



Dear TOS Members,

May 2024 – The glorious month of May. Sunshine, but not too hot yet; rain showers, just about right; humidity, edging steadily upwards by the day. Under these conditions, those orchids transferred outside for the summer and fall seasons think they have died and gone to orchid heaven! If you have not done so already, get your orchids outside under partial shade conditions, they will reward you for it by growing and flowering better than ever before.

Business-related Matters from May 20 TOS Board Meeting

1. Balance of the checking account as of May 15 was \$7,928. Expenses were slightly higher than income for the month.
2. The TOS 2024 budget is on track.
3. A detailed budget for the 2024 TOS Fall for Orchids show is being finalized.
4. A second website domain, TOSnc.org, has been purchased and will be added to Pairwise at an extra cost of \$2/month for one year. This enables the building of a higher quality website without taking down the current website whilst doing so.
5. Monthly Membership Report (Carole Saravitz, TOS Membership Chairperson)
Total Paid-up Members: 145+22 Partners
New Members since 2023 Show: 82+12 Partners
4 in Mar
3 in Apr
3 in May
6. TOS is pleased to announce that it has entered into a stronger partnership with JCRA which will enable members of both organizations to be better informed and participate in the events and activities of both organizations.

In Reflection: May 8, Members' Day Trip to Seagrove Orchids



Orchids galore and picnicking in the sunshine on a glorious spring afternoon – what could be better! A group of us had a most enjoyable midweek excursion to Linda's Thorne's greenhouse at Seagrove Orchids (Linda works Sat and Sun so a weekend visit was not possible.)

Linda sells a broad range of orchid genera and if you are prepared to ferret through the orchids on the back benches reading the plant labels there's every chance you'll come across an old classic hybrid to add to your collection.

In Reflection: May 13, TOS Monthly Meeting at JCRA

Harry Gallis, MD provided members and guests with a lot of excellent information about building and maintaining a collection of quality cattleyas. Emphasis was placed on knowing what one is buying by doing a little homework upfront; go for the classic unifoliate and bifoliate species, and/or hybrids with top-notch pedigrees (see Members' Feature for an outstanding unifoliate hybrid). An excellent tool is the American Orchid Society's OrchidPro database where access is available through AOS membership. There is a ton of free information available on the AOS website, but OrchidPro will make your head spin with all of the fabulous photographs of AOS-awarded plants and the details

behind them. (Consider an AOS membership if you are looking for a fantastic gift for an orchid lover – something my wife gave me some years ago.) <https://www.aos.org/>
Another excellent online tool for researching orchids, especially the ancestry of hybrids, is OrchidRoots at <https://www.orchidroots.com/>



The scourge of cattleyas is scale (boisduval scale mostly), which contributed to wiping out a wonderful cattleya collection Harry owned years ago. Harry stressed the importance of being both vigilant and ruthless when it comes to controlling this nasty insect pest. He mentioned how scale hide on the underside of leaves and if one sees a yellow spot or patch, there's likely trouble on the underside of the leaf in the form of scale insects or mealy bugs sucking the nutrients from your precious plant! Two chemicals that work well to control these pests are imidacloprid and dinotefuran. They are systemic insecticides, moving throughout the entire plants once taken up. Google "Hi-Yield Systemic Insect Granules" or "Bonide Insect Control Systemic Granules" for affordable imidacloprid-containing granular products. Dinotefuran-containing granular products (e.g. Safari®) are equally as good though they tend to be rather expensive for the hobbyist grower. Remember, whatever you use, follow the safety directions on the label.

For me, a big take away from Harry's presentation was at the slightest hint of a yellow spot on an orchid leaf I shall put into practice my self-made expression: See Spot, Turn Leaf, Pest Present, Treat and Kill! Make up your own catchy expression, but DO NOT let scale or mealy bugs take up residence in your precious orchids!

In Reflection: May 10-12, Triad Orchid Show, Greensboro

Hats off to our Away-Shows novice threesome, Gloria Jahnke, Carole Saravitz and Roxas Reeves, who put in the TOS display at the Triad orchid show. They came away with 2nd place in the class and report that they had a lot of fun in the process. What an awesome team!

Consider getting involved with shows because they really are a lot of fun. The venues are exciting places to visit where you can meet fellow orchidists (perhaps a new lifetime friend), as well as learn more about orchids.



In Reflection: May 18, Clare Liu in Concert with the Orchidaceae



Despite the rainy evening, the turnout at this event was excellent, including several adventurous TOS members willing to explore something different. This was great because

rave feedback was received from all the TOS members who did attend, earmarking it as an event with potential for the future.

