



Orchidacea

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

June, 2014

Charlie Wilkins

“Orchids You Should Consider Growing”

Dendrochilums, Phragmipediums, Gongoras,
And Stanhopeas

Charlie Wilkins is an avid orchid hobbyist who does real estate consulting to support his orchid habit. Charlie has been growing orchids, mostly in home environments, for 40 years. He has grown orchids on windowsills, under fluorescent lights, under high intensity lights, and in greenhouses.

After spending 18 years in the Washington DC area, where he was active in the National Capital Orchid Society, Charlie and his wife Leah relocated back to Greensboro, their home town. They moved into their new home in the spring of 2007. It includes a large greenhouse that currently holds around one thousand orchid plants.

Charlie has received four AOS flower quality awards, including an FCC. He also received a CCM and a CCE. He has published two articles in the Slipper Orchid Alliance newsletter.

Charlie grows a wide variety of orchids. No orchids for sale

MEMBER'S ORCHID SALE IN JULY

Monday Dinner with 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

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The May 12, 2014 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was called to order at 7:30pm by Nancy Harvey, the TOS President. No guests were present. Approximately 46 people attended the meeting this night. Connie Howard was recognized for covering the Welcome Table and selling raffle tickets. Everyone was encouraged to purchase raffle tickets. (Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00.) Members receive a free ticket for each plant they bring for the show table (maximum of 3 free tickets).

All members were reminded to volunteer for the many activities that need support including the snack table, auction and welcome table. All members were encouraged to attend the spring Auction, member's sale, and potting party. Mark you calendars for Grower's day in August.

Following the speaker presentation, there was a short time for refreshments. Thanks were extended to Robin Gurlitz, Nancy Harvey, Chrissy Shea and Luanne Shea, who provided the refreshments and drinks for the evening.

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

Greenhouse Awards were:

1st Place: Dendrobium unicum, grown by Paul Feaver

2nd Place: Dockrillia wassillii, grown by Paul Feaver

3rd Place: Laelia purpurata, grown by Bob Meyer

The Non-Greenhouse awards were:

1st Place: Sarcoglottis sceptroidies, grown by Nancy Harvey

2nd Place: Podangis dactyloceras, grown by Charles Walker

3rd Place: Paphiopedilum niveum, grown by Charles Walker

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

May speaker: Lucinda Winn

Lucinda began her talk about growing miniature orchids with a brief discussion of the culture required by these amazing miniature plant. She recommends a pebble tray for those of us who grow on windowsills. She pointed out that because these plants are small they can be grown in groups – four or five tiny plants on a single tray. She pointed out these tiny plants need more water than larger established plants because smaller pots dry out faster. As many of these species also come from extremely humid cloud forest conditions, they require an extremely humid environment. Pebble trays help to maintain a higher level of humidity as the water in the trays continuously evaporating. You just need to remember to replenish the water supply on a regular basis. Lucinda stressed that the flower pots should not sit in the water as they will wick up the moisture and saturate the root system. Over time, the root system will rot from the constant saturation. Keeping the bottom of the pots (and therefore the roots) above the water level ensures that the environment remains humid while still maintaining the integrity of the roots.

Lucinda also recommended building an “Orchidium” utilizing a fish tank. I have always referred to this type of setup as a terrarium, but I think I like Lucinda’s nomenclature better. At any rate, I have personally used one for years as a “hospital” for sickly or weak plants and can personally attest to their effectiveness. These function just like a Wardian case and can be put together with a minimal investment. A Wardian case is a manufactured unit that can cost several hundred dollars, depending upon the size, while my little Orchidium was practically free. Lucinda described setting up a fish tank with water in the bottom and the plants sitting on pieces of egg crate material that keeps the pots above the water. You can also line the bottom of the tank with sphagnum moss and nestle pots into the moss for a more natural look. Small computer fans, from Radio Shack and relatively cheap, mounted on the inside panels of the tank create the air movement that Orchids require. Additionally, a pane of **glass, available for less than \$5 from the local Lowe’s hardware, helps to maintain the moisture within the tank.** I wrap the edges of the glass with Duct tape, and slide it back and forth across the top of the tank to control the humidity. A small fish tank set up this way can hold a surprising number of plants, especially if you hang some of the plants on the walls of the tank with suction cups. The nicest part is that you can keep the tank anywhere – in a bathroom, on the kitchen counter, or in any corner of the greenhouse. Lucinda also recommended hanging glass balls, not unlike Christmas tree ornaments, for **single plants. These are available from Kelly’s Korner, an orchid supply company in New Hampshire. I just checked them out and these are available for \$3.50 each! Just type in Kelly’s Korner, they will happily ship directly to you.**

Lucinda talked about Old World species, namely orchids from Asia and Africa. She pointed out that of the 4,000 identified Dendrobiums species, there are multiple miniatures. Several that are easy to find include *D cuthbertsonii* (available from Golden Gate orchids, Tom grows the best!), *D laevifolium* or ***D unicum*. These are all warm growing plants that bloom profusely and can be grown in 3” pots.** Similarly, *Bulbophyllums* such as *B tingabarinum*, *B ambrosia*, or *B auratum* all do extremely well in terrariums. All remain under four inches tall. If you like Angaecoids, you should try *Aerangis fastuosa*, *A biloba* or *A hyaloides*. These African species all do well mounted and would do well in the small glass **terrariums from Kelly’s Korner. Similarly, Angraecums such as *A dideri*, *A chevalieri* or *A compactum*** are miniatures native to the hot tropical jungles of Madagascar. They do well mounted and love the high humidity of a terrarium environment.

