



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Program for April 8, 2013

Linda Thorne

“The Influence of Phalaenopsis species in today’s modern hybrids”

The “Orchid Lady” of Seagrove is coming to TOS this month! Our guest speaker is Linda Thorne, the owner of Seagrove Orchids in Seagrove, NC.

Linda moved to Seagrove and started Seagrove Orchids with just (?) 500 orchids and now cares for approximately 10,000 plants in 2 greenhouses. Linda grows a wide variety of genera, but Cattleya, Phalaenopsis, and Paphiopedelum are the most prevalent. Seagrove Orchids participates in local, state and national orchid shows. Linda is an AOS certified judge, has won many awards for her wonderful plants, she has been chair of the Greensboro Judging center, is a Regional Director of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance and has been a popular and generous speaker and guest of the Triangle Orchid Society. Linda even has a wonderful dog named Bow Bell (after our favorite white Cat).

Check out her website (www.seagroveorchids.com) and contact her if you have something special you would like her to bring.

LINDA WILL HAVE PLANTS TO SELL

See Announcements page for your pre-ordered mugs; Green Swamp walk update; TOS exhibit at the Sandhills Orchid Society show.

Monday Dinner with 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

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Meeting Minutes March 11, 2013

Members of the Triangle Orchid Society, Inc. met at Sarah P. Duke Gardens in Durham, North Carolina, on March 11, 2013. Ralph Sears, TOS President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Approximately 51 people attended the meeting, and seven guests were welcomed. The minutes of the February 10, 2013, membership meeting were approved.

Jenny Sears gave out new name tags at the Welcome Table for all who had already paid their dues. Ralph reminded everyone that dues for TOS are very small when you consider all the benefits of Membership; for example, receiving the beautiful and informative TOS Newsletter. Please pay your dues at the Welcome Table if you haven't done so yet. Ralph also encouraged everyone to purchase raffle tickets at \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.00. When members who bring plants for the Show Tables buy raffle tickets, they can receive a free raffle ticket for each plant they bring, up to a maximum of five free tickets!

Ralph thanked Suzanne Hens for organizing the refreshment table. He told the membership that Suzanne was also organizing the TOS exhibit for the Sandhills Show in Fayetteville, April 18-21, 2013. Suzanne can answer questions about volunteering to help or loan plants for the show. Members were asked to consider sharing a plant to place in the TOS exhibit. You should take your plants to the Orchid Trail Tuesday, April 16, or Wednesday morning, April 17, to be prepared for the show. All loaned plants should be labeled with the owner's name and contact information. All plants will be eligible for Show awards, but you will need to say whether you want the plant to be considered for an AOS award. (If the plant receives an AOS reward, there is a small fee charged to the owner for registering the award.) See the Newsletter for complete information about the Sandhills Show. This show is not very far from the triangle so members who have not yet been to a show are encouraged to attend. TOS plans to host a show again in 2014 and will need many volunteers with ideas about how to make our own show special!



After the business meeting, Ralph Sears, TOS President, introduced the Expert Growers Panel, TOS members Paul Virtue, Nick Plummer, John Stanton, and Paul Feaver. Refreshments and drinks were available throughout the evening, and members enjoyed the more relaxed atmosphere of sitting at round tables for the lively question and answer session.

Harry Gallis and Bob Meyer led the show table discussion. As usual, the Show Tables were full of spectacular orchids. Bring your blooming plants to share on the show tables and enjoy BOGO raffle tickets. You could also win a ribbon and see your plant 's picture in the next Newsletter, or even on one of next year 's TOS Show Table mugs!

The Jack Webster Show Table Award Plants were:

Greenhouse grown:

- 1st place for *Paph. spicerianum* hybrid grown by Melissa Bullard;
- 2nd place for *Vanda suavis* grown by Paul and Olivene Virtue; and,
- 3rd place for *Dendrobium nobili* grown by Paul Feaver.

