



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## Speaker for October 8, 2012 Roy Tokunaga

Roy is a graduate of University of Hawaii, Biology, Bachelors of Education. He studied under Dr. Yoneo Sagawa, Tissue culture of Orchids and was recruited by Ernest Iwanaga to clone Orchids in 1974. Roy has been cloning and germinating seeds for 40 years.

In 1981 Roy joined Harry Akagi to form H&R Nurseries. They started with Orchids and Bromeliads. H&R was also cloning and germinating Orchids as a service laboratory. Over time, they gave up Bromeliads and the service laboratory. Today, the laboratory services H&R and has allowed them to create new things that are not linked to Thailand or Taiwan. Variety and well grown plants are their primary strengths. Species, unusual hybrids, Dendrobiums, and the Cattleya Alliance have been the H&R focus.

***Roy 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's at South Square Mall.  
Call Alan Miller to reserve a seat at 919-969-1612  
All are welcome

Visit our website at:

[www.triangleorchidsociety.org](http://www.triangleorchidsociety.org)

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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.Triangle OrchidSociety.org**

## TOS Officers and Board Members

### Officers

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## A Word From The President

Greetings Everyone!

Last month we had our silent auction at Paul and Olivine Virtue's home and it was a great success. I would like to thank the Virtues for their hospitality and also thank the following members for their gracious plant donations for this auction: John Martin, Nick Plummer, Charles Walker, Suzanne Hens, Leo Sagasti, Josh and Robin Gurlitz and myself.

This month our guest speaker Roy Tokunaga comes from Hawaii to share his extensive experience in orchid growing. The gorgeous plants they grow at his nursery, H&R Orchids, speak for themselves.

The Triad Orchid show is scheduled for October 12-14. The Triangle Orchid Society is setting up an exhibit and volunteers are needed to help with the setup and plant transportation. The setup is on Thursday, October 11. Please write us at [info@triangleorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@triangleorchidsociety.org) if you can help.

Also at the meeting this month, the TOS Nomination Committee will present the nominations for the 2013 Officers and Trustees.

Best Regards and Happy Growing!

Armando Neves  
 TOS President 2012



### **Meeting Minutes 09/10/2012**

The September 10, 2012 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society, Inc. was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Ralph Sears, Vice-President. Guests were welcomed. The minutes of the August, 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 Sarah Patterson for providing refreshments, Ken Hanson for selling raffle tickets, and to Terese Camp for hosting the Welcome Table.

Don't forget to attend our pot-luck silent auction to be held Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the home of Paul and Olivene Virtue in Raleigh. We are asking that donated plants be taken to The Orchid Trail in advance. Be sure to bring a friend. A good time will be had by one and all.

We also need volunteers to help with our exhibit at the Triad Orchid Society Show. Setup will be on October 11<sup>th</sup> and take down is on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Please consider loaning the Society some plants for our exhibit. There will be more information to come.

Ralph Sears introduced our speaker, Keith Davis, who gave a very interesting presentation on The Ghost Orchid which is found in the Everglades of South Florida.

After a brief recess for refreshments, Nick Plummer and Keith Davis provided an interesting discussion of the Show Table plants.

The September 10, 2012 The Jack Webster Showtable Awards are as follows:

GREENHOUSE:      1<sup>st</sup> place: Dendrobium secundum by Robin & Josh Gurlitz  
                             2<sup>nd</sup> place: Stenoglottis longifolia by Paul Feaver  
                             3d place: Trichoglottis brachiata by Paul Feaver

NON-GREENHOUSE awards are:

1st place: Catesetum Masterly Red 'Spotted Yellow' by Robin & Josh Gurlitz  
2d place: Scaphosephalum rapax by Charles Walker  
3d place: Lc. Tropical Pointer "Cheetah" by Erica Wolf

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by David Pickett, Secretary.

## Keith Davis.....September Speaker

*DENDROPHYLAX lindenii* is a rare plant in the wild as well as in collections. Hopefully, increased interest and uncovering some of its cultural secrets will lead to more of these jewels of nature being grown.

