



The Orchid Society of the Triangle (Durham, Raleigh, Chapel Hill) and surrounding area of North Carolina  
Associated with Sarah P. Duke Gardens

# Orchidaceae

Monthly Newsletter of the Triangle Orchid Society

April 2016

## April 11, 2016 at 7:30 PM Spring Orchid Auction!

For this meeting, we will have our spring auction with plants either in bloom or in bud from Hawaii (H&R Orchids) and Florida (RF Orchids). A list of the 41 orchids is posted on the society's website and Facebook page. Photos of the orchids in bloom will be presented during the auction. Our auctions are a lot of fun and are a good way to increase your orchid collection. See you there!

Bring your orchids for the show table exhibit.  
Refreshments will be provided.  
Visitors are welcome.

Reminder: The AOS spring meeting is in Asheville, NC next weekend!

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Photo credits: Alan Miller (pages 3 and 4); Suzanne Hens (pages 7-12)



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[www.triangleorchidsociety.org](http://www.triangleorchidsociety.org)

### Dinner Before the Meeting

5:30 pm at Carrabba's Italian Grill

5312 New Hope Commons Drive, Durham, across from New Hope Commons Shopping Center at the intersection of I-40 and US 15/501.

If you plan to attend the dinner, please contact Allan Miller at (919) 969-1612 to reserve a seat. All are welcome.

The Triangle Orchid Society meets at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens 420 Anderson St. Durham, NC The Second Monday of the Month at 7:30 pm



**TOS Officers and Board Members**

**2016**

**OFFICERS**

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\*Calling for nominations\*

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**Triangle Orchid Society  
March Meeting Summary**

The March 14, 2016 membership meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society, Inc. was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Sidney Cox, TOS President. The total attendance was 42 and 6 guests were present. We thank our volunteers, as shown below.

Welcome Table: Axel Elling and Ann Williams

Lights and Stands: Suzanne Hens

Show Table Discussions: Harry Gallis and Nick Plummer

Other: Sarah Patterson

The Jack Webster Award Plants were as follows:

Greenhouse Grown:

1st Place: *Bulbophyllum purpureorhachis*, grown by Elena Turner

2nd Place: *Paphiopedilum Leeaanum*, grown by Melissa Bullard

3rd Place: *Paphiopedilum philippinense*, grown by Nick Plummer

Non-Greenhouse Grown:

1st Place: *Amesiella philippinensis*, grown by Charles Walker

2nd Place: *Mediocalcar decoratum*, grown by Charles Walker

3rd Place: *Blc. Toshi Aoki 'Pokai'* AM/AOS, grown by Charles Walker

Meeting Summary submitted by Sidney Cox.



**March 2016**

**Jack Webster**

**Awards**

**Greenhouse Grown**

**1st Place:** *Bulbophyllum purpureorhachis*,  
grown by Elena Turner



**2nd Place:** *Paphiopedilum Leeanum*,  
grown by Melissa Bullard



**3rd Place:** *Paphiopedilum philippinense*,  
grown by Nick Plummer



**March 2016**

**Jack Webster Awards  
Non-Greenhouse Grown**

**1st Place:** *Amesiella philippinensis*,  
grown by Charles Walker



**2nd Place:** *Mediocalcar decoratum*,  
grown by Charles Walker



**3rd Place:** *Blc. Toshi Aoki 'Pokai'* AM/AOS,  
grown by Charles Walker



## The Oncidium Alliance: Some Different Types and Their Culture

Presentation by Linda Wilhelm to the Sandhills Orchid Society

Notes courtesy of Joy Lemieux

There is currently a great deal of confusion regarding Oncidiums. The powers-that-be who are responsible for orchid classification have used the results of DNA testing to organize the classification of all orchids. In the process, they have moved multiple plants into and out of the Oncidium Alliance and have made multiple name changes. As a result, chaos reigns!

To be practical, the Oncidium Alliance is one of the largest groups of genera within the orchid family. At one point, more than 600 species were classified as Oncidiums. Today, well, it's anyone's guess, depending upon what the taxonomists are saying this week. Linda's presentation dealt with only a few species within this huge alliance. The good news is that the Oncidiums she did discuss just happen to be some of my favorites.

