



# Orchidacea

Newsletter of the  
Triangle Orchid Society

Associated with  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

March 9, 2015  
Chuck McCartney

Chuck McCartney grew up in Homestead Florida. Orchids were the first flowers he remembers as a child, and he has been fascinated with them ever since.

In 1984, after a teaching and journalistic career, Chuck joined the staff of the American **Orchid Society as assistant editor of the society's publications. He eventually became** editor of the *AOS Bulletin* and the *Awards Quarterly*. He was instrumental in improving the looks and contents of those publications.

In 1990 he became a copy editor for the *Miami Herald*, working for the paper until he retired in 2009. He still lives in Hollywood, Florida,, where he strives to keep a small orchid collection alive.

Chuck has written extensively about orchids and other wildflowers for publications such as the *AOS Bulletin* (now *Orchids*), *The Florida Orchidist*, **California's Orchid Digest**, **England's The Orchid Review**, the *Fairchild Tropical Garden Bulletin*, and *The Palmetto*, the magazine of the Florida Native Plant Society. His most recent piece for *Orchids* magazine was his December story about the use of orchids on floats in the Tournament of Roses Parade. Chuck has been a member of the American Orchid Society since 1976 and is a longtime member of the Florida Native Plant Society.

**Chuck's special interest is in the native orchids of southern Florida. For more than 30 years, he has followed in the footsteps of Dr. Carlyle A. Luer, author of the landmark book *The Native Orchids of Florida*, exploring the pinelands, hammocks, swamps and mangrove forests of the Keys, Everglades National Park and the Big Cypress Swamp in search of the area's native orchids. He has found and photographed most of the 60 species reported to be native to the south end of the state.**

**Chuck is no stranger to the Tarheel State. He's been a summer visitor to the mountains of western North Carolina since he was 10 years old. He inherited his family's small summer cabin at Granny Squirrel Gap in Cherokee County near the town of Andrews, where he visits as often as he can. He has studied, photographed, and written about the orchids and other wildflowers of those mountains. Those mountain orchids are the topic of his program tonight.**

## 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 Sidney Cox to reserve a seat at 919-489-7173 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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2015

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## February 9, 2015 Membership Meeting Minutes

The February 9, 2015 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was called to order at 7:30pm by Nancy Harvey, the TOS President. One guest was present. Approximately 34 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.

Bob Davidson gave the program titled "Modern Oncidium Alliance Hybrids".

The Jack Webster Award Plants were:

Greenhouse Awards were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lc Gold Digger "Fuchs Mandarin" grown by Paul and Olivene Virtue

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Vandachostylis Colmari 'Carmela' grown by Paul and Olivene Virtue

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: NOID, probably Beallara Tahoma Glacier grown by Ralph Belk

The Non-Greenhouse awards were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mediocalcar decoratum grown by Charles Walker

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Dendrobium Micro Chip grown by Creighton Humphries

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: C. luteola 'Ceolata' grown by Charles Walker

Note: Last month we could not place the grower for one of the show-table ribbons. The plant was 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Dtps. Arakai Spring 'Fairy', grown by Harry Gallis

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.



## February Program Notes

### Bob Davidson: Modern Oncidium Alliance Hybrids

Bob Davidson presented a great program on Modern Oncidium Alliance hybrids and their culture. He also gave a demonstration of repotting technique. Bob described these sympodial plants and their general characteristics.

Bob showed us photographs of many Oncidium and new Oncidium Alliance hybrids including Brassia (Ada), Brassidium, Oncidium, Miltonia and Miltoniopsis [generally warm growing but with a few cool growing members]; Odontoglossum [cool to cold growing]; Cochlioda [also cool growing].

#### **Bob's cultural advice about growing Oncidium Alliance orchids was:**

Media: Bob does not use lava rock for these plants. Orchiata works well, but other barks may rot too quickly. It is important to really pack in the media around the roots of these orchids.

Light: Most Oncidiums like bright light, 2000 to 4000 foot candles.

Water: Keep these plants moist but NOT soggy; do not let them dry out. They like to be totally flushed with water periodically because they do not like mineral deposits.

Feed: Bob recommends feeding weakly, weekly. He recommends feeding all year, but feeding most during their growing cycle.

Bob's repotting advice for Oncidiums included:

- 1) Repot when you see that new roots will likely grow out of the current pot.
- 2) Always sterilize your clippers (great advice for any orchid)
- 3) Remove ALL old media, even if that requires some root trimming.
- 4) **Locate the plant in the pot so that the BOTTOM of the plant's new growth is even with the top of the pot.**
- 5) Choose a pot that will allow for 2 years growth and place the back bulb at the back of the pot.
- 6) Place the plant in the pot and fill with new media. Pack down the media with your thumb all the way around the new pot and pack it strongly.
- 7) Wait a week before watering.

Bob asked the members what the characteristics are of a well grown Oncidium. Our members were able to supply all the right answers!! These are:

- 1) No "accordion" leaves,
- 2) No "pleated" pseudobulbs and
- 3) increasing pseudobulb size measured from the back of the plant to the front.

Of course, we all expect our well grown Oncidiums to present great flowers!

