

# *Cape Fear Orchid Society*



**JULY 2016**



## **ANTIC-dotes from President Ann:**

**Hello!** This month CFOS is having our annual picnic at New Hanover's Hugh MacRae Park.

**Date:** July 16th. **Time:** 2 to 6 pm. This event will happen rain or shine since we are in a protected shelter. The park is located at the intersection of College, Oleander, and Shipyard in Wilmington. Our reserved picnic shelter is #2, which is near the children's playground and the tennis courts; it is located close to Pine Grove Road at the back of the park.

We will have fans running to cool us and to keep the insect population at bay. The menu looks great with ham, tuna fish salad, a wide range of other salads, veggies, drinks, cake and ice cream cones.

Carol Shores is going to talk about local water quality and how it relates to watering your orchids. The title is "Water we going to do? »

Members AND spouses are all welcome to join us! We look forward to seeing everyone on the 16th.

**PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE COMING AND IF YOU ARE BRINGING A GUEST! EMAIL ANN AT:  
ann.gallman@gmail.com  
910-363-4027**

**July 16!**

**P I C N I C**

**HUGH MacRAE PARK**

**WILMINGTON**

**2—6 pm**

**SHELTER NO. 2**

**(near playground)**

**NO WED. MEETING IN**

**JULY!**

## **CFOS 2016 Speakers**

- AUG. 10 - Courtney Hackney**  
Orchid Growing Tips
- SEPT. 14 - Steve Frowine - Author**  
Orchids for Dummies
- OCT. 12 - Art Chadwick Jr.**  
Cattleyas
- NOV. 16 - TBA**
- DEC. 14 - Holiday Meeting!**



**SATURDAY**  
**JULY 16**

**2 - 6 pm**

**Hugh MacRae Park**  
**Shelter No. 2**

**Join CFOS for a down-home country kind of afternoon with a picnic in the park! Bring a dish to share, enjoy some ham, salads, drinks, and cake and ice cream!!!**

**Even learn something! Carol Shores\* will share her info on « Water we to do? Do our orchids really need water? »**

***PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE COMING AND IF YOU WILL BE BRINGING A GUEST.***

**\*Carol Shores is an Adjunct Professor at Campbell University at Camp Lejeune. She is pseudo retired. She knows a LOT about orchids.**

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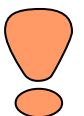
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**BEST IN SHOW STANDARDS**



**Best in Show Std.  
Brassavola nodosa  
owned by  
Jim Lanier**

This month's Standard Size Best is *Brassavola nodosa*, a species proudly owned by Jim Lanier. He left without posing for a picture. *B. nodosa* is a parent of many, many hybrids and its influence is so overwhelming that they look very much like the parent. Jim's plant is another twig grown plant and likes its home very much. The unusual leaf is a protection against too much light, as the concave surface area absorbs far less light than a flat leafed *Cattleya*, for example. That could tell us that they do not need as much light as a standard *Cattleya*. Also note that most white flowers are usually pollinated at night by moths. Their fragrance is stronger at night to pull in their pollinators.

**SECOND TO BEST IN SHOW STANDARDS - A TIE!**



**Tie - Second to Best in Show  
*Miltassia*  
Estrelita  
'Sweet Seniorita'  
owned by  
Laura  
Overstreet**



**Tie - Second to Best in Show  
Phalaenopsis Kuel Wen  
Princessamabillis  
owned by Bill Schade**

Laura Overstreet's orchid is a *Miltonia/Brassia* cross which has very contemporary coloration and star shaped flowers well spaced on the spike. It should have a warm to intermediate growth habit with moderate light requirements, needing far less than Catts. The *Brassia* parent should add strength and vigor to The hybrid and the *Miltonia* adds warm growing characteristics to the cross. These plants have relatively thin roots so a small to medium well drained mix would work well. They would not be very tolerant to overwatering.

