



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for November 12, 2012 Sam Tsui

Sam was born in Hong Kong on November 23, 1952. Sam traveled to the United States at the age of 22 where he attended Illinois State University graduating with a bachelor's degree in computer science and a minor in accounting. After a successful career Sam now devotes all his time to orchids.

Sam began growing orchids in the early 1980's. He soon became a serious Paphiopedilum grower. In 1990, he began hybridizing with Paphiopedilums and continues that work today. As he became more involved with Paphiopedilums, he started selling commercially in 1995 as the Orchid Inn. Currently he makes over 300 crosses, produces 4,000 to 5,000 flasks or approximately 100,000 seedlings annually.

Sam currently fills orders from around the world and attends over 20 orchid shows/conferences a year. He also does approximately 15 Paphiopedilum programs/lectures to orchid conferences, societies and groups annually in the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and Europe. Over the past 12 years, he has judged at the Japan Grand Prix, the world's largest orchid show.

Hybridizing is Sam's passion. He emphasizes Paphiopedilum species, Brachypetalum, Parvisepalum and Multifloral hybrids. He continues to improve his breeding stock by selecting plants or flasks from his fellow orchid growers that he believes are outstanding examples of their type.

As a result of Sam's breeding program, his orchids have been honored with approximately one hundred and sixty awards from the American Orchid Society, Cymbidium Society of America and European Orchid Congress. His most prestigious awards include seven First Class Certificate (FCC/AOS) awards; three Cultural awards including a 93 points Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE/AOS) award; and six breeder Award of Quality (AQ/AOS) awards. All these awards are from American Orchid Society.

Sam's business is "Orchid Inn" 18218 US Highway 150, Bloomington, IL 61705, Tel/Fax: (309) 662-2386, samtsui@orchidinnusa.com.

Sam will be selling plants at this meeting.

Dinner with the Speaker

5:30 PM - before the meeting at the Neo China Restaurant
4015 University Drive, Durham behind Target at 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.TriangleOrchidSociety.org

TOS Officers and Board Members

Officers

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THE Triangle Orchid Society's 50' "SPOOKTACULAR" EXHIBIT
KEITH DAVIS PROVIDED THIS PHOTO OF OUR EXHIBIT: Thank you
TOS EXHIBIT at the TRIAD ORCHID SOCIETY ORCHID
SHOW

Designer of exhibit: John Martin and Alan Miller

Transport::Connie Howard, John Martin ,Alan Miller, Josh and Robin Gurlitz

Take down crew: Bob Meyer, Melissa Bullard, Lee Allgood, John Martin.

TOS members who loaned orchids: Suzanne Hens, Melissa Bullard, John Myhre, Paul Welty, Charles Walker, Paul Feaver, Alan Miller, Paul Virtue, Bob Meyer, John Stanton, Robin and Josh Gurlitz.

AWARDS: Exhibit, 1st place ribbon and a Best in Class award. Great Work!!!

Suzanne Hens. received 1st place ribbon and Best in Class for her Den. Phalaenopsis (pictured in this newsletter). Paul Virtue received a 1st place ribbon and Best in Class for Bc. Nakornpathome Silver "Olivene". Charles Walker, Paul Feaver, John Martin and Paul Virtue received 1st place ribbons. Bob Meyer, Melissa Bullard, Paul Virtue, John Martin, John Stanton all received 2nd place ribbons. Bob Meyer, Paul Feaver, Paul Welty, John Stanton, Robin & Josh Gurlitz, and John Martin all received 3rd place ribbons.

It was a great Exhibit thanks to lots of volunteers.

Meeting Minutes October 8, 2012

Triangle Orchid Society, Inc.

The October 8, 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 September, 2012 membership meeting were approved. 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 Robert Grice for providing refreshments and to Sue Morand for selling raffle tickets and manning the Welcome Table.

Thanks to Paul and Olivene Virtue for opening their house and to those who donated plants for our silent auction. Also, thanks to the 20 people who participated in the event. Everybody enjoyed the food and companionship.

If you didn't bring plants tonight to put in our exhibit for the Triad Orchid Show, you may drop them off at The Orchid Trail by Wednesday. They will be taken back to The Orchid Trail Sunday night. John Martin and Alan Miller are setting up the exhibit and Josh and Robin Gurlitz are registering the plants.

