



The Orchid Society of the Triangle (Durham, Raleigh, Chapel Hill) and surrounding area of North Carolina  
Associated with Sarah P. Duke Gardens

# Orchidaceae

Monthly Newsletter of the Triangle Orchid Society

November 2016

## Election of Officers and Trustees and The 'Fall for Orchids'

**Show Discussion: November 14, 2016, 7:30 PM**

### Candidates

President: Harry Gallis	2017 Trustee: Steven McAllister
Past President: Sidney Cox	2017 Trustee: Sarah Patterson
Vice President: Ralph Belk, III	2018 Trustee: Nancy Harvey
Treasurer: Axel Elling	2018 Trustee: Anne Williams
Secretary: Kelly Nipp	2019 Trustee: Ariel Zelaya
	2019 Trustee: Crawford Wilson III

### TOS Orchid Show Nov. 18-20

- Members of show committee will discuss show judging (ribbon classes, trophies and AOS), getting plants ready for display, bringing your plants for exhibits, show layout, etc.
- Last opportunity to sign up to volunteer— see Nancy Harvey

### Member Plant Sale: Guidelines

- Please do not bring more than 10 to 15 orchids or any orchids that have pests or virus.
- We ask that each seller donate 10% of your total sales to TOS. This is voluntary; we do not need to know how much you sold.
- **If you are bringing orchids, please let us know by email to: [triangleorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:triangleorchidsociety@gmail.com)**  
so we can make sure we have enough tables.

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[www.facebook.com/TriangleOrchidSociety](http://www.facebook.com/TriangleOrchidSociety) [www.triangleorchidsociety.org](http://www.triangleorchidsociety.org)

### Dinner Before the Meeting

5:30 pm at Carrabba's Italian Grill

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

If you plan to attend the dinner, please contact Harry Gallis at [harry.gallis@frontier.com](mailto:harry.gallis@frontier.com) to reserve a seat. All are welcome.

The Triangle Orchid Society meets at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens  
420 Anderson St.  
Durham, NC  
The Second Monday of the Month  
at 7:30 pm



## TOS Officers and Board Members

**2016**

### OFFICERS

#### **President**

Sidney Cox (919) 489-7173  
sidney269@earthlink.net

#### **Vice President**

Harry Gallis (919) 564-0007  
harry.gallis@frontier.com

#### **Secretary**

Kelly Nipp (315) 212-3052  
klnipp07@gmail.com

#### **Treasurer**

Anne Williams (919) 493-1727  
annewilliams1973@hotmail.com

#### **Past President**

Nancy Harvey (919) 401-4533  
ntrharvey@gmail.com

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### **At Large Trustees: 2016**

Pei-fen Liu (919) 683-3066  
peifenliu@earthlink.com

#### **At Large Trustees: 2017**

Stephen McAllister  
tack2west@yahoo.com  
Sarah Patterson

#### **At Large Trustees: 2018**

Axel Elling (509) 288-2077  
axel.elling@gmail.com  
Ralph Belk, III  
ralph.belk.iii@gmail.com

## Triangle Orchid Society October 10 , 2016 Meeting Summary

Our October 2016 meeting had a great presentation by Art Chadwick Jr. who talked on 'The Great Cattleyas of the Cut Flower Era'. Art sold orchids at the meeting. Total attendance was 39 with at least 3 guests present.

### Volunteers for this meeting:

Welcome Table: Axel Elling

Raffle: Welcome Table: Axel Elling

Raffle and Sales Table: Anne Williams, Nancy Harvey, Kelly Nipp

Lights and Stand: Sidney Cox, Steven McAllister

Photography: Ralph Belk

Others: Bob Meyer

Show Table Discussions: Harry Gallis and Paul Feaver

The Jack Webster Award Plants:

### Greenhouse grown:

1st Place: **Blc Grezaffi's Blue 'Joe'**, grown by Axel Elling

2nd Place: ***Habenaria rhodocheila***, grown by Ralph Belk

3rd Place: ***Dendrochilum magnum 'Shaun'***, grown by Melissa Bullard

### Non-Greenhouse grown:

1st Place: ***Spiranthes cernua***, grown by Jeff Tucker

2nd Place: ***Psychopsis papilio***, grown by Elena Turner

3rd Place: ***Dendrobium cuthbertsonii***, grown by Charles Walker

Meeting Summary was submitted by Sidney Cox.

