

Cape Fear Orchid Society



www.capefearorchidsociety.org

SEPTEMBER 2016

The Prez sez ...

Hello, Everyone!

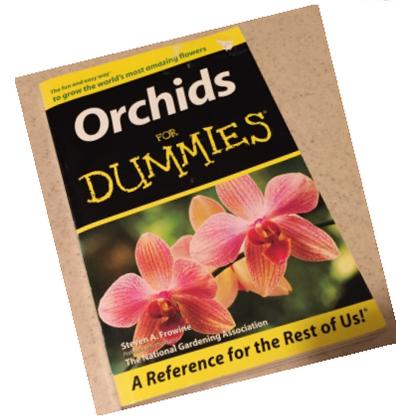
I don't know about you, but I think our Cape Fear Orchid Society has a lot of excellent speakers this year. I am so glad that speakers are starting to talk more about culture and less about lineage. It is always interesting to know if the orchid grew on top of the mountain or on a tropical seashore with heavy rains.

With speakers like Hadley Cash, Glenn Decker, and Courtney Hackney it does not get any better. We listened to Courtney last month for almost an hour and a half and could have kept going except it was getting late. I have been listening to speakers now for almost 5 years and I always learn something. Orchids are not easy to grow, especially in a house. And it is the little hints that slip out that are the most helpful. For example, Courtney mentioned that orchids do not like a lot of micronutrients fed to them, especially *Oncidiums*. Orchid growers use the *Oncidiums* as an indicator of when to cut out the micronutrients. And Glen Decker is using Listerine for disease control.

If you have missed some of these speakers, it is really too bad. These talks were a great source of knowledge for a very reasonable cost...your membership dues. And you did not have to drive hundreds of miles to hear the talk! This is what CFOS is all about!

Ann Gallman, CFOS President

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Meeting date...

SEPTEMBER 14
6:30 pm
(Book/orchid sales)
7pm meeting
Arboretum

Speaker:
Steve Frowine

Topic:
**"Growing Orchids
without a Greenhouse."**

(Steve will bring his books for sale.

Members may bring plants or other orchid equipment to sell.)

CFOS 2016 Programs

Oct. 12 - Art Chadwick, Jr.
Cattleyas
Nov. 16 - TBA
Dec. 14 - Holiday party

**Speaker's Bio ... Steve Frowine,
author of Orchids for Dummies**

Steve Frowine was born in southern Ohio. He was a “plant nerd” at a young age and grew orchids under lights in his basement as a teenager and to this day has never lost his fascination or obsession with this wonderful family of plants. He obtained his BS and MS in horticulture from Ohio State and Cornell. Steve worked as a horticulturist for various botanical gardens—the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawaii, Cleveland Botanical Garden, Pittsburgh Garden Center, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. After these stints, he continued his horticultural career at Burpee and White Flower Farm and served as a consultant to various horticultural businesses. Steve has written many articles for national horticultural publications and has authored four books on orchids—*Orchids for Dummies*, *Fragrant Orchids*, *Miniature Orchids*, and *Moth Orchids, the Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis*. He has also appeared on many local and national TV programs. Steve has given talks on orchids throughout the US, Mexico and Guatemala. Steve recently moved back to the States from Mexico and now resides in Asheville, NC, with his wife, Sascha, and two Weimaraners. Steve will speak on "Growing Orchids without a Greenhouse."



Steve's contact number is 828-747-9028. His email is: SteveFrow@aol.com

Website: <http://members.authorsguild.net/stevefrow/>

Steve will bring his books for sale. Members may sell plants or potting equipment, etc.

Cymbidiums: Standard vs Mini by Carol Shores

[Ed. note: Carol knew that Steve's plant description on page 3 would make one wonder how that large plant could be called a mini-Cymbidium. Thus, this article.]

