

Cape Fear Orchid Society



MAY 2016



Pres. Ann's message:

Happy May!

On May 11th at 7:00 pm, the Cape Fear Orchid Society will host Glen Decker from Piping Rock Orchids in upstate New York. His topic will be "Phragmipediums and their Hybrids," including the Kovachii Phrags. Mr Decker has written many articles on orchids and has appeared on PBS. He will be selling Phragmipedium, Chinese Cymbidium, and Bulbophyllum orchids. Sale of these orchids begins at 6:30. The meeting will be held at the New Hanover Arboretum at 6206 Oleander Drive, as usual.

I want to thank everyone for responding to our survey. We had 28 people participating. The responses were varied with many comments centered on how to streamline our meetings. A majority of people liked the meetings on Wednesday with a 6:30 - 7:00 pm starting time. A majority of people would attend a meeting in Brunswick County or Leland. This is something we want to look at closer since we have a number of members from Brunswick County. Orchid culture and good speakers are important to our membership. The board has many issues regarding the meeting structure to address. Unfortunately, we had to put off a board meeting until after the May meeting due to conflicting schedules.

Ann Gallman, President
910-363-4027
ann.gallman@gmail.com

Meeting date:

MAY 11

Arboretum

7 pm

Program:

Speaker:

Glen Decker

**"Phragmipediums
and their Hybrids"**

Glen will bring plants for sale.

Pre-orders welcome!

(See page 2.)

CFOS 2016 Speakers

**JUNE 15 - Mark Reinke
Encyclias**

JULY 13 - Picnic?????

**AUG. 10 - Courtney Hackney
Orchid Growing Tips**

**SEPT. 14 - Steve Frowine
Orchids for Dummies
Author**

**OCT. 12 - Art Chadwick Jr.
Cattleyas**

NOV. 16 - TBA

DEC. 14 - Holiday Party!

May Speaker: Glen Decker

**Our May speaker, Glen Decker, has been growing orchids for nearly 40 years, and holds the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Ornamental Horticulture. Glen is presently the owner of Piping Rock Orchids in Galway, New York, which has been selling quality orchids for 20 years. **He was the previous chair of the American Orchid Society's Publications Committee and a past Director of the Orchid Digest Corporation. Glen has won numerous AOS awards, including the Butterworth Prize, Nax Trophy, WW Wilson Award and the Carlyle A. Luer Award. He has appeared in Martha Stewart's Better Living Magazine and on a PBS TV special "Orchid Delirium." He rewrote the Slipper section of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "The Best Orchids for Indoors" and was the technical editor for the "Orchids for Dummies" book. He also has written many articles on Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, which have been published worldwide.

**Mr Decker wrote a very interesting article for the AOS back in 2007 about the culture of the *kovachii*. It is well worth checking it out. <http://www.pipingrockorchids.com/assets/Glenn-Decker-Nov-2007-Article-AOS-PK.pdf> (Ed. Note: Excellent article and beautiful photos!)

**He has promised to put a lot of culture info into his talk. (Due to the fact these plants like alkaline soil, maybe sphagnum moss would not be recommended as a medium.)

He will be selling Phragmipedium, Chinese Cymbidium (the smaller heat loving types that can be set on window ledges), and Bulbophyllum orchids. **Sale of orchids begins at 6:30** so that this does not interfere with our regular meeting time.

**Our members can go online and preorder any plant they want. The website is <http://www.pipingrockorchids.com/index.php>. Glen said he would be bringing plants to sell, but remember we are the last stop and although he said he would save some plants for us, the pickings may not be so good (or cheap).

MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 8!

MOMS LOVE ORCHIDS!

**Buy Mom an orchid and then give her the
gift of a
CFOS Orchid Society membership for 2016.
Membership only \$25
for a world of learning!**

APRIL WINNERS



BEST STANDARD
Brassia Rex 'Waiomao Spotless'
 owned by
 Kathi LaBash



SECOND TO BEST STANDARD
Colmanara Wildcat
 owned by
 Steve & Karen Tobiassen

Best in Show Table - Standard Size Plant -
Brassia Rex 'Waiomao Spotless' Owner: Kathi LaBash

Kathi's plant shows many of the characteristics which make *Brassia Rex* a very popular hybrid: strong vigorous growth, multiple flower spikes and star shaped greenish- yellow spotted flowers, except that her particular clone is "spotless." *Brassias* are called "spider orchids" because the flowers remind some people of spiders or maybe because when they were discovered, they were being inhabited or pollinated by spiders.

