



CFOS Newsletter

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CAPE FEAR ORCHID SOCIETY



In This Issue

Minutes

President's Message

AOS Rep

Officers

Committee Chairmen

Meet Club Members

Show Table

All About Raffles

JANUARY BRINGERS

(WHO BRINGS SNACKS)

Please see Christine Brueck at the January meeting. She will pass around the snack/drink signup list for 2023. She and Rebecca Taylor will provide for this upcoming meeting. Remember to clean up the area you were sitting in and see where else needs attention. Thanks.



NEXT MEETING

7:00PM WED 1/11/23

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

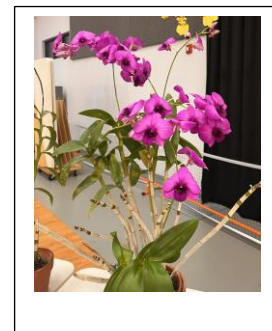
6:30 Doors Open for Plant
Sales and Show Table
set up

7:00 Meeting Starts. Scot
Dean is speaker



CLUB OFFICERS

President: John Wetherington
Vice President: Kim Little
Treasurer: Laura Overstreet
Secretary: Linda Swanson
AOS Rep: April Saas
Member at Large: Kat McGrath
Past President: Pam Layne



Minutes General Meeting December 7, 2022

President John Wetherington brought the meeting to order with a resounding Good Holiday Wishes and "Let's Eat."

Respectfully submitted,

Kat McGrath

Member at Large

Acting Secretary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

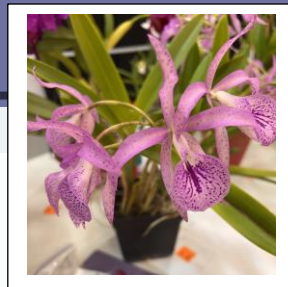
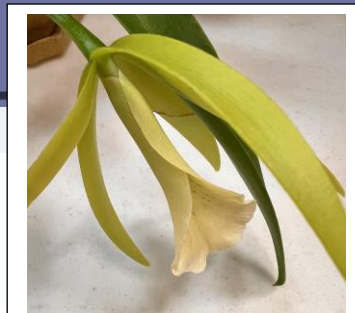
Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a good holiday (... trying to keep your orchids from freezing.) This should be a good year including such events as our Big Blooming Orchid Day fund raiser in March. Save the date of March 10th.

This month, on Jan11th, we have a presentation on NC Native Orchids by Scott Dean from western NC. We will also present our "Grower of the Year" award. AND we will officially acknowledge Kim Little as our new Vice President.

You need to be there to give credit where credit is due.

John Wetherington

CFOS President



ABC ORCHIDS

APRIL TOBIASSEN SAAS
American Orchid Society Representative

My husband and I usually take a vacation each year around the holidays. This year we decided on a cruise to somewhere totally new, the ABC Islands (Dutch Leeward Lesser Antilles). Being an orchid enthusiast, and knowing how adaptable orchids can be, I couldn't help but wonder if there were any orchids native and natural to these remote islands. I kept this idea in my head as we set sail, looking forward to new orchid discoveries. I had heard the expression "tropical desert island" before, but I think I had a slight misconception.

The ABC Islands (Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao) are located 15 miles north of Venezuela, yet just outside of "Hurricane Alley". They are a semi-arid, small island chain (Curacao is the largest of the three at 170 square miles) where the temperatures range from 78 to 89 degrees year-round. They have a 9-month dry season and see an average of only 12 inches of rain overall per year.



Island of Curacao

Anything that lives here has to be extremely drought tolerant. The islands are windswept. Vegetation consists almost solely of cacti, thorny shrubs, and sandspurs. The highest elevation on the islands is only 1200 feet. There are lizards and a few small snakes (as well as bats, mice, rabbits, and deer), but no large predatory mammals (except an occasional wild pig). Birds abound, from hummingbirds to flamingos.

