



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## Speaker for January 14, 2013 Nick Plummer

Nicholas Plummer has been growing orchids since 1993, starting under fluorescent lights and moving to a home-made greenhouse when his wife banned the orchids (together with their accompanying mildew, spilled water, and scattered potting mix) from the house. He has been an active member of the Triangle Orchid Society since 1998. Nick grows primarily species, and particular favorites include *Habenaria*, *Encyclia*, and Caribbean species.

Originally from the south of England, Nick came to North Carolina by way of Iran, Norway, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. He has been obsessed with natural history since childhood, and in addition to growing orchids, he enjoys finding and photographing the insects, reptiles, and amphibians around his home. Nick studied biology and genetics at Penn State and the University of Michigan, and he is currently employed at the NIEHS in Research Triangle Park, where he designs transgenic mice for analysis of nervous system development. Nick and his wife Jen are raising two small hybrids who have not yet reached blooming size.

The title of Nick's program is:

**What have they done with our Laelias?! Learning to love the reorganization of the Cattleya alliance."**

**THERE WILL BE A MEMBER PLANT SALE**

**FIRST TIME EVER!!**

**Renew your TOS membership in Jan. and receive a 15% discount at Orchid Trail on 1st purchase of 2013 on orchid hybrids, pots or supplies**

**Monday Dinner**

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

#### President

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#### Program Chairman

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#### Treasurer

Anne Williams (919) 493-1727 [annewilliams1973@hotmail.com](mailto:annewilliams1973@hotmail.com)

#### Past President

John Myhre (919) 772-5514  
[johnmyhre@nc.rr.com](mailto:johnmyhre@nc.rr.com)

### Board of Trustees

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## Meeting Minutes December 10, 2012

The December 10, 2012 Holiday Party and Membership Meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society, Inc. was called to order by Armando Neves, President, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone was welcomed including guests which ranged in age from children to octogenarians. The President thanked the Board for its work during the year and Nancy Harvey for chairing refreshments, Sue Morand for the Welcome Table, Paul Feaver and Nick Plummer for the Show Table, Robin and Josh Gurlitz for the newsletter and to all of those who donated plants for raffles, auctions and loaned plants for shows.

Accomplishments for the year included a new professionally designed logo and website for which the Society would like to express its gratitude to Armando for all of his work in designing something so special. We have a "Grower of the Month" column in the newsletter. Had a web-based Member Survey, and held an Orchid Repotting Workshop at the Orchid Trail. We participated in a number of educational events, including "Darwin Day", the Sandhills Orchid Society show and the Triad Orchid Society Show. We also sponsored a fantastic "Growers Day" with many wonderful speakers plus held Fall and Spring silent auctions. We brought many most informative speakers from around the country again this year to talk at our monthly meetings.

Paul Feaver was recognized with a gift certificate to H&R Orchids in Hawaii for his years in helping our Society by discussing the Show Table, hauling lights and stands, and for having previously served as a Board Member.

Ralph Sears, incoming TOS president, talked about volunteer opportunities at an upcoming AOS show in Richmond (Virginia Orchid Society) in Feb.

Thanks to Paul Feaver and Nick Plummer for discussing the Show Table tonight and to all who brought wonderful food for our pot-luck dinner. Table were decorated with 'Fire Flash' (Chlorophytum amaniense) plants donated by Robin Gurlitz. These plants were to be taken home along with basil seedlings from Paul Welty. Thanks to Ralph Sears and Bob Meyer for auctioneering this evening. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fast-paced action of the auction and the opportunity to obtain some very nice plants.

The Jack Webster Show Table awards are as follows:

GREENHOUSE GROWN – 1<sup>st</sup> Place to Bob Meyer for D. Aggregatum lindleii;  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place to Phil Warner for Enc. fragrans; and,  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place to Paul Virtue for Cynodes "Jumbo Puff".

NON-GREENHOUSE GROWN –

1<sup>st</sup> Place to Bob Meyer for Cynd. Wine Delight  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Tie to Nick Burton for both V. Fuch's  
 Delight 'Black' and Ascocenda 'Orange Belle'.

This is my last report as Secretary. Let's wish Nancy Harvey a great year as your new Secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m...Submitted by David Pickett, Secretary.



## **Courtney Hackney..Growing Tips for January 2013**

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

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

Given the popularity of orchids, it is hard to believe that one of the biggest issues for orchid hobbyists today is obtaining media. Most of the difficulties I have had the past few years relate to poor quality media or to the unavailability of some previously popular media. Florida's warm temperatures pose problems for organic media and Aliflor and lava rock have proven to be ideal both for the climate and for my lack of interest in repotting. Aliflor is no longer available and I haven't found a substitute with the same qualities. Several friends have suggested various plastic products that shed water. Stalite is another product that has been suggested, but it does not come in a large size as its intended purpose is as a light rock to mix with cement. If nothing new is found before repotting begins in April, one of these products may be the solution.

One would expect that the use of sphagnum by the pot plant trade would mean that there would be a good supply of that medium. However, the quality has become so poor that finding good sphagnum has become difficult. The last bale of Chilean sphagnum looked fine, but disintegrated within six months while the previous year's sphagnum remained relatively intact on the same bench. Finally, I found a supplier for New Zealand sphagnum. It was three times the cost, but is clearly much higher quality. There is even better New Zealand sphagnum available if you are looking for the longest, freshest strands. If you are uncertain how to tell quality of sphagnum there are several things to look for. It should consist of strands of moss that are at least 6" long. If there are lots of tips or broken pieces you likely have poor quality material best used for garden plants. Another technique is to just soak it for 24 hrs and then pull strands from both ends. Leave the material moist and test it each week the same way. The poor material I used offered no resistance after a month, however, New Zealand sphagnum remained strong.

