



# CFOS Newsletter

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CAPE FEAR ORCHID SOCIETY



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## JANUARY BRINGERS

### (WHO BRINGS SNACKS)

Whoops. We lost track of who volunteered to be January's Bringers. Hopefully the 2-3 who volunteered have remembered. Please contact Nancy Wetherington to confirm.

[Wetherns@comcast.net](mailto:Wetherns@comcast.net)

If you have not signed up to supply snacks at an upcoming meeting, please look for the sign-up sheet circulating at meetings

Remember to clean up the area you were sitting in and see where else needs attention. Thanks.

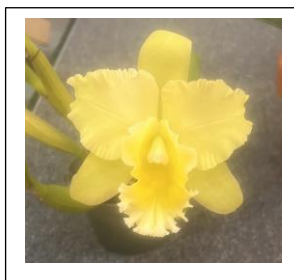
## NEXT MEETING

7:00 pm Wed Jan 10

NC Cooperative Extension  
and ARBORETUM  
6206 Oleander Dr,  
Wilmington NC 28403

6:30 Doors Open for Plant  
Sales and Show Table  
set up

7:00 Meeting Starts. Q&A  
see details within



## CLUB OFFICERS

President: John Wetherington

Vice President: Paula Paye

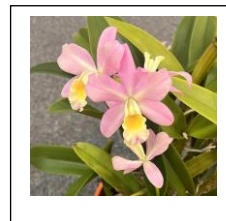
Treasurer: Laura Overstreet

Secretary: Kat McGrath

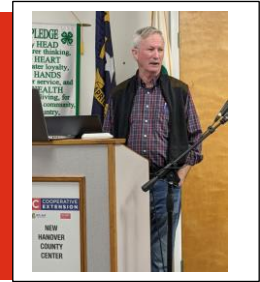
AOS Rep: Jan Schwab

Member at Large:

Past President: Pam Layne



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



John? John? Oh, John! Where are you?? Hmmmm. John seems to be currently away from his computer! If he was available, he would remind you to bring money to the January meeting to pay your dues and to remind you the 2024 BBOD is March 9. Respectfully submitted,  
John Wetherington's ghost writer

Meet our new  
American Orchid  
Society Rep,  
Jan Schwab



**Notes from Jan.** Hello orchid lovers. I'm Jan Schwab. I will be the American Orchid Society Representative for CFOS in the coming year.

This is a first for me as I will be learning the position as I go along. I will share any pertinent and interesting information from the AOS through the newsletter and at meetings.

Looking for HOLIDAY PARTY pictures? There are too many to fit in the newsletter.

Follow this google link to view them. No need to sign in or enroll.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9vaQ7d1sni6GJHPM9>

# MINUTES DECEMBER 2023 MEETING

President John Wetherington (PJW) called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. He recognized each of the current Board members and committee chairperson.

PJW announced membership dues for 2024 are due. Feel free to give Laura Overstreet a check tonight or mail one soon or bring it to January's meeting. Cost still \$25 per household and it goes towards acquiring speakers, venues, and parties.

Officers were installed:

President - John Wetherington  
 Vice President - Paula Paye  
 Treasurer - Laura Overstreet  
 Secretary - Kat McGrath  
 Past President - Pamela Layne  
 AOS Rep - Jan Schwab

PJW recognized Committee chairpersons for often unrecognized hard work with new and continuing duties for 2024.

Webmaster - Andrew Price  
 Newsletter Editor - Kat McGrath  
 Hospitality - Nancy Wetherington  
 Big Bloomin Big Blooming Orchid Day - Laura Overstreet  
 Program Chair - Pam Layne  
 Publicity Chair - Christine Brueck  
 Show Table Coordinator - Jane Ranney  
 Raffle Table - Paula Paye  
 Auditor - Martha Conner

2023 Grower of the Year will be awarded at January's meeting.

Tonight's raffle is a little different. Tickets are 1\$ for 1, \$5 for 6. Put a ticket in the cup next to the desired item. A winner will be drawn from each cup. Increase your winning odds by buying multiple tickets.

