



Dear TOS Members,

Jun 2024 – Much too dry and much too hot. Yes, I feel this is the best descriptor for this past month. The depressing thought from my perspective is that the next three months of summer are likely to be more of the same. As I write, the outdoor thermometer is showing 101 degrees. If you were not aware, I'm no fan of the summers in NC! But I do have a few orchids spending the summer outside that surprisingly seem to be enjoying the heat, at least thus far. I've selected one in particular that you will hear about later.

Business-related Matters from Jun 17 TOS Board Meeting

1. Balance of the checking account as of Jun 15 was \$6,495. Expenses were higher than income for the month because we have begun paying expenses related to our Fall for Orchids show this Sept.
2. The TOS 2024 budget remains on track.
3. The Board got its first look at, and an opportunity to provide feedback on, the work-in-progress for the new TOS website and it is looking great. Plus, I am told it will be much easier to update and maintain than the existing website. Many thanks to Ajay Rajamanohar, Carole Saravitz and Peggy Wesp for all their hard work on multiple Saturdays!
4. Monthly Membership Report (Carole Saravitz, TOS Membership Chairperson)

Total Paid Members: 152+23 Partners

Last Month's Total Paid Members: 145+22 Partners

New Members since 2023 Show: 86+13 Partners

4 in Mar

3 in Apr

3 in May

6 in Jun (plus 1 partner)

In Reflection: Jun 10, TOS Monthly Meeting at JCRA

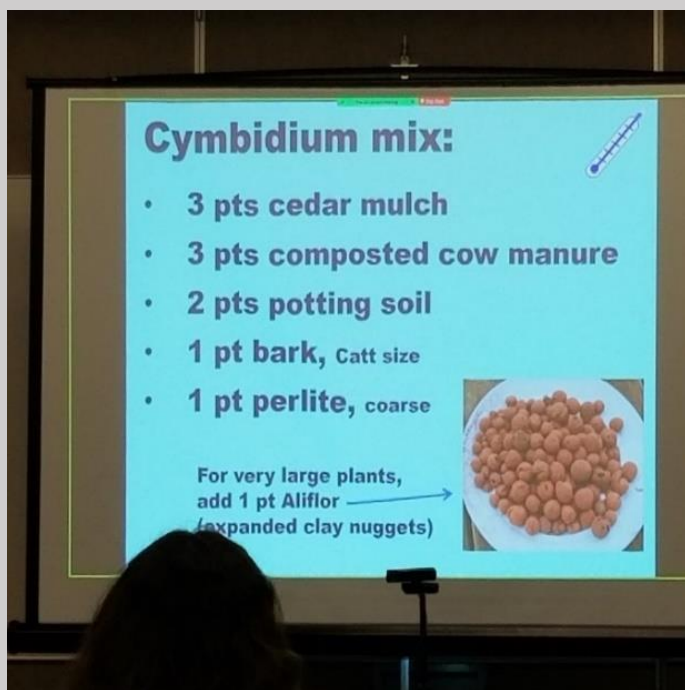
I always try to come away with something useful from the presentations we host, something that will improve my ability to grow orchids. And, Kim Feddersen's presentation on cool growing orchids did not disappoint. He had a lot of information-packed slides but I particularly zeroed in on a couple of sections pertinent to my current orchid collection, which I will now mention in case the information may be useful to you too. The first relates to the species *Dendrobium speciosum* and the second to cymbidiums.



I have a plant of *Den. speciosum* in my greenhouse but it has never flowered and it has never impressed me with new growth, or with anything for that matter – it's one of those plants that just sits there, taking up precious bench space, but it always flashes me the imaginary HOPE card every time I water it! Kim explained that this Aussie orchid takes (likes) the cold much like *Den. kingianum*, another Aussie species to which he drew cultural comparisons. He described both orchids as cool to 'warm' growers (based on personal experience *Den. kingianum* can take summer temps well into the mid-90s). So, armed with this new snippet of information, my *Den. speciosum* will be staying outdoors this Fall until the temp drops just a few degrees above freezing. (*Den. kingianum* eventually did flower for me after such treatment.) And one last point, *Den. speciosum* can get big.... I mean BIG, such that a plant can fill the back of a pickup truck!

Stay tuned for the outcome of the cold treatment that my *Den. speciosum* will receive this year, and keep an eye out for a truck-sized specimen being brought in for the Members' Show Table – I like to dream!

