

September 2023 Triangle Orchid Society Newsletter: From the President's Desk



Dear TOS Members,

September 2023 - such a relief to have cooler weather. Our Fall for Orchids show is history, but what wonderful history we created! Despite the big game (Notre Dame won by the way – someone told me so) and stormy weather, TOS won the day hands down in my book. The top-notch teamwork of the Show Committee, all our volunteer groups, workshop presenters, our TOS members who dug into their collections for display orchids, our food providers, and all the visitors made for a truly fantastic show. And, from us all, a big hand for our outstanding sponsors who provided much of the all-important funding for the show. We signed up fifty new members, yes 50, five zero! Absolutely magical – when we passed the 40 mark, I had to stop Board members doing cartwheels and backflips behind the scenes for their own safety! I extend a huge ‘Welcome’ to all new members who are reading for the first time my monthly blurb about your society.

Nighttime temperatures have been markedly dropping which is wonderful for us and just what the doctor ordered for our orchids that have been outside for the summer. If you are a newbie to growing orchids, a nighttime-daytime differential of several degrees or more is beneficial, even essential, for many orchids to grow and flower successfully. But before bringing your orchids back indoors, STOP! You need to do a little pest/disease management as there are lots of wild critters out there always on the lookout for luxury orchid accommodation. First, do a visual inspection and remove any macro critters such as slugs and snails (particularly any of those pesky tiny bush snails you may see). A few pellets of slug/snail bait sprinkled in the pot is certainly worthwhile. Next, spray with a broad-spectrum chemical insecticide, e.g. Sevin®. If any leaves are spotted with brownish lesions with yellowish edges – probably a fungal pathogen - you may wish to remove them. You may also want to spray with a broad-spectrum ornamental chemical fungicide, e.g. Daconil® once you have removed any unsightly, diseased leaves. Or, if you prefer a more natural compound, use a neem oil product - <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/neemgen.html>. Try to do this pest/disease control 1-2 days before bringing your plants back inside.

If you are now the proud owner of one (or two, or three,.....) of the magnificent Asian Lady's Slipper orchids (*Paphiopedilum Maudiae* hybrids) we sold at the show and want to take a closer look at the flower's morphology and how it forms the exquisite beauty of this orchid genus I highly recommend you check out the images in this article <http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artjan12/bj-slipper3.html>

Cattleya expert, Arthur E. Chadwick, is our October 8 speaker so be sure not to miss this meeting. Art will be educating us about big-flowered cattleya species – many of which feature in the genomes of your prized cattleya hybrids. He will be selling cattleyas and orchids from other genera too.

Phil Brindle, TOS President

<http://TriangleOrchidSociety.org>

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Correction - Arthur Chadwick is our speaker at 9 October, not 8 October as was in the note from earlier.