

Western North Carolina Orchid Society
PO Box 874
Asheville, NC 28802-0874

Calendar of Events

- March 11-20, 2005
18th World Orchid Conference Dijon, France
- March 15, 2005
WNCOS Meeting Miniature Orchids and Show
Discussion
- March 31 2005
WNCOS Show Set-Up day NC Arboretum
- April 1, 2005
WNCOS Show Judging 9:00 AM NC Arboretum
- April 1-3 WNCOS Show NC Arboretum
- April 19, 2005
WNCOS Meeting CAO

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 Issue 3

March 8, 2005



APRIL 1-3 WNCOS ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW “FOOLS FOR ORCHIDS”

MARCH 15, 2005 7:00 PM

At Community Action Opportunities

Part 1: Miniature Orchid Species. 25 minute slide show. An introduction to the many smaller growing members of the orchid family. Outstanding photography renders these normally almost invisible plants and flowers with the finesse and beauty that will make you want to attempt the challenge of growing them.

Part 2: 2005 show discussion. Entering Plants for Judging. 25 minutes session.

March Hospitality Hosts: Sherry and Gerry Hils

February 15, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Ralph Coffey at 7:10. New attendees were welcomed and all members were reminded of the raffle going on in the back of the room. He inquired if anyone had problems receiving the email from the January meeting.

Bob Benites gave an update on the By-Laws and Non-Profit status. He has checked the website and is in the process of applying. "WNCOS, Inc" is available the next step will be to apply for the tax exempt status.

Ralph thanked Cynthia, Ann and June for providing hospitality. A sheet was circulated for members to sign up for future hospitality responsibilities.

Ralph updated the members on the N.C. Piedmont Orchid show in Charlotte. WNCOS has decided to display in a 25 sq. ft. area. He requested any members with blooming orchids to bring them to his greenhouse. We do have enough volunteers to setup and breakdown for the event.

Axel Graumann gave an update on the WNCOS show. The theme is "Fools for Orchids". So far there are approximately seven vendors committed to participate. These include plant/nursery/greenhouse representatives, art/photography, and equipment/supplies. The arboretum will be doing a PR blitz, targeting the eastern Tennessee area, to the piedmont. Bob Banister designed the jester mannequin on the show and tell table, which will be part of the display at the show. He is soliciting volunteers to help build, set up and take down. Cynthia Gillooly asked members to consider donating to the raffle. In the past, this has been one of the largest money makers from the show. Items can be anything orchid-themed, but also suggested gift certificates for travel, restaurants, massages, etc. "Be Creative!"

Axel is working on the website www.wncos.org, fine-tuning the design and layout. When completed, he will present it to the Board for final approval. This will be for general communication, online application for membership, posting meeting minutes, etc.

Axel presented June with a plaque, on behalf of the WNCOS, thanking and commemorating her for her years of service to the organization. In one of the largest show and tell displays, several members presented a variety of orchids.

Axel presented the evening's program "Growing Orchids Under Lights". He had several lighting options displayed, catalog and resource material, as well as his experience and wisdom with growing orchids in these conditions. He fielded questions following the presentation. For anyone who missed the presentation, there was an informative handout which provides much of the information covered.

Bob Benites ended the evening with the raffle drawing. Ralph reminded everyone of the next meeting and topics. March 15- Slide show and lecture on miniature orchids. April 18- Slide show from the AOS entitled "Everything You Wanted to Know About Orchids"

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

By: Michelle McAdoo for Barbara Bader, Secretary

2005 Spring Show

North Carolina Piedmont Orchid Society Exhibit Western North Carolina Orchid Society Entry



President's Corner

A group from the WNCOS put in a 25 sq. ft. exhibit at the NCPOS Show at the Southern Spring Show in Charlotte, N.C. on February 28th. Bob Banister, Joey Cagle, and Ralph Coffey installed the display. Thanks to Cynthia Gillooly, Ginny Honea, June Wilbanks and Ralph Coffey for supplying foliage plants and orchids. Ralph Coffey and Frank Salvo took out the exhibit on March 6th. After a long day getting home at 10PM. The effort was well worth it. Our exhibit won the trophy for best exhibit for Orchid Societies of the



