

# Cape Fear Orchid

JANUARY 2009



NEW YEAR!  
NEW BOARD!  
NEW IDEAS!  
NEW  
MEMBERS?



## NEW ARLENE'S ARTICLE ??

Happy *NEW* Year everyone!! Hope you all had wonderful Holidays. I am looking for a name for my column. "Arlene's Article" leaves me lukewarm!

Let's have a contest for a *NEW* name. Put on your thinking caps and get creative. Bring your suggestions to our meeting Wednesday, email me at [ahubner@ec.rr.com](mailto:ahubner@ec.rr.com) or call me at 910-845-5143.

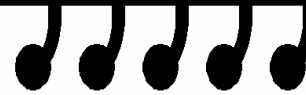
A great big thank you to everyone who has contributed to our society in the past year. Many people worked very hard and, in addition, over \$700 worth of expenses were donated to CFOS, ranging from raffle table plants, printing, meals & lodging for speakers, and gas to pick up plants for our sales.

We have reduced the number of speakers to 6 this year. The first will be Bill Mathis speaking on terrestrial orchids. Many of these grow outside, but lots of others are cultivated in greenhouses and homes. Since Bill will not have plants, our own Rob Majkowski will be bringing plants to sell. We are lucky that we have our own terrestrial expert within our membership.

Lots of *NEW* things are on the horizon ... the Garden Show on January 31 and February 1. Volunteers will be asked to sign up at the meeting to work in the larger booth this year. Talking to *NEW* people about growing orchids is fun! Preparations are underway for a Growers Day right here this year. And one member has already made a proposal for a fund raiser! CFOS needs these good ideas and the Board is all ears. Share your good ideas at meetings, by email or phone.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

*Arlene Hubner*, President



Meeting

date:

*January 14*

*7pm*

**Arboretum**

Speaker:

Bill Mathis

Carversville,  
PA

Gardening with

Hardy

Terrestrials

### 2009 Programs:

- January 16** - Bill Mathis: Gardening with Hardy Terrestrials
- February 11** - CFOS Educational Program
- March 11** - CFOS Educational Program
- April 16** - Jeff Bradley: Classic Cattleyas
- May 13** - Larry Moskovitz: Bizarre Species
- June 10** - Jose Esposito: Orchid Culture
- July to Dec** - To be announced

**!!! PLEASE PAY DUES in January !!!**

**NEW! EDITORIAL:** When space allows, the Newsletter will include 2 new columns, an Editorial column and an Opinion/Question/Comment column.

At the September 2008 meeting, a new dues structure was voted upon due to increased expenses. The October 2008 Newsletter meeting notes reported this at length as well as the response that CFOS members responded with a hearty "YES" to the question should this Society continue.

Fast forward to the December holiday party, with guests and spouses attending, designed to allow members to get to know one another better. Instead, the dues increase became a heated issue. With the passage of a motion at that meeting, after lengthy discussion, this new amount will continue to include a second family member.

The increased dues, broken down, come to a cost of \$2.08 a month. Compare that cost to: 5 fast food meals; 1 nice bottle of wine; 1 nice meal at a restaurant; 1 tank of gas; 1 lovely orchid. Pretty inexpensive, isn't it? Let's all profit from this increase. It's very simple. If CFOS has treasury money, CFOS can have speakers. Otherwise, it doesn't. And in 2009, why not save \$2 a month in a piggy bank or envelope for easy payment of 2010 dues.

Oh - and since the second family member may not always attend, why not have that person just donate \$2 at the meeting when attending. Just a thought ....

Your opinions are welcome. That's mine.

