



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

July 13, 2015

## Harry Gallis & Show Committee Members

Fall for Orchids – Learn everything you need to know about an orchid show!

Harry Gallis and members of the TOS Show Committee will lead an informative and informal discussion about the plans for our show November 19-22, 2015. The major topics to be discussed will be getting your plants ready for the show starting this summer (grooming, staking, repotting, etc.); including the answers to questions such as, what are the show rules, what do the various classes mean, how will I know which class to enter my plant(s) in, how is judging actually done, can I watch, can I participate, what does it mean to be a clerk; if I don't want to do any of that how can I help? Most importantly, if I take a plant to the show and it doesn't get a ribbon, will it die of heart-break??? [my advice to you is: 1) don't tell the plant where it's going 2) don't tell it what happened unless it won something and 3) be careful and give it lots of TLC afterwards no matter what!]

We will discuss the show schedule, the show rules, Mid-America classification system, the difference between ribbon judging and AOS judging, what plants you should bring, what to look for in a good/great flower, which classes have the most/least competition in a fall show, what the different kinds of clerks do, what we have planned for Saturday and Sunday and how TOS members can help and participate, and in general have a really great time talking together which we don't usually have a chance to do.

GROWERS DAY IS THIS MONTH  
SEE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON PAGE 10

### Dinner with the 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.Triangle  
OrchidSociety.org

## TOS Officers and Board Members 2015

### Officers

#### President

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#### Vice President

#### Program Chairman

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#### Harry Gallis

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#### At Large Trustees: 2017

Stephen McAllister

Sarah Patterson

## June 8, 2015 Membership Meeting Minutes

The June 8th ,2015 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was called to order at 7:30pm by Nancy Harvey, the TOS President. 2 guests were present. Approximately 54 people attended the meeting. 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 raffle and welcome table. Also volunteers are needed to sign up and bring monthly refreshments, Volunteer's are also needed to publish the news letter .Thank you to Nancy Harvey for bringing in snacks and drinks to the meeting!!

Other president reminders : the bylaws are changing. check the Triangle Orchid Society website for the new bylaws. Don't forget to join to Keiki club on June 20 at the Orchid Trail They will answer any questions you have about orchids. Many volunteers are also needed to help with fall Show Planning.

Paul Feaver was recognized for bringing plants from the Orchid Trail

Sidney Cox introduced the speaker. A special Thank you to Stephen and Kelly for bringing in the lights .Thank you to Josh for doing the newsletter for 5 years

The presentation for this meeting was "Vandaceous Intergeneric's &name changes ". The presenter was Robert Fuchs.

Harry Gallis and Michael Coronado discussed the orchids on the show tables this month.

Greenhouse Awards were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Paph leeanum (paph spicerianum x insigne)grown by Melissa Ballard
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place : Laelia purpurata var flamea 'cgi x striata lisa, grown by Bob Myers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Mtssa. shelob 'tolkien' am/aos, grown by Kelly Nipp

The Non-Greenhouse awards were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Trichophilia, grown by Sarah Patterson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS , grown by Charles Walker
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place:Maxillaria tenuifolia , grown by Sidney Cox

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30. Meeting notes submitted by Louanne and Chrissy Shea TOS Secretary's



## Speaker's Notes – Bob Fuchs

Bob grew up with Orchids. His grandfather had an orchid nursery in Hawaii and his father collected **species in the wild**. **Bob opened the current nursery in 1970 on the site of his grandparent's Homestead property.** In 1984, at the World Orchid Congress meeting in Miami, he won twelve medals, including **Best in Class for the nursery's exhibit**. **That year his Vanda Deva 'Robert' won the Grand Champion flower award.** **He's been accumulating trophies and medals ever since! He has exhibited his award winning Vandas (and hybrids) around the world, including the Chelsea flower show in England.** His aspirations to meet and impress the Queen with his Vandas were certainly entertaining.

RF Orchids now has a lab and growing facility in Thailand. All the mericloneing is done in the Thai lab. The flasks of new seedlings are started there and it is only when they are near blooming size that the **young plants are shipped to the Florida nursery for "finishing" and for sale.** **This is a world class operation** and the number of plants produced and shipped each year is staggering. Bob oversees the entire operation and insists upon the quality we saw on his sale table.

