



# Orchidaceae

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

## January 13 Speaker

### Dr. Harry Gallis

Harry A Gallis MD is a native of Athens, GA, graduate of Princeton University, Duke University School of Medicine and training programs in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Duke University. Although fully retired in December of 2008, he has continued to do consultative work in continuing health professions education.

Harry began growing orchids in 1980, initially purely as a hobbyist, ultimately growing his collection to a small commercial backyard operation with 3500 plants. In 1993 he and Jack Webster chaired an American Orchid Society (AOS) Trustees/Eastern Orchid Congress meeting in Raleigh, planned and staffed by members of Triangle Orchid Society with over 600 registrants and an **out-standing speakers' program, 22 exhibits and 39 vendors. He is a member of the NC Piedmont OS, Triangle OS, and South Carolina OS.** He has been a member of AOS since 1980, entered the AOS judging program in 1991, chaired the Carolinas Judging Center, served as AOS training coordinator, AOS Trustee from 2004-2010, and as Chair of the Judging Committee of AOS since May 2010. He is currently serving a second term as an AOS Trustee and has been nominated to serve as an officer.

His plants have received 43 AOS awards. His collection consists primarily of Cattleyas and Dendrobiums. He has named two hybrids which have received **AOS awards: Potinara Lisa Taylor Gallis and Slc Susie's Valentine and recently Linda Wilhelm received an award on his hybrid Den Alex Gallis.** His favorite plants are midsize and miniature Cattleyas and big and tall antelope Dendrobiums.

He and his wife Susie have two children and two grandchildren. They moved back to Durham in December of 2012 and Harry has recently moved his plants into a 300 square foot greenhouse for his current collection of 375 plants.

THERE WILL BE A MEMBER SALE AT THIS MEETING

### Monday Dinner with Speaker (note new venue)

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

Inside this issue:

<b><i>This Month's Program</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Letter from our President</i>	2, 3
<i>Board Members</i>	4, 5
<i>Growing Tips from AOS- Watering</i>	6, 7
<i>Holiday party photos</i>	8, 9
<i>Announcements and Future meetings</i>	10
<i>Map and directions to Sarah Duke Gardens</i>	11

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

### Officers

#### President

Nancy Harvey (919) 401-4533  
[ntharvey@gmail.com](mailto:ntharvey@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Program Chairman  
Robin Gurlitz(919) 929-9717  
[robing@i-gga.com](mailto:robing@i-gga.com)

#### Secretary

Sidney Cox (919)489-7173  
[sidney269@earthlink.com](mailto:sidney269@earthlink.com)

#### Treasurer

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

#### Past President

Ralph Sears (919) 477-0483  
[ralphsears@gmail.com](mailto:ralphsears@gmail.com)

### Board of Trustees

#### At Large Trustees: 2014

Gerry Bowater (919) 593-1674  
[gbowater@unch.unc.edu](mailto:gbowater@unch.unc.edu)

#### At Large Trustees: 2015

Suzanne Hens (919) 452-5545  
[sciftan@yahoo.com](mailto:sciftan@yahoo.com)

#### Harry Gallis

[harry.gallis@frontier.com](mailto:harry.gallis@frontier.com)

#### At Large Trustees: 2016

Pei-fen Liu (919) 683-3066  
[peifenliu@earthlink.com](mailto:peifenliu@earthlink.com)

#### David Devine (919) 828-5332

[devinejd@aol.com](mailto:devinejd@aol.com)

## Happy New Year to all!

I want to invite everyone to help make this a great year for the Triangle Orchid Society by renewing your membership at the January meeting. When you renew, you will be supporting TOS's monthly programs and many educational community outreach events. Dues paying members will also continue to receive this colorful and informative email Newsletter. The Newsletter is a wonderful way for members to stay up-to-date with the activities of TOS.

Also, the website [www.triangleorchidsociety.org](http://www.triangleorchidsociety.org) has been revamped by our new webmaster and will now have more up-to-date information and pictures.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact the TOS Board or Officers through the website [info@triangleorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@triangleorchidsociety.org).

As a member, **you ARE the TOS**. There will be many volunteer opportunities throughout the upcoming year, and the TOS Board needs your help to make our society the best it can be!

If every member will consider signing up for just one volunteer job every six months, we will be a much more effective organization!

For those who don't have much time to offer outside of attending regular meetings, please consider these volunteer opportunities:

- sign up to help with the welcome table at a meeting; this is a great way to get to know your fellow members and learn more about TOS;
- sign up to bring something for the refreshment table; offer to bring the ice and help serve the drinks, etc.;
- bring plants for the show table; help set up the lights; help others bring supplies and plants inside from cars;
- buy a few raffle tickets or a TOS mug; seek out and welcome a visitor or new member.