Jan Denney, Newsletter Editor

**Members' Show Table Point Standings for 2008**

	<u>Previous</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Total</u>
Rosemarie Bonk	35	18	53
Betty Broome	73	5	78
Jan Denney	71	25	96
Richard Evers	33	8	41
Julien Falzon	105	15	120
Michael Goins	15	5	20
<b>*Nathan &amp; Leah Grenell</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>137</b>
Arlene Hubner	39	18	57
Polly Kopka	25	0	25
Jim Lanier	0	8	8
Sam Lipscomb	30	5	35
Rob Majkowski	13	0	13
Lowell & Sally Mason	36	0	36
Yolana McKiernan	37	0	37
Mary Ellen Merryman	8	0	8
Bill Novakowski	6	0	6
Jane Ranney	7	0	7
Fritz Rohde	31	0	31
Carol Shores	106	15	121
Barbara Smith	15	0	15
Virginia Smith	5	0	5
Ken Spackman	31	0	31
Virginia Spackman	13	0	13
Anita Potts	8	0	8

**\* 2008 WINNER!**

**NEW! SHARING LEARNING :**

Each month, let's briefly share some new source of knowledge: a tip, a book, a how-to video, an article in Orchids, a website, etc. This month, I recommend the book Orchid Basics by Brian & Sara Rittershausen, a father and daughter team with 50 years of orchid experience between them, available at the Gift Shop at the New Hanover County Arboretum for only \$9.95. The "Popular Plants" section explains the genera in a particular family and their native habitats as well.

Review *your* reading/viewing/listening experiences and send in your recommendations to Jan Denney, [bikeney@earthlink.net](mailto:bikeney@earthlink.net) in the upcoming months. Jan can stockpile the tips for future use. If you don't have email, please bring your contributions to Jan at the meetings. Arlene

**NEW! THE RAFFLE TABLE** is a substantial source of revenue for our society, a fun way of sharing plants and information, and is capably staffed by Betty Broome and Mary Ellen Merryman. If you have plants from your collection that you can spare, in good shape and good health, please bring them for the Raffle. If not blooming, please indicate what the bloom looks like.

In addition, the Board requests that each member purchase at least one orchid a year for donation to the raffle table. One source could be box stores which often have orchids on sale. If 2 people contributed a plant each month, this would be quite a treat and a reason to purchase raffle tickets! CFOS will begin asking for volunteers at each meeting. Contact Betty Broome, coordinator, at: 910-791-0934 or [eabrush66@earthlink.net](mailto:eabrush66@earthlink.net).

**Show Table for December, 2008**

**Best of Show Table**

**First Place:**

Oncidium JOHN LOUIS SHIRRAH 'PROFUSION'  
(Ornithorhynchum?) Jan Denney

**Second Place:**

Cattleya - unknown Julien Falzon

**Group A**

First: Cattleya - unknown  
Second: LC - Nippon 'Livinza'  
First: B3 - No registration form  
Second: BC. Mai Kai  
(cross B. Nodosa c Huuningiana) Jan Denney

**Group C**

First: Phaiocalanthe  
**Group D**  
First: Oncidium - JOHN LOUIS SHIRRAH 'PROFUSION' (Ornithorhynchum?) Jan Denney  
Second: Oncidium - Dancing Lady

**Group E**

First: Dendrobium  
Second: Dendrobium - Snowflake Mini Arlene Hubner

**Group F**

First: Phalaenopsis  
Second: Phalaenopsis

**Group G**

First: Paphiopedilum - Fairrieannum

**Group H**

First: Cymbidium

**Group I**

First: Vanda - Robert's Delight 'Pink' Carol Shores

**Group J**

First: Ansellia Africana var. Nolitica Carol Shores

**First Place:**  
Onc. JOHN LOUIS  
SHIRRAH 'PROFUSION'  
(Ornithorhynchum?)  
grown by  
Jan Denney



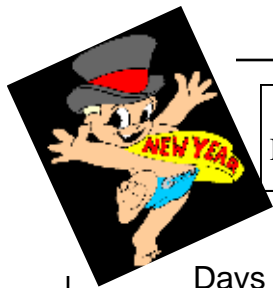
**HOLIDAY  
MEETING  
2008!**

**Second Place:**  
Cattleya - unknown  
grown by  
Julien Falzon

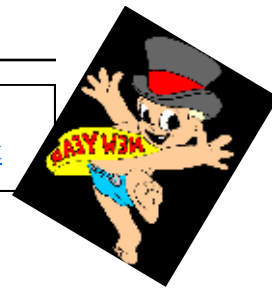


**REMEMBER**





Growing Tips for January 2009 by Courtney T. Hackney  
Dept. Biology, Univ. North Florida, email at [Hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:Hackneau@comcast.net)



