



Dear TOS Members,

Oct 2024 – As I write it's a glorious, sunny day with spectacular autumn colors all around, especially along the Eno River. Mother Nature is ever present, mostly gently and silently delighting us with her wonders, but also occasionally unleashing angry, powerful forces. Just a month ago at the end of Sept, Hurricane Helene ripped through parts of NC and several other SE states leaving a path of destruction and fatalities in its wake. Picturesque mountain rivers rose to record levels within minutes, creating raging avalanches of mud and rocks that swept away roads and houses. Asheville in Buncombe County was especially hard hit, causing us to pause and spare a thought for the Western NC Orchid Society. In honor of our WNCOS friends, TOS made a \$125 donation to the American Red Cross, earmarking it for Hurricane Helene relief efforts. The TOS Board sends a "Thank You" to all its members for making this possible because it is through your membership dues and the monies we raise through auctions, etc. that we can make gifts like this. As far as we know, all of our WNCOS friends are safe, but it may be a while before they can get back to regular meetings.

Business-related Matters from Oct 21 TOS Board Meeting

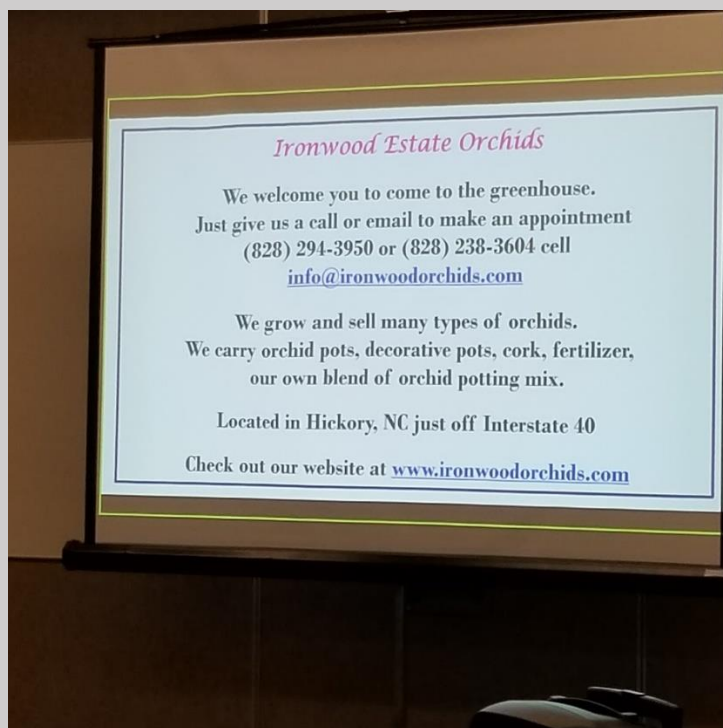
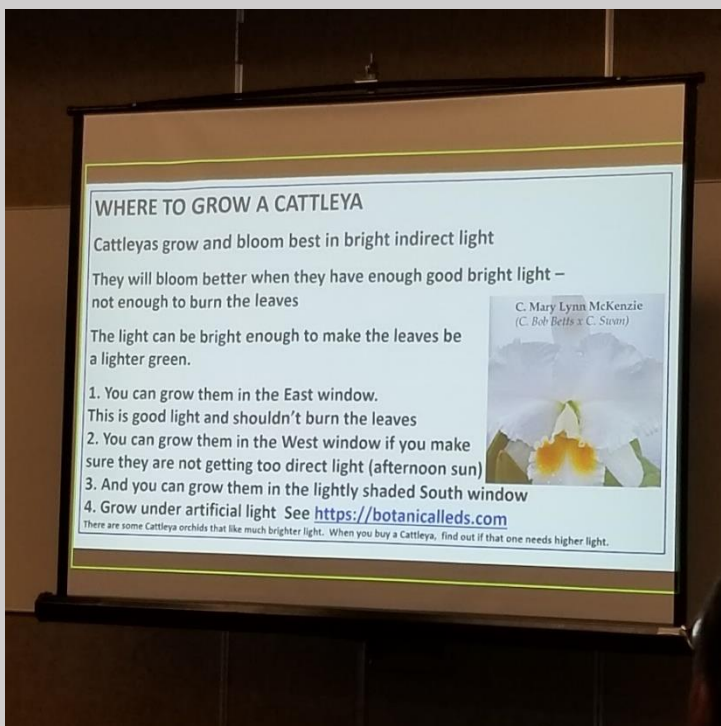
1. Balance of the checking account as of Oct 21 was \$9,383.
2. Financial outcome of our Fall for Orchids show is still work in progress; checks to come in, payments to be made, and cash to be totaled.
3. The nomination period for new Board Trustees beginning Jan 1 2025 remains open. If you have a willingness to help shape and run TOS, there is still time to throw your hat into the ring. Just send me an email at president@triangleorchidsociety.org
4. Oct Membership Report (Carole Saravitz, TOS Membership Chairperson)

Current Total Paid Members: 185+30 Partners

Last Month's Total Paid Members: 180+29 Partners

New Members since 2024 Show: 25+5 Partners

In Reflection: Oct 14 TOS Monthly Meeting at JCRA



Phyllis Erikson of Ironwood Estate Orchids gave a presentation on Growing Cattleya Orchids. It was clear, concise, and covered all the key points of growing and flowering cattleyas, and it was just the right length with informative slides. A selection of super plants was available at very affordable prices. They not only included some great cattleya species and hybrids, but also some very collectible plants from other orchid genera. Even though I'm totally out of greenhouse space I caved upon discovering a few of the all-time classic catts upon the sales benches, one being C. Bob Betts, a famous heirloom cattleya

hybrid made and registered by Clint McDade several decades ago. I have not tested it for virus.....yet! (viruses are somewhat common in heirloom catts.)