With 3 flower spikes and lots of flowers on each spike, under Kathi's fine care, her plant is well on its way to being a great specimen plant. The flowers are so well spaced that you can appreciate the stacked style of arrangement on each spray. This also is a great characteristic to use in flower arrangements.

These orchids mixed with fern fronds make very long-lasting arrangements. This very old hybrid has stood the test of time and changing fashions in the orchid world. One of the awarded clones has sepals which are 18 to 24 inches long.

B. longissima is one of the hybrids in the cross, so it probably got the long sepals from this species. For a better display, she could have staked the spikes as they grew out so that they were more upright. Visualize the plant as a specimen plant with upright spikes the whole way around the outside of the pot and facing upright. Stunning!

Brassia species originate in several South American countries, and are relatively easy to grow, so one would suspect that these hybrids would be warmth tolerant. The relatively thick leaves can also tell you that they can take fairly strong light.

During the active growing season they should not be dried out. A mix that is well drained but can still hold some moisture would work well. As a group having relatively thin roots, I would not

use peat moss as it would be more difficult to water properly, and more susceptible to rot if overwatered. The new mix that some of us purchased with the club, would probably be ideal with the addition of some perlite to help provide aeration to the roots.

Second to Best - Standard -
Colmanara Wildcat
 Owner: Steve & Karen Tobiassen

Steve and Karen have exhibited a great inter-generic hybrid, a *Colmanara*, which is comprised of *Miltonia*, *Oncidium* and *Odon toglossum*. Their particular plant has one very large branching flower spike with tons of reddish brown flowers which favor the *Miltonia* parent in shape and the *Oncidium* in arrangement of the spike. The individual genera have some species which are cool growing, and some others which are warm growing, which I think would make for a wide range of growing conditions which would make these hybrids easier to grow than some of the species themselves. Wildcat is an outrageously popular hybrid, with over 20 awarded clones which attest to its popularity. I was glad to see Karen! We have missed her!

APRIL WINNERS



BEST MINI
Leptotes bicolor owned by
 Jane Ranney

SECOND TO BEST MINI
Phal. Timothy Christopher
 owned by Jim Lanier

Best in Show Table - Mini
Leptotes bicolor, owned by Jane Ranney.

What can I say~ Jane seems to have a handle on growing this cute *Leptotes* species; she may have several of the same species or we have seen this one before and now it is looking huge. I know she has more than one species in this great mini genus. It looks great in the photo provided by Jan. It is still my favorite species in this genus. The leaves look like miniature *Brassovola nodosa* leaves. That means that they are folded into a slight V which reduces the light intensity on them.

Second to Best - Mini
Phal. Timothy Christopher,
 owned by Jim Lanier

In the picture, it seems Jim has done it again in economy of potting media. It looks like there is a plant on each side of (what looks like) a tree fern slab. Our second to best is a classic small mini white *Phallie*. Moss makes it a lot easier to grow as it controls the drying of the roots as they grow into the slab. Such containers are easy to water over the sink and then let drain if growing in the house, the roots will turn green if alive. This cross has 6 clones awarded since 1996. The plant on the left of this column is an AOS photo of one of them, so you can appreciate the detail in the flowers. Jim's plant will be very floriferous when mature. The cross is *P. Cassandra* X *aphrodite*, a species. *Cassandra* is the most famous small white.



P. Cassandra
 (AOS photo)

Winner articles written by Carol Shores.

APRIL SPEAKER NOTES: John Stanton and James Curtis, Answering Culture Questions, April 13, 2016

John Stanton started growing orchids in 1969. Before, he was in the Agricultural Industry. He created his business called Orchid Trail which still has about 6 greenhouses in Morristown, NC., near Raleigh, not far from the airport. His business sells plants, potting mixtures, supplies, and even has a greenhouse where he tends orchid owners' non-blooming plants until they rebloom. Then, he advises the owner who comes to get and enjoy their orchid until it goes back into storage at John's. He has now been growing orchids for 40 years.