My first orchid related thought when we arrived was that ANY orchids on these islands were going to have been sent from somewhere else, to be sold to tourists. The islands were AMAZING. Lava and limestone and beautiful turquoise water, but no orchids in sight. There was no way orchids could live in an environment this dry. I don't know what I was thinking. When I got home, and had internet access again, I felt the need to research whether or not there really are any natural orchids of the ABCs. There are 4 different species that live in nature on the islands. Two of these are truly indigenous and two are considered invasive.

Brassavola nodosa, also known as the Lady of the Night, is the most prevalent indigenous species. It can be found in cracks in rocks and cliffs and will bloom from November to January. It is exceptionally drought tolerant, able to conserve water in its



Brassavola nodosa

pseudobulbs, resembling the behaviors of a cactus. This species is pollinated by a specific night dwelling moth and, thus, is white, fragrant, and night blooming. Specialized moths help to insure the survival of the species.

The second indigenous species is *Myrmecophila humboldtii* and is closely related to the genus *Schomburgkia*. This orchid blooms on long stalks (in July and August) and is pollinated by colonizing ants that take over the internal structure of the pseudobulbs. While occupying the inside they leave their "garbage" behind which helps to subsidize the poor nutrient environment. This sort of assistance elevates the orchid's chance of survival in these dry conditions. Quite a symbiotic relationship. Loosely translated, *Myrmecophila* means "ant friend".



Myrmecophila humboldtii



Oeceoclades maculata

There are 2 other orchids that inhabit these islands that are considered invasive. They are not naturally occurring on the islands but have become active inhabitants. *Oeceoclades maculata*, also known as the Monk Orchid or African Spotted Orchid, is closely related to *Angraecums*. It is terrestrial and will take hold easily in any available leaf detritus. *Polystachya foliosa*, or the Lesser Yellow Spike Orchid, has become a transplant to the ABC Islands, as well. It is closely related to *Vandas* and is found infrequently and only at upper elevations. While both of these orchids exhibit autogamy (which has led to their aggressive colonization), *Polystachya foliosa* also exhibits cleistogamy, the act of deliberately opening its flowers incompletely in order to assure self-pollination. Both of these orchids are

opportunistic expansionists.



Polystachya foliosa

Orchids are such complex organisms that they have managed to adapt and evolve to fit almost every niche on the planet. Although I didn't see any actual specimens on my journey, it was oddly comforting to know that orchids can even be found on these desert islands.

Webinars

Wednesday, January 4th @ 830pm
Greenhouse Chat: Orchid Q & A
w/ Ron McHatton
OPEN TO ALL

Thursday, January 5th @ 830pm
New Directions in Zygopetalinae
w/ Tim Culbertson
AOS MEMBERS ONLY

Our January Speaker Is.....

Scott Dean from Western NC; he will be doing a live Zoom program on "North Carolina Native Orchids" and will be taking questions afterwards. Scott earned a degree in biology, with a focus on the flora, fauna, and geology of the southern Appalachians. He is a featured speaker for the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville and was awarded Photographer of the Year for 2017 from the Blue Ridge Naturalist Network. He has led wildlife and wildflower walks at the Western NC Nature Center where he worked building the cougar and bobcat habitats and has served as First VP for the Friends of the Nature Center. Scott also developed curricula and teaches field classes for the Blue Ridge Naturalist program at the NC Arboretum.

NC Native Orchids

By Scott Dean

January 11, 2023

Scott was born and raised in the mountains of southern Appalachia, specifically the coalfields of West Virginia and southwestern Virginia.

Western North Carolina has been his home since 1992. After retiring from the military, he attended UNC-Asheville, earning a degree in biology, with a focus on the flora, fauna, and geology of the southern Appalachians.

He was a walk leader and featured speaker for the UNC-Asheville Wildflower Pilgrimage from 1995 until 2015. Scott has led wildlife and wildflower walks at the Western North Carolina Nature Center, where he worked for a year building the cougar and bobcat habitats and has served as First Vice President of the Friends of the Nature Center as well as serving on the Town of Weaverville Tree Board. He developed curricula and teaches field classes for the Blue Ridge Naturalist program now offered at the N. C. Arboretum

With his photography he was a featured speaker at the Great Smoky Mountains Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in 2011 and was awarded Photographer of the Year for 2017 by the Blue Ridge Naturalist Network.