Mini you say? Oxymoron you say, also. Standard *Cymbidiums* can actually get huge/enormous. Remember, they were developed to produce high numbers of large flowers for the commercial cut flower trade, primarily for certain holidays. That business segment has pretty much disappeared in preference to the table top, disposable orchid (smaller) plant trade where many people throw out the plants when they finish blooming or send them to a greenhouse for storage until re-blooming. The “died in the wool” orchid hobby growers, which most of our society members represent, don't do that. We tend to nurse them along until they bloom again or just croak.

The old standards require a definite cooling off period and can be initiated earlier than normal in carefully controlled commercial greenhouses. Where I lived in Ohio, long ago, the growers used to put the plants in large metal buckets with ice cubes and water at night for some weeks to induce flowering out of season..... so that's where the crazy idea to “just add ice” c. originated. The standard flowers are also larger and most have better shape (flatter and overlapped segments). One interesting fact about most *Cymbidiums* is that when a flower is (usually accidentally) pollinated, the flower changes color within a day. *Cymbidiums* are native to Thailand at higher elevations which can actually get frost, and other Asian countries and China, with several interesting small species, some with pendant flower spikes. Those are very interesting to grow and are often the parents of some of the popular miniature types. The Chinese like to grow them in fancy containers.

AUGUST'S

A 3-WAY TIE !!!

B
E
S
T
!



**Best Standard
Oncidium Gower
Ramsey
Owned by
Jim Lanier**



**Best Standard
Cymbidium Golden Elf
Sundust' HCC/AOS
Owned by
Steve and Karen
Tobiasen**



**Best
Standard
Zygopetalum
Jumping Jack
Owned by
Bill Schade**

We had a conundrum on **Jim Lanier's** fine *Oncidium* which was labeled but the tag fell off. We did some research and Jim concurs that it is most likely ***Oncidium Gower Ramsey***, a very popular hybrid. The plant looks very much like an *O.* species which is probably one of its grandparents: *O. varicosum* or other very similar species with bright yellow lips with notch in the middle. These species from South America can grow in intermediate conditions and can get a lot of rain in the rainy season. Any epiphytic species which can get a lot of rain also requires well drained media to avoid getting rot. Leaves are relatively thin which can also indicate that they can take diffuse light but maybe not direct sunlight.

Bill Shade's winner is an outstanding ***Zygopetalum Jumping Jack***, an intensely colored purple hybrid with excellent flower shape. Its color looks almost artificial but is its main attraction. It goes back in lineage to *Z. Arthur Elle*, a parent, and its parent *Z. Blackii*, which was one of the darkest *Zygos* ever. If you like *Zygos*, jump at the chance to get these most famous ones. Most nearly all *Zygo* species are from Brazil, many in areas near Rio and many from the area called Minas Geras, which is not tropical. I [Carol] know that for a fact as I was there when I went to Brazil. The area we were investigating was open and rocky. A few species are from Argentina and a couple of other countries. The species are intermediate growers, with temps going to 55 degrees at night and that's NOT tropical.

Steve's Best Standard plant is ***Cym. Golden Elf 'Sundust' HCC/AOS***, probably the most popular mini-*Cym.* hybrid ever, with bright yellow flowers. Standard *Cymbidiums* can actually get huge/enormous when grown in large buckets like wine barrels or field pots. One way we can tell if a *Cymbidium* is a standard or miniature is by the leaves. The standard leaves are wider and thicker and can get a lot taller. Mini *Cyms.* also have easier conditions for reblooming.

