



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

September 2016

Steven Frowine: Growing Orchids without a Greenhouse

September 12, 2016, 7:30 PM

Steve was born in southern Ohio. He was a “plant nerd” at a young age and grew orchids under lights in his basement as a teenager and to this day has never lost his fascination or obsession with this wonderful family of plants.

He obtained his BS and MS in horticulture from Ohio State and Cornell. Steve worked as a horticulturist for various botanical gardens—The National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawaii, Cleveland Botanical Garden, Pittsburgh Garden Center, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. After these stints, he continued his horticultural career at Burpee and White Flower Farm and served as a consultant to various horticultural businesses..

Steve has written many articles for national horticultural publications and has authored four books on orchids—*Orchids for Dummies*, *Fragrant Orchids*, *Miniature Orchids*, *Moth Orchids*, and *The Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis*. He has also appeared on many local and national TV programs. Steve has given talks on orchids throughout the US, Mexico and Guatemala. Steve recently moved back to the states from Mexico and now resides in Asheville, NC with his wife, Sascha, and two Weimaraners.

The TOS and Triad Orchid Auctions are on Sept. 10 and 11, respectively.
See the TOS webpage and Facebook for a list of plants to be auctioned.

facebook



www.facebook.com/TriangleOrchidSociety

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 to reserve a seat. All are welcome.

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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

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**Triangle Orchid Society
August 8, 2016 Meeting Summary**

At our August 2016 meeting, Courtney Hackney gave a great presentation on orchid culture and he also sold orchid seedlings. Total attendance was approximately 46 members and 6 guests.

Volunteers for this meeting:

Welcome Table: Axel Elling

Raffle: Anne Williams, Nancy Harvey

Lights and Stands: Sidney Cox, Axel Elling

Photography: Alan Miller

Show Table Discussions: Harry Gallis

The Jack Webster Award Plants:

Greenhouse grown:

1st place: *Miltonia* Dark Star,
grown by John Myhre

2nd place: *Paphiopedilum* Song of Love,
grown by Nancy Harvey

3rd place: *Encyclia cochleata* 'Shax',
grown by Ralph Belk

Non-Greenhouse grown:

1st place: *Aliceara (Bakerara)* Clownish 'Cotton Candy',
grown by Vicki McLamb

Meeting Summary was submitted by Sidney Cox.



**August 2016
Jack Webster Awards
Greenhouse Grown**

1st Place: *Miltonia* Dark Star,
grown by John Myhre



2nd Place: *Paphiopedilum* Song of Love,
grown by Nancy Harvey

3rd Place: *Encyclia cochleata* 'Shax',
grown by Ralph Belk





August 2016

**Jack Webster Awards
Non-Greenhouse Grown**



1st Place: Aliceara (*Bakerara*) Clownish 'Cotton Candy'
grown by Vicki McLamb



Courtney Hackney: Blue Cattleyas
Talk Given to Sandhills Orchid Society
Transcribed by Joy Lemieux

Courtney began his discussion of Blue Cattleyas by attempting to define what is meant by a “blue” or “coerulea” Cattleya. He said he bases his definition on the color named “indigo” on the color chart. He noted that there are numerous unique forms of the color. To me, that was a pretty confusing statement. Perhaps he meant “shades” rather than “forms” of the color indigo. I was left with the impression that attempting to define “blue Cattleya” is difficult and open to interpretation. For me, defining “blue” when referring to an orchid flower color has always been confusing because the word can be applied to white or crème colored flowers with the faintest of blue veining in the sepals and petals. On the other hand, coerulea can also refer to flowers that I would describe as lilac, or at the other extreme, dark slate blue. Courtney did say that if he could, he would rewrite the chapter on blue Catts in his books, so perhaps he finds it confusing as well. What is well known is that blue Catts are difficult and unpredictable to breed. What does seem to be certain that even when one breeds with another blue, one cannot anticipate with any degree of certainty that the resulting offspring will have any blue color at all.

So what makes a Cattleya blue?? Courtney said that it is undoubtedly a genetic factor although nobody has been able to isolate or identify a specific marker. Current understanding is that the pH of a gene may have significant influence. Courtney said that he believes that some Catts have genetic material that has a “predisposition” to coerulea color and when these Catts are bred with each other, the breeder gets lucky! The density of the plant material in the flower itself may also play a role, as well as the pigmentation present in the plant matter. A flower that has denser cells may block some of the pigmentation, so the observer (with the human eye) may not perceive the presence of the blue color. Courtney suggested as well that the acidity of the growing medium may also be responsible, and noted that lowering the pH of the water source to 5.9 to 6.1 can produce bluer flowers. For the average hobby grower this may be not just impractical, but virtually impossible, to alter your water supply so dramatically for just a few plants. Courtney also suggested that raising the magnesium content of fertilizer can enhance blue pigmentation. To do this, he recommended adding Epsom Salts to your water supply. At one time, cooler growing conditions were also believed to be conducive to enhancing blue coloring, but I heard this theory debunked recently, and Courtney did not comment on temperatures as a factor.

Courtney indicate that one of the most critical factors involved in producing blue Catts is superior parents. He described various growers, from Carl Whitlow to Ervin Granier, and their never ending quest for superior clones. He indicated that the Japanese have been doing a great deal of work on this area with tetraploid plants that have enhanced vigor and improved form. Courtney also pointed out that Fred Clark, from Sunset Valley Orchids, is currently one of the most prolific hybridizers working in the US today. Fred recently published his annual list of new Catt releases and the list contained several coerulea hybrids. If you are looking for blue catts, look for Fred’s “SVO” moniker in the plant name.

