



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 2017

## Mark Reinke: Mini and Compact Cattleya Breeding

**September 11, 2017, 7:30 PM**

Mark Reinke had a passion for plants from the time he was a child growing up in a small town outside of Chicago. When his family moved to Florida in the 1960's he got his first orchid plant as back



bulbs while helping out a neighborhood lady who had a large orchid and bromeliad collection.

Since then, orchids have always been one of his major interests.

In 2004, he and his partner Gary Collier sold their business in Atlanta and moved to the Blue Ridge

Escarpment area of South Carolina to grow plants full time under the business name Marble Branch Farms. They constructed a large greenhouse and seed laboratory so they could focus on creating new orchid hybrids, concentrating especially on miniature and compact cattleya types, with an emphasis on new and unusual breeding lines. They now have a thriving online business and are challenged to produce plants quickly enough to keep up with demand. In addition to orchids, Marble Branch Farms currently raises hybrid daylilies and carnivorous plants, and produces honey. Mark is active in the Western North Carolina Orchid Society and has served as President of the Atlanta Orchid Society twice.

**Mark will be selling plants!**

**Guests are always 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

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## Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Summary

### August 14, 2017

At our August meeting, Fred Clarke spoke about the fascinating Catasetum hybrids. We had approximately 40 attendees and several guests.

We thank all the volunteers who took care of lights and stands, the raffle, welcome table, show table discussions and photography. Show table awards were determined by votes of the attendees.

The Jack Webster Awards:

**Greenhouse Awards**

1st Place: ***Ionopsis utriculariodes***, grown by Paul Welty

2nd Place: ***Rodriguezia lanceolata***, grown by Paul Welty

3rd Place: ***Cattleya Poseidon Lake***, grown by Ralph Belk

**Non-Greenhouse Awards**

1st Place: ***Angraecum didieri***, grown by Charles Walker

2nd Place: ***Dendrobium sec. Phalaenanth***,  
grown by Crawford Wilson

3rd Place: ***Brassolaelia Yellow Bird***, grown by Steven McAllister

This summary was provided by Harry Gallis, Elena Turner and Ralph Belk.

**August 2017**  
**Jack Webster Awards**  
**Greenhouse Grown**

**1st Place: *Lonopsis utriculariodes*,  
grown by Paul Welty**



**2nd Place: *Rodriguezia lanceolata*,  
grown by Paul Welty**



**3rd Place: *Cattleya Poseidon Lake*,  
grown by Ralph Belk**



**August 2017**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse Grown**

**1st Place: *Angraecum didieri*,  
grown by Charles Walker**



**2nd Place: *Dendrobium* sec. *Phalaenanthus*,  
grown by Crawford Wilson**



**3rd Place: *Brassolaelia* Yellow Bird,  
grown by Steven McAllister**





## Fred Clarke

### The guide to growing your first *Catasetums*, *Cynoches*, and *Clowesias*

One of the best ways to know how to grow an orchid genus is to understand the conditions under which they grow naturally. *Catasetinae* live where there are two distinct weather patterns—a hot, humid and rainy monsoonal summer followed by a dry cool winter. *Catasetinae* have adapted to these weather conditions by having a growth phase in the summer and in winter a rest period or dormancy where the leaves yellow and drop off. When the plants are dormant, little or no water is needed, as the pseudobulbs store enough moisture and nutrients to survive the dormancy period until summer.

*Catasetinae* plant culture is not difficult. The plants' vegetative state signals to the grower their changing needs. Interpret the signals and make the appropriate cultural adjustments. Here is what to look for:

**Early-Season:** *Catasetinae* begin their new growth in early spring. This next sentence is very important. Watering begins after the new growth has well developed new roots of approximately 3" to 5" long. I believe that *Catasetinae* roots deteriorate during dormancy, and in the following year they are not as effective at taking up moisture. This makes the new root system vital in the plants' health. So, wait to water until the new roots are 3" to 5" long.

**Mid-Season:** This is the growth period, where the plants are rapidly developing their new pseudobulbs, so for the next 3-4 months water like a monsoon. The plants require constant moisture; in most cases irrigation will be needed 2 or 3 times a week. Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer used at ½ strength for each watering. Light levels for *Cattleya* will help insure strong good growth and flowering. This is the time when the fruits of your labor will begin to pay off, as the flowering season will be soon underway.

**Late Season:** In the late autumn the plants will begin to enter the dormancy phase. The signals of dormancy are the yellowing and browning of the leaves. At this time stop fertilizing and reduce watering by half. When most leaves are yellow/brown and have dropped off, cease watering altogether. A general rule to follow is: by November 15th stop fertilization and reduce watering by half. Then by January 1st most leaves should have yellowed or fallen off. This is the dormant period.

**Light levels:** *Catasetinae* like light levels comparable to *Cattleyas* and *Vandas* at about 2500-4000 foot candles. This is where a strong shadow will be cast by your hand held 12" above the plant.