BEST! AUGUST'S



**Best Mini
Dtps. Cherrywine
'Newberry'
owned by Pam Layne**



**Second Mini
Tolumnia N.O.I.D
owned by Pam Layne**

August's winner **Pam Layne** got both awards! Pam does a good job of growing a number of different genera and her **Best in Show Table Miniature, Dtps. Cherry Wine 'Newberry'** has really good uniform distribution and intensity in color with no splotching which is common in a lot of reds. The *Doritis* name has been changed and is now a *Phalaenopsis*, documented in the discussion by Bob Fuchs at a meeting this year. *Doritis pulcherrima*, probably the *Doritis* parent in this cross, imparts red and orange shades to all of its hybrids, it compacts the plant size, and reduces size of flowers in its hybrids. According to the Carter and Holmes catalog, this cross originated at Lennette's Orchids, previously a great N.C. local orchid greenhouse near Charlotte. This particular meristem is a selection by Carter and Holmes who bought out many of their plants when they went out of business. Pam's plant is supposed to be fragrant, but was not the night of the meeting. The only species that are likely to be fragrant are *P. bellina* and *P. violacea*. So either one of them could also be a parent or grandparent of this older cross, also because of the shape of the flowers and the reduced size of the plant. In any event she has done a good job growing this plant. Unfortunately if either of the above species is in the cross, it will limit the number of flowers produced on a spike and limit the length of the spike itself.

Pam's Second to Best *Tolumnia* is a really cute plant which will have lots of blooms at the same time on new growths when it gets larger. This plant does really well on small slabs. The triangular shaped leaves suggest that it can take fairly intense light. This plant needs to be wet and then quickly dry out. Do not overwater as that could promote rot. *Tolumnias* hail from the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Cuba (Central America islands). Approximately 4 different species are involved in the most popular hybrids. One species *T. pulchella* can produce lovely pinks and is a favorite species with the biggest and best shaped lip. If you are interested in this genus, look for hybrids with that species in the background. The genus is somewhat difficult to grow and does not seem to live long for many people. *Tolumnias* are another example of name changing, as years ago, they were considered to be *Oncidiums*. *Oncidiums* were broken up into several separate genera with the *Tolumnias* encasing the group called "equitant *Oncidiums*". They really grow differently from other *Oncidiums* and are also called "twig epiphytes". They can grow near the ocean at the top of trees and can take an occasional spray of saltwater. They are tropical.



Carol, Courtney, and Rose



Speaker Notes—August 10, 2016—Courtney Hackney on “Orchid Growing Tips”

Courtney started by saying he was trying to figure out what he could say to our group. Some thoughts were, “Bugs I Hate the Most”, “Mistakes I’ve Made” and “Water, Water, Water”. Courtney went through e-mails he received over the years to come up with the tips he would share with us. He has killed lots of orchids over the years and so he stressed the importance of learning from the mistakes made in growing them.

Diseases and even insect infestations are often caused by poor culture. Growing orchids well is always a “work in progress”. To be a good orchid grower, you must be able to:

Observe.

Interpret what you observe using literature, fellow orchid growers and sometimes experimenting.

Be patient, as successful solutions may not be obvious immediately.

Try again!

Look where plants grow when you are having problems. Perhaps you moved a favorite orchid after watering it and now it gets more light on one side than it used to and it doesn’t like that. Your club members are a good resource. Talk to them about their plants. Experiment—Courtney says his greenhouse is one big experiment, but you always learn something. Look at the medium a new plant is in to see if you are familiar with it. Check the roots of new plants, too. Courtney found that some of his Paphs do much better when he sprinkles a little limestone on the medium once in a while which would provide nutrients a Paph would get in wild conditions.

Good water is extremely important for the care of your orchids. Even the best water contains some salts. Lots of orchids in nature have huge root systems so it is easy for them to draw nutrients from rain water. This is not so of potted orchids, whose roots are not long.

The closer you are to the ocean, the higher your sea salt content in rain water and well water will be. Your water quality should determine the best medium and fertilizer for your plants. Just remember that adding fertilizer equals adding salts to your plants. When you water, frequency is all dependent on water quality. In talking with your club members, be aware that their water may be different than yours. How do you get rid of excess salts? Lots of ways. Adjust fertilizer and medium. Watch for frequency of watering as you may need to give a good flush periodically if you have high (over 500ppm) salts. Soak and drench plants monthly to flush.

Roots are key to healthy orchids! If you don’t have good roots, you have to figure out why they

are bad. Good roots allow a plant to take in nutrients. If you are killing old roots, then you have few roots. In the wild, 10-15 times more roots than leaves are on a plant. This is not so with potted orchids. Roots can also be different—healthy on top, but dying in the pot. If the roots are growing out on top of a plant, keep them on top, don’t re-pot and bury the new roots. They may not like being in medium. Vandas can absorb lots of water. Courtney always advises growers not to cut back healthy roots when repotting as some experts suggest.

