

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

Calendar of Events

July 22 – Summer Social—Graham Ramsey
and Leslie Keller 5:00-until

August 21 Board Meeting 6:00 CAO
Meeting 7:00– Shan Nasser “Orchids of
Equador”

Sunday September 30 – Annual Auction –
NC Arboretum 1:00 pm

October 16 – Mark Reinke

November 20 – Annual Meeting

December – Holiday Social

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Volume 13 Issue 7

July 5, 2007



July 22, 2007

“Summer Covered Dish Social”

**Hosts: Graham Ramsey and
Leslie Ann Keller**

**Please note there will be no
General Meeting in July**

Summer Covered Dish Social
Sunday July 22, 2007
5:00 PM
Hosts: Graham Ramsey and
Leslie Ann Keller

Please join us for a reprise of last year's summer social at the cabin of Graham Ramsey and Leslie Keller. The party begins at 5pm on Sunday July 22nd.

Please bring your favorite dish. We will provide barbecue from Little Pigs. We will also provide soft drinks and iced tea. For all other favorite beverages, please bring-your-own. Last year was great fun, so we encourage everyone to head out to Weaverville for a lazy afternoon with friends.

If you are planning to attend, please let us know by July 15th at either:

leslie@leslieannkeller.com or 645-4640.

Directions:

Take Highway 19/23 West toward Weaverville. Take New Stock exit. At the end of the ramp turn right. At the light turn left (Ingles should now be on your right). At the next light turn right onto Reems Creek Road. Go approximately 7 miles until the road ends (you will see a stone church on the right). Turn left (Maney Branch) and cross the short bridge. Turn right immediately after the bridge onto Blackberry Inn Road. Follow this paved road for approximately 2 miles until it turns to dirt. Follow the dirt road one mile until the end. Our driveway is clearly marked 531 on the right.

For further information concerning the artist, available art or upcoming exhibitions: visit www.leslieannkeller.com or call 828-645-4640.

The WNCOS meets the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm at Community Action Opportunities (see map), unless otherwise announced. The Society Board meets at 6:00 pm prior to the General Meeting. Meetings are open to all members. General meetings are open to the public.



Community Action Opportunities
25 Gaston St. Asheville 28801
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.

The newsletter can also be found on our website
<http://www.WNCOS.org>

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

President- Ralph Coffey	253-2553	innkeeper@whitegate.net
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Secretary- Vicki Patrick	628-5458	vpatrik@charter.net
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BOARD MEMBERS:

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Gerry Hils	683-9054	sherryngerry@yahoo.com

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Member Auction Highlights

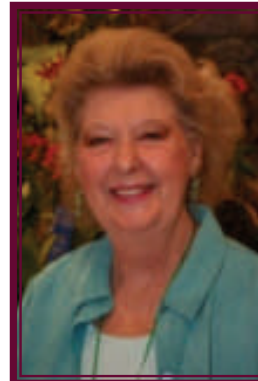
26 members attended the annual auction. There were a total of 72 orchids auctioned off. The total sales at the Member's Auction was: \$1,788.00. Total for the sellers was \$1,430.00 and the 20% for the Society is \$357.60.



Treasurer's Report:
Checking Account Balance:
as of 7-03-2007 \$7,912.11
\$5,111.98CD
Total Assets: \$13024.09
Membership Report:
Members: 80

Meet Our Members By Leslie Ann Keller

June Wilbanks



Originally from the suburbs of Philadelphia, June Wilbanks was raised primarily in Miami, an ideal start for an Orchid enthusiast. By the mid 1970's June had moved to Palm Beach County and become a member of three orchid societies.

This all began with her husband Carl's interest in hibiscus. Carl began growing and hybridizing hibiscus, which ultimately exposed them to the fever of orchid growers. In fact, June and Carl's first experience with orchids was a fortuitous raffle prize, a compot of 25 seedling orchids. Then at a Tropical Orchid Society meeting they won a flask of Cattleya Green Jeans. And off they went.

Growing orchids and hibiscus were hobbies that needed to support themselves, so they started a business. In 1992 June moved to Weaver-ville and built her 3rd greenhouse. She now has 800 or so orchids and specializes in Cattleyas. She takes part in the North Asheville Tale-gate Market every Saturday from April until October.

June was vice president of WNOS for 4 years. Drafted to fill in as president, she remained in that position for 5 years. She is now a valuable and extremely knowledgeable member of our board.

