



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## TOS HOLIDAY PARTY

**Monday, December 10th,  
6:30 PM**

**Sara P. Duke Gardens  
Garden Center  
Durham, N.C.**

**Member Pot Luck Dinner  
Pot Luck Dinner starts at 6:30 PM  
Plant auction follows**

**Please bring your favorite covered dish to share**

**Come early, 5:30, if you can help set up. Also  
volunteers are always appreciated for take down.**

**[Visit our website at:](http://www.triangleorchidsociety.org)  
[www.triangleorchidsociety.org](http://www.triangleorchidsociety.org)**

### Inside this issue:

<i>Holiday Party Notice</i>	1
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Minutes of the Last Meeting</i>	3
<i>Notes: Sam Tsui presentation</i>	4-5
<i>Jack Webster show table awards</i>	6-7
<i>Courtney Hackney Growing Tips for Sept.</i>	8-9
<i>Meeting Agenda Announcements</i>	
<i>Map and directions To Sarah Duke Gardens.</i>	10

**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

### Officers

#### President

Armando Neves (919) 747-9779  
[armandonvs@gmail.com](mailto:armandonvs@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

#### Program Chairman

Ralph Sears (919) 477-0843  
[ralphsears@gmail.com](mailto:ralphsears@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

David Pickett (919) 688-8410  
[legaldeacon84@yahoo.com](mailto:legaldeacon84@yahoo.com)

#### Treasurer

Anne Williams (919) 493-1727 [anewilliams1973@hotmail.com](mailto:anewilliams1973@hotmail.com)

#### Past President

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

### Board of Trustees

#### At Large Trustees: 2012

Lee Allgood (919) 721-7192  
[lallgood851@yahoo.com](mailto:lallgood851@yahoo.com)

#### At Large Trustees: 2013

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

Connie Howard (919) 309-9014  
[fcoat@aol.com](mailto:fcoat@aol.com)

#### At Large Trustees: 2014

Nicollette Petervary (919) 424-7557

## A Word From The President

Greetings Everyone!

As your outgoing TOS President, this will be my last letter so I would like to thank all of you for your support and for helping to make this a rewarding experience. I especially want to thank the other board members and individuals who have helped throughout the year with their various contributions, ideas, and plant donations.

We have had a successful 2012 with positive additions and improvements to the organization. Foremost, the professionally designed TOS logo and TOS web site will serve as my legacy to the society. In addition, we have a new ongoing 'Grower of the Month' column in the newsletter, have performed a web-based Member Survey, and have created an Orchid Repotting Workshop. 2012 was marked by many successful events including 'Growers Day', our exhibit at 'Darwin's Day', our participation in the Sandhills and Triad Orchid Shows, and the Fall and Spring Silent Auctions. Importantly, we were able to bring in knowledgeable speakers from different parts of the country each month to help facilitate the mission of this organization – to learn all we can about these beautiful and exotic plants that we all love so much.

I wish all of you the best for a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at the TOS Holiday Party!

Armando Neves  
 TOS President 2012

## Meeting Minutes November 12, 2012

### *Triangle Orchid Society, Inc.*

The November 12, 2012 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society, Inc. was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Armando Neves, President. Guests were welcomed. The minutes of the October, 2012 membership meeting were approved. It was noted that orchid in the newsletter identifies as Bob Meyers is correct for owner, prize, and name but the photo is incorrect. This will be corrected before the newsletter hits the website. Everyone was encouraged to buy raffle plants at \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. Bring a plant for the Show Table and receive a free raffle ticket up to a maximum of 5 tickets.

Thanks to Miriam and Leo Sagasti for providing refreshments and to Sue Moran and Creighton Humphreys for hosting the Welcome Table.

Everyone was reminded that the December meeting does not have a speaker but rather we have a

**Holiday pot luck meal STARTING at 6:30. There will be an auction as well.**

**Bring your blooming orchids for the show tables. .**

Triangle Orchid Society had a very successful exhibit at the Triad Orchid Society meeting. Thank you everyone for the great success!

