



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Friends, food, fellowship and fun

## 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

Orchid auction follows

Come early, 5:30, if you can help set up. Also  
volunteers are always appreciated for take down.

There will NOT be a show table this month.

DINNER THIS MONTH WILL  
BE AT OUR HOLIDAY  
PARTY

Great time to renew your  
membership for next year

Inside this issue:

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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 2013

### Officers

#### President

Ralph Sears (919) 477-0843  
[ralphsears@gmail.com](mailto:ralphsears@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Program Chairman  
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#### Secretary

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#### Past President

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### Board of Trustees

#### At Large Trustees: 2013

Connie Howard (919) 309-9014  
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#### At Large Trustees: 2014

Gerry Bowater (919) 593-1674  
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Nicolette Petervary (919) 424-7557

#### At Large Trustees: 2015

Suzanne Hens (919) 452-5545  
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Sidney Cox (919) 489-7173  
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## TOS 2014

At our November meeting on Monday, Nov. 11. the members of the Triangle Orchid Society unanimously voted in favor of the following slate of officers and board members.

President	Nancy Harvey
Vice President	Sally Carpenter
Treasurer	Anne Williams
Secretary	Sidney Cox
Past President	Ralph Sears

### Board of Trustees

2014	Gerry Bowater
2015	Suzanne Hens
2015	Harry Gallis
2016	Pei-fen Liu
2016	David Devine

Subsequent to this vote Sally reconsidered her many other professional and family commitments and concluded that she could not fill the position of Vice President. Robin Gurlitz will be presented as the nominee for this position. Other nominations from the floor are welcome. We will take a vote at the December 9th meeting for the office of Vice President.

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

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



## NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

The November 11, 2013 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society, Inc. was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Ralph Sears, TOS President. Approximately 49 people attended the meeting. The minutes of the October 14, 2013 membership meeting were approved. Special thanks were extended to Jenny Sears, Anne Williams, and Gerry Bowater for manning the Welcome Table and selling raffle tickets during 2013. Everyone was reminded that the December Membership meeting will be a Potluck Dinner and Plant Auction. There will not be a show table and the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm with the potluck dinner. The 2014 board was nominated and unanimously approved.

**Paul Welty, TOS Vice- president, introduced the speaker, Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farms. His presentation was entitled “Decoding Dendrobium: The Surprising Orchids you Thought you Knew!. ”**

After the program retiring Board Member, Connie Howard, provided refreshments and drinks for the evening. Special thanks to Connie for all the work she continues to do for TOS.

Thanks to Harry Gallis for leading an excellent show table discussion. The Jack Webster Award Plants were:

Greenhouse grown:

1st place for *Catleya porcia* grown by Bob Meyer;

2nd place for *Bulb. burfordiense* grown by Nick Plummer; and,

3rd place for *Vanda coerulea* grown by Paul Virtue.

**The Non - Greenhouse grown awards were:**

1st place for *Den. Sulaya Medy Stripe* grown by Suzanne Hens;

2nd place for *Ceratocentron fesselli x tubera* grown by Charles Walker; and,

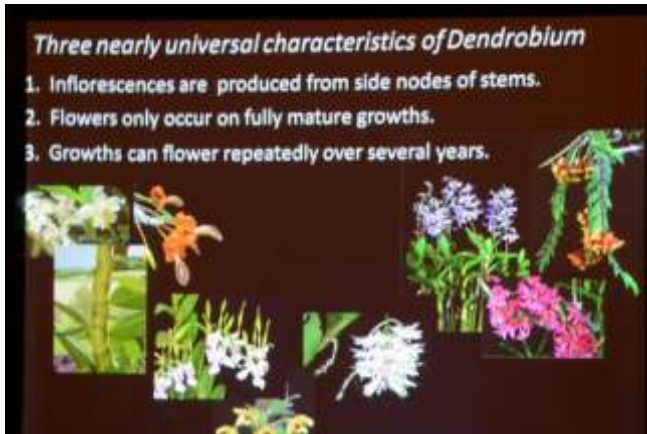
3rd place for *Paph. ( Angel Hair x praestans)* grown by John Bitz.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Harvey, TOS Secretary.

## Speakers Notes – Mark Reinke, Marble Branch Farm

Mark began by reminding us that there are 1200 plus species of Dendrobiums. They come from the highest elevations of the Himalayas to the deserts of Australia. They grow at sea-level or at 10,000 feet. They grow in monsoonal climates where they receive one hundred and fifty inches of rain a year, or on remote ocean atolls in the Pacific. So, given the extremes of climate, is it any wonder that they are so different, and must be grown with this in mind.



