



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

April 14, 2014

Paul Feaver

DENDROBIUMS

Paul is a California product who went to University of Michigan to get his Ph.D. in Ecology. While there Paul started growing cacti and other succulents under lights as a hobby. He bought my first orchid there, a *Trichocentrum tigrinum*, and proceeded to kill it. After nine years of Michigan winters, and the completion of postdoctoral work, with his wife, his succulent collection, a paph Paul went looking for warmer climates. His wife was offered a position in Biology at NC State so they come to North Carolina. Paul did temporary teaching positions and construction for 10 years and in that time met Nat Carson. Suffice it **to say that his succulents were donated to NC State because they don't like greenhouses that drip condensation in the winter** and Paul was hooked on orchids by Nat.

Pauls collection grew to 450 plants in a 10x12 greenhouse. Nat offered him a **job at Bloomin' Orchids taking care of other people's orchids and he was with Nat until they closed in 2003.** John Stanton „now The Orchid Trail, offered Paul a job doing the same thing and he has been with John ever since.

Pauls orchids of major interest are dendrobiums and their relatives, miniature laelias and cattleya , paphs and phrags, but he dabble with other groups also. His collection is now about 600 plants (down from about 2000 when he started with John

By the way, Pauls second orchid, the paph was still alive when he gave it away 20 years later. Even though Paul grows most orchids fairly well, he still manages to kill a few!

Plants for sale from The Orchid Trail

Monday Dinner *without our Speaker*

5:30 PM - **before the meeting** at the **Carrabba's Restaurant**

5312 New Hope Commons Drive, Durham, across from New Hope Commons Shopping Center at the intersection of I-40 and US 15/501.

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

2014

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The March 10 2014 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was called to order at 7:30pm by Nancy Harvey, the new TOS President. Six guests were welcome. Approximately 52 people attended the meeting this night. Anne Williams and Connie Howard were recognized for covering the Welcome Table. Sarah Patterson and Suzanne Hens were recognized for selling raffle tickets and supporting the raffle table, which had many good quality orchids this month.

All members were reminded to volunteer for the many activities that need support including the snack table. Everyone was encouraged to pay their 2014 dues to TOS Treasurer Anne Williams. The May 17 TOS auction was announced.

Robin Gurlitz, the TOS Vice-President, introduced Wesley Higgs, PhD, the speaker for this meeting. Wesley's topic was "Orchid Diversity".

Following the speaker presentation, there was a short time for refreshments. Thanks were extended to Suzanne Hens who provided the refreshments and drinks for the evening.

Nick Plummer and Lee Algood discussed the orchids for the show table this month. The Jack Webster Award Plants were:

Greenhouse Awards were:

1st Place: Den amabile, grown by David Picket

2nd Place: Vanda tricolor, grown by Pei-fen Liu

3rd Place: Den. chalmersii, grown by Paul Feaver

The Non-Greenhouse awards were:

1st Place: Maxillaria tenuifolia, grown by Suzanne Hens

2nd Place: Den Peter Shen, grown by Suzanne Hens

3rd Place: Den hybrid containing Den bigibbum var. compacta, grown by Sidney Cox

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30. Meeting notes submitted by Sidney Cox, TOS Secretary.

Dear fellow Orchid Lovers,

Orchid Plant Auctions are an exciting source of new plants for our members, but they are also the most important TOS fundraiser. **Effective fundraising is necessary if TOS wants to continue to have nationally known, professional speakers.**

Speakers from far away incur high travel and support costs for TOS. In the past, TOS has functioned like a club for people who work together to promote a shared interest. TOS is not just an Advisory Board which sponsors a lecture series; our very low membership dues are meant to encourage membership and participation, not cover all our programing costs. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so those who are able to donate money or supplies, including mileage costs, can deduct those contributions from their taxes. However, **VOLUNTEER workers and fundraisers will continue to be essential to the ability of TOS to provide interesting, high quality, programs and educational events for our membership and the general public.** Please, mark your calendar now to come to the Spring Auction, and buy a Mother's Day gift for a special orchid lover! VOLUNTEER to help unpack, list, and transport the orchids from the Orchid Trail and be among the first to check out the fabulous plants to be auctioned!

VOLUNTEER sign-up sheets for TOS activities are always available on the Welcome Table!

