



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## Speaker for March, 2012 Dr. Robert McMillan

As Emeritus Professor at the University of Florida and Miami Dade College, Dr. McMillan teaches plant pathology with an emphasis on orchid diseases and ornamental plant disorders.

Dr. McMillan received a Master of Science in Botany from the University of Miami and a PHD in Plant Pathology from Washington State University. His research has included study of numerous plant pathogens and their control methods and has become known as a leading authority of diseases of tropical ornamentals, fruits and vegetables. He has patented two biological agents which have shown promise for the control of plant pathogens.

He is currently the Director of Research and Development for Kerry's Bromeliad Nursery in Homestead, Fla., where he develops disease control strategies and production practices for orchids and bromeliads. With the Twyford division he deals with issues of tissue culture advancements and plant contaminants.

***TOS will have a member's sale this month***

### 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

### Please remember to pay your 2012 dues promptly.

For your convenience a statement accompanies this newsletter. Print it, fill it out, and bring it with you to the January meeting. Or, you can send it, with a check, to:

Sally Carpenter, TOS Treas.  
412 Church Street  
Smithfield, NC 27577  
What could be simpler??

### Inside this issue:

<i>This Month's Speaker</i>	1
<i>President's Column</i>	2
<i>Minutes of the Last Meeting</i>	3
<i>Dr. Norito Hasagowa speaker notes &amp; announcements</i>	4-5
<i>Jack Webster show table awards</i>	6-7
<i>Courtney Hackney Growing Tips for January Meeting Agenda More Announcements</i>	8-9
<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

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## A Word From The President

Greetings Everyone!

Spring is right around the corner and we should start seeing new roots in some of our orchids!

Last month we participated in the Darwin Day at the Museum of Natural Sciences. Our beautiful display was highly commended by the attendees and they were thankful for the received orchid growing advice and information. A special thanks to Phil Warner for coordinating the efforts and to all volunteers who helped in setting up the display, letting us borrow their plants, or both.

This month we will have a very informative lecture from Dr. McMillan about orchid pests and diseases. If time allows, Dr. McMillan will also look at any diseased plants and provide a diagnostic assessment, so if you have such questionable plants, feel free to bring them. .

For those of you who may be interested in becoming more involved with the society and have time to devote, we are looking for volunteers to help with our display at the Sandhills Orchid Society Show, April 19-22, in Fayetteville. In addition to borrowing orchids, we need help with exhibit set up and transportation of the plants and props. Please contact Robin Gurlitz at [robing@i-gga.com](mailto:robing@i-gga.com) and volunteer!

Also coming up is our Spring Auction, scheduled for April 14 at the Lake Crabtree County Park in Morrisville. This is always an exciting potluck event where we have the opportunity to bid on beautiful plants so mark your calendars!

Best Regards and Happy Growing!

Armando Neves  
 TOS President 2012



## **Meeting Minutes 02/13/2012**

The February 13, 2012 meeting of approximately 62 attendees was called to order at 7:30 pm by TOS president, Armando Neves. The President thanked everyone for attending and welcomed two guests who subsequently became members by the end of the meeting. The Minutes of the January, 2012 meeting were approved. Our annual participation at Darwin Day on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the N.C. Natural History Museum was a big success and could not have been accomplished without the help of volunteers and those loaning plants. If we are to participate in the Piedmont Orchid Society Show in Belmont, we need volunteers to put in the exhibit on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and take it down on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Everyone was encouraged to promptly pay their dues to Sally Carpenter, our new treasurer. A special “thanks” is due John Myhre who has agreed on the spur of the moment to drive tonight’s speaker to Dunn in the morning for the next leg of his journey. Ralph Sears, our vice-president, stated that we need volunteers to transport speakers beginning with the April meeting.

Everyone was reminded to purchase raffle tickets at \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.00. Bring a plant for the Show Table and receive a free raffle ticket for each plant up to a maximum of five tickets. There were many attractive raffle plants on the table this month. Thanks to Miriam and Leo Sagasti for handling the Welcome Table and raffle ticket sales for this evening and to Ana B. Ayola for providing refreshments.

Ralph Sears introduced our speaker, Dr. Norito Hasegawa. Dr. Hasegawa specializes in hybridizing Slipper Orchids and has been an orchid judge for many years. He also brought a number of orchids for sale, including some that he had hybridized.

After our refreshment break, Nick Plummer provided an excellent discussion of Show Table plants. For questions about a plant not discussed, just raise your hand.

The Jack Webster Award Plants were:

Greenhouse Grown --

1<sup>st</sup> Place for SLC Jewel Box ‘Dark Waters’ grown by Paul Virtue;

2<sup>nd</sup> Place for *C. leopoldii* x *Psychilis McConnelliae* grown by John Martin; and,

3<sup>rd</sup> Place for *C. amethystoglossa* ‘Pink Powder Puff’ x *amethystoglossa* ‘Orchid Glade’ grown by Bob Meyer.