Days are finally getting longer now that we have reached the winter solstice. Many orchids use a lengthening day as a cue to begin the flowering process. Greenhouse growers can sit back and let Nature do its thing, but those growing indoors need to provide an increase in day length in the next month to initiate spring flowering.

While we typically think that winter is a difficult time for our orchids, remember that many tropical orchids come from relatively high elevations and so the cooler nights and days are ideal for them. *Miltoniopsis*, *Lycastes*, *Odontoglossums*, *Phragmipediums*, and numerous other genera that suffered from the heat for much of the year now thrive. Some orchid growers include cool growing orchids in their collections and provide lots of shading or even air conditioning in summer to provide cooler temperatures. Even many orchids that do well in summer thrive when the stress of high temperatures is relieved.

Cool days and even cooler nights slow down plant metabolism (activities in the plant that use energy). When light is hitting orchid leaves the temperature inside the orchid leaf is much higher and the plant can regulate that temperature to maximize photosynthesis even in cooler conditions. At night, however, cooler temperatures also slow down an orchid's metabolism allowing your orchid to retain and store more of the energy it captured during photosynthesis. If you have a cattleya that grows new pseudobulbs in winter and summer, winter's bulbs are usually thicker as a result.

Unfortunately, orchids from very warm, tropical environments, such as *phalaenopsis* and *vandas*, may almost

cease growth if temperatures remain below 60 F for long periods. Remember that there are exceptions to every rule and hobbyists that have added species to their collections need to consult the orchid literature to determine the natural conditions for a species and do their best to maintain those conditions. While most phals like it warm, >65 F, some of the miniature species and their hybrids, e.g. *Phal parishii* and *lobbii* do better with cooler nights.

Cymbidiums are a group that suffers during hot summers, but grow extremely well in winter. They will even thrive outside in the southern part of the country, as long as they are not allowed to freeze. Once spikes are observed, however, move them inside or somewhere where they can be maintained above 50 F to avoid damage to sensitive buds.

Most cattleyas need to be kept on the dry side now. It is OK if there is some shriveling of the bulbs, but the leaves should not shrivel too. A dry period is especially important for cattleya species to ensure quality blooms and to maintain a healthy root system. One common mistake is to substitute misting for watering. Misting can help maintain higher humidity in winter, when low humidity can be a problem, but plants still need a thorough soaking just less frequently. If you do mist, use deionized or distilled water to prevent salt buildup on leaves.

*Phalaenopsis* and most of the popular intergeneric oncidiums are in bloom this time of year and require more moisture than cattleyas. They too, are growing more slowly and care is required to prevent rotting roots.

**CFOS Meeting Notes , December 10, 2008**

**Bill Schade** called the meeting to order at 7 pm and welcomed the 25 attendees who had enjoyed a delicious buffet meal prepared by many industrious orchid-growing chefs. Tables were arranged in a friendlier, rectangular form.

The slate of officers for 2009 was presented and elected by acclamation. Officers are: **Arlene Hubner**, President; **Carol Shores**, Vice President; **Jan Denney**, Secretary/Newsletter; and **Jane Ranney**, Treasurer.

**Arlene** thanked **Bill** for his time during his 3 years as President.

Dues discussion came up again. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made and passed that a new class of membership be established called a Family Membership, at \$25 per family.

In explanation of the monies needed, Arlene mentioned some details of programs for the coming year. Monies are needed for the February garden show in Wilmington, so dues are now due. We will need plants for the sale and John Stanton will not be donating any in 2009 as he did in 2008. Arlene explained details of the breakdown of fees among the 4 clubs who use the outside speakers.