Thanks for providing great-looking food for our holiday party. Let's eat.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat McGrath

Secretary

## HOW TO REACH CFOS

President -

[president.cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com](mailto:president.cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com)

Newsletter and Society Officers:

[cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com](mailto:cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com)

Web Page:

[capefearorchid.org](http://capefearorchid.org)

Facebook:

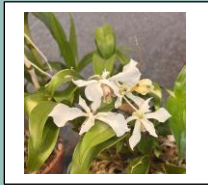
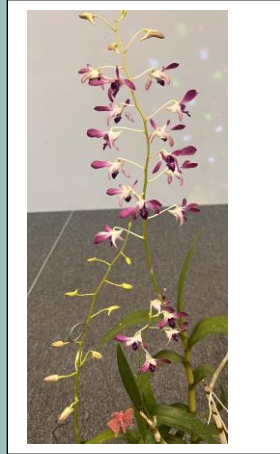
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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 14, 2024.  
Arboretum. Program  
to be announced.



Please note.

All pictures in this newsletter were  
taken by Pam Layne, and Kat  
McGrath

## 2204 CFOS dues

CFOS Membership  
dues are now due.

\$25/year family  
membership

Please bring check  
or cash to the  
meeting January 10  
or mail a check to  
Laura Overstreet,  
237 Cherokee Trail,  
Wilmington, 28409

## *All About Orchids: Jan- Feb Checklist*

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/january-february-checklist.aspx>

## AOS WEBINARS

**Member Only** Tues Jan 23, 8:30 pm EST, Multifloral Paphiopedilums, Carol Klonowski

**Public** Thurs Feb 8, 8:30 pm EST. Greenhouse Chat. Orchid Q&A. Ron McHatton

**Member Only** Wed Feb 7, 8:30 pm EST, Phalaenopsis Fuller's D-Plus, David Edgley

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

## CFOS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

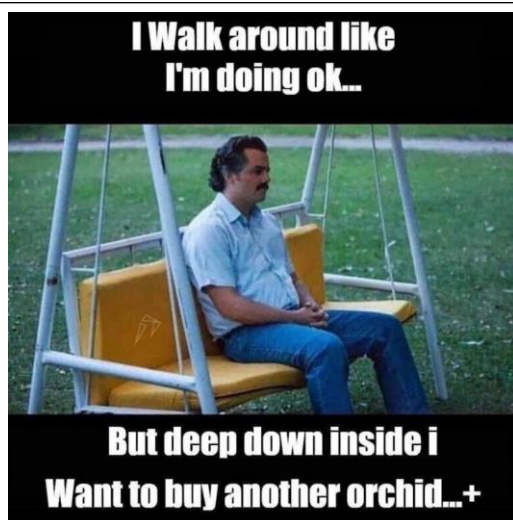
AOS Representative - Jan Shwab  
 Webmaster - Andrew Price  
 Newsletter Editor - Kat McGrath  
 Hospitality Chair - Nancy Wetherington  
 Big Blooming Orchid Day - Laura Overstreet  
 Program Chair - Pam Layne  
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## JANUARY'S PROGRAM

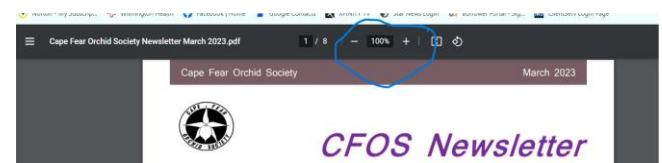
Something a little different for January. Get out those questions you've been anxious to ask but never got the opportunity. The Officers and Committee Chairman will be open to any and all types of questions you might have including, but not limited to, where to purchase, care and growing, being an officer or committee chair, etc. Also, we would like input as to what type of programs our members would like and what specific type of orchid you would like to learn about. There will be a raffle and show table and Grower of the Year award will be presented.

