We are deeply saddened to report the passing on Monday, September 9, of Tom Larkin. Tom’s life had many facets, but most of us reading this know Tom through his life-long love of orchids and everything relating to them.

Tom was an American Orchid Society judge, an orchid grower who won many awards, an orchid hybridizer who operated his own flasking laboratory and produced award-winning crosses, an orchid photographer, a tireless worker for and supporter of every orchid society to which he ever belonged at local, regional, and national levels, and of course a mentor and friend to so many people.

Tom and Barbara, upon “retiring” to Rogers, Arkansas to operate Whippoorwill Orchids full time, found that was there was no local orchid society. Undeterred, they located some other Northwest Arkansas orchid growers and, in a meeting at their home on April 28, 1996, founded the Orchid Society of the Ozarks. Tom, with Barbara’s able help, has guided OSO since then and his knowledge and counsel will be sorely missed.

Services for Tom will be at 10:00 am Friday, September 13, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 1416 West Poplar, Rogers, with visitation at 9:30 am. If you have orchid flowers in good condition with long stems that you would like to contribute to be used in a spray for Tom, they must be delivered to Benton County Funeral Home by Thursday afternoon. OSO Vice President Lois Geren (ph. 479-521-5311) has offered to help coordinate this effort.

When a full obituary is available, it will be published at the Benton County Funeral Home web site and will be found here:

http://www.bentoncountyfuneralhome.com/index.php/obituaries