WNCOS Acknowledges June Wilbanks for her Contributions and Service

five Societies participating. Ralph won the trophy for specimen plant for his Jewel Box `Scheherazade` It had 78 bright red flowers on 18 inflorescences. June Wilbanks won a trophy for first bloom seedlings for her nodosa cross Blc. Oconee `Mendenhall` X Brassavola nodosa `Mendenhall`. In summary, we won 9 blue ribbons, 2 red ribbons, and 3 trophies. An impressive showing.

Due to our participation in the NCPOS Show, we are pleased to announce that the NCPOS will be putting in a display in our show.



Joey Cagle Ralph Coffey Bob Banister

As our 2005 show approaches please consider where you can help. We need the most volunteers on March 31 to set up the show. Clerks are needed for Judging on April 1st. Sign-up sheets will be passed out at the March 15th meeting.

We need a lot of blooming orchids for the exhibit. You do not have to enter plants for judging but help will be available for entry if you would like to do so. It's a great learning opportunity and a lot of fun. See you at the show.

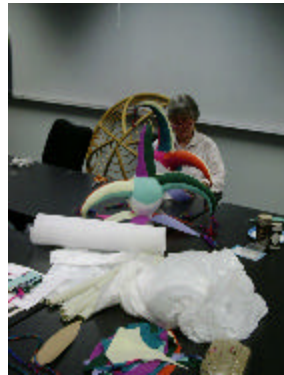
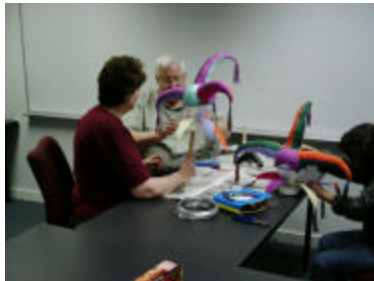
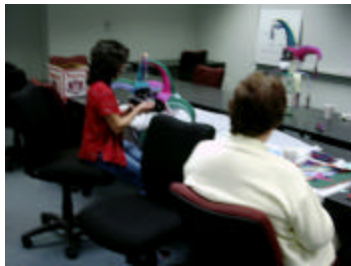
Ralph Coffey

Orchid Tale Cont.

basement, well, actually a lovely white room with fluorescent and high intensity lights, and perfect humidity. Graham continues to tinker with the room on a daily basis, much as he does his orchids. He actually prefers plants that need a lot of attention, but as of now he is experimenting with all types. He has had good success with the following: Phalaenopsis, Dendrobium, Oncidium, Cattleya, and recently Papheopedilum. With a little more time under the high intensity lights, we are crossing our fingers for Vanda blooms.



WNCOS ORCHID FOOLS HARD AT WORK



There have been two work sessions of the Show Prop Workers. Thanks to the helpful hands of our great crew Cynthia Gillooly, Carolyn Spain, Ginny Honea, Gerry Hils, Alpha Downs, Herb Marsh, and Graham Ramsey, we are ahead of schedule. We plan on a very exciting show, and will be asking for more help as we get closer to show time.

By: Bob Banister

Photos By: Bob Banister

Meeting Place: WNCOS meets the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 PM at Community Action Opportunities, unless otherwise announced. The board meets at 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday at CAO. Meetings are open to all members.



Community Action Opportunities
25 Gaston St. Asheville 2880
828.252.2495

West of St. Joseph Hospital between McDowell St. and South French Broad Ave. The cross street is Choctaw St. From Choctaw turn onto Congress St. The first street on the right is Gaston St.



An Orchid Tale by Leslie Ann Keller

Orchid Tale



When Graham and I met three years ago, I had one healthy white Phalaenopsis blooming on the windowsill, a gift from a friend. With each subsequent holiday and birthday, Graham added to my collection of one. When we married a year and a half later, we had eight burgeoning orchids.

