

Cape Fear Orchid Society



www.capefearorchidsociety.org

SEPTEMBER 2009

SEPTEMBER
PICNIC & PLANT CLINIC
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
4pm



Richard and Diane Evers

Bring any plants with problems or that you have questions about. Four of our most knowledgeable members will answer questions.

CFOS will supply: Ham/Coffee/Water/Soft Drinks/Ice/Iced Tea

Please bring: a **dish to share** with multiple folks and a **chair** for each person. Guests welcome if we know they are coming.

(BYOB if you wish)

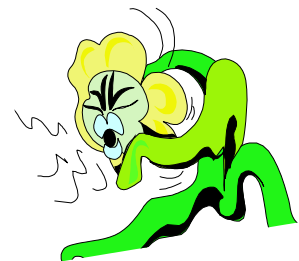
RSVP PLEASE (Number coming)

(If you didn't sign up at a meeting.)

Email: ahubner@ec.rr.com or cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com

or Phone: 910-845-5143

Phone: 910-845-5143



August Speakers' Notes:

Nathan and Leah Grenell, who are CFOS members, local growers and orchid business people, were invited to share their expertise and growing tips with members in a presentation entitled "New Tools and Techniques for Growing Your Orchids" (plus tips on mounting them.) Were we in for a BIG SURPRISE! We were privy to an entirely new way of growing orchids plus a chance to see them in the growth process. Read on . . .

Try Semi-Hydroponic Culture! What, you say? Nathan and Leah described this technique and provided a handout written by Ray Barkalow called "Overwaterproof" *Your Plants*, published in the First Quarter 2006 Phalaenopsis periodical. Several of his unhealthy plants were his first trials for this method. Recycled clear or opaque containers, such as paint buckets, clean plastic cups from fast food shops, or pint sized ice cream containers, etc., all work as pots - all with solid bottoms - no drain holes.

Nathan drilled two or three holes in the pots, each ¼ inch in size and each one 1 to 1½ inches up from the bottom. Then he placed the plant and roots in the pot and filled it with inert medium. For this, Nathan used a product called Aliflor) which does not decompose and is fairly uniform in size to provide lots of free air space. This is generally rather coarse and provides good wicking action to keep the plant uniformly moist.

The medium should be soaked well before potting. A root growth stimulant can be added to the soaking solution to help jump-start the plants. Nathan potted the plant by shaking the medium into the pot around the roots, but not tightly packing it, allowing breathing room for the roots. He filled the pot with water. Obviously, the water will pour out of the small holes 1 inch or so above the bottom of the pot. Rewatering again is not necessary until the water at the bottom is almost gone. Potting a plant like this is best done when new roots are being established, but Nathan did it for ailing plants with great success. At watering, products used to fertilize should be included. A portion of the mixture then stays in the bottom of the pot and can be wicked up as needed by the plants.

What are the advantages? Repotting is not necessary, often, because the medium does not deteriorate. Overwatering isn't possible. Research has shown that even plants watered daily did not suffer damage when potted semi-hydroponically. Root rot does not occur. Repotting is simpler and cleaner. Just move the plant and the clinging medium to a newer or larger pot. Size of plant does not seem to matter. Small plants can be potted in larger pots. Nathan suggested starting with an orchid which is not doing well to see how it

works. In other words, refrain from repotting everything semi-hydroponically until it works satisfactorily for you. Excellent further information on this process can be found at: www.firstrays.com/semi-hydro.htm.

Nathan and Leah mount orchids, too, on wood, driftwood, lava rack and other materials. Driftwood should be left outside to be rained on for a year before using it for potting to get rid of the salt in it. Large pieces of lava rock are ideal because the rock can sit in water and will wick water up to the roots of the plant.

To attach a plant to a mount, fasten sheet moss or sphagnum moss to the mount with fine wire. Then, attach the plant. The moss will hold water for the plant and the wire will hold the plant to the mount until the roots take over the job. The wire will eventually rust away. This method is good in bathrooms where misting can take place daily. Different types of plants can be attached to the same type of wood. A company called Mike's Mulch sells lava rock by the pound.

Besides telling us of this fascinating method of potting, Nathan and Leah introduced and demonstrated products they use in their orchid business. The "best new product in the whole orchid show," according to Leah, was called "Botanic Wipes." These wipes, packaged like baby wipes, contain Neem oil and are used to wipe the leaves of the orchid to get rid of pest, mold, etc. They don't dry out and when are ready to be disposed of, they are biodegradable.