**October 2016**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Greenhouse Grown**



**3rd Place: *Dendrochilum magnum*  
'Shaun',** grown by Melissa Bullard

**1st Place: Blc Grezaffi's Blue 'Joe',**  
grown by Axel Elling



**2nd Place: *Habenaria rhodocheila*,**  
grown by Ralph Belk







**October 2016**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse Grown**

**1st Place: *Spiranthes cernua*,**  
grown by Jeff Tucker



**2nd Place: *Psychopsis papilio*,**  
grown by Elena Turner



**3rd Place: *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*,**  
grown by Charles Walker





## Art Chadwick Jr.: The Great Cattleya Species of the Cut Flower Era

Art presented a brief overview of the *Cattleya* species that formed the backbone of the orchid corsage industry. This fashion trend, established in the early 1940s, became popular initially because orchids lasted longer in a corsage than did camellias or gardenias. Also, various *Cattleya* species guaranteed year-round blooming, unlike gardenias, which flowered only in summer, and camellias available only in late fall and winter.

Art pointed out that *Cattleyas* are ideal for corsages because they appear very feminine, are often fragrant and are available in various colors. In addition, each flower is slightly different, making each corsage a unique and exotic work of art. Art noted that corsages as gifts were especially popular with GIs being deployed overseas. They cost about twenty dollars each, a great deal of money at that time, so receiving an orchid was a really big deal!

Orchid corsages were also popularized by celebrities of the day. People such as Helen DuPont, Eleanor Roosevelt, Mamie Eisenhower, and Bess Truman appeared in photos wearing massive orchid corsages, often attached to fur collars (you know, the ones with the little beady-eyed fox heads). Personally, I have always thought they bordered on the ludicrous, but such was the fashion of the times. In his presentation, Art also showed orchids worn as hair ornaments, just as ludicrous but certainly exotic fashion statements.

Orchid corsages became so popular that orchid nurseries could not keep up with the demand for cut flowers. They could not grow the plants from seed because it would take too long to get plants large enough to produce the number of blooms needed. To solve that problem, they imported mature, jungle-collected plants from South America. They came in huge bundles, wrapped in banana leaves, primarily from Brazil, Columbia, Venezuela, and even Costa Rica. At the time, no one thought about endangering native plant populations or upsetting local ecosystems. Art stated that growers paid \$1.50 per plant and charged \$20.00 per cut bloom. Assuming that each plant produced at least four or five blooms, it is easy to appreciate how the industry flourished!

In response to the high demand for corsages, orchid nurseries sprang up all over the country. Many were small mom and pop operations, but some became large industrial factories, especially on the east and west coasts. Enormous greenhouses were built to house huge ranges full of thousands of *Cattleyas*, all blooming at precisely the same time.

Growers had learned how to manipulate blooming time by controlling both the hours of light the plants received and their nighttime temperatures. They had become adept at timing the flowering of thousands of plants to coincide precisely with high-demand holidays, such Mother's Day, Easter or Christmas. I find this fact impressive. In my greenhouse, I can predict what season my *Laelia purpurata* or *Chysis bractescens* will be in flower, but I certainly cannot guarantee that they will be in bloom for the next orchid show. In fact, they can be virtually guaranteed to open precisely the week after!

What is particularly amazing is that all the orchids grown by the cut flower industry came from just eight species, each with its own bloom season. Conveniently, many flowers were long lasting, and the bloom seasons overlapped enough to ensure a year-round supply. The public came to know the orchid species and asked for them by name when ordering corsages. *Cattleya trianae* and *Cattleya mossiae* were especially well known and in high demand.

***Cattleya trianae***, known as the Christmas Orchid, is now the national flower of Colombia. There, it flowers from early December and is used to decorate local churches at Christmas. In the northern hemisphere, it can be manipulated to flower from early January through April. There are several varieties that differ slightly in color and in the form of the lip. Plants are vigorous, and each growth cycle typically produces two new leads, each of which will produce a bloom on a well-grown plant.