August 16, 2007 Meeting
7:00 PM CAO
Shan Nasser
"The Orchids of Equador"

Shan and Tom got their first greenhouse in 1979. Their business began in 1980 as Clemson Orchids. Tom taught advanced placement chemistry and physics in high school for over 20 years. Shan has her

master's in Textile Chemistry and works for a chemical company. The Nassers now live in Ft. Mill, SC, where orchids are Tom's total occupation. To avoid the assumption that Clemson Orchids must be in Clemson rather than in Ft. Mill, SC; the name Clemson Orchids was changed to Carolina Orchids. The greenhouses are less than two miles from Carowinds Amusement Park. Carolina Orchids is located on Pleasant Road which runs parallel to I-77.

Shan will be bringing orchids for sale with her.

Everyone Please bring plants for the show table

Growing Tips for July

Growing Tips for July
by
Courtney T. Hackney

EMAIL at Hackneau@bellsouth.net

Reprinted from an earlier column.

Most of us have noticed the change in humidity that comes with summertime heat. What is significant to your Orchids outside or in a greenhouse is that your plants lose less water each day than they did when the humidity and temperature were lower. Most plants open their cells to the outside through microscopic structures (stomates) on the underside of leaves that both cool and allow gas exchange. When the outside humidity is much lower than the 100% humidity inside the leaf, a leaf can lose more water than it can get. This causes stress and may cause stomates to close, thus limiting growth and causing the leaf to overheat. Thus, your Orchids may not require as much water as they did in April and May.

High humidity also provides ideal conditions for both fungal and bacterial rots. Higher humidity means that plants do not dry as quickly. Reducing watering, coupled with increased air movement will minimize rot problems. If you have a small number of plants check for water in the crowns of Phalaenopsis and for water in developing leaves of Cattleyas. Remove any water that is still on plants at the end of the day by either dumping it out or blotting with a paper towel.

Growing inside is also affected by increased humidity because air conditioners run more. Besides cooling the air in your home, these systems also remove water from the air. Thus, plants inside may need increased water and

you may need to increase the humidity around your indoor Orchids with trays of water, ferns placed alongside, or by some other means.

Several hobbyists have asked if they could use the water that runs from an air conditioning compressor to water Orchids. This is the water removed from the air in your house and is essentially the same quality as rainwater.

High heat and humidity provides the ideal conditions for one of the most frustrating pests, slugs. These shellless snails seem to appear out of nowhere just before the buds you have watched for the last 3 weeks open leaving just a little nub. Slugs are hard to keep out of the greenhouse and even harder to get rid of outside. They are amazingly quick and will disappear in a minute or two after you turn on the lights. You may not notice them during most of the year as they contentedly consume dead leaves and algae at night. Even if they consume a few new roots you are not likely to spot them. In the summer's heat and humidity they can move six or feet or more in a matter of minutes, finding your most prized and carefully tended buds.

My strategy is to look for slugs before they do any damage. On warm rainy nights I check the inside walls of the greenhouse. Often I know where to look because I see their slime trails in the early morning before I water. Typically there will be one or two that are relocated far from the greenhouse. They are not poisonous, only slimy. My daughter kept one as a pet for a couple of weeks. They are interesting beasts as long as they are not in the greenhouse. Shallow plates containing stale beer (any brand) will also attract slugs that can then be removed. This may or may not be toxic to slugs unless they drown. They generally refuse to leave the beer on their own.

Just to be sure my prize buds do not become snacks for slugs I use small quantities of a product called Deadline. I put a few drops of this black gooeey liquid at the base of the pot or on the bench nearby. This is more attractive than buds and kills slugs quickly. Rarely do I find dead slugs as the removal techniques listed above seem to be very effective at humanely removing them. Those small bush snails, however, are another problem not as easily managed. They tend to be attracted to moist media such as Sphagnum and do their damage on new growths and new roots. Each one by itself is not a serious problem, but there may be a dozen or more in an individual pot. There are several bait products available that work well, but the limited mobility of these small creatures and the number of very tiny juveniles that are always present makes it impossible to eliminate them without covering the surface of every pot and surface with bait.

As with all pest control products, be sure you the application recommendations. This is especially important if you have pets with access to your growing area. Many of these products are tasty to your pets and can injure or kill them. Even products now deemed non-toxic may be found to have some toxicity someday. Use pesticides only when you have no other choice. Try other methods first. Be sure that you have a problem and have identified the pest. Consult local experts or your county extension agent.