

Cape Fear Orchid Society



www.capefearorchidsociety.org

JUNE 2009

NEW OPPORTUNITY !!! DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER!

Jose Exposito and Arlene will dine at the *Cracker Barrel*, 21 Van Campen Boulevard (behind Carrabba's) before the meeting on June 10. Jose's topic is orchid culture, so this will be a great opportunity to pick his brain! Come and join them at 5pm.

PLEASE REPLY to Arlene if you are coming at ahubner@ec.rr.com or leave a message at: 910-845-5143. She can then make sure the restaurant is prepared for a group of us.

Hope to see you there; otherwise, at the meeting.

Please remember to RSVP.



JUNE MEETING

SPEAKER: Jose Exposito TOPIC: Orchid Culture

Wednesday, June 10, 7PM, Arboretum

Jose Exposito is President of Soroa Orchids, Inc. which is located in the heart of the Redland Orchid growing area in Florida. In 2005, the company expanded its business into Canada, opening Soroa Orchids Canada in Toronto. He is an accredited judge of the American Orchid Society and travels around the world selling orchids and lecturing about orchid breeding and culture. He has presented at the World Orchid Conferences in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Jose was born in Cuba, but immigrated to the United States in 1980 from Cuba during the Mariel exodus. He was an accomplished writer, considered to this day to be the youngest published writer in Cuba where he won national prizes for literature when he was only 16 years old.

Jose is a founding member of the International Orchid Alliance, past president of the East Everglades Orchid Society, past president of The Coalition for Orchid Species, past member of the Education Committee of the American Orchid Society, and he served several years as a board member of the South Florida Orchid Society. Currently he is Vice President of the Redland Orchid Growers Association and Redland Orchid Festival, Inc.

Jose will be speaking about general Orchid Culture.

Jose may be contacted at: Soroa Orchids, 25750 SW 177th Avenue,
Homestead, Fl. 33031

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

Email: soroa@att.net, Phone: 305-247-2566, Fax: 305-247-2955

MAY Speaker presentation :

Nina Rach presented an overview of the Orchids from Brazil's Mata Atlantic Forests, a thin strip of land along the eastern seaboard, heavily forested, with a unique environment. A number of orchid species are found in this area which Nina described as mountain rain forests. Geographically, the area is separated from other forest areas by the Central Plateau. Nina stated that the largest variety of Brazilian species is actually found in this limited geographic area – at least half of the Brazilian Cattleyas and nearly all of the Bifrenarias and Promenaeas. Unfortunately, development and human movement into the area have resulted in over 90% of the area being cleared. The balance is fragmented into isolated pockets.

Some areas of this region are protected by being designated as national parks and preserves. One of the largest is the Serra dos Organos National Park which is noted for its extreme steep slopes covered in dense vegetation and cloud cover. The area is still a pristine wilderness and home of *Laelia purpurata*, the only home of this wonderful species outside of the tropics.

Another area is Serro do Mur, an area of montane tropical and subtropical broad-leafed forest. Once, it was known for its Araucaria, Myrtles, and Laurels as well as ever greens. Initially cleared for its hardwoods, it now is almost totally used to produce sugar cane for making ethanol fuel for cars, a part of Brazil's program of energy independence.

The Tiguea-Tingua-Organos Biosphere Reserve was established as a national parkway in 1939 and designated a biosphere reserve in 1991. It is home to *Laelia crispa*, *Zygopetalums mackaye* and *crinitum* as well as *Oncidium crispum*. Up to 80% of the biomass in this area is bromeliads, while 10% are orchids. The area is also home to numerous begonia species.

Most of us are familiar with photos of Rio de Janeiro and the steep mountains that ring the city and harbor. What most of us don't realize is that the mountains are part of a national park. Each of the peaks has unique orchid species, with over 28 species of *Bifrenaria* found in the area. They grow on exposed rocks in direct sun, with the inflorescences forming from the base of the pseudobulbs. *Cattleya aelandiae* and *amethystoglossa* grow in this area, as do *Cattleya intermedia*, *schilleriana* and *mossiae*.