For those who have time and want to promote the orchid growing hobby outside of meetings:

- sign up to help with one of our annual events, such as a plant auction or Grower's Day;
- sign up to help the TOS put an orchid display into one of the upcoming area orchid shows, or just visit one of our sister society shows; help ferry plants to or from a show; take down of a show is an easy and fun way to learn more about orchid shows so you will be full of helpful ideas when TOS has our own show;
- help us find new ways for TOS to increase interest in orchids in the community at large; let us know if you need some TOS flyers to share with friends; submit an article and/or photographs to the Newsletter;
- join our volunteer speaker's list if you are willing to talk to a local garden club, or man a booth at a garden center event; only love of orchids is required, not years of orchid growing expertise.

At every monthly membership meeting, we will have sign up sheets for these volunteer opportunities at the welcome table. Please take time to stop by and consider how you might be able to participate in **YOUR Triangle Orchid Society!!!** Try signing up to work with a friend - it's a great way to learn more about orchids and foster new friendships.

If you are interested in the TOS Board Meetings, feel free to join us at 6:30 in the Sarah Duke Garden library, the third Monday of every month, except January and December, when the meetings will be at another location. We welcome your suggestions as we work to update the TOS By-laws, seek new fund-raising opportunities, search for interesting speakers, and deal with other TOS business, so the membership meetings can focus on educational programs for orchid lovers.

**2014 TOS President,  
Nancy Harvey**

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

TOS OFFICERS-2014



Sidney Cox  
Secretary



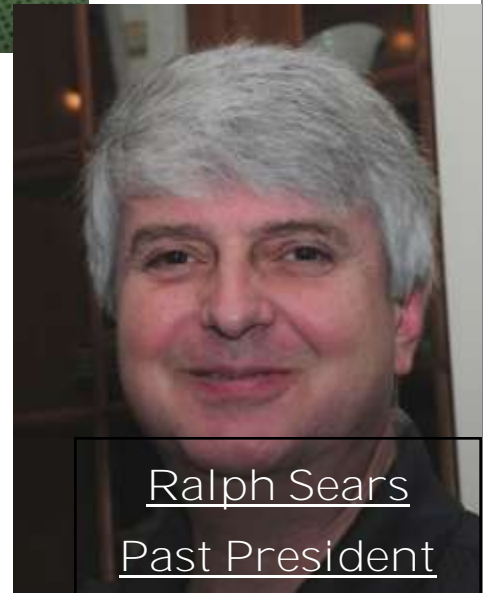
Ann Williams-  
Treasurer



Nancy Harvey—President



Robin Gurlitz-VP



Ralph Sears  
Past President

TOS AT LARGE TRUSTEES-2014



Gerry Bowater-2014



Suzanne Hens-2015



Pei-fen Liu-2016



Harry Gallis-  
2015



David Devine-  
2016

## The How and Why of Water



More orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. There are two separate components to proper watering; when and how. The vast majority of orchids grown by hobby growers are epiphytes, growing on trees above the ground where the light is more plentiful. These plants are adapted to having their roots exposed to light and air so in addition to water, orchid roots need air. The central core of an epiphytic orchid root is covered with a spongy material called *velamen* designed to store water. When this spongy material remains wet too long, the central core suffocates and begins to rot. Once the roots begin to rot, the plant can no longer take up water properly and a whole host of problems begin. At worst, root rot will spread upward into the rhizome and cause the death of the plant. In other cases, the loss of roots prevents the plant from absorbing sufficient water to maintain the plant in good condition and the leaves will take on a wrinkled appearance.

Unfortunately, the symptoms of over-watering and under-watering are superficially similar and the tendency is to increase watering rather than inspect the roots. Over-watered roots will be brown and mushy while those on under-watered plants will be white or gray and obviously dry. Let's look first at when to water.

### When do I water?

Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. This rule applies to all orchids with slight variations depending on whether your plant has pseudobulbs (thickened stems that are designed to store water) or not. Orchids such as cattleyas and oncidiums should be allowed to just dry completely between waterings while orchids such as phalaenopsis and vandas that have no water storage organs should be watered just before dryness occurs. For vandas, this may mean daily watering during the warm summer months. Vandas and ascocendas that are properly watered will have actively growing root tips at all times. If the root tips on your plants dry up and seal over, you are not watering often enough.

**There's unfortunately no magic formula; i.e., water a plant in a 6" pot every 7 days and you'll be trouble free.** This is because your growing area is different from anyone else's. Humidity, air movement, potting medium (type and age) and light levels all play a role. There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) the surface of the potting mix will appear dry; 2) dry pots will feel lighter when lifted; 3) clay pots feel dry; 4) a wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry. If in doubt, a finger inserted into the potting mix is perhaps the best tool to determine the moisture content of the potting mix. It will cause no harm to the plant. And remember, fresh potting mix will always dry out faster than the old medium.



