



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## Courtney Hackney - Speaker for August, 2012 Topic: Species behind modern *Cattleya* Hybrids

Courtney Hackney was raised on the Florida Keys where leafless vanilla and *Encyclia tampensis* grew wild. As a teenager he worked for six years at Summerland Orchids where he was introduced to cultivated orchids, including cattleyas. He left the Florida Keys in 1968 to pursue a professional career in Biology, earning a Ph.D. in 1977. He is currently the Director of Coastal Biology and the Chairman of the Biology Department at University of North Florida in Jacksonville, where he teaches and conducts research on sea level rise and coastal and wetland communities.

The small number of orchids that were carried with him through college and graduate school have grown into a collection of several thousand orchids with cattleyas and phalaenopsis among his favorites. He has received numerous American Orchid Society awards and makes a small number of new hybrids each year. His prize plants, however, are those old clones that dazzled previous hybridizers and still represent a state of perfection today.

He regularly writes on various aspects of orchid culture and his "Growing Tips" column appears in numerous orchid club newsletters around the Carolinas and on the web. He and his wife, Rose Ganucheau are recent empty-nesters living in Jacksonville, FL.

**Courtney is not a commercial grower, but will bring plants from his division and seedling list if they are requested. Please email for the most recent copy of the list. He also still has a few copies left of the "American Cattleyas" book. Hardcopies \$50 and soft copies \$40.**

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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

**We will have a members plant sale at the August meeting. Bring your extras and specials to sell.**

**Check out the greenhouse for sale on**

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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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## A Word From The President

Greetings Everyone!

In the beginning of this month we had our Growers Day 2012 at the Raulston Arboretum. The event was a lot of fun with very informative lectures, great food and beautiful plants. Many thanks to all volunteers who helped making this a success.

In our meeting this month we will have Courtney Hackney as the speaker, who will describe the species behind modern Cattleya hybrids. This is a great opportunity to learn about how many of our favorite hybrids were developed.

Best Regards and Happy Growing!

Armando Neves  
TOS President 2012



### **Meeting Minutes 07/09/2012**

The July 9, 2012 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society, Inc. was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Ralph Sears, Vice-President. Everybody was welcomed and of the approximately 40 people attending, four were guests. The minutes of the June membership meeting were approved.

Everyone was reminded of Growers Day, August 4<sup>th</sup> at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum, 4415 Beryl Road, Raleigh, N.C. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and the event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The \$25 fee (by August 1) includes all lectures, lunch, snacks, a souvenir orchid and membership in the Society for the remainder of the year. The speakers include Nick Plummer, Linda Thorne, Paul Feaver and Judith Goldstein. Both Linda and Paul will have orchids for sale. People were encouraged to bring a guest. Admission at the door is \$28. Volunteers are still needed for various positions at Growers Day and members were encouraged to bring plants for a display in the foyer.

Thanks to Suzanne Hens for providing refreshments for the evening, to Sue Morand for manning the Welcome Table, and to Paul Welty for hauling the lights and stands.

Raffle tickets were available at \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Bring a plant for the show table and receive a free raffle ticket up to a maximum of five tickets.

Ralph Sears, our Vice-President, introduced Michael Coronado, our speaker, from RF Orchids, Inc. in Florida whose talk was on Vanda culture. Following the speaker's presentation, there was a short time for refreshments and the speaker had many interesting plants for sale.

Thanks to Paul Feaver and our speaker, Michael Coronado for an excellent show table discussion. While time may prevent the discussion of every plant, please raise your hand if you have a question about a specific plant not mentioned.

The Jack Webster Award Plants were:

Greenhouse grown: 1<sup>st</sup> place for *Angraecum* "Lemfords White Beauty" – Paul Welty;  
2<sup>nd</sup> place for *Habenaria rhodocheila* – Nick Plummer; and,  
3<sup>rd</sup> place for *C. leopoldii* – Robin & Josh Gurlitz.

