



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## Speaker for October 10, 2011 Fred Clarke

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 35 years and has been hybridizing for 25 of those years. With over 28 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

Fred is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new *Bulbophyllum* and *Paphiopedilum* hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, *Fredclarkeara After Dark*, which produced "the **blackest** flower ever witnessed". This grex has received eight FCC's and six AM's on the first flowers shown for judging!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society. "

**Fred will be bringing plants to sell.**

**Also, you may pre-order orchids: go to his website, [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com). All pre-orders get a 10% discount and have no shipping fees. Check out the website and take advantage of this great offer.**

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### 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

Great way to get to know fellow TOS  
members and meet the speaker.



**Spiranthes cernua**  
**(nodding Ladies Tresses)**  
**with Pitcher Plant**

**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](http://www.TriangleOrchidSociety.org)**

## TOS Officers and Board Members

### President

Leo Sagasti (919) 942-9839  
[leo@bjac.com](mailto:leo@bjac.com)

### Vice President

#### Program Chairman

Ralph Sears (919) 477-0483  
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### Secretary

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### Treasurer

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### Past President

Robin Gurlitz (919) 929-9717  
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### Board of Trustees:

#### At Large Trustees: 2011

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#### At Large Trustees: 2013

Paul Welty (919) 251-8097  
[pwelty@averillpark.net](mailto:pwelty@averillpark.net)

## Minutes of the Sept. TOS Meeting of 9/12/2011

The September meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the Vice-President of the TOS, Ralph Sears. 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.

Robin Gurlitz reminded us about the upcoming State Fair, and asked volunteers to sign-up to help with the exhibit. Volunteers will receive their ticket to the State Fair and parking ticket. The work consists in answering the attendees' questions about orchids, and talk to them about the society, providing information for anyone interested in becoming a member. Volunteers please contact Robin.

Suzette Morand is coordinating volunteers for the welcome table for next year and also passed along a sign-up sheet.

Alan Miller is coordinating the nomination committee for the 2012 TOS Board Members. The committee has nominated Armando Neves for the President role, Ralph Sears for Vice President and Program Chairman, Sally Carpenter for Treasurer, David Pickett for Secretary. Lee Allgood will continue a Trustee, Paul Welty as a Board Member, Connie Howard, Nicolette Petervary and Michael Lee will be new Board Members. We are looking for one more board member, anyone interested please contact Alan. Voting will take place in the November membership meeting.

Paul Welty demonstrated an example of a symptomatic virused orchid.

Sally Carpenter reminded us about the upcoming TOS Fall Auction to take place on Sunday, September 25 12:00pm at the Lake Crabtree park.

Ralph Sears introduced our speaker, Manny Aybar, who presented his program "Orchids of The Dominican Republic".

Nick Plummer and Armando Neves gave us an excellent presentation of the 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)

Plant table ribbons were awarded for Greenhouse grown plants:

1st place: *Habeneria myrriotricha*, Paul Feaver

2d place: *Pecteilis susannae*, Paul Feaver

3d place: *Encyclia plicata*, Nick Plummer

Plant table ribbons were awarded for Non-Greenhouse grown plants:

1st place: *Paphiopedilum Charlesworthii*, Lee Allgood.

2d place: *Phal Perfection Is "Chen"*, Bob Molter/Lori Chapman

3d place: *Miltonia NOID*, Bob Molter/Lori Chapman

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



**Phrag. Autumn Fire**



## Manny Aybar on Orchids of the Dominican Republic.

I was really impressed with Manny's photos of the Dominican Republic – all those pristine beaches with snowy white sand, palm trees and clear blue waters. He described flamingos (which I thought were only found in Africa), mountains, picturesque villages with thatched roofs and national parks full of orchids. Even the temperatures sound ideal, summers between 77 and 90 degrees and winters between 68 and 84. For me, it was hard to reconcile this paradise with pictures we've all seen of the other side of the island – Haiti. Even before the earthquake and cholera, Haiti seemed to me to be at the very bottom of my list of preferred destinations. How can two sides of the same island be so different?? The differences between the two countries continued to bother me all evening, even as I tried to concentrate on Manny's fabulous photos.

Many of the orchids Manny featured are simply not seen here in the US. As he explained, hobby growers have access to very few of these gems due to the specificity of their growing conditions. A number of the species he talked about are so specific to the Dominican Republic that they are not listed in the general orchid handbooks. There are efforts being made propagate, and export, some of these species, but they remain difficult to grow. Of the numerous species he named that are endemic to the Dominican Republic, I was only familiar with a handful.