Bill's plant is a really impressive modern splash petal hybrid. The color is unusual and intense with dark lavender/purple splashes on center edge of each sepal and a dark splash in the lip. The center of each segment is lighter lavender. The plant is still small but has new roots growing above the pot so It should be repotted this summer. It would be a good candidate to repot in the new ORCHIATA bark from New Zealand. Phallies will do well outside in the summer as long as they are on a covered porch and get no direct light which could burn them up. I do not recommend putting them outside in the elements as they are very susceptible to rot or bacterial infections if water stays in the crown. All Phals can be repotted right now, but put in shady location and no fertilizer until they start perking up from the transplant. This time of year, I would cut off all old flower spikes to give more strength to new spikes which will start in the fall about two weeks after the required temperature drop (for two weeks or so) to initiate flowering. The plants should be at their strongest to develop bigger spikes than the previous year.

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**BEST IN SHOW MINIATURES – JUNE!**



**Best in Show Mini**  
*Schoenorchis seidenfadenii*  
 owned by  
**Carol Shores**

Carol’s mini adds new meaning to the word mini. Her photo was taken at home using her macro lens and tripod to get a decent close up of the flowers. Why bring that up? The plant itself is just over an inch wide and the flowers are only about 1/16 + of an inch wide and cannot be photo’d with a regular 55mm lens.

Carol had to get up to less than one inch away from the flowers to get a usable close up at all! The rest of the story is that not a single flower was open at the meeting. She had to wait for three to open so the members could see what the flowers really look like. The flowers are pale lavender with white. This genus is in the *Phalaenopsis* alliance and is probably the smallest genus in the entire group. There are about 8 or 10 different species, with Carol having grown *S. fragrans*, (which has darker solid lavender flowers) several times including when she lived in N.Y. It is one of her favorite plants, but she has never been able to keep *S. fragrans* alive for more than about two years and has killed a bunch of them. They won’t grow in pots and require constant surveillance. Maybe, just maybe this particular species will survive a lot longer.

**SECOND TO BEST IN SHOW MINI - A TIE!**



**Second to Best in Show Mini - a Tie!**  
*C. Petite Doll*  
 owned by  
**Steve & Karen Tobiassen**

Steve’s *C. Petite Doll* is in the range of a larger mini, very similar to the plants discussed by the evening’s speaker. There were also some plants similar to Steve’s and he tried to help me pick one out. His plant had one relatively large flower, perfectly shaped overlapping petals, of rose pink, with darker lip which was lavender with yellow flare inside the lip. If this cross, when mature, has multiple flowers per spike, it will be stunning. Flower size at about three inches across is large for the size of the plant. The algae on the pot tells me that either Steve waters this plant quite a bit, OR the environment it’s in is quite humid. I checked on this cross and it is *C. Sierra Doll X alaorii*, from Gold Country Orchids in Cal.. It would be a great addition to any small to mini collection!

**Second to Best in Show Mini - a Tie!**  
*Stelis viridipurpurea*  
 owned by  
**Pam Layne**

Pam’s plant is another problematic miniature. The plant is not so small as the best in show, but my attempts at the meeting to take pix with my regular lens were met with failure because of the tiny flower size and Pam said to not bother submitting a bad picture, so we gave up on it. [The internet has some samples of this type.] The *Stelis* is typical of the type of plants sold by J and L Orchids in Connecticut. *Stelis viridipurpurea* has triangular shaped flowers with tiny hairs on the tips of the flowers. The flowers are huge compared to the best in show as they are about twice as large at less than 1/3 inch across. I think most of these are low light and lower to intermediate temperature conditions and as I recall they come from South America. Growing these takes talent which Pam has been demonstrating.



## Speaker Notes: Mark Reinke, June 16, 2016

Our June speaker, Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farm, has been active with the Atlanta Orchid Society. His topic about mini-cattleyas was titled, "Honey, I Shrunk the Or-kids."

Mark said he used to own a travel agency and travel the world, and has grown and cared for orchids since he was a kid. His neighbor asked him to help with the care of his orchids and Mark was hooked. When he sold the travel business, he decided to get back to his love of orchids and purchased Marble Branch Farm.



Mark explained that a mini-catt is defined as the *plant* being less than six inches in height. A broader definition includes plants that are compact and have a mini-catt "look". Mark includes hybridization that encompasses a broader range of genera with cattleyas and epiphytes.

