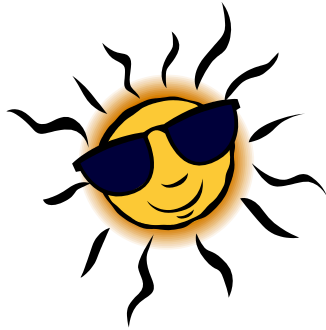


Cape Fear Orchid Society



www.capefearorchidsociety.org

AUGUST 2016



Ann's Message:

We are very fortunate to have Professor Courtney Hackney to speak to our group here on Wednesday, the 10th. Not only is he one of the reasons our chapter exists today, but he is the consummate professor. His former orchid tips column was a wealth of practical information, much of it still quoted today. This is a meeting you should plan to attend!

I signed up to attend the Cattleya Conference at Odom's Orchids in Florida last weekend. This is a long trip for many of you and it is a miserable time to visit Florida. But I noticed that the videos of the lectures from last year are available on the You tube channel titled **5th Annual Cattleya Symposium**. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMmpkOpjZuPzeRwmgHtf0oQ>

In glancing through the AOS "Orchids" magazine this month, I noted two interesting articles. One, from Sue Bottom in St Augustine, addresses the myths surrounding the source of nitrogen in fertilizers. Urea or ammonium nitrate? What works? The other is from Ray Barkalow where he discusses the need for CO2 and water for your orchid roots and how potting mixture affects this availability. A copy of the magazine will be available for our members to borrow to read.

See you Wednesday!

Ann Gallman, CFOS President

Meeting date...

AUGUST 10, 6:30 pm
Arboretum

Speaker:

Courtney Hackney

Topic:

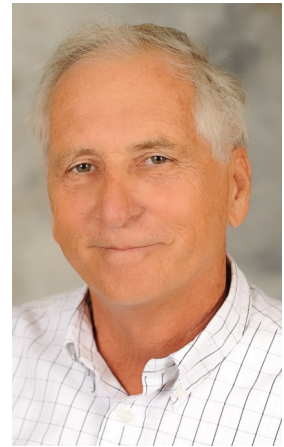
Orchid "Tips" for
Growing Your Orchids

CFOS 2016 Programs

- Sept. 14** - Steve Frowine
Author of "Orchids for Dummies"
Oct. 12 - Art Chadwick, Jr.
Cattleyas
Nov. 16 - TBA
Dec. 14 - Holiday party

August Speaker's Bio - Courtney Hackney

Professor Hackney is the Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. He began growing orchids in the Florida Keys in 1962, while working for a small orchid nursery and has continued his interest in both orchid hybridizing and orchid culture since then. He grows many different genera, but his favorite is the Cattleya Alliance. He has about 500 mature cattleyas and even more seedlings, but his favorites are classic clones, some of which appeared in orchid collections over 100 years ago. He makes 8-10 hybrids and species sib crosses per year in various genera.



He wrote a Growing Tips column for 20 years, which ended in December 2013 that appeared in newsletters around the country and has published in Orchid Digest. In 2004, he published "American Cattleyas", the culmination of a decade of study and interviews, which summarizes in old photographs and print how all of the modern cattleyas came to be. The book also describes what we know about cattleyas and cattleya hybrids, how to grow them, and what to expect from modern hybrids.

He and his wife Rose live in Jacksonville, Florida, adjacent to a tidal swamp. Rose paints and he enjoys the Epi conopseum growing in the trees in his backyard, while he conducts his research in the swamp. His orchids are now enjoying residence in a new 24'x25' Florida shade house adjacent to the swamp.

Courtney will bring orchids to sell. He takes cash or checks, but not credit cards. Bring your money. He grows great plants!

Dinner with Ann, Jim, Courtney and Rose: Want to join the 4 of them for dinner? Contact Ann at 910-363-4027 or ann.gallman@gmail.com for time and place.

CFOS Annual Picnic

Saturday, July 16 was a gorgeous day! Not as hot as it had been or is now. Sun hiding slightly under a skim of clouds. Twenty-five enthusiastic orchid growers convened in Hugh MacRae Park near the new playground to enjoy some fabulous food.

Ann greeted us and said, "Grab a plate and dig in!" She didn't have to ask twice! Whether or not we individually can grow orchids, we sure can make great food!

As we moved along, Ann made a few remarks and then Carol spoke to us about water. But not what you would think. Her talk gave us a good look at whether our orchid problems were really water. See the Speaker Notes for her reasoning. Page 3 contains photos of most of the participants and the winners of the raffle plants which were beautiful!



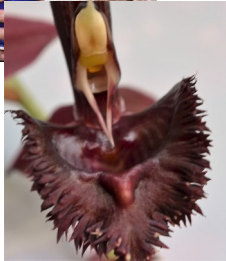
CFOS ANNUAL PICNIC 2016!



