil. Wonderful species with large, fragrant flowers. White-lipped *E. cordigera* are sometimes mislabeled “var. *randii*” due to their resemblance to this species. Comes from the Amazon basin and requires more water than most *Encyclias*.

***Encyclia fowliei*.** Brazil. Discovered in the late 1980s and described in 1990, this species has reticulated flowers that are unique in the genus. Small plant. Flowers have an odd fragrance but it is not unpleasant. Like *E. randii*, requires lots of water when blooming and growing.

***Encyclia dichroma*.** Brazil. Small species that grows in arid regions. Pseudobulbs are elongated, and the purple flowers are fairly large for the size of the plant.

***Encyclia albioxanthina*.** Brazil. This large lithophytic (rock growing) *Encyclia* from the same habitat as *Cattleya elongata* was described in 1990. Flowers are green with a cream lip and dark yellow to orange at the end of the column.

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Curious if there are any orchids which only bloom at night? Key into this BBC article to find out:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-15818662>



## Growing Tips for December

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

Each year about this time, I notice that some of my terrestrial Jewel Orchids (Jewels) are initiating inflorescences. There are about a half dozen of these variegated beauties scattered around the greenhouse.

Last year, Orchid magazine featured articles on this diverse orchid group. They do not resemble other orchids in that they are grown for their leaves, not flowers, and are generally terrestrial species. Hybridizers have also begun to create more vigorous hybrids with a variety of different patterned leaves. A few now even have colorful inflorescences. Leaves of Jewel Orchids can be striped, mottled, variegated, or with jewel-like spotting, hence the name.

One Jewel orchid has been in collections for years, i.e. *Ludisia discolor*, but others have only recently been introduced. *Ludisia* is easy to grow under a variety of conditions, which explains its popularity. Most of the others grow very differently and require special care.

Cultural requirements vary greatly since they belong to many different genera and come from all over the world; from tropical to temperate climates. It has taken me many years to figure out how to grow them and I have not been successful with all I have tried. The common cultural attribute for Jewels is that they are almost all low light species and typically grow on the forest floor, which should provide some idea of their preference for light. A few like the *Ludisia*, creep along the forest floor and put fine roots down into the decomposing leaves, while most tend to grow from a basal stem, below which are thick, tuberous-looking roots, where the orchid stores its energy.

The key to growing Jewels is to gain some insight into the habitat from which they came. A species that came to me with a request that I provide identification refused to bloom or even grow well. They were listed as coming from Belize, and I assumed warm climate with constant moisture. My assumption was not correct and they actually came from dry forests on the West Coast of Belize. When I provided a distinct wet and dry period associated with more light, they all flowered. The assumption when they were collected was that they were different species because each one had a different pattern on their leaves, but they were all the same species based on their flowers.

All of the "Jewels" that have grown well for me are grown in a porous medium, ProMix HP, with lots of drainage in the bottom of the pot. As the plant gets larger, the depth of medium is increased. Most flower in winter. During the summer, I put all of them under the benches and do not worry about them as they get adequate moisture from dripping pots above. In early December, they are moved into more light. That automatically induces drier conditions and they all begin to flower, although at different times.

Jewels that grow well for me here in the South in a greenhouse with no cooling are *Stenosarcos speciosa* and its hybrid *Strs Vanguard*, *Sarcoglottis screptroitus*, and *Pelexia laxa*. *Pelexia laxa* is supposed to be a cool growing species, but grows well in my hot conditions, even here in Florida.

Hobbyists growing on windowsills may find that a few Jewels are worth trying as they grow under lower light levels and are beautiful year-round.





