



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## Speaker for June 13, 2011 Steve Frowine

Steven A. Frowine is a horticulturist garden writer and speaker. He resides with his wife, , in Ajijic, Mexico where he greatly enjoys growing orchids and other tropicals outdoors, year around. Steve holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in horticulture from Ohio State University and Cornell University respectively. Steve was recently vice president of Horticulture at International Gardening Products where he served as their chief horticultural counsel.

Steve has written over 200 articles for such publications as Fine Gardening Magazine, American Nurseryman, Nursery Business, National Gardening, NMPro, Garden Center Management Magazine and Country Woman Magazine.

Longwood Gardens. He has served as a judge at most of the major Flower Shows in the U.S. including those in Philadelphia, Boston, New York and Nashville and, for several years, served as the Chairman of the Board of The National Gardening Association. Steve is an avid gardener and is interested in many facets of horticulture and has a special love for orchids and other tropical plants. He lectures on orchids in Mexico and throughout the US. He will be a speaker at the World Orchid Conference in Singapore in the Fall of 2011.

**CHECK OUT THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS FOR PHAL.  
BACKGROUND FROM STEVE.**

### 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



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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**

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## Minutes of the May TOS Meeting 5/9/2011

The May 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 Michael Arner for providing refreshments, Lee Allgood for hosting the Welcome Table and Paul Feaver for setting up the show tables.

Leo Sagasti thanked the volunteers who helped with the TOS show this year, at the Raulston Arboretum. More details on the show will be presented in the next meeting. A special thank you was given to Robin Gurlitz, Bob Meyers, Josh Gurlitz, Michael Wagner, Miriam Sagasti, Alan Miller, and Jamie Graff. We received first place for the exhibit and the ribbon went to Alan Miller. The AOS Show Trophy goes to Jamie. We are still looking for volunteers to help organize the Growers Day event, August 6.

Linda Thorne from Seagrove Orchids thanked TOS for the opportunity to be in the show and encouraged the society to have another show next year.

Alan Miller donated a nice collection of AOS magazines and the magazines were available at the meeting for the members to take home for free. We thank Alan for this very nice gesture.

Ralph Sears introduced our speaker, Dr. Clark Riley, who discussed the genera *Cypripedium* and *Senecioideum*.

Nick Plummer 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:

1st Place: *Cattleya mossiae* semi-alba – Paul Virtue;

2nd Place: *Thunia alba* var. *marshalliana*– Alan Miller;

3rd Place: *Mystacidium braybonae* – Nancy Harvey.

The Non-Greenhouse Grown Awards:

1st Place : *Phrag. Grande 4N x wallisii* – Lee Allgood;

2nd Place: *Oncidium NOID* – Nicolette Petervary;

3rd Place: *Phal. NOID* – Suzie Hentz.

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





## **Dr. Clarke Riley—May Speaker**

The point that impressed me most about Dr. Riley's presentation was the point he made that *Cypripediums* have a world-wide distribution. His map, showing their distribution spanning the northern hemispheres across North America, Europe and Asia, really impressed me. Like most hobby growers, I tend to think "tropical" when I think of orchids. Dr. Riley's map showing distribution in extreme elevations, as well as frigid northern ranges made me stop and really think about how uniquely evolved this genus truly is. Dr. Riley referred to *Cypripediums* as "the hardy lady slippers" and his map certainly made that point. .

When I was a teenager, my family would generally vacation in one of the Canadian national parks. It was source of considerable embarrassment to us children that our mother never left home without a very special canvas bag which contained a small trowel and numerous plastic baggies. That bag became known, within our family, as her 'smuggling bag' because she simply could not walk by a blooming wild flower and not collect 'just a tiny piece'. Of course what she did was illegal, but this mild mannered, other-wise law-abiding citizen was obsessed with collecting plants from the wild. On one of our trips she collected several *Cypripediums* from a state park in northern Manitoba. She took the plants home and grew them in a sheltered corner of our yard in Saskatchewan. After hearing Dr. Riley comment on the hardness of these plants are, I remembered my mother's *Cypripediums*, and realize how accurate Dr. Riley is in his claim. Northern Manitoba is one of the coldest places on the face of this earth, and southern Saskatchewan is not much better. The wind sweeps across that open prairie with nothing to impede it for thousands of miles. Anything that can withstand those winters is very very tough indeed.

Like the *Selenipediums*, Dr. Riley claims *Cypripediums* are difficult to cultivate. Transplanting them is generally a death sentence as they require very exact conditions. Numerous naturalists, botanists, and conservationists have tried to collect these plants and have failed. Laboratories around the world are full of flasks as scientists have attempted to germinate seed and grow these plants to flowering. Dr. Riley spoke of several labs in Germany and Sweden where there has been some success and who now offer seedlings for sale. The difficulty, Dr. Riley, pointed out, is not in germinating the seeds, but in keeping these plants alive.