He lives in the Hazelwood district of Waynesville, NC and in Balsam, NC with his wife Laurey-Faye, Loretta, the new wonder dog, and Zeb, the 2nd wonder dog. When not leading natural history programs in the region, he enjoys gardening, hiking, backpacking, and playing around with various stringed, wind, and percussion instruments.



CFOS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

- AOS Representative - April
Tobiassen Saas
- Webmaster - Andrew Price
- Newsletter Editor - Kat McGrath
- Hospitality Chair - Christine Brueck
- 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

ORCHID HUMOR

Tomorrow is National Treat
Yourself and Buy a New

Orchid Day

It's nothing official. I just
made it up. Tell the others.



MEET OUR
MEMBERS WITH
A FUN FACT



Kim Little, our new Vice President, was a flight attendant! Her most treasured piece of furniture is an oak library card catalog with 66 drawers. It is the size of a large dresser

Nice to Know About....

Link to AOS January 2023 Newsletter, "Let's Grow Together

<https://mailchi.mp/ceffcd711803/aos-corner-your-2023-january-orchid-newsletter?e=592f643920>



RAFFLE TABLE RAMBLINGS

by Paula Paye

Happy New Year and Jingle January!

Regifting at its finest! Think of us 1st!

Did you get too many stocking stuffers? Don't need those little gadgets. Multiple pretty things? The raffle table is happily accepting all those well intended gifts that didn't quite work out, as well as any orchid or plant related items that need new homes.

Thanks for sharing!

Below are some pictures of the Auction Table at the Holiday Dinner meeting. Kat scored bigtime!

Paula Paye



Editor note. I have received comments asking to make the pictures larger. Instead of me making them bigger, please look at the center top of the screen that your .pdf newsletter opens in. It should have a PLUS sign and MINUS sign on either side of 100%. Click the PLUS and your whole document will get larger in the screen. kmcg

SHOW TABLE WINNERS

Show Table results tabulated and reported each month by Jane Ranney.

CFOS Show Table Winners - December 2022

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

Plant Owner

Standard Size Best in Show Table

First	LC Decameron "Nai"	Karen & Steve Tobiassen
Second	Brassavola "Little Stars"	Pam Layne

Class Winners - Standard Size

Cattleya/Br/LC alliance

First	LC Decameron "Nai"	Karen & Steve Tobiassen
Second	Brassavola "Little Stars"	Pam Layne

Dendrobium

First tie	Purple (Maybe) Hisako Haraguchi	Joyce Pennock
	D1 no entry	

Oncidium/Odon/Brassia Alliance

First	Onc. Gold Dust	Paula Paye
Second	Onc. Sweet Sugar	Byron Price

Best in Show Table - Miniature to Small Size Plants (under 10 inches wide or tall)

Miniature to Small Size Best in Show Table

Show Table Points - 2022

Member	Total	December	Total
Christine Brueck	73		73
Karen Carson	5		5
Laura Elliott	76		76
Barb Flynn	30		30
Bob Heinisch	10		10
Jonathan Ibasco	140		140
Polly Kopka	38		38
Jim Lanier	20		20
Pam Layne	152	13	165
Grace Manaker	16		16
Kat McGrath	10		10
Brandy Morris	28		28
Laura Overstreet	54		54
Paula Paye	301	10	311
Joyce Pennock	134	10	144
Byron Price	20	8	28
Jane Ranney	20		20
Jeannie Richardson	5		5
Fritz Rhode	18		18
Carol Shores	8		8
Kelly Smith	79		79
Rebecca Taylor	31		31
Steve & Karen Tobiassen	131	20	151
John & Nancy Wetherington	57		57
Karen Zopf	10		10



Holiday Party Pictures