Dendrobiums have three characteristics in common.

- 1) They spike from nodes on the sides of the stems.
- 2) They flower only on mature growths, which can be as old as three or four years old.
- 3) And each growth can bloom repeatedly on the same growths. To this, I would add a fourth characteristic, all Dendrobiums have a mentum, or small spur at the base of the flower that is connected to the base of the lateral sepals. Mark made a valiant effort to demystify caring for Dendrobiums by classifying them loosely on their geographic origins and climate needs, and grouped into sections.

The Section Phalaenanthae are the most commonly available Dendrobiums today. They are generally available in big box stores as unnamed hybrids, and are available in a variety of colors. They are easy for hobby growers to re-bloom. Mark said that they are native to Northern Australia and the Pacific islands, including New Guinea and Timor. *D. bigibbum* and *superbiens* are probably the best known species. They are evergreen and the canes are often four or five years old before they bloom. In Thailand they are grown commercially in huge open ranges and sold as cut stems. In their native environments they grow in full sun with temperatures that never drop below seventy degrees. They receive heavy rainfall during the summer months and no rainfall during the winter. However, they also have constant high humidity from the dew and mist that they receive daily. Mark cautioned against fertilizing these during their dry season.

**Section Spatulata** are known as the “Antelope” type Dendrobiums, due to their twisted sepals and petals. The most common species in this section include *D. gouldii*, *D. canaliculatum* and *D. antennatum*. They are distributed from the Philippines to Java to northern Australia and the Pacific islands as far east as Samoa. There are over thirty species in New Guinea alone. These species are found in humid tropical lowlands, and receive year-round high rainfall. They tend to grow on trees that overhang the streams and rivers. They are evergreen and thrive in hot bright conditions. They should be fertilized year round.

The Section Dendrobium covers a vast area from India south to New Guinea and Australia and north to Korea and Japan. They also are found from China to Thailand. The best known, and most commonly available, species include *D. anosmum*, *D. nobile* and *D. loddigesii*. These species are deciduous



**after a year's growth. The flowers are produced during their dry season. The flowers are often large and showy, but short-lived.** They cannot tolerate winter temperatures below sixty degrees and grow best in bright light. Water heavily while they are in active growth but cut back in winter. An old hybrid from this section that is easy to grow is D Super Ise. It has large white and purple flowers, and is most rewarding to grow.

Section Callista is restricted to the mainland Asia, from India and Burma (Myanmar), Thailand to southern China. This section includes D chrysotoxum, D farmer, and D jenkinsii. They are accustomed to winter lows of fifty-five degrees but Mark said they can tolerate a freeze down to twenty degrees for short periods of time. These tend to be tall plants that form large clumps. They can grow as tall as four to seven feet high. They are accustomed to monsoonal cycles of heavy rainfall followed by periods of dryness. The flowers are often borne on pendulous racemes with numerous, large attractive flowers that can last for a few days to a little over a week. They do well in bright light with a dry winter rest.

Section Latouria is found from the Philippines to Samoa, with concentrations in New Guinea. They are rainforest species, with year round rain fall. The plants themselves vary in size from minute (D aberrans) to very large (D spectable). The flowers are generally very long lasting. Many of the flowers hang or droop and are best viewed from below, so grow them in baskets and hang them up high. D aberrans, D alexandrae, and D atroviolaceum, and D spectable are well known, and widely available to hobby growers. **They require "mid-forest" light, or dabbled shade, and do best with temperatures between seventy eight and eighty two degrees.** It is essential that they have good drainage, and year round watering.

Section Formosae is distributed from India through SE Asia to Sumatra, the Philippines and Borneo; and in the opposite direction, from India to Indochina and Thailand. Because they extend over such a wide range they may or may not require a defined dry season. These are some of the showiest orchids in cultivation and include D bellatulum, D christyanum, D dearie, and D formosum. Most of the flowers are white, but they often have bright yellow or orange throat on their lips.

