



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for September 10, 2012 Keith Davis

Keith Davis was born in California but moved to Mexico with his missionary parents when eight years old. In 1974 he attended North Carolina State University where he obtained degrees in forestry, horticulture and agricultural education. After school, he moved to Corpus Christi, Texas where he taught horticulture and purchased his first orchid at a yard sale. It was Lc. Molly Tyler FCC which he still has to this day. After moving to Reidsville in 1984, Keith worked for North Carolina State University as the grounds and greenhouse superintendent at Chinqua-Penn Plantation and taught high school. In 1997, he and his wife Dixie adopted their only child, April. Keith then became a full-time stay-at-home dad but also continued part-time with Chinqua-Penn.

In August of 2002, a disaster struck his orchid collection when the power went off at the greenhouse he was leasing. The temperature soared to over 140 degrees and about 90% of his large collection of mainly cattleya alliance orchids was lost. Thanks to many friends and the generosity of orchid growers all over, he is well on his way back to having a respectable collection again.

Much information for his program comes from personal experience and visiting with a host of orchid growers through the years. Keith enjoys the "hunt" for those rare and hard to find plants and gladly helps other growers out.

His talk will be on how to grow and flower the Florida Ghost orchid. Two articles he wrote on this subject appeared in the July 2009 issue of ORCHIDS magazine. You can read these on line by going to Google and typing in KEITH DAVIS GHOST ORCHID. It would be helpful to read both articles ahead of the meeting if you are genuinely interested in this orchid.

Reach Keith at the following email address: dowiana51@gmail.com

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>Notes:</i> <i>Courtney Hackney 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

There will be a member's plant sale 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

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

President

Armando Neves (919) 747-9779
armandonvs@gmail.com

Vice President

Program Chairman

Ralph Sears(919) 477-0843
ralphsears@gmail.com

Secretary

David Pickett (919) 688-8410
legaldeacon84@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Anne Williams (919) 493-1727 anewilliams1973@hotmail.com

Past President

Leo Sagasti (919) 942-9839
leo@bjac.com

Board of Trustees

At Large Trustees: 2012

Lee Allgood (919) 721-7192
lallgood851@yahoo.com

At Large Trustees: 2013

Paul Welty (919)251-8097
pwelty@averillpark.net

Connie Howard (919) 309-9014
fcoat@aol.com

At Large Trustees: 2014

Nicollette Petervary (919)424-7557

A Word From The President

September, 2012

Greetings Everyone!

This month our speaker Keith Davis will talk about the elusive Ghost Orchid! I am sure some of us have failed in trying to grow this tricky but stunningly beautiful orchid, including myself. So this is a chance to know the tricks to grow it correctly and ask questions.

Later in the month we have an exciting silent auction with a pot-luck, where you can bid on outstanding specimen orchids that we can't easily find available for sale. If you feel like your plants are growing in slow-motion, come join us and bring home some instant-gratification orchids!

We are starting to look for 2013 officers and board members. The nominating committees consists of Leo Sagasti, Alan Miller and Robin Gurlitz, If you would like to be a board member, or know someone else you think would be a good board member please contact Robin at robing@i-gga.com or nominate yourself during our upcoming membership meetings.

Best Regards and Happy Growing!

Armando Neves
 TOS President 2012

Meeting Minutes 08/13/2012

The August 13th membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society, Inc. was called to order by Armando Neves, president, at 7:30 p.m. Guests were welcomed. The Minutes of the last membership meeting were approved. Raffle tickets were available 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 five tickets.

The president thanked all of those who participated in making Growers Day a success. Those thanked included the wonderful speakers, Judith Goldstein, Nick Plummer, Linda Thorne and Paul Feaver. Member volunteers who were thanked include David Pickett, Josh and Robin Gurlitz, Miriam and Leo Sagasti, Suzanne Hens, Elinor Ciftan, John Myhr, Lee Allgood, Paul Virtue, Nicolette Petervary, Bob Meyer, Nancy Harvey, Anne Williams and Armando Neves.

Miriam Sagasti had a get-well card for members to sign for Mildred Howell who fell and is recuperating at home. We all wish Mildred a speedy recovery.

Suzette Morand asked that all officers and directors stand and give their names so all could see them. Some of the newer members may not know everyone.

Nancy Harvey stated that someone needs to provide the refreshments for September and October.

