



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

April 2017

## **TOS Spring Auction! April 10, 2017, 7:30 PM**

We will have our spring auction at this meeting. Our fall auction will be at Lake Crabtree. We expect some wonderful orchids from H&R Orchids and Tropical Orchid Farm, both in Hawaii. There will be a number of blooming dendrobium hybrids and species, some blooming pleurothallids, and a selection of near-blooming size and seedling species plants from various genera.

Come and expand your orchid collection or just have fun with your orchid fanatic friends!

We will have show table exhibits as usual, so bring in your beauties for a chance to win a ribbon or two.

***Visitors are Welcome!***

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

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

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## Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Summary

### March 13, 2017

At our March meeting, we had an informative presentation on orchid viruses by Steve Arthur. See page 5 for a brief summary.

Volunteers for this meeting:

Welcome Table: Ariel Zelaya

Raffle and Sales Table: Axel Elling, Nancy Harvey

Lights and Stands: Sidney Cox, Dan Schilling

Others: Ralph Belk

Show Table Discussions: Harry Gallis and Steve Arthur

The Jack Webster Awards:

**Greenhouse Awards**

1st Place: ***Dendrobium farmeri***, grown by Paul and Olivene Virtue

2nd Place: ***Baptistonia sylvana***, grown by Paul Welty

3rd Place: ***Dendrobium Peter Shen x Silver Wings***,  
grown by Leo and Miriam Sagasti

**Non-Greenhouse Awards**

1st Place: ***Microcoelia gilpinae***, grown by Charles Walker

2nd Place: ***Leptotes pohlitinocoi***, grown by Sarah Patterson

3rd Place: ***Brassidium Golden Gamine 'White Knight'***,  
grown by Sidney Cox

Meeting Summary was submitted by Ralph Belk, III.

**March 2017**  
**Jack Webster Awards**  
**Greenhouse Grown**

**1st Place: *Dendrobium farmeri*,**  
grown by Paul and Olivene Virtue



**2nd Place: *Baptistonia sylvana*,**  
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**3rd Place: *Dendrobium* Peter Shen x Silver Wings,**  
grown by Leo and Miriam Sagasti







**March 2017**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse Grown**

**1st Place: *Microcoelia gilpinae*,  
grown by Charles Walker**



**2nd Place : *Leptotes pohlitinocoi*,  
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**3rd Place: *Brassidium Golden Gamine* 'White Knight',  
grown by Sidney Cox**





## Steve Arthur: Orchid Viruses

Notes kindly provided by Joy Lemieux of the Sandhills Orchid Society

Do you have orchids in your collection that are infected with viruses? According to Steve, orchids in the wild are virus-free. However, viruses are so now widespread in cultivated orchids that forty to sixty percent of the Phalaenopsis sold, especially in the big box and grocery stores, are infected. The problem is that these plants are almost exclusively mericlones, which are seldom tested and which pass viruses in the mericlone process. I won't repeat Steve's quoted numbers of infected plants that are sold annually, but they are staggering!

So just what is a virus? I Googled the question, and this is the definition I came up with:

"An infective agent that typically consists of a nucleic acid molecule in a protein coat, is too small to be seen by light microscopy, and is able to multiply only within the living cells of a host."

Steve indicated that the only way to kill a virus is to destroy its protein coat. And the only way to destroy the protein is with heat at 1200 °F. So, there is no cure for an infected plant, as heat this extreme will kill the plant. Steve reported on several avenues of research currently under way to find "cures," but all of these are currently far from market-ready. So, the trash seems to be the only solution for now.

Prevention is obviously critical. Steve stressed that humans are the primary vectors for transmitting viruses. We transmit them through infected sap and organic material on our hands, on our scissors and other cutting tools, even on our clothing. Here are standard protocols for repotting and tending plants:

- Wear disposable gloves when working on plants. Use a fresh pair with each plant. Gloves are available in several sizes at your local big box and drug stores and on the internet.
- Save your old newspapers and spread out a sheet over your working surface.
- As you work on a plant, place the debris and old media on the newspaper.
- After you finish with each plant, wrap up that newspaper sheet and dispose of it in the trash.
- Don't compost your waste material; the virus can survive composting and transfer to other plants when you reuse the composted material.
- Flame your tools before you work on a new plant. Steve pointed out that simply passing the tool through the flame is sufficient to destroy the protein coat. Heating your tools until they are red hot will destroy *them*. Steve demonstrated his propane torch, which turns on and off with the press of a button. These are available at big box and hardware stores. It is also easy to replace the canisters when they are empty – even I can do it!
- You can also use disposable razor blades when cutting plants. Use a fresh one with each plant! These, too, are available locally and come in boxes of 100. Be sure to store them in a



dry location, as they will rust if simply left in the greenhouse.

- If you reuse pots, wash them thoroughly and remove any old media and caked-on root material. Then soak in a 20 percent clorox solution. Or, “cook” them in your backyard barbeque, which is hot enough to kill any potential virus. If you dislike washing pots, plastics are certainly preferable; they are inexpensive, so you can throw them away and not feel guilty.

Steve told us about several brands of testing strips that are currently on the market. Personally, I seldom use them, because I believe they are overpriced. Also, they test for only one or two specific viruses. There are multiple viruses that infect our plants, and I’m always suspicious that I’m getting a false negative. If you have a plant you suspect is infected, and you really don’t want to throw the plant out, use a professional lab that is capable of performing the serology. Find a lab and its costs on the internet. It’s as simple as cutting off a piece of foliage, placing it in a plastic baggie, and sending it off in the mail!

Steve described a number of plant diseases whose symptoms are similar to those of viruses. The only sure-fire way to know if you have a virused plant is to send a sample to a lab and have them perform the serology. However, you can prevent many of the other conditions Steve described - avoid excessive heat or cold, avoid water standing on foliage overnight, control insects that feed on plants, and always use clean pots free of used media and plant material.

