

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

**Calendar of Events**

**November 20 – Annual Meeting  
7 PM CAO**

**December 9, 1:00 PM –  
Holiday Social  
1889 WhiteGate Inn & Cottage**

**Hosts: Ralph Coffey and Frank  
Salvo**

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

*Volume 13 Issue 11*

*November 11, 2007*



**Dracula vampira**

**WNCOS Annual Meeting  
Tuesday  
November 20, 2007  
CAO  
7:00 PM**

## Important Meeting for the Future of the WNCOS CAO 7:00 PM

Please come to the Annual Meeting on November 20th at CAO. This is your opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to the WNCOS and where the group is going in the future. This is your society and the members need to decide what they want. We are in the best shape financially in the history of the society but as a group we need to decide what to do with the money.

We are in the final stages of qualifying for 501-3C status as a non-profit. New by laws are being proposed that the members will need to vote on in the future. Copies of old and proposed new by-laws will be given to all members for discussion.

Please consider the following as discussion points for the meeting: Future programs and field trips, participation in other orchid society shows, WNCOS annual show, meeting place and time, WNCOS annual auction, show table at meetings, monetary donations for appropriate organizations, networking with fellow members, newsletter, maintaining / increasing membership, and other topics of interest to members.

## WNCOS Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of WNCOS Board Meeting – 16 October 2007

President Ralph Coffey called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Attending Graham Ramsey, Gerry Hils, Bob Benites, Ginny Honea, June Wilbanks and Vickie Patrick.

A motion was made by Bob Benites to accept the minutes and seconded by Graham Ramsey. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – None

A preliminary annual report prepared by Bob Benites was reviewed and discussed.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

November 20 – Annual Meeting

December 9 – Holiday Social – Whitegate Inn – 1pm

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	<a href="mailto:innkeeper@whitegate.net">innkeeper@whitegate.net</a>
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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Frank Salvo	253-2553	<a href="mailto:innkeeper@whitegate.net">innkeeper@whitegate.net</a>
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## WNCOS Board Meeting Minutes Con't

### SEPTEMBER AUCTION:

There was a brief discussion regarding concerns about the low attendance by our orchid members at this year's auction. How can we get more members there? Possibly move to another month?

WNCOS SHOW 2008 – March 28-30, 2008

Judging Update-Ralph has sent out invitations to judges and is waiting on replies. When he has received 5 confirmed commitments then the application will be sent to Linda Wilhelm.

NEW BUSINESS – None

A motion to adjourn at 6:45pm was made by Ginny and seconded by June.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Patrick



Paphiopedilum Voodoo Magic

**Treasurer's Report:**  
**Checking Account Balance:**  
**as of 11-08-2007 \$6,057.65**  
**CD \$7,217.24**  
**Total Assets: \$13,274.89**

**Membership Report:**  
**Members: 80**



Legacy's Child

## Meet Our Members By Leslie Ann Keller

### Tom Peterson



Tom grew up in the Tahoe region of California and studied music in Rochester, New York, at the Eastman School of Music. Later upon returning to San Francisco he studied opera with a vocal coach who took him to Europe, where he studied and performed for many years.

Tom also has a degree in computer science which he has put to good use for companies such as Pacific Bell and the Department of Energy. While working in the computer science field in Portland, Oregon, Tom came into contact with Placido Domingo's voice coach. As a consequence, Tom returned again to professional singing and ultimately performed with the Sao Paulo Brazil Opera Society.

Throughout the past thirty years Tom has dabbled in orchids. On the West Coast, he favored cymbidiums and phaleanopsis. However, after spending a few years in Florida, Tom has become enamored with cattleyas and vandas. While in Florida Tom began to create orchid display baskets for friends. Eventually a hobby became a business and Tom began providing orchid arrangements to the real estate market, film festivals, et all.

Retiring to Asheville, Tom continues to cultivate his orchid collection. He also hopes to return to singing. I envision a lovely evening in the near future: Tom surrounded by orchids singing treasured opera selections! We welcome this very interesting new member to our society.