Armando Neves passed around a sign up sheet looking for volunteers to set up on Thursday, October 11th and to take down on Sunday, October 14th a 50 square foot exhibit at the Triad Orchid Society show to be held in Greensboro. As they participated in our show, we need to reciprocate and support their show.

Thanks to Erica Wolfe for providing refreshments, to Suzette Morand for hosting the Welcome Table, and to Ruth Stanton for selling raffle tickets.

Ralph Sears, vice-president, introduced our speaker, Courtney T. Hackney, whose topic was "Growing Tips & Other Facets of Orchid Culture. Following the presentation, a number of questions were asked, so much so that there was not enough time to discuss the show table.

The August 13, 2012 The Jack Webster Showtable Awards are as follows:

GREENHOUSE: 1st place: Dendrobium Somkiat "Blue" by Judi Powell
 2nd place: Vanda Mamo X Ascda. Krailerk X V. Wirat by Paul & Olivene Virtue
 3^d place: Renanthera monachica by Alan Miller

NON-GREENHOUSE awards are:

1st place tie: Vanda NOID by Elliot Anderson
1st place tie: Pleurothalis grobyi by Robin & Josh Gurlitz
2nd place: Restripia by Lee Allgood

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by David Pickett, Secretary.

Courtney Hackney

August Speaker

Having read Courtney's column for years, I was really looking forward to meeting him when he came to North Carolina. I was so impressed! Not only is he friendly and kind, but he's incredibly generous about sharing his orchid knowledge. I will appreciate his monthly columns now more than ever.

The key to successful orchid culture, says Courtney, is understanding how species grow in the wild and then replicating those conditions in your growing area. Today, with the internet, it is easy to research where species originate and what the climatic conditions are in that locality. I refer to the OrchidWiz data base for this information, and to Jay Pfahl's Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia (<http://www.orchidspecies.com>). Both sources tell you if your plants need a winter rest period, if the plant is deciduous, and what minimum and maximum temperature the plant can tolerate. They also provide information on light requirements, when new growth occurs, relative natural humidity, and a whole plethora of other little nuggets that all add up to understanding what your specific plant requires. So, with all this information so readily available, growing orchids should be simple, right??? WRONG!!! According to Courtney, it all depends on your water.

Because everyone has different growing conditions, what works for one grower may not work for another. Courtney says that the critical element for orchid culture is the quality of the water you use. Everything else - the light, the air movement, your medium, your container, the nutrients you feed, all of these things can be adjusted. However, if you don't have quality water, your plants are doomed! Well, maybe not doomed, but it will be a struggle. Courtney said that the ideal water for growing Orchids has a pH between 4.5 and 7.0, and less than 100 ppm of dissolved salts. Surprisingly, this information is readily available. If you have city or municipal water, you will receive regular statements from your supplier with little charts that actually provide this information. If you have a well or pond water, you can take a sample to your local Extension Agent for testing.

An internet search will also provide the names of numerous labs that will test your water for a minimum fee. Courtney explained that orchid roots do not have root hairs. Orchid roots are thick and as such serve as storage organs for moisture. They also actively scavenge nutrients, especially micronutrients. If a plant is stressed, it produces more roots. In the wild a plant can produce enormous root systems that fan out around the plant, often with significantly more plant material than the foliage or the pseudobulbs combined. Healthy orchid plants don't need a great deal of fertilizer. In fact, says Courtney, the healthier the root system, the less fertilizer the plant actually needs. Courtney recommends a dry fertilizer which he says is easier to control than liquids. For small collections he recommends Nutricote as a top dressing on each plant with an application only once a year. If applied at the start of the growing season, the plants are fed when they are in active growth and are most able to utilize the fertilizer. After the active growing season the need for nutrients is significantly reduced. Generally this corresponds to the amount of time that Nutricote is actively dissolving.

Courtney stresses that Nitrogen is essential for healthy root growth. Courtney says that is most effective Nitrogen absorption occurs when the pH of the water is between 5.5 and 6.8. Media with high proportions of organic media tends to absorb and degrade a significant quantity of Nitrogen. The old adage "Weakly, weekly" still applies. Courtney said that if your water contains more than 500 ppm, you should reduce your fertilizing schedule and flush your plants more frequently. He also recommends a balanced fertilizer with a combination of nutrients listed as 8 - 3 - 13 on the label. With the recognition that micronutrients are as critical to plant growth as -----, manufacturers are now marketing blends that provide these trace elements. Cal-Mag is one of these, as is the Michigan State University formulation. What is scary is that the cost of these have skyrocketed in the past few months. For the past 6 years, since moving to NC, I have purchased 25 lb bags of Cal-Mag or a micronutrient blend for Reverse Osmosis water for about \$35 - \$40 per bag, from a supplier in Florida. Suddenly this supplier is no longer carrying the dry powders but has switched their inventory to liquids formulated for hydroponic culture. I did find one supplier who continues to offer the MSU formulation in a 25 lb bag.