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Standard Size Best Rhynchosstylis coelestis owned by Byron Price

Standard Size Second Cattleya Triumphans owned by Steve & Karen Tobiassen



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The **Standard Size** (plants over 10 inches tall or wide, if Phal. types) **Best in Show Table** is owned by Carol Shores, who also writes this column every month. The plant, *Catasetum* Donna Wise x *fimbriatum*, a complex hybrid, reflects her latest interest in finding more unusual things to grow and with different growing habits. Jan commented that the flowers were “strange looking”, but isn’t that their charm? We can never run out of weird looking things to grow. The flowers on this particular plant lasted for only about two weeks, not a bonus characteristic. The close up of a flower shows the dark, burgundy/mahogany, almost black, con-color coloration with a bit of off-white on the callus of the lip. The fringe on the lip is a desired feature, but the re-curved sepals are not. You almost have to stand on your head to view the inside of the flower as the inflorescence is pendant. *Catasetum* genus is closely related to *Cynoches*, both of which have one unusual characteristic: the plants have each sex on separate flowers of only one sex per spike and the flowers do not look much alike, which originally, when they were first discovered, made species identification difficult. So what sex were the flowers that I exhibited??? Well, I simply forgot to check as I had accidentally discovered the plant coming into bloom because the spike was facing the back of the greenhouse. So we will hope it blooms again soon with flowers of the opposite sex so we can compare them. They occur in nature from Central (Mexico) to South America (Argentina) which makes them warm growing. They seem to like confined spaces, so don’t over pot them. These plants have fairly thin leaves which say to me that they can’t withstand strong sunlight. All of mine .

are still in the greenhouse and all the related ones I have are doing well in tight plastic pots. These plants cross well with *Cynoches* and *Gongora* yielding even more strange looking flowers. Check SVO Orchids.

Standard Size Second to Best in Show Table is *Maxillaria tenuifolia* owned by Byron Price. I believe that this is the first time he has exhibited this particular species and he has done a good job of growing it as it was in a fair sized pot and was well contained in the pot. This particular species has a desire to grow up hill and does well on slabs, but he had it under control in a pot. It is called the “coconut orchid” because of its delicious fragrance. This species is native as far south as Brazil, West Indies, and also grows in south Florida, although I am not convinced that it is native there. It will grow in intermediate conditions with light a bit less bright than *Cattleyas*. It will do very well when grown outdoors in summer.

Speaker Notes July 2016—Carol Shores

Carol spoke on: "Water we going to do? Do our orchids really need water?" Her poem was classic Carol: "Water water everywhere and the slot baskets they did shrink.

What do your orchids really need to drink?"

Carol's program was a perfect program for an outdoor picnic in a park. In her first plant sample, she found a root problem and medium that was rotting. When she bent a larger piece, it broke easily. Medium particles should be firm. This looked like mush. Time to repot! More orchids are killed by living in rotting medium than by over watering.

Test the roots of a sick plant. If solid, repot. If the medium smells sour, repot. Newer growers might get what "odor in medium" means. Wait a little bit. One day in your growing area, you will sniff a distinct unpleasant odor. Check the medium. Nine times out of 10 it will be that!

Carol's Best in Show was a *Catasetum* growing in a slot basket. In winter, it hangs high in her greenhouse and receives No Water! Her *Vandas*, however, grow on a chain in the greenhouse near a hose and she waters them every time she passes by.

You can tell the condition of your plant by "reading" the leaves. Plump, thick leaves on a *Pahl* means enough water and health roots. Limp and hanging leaves tempt you to water more, but that is not necessarily the solution. Check the roots! If unhealthy, clean the residue from them, trim them, and leave them bare root. Sit them in a pot and do nothing until new roots appear. Then repot that plant. After repotting, sit the plant in a shady spot until it recuperates and do not feed it until it is healthy again.

Phalaenopsis leaves have a waxy cuticle on top to protect them from desiccation. Putting water or fertilizer on top of the leaves will not be helpful. These plants absorb water and food from their roots. The crown of this plant must be kept free of standing water. If water stands in the center for too long, it can cause fungus and/or crown rot which can quickly kill a plant.

Phals which are epiphytes have smooth aerial roots which hang onto tree branches, but are not parasitic. They grow parallel on the branch, in what Carol calls, the "tropical drain forest." In the dry season, it rains for 10 minutes. In the rainy season, it rains for hours. Water drains off fast and air

movement is constant.

In Carol's greenhouse, she has lots of fans. In the winter, she has a fan behind a solenoid heater. Leaves need to gently bob up and down in the breeze. Without air circulation, moisture stays too long and evaporation is not as efficient. Evaporation temporarily cools the leaf surfaces in summer. Watering in the morning allows the leaves plenty of time to dry.

