



CFOS Newsletter

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CAPE FEAR ORCHID SOCIETY



Photo taken by member Fred Norris. Instagram: frednorrisphotography

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- President's Message*
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- All About Raffles*

DECEMBER BRINGERS

HOLIDAY PARTY INFO

Contact Laura Elliot if you need to sign up for a PotLuck item.

lauraslizards@gmail.com

All are asked to help clean up the area you were sitting in and see where else needs attention. Thanks.



NEXT MEETING

HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY

6:00 pm December 4

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION,
7500 Market St**

4:00 pm doors open for setup

6:00 pm FOOD!! See info on page 4



CLUB OFFICERS

2025 Officers and Committee Chairpersons will be announced at Holiday Party. Induction in January

President: John Wetherington

Vice President: open

Treasurer: Laura Overstreet

Secretary: Kat McGrath

AOS Rep: Jan Schwab

Member at Large: Nancy Wetherington

Past President: Pam Layne



MINUTES NOVEMBER 13, 2024 MEETING

President John Worthington called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the New Hanover Arboretum

- I. Introduction to members and guests. 33 in attendance
 - a. Welcome visitors 3
 - b. 2 new members
 - c. Everyone please sign the sign-in sheet to make sure we have name tags and correct contacts for everyone.
- II. Minutes of last month's meeting - Kat McGrath
 - a. Sent in the newsletter - Accepted by acclimation
- III. Treasurer's report - Laura Overstreet particulars will be on the raffle table for member review. Accepted by acclimation
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Meeting place - uncertainty calming down since Arboretum construction postponed or cancelled.
 - b. Sign up sheet for snacks for 2025 meetings making the rounds
 - c. Next meeting will be December 4 PotLuck Holiday Party
 - i. Location to be Lutheran Church @ 7500 Market St.
 - d. Election of new officers - request for those interested to step forward
 - i. Pres & Vice-Pres are term-limited to two years. An administrative position - not a technical position.
 - ii. President - ?
 - iii. Vice-Pres - Laura Elliott
 - iv. Secretary - Kat McGrath
 - v. Treasurer - Laura Overstreet
 - vi. No nominations from the floor
- V. New Business
 - a. Motion proposed to spend approximately \$200 to purchase a wireless mic. Motion seconded, approved by acclimation.
 - b. The Camillia Club is having their annual show & sale Nov 23rd. CFOS will have an information table
 - i. Setup at 9:00, open at 9:30. Pam Layne and Kat McGrath
 - ii. Second Shift Paula Paye and Tammy Swanson
 - c. Our speaker for tonight Mark Reineke
- VI. Show table - Jane Ranney
 - a. Jane's is retiring from the Show Table after a long career. (Not an elected position but a volunteer position.) Anyone willing to help with the Show Table contact Jane or myself.
- VII. Raffle table - "Can't win if you don't play." Support CFOS.



Respectfully submitted,
Kat McGrath, Secretary

RAFFLE TABLE RAMBLINGS

A big THANK-YOU for the generous Raffle Table donations for November. It's a blessing to be a member of such a vibrant and active community of Orchid Growers.

Paula Paye, Raffle Table Coordinator

HOLIDAY PARTY INFO

The CFOS 2024 Holiday Party is December 4 at 6:00 at the Lutheran Church of Reconciliation, 7500 Market Street in the Bayshore section of Wilmington.

Doors will open at 4:00 for set up. Nancy Wetherington, CFOS very own Martha Stewart, will be decorating, and she could use some help setting up tables and tablecloths, chairs, decorations, etc.

There will be a Show Table, so bring your bloomers!

Laura Elliott, food organizer extraordinaire, will arrive at 4:30. Please plan your arrival to leave enough time to warm your food if necessary.

Food will be served at 6.

If you plan to attend and did not sign the food chart at the November meeting, reach out to Laura Elliot at lauraslizards@gmail.com and she will give you some idea of what to bring. Laura will be in touch via email, text, or phone call to confirm with everyone that has signed up.

There will be an enhanced raffle, like a white elephant exchange. If you have something that would like a new owner, bring it! It's always fun when there are a lot of items and a lot of winners. Your items do not need to be orchid or plant related. Tickets will be sold the same as we do for our regular raffle table but put into cups placed in front of the item. A winner will be drawn from each cup.

The new officers will be announced but installed at January's meeting.

Please come to the 12/4 Holiday Party prepared to pay your 2025 dues! This sure helps make The Treasurer's job easier. Thanks.