#### How do I water?

How to water is just as important to proper culture as when to water. When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. This serves several functions. First, thorough, copious watering is necessary to soak the potting medium. In addition, thorough watering helps to flush away the salts that naturally accumulate in the potting medium from the dissolved salts in our water supplies and the fertilizers applied for good growth. Also, this is your opportunity to examine how the potting mix behaves. If you cannot pour water rapidly through the pot, the potting mix is too dense and you run the risk of starving the roots for air.

If you see finely divided material that looks like coffee grounds in the water coming from the drainage holes, your potting mix is breaking down and it's time to repot into fresh medium. At a minimum, try to thoroughly water your plants at least once a month.

Finally a couple of notes about mounted plants and those like vandas that are grown in baskets without additional potting medium. First, avoid dunking these plants in buckets of water. This practice very easily spreads diseases. If one plant has a disease, all those dunked in the same bucket of water will have been exposed as well. Also, two short waterings a few minutes apart are much more effective than one long watering. Once water runs off the plant, the roots will have absorbed essentially all they can at that time and excess water simply runs off to the ground. The proper technique is to water your plants and then a few minutes later water them again, always beginning with the first plant you watered. This allows time for the roots of the last plant watered to finish absorbing water before you wet them again. Roots that are completely saturated will be a solid color while those that are not will appear mottled.

This cultural information was written by Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education. The illustrative photos are by Greg Allikas.

We thank both Ron and Greg for allowing us to reprint this article.

DECEMBER 2013 HOLIDAY PARTY



!!ALAN MILLER PROVIDES ALL OF THE HOLIDAY PARTY PHOTOS..THANK YOU ALAN!!!



DECEMBER 2013 HOLIDAY PARTY



## UPCOMING ORCHID SHOWS

DATE	SPONSOR	LOCATION
Jan 31-Feb 2	N.C. SANDHILLS O.S.	FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.
Feb 7- Feb 9	S. CAROLINA O.S.	COLUMBIA, S.C.
Feb 21- Feb 23	VIRGINIA O.S.	RICHMOND, VA.
Feb 28 - Mar 2	TRIAD O.S.	GREENSBORO, NC
Mar 7 - Mar 9	N.C. PIEDMONT O.S.	CHARLOTTE, NC
Mar 28 - Mar 30	WESTERN N.C. O.S.	ASHEVILLE, NC

Would you like to set up a show or participate in any of these shows? If the time is convenient for you, PLEASE talk to a board member. These are all great Orchid Societies who put on great shows that we have partnered with in the past.  
**LETS SHOW OUR STUFF THIS YEAR!!**

Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:		Calendar 2013	Speaker	Topic
7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Table and Chairs	Jan. 13, 2014	Harry Gallis	Judging Orchids
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting Announcements			
7:40-8:30	Program	Feb. 10, 2014	TBA	
8:30-8:50	Refreshment Break			
8:50-9:20	Show Table Review, Show Table Awards	Mar. 10, 2014	Wes Higgins	
9:20-9:30	Raffle			

### Welcome Table

### Refreshments

January	Gerry Bowater & Anne Williams	Suzanne Hens & Connie Howard
February	See Gerry to volunteer	See Suzanne to volunteer



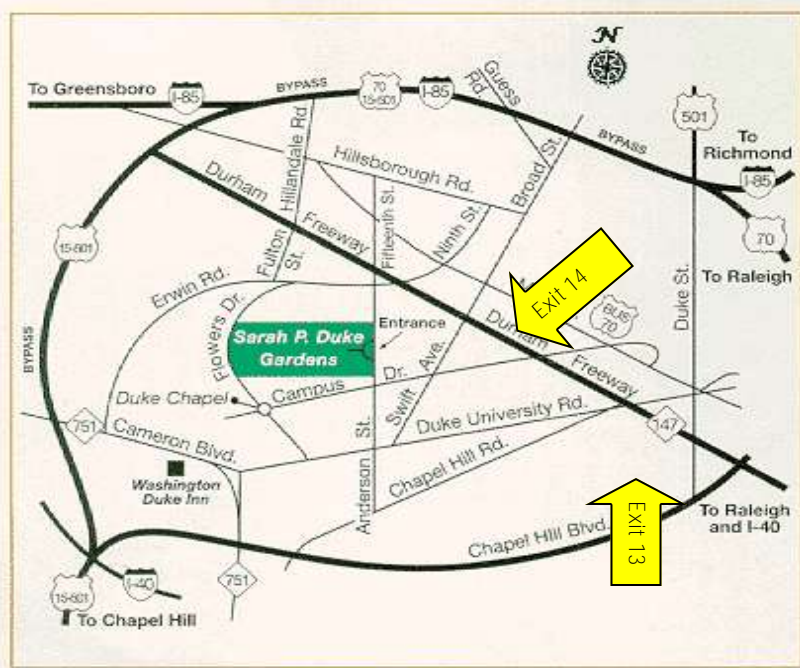
Associated with  
Sarah Duke Gardens

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

Map and directions  
To Sarah Duke Gardens.



Dendrophylax funalis (a ghost orchid species)



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