James Curtis is in training to be manager. John says he, himself, is "aging out" and wants to stay with it til he "runs out the clock."

Ann collected members' orchid questions and sent them to John and James. The two of them took turns giving answers and offering culture tips to members. The information follows.

Q. - Zygopetalum - why the brown spots on the leaves?

Jack Webster, a British man who grew up in Argentina and lived in Chile before returning to live in Fayetteville and joining the Sandhills Orchid Society, said that even in the wilds, he had seen Zygopetalum with brown spots. They should be grown slightly cooler. On thin-leaved orchids, brown spots can be from spider mites. These can be controlled with chemicals. Bayer products are good for this.

John uses dilute fertilizer two times a month. He grows them in a south window, but they can be cooled at night. A lot of sodium in the water can also cause brown spots.

Q. Fertilizers can cause plant leaves to turn yellow or can cause brown tips on leaves. Fertilizer should be chosen to match the water. When using city water, fertilizer can usually be used with a 2-1-2 ratio. This would mean, for instance, a 10-5-10 fertilizer. Orchids also need micro-nutrients in their fertilizer. Read the label of the product to see what is included. You can find out what is in your water if you call your water company. Usually, they can give you a rundown or send you a sheet with the breakdown of chemicals, etc.

Q - Repotting Phals. When repotting, do I put those aerial roots into the medium and when can I repot?

A. - You can repot Phals. anytime. It is better when new roots are growing, but if it needs it, do it. John leaves the aerial roots out. They are the roots that help hold the Phal to a tree in its natural habitat. They are not adapted to growth in a pot. A Phal also has little roots buried in the medium. When he repots, he prunes these roots severely.

Q. - Keiki - a little plant that appears and grows on an inflorescence (the spike with flowers). Treat it like a baby orchid. Eventually, the roots will grow longer and the leaves will get bigger. You do not have to cut it off the plant. The mother will support it. You can lay the inflorescence on its side over another pot with medium in it. Place the roots of the Keiki so that they can grow into the new medium in the new pot. Let this new little plant establish itself and then cut it off from the mother plant.

Q. Roots, etc. If a plant is not doing well because of root problems, John cuts the roots to 1/2 inch. He puts sphagnum moss into the bottom of a clear plastic pot and fits a plastic web basket on top of the sphagnum. Then he suspends the plant on the basket and fastens it with a tie so that it is steady. The web basket will keep the plant from sitting on the medium and the moist sphagnum creates humidity and moisture for the roots. In 3-6 months, good roots will form and the plant can be moved to a pot with whatever medium the grower chooses

Check for green tips on the roots. This means your plant is actively growing. Do not over pot the plant when repotting. A large plant in a small pot is fine, especially with Dendrobiums. Roots like to have something to cling to. The roots do need moisture. Humidity is a key to good roots.

Cont'd. on Page 6

Cont'd from page 5

Q. Light - Since most orchids that we grow are from tropical areas, in their natural environment, they have 12 hours of light and 12 hours of dark.

Q. Phal information: When the flowers are gone from the spike and the spike is still green, you can cut the spike off above the 2nd or 3rd node. You can identify the node on the spike by looking for a little triangle shaped lighter colored piece. Doing this may eventually lead to new branching and a few more flowers. John does not do this. He does not want a plant to bloom for more than 6 months. If you cut off the spike at its bottom, the plant can use its energy for root and plant growth.

Phals are available now year round. Twenty years ago, Phals only bloomed in the spring. John's business had a hard time getting enough. When the Taiwanese learned to reproduce and hybridize Phals as they have, they became readily available.

John likes to import the Phals and pots them to bloom. No spikes yet. He puts them in sphagnum and brings them into bloom. When he gets them, it takes 3-6 weeks to bloom them. He has learned to keep the greenhouse at 80 degrees at night. Then lower the temp to 60-62 degrees. This initiates spikes and bloom and he often gets multiple spikes. James is working on this technique and plans to put some of their results into competitions.