If you have program ideas, please feel free to speak directly to me or Robin Gurlitz. The recent survey indicated that the membership is open to less structured, more creative approaches to programs on occasion. Offer ideas to the Officers. Warning! You may be asked to help! I know, I know! I say VOLUNTEER every third word; but that is because

TOS CAN NOT CONTINUE TO EXIST WITHOUT MORE VOLUNTEERS!!

The VOLUNTEER OFFICERS and VOLUNTEER TRUSTEES need the MEMBERS to step up and VOLUNTEER when they see something, anything, they can do to support TOS. Something as simple as bringing a bag of ice in a cooler for the refreshment table each meeting relieves a Board Member of one of the hundreds of things we do to prepare for every membership meeting. *Without an engaged and participating membership, the 'Triangle Orchid Expert Lecture Series' as you enjoy it now could end, and not return unless restructured to collect higher fees from participants. At least the current model allows you to spend most of your personal funds on beautiful plants. Please, participate and VOLUNTEER!!*

Nancy Harvey, TOS
President

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

Speaker Notes Wes Higgins “Orchid Diversity”

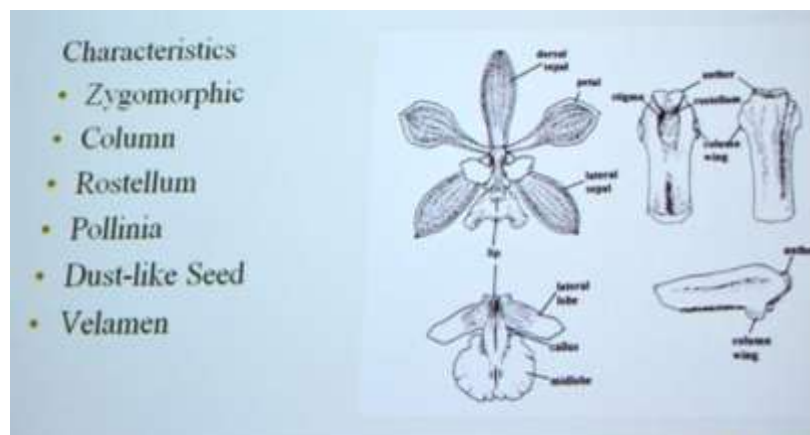
Dr. Higgins presentation was truly unique! As unique, I believe, as the Orchids he was describing. I can only estimate that he had over fifty photos of flowering Orchids, including some of the most bizarre, never-seen-in-cultivation species. His message, that Orchids have evolved in a multiple of ways in order to survive, was well made. He said that while there are characteristics common to all orchids, individual species have adapted to their environment and their pollinators in ways that are unique for each species.

Dr. Higgins described Orchids in true taxonomic fashion by going back to the classical Plant Classification systems. All Orchids are incorporated into the Orchidaceae family. Orchids all have a vascular system. They also have seeds, but the seeds have no embryo. This does make orchids rather unique in that seed germination is dependent upon co-existing fungi for nourishment. If the fungi is not present, the seeds are unable to develop, causing extremely high mortality rates. It is not surprising that a single seed pod can contain thousands or millions of seeds – if only a very small percentage of these seeds are able to find the necessary fungi, for the survival of the species. **The seeds are so fine they are described as “dust-like”, Another distinction of the seeds is that they are so light they are easily carried by air currents to locations far and wide.**



All orchid flowers have the same floral parts. They all have sepals, petals, stamen and a stigma. At times, some of these floral parts are modified. Consider a *Cattleya* for example. How many different shapes can the lip have? There are closed tubular structures, or flat or ruffled structures. They can be rounded or square or pointed. They can be the same color as the sepals and petals, or they can be totally clashing. You get the point -- the possibilities are infinite! The point is that all orchids all have these same floral parts, but each species has evolved into its own unique form.

There are other characteristics that all Orchids share. For instance, each flower has a Column, whether clearly visible or not. Each Column has an Anther cap, and a Stigmatic surface. Dr. Higgins pointed out that the shape of the Column is variable, and that the shape of the Column is driven by the pollinator.