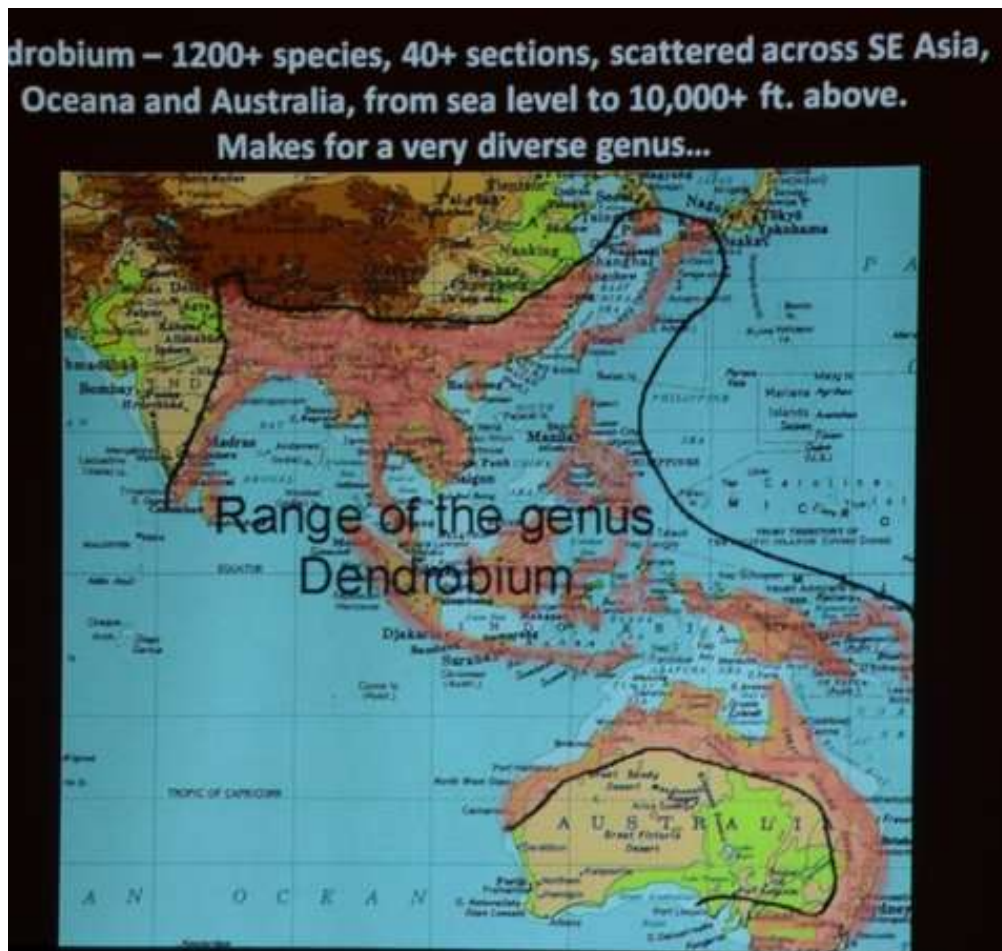
Section Dendrocoryne are found primarily along the eastern coast of Australia and the adjacent Pacific islands. This section is becoming increasingly popular with hybridizers in Australia, with some of the best of these slowly becoming available to growers in this country. Many of the hybrids contain D kingianum, which has been available to growers for years. Some of the most readily available species in this section include D jonesii, D speciosum (in several variations), and D tetragonum. These are generally intermediate to cool growing plants that can tolerate temperatures close to freezing. They require a dry, cooling period in order to set bud. The plants are evergreen and slow to mature, often not blooming until they are eight years or older.

Section Pedilonum is distributed from India to Samoa, with the greatest concentrations in New Guinea. The flowers in this section are characterized by their elongated form and their bright colors. The lips are generally narrow and they are probably bird pollinated. The foliage is deciduous after a year. There are a number of popular species in general cultivation, including D bracteoseum, D bullencianum, D goldschmidtianum, D secundum and D smillieae. These plants are intermediate to warm growing and most will tolerate brief dry periods.

Section Calcarifera is a recently created section with many of the species previously classified as Pedilonum. They are distributed from mainland Asia south to Borneo and Java. As expected these require different conditions, depending upon the species. The species included here are *D amethystoglossum*, *D lancifolium*, *D papulio* and *D victoriae-reginae*. These are medium sized epiphytes with fleshy stems. The foliage is deciduous after a year or two and most bloom on older growth.

Section Oxyglossum is concentrated in New Guinea, growing at high to moderate altitudes, in mossy forests with constant high humidity and minimal variations in temperature (50 degrees C). These are small to miniature plants with large flowers which are long lasting and colorful. The lips are often distinctive and brightly color. They often grow as creeping clumps. Species in this section include *D delicatulum*, *D masarangense*, *D violaceum* and *D cuthbertsonii*. *D cuthbertsonii* tends to be cool growing, and comes in a wide range of vivid colors. It's most rewarding to grow!