Non - Greenhouse grown:

- 1st place for *Chiloschista parishii* grown by Sarah Patterson;
- 2nd place for *Phrag. Kovachii* x *Phrag. besseae* grown by John Bitz; and,
- 3rd place for *Calanthe rubens* grown by Tom Wentworth.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by Nancy Harvey, TOS Secretary. Approved April 8, 2013.

Important Note

Our May meeting will be held at Orchid Trail in Morrisville and not at Duke Gardens. We will be enjoying a very special treat in June..John and Ruth Stanton and Paul Feaver will be giving us tours of Orchid Trail, including their private orchid collections and seedling houses. This is the time to see some rare and exotic genera as well as fine examples of more familiar orchids.

Starts at 6:30 PM

President Ralph Sears will tell us more in an announcement at the April meeting.

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

www.triangleorchidsociety.org

ANN & JOHN MYHRE

TOS GROWER SPOTLIGHT

Ann and John Myhre have been growing orchids about 27 years. They bought their first orchid when the TOS had a show at North Hills Mall. At that point, John had known David Devine for several years, so when David saw John and Ann at the show, David told them that they could not have just one orchid. John and Ann did not believe him, but soon they bought another and another.... They had put glass shelves in a south-facing kitchen window, and soon those shelves were full. They decided to put a greenhouse window in their bedroom, and, when that became, full it was taking Ann two hours to take the orchids to the kitchen, water them, wait for them to stop dripping and take them back to the greenhouse window. They decided it was time for a real greenhouse.

John and Ann chose a 14' x 14' fiberglass-reinforced plastic house from Turner Greenhouse in Goldsboro, NC. It comes in kit form and is like building a big Erector Set. John cleared and leveled the area and built a timber foundation resting on cement blocks. Ann and John did the frame construction, and Alan Miller offered assistance and expertise on installing the panels. They used a professional electrician and plumber (the greenhouse has hot and cold water). That space lasted them about ten years. Then (previous TOS members) Barbara and David Specter made John and Ann a good deal on a 14' x 18' Turner greenhouse when Barbara and David decided to get at 30' x 100' one. After having a tree taken down, John extended the foundation and they installed the 14' x 18' one on the end of their 14' x 14' one, thereby giving them a 14' x 32' enclosure. The original 50,000 BTU natural gas furnace was large enough to heat the whole thing.

Note: one thing John would do differently if he had it to do again. He would put the greenhouse on a 2-3 foot high cement block foundation to give more ceiling height. It is probably past time to replace the fiberglass panels, but John does not know when he will get around to doing it.

John and Ann have about 500 orchids, mostly Cattleyas and some Phals, Oncidiums and Epidendrums. They are less successful with Paphs, Vandas, Dendrobiums, Catasetums, Cymbidiums or Bulbophyllums. They grow what survives their "water everything" philosophy. They grow orchids to enjoy them and fill up their kitchen counter when the plants bloom. John has never wanted to send something to the Judging Center. They grow them to enjoy them and they share the blooms at TOS meetings and TOS exhibits.

John leaves everything in the greenhouse all year; they take nothing outside in the summer. In past years John fertilized with Miracle-Gro weakly weekly in warm weather. But last year they switched to Michigan State University Formula. John and Ann have most things in clay pots and use bark mixture. from John Stanton (owner of The Orchid Trail, Morrisville, NC).

Ann and John have had wonderful times traveling to Eastern Orchid Congress shows in Montreal, Boston, Philadelphia, Norfolk and Orlando. They have also attended and put in exhibits at shows in Miami, Charleston and Savannah. John and Ann even went to London to have a private tour of the orchids at Kew Gardens.

John has served as President and board member of TOS and is now serving as past President.