Miriam and Leo Sagasti, long time members, announced that they will be moving to Virginia where they plan to become involved in an orchid society up there.

Call for any nominations from the floor were requested before the final proposed 2013 board was voted on. No nominations were put forwards from the floors and the members of the new board were announced again. The vote was taken and the board was approved for 2013.

Paul Welty introduced our speaker, Sam Tsui owner of Orchid Inn in Bloomington, Illinois.

After the refreshment break, Nick Plummer and Paul Feaver discussed the orchids on the show tables. Greenhouse grown and non Greenhouse grown.

NON-GREENHOUSE:      1<sup>st</sup> place to Robin & Josh Gurlitz for a Cycnoches Jumbo Puff;  
                                 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Sidney Cox for C. quadricolor; and  
                                 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Erica Wolf for Lc. Angel Heart "Hihimanu"

GREENHOUSE:      1<sup>st</sup> place to Nancy Harvey for Plectrelminthus caudatus;  
                                 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Paul Virtue for Blc. George King "Serendipity"; and,  
                                 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Paul Feaver for Sophronitis cernue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Robin Gurlitz, for Secretary. David Pickett

## Sam Tsui.....November Speaker

Sam's discussion of Multifloral Paphs was certainly enlightening. As an enthusiastic breeder he has kept abreast of the latest discoveries and talked about several new species that have only recently been identified. I went to my go-to source on Paphs, the Harold Koopowitz book "Tropical Slipper Orchids", and several of the species Sam discussed are not even listed in the 2008 edition.

Sam referred to *P rothschildianum* and *P sanderianum* as the king and queen of Paphs. A very apt description as well grown specimens are magnificent plants! *P rothschildianum* can carry up to six or even seven flowers, each up to twelve inches across. The flowers open simultaneously on spikes that are often over two feet tall. Colors range from white to ivory to soft yellow with rich dark brown or re-brown stripes and pouch. As a show plant, a "Roth" meets all criteria for size, color and presentation. *P sanderianum*'s petals can be up to thirty-six inches long. The plant usually has four to five flowers per stem. The dorsal sepal is narrow and pointed and cream to soft yellow in color with dark longitudinal stripes. The petals are loosely twisted and when placed in a sunny location they literally shimmer in the light. It is easy to understand why these two species are among the most popular species of Paphs grown by hobby growers.

The problem with Multifloral Paphs is that they take so long to mature. While seedling plants may be relatively inexpensive, most species will not bloom until they are seven or eight years old, and some may even take up to twenty years to bloom. A seedling purchased in a three inch pot represents a significant investment of time and space by the time it is mature enough to bloom. Hybridizers and commercial growers are working on ways to bloom these plants more quickly but have had little luck. Part of the problem is that there is currently no method of artificially reproducing the plants. Unlike *Cattleyas* that reproduce so readily, Paphs cannot be mericlone. Despite all the research and experimentation that has and is taking place, Paphs can still only be grown from seed which is a long laborious process. For me at least, Multifloral Paphs represent the ultimate challenge in growing orchids because they take so long to bloom. Ideally, you should begin while you are very young, and be prepared to wait.....and wait!

Culturally, Multifloral Paphs are not so difficult to grow. Most are endemic to Indonesia and the island of Borneo where the climate is classified as "tropical". That means summer year round, with highs in the 90s and lows only in the mid-60s. They definitely will sulk and languish if your greenhouse is colder at night. Sam said that the ideal temperature differentials are eighty five in the day time and sixty five at night. They do need that night time drop in temperature to initiate budding. Sam commented that when he grew in his basement, he was best able to provide these conditions. Greenhouse growing offers more variable and therefore it is harder to provide these exact conditions.

In their native environment Multifloral Paphs receive rain daily. That translates to frequent watering with an open, well drained mix. Sam recommends rainwater or RO water as regular tap water may contain chemicals or contaminants that do little to encourage plant growth. Many of these species grow on the sides of limestone cliffs in full sun. To meet their requirements for lime, growers often top dress their plants with ground oyster shells or even crushed chicken eggs. Sam recommends the topdressing be applied at least annually.