However, the cost has gone from approximately \$35 per bag plus shipping, to \$135 plus shipping.



Courtney stressed the need to analyze the water you are using. Plants that typically receive a percentage of their moisture needs from cloud forests and daily mists are particularly sensitive and need quality water. If you have a Reverse Osmosis system, Courtney recommends fish emulsion, but at 1/16th of the dose recommended. He cautions against using seaweed emulsion as a substitute because the seaweed is plant not animal matter and can contain plant hormones that may inhibit blooming.

An additional caution Courtney brought up was the fact that foliage grows very quickly during the summer months, especially if the plants are placed outdoors. Courtney recommends reducing the amount of fertilizer used during this time. He believes that leaves grow so quickly the plant cannot sustain the growth, which explains why new growths may suddenly turn black and soggy. He has also recommended a top dressing of lime to help harden new growths as they grow.

Courtney also addressed the problem of damaging insects on plants. He recommends liquid Sevin (1 tsp. per gallon) as an effective drench for slugs and snails. Distance also at 1 tsp. per gallon is a great hormonal treatment for scale as it interrupts the life cycle and prevents the development of eggs and larvae.

For viruses Courtney stressed that they are increasingly hard identify. Several tests currently on the market don't pick up several viruses that cause color breaks. As the symptoms of some virus mimic other conditions, it is increasingly difficult to identify them. They are dangerous however in that they are easily transmitted from one plant to another if cutting tools are not sterilized and the growing area is not kept clean and free of debris. Courtney said that he flames his tools after each use, on each plant. He also soaks his tools in trisodium phosphate. If reusing pots, scrub them well and soak them in a bleach solution.

Courtney made fleeting reference to the fact that there is now evidence that powdered milk contains enzymes that attack viruses. He did not elaborate on how to use it, or at what concentration. Time for another internet search.....

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

TRAVELING TO DC THIS SUMMER OR EARLY FALL? "Now or Never: Saving North America's Native Orchids"

When: Now through October 8, 2012

United States Botanical Garden on the National Mall

"There are more than 250 species of orchids native to the United States and Canada. They occur in every state and province, in a wide range of habitats and climate zones, and more than half are threatened somewhere in their range. Few national efforts exist to restore native orchids. As a result, the Smithsonian and the US Botanic Garden are working together to conserve orchids native to North America. Learn about these orchid habitats, their life cycle and their unique relationship with fungi."

For general information on the USBG: (202) 225-8333



**Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**

1st Place Ribbon:
Den. Somkiat 'Blue'
Grown by Judi Powell



3d Place Ribbon:
Ren. monachica
Grown by Alan Miller

2nd Place Ribbon:
Vanda Mamo X Ascocenda Krailerk
X V. Wirat
Grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue



**Jack Webster Awards
Non-Greenhouse
Grown**



**1st Place tie Ribbon:
Vanda NOID
Grown by Elliot Anderson**

**1st Place tie Ribbon:
Pleurothalis grobyi
Grown by Robin & Josh Gurlitz**



**2nd Place Ribbon:
Restripia
Grown by Lee Allgood**

Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for September 2012

Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net

Advice is a commodity easy to come by and this column is no exception. The problem comes in how it is used. The exact same words can have very different meanings to people based on their knowledge and past experience. In addition, each orchid grower has different goals and growing conditions that make generic advice dangerous.

During a recent speaking tour, a number of hobbyists told me stories of how badly their orchids had grown after they changed the way they were taking care of their orchids. In one case, a hobbyist altered their medium because a visiting speaker's plants were growing extremely well in a medium they had never used. In another case, a recommended fertilizer did not produce the growth expected and in fact caused problems they had never experienced before.

Almost every speaker I hear at society events cautions the audience to remember that their conditions may be different when providing cultural advice and the same is regularly done in this column. Even commercial growers, however, can succumb to the temptation to try something new.

Every year there are new media, new fertilizers and new treatments for pests and disease and I will confess that I usually try them all plus a few of my own. Occasionally, one works well under my growing conditions and it is incorporated into my general culture. Most of the time, however, it does not and becomes fodder for this column. The unfortunate part is the fact that what does not work for me under my cultural conditions may work under yours.