Linda began with a discussion of **Tolumnias**, previously called Equitant Oncidiums. small "twig" epiphytic plants, native to the Caribbean islands. Generally they lack pseudobulbs. They are best cultivated on mounts, as the roots need to dry rapidly after watering. Reduce watering during colder weather. Most require bright but not full sun and hot to intermediate conditions. They also require good air movement.

Linda stressed the need for the roots to dry quickly and the fact that they cannot tolerate any salt buildup. She recommends growing them in charcoal if growing them in pots, as the charcoal acts as a filtration system and removes excessive salts that are inherent in any fertilizer mix. Linda stated that they will grow on anything, so try them mounted on cork, tree fern or any available hardwood. Watch for spider mites if your humidity is low. Scale of various types is also attracted to these plants.

Some of the more widely grown species are *Tolu. guianensis*, *Tolu. pulchella*, *Tolu. sasseri* and *Tolu. triquetra*. Linda specifically mentioned *Tolu. sylvestris*, which she said is harder to grow than some of the other species. It grows almost at ground level on short bushes and sends up long, thin inflorescences that are held above the foliage. Linda said that if the plant is damaged in any way it sends out multiple keikis rather than flower spikes.

A couple of well-known hybrids to look for are Onc. Galveston Bay 'Chase' and Onc. Sundown Reef 'Spotted Ewok' AM/AOS, which has a really intense color. Within the past three or four years, a number of mericlones have flooded the orchid market, making these readily available. Linda said that most of these are spring blooming. She recommends cutting off the spikes after the first bloom flush. Often side spikes will form, producing a secondary blooming.

**Trichocentrums** are also known as "Mule-ear" or "Rat-tail" Oncidiums. The Mule-ear species typically have large, flat leaves, while the Rat-tail species have narrow, terete leaves. Most Trichocentrums are epiphytic, with short rhizomes and small pseudobulbs. Typically, the leaves are thick and fleshy. Generally, most growers grow the Mule-ear varieties in pots and mount the Rat-tail species.



Good drainage is critical for either type, as they cannot tolerate stale conditions around their roots. Most do well in hot to intermediate conditions and require copious watering during the growing period with a rest period with no water during the cooler months. Bright light is essential for good flowering.

Typically, the Mule-ear varieties are large to huge plants and are best grown outdoors. They also have huge, long inflorescences. The leaves are thick and therefore able to tolerate bright light conditions. Linda said that the foliage grows straight up, which provides self-shade. Their pseudobulbs are small (for the size of the plant) and rot easily, so they are best grown on mounts. If you must grow them in a pot, lay them on top of the mix so the roots will dry quickly. Good air movement is critical for keeping the pseudobulbs dry.

*Trctm. lanceanum* is one of the best known of the Mule-ear varieties. It is native to Trinidad and Tobago but its range extends to Venezuela and Colombia. It has a thick rhizome that produces tiny pseudobulbs. It has thick, leathery leaves up to 20 inches long and 5.5 inches wide. The foliage is generally dull green with dense purple spotting. The erect inflorescence can be up to 18 inches long. The flowers are fragrant, long-lasting and generally appear in summer.

*Trctm. jonesianum* is a typical Rat-tail species. It is native to Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The pseudobulbs are incredibly small. It has fleshy, pendulous, terete foliage. The leaves can be up to two feet tall. Each inflorescence carries 10 to 15 flowers. Flowering occurs during the summer months. This species and the other Rat-tail varieties are best grown on mounts or slabs. Linda said these do well when grown in bulb-pans, as this keeps the pseudobulbs up, which helps to prevent rotting. She said that the foliage can be very heavy and tends to fall down, smothering the pseudobulbs.

The genus ***Psychopsis*** has only four species, the best-known being *Psychp. papilio*. They are native to Costa Rica and south to Peru and are typically found in wet forests from sea level up to 2700 feet. The pseudobulbs have a single internode and a single leaf that is red-brown with conspicuous spots and blotches of green. The flowers are produced singly from the apex of the inflorescence. This genus can be grown on a mount or in a pot with a free-draining mix. Again, these plants are very intolerant of stale conditions around their roots.

*Psychp. papilio* is native to the West Indies and south through Brazil and Colombia. The pseudobulbs are clustered and compressed. The plants are short, only 2 inches tall, while the foliage can be up to 8 inches long. The inflorescence is erect and up to 40 inches long. The sequentially blooming flowers are spectacular and up to 4 inches across. Blooming can occur at any time during the year. Linda noted that these plants resent repotting and "sulk" if disturbed. They prefer moderate shade and high humidity. They do best with morning sun and afternoon shade. Another species in this genus is *Psychp. versteegiana*. The flower form is very similar to *Psychp. papilio*.