Leo Sagasti stated that Officers and Board Members will be voted on at the November Membership Meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Ralph Sears introduced our speaker, Roy Tokunaga from H&R Nurseries in Hawaii, who gave a very interesting talk on Dendrobiums.

After a brief recess for refreshments, Paul Feaver provided an interesting discussion of the Show Table plants that were selected by Nick Plummer. The Jack Webster Show Table awards are as follows:

NON-GREENHOUSE: 1st place to Suzanne Hens for a Dendrobium Phalaenopsis;
2nd place to Bob Meyer for Sarcoglottis speciosa x Stenorrhynchus speciosus; and
3rd place to Charles Walker for Phrag. schlimii.

GREENHOUSE grown: 1st place to Armando Neves for Miltonia regnellii;
2nd place to Paul Welty for C. maxima; and,
3rd place to Paul Feaver for Habenaria rhodocheila.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by David Pickett, Secretary.

Visit our website at:
www.triangleorchidsociety.org

Roy Tokunaga.....October Speaker

Roy is recognized in orchid circles as one of the leading experts, worldwide, on *Dendrobium* culture and breeding. He has traveled extensively and given presentations all over the world. Predictably, his presentation was so well organized and so packed with information it was hard to take it all in.

According to Roy there are over 1,200 species of *Dendrobiums*, making it one of the largest orchid families, second only to *Bulbophyllums*. *Dendrobiums* are found in India, east through China and Japan, and south through the Pacific islands to Australia and New Zealand. They can be found at all elevations, from high in the Himalayas to the tiniest sea level atolls in the Pacific. As Roy pointed out, because of the diversity of species and habitat, the care and culture of *Dendrobium* species must be customized for each species. You simply cannot generalize.

Dendrobium species are categorized into forty sections. The genus is so diverse that some of the species will not breed with other species. Within the *Cattleya* alliance, for example, *Laelias*, *Sophronitis*, *Coccinea*, *Broughtonias* will all interbreed, and as a result we have a cornucopia of inter-generic hybrids. Not so much with *Dendrobiums*. The genus is just too diverse. Some species will breed with other species, but not all will breed with each other. The one thing that is common to all species is the spur on the back of each flower. Roy described this as an extension of the column, called a "mentum". The column foot is fused with the lip and the bases of the lateral sepals. When the flower is dissected one can see that the lip has its base attached to the long column foot, forming a prominent, closed spur. Check any *Dendrobium* flower and you will find this determining spur.

Roy described several of the forty recognized sections with photos and comments about some truly unique characteristics. His was an amazing presentation and I couldn't begin to capture all the information. For specific cultural information I recommend that you go to Jay Pfahl's Internet Orchid Photo Encyclopedia, or if you have *OrchidWiz*, check the cultural notes.

Section *Spatulata* is known for the curling, twisted petals of the flowers, given them the appearance of a twisted Antelope horn, hence the name "Antelope" type. They tend to be very large plants, though hybridizing has reduced their overall height and made them more manageable for hobbyists. Most of these are from humid tropical lowlands of New Guinea, but some have evolved and adapted to seasonal dry periods in Australia. Still others have adapted to the cooler conditions of the New Guinea highlands. Because the habitats vary so much, one cannot make any generalizations regarding culture. Two of the most widely grown species are *D canaliculatum* and *D carronii*. Paul Fever who works at The Orchid Trail has made a number of great hybrids from this section.

Section *Dendrobium* contains some of the best known *Dendrobiums* in cultivation, including *D anosmum*, *D devoniamum*, and *D loddigesii*. These plants are deciduous on year old foliage. Larger, older plants typically have numerous bare but still viable canes. All of these species are from low to moderate altitudes in areas with a distinct dry season. The key to cultivation of these plants is a dry rest early in the fall. Without this period of dormancy flowering will be sparse. In my greenhouse I isolate these plants in a corner for four to six weeks during which they do not receive any water. Roy said that these plants also like to be "chilled", and that three weeks of night time temperatures under fifty degrees produces more profuse blooming. He is working on hybridizing plants that do not require this cold period.

Dendrobiums are true epiphytes, and do best with their roots exposed to the air. Many do best on mounts or in baskets though they can be grown in pots. If grown in pots, most like to be root bound which is why you will often find tall, gangly plants in ridiculously small pots. This of course makes them very top heavy so pots must be weighted with rocks, or pots braced within larger pots for stability.

