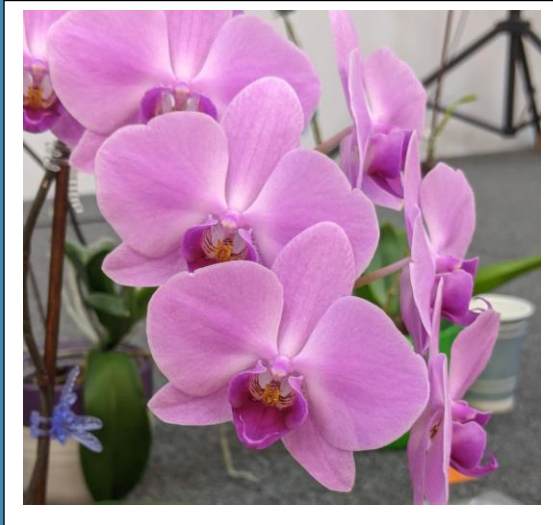




CFOS Newsletter

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CAPE FEAR ORCHID SOCIETY



In This issue

- Minutes*
- President's Message*
- AOS*
- Officers*
- Committee Chairmen*
- Show Table*
- All About Raffles*

MAY BRINGERS

(WHO BRINGS SNACKS)

The following volunteered:

Dawn Hoback - snack

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO BRING DRINKS FOR THE MAY MEETING. Please consider and email KatMcGrath46@gmail.com (in Nancy's absence) if you are able.

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



NEXT MEETING

7:00 pm May 15. Arboretum

6:30 Doors Open. Show Table set up.

7:00 Meeting Starts.

Program. Everything we need to know about pots and potting. See article herein

RAFFLE TABLE: Please bring your items for our regular raffle table!! There are always a few great gems to win.



CLUB OFFICERS

President: John Wetherington

Vice President open

Treasurer: Laura Overstreet

Secretary: Kat McGrath

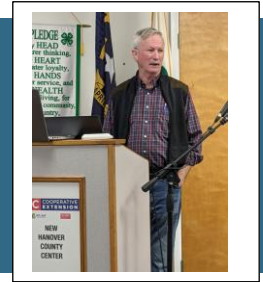
AOS Rep: Jan Schwab

Member at Large: Nancy Wetherington

Past President: Pam Layne



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At last, now that May is finally here, I can move most of my plants outside. Nights are a little cool, but barring an unusually cold night, all should be good. Last month's meeting was nice, meeting new members. We could do a more informal meeting style again - what do you think? Tell a board member.

Speaking of 'Board Members,' we again seem to be short a vice-president. The need for someone to step forward is highlighted by my being absent from the May meeting. (I'm taking a break from my presidential duties for a few weeks.) Normally, the vice-president would step in, but this month - who knows? Seriously, we do need someone to help out. The candidate would be well supported by other board members. An organization is only as good as those willing to support it. Time to step up!

Here's another way to help. We find ourselves in a position of potentially having to change meeting location places as often as every month. We are looking for something more stable. Perhaps you know of a clubhouse or church in your community that would be willing to let us use one of their meeting rooms once a month. Please think hard and let a board member know so we can check it out further.

See you in June

John Wetherington, CFOS President

MINUTES MARCH 13, 2024 MEETING

Apr 10, 2024 NHC Arboretum, President John Wetherington called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

- a. Introduction 23 members present - no visitors this month.
- II. Minutes of last month's meeting posted in newsletter and accepted by acclamation.
- III. Treasurer's report - by Laura Overstreet
 - a. Profit from BBOD finalized at \$3308.49
 - b. Total financial info available from Laura at meetings.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. BBOD Report given by Laura. Went over evaluations and realize we have work to do including better audio, more handouts, larger font on screen.
 - b. Leftover BBOD supplies & orchids for sale at this meeting
 - c. Pam explained how to submit and vote on show table
- V. New Business
 - a. Tonight: social time to meet all in attendance and ask questions about growing. (Jim Lanier gave several reasons for using ice cubes in orchids especially Phal!!!)
- VI. Show table - please vote!
- VII. Raffle table - Karen Miles' large donated dendrobium got divided into many parts and those new plants are on this month's raffle table - Australian dendrobium which can live outside almost down to hard freeze.

Respectfully submitted, Kat McGrath, Secretary

BBOD Treasurer's Report

Laura Overstreet, CFOS Treasurer

Thank you, Martha Connor, for filing all necessary 2023 tax forms and keeping us financially in order.