I appreciate that these notes are sparse and don't begin to provide enough information to grow many *Dendrobiums* successfully. This is such a huge genus, and their distribution covers such vast geographical regions, it is virtually impossible to generalize. However, if you love *Dendrobiums*, as I do, I suggest you invest in a fabulous book that does provide the detail to simplify this whole process. Look for "*Dedbrobium and its Relatives*" by Lavarack, Harris and Stocker, published by Timber Press in Portland, OR. The books costs about \$40.00 (a little pricey!) but I've found it to be a most worthwhile investment.







## GROWING TIPS for December

By

Courtney T. Hackney

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

After 20 years, I am putting down my pen (or keyboard), at least when it comes to the monthly column. I do plan to write the occasional column when something new comes along or there is a new problem to solve. After 20 years, it seems as if the column has covered everything one could ever ask about orchid growing, but I know there will be new issues. We have archived all of the old columns delivered via email for new hobbyists or for those looking for some item published in a past column. They can be found on the web [<http://www.rose4art.com/orchid-growing-tips-index-to-articles.htm>].

Looking over all those old columns reminded me how many of the new products that came along never quite lived up to the hype, but also that there were some that did. There were also a number of recommendations I made that followed all published material on orchid culture that are no longer followed because good scientific studies showed they did not work. The use of fertilizers with lots of phosphate (middle number) comes to mind. It still bothers me to hear speakers and new books continuing to make the same statements.

Some wonderful new products have come along that solved age-old problems, while other products that worked well are no longer available. Scale, once the bane of every cattleyas grower, is now easily controllable through hormonal pesticides such as Distance. Fertilizers that are easy to use and avoid the burn that used to be common are available, e.g. Nutricote. Even so, it still takes time to learn to grow orchids because there are so many different kinds, many with particular requirements of water and temperature.

I have tried to pass along a simple principle over these 20 years; follow the KISS principle (Keep it Simple). While you, as a hobbyist, may not grow your orchids as fast as a commercial grower, your orchids will still thrive. Everyone can grow great orchids without all of the exotic fertilizers and media. More harm has been done trying to grow the way commercial nurseries do than can be imagined.

The best way to learn how to grow orchids is to ask advice from those who have already figured it out. That will always be the best place to start. Most orchids are not delicate and can handle just about everything we do to them with the exception of overwatering, over-fertilizing and over-repotting. It is difficult for the new hobbyist to avoid this, which is why so many kill their first orchid. Once the novice grasps a few terms and concepts, growing orchids becomes easier as does learning from books and fellow hobbyists.

Orchids are more available now than ever before. Supermarkets, hardware stores and many other retail outlets have them available in bloom, yet there are now fewer orchid hobbyists than a decade ago. Perhaps the availability and the fact that it is easy to replace them make the prospect of growing them less interesting. Just like every hobby, there will always be those people that enjoy the challenge of growing one orchid and then another until you have mastered it. Of course, when it comes to orchids, there are always different genera or more unusual orchids to find and learn to grow. That is what makes this such a special hobby.

A very big and heart felt THANK YOU to Courtney for all the serious and humorous advice over the years. And the volumes of information; some of which fell under the “DO NOT do this... I made the mistake for you” category. There is nothing like experience and Courtney shared his with wit, warmth and eloquence!!



Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse  
Grown

1st Place Ribbon:  
*Dendrobium Salaya Medy Stripe*  
Grown by Suzi Hens

2nd Place Ribbon:  
*Ceratocentron fessellii x Tubera*  
Grown by Charles Walker



3d Place Ribbon:  
*Paphiopedilum*  
(*Angel Hair x praestans*)  
Grown by John Bitz

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



## Jack Webster Awards Greenhouse Grown

1st Place Ribbon:  
*Cattleya Porcia Cannizara*  
Grown by Bob Meyer



2nd Place Ribbon:  
*Bulbophyllum burfordiense*  
Grown by Nick Plummer

3d Place Ribbon:  
*Vanda coerulea*  
Grown by Paul Virtue



## SANDHILLS ORCHID SHOW

TOS WILL HAVE AN EXHIBIT AT THE SANDHILLS ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW ON JAN. 31 THROUGH FEB. 2, 2014. THIS SHOW WILL BE IN FAYETTEVILLE, NC. WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO SET UP THE SHOW, TAKE IT DOWN AND TO LOAN BLOOMING PLANTS. PLEASE SEE NANCY HARVEY OR ROBIN GURLITZ TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS WINTER SHOW.