**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Bulb. Elizabeth Ann "Buckleberry"  
Grown by Lee Allgood

**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse Grown**

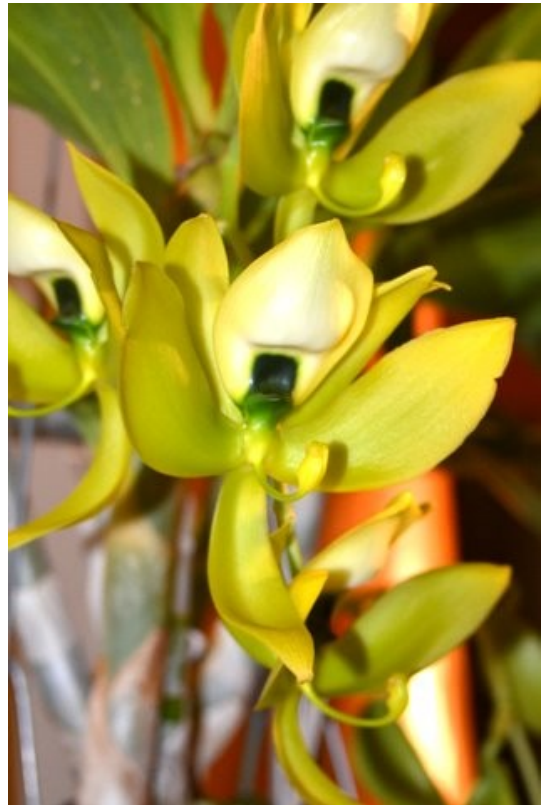


**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Aerangis distincta*  
Grown by Sarah Patterson



**3<sup>d</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Cynodes* "Wine Delight"  
Grown by Phil Warner

**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon**

*Cynoches chlorochilan* "Green Giant"  
grown by Paul Feaver



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**

*C. Chuck Fullerman* x *bowringiana*  
grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue

**ALL PHOTOGRAPHS  
COURTESY OF  
ALAN MILLER**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon:**

*Habaneria rhodocheila*  
grown by Paul Virtue







Associated with

**Sarah P Duke Gardens**

Newsletter Editor  
Josh Gurlitz

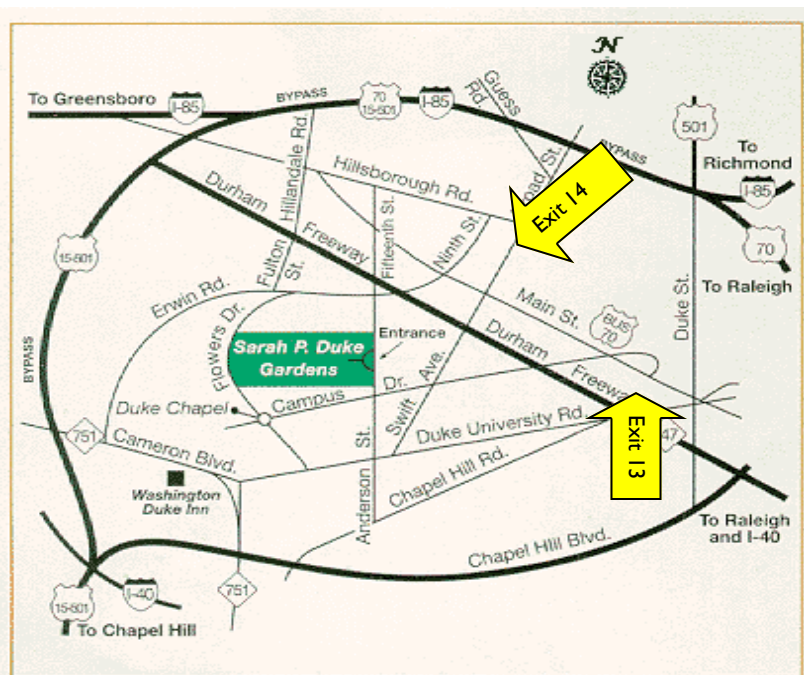
Phone: (919) 929-9717

Calendar 2011-2012	Speaker	Topic
Dec. 12	Holiday Party Dinner	Auction
Jan 9th 2012	Steve Arthur Will sell plants	Orchids From Polination to bloom
Feb. 14th 2012	Dr. Norito Hasegowa Will sell plants	Paphiopedilums

## Welcome Table

## Refreshments

December	Lee Allgood	Holiday Party



**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.

### Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:

\$20 per year single, or \$26 per year for two persons living at the same address.

Mail to: Sally Carpenter, Treasurer 412 Church Street Smithfield, NC 27577