All About Orchids: AOS checklist May & June

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

Please note. Photos this month were taken by Pam Layne, and Kat McGrath

CLICK/FOLLOW THIS LINK TO VIEW BBOD GOOGLE PHOTOS

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipP-LHayRjLbotSZIXmcs9P7w9Wsy97c-I_i8McOj2VEJRGFNir3E7VAAUY1EZl6dg?key=WmRKQmlxUHloYWIBc klaWkhGWXJxTkh0MGcyVkNB

FREE *ORCHIDS* MAGAZINE

https://go.aos.org/freeissue201808?utm_source=free-issue&utm_medium=website&utm_term=august-2018&utm_campaign=join

AOS WEBINARS

Public Thurs May 9, 8:30 pm EST.
Greenhouse Chat. Ron McHatton

Member Only Thurs May 17, 8:30 pm EST.
Take a Trip to Taiwan - The World Orchid Conference, Carol Klonowski

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

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 - Christine Kim

Show Table Coordinator - Jane Ranney

Raffle Table - Paula Paye

Auditor - Martha Conner

May PROGRAM NOTES

FROM PAM LAYNE

There will be an interesting and timely AOS Webinar, everything you wanted to know about pots and potting, actually titled "Pots, Potting Media and their Interrelationship." Presented by Ron McHatton, PhD, American Orchid Society Chief Education and Science Officer.

I will also tell you about lights I have purchased and what I learned. Here's where I purchased them from. Check it out.

<https://botanicalleds.com/collections/all?syclid=cosl4c4h33ns73ajl7gg>

**From the AOS
Discover the top
vendors in the orchid
community and their
special offers on all
things orchid.**

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 15 - Arboretum

June 12 - Arboretum

July 10 - Lutheran Church
of Reconciliation

**HOW TO REACH
CFOS**

President -

president.cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com

Newsletter and Society
Officers:

cfosorchidsnc@gmail.com

Web Page:

capefearorchid.org

Facebook:

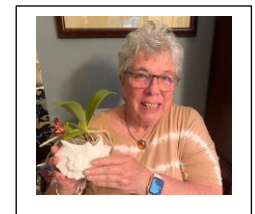
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064852324283>

ORCHID HUMOR

CFOS Show Table Winners April 2024

Compiled by Jane Ranney

<u>Plant</u>	<u>Owner</u>
<u>Standard Size Best in Show Table(over 10 inches tall or wide)</u>	
First Coelogyne pandurata ‘Tristan’	Laura Elliott
Second Cattleya N.O.I.D.	Pam Layne
<u>Class Winners</u>	
Standard Size Cattlea/L/Br/Soph Alliance	
First Cattleya N.O.I.D	Pam Layne
Second Key Lime Star	Nancy Weatherly
Gongora/Cyno Stanhopia Alliance	
First Coelogne pandurata ‘Trisstan’	Laura Elliott
Oncidium/Odont/Brassia Alliance	
First Brsdm Nitttany Gold ‘Dr John’	Pam Layne
Second Psychosis	Brandy Morris
Phalenopsis	
First Phal. Chian Xen ‘Magpie’	Laura Elliott
Second Phal. N.O.I.D. (3)	Laura Elliott
<u>Small Best in Show</u>	
First Phal Corny-cervi var. Vini Wan-Kou	Kat McGrath
Second Leptotes Bicolor	Pam Layne
Phal Mini	
First Phal Corny-cervi var. Vini Wan-Kou	Kat McGrath
Other Mini	
First Leptotes Bicolor	Pam Layne
Second Oberonia stiger	Pam Layne



Points

Member	Previous	April	Total
Laura Elliott	43	28	51
Dawn Hoback	8		8
Polly Kopka	15		15
Jim Lanier	5		5
Pam Layne	50	23	73
Kat McGrath		20	20
Brandy Morris	30	8	38
David Nunamachee	10		10
Laura Overstreet	46		46
Paula Paye	43		43
Joyce Pennock	34		34
Jan Schwab	33		33
Steve & Karen Tobiassen	10		10
Nancy Weatheringtoon	28	8	36
Karen Zopf	23		23

MORE REPOTTING INFO

FROM: www.firstrays.com

The Importance of Repotting

OK, so you've finally found the right potting medium that works great to keep your plants growing and blooming, and you know you really should repot, but every time you do, the plants are set back and skip a year of blooming, or maybe just die. This article will explain a bit about the importance of repotting, and why-, and how you should do so.

Why should we repot our plants?