The number one requirement for maintaining a healthy ghost orchid is finding a suitable substrate. Whatever is used must not decay for decades, must have some sort of patina such as moss and lichens, hold some moisture for a length of time after watering, and have a rough and variable texture. In the wild, these plants grow on live trees, and as long as the tree is alive, the bark that the plant is attached to maintains its integrity. *Dendrophylax lindenii* can be long lived and will take several years to develop into a blooming-size plant. For this reason, the substrate must also be long lasting or the grower will not see the beloved plant live long enough to bloom consistently. In the wild, the tree's bark is covered with a mix of various lichens, mosses and other hosts that add to the orchid's microenvironment by providing moisture directly to the roots, as well as nutrients and added humidity. These other hosts are important to help the orchid survive during periods of little rain as some of the plant's roots hug the bark tightly and worm their way through and under these water-absorbing hosts. It is important to remember that *Dlax. lindenii* does not have the water-storage structures that many other orchids do, such as plants in the *Cattleya* alliance.

Over the years, I have tried mounting *Dlax. lindenii* on different substrates, such as cork, tree-fern plaques and various woods with and without the bark, all without success except for one species of tree, the mockernut hickory tree (*Carya tomentosa*). The hickory wood has almost no preservative quality to it and rots quickly, despite being hard and strong. But the bark on older trees (100-plus years) becomes thick, deeply furrowed and has an amazing ability to maintain integrity for many years without decomposing. Whatever is responsible for the preservative qualities in the bark does not seem to affect mounted orchids; they thrive on it unlike any mounted plants I have grown on anything else. I do not advocate cutting live hickory trees for mounting orchids, but one may find the bark from firewood collectors, eastern and southern barbecue restaurants that use real hickory for cooking, mills that manufacture tool handles and salvaged trees from storm damage. The bark is nearly impossible to remove from fresh-cut trees. I leave the cuts outside for one year and let insects and fungi tunnel between the wood and bark, allowing it to be removed easier. I am sure other substrates will work, however I have not found anything in the area where I live in North Carolina. When mounted on something compatible, many of the roots will begin to adhere to the bark and weave along the meandering grooves and crevices of the bark. These are the roots that help sustain the plant with moisture and nutrients. About half of the roots will grow aerial for maximum light absorption. As the plant has no leaves, all of the photosynthesis and thus energy production happens in the roots.

When starting with small plants (less than 3 inches [7.5 cm]), I place them on top of a bed of live Spanish moss that is in turn set on an open mesh of wire to allow light and air movement over and under the moss. It is important for the moss to remain alive so it can absorb and release moisture and humidity to keep the baby plant happy and healthy. No trick I have found will produce larger and more vigorous growth quicker than the bed of moss.

I leave the plantlets on the bed of live moss till they reach about 3 inches (7.5 cm) in diameter. This may take up to three years. I then attach the plant to a plaque of hickory bark that has been selected for thickness and is especially deeply furrowed. The plaque should be about 6 inches (12.5 cm) wide by 16 inches (40 cm) long, remembering that it is hopefully going to be home to the orchid plant for many years and must be large enough for the plant to fully mature. Once the plant attaches, it will be impossible to remove the specimen and place it on another mount. The plant should be centered, as the roots tend to grow outward in a 360-degree pattern. If the seedling was originally mounted on a small piece of something, do not try to remove it. Simply drill a hole through the plant's original mount and screw it to the hickory. Mid spring is a good time to mount a seedling as new root tips start growing again and a flush of new roots emerge from the crown of the plant.

After drilling a hole near the top of the hickory plaque so a hook can be attached (I like to use a piece of solid 8-gauge copper grounding wire), carefully drape some strands of live Spanish moss over and around the plant, being careful not to cover it too much and block the light. During the more humid part of the year (60 to 70 percent), you can remove the moss, adding it back as the humidity drops in the winter.

I grow *Dlax. lindenii* under my normal cattleya conditions: bright light between 4,000 and 6,000 foot-candles and temperatures from 50 F (10 C) up to 100 F (38 C) for short periods with lots of air movement when hot. I take advantage of the various microenvironments in the greenhouse and move the plant around seasonally. In winter, while light is less intense, I place it in a brighter place and move it to a less intense area in the late spring through autumn. If you have cooling pads, move it closer to them in the hotter seasons; this also helps with humidity.

Once the plant grows enough to have a pronounced mound in the center, it has the potential for blooming. A cool, dry spell is required to stimulate the plant to produce an inflorescence. In January and February, I move the plant to the coolest spot or corner so it can get down to 45 F (7 C) at night and I cease to water on a regular basis. During this period, I water the plant only once every 10 to 14 days. By the end of February, I resume normal temperatures and watering schedule. This is an attempt to simulate what occurs in nature in the plant's natural environment. The spike or inflorescence will emerge looking like a thinner-than-normal root, but will instead start to grow outward away from the mound. You may see the first one by the middle or end of March. Don't get impatient. They are slow to develop and buds don't usually open until late May or June. The larger the mound becomes, the greater the number of flowers.