Other miniatures Lucinda discussed include *Amesiella monticola*, a small monopodial plant from the **Phillippines which she said was a “MUST HAVE” for any serious miniature grower.** . The plant itself is barely four to five inches across, but it can carry five to six crystalline flowers that measure two inches across. Lucinda was also enthusiastic about the leafless *Chiloschistas*, *ramifera* or *trudellii* from SE Asia. The *Chiloschistas* consist of a root system, a very short stem and usually no leaves or under developed leaves. Their robust, well developed root systems radiate outwards and adhere to just **about any material that you may wish to use for mounting.** Similarly, *Haraella retrocalla*'s flowers has a fringed lip and looks remarkably like a honey bee. It has a distinctive lemony scent and once established can bloom almost continuously whether mounted or potted. These are native to Taiwan. The plants lack pseudobulbs but are remarkably resilient. Tom and Shan Nasser, who own Carolina Orchids, had these for sale last year when Tom spoke to our society.

Another easy to grow to grow variety that isn't quite so miniature is *Sedirea japonica*. This is a fragrant species from Japan. It blooms as a very small plant when only six inches high. Lucinda said that its flowers can exceed five inches across though I personally have never seen any anywhere close to **that size.** And speaking of Japan, **don't overlook the *Neofinetia falcatas*.** These are known as the Samurai orchids as they were grown and prized by the Japanese nobility. Although known collectively as *Neofinetia falcatas* here, in Japan the names are heavily nuances depending on the color and patterns of the foliage. They can bloom white, yellow, or pink, but in Japan are judged on the uniqueness of their foliage and the careful arrangement of their roots on mounds of sphagnum moss. They are often display in priceless antique pots.

New Word species Lucinda likes include the *Pleurothallis*. This is an incredible genus in that they are so diverse, growing from the lowlands to the higher elevations all over tropical South America. Many grow in cloud forest conditions and love the high humidity of an enclosed terrarium. *P lanceola* grows to only three inches and is another great candidate for the glass balls, as is *P wagneri*. Lucinda said *P endotrachs* is easy to grow, as is *P grobyi*. These are from Panama, and like it hot! Should do well in our climate!

There are far too many *Pleurothallis* to generalize, but if you like miniature any things, this is the genus for you. The same applies to *Masdevallias*. They grow from Mexico through Central and South America, many at significant elevations. It is not surprising therefore that they generally prefer a coolish environment with lots of humidity. I grew these really well in northern California, but lost them all when we moved here as it is so much warmer. If you can keep them cool (ie in cool clay pots) **they offer an incredible diversity of color and forms.** Of course you can't discuss *Masdevallias* without also discussing *Draculas*, their wonderful monkey faced cousins.

Lucinda noted that they are native to cloud forest regions, with constant high, high humidity. The best I have ever seen were grown in Wardian cases, and displayed in the cases as they dry out so very quickly. Try *D ligiae* or *D sodiroi* if you can provide the right environment

Lucinda stated that *Leptotes* also do well in terrariums. She feels they are harder to grow as they have no pseudobulbs and need a great deal of water. I grow my *L bicolor* mounted, with my vandas, so they get watered daily. This past spring I was rewarded with an outstanding display. *Encyclia polybylbon*, from Central America, is easy to grow on a mount or in a pot. On a mount it quickly forms a thick fibrous mat. *Sophranitis cernua*, from Brazil is not to be confused with its cooler growing cousins *S coccinea*. *S cernua* is definitely warm growing and much more tolerant of our climate conditions. Another miniature that grows well in our conditions is *Onc. Cheiropoum*. This little charmer is also from Central America and loves high humidity.

Lucinda concluded her presentation with a short discussion of culture for miniature plants. She reminded us that miniature orchids require frequent watering as they dry out very quickly. She waters three times a week, using a light fertilizer. She uses a 20-20-20 or MSU fertilizer. She avoids fertilizers with a high nitrogen content, noting that the nitrogen produces lots of green growth, but not blooms.

Our thanks to Joy Lemieux for transcribing Lucinda's presentation

TOS SPRING AUCTION REPORT

The TOS Spring Auction was held a few weeks ago at Crabtree Park in Cary. We had a wonderful clear mild day after terrible rain storms. We gathered for a lunch, friendly conversations and to check out the great orchid selection that was soon to be bid. Folks milled around munching on lunch and mentally selecting the orchid they planned to bid on, all the while enjoying the company of other orchid enthusiasts. Thanks to all for filling out the questionnaire earlier this year because it helped guide the selection of plants .