**Cattleya mossiae**, known as the Easter Orchid, generally flowers from March through May. The blooms are six to seven inches across, and a single plant can often produce three to four. Generally pink, with numerous varieties, this species is unique and identifiable by the central yellow marking in the throat.

**Cattleya labiata**, flowering from September through November, was known as the "short day bloomer." Growers could easily extend its bloom period by manipulating the hours of daylight the plants received. Art described four varieties, each having a distinctive color, especially in the throat. This species is unique for its double bud sheath, which Art suggested may be a protective adaptation against slugs. Typical flowers are rose-colored with a rich crimson-purple lip and a yellow throat with two white eyes. It produces two to five flowers that are five to six inches across.

**Cattleya schroederiae** is light rose to white in color, with a more deeply colored lip and thin substance. The throat has a distinctive orange-yellow spot, and the bloom is extremely fragrant. It was known as the Easter Cattleya, flowering from March through late April to early May. Art described this species as popular with growers because its blooms lasted longer than those of other species and it tended to produce more flowers per stem. Five or six flowers are not unusual. It is one of my personal favorites.

**Cattleya gaskelliana** flowers from May through July and even into September. It is popular due to its vigorous growth habit, with blooms developing rapidly after bud initiation. It also grows better under cooler conditions than other species. The flowers are large, generally purple to pale violet. Its distinctive trumpet-like lip, the same color as the petals, has a creped front edge that is generally a pale rose-mauve. The throat is orange or yellow with a patch of rich amethyst purple in the front. Flowering in early summer, *Cattleya gaskelliana* has always been popular in wedding bouquets. The plant is vigorous, generally producing four to five blooms per stem, carried well above the foliage.

**Cattleya warscewiczii** produces enormous flowers, as large as seven to nine inches across. They are rose-mauve, with a large, broad lip that is rich purple with bright yellow eyes. It typically flowers from June through July. It is harder to grow than some other species, but it is spectacular when grown well. One variety, ***gigas***, is known for its particularly large flowers.

**Cattleya dowiana** grows well in higher temperatures, but its flowers last only a week. Art stressed that it cannot tolerate nighttime temperatures below 65 degrees and that the plants rot if kept too wet or too cold. It also needs high light conditions. One of the most distinctively colored Cattleyas, it has bright yellow sepals and petals, with a crimson-purple lip veined with gold. The plants typically flower from July through September.

**Cattleya percivaliana** flowers from November through December. Art said that it was not popular with florists; the flowers are so small that two were needed for a corsage. Typically only four to five inches across, they could not compete with those of *C. gaskelliana* or *C. warscewiczii*, but they have the advantage of a spicy fragrance. The sepals and petals are rose-lilac, with a crimson-purple lip and a yellow throat. Due to its compact growth habit, it was one of the first Cattleya species sold as a pot plant.

Sadly, when corsages lost their fashionable luster, many of these wonderful species were thrown out of the greenhouses and burned or composted. Growers either went out of business or replaced the old species with newer hybrids that grew faster and could be sold as pot plants to hobby growers. Mericloneing made it possible to produce faster-maturing, earlier-blooming plants, replacing the seed-grown species that had required seven years of bench space before producing any blooms.

So the golden age of the cut flower corsage came to an end. Orchid corsages are a fashion of the past, and while orchids continue to be the focal points of bridal arrangements, they are no longer requested by name. Art stated that the orchid corsage era will never be replicated!

[Adapted from notes transcribed by Joy Lemieux]





## Please Loan Your Orchids

Triangle Orchid Society's Show, 'Fall for Orchids', is almost here. We need members to loan their blooming orchids for use in the TOS exhibit. Please carefully groom and stake your plants. Plants with obvious pests or diseases cannot be included.

**If your plants are at the Orchid Trail**, please email us at:

[triangleorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:triangleorchidsociety@gmail.com)

and give us permission to use them in the TOS exhibit. Someone will be there after 12:00 noon, Wednesday, November 16.

**If your plants are at home**, you can bring them to the Membership Meeting at 7:30 pm on Monday, November 14. Please be sure your plants have your name and contact information on them. If you do not want your plant to be entered in AOS judging please put 'NO AOS Judging' on the label.