Section *Dendrocoryne* is made up of a very small number of species from Australia. The best known of these is probably *D kingianum* (with its multiple color forms) and *D speciosum*. Roy says that these species are cold tolerant and need three to four weeks of temperatures under fifty degrees to flower well. While they should not be dried out completely, water needs to be reduced during the winter months.



Section *Pedilonum* has some of the most brightly colored flowers. Their native range runs from India to Samoa so once again there are no hard and fast rules for cultivation. Most tend to grow at high altitudes, but there are many exceptions. The flowers are notable for their elongated form, with a long mentum. Most appear to be bird pollinated. The foliage is deciduous after a year or two. Included in this section is *D bracteosum*, *D bellianum*, *D goldschmidtianum*, and *D secundum* – all relatively easy to grow and relatively easy to find through local nurseries.

Section *Oxyglossum* are primarily from Papua-New Guinea, growing at moderate to high altitudes in constant high humidity with limited seasonal fluctuation of rainfall or temperature. Plant size is usually small in comparison to flower size, making this a very attractive group for the hobby grower. Additionally, the flowers are brightly colored and long lasting. I like the plants because they tend to grow as clumps and therefore do well in very small pots. Most are considered intermediate to cool growers and include *D delicatulum*, *D masarangense* and *D violaceum*.

Section *Latouria* contains some of the most popular *Dendrobium*s grown today, including *D aberrans*, *D alexandrae* (one of the foundation plants in the hybrid *D Roy Tokunaga*), *D atroviolaceum*, *D johnsoniae* and *D spectabile*. Many of these plants hold their flowers drooping down. Because of this growth habit, they are best grown in baskets or mounts high in the greenhouse so you can look up into the flowers. I heard Roy say once that one of the things he was breeding for, when he made the hybrid *D Roy Tokunaga*, was flowers that were held upright for better viewing. Another plant in this section I love is *D spectabile*. It has the most bizarre flowers with its contorted sepals and petals, yet a large, well grown blooming plant is truly breath taking. Many plants in this section have fine black hairs on their canes or pseudobulbs.

Section *Formosae* contains my all time favorite *Dendrobium* species – *D tobaense*. I think its bright green color and contrasting orange and white lip is both exotic and charming. Over the years I have killed it time and time again, can't seem to get the watering right. This section extends its habitat from India to the islands of Sumatra, the Phillipines and Borneo. There is a mixture of year round rain and periodic dry seasons. The plants are generally clumpy with long, rangy pseudobulbs. The foliage is not deciduous but lasts several years. Often there are fine dark hairs on the leaf sheaths. Most of the flowers are very long lasting. Other species within this section are *D bellatulum*, *D christyanum*, *D cruentum* and *D dearei*.

Section *Callista* is a small section of only ten species restricted in their range from India to Burma, Thailand to southern China. The plants are found at moderate to high altitudes in areas notable for a definite dry season. The leaves are not deciduous and the flowers are generally grown on long pendulous racemes. Flowering can be truly profuse, making a magnificent display. Included in this section are *D chrysotoxum*, and *D farmeri*.

So how does Roy grow all these varieties in his screened in shade house with no fans or coolers?? He starts with an ideal climate on the west side of Oahu where he receives forty inches of rain a year. He fertilizes with MSU fertilizer, which has eight percent Calcium. He says fertilizers with less nitrogen produce more vegetative growth while fertilizers with high phosphorous content produce less flowers. He ensures that all his plants have good drainage and he uses dolomite to ensure that his water has a Ph between five and six. He believes the use of Calcium boosts flower production so he top dresses his plants periodically with Epsom salts. In addition, Roy uses the MSU fertilizer with its high Calcium content. The calcium, he says, is mobile and travels through the plants circulatory system. It is absorbed by the roots not the foliage - so foliar spraying is nonproductive. Calcium cannot be stored by the plants so applications just before flowering help boost flowering. Roy recommends regular watering with the MSU at the rate of 1 tsp per gallon, but especially the month prior to blooming.