Other items they use are: biodegradable pots, cache pots, air cone pots (the cone in the center of the pot extends upward and allows air to circulate in the medium). Plastic and metal plant hangars for use in hanging pots from areas on a wall. A product called Keiki Pro comes in small bottles, but a few drops of it on the eye of a Cattleya will make it take off. Nathan showed where the eye of the plant could be found. Fertilizers Dynacote and Nutracote are good for orchids. the product Pro-Tek will cause spikes to be bigger and healthier. Dyna-Gro's K-L-N Rooting Concentrate is proven to promote vigorous growth in plants. Physan 20 will take care of algae and Black Mold. For scale, use Botanic Wipes with Neem oil. Superthrive will enhance the health of your plants and give them a boost.

Nathan answered several questions. It does not hurt plants to rotate fertilizers. A fish emulsion of 5-1-1 is good for orchids. Compost tea is good to use for watering plants and can be obtained free by the gallon from Progressive Gardens.

Other products mentioned in this article are available at Nathan and Leah's business, Bloomer's Plus, email: codeplus@bellsouth.net or call 910-799-9852.

AUGUST'S



First Place:

C. Angel Bells "Suzie"
AM/AOS
grown by
Julien Falzon

Second Place

Onc. Sweet Sixteen
'Propossing'
grown by
Carol Shores

**B
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!**

Show Table for August, 2009

Best of Show Table

First Place: C. Angel Bells "Suzie" AM/AOS Julien Falzon
Second Place: Onc. Sweet Sixteen 'Propossing' Carol Shores

Group A

First: C. Angel Bells "Suzie" AM/AOS Julien Falzon
Second: Blc. Keowee 'Newberry' Barbara Smith

Group D

First: D2 - No registration form
Second: D1 - No registration form

Group F

First: Onc. Sweet Sixteen 'Propossing' Carol Shores

Group H

First: Tolumia sylvestris Nathan Grenell
Second: Tolumia Robsan 'Orchid World' x
Rdcdm. Rose Ganauchau 'Hackneau'

Group K

First: Phrag. Living fire Carol Shores

Group L

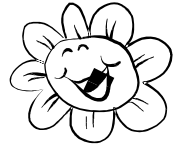
First: Ency. Plicata 'Pine Knot' x Enc. Orchid Nathan Grenell
Jungle 'Mendenhall'

Group M

First: Dtps. Yu Pin Pearl Nathan Grenell



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



Fall in the tropics can mean many things depending on where in the tropics one looks. There may be more rain, less rain, clear skies, and even cool nights. But there is one universal facet to fall everywhere, shortening day length. Here, as in the tropics, many species of orchids and their hybrids are reacting to shorter days. Fall blooming cattleyas are already showing buds deep in their sheaths or even blooming.

In my greenhouse in Florida, many fall blooming cattleyas have already bloomed even though fall does not begin until September 22. Blc Norman's Bay completed blooming in early August and immediately began growth on two new leads. Late summer blooms followed by late fall blooms is not uncommon if fall blooming cattleyas are mature and well-established.

Typically, cattleya flowers last longer and are better colored when blooms develop during cool nights. This is especially true when yellow pigments are involved. The rich deep purple of Blc Oconee 'Mendenhall' or red from Blc Owen Holmes 'Mendenhall' is not as intense in summer since the yellow pigments in flowers do not develop as well in the heat.

Depending on your location, September is often a good month to initiate flower spikes in standard Phalaenopsis. A day to night temperature difference of 15 degrees F for a week to 10 days will cause your phals to initiate spikes. It is important to initiate spikes as soon as possible since the growth of phal spikes will slow as days get shorter and available energy decreases.

Hobbyists with orchids outside can let nature take its course. If you grow in a closed greenhouse, the temperature can be lowered to that of the outside by simply keeping exhaust fans on at night. Some commercial growers with cooling pads run cooling pads

along with exhaust fans all night to lower the temperature inside the greenhouse below the external environment

The vast majority of orchid hobbyists grow their orchids inside in windows or under lights. Many have difficulty getting their orchids to re-bloom and assume they are not providing enough light. Often though, it is the lack of seasonal change in day length because of interior lights, or because of a sufficient drop in temperature, especially for phalaenopsis. Leaving windows open next to phals or even placing orchids outside for a couple of weeks can accomplish the prerequisite temperature drop.

