



CFOS Newsletter

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CAPE FEAR ORCHID SOCIETY



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JANUARY BRINGERS

(WHO BRINGS SNACKS)

The following volunteered:

OPEN - drink

Jan Schwab, Jim Lanier, Laura Overstreet - snack

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



NEXT MEETING

7:00 pm January 15, 2025

THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS THE LAST ONE AT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR A WHILE. SEE ARTICLE ELSEWHERE.

6:30 Doors Open. Show Table set up.

7:00 Meeting Starts.



SEE LAST PAGE FOR FULL SIZED POSTER

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Jan Schwab

Vice President: Laura Elliott

Treasurer: Laura Overstreet

Secretary: Kat McGrath

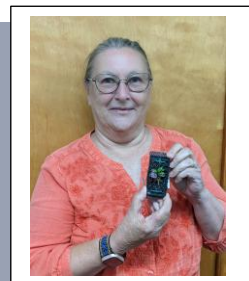
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Immediate Past President: John Wetherington

AOS Rep: OPEN

Member at Large: Nancy Wetherington

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE(S)



Happy New Year! I'm **Jan Schwab**, the incoming president for CFOS. I hope you all had a happy, healthy holiday. As we head into 2025 I want to ask all of you to think about what you can do to help make our organization have another successful year. We need members to step up to fill positions on the board and volunteers to help with Big Blooming Orchid Day. This, our major fundraiser, feeds the treasury that pays for our programs. CFOS benefits us all and we all need to help support it.

Jan Schwab

President, Cape Fear Orchid Society



As the new year is upon us, it's hard to believe I will not be President anymore. It has been nearly three years since I, **John Wetherington**, took the job. (The previous president had to step down shortly after assuming the job.) I learned a lot over that time with the help of a dedicated Board and others - I am deeply appreciative. I am still amazed how much must happen for even a small organization such as CFOS to thrive. But thrive it does because of many hands. I encourage all members to do their part in keeping CFOS informative and interesting. A lot is happening soon. Our new President has a steep learning curve having stepped up without a stint as VP to learn the ropes. We need to assist her as much as we can. Thank you for being patient with me, now we can pay that forward.

John Wetherington

Past President, Cape Fear Orchid Society

MINUTES DECEMBER 4, 2024 MEETING

Holiday Potluck Party meeting December 4, 2024, called to order by President John Wetherington at 6:41 PM

- I. Introduction to members and guests. 32 in attendance
 - a. Everyone members and guests, please sign the attendance sheet to make sure we have name tags and correct contacts for everyone.
- II. Old Business
 - a. Meeting place - still in flux. Many working to establish either another place or nail down dates at Arboretum
 - b. Election of Officers
 - i. President - Jan Schwab. Nominated, seconded and unanimously approved by members
 - ii. Vice-Pres - Laura Elliott
 - iii. Secretary - Kat McGrath
 - iv. Treasurer - Laura Overstreet
 - c. Reaffirmation of old and volunteers for new Board of Directors
 - i. Immediate Past President - John Wetherington
 - ii. AOS Rep - **open**
 - iii. Member at Large - Nancy Wetherington
 - d. Chairpersons
 - i. Webmaster - Andrew Price
 - ii. Newsletter - Kat McGrath
 - iii. BBOD - Laura Overstreet
 - iv. Program - Pam Layne
 - v. Hospitality - Nancy Wetherington
 - vi. Publicity - **open**
 - vii. Raffle Coordinator - Paula Paye
 - viii. Show table - Jane Ranney doing December. Thanks for so many years of service. Vote! Again a plea for someone to take over this position
- III. Raffle table - "Can't win if you don't play." Support CFOS

Respectfully submitted,
Kat McGrath, Secretary

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Feb 12 - Arboretum

Mar 8 BBOD - St John's
Episcopal Church
(see flyer last page)

Mar 12 - Arboretum

Apr 16 - Arboretum

Please note. Orchid and party photos this month were taken by Pam Layne and Kat McGrath with help from Betty Simpson.

AOS WEBINARS

Members Only Thurs Jan 8 8:30 EST,
Never Repot again Part 1. Harvey
Brenneise.

Public Tues Feb 5 8:30 EST
Greenhouse Chat. Ron McHatton

Members Only Thurs Feb 12 8:30
EST, Never Repot again Part 2. Harvey
Brenneise.

All About Orchids: AOS checklist January/February

<https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/seasonal-orchid-care/monthly-checklist-for-january-and-february>

2205 CFOS DUES

CFOS Membership
dues are now due.

\$25/year family
membership

Please bring check
or cash to the
meeting January 15
or mail a check to
Laura Overstreet,
237 Cherokee Trail,
Wilmington, 28409

RAFFLE TABLE RAMBLINGS

Greetings from Tamiami International Orchid Show!! I am here with Tammy and Brandy!

