



## Welcome Visitors and New Members!

We are glad that you have chosen to attend our monthly meeting. The following information may be helpful in understanding our organization and meetings.

The Cape Fear Orchid Society (CFOS), organized in 1987, was established for the purpose of: 1) scientific research and study of orchids (including their classification, evolution, propagation, culture, care and development); 2) the dissemination of educational information and knowledge about the orchid family to the general public; 3) showing the cultural and economic importance of the orchid interest as well as the intrinsic beauty, biological or ecological importance of this fascinating group of plants; and 4) supporting the conservation of orchids in nature. CFOS is an Associated Society Member of the American Orchid Society and encourages individual members to join the AOS and receive their magazine. We are also an Affiliated Society of the *Orchid Digest*. Our membership includes persons with all levels of expertise. Some have just begun while others have decades of experience and hundreds of plants.

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday after the second Sunday of the month at the New Hanover County Arboretum auditorium. In addition, a picnic is usually scheduled in September and a potluck dinner meeting in December.

Our monthly meeting format is subject to change but generally includes the following: 1) Short business meeting; 2) Speaker; 3) Refreshments; 4) Show table voting; 5) Raffle table and plant sales; and 6) Description of show table orchids. Members are invited to bring any blooming orchids to display on the show table. Votes are tallied for the best in the show. Knowledgeable members or speakers present information on the orchids on the show table. Member sign up sheets are available throughout the year for members to provide the refreshments and plants for the raffle table. Usually two or more persons are needed for both the refreshments and the raffle table at each meeting. Participation is greatly appreciated.

Fund raising. During the year we have an annual "Grower's Day" open to the public. At the Grower's Day there are speakers, refreshments, and everyone pots an orchid to take home. In addition to these events, we are supported by our annual memberships and the purchase of raffle tickets. We partner with other orchid societies in the state to reduce the cost of speakers. The speakers are usually our largest expenditure for the year and the above listed income sources are used to cover those expenses.

Membership: The annual membership is \$25.00 and includes up to two individuals residing at the same address. Annual dues are based on the calendar year. Officers are elected at the December meeting. We hope that you will consider a membership and join us at our future meetings.

The following websites have more information on organizations and also include multiple links for additional orchid information.

<http://www.capefearorchid.org/>

<http://www.aos.org/>

<http://www.sandhillorchid.org//>

<http://triangleorchidsociety.org//>

<http://www.triadorchidsociety.org//>

<http://orchiddigest.com/>