From the AOS

<https://marketplace.aos.org/>

HOW TO REACH CFOS

President -

president.cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com

Newsletter and Society Officers:

cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com

Web Page:

capefearorchid.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064852324283>



NOTES FROM AOS REP JAN SCHWAB

Monthly Checklist for November and December *Cattleya*

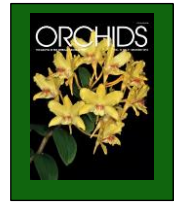
Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb. ¹¹_{SEP}

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.



Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer lasting or more exotic display than these. *Paphiopedilums* are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike. While *paphiopedilums* rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced

beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest. A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

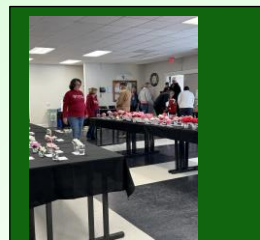
Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Vanda falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

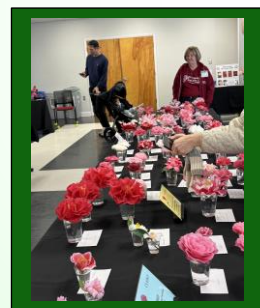
THE AOS THANKS NED NASH AND JAMES ROSE FOR THIS ESSAY.

Tidewater Camellia Club Festival

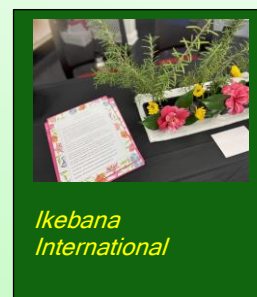
In support of the Tidewater Camellia Club, and to introduce new people to CFOS, Pam Layne, Kat McGrath, Paula Paye and Tammy Swanson staffed a booth at their Fall Festival and Sale. Enjoy some pictures.



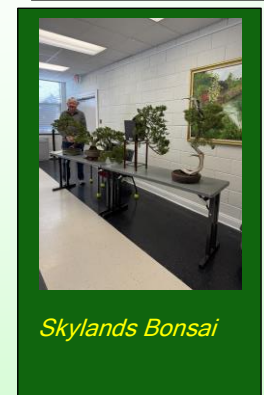
*Look Familiar?
CFOS member
Paula Schiff doing
double duty*



*Wilmington Cape
Fear Rose Society*



*Ikebana
International*



Skylands Bonsai

CFOS Show Table Winners November 2024 Compiled by Jane Ranney

Show Table - Standard Size Plants (over 10 inches tall or wide)

	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Standard Size Best in Show Table		
First	Den. Blue Twinkle	Brandy Morris
Second	Cycnodes Wine Delight 'Jem' FCC/AOS	Paula Paye

Class Winners - Standard Size

Bulbophyllum

First Bulbophyllum dearii Laura Elliott

Cattleya /L Br Soph Alliance

First BC Gulfshore's Beauty 'Green Gem' Pam Layne

Second Brassavola cordata. Paula Paye

Dendrobium

First DenBlue Twinkle Brandy Morris

Second Den.Purple sprash Laura Overstreet

Gongora/ Cyno/Stanhopia Alliance

First Cycnodes Wine Delight 'Jem' FCC/AOS Paula Paye

Oncidium/Odot/Brassia

First Oncidium Bnfd Laura Overstreet Second

Oncostele Wildcat 'Garfield' Laura Elliott

Vanda/ Asco/Aerides Alliance

First Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset Paula Paye

Second Vanda Motes' Indigo Jim Lanier

Miniature

Best Mini Oncidium No entry

2nd Phal N.O.I.D. Brandy Morris

Class Winners Miniature

Phal Mini

First Phal N.O.I.D. Brandy Morris

Second Phal N.O.I.D. Polly Kopka



November 2024 SHOW TABLE POINTS

Member	Previous	November	Total
Karen Carson	10		10
Laura Elliott	158	13	171
Dawn Hoback	8		8
Ibasco/ Googe	67		67
Polly Kopka	15	8	23
Jim Lanier	53	8	61
Pam Layne	161	10	171
Lyndon McCall	28		28
Kat McGrath	20		20
Brandy Morris	126	35	161
David Nunamacher	10		10
Laura Overstreet	82	13	95
Paula Paye	169	23	192
Joyce Pennock	65	5	70
Byron Price	5		5
Jan Schwab	61		61
Tammy Swanson	45		45
Steve & Karen Tobiassen	10		10
Nancy Weatherington	46	5	51
Karen Zopf	28		28



Photos this month taken by Kat McGrath
and Betty Simpson



**CLICK/FOLLOW THIS
LINK TO VIEW
11/13/24 SHOW
TABLE GOOGLE
PHOTOS**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/hoNd1LEnTG1bbPwP6>

**Generally, there is a
picture or 2 of the
orchid followed by a
picture of the name
tag**