I find this all very surprising. If these plants are adaptable to such diverse geographical locations as our own North Carolina, Hudson Bay in northern Canada, to the Himalayan regions of Nepal or Tibet, to Sweden and Denmark in northern Europe, why are these plants so specialized that they will only thrive under their own particular conditions??? One could speculate that their specialized evolution to such radical conditions would make them more adaptable, not more specific. Like the *Selenipediums* of northern South America, why have these plants become so specialized??

I found Dr. Riley's presentation to be most thought provoking. He presented an overload of information, and I couldn't write fast enough to get all the names and locations he talked about. I was fascinated, however, by his comments regarding the specificity of these unique plants. If you want more information I suggest you look at "The Slipper Orchids" by Catherine Cash, published by Timber Press in 1991. This book has a ton of information on distribution as well as real quality color photos.

**Our thanks to Joy Lemieux for transcribing Dr. Riley's comments.**





**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Phrag. Grande  
Grown by Lee Allgood



**2nd Place Ribbon:**  
Oncidium No ID  
Grown by Nicolette Petervary



**3d Place Ribbon:**  
Phal. Equistris Hybrid  
Grown by Suzie Hentz

**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*C. mossiaii*  
**Grown by Paul Virtue**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Thuna alba*  
**Grown by Alan Miller**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Aerangis mystacidii*  
**Grown by Nancy Harvey**



## Growing Tips for June

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

Once again, summer starts with high temperatures and low humidity. Windowsill growers and those with greenhouses are experiencing the same phenomenon as air conditioners strip moisture from the air to keep us cool inside, while daily heating outside lowers humidity in greenhouses. June is also the month when light intensity peaks.

How well your orchids tolerate this time of the year depends on how well you have prepared them over the previous winter and spring. A good root system allows your orchids to absorb and store water making extremes tolerable now. Pay careful attention to small seedlings or newly repotted orchids, which have the least tolerance for extremes. Placing orchids with potential water stress in lower light can help them tolerate the lack of water as they grow new roots. A little extra water might also be necessary, but high heat can encourage rots of various kinds.

A problem last summer that left some of my favorite cattleyas vulnerable to desiccation this summer was finally solved with a simple trick. The problem was most acute on cattleyas newly repotted or on those that only get new roots once a year, e.g. many bifoliate cattleyas. Large, roaches (Palmetto bugs if you are from Florida) were eating new roots at night as they emerged from new growths, effectively killing the root growth for the year.

Growing in lava rock has been a success except for this issue. Attempts to kill roaches by drenching with a solution of liquid Sevin were only moderately successful, since the large spaces between chunks of rock provided a refuge for at least a few roaches.

The only obvious alternatives were to either switch to a finer medium or use a very strong pesticide that might damage orchid roots too. What worked was to squeeze all of the water out of a handful of damp New Zealand sphagnum and to shove the moss under the newest growth before new roots emerged. Not only did this prevent roach damage to new roots, but roots, once in the sphagnum, branched and quickly grew out of the moss into the rock below. It has the added benefit of providing an easy way to know when to water. When the moss is very dry it is time to water.

The plan will be to remove the moss next year as I curate my collection and decide which orchids to repot, which to and which to discard. Curating one's orchid collection is one of the most difficult and unappreciated facets of orchid growing. Hobbyists new to growing orchids often do not have to deal with this until they figure out how to grow and multiply their orchids and also run out of space, which happens quickly once the first problem is solved.

Extra divisions and spare orchids are never hard to get rid of, especially if they are in good shape. Even backbulbs are welcomed by new hobbyists, especially if they are something special. I put backbulbs from great cattleyas under benches to see if they will sprout an old eye. If they do, I check to be sure the front lead is doing well and if it is, find a good home for the backbulbs.

Repotting this time of year is still fine as long as care is taken to be sure that newly repotted orchids are not overly stressed by heat and lack of water.



## Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

### 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**



**Intrepid TOS members  
In the Green Swamp  
Checking out  
Calapogon pallidus**

### 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

**June  
13th**

**July  
11th**

**August  
11th**

### Speaker

**Steve Frowine**

**Bill Toms  
Will have Plants  
And  
Books for sale**

### Topic

**Phalaenopsis**

**Orchid problems and  
diagnostics  
A general 'how to'  
program**

### Welcome Table

### Refreshments

**June**

**Lee Allgood**

**Robin Gurlitz**

**July**

**Need Volunteers**

**Need Volunteers**

## Ribbon Awards

### TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY—SPRING SHOW 2011

#### 1st Place

<b>Nick Plummer</b>	Sl. Pixie Seagull (Laelia milleri x Sophronitis brevipedunculata)
<b>Lee Allgood</b>	Lc. G. S. Ball (C. schroderae X L. cinnabarina)
<b>Lee Allgood</b>	Phrag. Penns Creek Cascade (Phrag. Grande 4N x Phrag. wallisii)
<b>R&amp;J Gurlitz</b>	Bulb. saurocephalum
<b>R&amp;J Gurlitz</b>	C. Moon Festival (C. Hawaiian Jewel x C. walkeriana)
<b>John Martin</b>	Ascda. Zengyo 'Blue Spots'
<b>John Martin</b>	Paph. barbutum
<b>John Martin</b>	Paph. Golddollar
<b>John Martin</b>	Paph. laevigatum
<b>John Martin</b>	Paph. moquetteanum x Paph. esquirolei
<b>John Martin</b>	Psychopsis Mariposa (Pyp. papilio x Pyp. Kalihi)
<b>Bob Meyer</b>	Lc. Lake Tahoe (Lc. Floralia's Azul x L. sincorana)
<b>Alan Miller</b>	Cyrt. belinzensis
<b>Alan Miller</b>	Sobralia veitchii
<b>John Myhre</b>	Phalaenopsis Little Pearl
<b>Nick Plummer</b>	Phalaenopsis mannii
<b>P&amp;O Virtue</b>	Ascda. John De Biase 'Glow' (V. Kasem's Delight x Ascda. Yip Sum Wah)
<b>P&amp;O Virtue</b>	C. mossiae semi-alba (bosque x Blanca)
<b>P&amp;O Virtue</b>	Epi. Lime Plum
<b>P&amp;O Virtue</b>	Lc. Enidaki 'Hartford' (Lc. Abnaki x C. Enid (1898))
<b>P&amp;O Virtue</b>	Lc. Eximia x C. warneri

#### 2d Place

<b>Nick Plummer</b>	Eulophia andamanensis
<b>R&amp;J Gurlitz</b>	C. Irene Finney (C. Bruno Alberts x C. J.A. Carbone)
<b>R&amp;J Gurlitz</b>	L. purpurata x C. Acolita
<b>Melissa Bullard</b>	Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga (Den. atrovioleaceum x Den. johnsoniae)
<b>Phil Warner</b>	Dtps. Minho Princess 'Water Color' (Dtps. Sun Prince x Phal. Ta Lin Freeds)
<b>Phil Warner</b>	Zygopetalum Everspring 'Noland Van Daalen' (Z. Necessity x Z. Skippy Ku)
<b>David Pickett</b>	Maxillaria tenuifolia
<b>P&amp;O Virtue</b>	Cattleya skinerii var Dr. Salas
<b>P&amp;O Virtue</b>	Ascda Princess Mikasa 'Pink' (Ascda. Royal Sapphire x V. coerulea)
<b>Bob Meyer</b>	Rl. digbyana Fuman's Schweppe
<b>Bob Meyer</b>	Lc. Gaiety Flambeau 'Mendenhall' (Lc. Peggy Huffman x C. Picturata)
<b>Bob Meyer</b>	Renathopsis Newberry Charm (Ren. Brookie Chandler x Phal. philippinensis)
<b>Bob Meyer</b>	Vanda Tokyo Blue (V. Chindavat x V. coerulea)
<b>John Martin</b>	Enc. bractescens
<b>John Martin</b>	Gur. aurantiaca x Ctt Judy Smith
<b>John Martin</b>	Paph. delenatii
<b>John Martin</b>	Paph. lowii
<b>John Martin</b>	Paph. Druid Spring
<b>John Martin</b>	Ascda Princess Mikasa (Ascda. Royal Sapphire x V. coerulea)
<b>Lee Allgood</b>	Smbc Keith Goldson





## 3d Place

<b>O&amp;P Virtue</b>	<i>Cattleya mossiae</i> var semi-alba (Bosque x Blanca)
<b>O&amp;P Virtue</b>	Phal. Ken Peterson (Phal. Hausermann's Goldcup x Phal. Golden Buddha)
<b>Hens</b>	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid
<b>David Devine</b>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Bel Royal (Paph. rothschildianum x Paph. kolopakingii)
<b>Bob Meyer</b>	<i>Ascocentrum</i> Mona Church (Asctm. miniatum x Asctm. ampullaceum)
<b>John Martin</b>	<i>C. Heathii</i> (Blue)
<b>John Martin</b>	<i>Paph</i> Druid Spring
<b>John Martin</b>	<i>Paph</i> Delophyllum
<b>John Martin</b>	<i>Onc</i> sphacelatum
<b>John Martin</b>	<i>Masdevallia</i> infracta
<b>Marie Crock</b>	<i>Chondrorhyncha</i> discolor
<b>Alan Miller</b>	<i>Den.</i> farmeri 'pink'
<b>Alan Miller</b>	<i>Thu.</i> alba var. Marschalliana