The Non-Greenhouse awards were: 1<sup>st</sup> place for *Lc. Sagarik Wax* – Erica Wolf;  
2<sup>nd</sup> place for *Onc. Mendenhall* "Papas Dream" AM/AOS X *Onc. Papilo*  
"Giant" – Tom Wentworth; and,  
3<sup>rd</sup> place for *Enc. cochleata* – Elliot Anderson

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by David Pickett, Secretary

## Michael Coronado

### July Speaker

Michael's presentation was a great really basic discussion of Vandas in general, and he provided lots of helpful information on culture. He began by describing the three basic types - Strap leaf, Terete and Semi-Terete. The Strap leaf varieties have broadly V-shaped leaves that often curve slightly inward, an adaptation believed to protect the foliage from full sun. It also serves to cradle emerging buds. All Strap leaf Vandas have a notch at the end of each leaf, an unmistakable identifier. Terete varieties are able to tolerate much more direct sun so their foliage is rounded, or stick-like. They grow very tall because they follow the light, and they will not bloom until they are taller than the material they are mounted upon. Semi-terete varieties can also tolerate full sun, but their exposure needs to be gradual to allow them time to adapt. Their foliage is stiff and very narrowly V-shaped. Most Vandas grown in the US are Strap leaf varieties.

RF Orchids starts and grows most of their plants in Thailand. As VP in charge of Growing and Hybridizing, this is Michael's realm. He described their process, from flask to flower, which takes five to eight years. Flasks, he said are grown in their covered growing area. When the plantlets are ready, the flask is broken and each tiny plantlet has its roots wrapped in damp sphagnum and is planted into a plug tray. As they grow, the plant are moved into baskets or net pots. They are wired into place so that the roots are disturbed as little as possible and each plant is stable and securely anchored. The soft wire that secures each plant is never taken off (thought it eventually rusts and disintegrates). As the plant grows it is moved into larger and larger baskets.

RF Orchids use plastic net pots because they are light weight for shipping but Michael personally prefers teak wood baskets because they can last ten to twelve years. RF also uses clay pots with multiple holes drilled into the sides of the pots. Michael said that the clay pots are cooler in the summer, a critical factor in south Florida. The plants seem to like the clay pots for they develop a massive root system in a very short time.

One of the most notable things, for me, was that Michael said that you can trim the roots on Vandas when they become too long. In my greenhouse, the Vandas hang above the walkway. Some of the roots have become so long one literally has to fight your way through them. Michael said that you can safely cut off up to one third of the roots on each plant. He recommends that this be done in spring, March or April are best, and not during very warm weather. He also cautioned that you use sterile cutting tools for each plant. Do not water the plants for several days after the roots are trimmed (allow a callous to form on the end of the cut root) and apply a light fungicide when you resume watering. He recommends full strength peroxide. You can also use peroxide after trimming leaves or if you need to repot. Michael explained that once roots are cut, fertilizer will reach the ends faster and is more concentrated. Roots will branch and become thicker when treated this way.

Michael cautioned against exposure to any cold for Vandas. As native of the Philippines, they are warm growing tropical plants and cannot tolerate temperatures below fifty degrees Fahrenheit. They also don't like sprayed with water that is colder than sixty degrees. The yellow colored varieties appear to be the most sensitive, while the ceruleans are the most tolerant. Vandas crossed with Neofinetias are also relatively cold tolerant. If exposed to cold weather most Vandas develop discolored



foliage very quickly. Michael recommends that the damaged material be removed and the wound be treated with peroxide.

Vandas are also susceptible to sunburn. Draping the plants with live Spanish moss helps to shade the plants while helping to establish a moist environment around the plants. The caveat to using Spanish Moss in this way is that it grows so quickly it must be thinned regularly or it can suffocate plants. The best way to prevent sunburn is to increase air circulation around the plants

Vandas require daily watering because all of their roots are exposed. Robert Fuchs once told me that they spray their Vandas daily in the nursery. The plants receive forty five (yes 45!) minutes of water running over the roots early in the morning. If it is especially hot, they are misted again at midday. Michael stated leaf drop, especially of the bottom leaves, is indicative to too little water or being too cold. While some leaf loss is normal, a plant that has lost its foliage half way up its stem is unsightly and probably won't bloom. Michael recommends starting all over by topping the plant and watering well each day. If a plant has lost most of its bottom leaves, Michael recommends that the crown be pulled out (cut off) and the top then soaked in chlorine solution before being secured in a basket. Then, mist daily and faster than you anticipate, new roots will appear. When trimming a plant from the bottom, cut off the stem bit by bit until you can no longer see any sign of rot. The healthy tissue at the top of the plant will send out new roots as well as new kiekies. In fact if the stem at the crown is broken, the plant will frequently send out a flower spike. Michael cautioned that one must use a sterile tool for each plant and then seal the wound with a fungicidal powder made into a paste with the addition of a little water. Too much water can also be a problem for Vandas in that they tend to develop crown rot if water remains for long periods in the axel of the foliage.