Windowsill growers should watch the change in the sun's angle carefully. Orchids growing happily during summer may become vulnerable to burning in a south-facing window. Similarly, leaves may be thinning in trees shading orchids outside and orchids may burn. Greenhouse growers may consider reducing shade, since the sun's angle and intensity have changed since the summer's peak in late June.

The declining solar radiation and longer nights also means that your orchids need less water. Pay more attention to overwatering now since there is less time for orchids to dry each day.

Typically, less fertilizer is also required this time of year. Cattleyas fertilized with Nutricote last spring will have used up what was released and no additional fertilizer will be necessary until next spring. There will be some residual fertilizer that has been incorporated in the medium and this should suffice until spring. Phals and other orchids that grow and flower all year long will need additional fertilizer, but not as much as they did during the peak growing season. Phals often produce larger spikes if fertilizer is withheld for a month or so this time of year.

**BETTY BROOME,
STAR ATHLETE!**

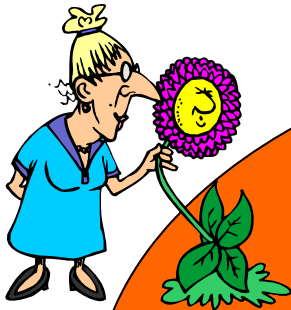


CFOS' VERY OWN Betty Broome recently competed in the National Senior Olympics in San Francisco and came back a bronze medal champion for North Carolina in Ladies Doubles Table Tennis! The Senior Olympics offers seniors throughout the country a chance to compete locally and state wide with winners competing nationally in a variety of events.

Betty and friend Jeanne Bua began playing table tennis as a joke after they retired and were offered coaching where they played if they would take the game seriously. Betty has very good hand/eye coordination and she and her friend began to win. Her coach eventually died of a heart attack and they went on to win, dedicating their matches to their coach.

Her travel to San Francisco was a 10 day trip in which she competed in singles and mixed doubles. But, their real skill showed in their ladies doubles play.

Congratulations on a super win!



CFOS SEPTEMBER MEETING

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
4:00 P.M.**

**ANNUAL PLANT CLINIC and
POTLUCK PICNIC**

Richard & Diane Evers



SHARING / LEARNING—Odds and Ends

**The AOS now has a free newsletter for beginners which you can sign up for at the web site www.aos.org . Use the search feature on the site and put in beginner's newsletter than proceed as directed.

**National Geographic September 2009 issue has a great article and photographs on orchids and their pollination strategies by Michael Pollan, who writes about plants and their sex lives. You can access the article and photographs at the following link:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/09/orchids/pollan-text/4>

This provides the text and then you click on "Photo Gallery" to see the pictures.

**Do you remember how Carol Shores continues to tell us that when the buds form on the Phals, to make sure we always have them facing the same way so that they will open in orderly fashion and cascade beautifully on the spike. And how do we remember?

**Barbara Smith had an excellent suggestion. Place a butterfly clip on the pot and make sure that The clip is always facing the same direction! Great idea! Any more good tips out there from members?

**Carol's comments from the Show Table:

*Repotting in regular medium, before watering, weigh the pot. Then soak the pot and reweigh. When the pot loses water and weighs the same as at the start, it needs water. Or the "scientific way," put a pencil in the medium. If it is moist when it comes out, the plant doesn't need water.

*Use Dynamite/Nutracote, not Osmacote, for orchids. Osmacote releases nitrogen too fast for orchids.

*For Phalaenopsis, stake the spike as soon as it comes out.

*When dividing Paphiopedilums, make sure you have 4 growths together when dividing.

*Cattleyas can be encouraged to produce new eyes by cutting the plant in half down the middle, but leaving it in the same pot. (Better check with Carol for exact procedure for this one!)

Members Show Table
Point Standings for 2009
Previous August Total

Rosemarie Bonk	13	0	13
Betty Broome	54	0	54
Regina Coscarelli	23	0	23
Jan Denney	84	0	84
Richard Evers	53	0	53
Julien Falzon	53	10	63
Michael Goins	13	0	13
Nathan & Leah Grenell	166	18	184
Ruth Ann Grenell	5	0	5
Polly Kopka	23	0	23
Sam Lipscomb	29	0	29
Rob Majkowski	18	0	18
Yolanda McKiernan	15	0	15
Anita Potts	23	0	23
Jane Ranney	8	0	8
Fritz Rohde	16	0	16
Bill Schade	20	0	20
Carol Shores	47	13	60
Barbara Smith	38	3	41
Virginia Smith	5	0	5

Remember...if your name is not here, you have not had a plant on the Show Table yet this year. You receive points just for bringing a plant. If it is a winner during the judging, you will collect more points!