Sam recommends growing Multifloral Paphs in 500 to 1500 foot candles of light. He says he grows under high pressure sodium lights because these lamps provide heat as well as light. He recommends using either rainwater or RO water. Sam said he picks up his pots every five to seven days. If they are light, that means the plants are dry and so he knows it is time to water. He said he only waters in the early mornings so that the plants have time to dry before they cool off at night. Plants that remain wet are vulnerable to crown rot – a certain death knell. Sam said the plants like to be moist, not dry.

Sam uses Michigan State University fertilizer with every watering. He leaches his plants monthly to rid them of any accumulated salts. Too much fertilizer, he said will cause leaf tip burn. When watering, water only enough to moisten the mix. Overwatering causes the mix to break down faster and causes roots to rot.

Air movement is also critical for healthy plant growth. Sam utilizes large exhaust fans in his greenhouses. When he was growing in his basement he provided circulation and fresh air through an intake system.

Sam grows his seedlings in a mix of fine pine bark with fine sponge rock, charcoal and a small dose of dolomite. He always wets his bark before repotting and transplants only into moist mixes. He pots into fine bark, at times using the Orchiata brand and at others using New Zealand pine bark. He warned that all plants will be set back somewhat when repotted so only repot if the bark in your mix is no longer solid. He cautioned as well to not over pot, as having too much mix in the pot causes it to break down faster. Because new mixes tend to be lighter and do not retain moisture as readily as older mixes, Sam recommends repotting every twelve months. He also recommends hanging potted Multiflorals up high towards the pitch of the greenhouse, so that they can receive more light.

Sam grows his plants in black plastic. He says the black color absorbs more heat and retains it for longer periods. This he says, helps with heating costs in that the plants high in the greenhouse, in black plastic can be up to twenty degrees warmer than plants on the bench.

## **OUR THANKS TO JOY LEMIEUX ,OF THE SANDHILLS ORCHID SOCIETY, FOR TRANSCRIBING SAM'S PRESENTATION**



**PAUL FEAVER AT TOS GROWER'S DAY, AUGUST 2012**





**1st Place Ribbon:**  
*Plectrelminthus caudatus*  
**Grown by Nancy Harvey**



**2nd Place Ribbon:**  
Blc. George King "Serendipity"  
**Grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue**



**3d Place Ribbon:**  
*Sophronitis cernua*  
**Grown by Paul Feaver**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse  
Grown**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Cynodes Jumbo Puff  
Grown by Robin & Josh Gurlitz



**2<sup>d</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
C. quadricolor  
Grown by Sidney Cox



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Lc. Angel Heart  
Grown by Erica Wolfe

**Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for December 2012**

Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida

Email: [Hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:Hackneau@comcast.net)

Winter, at least for those of us in Florida, came suddenly in November. Freezing temps were widespread in the northern third of the state. The first cold snap reminded me of an issue that seldom impacts those of us in Florida; using cold water on our warm orchids. For me now, this is not usually a problem because the water out of the hose in my greenhouse is always warmer than the temperature in the greenhouse in the early morning when I water. If, however, I wait until noon on a clear day, I could damage sensitive leaves and buds by applying water significantly colder than leaves. In the morning, the coldest the air temperature in the greenhouse is 58 F and the water from the tap is 68 F, thanks to the fact that our water flows some distance in the warm earth.

If your water is from a surface source, such as a lake or pond, be sure you check the water temperature before watering. Water colder than 5 degrees F than the plant can cause damage to new leaves and buds, especially on thin leaved or sensitive orchids, e.g. phals and jewel orchids. Depending on your water source, the temperature can vary greatly. Years ago, when I was using rainwater and there was a snow, the temperature of my water was so low that I could not use it for over a month, even though it was stored underground.

There is some good news this time of year despite heating bills. Thanks to lower day temperatures, I am able to bring my heat sensitive species and hybrids out from the dark areas and into more light. Even in a greenhouse where day temps often top out around 100 F near the ceiling in summer, there are places that stay cooler and where I put those orchids.