The Non-Greenhouse Grown awards were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place for *Gongora sanderi* x self grown by Nancy Harvey;

2<sup>nd</sup> Place for *Bletilla striata* ‘Murasaki Shikibu’ grown by Felix Gill; and,

3<sup>rd</sup> Place for *Paph. Malipoense* ‘Jerry Bass’ AM x ‘Paph. ‘Jack’, grown by Lee Allgood.

The meeting adjourned around 9:45 pm. Minutes submitted by David Pickett, Secretary, TOS.

## Dr. Norito Hasagawa

### February Speaker

Every time I've heard Norito speak he begins his presentation with the statement that the orchids we buy today don't look anything like the orchids that were found in the jungle by the original collectors. He claims that man is obsessed with a desire to improve everything, and with orchids we've selfed and hybridized to the point that many so called "species" look nothing like the plants that were originally collected. We've done the same to dogs, as well as numerous other life forms. But with orchids, we've made such profound changes that many of us would not recognize the original species.

One of Norito's favorite example of this human "meddling" is *Paph spicerianum*. Early specimens of *P spicerianum* had a very distinctive dorsal that reflexed to form a gutter that kept rainwater off the back of the flower. Today, most plants sold as *P spicerianum* have a flat dorsal. Selfing and selective breeding has all but eliminated this adaptive characteristic that was so appealing in the early species. Another species that has been dramatically impacted is *P fairrieanum*. Today, the blooms on plants labeled as *P fairrieanum* are almost double the size of the plants first described. *P charlesworthii* is another *Paph* that has been transformed. It was initially a small-growing clump with chestnut brown flowers and a contrasting large bright pink dorsal. It has a unique staminode that is a bright clear white. The original specimens had a narrow reflexed dorsal, but today's plants have been selectively line bred and the dorsals are now large, flat and semicircular. In the early forms, the petals were often long and narrow, but today they are wide, flat and "stubby". The list goes on and on.....

According to Norito, man's effort to improve orchids has occurred primarily on four fronts. Man has focused on increasing the size of flowers, on making them fuller, making them flatter, and on deepening the colors or enhancing "vibrancy". I find it intriguing when I think of the early hybridizers who made their crosses without any ability to predict what they would get. Often they must have been quite surprised. Today, however, our knowledge of genetics has increased exponentially and hybridizers are able to predict, with remarkable accuracy, just what color or form a hybrid will be. Take *Paph bellatulum* for example. It was originally described as two inches across. Today, selective breeding has increased the size to 4 inches. Its most noteworthy characteristic is its spots – it is a white or cream colored flower with large discrete rich, wine-burgundy spots all over the sepals and petals. It even has similar spots on the pouch, though these tend to be smaller. Hybridizers today are working on increasing the size of the spots so that they coalesce into one solid color. Efforts are also underway to create a black *paph*, using *P godefroyae*. Other hybridizers are trying to breed in albinism, which has proven to be much harder than anyone anticipated because crossing an alba flower with another alba often involves two entirely set of genes, so instead of getting white the color of distant parents comes through.

Norito loves the story of *P delenatii*. In 1914 a French army officer stationed in Viet Nam collected some pink fragrant lady slipper orchids and sent them home to France. He also sent some to England where they became herbarium specimens. The plants sent to France proved to be very difficult to grow and most died. One single plant survived. It found its way into what was then called Vacherot & LeCoufle, a famous orchid nursery. The LeCoufle family grew the plant for seventy years. It was considered very rare and very difficult to grow, and it was coveted by collectors around the world. LeCoufle was able to propagate the plant and for years and years all the *P delenatii* plants in cultivation came from this single parent plant. The species was believed to be extinct in the wild until the 1980s when a wild population was rediscovered in Viet Nam. This provided an entirely new gene pool as the wild plants had significant differences from the line bred LeCoufle plants. The wild forms had much more variation in color, shape and size. These wild flowers were flat with flat rounded petals and intensely colored lips. There were even some albino forms. The two forms have now been intermingled and numerous hybrids made, including remakes of early hybrids made by the LeCoufle nursery. What was once considered a finicky, difficult species is now readily available, affordable and easy to grow.



Within the past 15 years a number of new species have been found in Viet Nam and in China, among them *P vietnamense*. *P vietnamense* has large foliage, heavily marked on a glossy silvery background. The flowers are large, with colors ranging from quite pale with only a hint of pink to intense, almost carmine colored. The dorsal tends to flat and erect while the petals are rounded, broad and flat or narrow, pointed and drooping. The pouch is small but intensely pigmented. One of its first hybrids, *P Ho Chi Ming*, created a firestorm when it first hit the American market. It's an intense pink with great WOW factor! These new arrivals have been extremely controversial due to protective efforts by the local governments, who see them as a resource to be controlled to benefit their countries of origin, not the collectors who have decimated the wild populations. They have been listed on CITES and its only recently that some have become legal in the US.