Bugs and creepy crawlies are a problem for Vandas, just as they are for any other orchid. Michael said that one of their biggest concerns in South Florida is thrips that destroy buds and flowers or anything tender. He recommends Orthene or Bayer's. He uses alcohol to control slugs for isolated outbreaks, but for larger numbers of plants he suggests iron phosphate (which won't hurt other animals if you have dogs or cats that hang out in your growing area).

To conclude, Vandas need bright light, warm water, warm temperatures, lots and lots of air circulation and regular feeding. Michael recommends using Jack's 20-20-20 weekly during the growing season and biweekly during the winter. He also recommends a bloom booster with 10-30-20 concentration and the addition of Superthrive for root growth once a month.

Vandas can be very rewarding to grow. They bloom frequently and will often put out several spikes in quick succession. They come in wonderful vibrant colors and put on a spectacular show. They are easy to grow and relatively bug resistant (at least compared to some of my other plants). I recommend that you follow Michael's easy instructions and try these wonderful showy bloomers.

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THANK YOU JOY LEMIEUX FOR TRANSCRIBING RAY'S TALK AND SHARING YOUR COMMENTS WITH US.

## GROWERS DAY 2012



CROWDING AROUND THE SEAGROVE ORCHID SALES TABLE



PRESIDENT ARMANDO NEVES WELCOMING THE GUESTS AND INTRODUCING THE FIRST SPEAKER



NICK PLUMMER DESCRIBING JUST WHAT MAKES AN ORCHID AN ORCHID



LINDA THORNE DESCRIBES THE #1 MOST POPULAR ORCHID.....

PHALAENOPSIS-THE MOTH ORCHID



JUDITH GOLDSTEIN TALKS ABOUT GROWING ORCHIDS IN THE HOME



PAUL FEAVER DESCRIBING DENDROBIUMS AND THE SOUVENIR ORCHID.

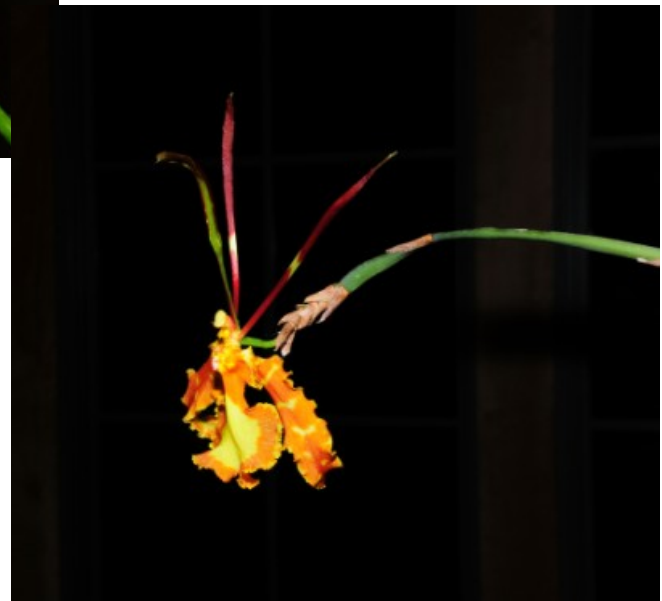


JUDITH GOLDSTEIN AND GAIL EDWARDS TAKING A MOMENT TO CATCH UP



**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse  
Grown**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Encyclia cochleata x self  
**Grown by Elliot Anderson**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Onc. Mendenhall "Papas Dream x  
Onc. Papillo Giant  
**Grown by Tom Wentworh**



**3<sup>d</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Lc. Sagarik Wax  
**Grown by Erica Wolfe**



**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Ang. Lemfords White Beauty  
**Grown by Paul Welty**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Habenaria rhodocheilia*  
**Grown by Nick Plummer**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*C. leopoldii*  
**Grown by Robin & Josh Gurlitz**



**Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for August 2012****Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida****Email: [Hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:Hackneau@comcast.net)**

Few orchid hobbyists are able to contain themselves when it comes to purchasing new orchids. The fever gets even worse for us “old timers” who really get into one group of orchids or another. Typically, the windowsill fills, then a light table is purchased, which quickly fills, then an outdoor growing area of some kind is built, but ultimately there is a limit for all of us.

While new hobbyists ask about diseases, growers who have followed the progression above ask how one limits the obsession. Remember there are an unlimited number of orchids out there to be purchased. Some years ago, I developed a list of classic cattleyas clones that I would like to have and save for posterity. For the most part, I have found those clones and enjoy them for what they represent when they bloom because many are not as nice as their modern counterparts. It is fun to examine their immediate progeny, especially those that produced awards, and to understand exactly how the clone in question was able to produce such memorable offspring.