Phalaenopsis—wild child? These plants are used to growing on the side of a tree. Roots grow everywhere. Should you cut them? If the plant is loose in the pot, try to stabilize it so it looks like it could “hold on to a tree”. Get rid of the dead roots, keep the healthy ones, stabilize the plant in a pot.

What is that “white gunk” around roots? Many times it is fungus growing on bark, which may have spread to the roots. Organic medium will break down over time and decompose in acidic form. Most of the time, a little is OK. A lot, with bark breaking down too fast, results in little or no oxygen for the plant and roots die.

Are those mealy bugs on the roots? They can be on leaves as well as on roots. They basically suck the life out of the plant. Hydrogen peroxide works against them, sometimes.

Cattleya roots spreading, plant and roots on the side of pots—what do we do now? Courtney uses a lot of lava rock since it doesn’t decompose and he doesn’t like to repot plants. If two or more bulbs are out of the pot, he might leave it so he can get the best flowers because the roots were strongest or he might split plant (3 bulbs per split) after flowering.

Watering your Orchids—put little cups in a greenhouse, water your plants and then check the cups to actually see how much water you gave your plants. Many people don’t give enough water. If you grow in rock or bark, you should have nice bottom roots. Dead roots rot and decompose; water flushes those parts out.

How frequently should you water? This depends on air, temperature, time of year, and humidity. Courtney waters more in late winter/early spring (low humidity) compared to humid summer. In fact, he waters at night in winter/spring because of low humidity that time of year. You couldn’t do that in summer with high humidity. In summer, he waters twice a week. Asian growers water every 21 days!

Why are my Oncidium leaves crinkled? Not enough consistent watering. Bark can get sealed, no water going into pot.

[cont’d on page 6]

[cont'd from page 5—Speaker notes]

Bacteria rot in Cattleya—if you have brown leaves, forget it. How to prevent? Stainless steel pot, put in some cinnamon and mix plant in there or pot in a dry medium.

Is there hope for my Phalaenopsis with crown rot? If there are any green leaves left, yes. Pour hydrogen peroxide into crown and sprout will eventually start. If the plant is mushy and has no leaves, bury it!

Cattleya and Catasetums rotting? Brown/black on leaves – probably bacteria. Could also be bad water.

Ice cubes in a plant? Never! Temperature of roots is critical to growing. 75 degrees is the best temperature to grow roots.

Why are my Phal leaves so floppy? Not getting enough water, bad roots. Get the old roots off, put in a pot, leave in a shady spot without medium and it will start growing new roots.

What are these “corky bumps”? Sometimes genetic, cold water drip, may not be bacteria. Try cinnamon or hydrogen peroxide if it is not spreading.

Light is good, but don't sunburn your plant. Even moving a plant to a different angle in the same spot can cause sunburn.

If you have bleached leaves, your plant probably was shocked by a sudden cold. You might be able to save it if the roots are OK.

What is ruining my flowers—little brown spots? Little tiny brown spots on flower are from a little water or dew. This can happen if you leave plants in a car the night before a show sometimes if it is cool.

Rhizome rot – Rhizoctonia, root rot. We don't notice it usually until it is too late. You'll start to see it if it's out of the pot. Fungicides might work.

Can an orchid “rust”? Usually rusty-like marks on leaves, typically softer leaves, may be due to fertilization. Sherry Baby oncidiums are very susceptible. They are like the canary in a coal mine—if Sherry Baby shows signs of rust, you may be over-fertilizing your plants.

Simple solutions to many conditions: Hydrogen peroxide (3%) and cinnamon.

Scale is tough to beat. *Instar* (hormonal) costs \$35 for a small container. *Distance* is \$200/pint, but effective. Mites, the “beasts of the greenhouse,” show as a white film. *Avid* works, but is expensive.