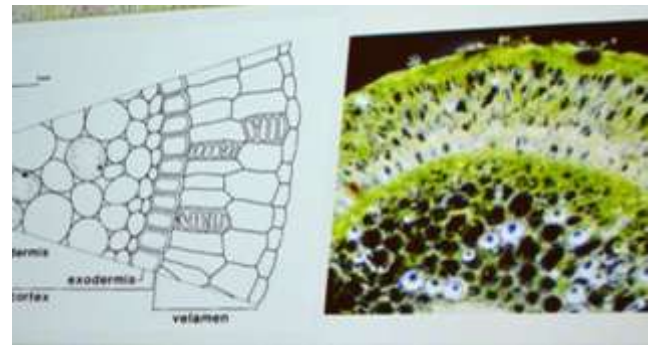
How clever can that Orchid plant be?? It develops its reproductive organ in such a way to as to attract the bee or fly or bird that becomes its preferred transporter of pollen from one flower to another.

That's pretty specific evolution.

Orchids also can have velamen on their roots. This spongy white material protects the roots from sun-burn and other hazards, but most importantly it helps the roots absorb and retain moisture. Roots of terrestrial plants do not have velamen, so this appears to be a rather specialized adaptation for epiphytic orchids. **We've all seen new roots emerge with only the growing tip not covered with velamen. And we've all seen how roots can shrivel and die if that velamen is damaged, especially when we're transplanting the orchids.**

One more characteristic about Orchid flowers I find fascinating is the fact that they are Zygomorphic, that is if you cut a flower in half and you will see that the two sides are symmetrical. View the flower from the side, you will see the symmetry. This is especially important at the judging table, as a lopsided flower will garner no awards. Next time you are admiring a Paph, get the side view, it will help you understand why that flower did/did not get awarded.

Dr. Higgins certainly has a valid point. Rather than focusing on the differences between species and general of Orchids, we need to focus on what is similar – while still appreciating the vast diversity of the Family Orchidaceae.



_Thanks to Joy Lemieux for transcribing
Dr. Higgins remarks
and to Alan Miller for the photos



Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown



2nd Place Ribbon:
Vanda tricolor
Grown by Pei fen Lieu



1st Place Ribbon:
Dendrobium amabile
Grown by David Pickett



3d Place Ribbon:
Dendrobium chalmersii
Grown by Paul Feather



Jack Webster Awards
Non-Greenhouse
Grown

1st Place Ribbon:
Maxillaria tenuifolia
Grown by Suzi Hens



2nd Place Ribbon:
Dendrobium Peter Shen
Grown by Suzi Hens



3^d Place Ribbon:
Dendrobium hybrid
Grown by Sidney Cox

Triangle Orchid Societies' Spring Orchid Auction

Put this on you calendar

Saturday, May 17th

Join us at the White Oak Shelter at Lake Crabtree County Park (1400 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville, NC) right off I-40. For directions go to: www.wakegov.com/parks/lakecrabtree.

Time: 12:00 PM ————— until we have finished selling all the wonderful orchids

Bring a dish to share for lunch bring a smile and a happy attitude and SHARE a good time with new and old friends! Whether you buy an orchid or not you'll have a good time!

BUT we do hope you buy. THESE AUCTIONS ARE our major fundraising EVENTS where we make most of our money to continue to run our organization



At the **July TOS Meeting**, there will be a **Member's Plant Sale**. So, plan ahead while repotting and dividing this spring!

August 2nd: TOS Grower's Day at JC Raulston Arboretum. Save the date!

Lunch and Learn: 'The North American Orchid Conservation Center'

With Dennis Whigham, Senior Botanist,
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Thursday, June 05, 2014

North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Bring your lunch and join us for a free lecture!

Learn about native orchids and the Go Orchids website, the first major product of the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC, <http://northamericanorchidcenter.org/>). The website currently contains information on orchids of the New England and mid-Atlantic, as well as those that occur in North Carolina. Hear Dennis talk of plans to add orchids from the South-east and other parts of the country to the database, with a goal of covering all taxa in the U.S. and Canada by the end of 2014

Free, but you must register in advance at : www.ncbg@unc.edu See "events"

J&L ORCHIDS WILL BE PRESENTING OUR PROGRAM IN MAY.

J & L Orchids of Easton Connecticut 203-261-3772

Please visit their website at : www.jlorchids.com.

They have an online catalogue with many photographs , growing temperatures and prices. They have fascinating orchids which do not take up too much space.

Just to tempt you with a partial list in their catalogue: Draculas, Pleurothallis, Dendrobiums, Masdevallias, Coelogynes , Platysteles, Chiloschista, Dendochilum, and these including species and hybrids.

They offer a 10% discount on domestic PREORDER Orchids that are delivered to the societies where J & L is talking.