We live in a cabin that Graham built years ago, deep into a hemlock forest in Reems Creek, property his grandfather purchased in 1919. In anticipation of our marriage, Graham added a large studio to accommodate my creative endeavors, with special attention paid to windowsills. With three walls of glass, we anticipated that these innumerable sills would accommodate our growing collection. But maintenance became unwieldy. Wheeling the orchids in a radio flyer wagon to the sink became a cumbersome chore. Graham stepped in, as he often does. He would now take over all care of the orchids.

Well, when Graham takes a liking to something, he goes full tilt. With his daughter fresh off to college, he usurped her bedroom, filled it with card tables and a humidifier. When my mother bequeathed to us a dozen and a half plants from her collection in Florida, this room, too, became inefficient. Graham began building a green room in the

(Continued on page 6)

Growing Tips for March

By
Courtney T. Hackney

EMAIL at Hackneau@bellsouth.net

Remember that old expression, “There is no such thing as too much chocolate”? That same idea seems to apply when it comes to Paphs and calcium carbonate (Lime). Many years ago, Paul Phillips of Ratcliff Orchids, told me that they could not repot Paphs as frequently as most hobbyists so they just added a teaspoon of dolomite limestone to each pot and it had the same effect as repotting.

There is nothing fancy or expensive about dolomite limestone, which comes in 50-pound bags that cost just a few dollars. Perhaps that is why it has never been marketed to orchid hobbyists. Typically it is used to raise the pH of the soil on our lawns so that nutrients are available to the grass. Liming is also called sweetening the soil. Dolomite limestone contains not only calcium carbonate, but also magnesium. All limestone rock contains calcium, but only certain deposits have the combination of calcium and magnesium, which is called dolomite limestone. There are also minor amounts of other nutrients as well, but it is the calcium and magnesium that is important.

There is a powdered formulation as well as a granulated form that lasts much longer when added to orchid pots. The rotting bark medium in which Paphs are usually grown gradually becomes more acidic as the decomposition process releases organic acids. As more acids are released, the pH drops in the medium and roots have a more difficult time acquiring nutrients, especially calcium. Calcium and magnesium are extremely important for leaf growth. Roots also seem more susceptible to rots when calcium is lacking in the soil or water. While frequent, thorough flushing removes these organic acids, they are quickly regenerated in a rapidly decomposing medium. Lime counteracts the process to some degree, but mostly it raises the pH and neutralizes the acidity.

Most Paphs are found in nature growing in areas with lots of rocky outcrops made of limestone. There, Paphs thrive nestled amidst the decaying plant litter and eroding limestone. Only a few Paph species are found growing as epiphytes or on rocky soils that are not limestone. Surprisingly, these other species also thrive when supplied with additional lime.

I usually add lime to all my Paphs when the first signs of rot appear on new leaves on any plant. The granulated lime lasts a month in the summer when Paphs are being watered twice a week and longer in winter when watering is less frequent. The powdered form washes through too quickly. Lime seems to have the same effect when used in just about any medium from mixtures of peat and bark to straight bark and even to rock.

In an experiment begun over a year ago, several multi-flora Paphs were planted in fine lava rock with nothing else added except granulated lime and Nutricote. Their growth has been extraordinary and led to other types of Paphs

going into other types of rock such as Stalite following the same approach. The ultimate goal is to never have to repot until the Paph bursts the pot. Even the Parvissepalum Paphs seem to love the rock as long as it is mixed with lime. One old-fashioned bulldog-type Paph that was almost given up for dead was even resurrected when planted in rock mixed with limestone. The only downside to growing paphs in rock is that they require more frequent water, especially when potted in Stalite. This spring most of my remaining Paphs will go into rock.

Note: Stalite is shale expanded by heating. It is used to mix with cement to make it lighter. Several commercial growers in the Carolinas stock this inexpensive product.



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2005 DUES ARE DUE...

**PLEASE MAIL CHECKS TO:
WNCOS PO BOX 874
ASHEVILLE, NC 28802-0874
OR GIVE CHECKS TO BOB BENITES AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Members not paying dues by April 1 will be removed from the distribution list