Becoming a great orchid grower requires some experimentation, but everyone needs a starting point. That may mean keeping new plants in the medium they came in or treating extra divisions with something new that just came on the market. During any experiment you still need to apply common sense. For example, if you try a new medium that is clearly more dense and holds water longer, you will need to think about all of the cultural aspects of that change. Longer intervals between watering is an obvious consequence, but you might also need less fertilizer or even a different fertilizer altogether.

The key point is to remember that your orchids are used to specific cultural conditions and have adapted to your conditions. Alter any one variable of culture, i.e. light, temperature, water quality or quantity, humidity, air movement, fertilizer, or media, and an otherwise successful cultural environment can become less so.

Some of the most successful orchid growers I know are best characterized as "minimalists", i.e. just give their orchids the basics and they rarely change anything about their culture. They follow the same approach when it comes to treatments of pests and disease and are very cautious when it comes to using new products, often waiting many years before even trying them. A number of products in the past seemed great but caused long-term problems for either orchids, the grower or both.

As one who provides the best insight and advice I have, I am not insulted when someone chooses not to follow my advice. The cautious person waits for others to try something new before they do.

TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY SILENT AUCTION & COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

DATE: Sept. 29, 2012

TIME: 12:00 NOON

WHERE: OLIVENE & PAUL VIRTUE'S HOME, 3420 KENNEBUCK CT., RALEIGH, NC 27613

Call 919-846-1245 if you need directions

WHEN: Lunch, and bidding, starts at 12:00 pm.....Volunteers arrive at 10:00 A.M.

BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE FOR LUNCH

There will have many plants donated by some of our best growers.; These is a prime collection building event.

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. If you want to help with this spooky show contact President Armando Neves at armandonvs@gmail.com or Connie Howard at fcoat@aol.com.

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:		Calendar 2011	Speaker	Topic
7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Table and Chairs	September 10	Keith Davis	Ghost Orchids
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting Announcements			
7:40-8:30	Program	October 9	Roy Tokonaga H&R Nurseries	TBA
8:30-8:50	Refreshment Break			
8:50-9:20	Show Table Review, Show Table Awards	November 12	Sam Tsui	TBA
9:20-9:30	Raffle			

Welcome Table		Refreshments
----------------------	--	---------------------

September	Teresa Camp	See Nancy Harvey to volunteer
October	Lori Chapman	See Nancy Harvey to volunteer



Associated with

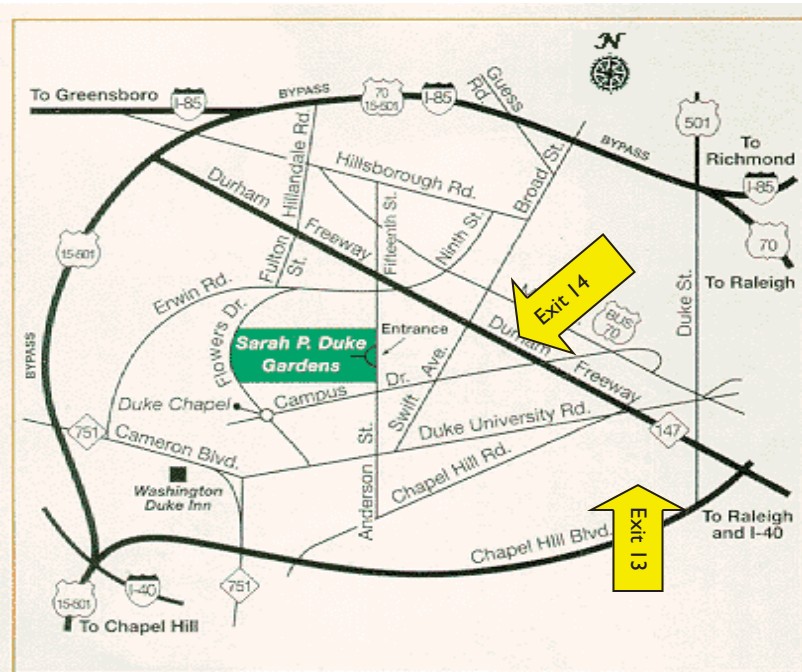
Sarah P Duke Gardens

Newsletter Editor
Josh Gurlitz

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



Cattleya maxima



**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