Nick Plummer (and his two children who helped show the orchids around for everyone and acted as runners), Paul Welty and Ralph Sears, were the auctioneers. Sarah Patterson provided great slides of the orchids in bloom and information on each orchid as they were bid. Between the auctioneers, the cute runners, the great information and the incredibly well selected orchids (again thank you Sarah) **the auction was a success, we all had fun and many of us "won" the orchids of our choice (and if we did not we had a great time bidding against each other).**

Among the volunteers there were: Sarah Patterson and helpful husband , Nick Plummer and children, Paul Welty, Ralph Sears, Robin Gurlitz, John Myhre, Josh Gurlitz, Anne Williams, Gerry Bowater and all the people who brought food. Nancy Harvey was the moving force behind this successful day.

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



Monthly Checklist for May and June



Cattleya purpurata, formerly in the genus *Laelia*, is without a doubt one of the most stately orchids to bloom in this season. © G. Allikas

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum

The *Paphiopedilum* Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display.



Paphiopedilum Maudiae is a perennial favorite slipper orchid.

This is especially common in *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum*-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on *Doritis* background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

The AOS, and the TOS, thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay. We all thank Greg Alikas for his wonderful photos.



Jack Webster
Awards
Greenhouse Grown

1st Place Ribbon:
Den unicum
Grown by Paul Feaver



2ndPlace Ribbon:
Dockrillia wassillii
Grown by Paul Feaver

3d Place Ribbon:
Laelia purpurata
Grown by Bob Meyer





Jack Webster
Awards
Non-Greenhouse

1st Place Ribbon:
Sarcoglottis sceptroides
Grown by Nancy Harvey

2nd Place Ribbon:
Podangis dactyloceras
Grown by Charles Walker



3^d Place Ribbon:
Paph. Nivum "Angela" X stylista
Grown by Charles Walker



Thanks to Alan Miller For taking these
showtable photos



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/>). Hear Dennis talk of plans to add orchids from the Southeast 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"



Rlc Greenwich
(C. Ann Follis
X
Rlc. Lester
McDonald)

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.”

**DO YOU HAVE A GREAT FLOWER THAT WILL BE
AT IT'S PEAK LATER IN JUNE?? DO YOU THINK
IT MAY BE WORTHY OF AN AOS AWARD?**

**PERHAPS YOU ARE JUST CURIOUS ABOUT HOW
AOS JUDGING IS DONE.**

Bring your plant to the Carolinas Judging Center so that it's fine points can be discussed by the orchid judges 'in-residence' or just bring yourself and listen!

What: Carolinas Judging Center

When: Saturday, June 21st

Where: Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs

4301-A Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC

What's blooming
at your house??

Take a look at this tiny
species:

Haraella odorata



**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
June 9, 2014	Charles Wilkins	Orchids You Should Consider Growing (Dendrochilums, Phragmipediums, Gongoras, Stanhopeas)
July 14, 2014 MEMBER'S ORCHID SALE	Recorded program Loren Batchman	Orchid Pests
August 11, 2014	Melissa McCormick	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Welcome Table

Refreshments

June	Connie Howard	Suzanne Hens
July	See host to volunteer	See Suzanne Hens to volunteer



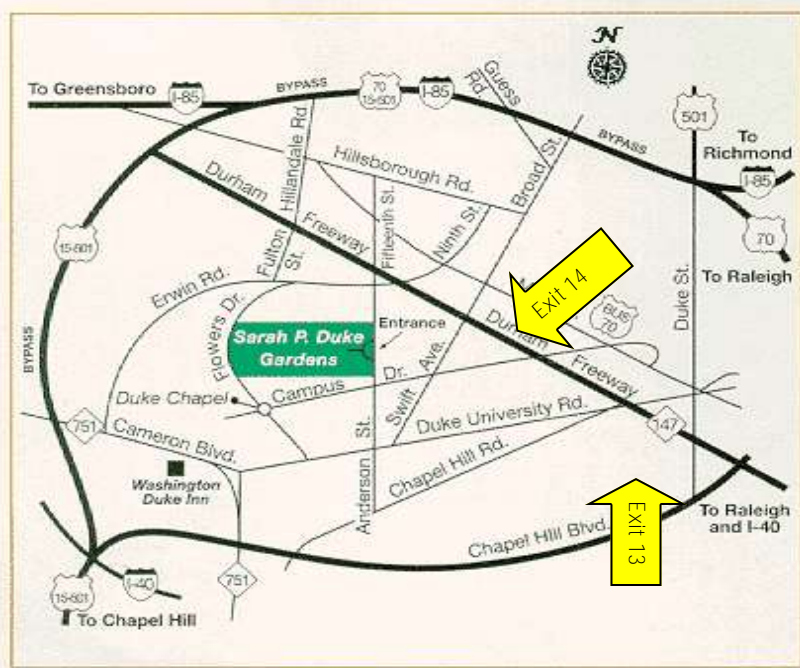
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Nick Plummer
volunteers!
Nick offers great
showtable
discussion
And
he served as
auctioneer at our
spring auction.
Each of us has
something we can
give to keep TOS the
fine
society we love.



Volunteer !!



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