When Mark first started growing orchids at the age of 12, there were few commercial vendors back then, but since around 1980, mini-catts are much more available. Mark's presentation went through the eight important species of modern mini-catts.

*Cattleya* (Sophronitis) *coccinea* – 350 first generation offspring, 7705 total progeny. Lives in coast of Brazil, 3-4,000 feet above sea level (mountains close to the coast, cool, misty environment). They produce one or two flower spikes, bright color. In nature, flower faces down and water drains out. If plant comes from first parent, it is tough to grow in the Southeast US.

*Cattleya luteola* – 163 first generation offspring, 1747 total progeny. Found on the lower mountain slopes in Brazil. Often found in partial shade, seven in a cluster. Can grow under lights, spring/fall flowers. Difficult to find.

*Cattleya aelandiae* – Found around sea level in Brazil, close to the beach. Typically found on the back side of a tree branch, away from the salt air. Has strong roots and is difficult to grow in pots. Likes good drainage, wanders and produces a big flower and nice fragrance. Grows warm/bright. Some hybrids are C. Jungle Elf, Bc. Hippodamia, C. Jungle Eyes, Bc. Theresa Ricci. These have big flowers and are "wanderers".

*Cattleya walkeriana* – 366 first generation offspring, 2329 total progeny. Comes from the interior of Brazil. Small, chunky plant with bifolial growth. Live where there is a rainy summer, cooler, drier winter. They grow near a river or close to an area where there is dew/mist/fog. Takes a while to get to flowering size, but when they do bloom, you may get flowers in November and again in winter. They typically bloom in spring in the wild. Some mini-catts descended from *Cattleya walkeriana* are C. Luna Coryell, C. Numazu Star, and C. Purple Fantasy.

*Brassavola nodosa* – 408 first generation offspring, 985 total progeny; found in just about all Caribbean islands, North & South America. As most growers know, these have a nice night fragrance. They don't need full sun, but bright light. B. *nodosa* hybrids include: Bc. Keowee "Newberry", Bc. Binosa, and *Brassocattleya* Edna.

*Broughtonia sanguinea* – 132 first generation offspring, 966 total progeny. Found in Jamaica, they are mostly short, with a long, wiry spike and a burst of flowers. Can produce reblooming spikes. They grow on smooth bark trees in the wild. Warm grower, bright light and they like a breeze.

*Cattleya milleri* – 92 first generation, 1068 total progeny. These plants grow on rocks, have tall flower spikes and almost look like succulents. They are slow growers and have bright red flowers.

*Cattleya briergeri* – 83 first generation offspring, 845 total progeny. They are small, upright plants with sturdy spikes. They possess two sets of chromosomes. Bright yellow flowers on these plants—the base color is yellow and secondary layer is also yellow. Some C. *briergeri* hybrids include: Pole Star (x C. *coccinea*) 1982, C. Fire Magic, CH. Mine Gold "OC" and Rlc. Hsinying Toki. Other minis with potential are: C. *alaorii*, C. *lucisiana* and C. *cemua*.

Cont'd from Page 5

Mark also talked about some "landmark orchids that were notable. Cattleyas Orpetii Carrleyas Orpetii "Orchidheights" – 1901 by Mr. E.O. Orpet, 92 first generation (only 3 which came before 1984), 268 total progeny. Hybrids: C. Charming Jewel, C. Fir .

Cattleya Gratrixiae (C. coccinea x tenebrosa) – 1901 Charlesworth, Ltd., 72 first generation offspring (12 before 1960), 290 total progeny.

C. Psyche "China" AM/AOS (C. coccinea x cinnabarina) – 1902 Charlesworth, LTD, 182 first generation offspring (13 before 1960), 5638 total progeny.

Guaritonia Rosy Jewel "Ewa" AM/AOS – 1956, 14 first generation hybrids, 109 progeny. This was the beginning of a revival in interest in mini-catts.

Volkertara Mark Alan Reinke (Mark didn't know it was being named after him until he saw it in Orchid Quarterly!)