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

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



Jack Webster  
Awards  
Greenhouse Grown

1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:  
**Lc. Gold Digger 'Fuchs Mandarin'**  
Grown by Paul & Olivene Virtue



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:  
Vandachostylis Colmari  
**'Carmela'**  
Grown by Paul & Olivene  
Virtue



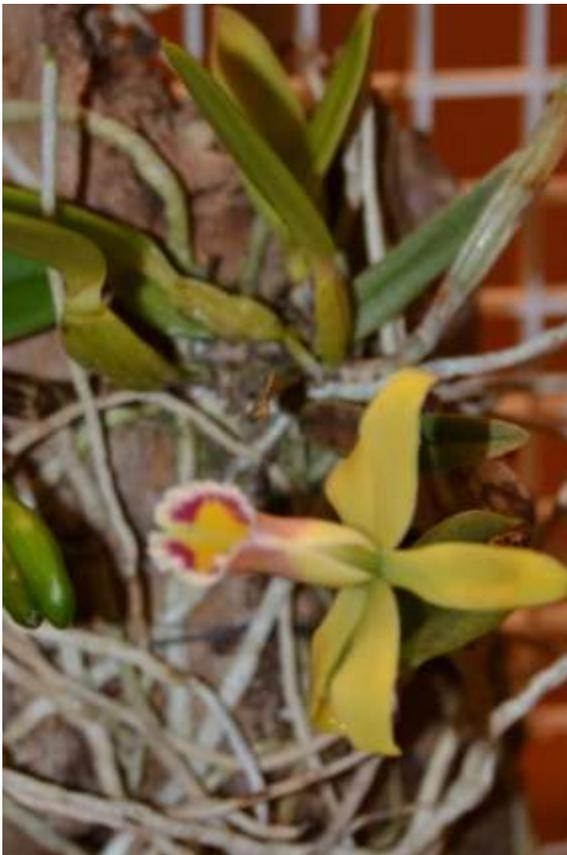
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NOID  
(Probably Beallara Tahoma Glacier)  
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Jack Webster  
Awards  
Non-Greenhouse

1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon:  
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Grown by Charles Walker

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ribbon:  
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**C. luteola 'Ceolata'**  
Grown by Charles Walker

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

### 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.

### 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..

## 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.



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

© G. Allikas

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.

## 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.

*The Triangle Orchid Society joins the AOS in thanking Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay. And we also thank Greg Allikas for his wonderful photographs.*



*Masdevallia Highland Monarch*

Free Spirit' AM/AOS

photographed at Parkside Orchids.  
Ottsville, Pennsylvania © G. Allikas

Charlie Wilkins, our speaker for June 2014, has decided to sell his home (and greenhouse) in Greensboro. If you, or anyone you know, might want to purchase a high end home with a great orchid greenhouse in Greensboro, please contact Charlie at 336 545-4349 or [cwilkins@compassgroup.net](mailto:cwilkins@compassgroup.net).



Spiranthes in situ in Green Swamp, North Carolina Swamp

## 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
Mar 9, 2015	Chuck McCartney	Orchids of Granny Squirrel Gap, N.C.
April 13, 2015	Guillermo Salazar Orchids will be For SALE	Stanhopea species and culture
May 11, 2015	Tom Sampliner	Bee Orchids Genus Ophrys

## Welcome Table

February	Anne Williams	
March	Anne Williams	



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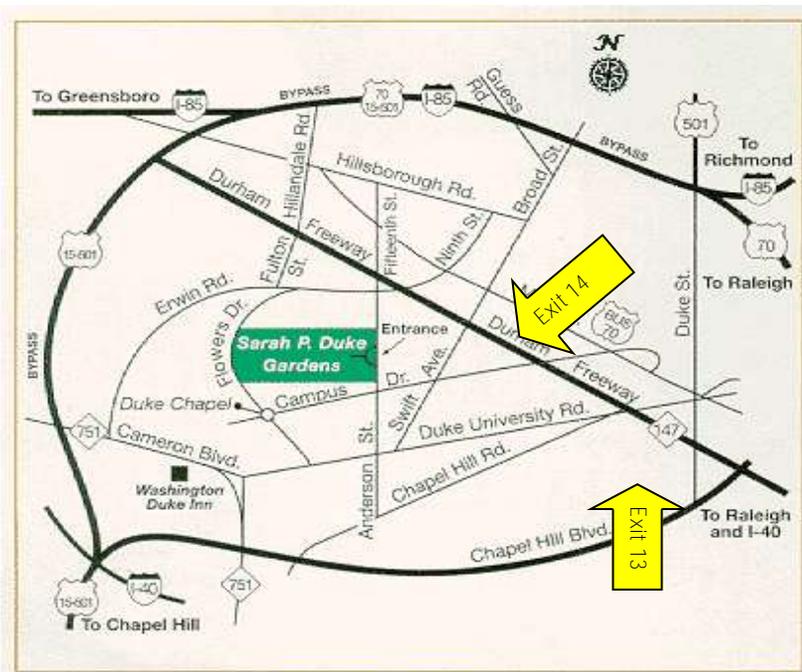
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## UPCOMING ORCHID SHOWS

DATE	SPONSOR	LOCATION
Mar 27 - Mar 29	WESTERN NC O.S.	ASHEVILLE, NC
May 1 - May 3	BLUE RIDGE O.S.	ROANOKE, VA

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.

We put together some wonderful exhibits last year and brought home many ribbons for flower quality and exhibit **design. Let's make this year even better as we run up to** our own fall show.



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