**Thin-leaved Oncidiums** include *Onc. maculatum* and *Onc. sphacelatum*.

*Onc. maculatum* is native to Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. The pseudobulbs are tightly compressed and become furrowed with age. They are up to 5.5 inches long and carry two leaves, which can be up to 10 inches long. The inflorescence is 18 inches long and bears multiple flowers. The long-lasting flowers are about two inches across and can appear at any time from late winter to early summer.



*Onc. sphacelatum* is found from Mexico to Costa Rica. It grows quickly and makes a spectacular specimen plant. The pseudobulbs are about seven inches high and carry two narrow leaves up to two feet long. The branched inflorescence may be up to 80 inches long, with multiple flowers. Flowering occurs from spring to early summer. Most thin-leaved *Oncidiums* are yellow with brown or rust. A few can be pink.

Most are warm growing, which makes them susceptible to spider mites and scale. The most conspicuous cultural problem is foliage pleating, which is caused by inconsistent watering. The plants grow very quickly, and if the roots are allowed to dry between waterings, the new foliage will display the pleating. While this is not attractive, it does not affect the plant or the blooms.

Linda had a great deal of cultural information to impart. She has been growing *Oncidiums* and other orchids professionally for many years, and her wisdom comes from personal experience. That's the kind of advice that's worth listening to.



### A Few Members' Orchids From the March 2016 Meeting Greenhouse Grown





## A Few Members' Orchids From the March 2016 Meeting Non-Greenhouse Grown





## 2016 Triad Orchid Society Show

Kelly Nipp led the setup and design team, which also included Nancy Barton, Nancy Harvey, and Harry Gallis.

The Triangle Exhibit won First Place in its size class.

Sidney Cox, Nancy Harvey, and Robert Harvey took down the award-winning exhibit and brought the orchids safely home to Durham.

Special thanks go to all the participating TOS members.



Triangle Orchid Society Exhibit



## 2016 Triad Orchid Society Show Results

### Harry Gallis:

*Dendrobium* Little Atro  
*Cattleya* (*angereri* x *flava*) – Second Place  
*Cattlianthe* (Trick or Treat x Spring Fires)  
*Cattleya* (Jungle Treasure x Waianae Leopard)  
*Guarianthe aurantiaca* 'Lenette'  
*Dendrobium hancockii* – Third Place  
*Guaritonias* Why Not 'Summer in Montego' HCC/AOS  
*Bulbophyllum purpureorhachis* – Second Place  
*Cattleya* Irene's Circle  
*Phalaenopsis* Little Gem Stripe – Second Place  
*Phalaenopsis schilleriana* – Third Place

### Sidney Cox:

*Epidendron* Miura Valley – Second Place  
*Maxillaria variabilis* var. *yellow* – Second Place  
*Phalaenopsis* Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS – Second Place

### Robin & Josh Gurlitz:

*Aerangis fastuosa* – First Place  
*Laeliocatathron* Amethyst Snowflake – First Place  
*Cattleya* Button Top 'Riverbend II' – Third Place

### David Pickett:

*Paphiopedilum* (Maudiae x Oriental Lawrence)  
*Pelexia laxa* – Second Place  
*Bulbophyllum falcatum* 'Tower Grove' AM/AOS – First Place

### James Curtis:

*Cattleya lueddmanniana* – Second Place  
(*Laelia briegei* x *Laelia lucasiana*) x  
*Myrmecophila tibicinis* – Second Place  
*Phalaenopsis Taisuco Denise* – First Place and Best *Phalaenopsis* Trophy

### Pei-fen Liu:

*Dendrobium* Roy Tokunaga

### Bob Meyer:

*Clowesetum* Abigail Parsons – First Place

### Sara Gallis:

*Dendrobium* Blue Twinkle – First Place  
*Dendrobium* Samurai – Second Place

### Sarah Patterson:

*Coelogyne* Linda Buckley – First Place

### Paul Welty:

*Brassada* No Name – Second Place  
*Oncidium cheiroporum*  
*Oncidium splendidum* – Second Place  
*Paphiopedilum* Colorkulii – Second Place  
*Phragmipedium longifolium* – Second Place  
*Comparettia macroplectron*  
*Epicattleya* Rene Marques 'Tyler'  
*Oerstedella centradenia* – Second Place