Wish you were here. We'll send pictures!

Grow happy,
Paula Paye
Raffle Table Coordinator

ed note: See poster elsewhere in this newsletter about this show, THE BIGGEST ORCHID EVENT IN THE COUNTRY

CFOS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Webmaster - Andrew Price
 Newsletter Editor - Kat McGrath
 Hospitality Chair - Nancy Wetherington
 Big Blooming Orchid Day - Laura Overstreet
 Program Chair - Pam Layne
 Publicity Chair - open
 Show Table Coordinator - Karen Zopf
 Raffle Table - Paula Paye
 Auditor - Martha Conner

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>

ORCHID HUMOR



JANUARY PROGRAM NOTES

FROM PAM LAYNE

The January 15th meeting will be at the Lutheran Church of Reconciliation, 7500 Market Street in Ogden. Doors open at 6:30. It will be a business meeting with many discussions. Paula will not be at the meeting. Bring your raffle items and we trust someone will volunteer to run the raffle for this meeting. Discussion items include, but not limited to:

- Introducing and inducting the new officers
- Presentation of awards
- Explanation of the new Show Table
- Going over the meeting dates and locations
- What would you like to see or talk about at upcoming meetings?
- BBOD discussion and signing up volunteers
- Show Table voting and announcement
- Raffle. Please volunteer to run it for this month
- Lyndon McCall will bring orchids and succulents for sale

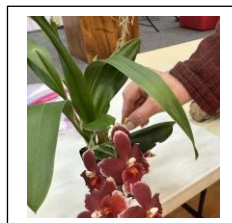
**FOLLOW
THIS LINK TO
VIEW CFOS
HOLIDAY
PARTY
PICTURES**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zdtgRusD1csWheL89>



**FOLLOW
THIS LINK
TO VIEW
CFOS
DECEMBER
SHOW
TABLE
PICTURES**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/sVuTLqyusdZY6suz7>



**FOLLOW THIS LINK
TO VIEW TAMIAMI
ORCHID FESTIVAL
INFO**

<https://www.tamiamiorchidfestival.com/>

NEXT WEEKEND:
THE BIGGEST
ORCHID EVENT IN
THE UNITED STATES



Tamiami 2025: January
17-19, 2025

Come to sunny South
Florida next weekend for
the 2025 Tamiami
International Orchid
Festival!

CFOS 2025 MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS

(Preliminary. Additions and adjustments will be made)

Date	Speaker	Topic	Selling?	Location
January 15	Business Meeting & installation		Yes, Lyndon	Lutheran Church
February 12	Keith Davis	Bifoliate Cattleyas	No?	Arboretum
March 12	Steve Frowine	TBA	No	Arboretum
April 16	Nicholas Rust	TBA	Yes	Arboretum
May 14	AOS webinar?	Beth Martin/Brassavola	No	Arboretum
June 11	Yair and Tomas	The Tarzane Group	Yes	Arboretum
July 16	Courtney Hackneau	TBA	?	Arboretum
August 13	Bill Bodei	TBA	?	Arboretum
September 10	TBA	TBA		Arboretum
October 15	Lee (Tyler) Curry	TBA	?	Arboretum
November 12	TBA	TBA		Arboretum
December 3 or 10	Christmas Party			TBD

Organizing My Orchids by Laura Elliott

Like most people, my first orchid was a gift. Now, fifteen years later, I have around 100 orchids in 10 different genera and hybrids. When I first started accumulating orchids, people told me to get diverse types to see what suited my lifestyle, my living space, and my personal taste in flowers. Over the years, I have certainly found orchids that did not thrive in my household (Masdevallias, Draculas) and several that I grew successfully but did not have flowers that I felt were worth the effort (Aussie Dendrobiums, Neofinetia). Orchids that I prefer include Cattleyas, Catasetums and Paphiopedilums. Occasionally I will see an intriguing orchid for sale at an event and indecision occurs. There is money, time and effort invested in growing orchids. Will it be happy at my house? Will I be happy with its flowers?

Currently, I keep track of my orchids in a notebook, with each plant assigned a page. I write down when I got it, how much it cost (in exceedingly small print) and where I got it. Over time, I follow up with dates of blooming, repotting, any parasite problems/treatments. If a plant blooms, I put a picture in the notebook, as proof of success.

In 2024, I started having more blooming orchids, which hopefully means I am doing something correctly in my plant room. But printing pictures of the blooms is a real drain of printer ink, and the flowers always look better on the computer screen than on my photo paper. So, I am contemplating going digital and buying a software program that will help me keep my orchid collection organized and will include digital pictures. I am hoping that keeping my orchid records on the computer will allow me to keep my digital photos with my records and give me a quick reference of plants that I did and did not grow well. If anyone has any experience with orchid software, good or bad, please feel free to share your experience with me at the next CFOS meeting.

