



Dear TOS Members,

**Mar 2024** – The glorious month of March! Plants all around, indoors and outdoors, are reawakening from winter dormancy and their new growth is full of anticipation and promise. Amongst the orchids we have there are those we know and love that will have splendid flowers, then there are others that will bloom perhaps for the first time. Will they be also-rans or will they be stunning, award-winning orchids setting new judging standards? The anticipation is great.

### **Business-related Matters from Mar 18 TOS Board Meeting**

1. Checking account balance as of 3/17/24: \$8,371
2. TOS' proposed 2024 budget of \$20,000 was accepted by way of a motion with the caveat that budgetary adjustments may be necessary as the year progresses.
3. The Board has approved obtaining a second website domain for TOS which will allow our administrators to redesign and test a new, updated website without taking the current TOS website out of commission for any extended period. Approved cost for this project approx. \$100-150.
4. A wonderful, unanticipated raffle amount of \$240 was raised at the Mar 11 monthly TOS meeting, thanks to the very generous donations of Steve Taras, owner of Watered Garden Florist (see below).
5. Membership Report (Carole Saravitz, TOS Membership Chairperson):

Total Paid Members: 132+22 partners

Previous members: 57+10

New members since 2023 TOS Fall show: 75+12

February: 17+1

March: 3

### **In Reflection: Mar 11 TOS meeting at JCRA**

Wow, what a meeting! Steve Taras, owner of Watered Garden Florist, and his colleague Ron Reeves, demonstrated the artistry of designing and making floral displays using some truly eye-popping cut orchid blooms! A few of us let out audible gasps of disbelief as he sliced through stems of majestic cymbidium blooms to appropriately size and shape them for a display. His creations were breathtaking, and all were generously donated along with many spare cut flowers. What started out as a modest raffle of several phalaenopsis orchids quickly turned into a mega-raffle of fantastic table arrangements and bunches of cut flowers.







Steve shared several practical tips and tricks in the use of items such as OASIS® foam, floral tape, frogs (not the live ones!), floral putty, and pebbles as helpful aids to flower arranging. And, he demonstrated how a simple piece of contorted hazel branch (without leaves) when added in a vase of flowers at the end can really create movement and flair. Furthermore, Steve introduced us (at least me anyway) to the primary orchid hybrid *Aranthera James Storie* (left photo). One or two branching inflorescences of this orchid with their deep raspberry-colored flowers turns a vase of flowers into something stunning. Even when arranged on its own in a carefully chosen vase this orchid creates an exceptional center table decoration – it's a Ron Reeves' favorite for obvious reason.

All in all, it was a splendid meeting, a real lively lesson of how to turn cut flowers into spectacular floral arrangements. I believe all TOS members present were impressed because they certainly heeded the call to buy raffle tickets to support our show in the Fall, and some were rewarded most handsomely for chancing a few dollars. ->->->

At the end, the room scene resembled something of the chaotic close of an early morning wholesale flower market with folks scrambling to clean up whilst others gathered the remaining unused flowers into bunches! Everyone who wanted flowers got to go home with some, which was magical. **THANK YOU** to all TOS Members present for your very generous support!





## In Reflection: Repotting Workshop 2.0, Mar 24 on NC State Campus

TOS Members wanting to further develop their orchid dividing and repotting skills were paired with TOS orchid experts for one-on-one training. As you can see from the photos below, some good-sized plants were tackled, each turning into two, three, or even more plants, depending upon the plant's growth habit and the expert's discerning eye!