OUR THANKS TO JOY LEMIEUX FOR TRANSCRIBING ROY'S PRESENTATION



**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**

1st Place Ribbon:
Miltonia regnellii
Grown by Armando Neves

2nd Place Ribbon:
C. maxima
Grown by Paul Welty



3d Place Ribbon:
Hab. rhodocheila
Grown by Paul Feather

!!!ALAN MILLER PROVIDES ALL OF THE SHOWTABLE PHOTOS..THANK YOU ALAN!!!!



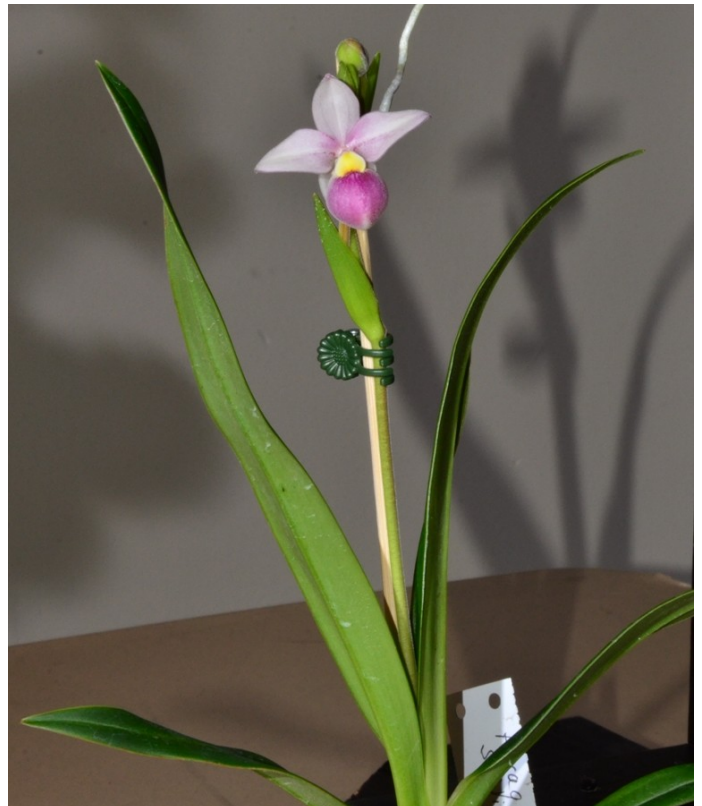
**Jack Webster Awards
Non-Greenhouse
Grown**



1st Place Ribbon:
Den. phalaenopsis
Grown by Suzanne Hens



2^d Place Ribbon:
Sarcoglotis speciosa x
Stenorhynchus speciosus
Grown by Bob Meyer



3rd Place Ribbon:
Phrag. schlimii
Grown by Charles Walker

Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for November 2012**Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida****Email: Hackneau@comcast.net**

Each year I try new things in the greenhouse and not just new orchids. This year it was an old product I thought had been discontinued, CRC formula 6-56 Marine (in the aquamarine spray can). Last spring when heaters were turned off, I sprayed all electrical connections on the heaters and thermostats with this product. We used to use CRC 6-56 on everything electrical on outboard motors. CRC Marine did just what I had hoped. Heaters and thermostats worked just as if they had just been turned off at the end of last year's cold season. Given the heat and humidity in the greenhouse all summer, that is a major accomplishment.

Usually, the first cold snap of the year is brief and allows us to check our systems whether that is a greenhouse heating system, a cart that goes into the garage when nights are cold or clearing a table next to a window for orchids that had been residing outside. Orchids adapt over time to whatever conditions that had been their environment for the past several months. Now, your orchids must adjust to a different growing area and the conditions that go with it. A closed greenhouse dried by heaters or a house where heaters are running requires an adjustment by you as the grower, and by your orchids. Be prepared to lose flower buds on phals or Dendrobiums caused by the change of environment. Don't despair if that happens. If you can create some semblance of an appropriate environment, your orchids will survive. Maintain an appropriate temperature and humidity and your orchids will at least survive, although they may not thrive until it is warm enough to move them back outside in spring.

For my greenhouse this year rots have been unusually tenacious and difficult to stop, despite using stronger products than normally used. Years ago, I visited a greenhouse that had lost power for several days after a hurricane and was told that bacterial rots were everywhere by the time power was restored and fans were once again running. The combination of excess heat and 100% humidity is the perfect storm when it comes to bacteria. Everywhere I looked, there were signs of rot, but also a light blue stain on leaves, benches, and walls. I was told that the product of last resort was Kocide, a copper-based product. There are other copper based products as well, such as Phyton 27.