Q. Phaius plants - are they so sensitive to change in climate that their buds will blast? Phaius and Cymbidiums and some other orchid species do not like to be moved while in bud. Wait until the flowers come out and then move them wherever you wish. Phals and Dendrobiums which are in bud will also experience bud blast if moved at that time.

Grow Phaius plants in a terrestrial mix as they grow well outside. The bigger the pot, the less you will have to water. But, be careful! A big pot with a small plant can remain wet too long. This can cause the roots of the small plant to drown.

Q. Watering - Test the weight of the plant in the pot. If it is light in weight, water it. Then feel the weight of the plant wet. You will soon recognize the difference and know when your plants need watering.

When John lost a very precious plant to slugs in the pots, he devised a way to grow plants and give them adequate water without the threat of these critters.

John sealed the hole in the bottom of a clay pot. He put clean water into the pot. He mounted his plant on wood. Then, he hung the plant on the side of the clay pot. The moisture that evaporated from the clay pot constantly fed the plant the water it needed.

Q. - Miltoniopsis - sit the potted Miltoniopsis into a clay pot. Double sleeved. Dampen the pot and the plant will get moisture that it needs.

Q. - Mastevalias - these grow on mountains and in the cloud forest. This means grow them cool and humid. Use a sphagnum medium and keep it moist. Put in a clay pot.

John's Summary: John says, "Growing orchids is easy in the right conditions. Find out the conditions in which the plant grows in nature. Replicate in your environment and your plant will be happy. Be adventurous. If you lose a plant, it's ok. The plant may not have been healthy to begin with. Look for a better or healthier plant.

We are so lucky to pay the prices we now pay for these orchids. In the 50's, a division of a Cattleya could cost at least \$1500. And then it could take two years before a hybridizer could get a flower large enough for breeding."

[Speaker notes this month by Editor.]

CFOS Show Table Winners April 2016

Best in Show Table - Standard Size Plants (over 6 inches tall or wide)
Plant **Owner**
Standard Size Best - Brassia Rex 'Waiomao Spotless' **Kathi LaBash**
Second Colmanara Wildcat **Steve & Karen Tobiassen**

Class Winners - Standard Size

Cattleya Alliance		
First	Brassia Rex 'Waiomao Spotless'	Kathi LaBash
Second	C. intermedia aquinii var. coerulea	Steve & Karen Tobiassen
Cymbidium		
First	Cymbidium N.O.I.D.	Jan Denney
Dendrobium		
First	Den. aphyllum/pierardii	Steve & Karen Tobiassen
Second	Den. lindleyi	Jim Lanier
Oncidium/Brassia Alliance		
First	Colmanara Wildcat	Steve & Karen Tobiassen
Paphiopedilum/Phrags		
First	Paph. Starring Tomika	Jan Denney
Second	No entry form – no name listed	
Phalaenopsis		
First	Phal. N.O.I.D. peach	Joyce Pennock
Second	Phal. N.O.I.D. purple dots	Joyce Pennock

Best in Show Table - Miniature Size Plants (under 6 inches wide or tall)
Plant **Owner**
Miniature Size Best - Leptotes bicolor **Jane Ranney**
Second Phal. Timothy Christopher **Jim Lanier**

Class Winners - Miniature Size

Mini Dendrobium		
First	Den. bracteosum var. tanci.	Byron Price
Second	Den. Micro Chip	Joyce Pennock
Mini Phal		
First	Phal. Timothy Christopher	Jim Lanier .
Other Mini		
First	Leptotes bicolor	Jane Ranney
Second	Ascf. Cherry blossom	Jane Ranney

Show Table Points 2016

Members	Previous	April	Total
Pat Ahern	10	5	15
Charlie Barrett	35	0	35
Jan Denney		15	15
Ann Gallman	15	0	15
Polly Kopka	20	0	20
Kathi LaBash	8	20	28
Jim Lanier	20	18	38
Pamela Layne	50	0	50
Sam Lipscomb	15	5	20
Merry MacBarb	13	0	13
Lynette Pearsall		5	5
Joyce Pennock	33	16	49
Anita Potts	13	0	13
Byron Price	18	10	28
Jane Ranney	23	23	46
Bill Schade	37	0	37
Carol Shores	61	0	61
Steve & Karen Tobiassen	30	18	48

Controlling Critters:

The recipe here works reasonably well. It can be used outside and, sparingly, in the plant room. It came from a professional grower who said it works.