Encyclia inverse and *bulbosa*, *Laelia crispa*, *jongheana* and *pumila* are also native to these peaks. Other species found in the area include *Leptotes bicolor*, *Miltonia cuneata* and *Oncidiums crispum* and *croesus*. There are 7 species of *Sophronitis*, including *coccinea* and *cernua*, and numerous *Promenaeas*. There are miniature, high humidity, low-light plants with very small pseudobulbs. They produce remarkably large flowers on small, compact plants.

CFOS 2009 Speakers

**7/15 - Rob Majkowski -
Hands on potting session
(See below)**

8/12 - Digging into Orchids

**9/? - Picnic and problem
solving**

**10/14 - What do you want
to know?**

**11/11 - Fritz Rohde -
Slipper orchids and
their relatives.**

12/9 - Holiday Party –Fun!

July program: Hands on potting session!

Rob Majkowski will show members how to repot their plants. This hands on session will give members a chance to do what we all know we should do but don't always because we don't have the information in front of us.

To participate:

Bring 1 plant to repot and 1 pot for it.

CFOS will donate a generic media for you to use. If you want a particular type of media, bring your own.

This should be a fun meeting!

**JUNE! ...
the month for
Dad's and Grads!**



- * Give Dad an orchid for Father's Day — to start a new hobby or add to an old one!**
- * Give your Grad or Dad a membership to the Cape Fear Orchid Society!**
- * Start a young grad on a hobby for a lifetime!**



Cattleya schilleriana
from orchidcloset.net

Cattleya schilleriana, which grows naturally in Brazil, is a smallish plant. The pseudobulbs have two deep green leaves at the apex. The 2 1/2 - 4 inch flowers are olive brown with burgundy spots. The lighter lip has purple veins and a yellow spot.

From culture files: **C. schilleriana** likes lots of filtered sunlight. A south window with a filtering curtain or a bright, unobstructed east or west window is ideal. Provide good air circulation to help cool the leaves of the plant.

Most cattleyas can withstand day temperatures up to 95 F but only when extra humidity, air circulation and shading are provided. They grow best when daytime temperatures are between 70 and 85 F and night temperatures are 55 - 60 F. This should allow for a 10 - 20 F differential between day and night.

A 50 - 80% relative humidity should be adequate. The plants can be misted in the morning if needed. Watering should be done only when the plants are completely dry. Avoid overwatering.

For plants potted in fir bark, use a high nitrogen fertilizer mixed to 1/4 strength with every watering during active growth. Some growers occasionally use a high phosphate fertilizer also mixed to 1/4 strength. Flush with clear water monthly to remove salt buildup in the potting medium.

Repot these plants when the medium shows signs of breaking down, when new roots start to show, or every 2 years. Use a medium fir bark mix that allows water to drain freely. Use a pot that will accommodate the roots and still allow 2 years growth.



First Place:
C. schilleriana
grown by
Leah & Nathan Grenell

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**Second Place:**  
**Phalaenopsis**  
**hybrid**  
grown by  
**Polly Kopka**

**M**  
**A**  
**Y**  
**-**  
**S**  
**B**  
**E**  
**S**  
**T**  
**!**

Growing Tips for June 2009 by Courtney T. Hackney  
Dept. Biology, Univ. North Florida, Email: Hackneau@comcast.net

There are many products available today for orchid growing, most far more expensive than necessary. Hobbyists usually just pay the price since they have only a few plants. As your collection gets larger or you wish to be more frugal there are many ways to reduce the cost of your hobby.

Many hobbyists got started when presented with a gift of an orchid and are still in the early stages of learning to grow. Many of the big-box stores get a regular supply of orchids, which are sold as pot plants. Some orchids do not sell and go out of bloom. These are either tossed or placed on a sales table at a reduced price. Caution should be exercised when purchasing these orchids, but some bargains can be found. Inexpensive orchids also make great plants on which to experiment. Learn to repot using these orchids. Try different media and pots. All of these "experiments" will teach you to be a better grower and make you more confident when you purchase an orchid that you really like. Most hobbyists err in the beginning because they are afraid to damage a newly purchased orchid so they do nothing when a problem develops.

