

Triad Orchid Society

July 2014

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Triad Orchid Society meets the second Sunday of each month at the Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs Building on the campus of the Natural Science Center 4301 Lawndale Dr. Greensboro, NC 27455 at 1:00

July Speaker

Keith Davis was raised in Mexico where his parents were missionaries in the 1950's and 60's. He attended NCSU and majored in forestry, horticulture and agricultural education. In 1980 while teaching horticulture in Texas, he purchased his first orchid at a yard sale. He still has this plant, Lc. Molly Tyler. Later he moved back to NC with his wife and worked as the horticulturist at Chinqua-Penn Plantation for nearly 20 years until it was sold to a private individual who is now in prison. Keith is now retired and lives on a farm near Reidsville with his wife, daughter and grandson. He stays busy with his family, orchid collection, farming and speaking at orchid societies around the country. Keith's talk is called **GROWING AWARD WINNING CATTLEYAS**. This talk is devoted to learning how to choose what is an award quality plant and how to grow it to its fullest potential. The talk is focused on the cattleya alliance, but much of the talk will apply to most other genera as well. There will be a handout provided and questions will be welcome and encouraged. This will be a fun and informative talk that you don't want to miss.

Contact Keith at: dowiana51@gmail.com

Visit his web site at: www.keithdavisorchids.com



Cattleya violacea v semi-alba striata 'Icabaru' AM/AOS

Farmer's Market

We will have a Farmer's Market this month. Keith said that he may have some divisions of his plants for sale but not that many. If you have some plants you would like to sell, bring them.

Orchidata

Tammy ordered some orchidata for the society and has it available for purchase. If you are interested please contact her at famgoldberg@hotmail.com for sizes and prices. She will bring it to the July meeting if you want some.

August Meeting

The Garden Council booked a wedding on our meeting date in August so we are having to find a different place to meet. Tammy checked on several places in Greensboro but none of them worked for us. So we are planning a field trip to Morrisville to the Orchid Trail. This business is owned by John Stanton and Paul Fever, who spoke to us earlier in the year on dendrobiums, works there. From Greensboro it is about 1 1/4 hour drive. Very easy to find and we will have instructions on how to get there in the next newsletter.

Neomonde Deli and Bakery is about a half mile from John's business and we will be meeting there for lunch if you would like to join us. It is a Middle Eastern deli and has wonderful food at very reasonable prices. Date and times are August 10, noon at Neomondes and 1:00 at Orchid Trail.

If you would like to go on this field trip, Tammy will be getting a head count at the meeting. If you can't be there on Sunday, please let her know so that we can give John a number.

Show Table Results June 2014

Cattleya Alliance Species

- 1— L. purpurata Jack Kepley
- 2— L. purpurata v carnea Dorcas Brogdon
- 3— L. purpurata v carnea Jack Kepley

Small Cattleya Alliance Hybrids

- 1— Epicat Orange Dorcas Brogdon
- 2— Blc Golden Tang x Richard Mueller Annette Hastie

Large Cattleya Hybrids

- 1— Lc Cannhamiana 'Azure Sky' Dorcas Brogdon
- 2— L Pacavia Jack Kepley

Phalaenopsis

- 1— Phal cornu-cervi Tammy Goldberg

Paphiopedilum

- 1— Paph Kolosand ‘Muggles’ AM/AOS Jack Kepley
- 2— Paph St Isabel Jack Kepley
- 3— Paph kolopakingii Dorcas Brogdon

Phragmipedium

- 1— Phrag Belle Hougue Point Jack Kepley

Oncidium

- 1— Milt. Berries n’ Cream Tammy Goldberg

Vandaceous

- 1— Neof falcata ‘Shutennon’ Dorcas Brogdon
- 2— Ascofinetia Cherry Blossom Dorcas Brogdon
- 3— Asctm ampullaceum album ‘Fuch’s Snow CHM/AOS Jack Kepley

Cymbidium

- 1— Coel pandurata ‘Kathy’ HCC/AOS Jack Kepley

Miscellaneous

- 1— Pleur tribuloides Tammy Goldberg
- 2— Zygostates alleniana Gay Sharpe

Best species— Coel pandurata ‘Kathy’ HCC/AOS —Jack Kepley

Best specimen— L purpurata —Jack Kepley

Best flower— Paph Kolosand ‘Muggles’ AM/AOS —Jack Kepley

Speakers Notes – Charles Wilkins

It is hardly surprising that Charles, who has been growing Orchids for forty years, has so much practical information to impart. He has done it all. I certainly appreciated that fact that after growing for years in Virginia, he moved to North Carolina and found that he had to start all over! What I liked was his approach to his new growing environment – he recognized that new conditions required new techniques, and he embarked on an experimental program that helped him adjust his culture to meet the needs of his orchids. He accepted the fact that his Orchids are either “thriving or lagging”, and his solution is simple – if your orchids are lagging, change something! This is such basic, common sense advice!!! Whether it is the air movement, the temperature, the light, or the humidity, or simply moving the plant to another location, Charles’ recommendation is the same –

experiment until your Orchid is in an environment where it is happy and thriving.