## Growing Tips for November

Growing Tips for November  
By  
Courtney T. Hackney

EMAIL at [Hackneau@bellsouth.net](mailto:Hackneau@bellsouth.net)

It has always been apparent to me that growing orchids well requires good water. This year's extreme drought has reinforced that view and impressed me with both the ability of some orchids to resist water with high dissolved solids and with the sensitivity of some types of orchids to salts in

water.

The thin leaved orchids, such as the intergeneric oncidiums, Coelogyne, and Eulophia, are the first to show symptoms of salt stress. Brown leaf tips are “the canary in the mine” when it comes to water quality, but can also be induced by too much fertilizer. Cattleyas do not typically exhibit this type of symptom but may still be suffering when water quality is poor. Exactly what causes the symptom within plant cells is not clear. A number of growers claim that providing soluble dolomite lime will prevent this type of leaf tip burn, but water low in salts will always prevent this condition.

In my collection the most sensitive orchids to salt are the few phrags that have survived the summer heat. They may show a little tip burn, but mostly they get bacterial rots that ultimately lead to death, even if treated with bactericide or high quality water. Many of the phalaenopsis species as well as any species that comes from mist forests are also sensitive to water with high dissolved solid content.

Leaves, however, are not the only indicator. This year, the lack of rain has been accompanied by very low humidity. In this climate, orchid roots will shrivel and stop growing even if they are being watered with high quality water. If water quality is poor and humidity low, roots may seem thicker than normal at first, but the growing tips will turn black and shrivel. Eventually, the entire root will shrivel from the growing tip and die. Under normal conditions, the root may shrivel, but quickly thicken to its normal size when provided moisture. That does not happen when the root is subjected to high salt content.

The first significant rain fell in our area last week; filling my cistern and providing enough water to finally give my orchids a good soaking. Afterwards, it was clear which orchids still had good root systems and which did not. Most surprising was that the orchids in lava rock appeared to still have good root systems, despite the long held belief that salts tend to concentrate on that medium. Orchids in bark/charcoal-type mixes definitely lost roots during the drought when they were provided water high in dissolved solids.

Like it or not, winter is finally here along with an array of things to do. With the exception of cymbidiums, all orchids need to be moved inside or into the greenhouse if they have been enjoying the “natural life” in your backyard under the trees. We are also just 1 month shy of the winter solstice so the sun is just about at its lowest point in the sky. Greenhouse growers that use shade cloth, often remove it, or at least reduce shading during the next couple of months.

Phals exposed to a week or two of cooler temperatures have initiated spikes and now need to be kept warmer, especially at night. A night temperature of at least 65 F will virtually eliminate winter bacterial rots, although some growers use 60 F as the absolute minimum to keep heating bills down. The key for phals is the minimum temperature and avoiding water in the crown of the plant especially when night temperatures are low.

Contrary to some of the published orchid growing books, apply high nitrogen fertilizer to your phals now, but at lower concentrations. At one time

high phosphorus fertilizers were recommended, but studies have not been able to document a benefit. To obtain the best flower color use a high nitrogen cal-mag type fertilizer.

Cattleyas, especially species, need to be kept on the dry side now. Let them dry more thoroughly than you did in summer. There are a number of fungal rots that are around all of the time that really thrive on these cooler nights if the medium is moist. Some of these can kill a cattleya almost as fast as bacterial, crown rot kills phals.

This is also the time to dry out catasetum and similar species and hybrids, which thrive on water during summer. They will rot if watered in winter. Some growers remove them from the pot shake the medium from roots and set them back in the pot to dry. Other growers just set them in a part of the greenhouse that does not get watered. A little mist on sunny days is all they need. There are any number of species that require the same approach and you may need to refresh your memory of their natural habitat for these unusual forms. If, the species comes from a wet-dry type habitat, drying is usually required.



Angraecum\_sacciferum