Angraecum



Greenhouse Interior



SLC Jewell Box "Dark Waters"



Greenhouse Entrance



Greenhouse Interior



A blooming window sill



**Jack Webster Awards
Non-Greenhouse Grown**

1st Place Ribbon:
Chiloschista parishii
Grown by Sarah Patterson



2nd Place Ribbon:
Phrag. Kovachii X besseae
Grown by John Bitz



3d Place Ribbon:
Calanthe rubens
**Grown by Tom
Wentworth**

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

**Jack Webster
Awards
Greenhouse
Grown**



1st Place Ribbon:
Paph. spiceriana
Grown by Melissa Bullard



2d Place Ribbon:
Vanda suavis
**Grown by Olivene & Paul
Virtue**

3^d Place Ribbon:
Den. nobilli
**Grown by
Paul Feaver**





Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for April 2013

Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net

Theoretically, it is spring, although outside temperatures argue otherwise. Your orchids know the date and are responding with new growth and roots as long as you have maintained appropriate minimum temperatures. This time of year, it is easy to forget about the dramatic fluctuations in outside humidity. This single variable is important when deciding whether to fertilize or water.

If your growing area is getting colder than the ideal it is best to keep your orchids drier than usual to avoid the bacterial and fungal rots. When the humidity is low, as is often the case in cold weather, orchids will dry faster. When cold weather is outside the door, it is better to err on the side of keeping orchids on the dry side. Very soon, both the angle of the sun and rising humidity will provide the ideal growing conditions for most orchids. Begin fertilizing lightly now, but increase the frequency once warm weather arrives. Should humidity remain low as light intensifies, add an additional watering. My rate of watering at this time of year is twice what it is in mid-summer when humidity is high.

My rate of fertilizing is 1/16 the recommended dose, but applied 3-4 times per month instead of one application. This time of year I like to alternate between organic fertilizers, such as fish emulsion, and inorganic types such as a balanced Cal Mag. Once greenhouse daytime temperatures exceed 90 F on a regular basis, I avoid using fish emulsion and other organic fertilizers. At those times, it is best to use a fertilizer that provides nitrogen in the form of nitrate or ammonia, instead of urea. Bacteria use urea and in the process degrade organic potting media and do so very efficiently under higher temperatures. Urea is found in many fertilizers and should be avoided, especially in the heat of summer.

Mature cattleyas complete their new growths quickly and then do not need heavy feeding. Seedlings, however, benefit from regular fertilizing as do many other orchid genera. Phalaenopsis, vandas, and any group from hot climates will grow better in the summer and appreciate a constant addition of dilute fertilizer. Remember the phrase, water weakly, weekly.

If you have just a few orchids make fertilizing simple and apply the slow release Nutricote for most orchids now. That should last six months.

Vandas are one of the groups of orchids that love the heat. If you have a vanda that has become “leggy”, i.e. leaves on the top of a long stem with roots at the bottom this is the time to make it more manageable. Vandas that are moved in and out of a sunroom often develop this “leggy” characteristic. Besides being unsightly, vandas with this characteristic seem to slowly go downhill with respect to flower numbers and quality.

There is a solution and it is fairly straightforward. First, soak roots and stem until the stem including the base of leaves that have dropped off is soft. These often become very brittle and prevent new roots from emerging. Soak some sphagnum (Chilean or New Zealand) and wrap it around the stem two inches below the lowest leaf. A mesh bag or pantyhose should be wrapped around the sphagnum and stem to hold the sphagnum in place. Water normally and by the end of summer there should be a flush of big roots pushing out the sphagnum. Once roots are two or three inches long, cut the stem just below the bottom root and place the plant in a new basket. Be sure the roots are either staked in the basket or somehow firmly placed in the basket. Be careful with the new roots in the process. The new roots should quickly attach to the basket and be ready for winter. There might also be a new sprout or two at the top of the stem you just cut, if so, do not throw it away. If you lack space, make a new friend with a gift.

SPRING AOS JUDGED ORCHID SHOWS

April 19-21: Sandhills Orchid Society, Fayetteville, NC.

If you are interested in setting up or helping with any of this show please contact Suzanne Hens.

We will need about 50 plants for this 50 s.f. exhibit so check your greenhouse benches and windowsills for some beautiful plants that will be at their peak in mid-April.

Volunteering for an AOS judged show is one of the very best ways of learning about orchids. Attending a judged show is both informative and a great way to meet orchid hobbyists in other societies. There are always experienced growers and vendors at these shows.



Here is a photo of our recent exhibit at the Piedmont Orchid Show.