Second, the few standard-type cymbidiums I have - presumably with upright inflorescences as they've never flowered for me - and a miniature type, are nothing to write home about either. This, I've always attributed to NC summers being far too hot for this genus. But Kim says not so. Plus, one or two of our members are successful with this genus. So, I listened to this part of Kim's presentation with real purpose!



Most cymbidiums are terrestrial and require a moderately light, but organically-rich mix as indicated on Kim's slide to the left. (Cow manure compost is available at Home Depot or Lowe's). Kim also described cymbidiums as being very greedy plants requiring LOTS of fertilizer! I'm a bit stingy with respect to fertilizing my orchids, purely from the standpoint that this is something they would not receive in nature. But, I'm game to try something different so I will significantly increase their fertilizer regime and see what happens. Kim also mentioned that cymbidiums do not appreciate drying out between waterings,

as is the cultural practice used for orchids from many other genera; they prefer being kept just moist. From Apr-Nov, cymbidiums enjoy being outside in sunny locations, but need protecting from direct, intense radiation, especially when first put outside. Then, from Nov-Mar, they need to be kept in bright light under conditions as cool as possible, but not freezing. Something like a closed-in, protected porch receiving daylight would be ideal. I shall try applying these new tips to my cymbidiums and hopefully will be able to report positive results at some point. So once again, stay tuned.

TOS invited new member, Jason Harpster, vice-chair of the AOS Carolinas Judging



Center, to describe members' orchids on the display table. He had even brought a few eye-catching specimens himself to this, his first TOS meeting. So, now having demonstrated a unique talent behind the microphone for furthering our education about orchids, it just leaves me to say, WELCOME Jason to the monthly stage! Plus, we really look forward to hearing a presentation (or two) from you in the future. I for one, like masdevallias and I have been tempted to try draculas. So, I can't wait to hear about your cultural practices for growing these genera.....hint, hint for a future topic!

The Board thanks the dynamic Nace duo, Cooper (aka Conner by forgetful Phil!) and Morgan, our raffle staffers for the sterling job they are doing selling tickets, all in support of our Fall for Orchids show in Sept. They raked in \$92 for the Paph species from Paul Feaver's collection (PF used to work at the now-closed Orchid Trail.) Keep up the great work!



Upcoming: Jul 8 at 7.30 p.m., TOS Monthly Meeting at JCRA

Spoons at the ready! This meeting will be our ice-cream social and the members' plant sale and exchange. A fun, social mixer event and a great opportunity to pick up some interesting plants for your collection, and indulge yourself with delicious ice-cream whilst doing so. You should consider bringing some cash with you to pay for plants, though I realize several forms of secure digital transactions are possible today between individuals – something for you to decide. We request that any plants you bring for sale be free of pests or diseases. Also, please consider labelling them properly and attach a price label with the seller's name so that buyers know who to seek out and pay (the ice-cream line is always a good bet for finding someone!) Members are requested to wear their TOS badges to aid the process. Only TOS members may sell plants, but friends and guests are welcome to buy. Last, but not least, TOS greatly appreciates a donation of 10% of your proceeds to help fund future activities.

We shall also have a Members' Show Table at this event and we will be voting for plants to be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place TOS ribbons, so please bring along those in-bloom, eye-popping orchids for all to admire and desire (remember, any plant can be bought for the right price!)

Members' Feature

My addiction got the better of me, so I bought the orchid and hung it on a ginkgo tree. I first saw this dendrobium species on the Members' Show Table at a Cape Fear Orchid Society meeting two or three years ago. It's *Dendrobium unicum* Seidenf. and I instantly became captivated by its vibrant orange color and interesting flower form. It has the



common name Unique Dendrobium. Linda Thorne of Seagrove Orchids was selling a few when I visited last month and even though I had already acquired a small specimen from Andy's Orchids (it's an ideal orchid for stick-mounting when small), as soon as I saw the superb, in-bud specimens LT was selling, I had to buy another. This particular plant is an offspring from a cultivar named 'Giant Horn' crossed with a sibling.