If you missed the meeting, there's likely to be an opportunity to visit Ironwood Estate Orchids in 2025 as we have flagged it for a TOS day trip within state.

Many thanks to Board member Peggy and her husband Ken for hosting Phyllis and her husband Dale during their visit to Raleigh!

In Reflection: Oct 5, TOS Fall Auction at Lake Crabtree County Park

Our Fall auction on Sat Oct 5th turned out to be a very successful event with over 70 plants going under the hammer. “Thank You,” Ralph! He served as our auctioneer and as usual did an awesome job. And, “Thank You” Kelly for preparing the extensive deck of slides used. Although not so many members turned out, those who did were eager to buy and ended up going home with some exceptionable plants, both species and hybrids. A couple of visitors just out enjoying the park even wandered over to check out the lively rivalry amongst bidders, and not being able to resist getting involved, they ended up going away with beautifully flowering orchids too!

Upcoming: Nov 9, TOS Day Trip to Chadwick & Son Orchids, Powhatan, VA

You really should not miss this event. Remember to inform Sunny Allen our VP at speakers@triangleorchidsociety.org if you intend joining this trip as she needs the final headcount by **Sat Nov 2**. Sunny will also do her best to arrange carpooling where possible. Arthur E. Chadwick (Art) has one of the finest collections of heirloom cattleyas in the country (probably the world) and he is a very charismatic person. Remember to bring a picnic lunch as there is a barn on his property where we shall eat, enjoy orchid banter together, and decide which orchids to buy!

Upcoming: Nov 11 at 7.30 p.m., an online TOS Monthly Meeting

Please note, our Nov meeting will be a live speaker webinar via ZOOM as the rooms at JCRA are not reservable in the month of Nov because of internal events.

Christopher Satch will be presenting, “Explaining Why Orchids Do What They Do.”

Chris is a professor of plant biology and pathology who teaches at the New York Botanical Gardens. He is also the CEO and founder of NYC Plant Help, a horticultural consultancy for indoor and outdoor growers in the greater New York area.

Items Available from Members

If you are contemplating growing orchids under artificial lights, and many orchid hobbyists do, you may be interested in these freebies recently donated to TOS:

4-foot long T5 high output fluorescent fixtures:

One 6-tube fixture
One 4-tube fixture
One 3-tube fixture - needs one tube (readily available at hardware stores)

Three 400watt metal halide fixtures. These MH fixtures are more suitable for a large greenhouse.

All the above are in good working condition. If you are interested, please contact me at president@triangleorchidsociety.org

Members' Feature



A Bulbo species and a hybrid

A beautiful specimen of *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum* owned by member Sara Gallis, flowering at her Riverwood Orchids Farm. This species was first described in 1912 and is native to SW China, NE India, and N Myanmar. It has a bit of a whiffy “fragrance,” but is undoubtedly very pleasant if you happen to be a fly!



Bulbophyllum annandalei '9 Flrs' CTD* x *Bulb. frostii* 'Red Tag' flowering in my greenhouse.

Bulb. annandalei grows a little more east in Thailand and Malaysia compared to *Bulb. rothschildianum* above; *Bulb. frostii* is native even further east in Vietnam.

*Seed parent (*Bulb. annandalei*) of this cross was treated with the chemical colchicine to double its chromosomes.



Dendrobium affine 'Raleigh's First' HCC/AOS. A smaller dendrobium species grown very nicely on a cork bark mount, owned by TOS life-member Harry Gallis, MD, who named it for the fact that it was the first orchid ever awarded in 1995 at the AOS supplemental Raleigh Judging Center (unfortunately, the RJC did not become a full-fledged judging center for this region as it did not get the support it deserved when push came to shove).

In my book, the rich plum-colored basal half of the lip, together with

the touch of diffusing plum color at the base of the pure white petals and sepals, make this a truly striking flower!



This is *Cattleya* Mary Lynn McKenzie - a little teaser for the those heading up to Art Chadwick's Greenhouses next month. It's currently flowering at Riverwood Orchids Farm and is another Harry Gallis plant.

Harry informed me that it was ginormous so I swung by to check it out. The actual flower dimensions were 8 inches horizontally by 8½ inches vertically. And, its fragrance was exquisite – no fly pollinators for this beauty!

The genome of this hybrid comprises all the usual suspects of a classic white catt: *C. mossiae* (50%); *C. trianae* (25%); *C. gaskelliana* (18.75%); *C. warneri* (6.25%).

To the right is a cross of *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Ronald Hausermann 'Addison' AM/AOS x *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Rubescence 'Sunset Valley Orchids' AM/AOS owned by member Jeff Tucker. (Photo credit: Harry Gallis)

The purple petals and sepals with the velvety-look of the burgundy lip make this flower unquestionably very beautiful; the petals recurve slightly, which apparently would result in the loss of a few points if it were sent for AOS judging. Nonetheless I'm sure you'll agree, the flower is loaded with orchid "wow factor!"

This cross is genetically complex, containing 21 different species with significant doses of *C. dowiana*, *C. trianae* and *C. warszewiczii* DNA from the seed parent, as well as a heavy dose of *C. coccinea* DNA from the pollen parent.



Whatever your days may bring in the coming month - be it work or play - make the time to take a short walk along a river, creek, or woodland trail, or visit a garden (JCRA!) to exercise, relax and "smell the roses" of life for it's a fabulous time of year.

If you have the conditions for growing draculas (lucky you!) then I hope they are putting on a spooky Halloween display for you!

Phil Brindle, TOS President

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