Next to what the plant is mounted on, water quality is of utmost importance. These plants are not tolerant of bad water. If you have more than 75 parts per million (ppm) total dissolved salts (tds) in your water and the pH not between 5.5 and 7.0, you need to deal with this issue before ever trying to grow *Dlax. lindenii*. Salt build-up on the roots is lethal to ghost orchids. If visible salt buildup is evident on the outside of the clay pots or around the drain holes of plastic pots, you either have water with a level of total dissolved salts (tds) that is too high, or you use too much fertilizer. You may choose to collect rainwater or install a small reverse-osmosis (RO) system. I use well water that has about 20 ppm tds and a pH of 5.8. I fertilize all of my orchids at every watering using about ¼ teaspoon per gallon (3.8 L) of various commercial fertilizers, but nothing special or "magical." In nature, all plants receive some nutrients at every rainfall as the water moves the dissolved chemicals around and over the roots. Nature has spent more time than I have in figuring out what is best, so I don't mind borrowing from her knowledge. I am thus happy to share what has worked for me in being able to grow and bloom".

Article published in Orchids, July 2009, the magazine of the AOS  
Keith Davis, Author







**1st Place Ribbon:**

*Den. secundum*

**Grown by Robin & Josh  
Gurlitz**



**2nd Place Ribbon:**

*Stenoglottis longifolia*

**Grown by Paul Feaver**



**3d Place Ribbon:**

*Trichoglottis brachiata*

**Grown by Paul Feaver**



**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse  
Grown**



**2d Place Ribbon:**  
*Scaphosepalum rapax*  
**Grown by Charles Walker**



**1st Place Ribbon:**  
*Catesetum Masterly Red*  
**'Spotted Yellow'**  
**Grown by Robin & Josh Gurlitz**



**2nd Place Ribbon:**  
*Lc. Tropical Pointer "Cheetah"*  
**Grown by Erica Wolf**



## **Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for October 2012**

**Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida**

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

Gone are the hot days of summer, but the fall season reminds us that it is time to prepare for the coming cold season. Even those of us growing indoors need to begin planning for the changing weather if we grow under lights.

A large number of hobbyists move plants outside once spring takes hold each year, but it is now time to begin moving them back to their winter growing area. Not all orchids need to come inside right away. Phals can be left outside until night temperatures drop below 55 F as long as day temperatures are moderate. Moving phals inside before they receive a week or so where the difference between night and day temperatures are at least 15 degrees F can delay the initiation of spikes. Once spikes emerge, it is a good idea to move them inside and away from pests that love those tasty flower spikes.

Vandaceous orchids are usually considered the most cold-intolerant, but that is not universal. Neofinitia hybrids are often part of hobby collections, especially where there is limited space. They can survive considerable cold since the natural habitat of the parent is on the cold side. Many vandas and ascocendas with *Vanda coerulea* in the background bloom with brighter color if they are experiencing cool nights. Ideally, however, most strap-leaved vandas don't like it when day temperatures drop below 80 degrees F and nights are below 60 F.

Cattleyas are surprisingly tolerant of cool nights and flower better with brighter colors when nights are cool and days warm.

The most tolerant orchids for cold are Cymbidiums and most flower best when exposed to near frosting temperatures. Once spikes emerge, it is best to avoid extreme cold, but this group of orchids is cold tolerant. Once spikes begin to form buds there is a risk of bud blast, so move Cymbidiums into warmer areas.

Of course, there are many kinds of orchids with all sorts of requirements during this transitional season. If there are plants in your collection that do not bloom or bloom poorly, but grow well there may be special conditions you need to provide. If the non-blooming orchid is a species, there are likely books that can tell you what you need to do to get it to bloom. Hybrids are usually easier to bloom, but often require conditions similar to species in their background.

If you grow in a greenhouse it is time to check heaters and vents to be sure they are working properly. The first cold usually comes when you have the least time to get ready so do it now.

Not only are you planning for cold, but so are many of the pests that cause problems in winter. If you have your orchids outside and plan to move them in, you need to avoid bringing these pests inside too. Dipping orchids in your preferred pesticide, pot and all, is a way to get rid of pests hiding in pots. For me, large roaches are a real problem that plagues me all year long here in Florida. An old friend introduced me to a new product that seems to be working well. The product is Niban Granular Bait which has orthoboric acid as its active ingredient. So far, I have not put it in pots, but on benches alongside pots. There was no sign that it was working at first, but soon large roaches started appearing dead on the greenhouse floor. In addition, there is now little damage to new roots and flower buds. Hopefully, this will continue when the greenhouse is closed in winter.