Norito concluded his presentation with an appeal to hobbyists and hybridizers alike. He noted that the species we have been manipulating have been with us, in their original forms "forever". However, their habitats are rapidly disappearing. Norito called for the conservation of seeds from species, noting that they can be kept frozen indefinitely and maintain their fertility. He stated as well that it is the responsibility of local orchid societies to help keep habitat protected. There are numerous creative ways to do this.

Norito made the point that many hobbyists are assisting with the conservation of species through their collection efforts. Many have managed to develop significant collections of various species. But collections can be lost very easily. All it takes is for a vent to not open on a hot summer day and a collection cooks. Or a heater may fail and a collection freezes. This can be especially catastrophic if the collection contains rare and valuable species. Norito's answer to this type of calamity is simple – share with your friends. Before tragedy strikes, share divisions of your best and most unique plants with friends and fellow hobbyists. Then, when you lose a particularly cherished plant, you can always go to that friend and get a division of the plant you shared, and start all over again.

THANK YOU JOY LEMIEUX OF SANDHILLS ORCHID SOCIETY FOR TRANSCRIBING NORITO'S TALK

## SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

<b>Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:</b>		<b>Calendar 2011</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Table and Chairs	<b>March 12</b>	<b>Dr. Robert McMillan</b>	<b>Orchid Pests &amp; Diseases</b>
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting Announcements	<b>April 9</b>	<b>Ray Barkalow</b> <b>Will sell plants</b>	<b>Hydroponic Orchid Culture</b>
7:40-8:30	Program			
8:30-8:50	Refreshment Break	<b>May 9</b>	<b>Gene Crocker</b> <b>Will sell plants</b>	<b>Cattleyas for The new millenium</b>
8:50-9:20	Show Table Review, Show Table Awards			
9:20-9:30	Raffle			





**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse  
Grown**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Gongora sanderiana*  
**Grown by Nancy Harvey**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Paph. malipoense*  
**Grown by Lee Allgood**



**3<sup>d</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*Bletilla striata*  
**Grown by Felix Gill**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



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

*C. leopoldii* x *Psychilis macconeliae*  
**Grown by John Martin**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
*C. amethystoglossa*  
**Grown Phil Warner**



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

Ctt. Jewel Box  
**Grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue**





## Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for March 2012

Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida

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

Once again, it is time to repot many kinds of orchids. For new orchid hobbyists, repotting can be a scary task. Once it is done successfully a few times, this gets to be more of a chore than something to be dreaded. Most orchids with bulbs, e.g. cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums, etc should be potted as soon as they start their new growth, which is now. Many species and hybrids have or are about finished flowering, another good time to repot. The biggest issue for many new hobbyists is "How do I know it is time to repot my orchid plant?" Orchids are not like other plants in that they prefer to be left alone and not repotted constantly if the medium they are in is in good shape and not turning into something that looks like garden soil. The following is some basic advice.

Carefully grab the plant (not the pot) and lift gently. If the plant starts to come out of the pot it has either lost its roots or was not well established. Either way, it needs repotting. If the medium has turned to "mush" or looks like potting soil, it is time to repot. If the plant has bulbs that are out of the pot and the medium looks like soil it is time to repot. Never repot because you want to divide the orchid. That may be a consequence of repotting, but never repot for that reason. The larger the plant, the better flowers you will see next year. The following is the process I follow for any orchid that has bulbs.

First, I remove the orchid from the old pot and cut the roots about 2-3 inches from the rhizome. Few roots survive repotting and cutting these off now avoids potential rots later. All roots that are black and clearly dead are removed entirely. Next, I use a fine jet of water to remove any particles of the old medium from the remaining roots. The same jet of water is used to wash any brown tissue from the bulbs. If you have scale on an orchid, a fine jet of water removes scale and does not harm the plant or spread disease. Be sure to wash under the rhizome, too, because scale can hide there and reappear later on your newly repotted orchid. This is a very effective way to get rid of scale in a small collection. If the rhizome was cut or there are any cut surface, sprinkle the wound with cinnamon or other topical fungicide and let it dry. Set the orchid plant in its new pot without medium and sit it in a relatively dry shady place for a week or two. After your orchid has dried thoroughly, place it in its new pot and add medium. Most growers put some large material, e.g. lava rock, plastic peanuts, etc, on the bottom of the pot to enhance drainage and then add the medium.