The best way to control viruses as well as other plant diseases is to BE AWARE. Invest in the AOS handbook *Orchid Pests and Diseases*. It’s only \$13 and is packed full of practical advice and lots of photos. Refer to it often! Also, the March issue of *Orchids* contains Part 3 of Sue Bottom’s series on *Orchid Disease Control*. This has been an outstanding series with lots of information, including brand names and instructions for use.





Western Orchid Society Show Results  
Asheville, NC

Sidney Cox	Brassidium Golden Gamine 'White Knight' HCC/AOS	1st Place
James Curtis	<i>Tolumnia</i> Kitty Crocker x (Olé x Dorothy Oka) #1 AM/AOS prov*	1st Place
Harry Gallis	<i>Dendrobium tangerinum</i>	1st Place
David Pickett	<i>Bulbophyllum falcatum</i> 'Tower Grove' AM/AOS	1st Place
James Curtis	<i>Tolumnia</i> Kitty Crocker x (Olé x Dorothy Oka) #2	2nd Place
Sarah Patterson	<i>Dendrobium findlayanum</i> var <i>oculatum</i>	2nd Place
Ralph Belk	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hawaii Spectacular	2nd Place
Sarah Patterson	<i>Lycaste</i> x <i>cobanii</i> CBR/AOS x self	2nd Place
Harry Gallis	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Walnut Valley Itsy Bitsy	2nd Place

\* **Provisional award (prov):** A conditional award which cannot be certified for publication pending registration of a hybrid, or taxonomic verification of a species. Species considered for awards other than CBR or CHM, and previously unawarded or not identified to the satisfaction of the judging team, may also be given provisional awards.



Triangle Orchid Society Exhibit



## Upcoming Orchid Events

April 15

### **AOS Monthly Judging in Greensboro, NC**

Plants must arrive between 10:30 - 12:30

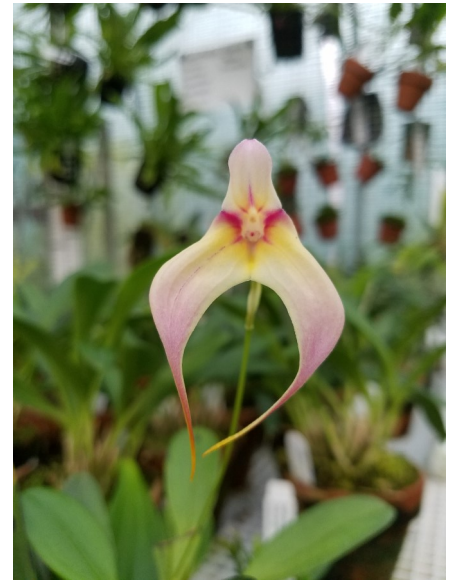
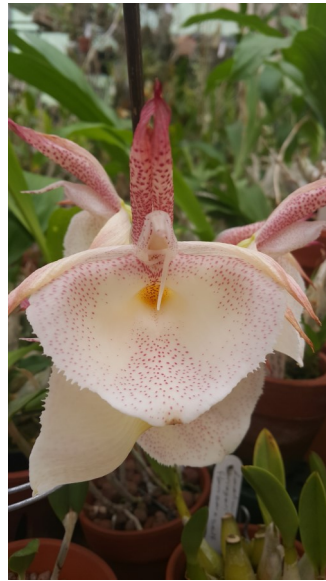
8432 Norcross Road (*new location!*)

Colfax NC



Orchid Photography  
by Ariel Zelaya



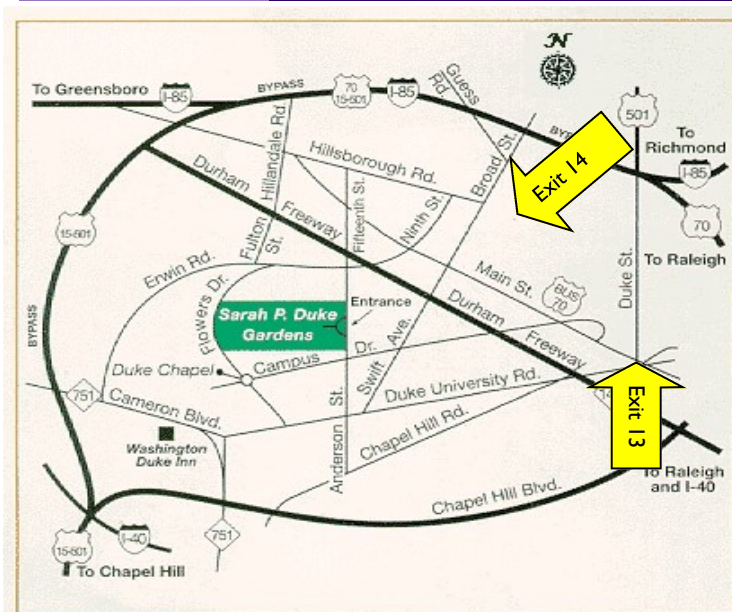


Orchid Eye Candy! Photography by Ariel Zelaya

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
MAY 8	Harry Gallis	Novelty Phalaenopsis
JUNE 12	Alan Black	<i>Brassavola cucullata</i> Hybrids
JULY 10	Local speaker	TBA

### Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda

7:00 - 7:30	Set Up Show Tables
7:30 - 7:40	Business Meeting and Announcements
7:40 - 8:50	Auction
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.

Newsletter Editor  
Suzanne Hens  
E-mail: TOSnewsletter2015@gmail.com

Charles Walker  
Thank You  
for proofreading this newsletter.

#### 2017 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