## TRIAD ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW: "ORCHID SPOOKTACULAR"

**TOS will be putting in an exhibit for this show on Thursday, October 11, 2012. The show runs from Friday, Oct. 12 through Sunday Oct. 14.**

**DO YOU HAVE ONE OR MORE ORCHIDS THAT ARE BLOOMING??** We need plants for the Triad Orchid Society show. This is your chance to have qualified judges review your blooming plants. You get to show off your orchid(s) and possibly get a ribbon.

### Loaning orchids for the Triad Orchid Society Show

The Triangle Orchid Society need YOUR Orchids to go into TOS Orchids exhibit at the Triad Show. We need about 50 orchids for our 50 sq. foot exhibit.

### Bring your plants to the meeting this Monday night

What to do when you loan a plant:

Stake Blooming Orchids Trim off any unsightly leaves

Put your name on the pot (take orchids out of any decorative pot unless it is actually potted in it). (Return address labels work well) **Make sure the plant has a name and the name is legible** Make a list of the plants you are loaning. Keep a copy and have a copy with your plants

### **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	Speaker	Topic
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Roy Tokunaga H&amp;R Nurseries</b>	<b>Dendrobiums: Species and Hybrids</b>
<b>November 12</b>	<b>Sam Tsui</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>December 10</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b>	<b>Holiday Auction</b>

### **Welcome Table**

### **Refreshments**

<b>October</b>	<b>Lori Chapman</b>	<b>Robert Grice</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Michael Arner</b>	<b>Miriam Sagasti</b>



**The Nominating Committee places the following members for nomination to the 2013 Board of Trustees and officers:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Ralph Sears</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Paul Welty</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Anne Williams</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Nancy Harvey</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>John Myhre (Pres. '92)</b>

**Board of Trustees**

<b>2013</b>	<b>Connie Howard</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>David Pickett</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Nicolette Petervary</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Gerry Bowater</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>Suzanne Hens</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>Sidney Cox</b>

**Respectfully submitted: Alan Miller, Leo Sagasti & Robin Gurlitz, Nominating Committee**

**TRAVELING TO DC THIS FALL?**

**65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CAPITAL ORCHID SHOW**

SATURDAY, OCT. 6<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH MON. OCT. 8<sup>TH</sup>

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM, 24<sup>TH</sup> & R STREETS, NE, WASHINGTON, DC

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL ORCHID SOCIETY

EXHIBITS, VENDORS, LECTURES

SEE [www.ncos.us](http://www.ncos.us) for details





**Associated with**

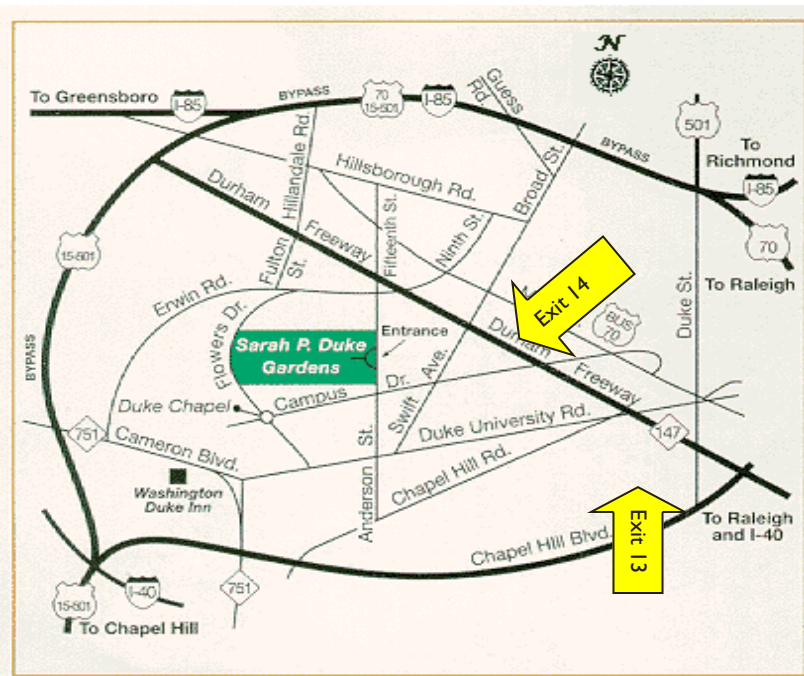
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**Spiranthes cernua—fall blooming terrestrial**



**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.

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