AND, talk about BBOD and our needs to make it a great event.

## ORCHID HUMOR



If you want to enlarge any pages or pictures, click the + sign near the top of the pdf screen until you reach your desired size.



## RAFFLE TABLE RAMBLINGS

Our Christmas party and Raffle Table offerings were exceptional! Brandy Morris (who travels from SC) amazed everyone with her chocolatier skills, crafting 2 gorgeous Santa sleighs with candy reindeer and candy packages. All made from chocolate!

Thanks to everyone for your generosity during the holidays. There was something for everyone on the Raffle table.

As a reminder, the monthly Raffles help to fund our Club with Speaker fees, social events, and miscellaneous operating costs. Looking forward to a generous and fruitful 2024!

Happy New Year! Paula Paye Raffle Table Coordinator



The Club email address gets many interesting emails.

The web pages will be posted here for you to look at and subscribe to if desired.

Carter and Holmes offering greenhouse tours in January. **THEY ARE IN SC.**

[https://www.carterandholmes.com/?mc\\_cid=d10fc1dc5b&mc\\_eid=aae4be9c9c](https://www.carterandholmes.com/?mc_cid=d10fc1dc5b&mc_eid=aae4be9c9c)

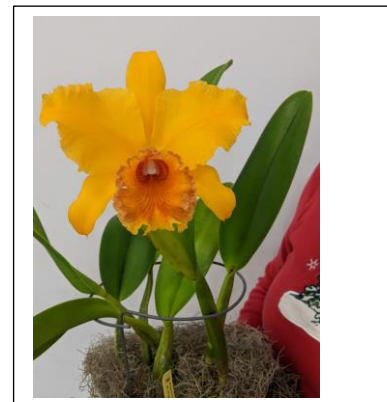
FREE Issue ORCHIDS Magazine courtesy AOS

<https://go.aos.org/freeissue201904>

## CFOS Show Table Winners December 2023

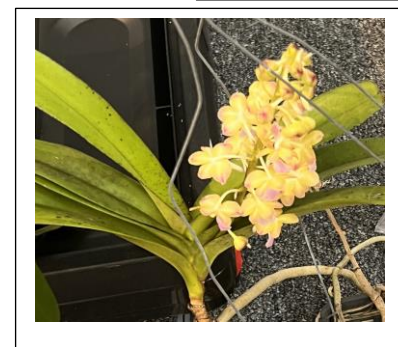
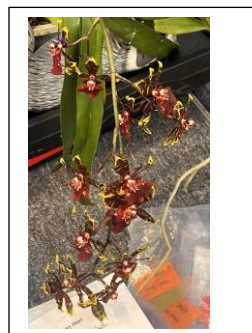
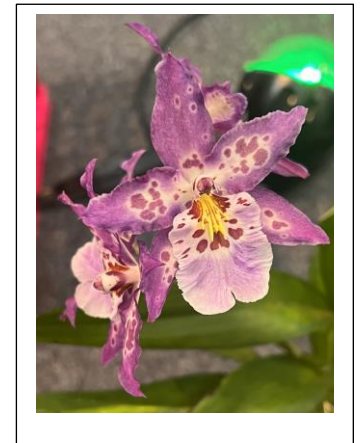
### Show Table - Standard Size Plants (over 10 inches tall or wide)