What I liked about Charles' advice was that it was so simple. He pointed out that simply changing the angle of a fan can help with the air movement over an entire bench. A loose mix (more perlite) can help with drainage. Raising the temperature in your growing area, even by as little as one or two degrees, can make a huge difference to some warm growing plants. However, higher temperature can also affect your heating and light bills. Similarly, success can depend upon the quality of the water you are utilizing, whether its city water, well water or water that has been run through a reverse osmosis system. Charles says it's all a matter of experimenting with what you've got until you find a satisfactory balance. So, before buying a new plant, ask yourself if you can accommodate this particular plant under your growing conditions? Secondly, you should ask yourself if you are willing to do what it takes to grow this plant well? He also suggests that you be honest with yourself and ask yourself just how many plants can you reasonably care for. This is, I think, critical. We all know how addictive growing Orchids can become. There is always another plant that we see, and we lust to try it. Take Charles advice and be realistic about the number of plants you add to your collection. A rule I try to impose on myself is to get rid of a plant for every new plant I acquire. I've long since run out of space and every new acquisition means that something else will be compromised.

Charles discussed a number of very rewarding species that are not commonly seen in local orchid collections. *Dendrochilums*, for example, are native to Indonesia and are available in a number of sizes. When in bloom they have long pendant spikes covered with small closely spaced flowers. *Dendrochilums* grow quickly and rapidly become specimen size plants. They are tolerant of varying light and temperature conditions. They do like a great deal of water. Charles recommended growing *D magnum* or *D cobbianum*, as well as *D wenzelii*.

Charles also recommended growing *Phragmipediums*, the South American slipper orchids. Most are sequential bloomers that flower between December and March. Charles said Phrags are not fussy about light conditions so long as their roots are kept at moderate to cool temperatures. They grow along stream beds and in seepage conditions, with cold water running over their roots. Most Phrags are cream colored with brown or green accents, but the two most recently identified species are the red/orange *P besseae* and the humungous purple *P kovachii*. These have brought new interest to the breeding of Phrags, adding a whole new dimension to the color varieties available. Try *P Don Wimbler*, *P Fritz Schomburg* or *P Jason Fischer*. These can grow to be good sized plants, often topping out in ten or twelve inch pots.

Another genus Charles recommends is *Gongoras*. These South American natives send out long pendant spikes covered with small bird-shaped, fragrant flowers. Charles recommends the hybrid *G Eagle Wing* and several species including *G scaphephorus*, a June bloomer and *G chocoensis*, which he states is ever blooming. He also likes *G galeata* which is a fall bloomer. These do well in baskets as the inflorescence is pendant and displays when allowed to cascade over the edge of the container.

Stanhopeas are in the same family as *Gongoras*, but have significantly larger flowers and are

fragrant. They definitely need to be grown in baskets as the inflorescences develop through the base of the container. They like high light and do well in Cattleya like conditions. However, the need to be watered liked Phals, twice a week. Species Charles likes to grow, and recommends, includes *S tigrina* (cream colored with dark spots), or *S wardii* (a yellow).

Charles also recommends *Den aggregatum* and *Den farmeri*. These are both Dendrobiums that need a dry, cool winter rest. Charles says his get no fertilizer after August and no water after November. They generally bloom in late Jan or early Feb. In *D aggregatum*, the inflorescence develops from the side of the pseudobulb, growing out and down, so these are best grown mounted or in a basket. The pendant inflorescence lasts about ten days.

If you like glistening white flowers, Charles recommends *Aerangis luteo-alba*. This is a twig epiphyte from Madagascar which Charles grows in lava rock or an inorganic medium such as charcoal or aeliflor. These mature very quickly and will bloom on surprisingly small plants. The pendant inflorescence has bright white flowers with red centers. Another species in the Angraecum family is *A sesquipedale*. This is the famous white flower with the long nectary that Darwin predicted would be fertilized by a moth with the long tongue. Like so many Angraecums, *A sesquipedale* resents repotting and hates having its roots disturbed. When repotting, slip the plant out of one pot and into another while disturbing the roots as little as possible.

I thoroughly enjoyed this presentation! The advice Charles presented was simple, straight forward and easily applied by any hobby grower, whether you grow on a windowsill or in a greenhouse. Best of all, the Orchids he recommended are not so exotic that you can't find them. Most are available from regional growers and easily acquired.

Notes taken by Joy Lemieux



Dendrochilum wenzelli 'Jeff's Red Wheat' is one of Charles' plants which received a CCE of 97 points at the South Carolina Show in February.