As most of our cultivated orchids are epiphytes, the potting medium provides little-to-no inherent nutritional value, but is intended primarily for mechanical stability and to hold water and nutrients we apply. But all potting media change over time, and that's the reason we must repot periodically. There are many different ways media can change that may be detrimental to the plants, but the most significant two are becoming too compact and the accumulation of minerals and biofilm.

Let's talk roots.

Unlike terrestrial plants that do much of their gas exchange processes through their leaves (losing 95% or more of their absorbed water in the process), orchids have evolved a water-retention strategy by doing much of their gas exchange processes through their roots. Additionally, as plants' roots grow, they "tailor" the cell structure so that they will function optimally in that environment. Once they have grown, they cannot change.

It is that last couple of sentences that are most important. If the plant has grown roots in a really good potting medium for your conditions and watering abilities/habit, it will perform well. If that potting medium

changes, however, all those "optimized" roots will not function as well, and may begin to fail.

Changes in Potting Media.

As organic potting media age, they decompose and become more and more compact. A compact medium has smaller void spaces, allowing surface tension to keep them more easily filled with water, cutting off the air flow and suffocating the roots. Plus, with age, all media accumulate minerals and biofilm, also referred-to as "bacterial sludge", and both can be toxic in extreme cases. (Regular use of Quantum-Total will slow that process.)

Moreover, if the potting medium has changed, the newest roots – those grown recently in that "less than ideal mix" will have grown optimized for those conditions, so will do poorly once repotted into fresh mix - note the new, white root growth on the ends of "sad" roots on the plant below, which wasn't repotted often enough - those active roots are likely to fail once repotted into fresh mix, and the old ones were well on the way already.



So how do we deal with such an apparent dilemma?

The "ideal" repotting strategy is just plain simple.

Repot more often. No kidding; it's really as

simple as that.

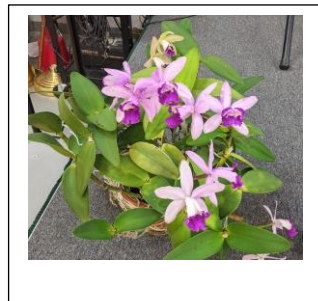
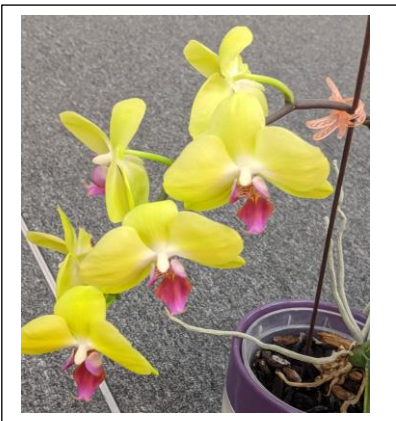
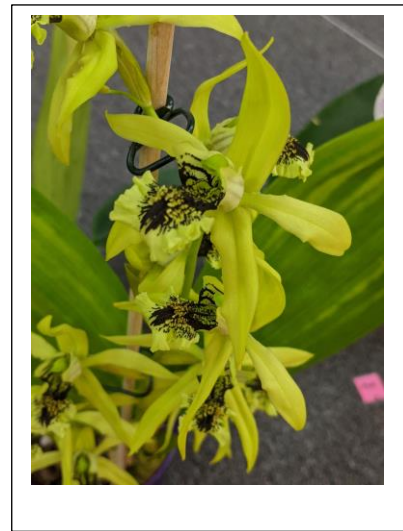
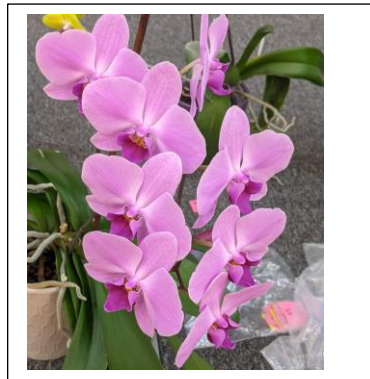
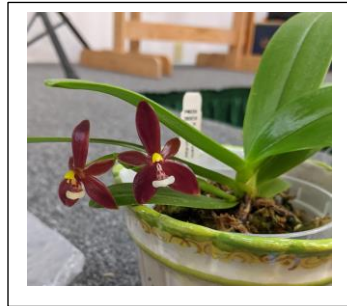
Think about it. If you repot before the medium has had a chance to significantly change, there will be no chance for it to become compact and suffocating, there will be little mineral accumulation, and no significant biofilm growth takes place. Best of all, the "old" and "new" root environments will be nearly identical, so

with care not to damage them in the process, repotting maintains the “optimal” status of the roots and there will be no setback. In fact, many plants seem to take that "refreshment" as a cue to explode into new growth.