	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Owner</u>
<b><u>Standard Size Best in Show Table</u></b>		
First	Blc Apricot Flare 'Orchid Heights' BLC George King 'Serendipidi'	Paula Paye
<b><u>Class Winners - Standard Size</u></b>		
Cattlea/L/Br/Soph Alliance		
First	Blc Apricot Flare 'Orchid Heights; x Blc George King 'Serendipidi'	Paula Paye
Second	Lc Nippon 'Livinza' am/JoGa	Paula Paye
Dendrobium		
First	Den. Nobile	Polly Kopka
Second	Den Hawaiia Twinkle	Joyce Pennock
Oncidium/Odont/Brassia Alliance		
First	Arthurara Sea Snake	Nancy Wetherington
Second	Onc. Sloth	Nancy Wetherington
Paphiopedalu/Phrags		
First	Phrag Don Wimber	Ibasco/Googe
Phalenopsis		
First	Phal. N.O.I.D.	Polly Kopka
Vanda/Asco/Aerides Alliance		
First	Vanda N.O.I.D.	Joyce Pennock
Small Best in Show		
	Lc. Tiny Blue	Laura Elliott
Cat Mini		
First	Lc. Tiny Blue	Laura Elliott
Dend Mini		
	No Entry	



## 2023 Show Table Points December 6

Member	Previous	December	Total
Christine Brueck	50		50
Laura Elliott	65	20	85
Barb Flynn	5		5
Ibasco/Googe	86	10	96
Polly Kopka	15	20	35
Jim Lanier	42		42
Pam Layne	161	5	166
Lyndon McCall	5		5
Laura Overstreet	85		85
Paula Paye	338	23	361
Joyce Pennock	129	13	142
Byron Price	10		10
Jane Ranney	18	5	23
Jan Schwab	18		18
Rebecca Taylor	13		13
Steve & Karen Tobiassen	98		98
Nancy Weatherington	70	13	83
Karen Zopf	8		8







American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.

**our AOS needs your support!**

Dear Orchid Friend,

As a passionate orchid enthusiast and a dedicated member of the [American Orchid Society](#), I am reaching out to you with a final sense of urgency because it will soon be 2024 and we need you!

I am reaching out to encourage you to join me in making a generous donation to **Your AOS**. Your support will allow us to reach new heights in our mission to promote and advance the knowledge, appreciation and conservation of orchids. The AOS has become a vital resource for both beginners and seasoned growers, providing a platform for learning, sharing, and celebrating the diverse beauty of orchids. But you already know that, right?

There are various ways you can contribute:

1. **One-Time Donation:** Your one-time donation will provide immediate support to ongoing programs and initiatives. Just click [here](#) to reach our secure donation page. There you can choose where your donation goes and the frequency of your donation.
2. **Legacy Giving:** Select [Petals of Generosity](#) for a lasting donation in someone's name. Explore options for leaving a lasting legacy through planned giving or including the AOS in your estate plans.
3. **Monthly Donation:** You can set up a monthly recurring, painless, donation on the website!

It is not too late! Every US tax-deductible contribution, regardless of size, makes a significant difference. Together, we can ensure that the [American Orchid Society](#) continues to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jay Balchan, President

**MAILING ADDRESS:** American Orchid Society | PO Box 565477 | Miami, FL 33256-5477

**AOS LIBRARY:** 10901 Old Cutler Road | 2nd Floor | Coral Gables, FL 33156

**WEBSITE:** [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) | **TELEPHONE:** 305-740-2010 | **FAX:** 305-747-7154 | **EMAIL:** [theaos@aos.org](mailto:theaos@aos.org)

From Fred  
Clarke, a recent  
Guest Speaker



## Catasetum Growing Tips

Now that winter has really set in, your *Catasetums* and *Cycnoches* will have matured their growths and for the most part finished flowering, there are always a few late bloomers that should be on their way to dormancy soon. *Mormodes* will be finishing up their bloom season, and now it's time for many of the *Clowesia* hybrids to flower.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors: the maturity of the pseudobulb, shortening day length, cooler day/night temperatures and a reduction of root zone moisture. The yellowing and dropping of leaves signal the beginning of dormancy. By now you should have stopped fertilizing and cut back on watering frequency, simulating the end of the wet season in nature. This change in culture will cause the pseudobulbs to harden off in preparation for the upcoming months of dormancy. When most leaves are yellow/brown and have fallen off, cease watering altogether. This marks the start of the dormant period.