**Temperatures:** Summer days 70 to 95°F, nights 60 to 75°F. Winter days 60 to 75°F, nights 55 to 65°F.

**Air movement:** *Catasetinae*, like most all orchids, enjoy abundant air movement, so give it.

**Repotting and Dividing:** This is done as the new growth is just starting to develop and before the new roots start to show (remember, no watering until the roots are well established, 3-5" long). Unlike most orchids, *Catasetums* do well when divided into 2-bulb pieces. Divisions are made by cutting with a sterile tool or by pulling the bulbs apart. I try to keep the size of my plants between 2 and 5 bulbs.

**Potting mix and containers:** For mature plants a 3:1 mix of fine bark and medium Perlite is needed. For seedlings, it works well to have a 3-inch or smaller pot of New Zealand sphagnum moss with the bottom third filled with Styrofoam peanuts.



Plastic pots work great; however, clay pots, baskets, and cork slabs will all work. Catasetums don't like to be over-potted. Select a pot size that will allow for 2-3 years of growth.

**Insect pests:** Catasetinae are generally pest-free; however, spider mites are attracted to the soft leaves of these plants. Spider mites are quite small and may be hard to see with the naked eye. They live and feed on the undersides of the leaves. Try using a magnifying glass or try rubbing the underside of the leaf with a tissue and look for them on the tissue. Take care in checking for them as the plants are leafing out and control them with a recommended miticide from your garden center.

Reprinted from the November 2015 Orchidacea Newsletter



## Fall Orchid Auction

### Saturday, September 9, 2017

Our 2017 Fall Auction will feature live and silent auctions of plants from Motes Orchids, Kaleialoha Orchids, and Hilo Orchid Farm! We're expecting some amazing budded and near blooming sized Cattleya and Oncidium alliance plants as well as flowering lady slippers of all shapes and sizes.

The Beech Shelter is the third drive on the right after you enter Lake Crabtree Park.

Guests are always welcome at the TOS, and this is our main fundraiser of the year, so we invite members of the public to join us for an afternoon, rain or shine!

The pot-luck will begin at 12:00, so you're welcome to bring a covered dish and spend some time perusing the plant selections until the auction begins at 1:00 PM. TOS will provide utensils, ice and drinks. Please bring a serving piece if your covered dish will need one. **Here is the auction list.**

Blc. Mem Anan  
 Bllra. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'  
 Brsdm. Golden Gamine 'White Knight'  
 C. Mari's Song 'CTM 271' HCC/AOS  
 Ctna. Beverly Blush 'Kalapana'  
 Ctna. Ethel's Paradise  
 Den. Burana Sundae  
 Den. Emma Queen  
 Den. Napporn Pink  
 Den. Salaya Pink Stripe  
 Lysudamulua (Lys) Red Jewel  
 Monnierara Millenium Magic 'Witchcraft'  
 Mtssa Charles M. Fitch 'Izumi' AM/AOS  
 Onc. Ouroarvore 'Brazil'  
 Otaara Hwa Yuan Bay 'She Shu'  
 Paph. (Hilo Glory x Hsinying Vinyweb) '#1' x Paph. suberbiens 'Maroon Swan'  
 Paph. (Hsinying Web x Magic Cherry) 'Double' x Paph. suberbiens '2012'  
 Paph. barbigerrum var. vejverutiana x self  
 Paph. charlesworthii 'select' x sib  
 Paph. delanatii alba '#3' x Paph. delanatii alba '#1'  
 Paph. Hilo Green #2 x Paph. fairrieanum alba 'JF258 #3'  
 Paph. Hilo Vinyquatal Jackpot HCC/AOS x Paph. fairrieanum 'Fire Ball'  
 Paph. Hsinying Citron 'Double Green' x Paph. (Hsinying Bean x Hsinying Cyclon) DD #2  
 Paph. Pinocchio 'Cupping' x Paph. primulinum alba 'Green Tea'  
 Paph. purpuratum '#1' x self  
 Paph. Shin-Yi Ruben 'Chou Yi' x Paph. Hsinying Mishima 'Chn #5'  
 Paph. spicerianum 'Woo' x Paph. victoria-mariae '#1'  
 Paph. sukhakulii 'Bold Statement' AM/AOS x Paph. sukhakulii 'Parkside #2'  
 Paph. tonsum #1 x #2 (sib cross)  
 Paph. Winston Churchill 'Redoubtable' x Paph. California Girl 'Sweetie'  
 Pva. Nellie Morley x Vanda Suksumran Red  
 Renanthera imschootiana x Vanda falcata  
 Vanda (Thailand x tessellata) x Vanda tessellata  
 Vanda Chindavat x Vanda Pranerm-Seepai  
 Vanda falcata x Vanda flabellata  
 Vanda Fuch's Delight x Blitz Heartthrob x Wirat  
 Vanda Fuch's Delight x Vanda Bitz's Heartthrob  
 Vanda Gordon Dillon x (Vanda Dr. Anek x Vanda Bitz's Heartthrob)  
 Vanda Josephine Van Brero x Vanda Dr. Anek  
 Vanda Josephine Van Brero x Vanda Kultana Ruby Red  
 Vanda Josephine Van Brero x Vanda Pachara Delight 'Blue Spots'  
 Vanda Josephine Van Brero x Vanda Suksumran Spots  
 Vanda JVB x Vanda Kultana Gold  
 Vanda Keeree Delight x (Vanda Udomsri x Vanda Kultana Gold)  
 (Vanda Little Fancy x Vanda tessellata) x (Vanda Thailand x Vanda tessellata)  
 (Vanda Little Fancy x Vanda tessellata) x Vanda Mini Palmer  
 (Vanda Mini Palmer x Vanda Kultana Fragrance) x Vanda Mini Palmer  
 Vanda testacea x Rhv. Dr Sally Meiners  
 Vanda Varavut Leopard x Vanda Blitz Heartthrob 'Dark Purple'  
 Wilsonara Rioja 'Red Hot'  
 Wilsonara Space Mine 'Red Rendezvous' AM/AOS