*Dendrobium dichaeoides*



### Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:

		Calendar	Speaker	Topic
7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Table and Chairs	Dec 9, 2013 At 6:30 PM	Holiday Party	Friendship and Orchids
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting Announcements			
7:40-8:30	Program	Jan.13, 2014	Harry Gallis	Orchid Judging
8:30-8:50	Refreshment Break			
8:50-9:20	Show Table Review, Show Table Awards	Feb. 10, 2014	Watch this Space	
9:20-9:30	Raffle			

### Welcome Table

### Refreshments

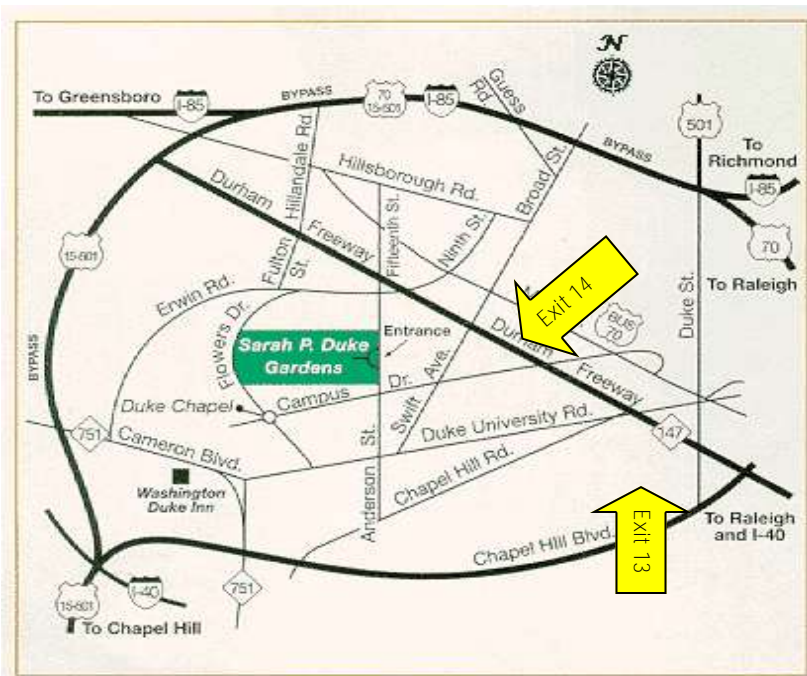
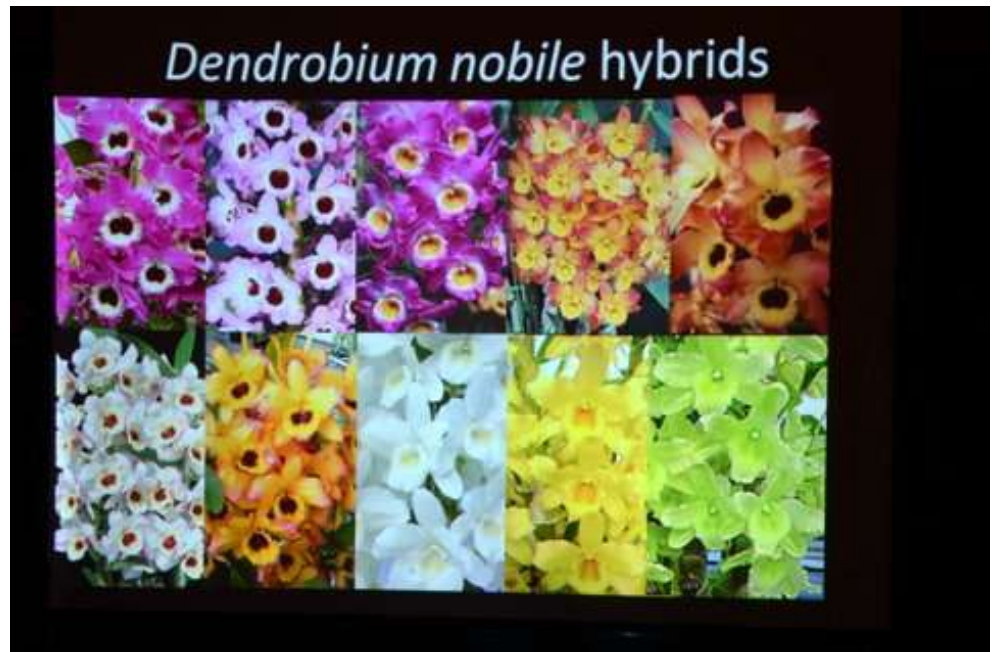
December	Jenny Sears	Each & Every One of Us
January		



Associated with  
Sarah Duke Gardens

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Map and directions  
To Sarah Duke Gardens.



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