

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 Issue 7

August 5, 2005



Calendar of Events

**August 15 WNCOS Board Meeting
6:00 and General Meeting 7:00
Speaker Tom Nasser
"Angraecums"**

**September 24 Sunday 1PM- 4PM
Annual Auction NC Arboretum**

**October 17 WNCOS Board
Meeting 6:00 and General Meeting
7:00 Program to be announced.**

August 15, 2006

Community Action Opportunities

"Angraecums"

Speaker: Tom Nasser

Host: Sherry & Gerry Hils

Speaker: Tom Nasser “angraecums”

Tom and San Nasser started their orchid business in 1980 and are located in Fort Mill, SC. as Carolina Orchids. They center on species. Emphasis is on groups of orchids such as bulbophyllums, paphiopedilum, dendrochilums, stanhopeas, angraecums, pleurothallis and laycastes. Tom will be talking and showing slides on angraecums at the August 15 meeting. He will also be bringing plants for sale.

Growing tips for August

Growing Tips for August
By
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BOOK REVIEW - *The Classic Cattleyas* by A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick, 2006, Timber Press, 251 pp. \$49.95. ISBN 13:978-0-88192-764-1

In February this year, I got a brief look at A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick's new book, *The Classic Cattleyas*. Before I could get a copy of this book to review, I heard it was sold out. It is available, however, from Timber Press for \$49.95, even if it is sold out at your favorite book store.

Classic Cattleyas is everything I hoped it would be by one of the world's foremost cattleya experts, Arthur Chadwick, and his son, who is one of an emerging cadre of new orchid entrepreneurs. For many years, members of the American Orchid Society have enjoyed the senior authors many articles on Cattleya species in their monthly magazine "Orchids". At the end of each article, readers were always left waiting for the next installment. Now it is all in one place, free from the confines of a monthly orchid magazine. *The Classic Cattleyas* combines all of what A.A. Chadwick gave us in his many articles in a comprehensive and easy to read form, well illustrated with photos of both the common forms and some examples of the unique varieties that appeared over the years. Readers are introduced to the Cattleya species just as they appeared to Western Civilization, i.e. in chronological order of their discovery.

The junior author of the book is well known to many throughout the mid-Atlantic as a willing speaker and columnist on orchids and greenhouses. He currently manages Chadwick and Son Orchids in Powhatan, Virginia. This father and son team combined their perspectives and experience, old and new, into a book that is useful to both expert and novice orchid growers. In fact, there are two books; one for the beginner anxious to grow and flower this amazing group of orchids and another for the advanced hobbyist who wants to understand the complexities of orchid

taxonomy and relationships between species. Serious growers will read this book many times as they grow more expert and appreciate both levels of knowledge contained in these 10 chapters.

Those readers that are botanically oriented will appreciate the historical twists and turns that resulted in the current botanical name assigned to each species. More important to some, is the description of each species and its unique characteristics. For those species easily confused with other species, William Rogerson's approach to separating confusing species using growing characteristics along with flower color and size is advanced. Cultural tips on growing some of the more temperamental cattleya species makes this a reference book that I keep close at hand. Even hybrid cattleya growers that do not grow the species will glean important cultural requirements of some hybrids because they take after cattleya species in their backgrounds. Long-time cattleya growers will applaud the Chadwick's' inclusion of the large-flowered Laelias into the cattleya group where they belong.

There is an excellent introduction to some of the major lines of cattleya hybridizing as well as an excellent chapter on culture including repotting and diseases. Photos of most of the common diseases and pest-induced problems are included and will be very useful to hobbyists growing cattleyas for the first time.

There is a chapter on cattleyas in art, which may seem out-of-place in a horticulturally-oriented book, but is not. Much of what we know about many early species and forms of these species comes from paintings and illustrations. Earlier chapters place great emphasis on the difficulty botanists had because of inadequate specimens and illustrations. In our current digital age, it is easy to dismiss the work of past and present artists. This chapter makes it clear that an artist's eye can capture far more than any lens, digital or optical.

The Classic Cattleyas is a remarkable contribution to the Orchid World in general and for all of those new and future hobbyists who may have never heard about these remarkable members of the orchid fam-

ily. While the title may seem like this book is only for Cattleya growers, it really tells the story of the discovery of tropical orchids by western civilization. Every orchid hobbyist should have a copy even if they do not grow cattleyas.

President's Corner

28 WNCOS members and Guests enjoyed a great summer social at Graham Ramsey and Leslie Keller's home in Reems Creek. Great BBQ, sides and desserts were shared and everyone enjoyed touring Leslie's art studio and Graham's well designed orchid growing area. Next time the greenhouse will probably be ready as members helped confirm a great location.

WNCOS ANNUAL AUCTION

The Annual auction Committee met on July 25th at CAO to plan this year's event. Our plants this year will come from Carmela, H&R, Tropical Orchid Farm, Etowah, RF Orchids and Oak Hill. Put Sunday September 24 at 1:00 at the NC Arboretum on your calendar now. We want a big turnout for this fun event and our biggest fundraiser of the year.

**Treasurer's Report:
Checking Account Balance:
as of 7-25-2006
\$9450.97
Membership Report:
Members: 75**