AOS Calendars

CFOS will be taking orders for the 2010 AOS orchid calendars at our next meetings. What a beautiful calendar for you and for gifts you wish to give to others. They will remember you with pleasure every month.

The daily boxes are large and the quality, shiny pages are full of beautiful flowers.

Let Arlene know how many you would like to order at the meeting!

CFOS Meeting Notes from August 12, 2009

President Arlene Hubner welcomed 19 members. **Arlene** reported the sad news of the death of Red Smith, Jenny's husband, and gave funeral details.

Details of the **September meeting, picnic and plant clinic**, to be held Saturday, September 19, at the home of the Evers' were discussed. **NO SHOW TABLE OR RAFFLE WILL BE HELD.** Members were asked to sign up. Guests are welcome. People need to bring a dish to share with multiple guests and a chair per person. Bring plants about which you have questions.

Carol Shores, AOS Rep, gave info on the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (ILA). This group publishes a nice, slick quarterly journal to members. To join, go to the website. Yearly fee is \$36. Carol again discussed the value of the American Orchid Society and the information which can be found on the website and in the monthly magazine.

Hobby Green House is having its autumn plant sale Sept. 11 & 12 at the Metz Road house.

Anita Potts and **Carol Shores** reported on their day at the Triangle Orchid Society's very informative and well attended Grower's Day. Unfortunately, not much advance information was sent out to clubs out of the area.

Orchid Auction Date will be **Sat. Nov. 7**. Orchids will be ordered from 3 different suppliers. Time will be around 1-3pm with set-up in the late morning.

Thanks to ...

* **Ellie Bierman** for manning the Raffle Table in Betty's absence.

* **Anita Potts** for the refreshments and others who regularly bring things.

October's Refreshments volunteers - Ellie Bierman and Rosemarie Bonk.

October's Plant Donation volunteers - Rosemarie Bonk and Martha Conner

Carol Shores very ably described the very nice Show Table.

Nathan and Leah shared very interesting potting information and new items from their orchid supplies (see page 2).

Respectfully submitted, **Jan Denney**, Secretary

Treasurer's Report, August 31, 2009	
Bank Balance 7/31/2009	3535.06
Cash	30.00
Total	3565.06
Income	
Raffle	31.00
Total	31.00
Expenses	
None	0.00
Balance 8/31/2009	
Cash	30.00
Total	3596.06

Coming Orchid Events:

November 13 & 14th - 5th Annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium.

November 15 - Region 13 International Phalaenopsis Alliance Fall Meeting.

Both events take place in Virginia Beach, Va., at the same hotel. Information and registration for both events can be accessed by going to www.mhsymposium.org. Click on the separate events in the right column for details. Several CFOS members have attended the Huntington Symposium in the past and found it worthwhile.

A SPEAKER CHANGE FOR OCTOBER

Our October speaker will be *Nolan Newton*, who will speak on "Recognition and management of insects and related pests of orchids." In order to make the talk more relevant to your actual orchid pest management needs, Nolan asks that each of you fill out the very brief questionnaire linked to the web address below. It will take about three minutes to answer the questions.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2E_2bSGPv_2bGhAMMvemYgAJpw_3d_3d

If the above link doesn't work when you click on it, just copy and paste it into your browser and you will be taken to the survey. It is very short and it will give him a great sense of the variety of conditions that we grow in and our struggle with pests here.

Please take the survey, so that he can really tailor his presentation to us. This is a rare opportunity.

He will not be bringing plants, so any members who have plants to sell would be welcome to bring them with the usual 80 - 20 split with CFOS.

CFOS 2009 Programs



10/14 - Nolan Newton - Recognition and Management of insects and related pests of orchids.

11/7 - Annual Orchid Auction

11/11 - Coming event

12/9 - Holiday Party

(Fritz Rohde will speak in the new year.)

Cape Fear Orchid Society

Meeting date...

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 19

4PM

***Annual picnic and
Plant clinic***



Address Correction Requested

Visit CFOS at: www.capefearorchid.org



Cape Fear Orchid Society
4288 Loblolly Cir., SE
Southport, NC 28461