## In Memoriam: Paul Virtue

Paul Virtue passed away on September 1, 2017, after a long battle against cancer. He came to the U.S. from Jamaica in 1983. For many years, Paul was an executive with an international insurance company. He left and started his own software company. He was married to Olivene and had three children.

Paul fell in love with orchids 15 years ago. Paul and Olivene regularly brought their orchids to TOS meetings, winning many greenhouse show table awards. They also graciously hosted the TOS Keiki Club in 2015 (see next page). Paul had that kind of island, easy-going personality. His friendly, happy spirit will be remembered fondly and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. It was a privilege to know Paul.

### Paul Virtue Memorial

Thursday, September 21, 11am  
Church of the Nativity  
8849 Ray Road  
Raleigh, NC 27613

There will be lunch after the Memorial.



Just one of the many beautiful orchids of Paul and Olivene Virtue  
First Place, Greenhouse Grown, March 2017  
*Dendrobium farmeri*



## Remembering Paul Virtue

The August Keiki Club was hosted by master growers Paul and Olivene Virtue. They are known for their specimen-sized Cattleyas and Vandas, as well as their gorgeous Paphiopedilums and other low light orchids. They have won numerous TOS show table awards, as well as AOS show awards. Approximately 12 society members attended. Everyone was in awe at the display of hundreds of orchids outside; they have over

1st Place, October 2013  
Nakornpathome Silver Olivene  
grown by Paul Virtue



800 orchids in total. Orchids that were placed outside for the summer included Paul's high light orchids (mostly Vandas and Cattleyas)

Paul gives exuberant orchid discussions.  
(Olivene is in the right foreground)



Paul provides orchid lessons.



and Olivene's low light orchids (mostly Paphiopedilums). Our hosts gave tours of orchids and growing areas with tips for optimizing orchid culture. In addition, Paul gave lessons on how to make baskets, hangers, and their preferred methods to eradicate pests and fungus. They told us about their favorite products, including fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides, and potting media. We even learned how Olympic bobsledding got started in their native country of Jamaica.

Blc. George King, 2013





## Upcoming Orchid Events

**September 9**

### TOS Fall Orchid Auction

Pot Luck 12:00

Auction begins 1:00

Beech Shelter, Lake Crabtree

Morrisville, NC

**All guests are welcome**

**September 16**

### AOS Monthly Judging

Plants must arrive between

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

8432 Norcross Road

*(new location!)*

Colfax, NC

**September 29 - 30**

### Breezy Hill Orchid Festival

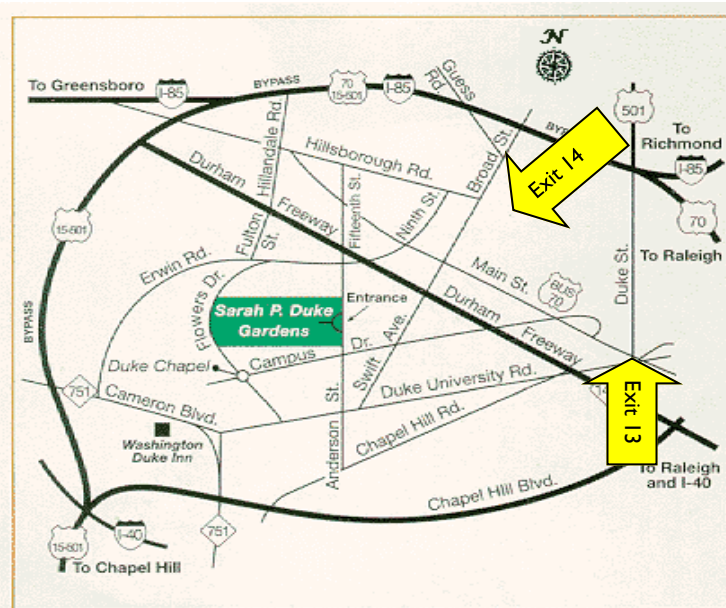
Steve Arthur Orchids

Graniteville, SC

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
OCTOBER 9	Sandy Svoboda	Orchids of Bhutan
NOVEMBER 13	Linda Wilhelm	TBA
DECEMBER 11	<b>HOLIDAY POTLUCK !! !!!</b>	

### Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda

7:00 - 7:30	Set Up Show Tables
7:30 - 7:40	Announcements
7:40 - 8:50	Speaker
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.

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### 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