Slugs can eat a whole leaf in one night. Roaches (aka Palmetto bugs) eat bugs, flowers, pollen and sometimes roots. *Dyband* will kill most of them. *Liquid 7* works for most bugs, but kills lizards, toads, etc. When moving your plants indoors from outdoors, be vigilant about looking for scale. Thrips - by the time you see them, it's too late! Soak ground below the plants, especially in the greenhouse to get rid of them. Don't plant certain plants like petunias, citrus, roses, gardenias or other soft flowers near your orchids to keep thrips away.

When everything goes well, you get beautiful flowers! Micro-nutrients are good, but just once a year is enough (fish emulsion). Rain water—be careful of metal roofs and the metals they may contain if you have a rain barrel. It could have higher zinc levels. Orchidata—everyone loved it, some grow well in it. Key point—after 1 year or so, there are pH issues and it becomes acidic. Sprinkle lime on the medium at (1 tsp per pot).

[Notes by Pat Ahern, CFOS Vice President. Many thanks!!!]

TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY AUCTION 2016

Everyone is invited to join Triangle OS Saturday, September 10th, for a fun afternoon full of orchids! Blooming orchids from Lehua and Sunset Valley Orchids! Proceeds from this auction will help support the society and their upcoming Fall Orchid Show! Something for everyone - from novice to expert. Free to attend; open to the public. Pot-luck lunch at 12 noon, bidding begins at 1:00PM. Held at the Beech Shelter at Crabtree Lake Park, Morrisville, N.C.

A plant list will be on their website and Facebook page a couple of days before the event. triangleorchidsociety.org.

CFOS Meeting Notes -August 10, 2016

***President Ann Gallman** opened the meeting at 7:00 by reminding us that next month's speaker would be Steve Frowine, author of Orchids for Dummies. She then reported on upcoming orchid events.

***MERRITT HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM** will be November 11 and 12 in Williamsburg Virginia

***TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY** will have its fall potluck and orchid sale on September 10 at Lake Crabtree Park in Morrisville beginning at noon.

*The **AOS fall meeting** will be October 19-23 in Los Angeles.

***Carol Shores** then reported on some errors in the August Newsletter. The winning orchids were owned by **Byron Price** and **Carol Shores**. Two point tables were inadvertently printed. The one on the left is correct.

***Carol** then said that she had slabs for sale ranging from 3 to 10 inches.

***President Gallman** then showed Styrofoam cubes that she had for give away. She also showed 2 antique pots, one orchid and one ikebana, that someone would like to trade for blooming orchids.

***President Gallman** then introduced the evening's speaker—**Courtney Hackney**.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Swanson, Secretary

REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

SNACKS— Jan Denney
Pam Layne

DRINKS— Jim Saxe

RAFFLE—

Show Table Points 2016

Members	Previous	August	Total
Pat Ahern	15	0	15
Charlie Barrett	58	0	58
Jan Denney	25	0	25
Ann Gallman	25	0	25
Polly Kopka	20	0	20
Kathi LaBash	49	0	49
Jim Lanier	71	20	91
Pamela Layne	86	35	121
Sam Lipscomb	30	0	30
Merry MacBarb	13	0	13
Laura Overstreet	10	0	10
Lynette Pearsall	5	0	5
Joyce Pennock	60	10	70
Anita Potts	13	13	26
Byron Price	28	15	43
Jane Ranney	64	0	64
Jim Saxe	10	0	10
Bill Schade	55	25	80
Carol Shores	134	15	149
Steve & Karen Tobiassen	108	20	128

Two AOS Webinar's upcoming!