The difficulty of finding these special clones has made keeping them more important to me than a modern clone that can quickly be found on the internet. I avoid repotting these clones because there is always a risk of infection and disease during repotting. Instead, I wait until there is a 3 or 4 bulb division growing outside the pot that I can take without disturbing the mother plant. Once I get a division, I wait a year or so to be sure the division is thriving before disturbing the mother plant. Often there were other divisions in the pot or there will be additional growths from back bulbs. In a few cases, there were three or four divisions in the original pot. Repotting now means that I have an already established division from the year before and several divisions to trade or sell. Repotting these special clones happens only once every 6-10 years and I try to always have at least two divisions just in case something bad happens. For years, I have traded with other like-minded experienced hobbyists just in case there is a disaster in my greenhouse. In my mind, I am not the owner of these great old orchids, just a caretaker who will eventually pass them on to another caretaker.

There are also many species in my collection and I am constantly buying seedlings of these species, searching for even better or newer forms. Rarely do I find one that is superior to what I have, but it is interesting just to see the kinds of variation that exist with any species. There are also seedlings from other growers that are bloomed out just to see what those parents pass along. Even when they are very beautiful, I rarely keep such seedlings because of space.

My own crosses are treated differently. If it is a hybrid that I expect to be very uniform, there may be only 10-15 bloomed out. I keep a few that represent the best of the grex. Larger numbers of other hybrids that are expected to produce a variety of colors and shapes are flowered just to understand how the various genes are resorted. This can take considerable space, but giving a few seedlings to friends allows me to see more variation. I regularly get emails with photos from friends who have flowered one of my crosses, which is always a treat



**Vanda lamellata**

**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
Aug. 13	Courtney Hackney See page 1 for plant info.	Species behind Modern Cattleya Hybrids
Sept. 10	TBA	TBA
Oct. 8	Roy Tokonaga Will sell plants	Will let us know

**Welcome Table**

**Refreshments**

<b>August</b>	See Sue Morand	Erica Wolfe
<b>Sept.</b>	Melissa Bullard	See Nancy Harvey to volunteer



Associated with

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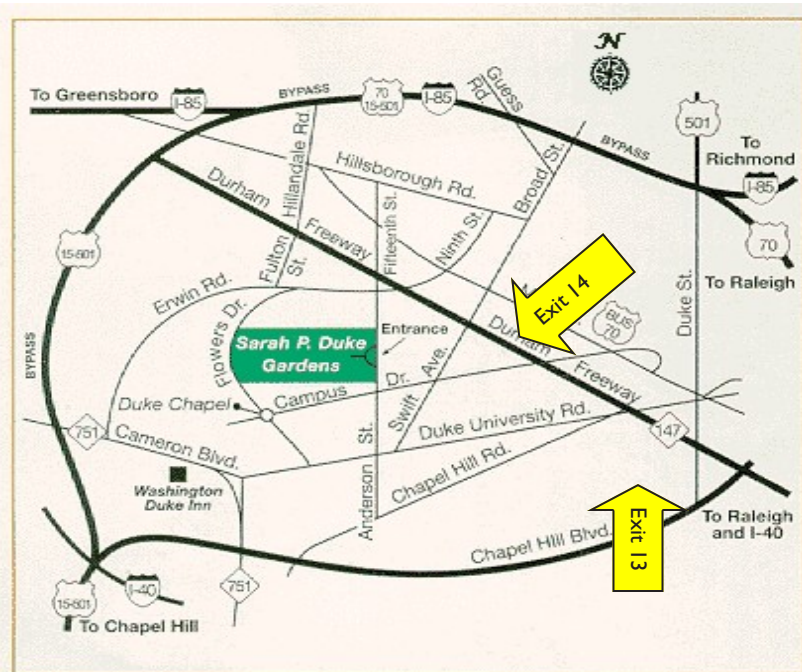
Newsletter Editor  
Josh Gurlitz

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Harry Gallis, one of our founding life-time members, is selling his Greenhouse. He has not decided on a price but would entertain offers to disassemble it and move it to another location for a nominal fee. It is a 20x40 Janco aluminum and glass house that is 15 years old. The kit cost \$22,000 from Janco at that time.

Contact: Harry A. Gallis MD, 19401 Mary Ardrey Circle, Cornelius, NC 28031;  
704-895-0099 H 704-883-4077 M



**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.