This year, it became my product of "last resort", too and it worked as advertised. Anyone that reaches this point must be aware that this is a toxic chemical and carefully read the label before using it. Besides the obvious respirator, care must be taken to avoid contact with the skin as copper in this form is toxic. Ornamental plants with thin soft leaves may be harmed or killed and orchids damaged as well if they have new or soft leaves. The best solution to rots is to prevent them,

The problem for me this year was not just the perfect conditions for rot, but the fact that my orchids were crowded; one consequence of a great growing year. Managing an orchid collection is much more than just finding and buying orchids, but determining what you love best. Many years ago I remember being so impressed by a hobbyist that provided orchids for the local society exhibit and every orchid was more spectacular than the last and all extremely well grown. Most were miltonia hybrids and all in large baskets. I asked him what other types of orchids he grew and he said that this was all of them. There are not many of us that can say every single orchid we grow is grown to perfection. Obviously, he managed his collection far better than I.

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

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:		Calendar 2011	Speaker	Topic
7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Table and Chairs	November 12	Sam Tsui Will sell orchids	Multifloral Paph and their Culture
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting Announcements	December 10	Holiday party Auction	Holiday Party Auction
7:40-8:30	Program			
8:30-8:50	Refreshment Break			
8:50-9:20	Show Table Review, Show Table Awards	January 9	TBA	TBA
9:20-9:30	Raffle			

Welcome Table

Refreshments

November	Michael Arner	Miriam Sagasti
December	Holiday Party	Holiday Party



Associated with

Sarah P Duke Gardens

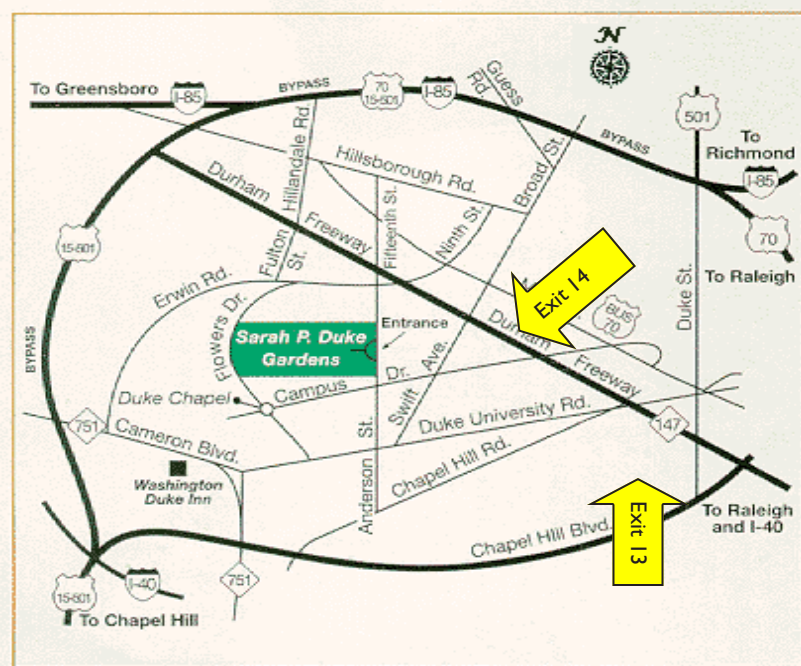
Newsletter Editor
Josh Gurlitz

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The Nominating Committee nominated the following members for the 2013 Board of Trustees and officers at our October meeting. We have our election at our November meeting on Monday, Nov. 12. Come and vote!!

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Ralph Sears |
| Vice President | Paul Welty |
| Treasurer | Anne Williams |
| Secretary | Nancy Harvey |
| Past President | John Myhre (Pres. '92) |
| Board of Trustees | |
| 2013 | Connie Howard |
| 2013 | David Pickett |
| 2014 | Nicolette Petervary |
| 2014 | Gerry Bowater |
| 2015 | Suzanne Hens |
| 2015 | Sidney Cox |

Respectfully submitted: Alan Miller, Leo Sagasti & Robin Gurlitz,



**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

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.

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