The new pot should allow your orchid to grow for two years without growing out of the pot, so place the old growths at the pot edge and new growths in the center. It may seem like the pot is too small for dendrobiums if you follow the two year rule, but dendrobiums like to be pot bound and will grow best if new roots quickly contact the side of the pot. Small wires that attach to the side of the pot (pot clips) and hold the rhizome in place may be necessary if the orchid does not have many roots. My preference is to use a stake and tie one of the bulbs tightly to it and then fill the medium around the orchid and roots, pressing down on the medium to be sure there is tight contact of the orchid with the medium. This is a necessity if your orchid is to grow. If the rhizome wobbles, roots will be damaged each time the plant moves when watered.

Mist the plant lightly until new growth appears. If your timing is right, new roots will begin to appear soon, indicating that your orchid is ready to grow and that it is time to return to your regular regimen of fertilizing and watering. The rule of thumb is; if you are not sure of the proper size pot for your orchid, err on the side of the pot being too small.

Phalaenopsis, paphs and phragmepediums do not have pseudobulbs and are treated differently. Repotting orchids without pseudobulbs will be discussed in the next column.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Spring Shows & Events**

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#### **SANDHILLS ORCHID SOCIETY**

**April 20 thru April 22nd**

**At Cape Fear Botanical Garden, in Fayetteville, NC**

TOS will be setting up an exhibit on April 19th. We will need blooming orchids and help setting up and taking down the exhibit. This is a great way to get experience creating orchid exhibits. Please see or email Robin Gurlitz, [robbing@i-gga.com](mailto:robbing@i-gga.com), if you want to participate in this show.

#### **NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE** **WILMINGTON, NC MAY 19-23, 2012**

The Native Orchid Conference 2012 meeting will be held @ UNC Wilmington and surrounding areas. Then there will be a travel day to Brevard with field trips in that area. The dates are May 19-23. Cost is \$125 per individual / \$225 per couple. The field trip last year into the Green Swamp area around Wilmington was great fun and a worthwhile event. **Paul Welty** will be more than happy to field questions from any individuals whom are interested in attending.

Paul can be emailed at [pwelty@averillpark.net](mailto:pwelty@averillpark.net).

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#### **TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY AUCTIONS**

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**The TOS Spring Auction** will be on Saturday, April 14 and will be at Lake Crabtree Park in Morrisville, right off I-40.

**The TOS Fall Auction** will be on Saturday August 25 also at Lake Crabtree Park in Morrisville.

Contact **Sally Carpenter** to volunteer for either or both of these wonderful events. The auctions are our principal fund-raising events each year. They promise great value and the opportunity to purchase some exotic species and hybrids. It is also great fun to volunteer and participate.

Sally can be emailed at [scarp919@aol.com](mailto:scarp919@aol.com).

## **MEETING VOLUNTEERS**

<b>Welcome Table</b>		<b>Refreshments</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Robin &amp; Josh Gurlitz</b>	<b>Mike Le</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Ann &amp; John Myhre</b>	<b>Anne Williams</b>



**Associated with**

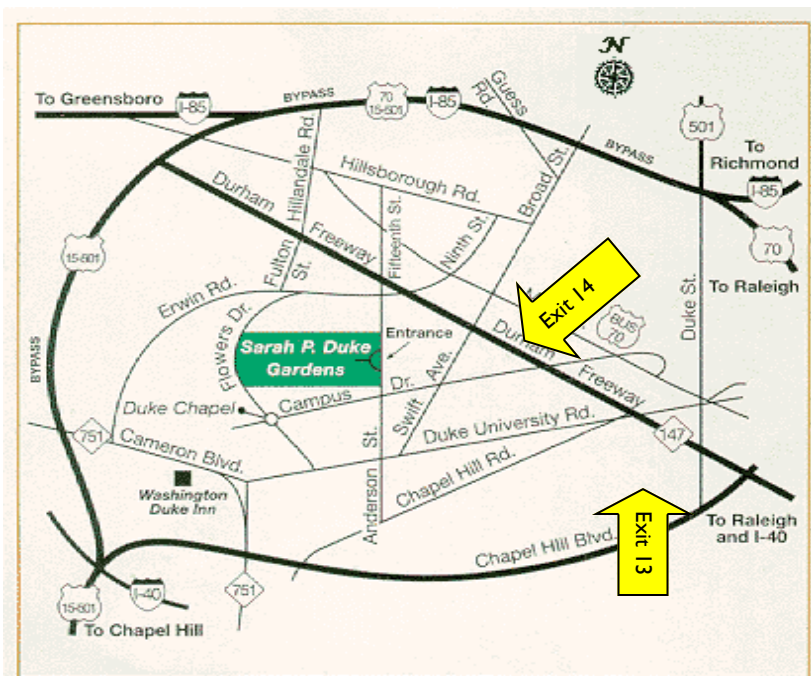
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**Phil Warner and the TOS Darwin Day exhibit  
at  
the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences**



**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, TOS Treasurer 412 Church St. Smithfield, NC 27577