

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

Calendar of Events

Mar 9 – Asheville Eye Associates (AEA) Show discussion, panel, and preliminary registration.

Mar 27 Put in Day WNCOS Show

Mar 28 9AM Judging

Mar 29-30 WNCOS Show

April 13 – Marble Branch field trip

May 11 – Paul Strom – Schomburgkia

June 8 – Member Auction

July 13 – Summer Social – Graham and Leslie

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 3

March 1, 2008



Sunday March 9, 2008
Asheville Eye Associates
8 Medical Park Drive
2:00 PM
WNCOS Show Discussion

Its Time to Pay Your Membership Dues

Dues are \$16 Single or Couple

Treasurer's Report:

29 Feb 2008 Checking account Balance : \$8,127.04

CD: \$7,306.47

Total: \$15,433.51

WNCOS Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of WNCOS Board Meeting – 19 February 2008

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking account balance \$8,220.84.

CD Balance \$7,152.62

Total 15,373.46

OLD BUSINESS

Starting in March 2008, the new meeting place will be at Asheville Eye Associates. The meetings will be on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2pm. The March meeting will be, 9 March 2008.

The application is in process for purchasing an insurance policy covering the society for the new meeting place and future events. The cost per year will be \$210.00.

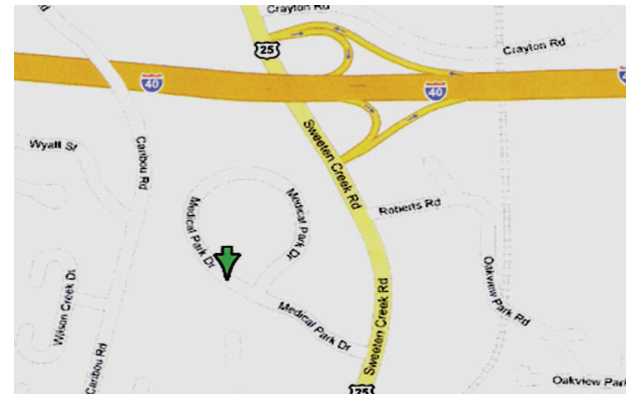
A correction was made to the January minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Shows

NCPOS 2/27 – 3/2 – put in on Monday 2/25 and take out Sunday 3/2.

The WNCOS meets the second Sunday of each month, at 2:00 pm at Asheville Eye Associates (see map), unless otherwise announced. The Society Board meets the third Tuesday at CAO 6:00 pm. Meetings are open to all members. General meetings are open to the public.



Asheville Eye Associates 8 Medical Park Drive

Sweeten Creek Road South to Medical Park Drive. Right on Medical Park Drive and follow the circle to Asheville Eye Associates. If coming in on I-40 take exit 51 (route 25 South) Sweeten Creek Road exit. Right on Medical Park Drive and follow the circle to Asheville Eye Associates.

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

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

President- Ralph Coffey	253-2553	innkeeper@whitegate.net
Vice Pres. - Graham Ramsey	658-0112	g_ram@yahoo.com
Secretary– Vicki Patrick	628-5458	vpatrik@charter.net
Treasurer- Bob Benites	253-3945	benites@cs.unca.edu

BOARD MEMBERS:

Ginny Honea	628-4880	yah0447@aol.com
June Wilbanks	658-0618	juneworchids@yahoo.com
Gerry Hils	683-9054	sherryngerry@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Frank Salvo	253-2553	innkeeper@whitegate.net
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WNCOS Board Meeting Minutes Con't

2008 Schedule

Mar 9 – Asheville Eye Assoc – Show discussion, panel, and preliminary registration.
April 13 – Marble Branch field trip
May 11 – Paul Strom – Schomburgkia
June 8 – Member Auction
July 13 – Summer Social – Graham and Leslie
August 10 – TBA
Sept. – Annual Auction – NC Arboretum
Oct. 12 – David Mellard – Watering and Nutrients
Nov. 9 - Annual Meeting
Dec. – Holiday Social

2008 WNCOS Show “Islands of Orchids”

Graham updated on the progress of the show. He has sent out e-mail to the vendors requesting that they put on a program during the show.

Julie McMillan has prepared a press release for submitting to several publications. She also requested that our web site event schedule be updated; she has listed the web site as a reference/contact to the show.

A motion was made by Graham to adjourn, seconded by Ginny. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Patrick

A standing room only crowd at CAO enjoyed an energetic presentation by Matt Richards from the Fuqua Orchid Center in Atlanta. His PowerPoint presentation gave everyone a clear understanding of the behind the scenes activities of this state of the art facility. We had an opportunity to see blooming orchids that occur only in cloud forest conditions above 7000 ft.

Orchid society members participated in one of our best show tables in months. Thanks to Matt and Mark Reinke from Marble Branch Orchids our raffle table offered many opportunities for members to take home a plant. Matt brought many divisions of species from the collection in Atlanta which he generously donated to the Society for our expanded raffle.

The Society has enjoyed meeting at CAO the past two years but this meeting really showed us why we need a larger space. Lets have a great turnout at Asheville Eye Associates where we will meet Sunday March 9 at 2:00 PM.