Clare's playing was magical and certainly did not need anything whatsoever to complement it, but the carefully selected orchids projected onto the large screen did add a unique, visual dimension to the pieces being played. The sublime, romantic setting for the recital – the mood we were aiming for – was brought to life with a few beautiful, showy orchids displayed in front of the grand piano in the more than 100-year-old Nelson Music Room. With rapturous applause at the end, the audience conveyed genuine pleasure, enthusiastically praising Clare's remarkable talent. Numerous complimentary comments from the TOS attendees and non-orchidist attendees alike were also voiced at the reception on how well the orchid photographs captured the emotions of Chopin's Preludes as described by Alfred Cortot.

I thank TOS Member Pei-Fen Liu, professor of music at Duke University, for eagerly embracing this experimental project from the outset, and Harry Gallis, MD of TOS for his encouragement and consultations on orchid matters.

Upcoming: Jun 10 at 7.30 p.m., TOS Monthly Meeting at JCRA

Kim Fedderson of Fair Orchids, NJ (<https://www.fairorchids.com>) will speak about cool-growing orchids. He will be selling a variety of orchids during the meeting. The event is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

Request for Help

A TOS member living in the Raleigh area would like a few hours of help caring for his orchid collection every other Saturday morning. Remuneration is being offered. If interested, please contact me at president@triangleorchidsociety.org for further information.

Members' Feature

Enjoy the feature below of a spring outing made by our very own, **Cyndi Lauderdale (TOS Secretary)**, earlier this month.

Way back in Apr 2022, the Triangle Orchid Society hosted David McAdoo, who presented “Native Orchids of North Carolina.” David talked about one of the best places to see wild orchids was in the Green Swamp. Since that day it has been my mission to go and see what I could find in the Green Swamp. (It only took me two years, lol).

The Green Swamp is in Brunswick County and contains some of the country’s finest examples of longleaf pine savannas. The open savannas have a diverse herb layer with many orchids and carnivorous plants. Almost 13,000 acres of the preserve are comprised of a dense evergreen shrub bog (pocosin) dominated by gallberry, titi, and sweetbay. While I am still new to orchid growing, I could positively identify at least two native orchids on my walk.



First, *Cleistes divaricata* (syn. *Cleistes divaricata*), commonly called the Rosebud Orchid. This little lady is found in the southeastern United States from New Jersey to Florida and west to Texas. It is pollinated by bees. It grows in either wet or dry sites but needs very acidic soil.

The second is *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, commonly called the Snake-mouth Orchid. Usually, it has only one flower on an erect, slender stem and is supposed to be fragrant. Unfortunately, I didn't try to smell it. It can be distinguished from other varieties by its bearded labellum. Along the center of the labellum are rows of pink, purple, or yellow hairs that give a bearded look to the flower. There is usually a single clasping simple leaf halfway up the stem. The plant may also have a stalkless bract growing below the flower. This little orchid has a greater distribution range from Canada to Florida, and west to Texas.



The third orchid is a *Spiranthes*, but because it was photographed at a distance a species could not be assigned with certainty - there are several *Spiranthes* found in the Green Swamp. This genus can be found in the Americas, Europe, and Australia. The flowers are



white and grow along the upper part of the slender, erect stem. Typically, the flowers are in 2-4 spiraling rows, forming a dense spike 6 inches long. The individual flowers, about 1/2 inch long, curve downward slightly, nodding. The lip is about 1/2 inch long, with a flaring, crimped margin. This is another native orchid that can have a fragrance.

I would be amiss if I didn't mention the blooming pitcher plants and Venus fly traps. I also found a nice stand of sundews. You must keep a keen eye out for all these tiny beauties. While I didn't see all the wonderful orchids the Green Swamp has to offer (you probably need a local guide for that) I am deeply humbled by my experience and encourage you to visit. I would also be amiss if I didn't mention

that poaching of these native plants still happens all the time and if you wish to buy any native orchids, please make sure it is from a reputable company.

Cyndi Lauderdale



TOS member Harry Gallis, MD with a fabulous specimen of *Cattleya Canhamiana* 'Cobalt' AM/AOS. The original cross of two classic species - *C. mossiae* (seed par.) x *C. purpurata* (pollen par.) - was made and registered by Veitch in 1885. The peduncles are strong and lofty, superbly presenting the well-separated large flowers. And, with fantastic flowers of pale lilac, its darker lilac-yellow lip and exquisite fragrance, it is fully understandable why this cultivar of the grex, aptly named 'Cobalt', won its AM/AOS.

Truly a wonderful catt, Harry!

A Simple Farm Practice Playing a Crucial Role in Orchid Conservation



A few days ago, a good friend of mine from the old country photographed these native orchids on unimproved grassland in Oxfordshire, England. L to R: *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, *Ophrys apifera* and *Anacamptis morio*. Kudos to the owner of the farmed land for setting aside unplowed/unfertilized areas for conservation of native species.

Mid-year is just around the corner - how incredible that is, at least for me! The start of 2024 seems like it happened yesterday. So, I wish everyone a splendid start to the summer season as the month of June begins its unstoppable march forward.

Phil Brindle, TOS President

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