The presentation we heard was reportedly the same presentation Bob gave to the World Orchid Congress meeting that was held in South Africa last year. I am sure he raised an eyebrow or two as he made it very clear how he feels about the name changes that the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) taxonomists made to the Vandaceous family. For a commercial grower like Bob such sweeping changes mean that breeding records must be amended and name tags brought up to date for thousands of hybrids. It involves a great deal of paperwork and thousands of man hours just changing name tags. The expense involved is significant and I can certainly understand why he is so resistant to such all encompassing changes.

In 1753 when Linnaeus began classifying orchids, Vandas were included with Epidendrums. In 1791 and 1795 Koenig and Roxburg separated the Vandas and created a new genus. In 1833 Lindley added Ascocentrums to the Vandaceous genus. In 2012 the RHS threw out many of the old established names and incorporated a number of smaller genera under the umbrella of Vanda. This has caused a great deal of confusion, and for people like Bob, a great deal of frustration. It was hard enough keeping up with the names previously, but now its virtually impossible to keep up.

[Visit our website at:](#)

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

Bob discussed the some of the basic species that have been fundamental in breeding hybrid Vandas. He stressed *V sanderiana*, *V coerulea* and *Ascocentrum ampullaceum* as fundamental to most breeding programs. *V sanderiana*, now extinct in its native Phillipines, is easily recognizable because the top floral segments (the dorsal sepal and the petals) are always a light color, while the sepals and the lip are always darker. The inflorescences open from the bottom first and the bottom flowers are always significantly larger than the ones at the top. *V coerulea* is the only truly blue Vanda. It is recognizable by the tessellation (cross hatching pattern) on its sepals and petals. In the wild, its petals tend to flip backwards but this has been bred out of most commercially available plants. In the species, the color is the same on the front and back of the flowers, but this characteristic is generally lost in the first generation of breeding. *Ascocentrum ampullaceum* is a miniature plant that produces erect inflorescences with forty five or more densely grown flowers. There are several color variations, from pink to orange. These three species are in the background of a huge percentage of modern Vanda and related hybrids. Check the genealogy of any hybrid and you will probably find at least one of these species.

Bob spent a lot of time discussing some of the related species. These include the *Rhynchostylis*, *Neofinetia* and *Aerides*. *Rhynchostylis* is known informally as The Fox Tail Orchid, because of the densely packed flowers produced on long cylindrical spikes. The plants grow in bright light and have short, thick stems and strap-like, fleshy leaves ranked on either side of a woody stem. The inflorescences are generally arching and have many densely growing flowers. The two best known species within this genus are *coelestris* and *gigantea*. Both have been used extensively in breeding. *Rhy gigantea* is distinctive for its white flowers with purple red spotting. There are several color variations and breeders have worked to produce solid reds and more recently oranges. *Rhy gigantea* is like a *Phalaenopsis* in that it requires a distinct cooling period in the fall for it to set flower. *Rhy coelestris* is somewhat unique in that the inflorescences are upright and erect rather than arching. The flowers are white with blue-violet tips on the sepals and the petals. The lip is often a solid intense blue-violet.

*Neofinetia* was a genus with only one species, *falcata*. It has recently been moved to *Vanda*. A native of Japan it has an unmistakable mystic in that it was cultivated by Samurai warriors and ancient war lords. These miniature plants continue to be prized in modern-day Japan where they are appreciated for the multiple color forms of the foliage and the artistic arrangement of their roots which are displayed outside the pot. The small white flowers have a very distinctive spur. Recent breeding has focused on developing new flower color forms. *Neostylis* Lou Sneary is probably the best known hybrid. A cross of *Neo falcata* with *Rhy coelestris*, this is a dainty little plant with profuse, small flowers that are generally white with blue-violet splashes on the ends of the sepals and petals. There are, however, other color forms including a solid blue-violet and various pink shades. *Neo falcata* is easy to grow, either potted or on a mount and will reward you with multiple fragrant flowers when mature.