Look at all those ribbons for our member plants!

Please consider loaning plants for our Sandhills show.

The Sandhills show is in Fayetteville, is easy to visit

and fun to volunteer for.

Ribbon winners at the Piedmont Orchid Society Show in Charlotte included: Olivene & Paul Virtue, Suzanne Hens, Nancy Harvey, Ann & John Myhre, Paul Feaver and Bob Meyer.



SUZANNE HENS HAS CREATED SOME WONDERFUL MUGS DECORATED WITH PHOTOS OF TOS SHOW TABLE WINNERS.

If you preordered the Triangle Orchid Society mugs, THEY ARE READY. Plan to pay and pick them up at our April meeting.

ANYONE WISHING they HAD ordered them (present for Mother's Day, Graduation, birthday, fourth of July, etc.) you can do so at the next meeting.



Here are a few more detail photos of the TOS exhibit at the Piedmont Orchid Society show in Charlotte.

Anne Williams chaired this prize winning exhibit. She was assisted by Nancy Harvey, Robin & Josh Gurlitz.



GREEN SWAMP ORCHID WALK

Please note:

Our orchid walk in the Green Swamp is rescheduled for June 8.

Cool spring temperatures and an intentional burn have combined to delay flower development. Neil Jacobs and Jen Modliszewski will be leading the tour at this later date. If you have already signed up we will be contacting you about this change of date. Please see, or email, Josh Gurlitz at robing@i-gga.com with any questions.

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 2013	Speaker	Topic
April 8	Linda Thorne Seagrove Orchids Will have plants	Phalaenopsis
May 13 At 6:30 PM At Orchid Trail	Visit a working Orchid Greenhouse	See the notice on page 3 for details!
June 10	Art Chadwick	Cattleya

Welcome Table

Refreshments

April	TBA	Sue Morand & Creighton Humphries
May	TBA	Orchid Trail Greenhouse



Associated with

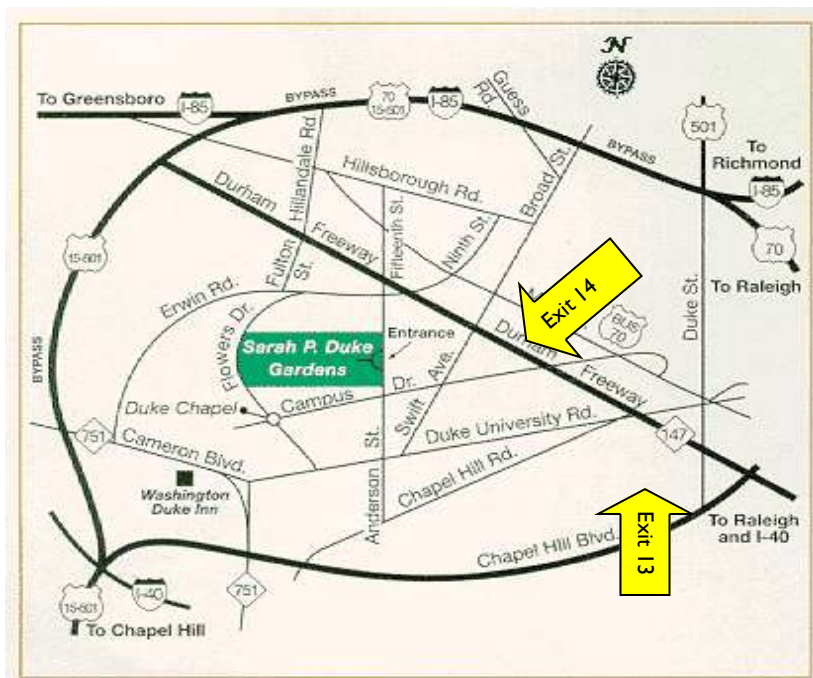
Sarah P Duke Gardens

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Josh Gurlitz

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We are not the only ones who appreciate these beautiful blooms. Daisy Clover, Nancy Harvey's curious feline, is fascinated by these large white, Cattleya in her window.



**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