Several commercial growers told me that they could not afford the high quality sphagnum and had switched to a mixture of charcoal and large sponge rock, which is a soil aerator. Plants I have had in this mixture are doing well after a year, but I have some issues with using charcoal derived from cutting and burning rain forest trees.

What is the ideal medium? A product that was inexpensive, decomposed slowly, if at all, and did not leach salts or produce extreme acidity or alkalinity in the pot would be nice. Ideally, it would be light, so that shipping would be less expensive and be useful in the garden when discarded. Where are the entrepreneurs when you really need?

The first incident of rot showed up last month on phal. leaves. This is a common occurrence each year on new phals and even some newly purchased cattleya seedlings. Orchids grown under high nutrient conditions are prone to this soft rot, easily identified because affected tissues look watery. Such rots spread quickly and must be treated before reaching the meristem in the crown, which can kill the whole plant. Remove the infected area and be sure to cut well inside the healthy living tissue, to be sure the rot is removed. Put some cinnamon powder on the cut. After such an infection, I also spray the orchid and surrounding plants with hydrogen peroxide each time after I water to be sure there are no spores germinating. I do this for a couple of weeks after treating an active rot infection.

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

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



**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**

**1st Place Ribbon:**  
Den. aggregatum lindleii  
Grown by Bob Meyer



**2nd Place Ribbon:**  
Encyclia fragrans  
Grown by Phil Warner



**3d Place Ribbon:**  
Cycnodes Jumbo Puff  
Grown by Paul & Olivene  
Virtue

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



**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse  
Grown**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Cynodes "Wine Delight"  
Grown by Bob Meyer

**2<sup>d</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
Ascocenda "Orange Belle"  
Grown by Nick Burton

**2<sup>d</sup> Place Ribbon:**  
V. Fuch's Delight "Black"  
Grown by Nick Burton



**WINTER & SPRING AREA AOS JUDGED ORCHID SHOWS**

**February 22-24: Virginia Orchid Society, Richmond VA.**

**March 8-10: Piedmont Orchid Society, Charlotte, NC.**

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

**If you are interested in setting up or helping with any of these shows please contact President Ralph Sears. 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. If you have not done this before, this is the year to try it.**

| <b>Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:</b> |   | <b>Calendar 2013</b> | <b>Speaker</b>                                      | <b>Topic</b>                                 |
|--|---|----------------------|---|--|
| 7:00-7:30                                      | Set Up Show Table and Chairs            | <b>January 14</b>    | <b>Nick Plummer<br/>TOS members<br/>Orchid SALE</b> | <b>What have they done with our Laelias?</b> |
| 7:30-7:40                                      | Business Meeting<br>Announcements       | <b>February 11</b>   | <b>TBA</b>  | <b>TBA</b>                                   |
| 7:40-8:30                                      | Program                                 |                      |   |  |
| 8:30-8:50                                      | Refreshment Break                       | <b>March 11</b>      | <b>Special Event</b>                                | <b>TBA</b>                                   |
| 8:50-9:20                                      | Show Table Review,<br>Show Table Awards |                      |   |  |
| 9:20-9:30                                      | Raffle                                  |                      |   |  |

**Welcome Table**

**Refreshments**

|                 |            |  |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| <b>January</b>  | <b>TBA</b> | <b>Erica Wolfe<br/>Refreshment Host 2013</b> |
| <b>February</b> | <b>TBA</b> |  |



Associated with

**Sarah P Duke Gardens**

Newsletter Editor  
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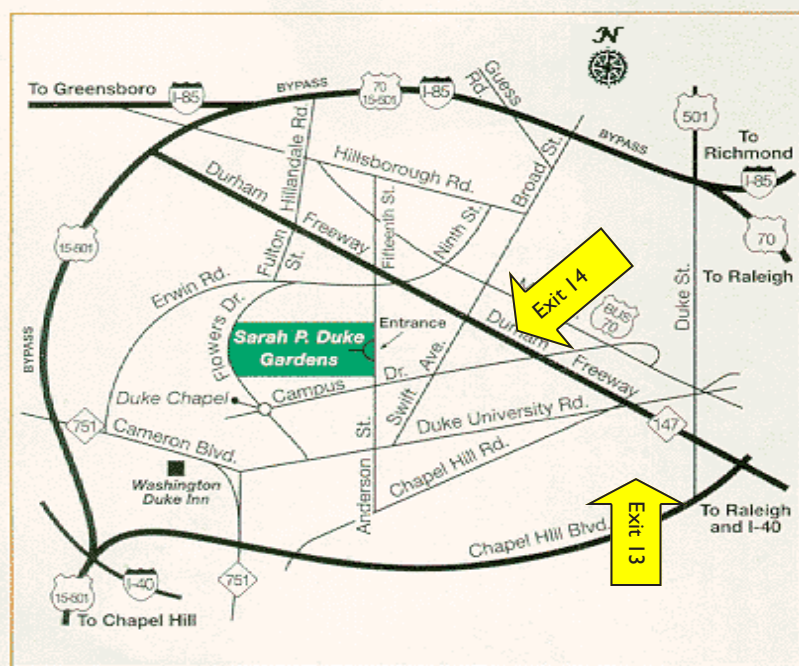


## GREEN SWAMP ORCHID WALK

### Calopogon orchid

One of the fascinating orchids found in the Green Swamp area.

We are pre-planning a guided visit to the Green Swamp near Wilmington, NC. to see native orchids in a coastal habitat. Our own Tom Wentworth will be our guide. The tour would be in early May. We are checking interest in this outing. If you are interested please see Josh Gurlitz, Paul Welty or Tom Wentworth and let them know.



**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