### Upcoming: Apr 8 TOS meeting at JCRA

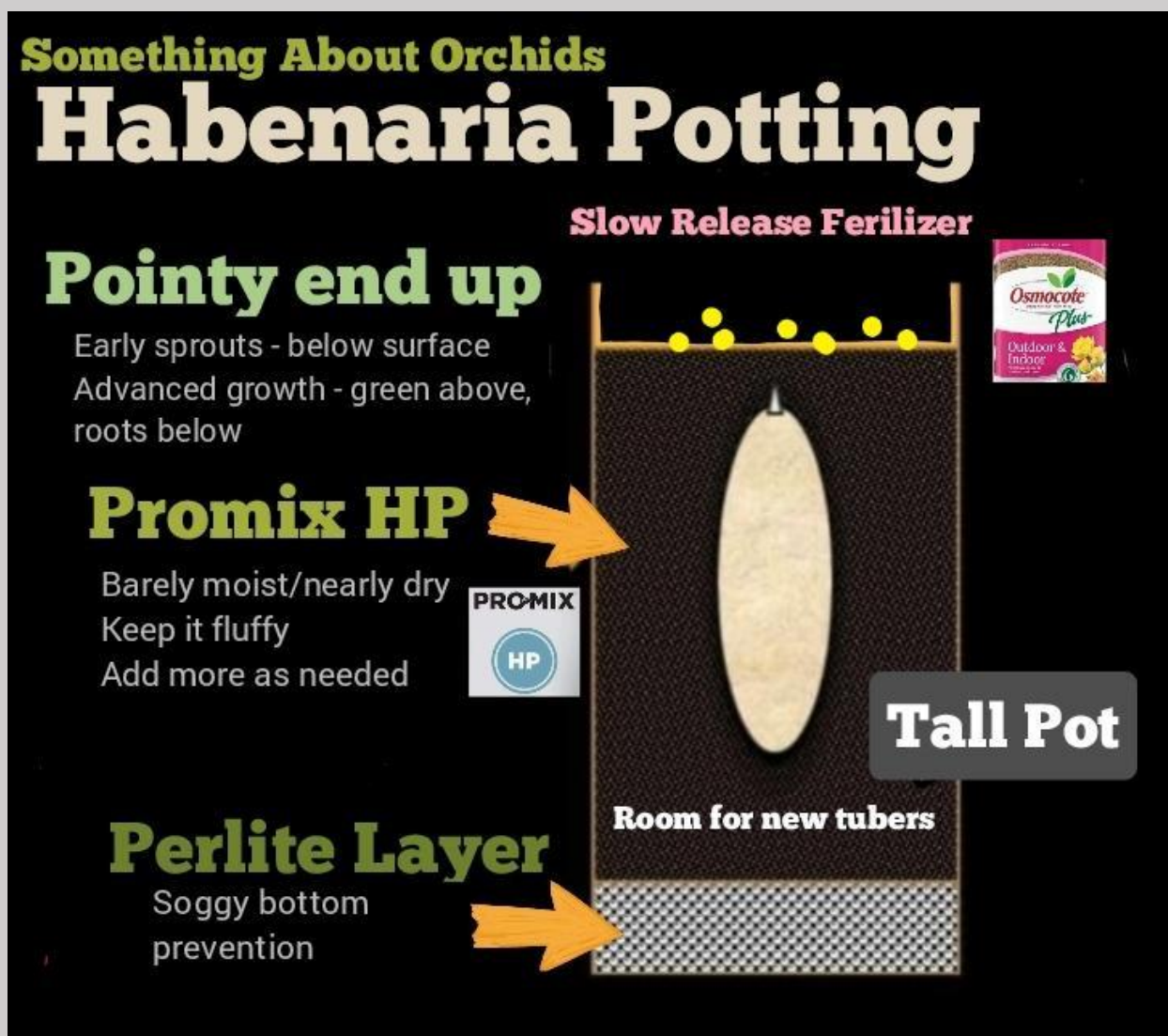
Our regular monthly meeting at JCRA on Apr 8 at 7.30 pm will be an auction to raise money to support the various events that we bring to Members throughout the year. There will be a selection of orchids from Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids in California, who is a noted orchidist, hybridizer, and AOS judge. In addition, about 10 slipper orchids from Lehua Orchids in Hawaii (yes, those fabulous Maudiae type Paphs that are always getting ribbons and awards when presented for judging) So, shake off those winter blues, turn up for some auction fun, and add some top-notch orchids to your collection!

### Upcoming: Raulston Blooms at JCRA on Sat Apr 27, 10:00 am–3:00 pm

TOS will have a stall at this event for selling Paphs. Swing by, check out the garden, and buy a Paph.

### Calling all Habenaria Gowers

Your Habs, which overwintered as tubers in near dry conditions, should have broken dormancy by now. But, do not be over eager with the water and fertilizer just yet. When is the right time to be doing things with Habs? Our TOS Member, John Barnes, contacted Sarah Hurdell, a Hab specialist and past speaker, for advice and she shared the following very helpful graphics (now provided to you with permission from Something About Orchids).



# Something About Orchids **Habenaria Tubers** **When to pot?**

I aim to pot between these two stages  
to reduce risk of under/over watering

**Now**

**or within 2 weeks**



**2 weeks ago**

This tuber is potted and  
growing - but expect reduced  
flowering

Something About Orchids

Temp-Warm Light-Medium

## **Early Season Habenaria Care**

Root growth begins

© Sarah Hurdell

**Mist surface  
when dry**

**Water lightly**



Use surface drying as indicator:  
Mist to maintain humidity in pot.  
Goal - avoid soaking media,  
or drying out.

**Evenly moist**

**TIP -**

**Beginners or low humidity areas:  
Place potted tuber in sealed baggie until root  
growth begins.**



## Members' Feature

TOS Member **Paul Welty, MD** is without doubt one of our expert growers! I recently paid him a visit to check out his fabulous orchid collection. The beauty below, bowing humbly before its owner, is *Epicattleya* René Marqués 'Tyler' AM/AOS and its brightly colored yellow-purple lip against the background of olive-green sepals and petals make this orchid flower especially striking.



Paul was also delighted to show me the superb cymbidium below, *Cymbidium* Dorothy Stockstill 'New Horizon' 6N (a hexaploid). It was rather large to transport without risking damage to the Virginia Orchid





Society's show in late Feb, where undoubtedly it would have scooped up an award. Unfazed, Paul moved this specimen cymbidium and a few other flowering beauties from his greenhouse to his house where he set up his own orchid display and where it shined as Best in Show for several days!



TOS Member **Pei-fen Li** of Duke University, when not teaching piano grows orchids! And, recently she added a touch of romantic era resplendence to her Duke studio with this basket of two magnificent cattleyas.

*Cattleya* Eleanor Roosevelt (C. Undine alba x C. C G Roebling 'Beechview') – left below.

*Cattleya* Persepolis 'Splendor' AM/AOS x *Laelia anceps* 'Newberry Princess' HCC/AOS – right below.

Two truly breathtaking beauties!



Let's now bid March 2024 farewell and usher in another month of orchid pleasure with upcoming April.

Phil Brindle, TOS President

<http://TriangleOrchidSociety.org>

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