**Or contact Nancy Harvey** at 919-401-4533 to arrange drop-off at her house, or pick-up at your house!

**Or bring them on Wednesday** between 3:00 and 4:00 to the show site at Duke Gardens.

Remember, even a small plant can add diversity and interest to an exhibit!

**Thank you for loaning your plants!**

Nancy Harvey (919-401-4533), 3502 Manford Drive, Durham.

Below is the AOS Award winning 2015 TOS Exhibit:



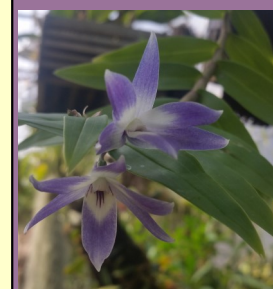
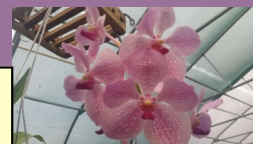


## Upcoming Orchid Events

November 12 – 13  
Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium  
Holiday Inn Patriot  
3032 Richmond Road  
Williamsburg VA

November 18 – 20  
2nd Annual Triangle Orchid Society Show  
Doris Duke Center at Sarah P. Duke Gardens  
420 Anderson Drive  
Durham NC

November 19  
Carolinas Judging Center  
Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs Bldg.  
4301 Lawndale Drive  
Greensboro NC  
Plants judged only during 10:30 – 12:30



Photos from The Orchid Trail

November 8, 2016

Suzanne Hens, Samsung Galaxy S5



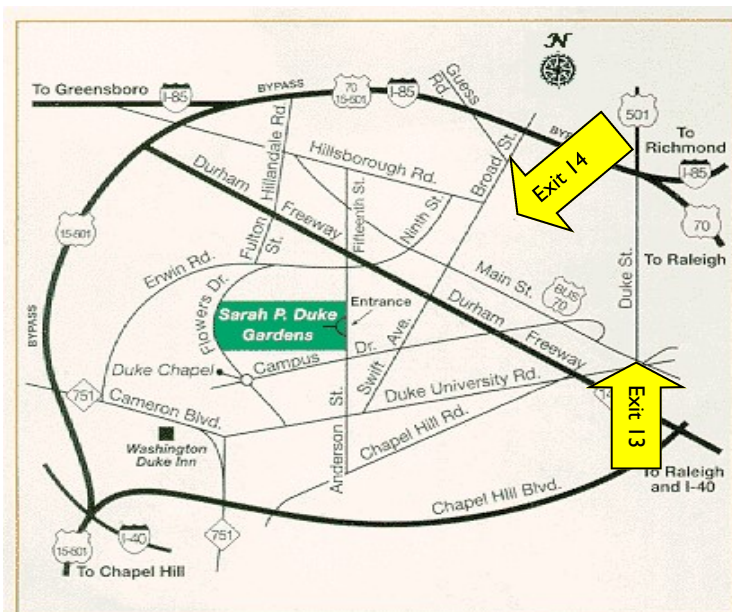


Sale Benches at The Orchid Trail, Morrisville, NC

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
DECEMBER 12	HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER AND AUCTION	
JANUARY 9	TBD	TBD
FEBRUARY 13	Sarah Patterson	Bulbophyllums

### Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda

7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Tables
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting and Announcements
7:40-8:30	Speaker's Presentation
8:30-8:50	Break
8:50-9:20	Show Table Reviews and Awards
9:20-9:30	Raffle
9:30 P.M.	Meeting Ends Take down show tables



#### From the East:

Durham Freeway (#147) to Exit 13.  
Right on Chapel Hill Rd.  
Right on Anderson St.  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens (420 Anderson) on left.

#### From the West:

Durham Freeway (#147) to Exit 14.  
Right on Swift Ave.  
Right on Campus Dr.  
Right on Anderson St.  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens (420 Anderson) on left.

Newsletter Editor  
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Thank You  
Charles Walker  
for proofreading this newsletter.

#### 2016 Triangle Orchid Society Dues

**\$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 NC 27707