Meet Our Members By Leslie Ann Keller

Vickie Patrick



Vickie Patrick is a homegrown North Carolinian. She was raised in Canton where her father owned the local five-and-dime, *Jack's 5 & 10*. Yet her father's true passion was his vegetable garden. Jack Patrick had grown up on a farm in Georgia—a peach orchard.

Vickie's mother, too, was a grower, studying to become a horticulturist in her later years. She was instrumental in initiating and overseeing the beautification of the Canton community.

Thus Vickie was exposed to growing her entire life. Yet it was not until her father became too ill to tend his own garden that Vicki became a grower herself. With Jack at her side giving patient instruction, Vicki discovered her own green thumb.

When Vicki married Ray Tobias, two avid growers merged their interest into one fantastic garden. Ray's roots are in Boston and Cape Cod, where he was surrounded by gardens. An anesthetist, Ray's combination chemistry/biology background gives him a great deal of practical knowledge. Vicki says that she dreams up what she wants, Ray figures out how to make it happen.

Five years ago, with the encouragement of a friend who insisted that growing orchids was easy, Vicki purchased a couple of persnickety plants and promptly killed them. Not deterred, she now has 25 plants that she is keeping happy and healthy under a grow light in the bathroom (outside in the summertime).

When Ray and Vicki are not growing stunning flowers, they are racing sailboats. Ray is a master sailor and Vicki, his loyal crew.

Growing Tips for March

GROWING TIPS for March

By

Courtney T. Hackney

Spring has definitely sprung here in Jacksonville, Florida, but it is also happening everywhere in the Northern Hemisphere even if it does not feel like it outside. Officially, spring begins around 22 March, but a change in the sun's intensity is already noticeable. My low-light “Jewel” orchids, sitting in a window that received only indirect sun are beginning to look bleached from the intense light. High light orchids in south facing windows are also beginning to show signs of too much light.

Novice growers may be surprised that orchids normally grown in bright greenhouses can get burned in window sill situations. It is not just the light intensity that burns them, but the sudden increase of light on plant leaves, which have adapted to very low light levels during the long winter. This time of year can be as difficult for indoor orchid hobbyists as it is for those with greenhouses. If there are deciduous trees that shade your house in summer, the situation gets more complicated as new leaves emerge and deep shade appears where there was once intense light flowing into your window sill growing area.

Many indoor growers in the very Deep South, i.e. Florida, have already moved orchids to outdoor growing areas. If you have done this for many years you already know about watching for late cold snaps. Many “migratory hobbyists” (Winter indoors-Summer outdoors) never realize the shock their orchids experience, especially from the change in humidity. This is especially true of hobbyists that have mastered the maintenance of humidity in their indoor growing areas. Winter humidity, even in the South can be much lower than orchids prefer. The addition of more air movement also can lead to much higher water loss. Avoid moving orchids in bud or orchids that will soon be sending up buds outside until they have finished blooming. An orchid plant that has not received enough light to flower during winter is not going to suddenly gain enough energy to bloom this spring season. In fact, it may “decide” not to flower and put out new roots and leaves in response to the sudden change in light and temperature.

Many commercial growers do use this type of “shock” treatment to initiate flowering, but they are shocking plants that have accumulated lots of energy reserves to bloom and are just waiting for the appropriate environmental cues. Clearly, some commercial orchid nurseries were able to fool their orchids into flowering at the correct moment for the World Orchid Congress in Miami in January. Many orchids in exhibits and in sales booths were flowering early. There were also many tales of commercial growers who failed to get their best clones to flower in time or whose best orchids flowered too early.

Each time there is a major international show there are always aspects that surprise long-time orchidists. The surprise this year was the development and exhibition of multi-flora paphs, which always seemed to be an obvious underdeveloped breeding line. The lack of more cymbidiums during a time when they should have been readily available was also noted. Some commercial growers noted a surprising lack of new lines of phals. With the exception of the new “blue” violacea from Orchidview, there were no big surprises in phals.

There were a number of new products offered orchid hobbyists at

the WOC, but most had been available before. I purchased a number of these and will be testing them in the next year and reporting any good results.

One service that was advertised at the WOC is one that would benefit most orchid growers. One company, which formerly produced Peters fertilizers and now makes Jacks fertilizers, has a lab that will test your water and not only tell you what is in it, but what fertilizer to use, and how to use it. The cost may be high for an individual, but inexpensive for orchid clubs that have several members with the same water source. They even provide bottles for shipping water samples. Call 866-522-5752 or email info@jrpeterslab.com.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The WNCOS meeting time and location has been changed. Our next meeting is March 9th.

The meetings will be held the second Sunday of each month at 2:00PM unless otherwise announced.

The meeting place will be at Asheville Eye Associates 8 Medical Park Dr. in South Asheville.

DIRECTIONS

Take Sweeten Creek Rd. south pass I-40. (Exit 51 off I-40) Turn Right onto Medical Park Drive. Follow the circle to Asheville Eye Associates.

There is also a map on page 7 of the newsletter.