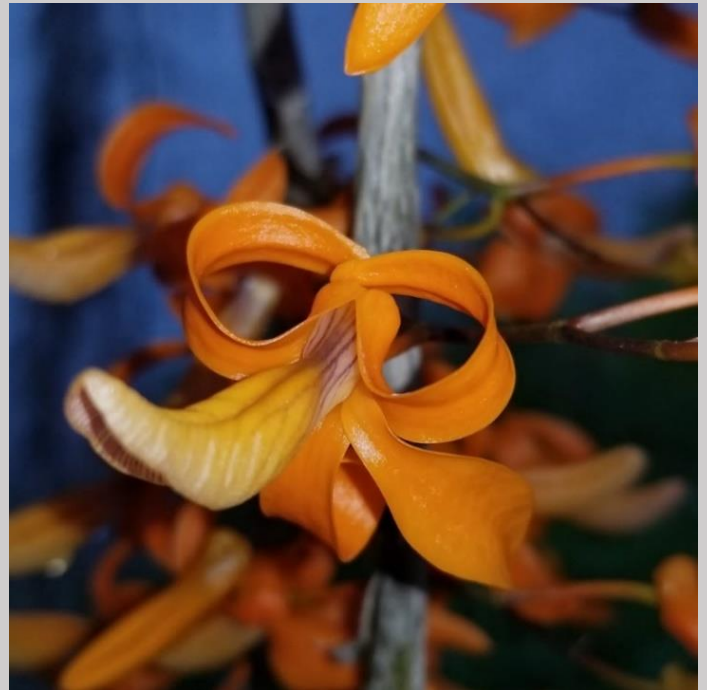
The species is native to Indo-China, namely Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, and what astonishes me is that it was not formally described until 1970. It was the Danish botanist Gunnar Seidenfaden (b.1908 - d.2001) who realized the importance of taxonomically describing it.

I share a few fascinating facts I learned while researching this orchid:

- 1) The flowers are non-resupinate, i.e. the flower bud does not turn through 180° during its development, as occurs in many orchids. This results in the labellum (lip) of the flower with its beautiful red venation being superior rather than inferior in relation to the strongly recurved petals and sepals, and the column (1 photo below). Even the labellum, shaped somewhat like an upturned canoe, displays a tendency to arch backwards (r photo below).

- 2) On the inner surface of the labellum there are three distinct keels of pseudopollen formed from trichomes (1 photo below). Trichomes are generally glandular hair-like structures involved in secretion, however in this case they have a mealy, granular nature.
- 3) The individual cells of the pseudopollen of *Den. unicum* have been shown by electron microscopy to contain starch grains together with a little proteinaceous material, and they are therefore assumed to serve as food rewards for attracting specific pollinators.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4242374/>



What's in a Quality Cattleya Hybrid? You may well ask!

I was shown a beautiful hybrid recently and so I decided to check it out. Take heart if you have none of the classic cattleya species in your collection because there's more than one way of viewing the world. You see, by owning a hybrid like the one below, *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Amy Wakasugi, cultivar 'Yamanashi', you would have a bit of no less than 11 classic catts as well as a bit of the fabulous *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* sitting on your bench or window sill! The impressive gold streaking in the throat of the beautiful lip is a telltale sign that its genome contains *C. dowiana*. In fact, *Rlc.* Amy Wakasugi contains a whopping 30% *C. dowiana*! Yes, the legendary *C. dowiana* was used either as seed parent or pollen parent nine times throughout the long breeding history of this

complex hybrid. Have fun and check out this hybrid's complete ancestry tree at https://www.orchid.or.jp/orchid/people/hashizume/kakeizu/Blc_Amy_Wakasugi.htm



Species Makeup

<i>Cattleya dowiana</i>	29.69%
<i>Cattleya labiata</i>	17.19%
<i>Cattleya luddemanniana</i>	10.94%
<i>Cattleya warscewiczii</i>	10.16%
<i>Cattleya trianae</i>	9.38%
<i>Cattleya mendelii</i>	6.25%
<i>Cattleya purpurata</i>	5.47%
<i>Cattleya gaskelliana</i>	3.13%
<i>Cattleya percivaliana</i>	3.13%
<i>Cattleya mossiae</i>	1.56%
<i>Cattleya warneri</i>	1.56%
<i>Rhyncholaelia digbyana</i>	1.56%

To close, one late entry. Below is the link to the JCRA-TOS conversation I had with Dennis Carey on Jun 26 entitled, 'Garden Conversations "Orchids"' – part of the JCRA Midweek Series. After the interview, Dennis let me know the temperature was 103 F! They were a fun trio (there was one behind the camera).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edwer3bjtTU&t=189s>

Remember, send me your orchid photos, send me your orchid stories, send me your orchid trivia, then you'll not have to suffer the Members' Feature section of the newsletter becoming the President's Feature! Stay cool and enjoy the month of July, especially the glorious 4th, but be sure to save room for ice-cream on the glorious 8th too!

Phil Brindle, TOS President

<http://TriangleOrchidSociety.org>

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