Fertilizer is a classic example of the concept that excellent orchids do not require the most expensive products. One of my favorite growers that proved the concept was the late Ralph Wasdon from Greenville, NC. He used K Mart, soluble fertilizer and grew orchids as well as anyone I ever met. When asked to speak about his prowess in growing orchids he always replied that it only took five minutes to explain his methods; water when needed, fertilize when you

remember, and put your plants under the pines when it was warm enough.

Practical wisdom is often overlooked when growing "exotic" orchids in favor of the elaborate and expensive. Powdered cinnamon is a very effective fungicide applied directly to the wound. Many growers buy cinnamon powder by the bag and sprinkle it over roots and rhizome just before placing a newly repotted orchid in a new pot. This non-toxic and relatively inexpensive fungicide has the added benefit of a nice fragrance.

Another simple, and amazingly effective, anti-bacterial/anti fungal agent is Hydrogen Peroxide. It is available everywhere for topical use. Joe Grezaffi introduced me to its use. Whenever he saw crown rot in a phal or rot on a cattleya he poured hydrogen peroxide right in the crown or damaged area. For awhile, I used half strength, but found that there was never any damage from using it full strength. It even stops pseudomonas rot on phal leaves that I once cut off entirely when I saw just a small rot spot.

One of the most significant changes in fertilizer for orchids is the availability of a slow release fertilizer named Nutricote. This product is being used by many commercial orchid nurseries, but is even more important to the hobbyist who has just a small number of orchids. Available as Dynamite in small quantities from Home Depot stores, this is an easy to use fertilizer that delivers a constant supply of nutrients for a set amount of time. Most last for six months and provide micronutrients as well.

## Show Table for May 2009

### Best of Show Table

**First Place:** C. schilleriana Leah & Nathan Grenell  
**Second Place:** Phalaenopsis hybrid Polly Kopka

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#### **Group A**

First: C. schilleriana Leah & Nathan Grenell  
Second: Sr. Cystalia Betty Broome

#### **Group B**

First: Paphiopedilum Regina Coscarelli

#### **Group C**

First: Epi. Radicans Regina Coscarelli  
Second: Enc. PBntotes 'Crostown' Leah & Nathan Grenell

#### **Group D**

First: phal. Spirit House 'D + B' x Ambovosa Richard Evers  
Second: Phalaenopsis hybrid Polly Kopka

#### **Group E**

First: Cyclopogon lindleyanus Leah & Nathan Grenell  
Second: Pleurothallis racemiflora Leah & Nathan Grenell

#### **Group F**

First: Ascda. Motes 'Burning Sands' Leah & Nathan Grenell  
Second: v. Ascdz Somsri Nugget Sam Lipscomb

#### **Group G**

First: Dendrobium ? Anita Potts

#### **Group H**

First: Tolumnia Genting Pink Lady Leah & Nathan Grenell  
Second: Tol. Robsan 'Orchid World' x Rdcdm.  
Rose Ganancheau 'Hockman' Leah & Nathan Grenell

### Members' Show Table Point Standings for 2009

|                       | <u>Previous</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| Rosemarie Bonk        | 13              | 0          | 13           |
| Betty Broome          | 41              | 8          | 49           |
| Regina Coscarelli     | 0               | 13         | 13           |
| Jan Denney            | 42              | 5          | 47           |
| Richard Evers         | 28              | 10         | 38           |
| Julien Falzon         | 30              | 0          | 30           |
| Michael Goins         | 13              | 0          | 13           |
| Nathan & Leah Grenell | 111             | 39         | 150          |
| Arlene Hubner         | 21              | 0          | 21           |
| Polly Kopka           | 0               | 10         | 10           |
| Sam Lipscomb          | 16              | 8          | 24           |
| Rob Majkowski         | 13              | 5          | 18           |
| Anita Potts           | 5               | 10         | 15           |
| Jane Ranney           | 8               | 0          | 8            |
| Fritz Rohde           | 16              | 0          | 16           |
| Bill Schade           | 20              | 0          | 20           |
| Carol Shores          | 26              | 5          | 31           |
| Barbara Smith         | 38              | 0          | 38           |
| Virginia Smith        | 5               | 0          | 5            |

## SHARING / LEARNING

This page is dedicated to sharing information that members have gleaned from experiences or information they have collected.