Steve Male, who operates Fishing Creek Orchids in Harrisburg PA, is one of the best growers I've ever met. He has a strict

regimen that involves repotting *everything annually*, leading to spectacular growth that has led to a stack of awards.

Some may feel it is an excessive expense to do that, but if you think about the cost of some plants, it seems that a small, additional maintenance cost is preferred to dealing with setbacks, diseases, and the cost of replacement plants.





INTERESTING TO KNOW ABOUT

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

FULL TRAY/SEEDLINGS

CARTER & HOLMES

<https://mailchi.mp/carterandholmes/phalaenopsis-seedling-6-packs?e=aae4be9c9c>



**Ability Garden Plant Sale
Saturday, May 18, 2024**

Date: May 18, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Lewis Greenhouse - NHC
Arboretum

Address: 6206 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403

News from the American Orchid Society

From Jan Schwab, AOS Rep

'Mind-blowing' new orchid species found in Madagascar forest canopy

by Liz Kimbrough on 22 March 2024

- *Scientists from Madagascar, the U.S. and Europe have described a new orchid species from the forests of central Madagascar, which has a record-breaking long nectar spur relative to its small flower size.*
- *The orchid is pollinated by a species of hawkmoth with a very long tongue, similar to Darwin's orchid, which was predicted to exist by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace in the 1800s.*
- *Habitat of the newly described orchid species is threatened deforestation and mining activities, especially from the Ambatovy nickel and cobalt mine nearby, though Ambatovy is funding conservation actions to protect the species.*
- *Madagascar's unique biodiversity, including many species found nowhere else on Earth, is under serious threat from rapid deforestation driven by agriculture, fires and mining.*

Scientists from Madagascar, the U.S. and Europe have described a new orchid species found up in the forest canopies of central Madagascar.

The orchid, named *Solenangis impraedita*, boasts a nectar spur that reaches 33 centimeters (13 inches) in length, making it the longest of any known plant relative to its flower size. (The flowers are just 2 cm, or three-quarters of an inch, long.)

The nectar in this long spur is likely accessible only to long-tongued hawkmoths. As they sip the nectar, pollen from the flower is transferred onto their body, facilitating the pollination of the orchid species.

The new species, described in a paper in [Current Biology](#), represents the first orchid species with such extreme adaptations to hawkmoth pollination to be described since 1965.

"Discovering a new orchid species is always an exciting event, but finding such amazing and charismatic species happens only once in a scientist's career," said Tariq Stévant, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden's Africa and Madagascar program.

The find is exciting to researchers because of its similarities to the so-called Darwin's orchid (*Angraecum sesquipedale*), also endemic to Madagascar. After examining the long nectar spur of *A. sesquipedale* in 1862, Darwin speculated that it would take a moth with an exceptionally long proboscis to reach the nectar.

His fellow pioneer in the theory of evolution, Alfred Russel Wallace, in 1867 narrowed down the prediction to a hawkmoth, and this theory was validated in 1903 when just such a hawkmoth was found feasting on the flower. (Originally named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta* because it was thought to be a subspecies of a moth found on the African mainland, the Madagascar hawkmoth was in 2021 elevated to a [species of its own](#), *Xanthopan praedicta*.)

“The contrast between the little 2-cm flowers and the hyper-long nectar tube is mind-blowing,” said João Farminhão, a co-author of the new paper and researcher at the University of Coimbra Botanic Garden in Portugal.



Screenshot of a small unidentified hawkmoth making an unsuccessful visit.

Scientists found the remarkable new orchids in the humid forests where *Uapaca* and *Syzygium* trees grow. However, the exact location is being kept secret. “Wild populations must be protected and monitored, and detailed information on their precise coordinates must be kept out of the public domain. So, don’t ask us to reveal where we found it, somewhere in Madagascar,” Stévant said.

The new orchid species was first collected nearly 15 years ago by Patrice Antilahimena, a Missouri Botanical Garden field botanist, during an environmental impact study for a mining operation. It was found growing high up in a tree, just 100 meters (330 feet) from the mining footprint, or the area the mining company intended to clear to build its mine.

“This species is highly threatened by mining activities,” Stévant said.

Specifically, its threatened by the Ambatovy mine, an open-pit nickel and cobalt operation that supplies minerals for products like electric car batteries,

The multibillion-dollar mine, owned by Japan’s Sumitomo Corporation and the Korea Mine Rehabilitation and Mineral Resources Corporation, began operating in 2014 and is the largest foreign investment in Madagascar.