My prize *S coccinea* and many of its 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation hybrids, e.g. Pot Gene Crocker, are put into heavy shade where they stay at least a little cooler. Even some more complex cattleyas hybrids that have heavy doses of *S coccinea* can be surprisingly intolerant of Florida's heat. There is still stress on those orchids and some clearly suffer, such as *Phal parishii* and *Phal lindenii*, but they survive and then thrive during the cool parts of the year. If a species or many of the parents in the background of a hybrid are from higher elevations, there is the likelihood that high temperatures in summer will be a problem.

A few years ago, I received some heat intolerant hybrids in clay pots growing in New Zealand sphagnum. It was surprising how cool the outside of the pots were in the heat of the day. It turns out that the key is to keep the roots cool when the temperature is hot. Generally, high heat leads to faster decomposition of the medium, so I was surprised to find that the sphagnum lasted several years. When I finally repotted them, the sphagnum was still fresh and just a little decomposed. When I asked about the medium from the originator of the cross, I was told that it was high quality New Zealand sphagnum.

This was totally different than the Chilean sphagnum that I had been using on some orchids, which totally disintegrated after just six months. For my prized, heat intolerant orchids, I now use New Zealand sphagnum in new clay pots. I also found that flushing the pots with rainwater at least once a month prevented the buildup of salts. In addition, fertilizer on these orchids is minimal because I want to limit the soft summer growth that always seems to come with high temps.





**ARMANDO NEVES, ROBERT GRICE, MARIE CROCK, ROBIN GURLITZ**

**SETTING UP THE TOS EXHIBIT AT THE SANDHILLS ORCHID SOCIETY ORCHID SHOW**

**APRIL 2012**

### 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
December 10	Holiday Party Auction	Holiday Party Auction
January 2013 14	TBA	TBA
February 11	TBA	TBA

**Welcome Table**

**Refreshments**

<b>December</b>	Holiday Party	Holiday Party
<b>January</b>	Watch this space	Watch this space



Associated with

**Sarah P Duke Gardens**

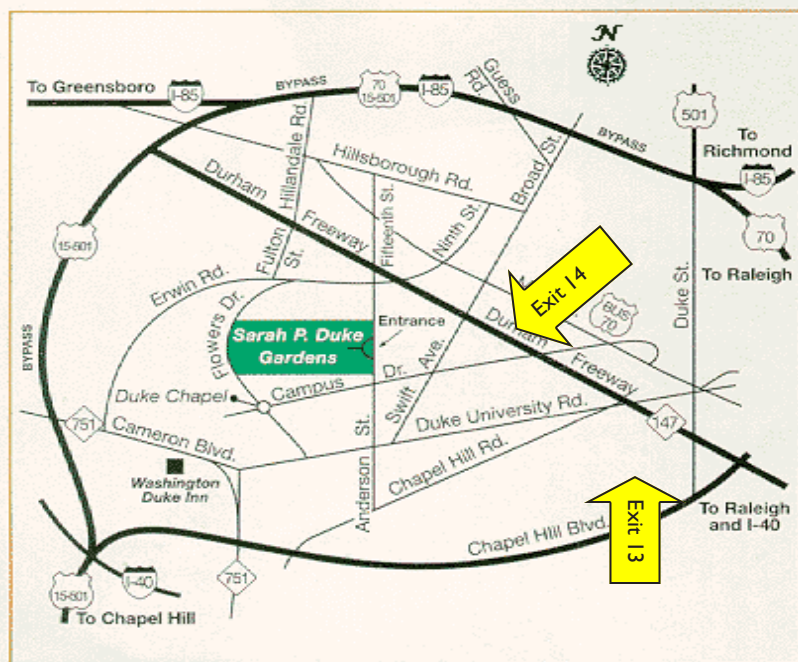
Newsletter Editor  
Josh Gurlitz

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



**JOHN MARTIN & ALAN MILLER SETTING UP THE TOS EXHIBIT AT THE TRIAD ORCHID SHOW**

**OCTOBER 2012**



**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!**

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**

**Dues are from January to December of each year.**

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

Send your dues to: Anne Williams, TOS Treasurer, 1506 Kent St. Durham, N.C. 27707