Probably the best known genus Manny talked about is the *Tolumnias*. These are endemic to the Caribbean islands. Until the taxonomists began shaking things up they were known as *Equitant Oncidiums*, and many texts still refer to them as such. They are unique in their habit of overlapping leaves, forming fans of fleshy three sided foliage. *Tolumnias* are best grown on mounts. They are very sensitive to over-watering, and only thrive if their fine hair-like roots are able to dry rapidly after watering. Most need high light and intermediate to warm conditions. Manny said that he grows his in crushed granite in clay pots. RF Orchids grows theirs in small sized Alifor in small clay pots with multiple drain holes. Even potted, these plants need daily watering but must be allowed to dry quickly. As *Tolumnias* frequently flower on spent inflorescences, do not cut off the stem while it is still green and viable. The Dominican Republic has four species of *Tolumnias*. *T. calochilum* is yellow with a fringed lip. The flowers generally have a natural spread (width across) of half an inch. They have a lemon-like fragrance. *T. guianensis* has only three or four flowers per inflorescence, but the flower form is good with large petals. Because the large petal size appears to be a dominant trait, it has been used extensively by hybridizers wanting to increase the size of the flowers. *T. guianensis* is red or red and white. *T. compressicaulis* has exceptionally long inflorescence while *T. henekenii* looks like a bee or a coach roach due to its brown and yellow coloring.

*Broughtonia* is a group of five species native to the West Indies. Most are found in humid environments with a distinct dry season. They thrive when mounted on slabs of cork or tree-fern, or can be grown in pots with a well drained medium. They require heavy watering during their growing season, but watering should be reduced when the pseudobulbs are mature. They do best in intermediate to warm conditions with bright light and good air movement. *Broughtonias* are related to the *Cattleya* alliance and have been used extensively in hybridizing. The most common species in the Dominican Republic is *B. domingensis* (syn, *B. negrilensis*) Its inflorescence can be up to 40 inches with pale lilac flowers that measure 2 inches across. It flowers autumn to winter.

*Brassias* occur throughout tropical America. Most are epiphytes from wet rain forest from sea level to 5000 ft. They are easy to grow in baskets or in pots in a mix that drains well. Most do best at intermediate temperatures. They should be watered freely during the growing season but less often during dormancy. In the Dominican Republic, the best known species is *Brassia caudate*. Manny believes it is now extinct on the island but it is readily available to hobby growers through commercial sources.

At one time it was widely distributed from Florida through the Caribbean island and throughout Central and South America. It has large pseudo bulbs up to 6 inches long, with foliage that is up to 12 inches long. The graceful, arching inflorescence can be up to 18 inches long. It often has up to 12 flowers per inflorescence, each up to 8 inches long. The flowers are fragrant and last several weeks. Flowering occurs during autumn to early winter.

Manny reports two *Epidendrum*s from his island, *E. rigidum* and *E. nocturnum*. *E. rigidum* grows as an epiphyte in rain forests at low to moderate altitudes. The creeping, branching stems form large straggling mats. The stiff stemmed inflorescences have small greenish flowers that are almost hidden by large bracts. Generally they flower during winter and spring. This species is best grown on a slab. *E. nocturnum* is noted for its strong pungent fragrance which is produced at night. The erect, leafy stems are 40 inches or more. The flowers are borne one or two a time at the end of a short inflorescence. The size of the flowers is variable, up to 4 inches, but often the flowers do not open fully. Bloom season is most often during summer and autumn.

Another native is *Lonopsis*, a genus of five species occurring in lowland tropical America. These are epiphytes and grow from sea level to 2700 ft. They have a single leaf on a pseudobulb. These plants do best if grown on a slab with adequate moisture year round and intermediate conditions. *Lonopsis utricularioides* grows from the West Indies through Mexico, Venezuela to Brazil. The stiff, leathery leaves are up to 6.5 in long, but the pseudobulbs are only 2/3 in long. The inflorescence may be up to 2 ft., and carries many flowers most of which are only 4/5 in. across. Flowers may appear year round but peak during summer and autumn. They do best when grown on a slab.-

I was soooooo impressed when Manny said that the Shell service stations across the Dominican Republic have a policy of landscaping their yards with orchids. Although the government appears to be only in the beginning phases of protecting these resources, at least there is one giant oil company that seems to understand their value.

