



Dear TOS Members,

**Apr 2025** – Wow, what a fabulous spring, the best spring I have experienced in NC in over 20 years! The magnificent native spring flowers against the tapestry of all the different shades of fresh, green growth have been showcasing plant life at its very best. Pretty much everything did get a dusting of pine pollen for a week or so, but it soon cleared with a couple of rain showers. Should you ever need a good example of wind pollination as one of the strategies used by plant life, look no further than the great clouds of yellow pollen that the loblolly pines here in NC shed mid-April - even my dog was snorting and sneezing as he sniffed along the trails we walk.

Many of the flowering plants use wind-pollination also (e.g. grasses), but a lot of the flowering plants have evolved intimate relationships with insects to effect pollination. Orchids fall very squarely into this latter category with some orchids depending upon just one species of insect. Even exquisite deceptive gender-specific mechanisms have co-evolved in some of the relationships (e.g. *Drakaea thynniphila* wasp and *Drakaea* spp of the hammer orchid! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yLnKfhmUzg>

### **Business News from Apr 21 TOS Board Meeting**

1. Balance of the checking account as of Apr 15, 2025 was \$8,670.
2. April Membership Report (Carole Saravitz, TOS Membership Chairperson)  
Total Paid-up Members at end of 2024: 195+35 Partners  
Total Paid-up Members thus far for 2025: 126+23 Partners  
New Members joining in Apr: None
3. Members who ordered Orchiata bark or other potting supplies are reminded that they **MUST** pay and pick up their orders at the May 12 meeting at JCRA. Any orders not collected at this time will be resold.

### **Away Shows in Reflection: Western NC Orchid Society and the South Carolina Orchid Society**

The before- and after-judging photos of the TOS display at the WNCOS show held at the end of March speak for themselves in the number of 1<sup>st</sup> (blue), 2<sup>nd</sup> (red) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (yellow)

place ribbons decorating the plants post-judging! Thank you to all members who loaned their quality blooming orchids for the display, and hearty congratulations to all members whose plants were awarded ribbons. And, a special 'Thank You' to Ralph Belk, Elena Turner, and Kaleigh Hessel and her husband for putting in the display, and Cindy Lauderdale and her husband for breaking down the display and bringing home the precious cargo.







The photo immediately above is the TOS display at the South Carolina Orchid Society show that happened this past weekend (Apr 25-27). Another stunning display of great plants! I will highlight exceptional ribbon awarded plants from this display next month after I hear more from Ralph, our Shows Co-Chair. Once again, I extend many thanks to Ralph Belk and Elena Turner for putting in the display, and Cindy Lauderdale and her husband for breaking down the display and bringing home the plants.

### **In Reflection: April 14 TOS Monthly Meeting at JCRA**



*Ludisia discolor* is probably the plant that comes to mind when most hobbyists think of jewel orchids, but Nicholas Rust's presentation, "The Wonderful World of Jewel Orchids," covered several different genera of orchids considered to be jewel orchids by virtue of their beautifully-patterned and colored foliage: *Anoectochilus*, *Cheirostylis*, *Dossinia*, *Goodyera*, *Ludisia*, *Macodes*, *Vrydagzynea*, *Zeuxine*. Had I taken a multiple-choice test before the meeting with the question, "Which of these are Jewel orchids?", I would have scored only about

50% from those listed above. Nicholas showed a few other genera too that were even less familiar to me. And, to be able to correctly pronounce the genus, *Vrydagzynea*, without getting tongue-tied definitely requires a G&T, may be two!

Nicholas' preferred well-draining, but water-retentive, medium for growing jewel orchids consists of equal parts of the following: coarse perlite, fine grade pine bark, fine grade charcoal, finely chopped NZ sphagnum and a peat-based soil. Or, the inorganic medium, fluval stratum, apparently performs well too.



(left photo sourced from <https://fluvalaquatics.com/us/shop/product/stratum>)

General cultural requirements for jewel orchids are: high humidity, good air movement, water when almost dry (no extended periods of dryness), low light (phalaenopsis level of light), and fertilize with  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  strength fertilizer solution every 3-4 wks.

Nicholas also noted that most species of jewel orchids die back after flowering.