“The Orchidaceae, the family of orchids, is one of the largest families of flowering plants. It consists of approximately 30,000 known species, classified into over 600 genera. In addition, orchidists are creating new genera by creating intergeneric hybrids, involving two or more natural genera. For generic names that are results of hybridization, I have listed the natural genera that were used to create them. Here are abbreviations of common genera.” From the website: [Orchid Genera and Abbreviations](http://www.notsogreenthumb.org/orchids/genera/genera1.htm) whose address is copied following:

<http://www.notsogreenthumb.org/orchids/genera/genera1.htm>

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For good orchid information, go to www.aos.org.

Places to visit on that site:

Orchid Basics:

go>Orchid Information>Orchid Basics

AOS printable culture sheets:

go>Orchid Information>Culture Sheets

Pests and Diseases:

go>orchid Information>Pests and Diseases

Orchid Judging:

go>About>Judging

Put your info suggestions here!

Send to: cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com
or bring info to the meeting for the
following month.

CFOS Meeting Notes from May 13, 2009

President Arlene Hubner welcomed members.

Rob Majkowski brought Bamboo Orchids which originate in Costa Rica for sale. They are sequential bloomers. It was noted that all sales must go through the Treasurer.

Carol Shores described the Show Table and gave some excellent information on various plants.

Bill Novakowski was unanimously given an honorary membership in CFOS as long as he continues to produce the website for CFOS. He does an excellent job!

Arlene said Triangle orchid society invites members to join the speaker for dinner before the meeting and suggested we try this. Dinner cost is paid by each member, but CFOS pays for the speaker's meal, as is normal.

Arlene explained about the Sharing/Learning column and requested people send info for the newsletter and bring any good information to the meeting to share.

Jan Denney talked of the good information in the current issue of the AOS magazine.

Carol Shores said that the magazines of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance are also good.

Arlene gave an "I Have a Dream" speech in which she wished that the meetings would continue to attract more people. She asked members to reach out to new people and each other. When she asks people to volunteer, she hopes they will get excited about projects.

Thanks to **Martha Conner and Richard Evers** for the good refreshments.

If you volunteered to bring **refreshments** for June's meeting, please remember to bring them.

Anita Potts offered to bring for August.

Arlene asked for a volunteer to pick up the speaker if he needed transportation. **Vicki Debaets** agreed to do so. Arlene will confirm with her.

Richard Evers and Jan Denney will bring plants for the raffle table in June.

The meeting was adjourned after the raffle table and results of the voting were shared.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Denney, Secretary

NEW FEATURE: *The CFOS Newsletter will contain a short article about the winning orchids written by Carol shores. This month, the info is contained here due to timing. We expect to have it on the picture page in the future.*

May's winning orchids.

"The winners for the May CFOS show table were two very well grown plants.

The **First Place Plant** is a species *Cattleya* with one or two strong flowers (with good texture) per stalk and a very good root system. **Cat. schilleriana** is a bifoliate species with a spade lip from Brazil. It should do well in relatively warm growing conditions. Leah has grown her plant on a modified slab which is a piece of tree trunk. Species are generally harder to bloom as they have more specific requirements than complex hybrids. Therefore it is useful to learn about the growing conditions in the native country of your plants.

Second Place: Polly's hybrid **Phalaenopsis** is grown in the house most of the year and is hand watered. She uses rain water whenever she can, since our rain water is slightly acidic and most epiphytic orchids prefer acidic water over alkaline. It is a classic candy stripe Phallie with good overlapping flower shape, distinct striping and very good spacing between the flowers and good presentation due to having been staked when the original spike developed. Please note that this is a secondary flowering off the original spike. Phallies do well in moderately warm conditions and as such are good specimens to grow in the house. They do not do very well outdoors in the summer if they get too much bright light (burns easily) or are not somewhat protected as they can rot quickly if water sits in the crown. It is a good idea to drain the water out of the crown after watering them. They do like moisture but roots may also rot if kept too wet all the time. Therefore a well drained mix is necessary, but it need not dry out overnight.

Cape Fear Orchid Society

Meeting date...

JUNE 10, 7pm

The Arboretum

6206 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington

SPEAKER: Jose Exposito

TOPIC: Orchid culture



Address Correction Requested

Visit CFOS at: www.capefearorchid.org



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