Culture of Bro. sanguine hybrids: Grow mounted or in a basket. If potted, use open mix; drainage is key. They like bright light or bright diffused light. Good humidity, air circulation needed. Prefers warm; not happy below 55 degrees.

So, what is the future of mini-catts? There are some strong current breeding lines. They are working to strengthen bloom spikes and temperature tolerance. We discussed a lot of hybrids from the past that Mark has revived. (Mark's program ran close to 90 minutes and he really needed about 2 hours for the presentation. Because of time constraints, he raced through the last 30 minutes or so of the presentation).

June Speaker Notes: Thanks to Pat Ahern for taking them and providing them for CFOS!

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### ***Styrofoam as medium***

Excerpts from a Letter printed in *Orchids* magazine, June 2016 from Phil Spence.

**Looking for a new medium?** Try this Australian's solution. Phil Spence has used Styrofoam in his medium for years. His many trials using different types and sizes have resulted in a successful solution for him. He breaks Styrofoam packing materials into small pieces. This product is the type that surrounds smaller items which you may have purchased or have ordered on line. Neither large appliance Styrofoam nor small pebble types which come in bean bag chairs work. The latter are coated and roots will not adhere to them.

He breaks the Styrofoam into small pieces. He does not cut pieces into strips. The smooth sides do not help in holding water. Also, the roots love rough surfaces and will even grow into and through them, but not into the smooth pieces. Pieces larger than 1/4 inch he mixes with pine bark and charcoal and uses for his larger plants. Very small pieces he uses with his seedlings.

After preparing the Styrofoam, Phil then sieves dry, compressed sphagnum (not super compressed) using a 1/2 inch sieve, and places the results into a storage container.

To form his medium, he uses nine parts small Styrofoam to one part sphagnum. When he uses this medium as potting material, at first the water won't go through the Styrofoam but it holds the water to it. When the sphagnum is added, the medium holds an ideal amount of water. Another plus ... the Styrofoam will not adsorb mineral salts as perlite and sponge rock do.

For environmental reasons, Australia recently has added carbon to its Styrofoam mix. Rather than creating a problem, this addition has actually helped his orchids to better health. Esthetically, it has given a grayish color to the pieces which some people admire because they think they look like small pebbles.

Phil's letter goes on to explain how he uses his mix with seedlings To read the entire letter, see pages 410-411 in June's issue of *Orchid* magazine which is included with a membership in the American Orchid Society (AOS).

## SHOW TABLE INFORMATION

**Bests in Show Table** - Please note that effective this month, we have changed the definition of standard size plants to over ten inches and of miniatures to under ten inches. This increases the range of plants that can be entered as miniatures which, of course, is an arbitrary restriction for the convenience of club members.

Board members agreed that this change is beneficial for our show table.

Show table information in this newsletter and photos by Carol Shores.

### CFOS Show Table Winners - June 2016

<b><u>Best in Show Table</u></b> -	<b><u>Standard Size Plants</u></b> (over 10 inches tall or wide)	<b><u>Owner</u></b>
	<b><u>Plant</u></b>	
<b><u>Standard Size Best</u></b> -	<b>Brassovola nodosa</b>	<b>Jim Lanier</b>
<b>Second: tie</b> -	<b>Miltassia Estrelita 'Sweet Seniorita'</b>	<b>Laura Overstreet</b>
<b>tie</b> -	<b>Phalaenopsis Kuel Wen Princessamabilis</b>	<b>Bill Schade</b>

<b><u>Class Winners</u></b> -	<b><u>Standard Size</u></b>	
Cattleya Alliance		
First	B. nodosa	Jim Lanier
Dendrobium		
First	Den. N.O.I.D.	Jim Lanier
Encyclia/Epidendrum/Maxillaria		
First	Enc. tampensis	Sam Lipscomb
Miltonia/Odont Alliance		
First	Mtssa. Estrelita 'Sweet Seniorita'	Laura Overstreet
Second	Milt. Ron Rippling 'Fragrance Delight'	Pam Layne
Oncidium/Brassia Alliance		
First	Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	Pam Layne
Second	Oncidium (Turtle Shell Orchid)	Kathi LaBash
Paphiopedilum/Phrags		
First	Phrag. Don Wimber	Carol Shores
Phalaenopsis		
First	Phal. Kuel Wen Princessamabilis	Bill Schade
Second	Phal. N.O.I.D.white with red lip	Bill Schade
Vanda/Asco/Aerides Alliance		
First	Aerides multiflora	Jim Saxe
Second	Aerides multiflora	Jane Ranney