*Aerides* generally prefer more shade and humidity than Vandas. It is absolutely critical that they have good air movement! As I have killed several I now accept this as an indisputable fact! They are best grown mounted, or in baskets with no medium, so they can dry quickly. They breed well with Vandas, and like Vandas quickly produce long tangles of roots. Unfortunately, many of species in this genus are very large plants, growing up to five or six feet tall. *Aerides lawrenceae* has probably been the most popular species used in breeding.

A native of the island of Mindanao in the Philippines, it produces pendulous inflorescences with up to thirty fragrant white waxy flowers with fuchsia tipped sepals and petals. The lip appears oversized compared to the rest of the flower and is most striking with its bright fuchsia color. One of the best known *Aerides* hybrids is Fuchs Lemon Cream, a cross utilizing *Aerides lawrenceae* crossed with *Vanda Charlie Clark*. It a creamy white flower with a rosy blush on the ends of the sepals and petals and a very distinctive red column.



*Vanda sanderiana*



*Aerides lawrenceae*



*Neofinetia falcata*

Thanks to Joy Lemieux of the Sandhills Orchid Society for the  
**transcription of Robert Fuch's presentation**  
and the accompanying photos.

Jack Webster  
Awards  
Greenhouse  
Grown



1<sup>st</sup> Place: Paph Leeanum  
grown by Melissa Bullard



2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Leilia purpurata  
grown by Bob Meyer

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Mtssa. Shelob 'Tolkien'  
grown by Kelly Nipp



Thanks to Alan Miller For taking these great show table photos



Jack Webster  
Awards  
Non-Greenhouse

1<sup>st</sup> Place Trichopilia Stella  
Grown by Sarah Patterson

2nd Place Psychopsis Mendenhall  
grown by Charles Walker



3d Place Maxillaria Tenuifolia  
Grown by Sidney Cox



## OUR! UPCOMING ORCHID SHOW

Triangle Orchid Society, Durham, NC

### **“Fall for Orchids”**

November 20 through 22, 2015

Sarah Duke Gardens

The next TOS Show Committee meeting will be Saturday, August 1st at 9:30 am at Nancy Harvey's house at 3502 Manford Drive, Durham, NC. Everyone is welcome. Do not feel you have to go to every meeting, but come as often as you can. Call Nancy if you need directions 919-401-4533



Different societies setting up exhibits  
(Triad, Sandhills, Virginia and Triangle Orchid Societies)

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## KEIKI CLUB

The next Keiki club meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society will be held at **Paul and Olivene Virtue's home, shade house and greenhouse in Raleigh, NC.** Check out the TOS website, [www.triangleorchidsociety.org](http://www.triangleorchidsociety.org), for more information.



Photos from our last Keiki Club meeting at Orchid Trail Greenhouses. The meeting was a great hit !!!



In horticulture, a keiki ([/'keiki:/ KAY-kee](#)) is a plant produced [asexually](#) by an [orchid](#) plant, especially [Dendrobium](#), [Epidendrum](#) (*sensu lato*), and [Phalaenopsis](#) orchids. The baby plant is an exact [clone](#) of the mother plant, sometimes flowering while still attached to the mother. The word [keiki](#) is [Hawaiian](#) for "baby" or "child", literally "the little one". [Wikipedia definition]

## Orchid Grower's Day



Learn about orchids from experts!  
Which orchids can you grow in your home?  
How do I get my orchid to bloom again?  
How do I repot my orchid? Get your questions answered.  
Enjoy lunch, discussions, door prizes, and shop for a new orchid.



**Saturday, July 25, 2015**  
**9:30 am - 3:00 pm**



Ruby C. McSwain Education Center, JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University, 4415 Beryl Road, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Cost is \$20:00 per person, payable at the door - includes lunch and membership in TOS for the remainder of 2015.

Space is limited! - Please pre-register by July 23, 2015, through the website at:

**[TriangleOrchidSociety.org](http://TriangleOrchidSociety.org)**

or by calling: (919)401-4533





TOM MIRENDA  
WILL BE SPEAKING AT  
THE CAROLINAS JUDGING CENTER  
in GREENSBORO, SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015, 10:30 AM

Tom Mirenda is Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution and an AOS accredited judge; his bio is attached. On Sat. July 18, 2015, Tom Mirenda will speak to the Carolinas Judging Center about judging orchid species. Please don't let this topic turn you off from inviting others to his lecture. I've heard him speak before; his talks are always excellent. His knowledge and experience are huge; just consider the extensive number of articles he writes for AOS ORCHIDS magazine. (Note: His February 2015 GENUS OF THE MONTH article about Coelia orchids also contains a photo of his beautiful Triton Cockatoo named Celia.)