Perhaps, in 2025, I will digitize and organize my collection!

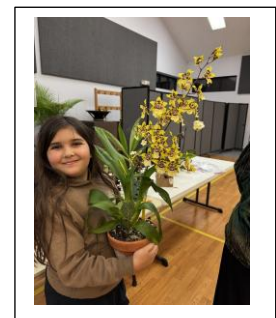
CFOS Show Table Winners December, 2024

Standard Size Plants (over 10 inches tall or wide)

Plant	Owner
Standard Show Size Best in Show Table	
First Fred Clarke After Dark ‘Sunset Valley’	Laura Elliott
Second Oncidium Wildcat ‘Yellow King’	Evelyn F
Class Winners - Standard Size	
Cattleya /L Br Soph Alliance	
First B Maikai Mayumi	Jon/Tyler
Second B Little Stars. C Cordata	Jane Ranney
Encyclia/Epidendrum/Maxillaria	
First Epidendrum NOID	Nancy Weatherington
Gongora/ Cyno/Stanhopia Alliance	
First Fredclarkeara After Dark ‘Black Pearl’	Steve & Karen Tobiassen
Second Fredclarkeara After Dark ‘Sunset Valley’	Laura Elliott
Oncidium/Odot/Brassia	
First Oncidium Wildcat ‘Yellow King’	Evelyn F
Second Oncidium Tariflow Lady	Tammy Swanson
Paphiopedilum/Phrags	
First Paph Pleasingly Wood	Tammy Swanson
Phalaenopsis	
First Phal. N.O.I.D. Yellow	Tammy Swanson
Vanda/ Asco/Aerides Alliance	
First Vanda N.O.I.D. Gold	Tammy Swanson

SHOW TABLE POINTS DECEMBER 2024 YEAR END TOTALS

Member	Previous	December	Total
Karen Carson	10		10
Laura Elliott	171	18	189
Dawn Hoback	8		8
Ibasco/Googe	67	10	77
Polly Kopka	23		23
Jim Lanier	61		61
Pam Layne	171		171
Lyndon McCall	28		28
Kat McGrath	20		20
Brandy Morris	161		161
David Nunamacher	10		10
Laura Overstreet	95		95
Paula Paye	192		192
Joyce Pennock	70	5	75
Byron Price	5		5
Jane Ranney		8	8
Jan Schwab	61		61
Tammy Swanson	45	23	68
Steve & Karen Tobiassen	10	10	20
Nancy Weatherington	51	10	61
Karen Zopf	28		28
Evelyn F		15	15



AOS NOTES BY JAN SCHWAB

JANUARY

Orchid growing is as full of perversities as it is of fun, and the most experienced of us can kill plants as quickly as anyone else. There are, however, some general but basic reminders and suggestions to be followed. January is undoubtedly the quietest cultural month of the year, even if it is not the quietest month for weather. One can take a rest from potting and catch up on other necessary chores. For example, thoroughly clean up your plants, remove dead or diseased leaves, and follow this with a bath of diluted soap and water to remove dirt from the leaves. Make sure that the pseudobulbs are covered and remove loose and old sheaths. Inspect the bottom of the pots for slugs and snails. Plants having black spots caused by fungal diseases, that cannot be removed with a knife, can be treated with a bit of fungicide and then kept on the dry side for a while.

We presume that your growing space was thoroughly cleaned in the summer when plants could be placed outside. If not, then space must be made and the growing area itself cleaned. Plants can then be moved over to this clean space as they are treated. Do not forget the glass if you are growing on a windowsill. The normal accumulation of grime can cut down on needed light, so scrub and wash the glass as the space is cleared.

Ventilation this month depends on outside weather; give air whenever outdoor temperatures are high enough, if only for a short time. Your plants will appreciate the fresh air but avoid sudden changes and drafts.

This is the time of the year to be watchful of the temperature difference between your heated home and the windowsill or basement growing area. A difference of 10 or more degrees

Fahrenheit is not uncommon, and plants can freeze near a single-pane window or in an unheated basement or garage on sufficiently cold nights. A small fan facing away from the plants will help circulate air between the window and the general room. Speaking of freezing, watch out for bay windows. Many of these structures have uninsulated bottoms and while they make great growing areas concerning light availability, they can become dangerously cold on those cold winter nights.