<b><u>Best in Show Table</u></b> -	<b><u>Miniature Size Plants</u></b> (under 10 inches wide or tall)	<b><u>Owner</u></b>
	<b><u>Plant</u></b>	
<b><u>Miniature Size Best</u></b> -	<b>Schoenorchis seidenfadenii</b>	<b>Carol Shores</b>
<b>Second tie</b> -	<b>Stelis viridipurpurea</b>	<b>Pam Layne</b>
<b>tie</b> -	<b>C. Petite Doll</b>	<b>Karen &amp; Steve Tobiassen</b>

<b><u>Class Winners</u></b> -	<b><u>Miniature Size</u></b>	
Mini Cat		
First	C. Petite Doll	Karen & Steve Tobiassen.
Other Mini		
First	Schoenorchis seidenfadenii	Carol Shores
Second	Stelis viridipurpurea	Pam Layne

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

## **CFOS Meeting Notes: June 16, 2016**

\*President Ann Gallman opened the meeting at 7:00 pm at the New Hanover Arboretum by reminding us of the changes that are being tried out to improve efficiency and to end the meetings by 9:00. The sales and snack tables will open at 6:30. At 7:00 Ann will speak for 5 minutes and the break will be limited to 15 minutes (both of these events will be timed by Jim Gallman). These changes were initiated at the May meeting and the announcement that they would continue was met with acclaim from the membership.

\*In order to give more members the opportunity to earn Grower of the Year Points the miniature category will now include plants up to 10" high, not counting the flower spike.

\*Members who choose not to renew their membership for the following year may attend single meetings for a charge of \$10 per meeting. Non-members may attend one free meeting.

\*The July meeting will be replaced by a picnic on June 16 from 2 till 6. It will be held at Hugh McRae Park at shelter #2 near the playground. If anyone would like to volunteer to grill hamburgers please contact Ann at: [ann.gallman@gmail.com](mailto:ann.gallman@gmail.com).

The club will provide ice cream and members are asked to bring a dish to share.

\*Two orchid events for the near future:

June 24-26 - Steve Arthur's Breezy Hill open house in Graniteville, SC.

August 4 - Odom Orchids Cataleya workshop in Fort Pierce, Florida

\*President Gallman thanked the members who brought treats: Byron Price, Katie Bruce, and Linda Swanson and introduced 2 new members: Phil Bloedorn who just got his first Phalaenopsis that he named Opal and Steve Arthur from the Triangle Club. Steve likes to set up displays.

\*Finally President Gallman introduced the evening's speaker - Mark Reinke from Marble Branch Farm in South Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Swanson, Secretary



**REMINDER (No night meeting)**

**PICNIC JULY 16!**

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE!**

**2—6 PM**

**HUGH MACRAE PARK**

**SHELTER NO. 2**

**(DETAILS ON PAGE 2)**

### **Show Table Points 2016**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Previous</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Total</b>
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	41	10	51
Jim Lanier	46	25	71
Pamela Layne	65	21	86
Sam Lipscomb	20	10	30
Merry MacBarb	13	0	13
Laura Overstreet	0	10	10
Lynette Pearsall	5	0	5
Joyce Pennock	60	0	60
Anita Potts	13	0	13
Byron Price	28	0	28
Jane Ranney	56	8	64
Jim Saxe	0	10	10
Bill Schade	37	18	55
Carol Shores	81	25	106
Steve & Karen Tobiassen	93	15	108



# Cape Fear Orchid Society

Meeting date...

***ANNUAL PICNIC***

**JULY 16**

**SEE DETAILS INSIDE!**



Visit CFOS at: [www.capefearorchid.org](http://www.capefearorchid.org)  
Email: [cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com](mailto:cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com)

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