If you preorder please follow their directions on their website . Make sure you indicate which Orchid Society you are with so the orders can be packed accordingly. Please give them plenty of time to find, package and wrap your preorder. All this takes time. They want your orchids to arrive fresh and your speaker to arrive fresh.



HELP SUPPORT THIS WONDERFUL PUBLICATION : ORCHID DIGEST and have a good time, too.

Orchid Tales—The Adventures of George and Matilda by Editor Emeritus of Orchid Digest Harold Koopowitz . The majority of the proceeds go to Orchid Digest.

“This is a collection of stories based on either facts about orchids or events in orchid history. The stories range from the discovery of rare plants in the long ago past to the extinction of species in a future time. The stories are unique in that while each tale takes place in a different time era and country, the characters and their personalities always remain the same. “

Monthly Checklist for March and April

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium



Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Cymbidium Magic Mountain photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas



Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis



This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold..

Miltoniopsis Martin Orenstein shows off a beautiful waterfall pattern on its labellum. Photographed at Longwood Gardens in early April. © G. Allikas



Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.



Masdevallia Highland Monarch 'Free Spirit'
AM/AOS photographed at Parkside Orchids.
Ottsville, Pennsylvania © G. Allikas

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

This Column Courtesy of:

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The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

ONE MORE BENEFIT OF OUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

TOS THANKS THE AOS FOR PERMISSION TO REPRINT
THIS ARTICLE

!!!!CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM WENTWORTH!!!! FOR RECEIVING THE ELIZABETH ANN BARTHOLOMEW AWARD

On April 4 our own Dr. Tom Wentworth was presented with the Elizabeth Ann Bartholomew Award of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in professional and public service in ways that advance knowledge and appreciation of the world of plants and their scientific, cultural, and aesthetic value to society.

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2013	Speaker	Topic
7:00-7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	April 14, 2014	Paul Fever Orchids for sale	Dendrobiums
7:30-7:40 Business Meeting Announcements			
7:40-8:30 Program	May 12, 2014	J&L Orchids Orchids for sale	Good Things come in Small Packages
8:30-8:50 Refreshment Break			
8:50-9:20 Show Table Review, Show Table Awards	June 9, 2014	Charles Wilkins	Orchids You Should Consider Growing (Dendrochilums, Phragmipediums, Gongoras, Stanhopeas)
9:20-9:30 Raffle			

Welcome Table	Refreshments
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April	Anesha Johnson & Jeanette Maseengill	Steven McAllister, Kelly Nipps, Ann Williams, Robin Gurlitz
May	See host to volunteer	See Suzanne Hens to volunteer

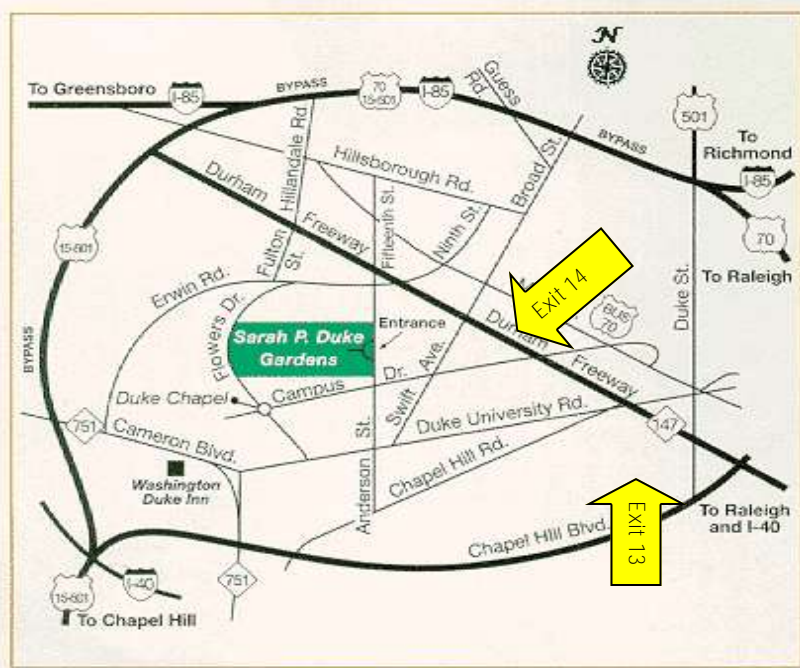


Associated with
Sarah Duke Gardens

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Den. anosmum
Raffle plant from last month



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