In a gallon bottle, pour a pint container of rubbing alcohol. Then, refill the alcohol container with 409 cleaner. Add that to the alcohol in the gallon container. Add water to fill the gallon container to the top. Shake. Put in a spray bottle and use while your plants are outside every 2 weeks from May to November.

Inside, it can be used with less concern about chemical pollution.

Cape Fear Orchid Society

April 13, 2016

***President Ann Gallman** opened the meeting at 6:45 pm at the Windermere Presbyterian Church. She welcomed **Courtney Hackney** and his wife **Rose**. Members who knew Courtney when he was a faithful member of CFOS were delighted to see him again and he was surrounded by people asking questions. He and Rose live in Florida now and he belongs to two societies there. They are lucky!!!

***Ann** asked Treasurer, **Laura Overstreet**, for details of the treasurer's report. Prior to the March Grower's Day, the CFOS bank account held \$5,181.98. After all the accounting was complete, the balance in the account was \$8,339.14. Speaker fees have gone up. Also, CFOS provides dinner, lodging, and a portion of the travel expenses every month for outside speakers. Having this amount for expenses is a great relief!

***Ann** thanked **Jim Lanier** for refreshments (and she brought some, too) and **Jan Denney** for the drinks.

*The **Survey Monkey** was sent out to all members. **Ann** urged members to fill out and send it in ASAP. Responses to questions will guide the board in making adjustments to meetings.

***Ann and Pat Ahern** planned to attend the AOS annual meeting in Asheville.

*Guest speaker in May will be **Glen Decker** speaking on Phragmipediums.

***Ann** asked **Courtney** to describe the show table. Courtney was the one who always did the table when he was a member.

***Ann** introduced speakers **John Stanton** from Orchid Trail and his assistant **James Curtis**.

Respectively submitted,
Jan Denney for

Linda Swanson, Secretary

REFRESHMENT REMINDER

Snacks:

Polly Kopka

Pam Layne

Drinks:

Sam & Kathy Lipscomb

Raffle:

Anyone have anything? If so, bring it, please!

Orchids: Miscellaneous stuff

A QUESTION for those who have repotted and are using the new medium "Orchiata" which members recently purchased.

CAROL suggested we request member input, such as: what are your experiences in repotting and using Orchiata. How long does it take for your plants to get reestablished in it and any other pertinent info. Send responses to the cfos email.

NOW is the time that everyone should be fast and furiously repotting their orchids for summer growth (outside, if you can grow this way).

Orchid Workshop

Saturday, May 21st

11 am—2:30 pm

Education Building at the North Carolina Pottery Center 233 East Avenue, Seagrove, NC 27341

Warner Hyde, Meredith College professor of ceramics and orchid specialist will share his extensive knowledge as the workshop presenter.

Warner has served as a judge for the American Orchid Society and has over a decade of experience caring for and propagating orchids. He will have a variety of cuttings on display for participants to examine.

Cost: NCPC Members-\$30; Non-Members-\$35. Cost includes all materials, firings, and a boxed lunch.

To register, call (336)873-8430 or email membership@ncpotterycenter.org

STEVE ARTHUR'S

BREEZY HILL ORCHID FESTIVAL 2016

Fri., June 24th through Sun. June 26th

Location: Graniteville, SC.

He has nearly doubled the number of vendors committed for this year's event. He also says the most popular vendors from last year will be back again. He is negotiating with a hotel for good rates. More information will be forthcoming when available. Those who attended last year had a good time.

Cape Fear Orchid Society

Meeting date...

MAY 11

The Arboretum, 7 PM

6206 Oleander Dr.

Wilmington

Speaker: Glen Decker

"Phragmipediums and their Hybrids"

Visit CFOS at: www.capefearorchid.org
Email: cforchidsnc@gmail.com



Address Correction Requested



Cape Fear Orchid Society
4288 Loblolly Cir., SE
Southport, NC 28461