Courtney described how hybridizers can predict which two white Catts that are bred together will produce a pink, but noted that the breeding guidelines or principles that apply when breeding other colors don’t seem to apply to blues. As he states in his book “Numerous hybrids using coerulea parents produced either offspring with less blue color than either parent or no blue-pigmented hybrids at all.” In his book he notes that some of the most promising results have come about when using the miniature Catts, formerly known as Laelias. *L. purpurata* and *L. pumila* have been especially successful by imparting their intense coloration. He said that breeding with a yellow, white or other color never makes a blue. However, breeding with a true green and a coerulea will result in a coerulea.

There have been a number of other problems with coerulea breeding. One thing that has dogged hybridizers has been flower size. No matter what parents are used, the flowers tend to be smaller than the parents. The large, showy flowers hybridizers have produced on minis and standard Catts remain elusive for blue Catt breeders. Form has also been lacking, as has substance. Additionally, some of the better hybrids have tended to be sterile or have produced very limited amounts of seed. Often the progeny has been difficult to grow, with very low survival rates for young seedlings. For some unknown reason, the meristem people do not seem to have picked up on this and have not reproduced any of the more promising coerulea crosses. Most mericlones on the market today are remakes of crosses originally made in the sixties and seventies. Again, I quote Courtney’s book “To produce superior clones in any hybridizing line usually requires large numbers of offspring from which the one or two great clones that maybe tetraploids, can be selected. With just a few exceptions, this has not happened. As a consequence, the orchid growing world still awaits the perfect blue Cattleya.”

Obviously, there are numerous issues surrounding the breeding of coerulea Cattleyas. As a hobby grower with three or four supposed coerulea clones in my collection I anxiously await each blooming to see what another season has done to the color. This year, I managed to produce a very successful slate blue *L. purpurata* cross. I was ecstatic! However, I also realize that one successful blooming was probably something accidental rather than anything specific I did in my growing practices. A great deal of work remains to be done before blue Catts become better understood and grown. If nothing else, Courtney outlined the problems.

For additional information on blue Catts, and Catts in general, I refer you to Courtney’s book “American Cattleyas”, published in 2004 while he was Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.



Plant list for auction is on
our web and Facebook pages!

ORCHID PLANT AUCTION

SPONSORED BY THE TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY

POTLUCK LUNCH AND PREVIEW

12:00, NOON

AUCTION BEGINS

1 O'CLOCK



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WWW.TRIANGLEORCHIDSOCIETY.ORG



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

BEECH SHELTER, LAKE CRABTREE PARK, MORRISVILLE, NC

OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN BUYING ORCHIDS.

AFTER ENTERING THE PARK, BEECH SHELTER PARKING IS THE THIRD RIGHT TURN



Triad Orchid Society

Annual Orchid Auction



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER, 11TH 12:30P
GREENSBORO COUNCIL OF
GARDEN CLUBS
4301 LAWNBDALE DRIVE,
GREENSBORO, NC 27455
NEXT TO THE GREENSBORO
SCIENCE CENTER

Join us for our Annual Orchid Auction
featuring plants from Triad Orchid
Society members as well as The
Orchid Trail and the greenhouse of
Jack Kepley

[FACEBOOK.COM/
TRIADORCHIDSOCIETY](https://www.facebook.com/triadorchidsociety)



Upcoming Orchid Events

September 10

Potluck at noon, auction at 1pm

Triangle OS Fall Auction

Beech Shelter, Lake Crabtree Park

1400 Aviation Pkwy, Morrisville, NC

September 11

Potluck at noon, auction at 12:30 pm

Triad OS Fall Auction

Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs building

4301 Lawndale Dr, Greensboro, NC

September 17

Carolinas Judging Center

Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs building

4301 Lawndale Dr, Greensboro, NC

Plants to be judged are accepted only during 10:30 – 12:30

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 Dr, Durham, NC



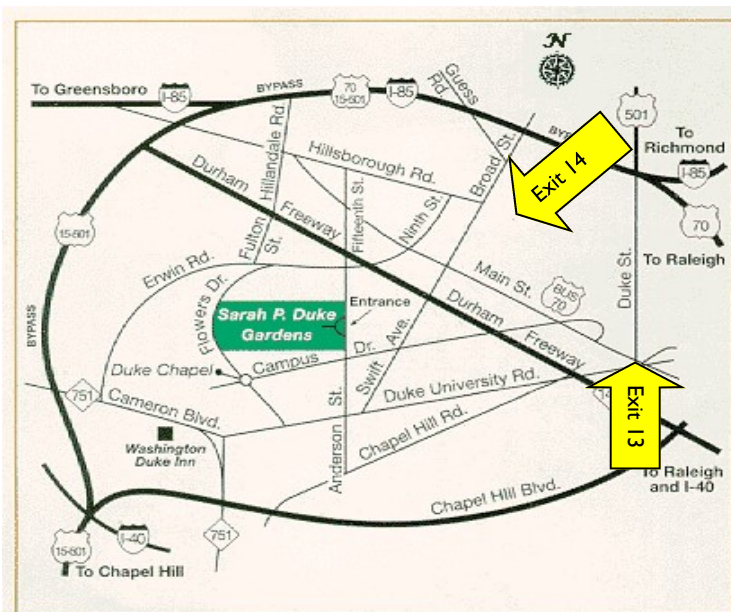
**THANK YOU
ALAN MILLER**
FOR A DECADE OF SERVICE
IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND COORDINATING
THE SPEAKER DINNERS!



Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
OCTOBER 10	Art Chadwick	Cattleyas
NOVEMBER 14	TBD	TBD
DECEMBER 12	HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND ORCHID AUCTION	

7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Tables
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting and Announcements
7:40-8:30	Speaker's talk
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.

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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