



W N C O S

Western North Carolina Orchid Society

In the News

for October, 2011

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For more information, please visit our website

www.wncos.org

The President's Corner

By Graham Ramsey



Phalaenopsis gigantea 'Leslie Keller'



Greetings All,

By now you should have received an email from Brett requesting feedback about the **Annual WNCOS Public Auction**. Thank you to those who have taken the time to share their views. We are searching for ways to improve the event, to make it more entertaining, and educational. Please continue to make suggestions to Brett or myself, via email preferably.

Recently I took a road trip with fellow member and good friend Marc Burchette, to the monthly meeting at the Carolina Judging Center in Greensboro. Every month the Judging Center invites all orchid growers to bring what they think is an outstanding orchid to be judged. As the AOS judges do during our annual spring show, they judge your particular plant, on its merit, for an AOS award.

After much coaxing from Marc, I loaded up my **Phalaenopsis gigantea** and headed to my first ever monthly judging event. When we arrived we were warmly greeted by many of the judging friends who participate in our show. A couple of hours later, I walked out with an 87 point AM and a 90 point CCE. I was shocked, to say the least! I am here to tell you that even *you* may today be growing an award-worthy plant. However, you will never know unless you take that opportunity and travel to either Greensboro or Atlanta and have it judged. The experience was fantastic, just one of the many highlights that I have experienced in the wonderful world of orchid growing.



Phalaenopsis gigantea 'Leslie Keller'

This month, we are honored to have **Gene Crooker** as our guest speaker. Gene, along with the folks at **Carter and Holmes Orchids** in Newberry, S.C., has been a close friend of WNCOS for many years. Gene grew up in the northwestern part of South Carolina, not far from Carter and Holmes, where he worked for 25 years as Vice-President. (He retired in December of 2010, but remains only a three minute walk from the greenhouses – working part time). He obtained his first orchid plants in 1956, when he was 15 years old. These first plants were cattleyas, his first love, but he has an interest in any and all orchid genera.

As an amateur orchidist, Gene developed an interest in hybridizing, producing his first cattleya hybrids in 1961. The creative aspects of orchid breeding have been very enjoyable and rewarding for him, always giving something to anticipate. For 25 years he has carried on the breeding program at Carter and Holmes started in the 1950's by Bill Carter. Many of his hybrids have been awarded by the AOS, including two that received FCC's. He has traveled extensively, representing Carter and Holmes at various orchid conferences around the world. Perhaps Gene's greatest claim to orchid fame is the fact that he coined the term, "mericlone", in 1964.

Gene has offered to take **pre-orders** and bring them with him on the October 9th. For those interested, let me know and I will send you the ordering instructions. Gene's program should prove to be very educational to all orchid growers. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Asheville Eye on October 9th at 2:00pm.

Cheers,

Graham Ramsey

WNCOS *presents*

Cattleyas

For the New Millennium!!

By Gene Crocker



Sunday October 9th

Asheville Eye Associates—2:00pm

Calendar For WNCOS

October 9th—Gene Crocker of Carter & Holmes
Cattleyas for the New Millennium

November 13th—Annual Business Meeting
Marc Burchette on Catasetum Alliance

Dec. 11th—2011 Annual Holiday Social

For further calendar dates please see www.wncos.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

President- Graham Ramsey	658-0112	g_ram@yahoo.com
Vice President– Brett Hopkins	299-9924	wncosavl@gmail.com
Secretary– Clarke Merrill	230-9982	cmerrill@ads.architects.com
Treasurer– Vicki Patrick	628-5458	vpatrik@charter.net

BOARD MEMBERS:

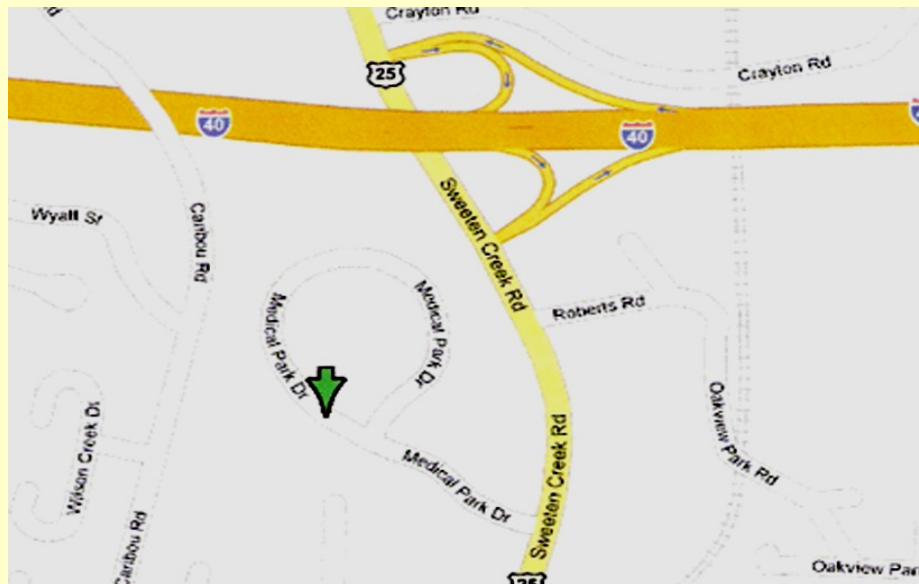
Axel Graumann	337-0035	axelgraumann@charter.net
Randy Latta	252-305-1286	jrandy@aol.com
Nat Scheckler	254-6712	natscheckler@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Leslie Ann Keller	645-4640	leslieannkeller@hughes.net
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All newsletter photos by the editor, except when otherwise noted.

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.

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account Balance: \$5,068.10

Small Business Money Market Account: \$13,884.16

Total: 18,952.26