**Carol Shores**, AOS rep, included a report that an Orchid Show will be held at North Gate Mall in Durham, March 20-23, 2009, which we could enter if anyone were willing to help. CFOS has exhibited there previously.

**Michael Goins** asked the group to thank the outgoing board for its service.

**Carol Shores** did an excellent and informational job of describing the lovely Show Table.

After wishes for a happy holiday, the group adjourned for the evening. Respectfully submitted, *Jan Denney, Secretary*

**Treasurer's Report, December, 2008**

**Monthly Income and Expenses**

December 1 - 31, 2008	
Bank Balance as of 11/30/08	764.01
Cash	<u>30.00</u>
	794.01
<u>Income</u>	
2009 Dues	225.00
Raffle income	<u>00.00</u>
Total	225.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Newsletter printing	
Newsletter postage	
Speaker Meals	
Speaker Travel	
Speaker Hotel	
Speaker honorarium	_____
Total expenses	
Net change (income less expenses)	+225.00
Balance as of 12/31/08	979.01
h	<u>30.00</u>
	1009.01

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Ranney, Treasurer  
1014 Canal Dr,  
Carolina Beach, NC 28428-6037

**WILMINGTON GARDEN SHOW — JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1, 2009** CFOS will again have a booth (larger this year) together with a garden shop in Southport. This event brings in funds which allow us to have speakers at meetings in 2009. CFOS will need people to set up the booth, to man the booth for both days, and to remove the decorations at the end. Please sign up at the meeting to help and offer your skills with hammer, tape, selling, etc. It's fun! Call Arlene to offer your help at 845-5143 or email at: [ahubner@ec.rr.com](mailto:ahubner@ec.rr.com).

**January Speaker's bio: BILL MATHIS**

Bill became interested in native terrestrial orchids in 1970 as a graduate student at the University of Arkansas. As a part of his masters program he conducted a series of ecological studies on 'Small Yellow Lady's Slipper' Orchids in Northwest Arkansas. After completing his MS degree in Botany, he moved to the Agronomy Dept and completed a Ph.D. He then accepted a job with a major agricultural company and worked as a research scientist and manager for 25 years. He maintained his interest in terrestrial orchids over the years and, in 2000, set up a lab and started growing a number of species from seed, as well as buying seedlings and mature plants in an effort to accumulate large numbers of 'Showy' upland and wetland terrestrial orchid species.

In 2001, at early retirement, he started The Wild Orchid Company, focusing on the production and sales of a variety of terrestrial orchids (North American, European and Asian species) that are hardy in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Currently, he is working with hybridization and induced polyploidy (organism with 2 sets of chromosomes) of several *Bletilla*, *Cypripedium*, *Calopogon*, *Arethusa* and *Calanthe* species in an effort to select specific plants for horticultural use.

In 2005, he wrote and published a book, The Gardener's Guide to Growing Hardy Perennial Orchids, which is a 'How to' book using a non-technical and practical approach to present the basic requirements for successfully growing hardy perennial orchids.

Bill enjoys giving presentations to local Orchid Societies and Garden Clubs on various aspects of his work with terrestrial orchids. He especially enjoys the excitement of the typical outdoor gardener when they realize that orchids can be grown in their backyard without a greenhouse.

Bill may be contacted at: The Wild Orchid Company, P.O. Box 164, Carversville, PA 18913-0164  
Phone: (215) 297-5053 • Fax: (215) 297-0578

Email: [info@WildOrchidCompany.com](mailto:info@WildOrchidCompany.com)

Website: <http://www.wildorchidcompany.com>

# Cape Fear Orchid Society

*Meeting date...*

*January 14*

7 pm - Arboretum  
6206 Oleander Dr.  
Wilmington

*Speaker:*

Bill Mathis, Carversville,  
PA

Gardening with  
Hardy Terrestrials



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Address Correction Requested

Visit CFOS at: [www.capefearorchid.org](http://www.capefearorchid.org)



Cape Fear Orchid Society  
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Southport, NC 28461