Surprisingly, Nicholas was not selling jewel orchids, but he did mention Black Jungle Terrarium Supply as a good online supplier. [https://www.blackjungleterrariumsupply.com/Jewel-Orchids\\_c\\_19.html](https://www.blackjungleterrariumsupply.com/Jewel-Orchids_c_19.html)



I shall now think jewel orchid, not downy rattlesnake plantain, when I spot *Goodyera pubescens* on my walks.....perhaps!  
(Photo taken Jul 2023 on Duke Forest trail in Durham)



## **Upcoming: Away Show**

Triad Orchid Society Show – High Point, NC

May 9 to 11, 2025

Caine Conservatory in High Point University, 1 N University Parkway, High Point, NC 27268

## **Upcoming: May 12 at 7.30 p.m., TOS Monthly Meeting at JCRA**

The regular May meeting will be a live auction of a selection of orchids from 808 Orchids in Hawaii. There will also be some donated plants going into silent and/or live auction. Because of this, the regular orchid junkies will not be gathering for dinner at the Neomonde Mediterranean restaurant beforehand.

As mentioned under Business News above, members who ordered Orchiata bark supplies must pay and pick up their orders at his meeting. Items will not be held any longer.

## **Monthly Feature**



Before discussing this month's feature, you may recall last month I highlighted the first-flowering of a seedling of the hybrid, *Paph. Julius*, stating that it had award potential for the future. I am pleased to report that it caught the attention of the WNCOS judging team at the Asheville show and was awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon in the TOS display. Future AOS awards could well be on the cards for this plant as it matures! Well done, Jeff!



The photo to the left is the hybrid *Paphiopedilum* Lady Rothschild (Lady Isabel 'Jumbo Lady' x *rothschildianum* 'New Horizon' FCC/AOS). Again, this hybrid is another first-flowering seedling from the collection of Jeff Tucker. This plant too garnered a 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon at the Asheville show, and holds lots of promise for a future AOS award, methinks!

The genes for excellent flower form and sharply-defined patterning in *Paph. rothschildianum* (see below) are very evident traits being expressed in Jeff's Lady Rothschild

hybrid. This is not surprising as the genome of its seed parent, *Paph. Lady Isabel*, is itself 50% *Paph. rothschildianum* (the other 50% is *Paph. stonei*).

The sensational *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* (Rchb.f.) Stein – a very noble-looking paph in my opinion – burst onto the orchid scene with much fanfare in 1888 as *Cypripedium rothschildianum*, having been described by Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach; the type specimen was then reclassified as



*Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* in 1892 by Prussian botanist, Berthold Stein. It's been used extensively in paph breeding for very obvious reasons. (Above photo: *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* 'Lift Off', courtesy of AOS OrchidPro)

## Feature Orchids from the Display Table

All orchids on the members' display table at the April meeting were notable specimens. I'm going to highlight just two though. The first, a rare species, *Eulophiella elisabethae* Linden & Rolfe, was described and first published in *Lindenia* 3: t. 325 (1891); it was then reclassified in 2021 as *Eulophia elisabethae* (Linden & Rolfe) by M.W.Chase & Schuit in *Phytotaxa* 491: 52. It is endemic to Madagascar and is certainly a threatened species.



The wonderful specimen in the photos was grown from a flask-cultured seedling over several years by TOS member, Sarah Patterson. Being able to grow “at risk” orchids such as this successfully in culture is so important for their conservation – the destruction of their forest habitats in Madagascar due to logging, illegal and legal, is still sadly a serious environmental problem. Once a species has gone, it's gone forever!





Kelly Nipp picked up the above *Brassavola* hybrid at a TOS auction – lucky Kelly! It was not the usual, *Brassavola nodosa*, used as the hybrid's seed parent, but *Brassavola amazonica*. The pollen parent was *Cattleya harrisoniana*. The pale mauve color of the sepals and petals complementing the cream-yellow lip make for a particularly beautiful flower. There is a touch of delicate enchantment in this orchid flower and I would have been mightily pleased as its breeder.

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I wish you all a great month of May, a month with several celebratory holidays or special occasions to look forward to: May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day..... So, if you are wanting a gift for someone to mark one of these occasions, remember orchids!

Phil B.

<https://triangleorchidsociety.org/>  
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