FEBRUARY

Longer days and the resulting higher day temperatures will start many plants into activity but, February is a treacherous month, and warm sunny days can quickly turn cold in many parts of the country, so beware. More water and ventilation will be required, but it is wise to water early on bright, sunny days. Before the rush of potting, finish the plant clean-up work, check all labels, and rewrite or replace them wherever necessary

MARCH

The weather in March can still be treacherous in some parts of the country, while in others it is almost summer— or so it feels. But by March things are really popping, and this increased activity means more attention to culture, especially potting. Besides spring orchid shows, attend your local orchid society meetings. It is interesting to listen to others' ideas on potting materials, fertilizing methods, etc. Just remember, a wise person listens to all, sifts the information carefully, then goes home and evolves his own methods, slowly adopting new things and then trying these new things on a few plants for sufficient time before adopting them on a large scale.

The hardest part of orchid culture to understand is, without equal, watering. Great care must be exercised now. Plants making new growth need water, but resting plants can go for long periods without. While there are no specific rules, such as once a week, it is

certainly better to err on the dry side. Winter, more than any other time, the adage “if in doubt, wait” could not be more appropriate. Keep seedlings growing, but beware of chilled water, as it can do damage. Watch out for excessively high humidity. Do not let resting plants shrivel. With higher temperatures in March and more fresh air, it follows that more water must be used. At all times be judicious: strive to provide as much as growing plants can use, but remember that a single case of overwatering can mean dead roots. If in doubt, moisten the surface of the potting medium on bright days and wait another day or two before thoroughly watering. Check more frequently those plants on mounts. They, too, will need more frequent fertilizing as the days get longer and warmer.

By now, most genera should receive all the light they can get without burning so all window shading should be removed. Phalaenopsis and possibly paphiopedilums are the exceptions and may still benefit from light shade depending on the brightness of the growing space.

After the middle of February, it may be necessary to add some shade as the sun angle increases. What might have been ample light during winter’s short days may now be burning sun and once that ugly burn appears it is too late for that leaf. By March the rule is to give as little shade as possible and increase as needed, judging from the condition of your plants.

CULTURE

During the winter months, most orchids grown in the home will need little or no fertilizer. As days lengthen and light levels increase in March, light feeding can be increased but follow directions carefully. As with pesticides, if a little is good, more is NOT better.

Except for seedlings making active growth which should be potted as needed, most mature plants should be left alone during the darker, shorter winter days. By February,

paphiopedilums and cymbidiums can be potted just as soon as they are finished flowering. Water sparingly until live roots are active. A light dampening of the potting mix surface will help to encourage new root growth. Do not be too anxious to divide plants. Orchids flower best when they are mature, well-established, generally multigrowth plants.

March begins the potting season in earnest so tackle the job early; catch cymbidiums as flowers fade but only if the pots are crowded or the potting medium is in poor shape. Cattleyas, just as the roots are breaking, not after they are 2 inches (5 cm) long, are ripe for potting. Divide or save the backbulbs. Plants of the Oncidium Alliance are ready when the new growths are 3-4 inches (7.5-10 cm) tall and new root growth is beginning. Use as small a pot as possible, especially if you have a heavy hand with water. Check the plants on mounts; they may need more fiber or another wire. Plants in fir bark should be given a thorough soak, then allowed to remain on the dry side (this does not mean kept like the Sahara Desert – just slightly drier) until roots penetrate the potting mix.

Keep a lookout for insect and mite infestations. There is nothing worse than a thriving colony of scale or mealybugs during the winter months when you cannot take plants outside to treat them. Mealybugs seem to be the bane of everyone’s existence but a touch of alcohol with a soft brush will handle small infestations and buy time to get plants outside later in the spring. Do not forget that a stroll through the growing area at night with a flashlight will reveal many an unsuspected marauder.

An invasion of aphids often appears from nowhere by March. It is not that they dropped out of the sky. They were there all winter as microscopic eggs which hatched with the onset of warmer conditions. It is sometimes difficult to spray when they are on flower spikes and hand removal may be necessary.

16th ANNUAL

BIG BLOOMIN' ORCHID DAY

presented by the Cape Fear Orchid Society

Saturday, March 8, 2025

8:00am to 2:30pm

Lectures/demonstrations start at 9:00am

NEW LOCATION

St John's Episcopal Church

1219 Forest Hills Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403

\$35 plus fees in advance* / \$40 at the door

- Includes a near-blooming size orchid at end of the day
- Online ticket sales via **Eventbrite.com**
or go to **capefearorchid.org**
- Lectures by experienced growers:
 - Orchid basics
 - Maintaining my orchid
 - Orchid pests & diseases
 - Q&A session to answer your questions
- Blooming orchids, orchid supplies
- Raffle table of orchid related items
(*cash only*)
- Light bites & refreshments

**Details to pay by check can be found online at capefearorchid.org*