Greenhouse chat with Ron McHatton , Thursday September 8th at 8:30pm

Join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Chief Education/Science Officer for a Q&A session on how to grow and care for your orchids. Everyone is invited! Please submit your questions by September 6th to stillisch@cox.net Please register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9103301344895379713>

Phragmipedium culture with Jason Fischer Wednesday September 21st at 8:30pm

Join Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited in Plymouth, Minnesota, as he discusses some of the wonderful phragmipediums and how to grow them. Please register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5523658721218865412>

NOTE: After registering for each webinar, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

From **Linda Swanson** who has been organizing the refreshment people this year:
"I would like to thank **Martha Connor**, **Steve Tobiassen**, and **Laura Overstreet** for responding to my plea for refreshments in August. Thanks also to the members who called later, **Pam Layne** and **Ann Gallman**, to make sure that there were enough volunteers bringing refreshments."

CFOS Show Table Winners - August 10, 2016

<u>Best in Show Table -</u>	<u>Standard Size Plants</u> (over 10 inches tall or wide)	
	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Owner</u>
<u>Standard Size Best</u>	3 way tie	
	Cymbidium Golden Elf ‘Sundust’ HCC/AOS	Steve & Karen Tobiassen
	Oncidium Gower Ramsey	Jim Lanier
	Zygopetalum Jumping Jack	Bill Schade

Class Winners - Standard Size

Cattleya		
First	LC. Canhamiana coerulea ‘Azure Skies’	Bill Schade
Cymbidium		
First	Cym. Golden Elf ‘Sundust’ HCC/AOS	Steve & Karen Tobiassen
Dendrobium		
First	Den. Enobi Purple ‘Splash’	Carol Shores
Oncidium		
First	Onc. Gower Ramsey	Jim Lanier
Phalaenopsis		
First	Phal. N.O.I.D. with dots	Carol Shores
Zygopetalum		
First	Zygopetalum Jumping Jack	Bill Schade

Best in Show Table - **Small to Miniature Size Plants** (under 10 inches wide or tall)

	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Owner</u>
<u>Small/Miniature Size Best</u>		
	Dtps. Cherrywine ‘Newberry’	Pam Layne
<u>Small/Miniature Size Second</u>		
	Tolumnia N.O.I.D.	Pam Layne

Class Winners – Small to Miniature Size

Mini Dendrobium		
First	Den. bracteosum	Pam Layne
Mini Phal.		
First	Dtps. Cherrywine ‘Newberry’	Pam Layne
Tolumnia		
First	Tolumnia N.O.I.D.	Pam Layne

Show Table results tabulated and reported each month by Jane Ranney
 Only categories with entries listed in results

THE FALL 2016 AOS MEMBERS MEETING IS COMING!

Will anyone be in California in October? If so, check out the info on the AOS meeting. It looks super. For more info, check the AOS web site.

One of the world’s premier cultural, educational and horticultural centers—the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA—invites you to attend the American Orchid Society Fall 2016 Members Meeting and Huntington’s Annual International Orchid Show this October 19-23. The Orchid Show—combined with access to the Huntington’s world-renowned library, splendid art collection and awe-inspiring botanical gardens containing plants that span the globe—guarantees you will have a phenomenal time!

Walking among orchids and the sprawling grounds at the Huntington with your orchid friends will bring you smiles, enjoyment and pleasure. The AOS looks forward to seeing you there!

Cape Fear Orchid Society

Meeting date...

SEPTEMBER 14

630 pm—Book/Orchid Sales

7 pm—Meeting

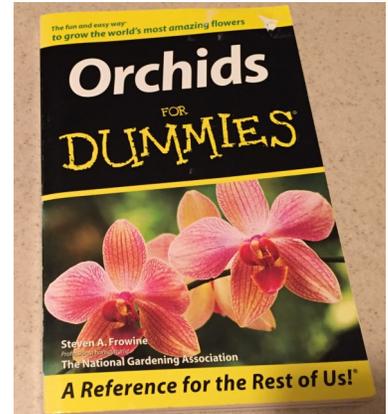
New Hanover County Arboretum

6206 Oleander Dr. Wilmington

SPEAKER: Steve Frowine

author of Orchids for Dummies

**“Growing Orchids
without a Greenhouse”**



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Address Correction Requested

Visit CFOS at: www.capefearorchid.org



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