

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

Calendar of Events

June 8 – Member Auction
2:00 PM at Asheville Eye Associates

July 13 – Summer Social – Graham
and Leslie

Aug 10 – Paul Strom – Schomburgkia

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Volume 14 Issue 5

June 1, 2008

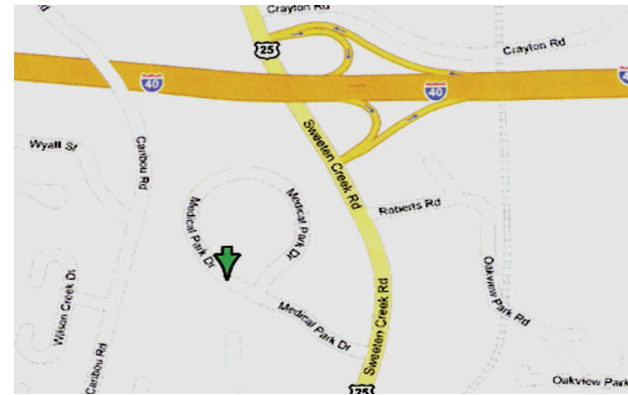


Sunday June 8, 2008
Asheville Eye Associates
8 Medical Park Drive
2:00 PM
“Member Auction”

Member Auction
June 8, 2008 at 2:00 PM
at Asheville Eye Associates

- **Plants must be at Asheville Eye Associates no later than 1:00 PM to allow time for entry and booking.**
- **All members bringing plants MUST have them listed on a sheet of paper with descriptions if available.**
- **Member can bring up to 10 HEALTHY orchids for auction**
- **WNCOS receives 20% of the auction price (80% to seller)**
- **NO diseased or pest infested plants allowed.**
- **WNCOS Auction Committee reserve the right to refuse any questionable plants.**
- **Meeting will start at 2:00 PM with the auction beginning at 2:15PM**
- **There will be NO Raffle or Show Table**

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 5:30 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:

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Secretary- Vicki Patrick	628-5458	vpatrik@charter.net
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Gerry Hils	683-9054	sherryngerry@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Frank Salvo	253-2553	innkeeper@whitegate.net
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Treasurers Report:

Checking Account: \$5,716.70

CD: \$8,883.93

Total: \$14,600.63

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

**Our next meeting is June 8th.
MEMBER AUCTION**

**WNCOS meetings will be held the second
Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM unless other-
wise announced.**

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

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 news-
letter.**

Meet Our Members By Leslie Ann Keller

Gerry Hils



Gerry Hils grew up south of Pittsburg, one of eight male siblings! Gerry has a wealth of stories to tell about his multi-talented brothers, many of whom were artists and musicians. Hils, himself, exhibits a wide range of talents.

To begin with, Gerry received his first degree from the Culinary Institute of America, at the time located in New Haven, Connecticut. Upon returning to New Hampshire, Gerry received an education degree and went on to set up a culinary program for his local schools. So successful was he that the administration asked him to teach computer science. Knowing nothing about computers, he picked up

a book and taught himself. He went on to simultaneously teach cooking and computer science to high school students and adults. Later still, he developed a culinary program for high-risk children, teaching all manner of life skills through the art of food preparation—very clever!

In 2001, Gerry and his wife Sherry, a dental hygienist, began to search for warmer climes. Eventually they landed in Asheville and Gerry began working for Eliada Home for Children. One Sunday, when her husband was busy at Eliada, Sherry ambled over to the WNC Arboretum to check out the local orchid show. Prior to leaving Pennsylvania, the couple had been given a Phalaenopsis. When it bloomed a second time, their interest peaked.

Sherry came back from the Arboretum with tales of beauty and awe, and a new orchid. The following year they returned to the WNCOS show. This time they joined our society. The good luck has been ours, for the Hils are now co-chairs of our Hospitality Committee, and Gerry is serving his second year as a board member. Their orchid collection has grown mightily, up to eighty plants at one time. Growing their orchids under lights on a back porch, a sub-zero freeze recently set them back. However, they have made room for their beauties in a more temperate garage, and their blooms are once again singing!

Growing Tips for June

GROWING TIPS for June

By

Courtney T. Hackney

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net

“THE MOVE” is done! About 4000 orchids (really just 852 unless you count the babies) have made the 458 mile trip south. There are many tricks to successfully moving a collection learned over the years, but each time I move my greenhouse and orchids there are some new lessons too. It does not matter if you are moving your orchids across the country or across town; the only difference is the time it takes to move.

The first trick is to avoid disease. When orchids are moved roots are damaged, leaves cracked, and blooms broken. Before making any move, do your best to eliminate any scale or rots in your collection. This may include isolating infected plants if there is not enough time to complete the treatment. Treatment with an antibiotic/antifungal agent is also a good idea. Kocide is an old fashioned, but very effective copper-based, general fungicide and antibiotic that I like because it coats leaves light blue. For my purpose, that is ideal because I can tell that each plant has been treated. Treat a few days ahead of time to avoid any toxicity problems that might arise from handling your orchids. Check the product label to be sure of handling and reentry time.

It is also ideal to move your orchids after you have allowed them to dry thoroughly, even more than normal. Your orchids may seem unhappy to be so dry, but this, along with the Kocide tends to limit rots that turn up when orchids are packed tightly. In “Nature” orchids survive droughts just fine and will quickly re-hydrate once they are back in your new growing area.

During this time of year, orchids are in a growth mode, which means new growths and roots. There will be some inevitable damage, but this can be lessened by good planning. Plastic shipping containers

Growing Tips for June Cont’.

can be purchased for any pot size. This commercial product is used by commercial nurseries to move plants in flower and bud and provides space between plants. A piece of open newspaper over the pot opening before dropping in the pot will provide a physical barrier between plants, preventing possible transfer of bacteria and fungi from plant to plant. Roots will inevitably be damaged, allowing fluid to be transferred to other damaged roots. This is a prime way that viruses are transmitted.

If you are transporting your orchids by car or truck pay careful attention to temperature. In winter, it is a good idea to move during the day and in summer at night. Most garden stores sell remote digital thermometers used to remotely monitor your greenhouse temperature. These work equally well in a truck or in the trunk of a car, allowing you to assess any temperature extremes during the trip.

No matter how successful your growing was before, a new location will require some adaptation by both you and your orchids. New water sources may require a change in fertilizer or even media. Light will be the first problem. Once you have your orchids in their new location, carefully examine the light. It is a good idea to provide less light than you had before, at least initially. Not every leaf on every plant in the old location was exposed to ambient light because some were shaded by other plants.

Place your orchids in their new home, but wait a day or so before watering. Let the wounded roots and leaves heal. Any obvious damaged tissues should be removed and the wound treated with cinnamon powder or hydrogen peroxide. Once wounds have healed a day, re-hydrate your orchids thoroughly. After another week, reapply a light treatment of your chosen fungicide/antibiotic. Pay careful attention to your orchids for a couple of weeks to be sure no other problems arise.