**Thanks to Joy Lemieux of The Sandhills Orchid Society for transcribing Manny's talk**



**SEE THESE TWO HAPPY ORCHID  
GROWERS??  
THEY ARE PREPARING TO SET UP OUR  
TOS NC STATE FAIR EXHBIT.**

### **NC State Fair October 13-23**

A highlight of our year and part of our educational mission is our annual exhibit at the NC State Fair. If you would like to help see or email Robin Gurlitz. (robing@i-gga.com) or call at 919-929-9717.

Whether you volunteer at our exhibit or just visit, make sure you don't miss this event.

There will be three days the Flower building will be closed to the public for judging of flower exhibits. You can not visit our exhibit on those days. These days are Thursday Oct13, Monday Oct 17 and Thursday Oct. 20.

**WE WELCOME LOANS OF YOUR ORCHIDS FOR THE EXHIBIT.**

- 1) Label your orchids (return address labels work well),**
- 2) Stake spikes, trim dead leaves.**
- 3) Bring them to the TOS meeting on Oct 10.**
- 4) Please make a list of loaned orchids**





## Growing Tips for September

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

Whether you are an indoor grower or grow in a greenhouse, Fall is the time to review your current culture and make appropriate adjustments. Depending on where you live, air conditioning will soon be replaced by open windows inside and cool breezes in the greenhouse. These changing conditions provide many different signals to your orchids, which may require some changes in your culture.

It is, or soon will be, time to move the cool-loving cymbidiums into more light. Southern growers of cymbidiums often keep their cymbidiums in dense shade during the heat of summer, moving them into increasing light levels as the days get shorter and nights get cooler. If cooled gradually, this group of orchid can even handle frost. Many cymbidium lovers claim that they get the best flowers when there was frost on leaves earlier in the season. Depending on location, cymbidiums may be left outside most of the winter and only protected when temperatures dip below freezing. Be sure, however, that you do not include the tropical cymbidiums in this frosty exposure as they require temperatures more similar to phals.

Many tropical orchids respond to lower night temperatures by switching from a growth cycle to a blooming cycle. Phals need a week or so below 65 F to initiate spikes and cymbidiums like it even cooler for a longer period. If they receive warm sunny days and drier growing conditions, these warm loving orchids can tolerate lower temperatures than suggested by the literature. As a general rule, tropical orchids can handle lower minimum temperatures than suggested.

Seedlings are an exception to the rule in that we want to get the maximum growth from them each year. Seedlings of all genera should be kept warmer now than mature orchids if you want to keep them in the growth mode. The exceptions are species and hybrids that require a dormant period, e.g. *catasetumes*, *mormodes*, etc.

Fertilizers may also be used on seedlings if the orchid does not require a dormant stage. Be sure to reduce watering, even for seedlings, as there will be less drying because of the lower temperatures and light levels.

Indoor growers may have a difficult time providing the proper stimulation to initiate flowering if your home is maintained at a constant temperature. The most frequent question from indoor growers is how to get their orchids to bloom. Often the lack of flowering is caused by interior lights making day length too long or lack of temperature change with the season. Successful indoor growers often leave windows open or move orchids to a porch as the seasons change to provide the proper stimulus and initiate a seasonal response to get flowers.

In the Deep South, vandas and their kin have been grown under trees all summer. When should they be moved and protected? There are a few species and even hybrids that enjoy nights in the 50s, but not many in this group. Most vandeaceous species and hybrids need to be kept warm to keep them in a growth mode. *Ascocendas*, if they are relatively small, can be moved into south facing windows and bloomed successfully. The same can also be accomplished in an enclosed, sunny porch. If the porch is unheated, but enclosed, a small electric oil heater placed under vandas on a porch will work well to keep orchids warm on cool nights.

Be sure any orchids brought in from the outside are examined for bugs and disease. Pots are great hiding places for roaches, slugs and a variety of other pests that should stay outside.



**1st Place Ribbon:**  
*Paphiopedilum Charlesworthii*  
**Grown by Lee Allgood**



**2nd Place Ribbon:**  
*Phal. Perfection Is "Chen"*  
**Grown by Bob Molter & Lori Chapman**



**3d Place Ribbon:**  
*Miltonia NOID*  
**Grown by Bob Molter & Lori Chapman**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Pecteilis susannae*  
**Grown by Paul Feaver**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Encyclia plicata*  
**Grown by Nick Plummer**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Habenaria myriotricha*  
**Grown by Paul Feaver**





## Announcements & Upcoming Orchid Events

SEE ROBIN GURLITZ  
TO VOLUNTEER FOR OUR  
**N.C. STATE FAIR ORCHID EXHIBIT.**

**October 13—23**

WANT TO HELP SET UP AN ORCHID  
EXHIBIT JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT? ALAN  
MILLER AND I NEED SOME MORE HANDS  
AND VANS ON WED, OCT 12TH IN-  
CLUDING SETTING UP THE EXHIBIT;  
AND TAKING THE EXHIBIT DOWN.  
THIS IS ALWAYS A GREAT FALL  
ACTIVITY.