### Ralph Belk:

*Cattleya aurantiaca* 'Mishima Spot'  
*Cyrtocidium* Midnight 'Ebony and Ivory' – First Place

### Elena Turner:

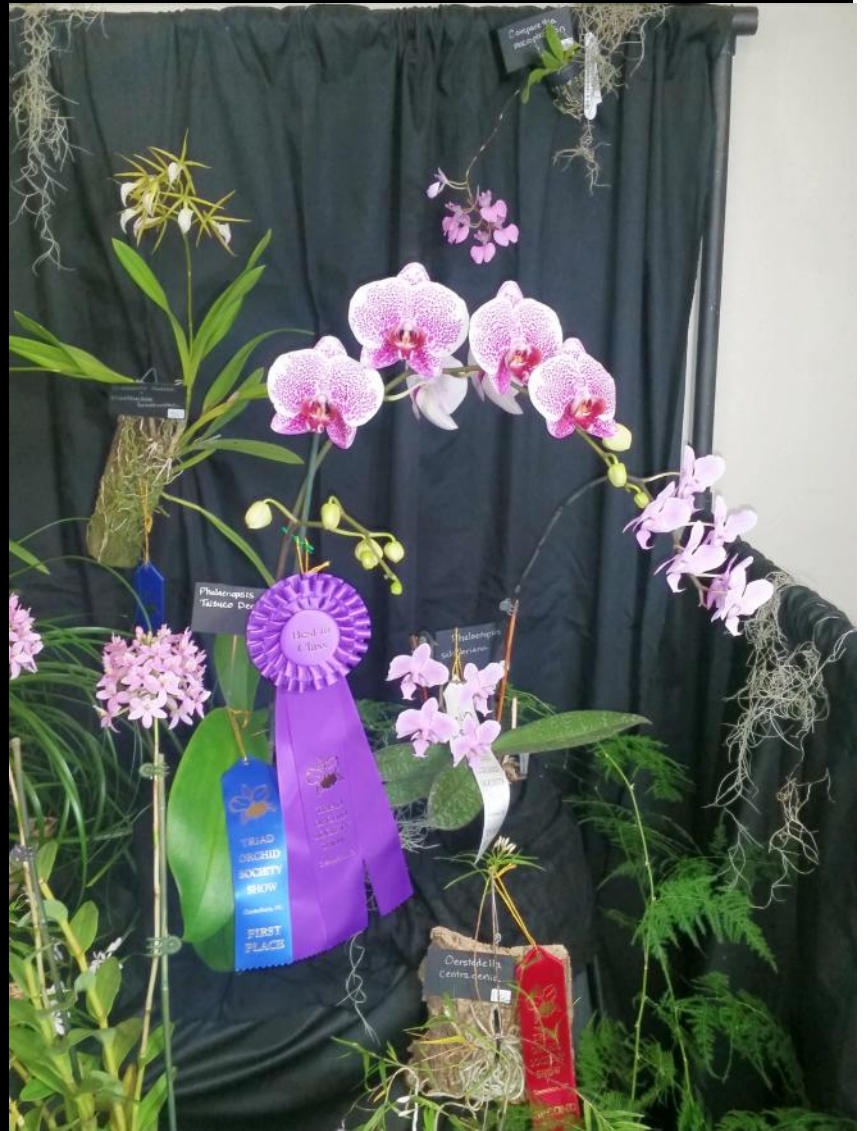
*Phalaenopsis* No Name – Third Place  
*Phalaenopsis* No Name – Third Place

### Nancy Harvey:

*Paphiopedilum* Julius – First Place  
*Paphiopedilum* Meda Ballard – Third Place  
*Dendrobium* Lucky Charms – Second Place  
*Dendrobium kingianum*  
*Phragmipedium* Hanne Popow – First Place and First Bloom Seedling Trophy  
*Calanthe* Rozel – Second Place  
*Oerstedella centradenia* – First Place  
*Brassavola nodosa* x *Prosthechea brassavolae* – First Place  
*Lycaste* Abou First Spring '#1' – First Place  
*Guaricattonia* Starrlyn 'Yellow Flare' – First Place