Terrestrial orchids have fuzzy roots and can grow in soil. They can be potted into plastic pots which hold water longer and so will need watering less often. In a clay pot, water will evaporate more quickly meaning the plant may need watering more often. How often you plan to water can determine the type of pot you will use.

Paphiopedilums might not need water for a month while in bloom if growing inside.

Phals need water every 2-3 weeks growing inside the house. If they have aerial roots (ones which stick up and out of the pot), water these roots if they are hanging out.

Phragmipediums have root hairs in the mid-section that absorb water. They like fertilizer such as a *Promix*, Michigan peat, and similar products. *Phrags* in pots can sit right in water. That's a no-no for most other orchids.

How can you tell if your plants have enough water? Weigh the potted plant in your hand. If it is light, it needs water. If heavy, it is wet enough. You soon learn to tell by this method. Or, stick your finger in the pot. If it feels wet, don't water. Or, use the lead end of a pencil and stick it into the pot. If enough wetness is in the medium, the pencil end will come out with water in/on it. If it comes out dry, time to water.

Tap water is often fine for orchids unless softener is added. In that case, the pH is raised to about 8-9, making fertilizer unavailable for the plant's use. It is a waste to use it and can raise the conductivity to a point which makes it toxic to your plants. A higher pH level makes it hard for orchids to take up the nutrients in the water. Rain water has a pH level of 5-6 which is ideal for the plants to absorb fertilizer.

Carol only uses blossom booster for *Vandas*. She uses fish emulsion a lot, but if you are in an enclosed spot, it smells like fish. She waters one day and the second day, she fertilizes with fish emulsion.

“Water We Going to Do” - Water Requirements of Orchid Plants: The rest of the story by Carol Shores

The main caution universally discussed is to not ever use home water-softener water due to the high level of sodium in the water. In time you will likely kill a lot of orchids. So what is a person to do??? You can use city water, which has been professionally treated for human requirements, i.e., relatively soft and of fairly high pH, to avoid possible problems due to old infrastructure and old pipes/plumbing. Unfortunately, the pH of the water is seldom discussed as an issue, but is relevant depending on the type of orchids grown. High pH, as I define it, is about 8.0 pH or higher, and not conducive to good orchid growth for most epiphytes (*Cattleyas*, *Phals.*, others.) It is, however, slightly beneficial for *Paphs.*, especially any which grow in limestone outcrops or similar terrestrial environments. Easiest and cheapest way to lower city water pH is to use rain water as much as possible, as if growing mostly epiphytes. The pH can also be lowered by adding white vinegar or citric acid to city water, through experimentation with the amount to add. Now for sure, I use only rain water when fertilizing. Rain water, in N.C., is somewhat acidic, somewhere between 5.8 – 6.5 pH, which is what virtually all orchids growing as epiphytes, and growing in a tropical and sub-tropic rain forest require. I strain the water to eliminate debris, and I keep in a container (35 to 50 gal size covered to avoid mosquito infiltration). Lately, I have begun putting a few drops of food oil in to stifle any mosquito larvae which is not harmful to plants. Storage of 250 gallons or more at a time allows for droughts. A commercial sump pump is used to water the plants, with one pump lasting about 10 years. When fertilizing, it is added directly into the container. Remember the famous slogan: Fertilize weakly, weekly.

The basic natural tropical epiphyte environment is acidic and the soil is definitely acidic, very poor in quality, lacking in most essential nutrients, especially phosphorous, calcium and magnesium. Most orchid fertilizers are lacking in micronutrients and have too much nitrogen. Nitrogen, in the tropics is provided by decaying leaf litter around the plants, both in the trees and in the poor soil, which is subject to continuous erosion due to very high rainfall during the rainy season. The main orchid group which has different pH requirements is most *Paphiopediliums* from Asia, many of which grow on or near rocky outcrops of limestone which greatly raises the pH to over 7.0 pH. They are also terrestrial, so have different moisture requirements. *Paphs.* would benefit by the application of Cal-Mag fertilizer simulating the nature on limestone out-crops. Low pH also makes the absorption of calcium and phosphorous more difficult, so a slightly higher pH is better for this type of plant. They do not benefit from acid rain water so are the ideal house plant for city water. Below is a table which lists the pH of local muni water plants based on the annual municipal water quality reports which I was able to acquire. The pH and only significant issues tabulated below.

Table I	pH of treated water	other issues locally, as identified on the annual reports
Pender (Maple Hill)	7.9 - 8.2 pH	no violations
Wilmington	7.3 – 8.1	Ozonation – treatment method – no violations
Brunswick	6.9 – 8.2	no violations
Cape Fear	7.9 – 8.1	no violations
City of Jacksonville	7.0 – 8.0 (my test)	Nano-filtration removes most micronutrients. No viol.