Those of you in Florida and the southern states will have dormant plants now, and it's possible that some of you may start to see the first beginnings of new growth.



These six plants illustrate the progression of *Catasetinae* into dormancy, from left to right: 1) leaf tip yellowing, 2) leaf yellowing, browning and abscission, 3) more yellow leaves, tip die back and leaf drop, 4) obvious missing leaves at base, 5) two leaves remaining, 6) leafless plant.

Some *Catasetums*, *Cycnoches*, *Clowesia* and most *Mormodes* begin their flowering season at the end of the growing season, coinciding with the changing environmental conditions, and the onset of leaf yellowing and in dormancy. In these cases, it is natural for the flower inflorescences and blooms to begin while you are reducing irrigation frequency. Some plants don't even start to develop inflorescence until well after all water is stopped and the plant is totally leafless!

The gradual backing off of watering frequency and an increasing longer dry interval is accepted by the plants without complaint, of course there is the exception. If your plant pseudobulb shows signs of shriveling during late season usually one or two watering's will quickly plump it back up.



A shriveled pseudobulb



After one watering and a day later, it's plumped back up.

Not all plants lose all of their green leaves when dormant, and it's not uncommon for some to hold a few leaves well past the point when irrigation has stopped.

By late December, it's important to get your *Catasetinae* into the dormant stage and provide them with an adequate rest period so that they will "wake up" early in the spring to a long growing season that will help them to develop big bulbs and lots of flowers!

The onset of dormancy generally occurs naturally; however, when plants are cultivated in consistently warm growing areas, such as in the home or under lights, dormancy sometimes needs to be encouraged.

I have found that managing irrigation is one of the best tools to trigger dormancy. If you still have plants in December with a full complement of green leaves, it's time take a more aggressive approach. Allow the media to become dry, regardless of the number of green leaves. Let the media stay dry for 5-6 days then water sparingly, about one or two ounces of water. The water may flow right through the media, and that's okay. Then let media to dry and wait 8-9 days before following the same stingy irrigation procedure. Repeat this process, increasing the dry interval between waterings. This will trigger dormancy in plants that are resisting the transition.

It is best to keep the plants in nearly the same light levels as in the growing season: target 2000-2500 foot candles. When the plants are cultivated in the home or under lights do your best to give at least a 10-15 degree day night differential.

If you're growing under lights, you do need to adjust the day length throughout the year, as all *Catasetinae* experience seasonal changes in the daylight hours per day. This adjustment is important for all your orchids.

### Light level management Indoors

Growing under lights for optimal results:

April – October: day length should be set at 15 hrs.

November: reduce light schedule hour to = 14 hrs.

December: reduce one more hour = 13 hrs.

January: and reduce one more hour = 12 hrs.

February: add one hour = 13 hrs.

March: add one more hour = 14 hrs.

April – October: back to a day length schedule of 15 hrs.

I shared this idea with the last newsletter, and it's worth sharing again.

If you've had challenges overwintering your *Catasetinae* plants, due to excessive dehydration, perhaps caused by long periods of low humidity. Here is a solution being used successfully by some ingenious growers in locations with low winter humidity.



Set the pot in a jar with water, making a loose-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water should not touch the bottom of the pot, for best results it should be 2-3" away. The water reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, while the plant remains dry during dormancy. This innovative technique produces great results! We have had lots of positive feedback from growers using this method.



As my *Catasetinae* go to "sleep" for the winter I am reminded of the words of Shelley: "*If winter comes, can spring be far behind?*"

Good growing and Happy Holidays!

Fred Clarke & Carlos Lopez

Sunset Valley Orchids, Inc.

(760) 310-0778

[fred.clarke@att.net](mailto:fred.clarke@att.net)

**Your support as customers and friends is truly appreciated!**

**I am always available to take your calls and E-mails, so please feel free to contact me. I love to talk orchids!**

**And as always, Good Growing!**

**Please join our Facebook page:**