## Parts of the Triangle Orchid Society Exhibit





## 2016 Triad Orchid Society Show



South Carolina Orchid Society Exhibit



# 2016 Triad Orchid Society Show



Parts of the Triad Orchid Society Exhibit



## 2016 Triad Orchid Society Show



NC Piedmont Orchid Society Exhibit





## Register for special events at the 2016 Asheville Orchid Festival



### Speakers for the 2016 Asheville Orchid Festival

#### Friday, April 15 – Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park

- 9-11am – Rob Shepherd – Sapphire Dragon Orchids – “Coerulea hybridizing 2 part series lecture”
- 11-12pm – Chen-Chung Chen – Mainshow Orchids – “Taiwan Paphiopedilums” –  
Sponsored by the Slipper Orchid Alliance
- 1-2pm – Gene Crocker – Carter & Holmes – “Cattleyas of the Andes – with one exception”
- 2-3pm – Jason Fischer – Orchids Limited – “Japanese Neofinetias”

#### Saturday, April 16 – Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park

- 9-10am – Manolo Arias – Peruflora Orchids – to be announced
- 12-1pm – Tom Etheridge – “Draculas, Whimsical Monsters of the Orchid World”
- 1-2pm – Dr. David McDaniel – Hybridizing Orchids – “The journey from pollination to in-vitro culture to first flowering”
- 2-3pm – Robert Fuchs – R.F. Orchids – “Trends in Vandaceous Hybridizing”
- 3-4pm – Frank Smith – Krull Smith Orchids – “The latest breeding in Cattleya species”

Register @ <http://www.wncos.org/products-page/>





DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
APRIL 11	SPRING ORCHID AUCTION!	
MAY 9	Glen Decker Piping Rock Orchids	Phragmipediums Plants will be on sale.
JUNE 13	Mark Reinke Marble Branch Farms, South Carolina	Encyclias Plants will be on sale.

**Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda**

7:00-7:30	Set Up Show Tables
7:30-7:40	Business Meeting and Announcements
7:40-8:30	Auction
8:30-8:50	Break
8:50-9:20	Show Table Reviews and Awards
9:20-9:30	Raffle
9:30 P.M.	Meeting Ends Take down show tables

Welcome Table

Refreshments

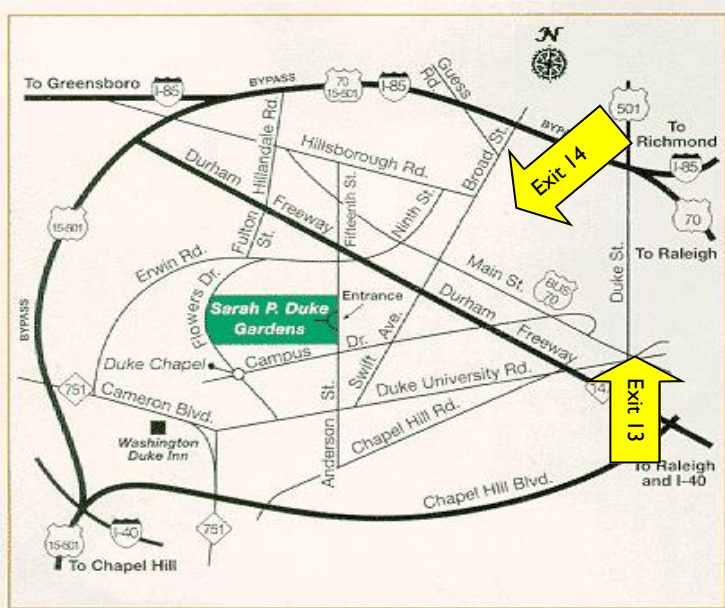
MAY	Axel Elling, Anne Williams	See a Board Member to volunteer.
JUNE	Axel Elling, Anne Williams	See a Board Member to volunteer.



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From the East:

Durham Freeway (#147) to Exit 13.  
 Right on Chapel Hill Rd.  
 Right on Anderson St.  
 Sarah P. Duke Gardens (420 Anderson) on left.

From the West:

Durham Freeway (#147) to Exit 14.  
 Right on Swift Ave.  
 Right on Campus Dr.  
 Right on Anderson St.  
 Sarah P. Duke Gardens (420 Anderson) on left.

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Thank You  
 Charles Walker  
 for proofreading the newsletter.

**Triangle Orchid Society Dues**  
 \$22 per year single, or \$30 per year for two persons living at the same address.  
 Send your dues to: Anne Williams, TOS Treasurer, 1506 Kent St., Durham NC 27707