Tentatively we will arrive with Mr. Mirenda at 10:30am, his talk will be at 11:00am, and participants usually bring food for a CJC potluck lunch.

Tom Mirenda has been the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution for the last 10 years. There he cares for and curates an extremely diverse collection of orchid species and hybrids from all over the world. His position includes developing and producing huge educational exhibits using the collection plants that last up to 4 months. and visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Trained originally as a Marine Biologist, Tom made the switch to plants and orchids in his late 20s while living in Hawaii. Since then he has worked with orchids at NY Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and an extensive private collection at Greentree Estate in Long Island. Tom was also the floor manager at the New York International orchid Show for many years during this period. For the last 6 years, Tom has contributed two columns each month for ORCHIDS magazine and is developing a new book based on those writings. Tom travels frequently around the US and internationally making presentations to diverse audiences, from scientists to the general public, about orchid ecology, pollination biology, strategies for orchid conservation. He is passionate about seeking collaboration between the worlds of Botanic Gardens, the hobbyist community, commercial growers and scientists to work together toward the goal of protecting orchids and their habitats. Currently working on a project to coordinate and centralize North American orchid conservation efforts, Tom hopes to extend the influence to other parts of the world where orchids are imperiled.



Two of our great volunteers—  
David Devine &  
Alan Miller  
with Linda Thorne

### 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	Break
8:50-9:20	Show Table Review, Show Table Awards
9:20-9:30	Raffle

Calendar 2015	Speaker	Topic
July 13, 2015	Harry Gallis and other TOS members	Getting orchids ready to <b>“Show” off</b> when they are bloom. Also, demos and hands-on
Aug 10, 2015	Tim Culbertson	Paphiopedilums
Sept. 14, 2015	Chuck Riley	Building the 21st Century Greenhouse

### Welcome Table

### Refreshments

July	Axel Elling	Jeanette Massengill Anesha Johnson
August	Axel Elling	Louanne & Chrissy Shea

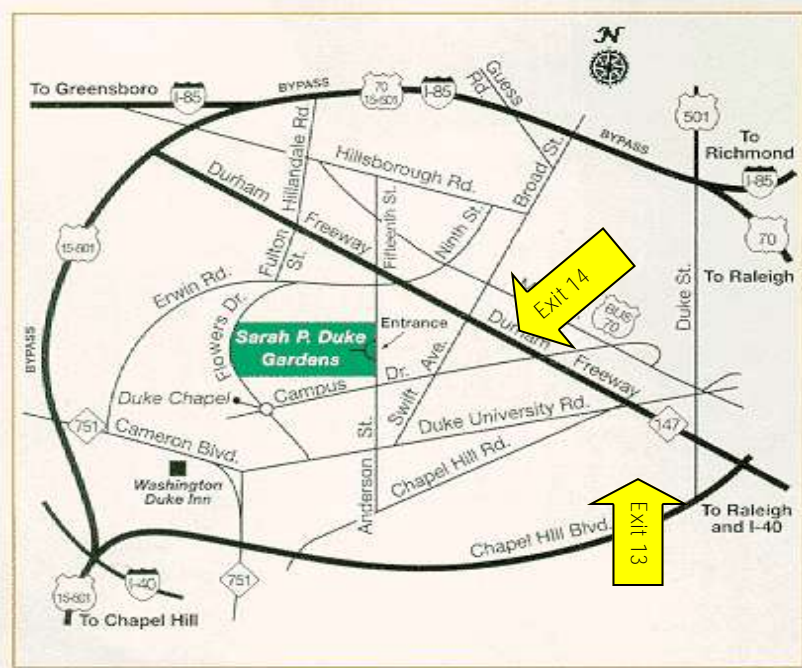


Associated with  
Sarah Duke Gardens

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Bulb. graveolens with pollinators  
(!we will not be bringing this to showtable!)



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:

\$22 per year single, or \$30 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