MERRITT HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM

This special symposium is held usually annually in Williamsburg, VA. This year, on November 11 & 12.

Excellent speakers present on both days, orchid vendors come with beautiful plants for sale, and people can bring their prize orchids for judging.

Cost is \$50 per day or \$95 for both days. Dinner is included on Friday and lunch on Saturday.

For more information, hotel information, and registration information, please google the symposium name and find the website for this event.

Many of our members have attended through the 11 years it has been held and have been very pleased.

July 16, 2016 - Annual Picnic - "Water we going to do? Do my plants really need water?"

CFOS Show Table Winners - July 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> -	<i>Ctsm. Donna Wise x fimbriatum</i>	Carol Shores
Second -	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Byron Price
<u>Class Winners</u> -	Standard Size	
Dendrobium		
First	<i>Den. bracteosum.</i>	Carol Shores
Second	<i>Den. N.O.I.D.</i>	Anita Potts
Encyclia/Epidendrum/Maxillaria		
First	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Byron Price
Gongora/Cyno/Stanhoepa Alliance		
First	<i>Ctsm. Donna Wise x fimbriatum</i>	Carol Shores
Miltonia/Odont Alliance		
First	<i>Mtssa. Estrelita 'Sweet Senorita'</i>	Joyce Pennock
Phalanopsis		
First	<i>Phal. N.O.I.D. White</i>	Anita Potts
Second	<i>Phal. N.O.I.D. stripes</i>	Carol Shores

Please Note: No small to miniatures size plants exhibited this month.
 Show Table results tabulated and reported each month by Jane Ranney
 Only categories with entries listed in results

Show Table Points 2016

Members	Previous	May	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	0	71
Pamela Layne	86	0	86
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	0	55
Carol Shores	106	28	134
Steve & Karen	108	0	108
Tobiassen			



FROM ANN:

Recently, I received a bird bath in the mail that was packed in 3/4" styrofoam cubes. I noticed that these were used in orchids from FL by Robert Fuch. I think anyone with a greenhouse who waters regularly could use these.

I am packing them in 2 kitchen garbage bags and bringing them to the next orchid meeting for anyone who wants to use them. So, these will be available for anyone who wants them. Please bring a plastic bag, unless you want the whole bag of them.

**Cape Fear Orchid Society
July 2016 Meeting Notes**

***President Ann Gallman** opened the meeting at Hugh McRae Park. She announced that **Courtney Hackney** would give growing tips at the August meeting at the Arboretum. She invited all members to join him at dinner before the meeting. If there are questions that you would like Courtney to answer, please submit them ahead of time to Anne Gallman.

***President Gallman** then introduced the afternoon's speaker—**Carol Shores**.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Swanson

Show Table Points 2016

Members	Previous	July	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	51	0	51
Jim Lanier	71	0	71
Pamela Layne	86		
Sam Lipscomb	30	0	30
Merry MacBarb	13	0	13
Laura Overstreet	10		
Lynette Pearsall	5	0	5
Joyce Pennock	60	0	60
Anita Potts	13	0	13
Byron Price	28		
Jane Ranney	64		
Jim Saxe	10		10
Bill Schade	55		
Carol 106 25	106		
Steve & Karen Tobiassen	108	0	108

FALL ANNUAL AOS MEETING

It took a while on the email that came to figure where this will take place.

Looks like it is near Pasadena and Los Angeles.

Looks like an excellent meeting if anyone is interested in attending.

The dates are Oct. 19-23. The hotel accommodations are reasonably priced and the program looks good.

The best thing to do if you are interested is to email the American Orchid Society and check the details of registering, etc.

If anyone plans to go, would you let us know and would you be willing to write a little report for the newsletter about the happenings, the orchids, anything you learned, and tell us what you couldn't resist buying?

Thanks!
Jan

REFRESHMENTS:

SNACKS -
DRINKS -

**RAFFLE - DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING?
A PLANT? BOOK? ORCHID EQUIPMENT?
PLEASE BRING IT FOR THE TABLE.
THANKS!**

TRIANGLE ORCHID SOCIETY AUCTION 2016

Everyone is invited to join Triangle OS **Saturday, September 10th**, for a fun afternoon full of orchids! A wide array of blooming orchids from Lehua and Sunset Valley Orchids will be up for auction to help support our society and our 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. triangleorchidsociety.org

As usual, we will post a plant list on the website and Facebook page a couple of days before the event. Please help us spread the word.

Cape Fear Orchid Society

Meeting date...
AUGUST 10, 6:30pm

New Hanover County Arboretum
6206 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington

SPEAKER: Courtney Hackney

**TOPIC: Orchid "Tips" for
Growing Your Orchids**



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Address Correction Requested



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