Email [robbing@i-gga.com](mailto:robbing@i-gga.com)

The Nominating Committee places the follow-  
ing members for nomination to the 2012  
Board of Trustees and officers:

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 Le

Respectfully submitted: Alan Miller, Chair,  
Nominating Committee

### 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

October  
10th

November  
14th

December  
12

### Speaker

Fred Clarke  
Will bring  
Plants to sell

Dr. Robert  
McMillan

Holiday  
Party

### Topic

Paphiopedilums

Orchid Diseases

Orchid  
Auction

### Welcome Table

### Refreshments

October

Lee Allgood

Suzette Morand

November

Need Volunteers

Michael Arner





**Associated with**

**Sarah P Duke Gardens**

Newsletter Editor  
Josh Gurlitz

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With great sadness we note the death of George Beisher. George loved his orchids and was a great contributing member of the Triangle Orchid Society. George and Sue graciously hosted a number of TOS auctions at their lakeside property in Durham. George, along with co-chair Jack Webster, organized the Eastern Orchid Congress and AOS Trustees meeting of 1993 held in Raleigh. Reprinted and edited below is an obituary of our TOS member George Beisher.

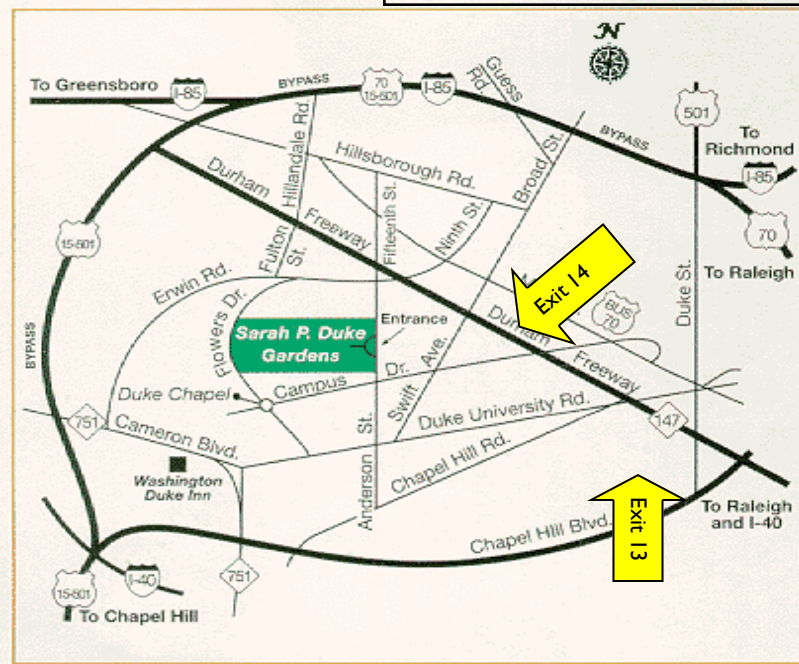


**George Beischer**

George D. Beischer passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, September 24, 2011 after a courageous battle with brain cancer. George was born in Strasbourg, France on January 10, 1942. He emigrated from Germany to the United States with his family in 1948 when he was six years old. He grew up in Pensacola, Florida where he graduated from Pensacola High School in 1959. George graduated from Duke University in 1963 where he met his wife, Sue. He received his law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1966.

George and his family moved to Durham in 1968 where he continued to practice law and was active in many real estate projects. George loved Duke University and was an avid supporter of its football and basketball teams as a lifetime Iron Duke. He and Sue also supported its educational mission with scholarship support for students and funding for professorships.

During his lifetime, George was involved with several non-profit organizations and served on many non-profit boards including serving as a member of the Board of Advisors for the Banking Institute at the University of North Carolina School of Law, the North Carolina Central University Foundation Board, and the North Carolina Folklife Institute as its President for thirty-five years. For his service to the State of North Carolina, he was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Perdue in 2011. However, one of his greatest pleasures in life was growing orchids as a hobby and serving as the President of the Triangle Orchid Society where he was a winner of numerous ribbons and awards for his orchids.



**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