



Dear TOS Members,

Dec 2024 – It's hard to believe that 2024 is about to become history.....where did the year go? (answers on a postcard to TOS!) Amidst all the busyness and excitement of the holiday season, the winter solstice - that special astronomical occurrence steeped in all kinds of pagan ritual - may have slipped by without your noticing it, but trust me your orchids didn't miss it. They have been sensing their ambient conditions very closely, and depending upon genus, they have been responding physiologically in different ways: many phals are already in full flower, whilst others, members of the subtribe Catasetinae for example, have entered full winter dormancy now.

Business-related Matters from Dec 17 TOS Board Meeting

1. Balance of the checking account as of Dec 17 was \$10,332
2. The financials of TOS are in excellent shape as we close out the year. Income for 2024 is standing at \$24,566 vs Expenses at \$22,478, and balances in the TOS endowment investment accounts are very healthy
3. The online address (its URL) for the TOS website has been made a secure connection, <https://triangleorchidsociety.org>
4. Nov Membership Report (Carole Saravitz, TOS Membership Chairperson)

Current Total Paid Members: 196+35 Partners

Last Month's Total Paid Members: 187+31 Partners

New Members since 2024 Show: 36+10 Partners

December: 7+4 Partners



Dec 9, TOS End-of-Year Holiday Meeting/Live Meeting

Turnout for the meeting and auction was excellent. Hats off to all the gourmet cooks out there because the food was truly scrumptious, certainly amongst the best potlucks I have enjoyed. I'm still smacking my lips over Ken Wesp's flavorsome baked ham. Thank You, Ken!

Our auctioneer, Ralph Belk III, delivered an outstanding performance as per usual with his descriptions and cultural tips for the high-quality plants auctioned from Orchids by Hausermann Inc (and Thank You, Kelly, for the great choices you made). With the silent auction of donated plants, plus the sale of the Maudiae paphs remaining from our Fall for Orchids show in Sept, the evening raised a grand total of \$1,150 after expenses. There was good-hearted, fierce competition for some of the rarely seen plants, one of which was a particularly unusual species of dendrobium, *Den. epidendropsis*; I was thinking of bidding on it but had second thoughts when it became clear a couple of orchid high rollers were bidding for it! 😂



Upcoming Events



Jan 13 at 7.30 pm TOS Monthly Meeting at JCRA

Jason Harpster will speak on the topic of Understanding Angraecoids.

Jason, a TOS member, has been growing orchids for over 15 years. He is a published author, accredited AOS judge and as of Jan 2025, he will be chairperson of the AOS Carolinas Judging Center, taking over from TOS member Sarah Patterson. Jason's collection includes approximately 1,200 orchids with more than 500 species representing 100+ genera. Jason will be selling orchids during the meeting.

If you are not familiar with this fabulous subtribe of orchids, I encourage you to come listen to Jason. And, of course you are most welcome to join us for dinner at the Neomonde Mediterranean Restaurant on the Beryl Rd one hour before the meeting and be part of the pre-meeting orchid banter.



Members' Features



If you like the weird and wonderful, I think you'll enjoy *Bulbophyllum purpureorhachis* (two photos below)

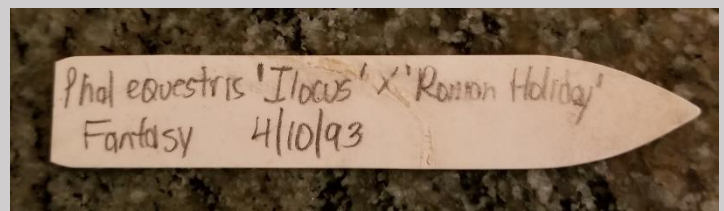
This unusual species, a specimen in a boarder's collection at Riverwood Orchids Farm, is native to the lowland forests of Liberia, plus the countries of western central Africa (Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Ivory Coast and Zaire). It has numerous small flowers arranged on a tall, twisted and flattened inflorescence.

Be warned, it does have a spreading growth habit because of relatively long internodes between its pseudobulbs on the root rhizome. Therefore, it quickly outgrows the growing containers used for repotting. The flowers are faintly stinky too.



To the right and below is a delightful little hybrid of *Phalaenopsis equestris* growing in my own greenhouse. Its label - *Phal. equestris* 'Ilocus' x 'Roman Holiday' Fantasy - is still a bit of a mystery. If any member recognizes the writing on this label, I would love to hear from you because I do not recall where I got this orchid from, though it was probably a TOS auction.

Last year I repotted it into Orchidata bark, but in an open basket rather than a pot and it seems to be responding very well.



Looking back, I feel it was a most successful year for TOS: we hosted great speakers, participated in several shows with our sister societies, put on a unique piano recital-orchid event at Duke Univ, conducted members' repotting workshops, made exciting day trips to two orchid nurseries, held four great live plant auctions, tapped into informative AOS webinars when live meetings were not possible, held monthly ZOOM Show 'n Tell meetings for the diehard orchidists amongst us, and of course we held our own fabulous Fall for Orchids show with several workshops, and the most important happening of all is that our membership has continued to increase. I very much hope you stick around to participate in our 2025 offerings to reap the benefits of being a TOS member.

Next year, as I step aside from being President of TOS, it is my intention to continue writing this monthly Newsletter. The prime reason for my doing so is because it serves as a catalyst for my continuous learning about orchids. I'm always pleased to receive your stories to include and/or photos of your flowering orchids for me to research and write about.

So, I close 2024, wishing you and your loved ones (orchids included), a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Phil Brindle, TOS President

<http://TriangleOrchidSociety.org> <https://www.facebook.com/TriangleOrchidSociety/>