A population of S. impraedita in the canopy, (33-39 feet) above the ground. A camera trap system is set up to survey flower visitors and potential pollinators.

Stévant said scientists approached Ambatovy as soon as they confirmed they had found a rare, possibly new-to-science orchid species very near the mining footprint.

“We let [the company] know that this was a big responsibility,” Stévant said “We said once this is published everyone will know the species and will know you.”

In response, Stévant said, the company agreed to start a dedicated conservation program in which it would monitor the orchid species for five years, grow the orchid in a living collection and preserve it in a seed bank.

Ten years later after the first orchid was found, botanists Brigitte Ramandimbisoa and Simon Verlynde found the species in a new location outside the mining site, in an area of forest that Ambatovy has set aside for conservation.



Botanist and study co-author Brigitte Ramandimbisoa holds a nonflowering S. impraedita.

To [make up for biodiversity loss](#) in its 1,800-hectare (4,450-acre) mining site, Ambatovy has also created offset sites, or areas where it can protect forests elsewhere to make up for forest loss related to mining development.

According to an [independent analysis](#), this strategy means the Ambatovy mining operation has achieved no net forest loss. However, offsets are [controversial](#). Some experts say there isn't enough data to determine how these offsets have impacted biodiversity and that creating protected areas blocks impoverished communities

from accessing forest resources they depend on.

The orchid is a good example of an umbrella species, Stévant said: By protecting it, we also protect some of the other species that live around the long-spurred flower.

“I feel confident that the species will not disappear if they continue to support all these conservation actions,” Stévant said. However, he added, “I really hope this species will help to draw people’s attention to Madagascar and to the current situation, which is not good.”



Humid forests are the habitat of the newly described species

Millions of years of isolation have given rise to an extraordinary array of species in Madagascar that are found nowhere else on Earth. In just the past few years, scientists have described [tiny frogs](#) that live in trees, several [new species of geckos](#) and the [world’s smallest chameleon](#), which can sit on the head of a match.

Many of these unique species are under threat. In the few thousand years since humans arrived on the island, two-thirds of Madagascar’s [unique tree species](#) have become threatened with extinction. Deforestation, driven by [slash-and-burn agriculture](#) and [uncontrolled fires](#), is rampant throughout the island nation. Madagascar has lost [nearly a quarter of its tree cover since 2000](#).

This forest loss has far-reaching consequences, impacting not only the trees but also the many species that depend on them, such as orchids, lizards and lemurs. [Almost all](#) of Madagascar’s 108 lemur species are threatened.



The endangered Sanford's Brown Lemur in Madagascar

“[The new orchid’s] natural habitat is also destroyed by agriculture, and people are burning the forest for agriculture, including the trees where the orchid grows,” Stévant said.

Finding this rare new orchid highlights the urgent need for [conservation in Madagascar](#) and serves as a reminder of the remarkable species that could be lost if conservation efforts fail to keep pace with the rapid destruction of the island’s forests.

“The flora and the fauna of Madagascar, the biodiversity,” Stévant said, “everything is disappearing.”

Liz Kimbrough is a staff writer for Mongabay and holds a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology from Tulane University, where she studied the microbiomes of trees. View more of her reporting [here](#).

Citations:

Farminhão, J., Savignac, M., Droissart, V., Lowry II, P. P., Rajaonarivelo, N., Ramandimbooa, B., ... Stévant, T. (2024). A new orchid species expands Darwin's predicted pollination guild in Madagascar. *Current Biology*, 34(5), R189-R190. doi:[10.1016/j.cub.2024.01.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2024.01.012)

Minet, J., Basquin, P., Haxaire, J., Lees, D. C., & Rougerie, R. (2021). A new taxonomic status for Darwin's "predicted" pollinator: *Xanthopan praedicta* stat. nov.. *Antenor*, 8(1), 69-86. Retrieved from <https://hal.science/hal-03715806>

Devenish, K., Desbureaux, S., Willcock, S., & Jones, J. P. (2022). On track to achieve no net loss of forest at Madagascar's biggest mine. *Nature Sustainability*. doi:[10.1038/s41893-022-00850-7](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-022-00850-7)

Grimm, M., & Köppel, J. (2019). Biodiversity offset program design and implementation. *Sustainability*, 11(24), 6903. doi:[10.3390/su11246903](https://doi.org/10.3390/su11246903)