## Trophy Awards:

Trophy Winner	Classification	Winning Plant	Award Donor
Triangel Orchid Society	AOS Exhibit Award	Exhibit	TOS
Lucinda Winn	Best of Class, Open Competition	Exhibit	Melissa Bullard
Jack & Margie Kepley	Best of Class <i>Cattleya</i> II	<i>C. skinneri</i> v. alba 'Cherokee'	Miriam & Leo Sagasti
Ken Karb	Best of Class <i>Cypripedium</i> Alliance, Paphs	<i>Paph.</i> Berenice 'Ginger's Delight'	David Pickett
Jack & Margie Kepley	Best of Class <i>Cypripedium</i> Alliance, Phrags	<i>Phrag.</i> Beaumont	Lee Allgood
Jack & Margie Kepley	Best of Class, <i>Oncidium</i> Alliance	Milt. Bert Field 'Eileen' AM/AOS	David Devine
Jay Sifford	Best of Class <i>Cymbidium</i> Alliance	<i>Cym.</i> Amelia Erhart 'New Horizon'	Paul Welty
Linda Thorne	Best of Class, <i>Cattleya</i> I	<i>Brassavola</i> perrini	Robin & Josh Gurlitz
Ann Truesdale	Best of Class, <i>Phalaenopsis</i>	Phal Lit Rueh Lih	Suzette Morand
Lucinda Wynn	Best of Class, <i>Dendrobium</i> Alliance	<i>Dendrobium</i> mohlianum	Suzette Morand
John Martin	Best of Class, <i>Vanda</i> Alliance	Ascda. Zengyo 'Blue Spots'	Bob Meyer
Alan Miller	Best of Class	<i>Sobralia</i> veitchii	Ann & John Myhre
Paul & Olivene Virtue	Best specimen plant	<i>C. mossiae</i> var semi-alba	Michael Wagner
Linda Thorne	Best miniature	<i>Ionopsis</i> utriculoides	Marie Crock
Linda Thorne	Best Seedling	<i>Encyclia</i> Rioclarense	Suzette Morand





**Associated with**

**Sarah P Duke Gardens**

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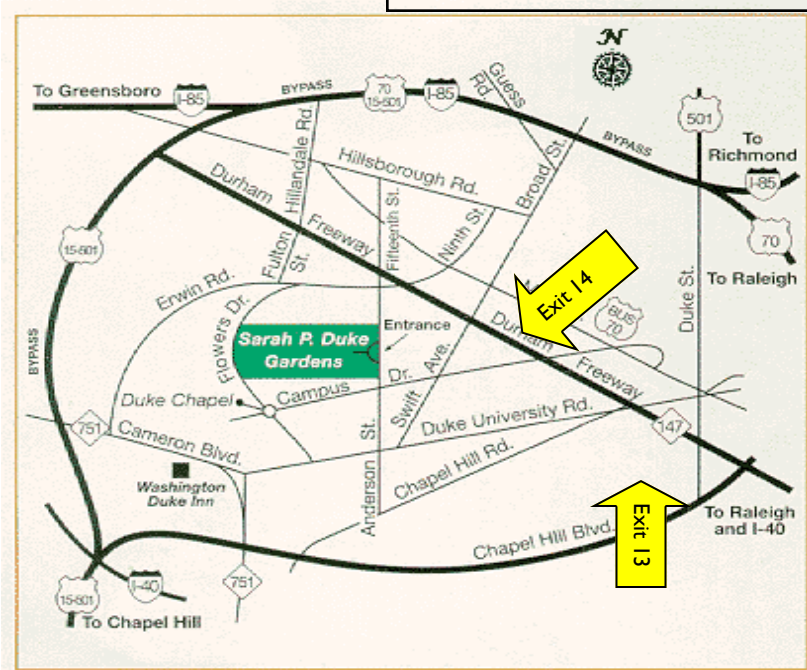


**Trophy Sobralia grown by  
Alan Miller**



**Trophy Cattleya grown by  
Paul & Olivene Virtue**

## **TOS SPRING SHOW HIGHLIGHTS**



**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:**

**\$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**